

- 7) Then Jacob was very clever.
 - i) It has been agreed that any goat or sheep spotted or speckled is going to belong to Jacob.
 - ii) He took branches from three different trees.
 - iii) He took the branches and peeled the bark off so that they would be striped.
 - iv) When the sheep would come to drink the water and mate, the sheep would focus on them and whatever the sheep would focus on would mark their young.
 - v) He only did that for strong sheep. If he saw a weak sheep or goat, he wouldn't put it in there.
 - vi) He would separate the ones that were spotted or speckled from Laban's sheep and that is the way Jacob was getting all the sheep and goats that belonged to Jacob. And he was getting the best ones.
 - vii) Laban got smart and kept trying to change his wages by changing the color of the sheep Jacob would have.
- e. Friction in the family (31:1-16)
 - 1) Jacob overheard Laban's sons talking and they were angry because Jacob had their father's flocks and herds.
 - 2) ~~Then~~ ^{Then} Jacob noticed that Laban's attitude toward him had changed.
 - 3) Then the Lord spoke to Jacob and told him to go back to the land of his fathers.
 - 4) Jacob sends for Rachel and Leah and tells them, "Your father's attitude toward me has changed and your father has changed my wages ten times and the Lord has told me to go back to my relatives."
 - 5) Rachel and Leah agree that that was to take place.
- f. Departure (31:17-24)
 - 1) Jacob gets Rachel and Leah and all of his family and possessions and leaves without telling Laban.
 - 2) He deliberately wanted to deceive Laban because he didn't want Laban to keep him from going.
 - 3) Laban had gone off to shear sheep and didn't know he had gone.
 - 4) He goes to the mountain of Gilead.
 - 5) Laban hears about Jacob's departure three days after Jacob leaves and is upset and gets his relatives and he starts to hunt down Jacob.
 - 6) But the day before he overtook them, he had a dream from God.
 - 7) The Lord told him, "Don't say anything to Jacob good or bad. Don't do anything to hinder events as they are now taking place."