

Genesis Chapters 28 – 31

Jacob, Laban, Rachael, Leah, Zilpah, and Bilhah the 12 Tribes

Genesis 28

VS 1 -9

- Isaac's charge to Jacob
- Marry a daughter of your mother's brother Laban.
- Do not take a wife from the Canaanites.
- Paddan-aram (Syria)
- The Covenant renewed.
- Esau went to Ishmael and married into the "unchosen" family.

VS 10 - 22

- Jacob's dream and the pillar of stone.
- A ladder ascending into heaven with Angels ascending and descending.
- God confirms the covenant to Jacob.
 - I am the God of Abraham and Isaac
 - I will give you and your descendants this land.
 - Your descendants will greatly multiply.
 - Your descendants will bless all the families of the earth.
 - I will be with you.
 - I will prosper you (keep you).
 - I will bring you back to this land.
 - I promise this will be done.
- Jacob calls the place Bethel – the "house of God."
- The stone under his head makes a pillar.
- The Stone of Scone – royal coronation stone of Scotland and England?
- Jacob makes a vow to God – mentions the tithe.

Chapter 29

VS 1 – 20

- Jacob meets Rachael and waters Laban's sheep.
- Jacob meets Laban.
- Jacob stays with Laban for a month.
- Laban and Jacob agree on wages – seven years to marry Rachael.

VS 21 – 30

- Labans deceives Jacob.
- Presents Leah not Rachael.
- Claims local custom about the firstborn before the younger.
- After performing the duties of a husband to his wife Rachael is given as well.
- Jacob now has four women, Leah, Rachael, Zilpah and Bilhad

VS 31 – 35

- God looks upon Leah and she was unloved and gives her four sons.
 - Reuben
 - Simeon
 - Levi
 - Judah

Chapter 30

VS 1 - 24

- Bilhah – Rachael handmaid gives birth to two sons.
 - Dan
 - Naphtali
- Ziphah – Leah’s handmaid gives birth to sons.
 - Gad
 - Asher
- Leah has three more children.
 - Issachar
 - Zebulun
 - Dinah
- Rachael finally gives birth to
 - Joseph
 - Benjamin will come later.

Leah	Zilpah	Rachael	Bilhad
Rubin	Gad	Joseph	Dan
Simeon	Asher	Benjamin	Naphtali
Levi			
Judah			
Issachar			
Zebulun			
<i>Dinah - Daughter</i>			

VS 25 – 43

- Jacob prospers despite Laban's treachery.
- Laban is concerned the Jacob will end up with everything.
- Jacob wants nothing from Laban and makes a strategic plan.
- Separation of flocks by color marking
- Jacobs ingenuity regarding conception and flock management.
- God is fulfilling his promise to Jacob by prospering him at Laban's expense.
- Jacob becomes exceedingly prosperous in flocks and servants.

Chapter 31.

VS 1 -3

- Laban's son's reveals what is going on in Laban's house.
- They are not happy because much of their wealth has been transferred to Jacob.
- God tells Jacob to go home and "I will be with you."
- Two reasons for Jacob to leave:
 - First, God told him to go.
 - Second, tension between Jacob, Laban and his sons was growing.

VS 4 – 16

- Jacob informs Rachael and Leah of his decision to leave.
- The animosity of Laban
- The blessing of God on Jacob's flocks.
- The treachery of Laban over 20 years regarding his wages.
- The visit from the Lord in a dream.
- God has seen what Laban has done.
- I am the God of Bethel where you made a vow to me.
- Rachael and Leah agree – they have nothing left in Laban house.

VS 17 – 19

- Jacob departs with all his flocks, servants, wives, and children.
- Rachael steals the Household Idols.
- **Teraphim**
 - Images that represented property rights and ownership
 - Jacob could use them to claim the rights to Laban's land.
 - That is why Laban will insist on a boundary marker and covenant.

VS 20 -30

- Seven days later Laban catches up with Jacob at Mt. Gilead.
- Laban challenges Jacob about his secret departure and not allowing a decent goodbye.
- God warns Laban not to harm Jacob. Laban could have done much harm.

- Laban accuses Jacob of stealing the idols.

VS 31 – 38

- Jacob answers Laban’s question about leaving secretly – I was afraid.
- Jacob also lets Laban search for his idols and whoever has them will die.
- Rachael hides them and sits on them claiming she is unable to rise/ female issue.
- Jacob is now angry at Laban’s false accusation and begins a long statement.
- Jacob defends his innocence and his doing right by Laban.

VS 39 – 46

- Jacob was accountable for any losses of animals at his own expense.
- Challenges Laban on his deceitful practices over 20 years.
 - 14 years for his daughters
 - 7 years tending his flocks.
 - Constant moving the goal posts.
- On the God of Abraham and Isaac protected him and provided for him.
- Without God’s protection, you would have left me with nothing.
- Laban looks at what was before him and acknowledges they were all once his.
- Laban calls for a covenant and a boundary marker to protect his interests.
- The covenant boundary restricts each party from crossing to do the other harm.

The Establishment of a Covenant

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| 1. Exchange of Names | Called Children of God, Sons/daughters. |
| 2. Exchange of Garments | Robe of Righteousness for filthy rags |
| 3. Exchange of Weapons | Sword of the Spirit and the Word of God |
| 4. Blessings and Curses | New Covenant Blessings/Redeemed from Curse |
| 5. The Shedding of Blood | Christ on the Cross |
| 6. Planting of a Tree | The old, rugged Cross |
| 7. A Covenant Meal | Holy Communion |