

Jacob on the Run

Genesis 31

- I. Jacob's _____ (1-16)
 - A. Jacob's personal _____ (1-9)
 - B. God's specific _____ (3, 10-13)
 - C. Rachel and Leah's shared _____ (14-16)
- II. Laban's _____ (17-35)
 - A. Laban's _____ (17-24)
 - B. Laban's _____ (25-35)
- III. Jacob's _____ (36-55)
 - A. Jacob's righteous _____ (36-42)
 - B. Jacob's religious _____ (43-55)

Principles of God's Guidance and Direction:

- 1. God _____ us with _____ (4-5)
- 2. God _____ us with _____ (3, 13)
- 3. God _____ us with _____ (7, 24, 29)
- 4. God _____ us with _____ (49)

Rachel and Leah revealed in their words . . . that they had long resented the way their father had essentially 'sold' them to Jacob. He had treated them as 'strangers' or 'foreigners,' rather than as his own daughters. The exorbitant price which Jacob had paid for them - fourteen years of free service to Laban - made them love Jacob but resent their father. Rather than treating this payment like a dowry, to provide a financial base for his daughters' future well-being and security, as should have been done, he had 'devoured' it all himself, using it probably to build up his own holdings, and had given nothing to them personally. They rightly felt that, since their husband had been responsible for the great prosperity of their father, and since this was in effect what Jacob had given in order to marry them, these possessions by all rights should have come to them . . . Though their decision was not based on the same high spiritual consideration as that of Jacob, they nevertheless realized it was of God, and therefore had confidence that, whatever God had told Jacob to do, [it] was the thing that should be done. They were ready to go. - Henry Morris

This account later had great significance for Israel: God would deliver and protect Israel as He brought them back to the land from Egypt. Here Israel would see God's victory over idols and idolaters, God's use of dreams for deliverance and protection, and the boundary by which God would keep His people apart from her enemies. All this became important for later Israelite-Aramean [Syrian] relations.

- Allen P. Ross