

Jacob in Haran

29:1 to 30:43

In the next three chapters of **Genesis** we find the record of **Jacob's** twenty long years away from the land of Canaan and **his** home. Recall that **he** was probably around seventy-five years old when **he** left home, so that **he** was around ninety-five when **he** came back. However, in terms of normal aging and life spans today, these figures could probably be cut in half to correspond to equivalent life spans in our own time. Even so, **he** was still well enough along in years to be leaving home for the first time and to be looking for a wife.

Many have treated this period of **Jacob's** life as though it were a punishment for the treatment of **his** brother. However, those years were very happy and prosperous for the most part, with no more troubles and problems than are normally encountered by a believer seeking to follow **ADONAI**. **He** even spoke of it fondly on **his** deathbed. **He** did receive some rather unfair treatment at the hand of **his** uncle **Laban**. On the other hand, **Laban** did give **Jacob** a job, permitted **him** to marry **his** daughters, and made it possible for **him** to build up extensive wealth and holdings of **his** own.⁴⁵⁶