

Genesis 30:25-43 **Jacob Amasses Wealth**

²⁵ “And it came to pass, when Rachel had borne Joseph, that Jacob said to Laban, “Send me away, that I may go to my own place and to my country. ²⁶ Give me my wives and my children for whom I have served you, and let me go; for you know my service which I have done for you.” ²⁷ And Laban said to him, “Please stay, if I have found favor in your eyes, for I have learned by experience that the LORD has blessed me for your sake.” ²⁸ Then he said, “Name me your wages, and I will give it.” ²⁹ So Jacob said to him, “You know how I have served you and how your livestock has been with me. ³⁰ For what you had before I came was little, and it is now increased to a great amount; the LORD has blessed you since my coming. And now, when shall I also provide for my own house?” ³¹ So he said, “What shall I give you?” And Jacob said, “You shall not give me anything. If you will do this thing for me, I will again feed and keep your flocks: ³² Let me pass through all your flock today, removing from there all the speckled and spotted sheep, and all the brown ones among the lambs, and the spotted and speckled among the goats; and these shall be my wages. ³³ So my righteousness will answer for me in time to come, when the subject of my wages comes before you: every one that is not speckled and spotted among the goats, and brown among the lambs, will be considered stolen, if it is with me.” ³⁴ And Laban said, “Oh, that it were according to your word!” ³⁵ So he removed that day the male goats that were speckled and spotted, all the female goats that were speckled and spotted, every one that had some white in it, and all the brown ones among the lambs, and gave them into the hand of his sons. ³⁶ Then he put three days' journey between himself and Jacob, and Jacob fed the rest of Laban's flocks.

³⁷ Now Jacob took for himself rods of green poplar and of the almond and chestnut trees, peeled white strips in them, and exposed the white which was in the rods. ³⁸ And the rods which he had peeled, he set before the flocks in the gutters, in the watering troughs where the flocks came to drink, so that they should conceive when they came to drink. ³⁹ So the flocks conceived before the rods, and the flocks brought forth streaked, speckled, and spotted. ⁴⁰ Then Jacob separated the lambs, and made the flocks face toward the streaked and all the brown in the flock of Laban; but he put his own flocks by themselves and did not put them with Laban's flock. ⁴¹ And it came to pass, whenever the stronger livestock conceived, that Jacob placed the rods before the eyes of the livestock in the gutters, that they might conceive among the rods. ⁴² But when the flocks were feeble, he did not put them in; so the feebler were Laban's and the stronger Jacob's. ⁴³ Thus the man became exceedingly prosperous, and had large flocks, female and male servants, and camels and donkeys.” NKJV

Facts revealed:

- ✧ Jacob now has eleven sons and at least one daughter since the only daughters mentioned are an important figure for the continuity of the story. [[Genesis 30:21](#)]
- ✧ Rachel his favorite wife has now born a son. [[Genesis 30:22-24](#)]
- ✧ Jacob has now been in Laban's service for fourteen years and desires to go back to the Land of Canaan.
- ✧ Laban has prospered by the blessings of God through Jacob's service and doesn't want to lose the source of his prosperity so he asked Jacob to stay and name his own price.
- ✧ Jacob agrees with the most unlikely price imaginable asking only for the unusual such and the off-colored among the sheep and the goats.
- ✧ Any normal colored among the sheep or goats will be considered stolen if in Jacob's possession as he said, “So my righteousness will answer for me in time to come, when the subject of my wages comes before you.” Jacob is putting his entire confidence in God.

- ✧ Laban is elated because at first thought it appears it will cost him very little and he said, “Oh that it were according to your Word.”
- ✧ Jacob then separated the off-colored animals and put a three days journey between the flock of Laban and his own so no one could say that the offspring could be the result of deliberate cross breeding.
- ✧ Jacob left his flock in the care of his sons while he himself tended to Laban’s flocks.
- ✧ Jacob’s trick of the peeled rods is amazing since peeling rods and putting them around animals who are mating never changes the coloring of the animal. But, it does demonstrate that God was giving the best to Jacob when they came out according to the application of the rods.
- ✧ The **sturdier** animals came from the early breeding. Whereas the **feeble** animals were the late-breeding. What belongs to the Lord, must come first. [\[v. 41\]](#)
- ✧ So by the hand of the LORD, Jacob became very wealthy with large flocks as well as male and female servants, camels and donkeys.
- ✧ When God chooses to favour His people it all comes out to their advantage because it is the LORD’s doing and it is marvelous. But His people need to do their part faithfully.