

Speckled  
and  
Spotted

**Genesis 29:31 – 31:7**



~ Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God left off in our previous report at verse thirty of chapter twenty-nine. If you have your Bible, then you will want to turn there and read this whole chapter all the way through AFTER praying for wisdom, judgment, and spiritual discernment. When we last saw Jacob he had been totally lied to and tricked by Uncle Laban. Jacob served seven years only to find out there was a hidden clause in his contract that he had overlooked. Well, Jacob got the bad end of that deal, to be sure. He must have been extremely disappointed. See, that's the same way Jacob had dealt with his dad and brother. He reaped exactly what he sowed. Jacob had pretended to be the elder when he was the younger. Now, Jacob was given the elder when he thought he was getting the younger. That amounts to seven more years of service to Uncle Laban for a total of fourteen long years.

Jacob also has two wives now. That wasn't the will of God for Jacob, either. Someone says God must approve of two wives if He gave Jacob two wives; but I hope we understand we are going to see many things in the Bible that God does not approve of. This is one of them. We are going to see some wholly unholy things, as we already saw with Lot, his daughters - many other things – and it gets worse – much, much, worse! Jacob's life spirals more and more out of control as he goes along – and polygamy is one of the big reasons why. God doesn't approve of the devil telling a lie - but Satan does tell a lie – and the Bible records that lie! God didn't approve of David lying or murdering or adultery - but the record is given of all of those things. David paid dearly for those sins. God judges sin, my beloved – and the judgment is in the record, too! This just happens to be an accurate account. Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap....

**XXIX**

***31 And when the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel was barren.***

***32 And Leah conceived, and bare a son, and she called his name Reuben: for she said, Surely the LORD hath looked upon my affliction; now therefore my husband will love me.***

~ Leah is one very sad person because she knows her husband loves her sister more than he loves her. So, right off the bat there's big problems in the home with this double marriage. Polygamy is a big problem in parts of this country and the world at large. Any woman who tells you she is okay with that arrangement and that she is happy in that lifestyle has severe emotional and co-dependency problems to the point where counseling won't work. A Godly intervention is the only thing that can set that mind free. Any woman that is agreeable to sharing her husband with another woman is possessed by Satan himself for demonic purposes. This is just a fundamental law of God – don't blame me. It's not my interpretation of the Bible; it happens to be what the Bible teaches everyone. If you don't believe the Bible that's your business but don't say the Bible doesn't teach polygamy is an abomination because it IS an abomination according to the Word of God. If you receive another interpretation then it is NOT from the Holy Spirit and it is NOT from above. Period. Full stop.

Even so, that is not even the biggest problem right now for these people, because that problem could be fixed. The REAL problem is that God saw this treacherous situation Jacob was putting Leah in so God blessed her in spite of that! When you are in sin you will see the Lord move DIRECTLY against you, my friends. You can just write that down. Whoever you are and whatever you have done as a child of God you will NOT escape the Lord IN THIS LIFE regarding consequences to your sins; just as the lost man won't get away with their disobedience and open rebellion against God IN THAT DAY! Leah becomes the mother of Reuben. Reuben is the eldest, but he is not the line that is to lead to the Lord Jesus Christ. Judah will lead to Christ; and Judah will be the last son Leah has....

**33 And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Because the LORD hath heard that I was hated, he hath therefore given me this son also: and she called his name Simeon.**

**34 And 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.**

**35 And she conceived again, and bare a son: and she said, Now will I praise the LORD: therefore she called his name Judah; and left bearing.**

**XXX**

~ Out of Judah shall the kingly line be established! David was from Judah as was the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Levi is the priestly tribe later in Israel. Only Levites could be priests. Leah had the outstanding boys, overall. Reuben lost his position as the first born - because of his sin – which we will also see later. Now, at the time in which we are studying, we see God moving in the life of one of His children IN SPITE of sin in the life of Jacob. NOT because of it - but in spite of it. This is what we call the “permissive will of God.” Anyone who says the Lord does not have a “permissive will” in our lives does not know the Bible correctly. If God DIDN’T have a permissive will then most of us would be struck dead immediately right now. Now, a woman was a disgrace without a child in these days of Jacob; the more children one had, the better it would be for her. So, that happens and, of course, it only brings more trouble – more anger and resentment – more strife – within this family....

**1 And when Rachel saw that she bare Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister; and said unto Jacob, Give me children, or else I die.**

**2 And 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?**

**3 And 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.**

~ Here we go again with what this society simply labeled the normal practice of the day. Abraham and Sarah had done it; but God didn't bless it. It ended very badly for everyone involved – Abraham, Sarah, Hagar and Ishmael – all of them were left in a never-ending heart ache in this connection. The Lord didn't approve back then, and He doesn't approve here in the Bible, and He doesn't approve now today, friends. The historical record is given here, and Rachel gives the maid to Jacob, but the sincere student of Scripture knows that God did not and will not bless this activity – even if it was the custom of the day, standard practice and legal; and it was all of those things! The strife we saw in Abraham's sons we also saw in Isaac's home and now – here it is again – in Jacob's family. Jacob is in a great deal of trouble as we will see....

***4 And she gave him Bilhah her handmaid to wife: and Jacob went in unto her.***

***5 And Bilhah conceived, and bare Jacob a son.***

***6 And Rachel said, God hath judged me, and hath also heard my voice, and hath given me a son: therefore called she his name Dan.***

***7 And Bilhah Rachel's maid conceived again, and bare Jacob a second son.***

***8 And Rachel said, With great wrestling's have I wrestled with my sister, and I have prevailed: and she called his name Naphtali.***

***9 When Leah saw that she had left bearing, she took Zilpah her maid, and gave her Jacob to wife.***

***10 And Zilpah Leah's maid bare Jacob a son.***

***11 And Leah said, A troop cometh: and she called his name Gad.***

***12 And Zilpah Leah's maid bare Jacob a second son.***

***13 And Leah said, Happy am I, for the daughters will call me blessed: and she called his name Asher.***

~ Some of you may know that mandrakes are an herb that some consider narcotic. It was used for all sorts of medicinal properties and among them was conception. It's basically a weed. So, Reuben goes out and gets some mandrakes weed and brings it home to Leah his mom. Well, Rachel wants some, too – you know? See, the faction of family divisions caused by SIN really comes out here. Apparently, these two wives took turns with Jacob and Rachel is willing to give up her turn with Jacob in exchange for some mandrakes weed. I think Rachel got first attention, too, if you know what I mean....

***14 And Reuben went in the days of wheat harvest, and found mandrakes 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.***

***15 And 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.***

***16 And 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.***

***17 And God hearkened unto Leah, and she conceived, and bare Jacob the fifth son.***

***18 And Leah said, God hath given me my hire, because I have given my maiden to my husband: and she called his name Issachar.***

***19 And Leah conceived again, and bare Jacob the sixth son.***

***20 And 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 Zebulon.***

***21 And afterwards she bare a daughter, and called her name Dinah.***

**22 And God remembered Rachel, and God hearkened to her, and opened her womb.**

**23 And she conceived, and bare a son; and said, God hath taken away my reproach:**

**24 And she called his name Joseph; and said, The LORD shall add to me another son.**

**25 And 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.**

**26 Give 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.**

**27 And 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 sake.**

**28 And he said, Appoint me thy wages, and I will give it.**

**29 And he said unto him, Thou knowest how I have served thee, and how thy cattle were with me.**

**30 For 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?**

~ King Abimelech had been blessed by Isaac's presence so long ago. Here, Uncle Laban has discovered that God is with Jacob and God has blessed Jacob; and Laban is blessed by Jacob's presence. So, Laban wants to make a deal and give Jacob a raise and Jacob says, "...nothing doing." Jacob knows that Laban is quite the deal maker, and he wants nothing more to do with him. Interestingly, Jacob isn't complaining; but he is unleashing a whole lot of pent-up resentment. Cutting ties with Laban after all these

years was a big deal. Jacob has netted from this relationship two wives, two maids and eleven boys at this time. Jacob has a lot of responsibility with no means. That's always a problem. What is he going to do? Jacob tells Laban that Laban is prospering at his expense – which does no good - and Jacob now realizes he has absolutely nothing to show for all those years of hard work....

***31 And he 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:***

***32 I 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.***

***33 So shall my righteousness answer for me in time to come, 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.***

***34 And Laban said, Behold, I would it might be according to thy word.***

***35 And 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.***

***36 And he set three days' journey betwixt himself and Jacob: and Jacob fed the rest of Laban's flocks.***

***37 And Jacob took him rods of green poplar, and of the hazel and chestnut tree; and pilled white strakes in them, and made the white appear which was in the rods.***

***38 And he set the rods which he had pilled before the flocks in the gutters in the watering troughs when the flocks came to drink, that they should conceive when they came to drink.***

~ Alright, in other words: the pure breeds were to be left behind and remain Laban's possessions. The half-breeds and no-breed's were to be Jacob's severance pay wages. The half-breed animals were never bred with the pure-bred; and my estimation is there were a lot more half-breeds than pure-bred. Either way, there have been several explanations given regarding this passage; with some saying this is all nothing but pure superstition. That's the claim of the atheist, to be sure. Others will say it's just an old wives tale; and I am sure that most unbelievers do not think this should even be in the Bible record.

This is a profound Scriptural account concerning animals; but we also have something a woman sees during her pregnancy. Naturally, a woman's experiences during pregnancy have tremendous effects upon the mind of the child. The psychiatrist and psychologist both agree on that. Okay, so, guess what? It, apparently, affects the animal world also. We're not going into that area, and I'll tell you why: there are things I cannot explain. I'm not sure any man can explain this part of Scripture properly or comprehensibly. The Raven is an unclean bird – and yet God says, “...I hear the desperation of the Raven and feed them.” There are many men that take ten chapters from a five-hundred-page book to tell you they can't explain this and that they are in the dark. I can say it in one sentence.

There is a man that can take a forked stick and find water with it. Everyone in the neighborhood calls this man out when they want to drill a well. He comes along with this ridiculous stick and marks a spot – but what's even more ridiculous is that every single time they drill in the spot this man tells them to drill in – they get water. Alright, not every single time; but it rarely fails. Would the neighborhood have located water for their wells without this man? I don't know; but I hear about scientific cures and scientific explanations – most of which don't result in any usefulness or revolutionary knowledge. So, my point is: nothing is proven when something works sometimes. I wouldn't rule anything in this world out as superstitious - as it



is more likely incomprehensible supernatural paranormal activity to you - and it is YOU who is utterly unaware.

Irrespective of what you believe concerning this passage of Scripture, both Jacob and Laban believed this is what caused them to be ringstraked. That's what is important to the child of God who is searching every page of the Bible for the Lord Jesus Christ. Maybe you're too smart to believe these things? Jacob and Laban believed it! All those cattle together would produce some that were ringstraked and some would be solid white. A spotted cow may bring into the world one that is not spotted.

I had a friend with a cat – a beautiful pure white Persian cat. That cat had kittens, and some were also pure white – but some looked like they had black ink blotches thrown all over them. One of them was completely black as ink; they named it midnight. Naturally, a black cat was introduced somewhere; but why would these be completely different offspring? Billions of people in the world and they all look completely different. Frankly, I don't really know much more about this – so, I won't further purport to explain this passage. We can all read the record in the Bible. Let us pray for wisdom, judgment and discernment. Jacob is up to his old trickery again - regardless of whether there is any value in it or not. Unfortunately, for Jacob, Laban is just a little bit better of a grifter than Jacob is – and here he's trying to command a spectacular finale to this relationship. Jacob came there originally with a hobo pack, and he stands to leave with a rather large fortune; but God IS calling Jacob to leave in the next chapter - and we need to understand that will be the first time the Lord has given ANY instruction to Jacob in at least fourteen years that we know of....

***39 And the flocks conceived before the rods, and brought forth cattle ringstraked, speckled, and spotted.***

***40 And 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.***

***41 And 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.***

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

***43 And the man increased exceedingly, and had much cattle, and maidservants, and menservants, and camels, and asses.***

### **XXXI**

~ God now wants Jacob out of Laban's home and away from that place. Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God will only be glimpsing into the window of this chapter, which is very lengthy. Here we have the twelve tribes of Israel named for the first time. Jacob is finally getting more than Laban is getting - and Laban and Laban's sons don't like that - at all. God wants Jacob out of Laban's company and back in the land now - so, He tells them, "get going." That's exactly what Jacob does - and we're going to go with him in our next report....

***1 And he heard the words of Laban's sons, saying , Jacob hath taken away all that was our father's; and of that which was our father's hath he gotten all this glory.***

***2 And Jacob beheld the countenance of Laban, and, behold, it was not toward him as before.***

***3 And the LORD said unto Jacob, Return unto the land of thy fathers, and to thy kindred; and I will be with thee.***

***4 And Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to the field unto his flock,***

***5 And said unto them, I see your father's countenance, that it is not toward me as before; but the God of my father hath been with me.***

***6 And ye know that with all my power I have served your father.***

***7 And your father hath deceived me, and changed my wages ten times;  
but God suffered him not to hurt me ~***

