

**LEAVING LABAN-LAND  
FOR CANAAN-LAND**  
**Genesis 31:1-21**

## INTRODUCTION

Scripture records things about a character's life that can jump right off the page and speak directly to the careful reader. As we observe Jacob in Genesis 31:1-21, his attitude and actions reveal a man of great faith. He is married, raising a family, and employed by Laban as a shepherd. Things started out promising but Jacob has now been treated unfairly for some time. To break away from Laban's rule and return back home, Jacob and his family prepare to follow the Lord's direction, and **Leave Laban-land for Canaan-land.**

## DIGGING DEEPER

When someone comes into contact with Jesus, He says "Follow Me". What does this mean? To follow Jesus surely opens the believer up to many precious promises from God. But Jesus was in conflict with the world. **John 1:10-11, John 8:23.** Following Jesus also means leaving old ways of "the world" behind. **2 Corinthians 6:17, James 4:4.** It is not possible to follow both. Read Genesis 31:1-21 several times. Jacob's example shows how to become untangled and **Leave Laban-land for Canaan-land.** Dig in, beloved.

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

I. Genesis 31:1-7. A turn for the worse with Laban. In Padam Aram Jacob had started out enjoying favor with both God and people, but now he is completely out of favor with Laban and his sons. His wages were reduced ten times over the years. It would be natural to want to defend yourself, but Jacob was not worldly in his response to this unfair treatment. Like Jacob, how should we respond in situations like this? **Job 9:20, Isaiah 53:7, 1 Peter 2:18-20.** Follow Jesus, Beloved.

II. Genesis 31:8-13. God sees and calls Jacob to leave. Jacob is no longer thinking or acting like he used to. A new nature is being worked in him by the Holy Spirit. He has complete peace, knowing God is guiding his life and trusting Him to take care of things. **God sees, Psalm 94:9, 1 Peter 3:12. Leave things in God's hands. Proverbs 20:22, Romans 8:31.** He is much better at handling situations like this than you are. Follow Jesus, beloved!

III. Genesis 31:14-16. Jacob's wives agree they should go. Rachel and Leah both recognize their father Laban was using them all. However, their reason for leaving Padam Aram was worldly, not spiritual. Support of Jacob is motivated by their lack of money and their inheritance. Decisions must be made with pure intentions, if we are going to Follow Jesus, beloved.

IV. Genesis 31:17-21. Jacob and his family leave for Canaan. Perhaps Jacob was concerned about how Laban would react. He is responding to the Lord's command by making a clean break from the old life and leaving quickly. He didn't waste any time. Unknown to Jacob, Rachel steals her father's treasured household idols. When God calls, some may still have eyes for worldly stuff. **Mark 4:19, Hebrews 11:24-26.** Simply Follow Jesus, beloved.

This study in Jacob's life is more than a history lesson. We will draw out spiritual lessons for the Christian life. Laban and his land is like the world's system. While there may be a sense of freedom (from righteousness), there is also the reality of being a slave – to sin. **Romans 6:20.** While in Laban's land, Jacob was really a slave. It was hard to break free from the grip Laban and his world had on him. Yet, when we hear Jesus say "Follow Me", we can be set free. Have you experienced true freedom? **John 8:30-36.**

**CONSIDER .....** Let's apply lessons from this story with God's perspective. He has a plan and purpose. Let's know.....

- God sees where you are, knows what is ahead, and calls you to follow Him **Jeremiah 29:10-14**
- God says it costs something to leave the world and follow Him **Matthew 19:29, 1 John 2:15-17**
- God says don't be bound by worldly concerns when you follow Him **Matthew 6:24-25 & 32-33, 1 Timothy 6:6-8**
- God knows the backslider may have fear and doubt in returning home **Jeremiah 3:12-15 & 22, Luke 15:11-24**

**Leaving Laban-land for Canaan-land is the best move you could ever make!**  
*Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling, "Come Home"*

## PRAY .....

- For the VBS – that the Lord would draw all of the area children whom He wants to minister to! Who could you invite?
- That the Lord would search your heart and reveal any area of worldly compromise and that you would be willing to forsake it.
- That you would be a Christlike example on your job.
- For hearts that have been touched at the outreaches, that the seeds would be watered and fruit would grow!
- For the Teen Mission trip to Guatemala that hearts would be prepared, both to give and to receive!