### Genesis

## Chapter 30

1Well, when RachEl realized that she wasn’t bearing children for Jacob, she became jealous of her sister, and she said to Jacob:  
  
 ‘Give me children… For if you don’t, I’ll die!’  
  
2This made Jacob very angry with RachEl, so he asked:  
  
 ‘Am I in the position of God, who’s deprived you of the fruit of your womb?’  
  
3Then RachEl told Jacob:  
  
 ‘Look, here’s my handmaid BalLa... [Sleep] with her, and she will give birth [to children] on my knees…  
  
 ‘I’ll have children by her.’  
  
4So she gave him BalLa her handmaid to be his woman, and Jacob went in [and slept with] her. 5As a result, BalLa (RachEl’s handmaid) got pregnant and bore a son to Jacob.  
  
6Then RachEl said:  
  
 ‘God has given me justice and listened to my voice, for He’s given me a son.’  
  
So she named him Dan [meaning, ‘Justice’].  
  
7Thereafter, BalLa (RachEl’s handmaid) got pregnant again and bore a second son to Jacob. 8And RachEl said:  
  
 ‘God has helped me… I fought with my sister and won.’  
  
So she named him NaphTali [meaning, ‘Struggle’].  
  
  
9Well when LeAh saw that she was no longer bearing children, she took ZelPha her handmaid and gave her to Jacob as his woman, and he went in to [sleep with] her. 10So ZelPha, LeAh’s handmaid, got pregnant and bore Jacob a son.  
  
11And LeAh said:  
  
 ‘[Now I’m] happy!’  
  
So she named him Gad [meaning, ‘Happiness’].  
  
12Then ZelPha, LeAh’s handmaid, got pregnant again and bore Jacob a second son.  
  
13This time LeAh said:  
  
 ‘I am blest, because the women will call me blest.’  
  
So she named him Asher [meaning, ‘Blessings’].  
  
  
14Well, when it came time to harvest the barley, ReuBen went out to the field and found some mandrake apples [growing] there, and he brought them to his mother LeAh.  
  
Then RachEl said to her sister:  
  
 ‘Give me some of your son’s mandrakes!’  
  
15And LeAh replied:  
  
 ‘Isn’t it enough that you’ve taken my husband… Would you also take my son’s mandrakes?’  
  
And RachEl said:  
  
 ‘[I’ll] allow you to [sleep] with [Jacob] tonight [in exchange] for your son’s mandrakes.’  
  
16So that evening, when Jacob came in from the field, LeAh went out to meet him and said:  
  
 ‘You’ll [sleep] with me tonight, because I’ve hired you for my son’s mandrakes.’  
  
So he slept with her that night, 17and God listened to LeAh, so she got pregnant and bore a 5th son to Jacob.  
  
18And LeAh said:  
  
 ‘God has rewarded me for giving my handmaid to my man.’  
  
So she named him IshSachar [meaning, ‘Reward’].  
  
19Then LeAh got pregnant again and bore a 6th son to Jacob.  
  
20And LeAh said:  
  
 ‘God has given me a fine gift this time. For my man will choose me, since I’ve given him 6 sons.’  
  
So she named him ZebuLon [meaning, ‘Gift’].  
  
21And after that, she gave birth to a daughter whom she named DinAh [meaning, ‘Justified’].  
  
  
22Then The God remembered RachEl… He heard her and opened her womb, 23so she got pregnant and bore Jacob a son.  
  
And RachEl said:  
  
 ‘Jehovah has removed my disgrace.’  
  
24So she named him JoSeph [meaning, ‘Jehovah Will Increase’], saying:  
  
 ‘May God give me another son.’  
  
25Well, after RachEl had given birth to JoSeph, Jacob said to Laban:  
  
 ‘[Allow] me to leave now, so I may return to my country and my home.  
  
 26‘Free my women and children for whom I served you, so I can go… And don’t forget all the services that I’ve provided for you.’  
  
27Then Laban replied:  
  
 ‘If I’ve found favor in your eyes, it’s a good sign for me, because Jehovah has blest me by sending you here.  
  
 28‘Now, tell me how much I owe you and I’ll pay it.’  
  
29And Jacob said:  
  
 ‘You know how many ways I’ve served you and how many of your cattle I’m [responsible for]… 30You didn’t have many before I came here, and now there are many! So Jehovah God has blest you since I arrived.  
  
 ‘Now, help me to establish my own house.’  
  
31Then Laban asked:  
  
 ‘What should I give you?’  
  
And Jacob replied:  
  
 ‘Don’t give me anything… Just do this one thing for me:  
  
 ‘I will continue to watch over your flocks and tend them, 32and as your sheep pass by each day, let me set aside the dark sheep and the speckled and spotted goats as my reward.  
  
 33‘So by tomorrow, my righteousness will answer for me, because this will be my reward from you. You can steal back any goats that aren’t spotted or speckled, or any sheep that aren’t dark.’  
  
34Well at that, Laban agreed, saying:  
  
 ‘May it be as you’ve said.’  
  
35However, that same day, [Laban craftily] separated the spotted and speckled billy goats and nanny goats, and all the dark sheep from those that were white, and he gave them to his sons. 36Then he sent [them away] on a 3-day journey, while Jacob was tending the animals that were left behind.  
  
37However, Jacob gathered some green rods from storax, walnut, and sycamore trees, and peeled them alternately [to create the look of] white and green stripes, which gave a [spotted] appearance to the rods... 38Then he laid the rods he’d peeled at the bottom of the watering troughs, so that when the cattle came to drink, they’d see the rods and mate there in front of the rods.  
  
39And [that’s what happened]… The cattle did get pregnant at the rods and gave birth to [young with] speckles, streaks, and ash-colored spots!  
  
40Then Jacob separated the lambs, setting aside the speckled goats and lambs for himself away from Laban’s sheep.  
  
41Thereafter, Jacob [continued] to put the rods in the troughs before the cattle, so they’d mate in front of the rods. 42And when the cattle gave birth, [he would give] the unmarked ones to Laban, but he set aside the marked ones as his. 43And [before long], he became very rich with many cattle, oxen, male and female servants, camels, and burros.