

## My Big Fat Mesopotamian Wedding 2: The Trickster Gets Tricked! **Genesis 29:1-30**

### *Genesis 29:1-8*

- 2-3 the stone... was large... the shepherds would roll the stone- it must've been VERY heavy
- 4 Haran- along a tributary of the Euphrates River in Mesopotamia
- 5 Laban son of Nahor- Nahor fathered Bethuel who fathered Laban and Rebekah (Jacob's mom)
- 6 Rachel his daughter- making Rachel Jacob's cousin, the name Rachel means "ewe"
- 7-8 Jacob, the kid who dwelled in tents, knows a bit about herding as he speaks with the shepherds

### *Genesis 29:9-14*

- 9 "she was a shepherdess"- a contrast with tent-dweller Jacob, Esau was the man of the fields
  - 10 Jacob... rolled the stone- a great feat of strength to impress the young lady!
  - 11 "Then Jacob kissed Rachel and wept aloud"- Wow, calm down Jacob!
  - 12 Maybe Jacob should have given this introduction before smooching on Rachel!
- Cyril of Alexandria: "In addition Rachel is interpreted as a "sheep of God." And some consider her to be with good reason a symbol of the church among the nations."
- Caesarius of Arles: "If you notice carefully, brothers, you can recognize that it was not without reason that the holy patriarchs found their wives at wells or fountains. If this happened only once, someone might say it was accidental and not for some definite reason. Blessed Rebekah who was to be united to blessed Isaac was found at the well; Rachel whom blessed Jacob was to marry was recognized at the well; and Zipporah who was joined to Moses was found at the well. Doubtless then we ought to understand some mysteries in these facts. Since all three of those patriarchs typified our Lord and Savior, for this reason they found their wives at fountains or wells, because Christ was to find his church at the waters of baptism."
- 13 Now Laban is running... Again! (cf. 24:29) And he embraces and kisses him, an acceptable custom
  - 14 "Jacob told Laban all these things"- Does this include the trickery and deceit?
  - 14 "you are my bone and my flesh"- last seen in 2:23 about The Man and The Wife.

### *Genesis 29:15-21*

- 15 apparently Jacob had been working for Laban during the month he had been there
- 17 "Leah's eyes were weak"- it is a Hebrew idiom of unclear meaning.  
Rachel was beautiful in form and appearance- and a shepherdess- what a catch!
- 18 seven years for... Rachel- this is the betrothal price Jacob would pay through his labor
- 19 Laban accepts the terms of the betrothal contract
- 20 "they seemed to him but a few days"- His great love for Rachel sets up the great trickery of Laban
- 21 Guys, you might want to choose your words more carefully when speaking to your father-in-law

### *Genesis 29:22-30*

- 22 A clear historical description of ancient weddings- looks like things haven't changed much
- 23 Laban brings Leah to the marriage bed in the evening when it is dark

- 24 Laban gives Zilpah to Leah- the father would give a dowry to his daughter, here a servant  
 25 “Behold it was Leah!”- SURPRISE!!  
 “Why then have you deceived me?”- it’s a fair complaint, but what goes around comes around!  
 26 Laban’s answer hardly justifies the deceit.  
*Luther: Without consent, agreements, and discussion the daughter is seized by the father and placed on the nuptial bed of Jacob... If these were the customs of the people, they certainly were very bad.*  
 27 Laban’s new stipulations are hardly fair, but he has Jacob in a bad spot  
 28 “completed her week”- he remained monogamous with Leah for one week after marriage  
 “then Laban gave ... Rachel”- Jacob didn’t have to wait another 7 years, but did have to work 14  
 30 “he loved Rachel more than Leah”- and so the bitter feud in the coming chapters is set up

Who is missing from this chapter? His name is never mentioned...  
 How does this differ from Genesis 24?

Psalm 5

- N: <sup>1</sup>Give ear to my words, O YHWH;  
 S: consider my groaning.  
 N: <sup>2</sup>Give attention to the sound of my cry,  
 S: my King and my God,  
 N: for to you do I pray.  
 S: <sup>3</sup>O YHWH, in the morning you hear my voice;  
 N: in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch.  
 S: <sup>4</sup>For you are not a God who delights in wickedness;  
 N: evil may not dwell with you.  
 S: <sup>5</sup>The boastful shall not stand before your eyes;  
 N: you hate all evildoers.  
 S: <sup>6</sup>You destroy those who speak lies;  
 N: YHWH abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.  
 S: <sup>7</sup>But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love,  
 N: will enter your house.  
 S: I will bow down toward your holy temple in the fear of you.  
 N: <sup>8</sup>Lead me, O YHWH, in your righteousness  
 S: because of my enemies; make your way straight before me.  
 N: <sup>9</sup>For there is no truth in their mouth;  
 S: their inmost self is destruction;  
 N: their throat is an open grave;  
 S: they flatter with their tongue.  
 N: <sup>10</sup>Make them bear their guilt, O God;  
 S: let them fall by their own counsels;  
 N: because of the abundance of their transgressions cast them out,  
 S: for they have rebelled against you.  
 N: <sup>11</sup>But let all who take refuge in you rejoice;  
 S: let them ever sing for joy,  
 N: and spread your protection over them,  
 S: that those who love your name may exult in you.  
 N: <sup>12</sup>For you bless the righteous, O YHWH;  
 S: you cover him with favor as with a shield

**ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit  
 As it was in the beginning Is now and will be forever Amen**

**The Back Pew - Jeff Larson**



So Jacob marries Rachel, but after the wedding party Laban plays the ol' **Switcheroo** leaving sister Leah in Rachel's place. Jacob is none the wiser til morning. **YOWTCH. Ge 29:21-25**