



Introduction

Jacob decides to return home (see map)



Questions

1. What did Jacob hear that made him realise he had a problem with Laban's sons?
2. What confirmed to Jacob that he should leave Laban?
3. What is the attitude of Rachel and Leah to Laban?



Summary Points

- **v 1 to 16** Jacob decides to leave Laban because his brothers-in-law are jealous of his prosperity and God tells him to return to his relatives
- **v 17 to 21** Jacob leaves in secret, and Rachel takes Laban's teraphim (gods, see theme).
- **v 22 to 42** Laban then chases after Jacob. He accuses Jacob of stealing his gods, but fails to find them. Jacob tells Laban that God has been with him (see theme) despite Laban being a very hard master
- **v 43 to 55** Jacob and Laban then make a peace agreement and Laban leaves

Timeline to 2000 BC (see below)



Themes / Information

Teraphim

A selection of verses showing what the Bible says about teraphim:

The first mention is when Rachel steals her father's teraphim when her family leaves:

Genesis 31 verse 19

In the time of the judges, Micah made teraphim among other items for worship of gods:

Judges 17 verse 5

King Josiah removed the teraphim as part of his reforms to stop idolatry:

2 Kings 23 verse 24

When David was escaping from Saul, his wife put teraphim in their bed to make Saul think that David was ill in bed:

1 Samuel 19 verses 12 to 16

This would suggest that some teraphim looked like people.

The prophet Ezekiel tells us that the king of Babylon used teraphim in his attempts to get guidance from the gods:

Ezekiel 21 verse 21

Week 12 Day 3 Genesis 31 Understand your Bible reading plan



God and Jesus Christ can be with us

A selection of verses showing that the Bible promises that God and Jesus Christ can be with us.

God assured Isaac that he would be with him and would work in his life to keep the promise he made to Isaac's father Abraham:

Genesis 26 verses 2 and 3

God gave the same assurance to Isaac's son Jacob:

Genesis 31 verse 3

Jacob told Laban that he was sure that God was with him and had influenced his life:

Genesis 31 verse 42

The psalmist David was confident that God was with him in difficult times:

Psalms 23 verse 4

The apostle Paul wanted God to be with all the believers in Rome:

Romans 15 verse 33

When he was about to leave them, Jesus Christ promised the disciples that he would be with them:

Matthew 28 verses 18 to 20

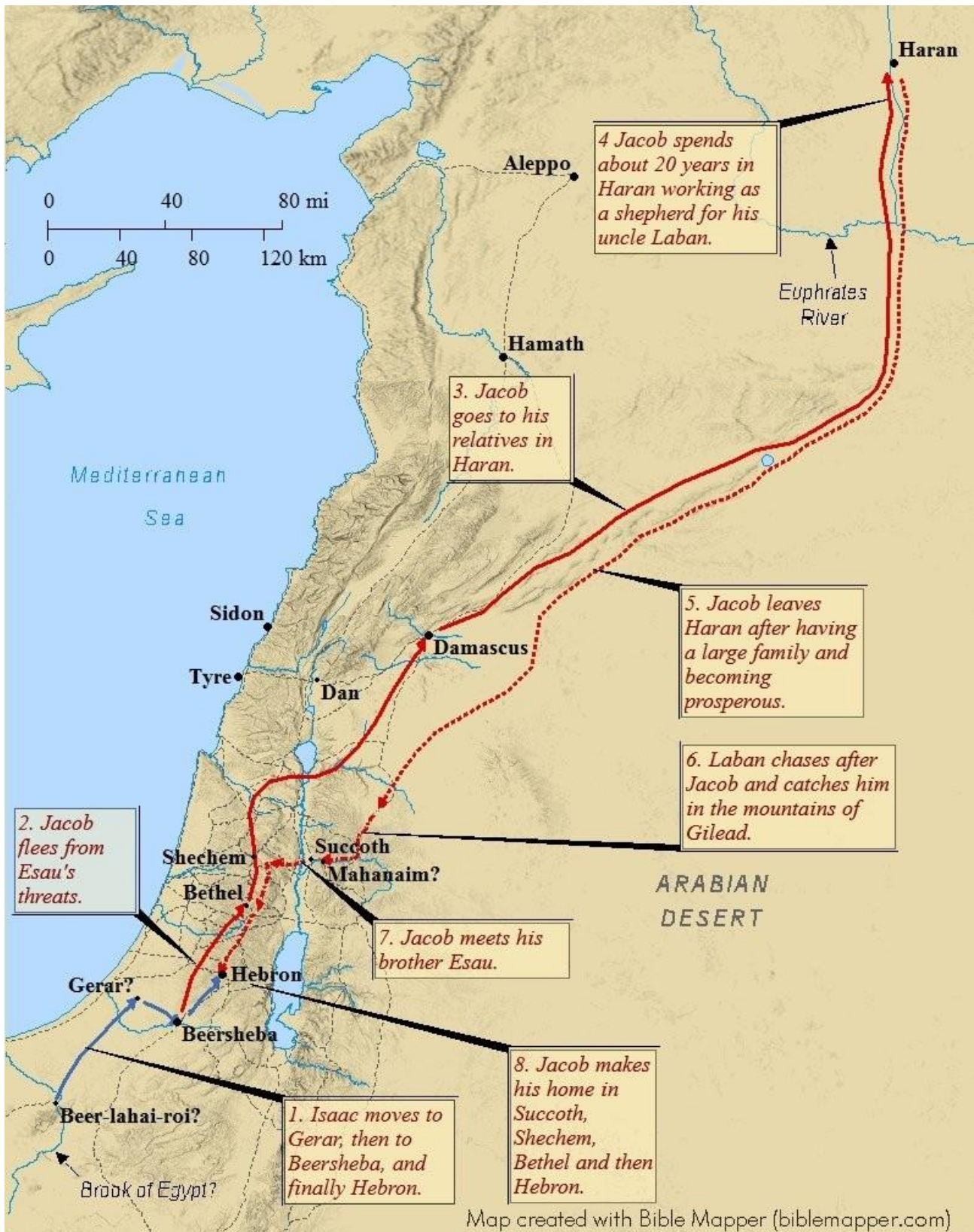
Jesus Christ encouraged Paul that he would be with him:

Acts 18 verses 9 and 10



Isaac's and Jacob's travels

Map showing Isaac's journey to Beersheba and Jacob's journey to Haran. Jacob leaves Laban in Haran (point 4 on the map)





? Answers to questions

Verses which answer the questions:

Q 1: v 1, Q 2: v 3, Q 3: v 14 to 16

Bible timeline

