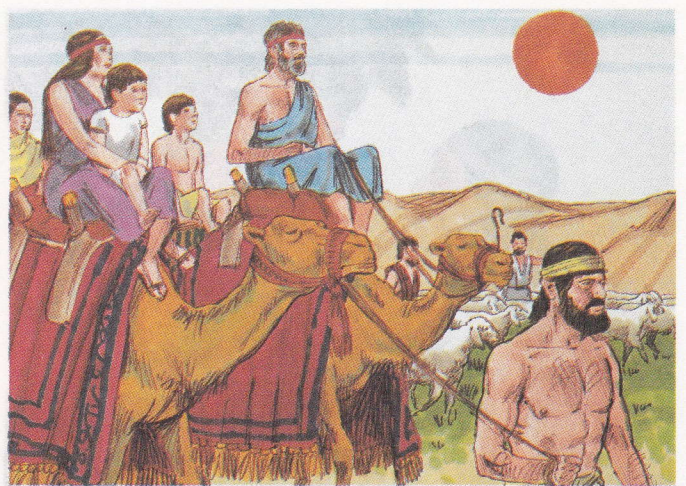


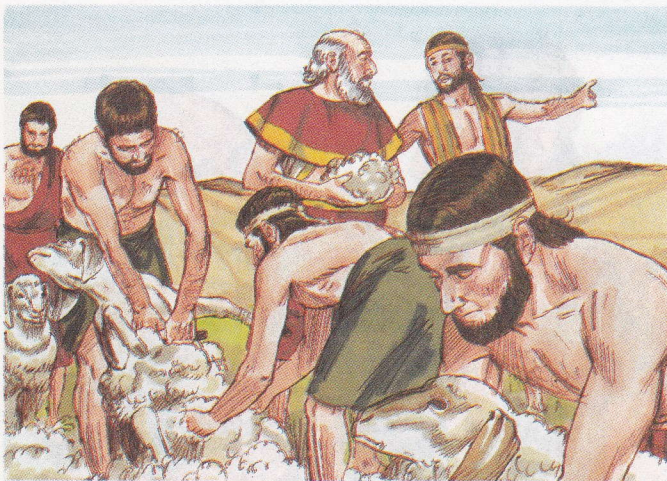
# Jacob Returns to Canaan



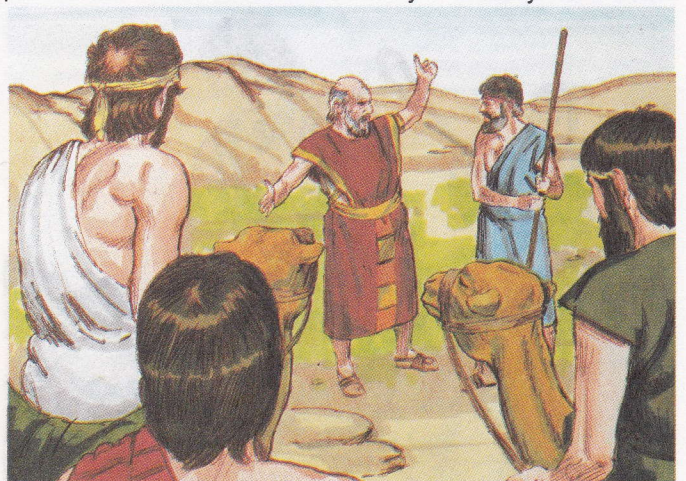
**1** After many years of working for his uncle Laban, Jacob wanted to take his wives and children and go back home to Canaan.



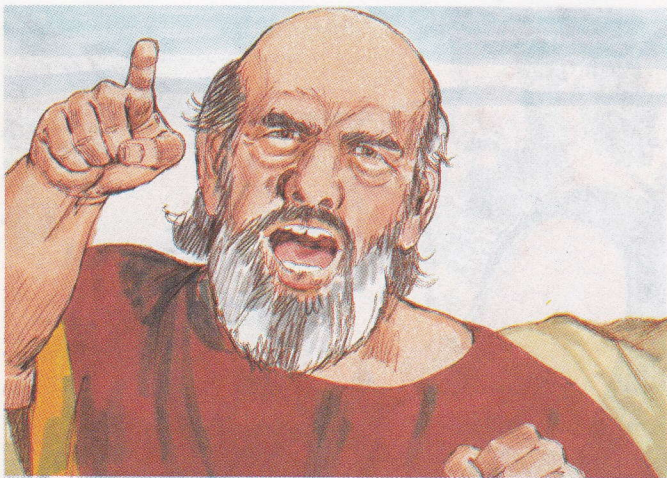
**2** Jacob was afraid his uncle would try to stop him, so he did not let Laban know he was leaving. While Laban was gone to shear his sheep, Jacob packed up his possessions and left with his family in a hurry.



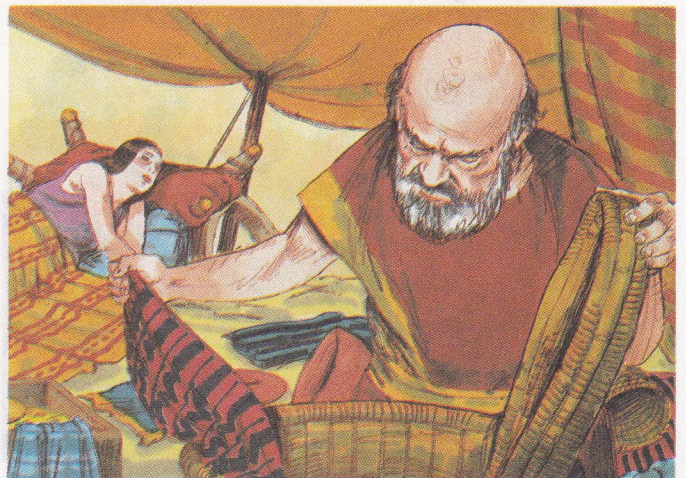
**3** Three days later, Laban found out that Jacob had left. Laban took his men and chased Jacob for seven days. But God warned Laban in a dream not to threaten Jacob in any way.



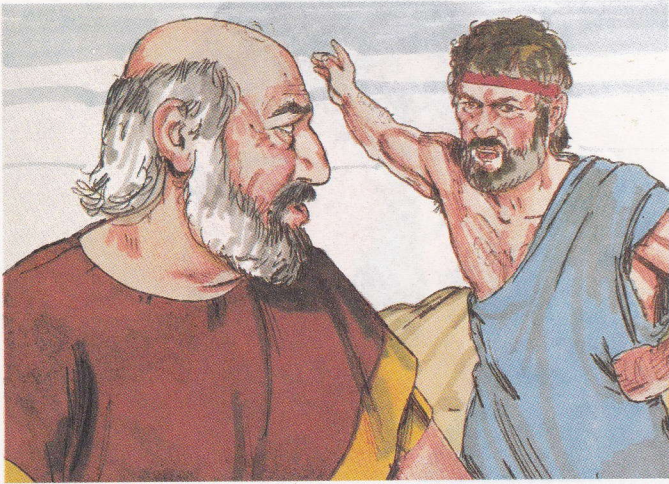
**4** When Laban saw Jacob, he said, "Why did you run off without telling me? I would have given you a celebration. I didn't even have a chance to say goodbye to my daughters and grandchildren."



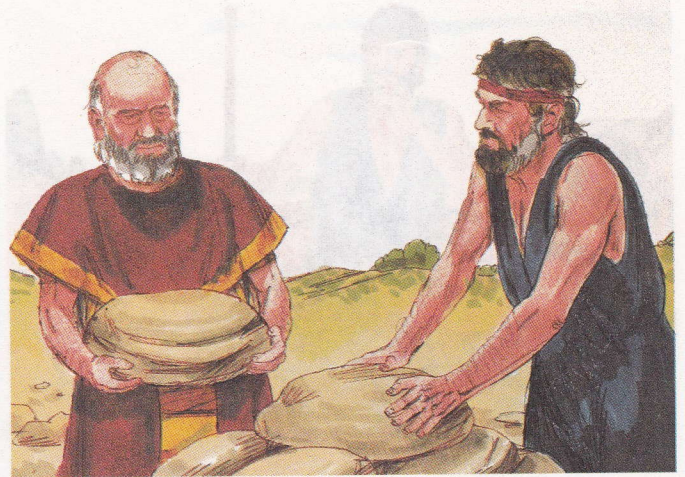
**5** Then Laban accused Jacob of stealing his household gods. Jacob said that he had not taken them and that he would put to death anyone who had. He did not know that his own wife Rachel had stolen them.



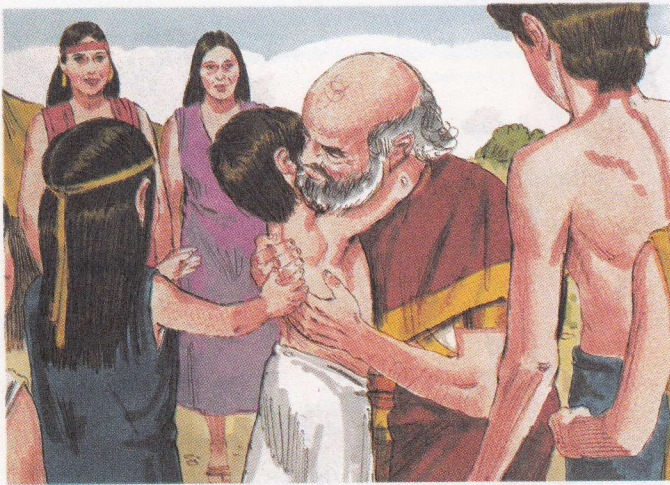
**6** Laban searched through all the tents. When he went through Rachel's tent, she said she could not get up because she was feeling sick. But Rachel had hidden the stolen gods under the camel saddle she lay on.



**7** When Laban could not find the stolen gods, Jacob became angry. He had worked long and hard for Laban and now Laban had accused him of stealing.



**8** But they decided that they would make a promise not to fight each other. Jacob and Laban made a pile of stones to remind them of their agreement.



**9** The next morning Laban kissed his daughters and grandchildren goodbye and left to go back home. Jacob also continued his trip home to Canaan.



**10** Jacob was worried about how his brother Esau might feel about him, so he sent messengers to greet Esau and to ask for his favor.



**11** The messengers came back and reported, "Esau is already on the way to meet you. He has 400 men with him!"



**12** Jacob was frightened, thinking that Esau might be planning to attack him. So Jacob placed all the animals and all the people with him in two groups. If Esau attacked one group, the other could escape.