

## "Jacob Prospers"

Genesis 30:25-43

### Overview of Passage:

- Desires to Leave Laban. (25-26)
- Laban resists due to God's Blessings thru Jacob. (27-28)
- Deal worked out for Jacob to get Lessor Valued livestock. (29-34)
- Laban Removes all Lessor Valued livestock to trick Jacob. (35-36)
- Jacob Uses form of Reproductive Manipulation and Selective Breeding and Grows Huge Flock and Prospers Greatly. (37-43)

### Strategy for Passage:

Sometimes Best to Not Zoom in too Close but Zoom out for Over-All Pic.

### Point of Passage:

- Laban Manipulates Jacob to Stay Longer and tries to deceive Him by trickery.
- Jacob, because God is for him, overcomes Laban's schemes and turns the tricking back on him.
- God prospers Jacob greatly in the face of many obstacles.

### 1. No one and no thing can alter the plans God has for me.

*"Consider the work of God, for who is able to straighten what He has bent? In the day of prosperity be happy, but in the day of adversity consider - God has made the one as well as the other..." - Ecc. 7:13-14*

*"For the LORD of hosts has planned, and who can frustrate it? And as for His stretched-out hand, who can turn it back?" - Is. 14:27*

*"Even from eternity I am He, and there is none who can deliver out of My hand; I act and who can reverse it?" - Is. 43:13*

*"Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, 'My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure'... Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it." - Is. 46:10-13*

- A. If God is for me, who can be against me? Rom. 8
- B. Why do I worry so much?
- C. Why do I fear so much?
- D. Do I really believe that my life has been ordained by God and that everything that happens to me must first be sifted through His hands? - Ephesians 1:11

### 2. Notice: this does not mean the PROSPERITY GOSPEL.

- A. How easy has Jacob's life been up to this point? (Ecc. 7:14)
- B. Does life seem like an uphill battle sometimes?
  - I. Take heart - this is normal for God's people.

*"The path of life leads uphill for the wise that they may keep away from Sheol below." - Proverbs 15:24*

### 3. God is more interested in my CHARACTER than my COMFORT.

- A. God is chipping away at Jacob's character, slowly molding him into a man of God.
- B. WHY DOES GOD BRING STRUGGLES INTO MY LIFE?
  - I. Struggles TEST Me. - 1 Peter 1:6-8
    - a.) Your faith will be proven thru pain more than pleasures.
  - II. Struggles REFINE Me. - James 1:2-4
    - a.) Your maturity will come more thru trials than fun.

*"My sufferings have been my Masters in Divinity." - M.L.*

- III. Struggles MAKE ME HOLY - Hebrews 12:7-11

a.) Holiness comes by discipline more than easy living.

**Close:**

What's more important to you - happiness, or holiness?

Do you trust God with your life - that whatever is happening is for your betterment?

Whether the good times or the bad, are you at a place where You can give God glory, knowing it has all been filtered through His hands?