

## 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 Iofeph. 25. Iacob defirous to returne home, is hyred to ftay for a certaine part of the stockes increafe. 43. Wherby he becometh exceeding rich.*

**A**nd Rachel feing ſhe was vnfruitful, <sup>a</sup>enuied her fifter, and ſaid to her hufband: Geue me children, otherwiſe I ſhal dye. <sup>2</sup> With whom Iacob being angrie answered: Am I as God, who hath deprived thee of the fruite of thy wombe? <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> And ſhe gaue him Bala vnto <sup>b</sup>mariage: who, <sup>5</sup> when her hufband had companied with her, conceaued and bare a fonne. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> And againe Bala conceauing bare an other, <sup>8</sup> for whom Rachel ſaid: God hath compared me with my fifter, and I haue preuailed: and ſhe called him Nepthali. <sup>9</sup> Lia perceauing that ſhe had left bearing, deliuered Zelpha her handmaid to her hufband. <sup>10</sup> Who conceauing and bringing forth a fonne, <sup>11</sup> ſhe ſaid: Happely. And therefore called his name Gad. <sup>12</sup> Zelpha alfo bare an other. <sup>13</sup> And Lia ſaid: This is for my bleffednes: for wemen wil cal me bleffed. Therefore ſhe called him, Afer. <sup>14</sup> And Ruben going forth in the time of wheat harueft into the field, found mandragores: which he brought to his mother Lia. And Rachel ſaid: Geue me part of thy fonnes <sup>c</sup>mandragores.

<sup>a</sup> Not properly enuie, but grieſe & lawful emulation. *S. Aug. li. 22. c. 54. cont. Fauſt.*

<sup>b</sup> Of pluralitie of wiues ſee *pag. xxx*

<sup>c</sup> Holie Scripture (faith S. Auguſtine) would neuer haue mentioned ſuch womanlie defires, but to admoniſh vs to feke great miſeries therein. *li. 22. c. 56. cont. Fauſtum.*

<sup>15</sup> 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 fleepe with thee this night.

<sup>16</sup> 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 flept with her that night.

<sup>17</sup> And God heard her prayers: and ſhe conceaued and bare the fifth fonne,

<sup>18</sup> and ſaid: God hath geuen me a reward, becauſe I gaue my handmaid to my huſband. And ſhe called his name Iffachar.

<sup>19</sup> Againe Lia conceauing, bare the fixt fonne,

<sup>20</sup> 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.

<sup>21</sup> After whom ſhe bare a daughter, name Dina.

<sup>22</sup> Our Lord alſo remembering Rachel, heard her, and opened her wombe.

<sup>23</sup> Who conceaued, and bare a fonne, ſaying: God hath taken away my reproch.

<sup>24</sup> And ſhe called his name, Iofeph, ſaying: Our Lord adde to me an other fonne.

<sup>25</sup> 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.

<sup>26</sup> 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.

<sup>27</sup> Laban ſaid to him: Let me finde grace in thy fight: I haue learned by experience, that God hath bleſſed me for thy ſake:

<sup>28</sup> appoint thee wages which I ſhal geue thee.

<sup>29</sup> But he answered: Thou knoweſt how I haue ſerued thee, and how great thy poſſeſſion hath benne in my hands.

<sup>30</sup> Thou hadeſt a ſmal thing before I came to thee, and now thou art made rich: and our Lord hath bleſſed thee at my comming in. It is reaſon therefore that once I prouide alſo for mine owne houſe.

<sup>31</sup> And Laban ſaid: What ſhal I geue thee? But he ſaid: I wil nothing: but if thou wilt doe that which I demande, I wil fede, and kepe thy ſheepe again.

<sup>32</sup> Goe round about al thy flockes, and ſeparate al the ſhepe of diuers colours, of ſpeckled flyſe: and whatſoeuer ſhal be

ruffet and fpotted, and of diuers colours, afwel in the shepe, as in the goates, shal be my wages. <sup>33</sup> And my iuftice shal anfwer for me to morowe, before thee when the time of the bargaine shal come: and al that shal not be of diuers colours, and fpotted, and ruffet, afwel in the shepe as in the goates, shal accufe me of theft. <sup>34</sup> And Laban faid: I like wel that thou demandeft. <sup>35</sup> And he feperated the fame day the shee goates, and the shepe, and the he goates, and the rammes of diuers colours, and fpotted: and al the flocke of one coloure, that is of white and blacke flyfe, he deliuered in the hand of his fonnes. <sup>36</sup> And he put a fpace of three dayes iourney betwixt him and his fonne in lawe, who fed the reft of his flocke. <sup>37</sup> Iacob therefore <sup>a</sup>)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. <sup>38</sup> 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 fight of them conceaue. <sup>39</sup> And it came to paffe that in the verie heate of the ramming, the shepe beheld the rodde, and brought forth fpotted, and of diuers colours, and speckled. <sup>40</sup> 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 reft, Iacobs, when the flockes were feperated one from the other. <sup>41</sup> 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, that in looking vpon them they might conceaue: <sup>42</sup> 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.

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<sup>a</sup> Iacob did iuftly vfe this meanes to recouer that which Laban withheld frō him, being due for the dowrie of his wiues, and recompence for his feruice. *Rupert. li. 7. c. 39. in Gen.*

<sup>43</sup> And the man was enriched beyond measure, and he had manie flockes, wemen seruantes and men seruants, camels and asses.