

# Genesis Study--Jacob, Laban, Esau

## Genesis 31-32

### 1. **Laban's sons were beginning to grumble. "Jacob has robbed our father!"**

It wasn't that Jacob had taken *anything* belonging to Laban. Rather, it was that his wealth was increasing in \_\_\_\_\_ to Laban's wealth. The problem wasn't that Jacob stole, it was that Laban's sons were filled with \_\_\_\_\_

Envy will distort \_\_\_\_\_. Jacob had not taken anything of Laban's, but envy will lie.

Envy will ruin \_\_\_\_\_. Envy seeks \_\_\_\_\_ (I Corinthians 3:3, James 3:16, Matthew 27:18; Titus 3:3)

### 2. **Return to the land of your father and grandfather and to your relatives there, and I will be with you."**

Even if Jacob never knew it, God prepared him for this time. First, God gave him the \_\_\_\_\_ to go back home (Genesis 30:25). Then his \_\_\_\_\_. Finally, the LORD gave \_\_\_\_\_ to Jacob. God often leads us in the same pattern. This confirmed the direction of God in Jacob's life.

### 3. **But the God of my father has been with me** Even though Laban tried to cheat Jacob, God protected him all the time. We don't have to fear what man can do to us when God is \_\_\_\_\_. *The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me? (Psalm 118:6)*

### 4. **Then in my dream, the angel of God said to me** Significantly, there is much more to what the LORD said to Jacob than what was reported in Genesis 31:3. Genesis 31:3 is completely true, but there was \_\_\_\_\_ than this simple bare word from the LORD.

### 5. **Rachel and Leah said, "That's fine with us!"**

What is important about this statement?

### 6. **Rachel stole her father's household gods and took them with her.. They set out secretly** Was this a wise move?

### 7. **..heading for the territory of Gilead** What about this transition of location?

### 8. **So when Laban caught up with Jacob** Let's discuss Laban's words

What about Jacob's reply?

**9. This place was also called Mizpah** Is this a peaceful ending?

In this covenant, Laban expresses how \_\_\_\_\_ he is of Jacob. The idea of Mizpah (“watch”) is “If you do wrong, God will see it and may He punish!” “In effect, the pillar of Mizpah meant, ‘If you come over on my side of this line, the pact is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.’ The covenant breaker would need \_\_\_\_\_ to take care of him, because the other would kill him. Maybe there is wisdom in keeping away from \_\_\_\_\_

**10. So he named the place Mahanaim....** literally \_\_\_\_\_ Angels, though “higher” beings than us, are ordained by God to be our \_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 1:14) and they minister to us even as they ministered to Jesus (Matthew 4:11). In 2 Kings 6:15-17 Elisha’s servant had his \_\_\_\_\_ to see the tremendous angelic host surrounding them.

**11. Jacob now sent messengers to his brother, Esau,** What about Jacob’s message?

What of Jacob’s reaction?

Why was Jacob’s reaction to Laban so different than with Esau?

What was Jacob’s strategy?

**12. Then Jacob prayed** After first reacting in \_\_\_\_\_, Jacob did the right thing. He went to the LORD and prayed a good prayer. He is coming around!

What were some great elements of his prayer? Gen 31:3; 28:13-15

**13.** How is sending them across the river an act of faith?

**14. a man came and wrestled with him until dawn** First mention of \_\_\_\_\_!  
This is the \_\_\_\_\_ in Jacob’s life. He is coming to complete faith and trust. He got alone with God. He began to pray!

A Man wrestled \_\_\_\_\_ until the breaking of day: Jacob didn’t wrestle with the Man.

Instead, a Man wrestled with him. Jacob didn’t start out wanting anything from God.

God wanted something from him. God wanted all of Jacob’s \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and came to take it, by force if necessary. Jacob thought the real enemy was outside of him, being Esau. The real enemy was his \_\_\_\_\_, which had not been conquered by God.

Hosea 12:3-5 makes it clear: *He took his brother by the heel in the womb, and in his strength he struggled with God. Yes, he struggled with the Angel and prevailed; he wept, and sought favor from Him. He found Him in Bethel, and there He spoke to us; that is, the LORD God of hosts. The LORD is His memorable name.* Jacob sought this blessing with weeping. He knew he was defeated, yet desperately wanted a blessing from this Greater One.

**Was Jacob the first “hippy” mentioned in the Bible?**