

Chapter 30

Rachel yet barren, deliuereth her handmaide to Iacob, who beareth two fonnes. 9. Lia ceasing to beare geueth her handmaid alfo, and she beareth two more. 17. Then Lia beareth other two fonnes and one daughter. 22. Rachel beareth Ioseph. 25. Iacob defirous to returne home, is hyred to stay for a certaine part of the stockes increafe. 43. Wherby he becometh exceeding rich.

And Rachel feing she was vnfruitful, ^aenuied her sifter, and said to her husband: Geue me children, otherwise I shal dye. ² With whom Iacob being angrie answered: Am I as God, who hath deprived thee of the fruite of thy wombe? ³ But she said: I haue here my seruant Bala: Companie with her, that she may beare vpon my knees, and I may haue children of her. ⁴ And she gaue him Bala vnto ^bmariage: who, ⁵ when her husband had companied with her, conceaued and bare a fonne. ⁶ And Rachel said: Our Lord hath iudged for me, and hath heard my voice, geuing me a fonne, and therefore she called his name, Dan. ⁷ And againe Bala conceauing bare an other, ⁸ for whom Rachel said: God hath compared me with my sifter, and I haue preuailed: and she called him Nepthali. ⁹ Lia perceauing that she had left bearing, deliuered Zelpha her handmaid to her husband. ¹⁰ Who conceauing and bringing forth a fonne, ¹¹ she said: Happely. And therefore called his name Gad. ¹² Zelpha alfo bare an other. ¹³ And Lia said: This is for my bleffednes: for wemen wil cal me bleffed. Therefore she called him, Afer. ¹⁴ And Ruben going forth in the time of wheat haruest into the field, found mandragores: which he brought to his mother Lia. And Rachel said: Geue me part of thy fonnes

^a Not properly enuie, but grieffe & lawful emulation. *S. Aug. li. 22. c. 54. cont. Faust.*

^b Of pluralitie of wiues see *pag. xxx*

a)mandragores. ¹⁵ She answered: Doeſt thou thinke it a ſmal matter, that thou haſt taken my huſband from me, vnleſſe thou take alſo my fonnes mandragores? Rachel ſaid: For thy fonnes mandragores let him ſleepe with thee this night. ¹⁶ And when Iacob returned at euen from the field, Lia went out to meete him, and ſaid: Companie with me, becauſe with wages I haue hired thee for my fonnes mandragores. And he ſlept with her that night. ¹⁷ And God heard her prayers: and ſhe conceaued and bare the fifth fonne, ¹⁸ and ſaid: God hath geuen me a reward, becauſe I gaue my handmaid to my huſband. And ſhe called his name Iſſachar. ¹⁹ Againe Lia conceauing, bare the fixt fonne, ²⁰ and ſaid: God hath endowed me with a good dowrie: this turne alſo my huſband wil be with me, for becauſe I haue borne him fix fonnes, and therefore ſhe called his name, Zabulon. ²¹ After whom ſhe bare a daughter, name Dina. ²² Our Lord alſo remembring Rachel, heard her, and opened her wombe. ²³ Who conceaued, and bare a fonne, ſaying: God hath taken away my reproch. ²⁴ And ſhe called his name, Iofeph, ſaying: Our Lord adde to me an other fonne. ²⁵ And when Iofeph was borne, Iacob ſaid to his father in lawe: Diſmiſſe me that I may returne into my countrie, and to my land. ²⁶ Geue me my wiues, and my children, for whom I haue ſerued thee, that I may depart: thou knoweſt the ſeruice that I haue ſerued thee. ²⁷ Laban ſaid to him: Let me finde grace in thy fight: I haue learned by experience, that God hath bleſſed me for thy ſake: ²⁸ appoint thee wages which I ſhal geue thee. ²⁹ But he answered: Thou knoweſt how I haue ſerued thee, and how great thy poſſeſſion hath benne in my hands. ³⁰ Thou hadeſt a ſmal thing before I came to thee, and now thou art made rich: and our Lord hath bleſſed thee at my coming in. It is reaſon therefore that once I prouide alſo for mine owne houſe. ³¹ And Laban ſaid: What ſhal I geue thee? But he ſaid: I wil

^a Holie Scripture (faith S. Auguſtine) would neuer haue mentioned ſuch womanlie deſires, but to admoniſh vs to ſeke great miſeries therein. *li. 22. c. 56. cont. Fauſtum.*

nothing: but if thou wilt doe that which I demande, I wil fede, and kepe thy sheepe again. ³² Goe round about al thy flockes, and separte al the shepe of diuers colours, of speckled flyfe: and whatfoeuer shal be ruffet and spotted, and of diuers colours, afwel in the shepe, as in the goates, shal be my wages. ³³ And my iustice shal answer for me to morowe, before thee when the time of the bargaine shal come: and al that shal not be of diuers colours, and spotted, and ruffet, afwel in the shepe as in the goates, shal accuse me of theft. ³⁴ And Laban said: I like wel that thou demandest. ³⁵ And he separted the same day the shee goates, and the shepe, and the he goates, and the rammes of diuers colours, and spotted: and al the flocke of one coloure, that is of white and blacke flyfe, he deliuered in the hand of his sonnes. ³⁶ And he put a space of three dayes iourney betwixt him and his sonne in lawe, who fed the rest of his flocke. ³⁷ Iacob therefore ^a)taking grene rodde of the poplare, and of the almond, and of the plaine trees, in part pilled them: and when the barkes were taken of, in the parts that were pilled, there appeared whitnes: but the parts that were whole, remayned grene: and by this meanes the colour was made diuers. ³⁸ And he put them in the troughes, where the water was poured out: that when the flockes should come to drinke, they might haue the rodde before their eyes, and in the sight of them conceaue. ³⁹ And it came to passe that in the verie heate of the ramming, the shepe beheld the rodde, and brought forth spotted, and of diuers colours, and speckled. ⁴⁰ And Iacob diuided the flocke, and put the rodde in the troughes before the eyes of the rammes: and al the white and the blacke were Labans: and the rest, Iacobs, when the flockes were separted one from the other. ⁴¹ Therefore when the ewes went to ramme, in the prime time, Iacob put the rodde in the troughes of water before the eyes of the rammes, and of the ewes,

^a Iacob did iustly vse this meanes to recouer that which Laban withheld from him, being due for the dowrie of his wiues, and recompence for his seruice. *Rupert. li. 7. c. 39. in Gen.*

that in looking vpon them they might conceaue: ⁴² but when the later comming was, and the laft conceauing, he did not put them. And thofe that were late warde, became Labans: and they of the prime time, Iacobs. ⁴³ And the man was enriched beyond meafure, and he had manie flockes, wemen feruantes and men feruants, camels and affes.