

After Rachel gave birth to Joseph, Jacob said to Laban, "Send me on my way so I can go back to my own homeland. Give me my wives and children, for whom I have served you, and I will be on my way. You know how much work I've done for you."

Genesis 30: 25-26



You know how much work I've done for you. - 14 years !

But Laban said to him, "If I have found favour in your eyes, please stay. I have learned by divination that the LORD has blessed me because of you."
Genesis 30: 27



Selfish concern – but forced to admit the blessing

He added, "Name your wages, and I will pay them."

Genesis 30:28



Everybody has a price ?

Jacob said to him, "You know how I have worked for you and how your livestock has fared under my care. The little you had before I came has increased greatly, and the LORD has blessed you wherever I have been. But now, when may I do something for my own household? "

Genesis 30: 29-30



"What shall I give you?" he asked. "Don't give me anything," Jacob replied. "But if you will do this one thing for me..."

Genesis 30: 31-34

**What shall I give you ?
or is it ...
What can I get now ?**



The great majority of sheep were all white.



The great majority of goats were all black.

" I will go on tending your flocks and watching over them.. Let me go through all your flocks today and remove from them every speckled or spotted sheep, every dark-coloured lamb and every spotted or speckled goat. They will be my wages. And my honesty will testify for me in the future, whenever you check on the wages you have paid me. Any goat in my possession that is not speckled or spotted, or any lamb that is not dark-coloured, will be considered stolen. "

Genesis 30: 31-34



"Agreed," said Laban. "Let it be as you have said."



That same day he (Laban) removed all the male goats that were streaked or spotted, and all the speckled or spotted female goats (all that had white on them) and all the dark-colored lambs, and he placed them in the care of his sons. Then he put a three-day journey between himself and Jacob, Genesis 30: 35-36



... Jacob continued to tend the rest of Laban`s flocks.

Genesis 30:36

Jacob continued

What a reaction !

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5-6



God steps in with a great suggestion !



The **Angel of God** appeared to Jacob in a dream and said, `Look up and see that all the male goats mating with the flock are streaked, speckled or spotted, for I have seen all that Laban has been doing to you. Genesis 31:11-12



Nearly 4000 years later !

Gregor Mendel

The father of genetics
used pea plants to
study the inheritance of traits

Laban may have removed the spotty sheep and goats
BUT
he hadn't removed the 'spotty' DNA!



Jacob, however, took fresh-cut branches from poplar, almond and plane trees and made white stripes on them by peeling the bark and exposing the white inner wood of the branches. Then he placed the peeled branches in all the watering troughs, so that they would be directly in front of the flocks when they came to drink.

Genesis 30: 37-38

Imprinting



When the flocks were in heat and came to drink, they mated in front of the branches. And they bore young that were streaked or speckled or spotted. Genesis 30: 38-39



And they bore young – the Lord at work too ?

Jacob set apart the young of the flock by themselves, but made the rest face the streaked and dark-colored animals that belonged to Laban. Genesis 30: 40



Laban's sons kept them close to Jacob's pasture ?

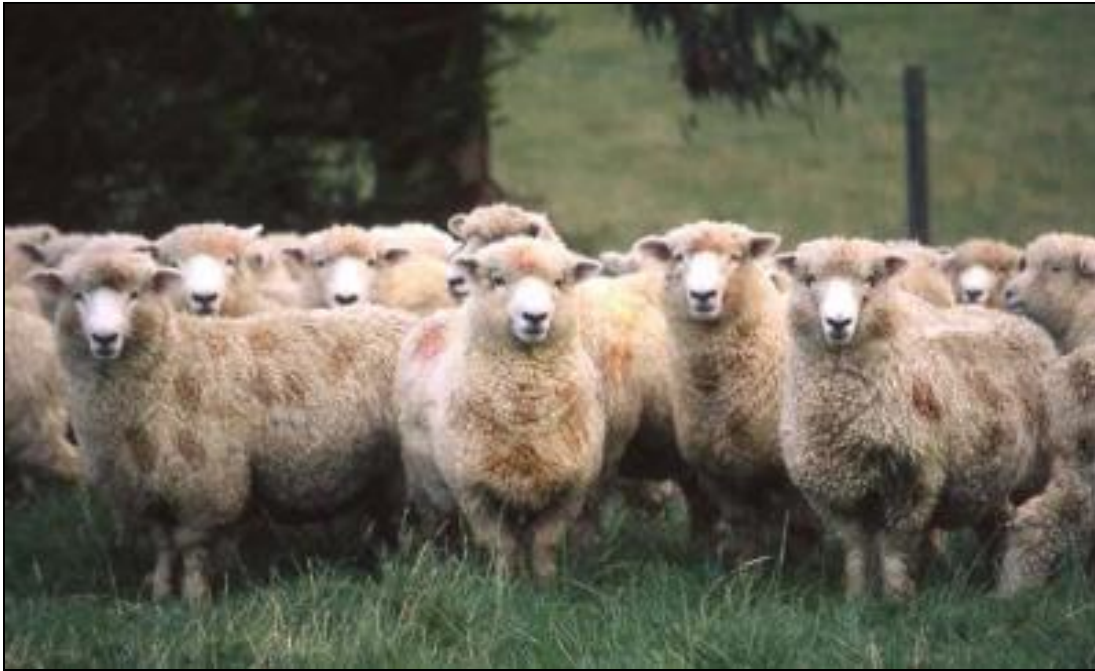
Thus he made separate flocks for himself and did not put them with Laban`s animals. Genesis 30: 40



Jacob made separate breeding flocks

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.

Genesis 30: 41-42



He also selected the stronger ones to breed from.



In this way the man grew exceedingly prosperous and came to own large flocks, and maidservants and menservants, and camels and donkeys.

Genesis 30: 43



Stock to spare – for sale !

When a man`s ways are pleasing to the LORD,
he makes even his enemies live at peace with him
Proverbs 16:7





**Don't
Panic!**

TRUST HIM