

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 03 Mar.....Genesis 21-23.....A Substitute
- 2) 10 Mar.....Genesis 24.....Guidance Needed
- 3) 17 Mar.....Genesis 25-27.....A Deceiver
- 4) 24 Mar.....Genesis 28-30.....A Stairway
- 5) 31 Mar.....John 20.....Believe!
- 6) 07 Apr.....Genesis 30-31.....Blessed**
- 7) 14 Apr.....Genesis 32-33.....Wrestled
- 8) 21 Apr.....Genesis 34-36.....Renewed
- 9) 28 Apr.....Genesis 37.....Dreamer
- 10) 05 May.....Genesis 38-39.....Accused
- 11) 12 May.....Genesis 40-41.....Revealed
- 12) 19 May.....Genesis 42-46.....Reconcile
- 13) 26 May.....Genesis 47-50.....Revenge?

INTRODUCTION

- It's time for Jacob to take his wives and 12 sons back to his homeland, but not without more drama ensuing.

Passage	Comments
30:25-41	<p>Laban Buys 6 More Years Before Jacob Departs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v27. Laban realized he was blessed because of Jacob and he seeks a few more years of blessingsv31:41 ♦ Principle of Extended Blessings – God blesses others through the presence of His children ♦ “I will bless those who bless you” Gen 12:3 ♦ Unbelieving spouse is “sanctified” & kids are marked as “holy” through the believing spouse 1Cor 7:14 • v33. “My honesty will answer for me later.” It often takes time for our testimony to become established, especially if we tarnish our testimony earlier. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Or, when a known liar tells you “I’m really telling you the truth this time,” do you really believe them? • vv37-43. Did Jacob employ deception to abscond with Laban’s herds? And did God play along (v31:9)? Did he know of some genetic science we have yet to discover? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ How true is “Once a Liar, always a Liar”? Or, “Once an Addict, always an Addict”? When does someone become a “New Creature”?2Cor 5:17; 1Cor 6:11
31:1-18	<p>It's Time to Leave the In-Laws</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v7. ‘And your father has deceived me, and changed my wages ten times...’ – Did Jacob reap what he sowed? • v9. Jacob gave God credit for taking Laban’s wealth away and giving it to him. More principles on this: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteousPr 13:22 ♦ The sinner has the task of gathering and collecting for the one who is good in God’s sight.Ec 2:26 • Jacob receives confirmation to depart <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ v13. First from God in a dream – “Leave this land” ♦ vv14-16. Then from his 1st two wives, Rachel & Leah ♦ How do we know when it is time to leave a family, leave a marriage, leave a church, leave a job?
31:19-21	<p>The Lies Continue with other Family Members...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v19. Rachel stole the family idols [teraphim]. What is wrong with taking some crucifixes or statues of angels? Or was this something more sinister?Josh 24:15 • v20. There is no indication Jacob thought through the what-if scenarios. Could his situation get worse? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Would Laban let him go without pursuing? 2. Would Laban pursue and destroy him? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ He apparently took the path of least resistance by avoiding conflict, running away, & hoping for the best ♦ When is it appropriate to avoid conflict? ♦ When is it appropriate to break fellowship?

Passage	Comments
31:22-42	<p>Would you be upset if your kids & g’kids go missing?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv22-29. Laban catches up with Jacob, but is warned by God in a dream not to harm him. It is amazing how many ungodly people received God-induced dreams: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Abimelech about SarahGen 20:3 2. Prisoners in jail with JosephGen 40:8 3. Pharaoh of EgyptGen 41 4. Babylonian Kings Dan 2, 4, & 7 5. Pontius Pilot’s wife Mat 27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ For more on dreams see study in Daniel 2-3 https://rodoneil.com/wp-content/uploads/SS-Daniel-02-03.pdf • vv30-40. Laban tries to find his stolen family idols <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Laban was a God-fearing man since he heeded the dream given to him, but he still had idols. Possibly idols of God, which still was not very appropriate ♦ God does not want His people to be able to put Him in a box since even our universe can’t contain Him. ♦ Yet, God has put Himself in a box (His Word) so that we can understand Him to a small degree • Rachel continues to lie and covers up the fact she stole away her dad’s idols (she presumably wanted to hold onto something from her past) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What idols are we holding onto from our past?
31:43-55	<p>Another Covenant – This Time Between Deceivers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v49. “May the Lord watch the both of us when we are absent from each other” – Wow, Laban essentially admitted neither he nor Jacob are trustworthy men. A 3rd party (God) was needed to keep things honest. • v50. Laban challenged Jacob not to afflict his daughters – even by taking on additional wives to afflict them • How does a pathological liar (or any non-repentant sinner) restore or establish a good testimony? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Confess? <input type="checkbox"/> Repent? <input type="checkbox"/> Make Restitution? <input type="checkbox"/> Do Nothing? <input type="checkbox"/> Hope for the Best? <input type="checkbox"/> Lie More? <input type="checkbox"/> Trust but Polygraph <input type="checkbox"/> Need Accountability Partner

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Godly discernment is needed to determine when to continue struggling in a bad situation, and when to leave it
- In all cases, God’s people should be above board, faithful, and trustworthy – even to their own hurt.....[Ps 15:4](#)

NEXT WEEK: Genesis 32-33. Jacob wrestles with a Heavenly Being and is never the same again. Are we saying a puny human whipped up on Heaven’s best? How can that be?

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Thanks to T. Slatter (See John 8:43-45) 03-16-2005
YOU KNOW HOW I CAN TELL WHEN YOU ARE LYING? ... YOUR LIPS ARE MOVING