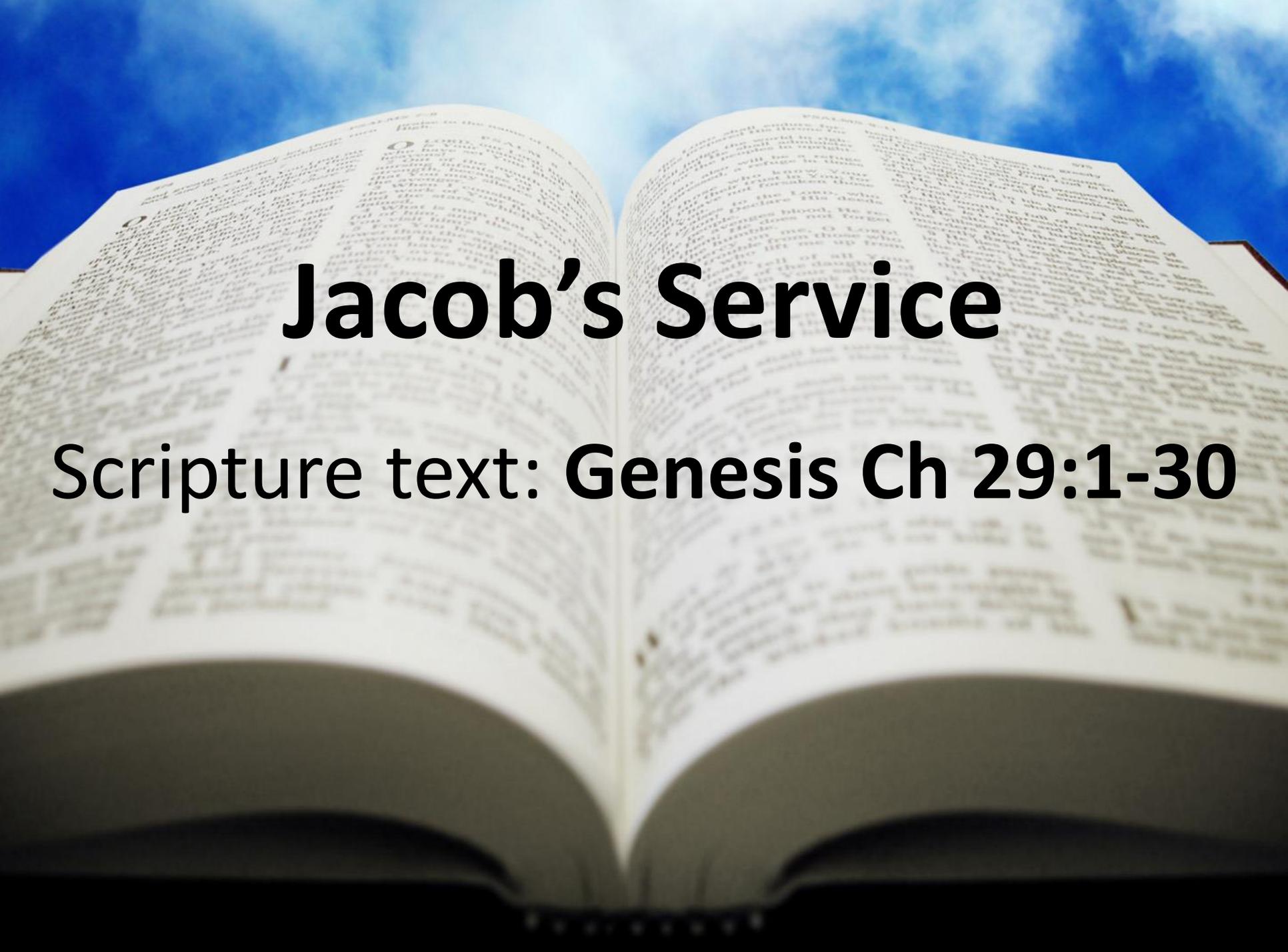


Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church  
We're glad you're here!



An open Bible is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with text, and the background is a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The Bible is open to a page with a large heading.

# Jacob's Service

Scripture text: **Genesis Ch 29:1-30**

As we look at this Chapter, **we begin to see how God kept His promise** and blessed Jacob abundantly.

**Genesis 28:14-15** Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and **your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.** Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. **For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."**

We also start to see how God disciplined the patriarch during this process.

From the spiritual mountaintop of Bethel (chap. 28), Jacob descended into everyday life at Haran, and here he **“met his match”** in **scheming Laban**, his uncle. Jacob spent about 20 years with Laban. During this time **he reaped the sad consequences of his own sins**, but, at the same time, **God was disciplining him and preparing him for future service.**

**Galatians 6:7-10** Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for **whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.** And let us not grow weary of doing good, **for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.** So then, as we have opportunity, let us **do good to everyone,** and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

# Jacob's Service for Laban's Daughters (Genesis 29:1–30:24)

*Decision (Genesis 29:1–20).*

**God providentially directs Jacob to the house of Laban, but note that Jacob did not pause to pray, as did Abraham's servant when he was on his important errand (24:12).**

**Genesis 24:12** And he said, "O LORD, God of my master Abraham, **please grant me success today and show steadfast love to my master Abraham.**

**Genesis 29:4-8** Jacob said to them, "My brothers, where do you come from?" They said, "We are from Haran." He said to them, "Do you know Laban the son of Nahor?" They said, "We know him." He said to them, "Is it well with him?" They said, "It is well; and **see, Rachel his daughter is coming with the sheep!**" He said, "Behold, it is still high day; it is not time for the livestock to be gathered together. **Water the sheep and go, pasture them.**" But they said, "We cannot until all the flocks are gathered together and the stone is rolled from the mouth of the well; then we water the sheep."

Jacob encouraged the other shepherds to go back to the pastures (v. 7) because he wanted to greet Rachel in private. **He was still the schemer.**

**Genesis 29:9-11** While he was still speaking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she was a shepherdess. **Now as soon as Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban** his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, **Jacob came near and rolled the stone** from the well's mouth and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother. **Then Jacob kissed Rachel and wept aloud.**

Note how Rachel and Laban ran when they discovered who Jacob was (vv. 12–13).

**Genesis 29:12-13** 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**. As soon as Laban heard the news about Jacob, his sister's son, **he ran to meet him** and embraced him and kissed him and brought him to his house. Jacob told Laban all these things,

**Genesis 24:28-31** Then the young woman ran and told her mother's household about these things. Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban. **Laban ran out toward the man, to the spring. As soon as he saw the ring and the bracelets on his sister's arms, and heard the words of Rebekah his sister, "Thus the man spoke to me," he went to the man.** And behold, he was standing by the camels at the spring. He said, **"Come in, O blessed of the LORD. Why do you stand outside? For I have prepared the house and a place for the camels."**

**Colossians 4:5-9** Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person. Tychicus **will tell you all about my activities.** He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, **that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts,** and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. **They will tell you of everything that has taken place here.**

**Genesis 29:14 -18** and Laban said to him, "Surely you are my bone and my flesh!" And he stayed with him a month. Then Laban said to Jacob, **"Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?"** Now Laban had two daughters. The name of the older was **Leah**, and the name of the younger was **Rachel**. Leah's eyes were weak, but Rachel was beautiful in form and appearance. **Jacob loved Rachel. And he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel."**

**I will serve.** In ancient times, it was a custom among many nations **to give dowries for their wives;** but **Jacob, being poor, offered for Rachel seven years' service.**

**Genesis 34:12** Ask me for as great a bride price and gift as you will, and I will give whatever you say to me. Only give me the young woman to be my wife."

**2 Samuel 3:14** Then David sent messengers to Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, saying, "Give me my wife Michal, **for whom I paid the bridal price of a hundred foreskins of the Philistines.**"

**Hosea 3:1-2** And the LORD said to me, "Go again, love a woman who is loved by another man **and is an adulteress, even as the LORD loves the children of Israel,** though they turn to other gods and love cakes of raisins." So I **bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and a homer and a lethech of barley.**

**Jacob made his decision:** he wanted beautiful Rachel for his wife. Rachel means “**ewe**,” while Leah means “**wild cow**.” Leah’s eyes lacked that deep sparkle that, in Middle Eastern cultures, is a mark of beauty.

Jacob agreed to serve Laban for seven years, and as always, where there is love, the time and labor passed quickly. Note that in v. 15 we have **the first “installment” of Jacob’s discipline: he became a servant.**

It had been promised that “the elder shall serve the younger”; but now the younger was a servant himself.

Such and interesting turn of events!

**Genesis 25:23** And the LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, **the older shall serve the younger.**"

## ***Deception (Genesis 29:21–30).***

**Here is discipline “installment” number two—the deceiver himself is deceived.** Laban was not about to forfeit his elder daughter’s chances for marriage, **so he forced Jacob to marry her.**

Jacob had lied about the firstborn (27:19); now he is lied to about the firstborn (29:26).

**Genesis 27:18-19** So he went in to his father and said, "My father." And he said, "Here I am. Who are you, my son?" Jacob said to his father, "**I am Esau your firstborn.** I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me."

**Genesis 29:25-26** And in the morning, behold, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "**What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?**" Laban said, "**It is not so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn.**"

**Genesis 31:41-43** These **twenty years** I have been in your house. I served you **fourteen years for your two daughters**, and **six years for your flock**, and you have **changed my wages ten times**. If the **God** of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, **had not been on my side**, surely now you would have sent me away empty-handed. God saw my affliction and the labor of my hands and rebuked you last night." Then Laban answered and said to Jacob, "The daughters are my daughters, the children are my children, the flocks are my flocks, and all that you see is mine. But what can I do this day for these my daughters or for their children whom they have borne?"

“The way of transgressors is hard” (Prov. 13:15).

**Proverb 13:15** Good sense wins favor, but **the way of the treacherous is their ruin.**

He fulfilled the week of marriage celebration for Leah, then married Rachel and began his second term of service for another seven years. **Laban was careful that all the men of the area witnessed the marriage to Leah (v. 22).** Having consummated the marriage, Jacob could not back out. No doubt he realized that **God was disciplining him for his own scheming.**

**Ruth 4:10-13** Also Ruth the Moabite, the widow of Mahlon, I have bought to be my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his native place. **You are witnesses this day.**" Then all the people who were at the gate and the elders said, "**We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman, who is coming into your house, like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel.** May you act worthily in Ephrathah and be renowned in Bethlehem, and may your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring that the LORD will give you by this young woman." So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And he went in to her, and the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son.

***Division (Genesis 29:31–30:24).***

**When a marriage begins with sin, there is usually division and unhappiness in the home.**

**At first, neither of the two wives bore children, but it was obvious that Jacob loved Rachel more and that he “slighted” (hated, v. 31) Leah.**

**Genesis 29:31 When the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren.**

So, God honored Leah by giving her four sons: Reuben (“Look, a son!”), Simeon (“hearing”), Levi (“joined”), and Judah (“praise”). This was in answer to Leah’s prayers (see 29:33 and 30:6, 17, 22).

**Genesis 29:32-33** And Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben, for she said, "**Because the LORD has looked upon my affliction;** for now my husband will love me." She conceived again and bore a son, and said, "**Because the LORD has heard that I am hated,** he has given me this son also." And she called his name Simeon.

**Genesis 29:23-24** But in the evening he took his daughter **Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her.** (Laban gave his female servant **Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her servant.**)

**Genesis 30:9-12** When Leah saw that she had ceased bearing children, **she took her servant Zilpah and gave her to Jacob as a wife.** Then Leah's servant Zilpah bore Jacob a son. And Leah said, "**Good fortune has come!**" so she called his name Gad. Leah's servant Zilpah bore Jacob a second son.

**Genesis 29:27-31 Complete the week of this one,** and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." Jacob did so, and completed her week. **Then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife.** (Laban gave his female servant **Bilhah to his daughter Rachel to be her servant.**) So Jacob went in to Rachel also, and **he loved Rachel more than Leah,** and served Laban for another seven years. **When the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren.**

**Genesis 30:3-7** Then she said, "**Here is my servant Bilhah; go in to her, so that she may give birth on my behalf**, that even I may have children through her." So she gave him her servant Bilhah as a wife, and **Jacob went in to her**. And Bilhah conceived and bore Jacob a son. Then Rachel said, "**God has judged me, and has also heard my voice and given me a son.**" Therefore she called his name **Dan**. Rachel's servant Bilhah conceived again and bore Jacob a second son.

**Leviticus 18:18** And **you shall not take a woman as a rival wife** to her sister, uncovering her nakedness while her sister is still alive.

**Malachi 2:14-15** But you say, "Why does he not?" Because **the LORD was witness between you and the wife of your youth**, to whom you have been faithless, though **she is your companion and your wife by covenant. Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union?** And what was the one God seeking? **Godly offspring.** So guard yourselves in your spirit, and **let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.**

**Matthew 19:4-6** He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning **made them male and female**, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

**1Timothy 6:10** For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. **It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.**

Rachel could not help but envy her sister, and her envy created anger and disagreement between her and Jacob.

**Genesis 30:1-2** When Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, she envied her sister. She said to Jacob, "Give me children, or I shall die!" Jacob's anger was kindled against Rachel, and he said, "Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?"

Instead of losing his temper, Jacob should have prayed about the problem, as his parents had done years before (25:19–23).

**Genesis 25:21** And Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren. And the LORD granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

In our stress, it is easy to forget God, so DON'T!

**Matthew 6:31-34** Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. **But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.** "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.