

Jacob loves Rachel

Genesis 29.1-20

1. True Love (*magazine in East Africa*)

Jacob went on MISSION – FIND a WIFE from BACK HOME

Isaac called for Jacob and blessed him and commanded him: "Do not marry a Canaanite woman. Go at once to Paddan Aram, to the house of your mother's father Bethuel. Take a wife for yourself there, from among the daughters of Laban, your mother's brother. Genesis 28.1,2

Sounds like WORD you get from FAMILIES in AFRICA

“Study in BJ but MARRY someone from HOME!”

MANY of YOU have come from CHRISTIAN FAMILIES back HOME

JACOB had GODLY Family too > Born with COVENANT BLESSING

"I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Genesis 28.12-15

READ Chapter 29 – Man who WORE the PROMISE of God looks for a LADY

v. 3 When all the flocks were gathered there, the shepherds would roll the stone away from the well's mouth and water the sheep. Then they would return the stone to its place over the mouth of the well.

Lived 3 years in Arua, Uganda – Idi Amin’s HOMETOWN – N.W. Uganda

Every YEAR we had 2 to 3 Months of DRY SEASON – Every DROP Precious

This VERSE Emphasizes how CRITICAL Water was in BARREN Palestine



WATER Hole was CENTRAL Meeting Place of VILLAGE

JACOB went there to try to FIND his FAMILY MEMBERS

"Do you know Laban, Nahor's grandson?" "Yes, we know him," they answered. 6
Then Jacob asked them, "Is he well?" "Yes, he is," they said, "and *here comes his daughter Rachel* with the sheep." Genesis 29.5,6

WOW! There SHE is! So HOT the WATER Started BOILING!

Rachel was lovely in form, and beautiful. Genesis 29.17

"Look," he said, "the sun is still high; it is not time for the flocks to be gathered. Water the sheep and take them back to pasture." "We can't," they replied, "until all the flocks are gathered and the stone has been rolled away from the mouth of the well. Then we will water the sheep." Genesis 29.7,8

JACOB does not want to Stand in SUN SWEATING wants to go have

COOL DRINK with this HOT BABE he just MET named RACHEL

So he DEFIES Local CUSTOMS – OPENS the Water AHEAD of PROPER Time

When Jacob saw Rachel daughter of Laban, his mother's brother, and Laban's sheep, he went over and rolled the stone away from the mouth of the well and watered his uncle's sheep. Genesis 29.10

JACOB was INSPIRED to IMPRESSIVE FEAT of GALLANTRY

NO LIMIT to what LOVE will ALLOW you to DO!

Then Jacob kissed Rachel and began to weep aloud. Genesis 29.11

Very DRAMATIC and ROMANTIC Moment!

Gives her WATER and a BIG WET KISS

Rachel's FATHER LABAN comes RUNNING – Who kissed my Daughter??

As soon as Laban heard the news about Jacob, his sister's son, he hurried to meet him. He embraced him and kissed him and brought him to his home... Genesis 29.13

JACOB PROMISES

Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, "I'll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel."
Genesis 29.18

JACOB DELIVERS on his Promise

So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her.
Genesis 29.20

HAPPILY EVER AFTER!!! RIGHT!?Well, MAYBE NOT....

2. True Story

this LOVE – that looks so GREAT – is really BLIND / BEAUTY is only Skin Deep

Let us see the REAL RACHEL –

WEDDING Night – Big SURPRISE for JACOB -

Laban...took his daughter Leah and gave her to Jacob, and Jacob lay with her...
The next 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?" Laban replied, "It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one. Finish this daughter's bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, in return for another seven years of work." And Jacob did so. He finished the week with Leah, and then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife.

Genesis 29.22-28

RACHEL involved in WEDDING NIGHT SURPRISE – Not SURE if Willing?

Maybe she HATED her CHEATING Father > Soon BEHAVES like Him

THROWING the WRONG WOMEN into her HUSBAND'S BED

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!" ...Then she said, "Here is Bilhah, my maidservant. Sleep with her so that she can bear children for me and that through her I too can build a family." Genesis 30.1,3

LIKE Africa > SHAME if you are BARREN > She MUST have a CHILD

Even if she NEEDS to BEHAVE Badly – AND Force Husband to MISBEHAVE
 CREATED BLENDED Families – Kids and Wives – Fights, Jealousy, Strife

Rachel's servant Bilhah conceived again and bore Jacob a second son. Then Rachel said, "I have had a great struggle with my sister, and I have won."
 Genesis 30.7,8

Rachel was WEAK in ADDITION > Leah had 4 Sons, Rachel had just 2
 But STRONG in ARROGANCE > Sons not GIFT of God but HER TROPHIES

She (Leah) conceived again, and when she gave birth to a son she said, "This time I will praise the LORD." So she named him Judah. Then she stopped having children.
 Genesis 29.35

LEAH not as BEAUTIFUL on OUTSIDE / More RADIANT on the INSIDE
 Woman who FEARS the Lord and PRAISES Him for GIFT of her SONS
 JUDAH means PRAISE THE LORD

But she got TIRED of RACHEL'S BOASTING > Got back in Competition

When Leah saw that she had stopped having children, she took her maidservant Zilpah and gave her to Jacob as a wife. Leah's servant Zilpah bore Jacob a son. Then Leah said, "What good fortune!" So she named him Gad. Genesis 30.9

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." But she said to her, "Wasn't it enough that you took away my husband? Will you take my son's mandrakes too?" "Very well," Rachel said, "he can sleep with you tonight in return for your son's mandrakes." 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.
 Genesis 30.14-16

One day in Late 1980's in NAKASERO Market in KAMPALA

Man selling LOVE APPLES > Woman Paid HIGH PRICE

Man so PLEASED with MONEY he PROMISES her "You will have 2 Children"

SAD Picture of COLLAPSE > HEART is BROKEN & HOME is Broken

Father treats them as PROPERTY > SOLD them for NOTHING!

Rachel and Leah replied, "Do we still have any share in the inheritance of our father's estate? Does he not regard us as foreigners? Not only has he sold us, but he has used up what was paid for us." Genesis 31.14-15

Now we see REAL JACOB –

He is a MAN on the RUN....

Been RUNNING since BIRTH, born FEW MINUTES behind ESAU
spent REST of HIS LIFE trying very hard to CATCH UP!

When TWIN Brothers still LIVED AT HOME...

Jacob replied, "First sell me your birthright." "Look, I am about to die," Esau said.
"What good is the birthright to me?" Genesis 25.31,32

He STOLE the BIRTHRIGHT and the BLESSING of his BROTHER....

His father Isaac asked him, "Who are you?" "I am your son," he answered, "your firstborn, Esau." Isaac trembled violently and said, "Who was it, then, that hunted game and brought it to me? I ate it just before you came and I blessed him—and indeed he will be blessed!" When Esau heard his father's words, he burst out with a loud and bitter cry and said to his father, "Bless me—me too, my father!" But he said, "Your brother came deceitfully and took your blessing." Esau said, "Isn't he rightly named Jacob. He has deceived me these two times: He took my birthright, and now he's taken my blessing!" Genesis 27.32-36

Then as MARRIED MAN – Continues TREACHERY against Father in Law

Whenever the stronger females were in heat, Jacob would place the branches in the troughs in front of the animals so they would mate near the branches, but if the animals were weak, he would not place them there. So the weak animals went to Laban and the strong ones to Jacob. In this way the man grew exceedingly prosperous and came to own large flocks, and maidservants and menservants, and camels and donkeys. Genesis 30.41-43

LABAN vs. JACOB – BATTLE of TITANS – BOTH Champion CHEATERS
 JACOB'S Favorite Bible Verse: God helps them that help themselves!

JACOB loves RACHEL but ENDING is NOT BEAUTIFUL
 HONEYMOON was soon FOLLOWED by HEARTBREAK

3. True Problem

RACHEL's Problem – NOT with LEAH or LABAN...or even JACOB...

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!" Jacob became angry with her and said, "Am I in the place of God, who has kept you from having children?" Genesis 30.1,2

Rachel was NOT a GODLY Woman > Wanted GIFTS BUT NOT GIVER

Then God remembered Rachel; he listened to her and opened her womb. She became pregnant and gave birth to a son and said, "God has taken away my disgrace." She named him Joseph, and said, "May the LORD add to me another son." Genesis 30.22-24

God GRACIOUS > God helps those who DO NOT WANT to help themselves.

BLESSED with GIFT of God > NAME shows UNGRATEFULNESS

JOSEPH > Give me Another!

JACOB and RACHEL decide to RUN-AWAY from her Father's Household...

When Laban had gone to shear his sheep, Rachel stole her father's household gods.
Genesis 31.19

IDOLS > Symbol of FAMILY HEADSHIP – HEART was set on IDOLS!
ONE of SIGNS of TRUE SALVATION....

you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God 1 Thessalonians 1.9

RACHEL was BEAUTIFUL on OUTSIDE but NOT BORN-AGAIN on INSIDE
DEMANDED MORE Children > ONE MORE Son > LAST Act of her Life

Rachel began to give birth and had great difficulty. And as she was having great difficulty in childbirth, the midwife said to her, "Don't be afraid, for you have another son." As she breathed her last—for she was dying—she named her son Ben-Oni.
Genesis 35.16-18

BEN-ONI > Son of MY SORROW >> Her DYING Name “Mrs. SORROW”

RACHEL shows us NO LOVE on EARTH without LOVE from HEAVEN
LOVE comes from GOD – GOD is LOVE – NO Happiness without HOLINESS

2000 Years LATER Bible shows RACHEL STILL CRYING....

"A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more." Matthew 2.18

RACHEL CRYING for ETERNITY > Still SEARCHING for LOVE

True Problem of JACOB...RUNNING from Esau, Isaac, Laban...GOD

Met with GOD at BETHEL = word means HOUSE of GOD

God RENEWS COVENANT PROMISES to this SON of Abraham & Isaac

JACOB Prays to God...

Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear so that I return safely to my father's house, then the LORD will be my God and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth."
Genesis 28.20-22

NOT Words for CHURCH > Words for MARKETPLACE

NOT Heart of LOVE and FAITH > Heart CUNNING, DEALING, Manipulation

GIVE ME ALL I NEED > Health, Wealth, Blessings > I will give YOU 10%!

Look at PROMISE God gave to JACOB that night...

"I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."
Genesis 28.15

RELENTLESS Love of GOD > God LOVES US even when we HATE Him

Are YOU RUNNING from God?? GOD RUNS FASTER!

Are YOU FIGHTING with GOD? GOD FIGHTS HARDER!

ONE MORE LIFE CHANGING Night for JACOB ---

PREPARING to MEET OFFENDED Brother ESAU – HOPED for the Best

Jacob MADE best PLANS to PACIFY and PAY-OFF his Older Brother

Had NOT PLANNED on ATTACKER Jumping onto his BED in Darkness

So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. Genesis 32.24

JACOB was STRONG but this MAN was STRONGER

JACOB had GREAT ENDURANCE but this man had MUCH MORE

Was MAN just a ROBBER? was he MURDERER? NO! He was GOD!

Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared." Genesis 32.30

When PALESTINIAN Shepherd had STUBBORN SHEEP – RAN AWAY
Shepherd would BREAK LEGS of that SHEEP and CARRY THEM till Healed
God did NOT CRUSH Jacob but God CURED > Healed LOVELESSNESS

When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. Genesis 32.25

TOUCHED Hip with LITTLE FINGER > AGONIZING PAIN Stopped FIGHT!

Now BROKEN Man – KNEW he COULD NOT WIN in his Strength 1st Prayer
NOT a DEAL, Not DEMANDING what he could GET from GOD

Words of DESPERATION, BROKEN Man, Strength GONE – No Where to Turn

Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." (Told MOSES > No one sees FACE of God and LIVES) But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."
Genesis 32.26

That KIND of PRAYER > Sure to be ANSWERED > God Centered, Exalting

Jesus: "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." Matthew 7.13,14

EASY for JACOB to go down to HELL

HARD for ISRAEL to go through NARROW GATE to HEAVEN

Could RUN NO FURTHER / FIGHT No LONGER / No More Stealing, Tricks

LAST OUNCE of Strength CLINGS onto OMNIPOTENT, Almighty GOD

The LORD...will punish Jacob according to his ways and repay him according to his deeds. In the womb he grasped his brother's heel; as a man he struggled with God. He struggled with the angel and overcame him; he wept and begged for his favor. He found him at Bethel and talked with him there - the LORD God Almighty, the LORD is his name of renown! Hosea 12.2-5

JACOB LOVED RACHEL > Worked 14 YEARS for Her!

But DID NOT WORK – LIFE Together one of PAIN & DISAPPOINTMENT

ONLY HUMAN LOVE – GODLESS Love – Like Car without PETROL

LOVE without the GOD of LOVE is an EMPTY SHELL

What was DIFFERENCE between JACOB and RACHEL? – NOT MUCH

Both SELFISH – CUNNING – LOOKING FOR THEIR OWN WELFARE

ONE Difference > God in HIS Sovereign, Electing MERCY Met JACOB

God BROKE Him – BLESSED Him and BEGAN New Life for Him

NEW LIFE was INDICATED by NEW NAME...

"Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome." Genesis 32.28

ISRAEL = PRINCE WITH GOD > SAW God FACE to FACE

NEXT DAY > Made PEACE with Offended Brother Esau

LOVE for GOD TIED TOGETHER with LOVE for MAN

Have you been BAPTIZED? Do you have CHRISTIAN NAME? JACOB DID

But he could NOT be SAVED WITHOUT REPENTANCE!

Abandoning HIS PLANS, HIS POWER > throwing Himself on GOD'S Power

NIGHT at BETHEL > Jacob saw LADDER going into HEAVEN...

THAT LADDER still there for US to ENTER THE PRESENCE of Loving God

Jesus: "I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man." John 1.51

LOVE of God comes DOWN to US through JESUS
JESUS is ONLY MEDIATOR between GOD AND MAN
HIS Cross is that PATHWAY of HOLINESS TO HEAVEN

Come to HIM and SEE Heaven OPEN

LOVE from God, Love FOR God

NOW and FOREVER!

Genesis 29.1-20

1 Then Jacob continued on his journey and came to the land of the eastern peoples. 2 There he saw a well in the field, with three flocks of sheep lying near it because the flocks were watered from that well. The stone over the mouth of the well was large. 3 When all the flocks were gathered there, the shepherds would roll the stone away from the well's mouth and water the sheep. Then they would return the stone to its place over the mouth of the well. 4 Jacob asked the shepherds, "My brothers, where are you from?" "We're from Haran," they replied. 5 He said to them, "Do you know Laban, Nahor's grandson?" "Yes, we know him," they answered. 6 Then Jacob asked them, "Is he well?" "Yes, he is," they said, "and here comes his daughter Rachel with the sheep." 7 "Look," he said, "the sun is still high; it is not time for the flocks to be gathered. Water the sheep and take them back to pasture." 8 "We can't," they replied, "until all the flocks are gathered and the stone has been rolled away from the mouth of the well. Then we will water the sheep."

9 While he was still talking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she was a shepherdess. 10 When Jacob saw Rachel daughter of Laban, his mother's brother, and Laban's sheep, he went over and rolled the stone away from the mouth of the well and watered his uncle's sheep. 11 Then Jacob kissed Rachel and began to weep aloud. 12 He had told Rachel that he was a relative of her father and a son of Rebekah. So she ran and told her father. 13 As soon as Laban heard the news about Jacob, his sister's son, he hurried to meet him. He embraced him and kissed him and brought him to his home, and there Jacob told him all these things. 14 Then Laban said to him, "You are my own flesh and blood."

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." 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 eyes, but Rachel was lovely in form, and beautiful. 18 Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, "I'll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel."

19 Laban said, "It's better that I give her to you than to some other man. Stay here with me." 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.

