

HEADING FOR HOME  
(Genesis 31:1-55)

- I. Jacob's ESCAPE (Genesis 31:1-21)
  - A. God SHOWS Jacob it is time to GO HOME (31:1-3)
  - B. Jacob COMMUNICATES with his WIVES (31:1-13)
    - 1. Spoke with them PRIVATELY
    - 2. Told them of Laban's DISFAVOR
    - 3. Reminded them of God's BLESSING
    - 4. Reminded them of his FAITHFUL SERVICE to Laban
    - 5. Informed them of Laban's DISHONESTY
    - 6. Explained God's REVELATION of how he had BLESSED
    - 7. Explained WHY God had ENRICHED him
    - 8. Explained his OBLIGATION to RETURN to his homeland
  - C. Rachel and Leah SUPPORT his decision to LEAVE (31:14-16)
    - 1. Revealed their own RESENTMENT toward LABAN
    - 2. Encouraged Jacob to OBEY GOD
  - D. Jacob DEPARTS from Haran with what BELONGED to him (31:17-21)
  - E. They carry IDOLS Rachel STOLE from Laban (31:19)
- II. Laban's PURSUIT (Genesis 31:22-42)
  - A. Laban CHASES Jacob (31:22-24)

1. Learned of Jacob's DEPARTURE after THREE DAYS
  2. Pursued in HASTE
  3. Warned by God to neither REPROACH Jacob for LEAVING nor ENCOURAGE Jacob to RETURN
- B. Laban CONFRONTS Jacob (31:25-30)
1. Claims to be a VENGEFUL father RESCUING his children
  2. Claims to be aggrieved but KINDLY father, wanting a PARTY
  3. Claims the authority to HARM ALL OF THEM
  4. Accuses Jacob of STEALING "my GODS"
- C. Jacob REPLIES to Laban REASONABLY (31:31-32)
1. Confessed FEAR of Laban's TREACHERY
  2. Denied TAKING Laban's GODS
  3. Challenged him to TAKE anything he finds that BELONGS to him
- D. Laban SEARCHES, but finds nothing he can CLAIM (31:33-35)
- E. Jacob presents his DEFENSE and affirms his FAITH (31:36-42)
- III. A Covenant of SEPARATION (Genesis 31:43-55)
- A. Laban suggests he and Jacob make a COVENANT (31:43-44)
  - B. Jacob starts building a MONUMENT to solemnize the OATH (31:45-47)
  - C. Laban demonstrates his HYPOCRISY (31:48-53a)
  - D. Jacob CONFIRMS the covenant with a sacrifice in GOD'S name (31:53b-54)
  - E. Laban WENT HOME without APOLOGIZING (31:55)
- IV. Lessons

- A. Laban illustrates the SELF-CENTERED, MATERIALISTIC nominal believer
- B. Jacob illustrates humble PATIENCE and faithful OBEDIENCE