

“I Will Be With You”

Genesis 31:1-24

Main Idea: God is always present and protecting His children on the journey of life.

THE CALL, vv.1-3

- **Genesis 30:33** Honesty would answer for him
- **Genesis 30:27** The LORD has blessed me because of you
- 6 years has passed between chapters 30 & 31
- First time in scripture Canaan is called “The land of your fathers” (v.3)
- v.3 echoes God’s call to Abram in Genesis 12
- **Genesis 28:13-15** God’s original promise to Jacob
- **Rev. Dr. Phill Smuland**
 - Gen. 28:13 → God renews the Abrahamic Covenant with Jacob
 - Gen. 28 → “I will be your God” (Salvation) Jacob is saved by God at Bethel.
 - Gen. 29 → “I will be with you” (Sanctification) Jacob is disciplined and shaped by God.
 - Gen. 30 → “I will make you a nation” (Israel / Jesus Christ) Jacob’s family established by God.
 - Gen. 31 → “I will return you safely” (Protection) Jacob is defended and protected by God.
- **Matthew 1:23** → Immanuel (which means God with us)
- **Matthew 28:19-20** “Go...I am with you always to the very end of the age”
- **John 14:16-18** “He will give you another helper, to be with you forever”
- **Revelation 21:3** “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man...”

THE OBEDIENCE, vv.4-21

- **v.7** “Cheated” = “He made of fool of”
- **v.7** “Ten Times” is hyperbole for “many times.”
- The “*But God*” Moments
 - **v.5** Laban’s favor faded → But God’s presence remained
 - **vv.6-7** Laban cheated Jacob → But God protected him
 - **vv.8-9** Laban manipulated the deal → but God provided for Jacob
- The word “Angel” literally means “messenger”
- “Angel of God” = Pre-Incarnate appearance of Christ.
- “Christophany” → Appearance of Jesus in the OT before He was born and took on flesh in the NT.
- *James Montgomery Boice* “Jacob had an ally who was open-handed, upright, straightforward, generous and compassionate. His ally was God.” Because of the Lord’s faithfulness, Jacob had a future and a home where his welcome would never run out!”
- “Dowry” was meant to provide security and inheritance protection for the daughters in case something happened to Jacob.
- “Shearing Sheep” → Cutting the wool sheep. Usually, done once a year.

THE PROTECTION, vv.22-24

- **v.23** “pursuing” and “following close” Carries the idea of chasing down an enemy like a military pursuit.
- **v.24** “either good or bad” doesn’t mean... “don’t say anything nice or mean to him,” Instead, It is a Hebrew ways of expressing “Don’t say anything whatsoever to him.”
- God is so present and protective of his people that not a strand of hair falls from our head unless our great God wills it to be.

Reflection Questions:

1. What areas of your life is God calling you to trust Him?
2. What lies, fears, controls, or comforts keep you from obedience and/or trusting God?
3. How often do you ask God for the faith to follow Him wherever He leads?
4. How can you remember, rest, and rejoice in God’s faithfulness and in His care for you?