

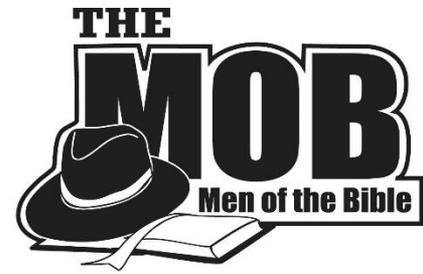
All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

**WELCOME TO THE MOB!**



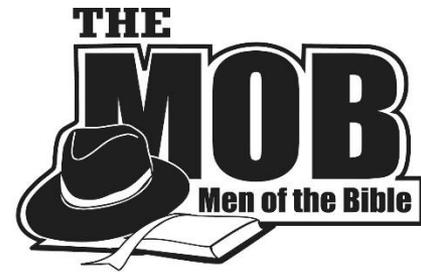
# Announcements



- Welcome to the MOB!
- Website: [www.ibcmob.net](http://www.ibcmob.net)
- [Easter Pageant: "Let The Grave Be Opened!"](#)  
[April 12, 13, 14, 19, 20](#) [Get tickets online \(\\$5.00 each\)](#)
- Please rise for a hymn of praise & invocation



# Memory Verse



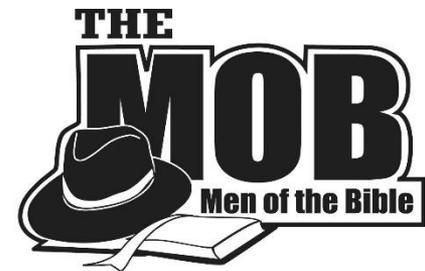
## Genesis 31:49 (ESV)

And Mizpah, for he said, “The Lord watch between you and me when we are out of one another’s sight.”

## Genesis 31:49 (ESV)



# Genesis Overview

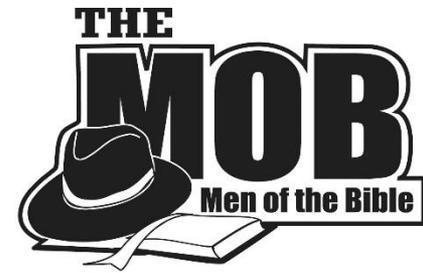


<b>Focus</b>	<b>Four Events</b>				<b>Four People</b>			
<b>Reference</b>	1:1 – 2:25	3:1 – 5:32	6:1 – 9:29	10:1 – 11:9	11:10 – 25:18	25:19 – 26:35	27:1 – 36:43	37:1 – 50:26
<b>Division</b>	Creation	Fall	Flood	Nations	Abraham	Isaac	Jacob	Joseph
<b>Topic</b>	<b>The Human Race</b>				<b>The Chosen Race (Hebrews)</b>			
	<b>Primeval History / Historical</b>				<b>Patriarchal History / Biographical</b>			
<b>Location</b>	<b>Fertile Crescent</b> ( Eden – Haran )				<b>Canaan</b> ( Haran – Canaan )			
<b>Time</b>	<b>cir. 2,000 years</b> ( cir. 4004 – 2090 B.C. )				<b>193 years</b> ( 2090 – 1897 B.C. )			





# Genesis Divisions



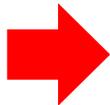
בְּרֵאשִׁית (*bereshith*) = **Beginnings** (of many things)

Greek = Genesis = Origin, Source, Generation, Beginning

תּוֹלְדוֹת (*toledoth*) = “These are the generations of...” or “This is the history of...” or “account of...” **10 sections:**

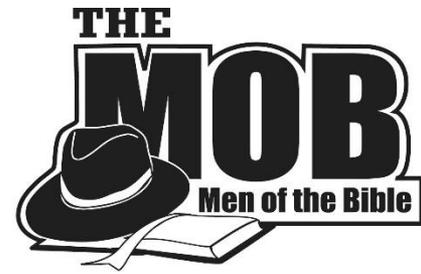
Prologue ([Genesis 1:1 – 2:3](#))

1. The generations of **heaven and earth** ([Genesis 2:4 – 4:26](#))
2. The generations of **Adam** ([Genesis 5:1 – 6:8](#))
3. The generations of **Noah** ([Genesis 6:9 – 9:29](#))
4. The generations of the **sons of Noah** ([Genesis 10:1 – 11:9](#))
5. The generations of **Shem** ([Genesis 11:10 – 26](#))
6. The generations of **Terah** ([Genesis 11:27 – 25:11](#))
7. The generations of **Ishmael** ([Genesis 25:12 – 18](#))
8. The generations of **Isaac** ([Genesis 25:19 – 35:29](#))
9. The generations of **Esau** ([Genesis 36:1 – 37:1](#))
10. The generations of **Jacob** ([Genesis 37:2 – 50:26](#))





# Our Study of Genesis



## Last Week:

- [Genesis 28:10 – 30:24](#) Jacob's Dream & Leah vs. Rachel
- *Encountering Genesis*, Chapter 9, pages 123 – 127

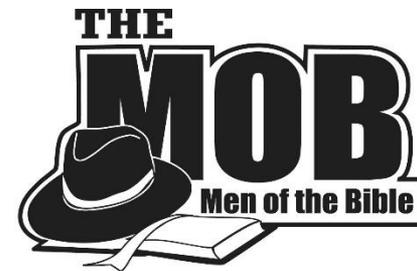
## This Week:

- [Genesis 30:25 – 31:55](#) Jacob's Prosperity & Flight from Laban
- *Encountering Genesis*, Chapter 9, pages 127 – 129



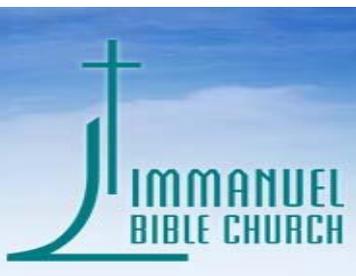
# Overview

## Genesis 30:25 – 31:55



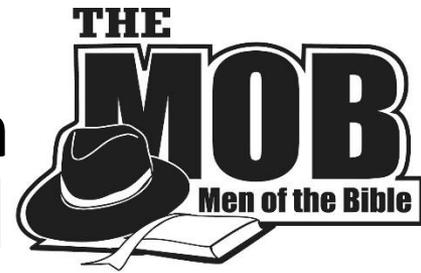
**“The Lord watch between you and me, when we are out of one another’s sight.”** *How did it come to this?*

- **Jacob’s Prosperity & Flight from Laban**
  - **Jacob’s New Contract (30:25-31)**
  - **Cheating with the Best Odds (30:32-36)**
  - **Winning with the Worst Odds (30:37-43)**
  - **God’s Intervention (31:1-13)**
  - **The Deceiver Tricks the Trickster (31:14-24)**
  - **Jacob Defends His Flight (31:25-35)**
  - **Laban’s Unfairness Fully Exposed (31:36-42)**
  - **Good Riddance to Bad Rubbish (31:45-55)**



# Observation & Interpretation

## Jacob's New Contract (30:25-31)



30:25 As soon as Rachel had borne Joseph, Jacob said to Laban, “Send me away, that I may go to my own home and country. 26 Give me my wives and my children for whom I have served you, that I may go, for you know the service that I have given you.” 27 But Laban said to him, “If I have found favor in your sight, I have learned by divination that the Lord has blessed me because of you. 28 Name your wages, and I will give it.” 29 Jacob said to him, “You yourself know how I have served you, and how your livestock has fared with me. 30 For you had little before I came, and it has increased abundantly, and the Lord has blessed you wherever I turned. But now when shall I provide for my own household also?” 31 He said, “What shall I give you?” Jacob said, “You shall not give me anything. If you will do this for me, I will again pasture your flock and keep it:

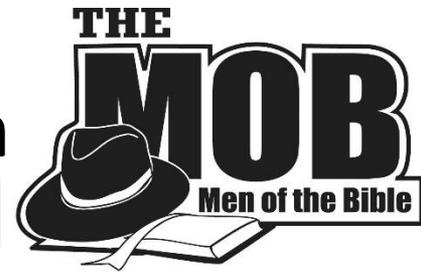
### Observations & Interpretation:

- After 14-years of service, Jacob knows it is time to go back to Beersheba.
- He requested to return to Canaan and didn't ask for anything, but his family.
- But Laban persuaded him to stay, since his wealth was due to Jacob (cf. [29:15](#))
  - Notice this is the first time Laban praises Jacob (i.e., flattery)
- “[divination](#)” is related to hint or whisper = an attempt to control the future.
  - [Deuteronomy 18:9-12](#) “...all who do these things are an abomination...”
- Jacob expanded Laban's livestock (“[little before](#)” vs. “[increased abundantly](#)”)
- He was willing to work for Laban, to build himself a herd, without a handout.



# Observation & Interpretation

## Cheating with the Best Odds (30:32-36)



30:32 let me pass through all your flock today, removing from it every speckled and spotted sheep and every black lamb, and the spotted and speckled among the goats, and they shall be my wages. 33 So my honesty will answer for me later, when you come to look into my wages with you. Every one that is not speckled and spotted among the goats and black among the lambs, if found with me, shall be counted stolen." 34 Laban said, "Good! Let it be as you have said." 35 But that day Laban removed the male goats that were striped and spotted, and all the female goats that were speckled and spotted, every one that had white on it, and every lamb that was black, and put them in the charge of his sons. 36 And he set a distance of three days' journey between himself and Jacob, and Jacob pastured the rest of Laban's flock.

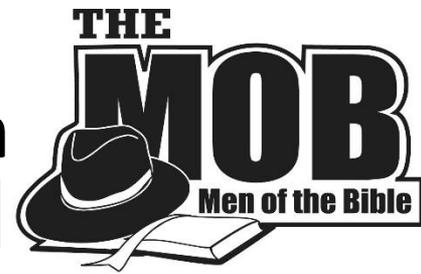
### Observations & Interpretation:

- Jacob negotiates a deal with Laban to start building a flock for himself.
- His wages consisted of undesired and unusual animals, not yet born.
  - He believed God would allow his plan to succeed (v37-43).
- He gets the **very rare, "off-colored"** (5x in [vv. 32-35](#)) lambs, sheep and goats:
  - Lambs would be **dark** and the goats and sheep would be **speckled or spotted**.
  - Jacob did not want any questions from Laban about whose was whose in the future!
- Laban thinks he has suckered Jacob...again; a **"three-days journey"** distance from Jacob will make it even harder for Jacob to **"steal"** Laban's animals.



# Observation & Interpretation

## Winning with the Worst Odds (30:37-43)



30:37 Then Jacob took fresh sticks of poplar and almond and plane trees, and peeled white streaks in them, exposing the white of the sticks. 38 He set the sticks that he had peeled in front of the flocks in the troughs, that is, the watering places, where the flocks came to drink. And since they bred when they came to drink, 39 the flocks bred in front of the sticks and so the flocks brought forth striped, speckled, and spotted. 40 And Jacob separated the lambs and set the faces of the flocks toward the striped and all the black in the flock of Laban. He put his own droves apart and did not put them with Laban's flock. 41 Whenever the stronger of the flock were breeding, Jacob would lay the sticks in the troughs before the eyes of the flock, that they might breed among the sticks, 42 but for the feebler of the flock he would not lay them there. So the feebler would be Laban's, and the stronger Jacob's. 43 Thus the man increased greatly and had large flocks, female servants and male servants, and camels and donkeys.

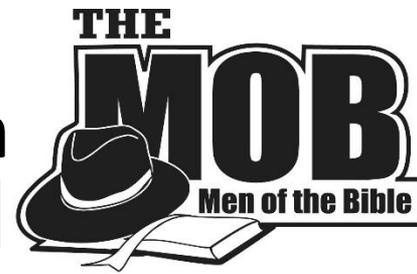
### Observations & Interpretation:

- Modern genetic studies on dominance and development have supported Jacob's selective breeding method (note: critics refute the Bible's claim).
- Key elements of Jacob's plan:
  - (1.) the flocks drank the water with the "sticks"; (2.) the plain animals faced the "off-colored" when they bred; (3.) the timing of the mating birthed "stronger" flocks; and (4.) the plain animals produced "strong" off-colored offspring vs. "weak" plain offspring.
- Jacob's flocks and herds grew over six-years, as Laban's flocks grew feeble.
- God blessed Jacob's method of breeding and greatly increased his wealth.



# Observation & Interpretation

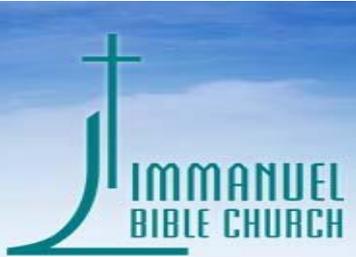
## God's Intervention (31:1-13)



31:1 Now Jacob heard that the sons of Laban were saying, "Jacob has taken all that was our father's, and from what was our father's he has gained all this wealth." 2 And Jacob saw that Laban did not regard him with favor as before. 3 Then the Lord said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your fathers and to your kindred, and I will be with you." 4 So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah into the field where his flock was 5 and said to them, "I see that your father does not regard me with favor as he did before. But the God of my father has been with me. 6 You know that I have served your father with all my strength, 7 yet your father has cheated me and changed my wages ten times. But God did not permit him to harm me. 8 If he said, 'The spotted shall be your wages,' then all the flock bore spotted; and if he said, 'The striped shall be your wages,' then all the flock bore striped. 9 Thus God has taken away the livestock of your father and given them to me. 10 In the breeding season of the flock I lifted up my eyes and saw in a dream that the goats that mated with the flock were striped, spotted, and mottled. 11 Then the angel of God said to me in the dream, 'Jacob,' and I said, 'Here I am!' 12 And he said, 'Lift up your eyes and see, all the goats that mate with the flock are striped, spotted, and mottled, for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you. 13 I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and made a vow to me. Now arise, go out from this land and return to the land of your kindred.'"

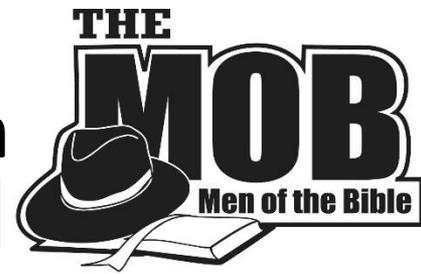
### Observations & Interpretation:

- Jacob learned that Laban and his sons no longer favored him.
- "I will be with you," God's plan for Jacob at **Bethel** 20-years ago ([Genesis 28:15](#)).
- Jacob explained the situation to Rachel and Leah: "cheated" & "changed"
- "ten times" may have been hyperbole; Laban tried to gain an advantage.
- "God has taken away" = Laban stole Jacob's, so God "snatched" Laban's.
- Jacob's dream with "the Angel of God" revealed how God intended to bless him with flocks and commanded him (**x3**) to return to the Land of Promise.



# Observation & Interpretation

## The Deceiver Tricks the Trickster (31:14-24)



31:14 Then Rachel and Leah answered and said to him, “Is there any portion or inheritance left to us in our father's house? 15 Are we not regarded by him as foreigners? For he has sold us, and he has indeed devoured our money. 16 All the wealth that God has taken away from our father belongs to us and to our children. Now then, whatever God has said to you, do.” 17 So Jacob arose and set his sons and his wives on camels. 18 He drove away all his livestock, all his property that he had gained, the livestock in his possession that he had acquired in Paddan-aram, to go to the land of Canaan to his father Isaac. 19 Laban had gone to shear his sheep, and Rachel stole her father's household gods. 20 And Jacob tricked Laban the Aramean, by not telling him that he intended to flee. 21 He fled with all that he had and arose and crossed the Euphrates, and set his face toward the hill country of Gilead. 22 When it was told Laban on the third day that Jacob had fled, 23 he took his kinsmen with him and pursued him for seven days and followed close after him into the hill country of Gilead. 24 But God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream by night and said to him, “Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad.”

### Observations & Interpretation:

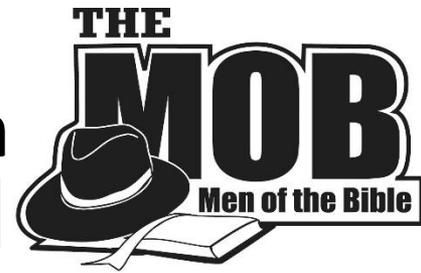
- [Rachel and Leah](#) accuse their father of not acting faithfully (i.e., “devoured our money”); so they encouraged Jacob to do what God had said.
- Jacob leaves without saying goodbye (3-day + 3-day head-start).
- Rachel stole her father’s **gods** = *teraphim* (e.g., small statue-like figure; idol).
  - Her reason: claim her inheritance or she trusted in them or prevent Laban’s use?
- “shear his sheep” = great, festive time ([Gen 38:12](#); [1 Sam 25:4](#); [2 Sam 13:23](#))
- Laban (*Aramean?*) pursued Jacob, but God warned him to do no harm.
  - Aramean may identify his location and not his ethnic line (cf. [Deuteronomy 26:5](#))





# Observation & Interpretation

## Jacob Defends His Flight (31:25-35)



31:25 And Laban overtook Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the hill country, and Laban with his kinsmen pitched tents in the hill country of Gilead. 26 And Laban said to Jacob, “What have you done, that you have tricked me and driven away my daughters like captives of the sword? 27 Why did you flee secretly and trick me, and did not tell me, so that I might have sent you away with mirth and songs, with tambourine and lyre? 28 And why did you not permit me to kiss my sons and my daughters farewell? Now you have done foolishly. 29 It is in my power to do you harm. But the God of your father spoke to me last night, saying, ‘Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad.’ 30 And now you have gone away because you longed greatly for your father's house, but why did you steal my gods?” 31 Jacob answered and said to Laban, “Because I was afraid, for I thought that you would take your daughters from me by force. 32 Anyone with whom you find your gods shall not live. In the presence of our kinsmen point out what I have that is yours, and take it.” Now Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them. 33 So Laban went into Jacob's tent and into Leah's tent and into the tent of the two female servants, but he did not find them. And he went out of Leah's tent and entered Rachel's. 34 Now Rachel had taken the household gods and put them in the camel's saddle and sat on them. Laban felt all about the tent, but did not find them. 35 And she said to her father, “Let not my lord be angry that I cannot rise before you, for the way of women is upon me.” So he searched but did not find the household gods.

### Observations & Interpretation:

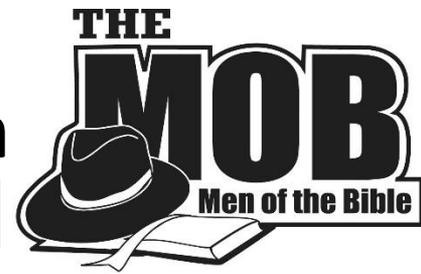
- Each “**pitched tents**” after executing vigorous and lengthy travel exploits.
- Laban meets and confronts Jacob, making unfair accusations (vv. 26-30)
  - With the exception of, “why did you steal my gods?”
- “**you have done foolishly**” = sinful or guilty ([1 Sam 13:13](#); [2 Sam 24:10](#))
- “**in my power**” (*lā-’êl* used 14x in O.T.). Laban possibly claiming to be a god.
- Unaware of Rachel’s theft, Jacob challenged Laban to “**point out**” what belonged to him; Laban “**felt about**” like a blind man ([Deut 28:29](#); [Job 5:14](#)).
- “**camel’s saddle**” only found here. Rachel’s unclean lie led to no search.





# Observation & Interpretation

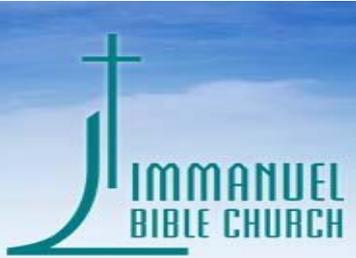
## Laban's Unfairness Fully Exposed (31:36-42)



31:36 Then Jacob became angry and berated Laban. Jacob said to Laban, “What is my offense? What is my sin, that you have hotly pursued me? 37 For you have felt through all my goods; what have you found of all your household goods? Set it here before my kinsmen and your kinsmen, that they may decide between us two. 38 These twenty years I have been with you. Your ewes and your female goats have not miscarried, and I have not eaten the rams of your flocks. 39 What was torn by wild beasts I did not bring to you. I bore the loss of it myself. From my hand you required it, whether stolen by day or stolen by night. 40 There I was: by day the heat consumed me, and the cold by night, and my sleep fled from my eyes. 41 These twenty years I have been in your house. I served you fourteen years for your two daughters, and six years for your flock, and you have changed my wages ten times. 42 If the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had not been on my side, surely now you would have sent me away empty-handed. God saw my affliction and the labor of my hands and rebuked you last night.”

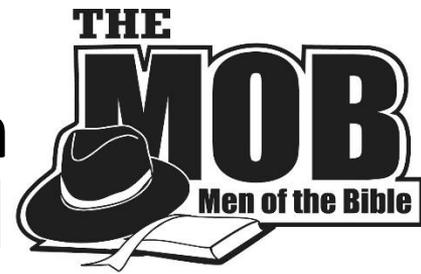
### Observations & Interpretation:

- Jacob angrily rebuked Laban for years of deceit & wage changes ([Eph 4:26](#)).
  - vv. 36-37 questions offered legal implications for Laban (or kinsmen) to render a decision.
- Faithful service explained: (1.) [prevented loss of life](#); (2.) [refused to eat from his flock](#); (3.) [absorbed losses himself](#); and (4.) [worked in tough conditions](#).
- After 20 years of service, Jacob concluded Laban would have been deceitful.
- “[Fear of Isaac](#)” may point to the God that Isaac revered or honored (cf. v53).
- “[God saw my affliction](#)” (cf. v24 & v29) = sovereign protection ([Gen 12](#) & [26](#)).



# Observation & Interpretation

Good Riddance to Bad Rubbish (31:43-55)



31:43 Then Laban answered and said to Jacob, “The daughters are my daughters, the children are my children, the flocks are my flocks, and all that you see is mine. But what can I do this day for these my daughters or for their children whom they have borne? 44 Come now, let us make a covenant, you and I. And let it be a witness between you and me.” 45 So Jacob took a stone and set it up as a pillar. 46 And Jacob said to his kinsmen, “Gather stones.” And they took stones and made a heap, and they ate there by the heap. 47 Laban called it Jegar-sahadutha, but Jacob called it Galeed. 48 Laban said, “This heap is a witness between you and me today.” Therefore he named it Galeed, 49 and Mizpah, for he said, “The Lord watch between you and me, when we are out of one another's sight. 50 If you oppress my daughters, or if you take wives besides my daughters, although no one is with us, see, God is witness between you and me.” 51 Then Laban said to Jacob, “See this heap and the pillar, which I have set between you and me. 52 This heap is a witness, and the pillar is a witness, that I will not pass over this heap to you, and you will not pass over this heap and this pillar to me, to do harm. 53 The God of Abraham and the God of Nahor, the God of their father, judge between us.” So Jacob swore by the Fear of his father Isaac, 54 and Jacob offered a sacrifice in the hill country and called his kinsmen to eat bread. They ate bread and spent the night in the hill country. 55 Early in the morning Laban arose and kissed his grandchildren and his daughters and blessed them. Then Laban departed and returned home.

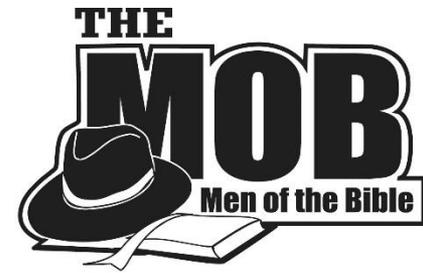
## Observations & Interpretation:

- Laban still believed he was in control, showing his extreme greed (cf. v29).
- Probably due to a mutual lack of trust, both agree to a covenant (peace treaty).
- “Jegar-sahadutha” is Aramaic, while “[Galeed](#)” is Hebrew (heap of witness).
- [Mizpah](#) (i.e., *watch*) = if you do wrong, God will see it and punish you.
- Laban’s “God of Nahor... God of their father” vs. Jacob’s “Fear” of Isaac.
  - Laban grouped God’s actions to multiple gods; where Jacob referenced only YHWH.
  - Neither revealed that their father’s God was their God!
- The covenant was sealed; neither would seek to harm the other.





# Conclusion

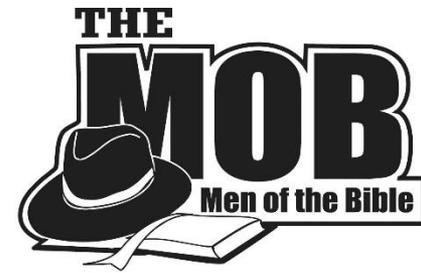


- **Jacob's unconventional breeding method produced results *because the LORD wanted it to.***
  - *God's ways are not our ways. ([Isaiah 55:8-9](#))*
- **God kept a watchful eye on Laban's injustices and Jacob's afflictions.**
  - *Your business interactions will be judged.*
- **It is possible to reach a mutual understanding with someone with whom you disagree.**
  - *After suffering through tremendous wrongs, Jacob departed from Laban on terms that revealed he has matured.*

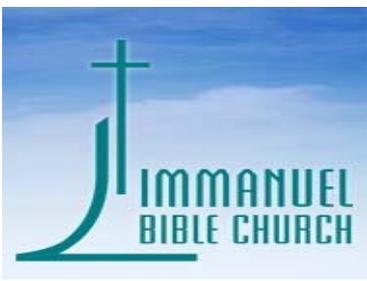
**“The eyes of the Lord are in every place,  
keeping watch on the evil and the good.” Proverbs 15:3**



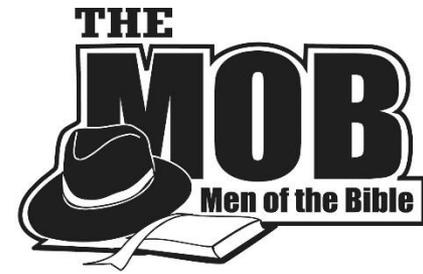
# Discussion & Application



1. Who are the manipulators in these chapters? What did they do?
2. After considering Jacob's unique breeding method, discuss how advances in science are generated from observations and research that are aligned with God's word.
3. Discuss the ways Laban treated Jacob unfairly, then discuss how Jacob acted faithfully. What does Jesus say about this?
4. Today's lesson introduced us to false gods or idols. Discuss other instances in Scripture where false gods have impacted God's people. How do false gods impact us today?
5. List Laban's accusations in [Genesis 31:26-30](#) and show how they are true or false.
6. Describe an experience in your life when you were wronged by someone, yet you maintained a cordial relationship with the offender.



# Next Meeting



## Review:

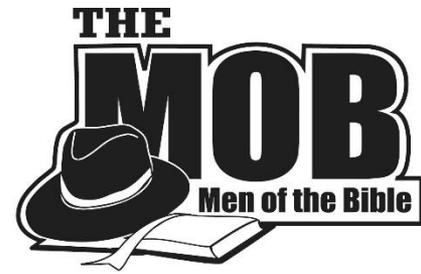
- [Genesis 30:25 – 31:55](#) Jacob's Prosperity & Flight from Laban
- *Encountering Genesis*, Chapter 9, pages 127 – 129

## Read:

- [Genesis 32:1 – 33:20](#) Jacob Wrestles with God & Reconciles with Esau
- *Encountering Genesis*, Chapter 10, pages 131 – 135

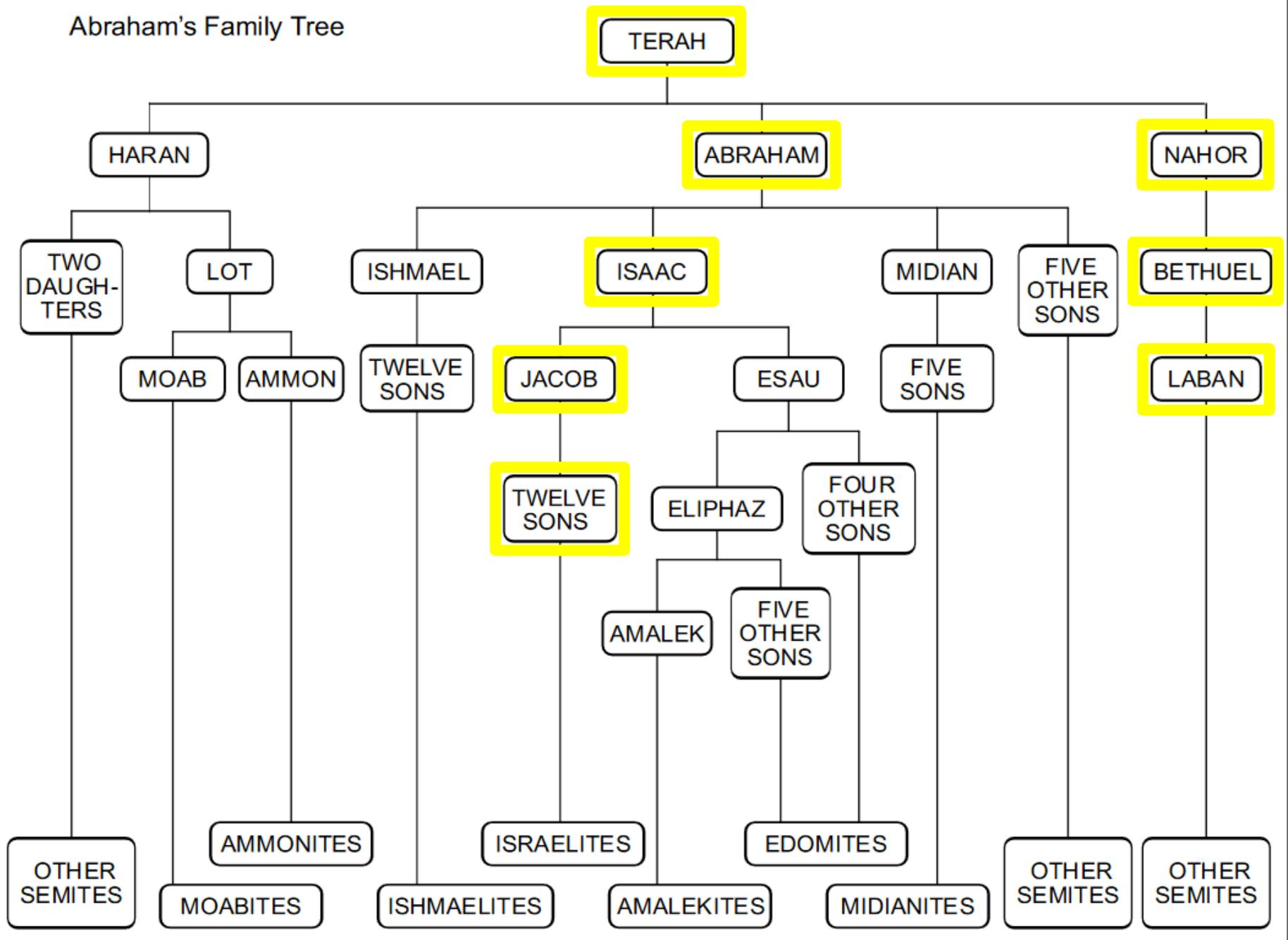


# Closing



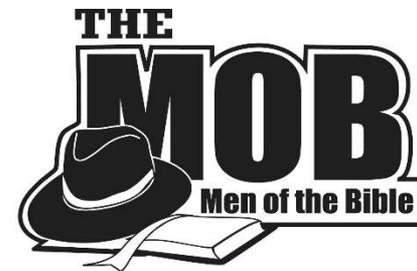
- Questions
- Benediction

# Abraham's Family Tree





# Genesis 30:25 – 31:55



Genesis 30:25-31:55 ESV

## Jacob's Prosperity

25 As soon as Rachel had borne Joseph, Jacob said to Laban, "Send me away, that I may go to my own home and country. 26 Give me my wives and my children for whom I have served you, that I may go, for you know the service that I have given you." 27 But Laban said to him, "If I have found favor in your sight, I have learned by divination that[a] the Lord has blessed me because of you. 28 Name your wages, and I will give it." 29 Jacob said to him, "You yourself know how I have served you, and how your livestock has fared with me. 30 For you had little before I came, and it has increased abundantly, and the Lord has blessed you wherever I turned. But now when shall I provide for my own household also?" 31 He said, "What shall I give you?" Jacob said, "You shall not give me anything. If you will do this for me, I will again pasture your flock and keep it: 32 let me pass through all your flock today, removing from it every speckled and spotted sheep and every black lamb, and the spotted and speckled among the goats, and they shall be my wages. 33 So my honesty will answer for me later, when you come to look into my wages with you. Every one that is not speckled and spotted among the goats and black among the lambs, if found with me, shall be counted stolen." 34 Laban said, "Good! Let it be as you have said." 35 But that day Laban removed the male goats that were striped and spotted, and all the female goats that were speckled and spotted, every one that had white on it, and every lamb that was black, and put them in the charge of his sons. 36 And he set a distance of three days' journey between himself and Jacob, and Jacob pastured the rest of Laban's flock.

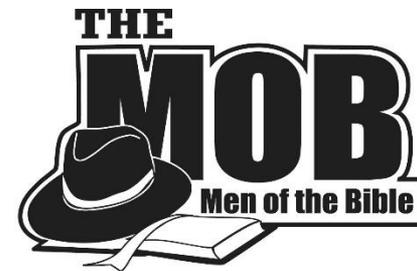
37 Then Jacob took fresh sticks of poplar and almond and plane trees, and peeled white streaks in them, exposing the white of the sticks. 38 He set the sticks that he had peeled in front of the flocks in the troughs, that is, the watering places, where the flocks came to drink. And since they bred when they came to drink, 39 the flocks bred in front of the sticks and so the flocks brought forth striped, speckled, and spotted. 40 And Jacob separated the lambs and set the faces of the flocks toward the striped and all the black in the flock of Laban. He put his own droves apart and did not put them with Laban's flock. 41 Whenever the stronger of the flock were breeding, Jacob would lay the sticks in the troughs before the eyes of the flock, that they might breed among the sticks, 42 but for the feebler of the flock he would not lay them there. So the feebler would be Laban's, and the stronger Jacob's. 43 Thus the man increased greatly and had large flocks, female servants and male servants, and camels and donkeys.

## Jacob Flees from Laban

31 Now Jacob heard that the sons of Laban were saying, "Jacob has taken all that was our father's, and from what was our father's he has gained all this wealth." 2 And Jacob saw that Laban did not regard him with favor as before. 3 Then the Lord said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your fathers and to your kindred, and I will be with you." 4 So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah into the field where his flock was 5 and said to them, "I see that your father does not regard me with favor as he did before. But the God of my father has been with me. 6 You know that I have served your father with all my strength, 7 yet your father has cheated me and changed my wages ten times. But God did not permit him to harm me. 8 If he said, 'The spotted shall be your wages,' then all the flock bore spotted; and if he said, 'The striped shall be your wages,' then all the flock bore striped. 9 Thus God has taken away the livestock of your father and given them to me. 10 In the breeding season of the flock I lifted up my eyes and saw in a dream that the goats that mated with the flock were striped, spotted, and mottled. 11 Then the angel of God said to me in the dream, 'Jacob,' and I said, 'Here I am!' 12 And he said, 'Lift up your eyes and see, all the goats that mate with the flock are striped, spotted, and mottled, for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you. 13 I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and made a vow to me. Now arise, go out from this land and return to the land of your kindred.'" 14 Then Rachel and Leah answered and said to him, "Is there any portion or inheritance left to us in our father's house? 15 Are we not regarded by him as foreigners? For he has sold us, and he has indeed devoured our money. 16 All the wealth that God has taken away from our father belongs to us and to our children. Now then, whatever God has said to you, do."



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17 So Jacob arose and set his sons and his wives on camels. 18 He drove away all his livestock, all his property that he had gained, the livestock in his possession that he had acquired in Paddan-aram, to go to the land of Canaan to his father Isaac. 19 Laban had gone to shear his sheep, and Rachel stole her father's household gods. 20 And Jacob tricked<sup>[b]</sup> Laban the Aramean, by not telling him that he intended to flee. 21 He fled with all that he had and arose and crossed the Euphrates,<sup>[c]</sup> and set his face toward the hill country of Gilead.

22 When it was told Laban on the third day that Jacob had fled, 23 he took his kinsmen with him and pursued him for seven days and followed close after him into the hill country of Gilead. 24 But God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream by night and said to him, "Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad."

25 And Laban overtook Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the hill country, and Laban with his kinsmen pitched tents in the hill country of Gilead. 26 And Laban said to Jacob, "What have you done, that you have tricked me and driven away my daughters like captives of the sword? 27 Why did you flee secretly and trick me, and did not tell me, so that I might have sent you away with mirth and songs, with tambourine and lyre? 28 And why did you not permit me to kiss my sons and my daughters farewell? Now you have done foolishly. 29 It is in my power to do you harm. But the God of your<sup>[d]</sup> father spoke to me last night, saying, 'Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad.' 30 And now you have gone away because you longed greatly for your father's house, but why did you steal my gods?" 31 Jacob answered and said to Laban, "Because I was afraid, for I thought that you would take your daughters from me by force. 32 Anyone with whom you find your gods shall not live. In the presence of our kinsmen point out what I have that is yours, and take it." Now Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them.

33 So Laban went into Jacob's tent and into Leah's tent and into the tent of the two female servants, but he did not find them. And he went out of Leah's tent and entered Rachel's. 34 Now Rachel had taken the household gods and put them in the camel's saddle and sat on them. Laban felt all about the tent, but did not find them. 35 And she said to her father, "Let not my lord be angry that I cannot rise before you, for the way of women is upon me." So he searched but did not find the household gods.

36 Then Jacob became angry and berated Laban. Jacob said to Laban, "What is my offense? What is my sin, that you have hotly pursued me? 37 For you have felt through all my goods; what have you found of all your household goods? Set it here before my kinsmen and your kinsmen, that they may decide between us two. 38 These twenty years I have been with you. Your ewes and your female goats have not miscarried, and I have not eaten the rams of your flocks. 39 What was torn by wild beasts I did not bring to you. I bore the loss of it myself. From my hand you required it, whether stolen by day or stolen by night. 40 There I was: by day the heat consumed me, and the cold by night, and my sleep fled from my eyes. 41 These twenty years I have been in your house. I served you fourteen years for your two daughters, and six years for your flock, and you have changed my wages ten times. 42 If the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had not been on my side, surely now you would have sent me away empty-handed. God saw my affliction and the labor of my hands and rebuked you last night."

43 Then Laban answered and said to Jacob, "The daughters are my daughters, the children are my children, the flocks are my flocks, and all that you see is mine. But what can I do this day for these my daughters or for their children whom they have borne? 44 Come now, let us make a covenant, you and I. And let it be a witness between you and me." 45 So Jacob took a stone and set it up as a pillar. 46 And Jacob said to his kinsmen, "Gather stones." And they took stones and made a heap, and they ate there by the heap. 47 Laban called it Jegar-sahadutha,<sup>[e]</sup> but Jacob called it Galeed.<sup>[f]</sup> 48 Laban said, "This heap is a witness between you and me today." Therefore he named it Galeed, 49 and Mizpah,<sup>[g]</sup> for he said, "The Lord watch between you and me, when we are out of one another's sight. 50 If you oppress my daughters, or if you take wives besides my daughters, although no one is with us, see, God is witness between you and me."

51 Then Laban said to Jacob, "See this heap and the pillar, which I have set between you and me. 52 This heap is a witness, and the pillar is a witness, that I will not pass over this heap to you, and you will not pass over this heap and this pillar to me, to do harm. 53 The God of Abraham and the God of Nahor, the God of their father, judge between us." So Jacob swore by the Fear of his father Isaac, 54 and Jacob offered a sacrifice in the hill country and called his kinsmen to eat bread. They ate bread and spent the night in the hill country. 55 <sup>[h]</sup> Early in the morning Laban arose and kissed his grandchildren and his daughters and blessed them. Then Laban departed and returned home.