

Genesis: God and Man

God Listened, God Remembered

Genesis 30

Previously

- Jacob has to leave, Isaac charges him to find a wife in the right place
- Arrives in Haran
- Meets Rachel, Laban and Leah
- Stays a month
- Works seven years for Rachel, given Leah
- Works seven years for Rachel, given Rachel
- Leah bears sons, Rachel barren
- Jacob loves Rachel, but not Leah

Are there people in your life that don't love you back?

Are there situations that seem hopeless, lifeless and barren?

Do you feel like you're getting ripped off? Taken advantage of?

Have you been working hard and want to strike it out on your own?

Know that God is listening.

1-8

Rachel's a bit dramatic "OR ELSE I'LL DIE!"

I can just picture her being over the top here

Jacob angry, "And Jacob's anger was aroused against Rachel, and he said, "Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?"

We see a bit of his faith here - it's not his fault she's not conceiving...he's not impotent, Leah has born him sons. He has no control over her situation. Only God can give them children.

Family history repeating here...giving of maids to provide children

Bilhah - troubled

Interesting as Rachel is troubled, she gives her "troubled" servant to Jacob

God has judged my case and given me a son

But was this really her son?

No it was Bilhah's

Dan - a judge

Wrestling with her sister

This rivalry may have been all of their lives. The dramatic, shepherding beauty, and the more perhaps intelligent, yet not outwardly beautiful Leah

One loved, one hated

One barren, one fruitful

Naphtali - wrestling

Interesting again that it seems Jacob has little to do with the naming of his children. It really is quite the family dynamic.

When Elizabeth bears John the Baptist, they look to Zacharias for confirmation in their “odd” selection of a name

9-13

Leah saw that she stopped bearing (what we saw last week)

And although she saw that God had been gracious to her, she’s still in the flesh of sorts,

Valuing being able to give her husband children above all else

1Ti 2:12-15 NKJV - And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.

“In other words, even more than today, there were aspects of childbearing that felt like a curse from God — and often that burden lasted a lifetime, not just in the moment of birth. How easy it would have been for women to despair and feel that God was against them. He was their curser, not their savior. To this sense of despair Paul responds with the hope of the gospel. No to the curse! The pains of childbearing — even if they last a lifetime — are not God’s final word to women. God intends to save women.”

John Piper

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/how-are-women-saved-through-childbearing>

Henry Alford, ‘The curse on the woman for her “transgression” was, “in pains you will bear children” (Genesis 3:16). Her “childbearing” is that in which the curse finds its operation. What then is here promised her? Not only exemption from that curse in its worst and heaviest effects: not merely that she shall safely bear children: but the Apostle uses the word “will be saved”

purposely for its higher meaning [eternal salvation], and the construction of the sentence is precisely as [in] 1 Corinthians 3:15 — “he will be saved, yet though as through fire.”

Just as that man should be saved through, as passing through, fire which is his trial, his hindrance in his way, in spite of which he escapes — so she shall be saved, through, as passing through, her child-bearing, which is her trial, her curse, her (not means of salvation, but) hindrance in the way of it. ‘

There is nothing that can take the place of a Godly mother in a child’s life. There are many substitutes, but there is none with more influence or power on a child like a mom. The father’s role is completely different. Just as important, but only a mom can be a mom.

Zilpah - a trickling

A little hope left to have some more sons

Gad - troop

Asher - happy

Kid count: 8

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad Asher

Leah has four

Rachel’s servant Bilhah, 2

Zilpha, 2

14-24

Reuben, Leah’s firstborn, a young boy now. Perhaps seven?

Mandrakes, considered an aphrodisiac “love apple”

“the critics are not agreed about them; we are sure they were some rarities, either fruits or flowers that were very pleasant to the smell’- Matthew Henry

Leah, “You’ve taken away my husband!”

This is complicated. Yes, he married her first...but was tricked into it.

He loved Rachel first. So in a sense Leah took away Rachel’s husband.

But it outlines the continued rivalry between them

Leah is showing cunning and dealing here.

“Heav’n has no Rage, like Love to Hatred turn’d,

Nor Hell a Fury, like a Woman scorn'd."
-William Congreve

Leviticus 18:18 forbids marrying sisters. It should be pretty obvious.

Proverbs 21:9, 25:24

Better to dwell in a corner of a housetop, Than in a house shared with a contentious woman.

Rachel offers her husband that night

Jacob comes in from the field, Leah out to greet him

What an encounter

What a situation

She has to pay for her husband's affection, but she still does not have his heart

Gen 30:17 And God listened to Leah, and she conceived and bore Jacob a fifth son.

Very interesting...God listened to Leah

to hear (perceive by ear)

to hear of or concerning

to hear (have power to hear)

to hear with attention or interest, listen to

to understand (language)

to hear (of judicial cases)

to listen, give heed

to consent, agree

to grant request

to listen to, yield to

to obey, be obedient

She didn't need the mandrakes. She needed God to listen.

Issachar there is recompense

#9, 5th by Leah

Zebulun - exalted, #10, 6th by Leah

She was definitely not done with kids, like she thought after #4

Still convinced that bearing more sons will make Jacob love her.

That he'd actually live with her now on account of the boys.

Sad to try and keep a marriage together by having more children. It may work while they are home, but when they grow up, if the relationship isn't repaired, it won't last

First daughter, Dinah - like Dan is the judge, Dinah is the judgment
The 11th child, 7th by Leah

Gen 30:22 NKJV - Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb.

It's not that God forgot about Rachel, but it was the point in time when her prayers and desires would be answered by him.

Joseph - Jehovah has added
Rachel's firstborn

The Lord shall add to me another son...that Joseph was in addition to those she viewed as hers from her handmaid, but in a sense, i think in some way, God would answer that with yet another son down the line, Benjamin.

25-36

Jacob wants his freedom. He wasn't a slave, but he wanted to move on from Laban's house
He had plenty of his own children and wives.

He wanted his own place in life. Not to be under the shadow of his uncle any more.
Renting vs owning.

The deal is done. I've served you, it's been fulfilled.

:27 learned by experience that the LORD has blessed me for your sake
Laban saw how his life was different because of and even for Jacob

Name your wages...

Leaving a job in the past, being offered more, working from home, etc.

Jacob saying you had a little bit of livestock before I showed up, but now that I've been keeping them these past few decades, you've got a ton.

Basically, I'll take all the ones that aren't solid in color. And not having them among your herd reduces the chance that any more will be born in your flock.

Apparently, the odds were in Laban's favor. So he signed up right away.

But remember, God was favoring Jacob.

Jacob still was in charge, but the flocks were separated by quite a ways so that there was no chance of them getting mixed up. And if there was, it would be obvious.

Pro 1:10-16 NKJV - My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent. If they say, "Come with us, Let us lie in wait to [shed] blood; Let us lurk secretly for the innocent without cause; Let us swallow them alive like Sheol, And whole, like those who go down to the Pit; We shall find all [kinds] of precious possessions, We shall fill our houses with spoil; Cast in your lot among us, Let us all have one purse"-- My son, do not walk in the way with them, Keep your foot from their path; For their feet run to evil, And they make haste to shed blood.

There is something to be said about having separate finances from the world. Not joining in their schemes to get rich, not joining in their universal plans, because the end goal is not your wealth, but their plunder.

37-43

Jacob does something weird here, peeling sticks to show the inside, stripes

Selective breeding. They understood the concept of breeding and in a sense how genetics played a role. Interesting that DNA is something of a striped and coiled

But really, God blessed it. His old-shepherd's-tale superstitions was something that He did and apparently God made it work.

Jdg 6:36-40 KJV - And Gideon said unto God, If thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said, Behold, I will put a fleece of wool in the floor; [and] if the dew be on the fleece only, and [it be] dry upon all the earth [beside], then shall I know that thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said. And it was so: for he rose up early on the morrow, and thrust the fleece together, and wringed the dew out of the fleece, a bowl full of water. And Gideon said unto God, Let not thine anger be hot against me, and I will speak but this once: let me prove, I pray thee, but this once with the fleece; let it now be dry only upon the fleece, and upon all the ground let there be dew. And God did so that night: for it was dry upon the fleece only, and there was dew on all the ground.

Isa 53:2-6 KJV - For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, [there is] no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were [our] faces from him; he was despised,

and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he [was] wounded for our transgressions, [he was] bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace [was] upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

We're to look on the stripes of Jesus and it will bring forth life in us

Jacob became very wealthy. His investment in the *flockmarket* was paying dividends. These flocks would be used to get many other things, animals, transportation, servants.

God was blessing Jacob. He had listened to Leah. He had remembered Rachel.

Jacob who a chapter ago was poor, empty-handed, and on the run, was now quite well-off. His hard work and honesty had paid off because God was favoring Him.

The deceiver was well on his way to becoming governed by God.