

Kids, Kids and More Kids

Genesis Chapter 30

Gen 29:31 **1) Kid Wars** Ch 29:31-Ch. 30:1-24

Now the LORD saw that Leah was unloved (*kjv HATED*), and He opened her womb, but Rachel was barren.

- Leah is unloved (*Hated in KJV*) due to the deception of Laban
- Leah is the innocent party here yet unattractive in comparison to Rachel and unloved by her husband.
- Yet the Lord notices the oppressed and is there deliverer

Gen 29:32 Leah conceived and bore a son and named him Reuben, for she said, "Because the LORD has seen my affliction; surely now my husband will love me."

- The first born is named Reuben means "Behold a son"
- A statement to Jacob, Rachel and others that the Lord has bless her there for the result would be her husband's affection.
- She will be mistaken

Gen 29:33 Then she conceived again and bore a son and said, "Because the LORD has heard that I am unloved, He has therefore given me this {son} also." So she named him Simeon.

- The second son is named Simeon meaning "Heard"
- The firstborn didn't change the situation and this name declares to Jacob that the Lord has herd of his unloving attitude towards her.

Gen 29:34 She conceived again and bore a son and said, "Now this time my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons." Therefore he was named Levi.

- The third son is named Levi meaning "Attachment"
- Leah is still striving to get Jacob's affection. Maybe the 3^d time is the charm. But no!

Gen 29:35 And she conceived again and bore a son and said, "This time I will praise the LORD." Therefore she named him Judah. Then she stopped bearing.

- He fourth son is named Judah meaning "Praise"
- It is interesting that Leah stopped naming her sons to reflect her pain but now named her 4th son to reflect God's care and blessing in her life.
- It is also interesting that the uglier and unloved sister / wife was the one who brought forth two great tribes of Israel Levi (the priestly tribe) and Judah (the royal tribe)
- From Judah will come the promised seed ...the Messiah.

Gen 30:1 **1) Kid Wars (continued)** vs 1-9 (continued from Ch. 29:31-35)

Now when Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, she became jealous of her sister; and she said to Jacob, "Give me children, or else I die."

- Leah was envious of Rachel's beauty and the attention Jacob gave her. Here we see that Rachel is jealous of Leah bearing children
- Jealousy vs. Envy Evny is wanting something that belongs to someone else. Jealousy is fearing that something you have will be taken away by someone who has seemingly better qualities.
- Rachel is jealous of Leah. Here she reveals an ugly side of herself and runs the risk of losing that favor that is hers.
- This is what Jealousy does: "Two shopkeepers were bitter rivals. Their stores were directly across the street from each other, and they would spend each day keeping track of each other's business. If one got a customer, he would smile in triumph at his rival. One night an angel appeared to one of the shopkeepers in a dream and said, "I will give you anything you ask, but whatever you receive, your competitor will receive twice as much. Would you be rich? You can be very rich, but he will be twice as wealthy. Do you wish to live a long and healthy life? You can, but his life will be longer and healthier. What is your desire?" The man frowned, thought for a moment, and then said, "Here is my request: Strike me blind in one eye!"

- Gen 30:2 Then Jacob's anger burned against Rachel, and he said, "Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?"
- Gen 30:3 She said, "Here is my maid Bilhah, go in to her that she may bear on my knees, that through her I too may have children."
- *"On my knees" speak of the custom where a surrogate would recline on the lap of the wife when impregnated and even when delivering to show that the child legally belonged to the wife not the surrogate.*
- Gen 30:4 So she gave him her maid Bilhah as a wife, and Jacob went in to her.
- *We have heard this before as Sarah gave her handmaid to Abraham to help God's plan.*
- Gen 30:5 Bilhah conceived and bore Jacob a son.
- Gen 30:6 Then Rachel said, "God has vindicated me, and has indeed heard my voice and has given me a son." Therefore she named him Dan.
- *The fifth son is named Dan meaning "Judgment"*
 - *This is just weird. Rachel is in battle with Leah and is using the kids as victory points.*
 - *The tribe of Dan is always troubled through out the Old Testament.*
- Gen 30:7 Rachel's maid Bilhah conceived again and bore Jacob a second son.
- Gen 30:8 So Rachel said, "With mighty wrestlings I have wrestled with my sister, {and} I have indeed prevailed." And she named him Naphtali.
- *The sixth son is named Naphtali meaning "Wrestling"*
 - *Rachel's focus is her sister not the blessing of children.*
 - *Exaggeration begins 2 prevailing over 4. Possibly a taunt that Leah isn't bearing no more.*
- Gen 30:9 When Leah saw that she had stopped bearing, she took her maid Zilpah and gave her to Jacob as a wife.
- Gen 30:10 Leah's maid Zilpah bore Jacob a son.
- Gen 30:11 Then Leah said, "How fortunate!" So she named him Gad.
- *The seventh son is named Gad meaning "a Troop"*
 - *Leah who at her last child seemed to be content in praising God has lost her peace and has been goaded into the Kid Wars again. She uses Rachel's tactic of the handmaid and taunts Rachel by declaring a troop or a whole lot of kids are coming.*
- Gen 30:12 Leah's maid Zilpah bore Jacob a second son.
- Gen 30:13 Then Leah said, "Happy am I! For women will call me happy." So she named him Asher.
- *The eighth son is named Asher meaning "Happy"*
 - *Leah is more concerned about her image than the eighth son.*
- Gen 30:14 Now in the days of wheat harvest Reuben went and found mandrakes in the field, and brought them to his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, "Please give me some of your son's mandrakes."
- Gen 30:15 But she said to her, "Is it a small matter for you to take my husband? And would you take my son's mandrakes also?" So Rachel said, "Therefore he may lie with you tonight in return for your son's mandrakes."
- *Mandrakes were believed to be a fertility fruit for women. In the Hebrew called "love-apples"*
 - *Here we see the face to face confrontation. Leah gives up the mandrakes for the services of her husband.*
- Gen 30:16 When Jacob came in from the field in the evening, then Leah went out to meet him and said, "You must come in to me, for I have surely hired you with my son's mandrakes." So he lay with her that night.
- Gen 30:17 God gave heed to Leah, and she conceived and bore Jacob a fifth son.
- *Isn't interesting that Leah gave up the mandrakes and yet it was God who blesses with children.*

- Gen 30:18 Then Leah said, "God has given me my wages because I gave my maid to my husband." So she named him Issachar.
- *The ninth son is named Issachar meaning "Wages or Reward"*
- Gen 30:19 Leah conceived again and bore a sixth son to Jacob.
- Gen 30:20 Then Leah said, "God has endowed me with a good gift; now my husband will dwell with me, because I have borne him six sons." So she named him Zebulun.
- *The tenth son is named Zebulun meaning "dwell"*
 - *Leah believes she has won the war.*
- Gen 30:21 Afterward she bore a daughter and named her Dinah.
- Gen 30:22 Then God remembered Rachel, and God gave heed to her and opened her womb.
- *God's Sovereignty over the womb. He opens and closes in His timing. (i.e.: Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel, Hannah)*
- Gen 30:23 So she conceived and bore a son and said, "God has taken away my reproach."
- Gen 30:24 She named him Joseph, saying, "May the LORD give me another son."
- *The eleventh son is named Joseph meaning "Add Another"*
 - *Rachel feels vindicated by having a son of her own yet she seems to desire the Kid War to continue.*

- *Leviticus 18:18 A law given that a man shouldn't marry a woman and her sister because they would become rivals.*
- *Genesis 2:24 One man and One wife shall become One flesh*
- *This rivalry continues to the kids as jealousy is found between Joseph and the other boys later.*

Notice what God is doing -- These two women are at war with one another and they use their kids to get at one another. Yet God doesn't cease to open wombs and give children.

Psalm 127:3 "Lo, children [are] an heritage of the LORD: [and] the fruit of the womb [is his] reward."

God continues because He has a plan and it suits Him to fulfill His plan even tho these two are not receiving the blessing of His plan properly.

Gen 30:25 2) Kids of a Different Kind vs 25- 43

Now it came about when Rachel had borne Joseph, that Jacob said to Laban, "Send me away, that I may go to my own place and to my own country.

- *Jacob, after serving for over 14 years is ready to leave for home.*
- *He still regards the promised land as His Own Country.*

Gen 30:26 "Give {me} my wives and my children for whom I have served you, and let me depart; for you yourself know my service which I have rendered you."

Gen 30:27 But Laban said to him, "If now it pleases you, {stay with me;} I have divined that the LORD has blessed me on your account."

- *Laban realized that he is blessed because the Lord has blessed him through Jacob*
- *Laban uses divination (occultic practices)*
- *Part of the Abrahamic Blessing Gen 12:3 "And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."*

Gen 30:28 He continued, "Name me your wages, and I will give it."

Gen 30:29 But he said to him, "You yourself know how I have served you and how your cattle have fared with me.

Gen 30:30 "For you had little before I came and it has increased to a multitude, and the LORD has

blessed you wherever I turned. But now, when shall I provide for my own household also?"

Gen 30:31 So he said, "What shall I give you?" And Jacob said, "You shall not give me anything. If you will do this {one} thing for me, I will again pasture {and} keep your flock:

Gen 30:32 let me pass through your entire flock today, removing from there every speckled and spotted sheep and every black one among the lambs and the spotted and speckled among the goats; and {such} shall be my wages.

Gen 30:33 "So my honesty will answer for me later, when you come concerning my wages. Every one that is not speckled and spotted among the goats and black among the lambs, {if found} with me, will be considered stolen."

Gen 30:34 Laban said, "Good, let it be according to your word."

- *The wages would provide for his family as they travel. Nothing except wives, concubines and children were his. He would have to provide for them if he traveled. Jacob needed cattle, goats for the journey.*
- *The wages would be provided for more work. But Jacob had to outwit Laban. So he offered him a deal that was too good to be true for Laban.*
- *Remove spotted or specked animals. (so they could easily tell which ones were Laban's and which were Jacob's)*
- *Jacob would only care for the pure animals. As he cared for them, Jacob could have the specked or spotted offspring.*

Gen 30:35 So he removed on that day the striped and spotted male goats and all the speckled and spotted female goats, every one with white in it, and all the black ones among the sheep, and gave them into the care of his sons.

Gen 30:36 And he put {a distance of} three days' journey between himself and Jacob, and Jacob fed the rest of Laban's flocks.

Gen 30:37 Then Jacob took fresh rods of poplar and almond and plane trees, and peeled white stripes in them, exposing the white which {was} in the rods.

Gen 30:38 He set the rods which he had peeled in front of the flocks in the gutters, {even} in the watering troughs, where the flocks came to drink; and they mated when they came to drink.

Gen 30:39 So the flocks mated by the rods, and the flocks brought forth striped, speckled, and spotted.

- *Now this is an odd method. I do not know how it worked except that God made this happen.*

Gen 30:40 Jacob separated the lambs, and made the flocks face toward the striped and all the black in the flock of Laban; and he put his own herds apart, and did not put them with Laban's flock.

Gen 30:41 Moreover, whenever the stronger of the flock were mating, Jacob would place the rods in the sight of the flock in the gutters, so that they might mate by the rods;

Gen 30:42 but when the flock was feeble, he did not put {them} in; so the feebler were Laban's and the stronger Jacob's.

- *Jacob only allowed the strong animals to breed, thus the offspring were strong.*

Gen 30:43 So the man became exceedingly prosperous, and had large flocks and female and male servants and camels and donkeys.

- *God has prospered Jacob exceedingly Due to Genesis 12:2 and Genesis 26:3 and Genesis 28:13-15*
- We may note Jacob's principles for prosperity:
 - Don't make wealth your goal (Genesis 30:25-26)
 - Don't be afraid to work for others and try to increase their wealth before or as you work to increase your own wealth (Genesis 30:27)
 - Work hard, dedicating yourself to your employer's success (Genesis 30:26, 31:38-42)
 - Trust God (Genesis 30:31-33) (Guzik)

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