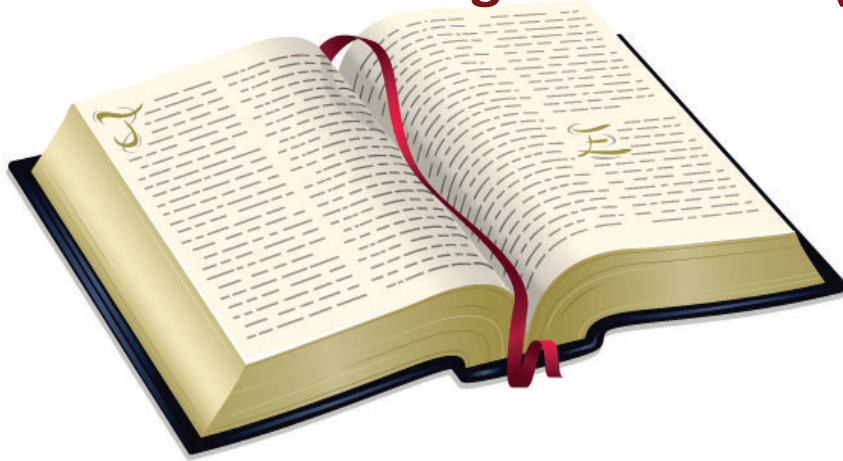


toServe Bible Study ITB-08

Answer Sheet New Living Translation (NLT)



In The Beginning Series

Twelve Lesson Study on the Book of Genesis

This Lesson - Genesis Chapter 29 - 32

Please read Genesis Chapter 29 before starting this section ☐ Check

Chapter 29

The Meaning of Genesis Chapter 29

After his journey east, Jacob arrives at the home of Laban, his mother's brother. Laban lives in Haran in Mesopotamia, outside of the land God has promised to Abraham, Isaac and, in the previous chapter, to Jacob. Jacob had left his homeland in Canaan, both to find a wife among his father's people (Genesis 28:1–2) and to escape the murderous rage of his older twin brother Esau (Genesis 27:41). Jacob's plan is to seek out the former household of his mother Rebekah, and her brother Laban.

First though Jacob comes across a well in a field. He asks some shepherds gathered near the well with their flocks if they know Laban and if he is thriving. They do know him and point to Laban's daughter Rachel, arriving with a flock of her own. Jacob immediately rolls the heavy stone away from the well and waters the sheep that belong to Rachel's father (Genesis 29:1–10).

1. (Genesis 29:1) As Jacob continued his journey, how does scripture refer to the land that he came to / arrive in? land of the east.
2. (Genesis 29:2) What was the first thing that Jacob noticed?
He saw a well in the distance
3. (Genesis 29:4-5) What was the first thing that Jacob asked the shepherd when he arrived at the well? "Where are you from, my friends?"
What was the shepherd's response?
"We are from Haran,"
What did Jacob ask them next?
"Do you know a man there named Laban, the grandson of Nahor?"
4. (Genesis 29:6) Who was the next person that came to the well, and whose daughter was she?
Her Name: Rachel
Daughter of: Laban
5. (Genesis 29:9) What was Rachel's occupation? shepherd
6. (Genesis 29:10) What did Jacob do when he saw Rachel with Laban's flock of sheep?
moved the stone from its mouth and watered his uncle's flock.
7. (Genesis 29:11-12) What was the first thing that Jacob did with Rachel?
kissed Rachel
Who did Jacob tell Rachel he was?
he was her cousin on her father's side
What did Rachel do after that?
ran and told her father
8. (Genesis 29:13-14) When Laban heard about Jacob he ran to the well and embraced him and brought him to his house. How long did Jacob stay with him? a month,
9. (Genesis 29:16) Jacob's uncle, Laban had two daughters. What were their names?
1st daughter: Leah 2nd daughter: Rachel

10. (Genesis 29:18) What commitment did Jacob make to Laban for his daughter Rachel?

“I’ll work for you for seven years if you’ll give me Rachel,
your younger daughter, as my wife.”

11. (Genesis 29:21-30) **In your own words**, explain the switch that Laban had done to Jacob about Rachel and Leah and why he did it.

12. (Genesis 29:31) What did the Lord observe about Leah? was unloved,

What did He do to Leah? He enabled her to have children

What did He do to Rachel? Rachel could not conceive.

13. (Genesis 29:32) Leah did conceive / become pregnant, and had a son.

What did she name him? Reuben

What did she think her husband would do now? He will love me

. (Genesis 29:33-35) After her first son was born Leah bore three more sons that are listed in this chapter. What were their names?

2nd son: Simeon

3rd son: Levi

4th son: Judah

Please read Genesis Chapter 30 before starting this section ☐ Check

Chapter 30

Genesis 30 is characterized by conflict between Jacob's wives and the birth of many children.

Chapter 29 described the treacherous circumstances of Jacob's marriage to a pair of sisters: Leah and Rachel. Expecting to marry Rachel after seven years of free labor, Jacob was stunned to find that his father-in-law had switched sisters during the wedding night. The end result of this ploy was Jacob being married to two women, and with another seven years of labor ahead of him. In response to Jacob's understandable resentment of Leah, God allowed her to conceive sons, while Rachel remained barren.

Chapter 30 begins with a despondent Rachel declaring to Jacob, *"Give me children, or I shall die!"* Not only is she desperate to become a mother, she envies her sister Leah who has already born four sons to Jacob. Jacob loves Rachel more than Leah, but he rightly corrects her that God alone is the giver of children (Genesis 30:1–2). This will become a theme of the chapter, one explored both in human and animal examples.

1. (Genesis 30:2) When Rachel really pressed Jacob on him giving her children, out of anger / becoming furious, how did Jacob respond to her?

"Am I God?" he asked. "He's the one who has kept you from having children!"

2. (Genesis 30:3-8) Since Rachel still could not have children she gave Jacob her maid servant Bilhah for him to have children with, for her.

How many children did Jacob and Bilhah have together? _____

What were their names?

1st son: Dan 2nd son: Naphtali

3. (Genesis 30:9-13) When Leah saw she had stopped bearing / getting pregnant / having children, she gave her maid Zilpah to Jacob to have more children.

She gave birth to two sons.

She called / named them?

1st son: Gad 2nd son: Asher

4. (Genesis 30:14-20) During the wheat harvest Reuben, Leah's son found some mandrake plant in the field which he brought to his mother. Rachel said to Leah, *"Please give me some of your son's mandrakes."* But she said to her, *"Wasn't it enough that you took away my husband? Will you take my son's mandrakes too?"* *"Very well," Rachel said, "he can sleep with you tonight in return for your son's mandrakes."* So when Jacob came in from the fields that evening, Leah went out to meet him. *"You must sleep with me," she said. "I have hired you with my son's mandrakes."* So he slept with her that night and she became pregnant. Leah conceived again and bore Jacob another son.

How many total sons did Leah now have with Jacob? two

What were the names of the last two? Issachar Zebulun

5. (Genesis 30:21) Jacob also had a daughter with Leah.

What was her name? Dinah

6. (Genesis 29:32 - 30:21)

List the seven children Jacob had with Leah?

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. <u>Reuben</u> | 2. <u>Simeon</u> | 3. <u>Levi</u> |
| 4. <u>Judah</u> | 5. <u>Issachar</u> | 6. <u>Zebulun</u> |
| 7. <u>Dinah</u> | | |

List the two sons Jacob had with Rachel's maid servant Bilhan?

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| 1. <u>Dan</u> | 2. <u>Naphtali</u> |
|---------------|--------------------|

List the two sons Jacob had with Leah's maid servant Zilpah?

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. <u>Gad</u> | 2. <u>Asher</u> |
|---------------|-----------------|

7. (Genesis 30:22-24) Then God remembered Rachel He listened to her and enabled her to conceive / have children. She said, "God has taken away my disgrace / reproach".

What did she name her first son? Joseph

8. (Genesis 30:25-32) After Rachel gave birth to a son, Jacob said to Laban, “Send me on my way so I can go back to my own homeland. Give me my wives and children, for whom I have served you, and I will be on my way. You know how much work I’ve done for you.” “What shall I give you?” Laban asked. “Don’t give me anything,” Jacob replied. “But if you will do this one thing for me, I will go on tending your flocks and watching over them: Let me go through all your flocks today and remove from them all special characteristics of the herd for my wages. What were the three characteristics?

1. every speckled or spotted sheep
2. every speckled or spotted goat
3. all the black sheep

9. (Genesis 30:33) After this, any animals in Jacob’s herd that did not have these characteristics would be considered what? stolen

Understand the Speckled and Spotted goats - Genesis 30:32-39?

Earlier, Laban convinced Jacob to work for seven years for the right to marry his daughter Rachel. However, Laban cheated Jacob by switching out his other daughter Leah, on the wedding night. This led to Jacob being indebted to Laban for another seven years (Genesis 29:18–30). Now, with all of these deals completed and Jacob demanding to be released along with his family, Laban likely believes Jacob has made another bad deal. He has agreed to Jacob’s offer that all the non-black goats and non-white sheep born from this point forward will belong to him. To keep those numbers even lower than they would naturally be, Laban has removed all the black sheep and speckled/spotted animals from the main herd. In fact, he has moved them three-day’s journey away.

Jacob though, is blessed by the Lord. As Genesis 31:7–12 will make clear, Jacob’s plan to claim all the spotted/speckled sheep and goats came from God. How he executes this plan may sound like some kind of folk magic, but it is the process by which God supernaturally blesses Jacob’s efforts to get more black sheep and mixed-color animals.

Jacob takes sticks fresh from three specific kinds of trees and strips the bark to reveal the white underneath. This is, in part, a play on words: the Hebrew term for “white” is *laban*. With God’s supernatural blessing Jacob will use these sticks to influence how many striped, spotted, and speckled animals are born.

Please read Genesis Chapter 31 before starting this section ☐ Check

Chapter 31

What does Genesis chapter 31 mean?

Genesis 31 is a long, eventful chapter that follows Jacob from his last days in a twenty-year career as Laban's servant. It ends with Jacob standing with his wives and children, as a free man, in the borderlands of the promised land of Canaan. It's not a smooth transition though, and this chapter details several controversies.

This chapter begins with two revelations. First, Jacob learns that Laban's sons are dangerously angry with him for taking such a large portion of Laban's profits, their future inheritance. Worse, Jacob hears that he has lost the favor of Laban himself. Second, God speaks to Jacob once more and commands him to return to his own people in Canaan. God promises to be with him (Genesis 31:1–3).

1. (Genesis 31: 1) What were Laban's sons saying about Jacob?

"Jacob has robbed our father of everything!" they said.

"He has gained all his wealth at our father's expense."

2. (Genesis 31:3) What did the Lord tell Jacob to do?

"Return to the land of your father and grandfather and to your relatives there,
and I will be with you."

3. (Genesis 31:5) Jacob called / sent word to Rachel and Leah to come to him. What did he want to tell them about their father?

I have noticed that your father's attitude toward me has changed.

4. (Genesis 31:5) How does Jacob refer to God in Genesis 31:5?

God of my father

5. (Genesis 31:6) What did Jacob want his wives to know about how he felt about their father? how hard I (he) have worked for your father

6. (Genesis 31:7) What did Jacob tell his wives that their father had done to him?

he has cheated me, changing my wages ten times.

How did Jacob say he was protected from physical harm by their father?

God has not allowed him to do me any harm.

7. (Genesis 31:8-9) Jacob tells his wives how his flock/livestock increased and their father's flock/livestock has decreased.

In your own words tell how God made this happen?

8. (Genesis 31:13) What does Jacob tell Rachel and Leah God wants Jacob to do?

"Now get ready and leave this country and return to the land of your birth."

9. (Genesis 31:14) What was Rachel and Leah's response to Jacob after he told them about their father?

"That's fine with us! We won't inherit any of our father's wealth anyway."

10. (Genesis 31:19) When Laban had gone to shear his sheep what did Rachel do before she left with Jacob and her family? Rachel stole her father's household idols

and took them with her.

11. (Genesis 31:22) How long had Jacob, his wives and family been gone before Laban was told?

Three days later

12. (Genesis 31:23) How many days did Laban pursue Jacob before he caught up with him? seven days

Where was Jacob when Laban overtook / caught him?

Hill country of Gilead

13. (Genesis 31:24) God came to Laban in a dream. What were God instructions to Laban?

"I'm warning you—leave Jacob alone!"

What does Genesis 31:44 mean? Let us make a covenant.

Jacob and Laban have both, apparently, said what they needed to say. Jacob has made the case that he served Laban faithfully and honestly for twenty years. Only the Lord's protection and blessing kept Laban's mistreatment from leaving Jacob with nothing (Genesis 31:10–12). Laban has confirmed that he believes he has the legal right to Jacob's wives, children, flocks, and possessions, since all were acquired while Jacob was a kind of indentured servant belonging to Laban. Laban has conceded however, that he can do nothing to claim what he sees as rightfully his because Jacob's God has warned Laban, in essence, to leave Jacob alone (Genesis 31:24).

Now Laban suggests they make a covenant to fully resolve their dispute. In part, the point of this covenant will be to establish a permanent separation between Laban and Jacob. Laban knows that he cannot compete against the blessing and protection of Jacob's God. He decides it will be better to simply keep his distance from now on and to keep Jacob from returning to claim any more of his property or inheritance.

14. (Genesis 31:44-46) After all of this, the two men have come to an agreement to simply part ways. Jacob agrees to this contract; what did he do to mark this pact?

took a stone and set it up as a monument.

What did he ask his brethren / relatives / family / kinsmen to do?

"Gather some stones, piled them in a heap."

15. (Genesis 31:47)

What did Laban call this place? Jegar-sahadutha

What did Jacob call this place? Galeed

What Laban called this place was in Aramaic language.

What Jacob called this place was in Hebrew language.

They both mean **witness heap**.

Please read Genesis Chapter 32 before starting this section ☐ Check

Chapter 32

What does Genesis chapter 32 mean?

Jacob has resolved his conflict with Laban and now returns to the land of Canaan. He faces another unresolved conflict however. He must pass near the region where his twin brother Esau lives to return home.

After being met by some angels of God and declaring that place *“God’s camp,”* Jacob begins working a strategy to know if he can make peace with Esau. Twenty years have passed since Jacob cheated Esau out of the family blessing. He did this by pretending to be Esau, fooling their blind father Isaac. Esau became murderous in response (Genesis 27). When their mother Rebekah learned of Esau’s plan to kill Jacob; he had literally run for his life to Laban’s household in Paddan-Aram (Genesis 28:1–5).

Now returning to his homeland, Jacob could not know if Esau had forgiven him. Jacob begins by sending messengers to Esau to let him know he is back in the land, that he is wealthy, and that he hopes to find favor in Esau’s sight. He calls Esau lord and himself Esau’s servant (Genesis 32:1–5).

1. (Genesis 32:1-2) When Jacob went on his way and the angels of God met him, what did he call that place? “This is God’s camp!”
(Mahanaim means ‘Two Camp, or Double Camp’.)

2. (Genesis 32:4-5) When Jacob sent a message to Esau, his brother, who did he refer to himself as? servant Jacob
Who did he refer to Esau as? my lord

3. (Genesis 32:6) When the messenger returned to Jacob after meeting with Esau, who did the messenger say was coming with Esau? 400 men

4. (Genesis 32:7-8) Why did Jacob divid his people, flocks, herds and camels into two groups? “If Esau meets one group and attacks it, perhaps the other group can escape.”

5. (Genesis 32:14) What were the nine gifts that Jacob selected for his brother Esau?

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. <u>200 female goats</u> | 2. <u>20 male goats</u> |
| 3. <u>200 ewes</u> | 4. <u>20 rams</u> |
| 5. <u>30 female camels with their young</u> | 6. <u>40 cows</u> |
| 7. <u>10 bulls</u> | 8. <u>20 female donkeys</u> |
| 9. <u>10 male donkeys</u> | |

6. (Genesis 32:28) What big change did the Man make after wrestling with Jacob?

"Your name will no longer be Jacob," the man told him.

"From now on you will be called Israel."

What does Genesis 32:25 mean? Wrestling with Man.

Jacob has remained alone in the night on one side of the Jabbok River after his family and all he owns have crossed over to the other side, headed toward a reunion with his estranged brother Esau. Without explanation, Jacob finds himself grappling with an unidentified man. The two have engaged in real, physical combat, wrestling with each other until daybreak. We will learn in the following verses that this mysterious man is somehow God Himself in physical form.

The symbolism of this event is deep, and better understood in the context of the Hebrew words used, as well as Jacob's own history. The nearby stream is named Yab'bōq, meaning "emptying." Jacob's name in Hebrew is Ya'aqōb, which means "heel-grabber." And the combat described here is yē'ābēq, meaning "grappling, wrestling." Jacob's past is one of "wrestling" with the will of God, always seeming to have a scheme or a plot prepared to get him his way. Crucially, Jacob has also been on both sides of impersonation—lying about one's identity.

In wounding Jacob's hip, the man takes a decided advantage. When that injury occurs Jacob finds himself in a place of total helplessness; he cannot hope to win from that point forward. And yet, he does not seem to give up, insisting on a blessing. This insistence all but proves that Jacob knows he is not struggling against a normal mortal.

There is some controversy over the use of the phrase "could not" or "was not able" when it comes to God's contest here with Jacob. Some object to the idea that God "can't" out-grapple a human being. However, the language used is relatively clear. The phrase lō yā'kōl is also used in verses such as Genesis 13:6, Exodus 40:35, and 1 Kings 5:3, where it means "was unable."

7. (Genesis 32:32) Why do the Israelites not eat the tendon attached to the socket of the hip? Because of what happened that night when the man strained the tendon of Jacob's hip.

ESV ☐, KJV ☐, NIV ☐, NKJV ☐, NLT ☐, Other: _____

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