

Elder Vernon Johnson

Numbers

Twenty

Jacob served Laban for twenty years

Gen. 31:38 "This twenty years have I been with thee; thy ewes and thy she goats have not cast their young, and the rams of thy flock have I not eaten. 39 That which was torn of beasts I brought not unto thee; I bare the loss of it; of my hand didst thou require it, whether stolen by day, or stolen by night. 40 Thus I was; in the day the drought consumed me, and the frost by night; and my sleep departed from mine eyes. 41 Thus have I been twenty years in thy house; I served thee fourteen years for thy two daughters, and six years for thy cattle: and thou hast changed my wages ten times."

Jacob recounted his experience in serving his uncle Laban. He served 14 years for his two daughters, Leah and Rachel. He also served 6 years for the cattle he purchased from Laban. During this time, Laban changed Jacob's wages 10 times. In this experience, there is a correlation between the experience of Jacob and the work of Jesus Christ.

As Jacob was a servant to his uncle Laban, Christ came also to serve as set forth in the following passage: Luke 22:24 "And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest. 25 And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. 26 But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. 27 For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth." Christ taught his disciples that they should not seek to be masters, but rather to be servants in the house of God. Christ used himself as an example. While he is Lord of all, yet he stood before his disciples as a servant. This is further illustrated in Phil. 2:5 "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

Jacob served for Laban's two daughters. Christ had two folds that he came to procure for his bride: John 10:15 "As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd." In addition, we read in Eph. 2:16 "And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: 17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh." As Jacob purchased the two daughters of Laban to be his brides, so Christ purchased through his death on the cross that both the Jews and the Gentiles would be his lawful bride.

Uncle Laban changed the wages of Jacob ten times. As we have noted in our previous study of the number 10, ten is associated with the subject of the law. Laban set the law for Jacob's service and he continually changed it. God set the law for man's service and Christ kept it perfectly saying, (Mat 5:18) "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." Under the strictest of circumstances, Christ kept the law perfectly so that he could procure his bride and redeem her at the cross.