



**Series: Genesis: The Foundations for the Coming of Christ**

**Title: The Redemption in Tension**

**Scripture: Genesis 31**

**September Memory Verse:** *"So you, by the help of your God, return, hold fast to love and justice, and wait continually for your God."* **Hosea 12:6**

Tension is present in every relationship.

What that tension produces is directly related to our trust in God and our treatment of one another.

1. Tension produces friction when there is one-way or no-way communication.
2. Tension produces harmony when there is two-way communication with God and one another. (Gen. 31:1-55)
3. We often have harmony with some and friction with others at the same time.
4. God sovereignly uses the tensions of friction and the tensions of harmony to conform our will to His. (vs. 3, 5–13, 16b, 24, 29, 42, 53)
5. The greatest tension of friction and harmony in history is the incarnation, life, death, resurrection, ascension, and second coming of Jesus Christ.

What do I do with the tensions in my life? R.E.S.T.

1. Recognize the tensions and my assumptions. (Jacob "heard" and "saw," vs. 1-2)
2. Exchange my will for God's will. (The Word & Prayer, v. 3, "I will be with you")
3. Speak clearly with God and others. (church, small group/discipleship, vs. 4-16 with Rachel and Leah; vs. 36-42 with Laban)
4. Trust God with the results. (Mizpah, v. 49, "The Lord watch between you and me")

*You cannot resolve every tension in life. You can REST in them.*