

## Getting Back to Bethel — Leaving Laban Behind

Genesis 31:1–25 | Pastor Larry Hof

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### Key Theme

When God moves His children on, He goes before them, protects them behind, and provides everything needed for the journey. Leaving Laban is sometimes the only way to follow the Lord.

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### I. WHEN THE WORLD TURNS AGAINST YOU, GOD REMINDS YOU HE IS FOR YOU

#### Genesis 31:1–3

- Laban's sons resent Jacob.
- Laban's attitude shifts.
- God speaks clearly: "Return... and I will be with thee."

#### NOTES:

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### II. DO RIGHT EVEN WHEN YOU'RE DONE WRONG

#### Genesis 31:4–13

- Jacob calls his wives privately.
- He recounts God's faithfulness despite Laban's deceit.
- God prospered Jacob supernaturally.

- God reminds Jacob of his vow at Bethel.

**NOTES:**

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**III. GOD SOMETIMES USES UNLIKELY VOICES TO CONFIRM HIS WILL**

***Genesis 31:14–16***

- Rachel and Leah agree: their father mistreated them.
- They support Jacob's obedience: "Whatsoever God hath said unto thee, do."

**NOTES:**

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**IV. OBEDIENCE OFTEN REQUIRES SWIFT, QUIET ACTION**

***Genesis 31:17–21***

- Jacob gathers his family and goods quickly.
- Rachel secretly steals Laban's idols.
- Jacob leaves without telling Laban — wisdom, not deceit.

**NOTES:**

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## V. WHEN YOU STEP OUT IN OBEDIENCE, THE ENEMY WILL PURSUE

### ***Genesis 31:22–25***

- Laban chases Jacob for seven days.
- God confronts Laban: “Speak not to Jacob good or bad.”
- Obedience is always protected by God's presence.

### **NOTES:**

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### **Closing Takeaways**

- ✓ God often moves us by making where we are uncomfortable.
- ✓ When God says “Go,” He also says, “I will be with thee.”
- ✓ Opposition after obedience is normal — but God shields His children.
- ✓ Leaving Laban may be painful, but staying would be destructive.
- ✓ God defends what He directs.