

Genesis 29
The Old Switcheroo

In keeping with God's promise ...

- I. The End of a Lonely Journey
 - A. Landing at Laban's Doorstep
 - B. Love at First Sight
 - C. A Labor of Love
 - D. The Deceiver Deceived
 - E. A Surprise in the Morning
 - F. A Prolonged Labor of Love
 - G. The Mothers of Israel

- II. God's Providence Unfolds
 - A. Lessons Learned
 - B. The Mother that Had to Be
 - C. The Child that will come

... the births of a nation.

Children, Listen ...

1. Who does Jacob "fall in love" with as soon as he meets her?
2. Who does he end up marrying first?
3. What does Jacob do in order to get his second wife?
4. Jesus is born way later from one of Jacob's wives. Is it Leah or Rachel?
5. What lessons can we learn from this story?

Learning the Hard Way

The things (sins) that bug us most in others are often the very sins and shortcomings we ourselves excel in – Laban must have really annoyed Jacob. Ever since his profound dream on the rock Jacob's life was undergoing redirection in earnest, but he had a long way to go and he still had some lessons to learn. He would learn the old adage "what goes around, comes around" was true. Jacob met his match at deception in the person of Laban, the father of his two new wives and he got a nasty whiff of his own type of chicanery from his shady uncle. He is duped into double service to get the wife of his passion – being trumped by the firstborn/birthright card. He will soon discover that the two sisters are at odds with each other over childbearing and blessing. The ironies are manifold. Nothing is mentioned of Jacob seeking the Lord's will in any of this and for the most part he appears to be trying to exert his will up against his father-in-law's rather than submitting his own will to God. Nonetheless God is working in Jacob's personal life while at the same time securing the promises of the covenant line that will lead to Messiah. Through all the vain efforts of man, trickery and tom foolery God's sovereign plan prevails. God's plan will always prevail, but this story of Jacob may well make one wonder if simple obedience and submission is not a wiser way to go the stubborn self-assertion ... as the expression goes ... "*just say 'in.'*"