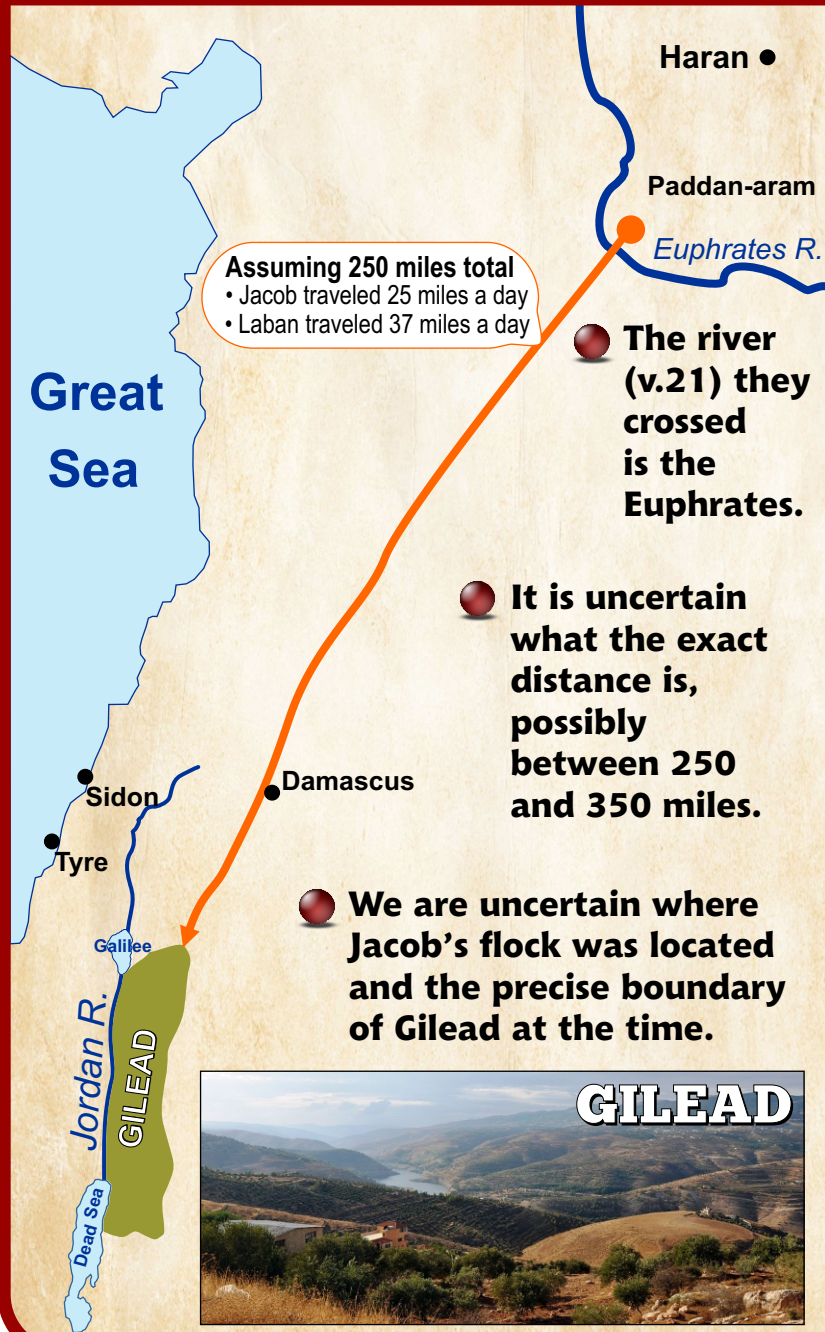


JACOB FLEES FROM LABAN — GE.31:17-55



RACHAEL: WHY SHE STOLE THE IDOLS

1. She worshiped the idol and did not want to be without them. She took them for protection and blessing.
2. She did not want her father to inquire her location to catch them.
3. She tied the idol to inheritance rights like title deeds (Nuzi tablets). They had legal significance and were passed down to an inheritor. Thus, she is taking her future inheritance.
4. She wanted to get back at her father, whom she felt mistreated her. She is calling for Jacob to be head of the house hold at Laban's death.
5. Jewish tradition: She wanted to keep her father from idolatry.

LABAN: MANIPULATOR & NARCISSIST

MANIPULATOR acts to influence or control someone in a subtle or deceptive way. Often for personal gain. They typically exploit the vulnerabilities of others to achieve one's own goals.

NARCISSIST is a self-centered personality style characterized as having an excessive preoccupation with oneself and one's own wants, often at the expense of others.

1. Laban first tried to shame Jacob with kindness. "We wanted to throw you a party!" (v.27). *"I am a victim!"*
2. Laban accused Jacob's flight of being sinful in nature (v.28). *"Woe is me!"*
3. Laban boasted of his ability or "power" (El or God) to bring harm to Jacob (v.29). *"I should bring justice!"*
4. Laban claimed Jacob left because he was merely homesick (v.30).
5. Laban accused Jacob of stealing his household idols (v.30). The real issue.
6. Laban claims all Jacob has really belongs to him (v.43).
7. Laban instigates a covenant in the face of accusations brought against him, to save face with his brethren.
8. Laban uses innuendo against Jacob's character by implying he may cause harm to his wives. But Laban is here to protect his daughters from Jacob (v.50).
9. Laban is claiming to take steps to resolve the tension between Jacob and himself (v.51-52).