



# Covenant & Creation

The foundations of living in the blessing.

# Life involves two distinct kinds of blessings.

There is a fundamental difference between what is natural and what is promised. One type of blessing sustains our physical lives; the other secures our eternal lives. To navigate life wisely, we must distinguish between “Creation Blessings” and “Covenant Blessings.” If we mix these up, we set ourselves up for disappointment.





# Creation Blessings are available to everyone.

Also known as “Common Grace.”

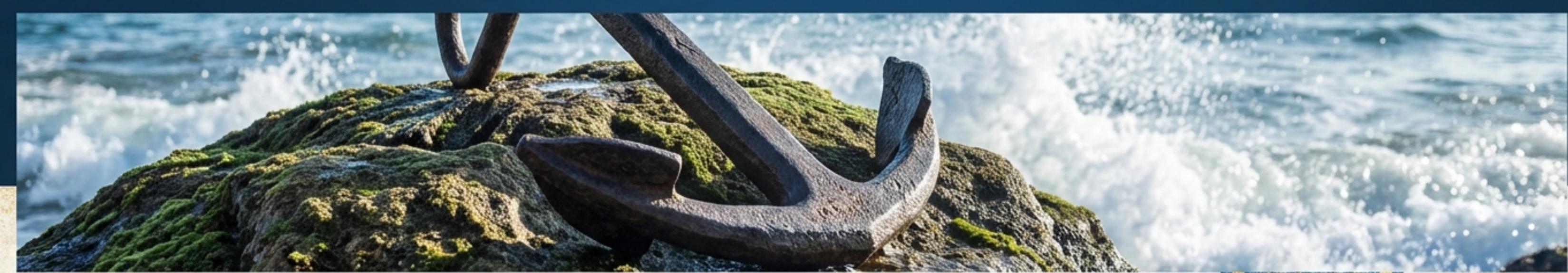
God designed the world to operate according to natural laws. These include sunshine, oxygen, immune systems, and the fruit of labor.

These blessings often come through **human means**—wisdom, hard work, and social structures.

## The Caveat:

While working harder generally leads to benefits, Creation Blessings are not 100% guaranteed. They sustain life, but they do not save or sanctify.

“Idle hands make one poor, but diligent hands bring riches.  
— Proverbs 10:4 (CSB)”



# Covenant Blessings are guaranteed by God's word.

Also known as "Special Grace."

These are redemption blessings poured out to advance God's plan of salvation. Unlike Creation Blessings, these are unearned, undeserved, and available only to those who trust God's promises.



## The Guarantee:

Because God never fails and never lies, these blessings are 100% guaranteed.



# The Danger of Confusion.

It is dangerous to confuse the two. If we demand Creation blessings (wealth, perfect health, popularity) as if they were Covenant guarantees, we will eventually be angry at God.

**God does not promise wealth, success, or the absence of suffering in this age to everyone, all the time. If we expect that, we invite spiritual disaster.**

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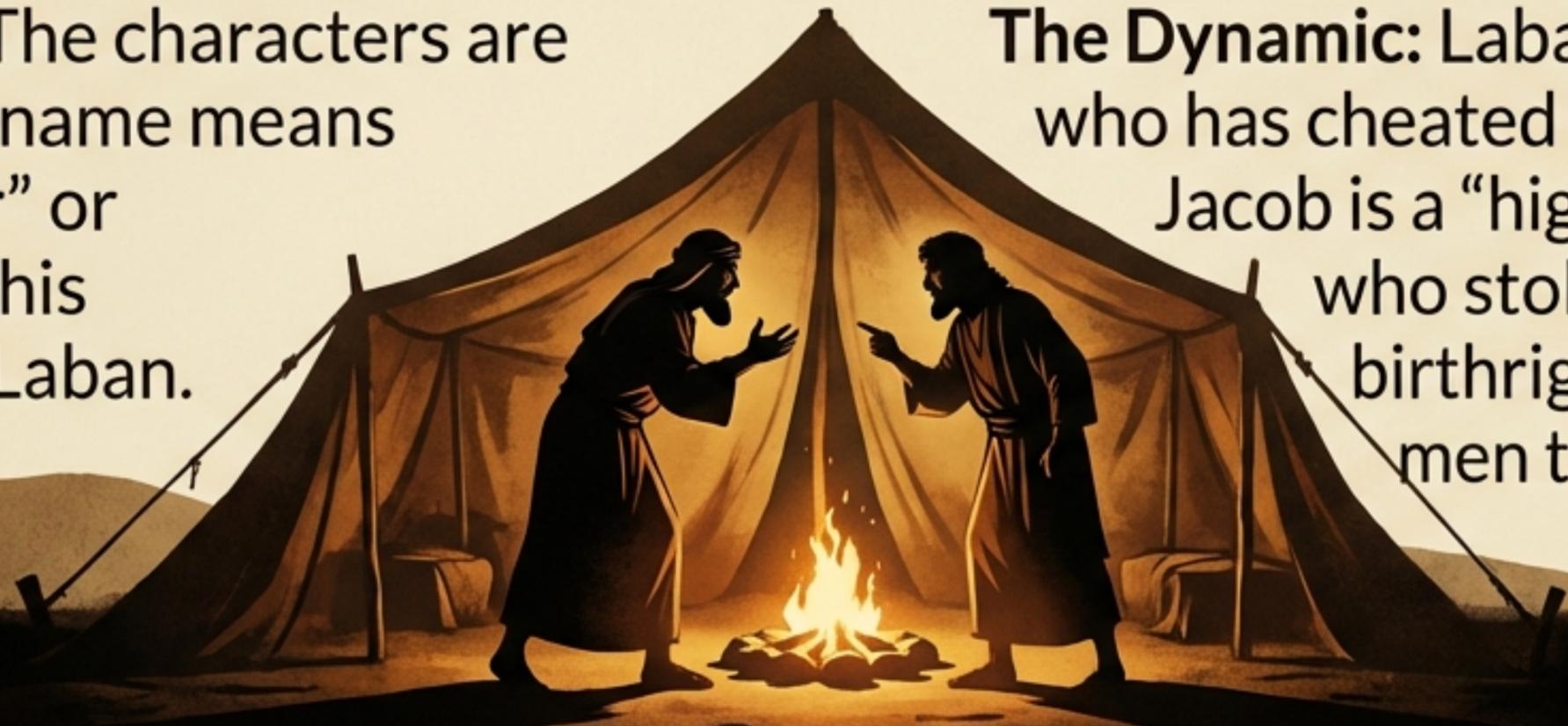
Case Study: Genesis 30

# The Schemer and The Miser

## Genesis 30

**The Context:** The characters are Jacob (whose name means “Heel-grabber” or deceiver) and his father-in-law Laban.

**The Dynamic:** Laban is a greedy man who has cheated Jacob repeatedly. Jacob is a “high-order schemer” who stole his brother’s birthright. Two deceptive men trying to out-cheat each other.

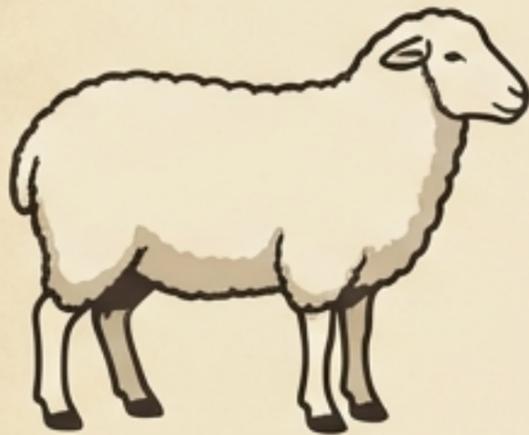


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Laban admits: “The LORD has blessed me because of you.” (Gen 30:27)

# The Unusual Deal.

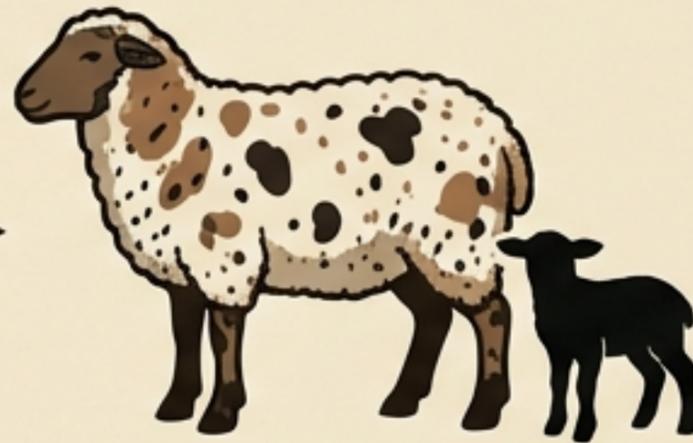
Laban's Share  
(Majority)



Laban's Share  
(Majority)



Jacob's Share  
(Genetic Outliers)



Jacob's Share  
(Genetic Outliers)

Jacob asks for his wages to be only the rare outliers: every sheep that is speckled, spotted, or dark-colored.

**The Rigged Game:**  
Laban agrees immediately but then cheats. That cheats. That very day, Laban removes all the streaked and spotted goats and hides them a three-day journey away to ensure Jacob starts with zero capital.

# Jacob attempts to force a blessing through magic.

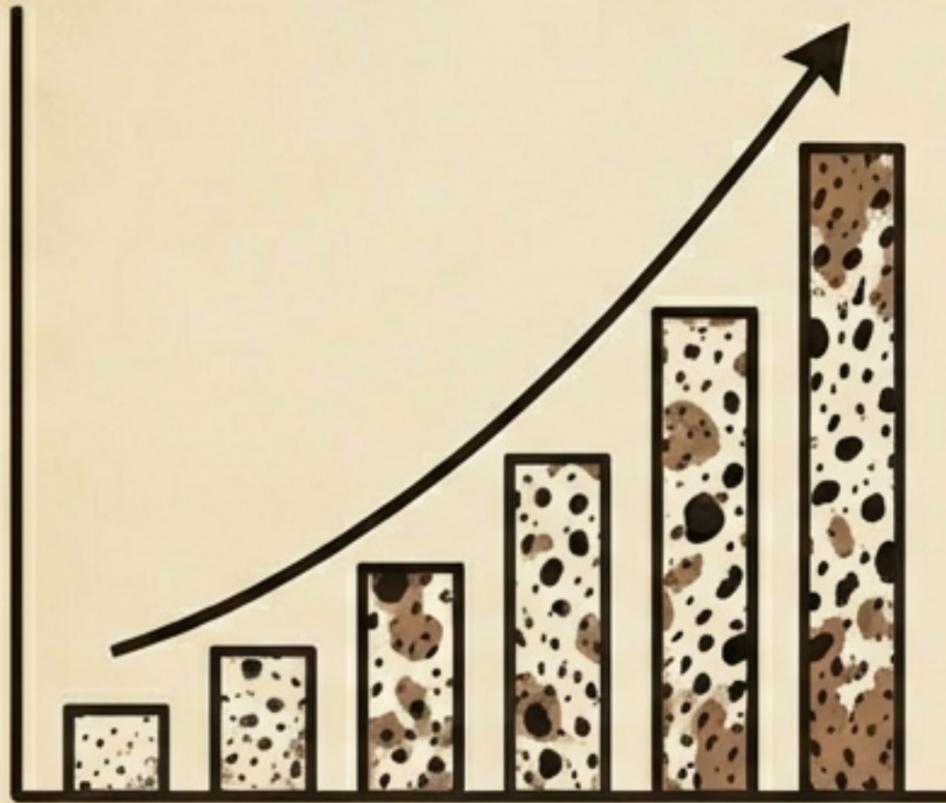
**The Action:** Jacob takes branches of fresh wood, peels back the bark to expose white stripes, and places them in the water troughs where the flocks mate.



**The Superstition:** This Superstition: This was a folk remedy. Jacob believed that what the sheep saw while breeding would determine the color of the lambs.

**Analysis:** Jacob is acting like a pagan. He believes he is making this happen through his own cleverness.

# The Unexpected Result.



**The Outcome:** The flocks bred in front of the branches and bore streaked, speckled, and spotted young.

**The Statistic:** Genesis 30:43 reports that “the man became very rich,” acquiring flocks, servants, camels, and donkeys.

*Did the branches actually work?  
Is God honoring superstition?*

# It was Grace, not genetics.

**The Reality:** Jacob's prosperity was not a result of Creation Blessing (his hard work or the branches). It was a Covenant Blessing.

**The Promise:** God was fulfilling the promise He made to Jacob at Bethel: "I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you" (Genesis 28:15).

**Key Insight:** God blessed Jacob despite his bad theology and pagan tactics. The branches were irrelevant; the Promise was everything.

# Jacob did not deserve the blessing.



## The Evidence

- He was a liar and a “heel-grabber.”
- He was a polygamist who mistreated his wives.
- He relied on occult-like folk remedies.
- He acted as if God needed his help.

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**The Lesson:** This proves the definition of Covenant Grace: It is unmerited favor poured out to advance God’s plan of redemption.

# Descriptive vs. Prescriptive



**How to Read:** We must read the Bible intelligently. Genesis 30 is Descriptive (telling us what happened) not Prescriptive (telling us what to do).

**Instruction:** Do not follow Jacob's example; it leads to a messed-up life.

**Takeaway:** The point of the story is not Jacob's cleverness, but God's faithfulness. God's promises are unbreakable even when His people are flawed.

# Your New Covenant.



**The Connection:** Just as God remained faithful to the Abrahamic covenant despite Jacob's failures, God remains faithful to the New Covenant sealed by the blood of Jesus.

**The Assurance:** We often flounder like Jacob. We fail in godliness. Yet, we cannot earn a single New Covenant blessing—they are gifts. The Covenant depends on His character, not ours.

# Living in Ephesians 1.



We can rest in what God has guaranteed. According to **Ephesians 1:3-8**, these are **facts**, not **wishes**.

# From Cross to Crown.



Our God is more willing to bless than we are to receive.

Summary: Jacob went from pauper to prince through God's promise.

We go from the cross to the crown through Jesus.

**Stop trying to earn what has already been given.  
Rest in the guarantee. Live in the blessing every day.**

Based on teaching by Peter Foxwell, The Cornerstone Church