

Jacob Works Seven Years for Rachel (1930–1923 BC)

Genesis 29:1–20

- 1 Then Jacob went on his journey, and came to the land of the sons of the east.
- 2 He looked, and saw a well in the field, and behold, three flocks of sheep were lying there beside it, for from that well they watered the flocks. Now the stone on the mouth of the well was large.
- 3 When all the flocks were gathered there, they would then roll the stone from the mouth of the well and water the sheep, and put the stone back in its place on the mouth of the well.
- 4 Jacob said to them, “My brothers, where are you from?” And they said, “We are from Haran.”
- 5 He said to them, “Do you know Laban the son of Nahor?” And they said, “We know *him*.”
- 6 And he said to them, “Is it well with him?” And they said, “It is well, and here is Rachel his daughter coming with the sheep.”
- 7 He said, “Behold, it is still high day; it is not time for the livestock to be gathered. Water the sheep, and go, pasture them.”
- 8 But they said, “We cannot, until all the flocks are gathered, and they roll the stone from the mouth of the well; then we water the sheep.”
- 9 While he was still speaking with them, Rachel came with her father’s sheep, for she was a shepherdess.
- 10 When Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother’s brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother’s brother, Jacob went up and rolled the stone from the mouth of the well and watered the flock of Laban his mother’s brother.
- 11 Then Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted his voice and wept.
- 12 Jacob told Rachel that he was a relative of her father and that he was Rebekah’s son, and she ran and told her father.
- 13 So when Laban heard the news of Jacob his sister’s son, he ran to meet him, and embraced him and kissed him and brought him to his house. Then he related to Laban all these things.
- 14 Laban said to him, “Surely you are my bone and my flesh.” And he stayed with him a month.
- 15 Then Laban said to Jacob, “Because you are my relative, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?”
- 16 Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel.
- 17 And Leah’s eyes were weak, but Rachel was beautiful of form and face.
- 18 Now Jacob loved Rachel, so he said, “I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.”
- 19 Laban said, “It is better that I give her to you than to give her to another man; stay with me.”
- 20 So Jacob served seven years for Rachel and they seemed to him but a few days because of his love for her.

Laban Deceives Jacob / Jacob Works Seven Years for Leah (1923–1916 BC)

Genesis 29:21–30

- 21 Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give *me* my wife, for my time is completed, that I may go in to her.”
- 22 Laban gathered all the men of the place and made a feast.
- 23 Now in the evening he took his daughter Leah, and brought her to him; and *Jacob* went in to her.
- 24 Laban also gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah as a maid.
- 25 So it came about in the morning that, behold, it was Leah! And he said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served with you? Why then have you deceived me?”
- 26 But Laban said, “It is not the practice in our place to marry off the younger before the firstborn.
- 27 Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also for the service which you shall serve with me for another seven years.”
- 28 Jacob did so and completed her week, and he gave him his daughter Rachel as his wife.
- 29 Laban also gave his maid Bilhah to his daughter Rachel as her maid.
- 30 So *Jacob* went in to Rachel also, and indeed he loved Rachel more than Leah, and he served with Laban for another seven years.

God Opens Leah’s Womb (1922–1919 BC)

Genesis 29:31–35

- 31 Now the LORD saw that Leah was unloved, and He opened her womb, but Rachel was barren.
- 32 Leah conceived and bore a son and named him Reuben, for she said, “Because the LORD has seen my affliction; surely now my husband will love me.”
- 33 Then she conceived again and bore a son and said, “Because the LORD has heard that I am unloved, He has therefore given me this *son* also.” So she named him Simeon.
- 34 She conceived again and bore a son and said, “Now this time my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons.” Therefore he was named Levi.
- 35 And she conceived again and bore a son and said, “This time I will praise the LORD.” Therefore she named him Judah. Then she stopped bearing.

War Between Sisters (1919–1916 BC)

Genesis 30:1–21

Jacob's Children by Bilhah

- 1 Now when Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, she became jealous of her sister; and she said to Jacob, "Give me children, or else I die."
 2 Then Jacob's anger burned against Rachel, and he said, "Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?"
 3 She said, "Here is my maid Bilhah, go in to her that she may bear on my knees, that through her I too may have children."
 4 So she gave him her maid Bilhah as a wife, and Jacob went in to her.
 5 Bilhah conceived and bore Jacob a son.
 6 Then Rachel said, "God has vindicated me, and has indeed heard my voice and has given me a son." Therefore she named him Dan.
 7 Rachel's maid Bilhah conceived again and bore Jacob a second son.
 8 So Rachel said, "With mighty wrestlings I have wrestled with my sister, *and* I have indeed prevailed." And she named him Naphtali.

Jacob's Children by Zilpah

- 9 When Leah saw that she had stopped bearing, she took her maid Zilpah and gave her to Jacob as a wife.
 10 Leah's maid Zilpah bore Jacob a son.
 11 Then Leah said, "How fortunate!" So she named him Gad.
 12 Leah's maid Zilpah bore Jacob a second son.
 13 Then Leah said, "Happy am I! For women will call me happy." So she named him Asher.

Leah Bears More Children to Jacob

- 14 Now in the days of wheat harvest Reuben went and found mandrakes in the field, and brought them to his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, "Please give me some of your son's mandrakes."
 15 But she said to her, "Is it a small matter for you to take my husband? And would you take my son's mandrakes also?" So Rachel said, "Therefore he may lie with you tonight in return for your son's mandrakes."
 16 When Jacob came in from the field in the evening, then Leah went out to meet him and said, "You must come in to me, for I have surely hired you with my son's mandrakes." So he lay with her that night.
 17 God gave heed to Leah, and she conceived and bore Jacob a fifth son.
 18 Then Leah said, "God has given me my wages because I gave my maid to my husband." So she named him Issachar.
 19 Leah conceived again and bore a sixth son to Jacob.
 20 Then Leah said, "God has endowed me with a good gift; now my husband will dwell with me, because I have borne him six sons." So she named him Zebulun.
 21 Afterward she bore a daughter and named her Dinah.

The Birth of Joseph (1916 BC)

Genesis 30:22–24

- 22 Then God remembered Rachel, and God gave heed to her and opened her womb.
 23 So she conceived and bore a son and said, "God has taken away my reproach."
 24 She named him Joseph, saying, "May the LORD give me another son."

Jacob Prospers in Spite of Laban's Attempts to Cheat Him (c. 1916–10 BC)

Genesis 30:25–43

- 25 Now it came about when Rachel had borne Joseph, that Jacob said to Laban, "Send me away, that I may go to my own place and to my own country.
 26 Give *me* my wives and my children for whom I have served you, and let me depart; for you yourself know my service which I have rendered you."
 27 But Laban said to him, "If now it pleases you, *stay with me*; I have divined that the LORD has blessed me on your account."
 28 He continued, "Name me your wages, and I will give it."
 29 But he said to him, "You yourself know how I have served you and how your cattle have fared with me.
 30 For you had little before I came and it has increased to a multitude, and the LORD has blessed you wherever I turned. But now, when shall I provide for my own household also?"
 31 So he said, "What shall I give you?" And Jacob said, "You shall not give me anything. If you will do this *one* thing for me, I will again pasture *and* keep your flock:
 32 let me pass through your entire flock today, removing from there every speckled and spotted sheep and every black one among

the lambs and the spotted and speckled among the goats; and *such* shall be my wages.

33 So my honesty will answer for me later, when you come concerning my wages. Every one that is not speckled and spotted among the goats and black among the lambs, *if found* with me, will be considered stolen.”

34 Laban said, “Good, let it be according to your word.”

35 So he removed on that day the striped and spotted male goats and all the speckled and spotted female goats, every one with white in it, and all the black ones among the sheep, and gave them into the care of his sons.

36 And he put *a distance of* three days’ journey between himself and Jacob, and Jacob fed the rest of Laban’s flocks.

37 Then Jacob took fresh rods of poplar and almond and plane trees, and peeled white stripes in them, exposing the white which *was* in the rods.

38 He set the rods which he had peeled in front of the flocks in the gutters, *even* in the watering troughs, where the flocks came to drink; and they mated when they came to drink.

39 So the flocks mated by the rods, and the flocks brought forth striped, speckled, and spotted.

40 Jacob separated the lambs, and made the flocks face toward the striped and all the black in the flock of Laban; and he put his own herds apart, and did not put them with Laban’s flock.

41 Moreover, whenever the stronger of the flock were mating, Jacob would place the rods in the sight of the flock in the gutters, so that they might mate by the rods;

42 but when the flock was feeble, he did not put *them* in; so the feebler were Laban’s and the stronger Jacob’s.

43 So the man became exceedingly prosperous, and had large flocks and female and male servants and camels and donkeys.

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