

FINAL STUDY NOTES - GENESIS CHAPTERS 29 & 30

7/22-23/2024

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 www.ptwente.com - Audio & notes - previous studies

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada).

- Beginning Tuesday, June 4, 2024, TUES MORNING MTG PLACE:
- 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions from your starting point, Suggest using *WAZE* (waze.com/live-map) or *MapQuest* (mapquest.com),
- AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!

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OPENING PRAYER

Genesis Chapter 29 – Jacob Meets Rachel - (vs. 1-30); The Children of Jacob – (vs. 31-35)!

Genesis Chapter 30 – The Children of Jacob, continuing – (vs. 1-24); Jacob's Agreement with Laban – (vs.25-43)!

Review:

- **Isaac:** (*Gen 27:33*) *Then Isaac trembled exceedingly, and said,and I have blessed him—and indeed he shall be blessed.*" (*Heb 11:20*) *By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.*
- (*Gen 28:2*) *Arise, go to Padan Aram, to the house of Bethuel your mother's father; and take yourself a wife from there of the daughters of Laban your mother's brother. (Gen 28:15a) Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back.*

Chapter 29: Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel

- **Jacob will spend the next twenty years in Padan Aram**, coming at the age of about 75 and leaving about 95 years old.. He did receive some rather shabby treatment at the hand of his deceiving Uncle Laban. However, Laban did give him a job, permitted him to marry his daughters and made it possible for Jacob to build up an extensive holding of his own.

Gen 29:1 *So Jacob went on his journey and came to the land of the people of the East.*

Gen 29:2 *And he looked, and saw a well in the field; and behold, there were three flocks of sheep lying by it; for out of that well they watered the flocks. A large stone was on the well's mouth.*

Gen 29:3 *Now all the flocks would be gathered there; and they would roll the stone from the well's mouth, water the sheep, and put the stone back in its place on the well's mouth.*

Gen 29:4 *And Jacob said to them, "My brethren, where are you from?" And they said, "We are from Haran."*

Gen 29:5 *Then he said to them, "Do you know Laban the son of Nahor?" And they said, "We know him."*

Gen 29:6 *So he said to them, "Is he well?" And they said, "He is well. And look, his daughter Rachel is coming with the sheep."*

Gen 29:7 *Then he said, "Look, it is still high day; it is not time for the cattle to be gathered together. Water the sheep, and go and feed them."*

- **Evidently, Jacob was wanting to get rid of these shepherds, probably women or young lads with their sheep**, so that when Rachel arrived he would be alone with her. Again, even as the servant earlier Eliezer had been led by the LORD and had come to the place where Rebekah was coming out to get water. So Jacob is coming to the well now.
- **It was an interesting type of well that was covered by a rock.** The stone evidently was too heavy for the lads who were watering the sheep to move it by themselves, so they would wait until a group would arrive and then one who was stronger would roll the stone back. They would water their sheep and they would leave. Apparently they would water them in the order in which they arrived so that the first to arrive when the rock was removed they would be the first ones to get the water.
- **It was just about noon, high day, and these fellows were already lining up.** They should still be out in the fields. They should have their sheep out still pasturing, but they wanted to get first in line. They were not that communicative. Jacob asks, "Hi, fellows. Do you know Laban son of Nahor?" We know him. Is he well? He is well. Hey, there comes his daughter right now with her sheep. Rachel was a shepherdess.

Gen 29:8 *But they said, "We cannot until all the flocks are gathered together, and they have rolled the stone from the well's mouth; then we water the sheep."*

Gen 29:9 *Now while he was still speaking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she was a shepherdess.*

Gen 29:10 *And it came to pass, when Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, that Jacob went near and rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother.*

- (*Gen 28:2*) *Arise, go to Padan Aram, to the house of Bethuel your mother's father; and take yourself a wife from there of the daughters of Laban your mother's brother.*
- **Jacob...rolled the stone.** It was probably a little bit of macho show off here. It usually took several guys to roll back the stone, but he sees Rachel and her flock of sheep, so he goes up and muscles the rock off so that Rachel can water her flock.

Gen 29:11 *Then Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted up his voice and wept.*

Gen 29:12 *And Jacob told Rachel that he was her father's relative and that he was Rebekah's son. So she ran and told her father.*

- **Rachel was probably taken back at least by the whole scene.** She, no doubt, had heard the story of her Aunt Rebekah, who was taken by the servant of Abraham to be the wife of Abraham's son. How the story involved the well and how that Rebekah had been prosperous as the wife of Isaac. Now here is a relative of hers, actually a cousin to her and he kisses her. He cries with, no doubt, a cry of just thanksgiving, just overcome with emotion! God has been faithful. God has brought him to the family. Not only that, but it also says of Rachel a little later on she was of beautiful form and features. So she was a beautiful gal! Jacob is overcome with emotion and tells her who he is. I am Rebekah's son, your brother's sister!

Gen 29:13 Then it came to pass, when Laban heard the report about Jacob his sister's son, that he ran to meet him, and embraced him and kissed him, and brought him to his house. So he told Laban all these things.

- **Which is the typical type of oriental greeting in that area of the country, the hugging, the kissing on each cheek and all.**
- ***He told Laban all these things.*** It is interesting to think about how much of Jacob's deceitfulness was told to Laban, even a greater deceiver! We can be sure that Jacob likely didn't include the fact that he came all the way to Padam Aram to escape being murdered by Esau, for Isaac being deceived by Jacob.
- ***If I were to tell all things about my past, what would I include and what would be excluded? How much emphasis on me and how much on God?***
- ***Notice the difference in the prayer and worship between Eliezer's and Jacob's experience in "coming to the well" and meeting the future brides! Much is mentioned with Eliezer; nothing mentioned with Jacob? Which does my life most reflect?***

Gen 29:14 And Laban said to him, "Surely you are my bone and my flesh." And he stayed with him for a month.

Gen 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?"

- **Evidently during the month that Jacob was there, he had pitched in and helped** with the duties, helped with the chores. He was a very industrious person. So Laban said, "Look, you're a relative, because of that, you shouldn't *serve me for nothing*. I ought to be paying you wages. What wages do you want?"

Gen 29:16 Now Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel.

Gen 29:17 Leah's eyes were delicate (tender-eyed), but Rachel was beautiful of form and appearance.

- **The word delicate means tender or weak.** Some believe that it means that they were blue or green eyes which may have been considered a weakness, whereas Rachel's were the deep brown, which was more natural among that ethnic group. There are some who think that she had eye problems.
- ***But Rachel was beautiful of form and appearance!*** Good looking, handsome in shape!

Gen 29:18 Now Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for Rachel your younger daughter."

- **It must have pretty much been love at first sight.** He's only been there a month. But he's already in love with Rachel.
- ***He said, I will serve you seven years for Rachel your younger daughter! Laban indicated that is a good deal!*** He probably would have given him the daughter to marry, but seven years of labor out of this fellow for...all right!

Gen 29:19 And Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to another man. Stay with me."

- **So the deal was made.**

Gen 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.

- **This is a beautiful and touching part.** They seemed but a few days to him, because of the love that he had for her! That is a very beautiful and touching passage of scripture.
- **Not to take away from the romance of the whole story,** but Jacob was a little over seventy-five years old at this time. He lived to be one hundred forty-seven years old, about middle-aged.

Considering the virility and longevity, it isn't that old in those days. He was not too old to be romantic. The love that he had for her was so great that seven years just seemed like a few days! I like that. I think that is very touching.

Gen 29:21 Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in to her."

Gen 29:22 And Laban gathered together all the men of the place and made a feast.

Gen 29:23 Now it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her.

Gen 29:24 And Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah as a maid.

Gen 29:25 So it came to pass 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 you? Why then have you deceived me?"

- **Jacob, the deceiver has been deceived! Jacob was there** in Padam Aram, running from the anger of his brother Esau because he had been guilty of deceiving his father. Now he himself is being deceived by his father-in-law! (**Gal 6:7**) Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.
- (**Jdg 1:7ab**) And Adoni-Bezek said, "Seventy kings with their thumbs and big toes cut off used to gather scraps under my table; as I have done, so God has repaid me. A law of life, a law that God has established within nature. Whatever a man sows, that he also reaps. It is a necessary law to keep order in nature.
- **Life would be almost impossible, if this were not a law of nature.** If you did not reap what you sowed, then the whole agriculture industry would be chaotic. As you go out and plant your beans and you raise carrots. The law of sowing and reaping is not just valid in the physical universe, but the Bible declares it is also valid in the spiritual realm. Whatever a man sows that he reaps! If you sow to your flesh, of your flesh you are going to reap! If you sow to your spirit of your spirit you are going to reap!
- **Whatever a man sows that he reaps! How we need to watch what we sow into our minds! What we plant is most important because you become what you have planted in your mind!**

Gen 29:26 And Laban said, "It must not be done so in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn.

Gen 29:27 Fulfill her week, and we will give you this one also for the service which you will serve with me still another seven years."

- **What a rip-off! Laban is a crook.** In fact, when he and Jacob in the next chapter have their showdown, Jacob accuses him of changing his wages ten different times! So this isn't the only incident. Now the rest of them aren't recorded, but ten different times, Laban changed the wages of Jacob, but Jacob always got the better of him! Laban is a despicable kind of a person. And really the only pleasant part of the story is Jacob, who wasn't much better, but because of God's grace and mercy, Jacob was able to get the best of him on every turn!
- **Now it was the custom of the that time to when you got married to spend the first week** with your wife. So fulfill her week, and then we will give you the other *one also for the service by which you will serve me for another seven years.*

Gen 29:28 Then Jacob did so and fulfilled her week. So he gave him his daughter Rachel as wife also.

Gen 29:29 And Laban gave his maid Bilhah to his daughter Rachel as a maid.

Gen 29:30 Then Jacob also went in to Rachel, and he also loved Rachel more than Leah. And he served with Laban still another seven years.

- **Polygamy is not ever recommended in the Bible! The disadvantages would far outweigh the advantages.** To keep one woman happy is more than a man can do. I can imagine what would happen if you tried to keep several women happy.
- **It wasn't all pleasant. What you would imagine might happen did indeed happen.** There was rivalry and a jealousy among the wives. As Jesus said, "No man can serve two masters," so no man can serve two wives. Jacob had a partiality for Rachel! He was partial to beautiful Rachel and sort of negligent towards the less attractive, Leah.

- **God had mercy on Leah!** She became very prolific as far as her bearing children. But there was always a longing for her husband's love that was never fully given to her. Rachel, not being able to have children, became envious and a very trying kind of a circumstance as we will see as we go on in the story.

Jacob's Children

Gen 29:31 When the LORD saw that Leah was unloved, (saw-nay – to hate, slighted), He opened her womb; but Rachel was barren.

- **That is a terrible position for a woman** to be in when married to a man. God sees! God hears! God knows!

Gen 29:32 So Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben; for she said, "The LORD has surely looked on my affliction. Now therefore, my husband will love me."

- **Rather pathetic, sad!** I've born him a son, surely now he will love me. She called his name Reuben, which means, "Look, or behold, see a son," because she said the Lord has looked upon my affliction. So she named him "Look a son," hoping that the birth of this son would bring her husband's love to her.

Gen 29:33 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." And she called his name Simeon.

- **Simeon means hearing.** So God has seen; the first son, Look. The second son, God has heard my cry. So she called him Hearing. God sees and God hears. The first two sons being named after the distress of her own heart for the lack of love that she is receiving from her husband. God sees me. God has heard me. (Exo 3:7) And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows."

Gen 29:34 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 his name was called Levi.

- **Surely he'll start living with me now, or he'll become attached** or joined to me.
- **So she called him Levi, which means attached or joined.** Again, expressing that yearning for the love of her husband.

Gen 29:35 And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Now I will praise the LORD." Therefore she called his name Judah. Then she stopped bearing.

- **So in rapid succession, probably in a four-year period of time she bore him four sons;** while Rachel remains barren.
- **Now in that culture, the greatest thing that a woman can do is bear a son for her husband.** That's just primo when you can give your husband a son. In that culture, if you are unable to give your husband a son, then you can actually be divorced. If all you bear is girls, he can divorce you. If you cannot bear children, he can divorce you. Bearing him a son is just considered the greatest.
- **In that culture when a young mother goes into labor everybody would come over.** They would bring the goodies, the band. When the midwife came out and said, "It's a boy," they'd strike up the band. They'd have their dances. They'd drink and have a big party. If the midwife came out and said, "It's a girl," they'd roll up everything and go home.
- **Leah was able to bear four sons in rapid succession.** That should have put her most preferred by Jacob. She was hoping that it would. "Now surely my husband will be attached to me." So every time she called Levi, "Come here, Attached," hoping that Jacob would catch on and become attached to her.

Chapter 30: The Children of Jacob, continuing

Gen 30:1 Now when Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister, and said to Jacob, "Give me children, or else I die!"

- **We see the problem between these sisters of envy, jealousy.** Rachel said to Jacob, Give me children, or else I die! The envy didn't really bring her much comfort from Jacob. Her attitude caused his anger to rise against her.

Gen 30:2 And Jacob's anger was aroused against Rachel, and he said, "Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?"

- Jacob, in anger says that it is not I! It's obvious that I'm able to produce children. That is what he was declaring.
- **A spouse must never ask or expect their mate to do something that can only be done by God! Husbands are to nourish and cherish their wives, who are to be content, not always be one step away from being satisfied, which leads to the husband concluding that nothing he does is ever good enough for his wife!**

Gen 30:3 So she said, "Here is my maid Bilhah (we remember Hagar!); go in to her, and she will bear a child on my knees, that I also may have children by her."

Gen 30:4 Then she gave him Bilhah her maid as wife, and Jacob went in to her.

Gen 30:5 And Bilhah conceived and bore Jacob a son.

Gen 30:6 Then Rachel said, "God has judged my case; and He has also heard my voice and given me a son." Therefore she called his name Dan.

- Dan means judged, God has judged my case, or judgment.

Gen 30:7 And Rachel's maid Bilhah conceived again and bore Jacob a second son.

Gen 30:8 Then Rachel said, "With great wrestlings I have wrestled with my sister, and indeed I have prevailed." So she called his name Naphtali.

- Naphtali means wrestling. Note how the children were named after hopes, aspirations, or after circumstances of their birth.

Gen 30:9 When Leah saw that she had stopped bearing, she took Zilpah her maid and gave her to Jacob as wife.

- **Look at the competition!** You don't read of Jacob complaining though, interestingly enough.

Gen 30:10 And Leah's maid Zilpah bore Jacob a son.

Gen 30:11 Then Leah said, "A troop comes!" So she called his name Gad.

- A troop comes! That is probably what she was hoping that she would have a troop of children

Gen 30:12 And Leah's maid Zilpah bore Jacob a second son.

Gen 30:13 Then Leah said, "I am happy, for the daughters will call me blessed." So she called his name Asher (Happy).

- The names sound like the seven dwarfs in a way: Happy, Hire, Dwelling, Troop, Wrestlings, Judgment, Praises—Doc, Grumpy.

Gen 30:14 Now Reuben went in the days of wheat harvest 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."

- At this time Reuben was probably seven or eight years old. He went in the days of the wheat harvest and found mandrakes.

Gen 30:15 But she said to her, "Is it a small matter that you have taken away my husband? Would you take away my son's mandrakes also?" And Rachel said, "Therefore he will lie with you tonight for your son's mandrakes."

- **There is a lot of bitterness between the sisters.** It's sad. It's tragic. No doubt it was not a happy, peaceful home. I don't know how you could have in these kind of circumstances.
- **Mandrakes were thought to be an aphrodisiac and some believed it was an inducer of fertility, especially the roots, which have a suggestive sexual appearance.** Rachel was hoping to take the mandrakes as an aphrodisiac, and perhaps create fertility. When Reuben found the mandrakes in the field, brought them home to his mother. Rachel said, "Oh, I'd like to have those mandrakes." Leah responded, "Hey, isn't enough that you've taken away the husband? Now you want my son's mandrakes also."
- **Therefore he will lie with you tonight for your son's mandrakes.** Rachel, badly wanting the mandrakes, finally acquired them from Leah by making a bargain which must have been unpleasant for her. She agreed to insist that Jacob lie with Leah that night, hoping that later, when she would be with Jacob, the mandrakes would enable her to become pregnant.

Gen 30:16 When Jacob came out of the field in the evening, 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." And he lay with her that night.

Gen 30:17 And God listened to Leah, and she conceived and bore Jacob a fifth son.

Gen 30:18 Leah said, "God has given me my wages, because I have given (hired, a reward) my maid to my husband." So she called his name Issachar.

Gen 30:19 Then Leah conceived again and bore Jacob a sixth son.

Gen 30:20 And Leah said, "God has endowed me with a good endowment; now my husband will dwelt with me, because I have borne him six sons." So she called his name Zebulun.

- Leah was hoping that her husband would now dwell in her tent, because she was able to produce so many children, but still the sadness persisted.

Gen 30:21 Afterward she bore a daughter, and called her name Dinah.

- After ten children, Jacob became father to a daughter through Leah, who was named *Dinah*. Apparently, there was nothing symbolically significant in her name. Imagine what it must have been for that little girl with all of these brothers, some ten brothers. So she, no doubt, had a pretty good life. The brothers loved her very much, very jealous for her as we'll find later in the story.

Gen 30:22 Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb.

- *God remembered!* (*Gen 19:29*) *And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when He overthrew the cities in which Lot had dwelt.*
- Note the same closing of the womb; praying for opening! God ending barrenness is all three generations of the first chosen in the Messianic line! – Abraham/Sarah; Isaac/Rebekah; and now Jacob/Rachel!
- **What an encouragement for us to pray! God remembers! He listens! He responds!**

Gen 30:23 And she conceived and bore a son, and said, "God has taken away my reproach."

- **Remember that God is not mad at us because of some unfortunate physical circumstance in our lives, which has nothing to do with that at all!**

Gen 30:24 So she called his name Joseph, and said, "The LORD shall add to me another son."

- She called his name Joseph, "Adding." God will add another son. Indeed she did have one more son after they had returned to the land of Israel and were in the area near Bethlehem, her second son was born, the twelfth son to Jacob. In childbirth Rachel died. As the child was being born and she was having such a difficult time in delivery she called his name Benoi, "the son of misery." But Jacob changed his name to Benjamin, "the son of my right hand." So it is true God did add to her one more son, so she named him "Adding," in hopes and faith that God would add one more son.

Jacob's Prosperity

Gen 30:25 And it came to pass, when Rachel had borne Joseph, that Jacob said to Laban, "Send me away, that I may go to my own place and to my country."

- Now Jacob has eleven sons, and he wants to go back home, two wives and their two maids and he is asking Laban to send them away.

Gen 30:26 Give me my wives and my children for whom I have served you, and let me go; for you know my service which I have done for you."

- I have fulfilled my obligation. I've put in the fourteen years.

Gen 30:27 And Laban said to him, "Please stay, if I have found favor in your eyes, for I have learned by experience (enchantments) that the LORD has blessed me for your sake."

- The word translated *experience* is the Hebrew word for *enchantments*. It is possible that he is saying that I have learned by enchantments that the LORD has blessed me for your sake. Laban was involved in the worship of false gods. He had perhaps gone into one who was a diviner, in divination or enchantments to try to learn the reasons of his success, and he learned by it that Jacob was the reason for God's blessings. *That the LORD has blessed me for your sake.*
- **Laban's life was blessed by Jacob! As I look at my life, how often have others been blessed by the LORD because of my sake? For what they see in me?**

Gen 30:28 Then he said, "Name me your wages, and I will give it."

- Earlier Laban said that and he had gotten a good deal. "I'll serve you seven years for your daughter Rachel, your younger daughter." That was far more than what Laban was expecting. Knowing that Jacob is sort of a soft touch in the fact of naming his own wages, he again says name

your wage. “Stick around. I have found that I’ve been blessed because you are here. So *name me your wages*.” I’m sure that he could hardly believe his ears when Jacob named his wages.

Gen 30:29 *So Jacob said to him, "You know how I have served you and how your livestock has been with me.*

Gen 30:30 *For what you had before I came was little, and it has increased to a great amount; the LORD has blessed you since my coming. And now, when shall I also provide for my own house?"*

- Jacob is reminding him, “Hey, you didn’t have much when I came and now you’ve got a lot.”
- You are a wealthy man now, but I don’t have anything for myself, for my own labors.

Gen 30:31 *So he said, "What shall I give you?" And Jacob said, "You shall not give me anything! If you will do this thing for me, I will again feed and keep your flocks:*

Gen 30:32 *Let me pass through all your flock today, removing from there all the speckled and spotted sheep, and all the brown ones among the lambs, and the spotted and speckled among the goats; and these shall be my wages.*

Gen 30:33 *So my righteousness will answer for me in time to come, when the subject of my wages comes before you: every one that is not speckled and spotted among the goats, and brown among the lambs, will be considered stolen, if it is with me."*

Gen 30:34 *And Laban said, "Oh, that it were according to your word!"*

- That’s sounds like a good deal! What he was saying is this: you go through the flocks now and you remove all the speckled; spotted; and solid colored; among the flock and of the brown lambs. The solid colors, they become yours. You take out now the speckled and spotted so that there is no chance for them to breed with the solid colors. I’ll take then just the solid colors and whatever speckled and spotted ones that are born from the solid-colored animals, they become my wages. So Laban took all of the speckled and spotted ones out and gave them to his sons, saying, now stay at least three days journey away from Jacob. Don’t let the flocks intermingle. He thought, “Man, I’ve got it made.
- **Jacob is a manipulator, but demonstrates faith! Jacob tends to manipulate all things, seeking to produce the outcome that he wants, but we see good things as God refines his life. Jacob has absolute confidence that he can take and load this situation all the way in Laban’s favor, and God is still going to bless Jacob, representing beautiful faith on his part! How much Jacob is in my life?**

Gen 30:35 *So he removed that day the male goats that were speckled and spotted, all the female goats that were speckled and spotted, every one that had some white in it, and all the brown ones among the lambs, and gave them into the hand of his sons.*

Gen 30:36 *Then he put three days' journey between himself and Jacob, and Jacob fed the rest of Laban's flocks.*

- Making sure these initial spotted and speckled would not be included in the future births, which were agreed would go to Jacob.

Gen 30:37 *Now Jacob took for himself rods of green poplar and of the almond and chestnut trees, peeled white strips in them, and exposed the white which was in the rods.*

Gen 30:38 *And the rods which he had peeled, he set before the flocks in the gutters, in the watering troughs where the flocks came to drink, so that they should conceive (yacham – hot, in heat, possibly triggered by the appearance of the striped rods) when they came to drink.*

Gen 30:39 *So the flocks conceived before the rods, and the flocks brought forth streaked, speckled, and spotted.*

- **(Gen 31:11-12)** *Then the Angel of God spoke to me in a dream, saying, 'Jacob.' And I said, 'Here I am.' [12] And He said, 'Lift your eyes now and see, all the rams which leap on the flocks are streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted; for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you.*

Gen 30:40 *Then Jacob separated the lambs, and made the flocks face toward the streaked and all the brown in the flock of Laban; but he put his own flocks by themselves and did not put them with Laban's flock.*

Gen 30:41 *And it came to pass, whenever the stronger livestock conceived, that Jacob placed the rods before the eyes of the livestock in the gutters, that they might conceive among the rods.*

Gen 30:42 *But when the flocks were feeble, he did not put them in; so the feebler were Laban's and the stronger Jacob's.*

Gen 30:43 Thus the man (Jacob) became exceedingly prosperous (in just a few years), and had large flocks, female and male servants, and camels and donkeys.

- **He really began to be wealthy and prosperous, as he was very skilled** in the art of husbandry. He has had many years of experience in husbandry, in the observation of the processes of conception and all among the animals and the development of a species. Jacob probably knew by experimentation and observation what has come to be known as The Mendelian Law concerning the dominant and recessive genes, knowing that even in the solid-colored animals there could be the recessive spots and stripes.
- **Jacob knew that as the animals came in for the watering when the striped, white striped branches were placed in front of them,** that somehow it caused them to come into heat, and thus to reproduce more rapidly. Rather than prenatal suggestion marking the animals, it was probably the process to take when the stronger ones would come in, he would want them to reproduce, because the chance then of developing a stronger flock for himself he would then bring them into heat with the striped rods. It was the Lord, who really gave him the strong spotted and speckled ones, because later on Jacob himself acknowledged that it was God who had prospered and blessed him!
- **As he was returning, he said, (Gen 32:10)** *I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which You have shown Your servant; for I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two companies.* When I passed over this river going, running away, I had only my rod in my hand. That's the only possession I had, just my walking stick, and now I'm coming back and look I've got so many sheep and oxen and camels and all that I have to separate them into two companies in order to travel."
- **He was overwhelmed by the grace of God and the mercies of God towards him!** He acknowledged that it was God who had granted him the success and the wealth and not his own devices. Just letting the weak ones reproduce at their own pace, resulting in Laban ending up with the weak ones and Jacob ending up with the stronger of the flock.
- **In the space of only a few years, Jacob's flock had grown so large** that he had to employ many servants, both male and female. He had purchased many camels and donkeys. He had quickly become a very prosperous rancher. He had done so, not by any dishonest manipulation of his own, but by means of sound practices of animal breeding, which by all normal standards, should have been of even greater benefit to Laban than to himself. The God of his fathers, however, had intervened in a marvelous and mysterious way!
- **Whenever evil has been done to us, such as Laban had done here to his family and Jacob, we are not to dwell in our unfortunate circumstances, but glory in the fact that what man intended for evil, God, in His goodness, grace and mercies, intends it for our good, giving us blessing upon blessing!**
- Oh, the goodness and mercy of God!

SUMMARY

Gen 29:13 Then it came to pass, when Laban heard the report about Jacob his sister's son, that he ran to meet him, and embraced him and kissed him, and brought him to his house. So he told Laban all these things.

- **If I were to tell all things about my past, what would I include and what would be excluded? How much emphasis on me and how much on God?**
- **Notice the difference in the prayer and worship between Eliezer's and Jacob's experience in "coming to the well" and meeting the future brides! Much is mentioned with Eliezer; nothing mentioned with Jacob? Which does my life most reflect?**

Gen 29:25 So it came to pass 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 you? Why then have you deceived me?"

- Jacob, the deceiver has been deceived! It is interesting, isn't it? Jacob was there in Padam Aram, running from the anger of his brother Esau because he had been guilty of deceiving his father. Now he himself is being deceived by his father-in-law. (Gal 6:7) *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. **Whatever a man sows that he reaps! How we need to watch what we sow into our minds, because you become what you have planted in your mind!***

Gen 30:2 And Jacob's anger was aroused against Rachel, and he said, "Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?"

- **A spouse must never ask or expect their mate to do something that can only be done by God! Husbands are to nourish and cherish their wives, who are to be content, not always be one step away from being satisfied, which leads to the husband concluding that nothing he does is ever good enough for his wife!**

Gen 30:22 Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb.

- **What an encouragement for us to pray! God remembers! He listens! He responds!**

Gen 30:23 And she conceived and bore a son, and said, "God has taken away my reproach."

- **Remember that God is not mad at us because of some unfortunate physical circumstance in our lives, which has nothing to do with that at all!**

Gen 30:27 And Laban said to him, "Please stay, if I have found favor in your eyes, for I have learned by experience that the LORD has blessed me for your sake."

- **Laban's life was blessed by Jacob! As I look at my life, how often have others been blessed by the LORD because of my sake? For what they see in me?**

Gen 30:34 And Laban said, "Oh, that it were according to your word!"

- **Jacob is a manipulator, but demonstrates faith, having absolute confidence that he can take and load this situation all the way in Laban's favor, and God is still going to bless Jacob, representing beautiful faith on his part! How much Jacob is in my life?**

Gen 30:43 Thus the man (Jacob) became exceedingly prosperous, and had large flocks, female and male servants, and camels and donkeys.

- **Whenever evil has been done to us, such as Laban had done here to his family and Jacob, we are not to dwell in our unfortunate circumstances, but glory in the fact that what man intended for evil, God, in His grace and mercies, intends it for our good, giving us blessing upon blessing!**

- Oh, the goodness and mercy of God!

CLOSING SONG

SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY – John Petersen, Alfred Smith – Graham Crusade Choir (2:56/2:59)

*I A pilgrim was I, and a wandering, In the cold night of sin I did roam,
When Jesus the kind Shepherd found me, And now I am on my way home.*

(Chorus):

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days, all the days of my life;
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days, all the days of my life.*

*2 He restoreth my soul when I'm weary, He giveth me strength day by day;
He leads me beside the still waters, He guards me each step of the way. (Chorus)*

*And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever, And I shall feast at the table spread for me;
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days, all the days of my life.
All the days, all the days of my life.*

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT WEEK: Read and study *Genesis Chapters 31* (Jacob fleeing from Laban) & *32* (Esau with 400 men comes to meet Jacob)!