

## “The Providence of God”

Genesis 29:1-30

Main Idea: The providence of God is always at work!

### RECAP

- **Genesis 25:29-34** Jacob tricks his brother, Esau, into selling him his birthright.
- **Genesis 27:1-40** Jacob deceives his father Issac, and steals Esau’s blessing.
- **Genesis 27:41** Esau hated Jacob and vowed to kill him.
- **Genesis 27:42-45** Rebekah tells Jacob to flee to Laban, her brother, who lives in Haran. (He would be gone 20+ years. Ref. 31:41).
- **Genesis 28:1-5** Isaac sends Jacob away under the covenant blessing to find a wife, setting him apart for God’s promised purposes.
- **Genesis 28:10-22** Jacob’s encounter with God in a Dream.

### WHAT IS THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD?

- Westminster Shorter Catechism | Q.11 “What is God’s Providence?”  
“God’s works of providence are His most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all His creatures and all their actions.”
- **Hebrews 1:3** “He upholds the universe by the word of his power.”
- **Colossians 1:17** “He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”

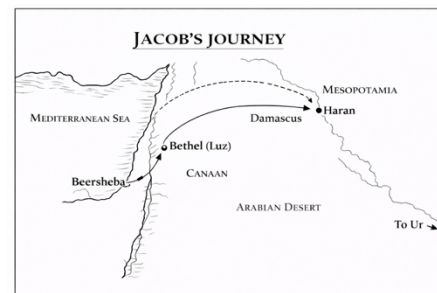
### THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD IN THE DAILY MOMENTS OF LIFE (vv.1-14)

#### 1. God Guides Jacob’s Journey and Steps (v.1)

- “He Journeyed” → “lifted up his feet” (Pep in his step).
- From Bethel (Luz) to Haran was about 500 miles.
- **Proverbs 16:9** “The heart of a man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.”

#### 2. God Orchestrates the Details & Divine Appointments (vv.2-14)

- Wells were central gathering places.
- Significant relationships began at wells.
  - Genesis 24 → Abraham’s servant meeting Rebekah.
  - Exodus 2 → Moses meeting his wife.
- “Kissed” in vv. 11 & 13 was a family affection type kiss.
- God was not just guiding Jacob to a place, but to a people.



### THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD IN THE DYSFUNCTIONAL MOMENTS OF LIFE (vv.15-30)

#### 1. The Agreement (vv.15-20)

- Laban is setting Jacob up.
- Jacob was obsessed and infatuated with Rachel.
- It was the custom of the day for a man to present a substantial gift, to the family of his future wife, known as the “Bride Price.” The bridal price was about 3 years of service.

#### 2. The Deceit (vv.21-27)

- The deceiver (Jacob) is deceived.
- Potential reasons for Jacob being deceived (text does not say).
  - Darkness → In a world without artificial lighting, darkness, can be pitch-black.
  - Wearing A Veil → This was the sign of a betrothed woman (Genesis 24:64-65).
  - Drunk → Jacob may have had too much wine at the wedding feast.

#### 3. The Outcome (vv.28-30)

- Two wives, favoritism, family tensions rising, sister rivalry.
- The providence of God is always at work even when mankind’s sin brings painful consequences and complicated relationships.
- Dysfunctional moments and outcomes do not derail God’s plan.
- The line of the Messiah comes through this dysfunctional situation/family.

### Romans 8:28

“For those who love God, all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purposes.”

### **Reflection Questions:**

1. Where in your everyday, "ordinary" life might you be overlooking God's hand at work right now?
2. Where do you struggle to trust God's providence right now?
3. How have the "messy" or painful situations in your life shaped you, and how might God be using them even now?
4. Do you truly believe that nothing in your past or present is beyond God's redemption? What would it look like to live like that this week?