



Pastor Scott Velain

## Genesis Chapter 31 The Idle Factory Begins

As we transition out of chapter 30 of the book of Genesis and on into chapter 31 we'll find the relationship between Laban and Jacob becoming rather heated. If we remember from last week's study Jacob made a deal with Laban concerning all spotted and speckled goats and sheep belonging to Jacob, and all the solid color animals belonging to Laban. But problems arose when most of the flocks and herds wind up being speckled and spotted and Jacob winds up becoming rather wealthy while Laban's heard started dwindling away.

And so, as we begin to venture into the 31<sup>st</sup> chapter of the book of Genesis we find some friction beginning to occur between Jacob and his family, and Laban and his side of the family. And so, before we go any further, let's go ahead and read through the 31<sup>st</sup> chapter of the book of Genesis so that we can know exactly what it does say, and just as importantly, what it does not say. Genesis chapter 31:

*Gen 31:1 Now Jacob heard that the sons of Laban were saying, "Jacob has taken all that was our father's, and from what was our father's he has gained all this wealth."*

*Gen 31:2 And Jacob saw that Laban did not regard him with favor as before.*

*Gen 31:3 Then the LORD said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your fathers and to your kindred, and I will be with you."*

*Gen 31:4 So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah into the field where his flock was*

*Gen 31:5 and said to them, "I see that your father does not regard me with favor as he did before. But the God of my father has been with me.*

*Gen 31:6 You know that I have served your father with all my strength,*

*Gen 31:7 yet your father has cheated me and changed my wages ten times. But God did not permit him to harm me.*

*Gen 31:8 If he said, 'The spotted shall be your wages,' then all the flock bore spotted; and if he said, 'The striped shall be your wages,' then all the flock bore striped.*

*Gen 31:9 Thus God has taken away the livestock of your father and given them to me.*

*Gen 31:10 In the breeding season of the flock I lifted up my eyes and saw in a dream that the goats that mated with the flock were striped, spotted, and mottled.*

*Gen 31:11 Then the angel of God said to me in the dream, 'Jacob,' and I said, 'Here I*

am!'

*Gen 31:12* And he said, 'Lift up your eyes and see, all the goats that mate with the flock are striped, spotted, and mottled, for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you.

*Gen 31:13* I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and made a vow to me. Now arise, go out from this land and return to the land of your kindred.'"

*Gen 31:14* Then Rachel and Leah answered and said to him, "Is there any portion or inheritance left to us in our father's house?"

*Gen 31:15* Are we not regarded by him as foreigners? For he has sold us, and he has indeed devoured our money.

*Gen 31:16* All the wealth that God has taken away from our father belongs to us and to our children. Now then, whatever God has said to you, do."

*Gen 31:17* So Jacob arose and set his sons and his wives on camels.

*Gen 31:18* He drove away all his livestock, all his property that he had gained, the livestock in his possession that he had acquired in Paddan-aram, to go to the land of Canaan to his father Isaac.

*Gen 31:19* Laban had gone to shear his sheep, and Rachel stole her father's household gods.

*Gen 31:20* And Jacob tricked Laban the Aramean, by not telling him that he intended to flee.

*Gen 31:21* He fled with all that he had and arose and crossed the Euphrates, and set his face toward the hill country of Gilead.

*Gen 31:22* When it was told Laban on the third day that Jacob had fled,

*Gen 31:23* he took his kinsmen with him and pursued him for seven days and followed close after him into the hill country of Gilead.

*Gen 31:24* But God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream by night and said to him, "Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad."

*Gen 31:25* And Laban overtook Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the hill country, and Laban with his kinsmen pitched tents in the hill country of Gilead.

*Gen 31:26* And Laban said to Jacob, "What have you done, that you have tricked me and driven away my daughters like captives of the sword?"

*Gen 31:27* Why did you flee secretly and trick me, and did not tell me, so that I might have sent you away with mirth and songs, with tambourine and lyre?"

*Gen 31:28* And why did you not permit me to kiss my sons and my daughters farewell? Now you have done foolishly.

*Gen 31:29* It is in my power to do you harm. But the God of your father spoke to me last night, saying, 'Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad.'

*Gen 31:30* And now you have gone away because you longed greatly for your father's house, but why did you steal my gods?"

*Gen 31:31* Jacob answered and said to Laban, "Because I was afraid, for I thought

that you would take your daughters from me by force.

*Gen 31:32* Anyone with whom you find your gods shall not live. In the presence of our kinsmen point out what I have that is yours, and take it.” Now Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them.

*Gen 31:33* So Laban went into Jacob's tent and into Leah's tent and into the tent of the two female servants, but he did not find them. And he went out of Leah's tent and entered Rachel's.

*Gen 31:34* Now Rachel had taken the household gods and put them in the camel's saddle and sat on them. Laban felt all about the tent, but did not find them.

*Gen 31:35* And she said to her father, “Let not my lord be angry that I cannot rise before you, for the way of women is upon me.” So he searched but did not find the household gods.

*Gen 31:36* Then Jacob became angry and berated Laban. Jacob said to Laban, “What is my offense? What is my sin, that you have hotly pursued me?”

*Gen 31:37* For you have felt through all my goods; what have you found of all your household goods? Set it here before my kinsmen and your kinsmen, that they may decide between us two.

*Gen 31:38* These twenty years I have been with you. Your ewes and your female goats have not miscarried, and I have not eaten the rams of your flocks.

*Gen 31:39* What was torn by wild beasts I did not bring to you. I bore the loss of it myself. From my hand you required it, whether stolen by day or stolen by night.

*Gen 31:40* There I was: by day the heat consumed me, and the cold by night, and my sleep fled from my eyes.

*Gen 31:41* These twenty years I have been in your house. I served you fourteen years for your two daughters, and six years for your flock, and you have changed my wages ten times.

*Gen 31:42* If the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had not been on my side, surely now you would have sent me away empty-handed. God saw my affliction and the labor of my hands and rebuked you last night.”

*Gen 31:43* Then Laban answered and said to Jacob, “The daughters are my daughters, the children are my children, the flocks are my flocks, and all that you see is mine. But what can I do this day for these my daughters or for their children whom they have borne?”

*Gen 31:44* Come now, let us make a covenant, you and I. And let it be a witness between you and me.”

*Gen 31:45* So Jacob took a stone and set it up as a pillar.

*Gen 31:46* And Jacob said to his kinsmen, “Gather stones.” And they took stones and made a heap, and they ate there by the heap.

*Gen 31:47* Laban called it Jegar-sahadutha, but Jacob called it Galeed.

*Gen 31:48* Laban said, “This heap is a witness between you and me today.” Therefore he named it Galeed,

*Gen 31:49* and Mizpah, for he said, “The LORD watch between you and me, when we are out of one another's sight.

*Gen 31:50* If you oppress my daughters, or if you take wives besides my daughters, although no one is with us, see, God is witness between you and me.”

*Gen 31:51* Then Laban said to Jacob, “See this heap and the pillar, which I have set between you and me.

*Gen 31:52* This heap is a witness, and the pillar is a witness, that I will not pass over this heap to you, and you will not pass over this heap and this pillar to me, to do harm.

*Gen 31:53* The God of Abraham and the God of Nahor, the God of their father, judge between us.” So Jacob swore by the Fear of his father Isaac,

*Gen 31:54* and Jacob offered a sacrifice in the hill country and called his kinsmen to eat bread. They ate bread and spent the night in the hill country.

**Gen 31:55** Early in the morning Laban arose and kissed his grandchildren and his daughters and blessed them. Then Laban departed and returned home.

And so once again, we see Jacob trying to break free from his father in law Laban who never seems to want to allow Jacob to take his family and leave because Laban knows that Jacob has made Laban rich because of the skills that he has as a herdsman and a Shepherd. The problem is, that Jacob has served Laban well and over the span of close to 20 years, and Laban has tricked Jacob into staying several times, not to mention the fact that he keeps changing his wages and treating him unfairly.

The sons of Laban started complaining about how rich Jacob was becoming because the herds and the flocks were all being born speckled and spotted, and Jacobs flocks and herds were multiplying while their fathers' flocks and herds were diminishing.

Jacob overhears the sons of Laban complaining and he clearly notices that he's not only getting the cold shoulder from Laban's sons, but also from Laban himself. And Jacobs not the only one that's noticing this. Yahovah commands Jacob to return to the land of his fathers and to his kindred, and Yahovah tells Jacob that he will be with him. And so, Jacob calls his two wives Rachel and Leah out into the field where his flock was so that they could have a private conversation concerning what Yahovah had just told Jacob.

Now I want to stop right here for just a moment so that we can clearly see that Jacob was conversing with, and planning this great escape with his wives. It's often taught that back in the days of the early Hebrews women were treated like second-class citizens, but the truth is nothing could be farther from the truth. Back in those days the family unit was extremely close. Back in those days families spent a lot of time together, and they spoke often... and not just

around the dinner table. Back in those days families worked together, and they played together, unlike today's modern-day family unit most of which doesn't even sit around the dinner table anymore.

Women back in those days were extremely important, and the role of a woman in the family was highly honored and respected. It is written that the man is to be the head of the family, but this does not mean that the wife is to be excluded from the family, or by any means without a say, or separated from the decision-making. And so, I want us to make note of the fact that once Yah tells Jacob what to do, the first thing that Jacob does is turn to his wives so that they can help him put together a plan to do what Yah has commanded Jacob to do, and to finally break loose from the chains of Laban and his sons.

It should be pretty clear to us that Laban cheated Jacob several different times and changed his wages over 10 times, and not only did he cheat Jacob, but Laban also cheated his two daughters Rachel and Leah... and we can see that in verses 14 and 15 where the girls are complaining about not having any portion or inheritance of their father's house, and the fact that he regarded them as foreigners and that he had devoured all of their money.

And so, there was certainly plenty of animosity between both sides of the family to go around and this is exactly why Yahovah told Jacob to gather his belongings together and to get back to the land of his fathers and his kindred.

At this point in time I think it's important to mention the fact that although Jacob will eventually lead his family into Egypt for the purpose of survival... it should now be clear to us that the land of Canaan is home. This land of Canaan is indeed the land that Yahovah promised to Abraham, and we're going to see a lot of history unfolding here in the land of Canaan as we move forward throughout the 66 books of our Bibles.

Something else that we should make note of is this reoccurring theme of deception that we see within Jacobs family. It's this constant reoccurring theme of deception that continuously plays out over, and over, and over like a bad dream. Not only has Jacob been known to be quite crafty, but so too is his wife Rachel. And that should not surprise us considering who her father was and the tricks that Laban played on Jacob, not to mention who Rachel was married to. Jacob himself has after all proven to be quite a crafty fellow.

And so once again I want us to notice that as we read through our Fathers Torah we're going to see how many of these Bible heroes and patriarchs were seriously flawed human beings. We constantly see this trickery being played back and forth almost like a ping-pong game, and it never really ends well without Yahovah intervening in the middle of it all.

Jacob and his wives begin to execute the great escape because Laban has treated them unfairly, and Laban and his sons start to chase after Jacob because they think that Jacob has stolen his idols and is trying to run away with Laban's daughters. And without the intervention of

Yahovah... we can at least suspect that this wouldn't have wound up very well in the end.

But Yahovah intervenes... and he comes to Laban in a dream and he warns Laban not to say anything either good or bad to Jacob when he reaches him, and even though Laban is a spiritualist that believes in many gods, he respects the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob and he knows better than to cross him. But I daresay if it wasn't for the intervention of Yahovah in between all of this deception... things would've gone south pretty badly, pretty quickly. And so once again, we see the problems that the deceptions, and the greediness, and the flaws of the human heart cause man over, and over, and over again even back in the days of Abraham Isaac and Jacob.

Even back in the earliest of days mankind, man has been forced to deal with his wicked stony heart that he's born with from birth. But as we'll see as we walk through our Fathers Torah and the writings of the prophets on up into the New Testament, our Father in heaven already has an unfolding plan, and an antidote for what ails man. And that antidote for a stony human heart would be the replacement of a fleshly heart with the laws of God written upon it.

But for now, we see the wickedness of the human heart continuing on from the fall of Adam all the way on up through Jacob, and on in to Rachel. Rachel decides to steal her father's pagan idols.

Now why in the world would Rachel want to steal her father's pagan idols? We're not really told why it is that Rachel stole her father's idols, but it should be clear to us that Rachel felt empowered by doing this, and as we've already seen from the gathering of mandrakes... superstition in this family runs deep. Not only did Rachel lie about stealing her father's pagan idols, but she also lied about being on her monthly cycle while she was sitting on top of her father's idols while deceiving her father and her husband both at the same time. We have to remember that Jacob had no idea what Rachel had done, nor did he have any idea that Rachel was sitting on top of her father's idols barefaced lying to them both. And it's a good thing that you didn't get caught because Jacob that already sworn to Laban that whoever was caught with those idols would surely be put to death. And so, Rachel was taking very her life into her own hands just to steal these little wooden idols from our father.

Something else that I want us to notice is the fact that these pagan gods that Rachel was sitting on top of... all fit into the small pocket of a saddlebag. And so, I want us to understand how small these little pagan gods truly were. And yet people were foolish enough to believe that they had all kinds of great power. They were simply little wooden trinkets in the shape of whatever they thought that their gods looked like.

I want us to understand that these kinds of idols that Rachel stole from her father Laban came in all shapes and sizes. And as time marched on, the usage of these lifeless wooden trinkets grew to the size of trees that were decorated with silver and gold. I'd like us to turn to Jeremiah chapter 10 verses one through five:

**Jer 10:1** Hear the word that the LORD speaks to you, O house of Israel.

**Jer 10:2** Thus says the LORD: “Learn not the way of the nations, nor be dismayed at the signs of the heavens because the nations are dismayed at them,

**Jer 10:3** for the customs of the peoples are vanity. A tree from the forest is cut down and worked with an axe by the hands of a craftsman.

**Jer 10:4** They decorate it with silver and gold; they fasten it with hammer and nails so that it cannot move.

**Jer 10:5** Their idols are like scarecrows in a cucumber field, and they cannot speak; they have to be carried, for they cannot walk. Do not be afraid of them, for they cannot do evil, neither is it in them to do good.”

“Learn not the way of the nations nor be dismayed at the signs of the heavens the nations dismayed at them for the customs of the peoples are vanity.” This is a warning that today’s apathetic denominational corporate Christian churches desperately need to hear. And yet still... even today, even in our time, man continues to cut trees down from the forest and to drag them into the house and to decorate them with silver and gold as they fasten it so that it cannot move. And they continue these pagan traditions by putting their gifts underneath the green tree so that their children have to come and bow down to the tree in order to receive all the desires of their hearts.

Once again, my friends, I think it’s pretty easy to see how even little sins against our Father in heaven can grow into big sins. Most modern-day Christians have no idea how green trees were used early in mankind’s existence to worship pagan gods. But the truth is that the Bible is full of Scripture concerning the green trees that were used in pagan worship even by the house of Israel.

I want us to thoroughly understand what these little wooden idols that Rachel stole from her father have led to, and how they even affect us to this very day, and in order to do that I’d like to take you through a few very eye-opening Scriptures that you won’t hear in today’s modern-day apathetic corporate Christian churches.

## **Every Green Tree**

**“Rah-an-awn” = Green**

**“ates” = tree, timber**

here are just a few Scriptures that might help us understand why it is we should shy away from cutting down a green tree and dragging it into the house and decorating it with silver and gold:

*Deu 12:1* "These are the statutes and rules that you shall be careful to do in the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, has given you to possess, all the days that you live on the earth.

*Deu 12:2 You shall surely destroy all the places where the nations whom you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every **GREEN TREE**.*

*1Ki 14:23 For they also built for themselves high places and pillars and Asherim on every high hill and under every **GREEN TREE**.,*

*2Ki 16:4 And he sacrificed and made offerings on the high places and on the hills and under every **GREEN TREE**..*

*2Ki 17:10 They set up for themselves pillars and Asherim on every high hill and under every **GREEN TREE**.,*

*2Ch 28:4 And he sacrificed and made offerings on the high places and on the hills and under every **GREEN TREE**..*

*Isa 57:5 Enflaming yourselves with idols under every **GREEN TREE**., slaying the children in the valleys under the cliffs of the rocks?*

*Jer 2:20 "For long ago I broke your yoke and burst your bonds; but you said, 'I will not serve.' Yes, on every high hill and under **GREEN TREE**. tree you bowed down like a whore.*

*Jer 3:6 The LORD said to me in the days of King Josiah: "Have you seen what she did, that faithless one, Israel, how she went up on every high hill and under every **GREEN TREE**., and there played the whore?*

*Jer 3:13 Only acknowledge your guilt, that you rebelled against the LORD your God and scattered your favors among foreigners under every **GREEN TREE**., and that you have not obeyed my voice, declares the LORD.*

*Eze 6:13 And you shall know that I am the LORD, when their slain lie among their idols around their altars, on every high hill, on all the mountaintops, under every **GREEN TREE**., and under every leafy oak, wherever they offered pleasing aroma to all their idols.*

**THE CEDARS REJOICE!**

Because no one is there to cut them down anymore.

*Isa 14:5 The LORD has broken the staff of the wicked, the scepter of rulers,*

*Isa 14:6 that struck the peoples in wrath with unceasing blows, that ruled the nations in anger with unrelenting persecution.*

*Isa 14:7 The whole earth is at rest and quiet; they break forth into singing.*

*Isa 14:8 The cypresses rejoice at you, the cedars of Lebanon, saying, 'Since you were laid low, no woodcutter comes up against us.'*

*Isa 14:9 Sheol beneath is stirred up to meet you when you come; it rouses the shades to greet you, all who were leaders of the earth; it raises from their thrones all who were kings of the nations.*

The pagans would often times carve the trunk of a tree into the statue of one of their God's and then bow down and worship it underneath all of the other Green Tree's in the forest, and this created a façade that all of these other green trees in the forest were there to protect this one Goddess tree that they carved into an image.

No matter how you slice it my friends, the reason the devil wants you to chop down a tree and drag it in your house and put presents under it, is so that your children will bow down under that green tree and will remind Yahovah of the sins of Israel.

The Christ-mass tree my friends, is nothing more than a slap in the face to our Father in heaven and his only begotten Son. It is a demonically inspired blasphemous symbol that was created to bring forth the wrath of God upon his people by rubbing the sins of Israel in his face.

This is what the Britannica Encyclopedia has to say about the Asherah:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Asherah-Semitic-goddess>

Asherah, ancient West Semitic goddess, consort of the supreme god. Her principal epithet was probably "She Who Walks on the Sea." She was occasionally called Elath (Elat), "the Goddess," and may have also been called Qudshu, "Holiness." According to texts from Ugarit (modern Ras Shamra, Syria), Asherah's consort was El, and by him she was the mother of 70 gods. As mother goddess she was widely worshiped throughout Syria and Palestine, although she was frequently paired with Baal, who often took the place of El; as Baal's consort, Asherah was usually given the name Baalat. Inscriptions from two locations in southern Palestine seem to indicate that she was also worshiped as the consort of Yahweh.



As you may have noticed she was always depicted as being a bare breasted fertility goddess. Hence the mother of 70 gods.

Just like Laban believed in Yahweh the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob, he also believed in a menagerie of other gods as well. Many people back in those days believed in many gods and Yahweh, or Yahovah, the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob was just one of many gods to them. And this is exactly how our Father in heaven got thrown into a basket full of other little “g” gods over time, and throughout antiquity.

We must remember that the devil’s favorite tool has always been to mix the truth with lies in order to create something shiny and new. This has always been a tactic of our adversary. And so, we should not be surprised when we read about an ancient people from time to time who believed in all kinds of other little “g” gods, but who also believed in Yahweh, or Yahovah, our Hebrew God of the Bible.

# Artemis

## The Fertility goddess

Found in Acts  
Chapter 19

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Asherah or Ashtoreth, was the name of the chief female deity worshiped in ancient Syria, Phoenicia, and Canaan. Her name was Artemis in Ephesus, but it was Ashteroth in the Hebrew language, Astarte in the Phoenician language, Ishtar in the Akkadian language, Eostre in the Anglo-Saxon language, and Easter in the English language. The devil never really changed what these goddesses were all about, he just changed the names from generation to generation and kept on selling the same story throughout the history of mankind.

The difference between these pagan little “g” gods, and our God, is that none of these pagan little “g” gods have ever led their people through all of the trials and tribulations that our God has. None of these other little “g” gods ever rescued their people from the hand of the Pharaoh of Egypt. None of these other little “g” gods ever protected Noah through the great flood. None of these other little “g” gods has ever stopped someone from sacrificing their own son the way our God stopped Abraham from sacrificing his son. None of these other little “g” gods ever loved their people enough to allow their only begotten son to be a sacrifice for the whole world.

All these pagan gods ever wanted... was for you to sacrifice your children to them. You see that’s what it was all about... the annihilation of mankind.

The devil created these other little “g” gods to call for the death and destruction of mankind... His demons would convince people that these little “g” gods demanded envy, murder, strife, deceit, and maliciousness. They were invented by the devil himself to cause God’s people to be slanderers and haters of God. They were created by the devil to lead God’s people away and to make them insolent and haughty, boastful inventors of evil. And yet, just as we’re told in the book of Jeremiah “They are like scarecrows in a cucumber field, and they cannot speak; they have to be carried, for they can’t even walk. Do not be afraid of them, for they cannot do evil, neither is it in them to do good.”

But this didn't stop the devil and his minions from convincing people that these idols and these little "g" gods were real through soothsayers and diviners and witches like the witch of Endor that talked to the dead.

And so once again, those little idols that Rachel was sitting on that day while she was busy lying to her father and to her husband, were just the beginnings of a much larger problem for mankind that was soon to come.

False gods and goddesses sprang up from under every green tree in almost every land. And by the time that we read about the apostles in the New Testament in Greece and in the city of Athens... they had a statue of a different little "g" god on almost every street corner. They even had a statue to what they called, "*The Unknown God*". And when Paul saw this, he used it to his own advantage and he preached to the people of Athens about their "unknown God". We can find that in the book of acts chapter 17 versus 22 through 29:

*Act 17:22 So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious.*

*Act 17:23 For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.*

*Act 17:24 The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man,*

*Act 17:25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.*

*Act 17:26 And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place,*

*Act 17:27 that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,*

*Act 17:28 for "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we are indeed his offspring."*

*Act 17:29 Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.*

And so, although I don't want to make this a study about the history of these little "g" gods... I do want us to understand where this all stems from and how our adversary has used it against us for literally thousands of years. This kind of pagan idol worship was already going on back in the days of Abraham Isaac and Jacob, and we need to know, and we need to understand where, when, and why all of this came about. And we need to know, and we need to understand why it is that we often times hear the name Yahweh or Yahovah being mentioned in the historical

documents of other ancient societies who believed like Laban did... in a plethora of God's instead of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. To them the Hebrew God of the Bible was nothing more than one of their many pagan God's.

Something else I'd like to touch on is the fact that Yahovah spoke to Laban and told Laban not to say anything to Jacob either good or bad. Does our Father in heaven ever talk to nonbelievers? You bet he does. And this Scripture is proof of it.

Our Father in heaven is the God of the universe. He talks to who he wants to talk to, and he talks to them when he wants to talk to them. Our Father does what he wants, when he wants. The Bible even records Yah speaking through a donkey. And so, it shouldn't surprise us that Yahovah spoke to Laban, and even though Laban believed in many gods, you can rest assured that Laban knew better than to cross the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob.

And as we walk through our Fathers Torah and the writings of the prophets we'll often times, come across people who weren't true believers, and yet feared the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. The Philistines who once stole the Ark of the covenant gave the Ark back real fast once they understood the power of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. And that's another whole story in itself that we will get into here today, but it just proves that our Father in heaven is not limited to only speaking to believers.

But in the end, we once again see the ritual of both Jacob and Laban making a covenant between themselves. And once again, we see them setting up stones as a pillar, and going through this ritualistic tradition of offering up a sacrifice and having a meal together in order to solidify this covenant that they were making between themselves.

Later on, when we start getting into the book of Exodus we'll see the continuation of this tradition concerning covenant making and how our Father in heaven uses it to make covenants with mankind. And so, we haven't seen the last of this covenant making process or its tradition of sacrificing and then feasting in order to solidify a covenant.

In the end everything seems to end up well between Jacob and Laban and the two men finally depart and go their own ways but once again I think it's safe to say that it would not have wound up this way without the intervention of Yahovah.

And this my friends leads us into Genesis chapter 32 which we will get into next Wednesday evening at 7 PM Eastern standard time. But as I always ask my friends, I ask again that you please, please take what you have heard here today to your prayer closet, and bow your head and bend your knees and face the holy promised land of Jerusalem, and ask in the name of Yeshua Hamashiach if what you've heard here today be true... or not. Ask, seek, and knock the door will be opened to you.