

**The Refinement of Jacob Continues:
Small Signs of Change and Promises of Blessing Fulfilled
Gen. 30:25-43
April 27, 2022**

Since Genesis 25 we have studied the life of Jacob, the events surrounding his and his twin brother Esau's births, Jacob's wresting the birthright away from Esau, and Jacob deceitfully gaining the blessing from his father, Isaac.

Jacob's time in Paddan Aram has been a time of refinement.

In Genesis 28 both before he leaves for Mesopotamia and on his way there, blessings are pronounced upon Jacob.

What were the elements of the blessings that were pronounced upon Jacob in Genesis 28?

One might say that the elements of these blessings were difficult to see or not seen at the beginning of his time in Paddan Aram.

I. A Yearning for Home (25-26)

Verse 25 indicates that Joseph's birth to Rachel, the wife whom Jacob loved, was the impetus for him to leave Mesopotamia.

Joseph's birth didn't simply prompt Jacob's request to leave just so that Jacob could get away from Laban, but Jacob was focused on a specific destination. In verse 25 Jacob's words reveal a turning, or even yearning, to go home.

As a child of God, despite the number of years spent on this earth and all that you and I have perhaps accumulated while we've been here - perhaps a husband or wife, children, a home, a car, etc. - how do you view yourself? 1 Pet. 2:11, Heb. 11:10, 2 Cor. 5:8.

II. Wages Confirmed (27-34)

Laban responds to Jacob's request with smooth words, "If I have found favor in your sight."

In verse 28 Laban's true intention, delaying Jacob's departure, is seen in his request of Jacob to name his wages and that he would give it to him. Gen. 29:15.

In verses 29-30 Jacob is in essence saying that Laban didn't have to look to divination to determine that he's been blessed during Jacob's time of service.

Jacob says in verse 31, "You shall not give me anything." (Gen. 14:22-24a) Jacob did not want Laban's charity, he was willing to work and stipulates his wages.

Non-white lambs and non-black and non-brown goats were uncommon in the ancient Near East. Because most lambs were white and most goats were black or dark brown it's no surprise that Laban's response to Jacob's offer in verse 34 is "Good! Let it be as you have said."

III. Laban's Treachery Neutralized (35-42)

Laban not only removed the non-white lambs and non-black and non-brown goats, he then sent those goats and sheep away with his sons, creating a three-day distance between the flocks that Jacob tended and the flocks that his sons tended.

We see a hint in the next chapter that Jacob undertook this breeding method at the direction of God. Gen. 31:10-12.

What similarities and what differences are displayed in this passage when compared to the previous passages we've studied? What lessons might we learn from this as Christians?

IV. Jacob's Blessings Summarized (43)

What is significant about v. 43 in the context of Jacob's life, in the context of Genesis, and in the context of the Bible?