

# **Genesis 29**

## **Genesis 29.1-8**

**V1** – Jacob arrived where he was to find his new wife (Haran)

**V2** – **What did Jacob first see when he got there?** Three flocks of sheep at a well of water (large stone over well)

-Jacob was a shepherd – he noticed things like this

**V3** – **Why was a large stone placed over the well?** A large well (sheep could fall in)

-Maybe more like a cistern with a cover

**-Why were flocks not being watered?** A fourth flock had to be there

**V4** – Jacob asked where they were from = Haran

**V5** – **Who did Jacob ask about?** Nahor's son Laban

-The shepherds knew him

**V6** – **Was Laban OK?** Yes, and his daughter Rachel was coming that way with a flock

**V7** – **What was Jacob saying?** “Why don't you water the sheep and put them out to pasture?”

**V8** – **Answer?** We can't – we all have to lift the stone off together (cooperate)

## **Genesis 29.9-12**

**V9** – **Who came up?** Rachel – A “shepherdess”

**V10** – Love at first sight – we can almost feel the electricity between Jacob and Rachel

**-What did Jacob do?** Moved the stone (to show that he was strong) and watered Rachel's sheep

**V11** – They kissed (kissing cousins?)

**-Why did Jacob cry?** Because God had worked it all out – tears of joy (and love)

**V12** – **What did Rachel do?** Ran to tell her father

## **Genesis 29.13-20**

**V13** – **What reaction did Laban have toward the arrival?** Very glad to see him – embraced him and kissed him.

-He probably could already see the possibility of a future son-in-law – very conniving

**-Did Laban appear to be religious?** No – no altars built, no thanks to God for Jacob's safe arrival, etc.

**V 14 – How long did Jacob stay there before they worked out an agreement?** One month  
-**What was he doing during this month?** (Apparently) he was working for Laban (based on v 15)

**V 15 – Do we pay our relatives who work for us?** Yes (even children should get allowances)  
-**Question of Laban?** “How much do you charge?”  
-Laban was extremely sly – a good match for Jacob (tricked his brother out of birthright)

**V 16 – What else had Jacob been doing during this month?** Looking over Laban’s daughters

**V 17 – Conclusion?** Leah had “plain” or “weak” eyes, apparently not very attractive, and Rachel was very beautiful in form and face

**V 18 – Offer of Jacob?** To work seven years for Rachel  
-**Problem?** Leah was older and not as beautiful – he had to “unload” her somehow  
-We can imagine his old mind clicking away working out a plan

**V 19 – Laban’s answer?** OK (very logical agreement) – no mention of Leah

**V 20 – How did the seven years go for Jacob?** Very fast – he was in love (time flies)  
-But Leah was the one through whom the Messiah was to come (she and Jacob were buried together in the cave of Machpelah)

## **Genesis 29.21-30**

**V 21 – Seven years between v 20-21**  
-Jacob demanded his wife

**V 22 – Notice how calm Laban was, even though he knew he was tricking Jacob**  
-Some people can lie to you and look entirely innocent while doing so

**V 23 – What time of day was the wedding consummated?** The evening (apparently dark)  
-**Did he know it was Leah?** No

**V 24 – In addition to Leah?** Zilpah her maid

**V 25 – What did Jacob discover the next morning?** He had slept with the wrong woman  
-**What was Jacob's reaction?** Furious at Laban

**V 26 – Laban’s answer?** Our custom is that oldest daughter has to be married first  
-**Legitimate?** No – he should have told Jacob first  
-**Why had he not told Jacob about this?** He probably would not have married Rachel (if her sister had to be part of the deal)  
-ultimately Leah turned out to be the best wife

**V 27 – What did Laban suggest?** In one more week, you’ll get Rachel – then work seven more years

for her

- What a schemer! A trickster! – He got rid of both daughters, and received 14 years of work out of Jacob! Also – no longer responsibility for the daughters' handmaidens
- Wouldn't you hate to buy a used car from this guy?

**V 28** – **Jacob's response?** OK (what could he do?)

**V 29** – Bilhah also given to Jacob

**V 30** – **Wonder how this made Leah feel?**

- Polygamy never works out
- We were meant to go through life as husband and wife (singular) – there are many problems with any other system – **Read Matt. 19.3-9** – the "two" – male and female...

## **Genesis 29.31-35**

**V 31** – **What was “status symbol” for Jewish women?** Children

- What did God do for Leah?** “Opened the womb”
- Where else in *Genesis* is God given credit for woman having children?** Eve – *Genesis 4.1*
- Why was Leah “unloved”?** Not too attractive – maybe her dream was that someday Jacob would learn to love her

**V 32** – **First son?** Reuben (“see”)

- What did Leah hope for in the first son?** That having a son would cause Jacob to love her
- Any sign of that?** No – not even a “thank you”

**V 33** – **Second son?** Simeon (“has heard”)

**V 34** – **Third son?** Levi (“attachment”)

**V 35** – **Fourth son?** Judah (“praise”) maybe an improvement in her attitude

- A sad, pathetic situation – Jacob just did not love Leah (at this time)

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