

“Jacob Prospers” Genesis 30:25-43

Big picture: God is fulfilling his covenantal promise to Abraham and his sons.

JACOB'S CONCERN. Genesis 30:25-34

1. Jacob wants to return home with his new family. v.25-28

- He seeks Laban's release from obligation. v. 25 “send me away”
- He wants to bring his wives and children with him. v.26; Ref. Exod 21:4; Gen 31:43
- He completed his service to Laban (14 years).

→ Laban's response: v.27-28 (He knew he was prospering b/c of Jacob and wanted it to continue.)

- “I have learned by divination” = using omens to learn God's will. Laban used pagan gods. Ref. 31:30
- “Name your wages and I will give it.”

2. Jacob wants to provide for his own household. v.29-30

- Jacob repeats that he has served Laban—and that Laban prospered from his work. v.29
- It is clear the LORD was prospering Laban because of Jacob. v.30
-“the LORD has bless you wherever I turned”
- But when shall I provide for my own household also?

→ Laban's response: v.31: What shall I give you?

3. Jacob comes up with a fair plan where both Laban and Jacob would prosper. v.31-34

- In the ancient Near East, most sheep & lambs were white and most goats were black.
- Few were speckled, spotted, or multi-colored. Jacob asked for these ones.

→ As the flocks increased, both groups would grow proportionately.

- Jacob was sincere and fair. v.33 He was entrusting himself—and the flocks—to God's work.
- Laban agrees to the plan. v.34

GOD PROSPERED JACOB. Genesis 30:35-43

1. Laban began by cheating. v.35-36

- Laban removed all Jacob's livestock out of the flock at the very beginning!
- Laban 'stacked the deck' so that his white sheep prosper and multiply (by removing all the colored sheep).
- Jacob is left to shepherd Laban's all-white flock, out of which he is to receive his wages of speckled, spotted, and dark-colored animals.

2. Jacob set out to grow the flock. v.37-42

- Conventional wisdom at the time said that what the sheep and goats were looking at during the act of reproduction had an impact on the color of their offspring.
- There is no basis in science to prove this theory.
- When the animals were in heat, Jacob placed striped rods in the water troughs before the flocks. v.37-39
- He sorted the stronger and weaker animals so that his flock would become stronger. v.41-42

3. Jacob “increased greatly” and had large flocks and grew his household. v.43

→ Why? Because the LORD was keeping His promise to Jacob, Isaac, and Abraham.

- v.39 – appears to be causal language. B/c Jacob did this... then he prospered. TRUTH: It was the LORD
- See 31:9-13

1 Chronicles 29:11-13: Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. ¹²Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. ¹³And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.

Ephesians 6:5-9: Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, ⁶ not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, ⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. ⁹ Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.