

Genesis 29:13–30

The Groom's Determination for His Bride

Main idea: The Lord Jesus is the Groom Whose determination for His bride overrules all others' plans, desires, and purposes.

¹³ Then it came to pass, when Laban heard the report about Jacob his sister's son, that he ran to meet him, and embraced him and kissed him, and brought him to his house. So he told Laban all these things. ¹⁴ And Laban said to him, "Surely you are my bone and my flesh." And he stayed with him for a month.

¹⁵ Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my relative, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what should your wages be?" ¹⁶ Now Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷ Leah's eyes were delicate, but Rachel was beautiful of form and appearance.

¹⁸ Now Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for Rachel your younger daughter."

¹⁹ And Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to another man. Stay with me." ²⁰ So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed only a few days to him because of the love he had for her.

²¹ Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in to her." ²² And Laban gathered together all the men of the place and made a feast. ²³ Now it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. ²⁴ And Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah as a maid. ²⁵ So it came to pass in the morning, that behold, it was Leah. And he said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served you? Why then have you deceived me?"

²⁶ And Laban said, "It must not be done so in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn. ²⁷ Fulfill her week, and we will give you this one also for the service which you will serve with me still another seven years."

²⁸ Then Jacob did so and fulfilled her week. So he gave him his daughter Rachel as wife also. ²⁹ And Laban gave his maid Bilhah to his daughter Rachel as a maid. ³⁰ Then Jacob also went in to Rachel, and he also loved Rachel more than Leah. And he served with Laban still another seven years.

Introduction

Like a tv series in which each succeeding passage is like a new episode of competing schemes and plots.

1. The cost of Laban's determination (to get Leah married and indentured labor)
 - a. His own morality
 - b. His daughters' morality
 - c. His children's and grandchildren's perpetual misery
2. The cost of Jacob's determination (to marry according to "chemistry")
 - a. Choosing like a pagan (cf. Gen 6:2)
 - b. Giving in to Laban's scheme
 - c. His own and his wives' morality
 - d. His own, his wives', and his children's misery
3. The cost of Christ's determination (to save every last chosen one of His bride—justifying, sanctifying, and glorifying them)
 - a. Much longsuffering with the sin of the world
 - b. Much longsuffering with the sin of His people generally
 - c. The cross itself
 - d. Much longsuffering with each and every one of His people's sins

Conclusion

The ultimate question of this Scripture is: what is the Lord determined to do? On the one hand, He is determined to expose the heinousness of sin. But, on the other hand, He is determined to keep His promises, establish a family on the earth, and by that family to come in the Person of His Son and save such sinners from all of the families of the earth!