

Lesson 20 Genesis 28:10-29 to Chapter 30
Jacob In Paddan-Aram

Chapter 28

1. A. Why was Jacob traveling? (From 28:1-5)

1 Isaac therefore summoned Jacob and blessed him, charging him: “You shall not marry a Canaanite woman!

2 Go now to Paddan-aram, to the home of your mother’s father Bethuel, and there choose a wife for yourself from among the daughters of Laban, your mother’s brother.

3 May God Almighty bless you and make you fertile, multiply you that you may become an assembly of peoples.

4 May God extend to you and your descendants the blessing of Abraham, so that you may gain possession of the land where you are residing, which he assigned to Abraham.”

5 Then Isaac sent Jacob on his way; he went to Paddan-aram, to Laban, son of Bethuel the Aramean, and brother of Rebekah, the mother of Jacob and Esau.

B. What was it in Jacob’s dream that revealed to Jacob that the path from God to him was open? (Also see John 1:51)

John 1:51

51 And he said to him, “Amen, amen,* I say to you, you will see the sky opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

2. Using verses 13-15 list the promises God gave to Jacob regarding:

13 And there was the LORD standing beside him and saying: I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you are lying I will give to you and your descendants.

14 Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and through them you will spread to the west and the east, to the north and the south. In you and your descendants all the families of the earth will find blessing.

15 I am with you and will protect you wherever you go, and bring you back to this land. I will never leave you until I have done what I promised you.

A. His land

B. His descendants

C. His blessing

D. God's presence with him

Chapter 29

3. A. Jacob deceived his father by pretending to be his brother. Give some verses from Gen.29 that Jacob begins to reap what he has sown.

B. Can you remember any instance in your life when you also reaped what you sowed which you might like to share?

4. List the names of all eleven sons of Jacob, who helped form the twelve tribes of Israel.

Also see 35:17 “helped form”.

Genesis 35:23-26

23 The sons of Leah: Reuben, Jacob’s firstborn, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun;

24 the sons of Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin;

25 the sons of Rachel’s maidservant Bilhah: Dan and Naphtali;

26 the sons of Leah’s maidservant Zilpah: Gad and Asher.

5. *Challenge Question:* What future blessings for us and the Jewish people came from Leah’s sons?

Would you say Leah’s blessing exceeded Rachael’s?

6. What can we learn about God’s goodness when a person like Leah has a special sorrow for which she is not to blame? Read 2 Cor.4:17-18

2 Cor.4:17-18

17 For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,

18 as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.

Chapter 30

7. A. In what sense are Jacob’s troubles (vs.1-4, 15-16) his own fault?

1 When Rachel saw that she had not borne children to Jacob, she became envious of her sister. She said to Jacob, “Give me children or I shall die!”

2 Jacob became angry with Rachel and said, “Can I take the place of God, who has denied you the fruit of the womb?”

3 She replied, “Here is my maidservant Bilhah. Have intercourse with her, and let her give birth on my knees,* so that I too may have children through her.”

4 So she gave him her maidservant Bilhah as wife,* and Jacob had intercourse with her.

15 Leah replied, “Was it not enough for you to take away my husband, that you must now take my son’s mandrakes too?” Rachel answered, “In that case Jacob may lie with you tonight in exchange for your son’s mandrakes.”

16 That evening, when Jacob came in from the field, Leah went out to meet him. She said, “You must have intercourse with me, because I have hired you with my son’s mandrakes.” So that night he lay with her

- B. What do you see as the main problem in this mixed up family?

8. Read Gen.30:25-43. In what ways was Jacob a good servant to Laban?

- 25 After Rachel gave birth to Joseph, Jacob said to Laban: “Allow me to go to my own region and land.**
- 26 Give me my wives and my children for whom I served you and let me go, for you know the service that I rendered you.”**
- 27 Laban answered him: “If you will please! I have learned through divination that the LORD has blessed me because of you.”**
- 28 He continued, “State the wages I owe you, and I will pay them.”**
- 29 Jacob replied: “You know what work I did for you and how well your livestock fared under my care;**
- 30 the little you had before I came has grown into an abundance, since the LORD has blessed you in my company. Now, when can I do something for my own household as well?”**
- 31 Laban asked, “What should I give you?” Jacob answered: “You do not have to give me anything. If you do this thing for me, I will again pasture and tend your sheep.**
- 32 Let me go through your whole flock today and remove from it every dark animal among the lambs and every spotted or speckled one among the goats.* These will be my wages.**
- 33 In the future, whenever you check on my wages, my honesty will testify for me: any animal that is not speckled or spotted among the goats, or dark among the lambs, got into my possession by theft!”**
- 34 Laban said, “Very well. Let it be as you say.”**
- 35 That same day Laban removed the streaked and spotted he-goats and all the speckled and spotted she-goats, all those with some white on them, as well as every dark lamb, and he put them in the care of his sons.***
- 36 Then he put a three days’ journey between himself and Jacob, while Jacob was pasturing the rest of Laban’s flock.**
- 37 Jacob, however, got some fresh shoots of poplar, almond and plane* trees, and he peeled white stripes in them by laying bare the white core of the shoots.**
- 38 The shoots that he had peeled he then set upright in the watering troughs where the animals came to drink, so that they would be in front of them. When the animals were in heat as they came to drink,**
- 39 the goats mated by the shoots, and so they gave birth to streaked, speckled and spotted young.**
- 40 The sheep, on the other hand, Jacob kept apart, and he made these animals face the streaked or completely dark animals of Laban. Thus he produced flocks of his own, which he did not put with Laban’s flock.**
- 41 Whenever the hardier animals were in heat, Jacob would set the shoots in the troughs in full view of these animals, so that they mated by the shoots;**
- 42 but with the weaker animals he would not put the shoots there. So the feeble animals would go to Laban, but the hardy ones to Jacob. 43So the man grew exceedingly prosperous, and he owned large flocks, male and female servants, camels, and donkeys.**

9. What unfair advantage did crafty Laban take over Jacob in his bargain?

10. *Challenge Question:* Give some quotations from Colossians 3:22-25 and I Peter 3:9 that illustrate what you have read in Genesis 30:25-30.

Colossians 3:22-25

22 Slaves,* obey your human masters in everything, not only when being watched, as currying favor, but in simplicity of heart, fearing the Lord.

23 Whatever you do, do from the heart, as for the Lord and not for others,

24 knowing that you will receive from the Lord the due payment of the inheritance; be slaves of the Lord Christ.

25 For the wrongdoer will receive recompense for the wrong he committed, and there is no partiality.

1 Peter 3:9

9 Do not return evil for evil, or insult for insult; but, on the contrary, a blessing, because to this you were called, that you might inherit a blessing