

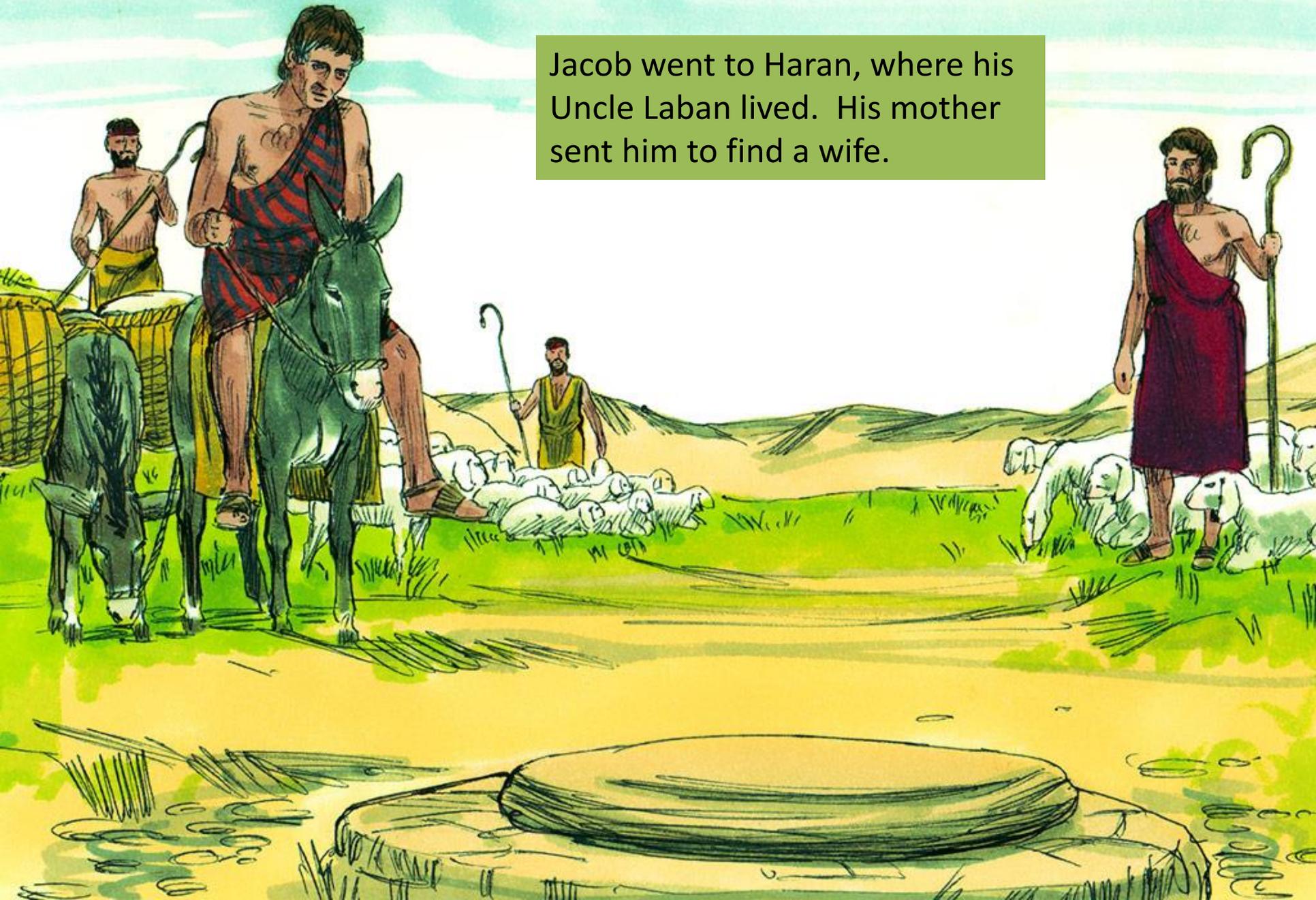
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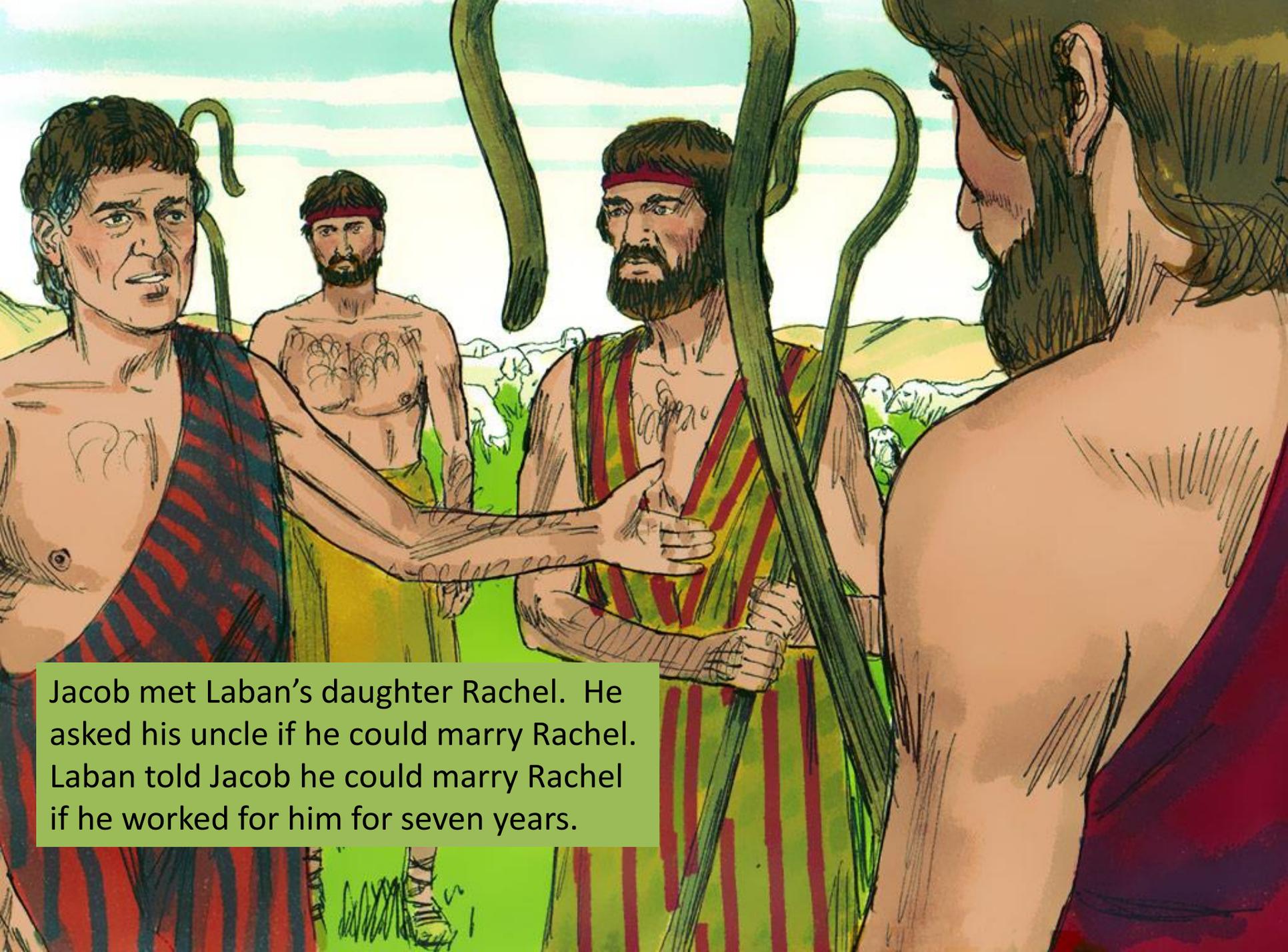
Lesson 3

Jacob Wins Economic Independence

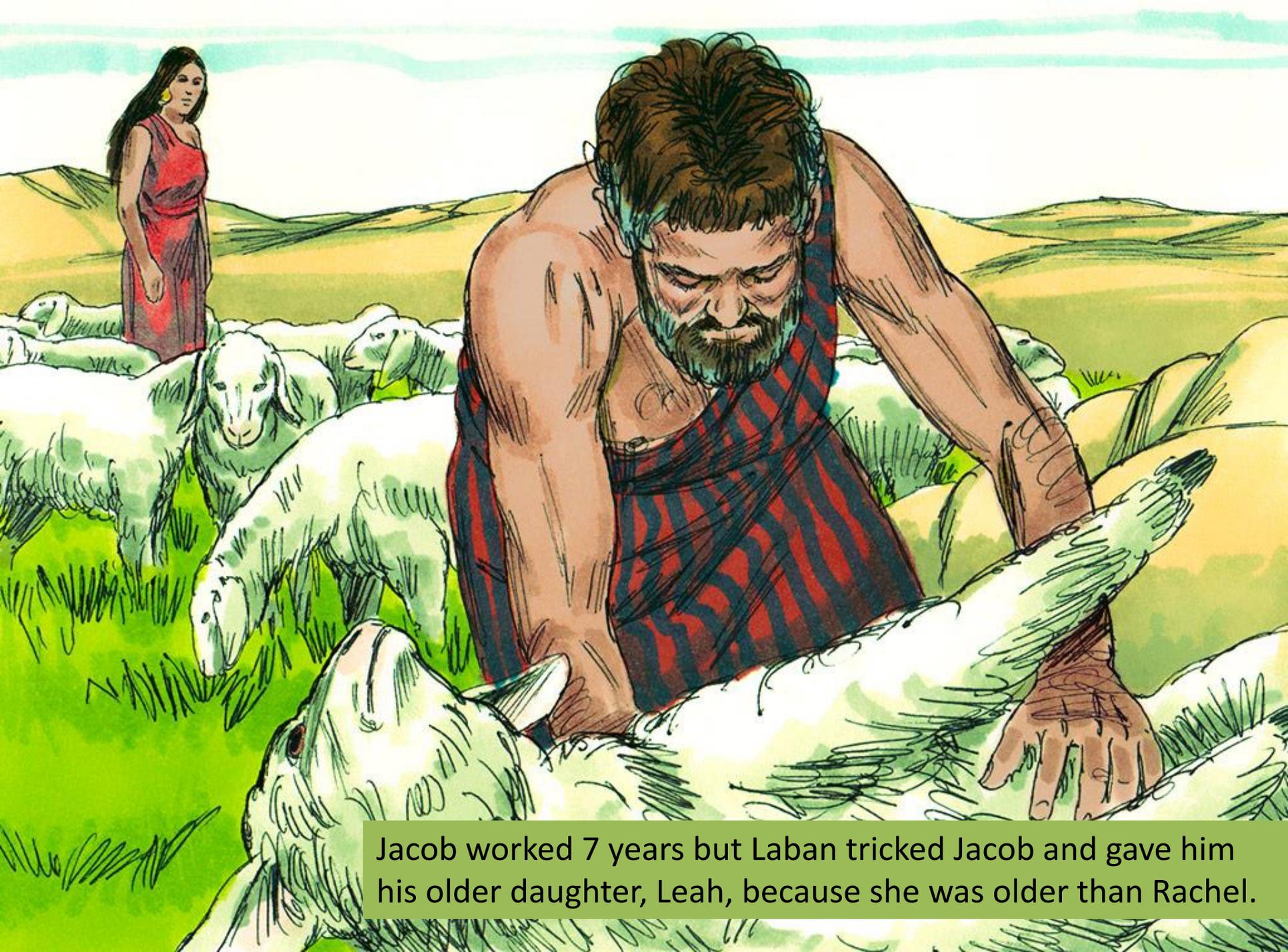
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Jacob went to Haran, where his Uncle Laban lived. His mother sent him to find a wife.

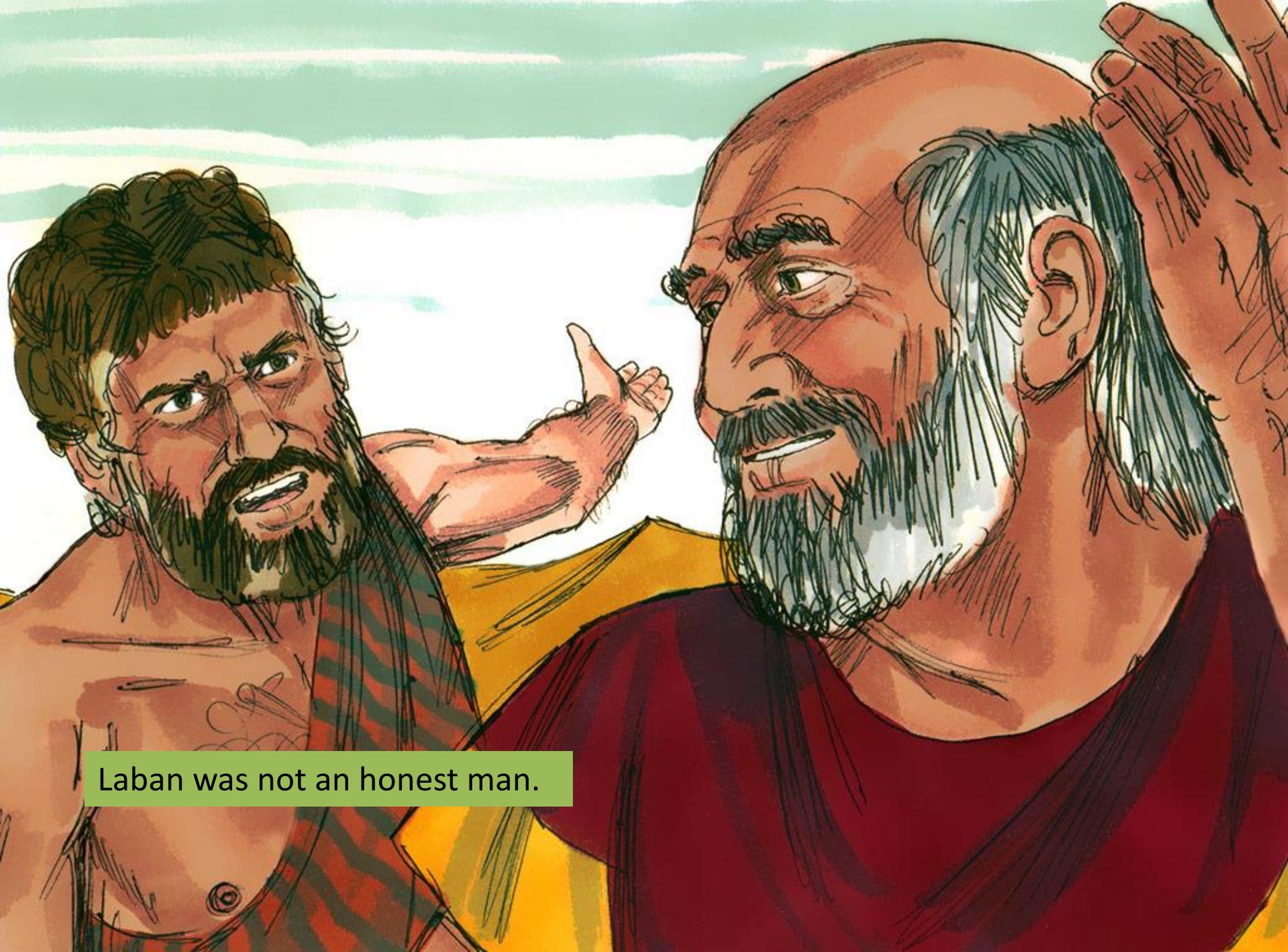




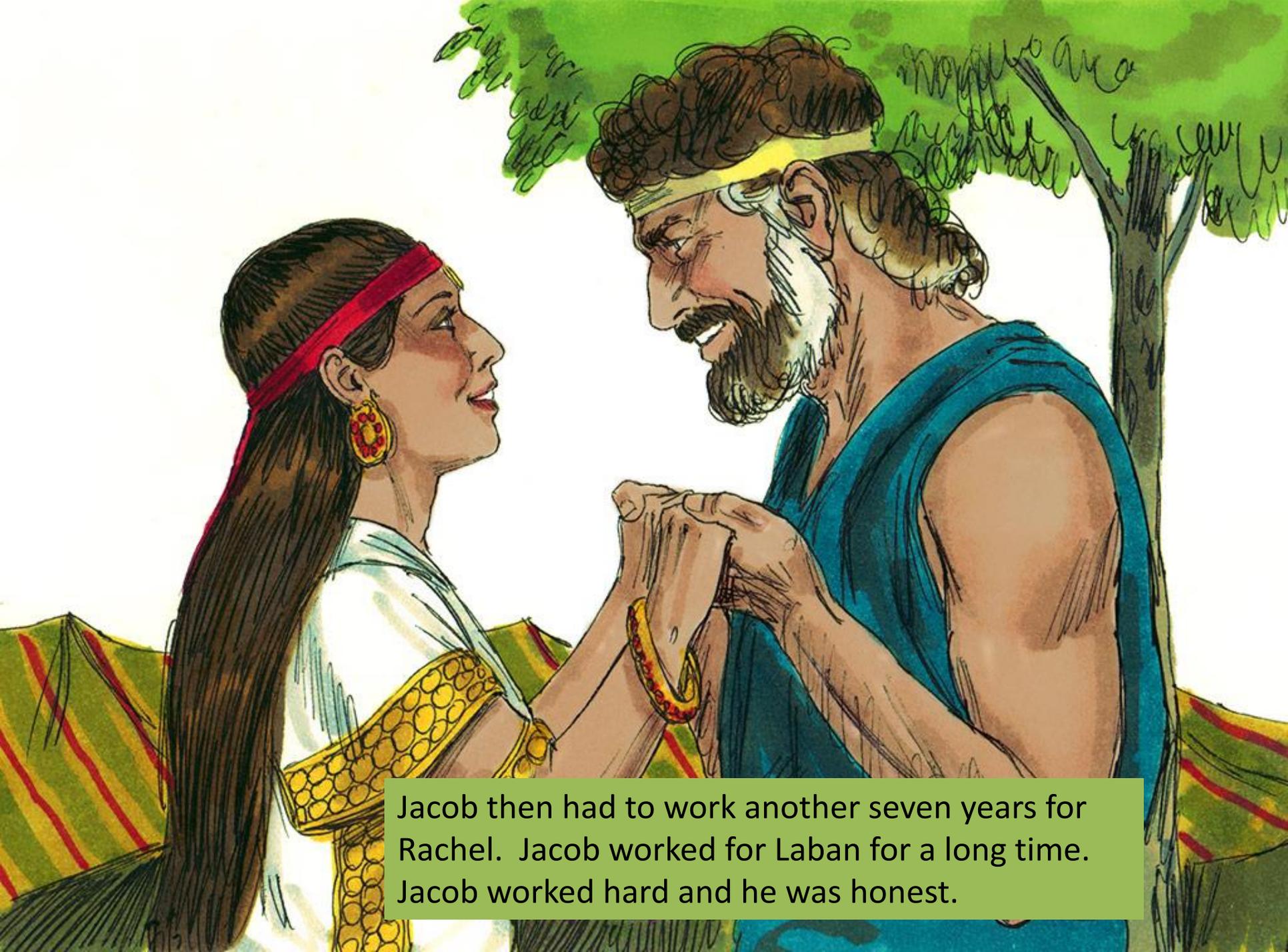
Jacob met Laban's daughter Rachel. He asked his uncle if he could marry Rachel. Laban told Jacob he could marry Rachel if he worked for him for seven years.



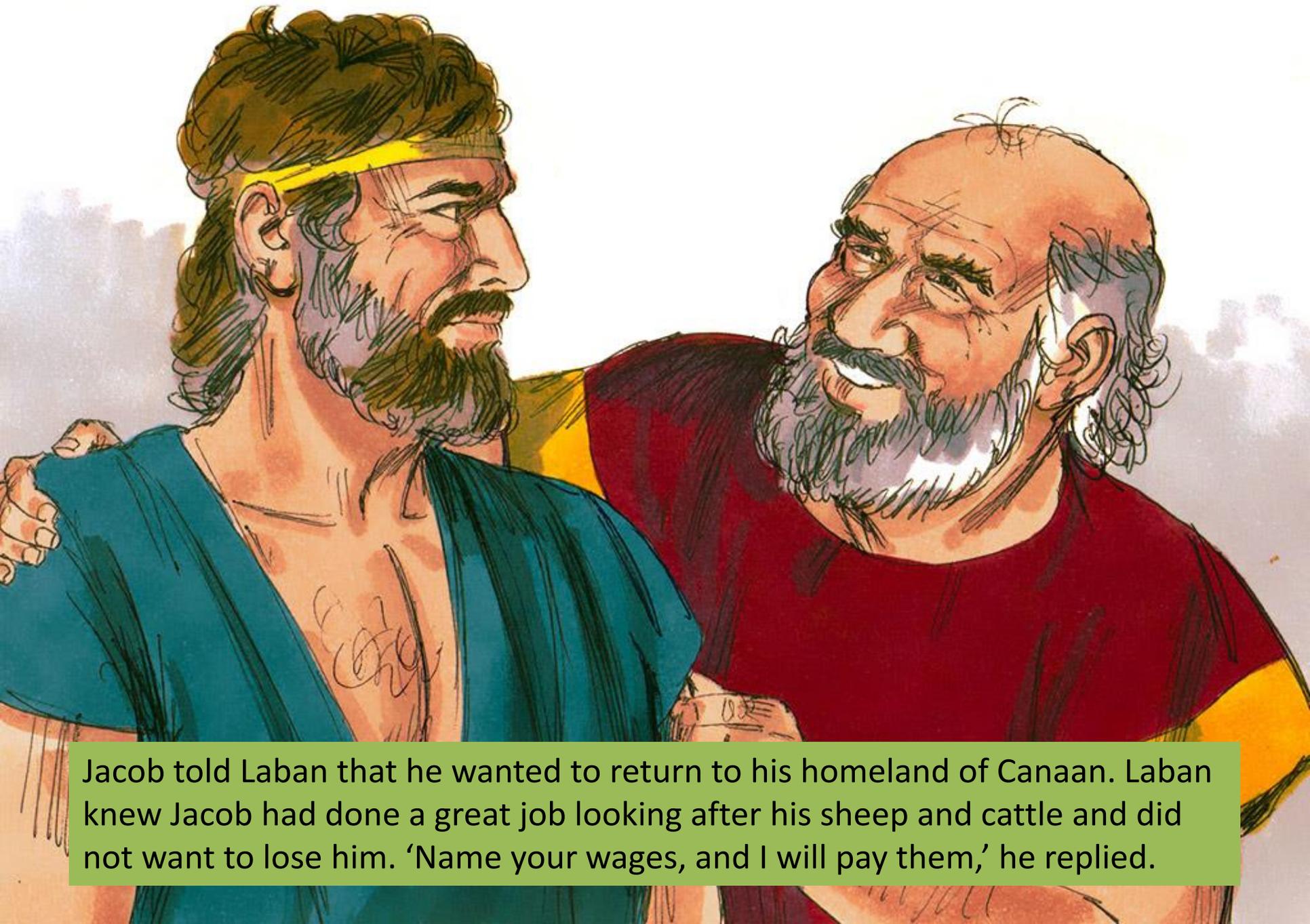
Jacob worked 7 years but Laban tricked Jacob and gave him his older daughter, Leah, because she was older than Rachel.



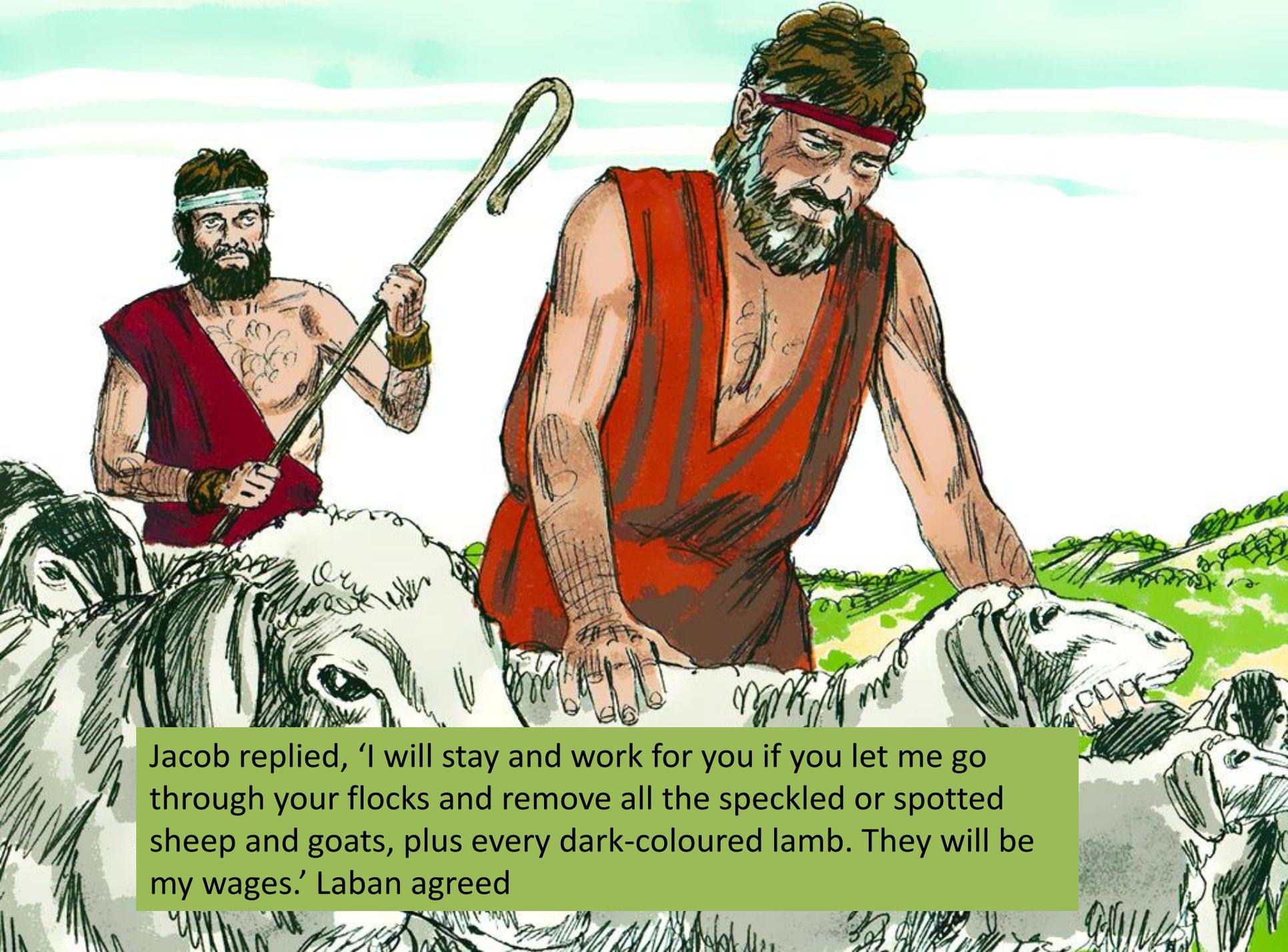
Laban was not an honest man.



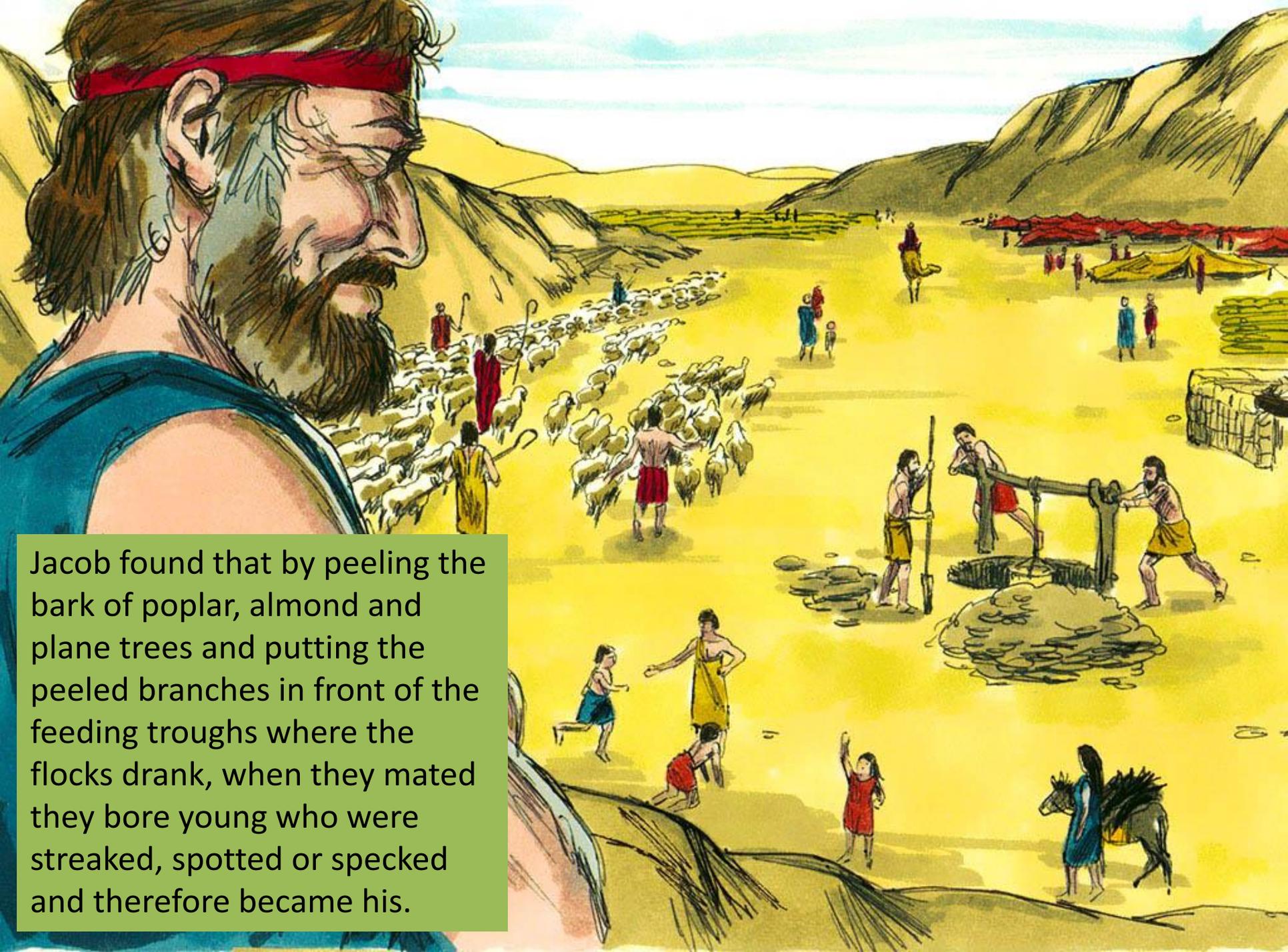
Jacob then had to work another seven years for Rachel. Jacob worked for Laban for a long time. Jacob worked hard and he was honest.



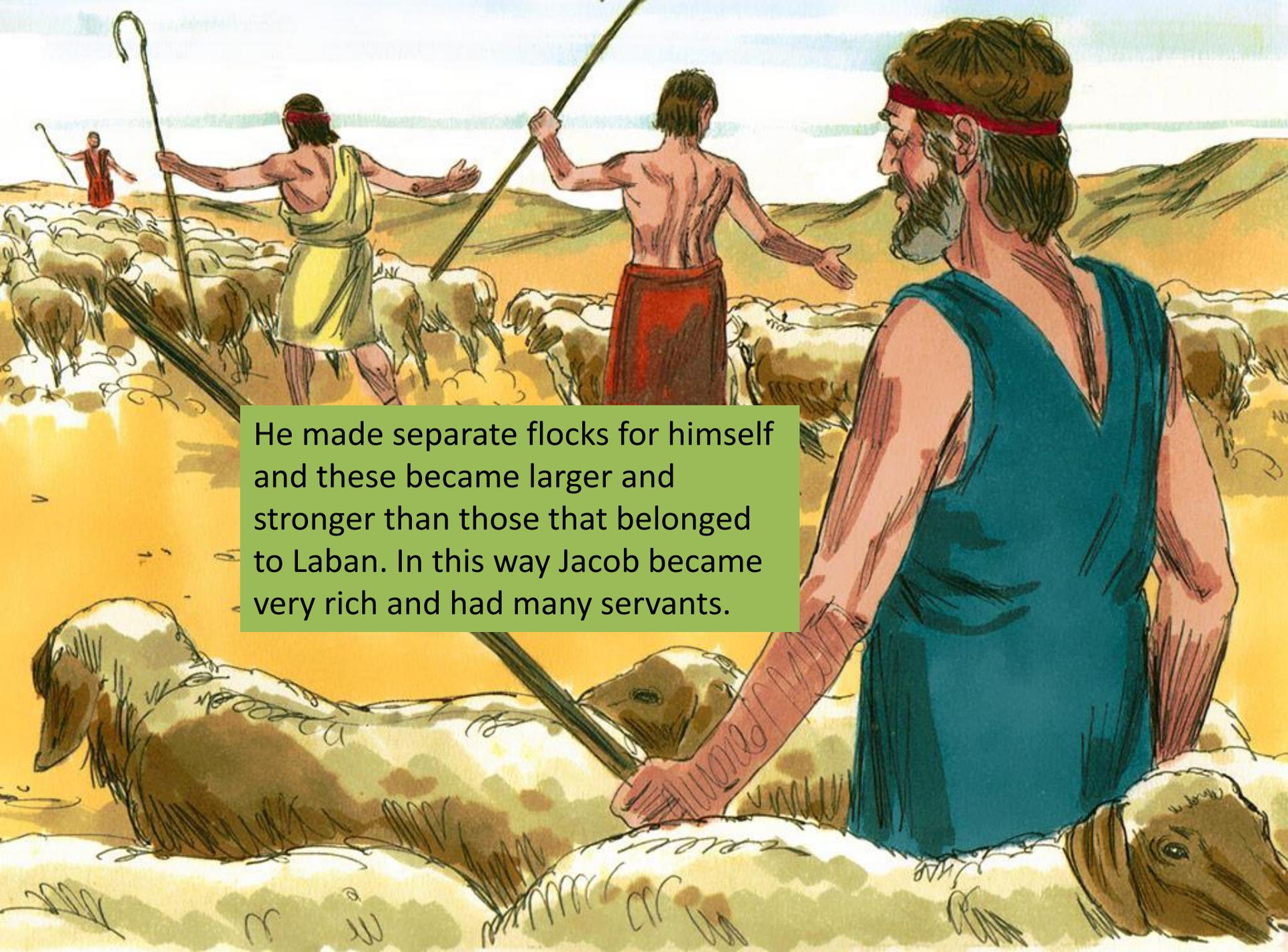
Jacob told Laban that he wanted to return to his homeland of Canaan. Laban knew Jacob had done a great job looking after his sheep and cattle and did not want to lose him. 'Name your wages, and I will pay them,' he replied.



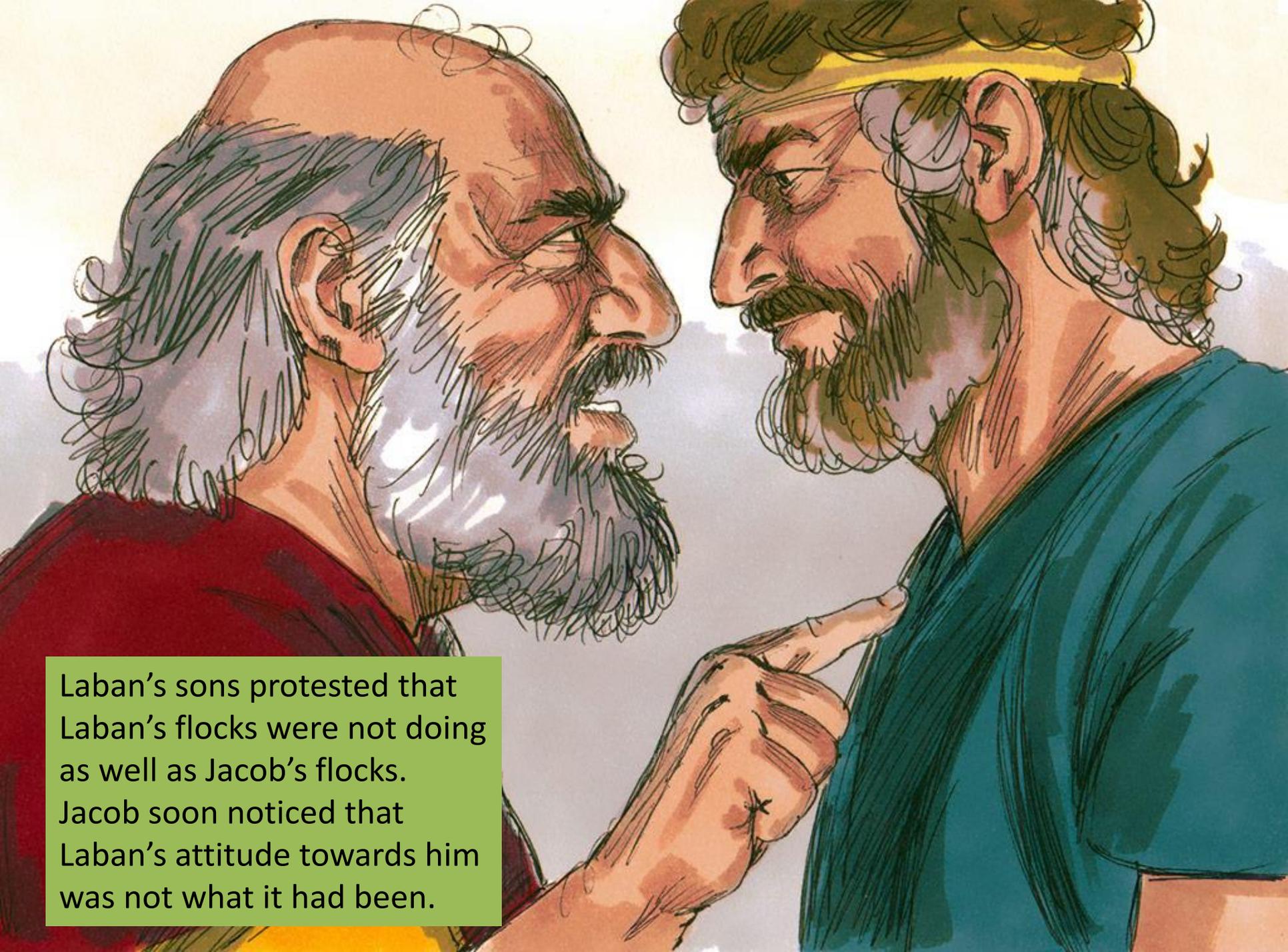
Jacob replied, 'I will stay and work for you if you let me go through your flocks and remove all the speckled or spotted sheep and goats, plus every dark-coloured lamb. They will be my wages.' Laban agreed



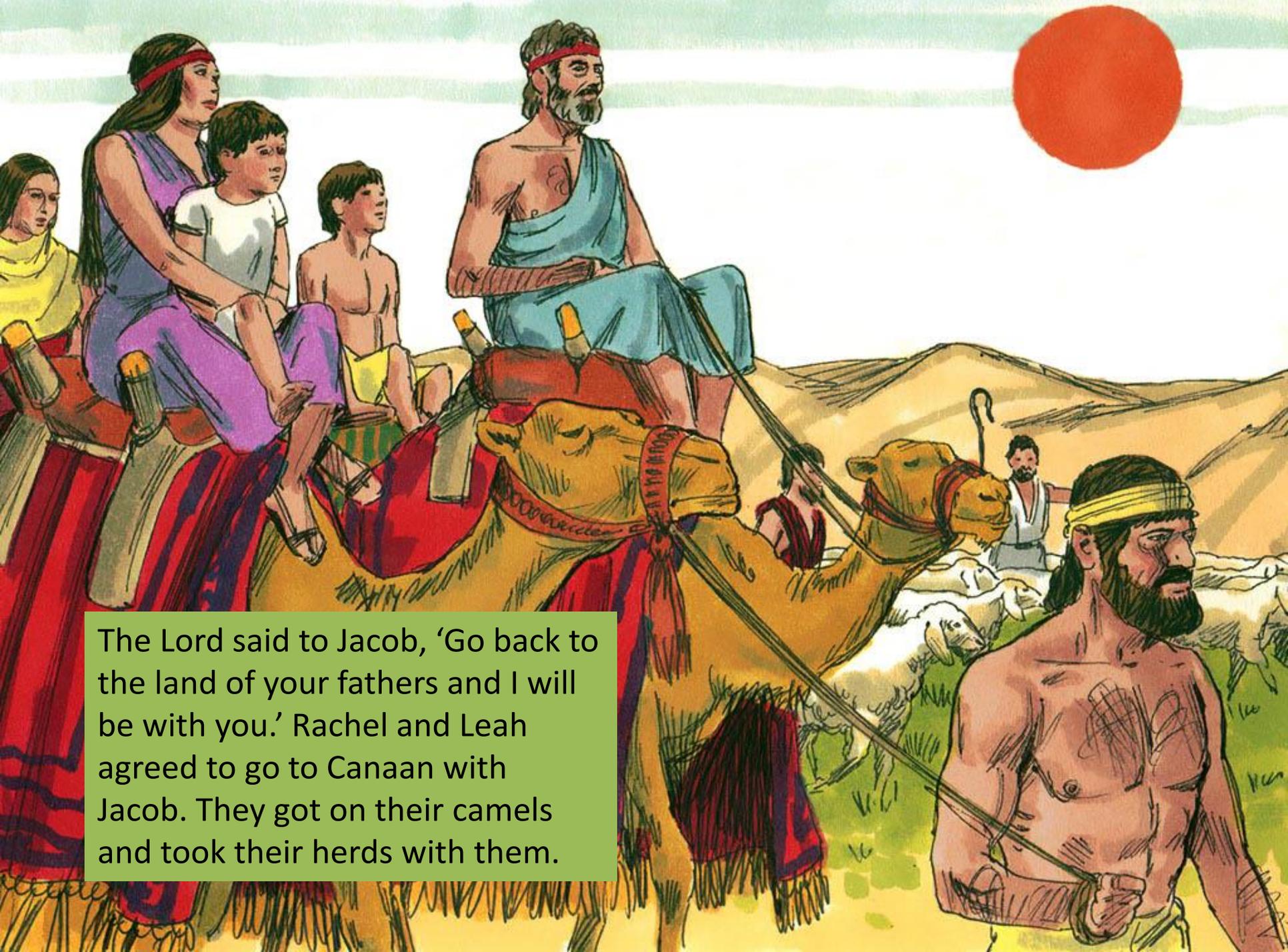
Jacob found that by peeling the bark of poplar, almond and plane trees and putting the peeled branches in front of the feeding troughs where the flocks drank, when they mated they bore young who were streaked, spotted or specked and therefore became his.



He made separate flocks for himself and these became larger and stronger than those that belonged to Laban. In this way Jacob became very rich and had many servants.



Laban's sons protested that Laban's flocks were not doing as well as Jacob's flocks. Jacob soon noticed that Laban's attitude towards him was not what it had been.



The Lord said to Jacob, 'Go back to the land of your fathers and I will be with you.' Rachel and Leah agreed to go to Canaan with Jacob. They got on their camels and took their herds with them.