

Jacob Leaves Laban

Genesis 31

by Don Falkos

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Without telling Laban, Jacob took his family and all that he owned and set off for the land of Canaan. Laban went after him. He caught up with Jacob seven days later. But the night before God had warned Laban in a dream, "Leave Jacob alone!"

Laban said to Jacob, "You have taken away my daughters without even letting me say goodbye. And you have stolen my household gods?"

Jacob answered, "I thought you might try to take your daughters from me by force. But as for your household idols, search all you want. If you find them here, I will kill the person who took them." He said this not knowing that it was his beloved Rachel who had stolen them.

Laban search the camp. When he went into Rachel's tent, she was sitting on her camel saddle. She said to her father, "Please, forgive me for not getting up. It's my time of the month." Laban searched, but couldn't find the idols. Rachel had hidden them under her saddle.

Jacob confronted Laban, "For twenty years I have endured your foul treatment, constantly changing wages, and miserable working conditions. And if it were not for God's generosity toward me, you would have sent me away empty-handed."

The two men made a pile of rocks, establishing a boundary line. They agreed neither would ever cross that line in order to attack the other. Jacob offered a sacrifice to the Lord and arranged a banquet to seal the agreement. In the morning, Laban kissed his daughters goodbye and left for home.