

Parallels between Joseph/brothers and Laban/Jacob

Then he commanded the steward of his house, "Fill the men's sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put each man's silver in the mouth of his sack. Put my cup, the silver cup, in the top of the sack of the youngest, with his silver for the grain." And he did as Joseph told him. As soon as the morning was light, the men were sent away with their donkeys. When they had gone only a short distance from the city, Joseph said to his steward, "Go, **pursue [rdf*] the men**; and when you overtake them, say to them, 'Why have you returned evil for good? **Why have you stolen [LXX, kleptō[%]] my silver cup?** Is it not from this that my lord drinks? Does he not indeed use it **for divination, yes, divination [nchsh[#]]**? You have done wrong in doing this.'" When **he overtook [nsg[^]] them**, he repeated these words to them. They said to him, "Why does my lord speak such words as these? Far be it from your servants that they should do such a thing! Look, the silver that we found at the mouth of our sacks, we returned to you from the land of Canaan; **why then would we steal [gnv²] silver or gold from your lord's house? Should it be found with any one of your servants, let him die**; moreover the rest of us will become my lord's slaves." He said, "Even so; in accordance with your words, let it be: he with whom it is found shall become my slave, but the rest of you shall go free." **[They didn't know that Joseph had the cup put in Benjamin's sack.]** Then each one **quickly lowered his sack [cf. 24.18]** to the ground, and each opened his sack. **He searched [chfs¹], beginning with the eldest and ending with the youngest [cf. 29.16]; and the cup was found in Benjamin's sack.** (44.1-13)

I [Judah] will be surety for him; **you can hold me accountable [miyyadiy tevaqshenu²]** for him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame for all days. (43.9)

But Laban said to him, "If you will allow me to say so, I have learned **by divination [nchsh]** that YHWH has blessed me because of you (30.27)

So he took his kinsfolk with him and **pursued [rdf] him** for seven days until he caught up with him in the hill country of Gilead. (31.23)

Laban overtook [nsg] Jacob. (31.25)

"Even though you had to go because you longed greatly for your father's house, **why did you steal [LXX, kleptō; gnv] my gods?**" (31.30)

But anyone with whom you find your gods shall not live. In the presence of our kinsfolk, point out what I have that is yours, and take it." **Now Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen the gods.** So Laban went into Jacob's tent, and into Leah's tent, and into the tent of the two maids, but he did not find them. And he went out of Leah's tent and entered Rachel's. Now Rachel had taken the household gods and put them in the camel's saddle and sat on them. Laban felt all about in the tent but did not find them. And she said to her father, "Let not my lord be angry that I cannot rise before you, for the way of women is upon me." **So he searched [chfs] but did not find the household gods.** (31.32-35)

That which was torn by wild beasts [cf. 44.28] I did not bring to you; I bore the loss of it myself; **of my hand you required it [miyyadiy tevaqshenu],** whether stolen by day or stolen by night. (31.39)

* only 14.14-15 outside these scenes in Genesis

only these scenes in Genesis

^ only 47.9 outside these scenes in Genesis

% only these scenes in Genesis LXX

¹ only these scenes in Genesis

² only these scenes in Genesis

³ only these scenes and 40.15 in Genesis