

Genesis 29-31 - Lesson 38

Jacob and Laban

1. Gen 29:1-30 - Jacob's Marriage

- a. Jacob serving Laban is something out of Gen 15:13-14 that precedes Egypt
- b. Jew's at Passover mention Laban, for his deception, and evil intent toward Jacob
- c. 29:1-8 - Jacob at the well appears similar but is very different than Gen 24:10-11
- d. 29:15 - Laban, as his way was, turns this family reunion into a means for gain
- e. 29:16-18 - Leah the tender eyed vs. Rachel the well favoured (like her son - Ge 39:6)
- f. "*served seven years for Rachel*" - romantic, yes; but marriage doesn't start well in debt
- g. Laban deceives Jacob; as an honest man he would have spoken clearly
- h. 29:25 - "*what is this...*" - The same reaction from Esau to Jacob's deception
- i. "*Fulfill her week*" - the marriage week to Leah, the agreement is to marry both

2. Gen 29:31-30:24 - Jacob's Children

- a. "*Leah was hated*" - enslaved for both, loving one and hating the other (Matt 6:24)
- b. Jacob's favoritism sows discord just as Isaac's, and shows his spiritual state.
- c. 29:31 - The first time the LORD appears, and it is to help the mother of Judah.
 - i. Leah prayed to the LORD (Jacob's God) for the love of her husband.
 - ii. Leah has four boys, and then left bearing (why?) could it be Gen 30:1-2?
- d. 30:1-2 - Rachel is envious, but Jacob is no help either (compare to Gen 25:21)
- e. Something is amiss, when wives compete, and the husband is hired by his wife
- f. Mandrakes were apparently thought to aid conception, but did not work
- g. 30:22-24 - Rachel bears a son when God opens her womb

3. Gen 30:25-31:16 - God Provides for Jacob

- a. 30:26 - "*Send me away*" - Jacob asks to leave, but Laban tries to gain more from him
- b. 30:31-32 - Jacob knows Laban is shrewd, but God had given him a dream (next ch.)
- c. 30:37-43 - Jacob's increase was God ordained, Jacob's rods were to aid conception.
- d. 31:1-3 - The increase of Jacob caused Laban's countenance to change: his true colors
- e. 31:4-13 - Laban is against me, God is with me; Laban cheated me, God increased me; Laban changed my wages, God changed the flocks.
- f. 31:14-16 - The sisters both agree about their father cheating them as well as Jacob

4. Gen 31:17-55 - Jacob Leaves Laban

- a. 31:17-24 - Jacob flees back to Gilead. Laban pursues but God appears to him.
- b. 31:25-30 - Laban lies, threatens, and accuses Jacob because of his own loss
- c. 31:31-35 - A rash prophecy and Rachel's deceit.
- d. 31:36-42 - Jacob's just chiding of Laban, and Laban cowers
- e. 31:43-55 - Even when he has been publicly shamed, Laban tries to get a blessing from Jacob at Gilead (the heap of witness) - 31:50

The Twelve Children of Jacob in Gen 29-31

1. Reuben (the Lord saw) of Leah
2. Simeon (the Lord heard) of Leah
3. Levi (to be joined) of Leah
4. Judah (Praise the Lord) of Leah
5. Dan (judge) of Bilhah
6. Napthali (wrestling/struggle) of Bilhah
7. Gad (a troop) of Zilpah
8. Asher (happy) of Zilpah
9. Issachar (reward/hire) of Leah
10. Zebulun (dwelling) of Leah
11. Joseph (increase/to add) of Rachel
12. Dinah (judgement) of Leah