

Walk Through the Bible

GENESIS 30-31

OVERVIEW

In Genesis chapter 30, Rachel remains barren while Leah and both of their servant women continue to bear sons for Jacob. God answers Rachel's prayer and allows her to have a son whom she names, Joseph. When Jacob finishes his work for Laban, he demands to return home to his own people. Laban refuses, asking Jacob to set new terms for his service. Jacob cuts a deal with Laban that involves unusual breeding practices that result in Jacob becoming a wealthy man.

Genesis 31 describes the dramatic expansion of Jacob's family and property. After twenty years of working for Laban, the time comes for Jacob to return to his own people. He attempts to sneak away without telling Laban, but Laban soon catches up with him. After bitter confrontations, the two men make a covenant of separation and peace.

DISCUSSION

- In your opinion, what made the mandrakes so valuable to both Leah and Rachel (**Genesis 30:14-18**)?
- Even Laban had to the Lord blessed him because of Jacob (**Genesis 30:25-30**). Why should Christian people seek to be the best workers on the job?
- Why do you think Jacob carved sticks in certain patterns when breeding Laban's flocks (**Genesis 30:37-43**)?
- What are Jacob's principles of prosperity? (**Genesis 30:25-33**)
- What is a Hebrew idiom, and do you think this is why Leah had "weak eyes"? (**Genesis 29:17**)
- Jacob could very easily point out the flaws and faults of Laban. Why? (**Genesis 31:4-7**)
- Why was it such a big deal that Rachel stole her father's "household idols" (**Genesis 31:14-21**)?
- What similarities can you find between Rachel and Jacob?

