

“Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel” (Genesis 29:1-30)

For the week of October 10, 2021

Read Genesis 29:1-14

Observation

What was the purpose of Jacob's "journey" (read Genesis 28:1-2)?

Where did Jacob go when he arrived? What was happening?

Describe how the sheep were watered.

What explanation did the men give about watering the flocks?

How did Jacob greet Rachel? What did he tell her and what did she do?

Who is Laban and how did he respond to Jacob?

Interpretation

How did God's providence occur in our story?

The doctrine of divine providence is that God is in complete control of all things. What do each of these verses tell us about His providence?

Psalm 103:19

Matthew 5:45

Psalm 66:7

Galatians 1:15

Luke 1:52

How does God's providence show there is no "chance" or "fate?"

Application

Describe an example in your life where God's providence occurred. How did you know it was God's providence?

We know that we have free will, yet God is sovereign. How would you explain to someone how divine providence relates to human free will?

Read Genesis 29:15-30

Observation

Describe Laban's two daughters.

What agreement did Jacob make with Laban? Why? How does this compare with the selection of Rebekah for Isaac (read Genesis 24:42-48)?

Based on Genesis 26:12-14, Jacob had grown wealthy. So, why did he not simply pay Laban the bride price for Rachel? Why slave away for seven years for her hand in marriage (HINT: read Genesis 27:41-46)?

When the wedding occurred, Laban deceived Jacob. Why didn't Jacob realize he had the wrong woman?

What did Jacob say to Laban about this switcheroo? Describe Laban's response.

What agreement was reached?

Interpretation

What do these events tell us about Jacob's character? Laban's character?

Did God bring about these events to punish Jacob or to teach Jacob? Explain!

Application

Christian pastor and author Tim Keller says, "We always think we go to bed with Rachel, and in the morning we always find Leah." What idols in your life do you currently view as "Rachel" and know that God's Word proves to be a "Leah?"

One theme in our ongoing travels in Genesis is to keep our focus on the Lord and not be distracted. Read Psalm 119:33-40. Each of these eight verses begins with an action verb. Write down how each verb mentioned can help you keep your focus on the Lord.

Teach

Give

Lead

Incline

Turn

Confirm

Turn

Behold