



A YEAR
with
GOD
Daily Devotional

DAY 22



A PUBLICATION OF GOD'S THRESHING PLACE
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DAY TWENTY-TWO

Genesis 30 - 31

When God Says It Is Time to Go

Jacob has been in Haran for twenty years. Twenty years away from the land of promise, from his parents, from Bethel where he saw the ladder and heard the voice of God. He arrived with nothing but a stone for a pillow. He leaves with two wives, two concubines, eleven sons, a daughter, and flocks so vast they stretch to the horizon.

God has been faithful in a foreign land. But a foreign land is still a foreign land. And there comes a moment when faithful provision in the wrong place becomes a reason to finally leave for the right one.

God can bless you in the in-between place. But blessing in the wrong season is not the same as being where He ultimately wants you. Do not mistake His grace in a temporary place for permission to make it permanent.

Chapter 30 is the complicated domestic life of Jacob's household - two sisters married to the same man, competing for his attention and affection, each one measuring her worth by the children she has borne. Leah has sons. Rachel has none. Rachel is desperate. She gives Jacob her servant Bilhah. Leah, whose womb has temporarily closed, gives Jacob her servant Zilpah. Children are born and

named in acts of proclamation - each name a declaration of hope or victory or vindication.

It is messy. It is painful. It is very human. And God is present in all of it.

- God has never required a tidy household before He works in a family. He works in the complicated ones. He works in yours.

And then Rachel conceives. After all the waiting, after all the watching her sister bear child after child, after all the grief of barrenness - God remembered Rachel. The same phrase used of Noah in the flood, the same phrase that will be used of Hannah before Samuel is born. God remembered. As if to say: she was never not on His mind. The waiting was not forgetting.

The thing you have been waiting for that feels like God has forgotten - He has not forgotten. He is remembering you. The gap between the promise and the fulfilment is not silence. It is preparation.

Jacob then makes his deal with Laban over the flocks - keep the speckled and spotted for himself, leave the plain ones to Laban. And God prospers Jacob in ways that go beyond Jacob's own breeding schemes. An angel later tells Jacob in a dream: I have seen what Laban has done to you. It was not the streaked branches by the watering troughs that multiplied Jacob's flocks. It was God, working in the biology of sheep and goats to fulfil a promise made twenty years earlier on a stone pillow in Bethel.

-God can use your strategy, your creativity, your resourcefulness. But the results are His doing, not yours.

Chapter 31 opens with a change in atmosphere. Laban's face is not what it was toward Jacob. His sons are bitter. And God speaks:

*“Return to the land of your fathers and to your kindred,
and I will be with you.”*

- Genesis 31:3

I will be with you. The same promise given at Bethel. God has not changed His word or His intention. The twenty years in Haran were not a detour from the plan - they were part of it. Now it is time to move. The place that was provision has become a place of diminishing and tension. God is signalling: the season here is done.

When God says go, the discomfort you feel in your current place is often part of how He loosens your grip on it. He makes the familiar uncomfortable so that the unfamiliar starts to feel possible.

Jacob calls Rachel and Leah to the field and makes his case: your father has cheated me ten times. But the God of my father has been with me. He recounts twenty years of faithfulness - the way God protected him, multiplied him, provided for him in spite of Laban's manipulation. And then he tells them about the dream, the angel, the command to go.

Rachel and Leah answer together, and their words are worth sitting with: do we still have any share in the inheritance of our father's house? He has sold us and spent the money. All the wealth God took from our father belongs to us and our children. So do whatever God has told you.

- Sometimes the people around you are more ready to obey God than you are. They were waiting for you to say what God already told you.

They go. Rachel steals her father's household idols - a detail that will matter later. Laban pursues them. Catches them. And God appears to Laban in a dream the night before he reaches them: be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad. Even the man chasing Jacob cannot touch him without God's permission.

No one can pursue you beyond where God's protection ends. The people who are coming after what you carry cannot take it without passing through Him first.

They make a covenant at the border. Laban kisses his grandchildren and daughters and turns back. And Jacob goes on his way. And the angels of God met him.

Speak this over yourself today:

God has not forgotten what He promised.

The waiting is not silence - it is preparation.

When He says go, I will go.

No one can pursue me beyond the reach of His protection.

TOMORROW - Day 23 Genesis 32–34

Jacob is about to meet Esau after twenty years. The night before that meeting, a stranger appears and wrestles with him until dawn. Jacob will walk away limping - and with a new name.

Come back tomorrow.

Day 22 of 365



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