

Genesis 31:1-21 Jacob Flees from Laban

Gen 31:1 Now Jacob heard the words of Laban's sons, saying (**rumbling**), "Jacob has taken away (**or robbed**) all that was our father's, and from what was our father's, he has acquired all this wealth (**Jacob has gained all his wealth and honor at our father's expense**)."

Laban's sons after Jacob had come into the family. His sons' jealousy and being envious affected his bad attitude.

1Cor 3:3 for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?

Gen 31:2 And Jacob saw (**noticed**) the countenance (**in his face, facial expression, change**) of Laban, and indeed it (**his attitude**) was not favorable toward him, as before.

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

Gen 28:12 Then he(**Jacob**) dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

Gen 28:15 "Behold, I (the LORD God of Abraham and the God of Isaac) 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."

Gen 28:20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread (**food**) to eat and clothing to put on,

Gen 28:21 "so that I come back to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God.

Gen 31:4 So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to the field, to his flock (**which he was watching**),

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

Isa 41:10 Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

Gen 31:6 "And you know that with all my might (**my strength**), I have served (**worked hard for**) your father.

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

Gen 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?"

Col 3:23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,

Col 3:24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

Gen 31:7 "Yet your father has deceived (**cheated**) me and changed my wages ten times, but God did not allow him to hurt (**or harm**) me.

Gen 31:8 "If he said thus: 'The speckled (**animals**) shall be your wages,' then all the flocks bore (**gave birth to**) speckled (**animals**). And if he said thus: 'The streaked shall be your wages,' then all the flocks bore streaked (**offspring**) (**God was giving favor either way**).

Jacob made a deal

Gen 30:31 So he(**Laban**) 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:

Gen 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.

Gen 30:34 And Laban said, "Oh (**yes**), that it were according to your word!" (**agreed but did the opposite, immediately took Jacob's part and gave them to his sons**)

Gen 31:9 "So God has taken away (**redirected supernaturally**) the livestock (**new births**) of your father, and given them to me.

Laban tried to cheat Jacob, God protected and what you sow you will reap. God turned the tables and gave favor to Jacob.

Psa 118:6 The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?

Psa 118:8 It is better to trust in the LORD Than to put confidence in man.

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

Gen 31:10 "And it happened, at the time when the flocks conceived (**breeding season**), that I lifted my eyes and "saw in a dream", and behold, the rams which leaped upon the flocks were streaked (**mated with the female goats**), speckled, and gray-spotted.

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

Gen 16:7 Now the Angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur.

Gen 16:8 And He said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid, where have you come from, and where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai."

Gen 16:11 And the Angel of the LORD said to her: "Behold, you are with child, And you shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, Because the LORD has heard your affliction.

The Hebrew word for "angel" means "messenger" (an angel of God is a special messenger from God who speaks for and is closely identified with Him) and context determines who the messenger is? The same is true for Greek, and the word "angel" is an English form (transliteration) of the Gr aggelos. The Angel of the LORD can be a special case, however. Many Bible scholars believe that this Angel may be a theophany, that is, a physical manifestation of God, in which case the word Angel is capitalized by some of the translators. The Angel of the LORD may, based on context, be the pre-incarnate Christ, the Son of God

Note especially **Gen 31:13**, where the Angel says, "I am the God of Bethel."

Gen 31:12 "And He (**Angel of God**) said, 'Lift your eyes now and see, all the rams which leap on the flocks (**during breeding season**) are streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted; for I (**Angel of God**) have seen all that Laban is doing to you (**and how He has treated you badly**).

Gen 31:13 'I am the "God of Bethel", where you anointed the pillar (**of stone**) and where you made a "vow to Me". Now arise, get out of this land (**leave at once, immediately**), and return to the land of your family (**your native land, where you were born**).' "

Gal 5:16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Gal 5:17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

Gal 5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Gal 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,

Gal 5:20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,

Gal 5:21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Gen 31:14 Then Rachel and Leah answered and said to him(**Jacob**), "Is there still any portion or inheritance for us, in our father's house (**or estate**)?"

Gen 31:15 "Are we not considered strangers (**or foreigners**) by him? For he has sold us (**to you in marriage**), and also completely consumed (**spent, used up all**) our money (**H he has fully enjoyed the benefits and the monies, some of which is due to us for our inheritance**).

Gen 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."

The sisters agreed they had both been taken advantage of and now have a common problem their father the deceiver.

Gen 31:17 Then Jacob rose and set his sons (**children**) and his wives on camels.

Gen 31:18 And he(**Jacob**) carried away all his livestock and all his possessions (**property**) which he had gained, his acquired livestock which he had gained in Padan Aram (**Northwest Mesopotamia**), to go to his father Isaac in the land of Canaan.

Prophetic and fulfilled

Gen 17:8 "Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."

Gen 33:18 Then Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Padan Aram; and he pitched his tent before the city.

Gen 31:19 Now Laban had gone to shear his sheep (**some distance away**), and Rachel had (**went in her father's place and**) stolen (**took with her**) the household idols, that were her father's (**These pagan figurines (Hebrew teraphim) implied or conferred a right of inheritance, often in human form used for divination**).

Jdg 17:5 The man Micah had a shrine, and made an ephod and household idols (**Hebrew teraphim, false worship, evil**); and he consecrated one of his sons, who became his priest.

Jdg 17:6 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Zec 10:2 For the idols(teraphim) speak delusion (worthless and wickedness); The diviners envision lies, and tell false dreams; They comfort in vain. Therefore the people wend their way like sheep (lost); They are in trouble afflicted and suffer) because there is no shepherd.

2Cor 6:15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?

2Cor 6:16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."

2Cor 6:17 Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."

2Cor 6:18 "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."

Gen 31:20 And Jacob stole away (stored idols Rachel took unknowingly on the camels, and) unknown to Laban the Syrian (Aramean), in that he did not tell him that he intended to flee (He obeyed God by leaving, and he secretly did not tell Laban, which would give him another opportunity to take advantage, as he always did).

Gen 31:21 So he(Jacob) fled with all (his possessions, everything) that he had. He arose and crossed the river (Euphrates River), and headed toward the mountains of Gilead (east of the Jordan River).

It was approximately 300 miles from Haran to the mountains of Gilead, a long hard journey

Genesis 31:22-42 Laban Pursues Jacob

Gen 31:22 And Laban was told on the third day that Jacob had fled (left for home).

Gen 31:23 Then he(Laban) took his brethren (a group of relatives) with him and pursued him for seven days' journey, and he overtook (caught up with) him(Jacob) in the mountains of Gilead.

Gen 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 (God spoke to Laban in a dream, take heed, be warned leave him alone, be careful what you say)."

God speaks to people in dreams

Gen 20:3 But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, "Indeed you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man's wife."

Gen 46:2 Then God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night, and said, "Jacob, Jacob!" And he said, "Here I am."

Act 2:16 "But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: Prophetically spoken and fulfilled

Act 2:17 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.

Act 2:18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.

Gen 31:25 So Laban overtook (**caught up with**) Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the mountains, and Laban with his brethren (**group**) pitched in the mountains of Gilead (**also not far from Jacob**).

Gen 31:26 And Laban said to Jacob: "What have you done (**you have deceived me**), that you have stolen away (**my daughters**) unknown to me (**without my knowledge**), and carried away my daughters **like captives (or prisoners)** taken with the sword?

Gen 31:27 "Why did you flee (or go) away secretly, and steal away from me, and not tell me; for "I might" have sent you away with joy (celebration and feasting) and songs (and music), with timbrel and harp?

Gen 31:28 "And you did not allow me to kiss my sons (**grandchildren**) and my daughters (**goodbye**). Now you have done foolishly in so doing (**why have you acted so foolishly**).

Gen 31:29 "It is in my power (**my will**) to do you harm (**to make you pay**), but the God of your father spoke to me last night, saying, 'Be careful that you speak to Jacob neither good nor bad (**watch out what you say, and basically leave Jacob alone**).'

Gen 31:30 "And now you have surely gone, (**I suppose you felt homesick**) because you greatly long for your father's house, but why did you steal my gods (**household gods**)?"

Laban was upset because possession of the father's household gods (idols) played an important role in inheritance. In the region where Laban lived, a son-in-law who possessed the family gods could appear before a judge and make a claim to the estate of his father-in-law. Since Jacob's possession of the household gods implied the right to inherit Laban's wealth, one can understand why he followed Jacob to recover the idols.

Jdg 18:24 So he(**Micah**) said, "You have taken away my gods which I made, and the priest (**a Levite which I consecrated**), and you have gone away. Now what more do I have? How can you say to me, 'What ails you?' "

Rom 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

Rom 1:19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.

Rom 1:21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Rom 1:22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,

Rom 1:23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man--and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

Rom 1:24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,

Rom 1:25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature (manmade idols) rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

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

Gen 31:32 "With whomever you find your gods, do not let him live (**put that person to death**). In the presence of our brethren (**relatives**), identify (**search my possessions**) what I have of yours and take it with you." For Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them.

Jacob was proclaiming his innocence and pronounced a harsh judgement on the thief.

Gen 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 (**the idols**). Then he went out of Leah's tent and entered Rachel's tent.

Gen 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 (**the idols**).

1John 5:19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.

1John 5:21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

Gen 31:35 And she(**Rachel**) said to her father, "Let it not displease my lord, that I cannot rise before you, for the manner of women is with me (**on my monthly period**)." And he searched (**further**) but did not find the household idols.

Gen 31:36 Then Jacob was angry and rebuked Laban, and Jacob answered and said to Laban: "What is my trespass (**transgression**)? What is my sin, that you have so hotly pursued me (**like a criminal to harm me**)?"

Gen 31:37 "Although you have searched all my things, what part of your household things have you found? Set it here, before my brethren (**relatives**) and your brethren (**relatives**), that they may judge between us both! (**Let's settle the dispute now, what do you have?**)

Gen 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 (**at any time, for food**).

Gen 31:39 "That which was torn by beasts (**predators**) I did not bring to you; I bore the loss of it (**myself**). (**Also**) You required it from my hand (**to make good**), whether stolen by day or stolen by night.

Responsibility for Property

Exo 22:12 "But if, in fact, it is stolen from him, he shall make restitution to the owner of it.

Exo 22:13 "If it is torn to pieces by a beast, then he shall bring it as evidence, and he shall not make good what was torn.

Gen 31:40 "There I was! In the day the drought (**and scorching heat**) consumed me, and the frost by night, and my sleep departed from my eyes (**countless times**).

Gen 31:41 "Thus I have been in your house twenty years; I served you fourteen years for your two daughters, and six years for (**my own flock, working**) your flock, and you have changed my wages ten times.

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

Genesis 31:22-42 Laban's Covenant with Jacob

Gen 31:43 And Laban answered, and said to Jacob, "These daughters (**that you married**), are my daughters, and these children are my children (**grandchildren**), and this flock is (**or are from**) 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 (**gave birth**)?"

Gen 31:44 "Now therefore, come, let us make a covenant, you and I, and let it be a witness between you and me (**proof of our commitment, that we have made peace**)."

Gen 31:45 So Jacob took a stone and set it up as a pillar (**memorial pillar**).

Gen 31:46 Then Jacob said to his brethren (**relatives**), "Gather stones." And they took stones and made a heap (**mound out of stones**), and they ate there on the heap (**so Jacob and Laban sat down beside the pile of stones to eat a covenant meal**).

Gen 31:47 (**To honor the event**) Laban called it Jegar Sahadutha (**witness pile in Aramaic**), but Jacob called it Galeed (**witness pile in Hebrew**).

Gen 31:48 And Laban said, "This heap is a witness (**reminder of oath**) between you and me, this day." Therefore its name was called Galeed (**witness pile**).

Gen 31:49 also Mizpah (**watchtower**), because he said, "May the LORD "watch" between you and me when we are absent one from another.

Gen 31:50 "If you afflict (**mistreat**) my daughters, or if you take other wives besides my daughters, although no man is with us—see (**realize your actions**), God is witness between you and me!"

God will be there judge and serious consequences if violated

Gen 31:51 Then Laban said to Jacob, "Here is this heap and here is this pillar (**or monument**), which I have placed between you and me.

Gen 31:52 "This heap is a witness, and this pillar is a witness (**reminders of our vow**), 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.

Gen 31:53 "The God of Abraham (**your father**), the G(g)od of Nahor (**my father, Terah, who worshipped idols**), and the God of their father judge between us." And Jacob swore by the Fear of his father Isaac (**the one and only true God**).

Here “god” is put in lowercase because Joshua later declared that Terah, the father of Abraham and Nahor, was an idolater, serving “other gods” (Josh 24:2). The wording of the Hebrew here indicates that Laban equated the God of Abraham and Nahor with the god of Terah. Whether Laban actually made no distinction in his mind between the true God and false gods, or simply committed an oversight, is not clear. Jacob evidently recognized the ambiguity in Laban’s statement as well, so to avoid any possibility of swearing allegiance to a false god, he swore his own oath by the God of Isaac.

Gen 31:54 Then Jacob offered a sacrifice on the mountain (**to the LORD**), and called his brethren to eat bread (**meal**). And they ate bread (**food**) and stayed all night on the mountain

Gen 31:55 And early in the morning Laban arose, and kissed his sons (**grandchildren**) and daughters and blessed them (**said goodbye**). Then Laban departed and returned to his place (**home**).

(**Verse 31:55 is numbered 32:1 in Hebrew text**).

End, Prayer

Extra Scriptures

Charts