

Choose This Day ...

Genesis 31:1-55

I Jacob Is Faced With A Choice

- A. He could **stay** where he was
 - 1. He was **accused** by his brother-in-laws - Prov 14:30
 - 2. He was treated differently by Laban - James 4:1-3
- B. He could **return** to his homeland
 - 1. He was directed and **assured** by God - Gen 28:15

II Jacob Laid Out The Facts To Rachel and Leah

- A. He describes the **tension** with Laban
 - 1. Laban's attitude toward Jacob had changed
 - 2. Laban had repeatedly cheated him - 1 Pet 2:18-23
- B. He describes God's **protection**
 - 1. God protected Jacob from harm - Ps 118:6
 - 2. God **gave** Jacob Laban's livestock - Prov 13:22
- C. He describes God's revelation in a **dream**
 - 1. God had seen the injustice - Dt 24:14-15
 - 2. God called Jacob to return to Canaan - Rev 2:4-5

III Jacob Is Supported By Rachel and Leah

- A. They agreed with Jacob's assessment
- B. They **submitted** themselves to Jacob's leadership - Eph 5:22
- C. They departed with Jacob for Canaan
- D. They **deceived** Laban in their departure
 - 1. Rachel stole Laban's household idol - Dt 27:15; Pr 29:25

IV Laban Accuses Jacob Of Deception

- A. He pursued Jacob - Job 5:12
- B. He **confessed** to Jacob
 - 1. He intended to harm Jacob - Jn 19:10-11
 - 2. He was warned by God in a dream - Gen 24:50
- C. He **confronted** Jacob - Prov 26:23-26
 - 1. "Why have you deceived me?"
 - 2. "Why did you steal my gods?" - Jer 10:5

V Jacob Defends His Integrity

- A. He defended his **integrity** - 1 Pet 2:12
- B. He defended his **character**
 - 1. He served Laban for 20 years - Col 3:22-24
 - 2. He was a source of blessing to Laban's flocks - Gen 39:5
 - 3. He bore the cost of lost or stolen animals - Titus 2:9-10
 - 4. He more than paid for his wives and flocks - Col 3:23-24
- B. He testified to the sovereignty of God
 - 1. God **protected** Jacob from Laban - Jn 10:10
 - 2. God saw Jacob's hardship and hard work - 2 Chron 16:9
 - 3. God **rebuked** Laban in a dream

VI Jacob and Laban Make A Covenant

- A. They set up a heap of **stones** and ate a meal
- B. They delineated the terms of the covenant
- D. Jacob made **sacrifice** to God and Laban left - Josh 24:14-15

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. Share a time when God gave you divine guidance at a pivotal point in your life. How did you know? What was the outcome?
2. Jacob was faced with a dilemma: stay with Laban or return home. What were the pros and cons of each option? How can you apply these truths to your own life decisions?
3. Why do you think Rachel took her father's household idol? What kind of idols do we have today that we can "sit on"?
4. Do you think Laban was justified in his accusations against Jacob? Why or why not? Could Jacob have done a better job of handling his departure from Laban? How?
5. In God's dealings with Jacob, what do you learn about God's character? God's protection? His dealings with sinners? How will this knowledge change the way you live this week?
6. Take some time this week to seek God's guidance for your life. Finish your time by praying through Proverbs 3:5-6.

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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