

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS
MARCH 29, 2023
GENESIS 31:22-42

INTRODUCTION:

1. Laban had been mistreating Jacob and his family for twenty years. Now Jacob is about to take his family and go back home.
2. **GENESIS 31.21:** *“So he fled with all that he had. He arose and crossed the river, and headed toward the mountains of Gilead.”*
 - a) Jacob crossed the river Euphrates and headed to Gilead. Gilead was the region where you find Beersheba, the home of his family. (Gen. 28.10).
 - b) **GENESIS 31.22:** *“And Laban was told on the third day that Jacob had fled.”*

I. LABAN CHASES JACOB

- A. Though having a three-day head start, Laban *“pursued him for seven days journey, and he overtook him in the mountains of Gilead”* (Gen. 31.22,23).
 1. How was Laban able to catch up with Jacob so quickly? (cf. Gen. 31.17)
 2. **GENESIS 31.24:** *“But God had come to Laban the Syrian in a dream by night”*
 - a) *“Be careful”* Literally, guard your mouth.
 - b) *“neither good nor bad”* Why could Laban not say anything good? (cf. Gen. 24.50)
- B. We are to control what we say.
 1. The tongue is one of the most challenging members to control. (James 3.1-5)
 - a) Three metaphors for the tongue. (vs. 3-6)
 - b) The improper use of the tongue. (vs. 7-12)
 2. Because of the powerful and dangerous influence of the tongue, we must exercise caution with what we say. (Prov. 13.3; 21.23)
 3. In context, we cannot teach anything that adds or subtracts from the word and will of God. (James 3.1; Deut. 4.12; Prov. 30.6; Col. 2.20-23)

II. LABAN CONFRONTS JACOB

- A. Laban’s Accusation.
 1. **GENESIS 31.25,26:** *“What have you done, that you have stolen away unknown to me.”*
 - a) Stolen away: Literally, robbed me of knowledge (v. 20). Verse 27: *“Secretly”*
 - b) **GENESIS 31.26:** *“and carried away my daughters like captives”* (vs. 14-16)
 2. **GENESIS 31.30:** *“Why did you steal my gods?”* (v. 19)
 3. **GENESIS 31.27:** *“I might have sent you away with joy and song”* A proper goodbye?
 4. **GENESIS 31.28:** *“And you did not allow me to kiss my sons and daughters”*
- B. Laban’s Threat.
 1. **GENESIS 31.29:** *“It is in my power to do you harm”* Literally, in my hand in the power of God. Laban controlled the lives of those under him.
 2. **GENESIS 31.29:** *“The God of your father spoke to me last night.”* It was common to see God as one of many. Polytheism vs Monotheism. (Ex. 12.12; 18.10,11; 23.13)
- C. Jacob’s Answer.
 1. **GENESIS 31.31:** *“Because I was afraid.”*
 2. **GENESIS 31.32:** *“With whomever you find your gods, do not let them live”*
- D. Laban’s Investigation. (Gen. 31.33-35)