

## Genesis Part II (Chapters 25-50)

### **Lesson 4: Jacob's Return to Canaan**

**Reading:** Genesis 31:1-33:20

In Chapters 29 and 30, Jacob arrives in Padan Aram and goes to a well where he meets Rachel, his future wife. He then meets her father Laban, Rebekah's brother. Laban welcomes Jacob into his home and asks Jacob what his wages shall be. Jacob requests the hand of Rachel in marriage for 7 years of service. Jacob soon realizes that Laban is deceptive as he replaces Rachel with her older sister, Leah, and Jacob must serve 7 more years in exchange for Rachel becoming his bride. During this time, Jacob is blessed with 11 sons and 1 daughter through Leah and Rachel who play out their competition for sons through their maid servants, Zilpah and Bilhah respectively. At the end of 14 years, Laban and Jacob agree to new set of wages where all the speckled and spotted sheep and brown lambs from Laban's flock will belong to Jacob. However, Laban again acts deceptively by initially removing Jacob's wages from the flock and giving them to his sons. Nevertheless, God continues to bless Jacob, and Laban's flocks continue to produce speckled and spotted sheep and brown lambs. Jacob also uses selective breeding techniques to ensure that the strong of the flock produce speckled and spotted, while the weak animals of the flock become Laban's. During this period of Jacob's life, God blesses him despite Laban's deception and even Jacob's own efforts to improve his situation. In this account, we are reminded of God's faithfulness to His people as He keeps the promises He made to Jacob at Bethel (28:13-15).

#### **Jacob Flees from Laban (31:1-21)**

1. How does God identify Himself in 31:13 and why is it significant given the context?

#### **Laban pursues and confronts Jacob (31:22-42)**

2. How does Laban assert his authority in 31:26-29, and what is the one thing that prevents Laban from harming Jacob?

3. How does Jacob summarize his relationship with Laban in 31:38-42?

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### **Laban's covenant with Jacob (31:43-55)**

4. What were the different names given to the heap of stones used in the covenant between Laban and Jacob, and what was their significance (31:47-52)?

### **Jacob Prepares to Meet Esau (32:1-21)**

5. What 3 things does Jacob do to prepare for his reunion with Esau that demonstrates his enormous fear of Esau (32:7-21)?

### **Jacob wrestles with God (32:22-32)**

6. What is significant about the blessing Jacob receives upon wrestling with the angel (32:27-29)?

### **Jacob and Esau Meet (33:1-17)**

7. How does Jacob approach Esau in a way that demonstrates both distrust and respect (33:1-3)?

8. What does the exchange between Esau and Jacob in 33:12-17 indicate about their renewed relationship for the future?

### **Jacob Settles in Canaan (33:18-20)**