

Passage: Genesis 30-31

Title: Jacob Moves On

Summary: It is time, as God has appointed the time for Jacob to move on from his Uncle Laban, and back to the Promised Land, and start God's work on what will be the Land, and the Messiah to come and provide Himself the sacrifice for sin. Even with a great calling upon his life it appears that Jacob is getting comfortable in his good life, so God has to stir things up to get him moving in the right direction. Maybe that is where you are at, and God is stirring your life through some hard or uncomfortable circumstances; Good word for all of us in this passage. Join Us!

Outline: Genesis 30-31

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Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Rachael and Bilhah (30:1-8)

Genesis 30:1 Now when Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister, and said to Jacob, "Give me children, or else I die!"

Genesis 30:2 And Jacob's anger was aroused against Rachel, and he said, "Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?"

Realistic Expectation

Rachel's going to lay upon Jacob a demand that only God can answer. And that's going to make a problem. We're going to see him become very angry over the matter. And there's a place that we must set realistic expectations. of what each person can fulfill in a relationship, otherwise there will be frustration and contentions. And if you read it and think it all the way through what she's really saying to him is, if you do not give me children, I'm going to be miserable, and my marriage with you will be miserable and unfulfilled, and it will be because of you that you're not given me what I want and what I must have even though what she doesn't have only God can give. And so something for every marriage in here to consider for themselves.

So wives just a little inside from a husband who can tell you about a husband, a man, takes great satisfaction, that at the end of a day, at the end of a week, just a season of looking back that he provided and supplied for his wife, that she was content and pleased with him. And so with that said comes a frustration level that even though Jacob's wrong for anger, there's a frustration level of being asked to do something that is outside of his ability, and I think a frustration level is being a man who would understand of Jacob probably thinks that he is being a good husband and that he's given her everything, that he could give that's within his means, but to then hear that she's discontented with him. would cause this contention, and then it begins a circle of stirring, that can turn into a spinning as it just keeps increasing as the frustration responds with frustration, that frustration then responds to the other, which is increases the frustration and then you just have this continual looping that happens that you can look back and go, no one even knows what was the beginning of this and why. But here they are. And so this is a crucial moment with Jacob and Rachel in their relationship as it can so often be, of course, in any marriage relationship.

Genesis 30:3 So she said, "Here is my maid Bilhah; go in to her, and she will bear a child on my knees, that I also may have children by her."

Genesis 30:4 Then she gave him Bilhah her maid as wife, and Jacob went in to her.

Genesis 30:5 And Bilhah conceived and bore Jacob a son.

Genesis 30:6 Then Rachel said, "God has judged my case; and He has also heard my voice and given me a son." Therefore she called his name Dan.

Genesis 30:7 And Rachel's maid Bilhah conceived again and bore Jacob a second son.

Genesis 30:8 Then Rachel said, "With great wrestlings I have wrestled with my sister, and indeed I have prevailed." So she called his name Naphtali.

We Never Learn

Even after hearing the Sarah Hagar story seems like we never learn rather than sitting and trusting in the Lord we think we have a special situation or we think our situation is unique and different from everybody else's and therefore doesn't apply to what we know wisdom says is not the way to go and wisdom says is the way to go what faith says is not the way to go and faith says this is the way to go. In those situations can carry over that we think we have a unique situation because of this or that reason and therefore we enter into an intimacy that is not for us to have or some emotional response which is not set in faith or that we need to have some reason to relax ourselves through drinking this or popping that or smoking this because our situation is unique.

Dan = Judge

Naphtali = Wrestling

In naming the baby Dan, or "Judge," it was as if Rachel said, "God has seen my situation and has ruled in my favor."

In naming her second son Naphtali, or "My Wrestling," it was as if Rachel said, "I'm catching up with my sister in the child-bearing contest."

Leah and Zilpah (30:9-13)

Genesis 30:9 When Leah saw that she had stopped bearing, she took Zilpah her maid and gave her to Jacob as wife.

Genesis 30:10 And Leah's maid Zilpah bore Jacob a son.

Genesis 30:11 Then Leah said, "A troop comes!" So she called his name Gad.

Genesis 30:12 And Leah's maid Zilpah bore Jacob a second son.

Genesis 30:13 Then Leah said, "I am happy, for the daughters will call me blessed." So she called his name Asher.

Gad = Troop

Asher = Happy

In naming the son conceived by her handmaid, Gad, or "Troop," it was as if Leah said, "Reinforcements are here!"

In naming Zilpah's second son Asher, or "Happy," Leah expressed her joy in having so many children—a cultural sign of sure blessing.

Mandrakes for the Man (30:14-18)

Genesis 30:14 Now Reuben went in the days of wheat harvest and found mandrakes in the field, and brought them to his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, "Please give me some of your son's mandrakes."

Genesis 30:15 But she said to her, "Is it a small matter that you have taken away my husband? Would you take away my son's mandrakes also?" And Rachel said, "Therefore he will lie with you tonight for your son's mandrakes."

Genesis 30:16 When Jacob came out of the field in the evening, Leah went out to meet him and said, "You must come in to me, for I have surely hired you with my son's mandrakes." And he lay with her that night.

Genesis 30:17 And God listened to Leah, and she conceived and bore Jacob a fifth son.

As a Man Thinks

What is up with these mandrakes and all these type of things there were reading here, and they believed that the mandrakes were like an aphrodisiac that would enhance intimacy, fertility, and produce offsprings and you can read all kinds of books and commentaries that we'll see so but if that was so they would clearly be selling off the shelves today. I think simply it's what they believed and therefore they would take and hope what they believe would come true.

I think a key word here in verse 14 is "some", as Leah still had "some" mandrakes herself (the word some is not in the original manuscripts, but mandrakes is in the plural). Rachel believes it and I believe Leah believes it and I think both of them applied what they believed about the mandrakes to themselves. Rachel would think there was something wrong with her because she was barren and then she would think that there was something disconnected of how Jacob connected to her. Leah would feel the same way though we don't read of her taking the mandrakes, what it appears is they were common enough that when they found them they knew what they had found based on what people said, and Leah would be taking her share of mandrakes when opportunity came and the son brought them to her. What I believe for Leah she would feel that even though she was unloved and unwanted that the mandrakes taken between her and Jacob would make her desirable to Jacob And thus Jacob would want her.

It is sad for both these woman that they would believe that some outside source would make them desirable and answer their hearts desire.

The Bible says as a man thinks, therefore he is.

Proverbs 23:7 (NKJV) ⁷ For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. "Eat and drink!" he says to you, But his heart is not with you.

In Hebrews, it says, keep the marriage bed undefiled, and it speaks about not just the purity, but the sanctity of the marriage bed. So, yeah, a place to make a bunch of jokes. I'm just gonna keep the marriage bed undefiled and honor it. And so what I'm gonna say, I'm gonna say in accordance with supporting passage of Hebrews. keeping the marriage bed undefiled, and guarding it, and the sanctity of it.

Hebrews 13:4 (NKJV) ⁴ Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

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How you think of your spouse will determine your intimacy and desire for them and even yourself.

- Are you thankful for them do you give thanks for them
- Do you pray for them for where your treasures are there your heart will be and as you pray your heart will follow
- if your heart is hardened you'll never be softened to them so if your heart is hardened ask the Lord to soften it because a hard heart will block and be a barricade to any intimacy

- and you must keep your mind pure and undefiled because the impurity it comes with thinking in all these impure things that the world throws will surely polite how you think of your spouse

Genesis 30:18 Leah said, “God has given me my wages, because I have given my maid to my husband.” So she called his name Issachar.

Knew the Times

What I love about is Issachar as we will read of them in the time of David when the Kingdom is united and that is that it says they had understanding of the times to know what Israel ought to do. And I love that say look and consider that for myself the great compliment that was given to them and that they knew they needed to unite the Kingdom after it was divided between Saul and David but for us that we would be a people who know the signs of the times and understand the times that we live and I'm talking prophetically so that we know what we ought to do, and that means with the time that we have the understanding that we have where do I invest my energies and my time for the Kingdom of God.

1 Chronicles 12:32 (NKJV)³² of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their command;

Leah's Hurting Heart (30:19-20)

Genesis 30:19 Then Leah conceived again and bore Jacob a sixth son.

Genesis 30:20 And Leah said, “God has endowed me with a good endowment; now my husband will dwell with me, because I have borne him six sons.” So she called his name Zebulun.

This will be Leah's final son, six of the twelve:

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and now Zebulun.

Zebulun knew War

And the next verse there in first chronicles speaks of Zebulun who I love they were experts in war and when they went out they could keep ranks and what that meant is that they didn't flee and disband and scatter when the battle got hot and heavy they kept marching towards the fight and so once again the great application and picture for us in the spiritual warfare that we're in together facing the evil one in his plans that still kill and destroy period

1 Chronicles 12:33 (NKJV)³³ of Zebulun there were fifty thousand who went out to battle, expert in war with all weapons of war, stouthearted men who could keep ranks;

Heartbreaking of Leah

Very heartbreaking again for Leah thinking that now after six children, Jacob will come and dwell with her, which lends me to think that Leah spent all the nights together, except for those moments and how lonely she would be yet once again, the Lord sees her, and the Lord will bless her, and the Lord will keep her, as to you,

Isaiah 54:1–10 (NKJV)¹ “Sing, O barren, You who have not borne! Break forth into singing, and cry aloud, You who have not labored with child! For more are the children of the desolate Than the children of the married woman,” says the LORD. ² “Enlarge the place of your tent, And let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; Do not spare; Lengthen your cords, And strengthen your stakes. ³ For you shall expand to the right and to the left, And your descendants will inherit the nations, And make the desolate cities inhabited. ⁴ “Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed; Neither be disgraced, for you will not be put to shame; For you will forget the shame of your youth, And will not remember the reproach of your widowhood anymore. ⁵ For your Maker is your husband, The LORD of hosts is His name; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth. ⁶ For the LORD has called you Like a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, Like a youthful wife when you were refused,” Says your God. ⁷ “For a mere moment I have forsaken you, But with great mercies I will gather you. ⁸ With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; But with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you,” Says the LORD, your Redeemer. ⁹ “For this is like the waters of Noah to Me; For as I have sworn That the waters of Noah would no longer cover the earth, So have I sworn That I would not be angry with you, nor rebuke you. ¹⁰ For the mountains shall depart And the hills be removed, But My kindness shall not depart from you, Nor shall My covenant of peace be removed,” Says the LORD, who has mercy on you.

2 Corinthians 4:6 (NKJV)⁶ For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

God's Greatest Desire is to Love You / Leah – It was Painful, Now Look at Glory

Leah experienced the mercy and love of God. God is aware of our needs, **and His greatest desire is to love you and fill you with His love.** He aims to encourage you, be your companion, friend, and partner. As El Shaddai, He is the one who meets every need we have. Despite being rejected by Jacob, who was more attracted to physical beauty, Leah found solace in God's unwavering love.

El Shaddai- means mighty God, but it also meant God of the Bosom; speaking of His strength, yet tenderness, as He draws us near to His bosom, and we can hear His heartbeat, that beats for us. I am reminded of the Apostle John, that night in the upper room last supper, resting his head on Jesus, hearing His heartbeat, just hours before the great demonstration of His love for John and all of us, no greater love has he than this, to lay down one's life for a friend.

John 13:23 (NKJV)²³ Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.

John 15:13 (NKJV)¹³ Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

Remember, Leah bore Judah Who was the tribe where the Savior of the world came through just think of the blessing just think of Leah now in glory with the Savior of the world to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ who came through her loins as she sees and looks back on the plan now and said Lord wow you know it was painful there were stressful times and there was pain but Lord it's worth it as I look and see your master plan and the glory it brought that you used me Lord, it's so worth it now as I see your perfect plan and now I'm an eternity, ohh the pain is gone I understand more clearly now Lord. Don't give up, don't be discouraged if you feel you're being neglected if you're hurting right now don't you dare believe that God has neglected you, has forgotten you and has no desire for you or plan for you. You stay close to him get closer than ever be a Mary sit at his feet don't allow Satan to tempt you

Leah Births Dinah (30:21)

Genesis 30:21 Afterward she bore a daughter, and called her name Dinah.

This fills in details for a terrible account that we will read in chapter 34. And Jacobs sons Simeon and Levi will seek revenge and have lasting repercussions.

Genesis 34:1–2 (NKJV)¹ Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land. ² And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her and lay with her, and violated her.

God Remembers Rachael (30:22-24)

Genesis 30:22 Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb.

Rachael Hurts

That Rachel hurts for surely this is not how she thought her marriage was going to be after several years of courting and all the dreams that she had of what it would be like when she would finally marry the man who was willing to work for her for seven years and now she finds herself in competition with another woman even if that woman is her sister which probably made it even worse; my heart goes out to Rachel

Hey regardless how on this story is in regardless of how the commentators and the so-called historical context of the culture said this was common it's not how God intended it to be it was one woman one man for life that's one another with no competition. So let me just add let there be no competition in your relationship you don't need to have special friends at work or online or anywhere else but your spouse never ever think that they are in competition against anyone but that you are fully and wholly and completely theirs and therefore give them your undivided attention in every aspect of body spirit and soul.

Genesis 30:23 And she conceived and bore a son, and said, "God has taken away my reproach."

Genesis 30:24 So she called his name Joseph, and said, "The LORD shall add to me another son."

No Accident

So we understand Rachel's hurt and confusion as she's watching everyone else bearing children, but her. So she approaches Jacob in this frustration, and as we see, puts the blame on him, which we can obviously see is not him, but there's a great takeaway in that we see that the Lord opens her womb because she was barren and now she has her son. And why this is a great takeaway is as we read in Isaiah 45, It's the Lord who opens and closes the womb. It's the Lord who gives life. And therefore, it's the Lord who determines life. And I know that can be hard when you're desiring to have child, and it has not come to happen. But the Lord sees you. The Lord knows you're hurt. He sees your pain. We see it with Leah. Being unloved. We see it with Rachel being barren, but the Lord shows up and ministers.. to the heart and the heart that I want to address very specifically is there is no life that is accidental ever. And I think there's a place that we can feel that we're an accident. Maybe we've been told we're an accident, maybe even the circumstances were very painful that brought about the conception. But there is no doubt from the Word of God that it was his purpose for every one of these children to be born. And it was no doubt when he chose not that they were not until his appointed time. But please know, you are precious in the sight of the Lord. You are no mistake. You are no accident. You are no afterthought. Regardless of what the human circumstance may be or the human thoughts may be, or the human speech may be, you are no afterthought by the Lord Jesus Christ, who Psalm 139 formed you in your mother's womb, and you are precious in his sight. Regarding your worth, go to the cross, and you will see the treasure that you are and the worth of his want to die, to buy you back, to make you his own. And I'll even add, there's so much value to you that there's a war in heaven Revelation chapter 12 fighting over you. Devil wants to destroy you, and he's willing to fight for you, and the Lord wants to love you, and he's willing to fight to the death for you. You are no accident.

Isaiah 45:9–12 (NKJV) ⁹ "Woe to him who strives with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherd of the earth! Shall the clay say to him who forms it, 'What are you making?' Or shall your handiwork say, 'He has no hands'? ¹⁰ Woe to him who says to his father, 'What are you begetting?' Or to the woman, 'What have you brought forth?' " ¹¹ Thus says the LORD, The Holy One of Israel, and his Maker: "Ask Me of things to come concerning My sons; And concerning the work of My hands, you command Me. ¹² I have made the earth, And created man on it. I—My hands—stretched out the heavens, And all their host I have commanded.

Psalm 139:13–18 (NKJV) ¹³ For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them. ¹⁷ How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! ¹⁸ If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.

Revelation 12:7–9 (NKJV) ⁷ And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, ⁸ but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. ⁹ So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Don't Let Past Dictate You

So don't let your past whatever it may be determine or dictate how God can use you today because he has chosen you. He has created you and he has a plan for your life that cannot be stopped by no man government or program, but it could be stopped by your unwillingness to say, "Here I am. Use me, Lord.

Jacob Names His Wages (30:25-43)

Genesis 30:25 And it came to pass, when Rachel had borne Joseph, that Jacob said to Laban, "Send me away, that I may go to my own place and to my country.

Genesis 30:26 Give me my wives and my children for whom I have served you, and let me go; for you know my service which I have done for you."

Time To Move On

Jacob has all these kids, he has fulfilled his commitment of working another seven years to get Rachel, and now he feels it is time to move on.

A Perfect Mess

Look at this, the people of Israel, Jacob, the forefather of a nation that the Messiah would come through, and the priesthood would come through. Our Jesus would come through. And he speaks a message. In these four women.

God says look. See how imperfect the situation is, see how story after story It speaks the imperfection as it tells afore story of he who will come and make us perfect family together.

Imagine if it was a perfect story, Jacob met Rachel worked for seven years conceived on their first night together in honeymoon suite, and had 12 children to build this great nation and how they walked and were so obedient, and were so full of faith, making wise decision after wise decision. No faults are failing.

Every last one of us in here would go. My Bible ends in Genesis chapter 30, because I'm done. There is nothing that I can relate to and nothing that I can live up to, but then we take the mess that we read and all that comes about these things and we go, "Hey, I can fit here. Hey, he can understand me. He can understand my family and the messed up dynamic. He can understand my poor decisions and my faults and my failings. Hey, he can understand. that even with all these things, my heart still says, I want to be yours. And he says, that's all you need. That's all you have to want. is to be mine. And that I'm yours. That's all that you need. I'll provide the rest. There's nothing that keeps you from. my best.

Genesis 30:27 And Laban said to him, "Please stay, if I have found favor in your eyes, for I have learned by experience that the LORD has blessed me for your sake."

Enchantment

The word here for "experience" is "enchantment", and later we will see that Rachael steals away with Laban's idols, therefore we can see that Laban was engaged in the occultic practices that were prevalent in the region he lived (which was Babylon/Iraq).

Genesis 12

So what did the Lord say to Abraham back in Genesis chapter 12 I will bless those who bless thee and I will curse those who curse thee and here we see Laban is being blessed because he blessed Jacob in the means of providing him daughters, wives. lodging, food, employment, protection, safety, all these things that he extended to Jacob came and returned unto him a blessing, and he recognizes it, and the United States and the surrounding nations of Israel would do well to know God's promises is true. I will bless those who bless Israel and I will curse those who curse Israel.

Genesis 12:3 (NKJV) ³ I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Genesis 30:28 Then he said, "Name me your wages, and I will give it."

Genesis 30:29 So Jacob said to him, "You know how I have served you and how your livestock has been with me.

Genesis 30:30 For what you had before I came was little, and it has increased to a great amount; the LORD has blessed you since my coming. And now, when shall I also provide for my own house?"

Genesis 30:31 So he said, "What shall I give you?" And Jacob said, "You shall not give me anything. If you will do this thing for me, I will again feed and keep your flocks:

Genesis 30:32 Let me pass through all your flock today, removing from there all the speckled and spotted sheep, and all the brown ones among the lambs, and the spotted and speckled among the goats; and these shall be my wages.

Genesis 30:33 So my righteousness will answer for me in time to come, when the subject of my wages comes before you: every one that is not speckled and spotted among the goats, and brown among the lambs, will be considered stolen, if it is with me."

Genesis 30:34 And Laban said, "Oh, that it were according to your word!"

Speckled and Pure

If you go look at even lambs and goats today, they're mostly pure and what that means is that's the dominant gene that is among them, and then speckled and spotted and brown would be the recessive gene. So Jacob is clearly saying. "You have the greater, I'll take the lesser, which is interesting, low road for the matter great wisdom in the matter as well in that he's not going to put himself in a place that he had some pure white lambs and goats, because then it would get into the argument of whose was it really? Even if you were branding them, you could get

them at birth before they were branded and tucked them away and then make them your own. But here he's making it very clear. There will be no confusion who owns what. And I'll give great wisdom in that matter.

My Righteousness – Seeking 1st the Kingdom

Jacob said my righteousness will speak for me and what he's saying here is I'll let God take care of it as he presents what he is going to with the speckled lambs and the likes what he's really doing is presenting a step of faith that I will let God determine my blessing. And we see he's not trying to make a deal, he's not trying to arrange things or even connive things, but he simply is yielding whatever the Lord brings is the deal, and I trust that the Lord will clearly take care of me. So in an essence, he's giving Laban the greater deal. And of course, that's why Laban jumps on the deal, because he knows it's in his favor.

We see great faith and maturity in Jacob. that I don't have to strive that God will take care of all of my needs. And we call that Philippians 4:19 as people of faith. My God shall supply all of my needs in Christ Jesus. We call that Matthew 6:33. Seek first the kingdom of God in his righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you.

Jacob is trusting in the Lord, and he doesn't have to strive anymore. And we can come to that same place, my friends. Lord, you created the heavens and the earth. You formed me in my mother's womb. You bought me with the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Are you going to drop me at this point? Do I really need to take up the work of the flesh to get my provisions and my inheritance? Or can I just trust you that you will provide and that as you do, my righteousness will speak of your goodness because I sought first the kingdom of God and his righteousness. And he provided all these things unto me.

Philippians 4:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Matthew 6:33 (NKJV) ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Genesis 30:35 So he removed that day the male goats that were speckled and spotted, all the female goats that were speckled and spotted, every one that had some white in it, and all the brown ones among the lambs, and gave them into the hand of his sons.

Genesis 30:36 Then he put three days' journey between himself and Jacob, and Jacob fed the rest of Laban's flocks.

Genesis 30:37 Now Jacob took for himself rods of green poplar and of the almond and chestnut trees, peeled white strips in them, and exposed the white which was in the rods.

Keep it Simple

So we are going to keep it simple here, and rather than chase all these things around and around, and wonder if they mean something about animal husbandry, they don't. Jacob may be trying to be clever, or listening to stories that he heard back in Canaan, but in the end and ultimately, Jacob is doing what he is doing, and picking what he is picking, because God tells him which one He will bless. So no need for us to spend a lot of time thinking if carving sticks, and planting sticks has anything to do with his prosperity.

Genesis 31:7–13 (NKJV) ⁷ Yet your father has deceived me and changed my wages ten times, but God did not allow him to hurt me. ⁸ If he said thus: 'The speckled shall be your wages,' then all the flocks bore speckled. And if he said thus: 'The streaked shall be your wages,' then all the flocks bore streaked. ⁹ So God has taken away the livestock of your father and given them to me. ¹⁰ "And it happened, at the time when the flocks conceived, that I lifted my eyes and saw in a dream, and behold, the rams which leaped upon the flocks were streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted. ¹¹ Then the Angel of God spoke to me in a dream, saying, 'Jacob.' And I said, 'Here I am.' ¹² And He said, 'Lift your eyes now and see, all the rams which leap on the flocks are streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted; for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you. ¹³ I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed the pillar and where you made a vow to Me. Now arise, get out of this land, and return to the land of your family.' "

Genesis 30:38 And the rods which he had peeled, he set before the flocks in the gutters, in the watering troughs where the flocks came to drink, so that they should conceive when they came to drink.

Genesis 30:39 So the flocks conceived before the rods, and the flocks brought forth streaked, speckled, and spotted.

Genesis 30:40 Then Jacob separated the lambs, and made the flocks face toward the streaked and all the brown in the flock of Laban; but he put his own flocks by themselves and did not put them with Laban's flock.

Genesis 30:41 And it came to pass, whenever the stronger livestock conceived, that Jacob placed the rods before the eyes of the livestock in the gutters, that they might conceive among the rods.

Genesis 30:42 But when the flocks were feeble, he did not put them in; so the feebler were Laban's and the stronger Jacob's.

Genesis 30:43 Thus the man became exceedingly prosperous, and had large flocks, female and male servants, and camels and donkeys.

Again – it was all God!

Genesis 31

Laban and Sons Turn Against Jacob (31:1-2)

Genesis 31:1 Now Jacob heard the words of Laban's sons, saying, "Jacob has taken away all that was our father's, and from what was our father's he has acquired all this wealth."

Genesis 31:2 And Jacob saw the countenance of Laban, and indeed it was not favorable toward him as before.

Jacob Gets a Nudge

I think this is interesting and it's a word for all of us again in that here Jacob may be in this place going, I wanted to leave and go back to my homeland, but I don't know. Things are well here. I'm prospering. I'm being blessed. I got all this wealth now. And so I can easily see that the Lord has a plan that has to be fulfilled. And Jacob, I will bring you back to this place. As I promised you, or else my word would fail, but it would not be in your best interest either, because if you fail my word, then my word fails before you. So I'm gonna help you get moving, and I'm gonna take your cousins and your Uncle Laban, and I'm going to raise them up against you. I'm going to let their flesh follow the flesh, which will always be greedy and envious, and they're going to start stirring against you, and it's going to put you in a place that you're going to have to leave.

God's so good and stirring the boat to get us to step out, and maybe that's you today, and you're in some place that you're like, I don't understand why this is happening to me. Why are these things coming against me? Especially all seem so well, and maybe it's just that you were getting comfortable. and you were settling into a place or a path or a purpose that wasn't God's. And so now he is letting the world in the flesh have its way, ' because it's always ready to get in the way. I believe it's the Lord who stays them off if he so chooses, and then when he chooses to lift his hand, the release is made, and here they come. And for Jacob, this hatred towards him is going to cause him to get up and go back to the land God promised him was his and that he should go and fulfill the promise and the inheritance. And God may be doing that for you. Don't take the difficult situations or people.. and get tunnel vision on them, but look and go, "Lord, you're allowing this. So now, let me go with what you have for me." and then go with the flow and seek the Lord, and let him lead you, and use those things.

God Tells Jacob it is Time to Go (31:3-21)

Genesis 31:3 Then the LORD said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your fathers and to your family, and I will be with you."

Genesis 31:4 So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to the field, to his flock,

Genesis 31:5 and said to them, "I see your father's countenance, that it is not favorable toward me as before; but the God of my father has been with me.

Genesis 31:6 And you know that with all my might I have served your father.

Genesis 31:7 Yet your father has deceived me and changed my wages ten times, but God did not allow him to hurt me.

Genesis 31:8 If he said thus: 'The speckled shall be your wages,' then all the flocks bore speckled. And if he said thus: 'The streaked shall be your wages,' then all the flocks bore streaked.

Genesis 31:9 So God has taken away the livestock of your father and given them to me.

Genesis 31:10 "And it happened, at the time when the flocks conceived, that I lifted my eyes and saw in a dream, and behold, the rams which leaped upon the flocks were streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted.

Genesis 31:11 Then the Angel of God spoke to me in a dream, saying, 'Jacob.' And I said, 'Here I am.'

Genesis 31:12 And He said, 'Lift your eyes now and see, all the rams which leap on the flocks are streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted; for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you.

Genesis 31:13 I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed the pillar and where you made a vow to Me. Now arise, get out of this land, and return to the land of your family.' "

The God of Bethel

I am the God of Bethel. Look at this. This is 20 years ago at this point and yet God has been faithful and God is being faithful. It doesn't matter how much time a distance has come between you and the Lord. He's the same yesterday today and forever and all of his promises are yes and amen. I'll never leave you nor forsake you, and I will bring you back just as I said I would at his timetable God has chosen working with Jacob and his flaws, chiseling, shaping, forming and fashioning, Jeremiah 18 the potter in the clay, but now God's going to take this lump of clay, and that's all we are, treasures of God inside us earth and vessels, and now it's time to move and a reminder, I'm the God that met you 20 years ago and I'm a god who's been with you and I'm the god that's going with you

Genesis 28:15–19 (NKJV)¹⁵ Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.”¹⁶ Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it.”¹⁷ And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!”¹⁸ Then Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it.¹⁹ And he called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of that city had been Luz previously.

Hebrews 13:8 (NKJV)⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Hebrews 13:5 (NKJV)⁵ Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Jeremiah 18:1–4 (NKJV)¹ The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying: ² “Arise and go down to the potter’s house, and there I will cause you to hear My words.”³ Then I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was, making something at the wheel. ⁴ And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make.

Genesis 31:14 Then Rachel and Leah answered and said to him, “Is there still any portion or inheritance for us in our father’s house?

Genesis 31:15 Are we not considered strangers by him? For he has sold us, and also completely consumed our money.

Genesis 31:16 For all these riches which God has taken from our father are really ours and our children’s; now then, whatever God has said to you, do it.”

Laban Always Been Terrible

We see what kind of father Laban is, not just from the wedding night, but now we see him in the terms of taking his daughters’ inheritance away from them because he doesn’t want to share the prosperity with them, how sad, and then the other, what we see is Rachel, though a godly woman, we thought, here she was this whole time. She's into pagan warship. following after her father's enchantment.

Melt a Man’s Heart

The wives said to Jacob, whatever God has told you to do, do it! And that is the best council you ever give anyone who has heard from the Lord and knows that God has spoken to the person, you don't try to step in and add to it, take away, you give that word, whatever God says to do, do it.

And I'll tell you wives, that's what a man on his deathbed will remember those times that you counted at him and looked upon him as a man a God. that melts a man's heart, that you would think such a thing and the words that you would stand. You're a man of God. I will follow you anywhere.

Genesis 31:17 Then Jacob rose and set his sons and his wives on camels.

Genesis 31:18 And he carried away all his livestock and all his possessions which he had gained, his acquired livestock which he had gained in Padan Aram, to go to his father Isaac in the land of Canaan.

Genesis 31:19 Now Laban had gone to shear his sheep, and Rachel had stolen the household idols that were her father’s.

Genesis 31:20 And Jacob stole away, unknown to Laban the Syrian, in that he did not tell him that he intended to flee.

Genesis 31:21 So he fled with all that he had. He arose and crossed the river, and headed toward the mountains of Gilead.

Gilead

Verse 21 Gilead is up there by the Golan, which is interesting. Here we are, the contention continued on for all these thousands of years. between Jacob, known as Israel and Laban, known as the Syrians Here it is before our very eyes. Still today, as we're watching the instability of the Middle East.

Laban Pursues Jacob (31:22-43)

Genesis 31:22 And Laban was told on the third day that Jacob had fled.

Genesis 31:23 Then he took his brethren with him and pursued him for seven days' journey, and he overtook him in the mountains of Gilead.

Genesis 31:24 But God had come to Laban the Syrian in a dream by night, and said to him, "Be careful that you speak to Jacob neither good nor bad."

Zechariah 2:8

Remembers Zechariah 2:8 Whoever touches you touches the apple of my eye. I think we're witnessing that today. And he appears to Laban, said, if you touch my man, you've touched me. I believe the Lord still protects. Still says these things, not just for the nation of Israel, but he protects us, as he so desires, for his ways, and then there will come a day where do the Lord may have us lay down as a martyr. We're going to talk about that as we look at our church family in Syria, being martyred for their faith. But until, we see God's great protection upon Jacob till he fulfills the promise that God gave him, the inheritance of the land, to make him a great nation, and then we know, and out of him will come the kings, and not only the kings, but the king of kings.

Zechariah 2:8 (NKJV) ⁸ For thus says the LORD of hosts: "He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye.

By the way, they named the land Lebanon after Laban.

Genesis 31:25 So Laban overtook Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the mountains, and Laban with his brethren pitched in the mountains of Gilead.

Genesis 31:26 And Laban said to Jacob: "What have you done, that you have stolen away unknown to me, and carried away my daughters like captives taken with the sword?

Genesis 31:27 Why did you flee away secretly, and steal away from me, and not tell me; for I might have sent you away with joy and songs, with timbrel and harp?

Genesis 31:28 And you did not allow me to kiss my sons and my daughters. Now you have done foolishly in so doing.

Genesis 31:29 It is in my power to do you harm, but the God of your father spoke to me last night, saying, 'Be careful that you speak to Jacob neither good nor bad.'

Genesis 31:30 And now you have surely gone because you greatly long for your father's house, but why did you steal my gods?"

Genesis 31:31 Then Jacob answered and said to Laban, "Because I was afraid, for I said, 'Perhaps you would take your daughters from me by force.'

Genesis 31:32 With whomever you find your gods, do not let him live. In the presence of our brethren, identify what I have of yours and take it with you." For Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them.

How Big Your God / Not Simple People / A Philosophy

How big is your god if he can be stolen or kidnapped. Now these people were intelligent in the days of Jacob, they were not simple minded. We picture them worshipping idols and lighting incense. Maybe they did that, but understand the big picture, the image they worshipped represented a philosophy to them. It was more about them worshipping the philosophy than the little carved image.

Main Gods of Day

- Astoreh – the god of sex and fertility. Today it is called pornography, lust, sexual immorality. No different today.
- Mammon – the god of possessions. Today it is called MasterCard, big fat paychecks. It is no different today.
- Molech – the god of pleasure. Today it is called Bud Light, the great outdoors. It is no different today.
- Baal – the god of the intellect and philosophy. Today it is called education, open-minded, higher learning. No different today.

Genesis 31:33 And Laban went into Jacob's tent, into Leah's tent, and into the two maids' tents, but he did not find them. Then he went out of Leah's tent and entered Rachel's tent.

Genesis 31:34 Now Rachel had taken the household idols, put them in the camel's saddle, and sat on them. And Laban searched all about the tent but did not find them.

Genesis 31:35 And she said to her father, "Let it not displease my lord that I cannot rise before you, for the manner of women is with me." And he searched but did not find the household idols.

Genesis 31:36 Then Jacob was angry and rebuked Laban, and Jacob answered and said to Laban: "What is my trespass? What is my sin, that you have so hotly pursued me?"

Genesis 31:37 Although you have searched all my things, what part of your household things have you found? Set it here before my brethren and your brethren, that they may judge between us both!

Genesis 31:38 These twenty years I have been with you; your ewes and your female goats have not miscarried their young, and I have not eaten the rams of your flock.

Genesis 31:39 That which was torn by beasts I did not bring to you; I bore the loss of it. You required it from my hand, whether stolen by day or stolen by night.

Genesis 31:40 There I was! In the day the drought consumed me, and the frost by night, and my sleep departed from my eyes.

Genesis 31:41 Thus I have been in your house twenty years; I served you fourteen years for your two daughters, and six years for your flock, and you have changed my wages ten times.

Genesis 31:42 Unless the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had been with me, surely now you would have sent me away empty-handed. God has seen my affliction and the labor of my hands, and rebuked you last night."

Genesis 31:43 And Laban answered and said to Jacob, "These daughters are my daughters, and these children are my children, and this flock is my flock; all that you see is mine. But what can I do this day to these my daughters or to their children whom they have borne?"

All Laban has Done – Don't Let Laban's Dominate Your Life

And all that Laban has done still can't outreach what God is doing through these five people, and are going to come the twelve tribes of Israel and the fulfillment of God's Word to coming back to the land and being a fruitful nation, a blessed nation,

And so don't let the Labans in your life be what dominates you, who's hurt you and mistreated you and the things they have done to you, that that becomes your identity of, I could have been great if it wasn't for this Laban in my life, but look at it as I had this Laban in my life and look how great God was, and you will live a whole different way rather than living in the shadow of a Laban, you'll live under the shadow of the Almighty God

Jacob and Laban Make a Covenant (31:44-55)

Genesis 31:44 Now therefore, come, let us make a covenant, you and I, and let it be a witness between you and me."

Genesis 31:45 So Jacob took a stone and set it up as a pillar.

Genesis 31:46 Then Jacob said to his brethren, "Gather stones." And they took stones and made a heap, and they ate there on the heap.

Genesis 31:47 Laban called it Jegar Sahadutha, but Jacob called it Galeed.

Genesis 31:48 And Laban said, "This heap is a witness between you and me this day." Therefore its name was called Galeed,
Genesis 31:49 also Mizpah, because he said, "May the LORD watch between you and me when we are absent one from another.

Mizpah

Mizpah is often used on jewelry, "the Lord watch between us", it sounds romantic, but in actuality it isn't a term for endearing love. It is really, "you are a dirty rat". I can't watch your every step, but God can, and if you try to cross me may God get you. So probably not a good Christmas present this year.

Genesis 31:50 If you afflict my daughters, or if you take other wives besides my daughters, although no man is with us—see, God is witness between you and me!"

Genesis 31:51 Then Laban said to Jacob, "Here is this heap and here is this pillar, which I have placed between you and me.

Genesis 31:52 This heap is a witness, and this pillar is a witness, that I will not pass beyond this heap to you, and you will not pass beyond this heap and this pillar to me, for harm.

Genesis 31:53 The God of Abraham, the God of Nahor, and the God of their father judge between us." And Jacob swore by the Fear of his father Isaac.

Genesis 31:54 Then Jacob offered a sacrifice on the mountain, and called his brethren to eat bread. And they ate bread and stayed all night on the mountain.

Genesis 31:55 And early in the morning Laban arose, and kissed his sons and daughters and blessed them. Then Laban departed and returned to his place.

Laban Gone / Jacob Continues

They part way, and we are never to hear from Laban again, but we will watch Jacob continue on his way, as God leads him, and works on him.

The Hard Heart of Laban

Do you want to see how hardened Laban's heart mind, soul, and spirit is that God showed up in a dream spoke to him. He knew that God spoke to him. He responded in obedience to what God told him to do by not stabbing and killing Jacob as he wanted to and his heart is so hard that he still follows through to confront Jacob and the family and search for his god his idols that have failed him, that didn't speak to him, did not show up to him in a dream, and yet he still comes with a passive aggression, but seeking all idol after the one true living god has spoken to him.

And I can say, that sounds amazing until I look back at my life and I look back at all the years of ministry of God spoke, God spoke, showed himself, strong, and what it should have been a total yielding and a humbling did not translate into a changed life. You would think would show us and saying Jacob, your God just spoke to me, I remember the story you told 20 years ago when you came to us and you shared that story all these times over about Bethel, that same God just showed up to me and you know what? now he's as real to me as he is to you as he's blessed you, I'm going to yield my life and believe the same blessings are going to come in return.

And yet, nothing it didn't translate into a change life and I ask you. I ask myself. Has there been a word of God that he spoke? You knew it was from him. and yet still yet you're not yielding to it. You're not responding to it. It hasn't translated into a changed life. May the Lord speak to you today. May the Lord speak to all of us today. May we look at those things and know, hey, 20 years later for Jacob, why not meet today? How long has it been since I disregarded that word, but I know. 20 years later, God still honors the word he spoke to Jacob and Jacob when he responds, it will be a changed life.

Outline: Genesis 30-31

- Rachael and Bilhah (30:1-8)
- Leah and Zilpah (30:9-13)
- Mandrakes for the Man (30:14-18)

- Leah's Hurting Heart (30:19-20)
- Leah Births Dinah (30:21)
- God Remembers Rachael (30:22-24)
- Jacob Names His Wives (30:25-43)
- Laban and Sons Turn Against Jacob (31:1-2)
- God Tells Jacob it is Time to Go (31:3-21)
- Laban Pursues Jacob (31:22-43)
- Jacob and Laban Make a Covenant (31:44-55)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do His mighty work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need