

JACOB'S TIME WITH LABAN — GE.29-31

AFTER 7 YEARS

- Laban deceived Jacob by giving him his elder daughter, Leah, instead of the younger Rachel.
- Laban allowed Jacob to marry Rachel a week after marrying Leah, on the condition that he would fulfill another seven years of service (Ge.29:27-30).

AFTER 14 YEARS

- Jacob sought to provide for his own household, so he requested to leave with his wives and children. He has fulfilled his obligation.
- Laban, recognizing that the LORD had blessed him because of Jacob, persuaded him to stay.
- They agreed that Jacob would continue to tend Laban's flocks, and as wages, Jacob would keep all the speckled, spotted, and dark-colored sheep and goats (Ge.30:25-32).
- The LORD blessed Jacob, and he became exceedingly prosperous, with large flocks, servants, camels, and donkeys (Ge.30:43).

JACOB'S OFFER (GE.30:25-43)

THE PLAN IN LABAN'S FAVOR

- Jacob would continue to care for Laban's animals as he was doing.
- Jacob would receive wages for his work from animals not yet born.
- Jacob would be paid by the birth of rare or "less desirable" colored animals.
- Jacob will receive any speckled or spotted offspring of this flock.
- Jacob would take care of the solid-colored flock of Laban, as well as their speckled and spotted offspring, which belonged to him. Jacob's animals would be separated and cared for by Laban's sons.
- The plan would cost Laban nothing.
- The plan ostensibly would gain very little for Jacob.
- At this point few of these animals were colored with speckles or spotted.
- Jacob would not use speckled or abnormally colored animals to breed more like them.
- Laban divided the flock and gave Jacob's animals into the care of Laban's sons (Ge.30:35).
- Laban put three days journey between himself and Jacob's animals (Ge.30:36).
- Any solid colored animals among Jacob's flock were considered stolen.
- Laban liked the deal because the odds were humanly speaking stacked in his favor.
- Laban believed this was a favorable concession to maintain Jacob's skills.
- Although Laban had everything on his side, God was with Jacob.
- By this arrangement Jacob put himself in God's hands.
- Only the Lord could determine what animals would be Jacob's.

AFTER 20 YEARS

- Jacob's prosperity caused tension between him and Laban's sons, who felt that Jacob had taken what belonged to their father (Ge.31:1-2).
- The LORD instructed Jacob to return to the land of his fathers and promised to be with him (Ge.31:3).
- Jacob explained to Rachel and Leah how Laban had changed his wages "ten times," but God did not allow Laban to harm him.

TYPICAL ANIMALS FOR LABAN

- SHEEP: most were white (adult)
- GOATS: most were white or black



JACOB'S WAGES — GE.30:32

- SHEEP: that were speckled and spotted
- GOATS: that were speckled and spotted
- LAMBS: that were brown or dark

