

Chapter 29

- 29:1 Then Jacob went on his journey, and came into the land of the people of the east.
- 29:2 And he looked, and behold a well in the field,
and, lo, there were three flocks of sheep lying by it; for out of that well they watered the flocks:
and a great stone was upon the well's mouth.
- 29:3 And thither were all the flocks gathered:
and they rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the sheep, and put the stone again upon the
well's mouth in his place.
- 29:4 And Jacob said unto them, My brethren, whence be ye?
And they said, Of Haran are we.
- 29:5 And he said unto them, Know ye Laban the son of Nahor?
And they said, We know him.
- 29:6 And he said unto them, Is he well?
And they said, He is well: and, behold, Rachel his daughter cometh with the sheep.
- 29:7 And he said, Lo, it is yet high day, neither is it time that the cattle should be gathered together: water ye
the sheep, and go and feed them.
- 29:8 And they said, We cannot, until all the flocks be gathered together, and till they roll the stone from the
well's mouth; then we water the sheep.
- 29:9 And while he yet spake with them,
Rachel came with her father's sheep;
for she kept them.
- 29:10 And it came to pass, when Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep
of Laban his mother's brother,
that Jacob went near, and rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his
mother's brother.
- 29:11 And Jacob kissed Rachel,
and lifted up his voice, and wept.
- 29:12 And Jacob told Rachel that he was her father's brother, and that he was Rebekah's son:
and she ran and told her father.
- 29:13 And it came to pass, when Laban heard the tidings of Jacob his sister's son,
that he ran to meet him, and embraced him, and kissed him, and brought him to his house.
And he told Laban all these things.
- 29:14 And Laban said to him, Surely thou art my bone and my flesh.
And he abode with him the space of a month.
- 29:15 And Laban said unto Jacob, Because thou art my brother, shouldest thou therefore serve me for nought?
tell me, what shall thy wages be?
- 29:16 And Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was
Rachel.
- 29:17 Leah was *tender eyed*;
but Rachel was beautiful and well favoured.
*Leah was the firstborn daughter of Laban. The meaning of her name is . . . "weary" . . . and she is
sometimes described as, tender-eyed; meaning, weak or dull eyed.*
- 29:18 And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter.
- 29:19 And Laban said, It is better that I give her to thee, than that I should give her to another man: abide with
me.

- 29:20 And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her.
- 29:21 And Jacob said unto Laban, Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in unto her.
- 29:22 And Laban gathered together all the men of the place, and made a feast.
- 29:23 And it came to pass in the evening,
that he took Leah his daughter, and brought her to him; and he went in unto her.
- 29:24 And Laban gave unto his daughter Leah Zilpah his maid for an handmaid.
- 29:25 And it came to pass, that in the morning, behold, it was Leah:
and he said to Laban, What is this thou hast done unto me? did not I serve with thee for Rachel?
wherefore then hast thou beguiled me?
- 29:26 And Laban said,
It must not be so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn.
- 29:27 Fulfil her week, and we will give thee this also for the service which thou shalt serve with me yet seven other years.
- 29:28 And Jacob did so, and fulfilled her week:
and he gave him Rachel his daughter to wife also.
- 29:29 And Laban gave to Rachel his daughter Bilhah his handmaid to be her maid.
- 29:30 And he went in also unto Rachel,
and **he loved also Rachel more than Leah**,
and served with him yet seven other years.
- 29:31 And when the LORD saw that Leah was **hated**, he opened her womb:
but Rachel was barren.
thought: *In light of the statement in 29:30, this seems to be a very harsh characterization, as far as the meaning of that word, hated, such as is currently in use. Is there another word that might fit better, or is there a certain definition for the word, which was in vogue during the KJV time, which has been intensified as we've reached modern times?*
Another thought that may be applied to this passage is this; Jacob did, by his attitude and associated activities with her, project a kind of hate toward Leah. And he may have done so because she was, in his mind, in the way, as standing between him and Rachel, and because Leah had been forced upon him. This may seem unusual to us, in this day, when one considers that she bore many children for him--which means that, under normal circumstances, they engaged in sex with one another. However, in spite of engaging in sex, for Jacob this may have been a matter of honor, more than love; in this sense: since she was given to him as wife; therefore, he had a duty to treat her as such, regardless of how he felt about her. Thus, deep down, Jacob may have indeed hated Leah, but still he felt obligated to perform his husbandly duties, in spite of his feelings.
- 29:32 And Leah conceived, and bare a son,
and she called his name *Reuben*:
for she said, Surely the LORD hath looked upon my affliction; now therefore my husband will love me.
- 29:33 And she conceived again, and bare a son;
and said, Because the LORD hath heard I was **hated**, he hath therefore given me this son also:
and she called his name *Simeon*.
- 29:34 And she conceived again, and bare a son;
and said, Now this time will my husband be joined unto me, because I have born him three sons:
therefore was his name called *Levi*.
- 29:35 And she conceived again, and bare a son:
and she said, *Now will I praise the LORD*:
therefore she called his name *Judah*;

and left bearing.

thought: *Leah goes through her period of trying to conform herself to the image of another -- that image which was developed by her husband, Jacob, using his other wife, Rachel, as the pattern--that is, up until her fourth-born. At that point, Leah seems to turn her attention to the LORD Who is blessing her. And, hopefully we can say that, she finds peace in being a chosen vessel of the LORD, regardless of the actions of anyone-- including her husband--around her. Maybe, she realizes this: no action she does can make another person appreciate her, but surely the Lord loves her, regardless of how she views herself. In the LORD, let us all come to that point of peace within our self.*