

## **Leah and Rachel**

Genesis 29:1-30

by Don Falkos

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Jacob arrived at the home of his mother's brother, Laban. Laban had two daughters. The elder was Leah and the younger Rachel, who was beautiful. Jacob had been there for about a month when Laban said, "Jacob, work for me. I'll be happy to pay you. What wages would you like?"

Jacob said, "I will work for you for seven years in exchange for your younger daughter, Rachel." Laban agreed.

Jacob loved Rachel so much that those seven years seemed like just a few days. Then Jacob went to Laban and said, "The seven years are up. It's time for me to marry Rachel."

Laban organized a great wedding feast that lasted well into the night. Then, under the cover of darkness, Laban escorted his daughter to Jacob's marriage bed. They consummated their marriage. But in the morning, the woman Jacob discovered in his bed was Laban's older daughter, Leah. He was furious and said to Laban, "How could you deceive me like this? I worked for you for seven years for Rachel, not Leah."

"Oh," said Laban, "in our country the custom is that the older daughter must marry before the younger. But do this. Wait until Leah's bridal week is over. At the end of those seven days, I will give you Rachel too – simply promise to work for me for another seven years."

So after Jacob had been married to Leah for seven days, Rachel became his wife as well.