

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

- 1) 02 Dec '18.....Genesis 25-27.....The Deceiver
- 2) 09 Dec.....Genesis 28.....Not Alone
- 3) 16 Dec.....Genesis 29-30.....Family?
- 4) 23 Dec.....Luke 1 – Christmas Message.....Promise Kept
- 5) 30 Dec.....Genesis 31.....Home!
- 6) 06 Jan '19.....Genesis 32.....Transformed
- 7) 13 Jan.....Genesis 33.....Reconciled

**INTRODUCTION**

- Jacob meets his 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin, Rachel, falls in love, serves 14 years to marry her, AND ends up marrying her sister first because of treachery by her dad. Will the Soap Opera ever end?

Passage	Comments		
29:1-20	<p><b>Jacob Arrives at Uncle Laban's House</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jacob's trip from Beersheba to Haran ..... 350 miles                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ A comfortable 6-hour trip by car</li> <li>♦ A 4-day trip by bicycle</li> <li>♦ A grueling 8-10-day trip by camel</li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv14-20. After 1 month a deal is struck to serve 7 years for Rachel. Is 7 years considered a long time to wait for a girl?</li> <li>• Leah had weak/tender/soft eyes &lt;07390 Strong's&gt; "A soft &lt;07390&gt; answer turns away wrath" ..... <a href="#">Prov 15:1</a> - She wasn't considered ugly, just not as gorgeous as Rachel</li> <li>• But Jacob favored Rachel's striking beauty (v17) like her great aunt Sarah. Anything wrong marrying for the looks?</li> <li>• v20. Time flies when you are in love</li> </ul>		
29:21-25	<p><b>3 BIG Reasons to Avoid Getting Drunk</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. You embarrass yourself ..... Noah</li> <li>2. Your kin folk take advantage of you ..... Lot</li> <li>3. You wake up next to "Coyote Ugly" ..... Jacob</li> </ol>		
29:26-29	<p><b>Jacob had to serve 7 more years for Rachel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God invoked 2 laws to prevent future marital woes                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Unlawful to marry sisters ..... <a href="#">Lev 18:18</a></li> <li>2. Must treat wives fairly ..... <a href="#">Deut 21:15</a></li> </ol> </li> </ul>		
29:30-31	<p><b>Favoritism Continues to Wreak Havoc in the Home</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v31. The Lord got involved and blessed Leah.</li> <li>• Principle of reversed blessings ..... <a href="#">Prov 24:17-18</a></li> </ul>		
<b>Leah's Kids:</b>	<b>Bilhah's Kids:</b>	<b>Zilpah's Kids:</b>	<b>Rachel's Kids:</b>
1. Reuben <sup>(2)</sup>	(Rachel's maid)	(Leah's maid)	11. Joseph <sup>(11)</sup>
2. Simeon <sup>(7)</sup>	5. Dan <sup>(3)</sup>	7. Gad <sup>(3)</sup>	12. Benjamin <sup>(12)</sup>
3. Levi <sup>(6)</sup>	6. Naphtali <sup>(5)</sup>	8. Asher <sup>(4)</sup>	
4. Judah <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>Sons of Joseph:</b>	<b>Note #1:</b>	<b>Note #2:</b>
9. Issachar <sup>(9)</sup>	13. Manasseh <sup>(6)</sup>	#. Birth order;	Manasseh
10. Zebulun <sup>(10)</sup>	14. Ephraim	(#) = order listed in	replaces Dan in
(d) Dinah		Rev 7:5-8	Rev 7:5-8
30:1-13	<p><b>Will the Soap Opera Ever End?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desperation leads to children by the handmaids</li> <li>• Why didn't Jacob ever say – "HEY, let's stop making a mockery of God's pristine design for marriage → One man and one woman for life"?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ It was culturally OK to have multiple wives during Jacob's day. Fighting entrenched cultural norms is hard for us all.</li> <li>♦ Consider the cultural norms we no longer or seldom squawk about:                                     <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Divorce &amp; remarriage, which is sequential polygamy is fully accepted within society today (Govt &amp; churches)</li> <li>2. Same sex marriage is now acceptable within Govt &amp; civil circles and some churches</li> <li>3. What's next? Polygamy? Bestiality? Incest? Underage?</li> </ol> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
<p><b>Does God Accept Polygamous Marriages (1 Man, Many Wives) as valid?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, He does, just as He fully accepts Divorced &amp; Remarried couples. This is realized with His acknowledgements of such marriages by David, Abraham, Abimelech, &amp; Solomon who had 300 wives &amp; 700 concubines.</li> <li>• Would God acknowledge Polyandry (1 Wife, Many Husbands) as valid?</li> <li>• Does God "join together" spouses in same sex marriages?</li> <li>• For more on this see my study on <a href="#">1Corinthians 7</a> (<a href="https://rodoneil.com/wp-content/uploads/SS-1Cor-07-2018.pdf">https://rodoneil.com/wp-content/uploads/SS-1Cor-07-2018.pdf</a>)</li> </ul>			

Passage	Comments
30:14-16	<p><b>Leah Bought the Right to Go to Bed with Her Husband</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v15. "...you took my husband." Leah was the 1<sup>st</sup> wife, so her statement was valid. Additional wives were sometimes called concubines..... <a href="#">Gen 25:6</a></li> <li>• God had to provide specific laws to guarantee civility and fairness to additional wives and step-heirs.....<a href="#">Exodus 21:7-10</a></li> <li>• After this incident, God provided a law forbidding the marriage of sisters to the same man ..... <a href="#">Lev 18:18</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Principle of Monogamous Sex.</b> Men may have had multiple wives, but monogamous sex (one wife at a time) was the norm.</p> <p><b>Consider Esther:</b> King Ahasuerus called one virgin at a time from his harem. Even a heathen king was not known for group sex. .... <a href="#">Esther 2:13-15</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group sex was a mark of wickedness along w/ adultery, homosexuality, bestiality ..... <a href="#">Lev 18</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ It was exemplified in Noah's Day; in Sodom &amp; Gomorrah; &amp; in the Land of Canaan. God purged the land when their "sins were completed" ..... <a href="#">Gen 6:5-12</a>; <a href="#">15:16</a>; <a href="#">19:13</a>; <a href="#">Lev 18:20-30</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Other names for group sex: Orgies (NIV), Rioting/Revellings (KJ), Carousing (NASB).....<a href="#">Rom 13:13</a>; <a href="#">Gal 5:21</a>; <a href="#">1Pet 4:3</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ It is a shame to even talk about such things ..... <a href="#">Eph 5:12</a></li> <li>♦ God still patiently waits for sinners to repent – and "such were some of you..." ..... <a href="#">1Cor 6:9-11</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
30:20-24	<p><b>Did God Condone Polygamy by Blessing with More Kids?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v20. Leah was convinced she could now become the favored wife giving Jacob 6 sons while Rachel was seemingly barren. This meant Jacob would vacate Rachel's bedroom for hers.</li> <li>• v21. And "Afterward" Jacob might have frequented Leah's pad more since she did get pregnant one more time, but she bore a girl – Dinah. This might have enticed Jacob to move back to Rachel's pad...and guess what happened?</li> <li>• vv22-24. God remembered Rachel – and she bore Joseph</li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS**

- Since God blessed both sisters – and their maids – with children, does God condone polygamy? How do we answer the skeptics?
- **Consider This.** The Bible is incredibly candid and transparent about the faults and flaws of its key figures, and God frequently works with them at their level (and at our level). For more on this, see: <https://answersingenesis.org/family/marriage/what-about-polygamy-in-the-bible/>

**NEXT WEEK: Luke 1.** Mary was going to willingly carry her Lord & Savior in her womb, and she was going to be labeled a loose woman, an adulterer, and a liar. Obedience is costly at times.

