

## JOSEPH

### #4, leaving Laban – Gen 31:4-55

Jacobs family and fortune had greatly increased but, all the signs were there. It was really time to go. In this study, Jacob and his family (which now included Joseph) moved away from Laban and headed home.

#### Genesis chapter 31

4, So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to his flock in the field, 5 and said to them, " I see your father's attitude, that it is not friendly toward me as formerly, 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; however, God did not allow him to hurt me.

[1.], v:4, Jacob sent and called, **Whom did Jacob call for this family huddle?**

[2.], question [1.], If Jacob's entire family was not equally represented what kind of future family problems could develop?

[3.], v:5-7, your father's attitude, **Why or why wouldn't he girls have picked up on their fathers attitude toward Jacob?**

read thru  
Gen 31:8-10



11 "Then the angel of God said to me in the dream, 'Jacob,' and I said, 'Here I am.' 12 "He said, 'Lift up now your eyes and see that all the male goats which are mating are striped, speckled, and mottled; for I have seen all that Laban has been doing to you. 13' I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar, where you made a vow to Me; now arise, leave this land, and return to the land of your birth.'"

[4.], v:11-13, now arise, **In Jacob's dream, what did God command him to do?**

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14 Rachel and Leah said to him, "Do we still have any portion or inheritance in our father's house? 15 "Are we not reckoned by him as foreigners? For he has sold us, and has also entirely consumed our purchase price. 16 "Surely all the wealth which God has taken away from our father belongs to us and our children; now then, do whatever God has said to you."

[5.], v:14-16, said to him, These are some pretty hard words. Write down some of the girls thoughts toward their father.

**We didn't say good-bye to grandpa! I saw mama take grandpa's little figures. I wonder if I should take something that grandpa owns. I'm going to miss grandpa! I wonder if grandpa will always love me?**

17 Then Jacob arose and put his children and his wives upon camels; 18 and he drove away all his livestock and all his property which he had gathered, his acquired livestock which he had gathered in Paddan-aram, to go to the land of Canaan to his father Isaac. 19 When Laban had gone to shear his flock, then Rachel stole the household idols that were her father's. 20 And Jacob deceived Laban the Aramean by not telling him that he was fleeing. 21 So he fled with all that he had; and he arose and crossed the Euphrates River, and set his face toward the hill country of Gilead.

[6.], v:17-20, all his property, What was taken that was not Jacobs property (v:19)?

[7.], v:21, On your map (next page), draw a line that shows Joseph's journey.

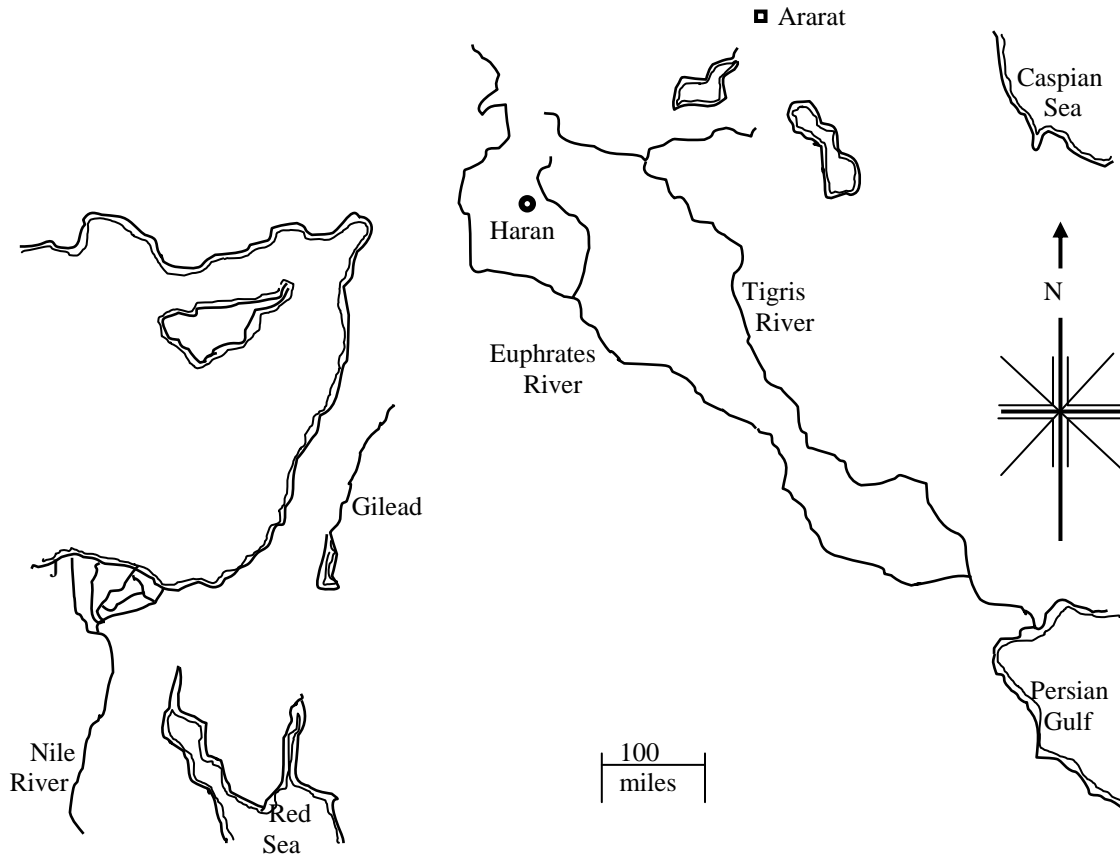
[8.], question [5.] Why or why wasn't this the most direct route to his home?

22, When it was told Laban on the third day that Jacob had fled, 23 then he took his kinsmen with him and pursued him a distance of seven days' journey, and he overtook him in the hill country of Gilead.

[9.], v:22-23, How might Laban have determined the direction that Jacob fled?

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24 God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream of the night and said to him, "Be careful that you do not speak to Jacob either good or bad."

25 Laban caught up with Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the hill country, and Laban with his kinsmen camped in the hill country of Gilead. 26 Then Laban said to Jacob, "What have you done by deceiving me and carrying away my daughters like captives of the sword? 27 "Why did you flee secretly and deceive me, and did not tell me so that I might have sent you away with joy and with songs, with timbrel and with lyre; 28 and did not allow me to kiss my sons and my daughters? Now you have done foolishly.

[10.], v:24, a dream of the night, So what do you suppose Laban, the worshiper of idols, thought of this dream?

[11.], v:25-28, Laban said to Jacob, It was a nice little speech but what do you feel Laban was really upset about?

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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 speak either good or bad to Jacob.'

30 "Now you have indeed gone away because you longed greatly for your father's house; but why did you steal my gods?" 31 Then Jacob replied to Laban, "Because I was afraid, for I thought that you would take your daughters from me by force. 32 " The one with whom you find your gods shall not live; in the presence of our kinsmen point out what is yours among my belongings and take it for yourself." For 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 maids, but he did not find them. Then he went out of Leah's tent and entered Rachel's tent. 34 Now Rachel had taken the household idols and put them in the camel's saddle, and she sat on them. And Laban felt through all the tent but did not find them.

35 She said to her father, "Let not my lord be angry that I cannot rise before you, for the manner of women is upon me." So he searched but did not find the household idols.

[12.], v:29, spoke to me, **How did Laban identify God, who spoke to him in his dream?**

[13.], v:29 again, Ok, just for a minute you're Jacob. Recalling Gen 28:12-15 & 31:3, what are you thinking after hearing Laban's dream

[14.], v:30-34, but why did you steal my gods? **We can assume that Rachel heard this conversation. Write down what probably went thru her head.**

[15.], question [12.] **Why might Rachel have thought these gods had some value?**

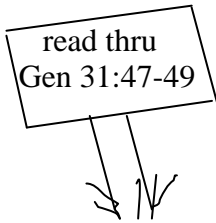
[16.], Question[12.] again, Even as Christians, **what's valuable to our children and grandchildren and why?**

[17.], v:35, I cannot rise before you, **What do young children learn when they hear their parents lie?**

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Gen 31:44, "So now come, let us make a covenant, you and I, and let it be a witness between you and me." 45 Then Jacob took a stone and set it up as a pillar. 46 Jacob said to his kinsmen, "Gather stones." So they took stones and made a heap, and they ate there by the heap.



50 "If you mistreat my daughters, or if you take wives besides my daughters, although no man is with us, see, God is witness between you and me." 51 Laban said to Jacob, "Behold this heap and behold 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 by this heap to you for harm, and you will not pass by this heap and this pillar to me, for 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 Then Jacob offered a sacrifice on the mountain, and called his kinsmen to the meal; and they ate the meal and spent the night on the mountain. 55 Early in the morning Laban arose, and kissed his sons and his daughters and blessed them. Then Laban departed and returned to his place.

[18.], v:44-49, let us make a covenant, Describe the solution that Laban suggested.

[19.], v:50-53, If you . . . , What was the pertinent clause that Laban put in?

[20.], v:50, What is a major concern about becoming a prospective "father-in-law"?

[21.], v:55, kissed his sons and his daughters, Who did Laban consider these to be?

**Grandpa's gone!**