

Genesis 30.25 – 31.21

Wage War Wizardry

Reading ANCIENT Story of God's COVENANT Family 4000 yrs ago

FACE Same LIFE Challenges faced by Any of US, Around the WORLD

JACOB spent 14 yrs Building his FAMILY / Now 6 yrs building his FORTUNE

20 yrs since LEAVING Home: Isaac, Rebekah, Esau / Now GOING BACK

Jacob is NOT JUST Older – Truly WISER, More of Man God wants him to BE

REMAINS – like US – a Work in PROGRESS > God is PATIENT and Gracious

FOCUS Today – HOW can We Keep in Step w/ God of Abe, Isaac, & Jacob??

1. The Leading of God

Isaac called Jacob and blessed him and directed him, "...*go* to Paddan-aram to the house of Bethuel...and take as your wife from there" Genesis 28.1,2

Then Jacob *went* on his journey and came to the land of the people of the east. Genesis 29.1

Life of FAITH is a Life of FOLLOWING: DISCIPLE = **FOLLOWER**

All 4 NT Gospels END w/ same 2-word Command from Risen Lord Jesus: **GO!**

MUCH of our Christian LIFE spent trying to SORT OUT – *When, Where, How?*

Examine TEXT and See some Timeless TRUTHS about GOD's GUIDANCE

a. Situation: Push / Pull - RARE that we MOVE when ALL is GOING WELL!

EARLY Church TOLD by RISEN Lord to Go! – 4 Gospels AND book of Acts

Enjoyed FAMILIAR Comforts of Home in Jerusalem about 10 yrs – Thank You!

UNTIL God in his PROVIDENCE lit FIRE of Persecution to give them a PUSH

Lose JOB – CHOKING on Smog – PARENT gets Sick – ROMANCE Cooling

1) Pull – STRONG Attraction to GO to ANOTHER PLACE, MOVE!!

v. 25 As soon as Rachel had borne Joseph, Jacob said to Laban, “Send me away, that I may go to my own home and country...”

PROMISE Land was given to Grandfather ABE and Father ISAAC – Now him!

14 yrs of OBLIGATORY Service to Laban ENDED, 2 Wives daughters, WIVES

BIRTH of Joseph, Rachel’s 1st, NOW She’s LEGALLY BOUND to Husband

ANE Law NO Child > Laban MAY try to KEEP Barren, Disgraced Daughter

v. 22 God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb

GOD building NATION Israel:11 Sons, 1 Coming, Nation needs LAND, **PULL!**

PULL ITSELF NOT Sure Sign to Move / *Pull to Pastor in Hawaii every Winter!*

2) Push - STRONG REASON to Get OUT of PLACE you are NOW In!

vs. 1,2 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.” And Jacob saw that Laban did not regard him with favor as before.

FIRST we have HEARD about LABAN’S Sons > NOT Happy Campers!

BROTHER-IN-LAW STEALING their LOOT, Jacob *happens* to HEAR them!

BLESSING of God on Jacob’s Flocks – Despite Laban’s Treachery & Deceit

NOW Jacob is MORE Powerful & Influential than Laban and HIS SONS!

PULL Alone or PUSH Alone – Not USUALLY get Attention to MOVE

SOMETIMES Urgency of Just ONE – Sister HOME, Father DYING – Right!

PULL and PUSH Together – Seek the LORD, are they SIGNALS to Move?

b. Circumstances: God is in the Details

If PULL & PUSH Converge in LIFE > Do NOT PANIC, trust God of Providence

JACOB was Child of COVENANT Promise

v. 5 But the God of my father has been with me.

v. 7 But God did not permit him (Laban) to harm me.

v. 9 God has taken away the livestock of your father and given them to me.

JACOB was Child of COVENANT Promise – So are YOU, even MORE SO!

You know God of Abe, Isaac, Jacob in TRIUNE Fullness: Father, Son, Spirit

God's SON – Our Savior – FULLY God in Human Flesh, Jesus Christ says:

When you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him... Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life”
Matthew 6.7,8,25

PULL & PUSH – Abundance of PROBLEMS does NOT Always Mean RUN!

Pull & Push TOGETHER for Jacob and he STAYED & Worked 6 more Years

Jacob was DISRESPECTED SERVANT of Laban 20 years! Long, Hard, Years!

The LORD said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and *they will be afflicted for four hundred years*”
Genesis 15.13

Faithful Servants of God HERE Suffered in Prison more than 20 yrs Cult.Revol.

Xtian Brothers & Sisters in Islamic States – Pull & Push – Children BEHEADED

Many THOUSANDS of them have NO WHERE to Go – STAY & SUFFER!

Church of Jesus Christ ADORNED by Righteous ENDURANCE of Faithful

LOYAL Soldiers of CROSS – Don't RUN like Iraqi Army when they saw ISIS

the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne...cried out with a loud voice, “*O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?*” Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been. Revelation 6.9-11

Paul lived LIFETIME being Pushed & Pulled in EVERY DIRECTION!

I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits. But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, for a *wide door* for effective work has opened to me, and there are *many adversaries*. 1 Corinthians 16.7-9

MANY Adversaries > Tells ME, GET OUT of Town ASAP!

Paul – Many Adversaries > GOD’S SIGN: “*wide door for effective work*”!!

“The Providence of God is like Hebrew words—it can be read only backwards.”
John Flavel

HEBREW Script – Read LEFT to RIGHT – backward for English Reader

HINDSIGHT is 20/20 – Easier to TRACE God’s plan in PAST EVENTS

In MIDST of LIFE’S Complex Events – Hard to INTERPRET God’s Signs

c. Scripture: Promises and Principles

Thank God we have MORE than Circumstances to READ – We have Scripture!

What made JACOB begin to PACK his SUITCASE was VOICE of God....

v. 3 Then the LORD said to Jacob, “Return to the land of your fathers and to your kindred, and I will be with you.”

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119.105

FINAL Authority for LIFE & Godliness is Word of God revealed in BIBLE

VITAL to KNOW Word – Meaning of Original Author to Original Audience!

Listening to Scripture is not merely a transaction between ourselves and a book...in Scripture we meet God Himself...no experience offers a more profound closeness with God. John Frame

IMPORTANCE of Reading and Studying BIBLE for Yourself DAILY

VALUE of Serious Study: BICF Sem Classes – Trying to KNOW & Follow God

What we KNOW about God changes our Lives > HE is our LIFE

NOT Always Exact Guidance – Live in BEIJING, BOSTON, or BANGKOK

Not many SPECIFICS – Marry Blonde or Redhead / Be Filmmaker or a Farmer

Bible: PRINCIPLES and EXAMPLES, Guidance more GENERAL than Specific

d. Circle: Not Just a Dot

Some AGONIZE for Specifics in PRAYER and Seeking SIGNS, Circumstances

Exact Clarity: LIVE in Bangkok, MARRY the Redhead, BE a FARMER!

In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3.6

v. 3 The LORD said to Jacob, “Return to the land of your fathers and to your kindred, and I will be with you.”

A LOT UNSAID – Route? When? Who with? What to Take? Tell Laban?

vs. 17-21 Jacob arose and set his sons and his wives on camels...all his property that he had gained, the livestock in his possession...crossed the Euphrates, and set his face toward the hill country of Gilead.

BASIC FLIGHT Plan of Jacob --- Lots of Vague DETAILS – Figure Out on Fly!

Jacob NOT been a very DEVOTIONAL Guy

20 years in Haran – No record of him PRAYING or Building ALTAR

Some Christians agonize to BE in CENTER of God's WILL!

Do I wear RED Shirt or BLUE? – Coffee or Tea? – Milk? Sugar? Maybe Juice?
You are Child of God! Wear whatever is in Closet! Drink whatever you ENJOY!

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. John 1.16

PRIMARY Reference to GLORY, GRACE, TRUTH in Jesus our Incarnate God
IN CHRIST We have WORLD of Opportunities & Options that can Please Him

Christian Life NOT Narrow Dot – Agonize to FIND

Super-Abundance of Wonderful GIFTS and BLESSINGS from Heavenly Father

1. Where God commands, we must obey.
2. Where there is no command, God gives us freedom (and responsibility) to choose.
3. Where there is no command, God gives us wisdom to choose.
4. When we have chosen, what is moral and wise, we must trust the sovereign God to work all the details together for good. Garry Friesen

Student at Covenant College favorite prof. Charles Anderson – Uncle Chuck!

Chapel Talk: “I am not certain that my work here is God's perfect plan for my life, but I can say that since I chose to teach here I am striving to please him”

WORLD of God-given Opportunities & have God-accountable Responsibilities

God's providence is His almighty and ever present power, whereby, as with His hand, He still upholds heaven and earth and all creatures, and so governs them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and barren years, food and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty, indeed, all things, come not by chance but by His fatherly hand. The Heidelberg Catechism, question 27

2. Those Led by God

Ch. 30 – EVENTS of Jacob’s LIFE / Ch 31 – INTERPRETATION of Events

a. God’s Patience

God’s providence even orchestrates negative human emotions and actions to achieve his sovereign purposes. Bruce Waltke

1) Laban – God is NOT FAR from this BAD DAD

vs. 27,28 Laban said to him, “If I have found favor in your sight, I have learned by divination that the LORD has blessed me because of you. Name your wages, and I will give it.”

SCHOLARS – Most Extra-biblical texts from Mesopotamia speak of Divination FORBIDDEN in God’s Law > Denies his LORDSHIP and SOVEREIGN Rule
Even LABAN must Acknowledge > GOD’s Blessing thru God’s Servant

God to Abram: “I will bless those who bless you” Genesis 12.3

JACOB tells him he wants to LEAVE – Old Trickster has more DEALS for him
LAST Time Jacob NAMED his WAGES: Behold, in the morning, it was LEAH!
Wheeling/Dealing about SHEEP & GOATS – Black, White, Stripes, Solids!

Jacob to Wives: vs. 6,7 “You know that I have served your father with all my strength, yet your father has cheated me and changed my wages ten times. But God did not permit him to harm me”

God to Jacob: v. 12 “I have seen all that Laban is doing to you”

LABAN tastes BOTH Sides of God’s COVENANT Promise:

“I will bless those who bless you, *and him who dishonors you I will curse*” Genesis 12.3

This narrative makes points that were ever relevant in the life of the nation: that God is not frustrated by the cheat, that justice will finally be done, and that his promises to his people, here personified by Jacob, of land, protection, and blessing to the nations will, despite all opposition, eventually triumph. G.J. Wenham

2) Jacob

Jacob is about 100 yrs Old – Teenagers in ZGC more Evidence of Godliness!

ONE Virtue of Jacob PERSEVERANCE – Worked 7 yrs for Rachel: Few Days!

14 yrs building FAMILY – Little thought of his OWN FORTUNE

NOW it is RIGHT for him to EARN Something for their WELFARE & Future

We can easily misread providence. Boredom and even pain do not necessarily signal the fact that God is telling us to move. Sometimes God's plan for us is to persevere faithfully in the midst of frustration and difficulty. Iain Duguid

William Carey credited his Missionary Success in India to PERSEVERANCE

“If He give me credit for being a plodder He will describe me justly. Anything beyond that will be too much. I can plod. I can persevere in any definite pursuit. To this I owe everything.”
William Carey

GREAT Leaders often have MANY Troubles in their Lives

TROUBLES might be the Very PROCESS to prepare them for Greatness

Churchill - Lincoln – John Knox – Amy Carmichael – pastors Cultural Revol

CONTRAST > ISAAC Pampered Son – Wife delivered on SILVER PLATTER

WEALTH and PROSPERITY of Grandpa Abraham handed over to ISAAC

Isaac ORDINARY, almost INSIGNIFICANT Figure in History of Redemption

Most MEMORABLE Role plays ALMOST being Sacrificed

JACOB Mostly a Story of how NOT to Behave – God will NOT Give up on him

Jacob being made into ISRAEL – Prince with God – Foundation of Holy Nation

Situations in YOUR life causing you DESPAIR? Overwhelmed by TROUBLES?

vs. 11-12 Then the angel of God said to me in the dream, ‘Jacob,’ and I said, ‘Here I am!’ 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.’”

God working thru WIZARDRY of Jacob? Peeled Branches Genetic Impact?

Commentators – AROMA of Plants, OPTIC Effects on Copulating Goats!?

The Bible merely reports what Jacob believed. God humored Jacob and blessed him in spite of his superstition. The blessing had nothing to do with the branches.

James Boice

MANDRAKES did NOT make Babies / BRANCHES Not make Speckled Goats

We look BACK & LAUGH at Primitive People – We are SO MODERN!

Just think when WRITE Our Story 4000 yrs from Now

Take PICTURES of what Eat for Breakfast and SEND them around WORLD!

b. Prompt Obedience

vs. 3,4 Then the LORD said to Jacob, “Return to the land of your fathers and to your kindred, and I will be with you.” So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah into the field...

JACOB learned TENT walls are THIN - CCTV Cameras are EVERYWHERE

Wants to POW WOW with Wives – goes to SAFE ZONE of Open Fields

God told HIM to MOVE and Now he’ll MAN UP and LEAD his Family Onward

ONE Big thing that STOPS us from Knowing God’s Will is Sitting on our Butt

STEERING a Stalled Car very Hard – Start PUSHING can Steer as it ROLLS

De Young - Just Do Something: A Liberating Approach to Finding God's Will

Jesus: *“If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority”* John 7.17

For the first time Jacob emerges as a man of public faith, and he takes the leadership of his home. He acts promptly upon God's command...bears witness first to his wives...then finally to Laban's whole family, and willingly undertakes the dangerous and difficult journey in obedience to God. Bruce Waltke

Jacob RAISES his SAIL and God's WIND of Grace LIFTS them FORWARD

See him MOVE to FORWARD – GROW in the Grace & Knowledge Living God

For those who *serve well* as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also *great confidence* in the faith that is in Christ Jesus. 1 Timothy 3.13

SPOKEN to DEACONS but CERTAIN Truth for All DISCIPLES of JESUS

c. Partners – STRONG Wives are DESPERATE for STRONG HUSBAND

Jacob becomes more than SPERM DONOR > growing into SERVANT Leader

Wives RESPECTED Partners – EXPLAINS the Situation to them Carefully

Notice CONTRAST between YOUR Father and MY Father...

vs. 5-9 "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. You know that I have served your father with all my strength, yet your father has cheated me and changed my wages ten times. But God did not permit him to harm me. 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. Thus God has taken away the livestock of your father and given them to me."

Rachel & Leah NOT Need MORE PROOF – DECEIVER was their DAD

No SMALL Decision – Ready to BURN Bridges – Leave Home, No RETURN

Like RUTH clung to NAOMI they CAST their LOT with Son of Abe & Isaac

vs. 14-16 Then Rachel and Leah answered and said to him, "Is there any portion or inheritance left to us in our father's house? Are we not regarded by him as foreigners? For he has sold us, and he has indeed devoured our money. 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."

Loved & Admired Jacob for HIGH Price he PAID – 14 yrs of Hard Labor
 What Father GAINED from DOWRY of Jacob's Blood, Sweat, & Tears
 Laban – with no thought for them & their future – devoured it on himself

IMPORTANT Part of Knowing & Doing WILL of God is Confirmation Others

When APOSTLES Needed Partners in EXPANDING Ministry in Jerusalem:

...pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom... what they said pleased the whole gathering... These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem
 Acts 6.3-7

Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.
 Proverbs 11.14

IF God is leading you to MARRY – Start New COURSE or Change CAREER

Brother or Sister who KNOWS you Wants your Best should be CONSULTED

Sometimes DON'T ASK because Know our Plans are Really SKETCHY!

I don't doubt that the Holy Spirit guides your decisions from within when you make them with the intention of pleasing God. The error would be to think the He speaks only within, whereas in reality He speaks also through Scripture, the Church, Christian friends, books, etc.
 C.S. Lewis

Jacob did NOT just COMMAND Wives – CONSULTED & Comforted Them

Made that HARD, LONG Journey TOGETHER – UNITED in Face of Troubles

It is a wonderful thing when a man's family testify on his behalf...Jacob was far from perfect. But his conduct before Laban and all who were watching had been upright...so they were ready to follow him...not because he was stronger than Laban, but because he was right.
 James Boice

d. Purifying Taking RIGHT Course NOT Mean your TROUBLES will END

Some of TROUBLES Jacob Faced on JOURNEY were SELF-INFLICTED!

vs. 20,21 Jacob tricked Laban the Aramean, by not telling him that he intended to flee. He fled with all that he had...

Some ARGUE Only way Jacob's Family GET OUT of Laban's Prison Breakout!

When MET 20 yrs Earlier – Laban: “Surely you are my bone and my flesh!”

20 HARD, LOVELESS Years – LABAN the ARAMEAN, Outsider to Covenant

Despite all of the experiences that Jacob has had, he has not yet learned his lesson – he is still a deceiver. John Walton

God NOT FINISHED with Jacob – or US – More Struggle, More Growing

Sometimes MORE Trouble to FOLLOW the Will of God

EASY to GO ALONG with EVIL Ways of World, Popular, Majority

LONELY to Stand for TRUTH, HOLINESS, RIGHTEOUSNESS, JESUS

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” John 8.31,32

e. Promise of God

Ran AWAY from home 20 yrs Earlier to Find REFUGE from ESAU

NOW Runs Away from NEW HOME to Find REFUGE from LABAN

Jacob is LIVING PROOF that Word of God is TRUE – God cannot LIE

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Romans 11.29

Covenant cannot be BROKEN – Kingdom will Advance – Nation BUILT

20 yrs before Man on the Run – Met GOD in Bethel:

Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. Genesis 28.15

After MUCH PAIN and HARSHIP he HEARS again from this God:

v. 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.”

Our mind is too weak to comprehend the spiritual wisdom of God which is revealed to us by faith, and our hearts are too prone either to defiance or to a perverse confidence in ourselves or creaturely things. But the Holy Spirit enlightens us to make us capable of understanding what would otherwise be incomprehensible to us, fortifies us in certitude, sealing and imprinting the promises of salvation on our hearts. John Calvin

Catechism of the Church of Geneva

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises 2 Peter 1.3,4

Here is love vast as the ocean, loving kindness as the flood:

When the Prince of life our ransom, shed for us his precious blood.

Who his love will not remember? Who can cease to sing his praise?

He will never be forgotten throughout heaven’s eternal days.

On the mount of crucifixion, fountains opened deep and wide;

Through the floodgates of God’s mercy flowed a vast and gracious tide.

Grace and love, like mighty rivers, poured incessant from above.

Heaven’s peace and perfect justice kissed a guilty world in love.

“Here is Love” by William Rees (1802-1883)

Communion: turn focus from JACOB to true ISRAEL – Jesus Christ

About 500 yrs after EVENTS in Today's Text

NATION of ISRAEL – 12 sons Now 12 Mighty TRIBES – FLEE

JACOB took FLOCKS – HERDS – of Laban

So, true ISRAEL will flee with RICHES of EGYPT

RACHEL menstruates on god's of Laban

So, REDEEMER of ISRAEL will SHAME & CRUSH Egypt's IDOLS

CAPTORS of God's People Drowned / CHILDREN of God Delivered

RED SEA –God's Mighty Act of Deliverance for Israel!

About 2000 yrs after EVENTS in Today's Text

God of Abe, Isaac, & Jacob – God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

TRUE ISRAEL – Prince with God who NEVER SINNED > EXODUS

LEFT the GLORY & RICHES of Heaven – Nowhere to Lay His Head

NEVER Cheated Anyone – No DECEIT was on His Lips

DIED for Thieves, Idolators, Deceivers, Liars > Carried OUR Sin

NAKED Suffering Disarmed the Powers of Evil

Crushed Head of SATAN – Crashed gates of HELL

FORGIVE Lost Wanderers like Jacob & Rachel, You & Me

CROSS –God's Mighty Act of Deliverance for WORLD!

GAINED for Us – by His Suffering – All RICHES of this World, & the NEXT

12 sons Now 12 Mighty TRIBES – Stand on Foundation 12 APOSTLES

Genesis 30:²⁵As soon as Rachel had borne Joseph, Jacob said to Laban, “Send me away, that I may go to my own home and country. ²⁶Give me my wives and my children for whom I have served you, that I may go, for you know the service that I have given you.” ²⁷But Laban said to him, “If I have found favor in your sight, I have learned by divination that the LORD has blessed me because of you. ²⁸Name your wages, and I will give it.” ²⁹Jacob said to him, “You yourself know how I have served you, and how your livestock has fared with me. ³⁰For you had little before I came, and it has increased abundantly, and the LORD has blessed you wherever I turned. But now when shall I provide for my own household also?” ³¹He said, “What shall I give you?” Jacob said, “You shall not give me anything. If you will do this for me, I will again pasture your flock and keep it: ³²let me pass through all your flock today, removing from it every speckled and spotted sheep and every black lamb, and the spotted and speckled among the goats, and they shall be my wages. ³³So my honesty will answer for me later, when you come to look into my wages with you. Every one that is not speckled and spotted among the goats and black among the lambs, if found with me, shall be counted stolen.” ³⁴Laban said, “Good! Let it be as you have said.” ³⁵But that day Laban removed the male goats that were striped and spotted, and all the female goats that were speckled and spotted, every one that had white on it, and every lamb that was black, and put them in the charge of his sons. ³⁶And he set a distance of three days' journey between himself and Jacob, and Jacob pastured the rest of Laban's flock. ³⁷Then Jacob took fresh sticks of poplar and almond and plane trees, and peeled white streaks in them, exposing the white of the sticks. ³⁸He set the sticks that he had peeled in front of the flocks in the troughs, that is, the watering places, where the flocks came to drink. And since they bred when they came to drink, ³⁹the flocks bred in front of the sticks and so the flocks brought forth striped, speckled, and spotted. ⁴⁰And Jacob separated the lambs and set the faces of the flocks toward the striped and all the black in the flock of Laban. He put his own droves apart and did not put them with Laban's flock. ⁴¹Whenever the stronger of the flock were breeding, Jacob would lay the sticks in the troughs before the eyes of the flock, that they might breed among the sticks, ⁴²but for the feebler of the flock he would not lay them there. So the feebler would be Laban's, and the stronger Jacob's. ⁴³Thus the man increased greatly and had large flocks, female servants and male servants, and camels and donkeys.

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.” ²And Jacob saw that Laban did not regard him with favor as before. ³Then the LORD said to Jacob, “Return to the land of your fathers and to your kindred, and I will be with you.” ⁴So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah into the field where his flock was ⁵and 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. ⁶You know that I have served your father with all my strength, ⁷yet your father has cheated me and changed my wages ten times. But God did not permit him to harm me. ⁸If 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. ⁹Thus God has taken away the livestock of your father and given them to me. ¹⁰In 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. ¹¹Then the angel of God said to me in the dream, ‘Jacob,’ and I said, ‘Here I am!’ ¹²And 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. ¹³I 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.’” ¹⁴Then Rachel and Leah answered and said to him, “Is there any portion or inheritance left to us in our father's house? ¹⁵Are we not regarded by him as foreigners? For he has sold us, and he has indeed devoured our money. ¹⁶All 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.” ¹⁷So Jacob arose and set his sons and his wives on camels. ¹⁸He 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. ¹⁹Laban had gone to shear his sheep, and Rachel stole her father's household gods. ²⁰And Jacob tricked Laban the Aramean, by not telling him that he intended to flee. ²¹He fled with all that he had and arose and crossed the Euphrates, and set his face toward the hill country of Gilead.