

MISTREATMENT OF JACOB
LEADS TO MISTREATMENT OF LABAN!
GENESIS CH30:25-43

ILLUSTRATION

Scrooge – Main characters! Belle (Scrooge's girl), Fred (nephew), Bob, Tim, + Ebenezer! Me painting the wall and asking for union representation!

BACKGROUND

Chapters 29 and 30 of Genesis cover 20 years of Jacobs life, whilst living in Haran, over 500 miles from home! Andrew Steinmann in his commentary on Genesis states “These two chapters cover the 20 years of Jacob's life spent in Haran. Three themes are intertwined here.

One is Laban's taking advantage of Jacob: he deceives him into marrying Leah, and makes him work another 7 years for Rachel. Jacob, it appears, meets poetic justice: the one who deceived his father is in turn deceived by his Uncle.

A second theme developed here is rivalry between Jacob's two wives. While Jacob has finally escaped his sibling rivalry with Esau, he now experiences sibling rivalry as an outsider to the two competitors, his wives.

The third theme, however, is the most important: no matter what circumstances Jacob encounters, he prospers because Yahweh is with him and is blessing him. This blessing comes not only in the form of God providing children (***Ch29:31; Ch30:22***) but also in the form of Jacob's own cleverness in breeding sheep (***Ch30:37-43***).

Thus, the account of Jacob's years in Laban's household build on themes already introduced in previous narratives:

- cunning and deception as a character flaw in several generations of Abraham's family (***Abraham - Ch12:10-19; Ch20:1-18; Isaac - Ch26:7-11; Rebekah - Ch27:1-10***)
- family rivalry (***Sarah - Ch16:1-16; Ishmael - Ch21:8-13; The Boy Twins - Ch25:22-23, 27-34***)
- God's blessing in His commitment to Abraham (***Abraham - Ch12:1-3; Ch22:16-18; Isaac - Ch26:2-5; Jacob - Ch28:13-15***)” (Andrew Steinmann, Commentary on Genesis, page 277-278).

THE MISTREATMENT OF JACOB
LEADS TO THE MISTREATMENT OF LABAN!
GENESIS CH30:25-43

CONTRACT COMPLETED! V25-26

1. **V25** - Why this request from Jacob, “send me away”, and why ask now? **Ch29:27** - The 7 years (14 years in total) of serving are completed!
2. **V26** - Jacob only asks for his family! He does not ask for anything else! He knows fully what kind of boss he has and he wants out, as he has completed his contract!

CONTRACT CONVERATIONS! V27-34

1. **V27** – (**Ch30:25-Ch31:42** – *the extra 6 years! = 20 years in total*) Why doesn't Laban ask about “his family”, his two daughters, his 12 grandchildren, 11 boys + 1 girl! Why has he sought “divination” the practice of seeking knowledge of the future or the unknown through the demonic! A practice that the Lord deals with when the Law is given in **Deuteronomy Ch18:10!** ***Laban does understand that his growth in prosperity is by “association” with Jacob, and being blessed by God through this relationship!***
2. **V28** - Laban's true heart is revealed! He wants to hold onto Jacob, purely for monetary gains!
3. **V29-34**
 - v29 - Jacob reminds Laban of his 14 year service
 - v30 - how Laban initially had very little, until Jacob's arrival and hard work
 - v30 - how God had blessed the work
 - v31 - Laban wants to give Jacob a gift (Abraham Ch14:21 – king of Sodom + Ephron the Hittite Ch23:11)
 - v31 - Jacob declines the gift
 - v32 - 33 - the new contract
 - v34 - terms and conditions of the new contract agreed

Laban knows the price of everything, but the value of nothing!

CONTRACT CRAFTINESS AND COUNTERMEASURES! V35-43

1. **V35** - *What do we know about Laban?* Remember - **Ch24:53** – the costly ornaments for Laban and his mother. **Ch29:14** - Or Uncle Laban clear that Jacob is in fact a true relative of his, “Surely you are my bone and my flesh”, is reminiscent of Adam singing to

Eve back in **Genesis Ch2:23**, but here ***“begrudgingly”***, as if it is “you are really my relative and you'd better stay!” **Ch29:18** – And a “Silver Shekel”, mentioned firstly by Abraham to buy a field to bury his wife Sarah **Ch23:15** which cost 400 Silver Shekels, which is the equivalent of 33 years worth of wages! To earn a Silver Shekel, would take a month of working. According to **Deuteronomy Ch22:29**, the price of a bride was 50 Silver Shekels, or just over 50 months wages, compared to Jacob paying not just 84 months worth of wages, but 168 months of wages in total, over three times the usual cost for a bride! **Ch31:14 - 15** - Finally, we learn even more from Uncle Laban's both daughters as to what their father was really like!

2. It is no surprise that the villain, is once again crafty, and breaks the terms of the new contract, removing all the striped and spotted male goats, along with all the speckled and spotted female goats and every lamb that was black. Giving all these animals to his sons, to take them 3 days journey away! ***Leaving his nephew Jacob with “no start up help” in his new business venture!***
3. **V37-42** - Genetic breeding, some will say “Yes” and some will say “No”, Jacob knows he is being cheated once again by his Uncle and has certain “countermeasures” in mind and in place. He has an eye for selective breeding also, which God allows to work in his favour (**Ch31:7-13**), and his small business starts to be a grow and become successful and over a six year period he amasses a huge wealth.
4. **V43** - God's promise to Jacob back in **Ch28:13-15**, a land, a people and a wealth is coming true!

APPLICATION

1. What about us?
2. Oasis and The Mission Church!
3. We must not meddle!
4. We must remain missional and maintenance focused!
5. Without the both, we will fail!