

¹⁰“Once, at the mating time of the flocks, I had a dream in which I saw that the he-goats mating with the flock were streaked, speckled, and mottled. ¹¹And in the dream an angel of God said to me, ‘Jacob!’ ‘Here,’ I answered. ¹²And he said, ‘Note well that all the he-goats which are mating with the flock are streaked, speckled, and mottled; for I have noted all that Laban has been doing to you. ¹³I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and where you made a vow to Me. Now, arise and leave this land and return to your native land.’”

¹⁴Then Rachel and Leah answered him, saying, “Have we still a share in the inheritance of our father’s house? ¹⁵Surely, he regards us as outsiders, now that he has sold us and has used up our purchase price. ¹⁶Truly, all the wealth that God has taken away from our father belongs to us and to our children. Now then, do just as God has told you.”

¹⁷Thereupon Jacob put his children and wives on camels; ¹⁸and he drove off all his livestock and all the wealth that he had amassed,

¹⁰וַיְהִי בַעַת יַחַם הַצֹּאֵן וְאִשָּׂא עֵינַי וָאֶרָא בַחֲלוֹם וְהִנֵּה הָעֵתָדִים הָעֹלִים עַל-הַצֹּאֵן עֹקְדִים נִקְדִים וּבְרָדִים: ¹¹וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלַי מַלְאָךְ הָאֱלֹהִים בַּחֲלוֹם יַעֲקֹב וְאָמַר הַנְּנִי: ¹²וַיֹּאמֶר שְׂאֵנָא עֵינֶיךָ וְרָאֵה כָּל-הָעֵתָדִים הָעֹלִים עַל-הַצֹּאֵן עֹקְדִים נִקְדִים וּבְרָדִים כִּי רָאִיתִי אֶת כָּל-אֲשֶׁר לָבָן עָשָׂה לָךְ: ¹³אֲנֹכִי הָאֵל בֵּית-אֵל אֲשֶׁר מִשְׁחַת שֵׁם מִצְבֵּה אֲשֶׁר נָדַרְתָּ לִּי שֵׁם נָדַר עִתָּה קוּם צֵא מִן-הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת וְשׁוּב אֶל-אָרֶץ מוֹלְדֹתְךָ:

¹⁴וַתַּעַן רָחֵל וְלֵאָה וַתֹּאמְרֵנָה לוֹ הַעוֹד לָנוּ חֶלֶק וְנִחְלָה בְּבֵית אָבִינוּ: ¹⁵הֲלוֹא נִבְרִיּוֹת נַחֲשַׁבְנוּ לוֹ כִּי מִכְרָנוּ וַיֹּאכַל גַּם-אֶכּוֹל אֶת-כַּסְפָּנוּ: ¹⁶כִּי כָל-הָעֵשֶׂר אֲשֶׁר הִצִּיל אֱלֹהִים מֵאֲבִינוּ לָנוּ הוּא וּלְבָנֵינוּ וְעִתָּה כָּל אֲשֶׁר אָמַר אֱלֹהִים אֵלֶיךָ עָשָׂה: ¹⁷וַיִּקַּם יַעֲקֹב וַיִּשָּׂא אֶת-בָּנָיו וְאֶת-נָשָׁיו עַל-הַגְּמָלִים: ¹⁸וַיִּנְהַג אֶת-כָּל-מִקְנֵהוּ

10. I had a dream Jacob credits his sheep-breeding strategy to the inspiration of a dream vision.

12. for I have noted Literally, “saw,” a term frequently used to express God’s compassionate response to a suffering victim.

13. I am the God of Bethel The title is not intended to limit God to a specific locale but to call to mind the original revelation to Jacob, specifically the promise of constant protection and safe return.

14. Have we still a share A rhetorical question.

15. as outsiders By not giving them their share of the bride-price (*mohar*), Laban treated them from the beginning as though they were

not part of the clan. Hence, they considered themselves as “being sold,” rather than married off.

and has used up our purchase price Literally, “and has eaten up our money.” A similar statement is found in Akkadian sources, with the same meaning.

16. belongs to us The wives fully agree with Jacob’s claim of good title to his wealth.

THE ESCAPE (vv. 17–21)

18. that he had amassed . . . in his possession that he had acquired This cluster of phrases underscores Jacob’s claim to absolute and rightful ownership of all his possessions.

13. The angel’s message to Jacob is, “Once you dreamed of stairways leading to heaven. Now you dream of how to increase the number of sheep and goats you own. You have been corrupted by the values of Laban’s world. The

time has come for you to leave this place and return to the Land.”

15. he regards us as outsiders He did not treat us as daughters when he bartered us for 14 years of unpaid labor.