

(Genesis 31)  
“*The Next Season*”

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled this message: “The Next Season.”

~ INTRO ~

OK...

- Thru the seasons of our lives...
  - God has a plan that He's working out.
- AND... in part of His plan...
  - We may sense something is happening.

TONIGHT... IN **GOD'S** UNFOLDING PLAN...

- A course change happens as Jacob is being re-routed...
  - Back to his home town after 20-years of being away.

SO...

- As we begin this study... let the Bible speak to you!
- Recognize the people in Biblical history...
  - As ordinary people with natures just like yours.
    - (Sinful / incomplete / & yet helped by God).

DOES THAT MAKE SENSE?

~ STUDY ~

NOW... IN OUR LAST STUDY...

- We saw Jacob at 77-years old...
  - Beginning to submit his life to God ([Gen 28](#)).

THEN... YEARS LATER... GOD GAVE JACOB A FAMILY...

- With 12-sons & 1-daughter...
  - Which... is where the 12-Tribes of Israel come from.

AND... FINALLY ([Gen. 30:43](#)) ENDED...

- With Jacob being *exceedingly prosperous*.

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**HERE’S A FEW THINGS WE CAN LEARN TONIGHT:**

**IDEA #1 – GOD’S TIMING:** (Gen. 31:1-3)

(v.1) The circumstances around Jacobs daily life began to change...

- And **he noticed** the extended family *grumbling* (NLT).

(v.2) Then **he noticed** the expressions on Laban face (his father-in-law)...

- AND that he had a *change of attitude* toward Jacob.
  - No longer was it favorable.

**POINT BEING...**

GOD WAS GETTING JACOB’S ATTENTION...

- And preparing the circumstances around his life for a change.

I LOVE THIS ABOUT GOD...

- How He prepares us for what’s ahead:
  - Daily life (Matt 6:34) NKJV
  - Old age (Ps. 92:12-15) NKJV
  - Crisis (Prov. 3:25-26) NLT
  - New beginnings (Isa. 43:18-19) NIRV

*“Forget the things that happened in the past. Do not keep on thinking about them. I am about to do something new. It is beginning to happen even now. Don’t you see it coming? ...”* [New International Readers Version]

IN (v.3)...

- God tells Jacob what to do.
  - And that’s the **KEY** to adjustments in our lives:
    - God’s timing!

AS WE GROW IN TRUSTING GOD...

- He teaches us how to *be still and know that He is God.* (Ps. 46:10)
- At the right time God WILL provide our needs.
- At the right time God WILL deliver us.
- At the right time God WILL initiate change.

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AND HERE’S THE LESSON FOR US:

(Ps. 31:14-15a) NLT

“... I am trusting in you, O Lord, saying,  
‘You are my God!’ My future is in your hands...”

**IDEA #2 – MAN’S PREPARATION:** (Gen. 31:4-16)

(Prov. 16:9) NKJV

“A man’s heart prepares his way, but the Lord directs his steps.”

(Phil. 2:13) NLT

“For God is working in you, giving you the desire  
and the power to do what pleases Him.”

JACOB NOTICED THE CONDITIONS CHANGING.

AND WHAT DID HE DO?

- (v.4) he explained it to his wives (Rachel & Leah)...
- And they were in support.

**HUSBANDS...**

- Don’t demand your wife be onboard...
- If you’ve NOT taken the time to prepare her.

YES... GOD IS ACTIVELY AT WORK...

- In the affairs of your life.
- BUT... your part is to...
  - Nurture your wife with what God has given.

(1 Peter 3:7) NLT

**WIVES...**

- Don’t resist what God has given your husband.
- A major part of your walk of faith...
  - Is to recognize & trust your husbands leadership.
- You do this by supporting him in the call on his life (v.16-b).

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- He will make bad decisions AND even fail.
  - But that’s so he can learn to lean on God & not himself.

A bad wife = (1 Kings 21:25) NKJV

A contrast = (Prov. 14:1) NKJV

**IDEA #3 – STEPS OF FAITH:** (Gen. 31:17-55)

(vv.17-18)

WITH THE SUPPORT OF HIS WIVES...

- Jacob immediately took action and got the family going...
  - In the direction God had called.

ALONG THE WAY...

- There were some mistakes:
  - (v.19) **Rachel** stole from her dad.
  - (v.20) **Jacob** left without talking to Laban
    - (Boss / father-in-law / family).

HOWEVER...

- (v.24) God’s protection was present...
  - In spite of poor moral & relational failures – GRACE.

(vv.26-30)

- God allowed the family feud with Laban...
  - **Because it was right!**

SOMETIMES IN OUR CHRISTIAN LIFE...

- We stop growing & making progress...
  - Because we have some unfinished business.

IN THIS CASE...

- God allowed Jacob to get caught...
  - And work thru the issues to settle the matter quickly.

(Matt. 5:23-26)

- Christian instruction.

(v.37) Jacob was faultless... although Rachel had lied.

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(v.42) Jacob told Laban that he already KNEW...  
- God’s hand was upon him. c.p. (v.24).

(v.44) An agreement was made & peace came between Jacob & Laban.

(vv.54-55) Jacob departed with his wives & children in peace...  
- As God walked them into *The Next Season*.

*~ IN CLOSING ~*

MAYBE YOU’RE TRYING TO MAKE SENSE...  
- Of the season you’re in.

LET ME ENCOURAGE YOU...  
- To draw strength from God’s faithfulness!  
➤ Know that He will prepare the external conditions...  
○ He will give you direction...  
▪ And He will call you to step out in faith.