

recap last week: Jacob has spent at least 21 years under (81) the headship of Laban (Genesis 29:30). We also know that his oldest

son, Reuben was probably 12-14 years old when he went out during the wheat harvest and found some mandrake. After this Leah conceived 3 more times and Rachel conceives Joseph. So 25-35 years is not out of the question. Now Jacob finally comes to his senses (plus figures that Esau has calmed down) and tells his greedy father-in-law that he wants out!

Genesis 30:29-33 Laban wants to keep Jacob only because Laban has had his flocks greatly increased. This was due to Jacob being blessed in his shepherding. So now he suggests to Laban that he receives all the spotted and speckled sheep of the flocks as his decades long wages. Laban is overjoyed because the wealth lies in the flawless pure colored herds.

Genesis 30:34-36 So Laban being so glad that he only had to pay Jacob's wages by giving him the misfits of the flock quickly separated out the spotted and speckled ones to Jacob's boys (again, pointing at time spent) and took his pure ones 3 days journey away. (Jacob is still tending to the flocks until the time to pack up and go has come).

Genesis 30:37-43 I am going to try and unpack this as best I can. Here is only my discernment: ① Jacob takes out the spotted and speckled sheep because they are easily able to be identified. This way Laban can not claim that Jacob took some of his flock. ② Jacob uses the different colored rods (of verse 37) and puts them in front of the flocks when they get together for drinking. My belief is that these rods could be a form of flock aphrodisiacs. And since when we first started the "Jacob seeks a wife" account we read

that all the flocks headed to one well for watering (and that was where he first met Rachel). So this could mean that this might have been the opportunity to mingle. Obviously, a "non-spotted" and a "spotted" could very easily produce a "spotted" offspring. ③ Add in to the equation that he had God blessing him exceedingly and dealing with him according to his obedient time spent at Laban's (verse 33: "So my righteousness will answer for me in time to come, when the subject of my wages comes before you..."). Verse 43 is the outcome: "Thus the man (Jacob) became exceedingly prosperous, and had large flocks, female and male servants, and camels and donkeys."

Genesis 31:1-3 Laban and his boys don't like that Jacob has become prosperous. They are jealous and probably very close to violence. But God! (The wonderful and miraculous "But God's" in the Bible, if taken one by one would take years of Bible studies! Each one must be appreciated for what it is; a miracle of miracles! This one is no different. If Jacob would have been warned by God to leave this could have easily turned ugly. Even Jacob's account ending.

Also, "But, God's" prove that evolution is a lie from Satan. Because everytime we read "But God" it means that something was naturally going to go one way and then God intervened by "But-Godding it." Evolution states that things naturally evolved. A random set of circumstances resulted in very predictable outcomes. Like computers that use "if"- "then" equations or chemical reactions that occur because of the ^{completely} predictable combining of the elements. Always mechanical, physical or chemical. "But, God" smashes the mechanical, physical and chemical principles, and their outcomes, by saying the expected next step is definitely is not going to happen.

Genesis 31: 4-5: Jacob does not even wait till he gets done for the day! He calls Rachel and Leah to the field to tell them what is going on. (83)

Genesis 31: 6-9: Jacob is saying this to Rachel, Leah, you, I, and anyone else who reads this. He is saying that God blessed him. He is giving the glory to God. He is also pointing out that that doesn't matter to Laban and their brothers.

Genesis 31: 10-13: He goes on identifying God's provision. note: in verse 11 Jacob is answering God with the words He loves to hear the most; "Here I am". We have many times identified that to mean: "At Your service, Lord". But we can't mention that too many times.

Genesis 31: 14-16: Both Rachel and Leah realize that they too have been used by their father. The dowry for which Jacob had worked for, for all those years had been squandered away. They both also recognized that God had prospered Jacob and brought to nothing Laban.

Genesis 31: 17-18: Jacob packs his people and stuff up.

Genesis 31: 19-21: Jacob did not tell Laban that he was leaving, for the obvious reasons.

Genesis 31: 22-23: "Not so fast! I want my stuff back".

Genesis 31: 24: Laban intended on doing damage, of this I am certain but God spoke to Laban in a dream (or a vision) and warned him not to be temperamental. To watch his words.

Genesis 31: 25 Laban passes Jacob and both groups rest for the night.

Genesis 31: 26-29 Laban is as false as a \$3 bill! Jacob took off because if he hadn't he would possibly have been killed. Furthermore, Laban could care less about his daughters, they

were just bargaining chips in his continuously greedy lifestyle. And he shows his cards by admitting that he would have kept all that Jacob had if he would have known Jacob was leaving. He basically says, "Lucky for you that God intervened". He's a fool! God came to him in a vision to keep him from harm because if he would have tried to hurt the one whom God had blessed for all those decades he himself would have been wiped away from the face of the earth. (84)

Genesis 31:30 A Bible verse to remember because it applies to all the "gods" and religions outside of Judeo-Christianity. They all have false gods, made by human hands. They are all dead (only Christianity has a God who has defeated death), they are all frauds and all have been invented by inferior beings. Oh, and by the way in many cases they can actually be stolen. Like Laban's gods. (read 1 Kings 18:18-30 only).

Rabbit hole: Serving "other gods" is what caused man to fall. Adam and Eve did not outright reject God in the Garden of Eden, they rejected Him indirectly. They rejected Him by listening to another voice. This is called Interreligious Dialog (Relationships with other faiths). In plain English putting all false gods together with the Only True God (The Triune God). It is the tool that Satan likes to use the most and it started at the Tower of Babel. It will lead many multitudes to eternal damnation and it is the religion that we read of in Revelation. It is a one world religion, powered by Satan and ran by the false prophet and it is called Babylon.

But this is not new news. God has told us this will lead to eternal damnation throughout His whole Word! He even engraved it on tablets so that there can be no misunderstanding, Thou shalt not have any other gods before Me, besides Me, behind Me... more!