

Genesis 29-30 (and wrap-up of 28)

Worldview: God is the source of all that is good

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. **Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above**, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. (Jas 1:13-17)

Wrapping up from last week – Chapter 27-28

See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears. (Heb 12:15-17)

Part 5: Vengeance, Flight, and Ignorance of the Promise (27:41-28:9)

1. Esau plots to kill Jacob
2. Rebekah hears word of the plot and sends Jacob to Haran

Question: What are the two motivations Rebekah has for sending Jacob away? What is the ultimate reason given for Jacob going?

3. Esau sees that Canaanite women do not please his father?

Question: in response to that, what does Esau do? What does that say about Esau?

Part 6: Steadfast Love vs Conditional Commitment (28:10-22)

1. Jacob's ladder – God appears to Jacob in a dream.
2. God makes the same promises to Jacob as he did to Abraham and Isaac.
3. Jacob makes a vow.

Questions:

1. **Consider John 1:47-51 in light of Jacob's dream.**
2. **Is Jacob's vow conditional or unconditional?**
3. **What are your thoughts about both this conditional commitment and Jacob's comment regarding "your" God?**

GENESIS 29

Part 1: Family Reunion (29:1-20)

1. Jacob travels to Haran and encounters Rachel at a well.
2. Laban welcomes Jacob and offers him wages for his service.
3. Jacob offers to work for Laban 7 years in exchange for Rachel as his wife.
4. Jacob completes his side of the bargain.

Questions:

1. **Why does Jacob prefer Rachel to Leah?**
2. **What would lead you to the conclusion that Laban is not the most honest man on the planet?**

Part 2: The Deception (29:21-30)

1. Laban prepared a wedding feast in keeping with the agreement.
2. But he brings Leah to Jacob instead of Rachel.
3. Ultimately, Jacob works another 7 years for Rachel.

Questions:

1. How is Leah portrayed throughout the narrative to this point?
2. How does that set up the next section of the narrative?

Part 3: The Competition (29:31 – 30:24)

The sons of Jacob:

1. Reuben: means “See, a son” – born of Leah
2. Simeon: sounds like “heard” – born of Leah
3. Levi: sounds like “attached” – born of Leah
4. Judah: sounds like “praised” – born of Leah
5. Dan: sounds like “judged” – born of Bilhah – Rachel’s servant
6. Naphtali: sounds like “wrestling” – born of Bilhah – Rachel’s servant
7. Gad: sounds like “good fortune” – born of Zilpah – Leah’s servant
8. Asher: sounds like “happy” – born of Zilpah – Leah’s servant
9. Issachar: sounds like “wages” – born of Leah
10. Zebulun: sounds like “honor” born of Leah
11. Joseph: means “may he add” sounds like “taken away” – born of Rachel
12. Benjamin: to be discussed in Genesis 35

Oh, and there was a daughter...

Afterward she (Leah) bore a daughter and called her name Dinah. (Gen 30:21)

Questions:

1. What are some similarities between this account and the account of Abraham and Sarah?
2. What are some differences?
3. How old is Jacob when Joseph is born?

Part 4: God’s prospering of Jacob (30:25-43)

1. Jacob asks to leave and return to his home country, but Laban asks him to stay.
2. They agree that for wages, Jacob will take existing and new speckled and spotted sheep/goats and every black lamb.
3. Laban deceives Jacob again by removing all of the existing flock that meet that criteria.
4. In spite of that, Jacob end up with the stronger flock.

Question

1. What is the reason for Jacob’s prospering? His ingenuity or God’s blessing? Why?

Next Week: Genesis 31-32