

“Showdown” **Jacob (Part 10)**

“No weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall refute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD and their vindication from me, declares the LORD.” (Isaiah 54:17)

God’s Protection of His People

Genesis 31:25-32(a) – (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. (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?’ (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? (28) And why did you not permit me to kiss my sons and my daughters farewell? Now you have done foolishly. (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.’ (30) And now you have gone away because you longed greatly for your father’s house, but why did you steal my gods?’ (31) Jacob answered and said to Laban, ‘Because I was afraid, for I thought that you would take your daughters from me by force. (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...’”

God’s Gracious Covering

Genesis 31:32b-35 – (32) “...Now Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them. (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. (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. (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.”

Condemning the Condemner

Genesis 31:36-42 – (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? (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. (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. (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. (40) There I was: by day the heat consumed me, and the cold by night, and my sleep fled from my eyes. (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. (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.”

Covenant of Peace

Genesis 31:43-46, 51-55 – (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? (44) Come now, let us make a covenant, you and I. And let it be a witness between you and me.’ (45) So Jacob took a stone and set it up as a pillar.” (46) And Jacob said to his kinsmen, ‘Gather stones.’ And they took stones and made a heap, and they ate there by the heap. (51) Then Laban said to Jacob, ‘See this heap and the pillar, which I have set between you and me. (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. (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, (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. (55) Early in the morning Laban arose and kissed his grandchildren and his daughters and blessed them. Then Laban departed and returned home.”

(1) Fear Not

“I, I am he who comforts you; who are you that you are afraid of man who dies, of the son of man who is made like grass, and have forgotten the LORD, your Maker, who stretched out the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth, and you fear continually all the day because of the wrath of the oppressor, when he sets himself to destroy? And where is the wrath of the oppressor?” (Isaiah 51:12-13)

(2) Believe in the Rock – Jesus Christ

“as it is written, ‘Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.’” (Romans 9:33)

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)