

The Birth of a Nation

A Study in Genesis 25-36

Promises Fulfilled
Genesis 29:1-35
March 7, 2021

Then Jacob kissed Rachel and wept aloud. And Jacob told Rachel that he was her father's kinsman, and that he was Rebekah's son, and she ran and told her father.
- **Genesis 29:11-12**

I. GO NORTH YOUNG MAN

- With his father's blessing, Jacob has been sent to his native land (Paddan-aram) to find a wife from his own kinsman (Gen. 28:1-4).
- After a dramatic encounter with God, Jacob heads north with profound confidence (Gen. 28:10-22).
- God shows up at the well of Nahor again, and another wife for another patriarch is found (Gen. 24:15, 29:9).
- Jacob is an initiator, not a watcher. He proves his value to Rachel (and her father Laban) by an act of great strength and boldness (Gen. 29:9-12).

II. A PERSEVERING LOVE

- Jacob decides to remain with Laban and work for the hand of his daughter. Seven years of labor are but a trifle to him in order to win her in marriage (Gen. 29:15-20).
- Via an act of great deception, Jacob instead wins Rachel's older sister Leah. Jacob's sin has come back to haunt him (Gen. 27:5-29; 29:21-26).
- In spite of this setback, Jacob perseveres and receives Rachel as his wife also (Gen. 29:28).
- In spite of his obvious flaws, Jacob proves to be industrious, entrepreneurial, strong-willed, and patient.

III. PROMISES AND PERSEVERANCE

- Jacob loves Rachel more than Leah, but it is Leah's womb that God opens. Four sons are now added to Jacob's line (Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah).
- Perseverance is both a gift and a virtue. God is with Jacob, and, in turn, Jacob is not lazy or easily disheartened.
- Perseverance is a key quality that God calls out in us in our walk of faith (Luke 22:24-34; Phil. 2:12-13; Rom. 5:3-4; 2 Thess. 3:4-5; James 1:2-4; Rev. 2:1-3).

KNOW: God displays trustworthiness to his promises, and Jacob his sheer tenacity and strength of will to accomplish what he has set out to accomplish. Perseverance is both a gift and a virtue, and necessary in our walk of faith.

DO: Ask God for perseverance, then act on it.

Suggested Reading:

Adventures in Odyssey: Life Lessons Series #6: Perseverance

The Shadow of the Almighty by Elisabeth Elliot (LifePoint Library #266.282)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Genesis 29

1. What is the overall theme of this chapter?
2. How does this narrative in the book of Genesis advance the overall storyline?
3. Jacob negotiates for the hand of Rachel in marriage. Why? Why not just ask Laban to give him Rachel?
4. Jacob is deceived mercilessly by Laban. How does this affect Jacob?
5. Talk about Leah. Does the naming of her children reveal anything about the hurt in her heart?
6. What do we learn about perseverance in this chapter?
7. What are some application points for you personally in this message/passage?