

In The Beginning

Jacob returns home

Jacob leaves Laban and heads home... Gen.30

After Joseph is born, what does Jacob determine in his heart? 30:25-26

He decides it's time to go home. Interesting because he knows Esau's plan to kill him.

But Laban pleads with him to stay. Why? vs.27 What is Jacob's response? vs.28-36

He senses the 'splash effect'! He makes a deal. He'll stay and shepherd for 'unusual' herd.

God works with Jacob and what is the final result? 30:42-31:2

Laban's part of the flock dwindles, Jacob's prospers greatly, and Laban turns on Jacob.

The Lord tells Jacob to leave. As Jacob relates to his wives, what do we learn? 31:3-13

Laban had been trying to cheat Jacob repeatedly but God intervened.

As Jacob convinces Rachel/Leah that God was leading to leave, what's their attitude? 31:15-16

Our father (Laban) treated us like slaves. We have no lot there. Follow God and we'll go.

Jacob flees without informing Laban. What does Rachel do on the way out? 31:17-21

She steals her fathers household idols. The ungodly influence of Laban ran deep...

How does God protect Jacob from an obviously angry father in law? vs.22-24, 29

God warned Laban in a dream to speak neither good or bad to Jacob.

Why was this warning (and Jacob's secret flight) necessary? vs.29-31 Comment?

Laban was a violent and deceitful man. He always sought his best interest, regardless...

When Laban can't find his idols (stolen by Rachel, unknown to Jacob), what happens? vs.36-42

Jacob finally stands up to him. He accuses Laban of cheating and oppressing.

With a little urging from the Lord, how does this finally work out? vs.43-55 Comment?

Jacob and Laban make a treaty to not harm one another. God is blessing Jacob...

Jacob meets again with his brother, Esau... Gen.32

Contrast 32:1-2 with 28:10-17. What seems to be happening here?

God shows him angelic support when he leaves the land, and now when he returns.

As Jacob approaches 'home' and Esau, what runs through his mind? 32:3-8

He remembers Esau's plan to kill him and sends a 'peace offering' ahead.

And how does Jacob demonstrate his faith in this situation? vs.9-12

He prays and reminds God of His promise to prosper him. This 'battle' is the Lord's!

What very important thing about himself does he recognize? vs.10 Application?? Eph.1:3-14

He knew he was unworthy of God's blessings. And we, today, no more. Grace, Grace, ...

Just to be sure, what is his plan for appeasing Esau? vs.13-21 Comment?

He sends droves of his livestock before him as a peace offering. But this is a spiritual issue.

Next: Jacob meets God, and is changed forever.