

Hope in the Will of God

Genesis 30:25-31-55

“This is the last we hear of Laban in the Bible, and it is good that this is the end of him. Laban is of the world, and Jacob needed to be freed from this world in order to live wholeheartedly for the God of his fathers. Morris says, ‘Laban is an unfortunate example of a worldly, covetous man, one who knows about the true God and to whom a thorough witness has been given. He had seen the reality of God in the life of Jacob. He himself had even enjoyed many of the blessings of God through his relationship to Jacob. Nevertheless, he continued in idolatry and covetousness, seeking material gain for himself to the exclusion of all other considerations. Rather than seeking to follow the truth of God’s plan as witnessed by Jacob, he merely resented the blessing of God on Jacob. He finally ended up with neither. His life constitutes a sober warning to a great host of semi-religious but fundamentally self-worshipping and self-seeking men and women today.

The world admires its Labans. It despises the Jacobs. But whatever Jacob’s shortcomings and problems may have been, it is better to be a Jacob and, like Jacob, to be going home.” Boice

- I. You would have thought that Jacob would have given up on God after 20 years of working for a man who deceived, mistreated, and used him, but he didn’t. The reason why, is because he put his hope in God and His promises instead of in Laban and his circumstances. He had every reason in the world to be angry and bitter toward God, yet there was a powerful force in his heart called hope that kept him from that. Hope is something God gives all believers to sustain them in a fallen world that does not understand what it means to trust God. It is a vital part of our faith. We may not realize it at times, but hope has anchored our souls to Christ. If a believer loses his or her hope, then the question is why? What are they hoping for and are His promises not good enough to sustain them in the ravages of living in a fallen world?

Gen. 30:25-43

Heb. 11:1

Heb. 6:13-20

Matt. 6:24

Gen. 28:13

Heb. 12:2-3

Hebrews 11:1 *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*

- II. Negative circumstances forced Jacob to leave his home in the first place and negative circumstances are what moved him back. They were not happenstance circumstances, but ones God allowed to help Jacob know the plans he had for him, plans to prosper, and not harm him, plans to give him hope and a future (Jer. 29:11). It required a willingness on his part to act upon what he knew in his heart to be the will of God for him and his family, which meant that he had to be on his guard; stand firm in the faith; be a man of courage; and be strong (1 Cor. 16:13). God knew that he would as he knows we will without question, because we know without a doubt that He too has plans for us, plans to prosper, and not harm us, plans to give us hope and a future. We are truly blessed to know Him!
Gen. 31:1-19

“The reason for defeat in so many Christians lives is not that they do not understand the will of God, but that they do not do what they understand.” Boice

- III. The world and its ways have no claim on us. We were taken from its godless insidious grip upon salvation. It may try to control us through its Satanic system of the lust of the eyes, the pride of life, and the lust of the flesh if we let it, but it can do nothing to erase that fact that we serve the living God and no one else. Laban thought he owned Jacob, his children, wives, and possessions until God made it very clear to him that the only thing he possessed was his greed. *“No one and nothing could prevent God’s promise from being fulfilled, even against all odds... after all his dealings with his unscrupulous Uncle Laban, Jacob said, “God has not allowed him to harm me” (verse 7).”* Rest assured, God will fulfill his promises to those of us who know him for *“we have this hope as an anchor of the soul, firm and secure” (Heb. 6:19)...*

Gen. 31:22-55

Ps. 27:4-8