

Jacob Returns to Canaan (1910 BC)

Genesis 31

Jacob Notices a Change in Laban's Attitude

1 Now he heard the words of the sons of Laban, saying, "Jacob has taken all that our father has," and "From that which *was* our father's he has gained all this wealth."

2 Then Jacob saw the face of Laban and, behold, it was not like it had been in the past.

God Tells Jacob to Return to Canaan

3 And Yahweh said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your ancestors and to your family, and I will be with you."

4 So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to the field, to his flocks,

5 and he said to them, "Look, I see the face of your father, that it is not like it has been toward me in the past. But the God of my father is with me.

6 Now you yourselves know that I have served your father with all my strength,

7 and your father has cheated me and changed my wages ten times, but God has not allowed him to harm me.

8 If thus he said, 'Speckled shall be your wage,' then all the flock bore speckled. And *if* he said, 'Streaked shall be your wage,' then all the flock bore streaked.

9 God has taken away your father's livestock and given *them* to me.

10 Now it happened *that* at the time of the mating of the flock I lifted up my eyes and saw in a dream, and behold, the rams mounting the flock *were* streaked, speckled, and dappled.

11 Then the angel of God said to me in the dream, 'Jacob,' and I said, 'Here I *am*.'

12 And he said, 'Lift up your eyes and see—all the rams mounting the flock *are* streaked, speckled, and dappled, for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you.

13 I *am* the God of Bethel where you anointed a stone pillar, where you made a vow to me. Now get up, go out from this land and return to the land of your birth.'"

14 Then Rachel and Leah answered and said to him, "*Is there* yet a portion for us, and an inheritance in the house of our father?

15 Are we not regarded *as* foreigners by him, because he has sold us and completely consumed our money?

16 For all the wealth that God has taken away from our father, it belongs to us and to our sons. So now, all that God has said to you, do."

Jacob Tricks Laban

17 Then Jacob got up and put his children and his wives on the camels.

18 And he drove all his livestock and his possessions that he had acquired, the livestock of his possession that he had acquired in Paddan-Aram, in order to go to Isaac his father, to the land of Canaan.

19 Now Laban had gone to shear his sheep, and Rachel stole the idols that belonged to her father.

20 And Jacob tricked Laban the Aramean by not telling him that he *intended* to flee.

21 Then he fled with all that he had, and arose and crossed the Euphrates and set his face toward the hill country of Gilead.

Laban Pursues Jacob

22 And on the third day it was told to Laban that Jacob had fled.

23 Then he took his kinsmen with him and pursued after him, a seven-day journey, and he caught up with him in the hill country of Gilead.

24 And God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream at night and said to him, "Take care that you not speak with Jacob, whether good or evil."

25 And Laban overtook Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the hill country, and Laban and his kinsmen pitched *their tents* in the hill country of Gilead.

26 Then Laban said to Jacob, "What have you done that you tricked me and have carried off my daughters like captives of the sword?

27 Why did you hide *your intention* to flee and trick me, and did not tell me so that I would have sent you away with joy and song and tambourine and lyre?

28 And *why* did you not give me opportunity to kiss my grandsons and my daughters *goodbye*? Now you have behaved foolishly *by* doing *this*.

29 It is in my power to do harm to you, but the God of your father spoke to me last night saying, 'Take care from speaking with Jacob, whether good or evil.'

30 Now, you have surely gone because you desperately longed for the house of your father, *but* why did you steal my gods?"

31 Then Jacob answered and said to Laban, "Because I *was* afraid, for I thought, 'Lest you take your daughters from me by force.'

32 *But* with whomever you find your gods, he shall not live. In the presence of your kinsmen *now* identify what *is* with me *that is* yours and take it." Now Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them.

The Search for Laban's gods

33 Then Laban went into Jacob's tent and Leah's tent and the tent of the two female servants and did not find *his gods*. And he came out of Leah's tent and went into Rachel's tent.

34 Now Rachel had taken the idols and put them in the saddle bag of the camel and sat on them. And Jacob searched the whole tent thoroughly but did not find them.

35 And she said to her father, "Let there not be anger in the eyes of my lord, for I am not able to rise before you, for the way of women *is* with me. And he searched carefully and did not find the idols.

Jacob's Tirade

36 Then Jacob became angry and quarreled with Laban. Jacob answered and said to Laban, "What *is* my offense? What *is* my sin that you pursued after me?

37 For you have searched all my possessions and what did you find among all the possessions of my household? Set it before my kinsmen and your kinsmen that they may decide between the two of us!

38 These twenty years I *was* with you; your ewes and your female goats did not miscarry, and the rams of your flocks I did not eat.

39 I brought no mangled carcass to you—I bore its loss. From my hand you sought it, whether stolen by day or stolen by night.

40 *There* I was, during the day the heat consumed me, and the cold by night, and my sleep fled from my eyes.

41 These twenty years I *have been* in your house. I served you fourteen years for your two daughters and six years for your flock, and you have changed my wages ten times.

42 If the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac had not been with me, indeed now you would have sent me away empty-handed. God saw my misery and the labor of my hands and rebuked you last night."

Laban and Jacob Make a Covenant

43 Then Laban answered and said to Jacob, "The daughters *are* my daughters and the grandsons *are* my grandsons, and the flocks *are* my flocks, and all that you see, it *is* mine. Now, what can I do for these my daughters today, or for their children whom they have borne?

44 So now, come, let us make a covenant, you and I, and let it be a witness between me and you."

45 And Jacob took a stone and set it up *as* a stone pillar.

46 And Jacob said to his kinsmen, "Gather stones." And they took stones and made a pile of stones, and they ate there by the pile of stones.

47 And Laban called it Jegar Sahadutha, but Jacob called it Galeed.

48 Then Laban said, "This pile of stones *is* a witness between me and you today." Therefore its name is called Galeed,

49 and Mizpah, because he said, "Yahweh watch between me and you when we are out of sight of each other.

50 If you mistreat my daughters, and if you take wives besides my daughters, *when* there is no man with us, see—God *is* a witness between me and you."

51 And Laban said to Jacob, "See, this pile of stones, and see the pillar that I have set up between me and you.

52 This pile of stones *is* a witness, and the pillar *is* a witness, that I will not pass beyond this pile of stones to you, and that you will not pass beyond this pile of stones and this pillar to me intending harm.

53 May the God of Abraham and the God of Nahor, the God of their father judge between us." Then Jacob swore by the Fear of his father Isaac.

54 And Jacob sacrificed a sacrifice on the hill, and he called his kinsmen to eat the meal. And they ate the meal and spent the night on the hill.

55 And Laban arose early in the morning and kissed his grandsons and his daughters, and blessed them. Then Laban departed and returned to his homeland.

Jacob And Esau (1910 BC)

Genesis 32:1–33:17

Jacob Is Met by the Angels of God

32:1 And Jacob went on his way, and angels of God met him.

2 And when he saw them, Jacob said, "This *is* the camp of God!" And he called the name of that place Mahanaim.

Jacob Sends Messengers to Esau

3 Then Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother, to the land of Seir, the territory of Edom.

4 And he instructed them, saying, "Thus you must say to my lord, to Esau, 'Thus says your servant Jacob, I have dwelled as an alien with Laban, and I have remained *there* until now.

5 And I have acquired cattle, male donkeys, flocks, and male and female slaves, and I have sent to tell my lord, to find favor in your eyes.'"

6 And the messengers returned to Jacob *and* said, "We came to your brother, to Esau, and he is coming to meet you, and four

hundred men *are* with him.”

Jacob Thinks Esau Is Coming to Kill Him

7 Then Jacob was very frightened and distressed. So he divided the people, flocks, cattle, and camels that *were* with him into two companies.

8 And he thought, “If Esau comes to one company and destroys it, the remaining company will be *able* to escape.”

9 Then Jacob said, “O God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, O Yahweh, who said to me, ‘Return to your land and to your family, and I will deal well with you.’

10 I am not worthy of all the loyal love and all the faithfulness that you have shown your servant, for with *only* my staff I crossed this Jordan, and now I have become two camps.

11 Please rescue me from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau, for I fear him, lest he come and attack mother and children *alike*.

12 Now you yourself said, ‘I will surely deal well with you and make your offspring as the sand of the sea that cannot be counted for abundance.’”

13 And he lodged there that night. Then he took from what he had with him a gift for Esau his brother:

14 two hundred female goats, twenty male goats, two hundred ewes, twenty rams,

15 thirty milk camels with their young, forty cows, ten bulls, twenty female donkeys, and ten male donkeys.

16 And he put *them* under the hand of his servants, herd by herd, and said to his servants, “Cross on ahead before me, and put some distance between herds.

17 And he instructed the foremost, saying, “When Esau my brother comes upon you and asks you, saying, ‘Whose *are* you and where are you going? To whom do these *animals* belong ahead of you?’

18 Then you must say, ‘To your servant, to Jacob. It *is* a gift sent to my lord, to Esau. Now behold, he *is* also *coming* after us.’”

19 And he also instructed the second *servant* and the third, and everyone *else* who *was* behind the herds, saying, “You must speak to Esau according to this word when you find him.

20 And moreover, you shall say, ‘Look, your servant Jacob *is* behind us.’” For he thought, “Let me appease him with the gift going before me, and afterward I will see his face. Perhaps he will show me favor.”

21 So the gift passed on before him, but he himself spent that night in the camp.

Jacob Wrestles with the Angel of God

22 That night he arose and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok.

23 And he took them and sent them across the stream. Then he sent across all his possessions.

24 And Jacob remained alone, and a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the dawn.

25 And when he saw that he could not prevail against him, he struck his hip socket, so that Jacob’s hip socket was sprained as he wrestled with him.

26 Then he said, “Let me go, for dawn is breaking.” But he answered, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.”

27 Then he said to him, “What *is* your name?” And he said, “Jacob.”

28 And he said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have struggled with God and with men and have prevailed.”

29 Then Jacob asked and said, “Please tell me your name.” And he said, “Why do you ask this—for my name?” And he blessed him there.

30 Then Jacob called the name of the place Peniel *which means* “I have seen God face to face and my life was spared.”

31 Then the sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, and he was limping because of his hip.

32 Therefore the Israelites do not eat the sinew of the sciatic nerve that *is* upon the socket of the hip unto this day, because he struck the socket of the thigh of Jacob at the sinew of the sciatic nerve.

Jacob and Esau Are Reconciled

33:1 And Jacob lifted up his eyes and looked. And behold, Esau *was* coming and four hundred men *were* with him. And he divided the children among Leah and among Rachel, and among the two of his female servants.

2 And he put the female slaves and their children first, then Leah and her children next, then Rachel with Joseph last.

3 And he himself passed on before them and bowed down to the ground seven times until he came to his brother.

4 But Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell upon his neck and kissed him, and they wept.

5 Then Esau lifted up his eyes and saw the women and the children and said, “Who *are* these with you?” And he said, “The children whom God has graciously given your servant.”

6 Then the female servants drew near, they and their children, and they bowed down.

7 Then Leah and her children drew near and bowed down, and afterward Joseph and Rachel drew near and they bowed down.

8 And he said, “What do you mean by all this company that I have met?” Then he said, “To find favor in the eyes of my lord.”

9 Then Esau said, “I have enough my brother; keep what you have.”

10 And Jacob said, “No, please, if I have found favor in your eyes, you must take my gift from my hand, for then I have seen your face

which is like seeing the face of God, and you have received me.

11 Please take my gift which has been brought to you, for God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough.” And he urged him, so he took *it*.

12 Then he said, “Let us journey and go *on*, and I will go ahead of you.”

13 But he said to him, “My lord knows that the children *are* frail, and the flocks and the cattle *which are* nursing *are a concern* to me. Now *if* they drove them hard for a day all the flocks would die.

14 Let my lord pass on before his servant and I will move along slowly at the pace of the livestock that are ahead of me, and at the pace of the children until I come to my lord in Seir.”

15 And Esau said, “Let me leave some of my people with you.” But he said, “What need is there? Let me find favor in the eyes of my lord.”

16 So Esau turned that day on his way to Seir.

17 But Jacob traveled on to Succoth, and he built for himself a house, and he made shelters for his livestock. Therefore he called the name of the place Succoth.

Toledot of Esau (c. 1966–1910 BC)

Genesis 36

Esau's Immediate Family

1 Now these *are* the descendants of Esau (that *is*, Edom).

2 Esau took his wives from the daughters of Canaan: Adah, daughter of Elon, the Hittite, and Oholibamah, daughter of Anah, the daughter of Zibeon, the Hivite,

3 and Basemath, the daughter of Ishmael, the sister of Nebaioth.

4 And Adah bore to Esau Eliphaz; and Basemath bore Reuel;

5 and Oholibamah bore Jeush and Jalam, and Korah. These *are* the sons of Esau who were born to him in the land of Canaan.

6 And Esau took his wives and his sons and his daughters, and all the persons of his household, and his sheep and goats, and all his cattle, and all the goods that he had acquired in the land of Canaan, and went to a land away from his brother Jacob.

7 For their possessions were too many to live together, so that the land of their sojourning was not able to support them on account of their livestock.

8 So Esau dwelled in the hill country of Seir (Esau, that *is* Edom).

Esau's Sons and Grandsons

9 Now these *are* the descendants of Esau, the father of Edom, in the hill country of Seir.

10 These *are* the names of the sons of Esau: Eliphaz, the son of Adah, the wife of Esau; Reuel, the son of Basemath, the wife of Esau.

11 The sons of Eliphaz were Teman, Omar, Zepho, Gatam, and Kenaz.

12 (Now Timnah was the concubine of Eliphaz, the son of Esau. And she bore Amalek to Eliphaz.) These *are* the sons of Adah, the wife of Esau.

13 Now these *are* the sons of Reuel: Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah. These *are* the sons of Basemath, the wife of Esau.

14 Now these *are* the sons of Oholibamah, the daughter of Anah, daughter of Zibeon, the wife of Esau: She bore to Esau Jeush, Jalam, and Korah.

Clans from Esau

15 These *are* the chiefs of the sons of Esau. The sons of Eliphaz, the firstborn of Esau: the chiefs of Teman, Omar, Zepho, Kenaz, 16 Korah, Gatam, and Amalek. These *are* the chiefs of Eliphaz in the land of Edom. These *are* the sons of Adah.

17 Now these *are* the sons Reuel, the son of Esau: the chiefs Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah. These *are* the chiefs of Reuel in the land of Edom. These *are* the sons of Basemath, the wife of Esau.

18 Now these *are* the sons of Oholibamah, the wife of Esau: the chiefs Jeush, Jalam, and Korah. These *are* the chiefs born of Oholibamah, the daughter of Anah, the wife of Esau.

19 These *are* the sons of Esau, and these *are* their chiefs (that *is*, Edom).

Genealogy of Seir

20 These *are* the sons of Seir, the Horite, the inhabitants of the land: Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah,

21 Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan. These *are* the chiefs of the Horites, the sons of Seir in the land of Edom.

22 And the sons of Lotan were Hori and Hemam. And Lotan's sister was Timna.

23 Now these *are* the sons of Shobal: Alvan, Manahath, Ebal, Shepho, and Onam.

24 Now these *are* the sons of Zibeon: Aiah and Anah—he *is* Anah who found the hot springs in the desert while he pastured the donkeys of Zibeon his father.

25 Now these *are* the sons of Anah: Dishon and Oholibamah, the daughter of Anah.

26 Now these *are* the sons of Dishon: Hemdan, Eshban, Ithran, and Keran.

27 These *are* the sons of Ezer: Bilhan, Zaavan, and Akan.

28 These *are* the sons of Dishan: Uz and Aran.

29 These *are* the chiefs of the Horites: the chiefs Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah,

30 Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan. These *are* the chiefs of the Horites, according to their chiefs in the land of Seir.

Kings of Edom

31 Now these *are* the kings who reigned in the land of Edom before any king ruled over the Israelites.

32 Bela the son of Beor reigned in Edom. And the name of his city *was* Dinhabah.

33 And Bela died, and Jobab, the son of Zerah from Bozrah, reigned in his place.

34 And Jobab died, and Husham from the land of the Temanites reigned in his place.

35 And Husham died, and Hadad, son of Bedad, who defeated Midian in the field of Moab reigned in his place. And the name of his city *was* Avith.

36 And Hadad died, and Samlah from Masrekah reigned in his place.

37 And Samlah died, and Shaul from Rehoboth *on* the Euphrates reigned in his place.

38 And Shaul died, and Baal-Hanan, the son of Acbor, reigned in his place.

39 And Baal-Hanan the son of Acbor died, and Hadar reigned in his place. And the name of his city *was* Pau, and the name of his wife *was* Mehetabel, the daughter of Matred, daughter of Mezahab.

Clans of Esau

40 Now these *are* the names of the chiefs of Esau according to their families, according to their dwelling places, by their names: the chiefs Timna, Alvah, Jetheth,

41 Oholibamah, Elah, Pinon,

42 Kenaz, Teman, Mibzar,

43 Magdiel, and Iram. These *are* the chiefs of Edom (that *is*, Esau, the father of Edom) according to their settlements in the land of their possession.

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