

Lesson Six (Part #2) – Gen. 30-31: Jacob’s Troubled Home; His Prosperity; Fleeing from Laban

Chapter 30– Jacob’s Troubled Home & His Prosperity

1. Read vv. 1-8. Once again, the “barrenness” of one of Israel’s matriarchs causes family strife. Rachel proposes what to Jacob in order to give him a son by her? What sons are born via this means? The meanings of their names?
2. Read vv. 9-13. Leah follows Rachel’s lead and does what? What sons are born to Jacob via this means? The meaning of their names?
3. In vv. 14-21, What is the source of contention between Leah and Rachel? What does Leah long for? What final sons are born to Leah? The meaning of their names?
4. In vv. 22-24, what is the source of both Leah’s and Rachel’s fertility? Hint: both a Divine and human answer. Rachel finally bears a son, how many years after Jacob married her (cf. 29:20, 27, 30 with 30:25)? His name and its meaning?
5. In vv. 25-36, what bargain does Jacob strike with Laban in order to provide for Jacob’s own family? To whom or what does both Laban and Jacob attribute their prosperity? How does Laban seek to ensure his own wealth at Jacob’s expense?

6. Read vv. 37-43. Whatever was the prevailing theory in the ANE regarding breeding flocks (Jacob's use of the sticks) – what is the “real” reason for Jacob's increasing prosperity? cf. 31:4-9, 42

Chapter 31 – Jacob Flees from Laban

7. In vv. 1-3, what happens from both human and divine perspectives to cause Jacob to make a plan to return to Canaan?
8. Read vv. 4-16. Jacob calls Rachel and Leah into the field for consultation. What had Laban, their father, done to Jacob? Who or what does Jacob attribute his prosperity to? Why? God told Jacob to do what? What do Rachel and Leah tell Jacob to do and why?
9. Read vv. 17-35. Jacob leaves Laban in what manner – how is it described by both Moses and Laban? Does the text seem to indicate what Laban intended to do to Jacob (cf. vv. 29, 42)? What restrained him? Note: Laban's idolatry (cf. 30:27; 31:30). Who stole Laban's property? What does this seem to indicate about this person beyond thievery?
10. Read vv. 36-55. How many years had Jacob served Laban? How had Laban treated him? Who protected Jacob? How does Laban answer Jacob's charges against him? Is their covenant made in friendship, or for some other reason (cf. vv. 50, 52)? Jacob calls the God of his father what name (vv. 42, 53)? What does this indicate about God?