


Genesis 29:1-28

Jacob has left his home to save his life so his brother Esau won't kill him. He has stolen the birthright and has been blessed as a firstborn by his father, Isaac.

- 1 ¶ Then Jacob went on his journey, and came into the land of the people of the east.
- 2 And he looked, and behold a well in the field, and, lo, there *were* three flocks of sheep lying by it; for out of that well they watered the flocks: and a great stone *was* upon the well's mouth. The only people authorized to remove the stone covering the well were the people who owned it. It was very valuable property. They gathered all their flock together and removed the stone covering to water their sheep.
- 3 And thither were all the flocks gathered: and they rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the sheep, and put the stone again upon the well's mouth in his place.
- 4 And Jacob said to them, My brethren, whence *be* ye? And they said, Of Haran *are* we. In these days they were always suspicious of strangers.
- 5 And he said to them, Know ye Laban the son of Nahor? And they said, We know *him*. They give brief concise answers. They don't offer any other information.
- 6 And he said to them, *Is* he well? And they said, *He is* well: and, behold, Rachel his daughter comes with the sheep.
- 7 And he said, Lo, *it is* yet high day, neither *is it* time that the cattle should be gathered together: water your the sheep, and go *and feed them*. What do you have the sheep here together in the middle of the day for? they need to be out in pasture getting fatted up. This individual was very authoritarian and bossy.
- 8 And they said, We cannot, until all the flocks be gathered together, and *till* they roll the stone from the well's mouth; then we water the sheep.
- 9 ¶ And while he yet spoke with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep: for she kept them. Rachel was a shepherdess. She took care of sheep as well as any man.
- 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. Jacob is so enticed with Rachel that he just runs over, removes the stone and waters her sheep for her. Men did not do this for women at this time. He really likes her, and he did all this on the spur of the moment.
- 11 And Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted up his voice, and wept. This kiss was unheard of during these times. She's his cousin, so this is where the term "kissing cousins" came from. Jacob is tired, has been on a long trip, grabs her and kisses her, then cries. He was so excited about being there and was infatuated with Rachel.
- 12 And Jacob told Rachel that he *was* her father's brother, and that he *was* Rebekah's son: and she ran and told her father. "Brother" means "nephew" or "kinfolk" here.
- 13 And it came to pass, when Laban heard the tidings of Jacob his sister's son, that he ran to meet him, and embraced him, and kissed him, and brought him to his house. And he told Laban all these things. A kiss is a normal greeting between men in those parts. Still is today. The patriarch in those days did not run out to meet anyone in those days unless they were very important. They waited for the stranger to come to their tent.
- 14 And Laban said to him, Surely you *are* my bone and my flesh. And he abode with him the space of a month. Jacob stayed with Laban for a month.
- 15 ¶ And Laban said to Jacob, Because you *are* my brother, should you therefore serve me for nought? tell me, what *shall your wages be*? During that month, Jacob had to pay his way to stay away from his brother Esau until he calmed down. Laban saw that Jacob was a pretty sharp business man and doing things to increase his herd, so he wants to keep Jacob around.

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- 16 And Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder *was* Leah, and the name of the younger *was* Rachel.**
- 17 Leah *was* tender eyed; but Rachel *was* beautiful and well favored.** It is thought that "Tender" means 'blue eyes', 'cross-eyed', 'nearsighted', 'farsighted', but we think her eyes reflected a personality that was domicile and quiet in nature. It is apparent that Leah had a totally different personality and character than Rachel. But Leah wasn't a beauty queen as Rachel was. Leah had more inside beauty than Rachel.
- 18 And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve you seven years for Rachel your younger daughter.** Jacob fell in love with Rachel, and said he'll work for Laban for seven years in exchange for Rachel. He has love at first sight for Rachel. He was willing to work seven years for her hand.
- 19 And Laban said, *It is* better that I give her to you, than that I should give her to another man: abide with me.** Laban doesn't give any details about this deal, but he is deceiving Jacob. Laban says it's better for Rachel to stay in the family with Jacob than to be given to any other man. Uncle Laban already had a greedy deceptive plan laid out to profit from Jacob's business knowledge.
- 20 And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed to him *but* a few days, for the love he had to her.** Jacob worked his seven years, upheld his end of the bargain, and asked for Rachel in marriage.
- 21 And Jacob said to Laban, Give *me* my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in to her.**
- 22 And Laban gathered together all the men of the place, and made a feast.**
- 23 And it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter, and brought her to him; and he went in to her.**
- 24 And Laban gave to his daughter Leah Zilpah his maid *for* an handmaid.** It was a custom in those times to give your daughter a slave to take care of her in her marriage.
- 25 And it came to pass, that in the morning, behold, it *was* Leah: and he said to Laban, What *is* this you have done to me? did not I serve with you for Rachel? why then have you beguiled me?** Jacob tricked his dad into giving him the firstborn birthrights, stealing them from Esau. Now here he is being tricked himself. Uncle Laban didn't agree to Rachel; he agreed to "her". Now Jacob is stuck with Leah and not Rachel. It is written over and over that you will reap what you sow. Jacob sowed the seed with his dad, and now here is the first deception that has come back to him. Jacob worked seven years and was tricked into marrying a girl he didn't love at first sight.
- 26 And Laban said, It must not be so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn.**
- 27 Fulfill her week, and we will give you this also for the service which you shall serve with me yet seven other years.** This word 'week' is wrong because there is no word for 'week' in Hebrew. It means 7. This was a 7-day wedding feast. Laban tells Jacob to fulfill the 7-day wedding feast, then if Jacob works for Laban another seven years, he'll give Jacob Rachel for marriage also.
- 28 And Jacob did so, and fulfilled her week: and he gave him Rachel his daughter to wife also.**