

The 12 Son's of Israel

Intro Song: "Praise to the King" from the Jacob's Well Experience

Prayer:

living out our vocations...

that we may use all our talents & aptitudes for God's glory & the building up of HIS church on Earth!

Last time on "Behold The Man: A Father Who Keep's His Promises" edition

- Jacob is struck with love at first sight... falling head over heels for Rachel
 - offers to work 7 years for her as a dowery
 - 7 - the # of covenant!
 - Is tricked by Laban when Leah is married & not Rachel
 - He completes the marriage week for Leah
 - Is given Rachel to marry & works another 7 years for her
- When Jacob shows up at Laban's door... Laban is near broke!
 - Jacob brings blessings upon Laban... his well over flows 20 years!
 - The # of years Jacob stays with Laban
 - His flocks increase dramaticly
 - Laban doesn't want Jacob to leave anytime soon!
 - Leah's name means Weary & also Cow
 - Rachel's name means ewe lamb!
 - Laban has named his daughters after what he values most!
 - Cow's & Lamb's
 - Like Dollar & Cent!
- Now Jacob is Married to 2 women, one he wants, the other he doesn't - each with two slave girls in tow!

- Let games begin!

Who will Conceive first! Genesis 29 & 30

- The first wife... the one who is NOT loved,,, hated even!
 - Dr. Hahn points out on **Page 117** (1 paragraph under "More than one wife spells trouble") that God has a soft spot for the least of his children!
- **So Leah is an early, and commanding, lead:**
 - 1) Ruben - "Behold a son"
 - 2) Simeon - God heard I am hated
 - 3) Levi - My husband will be "Attached" to me
 - 4) Judah - I will "praise" the Lord!
- **Rachel grows jealous**
 - Their status as wives is bound up in bearing sons for their Husband!
 - Rachel pulls a Sarah! Do we ever learn from our mistakes?
 - She gives her slave-girl, Bilhah, the "Bashful", to Jacob as another wife... to bear children for her!
 - Bilhah bears 2 son's for Jacob
 - 5) Dan - "He Judged"
 - 6) Naphtali - "Wrestling"
 - Like Jacob who will wrestle with God & Man & prevail... Rachel said she wrestled with her sister & prevailed!
- **Not to be out-done...** Leah also gives her slave-girl, Zilpah, "Frailty", to Jacob as a 3rd wife... to bear children for her!
 - Zilpah also bears 2 son's for Jacob:
 - 7) Gad - "Good Fortune"
 - 8) Asher - "Women will call me Happy"
 - - a hint to Luke 1:48 "**48**] *for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed*"
 - Then Leah's eldest, Ruben finds some mandrakes, what the ancients believed to be a natural fertility enhancer...

- Rachel strikes up a deal!
 - A night with Jacob in exchange for the mandrakes!
 - Leah agrees!
- Then Leah is blessed by God & bears 2 more son's
 - 9) Issachar - "hireling"
 - 10) Zebulun - "Exaltation"
 - NOW my husband will honor me because I have born him 6 son's!
- **Then God remembered Rachel!**
 - **Genesis 30:22-24**
 - *-[22] Then God remembered Rachel, and God hearkened to her and opened her womb. [23] She conceived and bore a son, and said, "God has taken away my reproach"; [24] and she called his name Joseph, saying, "May the LORD add to me another son!"*
 - Finally Rachel bear's Jacob a son...
 - 11) Joseph - "He will add"
 - eventually ... Rachel will also die, bearing another son... Genesis 35:16-21
 - 12) Benjamin
 - "Son of my sorrow"
 - "Son of the right hand"
 - "Son of the south"
- Notice:
 - Leah, who was hated, had double the amount of Son's to her credit than Rachel, who was loved.
 - The last shall be first & the first shall be last
- As soon as Jacob has a son from his favorite Rachel... he wants to pack up and leave Laban and return to the country of his Father.
 - Jacob had worked all these years for Laban...

- Only for the price of his wives
- He still had nothing for himself & his family
- While Laban's flocks grew strong
 - Laban didn't want Jacob to leave... they strike a deal
 - **Genesis 30:29-36** : *"[29] Jacob said to him, "You yourself know how I have served you, and how your cattle have fared with me. [30] For you had little before I came, and it has increased abundantly; and the LORD has blessed you wherever I turned. But now when shall I provide for my own household also?" [31] He said, "What shall I give you?" Jacob said, "You shall not give me anything; if you will do this for me, I will again feed your flock and keep it: [32] let me pass through all your flock today, removing from it every speckled and spotted sheep and every black lamb, and the spotted and speckled among the goats; and such shall be my wages. [33] So my honesty will answer for me later, when you come to look into my wages with you. Every one that is not speckled and spotted among the goats and black among the lambs, if found with me, shall be counted stolen." [34] Laban said, "Good! Let it be as you have said." [35] But that day Laban removed the he-goats that were striped and spotted, and all the she-goats that were speckled and spotted, every one that had white on it, and every lamb that was black, and put them in charge of his sons; [36] and he set a distance of three days' journey between himself and Jacob; and Jacob fed the rest of Laban's flock. "*
- What does Jacob do?
 - He just spent the last 14 years working the flocks of Laban
 - a far cry from the "tent-boy" lifestyle he lived back with his Father & Mother...
 - He now uses his skill as a "trickster" to increase his flocks and and decrease the flocks of Laban.
 - Using some popular & almond rods, with streaks exposed, he set them before the flock when they

mated... the offspring would come out in his favor.

- **Bottom of Page 118**

- Laban set's out in HOT pursuit!
 - God's blessing is upon Jacob... so in a dream he commanded Laban NOT to harm him. **Genesis 31:24**
 - St. John Chrysostom ...
 - Laban searches for the stolen idol, by Rachel, and doesn't find it.
 - IT was seen as a not just an idol of a "god" who protected the house
 - but also, the symbol of inheritance rights... this meant a lot to ancient peoples... Rachel seems to be snatching up the inheritance in some way - hiding it on the camels back while she claimed to be in the way of the women... defiled... Laban would not have searched under her!
 - Forbidden to harm Jacob... Laban & Jacob swear an oath... a covenant between them
 - Oath
 - Meal
 - Pillar - watch tower/witness to this pact!
- **Finally Jacob is free of Laban**
 - He has his wives
 - His children (still waiting on Benjamin)
 - his flocks & servants
 - Jacob is a rich & powerful man but...
 - He's heading back to face his brother Esau who last he heard... wanted to KILL him!
 - **Page 119 - Homecoming**
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