

**TRUE LOVE WAITS!**  
**GENESIS CH29:13-35**

**ILLUSTRATION**

We are already in March 2026! The older I become, time just seems to fly! Four things I have come to understand as time moves on, days move on, weeks and years move on, each year, we will always have 4 things in common:

1. Unsolved problems
2. Unfinished tasks
3. Unresolved conflict
4. ***But a God who always remains faithful***

Chapters 29 and 30 of Genesis cover 20 years of Jacobs life, whilst living in Haran, over 500 miles from home! And throughout that time, we are gonna see, you guessed it:

1. Unsolved problems
2. Unfinished tasks
3. Unresolved conflict
4. ***But a God who always remains faithful***

Along with the above 3 themes Andrew Steinmann in his commentary on Genesis states "These two chapters cover the 20 years of Jacob's life spent in Haran. Three themes are intertwined here.

***One is Laban's taking advantage of Jacob:*** he deceives him into marrying Leah, and makes him work another 7 years for Rachel. Jacob, it appears, meets poetic justice: the one who deceived his father is in turn deceived by his Uncle.

***A second theme developed here is rivalry between Jacob's two wives.*** While Jacob has finally escaped his sibling rivalry with Esau, he now experiences sibling rivalry as an outsider to the two competitors, his wives.

***The third theme, however, is the most important: no matter what circumstances Jacob encounters, he prospers because Yahweh is with him and is blessing him.*** This blessing comes not only in the form of God providing children (***Ch29:31; Ch30:22***) but also in the form of Jacob's own cleverness in breeding sheep (***Ch30:37-43***).

Thus, the account of Jacob's years in Laban's household build on themes already introduced in previous narratives:

- cunning and deception as a character flaw in several generations of Abraham's family (***Ch12:10-19; Ch20:1-18; Ch26:7-11; Ch27:1-10***)
- family rivalry (***Ch16:1-16; Ch21:8-13; Ch25:22-23, 27-34***)
- God's blessing in His commitment to Abraham (***Ch12:1-3; Ch22:16-18; Ch26:2-5; Ch28:13-15***)" (Andrew Steinmann, Commentary on Genesis, page 277-278).

### **LABAN EXPECTS! V13-14**

**V12** - Why run? Does Genesis **Ch24:29-30** shed any light on the reason for Uncle Laban's running? Remember when Abraham's servant gave Rebekah **Ch24:22** – a gold ring + two gold bracelets and in **Ch24:53** – jewellery of silver + gold and garments!

Along with “costly ornaments” for Laban (and his mother **Ch24:53**). What do you think is the motive for running? Is Laban thinking “Here comes rich nephew Jacob?” Is Uncle Laban motivated by greed and wealth?

**V13** - Did Jacob tell Uncle Laban that his father advised him to marry one of Uncle Laban's daughters (**Ch28:2**), when he “Jacob told him all these things”?

**V14** - With Uncle Laban clear that Jacob is in fact a true relative of his, “Surely you are my bone and my flesh”, it's reminiscent of Adam singing to Eve back in **Genesis Ch2:23**, but **HERE “begrudgingly”**, as if it is “you are really my relative and you'd better stay”!

### **LABAN EXPLOITS! V15-30**

Jacob is penniless, and finds himself at the mercy of his Uncle Laban, who is busy concocting a plan. For us to understand the purposes behind Uncle Laban's plan, we need to frame it in between what we know about Uncle Laban from **Ch24** and by looking forward to **Ch31:15**, where we learn even more from Uncle Laban's both daughters as to what their father was really like! **Hence, the continued use of the word “serve or served” in Ch29 which occurs in v15, 18, 20, 25, 27 + 30, six times in total! Uncle Laban has a plan to make Jacob his servant, by selling off his two daughters!**

**V17** - Leah's Eyes were weak – soft (meaning, not necessarily weak eye-sight, but not exactly on fire or sparkling or glowing) compared to her younger sister who “was beautiful in form and appearance”.

**V18** – Let me give you some figures £1588.00 my monthly wage before tax!  
£19,056.00 my annual wage. £133,392.00 my annual wage over 7 years!  
£266,784.00 my annual wage over 14 years or my monthly wage over 168 months!

Usually at this time a silver Shekel, used by Abraham to buy a field to bury his wife Sarah it cost 400 (over 33 months of wages!) Silver Shekels. To earn a Silver Shekel, would take a month of work. Or put it simply, work a month, earn a Silver Shekel! According to **Deuteronomy Ch22:29**, the price of a bride was 50 Silver Shekels, or just over 50 months wages, compared to Jacob paying not just 84 months, but 168 months in total, over three times the usual cost for a bride!!

What is Jacob willing to pay? 84 months wages! He actually pays 168 months wages, 14 years in total!

**V23** – many people may ask “How could Jacob not know?” I am similar!

- Was it the wedding veil?

- Was it the darkness?
- Was Jacob under the influence?

Remember, Jacob had already told Uncle Laban of what had happened between himself and his sibling, Esau (**Ch29:13b**)! His past deceit (**Ch27:35 “deceitfully”**) had finally caught up with him:

1. Jacob had deceived his older sibling! – Leah deceived her younger sibling!
2. Jacob had taken advantage of his father's weak eyes! - Laban, Leah's father took advantage of the occasion, veil, dark, drink!
3. Jacob had robbed his brother's birthright – Leah ensured that she married first!

### **LORD ENTERS! V31-35**

The film “Notting Hill” and the scene where Julia Roberts stands in front of Hugh Grant, and says, ***“The fame thing isn't really real, you know, and don't forget, I'm also just a girl standing in front of a boy asking him to love her.”*** Because that is all Leah is asking for, to be loved by Jacob!

- **V32**

***The first appearance of the Lord in chapter 29! Amongst the deceit and schemes, the Lord who is watching, listening and working comes on the scene! The great and awesome “God Almighty” - “El Shaddai” first used Ch17:1 with Abraham, then with Jacob Ch28:3 and used in Ch35:11, Ch43:14 + Ch48:3! A GENERAL BLESSING, ONE OF PROSPERITY! STARTS TO BLESS!***

***V31 -We are told that when the Lord saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb!***

- **V32 God looked – Reuben**
- **V33 God heard – Simeon**
- **V34 God attached – Levi**
- **V35 God is praised – Judah**

***Yes, Leah is praising God for the birth of Judah, her 4<sup>th</sup> son, still hoping to be loved by her husband Jacob. But we now praise God because through God opening unloved Leah's womb to bring about the birth of Judah, the line leading to the birth of Jesus continues, so the Saviour of the world can also be brought about!***

### **APPLICATION**

The chapter ends on a tense note. Jacob has come from a family where favouritism ultimately led to a threat of murder, yet he cannot help but have favourites himself. “He loved Rachel” (v18+30), later he will love Joseph more than his other sons (**Ch37:3**) and his favouritism will almost destroy his family!