



MESSAGE/SERIES:

Series: Biblical Beginnings

Message: “God is Faithful to Unfaithful People”

Text: Genesis 28-30:24

DATE: May 23, 2021

SCRIPTURE FOR THIS WEEK:

(These verses will help you understand themes within as you read our core text as scripture proves scripture)

Genesis 28-29:30, 29:31-30:24, 31:13, Genesis 26:24 (Covenant), Genesis 35:1-3, 2 Samuel 15:8 (Bargaining with God), Deuteronomy 26:17-19, 31:6 (Conditional covenant with Israel), Acts 3:25, Galatians 3:8 (God’s people will bless the earth), Hebrews 1:14 (Angels), GENESIS 12:8, 13:3 (Previously in Bethel)

OPENING SCRIPTURE:

[Genesis 28:10-30:24]

*¹⁰ Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹ And he came to a certain place and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. **Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep.** ¹² And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, **the angels of God were ascending and descending on it!** ¹³ And behold, the Lord stood above it and said, **“I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring.** ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ 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.** ¹⁶ Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, **“Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.”** ¹⁷ And he was afraid and said, **“How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”***

¹⁸ So early in the morning Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. ¹⁹ He called the name of that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first. ²⁰ Then Jacob made 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 clothing to wear, ²¹ so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God, ²² and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you."

²⁹ Then Jacob went on his journey and came to the land of the people of the east. ² As he looked, he saw a well in the field, and behold, three flocks of sheep lying beside it, for out of that well the flocks were watered. The stone on the well's mouth was large, ³ and when all the flocks were gathered there, the shepherds would roll the stone from the mouth of the well and water the sheep, and put the stone back in its place over the mouth of the well.

⁴ Jacob said to them, "My brothers, where do you come from?" They said, "We are from Haran." ⁵ He said to them, "**Do you know Laban the son of Nahor?**" They said, "We know him." ⁶ He said to them, "Is it well with him?" They said, "It is well; and see, **Rachel his daughter is coming with the sheep!**" ⁷ 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." ⁸ 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."

⁹ While he was still speaking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she was a shepherdess. ¹⁰ **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.** ¹¹ Then Jacob kissed Rachel and wept aloud. ¹² 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.

¹³ 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, ¹⁴ and Laban said to him, "**Surely you are my bone and my flesh!**" **And he stayed with him a month.**

¹⁵ Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? **Tell me, what shall your wages be?**" ¹⁶ Now Laban had two daughters. The name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷ Leah's eyes were weak, but Rachel was beautiful in form and appearance. ¹⁸ Jacob loved Rachel. **And he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel."** ¹⁹ Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." ²⁰ **So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.**

²¹ Then Jacob said to Laban, **“Give me my wife that I may go into her, for my time is completed.”** ²² So Laban gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast. ²³ **But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her.** ²⁴ (Laban gave his female servant Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her servant.) ²⁵ 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?”** ²⁶ Laban said, “It is not so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn. ²⁷ Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years.” ²⁸ Jacob did so, and completed her week. Then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife. ²⁹ (Laban gave his female servant Bilhah to his daughter Rachel to be her servant.) ³⁰ So Jacob went in to Rachel also, and he loved Rachel more than Leah, and served Laban for another seven years.

³¹ When the Lord saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren. ³² 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.” ³³ 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. ³⁴ Again she conceived and bore a son, and said, “Now this time my husband will be attached to me, because I have borne him three sons.” Therefore his name was called Levi. ³⁵ And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, “This time I will praise the Lord.” Therefore she called his name Judah. Then she ceased bearing.

³⁰ When Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, she envied her sister. She said to Jacob, “Give me children, or I shall die!” ² 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?” ³ 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.” ⁴ So she gave him her servant Bilhah as a wife, and Jacob went in to her. ⁵ And Bilhah conceived and bore Jacob a son. ⁶ Then Rachel said, “God has judged me, and has also heard my voice and given me a son.” Therefore she called his name Dan. ⁷ Rachel’s servant Bilhah conceived again and bore Jacob a second son. ⁸ Then Rachel said, “With mighty wrestlings I have wrestled with my sister and have prevailed.” So she called his name Naphtali.

⁹ When Leah saw that she had ceased bearing children, she took her servant Zilpah and gave her to Jacob as a wife. ¹⁰ Then Leah’s servant Zilpah bore Jacob a son. ¹¹ And Leah said, “Good fortune has come!” so she called his name Gad. ¹² Leah’s servant Zilpah bore Jacob a second son. ¹³ And Leah said, “Happy am I! For women have called me happy.” So she called his name Asher.

¹⁴ In the days of wheat harvest Reuben went and found mandrakes in the field and brought them to his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, "Please give me some of your son's mandrakes." ¹⁵ But she said to her, "Is it a small matter that you have taken away my husband? Would you take away my son's mandrakes also?" Rachel said, "Then he may lie with you tonight in exchange for your son's mandrakes." ¹⁶ When Jacob came from the field in the evening, Leah went out to meet him and said, "You must come in to me, for I have hired you with my son's mandrakes." So he lay with her that night. ¹⁷ And God listened to Leah, and she conceived and bore Jacob a fifth son. ¹⁸ Leah said, "God has given me my wages because I gave my servant to my husband." So she called his name Issachar.

¹⁹ And Leah conceived again, and she bore Jacob a sixth son. ²⁰ Then Leah said, "God has endowed me with a good endowment; now my husband will honor me, because I have borne him six sons." So she called his name Zebulun. ²¹ Afterward she bore a daughter and called her name Dinah.

²² Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb. ²³ She conceived and bore a son and said, "God has taken away my reproach." ²⁴ And she called his name Joseph, saying, "May the Lord add to me another son!"

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Ge 28:1–30:24.

"Man can neither thwart God nor help Him"

-Donald Barnhouse

BACKGROUND & OTHER STUDY HELPS:

[BETHEL] "Bethel, formerly called Luz (Gen. 28:19; Judg. 1:23); Beth-aven to the east of Bethel (Josh. 7:2); Jacob called the place Bethel (Gen. 35:15); an oak below Bethel (Gen. 35:8); a city of Benjamin (Josh. 18:22); on the border of the sons of Joseph (Josh. 16:1); the border went from Bethel to Luz (Josh. 16:2); the border went to Luz, that is, Bethel (Josh. 18:13); a mountain to the east of Bethel (Gen. 12:8); Bethel on the west and Ai on the east (Gen. 12:8); between Bethel and Ai (Gen. 13:3; Josh. 8:9); the house of Joseph attacked Bethel (Judg. 1:22); between Ramah and Bethel (Judg. 4:5); one highway goes up to Bethel (Judg. 20:31); the highway from Bethel to Shechem (Judg. 21:19); the hill country of Bethel (1 Sam. 13:2); Bethel belonged to Joseph (1 Chr. 7:28); Abijah captured Bethel from Jeroboam (2 Chr. 13:19); Michmash, east of Beth-aven (1 Sam. 13:5); the battle spread beyond Beth-aven (1 Sam. 14:23)."

A. Colin Day, *Collins Thesaurus of the Bible* (Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software, 2009).

"The Old Testament mentions Bethel (formerly named Luz; Gen 28:19; 35:6) more than any other site except Jerusalem, referring to it as both a city and the site of a religious sanctuary. The Bible remains our primary source of information on Bethel. The city

features in narratives from the patriarchal period through the divided monarchy (Dumbrell, “Role of Bethel”; van Cangh, “Béthel,” 41–45; Gomes, *Sanctuary of Bethel*). The New Testament contains no mention of Bethel.

According to Joshua 18:22, Bethel fell within the allotment of the tribe of Benjamin. However, Judges 1:22 records that the northern tribe of Ephraim conquered Bethel. In the divided monarchy, Bethel became the southernmost district of the northern kingdom of Israel. Jeroboam established the two main sanctuaries of the northern kingdom of Israel at Dan and Bethel.”

Maura Sala, “Bethel North of Jerusalem,” ed. John D. Barry et al., *The Lexham Bible Dictionary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016).

God is faithful to an unfaithful Jacob... Biblical theme in Genesis...

OUTLINE:

I. The Traveler (28:10–22)

A. Jacob’s vision (28:10–15)

1. *He sees the angels of God* (28:10–12): During a dream at Bethel, Jacob sees angels ascending and descending upon a stairway reaching from earth to heaven.
2. *He sees the God of the angels* (28:13–15): The Lord is standing at the top of the stairway and reaffirms to Jacob the covenant he established with Abraham.

B. **Jacob’s vow** (28:16–22): Upon waking, Jacob promises to serve God, but only if God protects him and provides for him.

II. The Lover (29:1–30)

A. Jacob’s love for Rachel (29:1–17)

1. *First meeting with Rachel* (29:1–12): Jacob meets Rachel by a well and rolls away from a huge stone from its entrance so she can water her father’s sheep. Her father is Laban, Jacob’s uncle.
2. *First meeting with Laban* (29:13–17): Jacob and Laban meet each other and decide that Jacob should work for Laban.

B. **Jacob’s laborer** (29:18–30)

1. *The diligence of Jacob* (29:18–21): Jacob asks to marry Rachel in exchange for seven years of work for Laban.
2. *The deception of Laban* (29:22–30): On the eve of the wedding, Laban secretly substitutes Leah for Rachel, forcing Jacob to work yet another seven years.

III. The Family Man (29:28–30:24; 35:16–18, 23–26)

A. Jacob's four wives (29:28–30; 30:1–4, 9)

1. *Leah* (29:28): Jacob's first wife
2. *Rachel* (29:30): Jacob's second wife
3. *Bilhah* (29:29; 30:1–4): Rachel's servant
4. *Zilpah* (30:9): Leah's servant

B. Jacob's twelve sons (29:31–30:24; 35:16–18, 23–26)

1. *Reuben* (29:31–32): Leah's first son
2. *Simeon* (29:33): Leah's second son
3. *Levi* (29:34): Leah's third son
4. *Judah* (29:35): Leah's fourth son
5. *Dan* (30:5–6): Bilhah's first son
6. *Naphtali* (30:7–8): Bilhah's second son
7. *Gad* (30:9–11): Zilpah's first son
8. *Asher* (30:12–13): Zilpah's second son
9. *Issachar* (30:14–18): Leah's fifth son
10. *Zebulun* (30:19–20): Leah's sixth son
11. *Joseph* (30:22–24): Rachel's first son

Outline took from

H. L. Willmington, *The Outline Bible* (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1999), Ge 28:10–30:24.

Meditation Moment:

