



Lesson 7: Jacob worked for his uncle and father-in-law, Laban, for 20 long years. During that time, Laban proved to be an unscrupulous employer. He cheated Jacob, changing his wages ten times. Nevertheless, God blessed Laban's household because of Jacob's presence. Even the scoundrel, Laban, was aware of God's blessings. When Jacob decided to return to Canaan and his father, Isaac, Laban begged him to stay. Laban agreed to give Jacob all of the speckled, spotted and black lambs and the speckled or spotted goats. Normally, the sheep were white in color and the goats were black.

Shortly thereafter, the Angel of the Lord appeared to Jacob in a dream, saying

"Lift up, now your eyes and see that all the male goats which are mating are striped, speckled, and mottled; for I have seen all that Laban has been doing to you. I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar, where you made a vow to Me; now arise, leave this land, and return to the land of your birth." Genesis 31:11-13

In full agreement with Rachel and Leah, Jacob, his family, servants and livestock ran away from Laban. When Laban realized what had happened, he pursued Jacob, finally overtaking him in seven days. Not only did Laban accuse Jacob of lying and deception, he also accused him of stealing the household gods. We continue today in Genesis chapter 31: