

JACOB “Deception”

Genesis 29:15 – 30:43

What does Laban ask Jacob? 29.15

What is his answer? vv.16-19

After 7 years, how is Jacob deceived? vv.20-25

“The Bible demonstrates over and over the principle that what a man sows he reaps. God orders the affairs of men to set things right. With Jacob this deception was perfectly fitted; it was divine punishment to bring his own craftiness before his eyes. He had deceptively presented himself to his father under the guise of Esau the firstborn, now Leah the firstborn was deceptively introduced to him under the guise of Rachel the younger!”

“Bible Knowledge Commentary” Wallvoord and Zuck p.76

What does Laban propose? vv.26-27

What does Jacob agree to do? vv.28-30

“The desire for affectionate approval often leads down dangerous path. The contest of childbearing between Rachel and Leah shows just such a struggle within a family. The story is about the craving of human beings for love and recognition, and the price of thwarting it.”

“Bible Knowledge Commentary” Wallvoord and Zuck p.76

What does the Lord do for Leah? Why? vv.31-35

What does Leah hope for? vv.31-35

“Leah named her firstborn Reuben. . . This naming showed her consolation and faith. Jacob never saw her affliction, But God did.

Simeon was so named because the Lord heard that Leah was not loved. Levi was named for her hope that her husband would become attached to her, but it was not to be. Judah was her consolation; she would be satisfied to praise the Lord. Leah showed genuine faith during her great affliction.” “Bible Knowledge Commentary” Wallvoord and Zuck p.76

What does Rachel demand of Jacob – and do? 30:1-8

“Rachel’s sons through Bilhah do not reflect the faith Leah had. Rachel felt wronged over her barrenness. The names of the two sons born to Bilhah reflected Rachel’s bitter struggle and feeling of victory.”

“Bible Knowledge Commentary” Wallvoord and Zuck p.77

Then what does Leah do? vv.9-13

What bargain does she make with Rachel? Why? vv.14-16

What does God do for Leah? vv.17-21

What do these births mean to her? vv.17-21

“Leah said that God gave her Zebulun as a gift and her husband would treat her with honor. Thus Leah’s hopes never left her.”

“Bible Knowledge Commentary” Wallvoord and Zuck p.77

What does the Lord do for Rachel? vv.22-24

“Finally Rachel gave birth to Joseph. . . Finally Rachel was jubilant, looking in faith for a second child from God.”

“Bible Knowledge Commentary” Wallvoord and Zuck p.77

When does Jacob ask Laban to let him leave? vv.25-26

What is Laban answer? Why? vv.27-28

What wages does Jacob ask for? vv.29-33

What does Laban agree to – and do? vv.34-36

“Jacob’s plan was most risky. Nevertheless he was looking out for his own interests, hoping to prosper from this. But Laban’s ploy added to the risk. For greater security, Laban immediately removed all the animals of abnormal color, giving them to his sons and not to Jacob. And as an additional precaution he placed a three-day journey between them. Thus he was seeking to ensure that Jacob would have a difficult time acquiring a large herd.

How does Jacob try to help God make this happen? vv.37-42

What does God do for Jacob? v.43 28:3

“God blessed Jacob in an unusual way. Clearly, as Jacob later admitted (31:7-12), God intervened to fulfill the expectations Jacob had in the branches placed at the watering troughs.”

“Bible Knowledge Commentary” Wallvoord and Zuck p.77