

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

March 1, 2023

Genesis 29:15-30

Introduction:

1. After arriving in Haran and meeting Rachel, Jacob is invited to his uncle's house where he "stayed with him for a month" (Gen. 29.13,14).
2. In Old Testament times, marriage was at the discretion of the father. A daughter could only marry with the father's approval. (Deut. 7.3)
3. Jacob fell in love with Rachel and made an agreement with Laban to work for seven years to earn the hand of his daughter.

I. DESCRIPTION

- A. **Genesis 29.15:** "Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my relative, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what should your wages be?"
1. Jacob labored while he stayed with Laban.
 - a) What kind of work did Jacob perform? (Gen. 29.10; cf. 25.27; Hos. 12.12)
 - b) God does not want lazy children. (Prov. 21.25; 12.27; 2 Thess. 3.10; 1 Tim. 5.8)
 - c) Christians were made for the purpose of working. (Eph. 2.10; Titus 2.7,14; 3.8)
 2. Jacob requested Rachel as his payment. (Gen. 29.18)
- B. **Genesis 29.16:** "Now Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel."
1. Leah is described as having delicate eyes. Literally, "weak." An idiomatic expression that had nothing to do with the eyes. (Gen. 29.17; cf. Deut. 28.54)
 2. Rachel, in contrast, is described as "beautiful of form and appearance" (Gen. 29.17)

II. DEVOTION

- A. **Genesis 29.18:** "I will serve you seven years for Rachel your younger daughter."
1. Why did Jacob choose to serve for seven years?
 - a) He could not afford a dowry, so he estimated Rachel's worth as equating to seven years of labor. (Gen. 34.11,12; Ex. 22.16,17)
 - b) He was possibly hiding from his Esau. (Gen. 27.42-45)
 2. How did Laban feel about Jacob's proposal? (Gen. 29.19)
- B. **Genesis 29.20:** "So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed only a few days to him because of the love he had for her."

III. DECEPTION

- A. **Genesis 29.21:** "Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled"
1. **Genesis 29.21:** "that I may go in to her." Consummate the marriage. (Gen. 38.15-19)
 2. After the wedding party, Laban sent Leah to the bride chamber where their marriage was consummated – unbeknownst to Jacob. (Gen. 28.22-24)
- B. **Genesis 29.25:** "So it came to pass in the morning, that behold, it was Leah."
1. **Genesis 29.25:** "What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served you? Why then have you deceived me?" The deceiver became the deceived.
 2. Laban offered an excuse for his bait and switch tactics. (Gen. 29.26,27)
- C. **Genesis 29.28-30:** "Then Jacob did so"