

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

APRIL 12, 2023

GENESIS 31:49FF

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Laban was rebuke both by God and by Jacob.
  - a) **GENESIS 31.36:** *“Then Jacob was angry and rebuked Laban”* Literally, contended.
  - b) **GENESIS 31.42:** *“God has seen my affliction and the labor of my hands, and rebuked you last night.”* Literally, to render judgment (cf. v. 37)
2. Laban and Jacob establish a covenant by which they gave their location three different names.
  - a) Jegar-sahadutha (Ar) and Galeed (Heb) both mean “The heap of witness.” (vs. 47,48)
  - b) Mizpah (Heb): “watch tower” because *“the LORD watch between you and me”* (v. 49)
3. Both Jacob and Laban understood that God was watching – a lesson we should all remember.

### I. UNFOLDING THE TEXT

- A. The terms of the covenant laid out by Laban.
  1. **GENESIS 31.49:** *“May the LORD watch between you and me”*
    - a) Notice that Laban referred to God as the “LORD” acknowledging that God is the self-existing one. (cf. Ex. 3.14,15; Isa. 44.6)
    - b) Why? Laban learned from experience that God is the LORD. (Gen. 30.27; 31.24)
    - c) **GENESIS 31.49:** *“when we are absent one from another.”* He is the God who sees.
  2. **GENESIS 31.50:** *“if you afflict my daughters.”*
    - a) Afflict (ana): Literally, to stoop down, be humbled. Carried the idea of oppression and humiliation. (cf. Ex. 1.11,12; Mal. 2.13-15)
    - b) **GENESIS 31.50:** *“if you take other wives besides my daughters”*
  3. **GENESIS 31.50:** *“although no man is with us—see, God is witness between you and me!”* Though Laban mistreated his daughters, a parent is a parent for life.
- B. The terms of the covenant laid out by Jacob.
  1. **GENESIS 31.51:** *“Then Laban said to Jacob, ‘Here is this heap and here is this pillar, which I have placed between you and me.’”*
    - a) Emphasizes separation as per the design of God. (Gen. 2.24; Matt. 19.4,5)
    - b) Jacob wanted to have his own family. (Gen. 30.25,26)
  2. **GENESIS 31.52:** *“for harm.”* Each would not pursue the other to hurt them.
  3. **GENESIS 31.53:** *“The God of Abraham, the God of Nahor”*
    - a) Jacob directs Laban’s attention his fathers. (Josh. 24.2; Gen. 11.24,25; 22.20-24)
    - b) **GENESIS 31.53:** *“judge between us.”* Be the One who decides who is right.
- C. Their departure. (Gen. 31.54,55)

### II. APPLYING THE TEXT

- A. God is the One who sees. (Isa. 29.15,16)
  1. He has seen what Laban has done. (Gen. 31.12)
  2. He sees all our afflictions. (Gen. 16.13; Ex. 1.7; Jer. 29.23)
  3. Yet some think they can hide from God. (Isa. 29.15,16)
- B. Is there anything that God does not see?
  1. God sees everything that you do. (Ps. 139.1,2; Prov. 15.3)
  2. God sees everything that you think. (Ps. 139.2,3; Heb. 4.12,13; 1 Sam. 16.7)
  3. God sees everything that you say. (Ps. 139.4; 19.14)