

trouble to get these images back? And there were some who said, Well, they must have been made of gold. They would be so valuable then. They would pay the full cost of the expedition, and leave Laban a lot over it. But if they were made of gold, and he hunted so ~~three~~- thoroughly, how could Rachel so sit on it and he would not even suspect that they were ~~even~~-there. They could have not been that big. They must have been a fairly small thing. So that the intrinsic value is hardly an explanation of why they were so important to Laban, and all through the ages we have not known why these were so important to Laban, but Jacob recognized that it was important to Laban, Jacob thought that it was a terrible accusation to make it that I ~~have-stolen~~ ^{would steal} his household gods. Look what Jacob did. Look Verse 35 tells us that... And he searched, but found not the images. Verse 36, when he searched and he did not find them, Jacob said, Isn't this awful that Laban would have accused me of such a thing ~~is~~ is this. And so we read several verses in which Laban tells, Jacob tells Laban off for accusing him of ~~such-a-thing~~ something of course that he would not think of doing. Why, is it so terrible a thing to steal his household gods? that Jacob-~~is-was~~ would feel so disgusted that Laban would have accused him of such a thing and that Laban would have never suspected that Rachel was sitting on it, when he went through all this trouble to hunt for everywhere else. Well, we have no answer to it. We did not know it, until we discovered these tablets in northern Mesopotamia. These new sets of tablets which we began to discover in 1926, a collection of a few thousands of tablets of contracts and legal documents of one sort and another, and a great many ... and marriage agreements and ~~so-on---~~ all that sort of a thing, which come from the group of people who lived in Haran at this time, and show their customs many of which are very different from the customs/~~f~~ of the people/ of the ~~Babye-~~ Babylon, and from these we learn that among those people if a man wanted to designate a son-in-law as heir to all of his property, he entrusted to that son-in-law his house-hold gods, and so that if a man would come to a court in that area, and ~~asy-~~ say, Look here, my father-in-law designated his property