

## 100 Bible Stories

### 16. Jacob's Family

#### Gen. 29.9f - 37.11 (NKJV)

**Gen. 29:** <sup>9</sup>Now while he was still speaking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she was a shepherdess. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>Then Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted up his voice and wept. <sup>12</sup>And Jacob told Rachel that he was her father's relative and that he was Rebekah's son. So she ran and told her father.

<sup>13</sup>Then it came to pass, when Laban heard the report about Jacob his sister's son, that he ran to meet him, and embraced him and kissed him, and brought him to his house. So he told Laban all these things. <sup>14</sup>And Laban said to him, "Surely you are my bone and my flesh." And he stayed with him for a month.

Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel

<sup>15</sup>Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my relative, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what should your wages be?" <sup>16</sup>Now Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. <sup>17</sup>Leah's eyes were delicate, but Rachel was beautiful of form and appearance.

<sup>18</sup>Now Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for Rachel your younger daughter."

<sup>19</sup>And Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to another man. Stay with me." <sup>20</sup>So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed only a few days to him because of the love he had for her.

<sup>21</sup>Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in to her." <sup>22</sup>And Laban gathered together all the men of the place and made a feast. <sup>23</sup>Now it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. <sup>24</sup>And Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah as a maid. <sup>25</sup>So it came to pass in the morning, that behold, it was Leah. And he said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served you? Why then have you deceived me?"

<sup>26</sup>And Laban said, "It must not be done so in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn. <sup>27</sup>Fulfill her week, and we will give you this one also for the service which you will serve with me still another seven years."

<sup>28</sup>Then Jacob did so and fulfilled her week. So he gave him his daughter Rachel as wife also. <sup>29</sup>And Laban gave his maid Bilhah to his daughter Rachel as a maid. <sup>30</sup>Then Jacob also went in to Rachel, and he also loved Rachel more than Leah. And he served with Laban still another seven years.

**Ch. 30:** 12 Sons are born to Rachel, Leah, Bilhah and Zilpah for Jacob; marriage politics and jealousies obtain in the household; Joseph is shrewd and blessed with many flock from his father-in-law, Laban.

**Ch. 31:** Jacob takes his household and leaves under dark circumstances; Laban pursues and Jacob and Laban resolve their differences and part.

Jacob's marriage(s)...

Tricky Laban...

**Ch. 32:** Jacob fearfully prepares to meet his brother; is prepared to sacrifice all his possessions to save his life and loses his nerve to meet his brother....

<sup>22</sup>And he arose that night and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven sons, and crossed over the ford of Jabbok. <sup>23</sup>He took them, sent them over the brook, and sent over what he had. <sup>24</sup>Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day. <sup>25</sup>Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him. <sup>26</sup>And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!" <sup>27</sup>So He said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob." <sup>28</sup>And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed." <sup>29</sup>Then Jacob asked, saying, "Tell me Your name, I pray." And He said, "Why is it that you ask about My name?" And He blessed him there. <sup>30</sup>So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: "For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved." <sup>31</sup>Just as he crossed over Peniel the sun rose on him, and he limped on his hip. <sup>32</sup>Therefore to this day the children of Israel do not eat the muscle that shrank, which is on the hip socket, because He touched the socket of Jacob's hip in the muscle that shrank.

Israel – he wrestles with God

**Ch. 33:** Jacob meets his brother; offering him everything he has as a peace offering and Esau receives Jacob peaceably, refusing his gifts.

**Ch. 34:** The Tamar/Shechem affair; revenge for Tamar's being defiled by Canaanites.

**Ch. 35:** Jacob returns to Bethel and sacrifices; death of Rachael; 12 sons of Israel; the death of Isaac.

**Ch. 36:** Esau's descendants.

**Ch. 37:** Now Jacob dwelt in the land where his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan. <sup>2</sup>This is the history of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brothers. And the lad was with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to his father. <sup>3</sup>Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of many colors. <sup>4</sup>But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.

Introducing Joseph....

<sup>5</sup>Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more. <sup>6</sup>So he said to them, "Please hear this dream which I have dreamed: <sup>7</sup> There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf." <sup>8</sup>And his brothers said to him, "Shall you indeed reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.

<sup>9</sup>Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me." <sup>10</sup>So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?" <sup>11</sup>And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind.