

LADIES OF RENOWN

Genesis 29:15-35 Leah's Journey

Renown is about being widely known, respected, and admired.

A. Do You Know Where I Live? [Messy]

1. Have You Seen My Sister? [29:15-20]
2. It Was My Dad's Idea! [29:21-24]
3. Worst Week of My Life! [29:25-30]

B. Do You Know What Matters to Me? [Love]

She Was "Unloved" [Heb. *śə-nū-'āh* - Hated]

1. God's Mercy - She Was Determined [29:32]
2. God's Awareness - She Was Heard [29:33]
3. God's Blessing - She Was Hopeful [29:34]
4. God's Provision - She Was Satisfied [29:35]

C. Leah's Place in History [Renown]

1. Judah Blessed [Genesis 49:10-12]

The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples [nations]. [Genesis 49:10]

2. Clans of Judah [Micah 5:2]

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. [Micah 5:2]

3. The Lion of the Tribe of Judah [Revelation 5:1-5]

And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, . . ."

[Revelation 5:5a]

Genesis 29:15-20 Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" ¹⁶ Now Laban had two daughters. The name of the older was LēAH [*weary/weak lady*], and the name of the younger was Rachel. [*Lamb*] ¹⁷ LēAH's eyes were weak [*delicate*], but Rachel was beautiful in form and appearance. ¹⁸ Jacob loved Rachel. And he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." ¹⁹ Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." ²⁰ So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. [*Hosea 12:12*]

Genesis 29:21-24 Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may marry her, for my time is completed."²² So Laban gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast. ²³ But in the evening he took his daughter LēAH and brought her to Jacob, and they consummated their marriage. ²⁴ (Laban gave his female servant Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her servant.) [*Genesis 30:9-12*]

Genesis 29:25-30 And in the morning, behold, it was LēAH! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" ²⁶ Laban said, "It is not so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn. ²⁷ Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." ²⁸ Jacob did so, and completed her week. Then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife.

²⁹ (Laban gave his female servant Bilhah to his daughter Rachel to be her servant.) [*Genesis 30:3-7*] ³⁰ So Jacob and Rachel consummated their marriage also, and he loved Rachel more than LēAH, and served Laban for another seven years.

Genesis 29:31-35 When the Lord saw that Leah was hated [*H: unloved*], he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren. ³² And Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben, for she said, "Because the Lord has looked upon my affliction; [*Exodus 3:7; 4:31; Deuteronomy 26:7*] for now my husband will love me." ³³ She conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Because the Lord has heard that I am hated, he has given me this son also." And she called his name Simeon. ³⁴ Again she conceived and bore a son, and said, "Now this time my husband will be attached to me, because I have borne him three sons." Therefore his name was called Levi. ³⁵ And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, "This time I will praise the Lord." Therefore she called his name Judah. [*Matthew 1:2, Genesis 49:8*] Then she ceased bearing.

[1] Read Genesis 29:15-30. These verses provide insight into the family dynamic of Leah's family. How do the meanings of the daughters' names give us insight into how they were perceived by their dad? How did this affect the family dynamic and lead to Laban's motivation to do what he did?

[2] Read Genesis 29:32-35. What does Leah's perseverance and the names of her children tell us about her desire for authentic love? How does God respond? Why?

[3] Read Genesis 49:10-12, Micah 5:2, and Revelation 5:1-5.

How do these verses affirm God's love and divine calling for Leah?
[4] Pray asking the Lord to help you trust in His mercy, find hope in His blessings, and praise Him in all circumstances.