

him, Is there yet any portion or inheritance in our father's house? Are we not accounted of him as strangers for he has sold us and has also quite devoured our money."

They were rather irritated at their father for the way he'd treated their husband and here we find in v. 19 when Laban went away to shear his sheep, and they decided to go, Rachel stole the images that were her father's. The word translated images is ~~ix~~ the word teraphim. The teraphim that were her father's. And Jacob ~~stole~~ stole away unawares in that he told him not that he'd left. So Jacob took his wives, his children and all the property that he'd earned and started for Palestine.

Laban came home and found they had all gone. Laban it seems did not feel so badly about the fact that they had gone without saying good-bye to him. That irritated him but was not the main irritation. He didn't feel so badly about the fact they'd gone and taken all this property that Jacob had earned during all this time. That bothered him, but that wasn't the main thing. The main thing that bothered him was that Jacob had taken these teraphim.

Jacob didn't even know he had them. But Rachel had taken them. So we find that Laban pursued Jacob 3 days trip on the way to Palestine. When he caught up with him he had a big enough expedition ~~with~~ with him that Jacob was very much afraid of what he might do to him. Jacob had all these flocks and herds. He must have had a lot of herdsmen to take care of them.

Laban came up by himself and started making trouble. It would be very easy for Jacob to have turned to a couple of his workmen and say, Throw this fellow out! It would have been very simple. But Laban evidently had a ~~big~~ big enough force with him that Jacob was terrified. So even though Jacob thought that's a ridiculous accusation that I ~~stole~~ stole his household gods, yet Jacob felt it necessary to prove that he had not done so.

So (v.32) Jacob said to Laban, With whomsoever thou findest thy gods, Let him not live. Before thy brethren discern thou what is thine with me and take it. Jacob knew not that Rachel had stolen.

So (v.33) Laban went into Jacob's tent. Hunted all around and did not find his household gods. Went to Leah's tent. Went into his maidservants tents and did not find them. Then he went out of Leah's tent and entered into Rachel's tent. Now Rachel had taken the images and put them in the camel's furniture and sat upon them. Laban searched all the tent and found them not.

And she said to her father, Let it not displease my lord, I pray for I cannot rise up before thee for the custom of women is upon me. He searched and found not the images.

How big were these images? Laban was so determined to find them that he went to all the expense of bringing an expedition with him sufficient to terrify Jacob and make Jacob willing to open everything up and hunt all thru what he had. Jacob felt Laban had treated him pretty mean in the past. He said Anything you find