

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

- 1) 02 Dec '18.....Genesis 25-27.....The Deceiver
- 2) 09 Dec.....Genesis 28.....Not Alone
- 3) 16 Dec.....Genesis 29-30.....Family?
- 4) 23 Dec.....Luke 1 – Christmas Message.....Promise Kept
- 5) 30 Dec.....Genesis 30-31.....Home!**
- 6) 06 Jan '19.....Genesis 32.....Transformed
- 7) 13 Jan.....Genesis 33.....Reconciled
- 8) 20 Jan.....Sanctity of Life.....Protect and Save
- 9) 27 Jan.....Genesis 34-36.....Assurance
- 10) 03 Feb.....Genesis 37.....Accept It
- 11) 10 Feb.....Genesis 38-39.....Tempted
- 12) 17 Feb.....Genesis 40-41.....Opportunity Knocks
- 13) 24 Feb.....Genesis 42-50.....Reunited

**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><b>Laban Buys 6 More Years Before Jacob Departs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v27. Laban realized he was blessed because of Jacob and he seeks a few more years of blessings .....v31:41</li> <li>♦ <b>Principle of Extended Blessings</b> – God blesses others through the presence of His children</li> <li>♦ “I will bless those who bless you”..... Gen 12:3</li> <li>♦ Unbelieving spouse is “sanctified” &amp; kids are marked as “holy” through the believing spouse .....1Cor 7:14</li> <li>• 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"> <li>♦ Or, when a known liar tells you “I’m really telling you the truth this time,” do you really believe them?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 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"> <li>♦ 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</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
31:1-18	<p><b>It's Time to Leave the In-Laws</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v7. ‘And your father has deceived me, and changed my wages ten times...’ – Did Jacob reap what he sowed?</li> <li>• 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"> <li>♦ The wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous .....Pr 13:22</li> <li>♦ The sinner has the task of gathering and collecting for the one who is good in God’s sight..... Ec 2:26</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Jacob receives confirmation to depart                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ v13. First from God in a dream – “Leave this land”</li> <li>♦ vv14-16. Then from his 1<sup>st</sup> two wives, Rachel &amp; Leah</li> <li>♦ How do we know when it is time to leave a family, leave a marriage, leave a church, leave a job?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
31:19-21	<p><b>The Lies Continue with other Family Members...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• v20. There is no indication Jacob thought through the what-if scenarios. Could his situation get worse?                     <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Would Laban let him go without pursuing?</li> <li>2. Would Laban pursue and destroy him?</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ He apparently took the path of least resistance by avoiding conflict, running away, &amp; hoping for the best</li> <li>♦ When is it appropriate to avoid conflict?</li> <li>♦ When is it appropriate to break fellowship?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
31:22-42	<p><b>Would you be upset if your kids &amp; g’kids go missing?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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"> <li>1. Abimelech about Sarah ..... Gen 20:3</li> <li>2. Prisoners in jail with Joseph ..... Gen 40:8</li> <li>3. Pharaoh of Egypt..... Gen 41</li> <li>4. Babylonian Kings..... Dan 2, 4, &amp; 7</li> <li>5. Pontius Pilot’s wife..... Mat 27</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ For more on dreams see study in <a href="https://rodneil.com/wp-content/uploads/SS-Daniel-02-03.pdf">Daniel 2-3</a> <a href="https://rodneil.com/wp-content/uploads/SS-Daniel-02-03.pdf">https://rodneil.com/wp-content/uploads/SS-Daniel-02-03.pdf</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv30-40. Laban tries to find his stolen family idols                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ 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</li> <li>♦ God does not want His people to be able to put Him in a box since even our universe can’t contain Him.</li> <li>♦ Yet, God has put Himself in a box (His Word) so that we can understand Him to a small degree</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 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"> <li>♦ What idols are we holding onto from our past?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
31:43-55	<p><b>Another Covenant – This Time Between Deceivers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 3<sup>rd</sup> party (God) was needed to keep things honest.</li> <li>• v50. Laban challenged Jacob not to afflict his daughters – even by taking on additional wives to afflict them</li> <li>• How does a pathological liar (or any non-repentant sinner) restore or establish a good testimony?                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Confess?   <input type="checkbox"/> Repent?   <input type="checkbox"/> Make Restitution?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Do Nothing?   <input type="checkbox"/> Hope for the Best?   <input type="checkbox"/> Lie More?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Trust but Polygraph   <input type="checkbox"/> Need Accountability Partner</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**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.** 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**