

# CHAPTER ANALYSIS FORM

**Chapter:** 29-30

**Chapter Title:** Jacob Marries, Jacob's Wages

## 1. Chapter Summary:

### 1. Chapter 29

- a. Jacob finds family 1-8
- b. Jacob falls hard 9-20
- c. The Trickster tricked 21-30
- d. Jacob's Children 31-34

### 2. Chapter 30

- a. Jacob's Children 1-24
- b. Jacob's wages 25-43

2. Observation		3. Interpretation	
What Does It Say?		What Does It Mean?	
Verse		Verse	
	<b>Chapter 29</b>		
1-8	Jacob continues his journey and finds a well that belongs to his kinsmen. They are related to Laban. They have their sheep at the well waiting for Rachel and her flock, so they can open the well and water the sheep.	1-8	Once again, God's hand is at work. Jacob heads for the general area of his mother's family and God leads him right to them. This account has some striking parallels to the story of Rebekah.
9-20	Rachel shows up and Jacob helps water the flocks. He then emotionally tells Rachel who he is. Rachel runs and tells Laban and Jacob is invited to stay with Laban. Laban offers to pay Jacob for staying and working. Jacob is smitten by Rachel's beauty and promises to work seven years to marry her.	9-20	Jacob is apparently helpful. He is not offered wages with Laban until he has been there a month and Laban says his labor should not go unrewarded. I find it ironic that Jacob, who loved to stay inside, now works as a shepherd.
21-30	Jacob has completed the seven years and asks for Rachel to be married. Laban deceives Jacob by having him marry Leah instead. Jacob is incensed as he does not love Leah and did not want her. Laban gets another seven years of labor out of Jacob in exchange for letting him marry Rachel.	21-30	Laban doesn't seem to be a nice or upfront person. Again, the irony of Jacob being tricked with the "older and the younger" is just too appropriate.
31-34	God sees Jacob despises Leah and gives her children while withholding that blessing from Rachel. Leah has Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah and then has no more children at that time.	31-34	God's promise to Jacob will be fulfilled although God sees fit to do it his way. He blesses Leah because she is despised by Jacob. The children's names are wordplays on her comments as each is born. Reuben sounds like "See" Simeon sounds like "Hear" Levi sounds like "Attach" Juda sounds like "Praise" Notice how Leah hopes the first three will endear her to Jacob, but Judah's birth causes her to praise God.

2. Observation		3. Interpretation	
What Does It Say?		What Does It Mean?	
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	<b>Chapter 30</b>		
1-24	Rachel is envious and blames Jacob because she has no children. Jacob correctly identifies that God has withheld children from her so Rachel has Jacob sleep with her maid. Her maid conceives twice and has two children. Leah gives her maid to Jacob and he has children with her. After the deal with Rachel over the mandrakes, Leah has two more sons and a daughter. God then allows Rachel to have one more son.	1-24	Family rivalries, favorites, human intervention in God's plan. Some things never change. The names are again a wordplay. Dan sounds like "judged." Naphtali sounds like "wrestling." Gad sounds like "good fortune." Asher sounds like "happy." Issachar sounds like "wages." Zebulun sounds like "honor." Joseph means "may he add" and sounds like "taken away."
25-43	Jacob now wishes to take his family back to Canaan. Laban is not keen on losing someone that has made him wealthy. Laban asks Jacob what he wants, and Jacob asks for all the odd sheep – speckled, spotted, dark – those normally considered less than the pure white sheep. Laban agrees and immediately tries to defraud Jacob by removing all such sheep from the flock and sending them far away. Jacob then starts placing sticks with streaks and spots in the watering troughs when the sheep come to drink. He only does it when the strongest sheep are present, so he builds up strong flocks of the type of sheep he asked from Laban. He does not place the sticks in the trough in front of the weaker sheep, so his flocks are strong and vigorous while Laban's grow weaker.	25-43	Laban tries his best to keep Jacob around to continue working for him. To the point of stealing what was promised. Jacob does something that sounds ridiculous with the branches. We can see the hand of God in this again as Jacob is able to build up a strong flock of spotted, streaked, and dark sheep in spite of Laban's attempt to defraud him.

4. Correlation		5. Application
Where Else Is It Explained?		What Will I Do About It?
Verse		
	<b>Chapter 29</b>	
1-8		
9-20	Hosea 12:12	
21-30	Genesis 31:41	
31-34	Genesis 31:42 Deuteronomy 21:15	
	<b>Chapter 30</b>	
1-24	Luke 1:25	
25-43	Genesis 31:6 Genesis 31:8	

## **6. Conclusions**

## **7. One Personal Application**

