

January 22/Day 22

Genesis 30

Verses 1-8

- How did being barren cause Rachel to feel about Leah?
- In what way did she take it out on Jacob? How did he respond?
- Who does this passage say withholds the fruit of the womb? Do you remember what we saw with Sarah? God did that. How about with Rebekah? God did that. And also with the house of Abimelech? God did that.
- Bilhah was Rachel’s servants. Servants could act as surrogates back then. She would literally bear on Rachel’s knees and it would be as if the child was her own.
- What was the name of the sons by Bilhah?
- What did Naphtali’s name mean?
- Were they in competition? The word jealousy here is better translated “envy”. Jealousy wants back what in already or was already theirs. Envy wants what someone else has. Comparison and competition are precursors to envy.

Verses 9-13

- What did Leah do in retaliation?
- What were the names of Jacob’s sons by Zilpah?

Verses 14-21

- Mandrakes are plants which have been used in both medicine and magic. They are considered **aphrodisiacs** and they are thought to aid in conception. Why might Rachel want some?
- How did Leah respond to Rachel’s request?
- What were the names of the next two sons of Jacob by Leah?

Verses 22-24

- What did God do for Rachel? Maybe He used the mandrakes, but He certainly doesn’t need any help in being God.
- What is the name of Jacob’s son by Rachel?
- What is the meaning of Joseph’s name? (Hint: It’s the last phrase.)

Leah	Bilhah, Rachel’s maid	Zilpah, Leah’s maid	Rachel
Reuben	Dan	Gad	Joseph
Simeon	Naphtali	Asher	Benjamin
Levi			
Judah			

Isaachar			
Zubulun			

Verses 25-36

- What did Jacob request of Laban after Joseph was born?
- What had Laban figured out?
- How did Jacob figure a plan to divide the animals?
- The spotted and speckled animals would have been small in number to what he was offering Laban. Laban was deceitful and took the animals before Jacob could start working on his plan to divide the flock.

Verses 37-43

- The things Jacob did with the rods were thought to draw the animals to mate. We will see in the next passage that God told Jacob to do this.

Genesis 31

Verses 1-16

- How had relations deteriorated between Jacob and Laban?
- Who promised to be with Jacob on his journey home?
- How had Laban treated Jacob all along? Has anyone ever consistently treated you bad, then when you finally take a stand, they treat you like you're the bad guy?
- Who does Jacob say spoke to him in a dream?
- Who saw how Laban was treating Jacob? Does God see when people treat us bad? Where have we seen this principle before?

Verses 17-21

- What did Rachel take from Laban? What does this tell us about Laban? About Rachel?
- Did Jacob tell Laban goodbye?
- What river did Jacob cross? Where have we seen this river before? Where is it located today?

Verses 22-24

- How many days head-start did Jacob have before Laban found out he was gone?
- That's because Laban had removed himself by a distance of three days, remember?
- What did God warn Laban?

Verses 25-32

- What did Laban say about God? Was he Laban's God? Yet he apparently feared Him.
- What did Jacob say would happen to the one who stole the idols? Who had them?

Verses 33-35

- How did Rachel fool Laban?

Verses 36-42

- Jacob finally sticks up for himself and states the facts of the situation.
- How many years had Jacob been with Laban? How many years did he work for Leah and Rachel? How many years had he worked for his flock? How many times had Laban changed his wages?
- Who renders judgment?

Verses 43-55

- Laban was considered the patriarch of the family. This is why he states the children and the women are his.
- Here we see Jacob and Laban set up stones of remembrance and share a covenant meal.
- How often have you heard someone quote this Covenant of Mizpah because they think it's a beautiful thing to say, "May the LORD watch between you and me when we are absent one from the other."? Did you know the context, however? While the words of this one verse are beautiful, the context is that the covenant would protect them from doing harm to each other, and for God to judge between them. It's a heavy covenant for justice, not a lighthearted blessing.
- What did Jacob offer on the mountain?

See you tomorrow.