

A black and white image of a celestial scene. In the upper center, a large, cratered moon is visible against a dark, starry background. Below the moon, a planet's surface is shown, with a bright, glowing horizon line. The overall scene is dramatic and atmospheric, with a focus on the vastness of space.

THE BOOK OF
GENESIS

FREE AT LAST

GENESIS 31

Jacob finally secures his freedom from Laban—the world. But now what?

- True freedom is heading for home, getting back to the place the Lord wants us to dwell—Bethel, ***the house of God***; back to worshipping at His altar.
- What was Jacob fleeing? The comfortable, carefree, and profitable life of the flesh.
- For the blessed life of walking in the Spirit!

JACOB WALKING, NOT JUST TALKING

John 8:34-41 records the words of Jesus on this matter.

As believers, we are to be doers of what God asks, not just well-informed hearers. **James 1:22**

- God has a Bethel place for all of us—His perfect purpose and plan.
- We find out what God does to cause Jacob to break free from the world.

SOME THINGS TO LEAVE BY!

By what means do we hear from the Lord? How did the Lord tell Jacob that it was time to leave Laban?

1. The inner witness of a strong desire in his heart by the prompting of the Holy Spirit
2. The outward circumstances of life **Acts 27:1-15;**
Deut. 32:9-11
3. The truth of His Word **Rom. 10:17; Psalm 119:105**
4. The confirmation of other witnesses **Proverbs 1:5, 11:14, 12:15, 19:20, 27:9; Matt. 18:16**

FREEDOM CAN BRING CONFRONTATION v. 24-42

Doing the right thing, returning to Bethel, being set free can also bring new challenges to our lives . . . the world comes after us!

- We do not need to fear the world, but we do need to be wise. For all his blustering, Laban was helpless to harm Jacob because the Lord had warned him to be careful. **v. 24-29**
- Men stick up for what is righteous, and especially where it affects their wives and children!

YOU CAN TRUST GOD TO HAVE YOUR BACK

- If God will take care of His chosen nation Israel— as rebellious as they have been and continue to be, as we see in **Ezekiel 7:1-4** (speaking of the tribulation)—He will take care of us, too!
- Every enemy that comes against us comes against our Father in heaven, too!
- God repays all wickedness according to His justice!

IT'S A FRAGILE TRUCE v. 43-55

Actually, their “agreement” wasn’t a declaration of peace; it was only a temporary cessation of hostility.

- Because the enemy is real and the fight is ongoing, we will never have complete peace here on earth.
- But we can conquer by claiming promises like **1 Peter 5:10**.
- The God of Jacob never fails; let’s remember **John 8:34-36**.
- Never run back to Laban’s lair—***the world***.
Always run back to Bethel—the house of God.