

THE STUDY OF

# GENESIS

"IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED  
THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH."

# Separation and Transformation

## Genesis 31:1-55



# THE REDEMPTION STORY: FROM GENESIS TO JESUS

- The Bible is one beautiful story of Jesus and redemption (Ephesians 1:7-10)
- Scripture presents a purposeful narrative revealing God's redemptive plan (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

# Big Picture

- Redeemer/Seed Hunt Gen. 3:15;  
12:1-3
- Past promises point to future  
faithfulness, different times - same  
Lord
- Continuity — From Abraham to Christ  
(Heb 11:13–16; Gal 3:29)



# **Recap: Bethel to Bondage and Back Again**

1. “Heel-grabber” (striver/schemer) → shaped by Gods faithfulness and His promises
2. Met the Lord at Bethel: “Surely God is in this place” (Gen 28)
3. 20 years under Laban: labor, manipulation, wage changes

# 1. Genesis 28 — Bethel:

Jacob runs in fear → God meets him in  
grace

Promise given: “I am with you... I will  
bring you back”

## 2. Genesis 29 — Haran:

The deceiver is deceived

God humbles Jacob through Laban's  
manipulation

### 3. **Genesis 30** — Prosperity:

God blesses despite rivalry, schemes,  
and striving

Jacob grows wealthy — but not free

## 4. **Genesis 31** — **Departure:**

Favor turns to hostility

God breaks the grip and calls Jacob home



# Genesis 31:1-55

## Separation and Transformation

Leaving Laban: God Makes the Way Forward



## **v.1-2 — Heat and Pressure**

1. Laban and his sons: no longer in favor, accusations fueled by envy
2. Envy distorts truth; greed fears losing “inheritance”

(Cf. James 3:16; 1 Cor 13:4; Matt 27:18)



## v.3 - God Speaks: Return

1. “Return... and I will be with you”
2. Jacob trapped: Laban behind / Esau ahead
3. God’s presence > detailed plan  
(Cf. Gen. 28:15; Rom. 8:31; Matt. 28:20)



## v.4-9 Family Meeting in the Field

1. Semi-nomadic life: not home nightly
2. Jacob explains: faithful labor + Laban's cheating (10 times)
3. God did not permit harm; God overturned the rigged system
4. "God has taken... and given to me"



## **v.10-13 The God of Bethel**

1. Dream 1: flock blessing is God's doing (not stick tricks or sorcery)
2. "I am the God of Bethel" (remember the vow, the promise, the mission)
3. Command: "Arise... return to your kindred"



## v.14-16 A Surprising Yes

1. Leah & Rachel: “No inheritance... treated like foreigners”
2. Laban “devoured” their money (dowry consumed)
3. “Whatever God has said to you, do it”
4. Unity formed by shared pain + shared direction



## **v.17-21 The Teraphim Problem**

1. Jacob flees in secrecy (fear still present)
2. Rachel steals household gods (teraphim)
3. Possible motives: inheritance claim, vindictiveness, divination fear?
4. Idols are portable... and powerless



Mesopotamian  
figurine idols



## v.22-24 God Intervenes

1. Laban pursues (3-day head start; 7-day chase)
2. God warns Laban in a dream: “Do not speak... good or bad”
3. God silences the manipulator; protects covenant line



## v.25-42 Search + Showdown

1. Laban's fake outrage → real concern:  
“Why steal my gods?”
2. Jacob's speech: 20 years of faithful service, suffering, integrity
3. “The God of my father... the Fear of Isaac” (reverent awe)



# v.43-55 Seperation, Not Sentiment

1. Not reconciliation — separation
2. Stones mark a line
3. God watches both sides
4. Some relationships need boundaries or must end.



# HEAT - THORNS - CROSS - FRUIT

**Heat** = pressure, trials, difficulty (Ps. 88; James 1:1-15)

**Thorns** = our sin, flesh response (Eph. 4-6; Heb. 4:14-5:10)

# HEAT - THORNS - CROSS - FRUIT

**Cross** = God's gospel transformative power, changes our focus from self to Jesus, (Rom 1:16; 2 Peter 1:1-11)

**Fruit** = the new right, Holy Spirit, Grace-empowered response to life's struggles. (Ps. 1; Gal 5:22)

Look around and be distressed

Look within and be depressed

Look at Jesus and be at rest.

-- Corrie Ten Boom

# Takeaway 1. When God Says “Leave”

Not every relationship is meant to be repaired by you. trust He is at work.

God sometimes protects by separation

Matt 10:14; Rom 12:18; 1 Cor 15:33

## Takeaway 2.

False Gods Promise but Deliver Nothing

Idols can be subtle, portable, and hidden

Anything trusted more than Christ

becomes a rival

1 John 5:21; Matt 6:24; Col 3:5

## Takeaway 3.

God's Presence Outweighs Human Power

Laban threatened; God restrained

God's presence is the believer's security

Rom 8:31; Heb 13:6; 1 John 4:4

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