

Jacob Prospers Despite Laban & Decides to Return to Israel (Gen 30:25–31:16)

Grace Chapel January 27, 2010 Dr. John Niemelä

INTRODUCTION

JACOB PROSPERS AT THE EXPENSE OF DECEITFUL LABAN (30:25–43)

(30:25–26) After 14 years Jacob told Laban that he wanted to return to Israel

(30:27–28) Laban offered for Jacob to stay & name his wages, because he knew that the LORD had prospered him because of Jacob

(30:29–30) Jacob said that the LORD had prospered Laban during Jacob's years of serving Laban, but he himself did not share in Laban's prosperity

(30:31–33) Jacob told Laban that (rather than receiving wages) the oddly colored sheep would become his property

(30:34) Laban agreed to Jacob's proposal

(30:35–36) Laban immediately took the oddly colored sheep and sent them with family members to distant places

(30:37–39) Jacob placed striped rods before Laban's breeding stock & the offspring were oddly colored

Did the rods have anything to with the results?

(30:40) Jacob separated his flocks from Laban's

(30:41–42) Jacob used the striped rods with Laban's better breeding stock, but did not use them with the weaker breeding stock

(30:43) Jacob's wealth multiplied

JACOB DECIDES TO RETURN TO ISRAEL (31:1–16)

(31:1–2) Laban's sons resented Jacob's enrichment at Laban's expense

(31:3) The LORD told Jacob to return to his family in Israel

(31:4–9) Jacob called Rachael & Leah, telling them how God had prospered him at Laban's expense, despite Laban changing his wages ten times

(31:10-12) Jacob told Rachael & Leah that God gave him a dream about using add Colored breeding rams to thwart Laban's efforts to cheat Jacob

(31:13) God (who met Jacob at Bethel) commanded him to return to his family in Israel

(31:14-16) Rachael & Leah urged Jacob to obey God, noting that Laban had not only Stolen from Jacob, but had stolen from them also by confiscating their dowry

SUMMARY