

**SHUTTING THE DOOR
 ON SATAN**
 Genesis 31:22-35

INTRODUCTION

In Genesis 31:22-35, Jacob is leaving Padan Aram and Laban's influence, and is returning home to the land of his kindred. Laban is not happy, and chases after Jacob. Character studies teach the reader specific lessons that can be applied in practical ways. The Bible often uses types to bring these lessons home. We can identify Laban as a type of Satan. Our study will give insight into **Shutting the Door on Satan**.

DIGGING DEEPER

Our Christian life is walk and a race, requiring endurance to finish well. But the Bible also identifies our faith as a fight, a struggle, a wrestling and a war! God wants us equipped to fight and win this war. When you are born again, you gain an adversary – Satan. **Ephesians 6:12**. Some think the devil isn't real, but just a symbol of evil. He is real. God wants you to know your enemy and his devices. **2 Corinthians 2:11**. As you walk away from the world, your enemy pursues you and tries to do you harm. Let's learn how to overcome him.

Pray for wisdom and understanding, and let's begin.

I. Genesis 31:22-25. Laban pursues Jacob. He is relentless, running down Jacob and his family. Satan pursues, looking for the isolated & vulnerable. **Revelation 12:10, 1 Peter 5:8**.

II. Genesis 31:26-28. Laban's false charges. Using guilt, exaggeration, and lies, Laban tries to manipulate Jacob. Any act of consecration, being separated for God, pleases Him. Just know that Satan will try to pull you back. You will not get the world to applaud you for following Jesus Christ. **Acts 17:5-6**.

III. Genesis 31:29. Laban's limitation. Laban could not say or do anything to Jacob beyond what God allowed. Satan is very powerful and knows how to deceive and lure unsuspecting people into his web. Do not underestimate him. But Satan is also limited – remember Job? **Job 1:12 & 2:6**. Satan only has as much access to believers as God allows. **Luke 22:31-32**.

IV. Genesis 31:30-35. Laban is in the tent. Rachel took what belonged to Laban and he wanted it back. Her actions allowed Laban entry into the tent. (Be careful here, beloved. Rachel's actions and Laban's entry does not teach that a believer can become demon possessed. No way! **1 John 4:4!!**) Laban's gods are in Rachel's tent. Satan is looking for an opening into your home, beloved. Horoscopes, tarot cards, palm readings, transcendental meditation, yoga, shamanism and eastern religions, even some video games, – these are openings to Satan that he is looking for. "Once a camel's nose is under the tent, his body will soon follow." Take these things seriously. Jesus does. *Selah*

V. When Satan is in the house. Please turn to Acts 19. Paul is teaching the word of the Lord Jesus in Ephesus. False exorcists tried to use Jesus' name to cast an evil spirit out. They were overpowered by the evil spirit. What happened next is our focus. **Read Acts 19:17-19**. Notice the effect of the gospel, and name of the Lord Jesus. Many confessed their deeds in true repentance. **They cleansed their homes of evil and satanic influence, wanting to go all the way with Jesus**. "The word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed." All traces of their former life cleansed out, their minds and spirits became stronger.

How about you, beloved? Is there anything you are holding on to? Look for the leaven & clean it out!

CONSIDER James 4:7 "Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." How to overcome him.....

- The blood of the Lamb – being born again **Revelation 12:11**
- The word of your testimony – your walk and talk **Revelation 12:11**
- Not loving your life to death – loving Jesus supremely **Revelation 12:11**

Being Born Again - now Walk in Line with God's Word, Love Jesus Supremely, Shut the Door on Satan!

PRAY

- For the Lord to show you if there is ANY area that you have allowed the world to creep into your heart and home
- For parents to stand strong in leading their children to resist temptation to be like the world!
- A desire for holiness and righteousness to abound in our flock
- That you would be separate from the world in your workplace. That people would see a difference in you.
- For the Billings family – for safe travel and for rest and refreshment during their time in the U.S.