

Questions for Genesis 31

1. What was the first signal that Laban was unhappy with Jacob?
2. How many times did Laban change Jacob's wages?
3. God changed the coloring of the cattle to keep Jacob guessing about which cattle he should claim. T F
4. God told Jacob he had seen what Laban had done to him, but Jacob should stay in Haran and stick it out. T F
5. Rachel and Leah could not agree whether to stick with Jacob or stay with their father who had an inheritance for them. T F
6. Laban gave Rachel the images of God he had for divination. T F
7. When Jacob and his family and livestock left Haran, where was Laban?
 - a) at home in prayer
 - b) out in the field counting his sheep
 - c) at the feast of the sheep shearing
8. Laban had a vision while he was in route to catch Jacob where God told him not to say anything to Jacob. T F
9. Jacob was scared Laban would do him harm if he announced he was leaving with his wives and children. T F
10. Who stole Laban's idols? a) Jacob b) Leah c) Zilpah d) Rachel e) Reuben
11. Rachel tells her father she was too tired to rise off of her camel so he could search her saddlebags. T F
12. Jacob's reaction to Laban's accusation of thievery was humble and contrite. T F
13. The Mizpah is a prayer for protection for Jacob and his wives. T F
14. What was the name of the place where Jacob and Laban parted ways called?
15. The last thing Laban did was kiss his sons and bless his daughters before returning home. T F

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

²And when Jacob saw them, he said, **This is God's host:**¹ and he called the name of that place Mahanaim.

³And Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother unto the land of Seir, the country of Edom.

⁴And he commanded them, saying, Thus shall ye speak unto my lord Esau; Thy servant Jacob saith thus, I have sojourned with Laban, and stayed there until now:

⁵And I have oxen, and asses, flocks, and menservants, and womenservants: and I have sent to tell **my lord**², that I may find grace in thy sight.

⁶And the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, We came to thy brother Esau, and also he cometh to meet thee, and **four hundred men with him**³.

⁷Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed: and he divided the people that was with him, and the flocks, and herds, and the camels, into two bands;

⁸And said, If Esau come to the one company, and smite it, then the other company which is left shall escape.⁴

⁹And Jacob said, O God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, the LORD which saidst unto me, Return unto thy country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee:

¹⁰I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands.

¹¹**Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother,**⁵ from the hand of Esau: for I fear him, lest he will come and smite me, and the mother with the children.

¹ This is the second host Jacob has come across since leaving Haran and Laban.

² Jacob shows humility and subservience to Esau.

³ It does not seem that Esau was coming to meet Jacob with open arms, but with his army set on harm.

⁴ Jacob plans for the worst, and splits his family so per chance some will survive the attack of Esau.

⁵ Jacob prays for deliverance from Esau.

¹²And thou saidst, I will surely do thee good, and make thy seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.

¹³And he lodged there that same night; and took of that which came to his hand a present for Esau his brother;

¹⁴Two hundred she goats, and twenty he goats, two hundred ewes, and twenty rams,

¹⁵Thirty milch camels with their colts, forty kine, and ten bulls, twenty she asses, and ten foals.⁶

¹⁶And he delivered them into the hand of his servants, every drove by themselves; and said unto his servants, Pass over before me, and put a space betwixt drove and drove.⁷

¹⁷And he commanded the foremost, saying, When Esau my brother meeteth thee, and asketh thee, saying, Whose art thou? and whither goest thou? and whose are these before thee?

¹⁸Then thou shalt say, They be thy servant Jacob's; it is a present sent unto my lord Esau: and, behold, also he is behind us.

¹⁹And so commanded he the second, and the third, and all that followed the droves, saying, On this manner shall ye speak unto Esau, when ye find him.

²⁰And say ye moreover, Behold, thy servant Jacob is behind us. For he said, I will appease him with the present that goeth before me, and afterward I will see his face; peradventure he will accept of me.

²¹So went the present over before him: and himself lodged that night in the company.

²²And he rose up that night, and took his two wives, and his two womenservants, and his eleven sons, and passed over the ford Jabbok.

²³And he took them, and sent them over the brook, and sent over that he had.⁸

⁶ Jacob sends a total of 550 animals as a peace offering.

⁷ Jacob sends his gifts separately, in increments.

⁸ Jacob isolates himself from his family, and his property.

²⁴ And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.⁹

²⁵ And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him.¹⁰

²⁶ And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.

²⁷ And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob.¹¹

²⁸ And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.

²⁹ And Jacob asked him, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore is it that thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there.¹²

³⁰ And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.

³¹ And as he passed over Penuel the sun rose upon him, and he halted upon his thigh.¹³

³² Therefore the children of Israel eat not of the sinew which shrank, which is upon the hollow of the thigh, unto this day: because he touched the hollow of Jacob's thigh in the sinew that shrank.

33 And Jacob lifted up his eyes, and looked, and, behold, Esau came, and with him four hundred men. And he divided the children unto Leah, and unto Rachel, and unto the two handmaids.¹⁴

⁹ This verse metaphorically shows us that there are times when we need solitude and time to personal reflection and meditation with God. Often these prayers and times of solitude ends up with sleepless nights.

¹⁰ The "man" dislocates Jacob's thigh, permanently disabling him.

¹¹ This is a question the "man" knew the answer to, but he was asking him what was he called, or what are you known for?

¹² When Jacob asks the man for his name, he refuses to tell him but he blesses Jacob and changes his name to Israel.

¹³ Jacob now has a limp. Proving when you have occasion to wrestle with God the results are permanent.

¹⁴ Jacob prepares his family for what would happen if Esau came violently seeking Jacob's life.

²And he put the handmaids and their children foremost, and Leah and her children after, and Rachel and Joseph hindermost.¹⁵

³And he passed over before them, and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother.¹⁶

⁴And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept.¹⁷

⁵And he lifted up his eyes, and saw the women and the children; and said, Who are those with thee? And he said, The children which God hath graciously given thy servant.

⁶Then the handmaidens came near, they and their children, and they bowed themselves.

⁷And Leah also with her children came near, and bowed themselves: and after came Joseph near and Rachel, and they bowed themselves.

⁸And he said, What meanest thou by all this drove which I met? And he said, These are to find grace in the sight of my lord.

⁹And Esau said, I have enough, my brother; keep that thou hast unto thyself.¹⁸

¹⁰And Jacob said, Nay, I pray thee, if now I have found grace in thy sight, then receive my present at my hand: for therefore I have seen thy face, as though I had seen the face of God, and thou wast pleased with me.

¹¹Take, I pray thee, my blessing that is brought to thee; because God hath dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough. And he urged him, and he took it.

¹²And he said, Let us take our journey, and let us go, and I will go before thee.¹⁹

¹⁵ Jacob sets the pecking order of his family, but Jacob goes to his brother first.

¹⁶ Jacob does the customary greeting of a king to his brother Esau.

¹⁷ Esau has released the pain of losing his inheritance and is happy to see his brother. Sometimes our fear is not justified. We worry and fret, make all kinds of adjustments, when God has already worked things out in our favor.

¹⁸ Esau has been blessed with wealth and does not need his brothers peace offering, but Jacob insists he take it as much for his own repentance as for Esau's benefit.

¹³And he said unto him, My lord knoweth that the children are tender, and the flocks and herds with young are with me: and if men should overdrive them one day, all the flock will die.

¹⁴Let my lord, I pray thee, pass over before his servant: and I will lead on softly, according as the cattle that goeth before me and the children be able to endure, until I come unto my lord unto Seir.²⁰

¹⁵And Esau said, Let me now leave with thee some of the folk that are with me. And he said, What needeth it? let me find grace in the sight of my lord.

¹⁶So Esau returned that day on his way unto Seir.

¹⁷And Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built him an house, and made booths for his cattle: therefore the name of the place is called Succoth.²¹

¹⁸And Jacob came to Shalem, a city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Padanaram; and pitched his tent before the city.

¹⁹And he bought a parcel of a field, where he had spread his tent, at the hand of the children of Hamor, Shechem's father²², for an hundred pieces of money.²³

²⁰And he erected there an altar, and called it EleloheIsrael.²⁴

Jacob has encountered 3 hosts that came against him. The host of Laban, the host of God, and the host of Esau. Notice in the coming chapters, even though God has changed Jacob's name to Israel, the Bible still refers to him as Jacob on most occasions. Why do you think that is?

¹⁹ Esau volunteers to lead the way for Jacob, his family and his flock.

²⁰ Jacob asks Esau to go on before him, but allow him and his family to come along at their own pace. Sometimes after you receive your blessing you have to slow down so you can enjoy it.

²¹ Jacob does not go to Seir, but to Succoth, so even after being delivered by God in such an amazing way, Jacob is still not 100 percent truthful when he speaks to his brother about his destination.

²² Hamor and Shechem will be key figures in the next chapter.

²³ Jacob's settles in and buys property in the land of Padanaram.

²⁴ EleloheIsrael means God the God of Israel. Now Jacob has taken on the good habits of his father Isaac, and his grandfather Abraham, he builds and altar where he can worship God in the place he lives.