

“Jacob flees from Laban” (Genesis 31:1-55)

For the week of October 31, 2021

Read Genesis 31:1-16

Observation

What did Jacob perceive regarding Laban and his sin? What did God tell him to do?

Describe Laban's treatment of Jacob and Jacob's treatment of Laban.

How did Jacob know God was responsible for the ways the animals reproduced?

What conclusion did Rachel and Leah reach?

Interpretation

Describe how Jacob faithfully followed God. In your opinion, was this easy or difficult for Jacob? Explain your rationale.

Application

For each of us to faithfully follow God, we must discern His will in our lives. Discuss how each of these statements help us discern God's will.

- To discern God's will, we must consider our heart's desires (read Philippians 2:12-13).
- To discern God's will, we must consider our circumstances (read Ephesians 1:11).
- To discern God's will, we must consider God's Word (read Psalm 119:05).
- To discern God's will, we must seek godly counsel (read Proverbs 11:14).

In what ways have you experienced God's will in your life?

Read Genesis 31:17-32

Observation

Describe how Jacob's family left.

What sin did Rachel commit? Why would Rachel do this?

Describe Laban learning of Jacob's departure. What did God tell Laban?

What did Laban say he would have done had he known they were leaving? Is this explanation consistent with his character and past conduct? Why or why not?

Interpretation

In our story, God protected Jacob. Why does God need to protect us from the world?

How does God protect His people from the world? List the ways.

Application

In your life describe how God has protected you and/or your family.

Read Genesis 31:33-42

Observation

How did Rachel escape detection?

Summarize Jacob's speech.

Interpretation

The picture of Rachel sitting on and concealing Laban's "gods" in verse 35 emphasizes the complete impotence of such idols. Fast forward to today: Describe present-day idols of people and why they place faith in them.

Application

What is the key to living in this world without being of it (read 1 Peter 3:15)? Share how in your life you have been able to live in this world without being of it. Is this an ongoing challenge? Explain!

Read Genesis 31:43-55

Observation

What proposal did Laban make, and what happened as a result?

What was the significance of the stones?

How did Jacob and Laban separate?

Interpretation

Why did Laban say to Jacob, "May the Lord watch between you and me" (verse 49)? Is this a sign of trust or distrust? Why?

Application

Here is a summary of the three main characters:

Laban – Uses God if He helps him prosper, but if not, then tries something else.

Rachel – Knows the true God, but also carries idols from the old life.

Jacob – Seeks to obey God but at times feels like he is between a rock and a hard place in seeking to live separately from the world.

Which of these three are you most spiritually alike? Explain.