

GENESIS –Lesson 53

Learn: Recompence to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay saith the Lord. be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:17-19, 21

Read: Genesis 30: 25-43

1. After Rachel had her first son- Joseph, what did Jacob want to do? vv 25, 26
2. Jacob had served Laban for a total of fourteen years, meeting his obligation. Jacob had been highly productive for Laban, but had nothing of his own. He had a large family, but nothing to give them. But Laban was not anxious to lose Jacob. What did he propose? vv 27a, 28

Why? v 27b

The phrase “learned by experience” is interesting. It represents the Hebrew word “nachash,” and means literally “learned by enchantments.” Laban had been somewhat perplexed by the fact that Jacob’s care of his flocks had resulted in such a great increase in his own wealth. Accordingly, he had in some way either carried out certain divination practices of his own, or else consulted some kind of soothsayer or oracle, seeking the secret. Laban, it becomes clear, though related to Abraham and knowing about the true God, had become to some degree a pagan mystic. At any rate, God so overruled his enchantments that, even through them, he had gotten the message that Jacob was under special care of Yahweh and that it was because of this that God had blessed his service.

THE GENESIS RECORD p 471 Dr. Henry Morris

3. So far, Laban had gotten the better bargain by letting Jacob name his own wages, so he made the same proposition again. What was Jacob’s answer to Laban? vv29, 30a
4. What did Jacob clearly state to Laban as to where his prosperity and success had come from? v 30b
5. What was Jacob’s concern? v 30c

6. What did Jacob ask for wages this time? vv 31,32
7. Why did Jacob have such a detailed plan to keep Laban's flocks and the flocks that Jacob would earn separate? v 33
8. In his proposal to Laban, Jacob said that he did not want Laban to give him anything. He did not wish in any way to be indebted to a man that he had come to know as a self-seeking, deceptive, ungodly schemer. Jacob would start out with nothing. What did this show to Laban, as well as us about Jacob?

All the animals that had any spots or speckles or brown among the sheep were removed. Then from what was left, the dominant white and solid-colored animals, which were far more numerous, were to be cared for by Jacob. This arrangement was clearly highly favorable to Laban and of very doubtful value to Jacob. Indeed, it was an act of pure faith on Jacob's part. He had put himself entirely at God's mercy.

9. How did Laban respond to such an opportunity for himself? v 34
10. Though Laban had no reason to mistrust Jacob, what did he do to ensure that there could be no way of any speckled, spotted or brown sheep breeding with the plain animals? vv 35, 36

Jacob had no breeding stock of his own, and none of the animals from which his pay was to come would be likely to produce spotted and speckled progeny of their own without a spotted and speckled population with which to interbreed. But, Jacob had the promised blessing of the Lord, and he knew a great deal more about sheep and goats and cattle, than Laban. He had kept his father's flocks for decades, and now had been in charge of Laban's flocks for fourteen years. As a very observant and intelligent man he had apparently learned something of what we now call Mendelian genetics, simply by long-continued observance of generation after generation of these animals. He knew that, even though a species of animal may have certain "dominant" traits (such as white color in this type of sheep), there are, in each generation, certain individual animals that manifest more "recessive" traits (such as brown color among sheep). Furthermore, actual physical vigor and usefulness for men's needs are quite independent of this matter of coloration. Jacob knew that he could trust God to increase the statistical proportion of animals in future generations of Laban's flocks that would appear with these recessive traits. Then by selective breeding in his future flock, he would increase their numbers still more.

11. What did Jacob do once the flocks had been separated? vv 37, 38

NOTE: The Hebrew word for conceive in verse 38 comes from a root which means “to be hot,” i.e., to be in heat.

One of the chemical substances found in these trees which Jacob used for Laban’s animals has been used in the past and in modern times to treat water as an aphrodisiac and fertility promoter for animals.

12. By speeding up the reproduction process of the animals and inducing the animals to produce as many offspring as possible in the shortest time possible, Jacob would benefit Laban and himself. But what did the Lord cause to happen? v 39

13. What was Jacob’s next move? v 40

14. What did Jacob do to ensure that his animals would produce strong healthy flocks?
vv 41, 42

15. What was the result of all of Jacob’s hard work and God’s blessing? v 43

16. We see that Laban’s intentions in what he did were never for Jacob’s benefit, but only to benefit himself. Jacob could have chosen to act wrongly, blaming his bad actions on Laban’s provocation, but how did Jacob behave himself? v 29

17. What do the following verses tell us about those who treat us in an evil way?
Proverbs 24:29

Romans 12:17-19

Romans 12:21