

The LORD Provides for His People

Genesis 30:25-43

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Introduction:

In our sermon series from Genesis, we have come today to Genesis 30:25-43 where Jacob agrees to work for his Uncle Laban another six years.

- We have seen how Jacob left home some fourteen years before this period in order to escape the death at the hand of his angry brother Esau...
 - and in order to find a wife for himself who was not from among the Canaanites whom God had cursed and whose doom He had pronounced.
- We have seen how the LORD appeared to Jacob along the way—at the place that Jacob named Bethel—and renewed the promises that He had made to Abraham and Isaac, Jacob’s grandfather and father...
 - The promise that God had made to them was a promise that they would bring forth His kingdom through their descendants...
 - And that from them would come a Son who would bless them and all the nations with eternal life and blessing.
 - God promised that He would provide everything for them so that through them both they and all the nations could be blessed.
 - What a monumental promise it was!
 - What an important promise for all people everywhere in all ages!

But we have seen some disappointing things about Jacob upon his arrival at Haran.

- God had specifically told him as he was going that He would protect him and prosper him on this particular journey—that He would bring him back safely...
- So one might have expected that Jacob would be found seeking God’s favour and blessing with every step, much as Abraham’s servant did when he went to find a wife for Isaac...
 - But instead Jacob seems to be quite forgetful of the LORD.
- When he arrived at Haran, we saw how, under God’s good hand of grace, everything seemed to fall beautifully in place,
 - He immediately found his relatives, and it turned out that his uncle Laban had a beautiful daughter, Rachel, who showed up at the well where Jacob went when he first came to the region.
 - And he was received into Laban’s house and fell in love with Rachel.
 - But we are not told of a word of prayer or thanksgiving in all of this.
 - Jacob seems to move forward without prayer.

And we saw how Laban took advantage of Jacob’s infatuation with Rachel such that Jacob offered to serve Laban for seven years for Rachel’s hand.

- This was much longer than what would normally be required, but Jacob was so taken with her that it went by very quickly for him...she was well worth it in his mind.
- But then Laban did the unthinkable and switched his daughters on Jacob so that Jacob, consummating the marriage according to the customs of the day,
 - ended up sleeping with Leah instead of Rachel...

- and then when he realised what had happened and confronted Laban, Laban coolly told him it was not the custom in his country to give the younger daughter before the older, and offered Rachel to him if he would agree to seven more years of service!
- If Jacob had refused Leah, he knew that Laban would not give him Rachel either and there were no courts to appeal to,
 - so foolishly, without consulting the LORD, Jacob took Rachel also.

And last week, we saw what a disaster his family was—with two wives that were, of all things, sisters!

- To make matters worse, Jacob remained bitter toward Leah for years, so she was miserable for being unloved,
 - but she kept having babies and Rachel was barren, so Rachel became full of envy and started contending for children...
 - and very foolishly gave her maidservant Bilhah to Jacob to have children through her and even more foolishly, Jacob went for it.
 - And then Leah, wanting to keep up, gave her maidservant to Jacob too and he took her and ended up with four wives, and only one that he loved—and she was still unhappy because she herself was still barren.
- But we did see that there was some looking to and acknowledging of God in the midst of all the chaos,
 - And we saw very marvellously how the LORD worked powerfully through the whole situation, not only to sanctify each individual, but also to bring about His promised kingdom!
 - It was through this messed up family that the foundation for His church was laid—the sons that were born through all this strife were the twelve tribes of Israel through whom God worked and through whom the promised Messiah came at last!
 - We concluded that if God can use this family to found His kingdom of righteousness, He can use our families too—it is all of His grace!
 - Not that we should do evil that good may come—we show ourselves to be false sons if we do that...
 - but that we should be encouraged to look to the LORD in faith to bless us and to make us a blessing to others by His powerful marvellous grace.

But you may recall that in what we read last week, we did not see a lot of change in Jacob yet—God was surely working to humble him and to make him learn to trust in God,

- but there was not a lot of progress that we could see...
- But this week, we are going to have the privilege of seeing how Jacob learns to trust the LORD and how the LORD makes it clear to Jacob and his household as well as to Laban and his household that He is with Jacob to bless him...
 - It is very similar to the way he did with both Abraham and Isaac at various times and in various ways...
 - For example, He conspicuously prospered Abraham in Egypt, and again when he went fought against the kings that had taken Lot...and again with Abimelech.
 - And with Isaac there was the incident with Abimelech and then with the wells.

- He made it clear that they were His people whom He had chosen out for blessing.
- We see the same kind of obvious, conspicuous blessing with Israel in Egypt, with David, with Israel among the nations, with Daniel, and with the church among the nations.
 - It is a testimony of His commitment to bless us as His people.
- God does that—in a wonderful variety of ways to encourage us,
 - and today we get to see how He did it for Jacob and to take encouragement accordingly.

Please listen now as I read to you from our text—Genesis 30 beginning with verse 25.

- This is God’s holy and infallible Word.

Genesis 30:25-43: 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 has 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.

May the LORD bless the reading and preaching of His holy Word.

You can see how conspicuously God shows that He is providing for and blessing Jacob.

- It is very deliberate to stand as a testimony to all of His people in all ages.
 - We can be sure that He will bless us and preserve us in all ages, but not in such a way that we are never threatened or called to go through hard times.
 - In fact, often He brings us into very hard times before He delivers us.

I. The first thing we need to see in our text is that Jacob is in a bit of a bind.

A. He has just finished working for Laban these fourteen years, and he has worked very hard, but all he has to show for it is his wives.

1. Now don't get me wrong—a wife is worth much more than fourteen years of labour, but the problem is,
 - Jacob now has four wives and twelve children with no way to provide for them or even to return home.
2. The LORD, in His providence, sometimes puts us in such circumstances.
 - Perhaps a young man has married and he and his wife have been fruitful, but now there are bills to pay and there seems to be no way to pay them.
 - I have seen so many young men in this situation—and again and again I have seen how God provides for them...
 - Very often, He enables them to rise to the occasion when the need is there and to provide in ways that did not seem possible before!
 - I have observed that those who are fearful and wait to have children until they think they can afford it, often never rise to the occasion.
 - If God says “be fruitful and multiply,” it is best to go ahead and do it and look to Him to bless our diligent efforts to provide.
 - The best thing of all is to prepare yourself in your youth to look after your family.
 - Don't misunderstand though—even if you have not prepared, God will provide for you if you seek Him now...
 - you will have to work harder than you have ever worked before—and there may be hard times...
 - but if you are patient, the LORD will provide what you need!
 - When Jesus says that the God clothes the flowers without any toiling and spinning on their part He does not mean that He will clothe us without our labour...
 - He means that we should not worry about these things.
 - He means that God who clothes flowers and feeds birds in the way that *they* are meant to receive these blessings (without spinning and without storing up) will clothe and feed us in the way that *we* receive these blessings—by blessing our labour...

TRANS> But Jacob is in a bind.

B. He wants to return to Canaan.

1. Jacob, in faithfulness to his calling from God, is ready to return to Canaan.

- a. All along, it was his intention and his parents' intention that he should return.
 - In fact, he has been gone longer than any of them had probably anticipated.
 - b. What's more, God had clearly called Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to dwell in Canaan.
 - Abraham did not even let Isaac go to Padan Aram to find a wife himself, but sent his servant instead, insisting that Isaac remain in the land.
 - And besides that, at Bethel, the LORD had told Jacob that He would provide for him and keep him safe and bring him back,
 - And Jacob had vowed that when God did, he would build an altar at Bethel and give a tenth of all his increase—if only God would provide food and clothing and bring him back...
 - c. But as of this moment, Jacob does not have the means to return.
 - It can be stressful when God has not seemed to provide what we need.
 - How can Jacob possibly provide for so large a household when he is penniless?
2. And so Jacob turns to his Uncle Laban for help.
- a. You can see this in verse 25-26 where he asked Laban to give him his wives and children so that he can return home... **“for you know my service which I have done for you.”**
 - The reasonable expectation would be that Laban, especially being a relative, would have provided for Jacob's journey.
 - His nephew had given him fourteen years of faithful service which was way more than would normally be expected for two wives!
 - God even writes this expectation into His law in future years...
 - In Deuteronomy 15:13-14, it says concerning one who has served for seven years: **And when you send him away free from you, you shall not let him go away empty-handed; you shall supply him liberally from your flock, from your threshing floor, and from your winepress. From what the LORD your God has blessed you with, you shall give to him.**
 - b. And this should be all the more the case in that Laban had greatly prospered because of Jacob—and both he and Jacob know that!
 - He should have sent Jacob away with a golden handshake—with abundant provision!
 - But not Laban—once again he is completely shameless in his dealings with Jacob...
- C. Instead of providing for his nephew and his daughters what would be expected, he sees Jacob's straits as a way to get more work out of him!
- 1. His words make it clear that Jacob only has two options...
 - Set out on your journey with no provisions whatsoever or put in more years of labour for me!
 - He says in his typical manner of sleazy generosity: (v. 27-28): **“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.”

- which is another way of saying, “If you want anything from me, you will have to stay and work for it!”
2. It is interesting how shameless he is as well.
- a. He doesn’t say, “Oh but you and my daughters are so dear to me that I can’t bear to have you go...”
 - Instead he says (essentially), “I got rich by your labours, and since you are in a situation of need, I am going to take advantage of that and get more work out of you. I know a good thing when I see it and I am not going to let this opportunity slip away.”
 - b. When he says he has learned by *experience*, the word *experience* is actually a word that is sometimes translated *divination*—I have learned by *divination*...
 - But it can also be used of simply learning by observation as it probably does here...because divination was usually used for figuring out the future, not the past.

TRANS> So Jacob is in a bind, and Laban is quite pleased about this...Jacob’s bind is Laban’s opportunity.

- But there is something here that must not escape our notice...

II. The text makes a point of emphasising that Laban was blessed by the LORD because of Jacob.

A. What a splendid thing this is!

- 1. In way that was obvious (conspicuous and beyond question) to both Jacob and Laban, the LORD had made Laban a rich man because of Jacob...
 - Not just because Jacob was a skilful and diligent shepherd—which he certainly was...but because God had acted in an extraordinary way...
 - God had made His hand quite evident.
- 2. Look at how Jacob affirms Laban’s testimony about this—in verse 29 & 39:
 - **Gen 30:29-30: 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 has increased to a great amount; the LORD has blessed you since my coming. And now, when shall I also provide for my own house?”**

B. What a marvellous blessing God’s people are to a land...what a privilege it is to be a blessing!

- 1. Throughout history, the LORD has often shown favour and sent blessing to people when His people have dwelt among them...
 - The cities of the plain were delivered by Abraham when he rescued Lot—though they were afterward destroyed for not turning to the Lord and for their wicked sexual perversity...
 - We will soon see Joseph and how he becomes the cause of the deliverance and prosperity of Egypt in the time of great famine—the LORD blesses Egypt for the sake of His people...

- And then we can see Daniel and how the king's court flourished (and the king knew it) because Daniel was serving among them...
 - And so again and again when God's people—and I don't mean Israel per se, but His covenant people who are today the church of Christ Jesus—
 - Those places where they have been have very often come to great prosperity for their sake, and this becomes recognised to all.
2. As God's people, we should pray that we will indeed be a blessing...
- As individuals in the work place, we should do all that is in our power to make the place we work flourish—to be a blessing to those we serve, whether our clients or our employer...or our own family if our labour is in the home.
 - And as a church, we should seek to be a blessing to our community, not only in bringing them the Word, but in serving them and in bringing God's preserving grace to our city and nation through effectual prayers!
 - And we should also pray that people will see that it is *God's* blessing—that they would know that it is from Him!
 - But most of all, we should pray that we will bless them with the gospel—that through our witness, they will come to know the Lord Jesus!
 - We can be a blessing that way, even all the more, when we are persecuted.
 - It is then that we become the greatest blessing of all because people see how God sustains us under their persecutions and the LORD uses that to draw many to Himself!
 - Many accounts are given of this—one is killed and five more believe.
 - This very thing is going on in places like Iraq.
 - We need to pay attention to this because we are living in time of transition for us as Christians.
 - Some years ago, people saw that believers did bring blessing to our nation and city, but today it is increasingly the case that we are regarded as the menace and a threat to our society.
 - Jesus says blessed are you when men persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you for my sake—rejoice and be exceedingly glad... see that you do that!

TRANS> But now let's return to Jacob and our story...

- C. You see that Jacob is using the blessing he has brought to Laban to plead with him to provide for him to return home...but to no avail...
1. After Jacob affirms what Laban himself has plainly declared, that Laban has greatly prospered by Jacob's presence, Jacob puts forward the pitiful question...
 - **v. 30: "And now, when shall I also provide for my own house?"**
 2. And Laban, rather than offering to send him off, continues to offer him work:
 - vs. 31—**So he [Laban] said, "What shall I give you?"**
 - This is not an offer of a real gift, but as Jacob recognises, an offer of employment.

III. And now we see a remarkable display of Jacob's faith!

A. Jacob, with nothing up his sleeve, gives Laban an absurd offer—an offer that Laban cannot refuse!

1. In short, he offers to work for Laban and take as his wages only those animals that, from what is known of this region and period, probably only made up about ten percent of the flock.

- The going rate for a shepherd was twenty percent of the increase, but what Jacob is asking for would have (from all ordinary expectations) amounted to much, much, less than that...
- He is asking for the spotted and speckled among the goats and for the brown among the sheep...
 - and that with the proviso that all of the sheep and goats in Laban's flock that already have these characteristics will be removed !
- In other words, Jacob is starting out with zero...
 - The only ones that will be his will be the multi-coloured goats that are born to goats that are solid colour, and the brown or black sheep that are born to the white ones!

2. Here, let me read what Jacob says from the middle of verse 31 (with comments) and you can see...

- And Jacob said, **“You shall not give me anything [nothing to start with]. 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.”**
 - Jacob is going to pass through and remove all the ones that are speckled and spotted among the goats and the brown (and perhaps also the speckled and spotted) among the sheep and give them to Laban—and only the ones that born with these features after these are removed will be his.
 - This becomes clear when we look at verse 35-36 where we are told that Laban himself came and took all that had these characteristics and removed them a distance of three days journey, putting them under the care of his sons so that Jacob had none to start with.

3. In verse 33, Jacob goes on to explain that he is doing this in faith.

- Jacob believes that God will look after him—that the LORD will vindicate him by providing for him.
 - God's hand has been conspicuous, now it will be all the more conspicuous.
- He is leaving it entirely in God's hands. Look at what he says: **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.”**
 - With this method, there will be no dispute that what Jacob has is what God has given him.

- Matthew Poole paraphrases it like this: **When the cattle shall, contrary to their natural and usual course, bring forth young ones of a contrary colour to their own, it will hereby be evident that this is the work of God, who hereby pleads my righteous cause against a cruel and unjust master.**
- Later on when Jacob speaks to his wives in chapter 31 about his increase, he makes it clear that it was entirely the hand of God.
 - Look at chapter 31 verses 6-13: **“And you know that with all my might I have served your father. ⁷ Yet your father has deceived me and changed my wages ten times, but God did not allow him to hurt me. ⁸ If he said thus: ‘The speckled shall be your wages,’ then all the flocks bore speckled. And if he said thus: ‘The streaked shall be your wages,’ then all the flocks bore streaked. ⁹ So God has taken away the livestock of your father and given *them* to me. ¹⁰ And it happened, at the time when the flocks conceived, that I lifted my eyes and saw in a dream, and behold, the rams which leaped upon the flocks *were* streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted. ¹¹ Then the Angel of God spoke to me in a dream, saying, ‘Jacob.’ And I said, ‘Here I am.’ 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. Now arise, get out of this land, and return to the land of your family.’ ”**
 - Everything here is screaming out to say that God looks after His people—He preserves His saints—Jesus provides for His people!

B. Now of course Laban is thrilled with Jacob’s plan!

1. You can see that there is no hesitation when he exclaims in verse 34:
 - **“Oh, that it were according to your word!”**
 - He is one happy camper!
 - He must have thought—“I sure do like the way my nephew makes deals!”
 - He and his sons must have had quite a joyful laugh as they took away the spotted and speckled goats and the brown lambs!
 - Perhaps they thought Jacob was quite foolish...
 - How could he expect to gain speckled and spotted goats from goats of a solid colour, and brown lambs from white sheep?
 - What a deal!
2. But you see, Jacob has grown in the LORD.
 - He is ready to leave it in God’s hands to vindicate him.

IV. And now let’s look at the glorious outcome!

A. Of course we already know it...

1. We have already read the passage and we have seen that Jacob received a remarkable increase...
 - The last verse tells us that he became a very rich man—verse 43: **Thus the man [Jacob] became exceedingly prosperous, and had large flocks, female and male servants, and camels and donkeys.**

2. Chapter 31 also testifies to his remarkable increase...
 - It opens in verse 1 with observations about Laban's sons who were not laughing at Jacob any more...
 - **Gen 31:1: Now Jacob heard the words of Laban's sons, saying, "Jacob has taken away all that was our father's, and from what was our father's he has acquired all this wealth."**
 - And we also read what Jacob said to his wives a little later in chapter 31—
 - that it was the LORD who had given him this increase...
 - that the LORD had even revealed to him in a vision that He was doing this for Jacob because He saw how Laban had treated him!
 - Indeed, Jacob was correct that his righteousness answered for him!

B. But what of Jacob's methodology? We need to comment about that...

1. We see this strange procedure at the end of chapter 30—in verses 37-42...
 - Much of what is said is difficult to fully understand...but from the best we can tell:
 - a. In order to get the offspring that are speckled and spotted, Jacob prepares speckled and spotted rods of trees before the goats when they mate...
 - And setting this before the eyes of the goats (and perhaps the sheep), they bring forth speckled and spotted and striped as verse 39 says: **So the flocks conceived before the rods, and the flocks brought forth streaked, speckled, and spotted.**
 - b. And with sheep, to get brown (or dark) ones, it appears that he puts the brown goats from Laban's flock (the brown goats were Laban's) before the white sheep when they are mating so that they bring forth dark ones.
 - That is what is described in verse 40 where it says, 40: **Then Jacob separated the lambs [from the goats that is], and made the flocks [of sheep] face toward the streaked and all the brown in the flock of Laban [goats—the brown goats were Laban's and the word streaked which is only used here could refer to ones that had a ring around their ankles but were otherwise brown—in any case, they belonged to Laban].**
 - So you see, he had the lambs mate before the brown goats of Laban and the goats and sheep mate before the striped rods—each before what he wanted them to bring forth...
 - c. And then after animals were born with the desired characteristics, he separated them to breed with one another as verse 40 goes on to say: **but he put his own flocks by themselves and did not put them with Laban's flock.**
2. The scripture indicates that this procedure worked.
 - a. It has been debated ever since whether this was entirely supernatural or if there is some scientific mechanism that caused this to work.
 - In other words, was this as when God blesses a method that already works to some extent, or was it as it was when He had Moses raise his staff and the Red Sea opened (obviously the staff itself did not part the sea).

- b. Interestingly, the universal testimony of antiquity is that this method of putting that which has the characteristics you want in front of females who are conceiving works.
 - Modern scientists have rejected this as possible, but this is only because they want to explain everything by genetics as they understand it.
 - It is hard to dismiss the testimony of breeders from all over the world that you can affect the offspring by what is before the mother in conception.
 - From Spanish horse breeders to Spartans, this method was employed.
 - c. And what makes this all the more interesting is that modern science has just recently discovered epigenetics—a mechanism that works upon the genes to turn them on and off...
 - It has been discovered that various traits are not only randomly passed along to offspring, but that what was thought to be junk DNA is actually variant traits that are just switched off...
 - And this has enabled scientists to account for rapid changes—where a short haired animal exposed to a cold climate in pregnancy is more likely to bring forth a long haired offspring.
 - Experiments have been done with mice in which researchers have been able to use diet to switch off traits in a fat yellow breed of mice to bring forth normal gray mice.
 - Studies done during the Dutch Hunger Winter in WWII when 20,000 Dutch people died of starvation found that pregnant women during that famine brought forth children that did not eat as much as others for the rest of their lives...
 - There is much to be learned,
 - but we should not be too quick to dismiss what Jacob did here as completely beyond a physical explanation.
 - 3. One very good theory, held from ancient times, is that when Jacob had the vision that he speaks of in Genesis 31:11,
 - the Angel of the LORD may have even instructed Jacob to use this method with the rods and all the rest of it...
 - God certainly does this with medical cures...
 - as when He told Hezekiah to apply a poultice to his infection and that by this Hezekiah would be healed...
 - as well as non-scientific ones...
 - as when he told Naaman the Syrian to dip himself in the Jordan River seven times to wash away his leprosy.
- C. In any case, the bottom line is that Jacob trusted the LORD and also gave full credit to the LORD as the One who had given him Laban's flock.
1. The LORD Himself, as we have seen, told him that he was doing this for him because He had seen how Laban had cheated him.

2. This ought to be a great encouragement to us!
 - a. It speaks to us of the LORD's faithfulness to us as His people!
 - He is the One who looks after His church!
 - He is the One who protects us and provides for us!
 - b. We must never think that the church does not have the resources she needs to survive in the world!
 - This account, along with God's promises and with many other accounts, shows us that the LORD will provide all that we need to do His will!
 - Like Jesus said, we do not need to worry about these things!
 - We need to labour faithfully and we need to pray and we need to be industrious,
 - and we need to know that the LORD will give us what we need to serve Him as His church:
 - If we are persecuted, He will give us grace to stand...
 - If it is His will for us to plant churches, and it is, we will have what we need to do that...
 - not one particular church, but the church as a whole.
 - c. When God seems to deprive us of what we need, as He did Jacob in this account,
 - it is not time to despair, but time to look expectantly for God to go to work for us as we diligently use the means He has provided for us!
 - If we need speckled and spotted goats to come from solid coloured goats, He can make it happen!
 - And if we need brown sheep to come from white sheep, He can make that happen too!
 - And when all is brought to a conclusion, we will be in glory with Jacob and with the whole church of Jesus Christ in all ages,
 - and everyone will know that we belong to the LORD and are blessed by Him.
 - He will show everyone on the day of judgement that we are His and that He has fully provided for us as His people!
 - And the most amazing thing of all is the way He has provided for us so that we might be blessed...
 - with the blessing that was promised to Abraham—the blessing that we so desperately need to be His righteous kingdom...
 - the blessing that we could not provide for ourselves...
 - the blessing of Jesus Christ our LORD who came for us and died for us to atone for our sins that we might belong to God forever!
 - Will you be among the blessed of the LORD at the last day?
 - If you are trusting in Jesus, you most certainly will!
 - Thanks be to God. Blessed be His holy name who has gone out of His way to provide for His people.