

The Bible Vindicated! - 21

After the birth of Joseph, Jacob had announced to Laban that he wanted to go back to Canaan - “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” - Genesis 30:25.

Laban, loath to lose this high producing but cheaply paid worker, appealed - almost begged - Jacob to remain in his service, and said, “name me your wages, and I will give it” - 30:28. And so Jacob negotiated to receive payment, not in money but in “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” - v.32.

And so Jacob agreed to stay for a while longer in order to build up some possessions - on the hoof - of his own. Crafty and unprincipled Laban immediately sprang into action -

•“And Laban... 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” - 30:34-36.

Judah, about 20 years old by this time, would hear about the change in plans to stay. In his youthful vexation at his father's treatment of his beloved mother, he decided that even though the rest of the family was staying, he was not - and off to Canaan he went.

It would be during this last period of Jacob's stay that Judah, as we have noted, married the woman in Canaan and fathered three sons by her - 38:1-5. Meanwhile, Jacob had a major problem - Laban had agreed to give the streaked, speckled, and spotted lambs and kids as his pay, but then he turned around and, leaving the pure-colored animals with Jacob, removed all the streaked, speckled, and spotted animals far away!

Jacob well knew that pure colored animals don't have mixed-color offspring, so how was he going to get his pay? In his struggle to out-manoeuvre Laban, he went to the effort of collecting -

•“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” - 30:37-39.

Modern science says that it is impossible to generate streaked, speckled, and spotted offspring from parent animals that lack the necessary genetic character. Despite Jacob's futile attempt, streaked, speckled, and spotted offspring were the result! How that could be Jacob learned,

•“The Angel of God spoke to me in a dream...12 And He said, 'Lift your eyes now and see, all the rams which leap on the flocks are streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted; for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you. 13 I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed the pillar and where you made a vow to Me” - Genesis 31:11-13. So the rams only looked pure coloured!

Jacob had vowed, “If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, 21 ...then shall the Lord be my God” - 28:20-21.