



In the beginning...

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים

The Life of Jacob

Chapter 28 -

Departures

- In this chapter we see two distinct departures:
- Firstly the physical departure of Jacob, to travel 450 miles to Uncle Laban (at the request of Rebecca!)
- Secondly, the spiritual departure of Esau.
 - He has already married 2 Hitite wives...
 - He will now compound this further

Departures

Esau is described as departing even further from the Lord. He had married Hittite wives, and to try to undo what he felt had displeased his father, he now married descendants of Ishmael, the other son of Abraham, who was outside the Messianic line. It is so characteristic of men that they try to undo one evil by doing another evil thing. This is what Esau did. He thought it would please his father if he took a wife from the tribe of Ishmael. But this simply indicates how spiritually obtuse Esau was; he could not get the point. He couldn't understand that God was going to work in a certain way, and that he needed to align himself with God's will, rather than try to work according to his own conception of right.

- David Roper

Genesis 28

- ¹ And Isaac called Jacob, and blessed him, and charged him, and said unto him, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan.
- ² Arise, go to Padan-aram, to the house of Bethuel thy mother's father; and take thee a wife from thence of the daughters of Laban thy mother's brother.
- ³ And God Almighty bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude of people;

To Be Fruitful

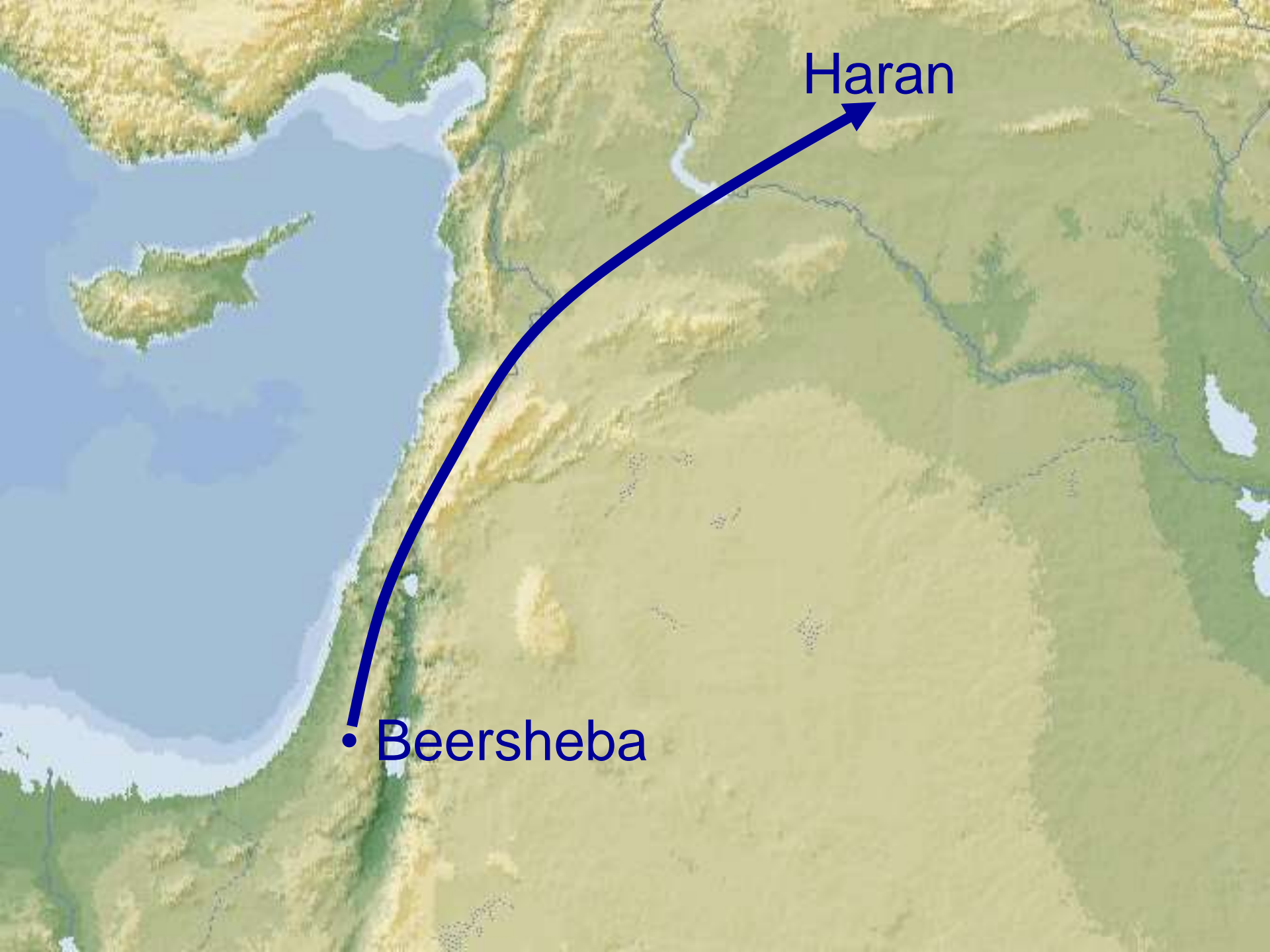
- For Jacob to be fruitful, he would need to marry.
- Isaac is telling Jacob to go and find a wife!
- Remember, Jacob is around 77 yrs old at this point!
- Jacob obeys for two reasons:
 - He is honouring his father (Ex 20:12)
 - His life is in danger from Esau! (Gen 27:41-42)

Genesis 28

⁴ And give thee the blessing of Abraham, to thee, and to thy seed with thee; that thou mayest inherit the land wherein thou art a stranger, which God gave unto Abraham.

⁵ And Isaac sent away Jacob: and he went to Padan-aram unto Laban, son of Bethuel the Syrian, the brother of Rebekah, Jacob's and Esau's mother.

Genesis 28:4-5



Haran

• Beersheba

Genesis 28

⁶ When Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob, and sent him away to Padan-aram, to take him a wife from thence; and that as he blessed him he gave him a charge, saying, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan;

⁷ And that Jacob obeyed his father and his mother, and was gone to Padan-aram;

⁸ And Esau seeing that the daughters of Canaan pleased not Isaac his father;

Genesis 28

⁹ Then went Esau unto Ishmael, and took unto the wives which he had Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael Abraham's son, the sister of Nebajoth, to be his wife.

Genesis 28:9

Esau's Response

- He is seeking “blessings” rather than “obedience”
- His observation?
- “Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother”

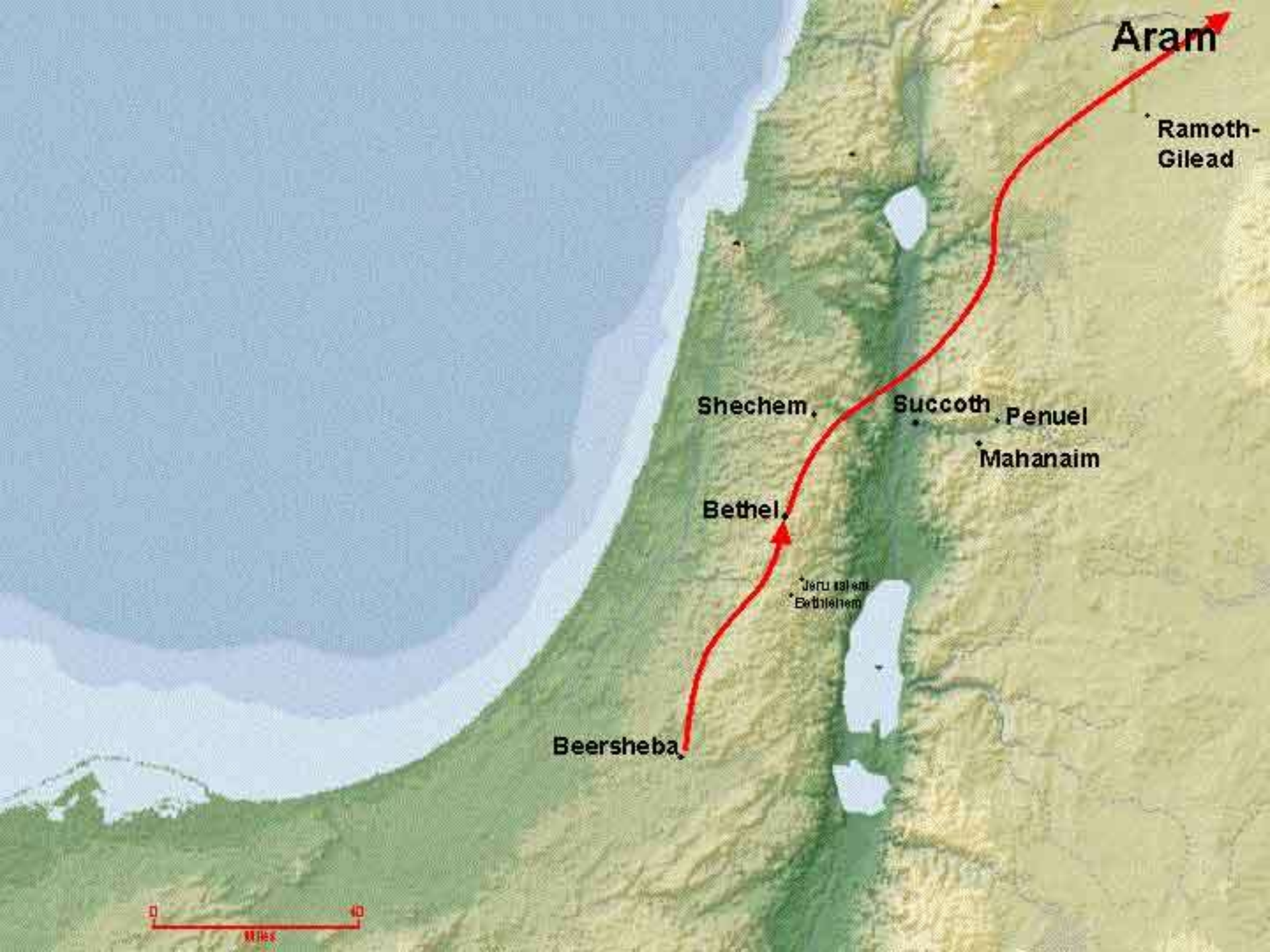
Esau's Response

- His Reaction?
- After 30 years of grieving his parents...
- Take a wife from Line of Ishmael
- Symbolic of the “Work of the Flesh”
- Mahalath = “sickness”
- Sister of Nebajoth = “fruitfulness”

Genesis 28

¹⁰ And Jacob went out from Beer-sheba, and went toward Haran.

Genesis 28:10



Aram

Ramoth-Gilead

Shechem

Succoth

Penuel

Mahanaim

Bethel

Jerusalem
Bethlehem

Beersheba



Genesis 28

¹¹ And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep.

¹² And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.

Genesis 28:11-12

Jacob's Ladder

- What is his state of mind at this point?
- He has deceived his father
- He has disappointed his mother
- He has enraged his brother
- He is forced to leave his home
- He is being guided by other people's visions

Genesis 28

¹³ And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed;

¹⁴ And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 28:13-14

- See John 1:45-51

Jacob's Ladder

- What is the meaning of the Ladder?
- Jesus as The Bridge between God and lost mankind
- Not man reaching UP to God...
- But God reaching DOWN to man.

Genesis 28

¹⁵ And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.

¹⁶ And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not.

¹⁷ And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.

Genesis 28

¹⁸ And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it.

¹⁹ And he called the name of that place Bethel: but the name of that city was called Luz at the first.

Genesis 28:18-19

Jacob's First-hand Promise

- Like Abraham & Isaac, God makes His vow personal
- “Behold, I *am* with you and will keep you wherever you go”
- God repeats the substance of their promises

Jacob's First-hand Promise

- Concerning the Promised Land
 - “the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants”
- Concerning the Promised Seed
 - “in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed”

Genesis 28

20 And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on,

21 So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God:

22 And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.

Genesis 28:20-22

Jacob's Response

- Real Worship is the result of witnessing God's Greatness
- Jacob's response is to "do something religious"

Jacob's Response

- He limits God to a place
 - A Movement to a Monastery
- He sets up a pillar
 - A Monument
- He makes up a vow
 - A Memorial

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Jacob's Response

- Future for Bethel?
- Jacob will return and live here for a while
- Nothing “spiritual” ever happens here again
- Israel turns it into a place of pagan worship
 - 1 Kings 12
- Becomes a symbol of backsliding Israel
- Trying to live on past experiences



In the beginning...

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים

The Life of Jacob

Chapter 29 -

Genesis 29

- ¹ Then Jacob went on his journey, and came into the land of the people of the east.
- 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.

Genesis 29:1-2

Genesis 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.

⁴ And Jacob said unto them, My brethren, whence be ye? And they said, Of Haran are we.

⁵ And he said unto them, Know ye Laban the son of Nahor? And they said, We know him.

Genesis 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.

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.

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.

Jacob's at Haran

- Jacobs' Journey Ends...
- But the Adventure is about to Begin
- The Scene:
 - The Flocks are gathered
 - But the Well is covered with a Stone
- Enter Rachel...

Genesis 29

⁹ And while he yet spake with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep: for she kept them.

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.

¹¹ And Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted up his voice, and wept.

Genesis 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.

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.

¹⁴ And Laban said to him, Surely thou art my bone and my flesh. And he abode with him the space of a month.

Genesis 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?
- ¹⁶ And Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel.
- ¹⁷ Leah was tender eyed; but Rachel was beautiful and well favoured.
- ¹⁸ And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter.

The Daughters of Laban

- Leah
 - Meaning “weary” or “fainthearted”
 - Feature: “eyes were delicate” = “tender eyes”
- Rachel
 - Meaning “ewe” (female lamb)
 - Feature: “beautiful of form and appearance”

Genesis 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.

²⁰ And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her.

Genesis 29:19-20

Genesis 29

21 And Jacob said unto Laban, Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in unto her.

22 And Laban gathered together all the men of the place, and made a feast.

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.

24 And Laban gave unto his daughter Leah Zilpah his maid for an handmaid.

Genesis 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?

26 And Laban said, It must not be so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn.

27 Fulfil her week, and we will give thee this also for the service which thou shalt serve with me yet seven other years.

A Jewish Week

- 1 week of days = 7 days
 - (Gen 2:2; Ex 20:11)
- 1 week of weeks = 7 weeks
 - (Lev 23:15,16)
- 1 week of months = 7 months
 - (Ex 12:2; Lev 23:24)
- 1 week of years = 7 years
 - (Lev 25:1-22; Deut 15; 2 Chron 36:19-21)

Genesis 29

28 And Jacob did so, and fulfilled her week: and he gave him Rachel his daughter to wife also.

29 And Laban gave to Rachel his daughter Bilhah his handmaid to be her maid.

30 And he went in also unto Rachel, and he loved also Rachel more than Leah, and served with him yet seven other years.

Genesis 29:28-30

The 490 Years

Seventy **weeks** are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

Daniel 9:24

The 490 Years

my [ib]vi

- Shabuim
- ‘weeks of years’
- ‘Seventy weeks of years’
- $70 \times 7 \text{ years} = 490 \text{ years}$

The 490 Years

²⁴ [490 years] are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

Daniel 9:24

Forgiveness

21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

Matthew 18:21-22

Forgiveness

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Matthew 18:21-22

- Gr. ἕως heos
- 'A point in time'

Forgiveness

21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, **Until** seven times: but, **Until** seventy times seven.

Matthew 18:21-22

Are we to forgive 490 times?

Genesis 29

³¹ And when the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel was barren.

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.

Genesis 29:31-32

Genesis 29

³³ And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Because the LORD hath heard that I was hated, he hath therefore given me this son also: and she called his name Simeon.

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.

Genesis 29:33-34

Genesis 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.

Genesis 29:35

Children of Leah

- God loves her even when her husband doesn't
- Perhaps born during the seven years of Jacob's labouring for Rachel.
- Ruben "Look a son"
- Simeon "hearing" from Hebrew root *shama*
- Levi "attached" or "joined to"
- Judah "praise"



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