

Series "In The Beginning...God"
"Time To Go Home"
Genesis 31:1-55
Study-58

Genesis 31:3-8, 11-21

Jacob follows Abraham's "Walk Of Faith."

Just as Abraham left his **(Family)** for Canaan, **Genesis 12:1-9**, Jacob leaves his **(Father-in-law)** for Canaan (after 20 years) **Genesis 31**.

Jacob's **Obedience**, like Abraham's, means leaving family to follow God in Canaan with **God's Promise of Protection**.

Genesis 28-35 Jacob's Life: Genesis 29-31 covers 20 years of Jacobs's life.

Thought Of Our Passage: "God Wants The Believer's Obedience, So God Encourages Our Obedience With His Promises Of His Protection."

- 1. Verses 1-21 Jacob's Flight:**
- 2. Verses 22-43 Laban's Pursuit:**
- 3. Verses 44-55 I'm Watching You:**

1. Verses 1-21 Jacob's Flight:

Genesis 31:1 Now

Context – Jacob was asked by Laban to remain working for him.

Jacob agreed only if Laban would allow Jacob to keep his wages.

Just speckled and spotted and the **black** among the lambs. These were few, but God multiplied them so that he became wealthy. **Genesis 30:43**

Jacob heard the words of Laban's sons,
Heard like his mother Rebekah.

saying, "Jacob has taken away all that was our father's, and from what belonged to our father he has made all this wealth."

Jealousy/Greed of Laban's sons over what the Lord had done. **Genesis 30:35**

Genesis 31:2-3 Then the LORD said to Jacob,
20 years since Jacob met God at Bethel.

Obedience And Protection Of Jacob:

"Return to the land of your fathers and to your relatives, and I will be with you." Obedience, His promise of protection!

Verses 4-5 Laban's Proven Dislike:

Genesis 31:4 So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to his flock in the field, Jacob calls a secret meeting with both wives.

Genesis 31:5 and said to them, "I see your father's attitude, that it is not friendly toward me as formerly,

A relationship with God can be the sustaining power.

Verses 6-9 Laban's Persistent Dishonesty:

Genesis 31:6 "I have served your father with all my strength.

What a testimony Jacob was. **Genesis 30:26-30**

Genesis 31:7 however, God did not allow him to hurt me.

Jacob acknowledged God's protection.

Genesis 31:8-9 Notice that Jacob acknowledges the Lord as the one responsible for the increase of livestock.

Verses 10-13 Jacob's Faithful Confession:

Genesis 31:10 Jacob received a dream from the Lord.

It was telling Jacob what to do. How to use selective breeding.

Genesis 31:11-12 for I have seen all that Laban has been doing to you.

It is comforting to know that God sees all the injustices that take place.

Genesis 31:13 'I am the God of Bethel – means "House of God"

(6 years earlier)

where you anointed a pillar, where you made a vow to Me;

Place of first encounter of Jacob with God. I believe the place of his conversion.

Genesis 28:10-22

God Calls Jacob To Obedience Through Returning To Canaan:

now arise, leave this land, and return to the land of your birth."

This is a distance of about 500 miles.

Genesis 31:14-15

Basically saying, "Our father Laban has been treating us wrong too. He has sold us as slaves." Laban did not invest their dowry and give it back to his daughters, but instead kept it.

Genesis 31:16

Rebekah And Leah Support Jacob:

now then, do whatever God has said to you."

Genesis 31:17

Then Jacob arose and put his children and his wives upon camels;

Jacob admits **Genesis 31:31** Then Jacob replied to Laban, "Because I was afraid,

Jacob does the right thing the wrong way! Genesis 31:20

God told him to go, but Jacob did not do it the right way, telling Laban that he was going to leave. **Proverbs 27:14**

Genesis 31:18-19 Laban had gone to shear his flock then Rachel stole the household idols (Teraphim, images) that were her father's.

It was believed to bring good luck to its owners. Guarantees inheritance of the family. **Genesis 31:30** Later, Jacob said to put away false gods. **Genesis 35:2**

Laban had taught his family religious error.

Genesis 31:20 Jacob deceived Laban the Aramean (Jacob Was Wrong)

Genesis 31:21 set his face toward the hill country of Gilead.
300 miles.

2. Verses 22-43 Laban's Pursuit:

Genesis 31:22 When it was told Laban on the third day that Jacob had fled, Jacob was three days ahead, about 80-90 miles ahead.

Genesis 31:23-24 God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream of the night, God had to intervene because of Jacob leaving the wrong way.

and said to him, "Be careful that you do not speak to Jacob either good or bad." It appears as if Laban was going to possibly harm Jacob. Watch even your tongue.

Where is Laban with the Lord? (Sometimes you just don't know!)

I don't know! He uses terms like "**Blessed of the Lord!**" and acknowledges God's blessings.

Genesis 31:25 And Laban caught up with Jacob.
We think we can run away!

Genesis 31:26 A deceiver wants to know why Jacob deceived him.

Genesis 31:27-30 but why did you steal my gods?"

Here is a man who has had an encounter with God, and all he can speak about is his gods.

Genesis 31:31 Then Jacob replied to Laban, "Because I was afraid,
Proverbs 29:25

Genesis 31:32 For Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them.

Rachel could have lost her life, and Jacob would have lost the love of his life (Deception)

Genesis 31:33-34 and she sat on them. What useless gods can be sat upon?

Genesis 31:35 for the manner of women is upon me."

Time of the month! She learned this deception from her father and her husband.

Verses - 36-42 Jacob's Righteous Indignation:

Genesis 31:36 angry - "*to be burned.*" Now, 20 years of bitterness comes gushing out! He blames Laban for all the stuff that has happened to him.

Contended – *"to seize, tear, attack"*

Genesis 31:37-39 Jacob's loss covered himself.
"I was the one that suffered loss, not you."

Genesis 31:40 I have had many sleepless nights because of my service for you.

Genesis 31:41 and you changed my wages ten times. What a crook Laban

Genesis 31:42-43 Laban The Victim would not own up to his sin, what he had done to Jacob.

3. Verses 44-55 I'm Watching You:

Genesis 31:44-46 "So now come, let us make a covenant, you and I,

Verses 47-53 The Oath: 47 Laban gave the stones an Aramaic name. Jacob is a Hebrew name. **Genesis 31:48-49**

Mizpah – *"watchtower, lookout point"*

"The Mizpah Blessing, Benediction"

This saying is often quoted in greeting cards as a loving verse. **"May the LORD watch between you and me when we are absent one from the other.**

Laban is saying, *"May the Lord keep an eye on you and me while we are separated from each other- to keep us from cheating or deceiving the other!"*

Genesis 31:50 This was an insult. It's Laban's fault for two wives!

Genesis 31:51-53 Laban would not cross over and hassle Jacob and his family.

Verses 54-55 The Offering: Genesis 31:54

To Jacob, it was a time to worship and give thanks because Laban was out of his life for good.

Application:

- 1.** God Wants The Believer's Obedience, So God Encourages Our Obedience With His Promises Of His Protection:
- 2.** Beware That Our Obedience Does Not Resemble Jacob's Obedience, In Which Jacob Did The Right Thing In The Wrong Way:
- 3.** Laban's Sad Ending. Laban Sees That His Daughters And All His Possessions Now Belong To Jacob. He Never Acknowledges That The Reason They Are No Longer His Is That God Took Them As A Result Of His Sin: