

# The Anatomy Of A Divine Appointment

Genesis 29:1-35

## Introduction

### I Jacob's Divine Appointment

- A. He **obeyed** the instruction of his parents - Gen 28:1-2, 6-7
  - 1. He went to the land of Paddan Aram - Ex 20:12
- B. He had a new awareness of God's presence - Ps 119:32
- C. He made some **observations**
  - 1. He saw a well in the field
  - 2. He saw three flocks of sheep lying near it
  - 3. He saw a large stone over the mouth of the well
  - 4. He saw some shepherds there
- D. He made some inquiries about Laban
- E. He recognized a **need**
  - 1. The sheep were gathered too early and needed water
- F. He met his future **wife**, Rachel
  - 1. He **rolled** the stone away from the well
  - 2. He watered his uncle's sheep - Ex 2:15-17
  - 3. He kissed Rachel and began to **weep** - Gen 33:4
  - 4. He told Rachel he was a relative - Gen 24:12-16
- G. He was **received** by his uncle, Laban - Gen 24:28-31

### II Jacob's Wives

- A. Jacob worked **free** for Laban for a month
- B. Jacob was offered compensation for his work
  - 1. Leah, who was older and had **weak** eyes
  - 2. Rachel, who was younger and **beautiful** - 1 Peter 3:3-5
- C. Jacob offered to work 7 years for Rachel - Hos 12:12
  - 1. The years seemed like only a few days
    - a. Because he loved Rachel - James 1:12
- D. Jacob was **deceived** by Laban - 1 Tim 6:9-10
  - 1. Jacob unknowingly married Leah - 1 Tim 6:9-10
  - 2. Jacob slept with Leah
  - 3. Jacob woke up to Leah
- E. Jacob was **furious** with Laban
  - 1. "What have you done to me?" - Gen 12:8; 20:9; 26:10
  - 2. "Why have you deceived me?" - Gen 27:35; Prov 26:27

F. Jacob was given Rachel as well

- 1. Jacob **served** another 7 years for Rachel - Prov 3:5-6
- 2. Jacob loved Rachel more than Leah - James 2:1-2

### III Jacob's Children

- A. The Lord saw the **inequity** of the situation - Ps 34:18
  - 1. He opened Leah's womb because she wasn't loved
  - 2. He made Rachel barren because she was loved - Ps 145
- B. The Lord **blessed** Leah with children - Ps 127:3
  - 1. She named her 1<sup>st</sup> son, Reuben
  - 2. She named her 2<sup>nd</sup> son, Simeon
  - 3. She named her 3<sup>rd</sup> son, Levi
  - 4. She named her 4<sup>th</sup> son, Judah
- C. Then the Lord **stopped** Leah from having children

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

- 1. Share a recent divine appointment that God prepared in advance for you to walk in (Eph 2:10). What happened?
- 2. What steps did Jacob take that brought him to the point of God's divine appointment with Rachel? What does this tell you about Jacob's spiritual progress? What does this tell you about the importance of being faithful in the small things?
- 3. How are Jacob and Laban alike? How are they different? Was Laban a "coincidence" in Jacob's life? Why or why not? What does this teach you about how God confronts our own sin? What do you think God wants to teach you from this?
- 4. What does God's activity in behalf of Leah tell you about God? His attitude toward favoritism? Toward the unloved? What impact does this have on your approach to life?
- 5. Take a few moments to consider the "divine appointments" in your life. Thank God for His faithfulness in your life and ask the Holy Spirit for a heart to keep in step with Him this week.

**BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE**

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