

Let's Worship God

30th Jan. - 4th Feb. 2023
Genesis



Genesis

YOUR
JOURNEY
STARTS HERE

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Monday - Genesis 30:25-36 - A Bargain to Keep Two Men Honest

Jacob has been gone from home for a long time. He now has two wives and a large family, and it might seem as though he is going to spend the rest of his life happily working for his father-in-law. But such is not the case. Jacob is ready to go back home. He considers Canaan to be his home and his country, and he still sees himself as just a stranger in this land of Laban. He also has a family of his own now, and it is high time he begins to store up wealth to take care of them. He knows that God who has provided him with a family will provide him with food for that family, but he also knows that it is his responsibility to take care of his own people. He has finished his 14 years of service to Laban, even though 7 of those years are forced on him through trickery. He has faithfully done his job, and now he wants to go home. For a Christian, this earth is not his home, and he should be eager to go to his heavenly country when he has faithfully finished his work here.

Laban is not stupid. He doesn't want Jacob to go. He knows that he is benefiting because God is with Jacob, and Jacob is with him. He realises that if Jacob goes, he will no longer be as prosperous - not to mention he'd lose his free labour. Good men are often blessings to all around them, and God often shows mercy to people for the sake of their believing relatives.

Jacob and Laban strike up a bargain on Jacob's terms. This is a wise agreement on Jacob's part for it should prevent Laban from cheating him and Jacob from being accused of cheating Laban. But Laban immediately removes all the speckled animals from the main flock, so it seems very improbable that Jacob will benefit from this agreement at all.

Questions

1. Why does Jacob want to go home?
2. Why does Laban want him to stay?
3. What agreement do they make?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that we have a heavenly home.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

Memory Verse

Then the Lord said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your fathers and to your kindred, and I will be with you." Genesis 31:3

Praise: Psalm 127 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Your JOURNEY STARTS HERE

Tuesday - Genesis 30:37-43 - Ways Around the Rules

Jacob and Laban have made an agreement that Jacob will work for Laban in exchange for any animals born spotted, speckled, or streaked. At first glance this agreement seems to prevent any form of cheating by either Jacob or Laban. But these two deceivers manage to find a few ways to get around the rules and work things for their own advantage. For instance, Laban immediately removes all discoloured animals from his flocks and herds, giving them to his sons. This severely limits the possibilities of speckled animals being born. It looks as though Jacob will receive very poor wages for his work after all.

But Jacob is clever as well. Using what must have been an old shepherd's trick, he induces the animals to bear spotted and speckled young. And then, he mates the discoloured animals with the strongest animals, so that as time goes by, his flocks and herds increase in numbers and strength, while Laban's animals are weak and few.

Jacob would never have had such great success at increasing his wealth, if God hadn't blessed him. It was God who was causing the sheep and cows to bear speckled, spotted, and streaked. Jacob had believed and put his trust in the Lord, and despite his sinfulness, God loved him and took care of him in every way, including controlling the births of the animals to Jacob's advantage.

Questions

1. What does Laban do to his animals?
2. What trick does Jacob try to increase his wealth?
3. What happens to Jacob's flocks and herds?
4. Who is blessing Jacob?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for God's love and care.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

Memory Verse

Then the Lord said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your fathers and to your kindred, and I will be with you." Genesis 31:3

Praise: Psalm 128 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Your JOURNEY STARTS HERE

Wednesday - Genesis 31:1-16 - Time to Go

Jacob's increased flocks at Laban's expense has not gone unnoticed, especially by his brothers-in-law who see Jacob gradually getting everything that should have come to them as an inheritance. The envy of these men and their accusations of Jacob stealing his wealth is finally seen by Jacob. He also realises that Laban himself is not treating Jacob the way he used to. All in all, Jacob can tell that a storm is brewing on the homefront - and he should know, having left a similar storm behind in Canaan. Deceptive behaviour can lead others to envy and hatred.

Jacob has come to Laban by orders from Heaven, and there he will stay until he is ordered back. But that time has come. God tells Jacob to return, promising to be with him. When we follow God's guidance, we can be reassured of His care for us. God has noticed the hardships Laban has put upon Jacob, and God is the one who has blessed Jacob with wealth. God notices everything that happens to us, and He is constantly at work for our good. God reminds Jacob of the covenant promises that were made at Bethel, including the promise of the land of Canaan. The time has come for Jacob to return home.

Jacob doesn't make a unilateral decision to return home. First, he consults his wives. This is really going to affect their lives, and as a loving husband, Jacob wants to know how they feel about it. He describes how he has faithfully treated Laban, and how Laban has responded in unfaithfulness. But his greatest argument for leaving must be the command of God to leave. Hearing all this and with some complaints of their own, Rachel and Leah agree that it is time to go.

Questions

1. Why does Jacob want to go back to Canaan?
2. What does God promise him?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God sees and takes care of us.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

Memory Verse

Then the Lord said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your fathers and to your kindred, and I will be with you." Genesis 31:3

Praise: Psalm 129 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Your JOURNEY STARTS HERE

Thursday - Genesis 31:17-24 - Running Away

Sometimes it seems that Jacob is completely incapable of doing anything honest and above-board. Here he is, having decided to return home, sneaking away from Laban as fast as he can. Even if he is afraid of Laban's reaction, surely the same God that has protected and blessed him so far, will protect him from Laban. Jacob is missing an opportunity, not only for his wives to say goodbye to their father, but for him to explain to Laban who God is and what He has promised. How often do we miss opportunities and sneak away out of fear of someone's reaction?

Rachel has a hard time leaving not her father, but her father's idols behind. Presumably, Jacob has trained his wives in the worship and fear of the true God, but idolatry, of any kind, can have a hold that is hard to shake. Too often, no matter what we know, we don't run away from our idols, but we secretly take them with us, hiding them from other believers.

Laban is furious at Jacob leaving and sets out with all his family to pursue him. We don't know what the intentions of Laban's heart were, but the night before he overtakes Jacob, God appears to Laban in a dream. With one statement he ties Laban's hands, even though he doesn't change his heart. God can control even the wicked to His purposes, and He preserves those who believe in Him.

Questions

1. How does Jacob leave?
2. Why does he leave that way?
3. What does Rachel take with her?
4. What does God tell Laban?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for God's protection.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Then the Lord said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your fathers and to your kindred, and I will be with you." Genesis 31:3

Praise: Psalm 130 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

YOUR
JOURNEY
STARTS HERE

Friday - Genesis 31:25-35 - An Empty Search

God has warned Laban in a dream not to hurt Jacob, but that doesn't stop Laban from coming up with all sorts of accusations against Jacob when he catches up with him. He says Jacob has acted like a deserter in running away and a criminal in taking his two wives and children. According to Laban, he was all ready to send Jacob away with happiness and joy. It's highly unlikely that anybody believes this. Then Laban boasts about his power to hurt Jacob, thinking that he has right and strength on his side. But even Laban must admit that he is under the restraining hand of God.

Instead of admitting that he has wronged Jacob, Laban attributes this flight to a desire in Jacob to see his family. Bad people never want to take the blame for anything they do, but they would rather put others in the wrong. So then, Laban accuses Jacob of stealing his household idols. How foolish to put your trust in something that can be stolen. Happy are those who have the Lord for their God, for they have a God that they cannot be robbed of. Enemies can steal our things, but they cannot steal our God.

Jacob apologises for his hasty flight, explaining his fear that Laban would take away his wives. He pleads not guilty to taking the household idols, and so sure is he that everyone in his group would know better than to do such a thing, he makes a rash vow that whoever took the idols shall not live. (Perhaps he remembers this with sadness when Rachel dies not too long after this. - Genesis 35:19.) Laban is so set upon finding his gods that he searches through everything. We can be thankful that our God has promised that He will be found by those who search for Him.

Questions

1. What does Laban complain about?
2. What does Laban accuse Jacob of doing?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that our God cannot be stolen.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

Memory Verse

Then the Lord said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your fathers and to your kindred, and I will be with you." Genesis 31:3

Praise: Psalm 131 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Your
JOURNEY
STARTS HERE

Saturday - Genesis 31:36-42 - Jacob Provoked

After twenty years of lies, mistreatment, and accusations, Jacob has had enough. The final straw is Laban's desire to search through everything belonging to Jacob in order to find his stolen idols. Generally, Jacob has preferred to avoid confrontation, both with his brother Esau and with his father-in-law. But Laban's unreasonableness is too much this time, and Jacob is furious. Instead of patiently bearing with these false accusations, he lashes out. He has the comfort of having a good conscience. He knows that he has stolen nothing, and this helps him when Laban accuses him. Knowing that we have acted the right way will help us bear our troubles easier.

In most things Jacob had shown himself to be a good servant and a faithful shepherd. He was very careful, treating his master's things as though they were his own. He was honest and took nothing which was not allowed him. He was careful not to covet what Laban had, being content with what he had. He was hard-working, sticking with his job even under uncomfortable circumstances.

Laban, however, is the perfect example of a bad master. He took away from Jacob unjustly, making him pay for what he had not damaged. He did not treat Jacob equally and robbed him by changing his wages.

But in all of this, God was preserving Jacob and taking notice of Laban. Jacob calls God the God of his father - Jacob knows he is loved by God for his father's sake. We know we are loved by God for Jesus' sake.

Questions

1. Why does Jacob get mad at Laban?
2. How was Jacob a good servant?
3. How was Laban a bad master?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

Memory Verse

Then the Lord said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your fathers and to your kindred, and I will be with you." Genesis 31:3

Praise: Psalm 132 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced
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