

“All for Love”
Gen. 29

vv. 1-3 Q. What contextual information do we receive in these verses.

A.

1. Jacob continued until he met the _____ peoples.

Note: The original Hebrew says, “Jacob lifted up his feet...” and describes a joyful _____. Having God’s personal protection ensured that he would be _____ and _____.

Note: The inhabitants of _____ and the whole country beyond the _____ are called “kedem” or easterners in sacred writings. [Clarke, *Genesis*, 189]

2. Jacob sees a _____ in the open country with flocks nearby.
3. There is a large _____ over the well that presumably needed several shepherds to move it.
4. When all the shepherds were _____, they rolled the stone away and watered the sheep. Returning it when finished.

v. 4 Q. What is providential about this conversation?

- A. He traveled a great _____ and still ended up where he desired to be.

- v. 5 Q. What is the second providential thing about this encounter?
- A. Not only is he in the right _____, but he has met the right _____.
- v. 6 Q. Who is introduced at this point?
- A.
- v. 7 Q. What's going on here?
- A.
1. Rashi says that this is reflecting Jacob's hard work _____. That it was too early to be gathering the flock to take them into the _____.
 2. It appears, however, that Jacob was just trying to get them out of there so he could be alone with _____.
- v. 8 Q. What kept them from leaving?
- A.
1. The gathering of the _____.
 2. The removal of the _____.
- v. 9 Q. What do we learn about Rachel from this verse? (and Laban)
- A. She was a _____.
- v. 10 Q. What does Jacob do next?
- A. With _____ strength, Jacob rolls the stone away from the mouth of the well.

vv. 11-12 Q. What's going on here?

A.

1. Kissing Rachel was _____ he told Rachel that he was her _____. It was a cultural greeting not a _____ one.
2. Jacob wept out of sheer _____ regarding the providential _____ hand of God. He wept tears of joy and _____.
3. Rachel would then _____ him to Uncle Laban (Rebekah's brother).

vv. 13-14a Q. What does Laban do?

A.

1. _____ embracing.
2. _____ to Jacob's story.
3. Culturally treated him as a _____.

Note: Rashi comments that, and I might add, wrongly infers, that each step was driven by _____. First, he meets Jacob thinking that he is laden with _____ but finds none. Second, he embraces Jacob thinking that he has _____ in the folds of his garment. Third, he kisses him on both cheeks thinking that he has stored _____ in his cheeks. But when he finds nothing, he _____ brings him into his home thinking that at least there will be an _____. But we see that Jacob was initially put to work for _____.

Note: It is only in the next verse that we see he worked for nothing and that could have been a cultural form of _____ for "free

room and board." The next verses _____ this as some type of nefarious plan on Leban's part.

Leban was a _____, but the above verses do not yet bear this out.

vv. 14b - 15 Q. What does Laban do?

A. Laban seeks to _____ Jacob for his work.

Note: This may appear to be a _____ gesture, but it is not. Laban has now equated him with a _____, a servant, not a true _____.

What will you charge me?

v. 16 Q. Describe Laban's daughters.

A.

1. Laban had _____.
2. _____ was the older.
3. _____ was the youngest.

v. 17 Q. How are the daughters described.

A.

1. Leah had _____ eyes.

Note: The word, "weak" is _____ to understand. It could mean:

- a. She had _____ eyesight.
 - b. She had _____ eyes.
 - c. She had _____ or soft and beautiful eyes.
2. Rachel was lovely in _____ and _____.

v. 18 Q. What do we learn about Jacob that will be connected to his wages?

A.

1. Jacob was in _____ with Rachel.
2. He was willing to work for her for seven years as the _____.

v. 19 Q. How does Laban respond?

A. Laban _____

v. 20 Q. What is true love?

A.

1. True love _____.
2. True love is oblivious to _____.

v. 21 Q. What happened after seven years?

A. Jacob demanded Laban _____ his side of the agreement so he could _____ the marriage.

v. 22 Q. What did Laban do?

A. He threw a wedding _____.

v. 23 Q. How was the "deceiver" deceived?

A. Laban brought _____ to his tent instead of Rachel.

v. 24 Q. What additional information do we receive?

A. Laban gave a _____ gift to his daughter of a servant or slave to help her with her new _____ duties.

Note: This gift would be the specific _____ of the wife of which the husband would have no _____.

Note: This explains the _____/_____ to give the maidservant to her husband as a wife but not his _____ to take her.

Note: This is different than Abraham, in the sense that Hagar was not a _____ from her father but to Abraham from _____ (Cp. 12:16; in probability) However, the ability/right of Sarah to do with her what she wanted seems to be the same - as we have seen.

v. 25a Q. What was the surprise?

A.

Note: The question arises as to how Jacob did not know this was the wrong bride.

A.

Possible suggestions:

1. Jacob was _____.
2. It was late in the evening and _____.
3. Leah would have been _____ up until the time of entering the tent.

v. 25b/c Q. What transpired?

A. The _____ and a "what _____ around _____ around" moment (although probably not recognized personally). [His name]

v. 26 Q. How does Laban respond?

A. It's a _____ thing (which we _____ forgot to tell you about).

Note: Some scholars believe this was made up _____ on Laban's part and there is evidence this could be true. We have no cultural information in this specific area and time to substantiate this.

However, in _____ (which is one of the oldest religions in the world), the oldest daughter is elevated in her distinctive role just as the eldest son is. She reflects the _____ and _____ lineage of her family and was/is to be given in marriage first.

Note: The possible cultural expectation suggests an even more _____ answer. It suggests that Rachel was the _____ guest at the table with Jacob, while Leah, knowing what was to transpire as the oldest, was denied the joy and sat in the sidelines.

She either _____ Jacob (suggested) and went along with the plan, or she was simply being obedient to her father. Either way, it was a _____ from the beginning on one of the most important days of a woman's life.

v. 27 Q. What was Laban's suggestion?

- A.
1. Finish the _____ bride week with Leah.
 2. After this week is ended, I will give you Rachel [in _____].

3. But Jacob must work another seven years to
_____ this bride price. [contractual]

v. 28 Q. Did the two deceivers keep their word?

A.

v. 29 Q. What gift did Laban give to Rachel?

A.

v. 30 Q. What would be the relationship between man and wives?

A. Significant _____ difference.

Note the absence of any _____ or any sense of "it felt like only a few days" when it came to these next seven years.

v. 31 Q. How is Leah treated by Jacob through God's eyes?

A. She was _____ loved.

Note: Love is more than _____; it is a _____.

And Jacob did not choose _____ in the sight of the Lord.

Q. How did God judge Jacob for this sin?

A.

Q. What does Leah desire in verses 31/32, 33, and 34?

A.

vv. 32-34 Q. How is each child's name a reflection of this?

A.

1. v. 32 "_____, for she said, 'It is because the LORD has _____ my misery. Surely my husband will love me now.'" (Gen. 29:32 NIV)
2. v. 33 "She conceived again, and when she gave birth to a son she said, 'Because the LORD _____ that I am not loved, he gave me this one too.' So, she named him _____." (Gen. 29:33 NIV)
3. v. 34 "Again she conceived, and when she gave birth to a son she said, 'Now at last my husband will become _____ to me, because I have borne him three sons.' So, he was named _____." (Gen. 29:34 NIV)
4. v. 35 "She conceived again, and when she gave birth to a son she said, 'This time I will _____ the LORD.' So, she named him _____. Then she stopped having children. (Gen. 29:35 NIV)

Note: Some older commentaries note that the word "Yehudah" means, "a _____," or "one who acknowledges God" and gives Him praise. [Clark]

Q. What was so different about the birth of Judah?

A. Leah's focus was no longer on her _____ but focused on the _____ of the Lord.

Q. What was later forbidden? (Lev. 18:18)

A. Taking a wife's sister as a _____ wife.

Application:

Q. Western culture has done away with the bride price. What has been lost in this cultural expectation?

A.

1.

2.

3.

Q. How does this story help us to understand that God works through unpleasant stories that don't seem to ever be resolved?

A.