

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS
MARCH 22, 2023
GENESIS 31:14FF

INTRODUCTION:

1. God caused the sheep and goats to multiply. Therefore Jacob was *“exceedingly prosperous, and had large flocks, female and male servants, and camels and donkeys”* (Gen. 30.43).
2. Laban’s reaction: *“The countenance of Laban...was not favorable toward him as before”* (Gen. 31.2,4). What his reaction justified?
3. **GENESIS 31.13:** *“Now arise, get out of this land, and return to the land of your family.”*

I. DISINHERITANCE

- A. **GENESIS 31.14:** *“Then Rachel and Leah answered and said to him”*
1. In verses 4-13, Jacob *“called Rachel and Leah”* and told them of God’s involvement.
 - a) **GENESIS 31.5:** *“The God of my father has been with me.”* (Gen. 31.7,9,12; 28.15)
 - b) **GENESIS 31.7,8:** *“Your father has deceived me and changed my wages ten times”*
 2. That same promise is made to His people today. (Ps. 37.25-29)
 - a) **HEBREWS 13.5,6:** *“help”* (boethos) is a nautical term referring to a lifeline.
 - b) God has not promised that we will not suffer. (Matt. 10.28; Rev. 6.9)
 - c) What then is involved with God’s promises? (Eph. 6.10)
- B. **GENESIS 31.14:** *“Is there still any portion or inheritance for us in our father’s house?”*
1. Laban treated his daughters as strangers. Lit., outsiders. (Gen. 31.15)
 2. Laban treated his daughters like a commodity. (Gen. 31.15; 29.15-18,26,27)
 3. Laban *“completely consumed our money”* (Gen. 31.15). How? By trying to deceive Jacob. His greed cost him everything. (v. 16).
 4. **GENESIS 31.16:** *“Now then, whatever God has said to you, do it.”*

II. DEPARTURE

- A. **GENESIS 31.17:** *“Then Jacob rose and set his sons and his wives on camels”*
1. Jacob packed up his possessions and departed *“to his father Isaac in the land of Canaan”* (Gen. 31.18). A true rags to riches story. (Gen. 28.5,10,11,20,21)
 2. Jacob had prospered because God had blessed Him. (Gen. 31.9,16,42)
 3. How does God bless us today? (Eph. 1.3,18; 2.7; 3.8)
- B. **GENESIS 31.19:** *“Now Laban had gone to shear his sheep”* With Laban occupied and distracted, Jacob and Rachel took the opportunity *“steal”* from Laban.
1. **GENESIS 31.19:** *“Rachel had stolen the household idols”*
 - a) What is a household god? (Judges 17.4,5; 18.14-20)
 - b) Abraham was a first-generation child of God. (Josh. 24.2,15)
 - c) Laban’s family served other gods. (Gen. 31.30; 35.2)
 2. **GENESIS 31.20:** *“And Jacob stole away”*
 - a) *“Stole”* (yignob): Literally, to steal knowledge away. Thus, to deceive or trick.
 - b) **GENESIS 31.20:** *“unknown to Laban the Syrian, in that he did not tell him that he intended to flee.”*
 - c) By fleeing from Laban secretly, he did not allow Laban to say goodbye to his daughters and grandchildren. (Ge. 31.26-28)
 3. Stealing is much more than just taking away someone’s possessions. You can steal time, money, knowledge, and reputation.