

# Genesis 31:46

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jacob said unto his brethren, Gather stones; and they took stones, and made an heap: and they did eat there upon the heap.

## Analysis

**And Jacob said unto his brethren, Gather stones; and they took stones, and made an heap: and they di...** This passage belongs to the Jacob narratives which demonstrate God's sovereign election overriding human merit and the transformation of a deceiver into Israel, the father of the twelve tribes. The Jacob cycle shows how divine purposes advance through flawed individuals whom God graciously transforms.

Key themes include God's sovereign choice ("the older shall serve the younger"), the consequences of deception and family dysfunction, exile and return patterns, wrestling with God leading to blessing, and covenant renewal across generations. Jacob's character development from manipulative deceiver to mature patriarch demonstrates sanctification's lifelong process.

Theologically significant aspects include:

1. divine election based on grace not merit (Romans 9:10-13)
2. God's faithfulness to covenant promises despite human unfaithfulness
3. discipline as evidence of divine love and means of transformation
4. generational patterns of sin requiring divine intervention to break
5. prayer and wrestling with God as legitimate expressions of faith.

Jacob's limp after wrestling God symbolizes how divine encounters leave permanent marks, transforming our approach to life and dependence on God rather than our own cunning.

## Historical Context

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The patriarchal narratives (Genesis 12-50) reflect the cultural, social, and legal customs of the ancient Near East during the Middle Bronze Age (2000-1500 BCE). Archaeological discoveries including the Mari tablets, Nuzi tablets, and Egyptian records confirm many details: nomadic pastoralism, covenant-making ceremonies, marriage customs, property laws, and international travel patterns described in Genesis.

The cultural practices reflected include: treaty/covenant forms (Genesis 15), bride-price customs (Genesis 24, 29), inheritance laws favoring firstborn sons (Genesis 25, 27), adoption practices (Genesis 15, 30), levirate-type arrangements (Genesis 38), and Egyptian administrative systems (Genesis 41, 47). These parallels confirm Genesis's historical reliability while showing how God worked within ancient cultural frameworks to accomplish His purposes.

For later Israelites, these narratives established their identity as Abraham's descendants, explained their claim to Canaan, justified their possession of Joseph's bones (Exodus 13:19), and provided models of faith despite imperfection. The patriarchs' failures and God's faithfulness encouraged Israel that covenant relationship depended on God's grace rather than human merit. The movement from Mesopotamia to Canaan to Egypt set the stage for the Exodus and conquest narratives.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does this verse deepen our understanding of God's character and His relationship with creation?
2. What obstacles prevent us from living out the truths presented in this verse?
3. How does this verse fit into the broader biblical story culminating in Christ?

## Interlinear Text

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יָדָעַ	בְּ	יְעַקָּב	לְאֶחָיו	לְקַרְבָּן	אֶבֶן יָמָן	יָדָעַ	בְּ	יְעַקָּב	לְאֶחָיו	לְקַרְבָּן	אֶבֶן יָמָן	יָדָעַ	בְּ	יְעַקָּב	לְאֶחָיו	לְקַרְבָּן	אֶבֶן יָמָן	יָדָעַ	בְּ	יְעַקָּב	לְאֶחָיו	לְקַרְבָּן	אֶבֶן יָמָן		
<b>said</b>	<b>And Jacob</b>	<b>unto his brethren</b>	<b>Gather</b>	<b>stones</b>	<b>and they took</b>	<b>stones</b>	<b>and made</b>	<b>an heap</b>	<b>and they did eat</b>	<b>an heap</b>	<b>an heap</b>	<b>stones</b>	<b>and</b>	<b>gather</b>	<b>stones</b>	<b>and</b>	<b>make</b>	<b>an heap</b>	<b>and</b>	<b>eat</b>	<b>an heap</b>	<b>an heap</b>	<b>an heap</b>	<b>an heap</b>	
H559	H3290	H251	H3950	H68	H3947	H68	H6213	H1530	H398	H8033	H5921	H1530													

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ecclesiastes 3:5** (Parallel theme): A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

**Genesis 31:32** (Parallel theme): With whomsoever thou findest thy gods, let him not live: before our brethren discern thou what is thine with me, and take it to thee. For Jacob knew not that Rachel had stolen them.

**Genesis 31:23** (Parallel theme): And he took his brethren with him, and pursued after him seven days' journey; and they overtook him in the mount Gilead.

**Genesis 31:54** (Parallel theme): Then Jacob offered sacrifice upon the mount, and called his brethren to eat bread: and they did eat bread, and tarried all night in the mount.

**Genesis 31:37** (Parallel theme): Whereas thou hast searched all my stuff, what hast thou found of all thy household stuff? set it here before my brethren and thy brethren, that they may judge betwixt us both.

**Joshua 7:26** (Parallel theme): And they raised over him a great heap of stones unto this day. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of his anger. Wherefore the name of that place was called, The valley of Achor, unto this day.

**2 Samuel 18:17** (Parallel theme): And they took Absalom, and cast him into a great pit in the wood, and laid a very great heap of stones upon him: and all Israel fled every one to his tent.

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