

OVERTAKE, OVERTAKEN, OVERTAKETH, OVERTOOK

When Laban **overtook** Jacob (after Jacob fled with his wives and children), Laban pitched in mount Gilead (which is where Jacob was located).

- **Genesis 31:25:** "Then Laban overtook Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the mount: and Laban with his brethren pitched in the mount of Gilead."

When Laban **overtook** Jacob, Laban compared the way Jacob fled with Rachel and Leah to someone who stole women as captives and fled with them. (This was deeply unfair. If God hadn't intervened, Laban would have killed Jacob and taken everything he had.)

- **Genesis 31:26:** "And Laban said to Jacob, What hast thou done, that thou hast stolen away unawares to me, and carried away my daughters, as captives taken with the sword?"

When Laban **overtook** Jacob, he pretended to have no idea why Jacob left suddenly without telling him (even though he must have known, since his animosity toward Jacob wasn't a secret).

- **Genesis 31:27:** "Wherefore didst thou flee away secretly, and steal away from me; and didst not tell me, that I might have sent thee away with mirth, and with songs, with tabret, and with harp?"

When Laban **overtook** Jacob, he didn't try to mend his relationship with Jacob or apologize for the terrible way he had treated him. Instead he put all the blame on Jacob.

- **Genesis 31:27-28:** "Wherefore didst thou flee away secretly, and steal away from me; and didst not tell me, that I might have sent thee away with mirth, and with songs, with tabret, and with harp? And hast not suffered me to kiss my sons and my daughters? thou hast now done foolishly in so doing."

When Laban **overtook** Jacob, Laban claimed that if Jacob had told him that he was going to leave then he would have sent him away with mirth and songs and music. (That was a huge lie. If God hadn't intervened and saved Jacob then Laban would have killed him. Laban was a huge liar.)

- **Genesis 31:27:** "Wherefore didst thou flee away secretly, and steal away from me; and didst not tell me, that I might have sent thee away with mirth, and with songs, with tabret, and with harp?"

When Laban **overtook** Jacob and threatened him, he revealed that all his words about just wanting to kiss his grandchildren goodbye was a lie. What he really wanted to do was kill Jacob, which is why he had chased after him them so quickly.

- **Genesis 31:29:** "It is in the power of my hand to do you hurt: but the God of your father spake unto me yesternight, saying, Take thou heed that thou speak not to Jacob either good or bad."

When Laban **overtook** Jacob, he claimed Jacob left because he

wanted to return to his father Isaac. (This was another lie. Laban knew Jacob was leaving because Laban hated him, but he instead lied and claimed it was all Jacob's fault.)

- **Genesis 31:30:** "And now, though thou wouldest needs be gone, because thou sore longedst after thy father's house, yet wherefore hast thou stolen my gods?"

When Laban **overtook** Jacob, he asked Jacob why he had stolen his idols. (In reality Rachel had taken them without Jacob's knowledge.)

- **Genesis 31:30:** "And now, though thou wouldest needs be gone, because thou sore longedst after thy father's house, yet wherefore hast thou stolen my gods?"

Jacob marked the place where Laban **overtook** him by taking a stone and setting it up as a pillar.

- **Genesis 31:45:** "And Jacob took a stone, and set it up for a pillar."

After the sons of Jacob left, Joseph told his steward to **overtake** them and ask why they had returned evil for good by stealing his silver cup. (In reality, Joseph was the one who planted his property in their possession.)

- **Genesis 44:4-5:** "And when they were gone out of the city, and not yet far off, Joseph said unto his steward, Up, follow after the men; and when thou dost overtake them, say unto them, Wherefore have ye rewarded evil for good? Is not this it in which my lord drinketh, and whereby indeed he divineth? ye have done evil in so doing."

After the Israelites left Egypt, Pharaoh **overtook** them when they were near Baalzephon and beside Pihahiroth (which was close to the Red Sea). (This proved to be a terrible decision that cost Pharaoh and his army their lives.)

- **Exodus 14:9:** "But the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army, and overtook them encamping by the sea, beside Pihahiroth, before Baalzephon."

Moses warned the Israelites that if they didn't obey all of God's commandments then all of the curses of the Mosaic Law would **overtake** them and destroy them.

- **Deuteronomy 28:45:** "Moreover all these curses shall come upon thee, and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, till thou be destroyed; because thou hearkenedst not unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded thee:"

When David inquired of God and asked if he should chase the Amalekites who took the families and possessions of him and his men, God said that if he pursued them he would **overtake** them and recover everything.

- **1 Samuel 30:8:** "And David enquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all."

The reason the Egyptian servant was in the field where David

and his men found him was because he had fallen sick three days earlier, and his master had abandoned him. (If his master hadn't done that, David and his men wouldn't have been able to find and **overtake** the Amalekites.)

- **1 Samuel 30:13:** "And David said unto him, To whom belondest thou? and whence art thou? And he said, I am a young man of Egypt, servant to an Amalekite; and my master left me, because three days ago I fell sick."

God told David that if he pursued the Amalekites he would **overtake** them and recover everything, and that's exactly what happened. Not a single thing or person was missing.

- **1 Samuel 30:19:** "And there was nothing lacking to them, neither small nor great, neither sons nor daughters, neither spoil, nor any thing that they had taken to them: David recovered all."

After David and his men **overtook** the Amalekites and recovered everything they had taken, David obtained a lot of livestock. (It seems that not only did David recover everything the Amalekites had taken, but he gained additional possessions as well.)

- **1 Samuel 30:20:** "And David took all the flocks and the herds, which they drave before those other cattle, and said, This is David's spoil."

When David heard that his son Absalom had rebelled against him, and that the Israelites supported him, he was concerned that Absalom would suddenly **overtake** him and his servants and kill them.

- **2 Samuel 15:14:** "And David said unto all his servants that were with him at Jerusalem, Arise, and let us flee; for we shall not else escape from Absalom: make speed to depart, lest he overtake us suddenly, and bring evil upon us, and smite the city with the edge of the sword."

When the army of the Chaldees **overtook** Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho (after Zedekiah fled from Jerusalem), they defeated the army that Zedekiah had with him.

- **2 Kings 25:3-5:** "And on the ninth day of the fourth month the famine prevailed in the city, and there was no bread for the people of the land. And the city was broken up, and all the men of war fled by night by the way of the gate between two walls, which is by the king's garden: (now the Chaldees were against the city round about:) and the king went the way toward the plain. And the army of the Chaldees pursued after the king, and overtook him in the plains of Jericho: and all his army were scattered from him."
- **Jeremiah 52:8:** "But the army of the Chaldeans pursued after the king, and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho; and all his army was scattered from him."

After the army of the Chaldees **overtook** Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho, they brought him to the king of Babylon (where his sons were killed and his eyes were put out).

- **2 Kings 25:5-7:** "And the army of the Chaldees pursued after the king, and overtook him in the plains of Jericho: and all his army were scattered from him. So they took the king, and brought him up to the king of Babylon to Riblah; and they gave judgment upon him. And they slew

the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him with fetters of brass, and carried him to Babylon."

- **Jeremiah 39:5-6:** "But the Chaldeans' army pursued after them, and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho: and when they had taken him, they brought him up to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon to Riblah in the land of Hamath, where he gave judgment upon him. Then the king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah in Riblah before his eyes: also the king of Babylon slew all the nobles of Judah."

God can give us the strength to both pursue and **overtake** our enemies.

- **Psalms 18:37:** "I have pursued mine enemies, and overtaken them: neither did I turn again till they were consumed."

God warned the people who were with Johanan that if they went to Egypt then war would **overtake** them there and they wouldn't be safe.

- **Jeremiah 42:16:** "Then it shall come to pass, that the sword, which ye feared, shall overtake you there in the land of Egypt, and the famine, whereof ye were afraid, shall follow close after you there in Egypt; and there ye shall die."

We need to pay attention to other people's lives so we can notice if someone else is **overtaken** in a fault (and then help them overcome it so they can be restored).

- **Galatians 6:1:** "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."

If someone is **overtaken** in a fault, we have a responsibility to do something about it. (We can't just ignore it, because that person needs our help.)

- **Galatians 6:1:** "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."

The tribulation period won't **overtake** the church. We won't have to endure that time (because we won't be in this world when it happens).

- **1 Thessalonians 5:4:** "But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief."