

## Chapter 29

*Iacob intertained by Laban, 15. ferueth him feuen yeares for Rachel, 23. but firft receiuing Lia, 27. feuen dayes after receiueth alfo Rachel, and ferueth for her feuen yeares more. 31. She remaining barren, Lia beareth foure fonnes.*

**I**acob therfore going on his iourney, came into the Eaſt countrie. <sup>2</sup> And he ſawe a wel in the field, and three flockes of ſheepe lying beſide it: for of it the beaſts were watered, and the mouth therof was cloſed with a great ſtone. <sup>3</sup> And the maner was when al the ſheepe were geathered togeather they did rowle of the ſtone, and after the ſheepe were refreshed they put it on the mouth of the wel againe. <sup>4</sup> And he ſaid to the ſheperds: Brethren, Whence are you? Who answered: Of Haran. <sup>5</sup> And he asked them, ſaying: Know you Laban the ſonne of Nachor? They ſaid: We do knowe him. <sup>6</sup> Is he in health? quoth he: He is in health, ſay they: And behold Rachel his daughter cometh with his flocke. <sup>7</sup> And Iacob ſaid: There is yet much day remaining, neither is it time to bring the flockes into the foulds againe: firſt geue the ſheep drinke, and ſo bring them backe to feede. <sup>8</sup> Who answered: We can not, til al the cattel be gethered together: and we remoue the ſtone from the wels mouth, that we may water the flockes. <sup>9</sup> They were yet ſpeaking, and behold Rachel came with her fathers ſheepe: for ſhe fed the flocke. <sup>10</sup> Whom when Iacob had ſeene, and knew her to be his cofen germaine, and that they were the ſheepe of Laban his vncl: he remoued the ſtone, wherwith the wel was cloſed. <sup>11</sup> And hauing watered the flocke, he <sup>a</sup>kiffed her: and lifting vp his voice wept, <sup>12</sup> and he told her that he was her fathers brother, and the ſonne of Rebecca: but ſhe in haſt went and told her father. <sup>13</sup> Who when he heard

<sup>a</sup> S. Auguſtin (*q. 87. in Gen.*) cōmendeth familiar kiffing of kinsfolke and frendes as a laudable cuſtome in ſome countries. It is no where more ciuil & modeſt then in England.

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that Iacob his fifters fonne was come, he ranne forth to mete him: and embracing him, and hartely kiffing him, brought him into his houle. And when he had heard the caufes of his iourney, <sup>14</sup> he answered: Thou art my bone and my flefh. And after the dayes of one moneth were expired, <sup>15</sup> he faid to him: becaufe thou art my brother, fhalt thou ferue me gratis? Tel me what wages wilt thou take. <sup>16</sup> He had in dede two daughters, the name of the elder was Lia: and the younger was called Rachel. <sup>17</sup> But Lia was bleare eyed: Rachel wel fauored, and of a bewtiful countenance. <sup>18</sup> Whom Iacob louing, faid: I wil ferue thee for Rachel thy younger daughter, feauen yeares. <sup>19</sup> Laban answered: It is better that I geue her to thee then to an other man, tary with me. <sup>20</sup> Iacob therfore ferued for Rachel feuen yeares: and they femed a few dayes becaufe of the greatnes of his loue. <sup>21</sup> And he faid to Laban: geue me my wife: becaufe now the time is complete, that I may companie with her. <sup>22</sup> Who hauing bid a great number of his freinds to the feaft, made the mariage. <sup>23</sup> And at night <sup>a</sup>he brought in Lia his daughter to him, <sup>24</sup> geuing his daughter a hand-maid, named Zelpha. With whom when Iacob had companied after the maner, when morning was come he faw Lia: <sup>25</sup> and he faid to his father in lawe: What is it that thou dideft meane to doe? did not I ferue thee for Rachel? why haft thou deceiued me? <sup>26</sup> Laban answered: It is not the cuftome in this place, that we beftowe the younger in mariage firft. <sup>27</sup> Make vp the <sup>b</sup>weeke of dayes of this match: and I wil geue thee this fame alfo, for the worke that thou fhalt ferue me other feauen yeares. <sup>28</sup> He yielded to his pleafure: and after the weeke was pafte, he married Rachel to wife: <sup>29</sup> to whom her father had deliuered Bala for to be her feruant. <sup>30</sup> And hauing at length obtained the mariage that he wished, he

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<sup>a</sup> Laban greuously offended, neither could Lia be excufed, but Iacob was innocent, in this fact.

<sup>b</sup> After feuen daies he had Rachel who was his firft fpoufe. *S. Hierom Tradit. Heb. S. Aug. q. 89. in Gen.*

preferred the loue of the later before the former, feruing with him other feauen yeares. <sup>31</sup> And our Lord feing that he despised Lia, opned her wombe, her fifter remaining barren. <sup>32</sup> Who conceaued and bare a fonne, and called his name Ruben, faying: Our Lord faw mine affliction: now my hufband wil loue me. <sup>33</sup> And againe she conceaued and bare a fonne, and faid: For becaufe our Lord heard that I was contemned, he hath geuen this alfo to me: and she called his name Simeon. <sup>34</sup> And she conceaued the third time, and bare an other fonne: and faid: Now alfo my hufband wil be ioyned to me, for becaufe I haue borne him three fonnes: and therfore she called his name, Leui. <sup>35</sup> The fourth time she conceaued and bare a fonne, and faid: Now wil I confeffe to our Lord. And for this she called him Iuda: and she left bearing.