



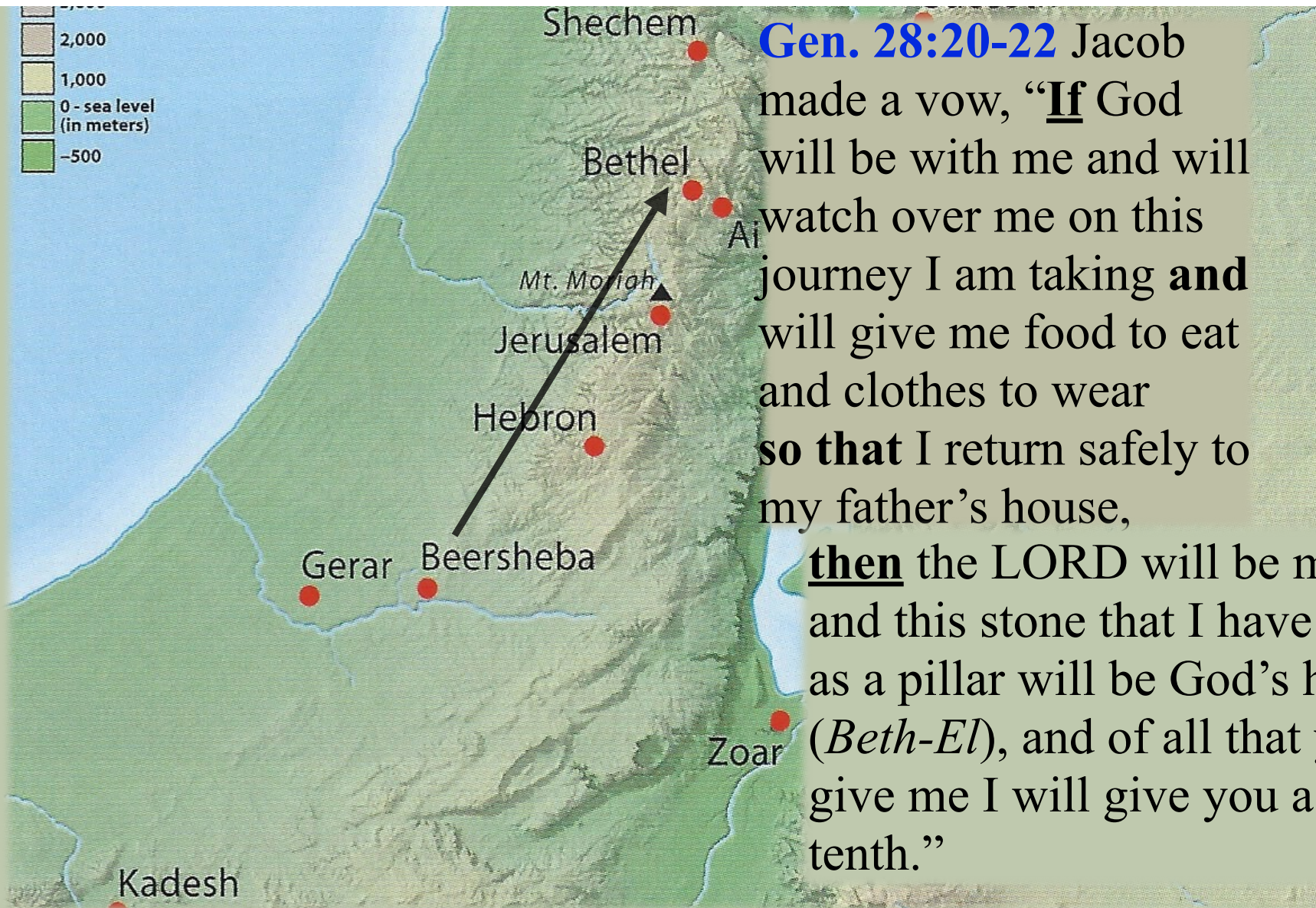
Genesis 29-31

Jacob In The House Of Laban

How are Rachel and Leah similar to Rebekah?

What are their motives for having children?

Examine Jacob's relationship with Laban.



Gen. 28:20-22 Jacob made a vow, “**If** God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking **and** will give me food to eat and clothes to wear **so that** I return safely to my father’s house, **then** the LORD will be my God and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God’s house (*Beth-El*), and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth.”



• Kadesh Barnea

• BeerSheba

• Hebron

• Bethel

• Haran

• Nahor

Gen. 29:10 When Jacob saw Rachel daughter of Laban, his mother's brother, and Laban's sheep, he went over and rolled the stone away from the mouth of the well and **watered his uncle's sheep.**

Gen. 29:11 Then Jacob kissed Rachel and began to weep aloud.

Gen. 29:12 He had told Rachel that he was a relative of her father and a son of Rebekah. So she ran and told her father.

Gen. 29:13 ¶ As soon as Laban heard the news about Jacob, his sister's son, he hurried to meet him. He embraced him and kissed him and brought him to his home, and **there Jacob told him all these things.**

Gen. 29:14 Laban said, "**You (*most certainly*) are my own flesh and blood.**"

“We *Are* Really Alike!” **Jacob Meets His “Match”**

Gen. 29:18 Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, “I’ll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel.”

Gen. 29:25 ¶ When morning came, there was Leah! So Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn’t I? Why have you deceived me?”

Gen. 29:26 ¶ Laban replied, “It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one.

Jacob Meets His “Match” Laban Has A Solution

Gen. 29:27 Finish this daughter’s bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, in return for another seven years of work.

Gen. 29:30 Jacob lay with Rachel also, and he loved Rachel more than Leah. And he worked for Laban another seven years.

Laban’s Bargain

Leah: Seven Years Labor

Rachel: Seven Years Labor

29:31 – 30:26 Jacob In The Home

“The Lord Sees”

Gen. 29:31 When the LORD saw that Leah was not loved, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren.

“The Lord Remembers”

Gen. 30:22 Then God remembered Rachel; he listened to her and opened her womb.

Leah	Rachel
Reuben “The Lord Sees”	<i>Bilhab</i> : Dan “He Judges”
Simeon “The Lord Hears”	<i>Bilhab</i> : Naphtali (My Struggle)
Levi (He Joins Me)	Joseph (Do <i>It</i> Again)
Judah “Praise The Lord”	
<i>Zilpah</i> : Gad (Fortunate)	<i>In Canaan: Bethlehem</i>
<i>Zilpah</i> : Asher (Happy)	Ben-Oni (Son of Sorrow)
Issachar “The Lord Rewards”	Ben-Yamin (Son of the Right <i>Hand</i>)
Zebulun (He Honors Me)	
Dinah (Justice)	

30:27-43 Jacob In The Field “The Lord Blesses”

Gen. 30:27 But Laban said to him, “If I have found favor in your eyes, please stay. I have learned by divination (???) that **the LORD has blessed me** because of you.

30:27-43 Jacob In The Field

“The Lord Blesses”

Jacob’s Bargain

Gen. 30:31 “What shall I give you?” he asked. “Don’t give me anything,” Jacob replied. “But if you will do this one thing for me, I will go on tending your flocks and watching over them:

Gen. 30:32 Let me go through all your flocks today and remove from them every speckled or spotted sheep, every dark-colored lamb and every spotted or speckled goat. They will be my wages.



Gen. 30:41-42 Whenever the stronger females were in heat, Jacob would place the branches in the troughs in front of the animals so they would mate near the branches, but if the animals were weak, he would not place them there. SO ...

... the weak animals went to Laban



... and the strong ones to Jacob.



The Lord Says “Return”

Gen. 31:3 Then the LORD said to Jacob, “Go back to the land of your fathers and to your relatives, and I will be with you.”

Gen. 31:4 So Jacob sent word to Rachel and Leah to come out to the fields where his flocks were.

Gen. 31:5 He said to them, “I see that your father’s attitude toward me is not what it was before, but **the God of my father has been with me.**

Gen. 31:6 You know that I’ve worked for your father with all my strength,
Gen. 31:7 yet your father has cheated me by changing my wages ten times. However, **God has not allowed him to harm me.**

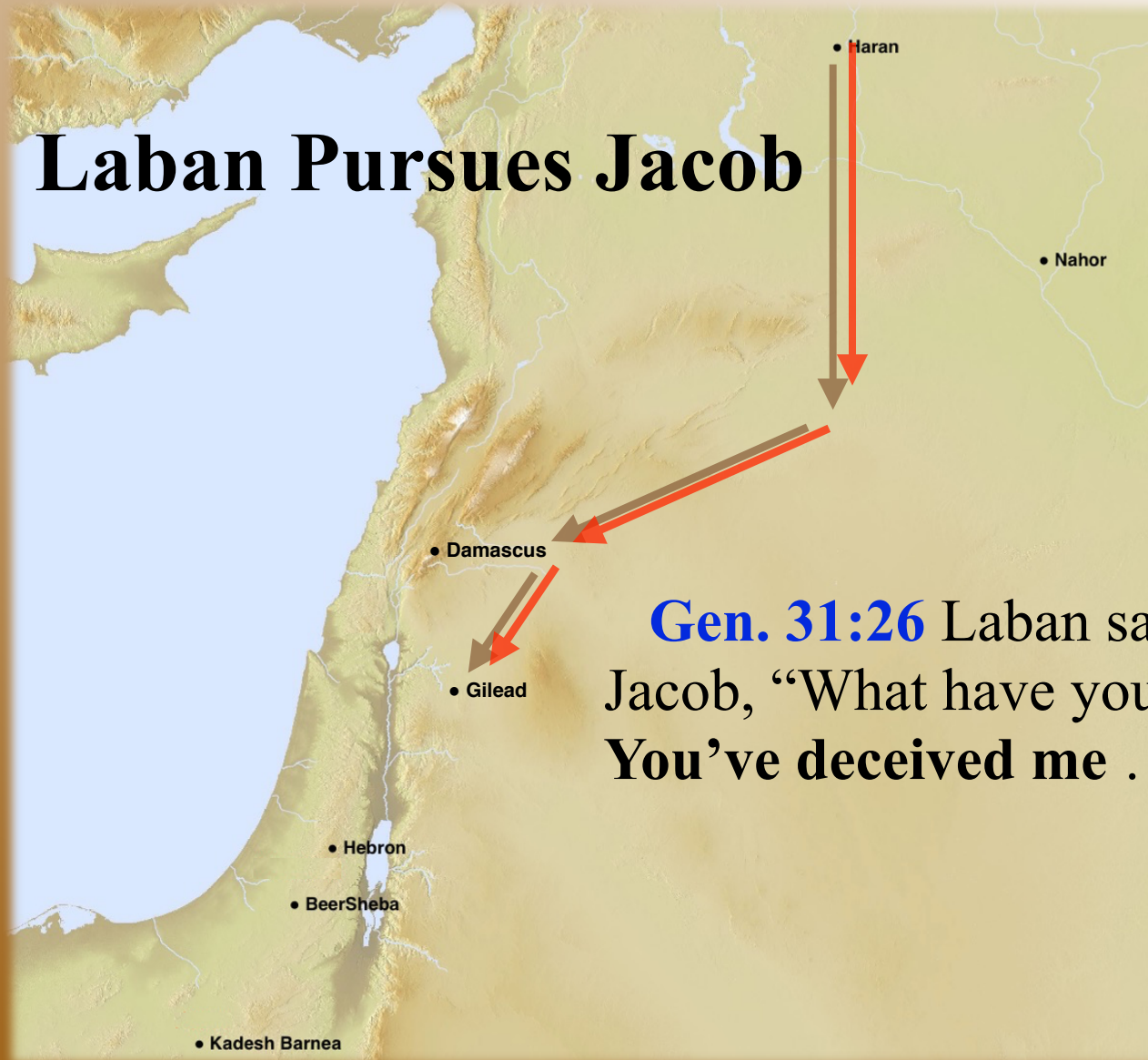
Jacob Leaves Laban

Gen. 31:19 When Laban had gone to shear his sheep, Rachel stole her father's household gods.

Gen. 31:20 Moreover, Jacob deceived Laban the Aramean by not telling him he was running away.

Gen. 31:21 So he fled with all he had, and crossing the River, he headed for the hill country of Gilead.

Laban Pursues Jacob



Gen. 31:26 Laban said to Jacob, “What have you done? You’ve deceived me ...”

Gen. 31:32 But if you find anyone who has your gods, he shall not live.

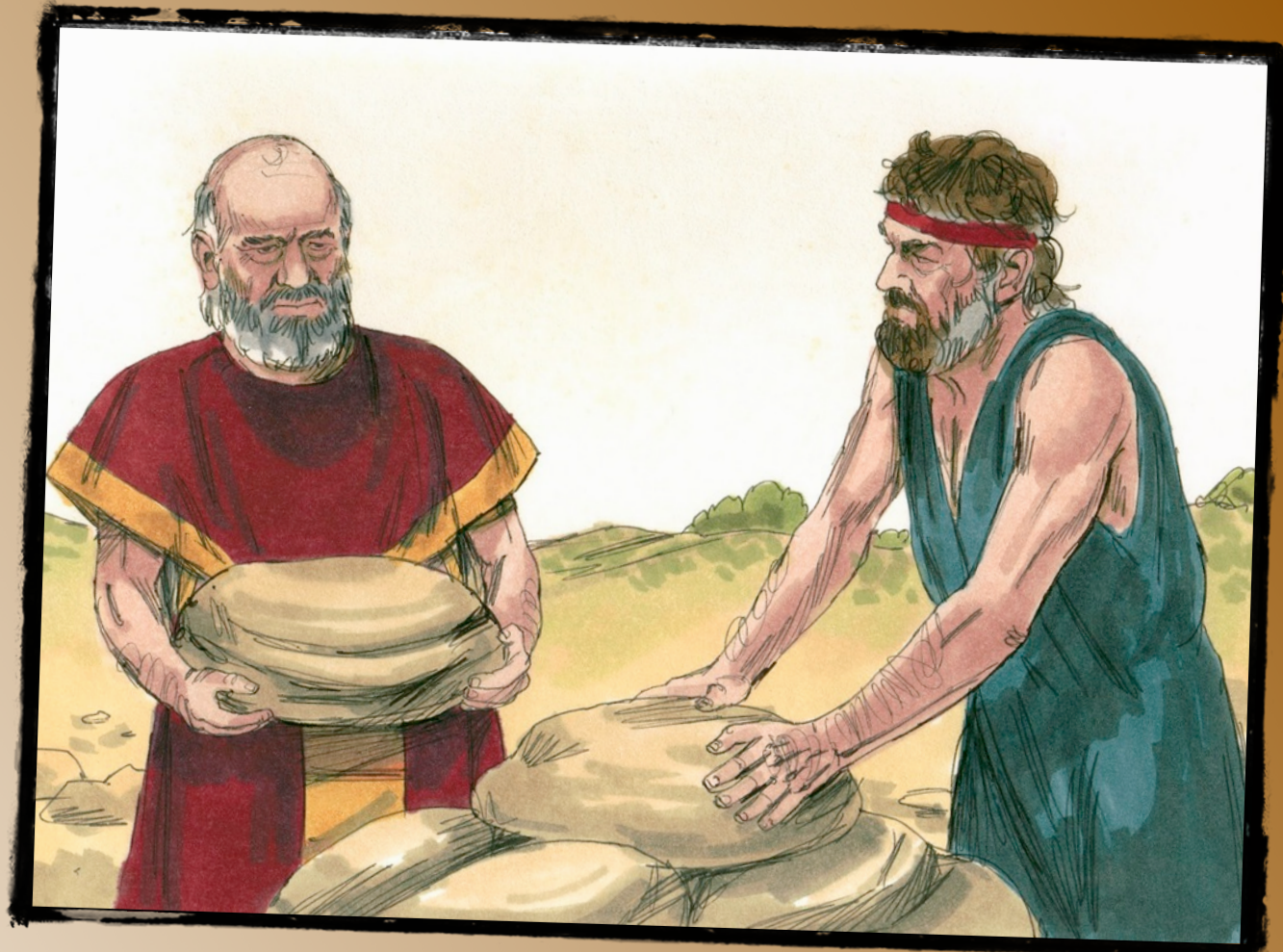
In the presence of our relatives, see for yourself whether there is anything of yours here with me; and if so, take it.” Now Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen the gods.

Gen. 31:36 Jacob was angry and took Laban to task.

“What is my crime?” he asked Laban.

“What sin have I committed that you hunt me down?”

Gen. 31:49 It was also called **Mizpah**, because he said, “May the LORD **keep watch** between you and me when we are away from each other.”



Gen. 31:51 Laban also said to Jacob, “Here is this heap, and here is this pillar I have set up between you and me.

Gen. 31:52 This heap is a witness, and this pillar is a witness, that I will not go past this heap to your side to harm you and that you will not go past this heap and pillar to my side to harm me.

Gen. 31:53 May the God of Abraham and the God of Nahor, the God of their father (*Terah*), judge between us.” So Jacob took an oath in the name of the Fear of his father Isaac (*The God Isaac feared*).



Genesis 32-33

Jacob Meets Esau

What is the very heart of this narrative?

Why does it represent Jacob's character?

Examine carefully the changes in Jacob and Esau:

What surprises you most?