

## **Jacob's Wealth Increases**

Genesis 30:25-43

by Don Falkos

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Jacob said to Laban, "I have worked for you for fourteen years. My obligation is fulfilled. I want to go home now."

Laban replied. "The Lord has blessed me because of you. Stay; and I'll pay you whatever you ask."

Jacob said, "You didn't have much at all before I came; now you are very wealthy. But what about me? It's time I started providing for my own family. I'll stay, and I just want one thing. Give me all the sheep and goats that are streaked or speckled or spotted. It will be easy for you to see whether or not I've been honest. All you have to do is look at my animals. If you find any that are not streaked or speckled or spotted you'll know that I have stolen them from you."

Laban agreed. But that very day Laban took all of his streaked or speckled or spotted animals and gave them to his sons who moved them far away. Still, Jacob stayed and cared for the rest of Laban's animals.

Jacob took branches from certain trees and peeled off strips of bark, making white streaks on them. When the stronger animals were ready to mate, Jacob placed these peeled branches in front of them and they gave birth to young that were streaked or speckled or spotted. He didn't use this technique with the weaker animals, so they produced normal young. Eventually Laban ended up with all the weaker animals and Jacob with the stronger ones. As a result, Jacob became very wealthy.