

GENESIS –Lesson 51

Learn: Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day. Remember, O LORD, thy tender mercies and thy lovingkindnesses; for they have been ever of old.
Psalm 25:4-6

Read: Genesis 29:1-35

1. After his time at Bethel, the place where God met him, what did Jacob do? v1

NOTE: “The land of the people of the east,” this was in the vicinity of Haran.

2. What did Jacob see when he arrived in the area of his destination? vv 2, 3

3. What three questions did Jacob ask of the shepherds? vv 4-6

4. Since Jacob had come to Haran to seek a wife of the family of Laban, what information that the shepherds gave would have been especially interesting to Jacob?
v 6

5. What seemed odd to Jacob about the sheep all being at the well? v 7a

What did Jacob want the young shepherds to do while he waited for Rachel to come to the well? v 7b

6. Describe the family reunion of Jacob and Rachel and Laban. vv 10-14

7. Verse 14 tells us that Jacob stayed with Laban his uncle for a month, how do we know that Jacob was not taking advantage of his uncle’s hospitality while he was there? v 15

What example does Jacob give as to how we should behave when receiving hospitality?

8. What was Jacob's response to Laban's offer of making him a regular salaried employee? v 18

9. Laban had two daughters, how is each of them described? vv 16, 17

Rachel was beautiful in face and form, much more so than Leah apparently, and much more desirable. Since they were sisters, however, there must have been a considerable family resemblance between them, so that Leah could not have been too homely. The only specific weakness that is mentioned is that she is "tender-eyed," however, as some have interpreted it; it could mean that she did not have eyes as dark and lustrous as those of Rachel. THE GENESIS RECORD p 460 Dr. Henry Morris

10. Laban agreed easily to the arrangement. He knew that it was advantageous for him in many ways. He knew the value of Jacob's work and skills, as well as the wealth that Jacob would inherit. How did Jacob view such a long period of service in order to gain the wife of his choice? v 20

11. When the time came for the actual marriage what happened? vv 21-25

It is hard to imagine how Jacob could have mistaken Leah for Rachel. First of all, Jacob was not expecting that Laban would do such a thing. Also it would have been dark after a day of festivities. Leah was veiled, and Laban kept Rachel hidden. The sisters were no doubt sufficiently alike in stature and general mien, probably even in tone of voice, so that the deception was fairly easy to accomplish on the unsuspecting Jacob. When he took her into his chambers and into his bed, it was dark, and do doubt much of the conversation was in whispers and in brief words of love. No doubt, Leah was arrayed in Rachel's clothing and perfumes. It was not until morning that Jacob saw that he had been grievously deceived. THE GENESIS RECORD p 461 Dr. Henry Morris

12. What was Laban's explanation for perpetrating this deception upon his is nephew Jacob? v 26

13. How long had Laban known the customs of giving daughters in marriage in relation to what he had promised Jacob at the beginning?
14. Besides wanting to get Leah married what was Laban's other motivation for deceiving Jacob? v 27
15. Even though Jacob had wanted Rachel, and he had been utterly deceived by Laban, who gave him Leah instead, how did Jacob handle the situation?
vv 25-28 Especially note v 28.

What does his response to Leah in this situation show about Jacob's character?

16. Using vv 30 and 31, what were Jacob's feelings for his two wives?

Jacob, of course, did not "hate" Leah, as the literal meaning of the word would suggest; he only loved Rachel more, and so "slighted" Leah.

Jacob fulfilled Leah's week, and then Laban finally gave Rachel to him. Jacob was thus more or less forced to become a bigamist. Many problems developed later in Jacob's home and family because of it, thus showing again that monogamy is a better way. Though "parallel polygamy" is illegal in western nations today, we see its acceptance coming. Meanwhile we do have a "serial" type of polygamy commonly practiced as a result of frequent divorces. Either way there are many heartaches and serious family problems. THE GENESIS RECORD p 463-464 Dr. Henry Morris

17. What did the Lord do for Leah to help her in this difficult situation? v 31

Whereas Abraham and Isaac had only one son each to whom the promises were given, all the sons of Jacob were to share in the promises. Only one would be the progenitor of the Messiah, but all would be the "children of Israel" and would constitute the promised nation, the chosen people. Dr. Henry Morris

18. What were the names Leah gave her sons, and what did they mean? vv 32-35

19. What do we see about Leah's relationship with the Lord from how she named her sons?

Leah had a very difficult situation of life. She was used by her father to gain wealth. She was, at least at the beginning, considered an interloper into the home of her sister Rachel. Her husband loved her less than his other wife. Yet, from the verses 32-35, we see that Leah gained what she needed to cope and do well.

20. What can we learn from Leah?

21. How do the following verses give hope in difficult times?

Psalm 25: 1-2

Psalm 25:4-6

Psalm 25:14-21