

## Genesis 30

1 Henpecking him and he still prefers her. She wanted to retain her superior position with Jacob.

2 Jacob recognizes it is God who has shut up her womb.

3 Grandpa tried this and it created big problems but here they go.

4 Now she has two competitors. Smart move.

5,6 "he has vindicated" Think so? Sometimes we misinterpret God and call our own works His actions.

7,8 "my struggle" sibling rivalry. Well it certainly ran in the family. She is not struggling with her sister but with God.

9-11 "good fortune" or "troop"

12,13 "happy" Now Leah thinks she is gaining on her sister.

14 Supposedly an herb that will help with fertility.

15 Rachel's turn to sleep with Jacob but she trades with Leah for the herbs.

16 He must have felt desired, yet with all this arguing and rivalry it must have been anything but peaceful.

17,18 "reward" Both ladies have fallen into this bitter dispute and competition that distorts how they see God.

19,20 "honor"

21,22 This is years later so it wasn't the herbs, it was the Lord. This word used as remembered I think is better translated "thought upon".

23,24 "may he add" She wanted more but that would be asking for her death (35:20). There is such a clear picture of a distorted view of God when we enter into rivalries and jealousy. What a warning. Still, God worked through it all to produce the fathers of the twelve tribes. Where did they get their wives? They all married and took sons into Egypt. Judah married a Canaanite but the rest we do not know.

25 Time to go home and possibly receive his inheritance. So he seeks a clean departure from Laban.

26 He has paid his bride price for them both.

27 Seeking truth through mystical means. Here he goes again to trick the deceiver.

28 Sounds like he is willing to be very generous. Who will win out this time?

29,30 God has blessed the work of Jacob's hand. Don't think this is just skill. God promised He would assist. Jacob is not yet in submission to God and yet because Jacob is the chosen one to carry the Seed, all he does is blessed. Don't take credit in your own life when you are successful but recognize the hand of your God and thank Him. Jacob has learned the art of Eastern negotiation, appear generous and humble but come from a point which would make the other party expose their position if they argue.

31,32 He has an old trick up his sleeve that he learned sometime earlier. Perhaps he learned it from Abraham's servants that were inherited by Isaac???

33 This has been carefully thought out. It is going to be a contract that Jacob knows he can win and no one can dispute.

34-36 The sons are big enough to watch the flocks themselves - adolescent teens. Confusing here though. Last person is Laban but the 'he' must be Jacob because that is what he pulls out. Did Laban have sons watching Jacob's flocks? So Laban is making sure Jacob does his work and does not focus his time on his own flocks. Also he may be thinking that if the herds are solid color you will get solid colored offspring. Genetically speaking I think it works out to 50%.

37-40 Sounds like some kind of magical trick. Man thinks he is so smart but it was the blessing of God. He just took the young, healthier ones that were born spotted, into a separate herd so that they would reproduce their own kind. Laban's older stock will bear less often. When mating time came Jacob would use his speckled herd to mix with the rams that were dark increasing his odds. In this way God outfoxed Laban who didn't think of all the details, like what would be done with the new spotted kids.

41-43 More flocks, more servants that can be supported, more donkeys and camels that can be purchased.