



Way Point Chronicles

Traveling through the Old Testament by Chronological Stories

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Nahor? And they said, We know him. 6 And he said unto them, Is he well? And they said, He is well: and, behold, Rachel his daughter cometh 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 ye the sheep, and go and feed them. 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.

Not only had God lead him to Haran he is at the watering hole for his uncle's sheep. He is informed that Rachel, Laban's daughter will arrive soon. As he asked he also included Nahor in the question. This was Jacob's grandfather Abraham's brother.

III- Rachel's Arrival:

In a short time indeed the daughter of Laban arrives. Jacob is overcome with emotion. *Genesis 29:9ff And while he yet spake with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep: for she kept them. 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.*

The first thing that Jacob did upon the arrival of Rachel was to uncover the well and water her herd. He informs her as to who he is and that he is Rebeah's son.

Gen 29:11ff And Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted up his voice, and wept. 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. 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.

Immediately she runs home to tell her father. We need to understand something here about the time that has passed. It has been about 100 years, yes 100 years since Rebekah had departed with the servant of Abraham to become the wife of Isaac. We do not know if there had been any contact between these close kin in that time. After probably years of wondering what had happened to Rebekah he now has news. Laban is overjoyed with news and brings Jacob into his house.



Coordinates:
Gen 29:1-31

Sights to See:

- 1- God fulfilled His promise quickly to Jacob as He lead him to the very spot he needed to be to find his bride.
- 2- It is true that what we sow we reap. We see the deception of the deceiver. This brings to mind *Galatians 6:7-8 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.*
- 3- The love between a man and a woman that God places together is love worth waiting for.
- 4- God uses bad thing done by corrupt people many times to bring about wonderful conclusions.
- 5- Even when we are done wrong we need to move past it and get on with life. Jacob could have resorted to physical violence or left mad because of his foul treatment. He chose to stay and work through the adversity.

IV- The Deceiver:



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Laban was a shrew man who worked every angle to his advantage. After Jacob is there for a month he offers to employ him. He let Jacob name his wages.

Genesis 29:14ff *And Laban said to him, Surely thou art my bone and my flesh. And he abode with him the space of a month. 15 And Laban said unto Jacob, Because thou art my brother, shouldst thou therefore serve me for nought? tell me, what shall thy wages be?*

V- I'll Work for Love:

Remember this is not some starry eyed teenager, he is a mature man. We are also introduced to the other, older daughter of Laban here. Rachel was the younger and Jacob was obviously smitten with her. Leah was the older and most feel based on this reading she was not as beautiful.

Genesis 29:16 *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 favoured. 18 And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter. 19 And Laban said, It is better that I give her to thee, than that I should give her to another man: abide with me.*

Jacob said he would work for seven years for Rachel and Laban agrees. This last sentence seems to indicate that Laban may have been being too selective concerning who his daughter would marry. Never the less Jacob has agreed to work seven years for Rachel.

Now seems a good time to address two different opinions on the actions of Laban. Remember that Jacob had been a deceiver of his brother and father. When it comes to deception Jacob was still in kindergarten while Laban had his PHD. Most writers think that these next 20 years are a time of punishment for Jacob's deception and lessons he needed to learn. While that may and most certainly is true another angle on this is what Henry Morris said.

"Many writers on Genesis treat this period of Jacob's life as though it were a punishment for his treatment of his brother. Actually, however, they were for the most part very happy and prosperous years, with no more trouble and problems than any normally encountered by a believer seek to follow the Lord. He did receive some rather shabby treatment at the hand of his Uncle Laban. On the other hand, Laban did give him a job, permitted him to marry his daughters, and made it possible for Jacob to build up extensive holdings on his own." (*The Genesis Record* P 455)

My purpose in saying this is that Jacob, even while he was being corrected and grown by God past his selfishness, was also being blessed of God greatly.

VI- Here Come the Bride:

After seven years, it was time for the wedding. This was usually a weeklong affair in biblical times. Laban was in no hurry to remember that seven years had passed. Jacob, while probably counting the days, did not begrudge the giving of his time for the one he loved. This my friends was a true love story. Now its wedding time. The veiled bride is married and in the darkness Jacob goes into his wife. He awakes in daylight to find that he had been deceived by Laban.

Genesis 29:20 *And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her. 21 And Jacob said unto Laban, Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in unto her. 22 And Laban gathered together all the men of*



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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 unto her. 24 And Laban gave unto his daughter Leah Zilpah his maid for an handmaid. 25 And it came to pass, that in the morning, behold, it was Leah: and he said to Laban, What is this thou hast done unto me? did not I serve with thee for Rachel? wherefore then hast thou beguiled me?

Jacob was furious, and rightfully so. He reminded Laban that he had served for Rachel not Leah. The trickery of Jacob when he pretended to be the oldest son has come back full circle. In this story commentary by JV McGee he says multiple times concerning the deception of Jacob that it “comes home to roost.”

VII- Here Comes the Bride Again:

Laban, with his PHD in deception, has just duped the deceiver. Notice his reasoning. But Jacob was in love with Rachel. What was he to do. He had consummated the marriage to Leah that night.

Genesis 29:26 And Laban said, It must not be so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn. 27 Fulfil her week, and we will give thee this also for the service which thou shalt serve with me yet seven other years. 28 And Jacob did so, and fulfilled her week: and he gave him Rachel his daughter to wife also. 29 And Laban gave to Rachel his daughter Bilhah his handmaid to be her maid. 30 And he went in also unto Rachel, and he loved also Rachel more than Leah, and served with him yet seven other years.

He said if you want her you can serve for her seven more years. We are also introduced to the handmaids of Leah and Rachel. They will become part of the equation at our next Way Point.

So after Leah’s week of marriage celebration Jacob is given Rachel as his wife. She was a girl worth waiting for and working for.

VIII- Barren Wife:

We are left to wonder what if he had only have married Rachel. Notice it says she was barren. My, my the ways that God uses some of the wrong decision of man is amazing.

Genesis 29:31 And when the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel was barren. We will pick up this story again as we move forward.

To recap lets simply says remember this. Abraham was given a promise that his seed would be as the sand of the sea and stars of the sky. To this time there has only been two sons born to Isaac to continue this line of the covenant. Now Jacob, as a 70ish man is finally married, not once but twice. The lineage is getting ready to expand.