

# Jacob's Exile and Return

## Quote:

"For the LORD'S portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance. He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye."

Mark this section above  
and below Genesis 29 or 30

Deuteronomy 32:9-10

### Laban The Syrian - Characterised by Deception and Covetousness

Although Laban had a religious inclination (evident from [Gen 31:29, 53](#) and possibly [Gen 24:29-31](#)), the real motivating force in his life was the love of money:

- He ran to meet Abraham's servant when he saw the gold ([Gen 24:29-30](#)).
- He was the first to receive gifts from Abraham's servant - ie before her mother ([Gen 24:53](#)).
- He ran to meet Jacob (doubtless remembering the gifts from the last meeting with Abraham's family) ([Gen 29:13](#)).
- Assumes Jacob will serve him ([Gen 29:15](#)).
- Deceived Jacob in giving him Leah to wife, and in so doing gained another 7 years service from Jacob ([Gen 29:23,27](#)).
- Sought Jacob to remain with him because Jacob's presence had brought him material blessings ([Gen 30:27-28](#)).
- He secretly removed removed all the spotted and ringstraked breeding stock - ie thus trying to rob Jacob of a means of income ([Gen 30:32-36](#)).
- His daughters hated his greed ([Gen 31:15](#)).
- Pursued after Jacob, but stopped from deceptive conduct by God (literal meaning of "either good or bad" in [Gen 31:24](#) is 'don't pretend to greet Jacob in a friendly fashion, and then turn to accuse him') ([Gen 31:23-24](#)).
- Accused Jacob of theft (the real reason he had gathered men and come on his 7 day

### Genesis 28-30 - Jacob's Family Life in Haran

- 28:1-5 - Isaac sends Jacob to Padan-aram
- 28:6-9 - Esau marries a daughter of Ishmael
- 28:10-15 - Jacob's vision at Bethel
- 28:16-22 - Jacob's response and vow
- 29:1-8 - Jacob at the Well of Haran
- 29:9-14 - Jacob meets Rachel and Laban
- 29:15-20 - Jacob serves Laban for Rachel
- 29:21-25 - Jacob deceived into marrying Leah
- 29:26-30 - Jacob again serves Laban for Rachel
- 29:31-35 - Birth of Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah (Leah)
- 30:1-8 - Birth of Dan, Naphtali (Bilhah — Rachel's maid)
- 30:9-13 - Birth of Gad, Asher (Zilpah — Leah's maid)
- 30:14-21 - Birth of Issachar, Zebulun, Dinah (Leah)
- 30:22-24 - Birth of Joseph (Rachel)
- 30:25-36 - Jacob bargains for Laban's flocks
- 30:37-43 - Jacob's increasing prosperity

Mark the chapter  
breakdown by the  
verses noted

### Genesis 31-33 - Jacob's Return To The Land Of Promise

- 31:1-18 - Jacob plans to leave Laban secretly
- 31:19-21 - Rachel steals her father's images
- 31:22-24 - Laban's pursuit
- 31:25-35 - Laban rebukes Jacob but fails to find the images
- 31:36-42 - Jacob reproaches Laban for his harshness
- 31:43-55 - The covenant between Jacob and Laban
- 32:1-2 - Jacob's vision at Mahanaim
- 32:3-5 - Jacob's message to Esau
- 32:6-8 - Jacob's fear of Esau
- 32:9-12 - Jacob's prayer for help
- 32:13-23 - Jacob's precautions
- 32:24-32 - Jacob's contest with the angel
- 33:1-11 - Jacob and Esau reconciled
- 33:12-16 - Jacob's distrust of Esau
- 33:17-20 - Jacob's altar at Shechem

pursuit) (Gen 31:26-30).

- Laban is himself now deceived by Rachel (Gen 31:34).
- Laban had put unacceptable conditions on Jacob’s employment maximising his profits, and minimising Jacobs (Gen 31:39-40).
- He had changed Jacob’s waged ten times (Gen 31:7,41).
- Feared Jacob would return to take his land (Gen 31:52).

### The Children of Jacob

Colour the Children of Jacob, their meanings, and the reason for their names:

Suggested Colouring scheme:

- Colour Children of Leah **BLUE**.
  - Colour sons Rachel **GREEN**.
  - Colour sons of Bilhah **ORANGE**.
- Some meanings are in the margin - colour these in. In some cases we have suggested something different - mark this in your Bible.
- In the case of Benjamin. Colour his name in and the meanings in the margin. Mark the notes at the top of Genesis 35.

Son	Reference	Comments to Colour	Meaning	Mother
Reuben	Genesis 29:32	“Surely Yahweh hath looked upon my affliction; now therefore my husband will love me”	“See a son” (margin)	Leah
Simeon	Genesis 29:33	“Because Yahweh hath heard that I was hated, he hath therefore given me this son”	“Hearing” (margin)	Leah
Levi	Genesis 29:34	“Now this time will my husband be joined unto me because I have born him three sons”	“Joined” (margin)	Leah
Judah	Genesis 29:35	“Now will I praise Yahweh”	“Praise” (margin)	Leah
Dan	Genesis 30:6	“God hath judged me, and hath also heard my voice, and hath given me a son”	To judge as an umpire, or to plead the cause	Bilhah (Rachel)
Naphtali	Genesis 30:8	“With great wrestlings have I wrestled with my sister, and I have prevailed”	“My wrestling” (margin)	Bilhah (Rachel)
Gad	Genesis 30:11	“ A troop cometh”	“troop” see Genesis 49:19 (margin)	Zilpah (Leah)
Asher	Genesis 30:13	“Happy am I, for the daughters will call me blessed”	“Blessed” or “Happy”	Zilpah (Leah)
Issachar	Genesis 30:18	“God hath given me my hire, because I have given my maiden to my husband”	“he will bring a reward”, or “he will bring wages”	Leah
Zebulun	Genesis 30:20	“God hath endued me with a good dowry; now will my husband dwell with me, because I have born him six sons”	“Dwelling” (margin)	Leah
Dinah	Genesis 30:21	No Comments	“Judgment” (margin)	Leah
Joseph	Genesis 30:24	“Yahweh hath added to me another son”	“He shall add”	Rachel
Benjamin	Genesis 35:16-19	<b>Birth of Benjamin:</b> First called “Benoni” (by Rachel). Means: “Son of My Sorrow”. Typical of the sorrows Israel suffered at the birth of Christ (Matt 2:18) and as a result of rejecting Christ (see Matt 24:7-9). Also prophetic of Christ’s sufferings (Isa 53 - esp v3). Then called “Benjamin” (by Jacob). Means: “Son of the Right Hand”. Prophetic of Christ who was named by His Father (Matt 1:21), who was to pass from “Son of Sorrow” to “Son of the Right Hand” (Acts 2:22-36).		Rachel