

TORAH, GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS
GENESIS 28 - STORY OF JACOB BEGINS, GENESIS 29 - JACOB
MEETS RACHEL, GENESIS 30 - JACOB'S CHILDREN

Say - Welcome to Sabbath School class. Let's bow our head and ask God for understanding as we continue our study which turns now to Jacob and his wives, his children and Rachel. I would suggest for study that you find a map of Canaan and Haran so the children can see the distance Jacob traveled with all of his family and flocks. Sometimes the best maps are in the Bible.

Genesis 28

Say - Verses 1-19 below are of Jacob becoming the "heir of the promise"; the same promise God gave to Abraham and Isaac.

¹And Isaac called Jacob, and blessed him, and charged him, and said unto him, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan (Isaac wanted Jacob to marry within the family for the Canaanites were idol worshippers. Also remember marrying within the family was common during Jacob's day. If he married outside the family, they would not have believed in the True God.).

²Arise, go to Padanaram (A plain of Syria in northern Mesopotamia or Haran, see verse 10 below and Genesis 27:43. Remember Haran was the first stop when God called Abraham out of Ur/Babylon and he stayed there until his father, Terah, passed away.), to the house of Bethuel (Rebekah's father) thy mother's father; and take thee a wife from thence (there) of the daughters of Laban thy mother's brother.

³And God Almighty (El Shaddai) bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude of people (Jacob became the father of the Hebrew people or the 12 tribes of Israel.);

⁴And give thee the blessing of Abraham, to thee, and to thy seed with thee; that thou mayest inherit the land wherein thou art a stranger, which God gave unto Abraham.

⁵And Isaac sent away Jacob: and he went to Padanaram unto Laban, son of Bethuel the Syrian, the brother of Rebekah, Jacob's and Esau's mother.

⁶When Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob, and sent him away to Padanaram, to take him a wife from thence; and that as he blessed him he gave him a charge, saying, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan; ⁷And that Jacob obeyed his father and his mother, and was gone to Padanaram; ⁸And Esau seeing that the daughters of Canaan pleased not Isaac his father; ⁹Then went Esau unto Ishmael, and took unto the wives which he had Mahalath (Third wife of Esau and her second name was Bashemath, Genesis 36:3) the daughter of Ishmael Abraham's son, the sister of Nebajoth (first born of Ishmael and a cousin to Esau), to be his wife.

¹⁰And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran (Jacob did not take the well traveled route for fear his brother, Esau, would come after him. The trip from Beersheba in Canaan to Haran was 400 miles.) ¹¹And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep.

¹²And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. ¹³And, behold, the LORD (Jehovah, Everlasting, Eternal) stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed (Just as Jehovah had said to Abraham and Isaac.);

¹⁴And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed (Everywhere Jacob went to the end of time for the blessing was not limited just to the land of Canaan. Neither is the blessing limited today for wherever Jacob is today, people are blessed even though they may not know it. Remember our Savior came from the line of Jacob and so all the families of the earth were blessed both physically and spiritually by God the Father and Jesus Christ, the Son of God.).

¹⁵And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest (until the end of time because the covenant was an everlasting covenant), and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.

¹⁶And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not. ¹⁷And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven (Wherever we are, if we walk with God, we have access to Him; this is something we should never forget.).

¹⁸And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar (a personal memorial), and poured oil upon the top of it. ¹⁹And he called the name of that place Bethel (means House of God): but the name of that city was called Luz at the first.

Say - Verses 20-22 is the vow Jacob made to God dedicating his life to God, the only God and that is what God wants from His people today for nothing has changed.

²⁰And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, ²¹So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God (LORD is referring to

Jehovah or Everlasting or Eternal God. There was to be NO other God and it is the same for each of us today):

²²And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee (Jacob is talking about the Law of Tithing here.).

Genesis 29 - Jacob's wives

Say - Verses 1-14 below is of the arrival of Jacob in Padanaram.

¹Then Jacob went on his journey, and came into the land of the people of the east (This includes Mesopotamia and Babylon or the land of Abraham and specifically Haran.).

²And he looked, and behold a well in the field (Jacob knew he could find his relatives here at the meeting place of the well.), and, lo, there were three flocks of sheep lying by it; for out of that well they watered the flocks: and a great stone was upon the well's mouth (Jacob waited for more help to remove the stone). ³And thither were all the flocks gathered: and they rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the sheep, and put the stone again upon the well's mouth in his place.

⁴And Jacob said unto them, My brethren, whence be ye (where did you come from)? And they said, Of Haran are we (Haran was a brother of Abraham and remember the city was also named after him.). ⁵And he said unto them, Know ye Laban the son of Nahor (Nahor was a brother of Abraham and Laban was Rebekah's brother and Jacob's mother. It is important we keep these names straight for future reference as our study proceeds)? And they said, We know him.

⁶And he said unto them, Is he well? And they said, He is well: and, behold, Rachel his daughter cometh with the sheep. ⁷And he said, Lo, it is yet high day, neither is it time that the cattle should be gathered together: water ye the sheep, and go and feed them.

⁸And they said, We cannot, until all the flocks be gathered together, and till they roll the stone from the well's mouth; then we water the sheep (They do not uncover the well until all the flocks are there; they were waiting for Rachel). ⁹And while he yet spake with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep; for she kept (Rachel tended the sheep or cared for them from daylight until dark.) them.

¹⁰And 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.

¹¹And Jacob kissed Rachel (both cheeks which is an Eastern greeting), and lifted up his voice, and wept (an emotional time in those days for they did not hide feelings as has developed today in many instances).

¹²And Jacob (70 years old) told Rachel that he was her father's brother (means relative), and that he was Rebekah's son: and she ran and told her father. ¹³And it came to pass, when Laban heard the tidings of Jacob his sister's son, that he ran to meet him, and embraced him, and kissed him, and brought him to his house. And he told Laban all these things.

¹⁴And Laban said to him, Surely thou art my bone and my flesh. And he abode with him the space of a month. ¹⁵And Laban said unto Jacob, Because thou art my brother (a relative or kinsman), shouldest thou therefore serve me for nought (nothing)? tell me, what shall thy wages be?

¹⁶And Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷Leah was tender eyed (weak); but Rachel was beautiful and well favoured. ¹⁸And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter (Rachel was Jacob's choice to be his wife and he became a shepherd for Laban with the future reward of Rachel.).

¹⁹And Laban said, It is better that I give her to thee, than that I should give her to another man: abide with me. ²⁰And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her (This is the nature of the first love; a long time can seem like a short time. It is the same with God, when we love Him; we never want to be apart from Him.).

²¹And Jacob said unto Laban, Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in unto her. ²²And Laban gathered together all the men of the place, and made a feast (drinking and happy and it was dark). ²³And it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter, and brought her to him; and he went in unto her (Jacob is bound in marriage to Leah). ²⁴And Laban gave unto his daughter Leah Zilpah his maid for an handmaid.

²⁵And it came to pass, that in the morning, behold, it was Leah: and he said to Laban, What is this thou hast done unto me? did not I serve with thee for Rachel? wherefore then hast thou beguiled me (Here was a taste of Jacob's own medicine for this is exactly what he had done to Isaac and Esau; Jacob had deceived them. Remember Jacob means "supplanter" or take the place of another and now he would know how it felt)?

²⁶And Laban said, It must not be so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn. ²⁷Fulfil her week, and we will give thee this also for the service which thou shalt serve with me yet seven other years. ²⁸And Jacob did so, and fulfilled her week: and he gave him Rachel his daughter to wife also. ²⁹And Laban gave to Rachel his daughter Bilhah his handmaid to be her maid.

³⁰And he went in also unto Rachel, and he loved also Rachel more than Leah, and served with him yet seven other years.

³¹And when the LORD saw that Leah was hated (meaning not loved as much as she should have been), he opened her womb: but Rachel was barren (God had made her barren).

³²And Leah conceived, and bare a son, and she called his name Reuben (means "behold a son" and Reuben is the firstborn son of Jacob by Leah); for she said, Surely the LORD hath looked upon my affliction; now therefore my husband will love me.

³³And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Because the LORD hath heard I was hated, he hath therefore given me this son also: and she called his name Simeon (Simeon is the 2nd son of Jacob and Leah and means "heard").

³⁴And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Now this time will my husband be joined unto me, because I have born him three sons: therefore was his name called Levi (Levi is the 3rd son of Jacob and Leah and means "joined to". This was the role of the Levite was to "join" the people to God for the Levites were set apart for the service of the Temple of God and the Levites took care of the Temple.).

³⁵And she conceived again, and bare a son: and she said, Now will I praise the LORD: therefore she called his name Judah (The 4th son of Jacob and Leah and Judah means "he shall be praised".); and left bearing.

Genesis 30

Say - Rachel not being able to bare children was considered a great misfortune for the Hebrew women wanted to be a part of carrying on the seed or descendants of Abraham.

¹And when Rachel saw that she bare Jacob no children (Hebrew sons), Rachel envied her sister (Envy is not the right attitude, Rachel should have relied on God); and said unto Jacob, Give me children, or else I die (meaning I am as good as dead if I have no children). ²And Jacob's anger was kindled against Rachel: and he said, Am I in God's stead, who hath withheld from thee the fruit of the womb?

³And she said, Behold my maid Bilhah, go in unto her; and she shall bear upon my knees, that I may also have children by her (this was a way for Rachel to redeem herself). ⁴And she gave him Bilhah her handmaid to wife: and Jacob went in unto her. ⁵And Bilhah conceived, and bare Jacob a son.

⁶And Rachel said, God hath judged me (Rachel is saying she had pleaded with God and has found favor to give you a son through Bilhah), and hath also heard my voice, and hath given me a son: therefore called she his name Dan (This is the 5th son of Jacob and the first son of Bilhah, the handmaid of Rachel; Dan means "judge").

⁷And Bilhah Rachel's maid conceived again, and bare Jacob a second son. ⁸And Rachel said, With great wrestlings have I wrestled with my sister, and I have prevailed: and she called his name Naphtali (The 5th son of Jacob and 2nd son of Bilhah, the handmaid of Rachel. Naphtali means "wrestling").

⁹When Leah saw that she had left bearing, she took Zilpah her maid, and gave her Jacob to wife. ¹⁰And Zilpah Leah's maid bare Jacob a son. ¹¹And Leah said, A troop cometh: and she called his name Gad (7th son of Jacob and the first for Zilpah, Leah's handmaid. Gad means "troop").

¹²And Zilpah Leah's maid bare Jacob a second son. ¹³And Leah said, Happy am I, for the daughters will call me blessed: and she called his name Asher (8th son of Jacob and 2nd son of Zilpah, Leah's handmaid. Asher means "happy").

¹⁴And Reuben went in the days of wheat harvest, and found mandrakes (little apples often used as a love potion) in the field, and brought them unto his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, Give me, I pray thee, of thy son's mandrakes. ¹⁵And she said unto her, Is it a small matter that thou hast taken my husband? and wouldest thou take away my son's mandrakes also? And Rachel said, Therefore he shall lie with thee to night for thy son's mandrakes.

¹⁶And Jacob came out of the field in the evening, and Leah went out to meet him, and said, Thou must come in unto me; for surely I have hired thee with my son's mandrakes. And he lay with her that night.

¹⁷And God hearkened unto Leah, and she conceived, and bare Jacob the fifth son. ¹⁸And Leah said, God hath given me my hire, because I have given my maiden to my husband: and she called his name Issachar (The 9th son of Jacob and the 5th by Leah. Issachar means "hire"). ¹⁹And Leah conceived again, and bare Jacob the sixth son.

²⁰And Leah said, God hath endued me with a good dowry; now will my husband dwell with me, because I have born him six sons: and she called his name Zebulun (Zebulun is the 10th son of Jacob and the 6th son from Leah. Zebulun means "a dwelling or habitation").

²¹And afterwards she bare a daughter, and called her name Dinah (First daughter for Jacob and Leah).

²²And God remembered Rachel, and God hearkened to her, and opened her womb. ²³And she conceived, and bare a son; and said, God hath taken away my reproach:

²⁴And she called his name Joseph (The 11th son of Jacob and the first born of Rachel. Joseph means "Jehovah has added".); and said, The LORD shall add to me another son.

Say - Verses 25-43 are the covenant or agreement Jacob made with Laban, Rebekah's brother.

²⁵And it came to pass, when Rachel had born Joseph, that Jacob said unto Laban, Send me away, that I may go unto mine own place, and to my country (Jacob wanted to return to Canaan).

²⁶Give me my wives and my children, for whom I have served thee, and let me go: for thou knowest my service which I have done thee. ²⁷And Laban said unto him, I pray thee, if I have found favour in thine eyes, tarry: for I have learned by experience that the LORD hath blessed me for thy (Jacob's) sake (Laban recognizes God is with Jacob for God blessed the people around His people. Laban's flocks had greatly increased under Jacob's care. If you want blessings from God, be nice to my children is what God is saying and this is still the same today.).

²⁸And he (Laban) said, Appoint me thy wages, and I will give it. ²⁹And he (Jacob) said unto him, Thou knowest how I have served thee, and how thy cattle was with me. ³⁰For it was little which thou hadst before I came, and it is now increased unto a multitude; and the LORD hath blessed thee since my coming: and now when shall I provide for mine own house also?

³¹And he (Laban) said, What shall I give thee? And Jacob said, Thou shalt not give me any thing: if thou wilt do this thing for me, I will again feed and keep thy flock. ³²I will pass through all thy flock to day, removing from thence all the speckled and spotted cattle, and all the brown cattle among the sheep, and the spotted and speckled among the goats: and of such shall be my hire (God was instructing Jacob, all was planned by God and His Divine guidance.).

³³So shall my righteousness answer for me in time to come (meaning some future day; also righteousness is personified here), when it shall come for my hire before thy face: every one that is not speckled and spotted among the goats, and brown among the sheep, that shall be counted stolen with me (Jacob said I won't touch anything that is yours.).

³⁴And Laban said, Behold, I would it might be according to thy word (Laban says this sounds like a good deal). ³⁵And he removed that day the he goats that were ringstraked and spotted, and all the she goats that were speckled and spotted, and every one that had some white in it, and all the brown among the sheep, and gave them into the hand of his sons.

³⁶And he set three days' journey betwixt himself and Jacob: and Jacob fed the rest of Laban's flocks. ³⁷And Jacob took him rods (stick or staff) of green poplar, and of the hazel and chesnut tree; and pilled (peeled) white strakes (stripe from the peeled places) in them, and made the white appear which was in the rods (All instructions God gave to Jacob).

³⁸And he set the rods which he had pilled before the flocks in the gutters (watering troughs) in the watering troughs when the flocks came to drink, that they should conceive when they came to drink (All sounds peculiar but if we trust God and obey Him as Jacob did, we don't question God's instructions.).

³⁹And the flocks conceived before the rods (meaning at the site of the rods), and brought forth cattle ringstraked (marked with stripes), speckled, and spotted (This could only happen by God and Jacob had faith).

⁴⁰And Jacob did separate the lambs, and set the faces of the flocks toward the ringstraked, and all the brown in the flock of Laban; and he put his own flocks by themselves, and put them not unto Laban's cattle.

⁴¹And it came to pass, whensoever the stronger cattle did conceive, that Jacob laid the rods before the eyes of the cattle in the gutters, that they might conceive among the rods.

⁴²But when the cattle were feeble, he put them not in: so the feebler were Laban's, and the stronger Jacob's.

⁴³And the man increased exceedingly (very greatly), and had much cattle, and maidservants, and menservants, and camels, and asses.

MEMORY VERSE

And God Almighty bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude of people; And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth...and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 28:3, 14

MEMORY VERSE FOR TOTS

God Almighty bless thee
and in thy seed
shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 28:3, 14

JACOB

THE BIBLE STORY OF JACOB AND HIS SONS IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ALL OF GOD'S PEOPLE TODAY FOR THOSE CALLED OF GOD ARE A PART OF THIS VERY FAMILY. IN THE FUTURE THERE WILL BE MUCH MORE TO THIS GREAT STORY FOR THE STORY OF JACOB TRAVELS ALL THE WAY THROUGH THE 1000 YEAR REIGN OF CHRIST OR FEAST OF TABERNACLES AND THE LAST GREAT DAY.

AS WE HAVE LEARNED IN OUR STUDY, JACOB BECAME THE HEIR OF THE BLESSING WHICH WAS GIVEN TO ABRAHAM AND ISAAC FROM GOD. THE BLESSING FROM GOD WAS AN EVERLASTING PROMISE THAT JACOB WOULD BE BLESSED AND WOULD BE FRUITFUL AND WOULD BECOME A GREAT MULTITUDE OF PEOPLE MEANING THE TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL OR THE HEBREW NATION. THE TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL IS STILL BEING ADDED TO THIS VERY DAY BY WHOMEVER GOD CALLS INTO HIS FAMILY.

EVERYTHING IN JACOB'S LIFE WAS DIRECTED BY GOD'S DIVINE HAND AND THAT IS HOW IT CAN BE FOR ALL OF GOD'S PEOPLE TODAY IF WE FOLLOW GOD'S WAY OF LIFE HE HAS SET BEFORE US.

ISAAC, JACOB'S FATHER, SENT JACOB AWAY TO CHOOSE A WIFE FROM HIS RELATIVES IN HARAN. ISAAC DID NOT WANT JACOB TO CHOOSE A WIFE FROM THE CANAANITES BECAUSE THEY WERE IDOL WORSHIPPERS. IT IS THE SAME TODAY, GOD WANTS HIS PEOPLE TO CHOOSE A WIFE FROM AMONG THE PEOPLE HE HAS CALLED TO FOLLOW HIM OTHERWISE WE COULD BE PULLED AWAY FROM SERVING GOD AND ETERNAL LIFE AND TURN TO FALSE GODS WHICH WOULD BRING DESTRUCTION AND DEATH.

OFF JACOB WENT, LEAVING BEERSHEBA IN CANAAN, TRAVELING 400 MILES TO HARAN. JACOB DID NOT TAKE THE USUAL ROUTE OF THE WELL-TRAVELED ROADS FOR HE THOUGHT ESAU, HIS BROTHER, MIGHT FOLLOW HIM.

SOON IT WAS NIGHTTIME AFTER THE FIRST DAY'S TRAVEL AND JACOB TOOK SOME STONES FOR HIS PILLOW AND FELL FAST ASLEEP.

AS HE SLEPT, HE HAD A DREAM. IN THE DREAM THERE WAS A LADDER WHICH REACHED FROM THE EARTH TO THE HEAVENS WITH ANGELS OF GOD TRAVELING UP AND DOWN THE LADDER.

IN THE DREAM, GOD SPOKE TO JACOB AND SAID, "I AM THE LORD GOD OF ABRAHAM AND ISAAC". "THE LAND ON WHICH YOU LIE, I WILL GIVE IT TO YOU AND YOUR SEED OR DESCENDANTS". "YOUR SEED OR DESCENDANTS WILL BE NUMBERED AS THE DUST OF THE EARTH AND THROUGH YOU AND YOUR SEED, THE ENTIRE EARTH WILL BE BLESSED". REMEMBER GOD SAID, "WHEREVER YOU GO I AM WITH YOU AND I WILL KEEP YOU OR PROTECT YOU".

JACOB AWOKE FROM THE DREAM AND SAID, "GOD IS IN THIS PLACE" AND HE TOOK THE STONES HE USED AS HIS PILLOW AND MADE A PILLAR OR A PERSONAL MEMORIAL TO GOD AND CALLED THE PLACE BETHEL MEANING THE HOUSE OF GOD.

JACOB MADE A VOW TO GOD OR A PROMISE TO GOD THAT IF HE WOULD KEEP HIM AND BE WITH HIM WHEREVER HE WENT, HE WOULD BE HIS ONLY GOD. THEN JACOB CONTINUED ON HIS JOURNEY TO HARAN.

SOON JACOB CAME TO A WELL AND HE KNEW HE WOULD FIND HIS RELATIVES BY THE WELL. JACOB KNEW THEY WOULD COME BY TO WATER THEIR FLOCKS AND HERDS OF CATTLE, CAMELS AND DONKEYS. SOON THERE WERE MANY SHEEP AROUND THE WELL.

JACOB ASKED, "DO YOU KNOW LABAN, THE SON OF NAHOR" WHO WAS ABRAHAM'S BROTHER? THEY DID KNOW HIM AND THEY WERE WAITING FOR RACHEL TO BRING LABAN'S SHEEP FOR RACHEL CARED FOR HIS SHEEP FROM DAYLIGHT UNTIL DARK.

SOON RACHEL CAME WITH HER FATHER'S SHEEP AND JACOB KISSED HER CHEEKS AND WEPT. JACOB SOON TOLD RACHEL THAT HE WAS HER FATHER'S RELATIVE AND THE SON OF REBEKAH.

LABAN, RACHEL'S FATHER, CAME TO MEET JACOB AND TOOK JACOB TO HIS HOME. SOON JACOB BECAME A SHEPHERD FOR LABAN WITH

AN AGREEMENT THAT HE WOULD WORK FOR LABAN FOR 7 YEARS FOR THE REWARD OF RACHEL TO BE HIS WIFE.

SOON THE 7 YEARS HAD PASSED AND JACOB WANTED HIS WIFE BUT LABAN MADE A FEAST AND IT GREW DARK AND THE NEXT MORNING JACOB FOUND OUT HE HAD BEEN TRICKED BY LABAN. LABAN HAD GIVEN HIS OLDEST DAUGHTER LEAH TO JACOB INSTEAD OF RACHEL. EVEN THOUGH JACOB KNEW HE HAD BEEN TRICKED, HE KEPT HIS PART OF THE BARGAIN. LABAN SAID, "SERVE ME 7 MORE YEARS FOR RACHEL" AND JACOB DID AND RACHEL BECAME HIS WIFE.

SOON LEAH BARE A SON FOR JACOB AND THEY NAMED HIM REUBAN AND SOON ANOTHER SON WAS BORN AND THE NAMED HIM SIMEON. LEAH BARE JACOB A THIRD SON AND THEY CALLED HIM LEVI. TOGETHER JACOB AND LEAH HAD 7 CHILDREN. THE REMAINDER OF THE CHILDREN WERE CALLED JUDAH, THE LINE FROM WHICH JESUS CHRIST CAME, ISSACHAR, ZEBULLUN AND JACOB'S ONLY DAUGHTER, DINAH.

RACHEL WAS VERY UPSET AND ENVIED HER SISTER LEAH BECAUSE SHE COULD NOT BARE CHILDREN FOR JACOB AND CARRY ON THE SEED OR DESCENDANTS OF ABRAHAM. SOON RACHEL GAVE HER HANDMAID, BILHAH, TO JACOB AND SHE BARE TWO SONS, DAN AND NAPHTALI FOR HIM.

LEAH ALSO GAVE HER HANDMAID, ZILPAH TO JACOB AND ZILPAH GAVE JACOB TWO SONS, GAD AND ASHER. IT WAS ACCEPTABLE IN THE DAYS OF JACOB TO MARRY WITHIN THE FAMILY. TO MARRY OUTSIDE THE FAMILY WOULD BE TO MARRY SOMEONE WHO DID NOT BELIEVE IN THE TRUE GOD.

NOW GOD REMEMBERED RACHEL AND SHE CONCEIVED AND SHE BARE A SON AND THEY NAMED HIM JOSEPH. NOW JACOB HAD 11 SONS BUT THERE WILL BE ONE MORE SON WE WILL LEARN OF LATER IN OUR STUDY.

NOW AFTER JOSEPH WAS BORN GOD WANTED JACOB TO GO BACK TO CANAAN. THROUGH JACOB GOD HAD BLESSED LABAN JUST AS HE

HAD PROMISED. LABAN'S FLOCK HAD INCREASED FROM A SMALL NUMBER TO A GREAT MULTITUDE. JACOB, GUIDED BY GOD, DIVIDED THE FLOCKS BETWEEN HIM AND LABAN AND JACOB TOOK HIS FAMILY INCLUDING HIS LARGE HERD OF CATTLE, CAMELS AND DONKEYS, AND CROSSED THE GREAT EUPHRATES RIVER AND HEADED 400 MILES BACK TO THE LAND OF CANAAN.

ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU ARE PART OF THIS GREAT STORY FOR YOU ARE A PART OF THE FAMILY OF JACOB AND A BLESSING TO ALL YOU COME IN CONTACT WITH BY GOD'S DIVINE HAND.

AND HE (JACOB) LOOKED AND BEHELD A WELL
IN THE FIELD... AND A GREAT STONE WAS UPON
THE WELL'S MOUTH. AND THITHER WERE ALL
THE FLOCKS GATHERED AND THEY ROLLED THE
STONE FROM THE WELL'S MOUTH.



AND WHILE HE YET SPAKE WITH THEM, RACHEL
CAME WITH HER FATHER'S SHEEP FOR SHE KEPT
THEM. AND JACOB KISSED RACHEL AND LIFTED
UP HIS VOICE AND WEPT

GENESIS 29:2, 3, 9, 11