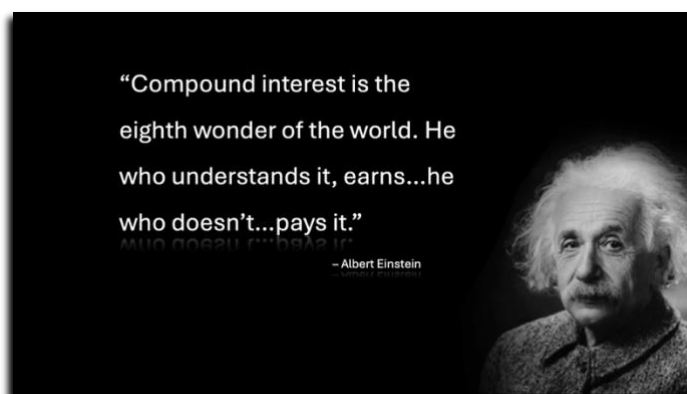
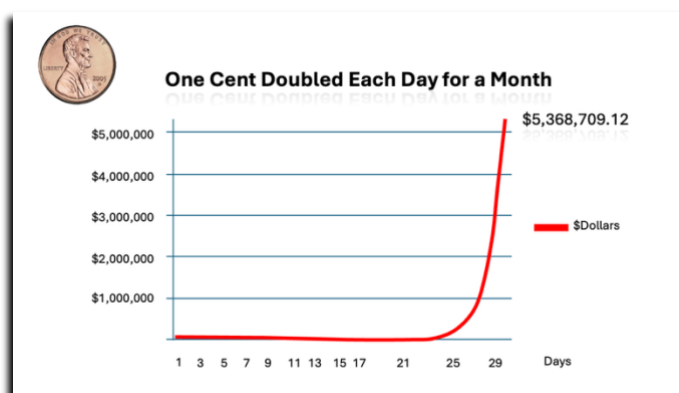


Genesis 31

31:1 Now Jacob heard that the sons of Laban were saying, “Jacob has taken all that was our father's, and from what was our father's he has gained all this wealth.”² And Jacob saw that Laban did not regard him with favor as before.³ Then the LORD said to Jacob, “Return to the land of your fathers and to your kindred, and I will be with you.”

- These are his 1st cousins grumbling against him.
- This increase in wealth took place over six years.
 - Jacob experienced compounding – would you want a million dollars today or a penny that doubles its value every day for a month?
 - \$1 million; or 1 penny² x month = \$5,368,709.12



¹ <https://www.newtraderu.com/2023/01/29/how-much-is-a-penny-doubled-every-day-for-a-month/>

² <https://www.thinkindependent.com.au/still-8th-wonder-world/>



- Albert Einstein said that “Compound interest is the eighth wonder of the world. He who understands it, earns...he who doesn’t...pays it.”
- This is what Jacob experienced.
 - At first, it was no big deal. By the end, it was exponential growth.

^{31:1} Now Jacob heard that the sons of Laban were saying, “Jacob has taken all that was our father's, and from what was our father's he has gained all this wealth.” ² And Jacob saw that Laban did not regard him with favor as before. ³ Then the LORD said to Jacob, “Return to the land of your fathers and to your kindred, and I will be with you.”

- Laban did not regard him with favor – last chapter we saw the daughters plagued by envy; now it is Laban.
- The LORD said to Jacob – The LORD told him it was time to go.
 - As our good shepherd, the LORD will let us know when it is time to get outa Dodge.
 - The LORD will protect Jacob, and He will also keep us safe if we allow Him to lead us.

⁴ So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah into the field where his flock was ⁵ and said to them, “I see that your father does not regard me with favor as he did before. But the God of my father has been with me. ⁶ You know that I have served your father with all my strength, ⁷ yet your father has cheated me and changed my wages ten times. But God did not permit him to harm me.

- But the God of my father has been with me – Jacob recognizes God’s hand in his protection and prosperity.
 - This was made evident through difficulty.



- **Real-world question for you:** Would you rather have everything fine, no problems and *not have* the LORD's presence with you; or would you choose difficulty *with* His presence and understanding of His will and Love for you? (Take a minute to think about that)
 - Right now, many of you are going through great difficulty.
 - Perhaps not now, but you have seen great difficulty.
- **Bench/ PR** – with lifting, strength is just a theory until it is proved
 - I can say I can bench/squat xyz, but until I get under it and lift it, it's just theory.
 - Likewise, we can say God is with us, for us, but nothing can come close to having the living God make you aware of His presence in the midst of difficult/ trial
 - I've ministered to folks whose trial only ended at their connecting flight to glory.
 - Most showed me how grateful they were to have God's presence in the midst of the trial.
 - They would gladly take an opportunity to have trial end if they could, but they would not exchange the depth of understanding, comfort in, and faith, for anything.
 - John Mangona, Vinny Whitehead, Linda Young, John Buckley
 - His grace was sufficient for that day.
- I recently had a difficult trial I had to deal with.
- [Philippians 4:11-13](#) – ¹¹ Not that I am speaking of being in need, **for I have learned**, in whatever situation I am, to be content. ¹² I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, **I have learned the secret** of facing plenty and hunger,



abundance and need. ¹³ I can do all things **through him** who strengthens me.

⁴ So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah into the field where his flock was ⁵ and said to them, “I see that your father does not regard me with favor as he did before. But the God of my father has been with me. ⁶ You know that I have served your father with all my strength, ⁷ yet your father has cheated me and changed my wages ten times. But God did not permit him to harm me.

- Father has cheated me – Jacob has reaped what he sowed with the shadiness toward Esau and Isaac.
 - Sow & reap, God cooked it into the books! [Galatians 6:7-8](#) ^{KJV} – ⁷ Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. ⁸ For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.
 - Do you think Jacob reflected on that?

⁸ If he said, ‘The spotted shall be your wages,’ then all the flock bore spotted; and if he said, ‘The striped shall be your wages,’ then all the flock bore striped. ⁹ Thus God has taken away the livestock of your father and given them to me. ¹⁰ In the breeding season of the flock I lifted up my eyes and saw in a dream that the goats that mated with the flock were striped, spotted, and mottled.

- God has taken away – Jacob understands that his increase is from God, not his scheming.
 - The LORD is [our provider](#)³

³ https://www.openbible.info/topics/god_is_my_provider



¹¹ Then the angel of God said to me in the dream, ‘Jacob,’ and I said, ‘Here I am!’ ¹² And he said, ‘Lift up your eyes and see, all the goats that mate with the flock are striped, spotted, and mottled, for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you. ¹³ I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and made a vow to me. Now arise, go out from this land and return to the land of your kindred.’”

- The angel of God – “**Messenger** of God”
 - Preincarnate Christ Jesus
 - I have seen all that Laban is doing to you – The God Who sees!
 - He saw Hagar when she was mistreated by Sarai – [Genesis 16:13](#)
 - ¹³ I am the God of Bethel – The angel claims to be God
 - where you anointed a pillar and made a vow to me – He reminds Jacob of when he 1st encountered God ([Genesis 28:10-22](#))
 - I think God reminds us and invites us to remember when we 1st encountered Him.
 - The fire, the zeal, the gratefulness for salvation from our sin. This is healthy for us.
 - [Revelation 2](#) – He reminds the church at Ephesus to return to their 1st love.

¹⁴ Then **Rachel and Leah** answered and said to him, “Is there any portion or inheritance left to us in our father's house? ¹⁵ Are we not regarded by him as foreigners? For he has sold us, and he has indeed devoured our money. ¹⁶ All the wealth that God has taken away from our father belongs to us and to our children. Now then, **whatever God has said to you, do.**”

- Look at this! Unity between the two rival sisters!
 - It is against their own father because he was even shady toward them. If you look at Laban’s actions toward both daughters in mistreating their husband, you can



see that there was a very high probability that he was going to be shady with them and just keep his wealth for himself and his sons.

- ¹⁷ So Jacob arose and set his sons and his wives on camels. ¹⁸ He drove away all his livestock, all his property that he had gained, the livestock in his possession that he had acquired in Paddan-aram, to go to the land of Canaan to his father Isaac. ¹⁹ Laban had gone to shear his sheep, and Rachel stole her father's household gods.
- Her father's household gods – 20 years knowing this man of God, and still she is not getting it!
 - Sometimes Christians subscribe to unbiblical myths and practices.
 - I once lost my wallet, and this lady told me to pray to Saint Matthew to find it 😊
 - Rachel was brought up in idolatry.
 - God wanted Jacob out and away from this land now!
 - The witness of Jacob's God was there 20 years, now God's witness is done!
- [Romans 1:18-32](#) – God will back off after a time

²⁰ And Jacob tricked Laban the Aramean, by not telling him that he intended to flee. ²¹ He fled with all that he had and arose and crossed the Euphrates, and set his face toward the hill country of Gilead.



- crossed the Euphrates – Syria today
- the hill country of Gilead – Jordan today



- Think of the logistics of this operation.
 - Jacob had large flocks, female servants and male servants, and camels and [Gen 30:43](#);
- The term “Hebrew” is derived from the name Eber, meaning “Beyond the river”
 - [Joshua 24:3;15-15](#)

²² When it was told Laban on the third day that Jacob had fled, ²³ he took his kinsmen with him and pursued him for seven days and followed close after him into the hill country of Gilead. ²⁴ But God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream by night and said to him, “Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad.”

- 10 days – three when he found out and seven to pursue.
- God came to Laban – The Good shepherd, taking care of making the path straight for Jacob!

²⁵ And Laban overtook Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the hill country, and Laban with his kinsmen pitched tents in the hill country of Gilead. ²⁶ And Laban said to Jacob, “What have you done, that you have tricked me and driven away my daughters like captives of the sword? ²⁷ Why did you flee secretly and trick me, and did not tell me, so that I might have sent you away with mirth and songs, with tambourine and lyre?

²⁸ And why did you not permit me to kiss my sons and my daughters farewell? Now you have done foolishly. ²⁹ It is in my power to do you harm. But the God of your father spoke to me last night, saying, ‘Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad.’ ³⁰ And now you have gone away because you longed greatly for your father's house, but why did you steal my gods?”

- God of *your* father [emphasis mine] – Notice, not Laban’s God.



- Laban thought The LORD was just one among many

- How many people think that way today?

³¹ Jacob answered and said to Laban, “Because I was afraid, for I thought that you would take your daughters from me by force. ³² Anyone with whom you find your gods shall not live. In the presence of our kinsmen point out what I have that is yours, and take it.” Now Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them.

- What kind of gods can be hidden by man or need man’s help in hiding?!

³³ So Laban went into Jacob's tent and into Leah's tent and into the tent of the two female servants, but he did not find them. And he went out of Leah's tent and entered Rachel's.

³⁴ Now Rachel had taken the household gods and put them in the camel's saddle and sat on them. Laban felt all about the tent, but did not find them.

³⁵ And she said to her father, “Let not my lord be angry that I cannot rise before you, for the way of women is upon me.” So he searched but did not find the household gods.

³⁶ Then Jacob became angry and berated Laban. Jacob said to Laban, “What is my offense? What is my sin, that you have hotly pursued me? ³⁷ For you have felt through all my goods; what have you found of all your household goods? Set it here before my kinsmen and your kinsmen, that they may decide between us two.

³⁸ These twenty years I have been with you. Your ewes and your female goats have not miscarried, and I have not eaten the rams of your flocks. ³⁹ What was torn by wild beasts I did not bring to you. I bore the loss of it myself. From my hand you required it, whether stolen by



day or stolen by night. ⁴⁰ There I was: by day the heat consumed me, and the cold by night, and my sleep fled from my eyes.

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

- **Payback-** J. Vernon McGee put it this way:
 - “Jacob refused to submit to God at home, and he now has to submit to his uncle.
 - Jacob came to receive a wife and dignity, and he was made a servant because God respects the rights of the 1st born;
 - Jacob deceived his father, and he is deceived by his father-in-law;
 - Jacob the younger became the older; he found out that he was getting the oldest when he thought he was getting the younger;
 - He revealed a mercenary spirit that displayed in the way he got the birthright; Jacob allowed his mother to cover his hands with the skins of goats, and later on we’re going to his own sons deceived him in the same way- they killed a goat and dipped Joseph’s coat of many colors in it;
 - He deceived his father about being the favorite son, and he was deceived about his favorite son Joseph”⁴

⁴² If the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had not been on my side, surely now you would have sent me away empty-handed. God saw my affliction and the labor of my hands and rebuked you last night.”

⁴³ Then Laban answered and said to Jacob, “The daughters are my daughters, the children are my children, the flocks are my flocks, and all that you see is mine. But what can I do this day for these my daughters or for their children whom they have borne? ⁴⁴ Come now, let us make a covenant, you and I. And let it be a witness between you and me.” ⁴⁵ So Jacob took a stone and set it up as a pillar.

⁴ Dr. J. Vernon McGee <https://blb.sc/00GVGP>

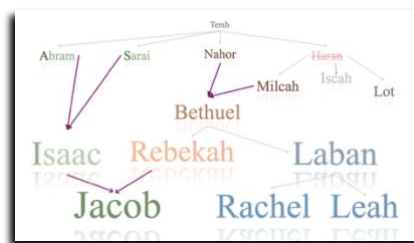
⁴⁶ And Jacob said to his kinsmen, “Gather stones.” And they took stones and made a heap, and they ate there by the heap. ⁴⁷ Laban called it Jegar-sahadutha, but Jacob called it Galeed. ⁴⁸ Laban said, “This heap is a witness between you and me today.” Therefore he named it Galeed, ⁴⁹ and Mizpah, for he said, “The LORD watch between you and me, when we are out of one another's sight.

⁵⁰ If you oppress my daughters, or if you take wives besides my daughters, although no one is with us, see, God is witness between you and me.”

⁵¹ Then Laban said to Jacob, “See this heap and the pillar, which I have set between you and me. ⁵² This heap is a witness, and the pillar is a witness, that I will not pass over this heap to you, and you will not pass over this heap and this pillar to me, to do harm.

⁵³ The God of Abraham and the God of Nahor, the God of their father, judge between us.” So Jacob swore by the Fear of his father Isaac, ⁵⁴ and Jacob offered a sacrifice in the hill country and called his kinsmen to eat bread. They ate bread and spent the night in the hill country.

- The God of Abraham... Nahor, ...**God of their father**?



-
- **Dr. Constable Quote:** Laban had two deities in mind when he said "The God of Abraham and the god of Nahor" ([Genesis 31:53](#)), as the Hebrew plural verb translated "judge" indicates. Jacob swore by the "Awesome One of Isaac," which



indicates that he was worshipping the God of his fathers. Laban also swore by the pagan god his fathers worshipped.”⁵

- NET – May the God of Abraham and the god of Nahor, the gods of their father, judge between us.” Jacob took an oath **by the God whom his father Isaac feared.**

⁵⁵ Early in the morning Laban arose and kissed his grandchildren and his daughters and blessed them. Then Laban departed and returned home.

32:1 Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him. ² And when Jacob saw them he said, “This is God's camp!” So he called the name of that place Mahanaim.^[a]

Mahanaim means two camps

The LORD bless you and keep you;

²⁵ the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

²⁶ the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

⁵ Constable, Thomas. "Genesis 31." In Dr. Constable's Expository Notes. 2012. StudyLight.org. Cited 2 September 2026. Online: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/eng/dcc/genesis-31.html>.