

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS

RLJ-1378

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PART 23: RUNNING FROM SLAVERY

THE TRIALS

God led Jacob to Laban, who was the brother of his mother. **Genesis 29:1-14**

God was about to teach Jacob a lesson in how it feels to be on the receiving end of a lie. **Genesis 29- 15-25**

Jacob served his uncle for a total of 14 years. **verses 26-30**

It was not God's perfect will for Jacob to have two wives and two concubines. As a result, Jacob moved into God's permissive will and the polygamy caused nothing but grief for the remainder of his life on earth. **verses 31-35; 30:1-24**

TWO LIARS DEALING WITH EACH OTHER

Jacob wanted to return unto the land of Canaan but he did not want to go back empty handed. Laban recognized that he had been blessed because God's anointing was upon Jacob and a deal was made in which Jacob took advantage of Laban. **verses 25-43;**

JACOB NEVER BECAME PERFECT BEFORE THE LORD

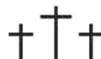
God has a plan for the entire human race and He is not going to allow that plan to be changed. In the future He would send his Son to the earth to pay for the sins of the human race. God needed a platform from which to usher in the Messiah and the bloodline of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob was chosen to fulfill this need. Jacob was a link in that chain and that is why God called Jacob back to the land of Canaan even though Jacob was not a perfect man. **Genesis 31:1-18**

CONFRONTED BY LABAN

Life was very cheap in the Middle East at the time Jacob lived on the earth. When someone got offended, it would often lead to murder of the offender. Respect was vital, and not only had Laban been offended, he had also not gotten the respect he desired from his son-in-law. Laban set out to kill Jacob and bring his daughters and grandchildren back home when he was warned by God not to touch Jacob, but Jacob didn't know that God had intervened and he had great fear when his father-in-law came with armed men. **verses 19-29**

RACHEL WORSHIPPED IDOLS

Laban was not a believer in the true God and worshiped a wooden image. He was angry that someone had stolen his house god and was pretty sure that



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Jacob was the guilty party. If Jacob was found with the idol, it would mean his death. **verses 30-33**

Rachel's true character came out when she lied to her father. **verses 34-35**

JACOB VENT HIS ANGER

Once no house gods were found,

Jacob exploded in anger after nothing was found and told his father in law off, who was humiliated in front of his men and his daughters and grandchildren. All Laban could do was stand and be scolded. **verses 36-42**

LABAN SURRENDERS

Laban had been played a fool but did not dare lift his hand against Jacob, because he feared the God whom Jacob served even more. As a result, he made peace with Jacob and made him swear an oath not to take any more wives.

Laban was a picture of the human race in that he did not want to serve God even though God had spoken to him. He was not interested in eternal values; all he cared about was life here and now.

The last recording of Laban's life is that he said farewell to his daughters and grandchildren, blessed them and then faded into history never to be heard of again. We will see Laban at the Great White Throne Judgment, when he will be given his eternal punishment and thrown into the Lake of Fire. **verses 43-55**

It is ironic that his parents named him Laban, which means "glorious." He certainly never lived up to his name.

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?