

<p align="center">BIBLE TEXT New International Version</p>	<p align="center">OBSERVATIONS What does the text say?</p>	<p align="center">INTERPRETATION & QUESTIONS What does the text mean to all Christians?</p>	<p align="center">APPLICATION What does the text mean to me?</p>
<p>First IBS Division: Genesis 29:14-30</p> <p><i>Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel</i></p> <p>¹⁴ Then Laban said to him, “You are my own flesh and blood.”</p> <p>After Jacob had stayed with him for a whole month, ¹⁵ Laban said to him, “Just because you are a relative of mine, should you work for me for nothing? Tell me what your wages should be.”</p> <p>¹⁶ Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷ Leah had weak^[a] eyes, but Rachel had a lovely figure and was beautiful.</p> <p>¹⁸ Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, “I’ll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel.”</p> <p>¹⁹ Laban said, “It’s better that I give her to you than to some other man. Stay here with me.”</p> <p>²⁰ So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her.</p> <p>²¹ Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife. My time is completed, and I want to make love to her.”</p> <p>²² So Laban brought together all the people of the place and gave a feast. ²³ But when evening came, he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and Jacob made love to her.</p> <p>²⁴ And Laban gave his servant Zilpah to his daughter as her attendant.</p> <p>²⁵ When morning came, there was Leah! So Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn’t I? Why have you deceived me? ”</p> <p>²⁶ Laban replied, “It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one. ²⁷ Finish this daughter’s bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, in return for another seven years of work. ”</p>			

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<p>28 And Jacob did so. He finished the week with Leah, and then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife. 29 Laban gave his servant Bilhah to his daughter Rachel as her attendant. 30 Jacob made love to Rachel also, and his love for Rachel was greater than his love for Leah. And he worked for Laban another seven years.</p> <p>Footnotes: a. Genesis 29:17 Or <i>delicate</i></p>			
<p>Summary:</p>			
<p>Second IBS Division: Genesis 29:31-30:24</p> <p>Jacob's Children</p> <p>31 When the Lord saw that Leah was not loved, he enabled her to conceive, but Rachel remained childless. 32 Leah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Reuben,^[b] for she said, "It is because the Lord has seen my misery. Surely my husband will love me now."</p> <p>33 She conceived again, and when she gave birth to a son she said, "Because the Lord heard that I am not loved, he gave me this one too." So she named him Simeon.^[c]</p> <p>34 Again she conceived, and when she gave birth to a son she said, "Now at last my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons." So he was named Levi.^[d]</p> <p>35 She conceived again, and when she gave birth to a son she said, "This time I will praise the Lord." So she named him Judah.^[e] Then she stopped having children.</p>			

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<p>30:1 When Rachel saw that she was not bearing Jacob any children, she became jealous of her sister. So she said to Jacob, “Give me children, or I’ll die!”</p> <p>2 Jacob became angry with her and said, “Am I in the place of God, who has kept you from having children?”</p> <p>3 Then she said, “Here is Bilhah, my servant. Sleep with her so that she can bear children for me and I too can build a family through her.”</p> <p>4 So she gave him her servant Bilhah as a wife. Jacob slept with her, 5 and she became pregnant and bore him a son. 6 Then Rachel said, “God has vindicated me; he has listened to my plea and given me a son.” Because of this she named him Dan.^[f]</p> <p>7 Rachel’s servant Bilhah conceived again and bore Jacob a second son. 8 Then Rachel said, “I have had a great struggle with my sister, and I have won.” So she named him Naphtali.^[g]</p> <p>9 When Leah saw that she had stopped having children, she took her servant Zilpah and gave her to Jacob as a wife. 10 Leah’s servant Zilpah bore Jacob a son. 11 Then Leah said, “What good fortune!”^[h] So she named him Gad.^[i]</p> <p>12 Leah’s servant Zilpah bore Jacob a second son. 13 Then Leah said, “How happy I am! The women will call me happy.” So she named him Asher.^[j]</p> <p>14 During wheat harvest, Reuben went out into the fields and found some mandrake plants, which he brought to his mother Leah. Rachel said to Leah, “Please give me some of your son’s mandrakes.”</p> <p>15 But she said to her, “Wasn’t it enough that you took away my husband? Will you take my son’s mandrakes too?”</p> <p>“Very well,” Rachel said, “he can sleep with you tonight in return for your son’s mandrakes.”</p>			

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<p>¹⁶ So when Jacob came in from the fields that evening, Leah went out to meet him. “You must sleep with me,” she said. “I have hired you with my son’s mandrakes.” So he slept with her that night.</p> <p>¹⁷ God listened to Leah, and she became pregnant and bore Jacob a fifth son. ¹⁸ Then Leah said, “God has rewarded me for giving my servant to my husband.” So she named him Issachar.^[k]</p> <p>¹⁹ Leah conceived again and bore Jacob a sixth son. ²⁰ Then Leah said, “God has presented me with a precious gift. This time my husband will treat me with honor, because I have borne him six sons.” So she named him Zebulun.^[l]</p> <p>²¹ Some time later she gave birth to a daughter and named her Dinah.</p> <p>²² Then God remembered Rachel; he listened to her and enabled her to conceive. ²³ She became pregnant and gave birth to a son and said, “God has taken away my disgrace.” ²⁴ She named him Joseph,^[m] and said, “May the Lord add to me another son.”</p> <p>Footnotes:</p> <p>b. Genesis 29:32 <i>Reuben</i> sounds like the Hebrew for <i>he has seen my misery</i>; the name means <i>see, a son</i>.</p> <p>c. Genesis 29:33 <i>Simeon</i> probably means <i>one who hears</i>.</p> <p>d. Genesis 29:34 <i>Levi</i> sounds like and may be derived from the Hebrew for <i>attached</i>.</p> <p>e. Genesis 29:35 <i>Judah</i> sounds like and may be derived from the Hebrew for <i>praise</i>.</p> <p>f. Genesis 30:6 <i>Dan</i> here means <i>he has vindicated</i>.</p> <p>g. Genesis 30:8 <i>Naphtali</i> means <i>my struggle</i>.</p> <p>h. Genesis 30:11 Or “<i>A troop is coming!</i>”</p> <p>i. Genesis 30:11 <i>Gad</i> can mean <i>good fortune</i> or <i>a troop</i>.</p> <p>j. Genesis 30:13 <i>Asher</i> means <i>happy</i>.</p> <p>k. Genesis 30:18 <i>Issachar</i> sounds like the Hebrew for <i>reward</i>.</p> <p>l. Genesis 30:20 <i>Zebulun</i> probably means <i>honor</i>.</p> <p>m. Genesis 30:24 <i>Joseph</i> means <i>may he add</i>.</p>			

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Holy Spirit Space: Looking Back at Our Own Stories			