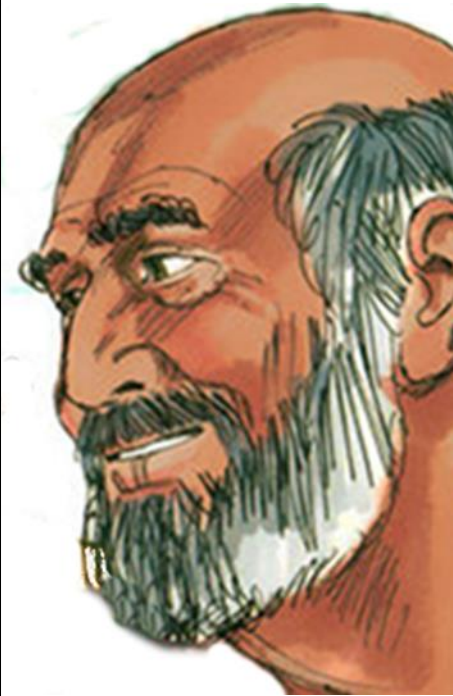
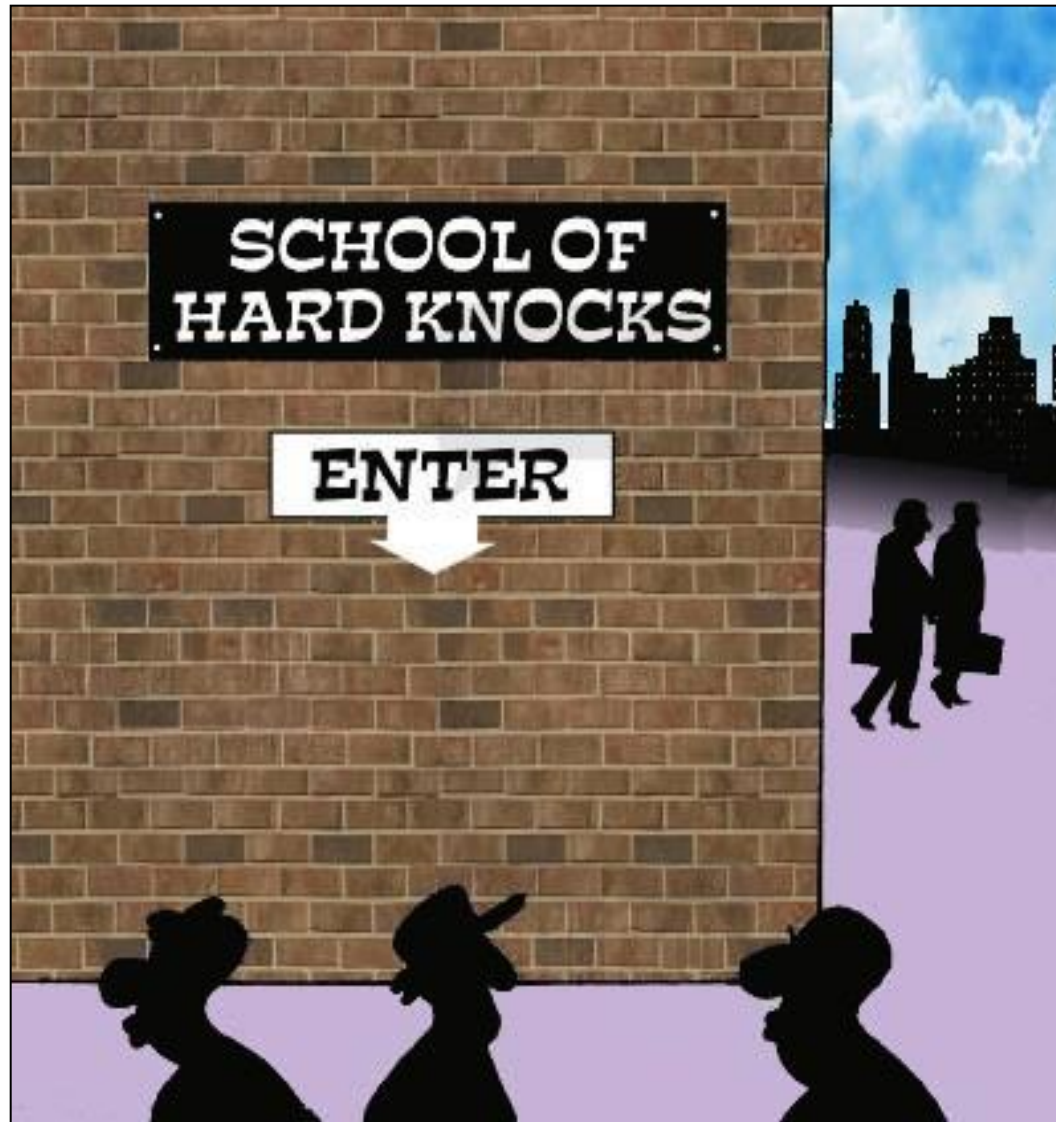
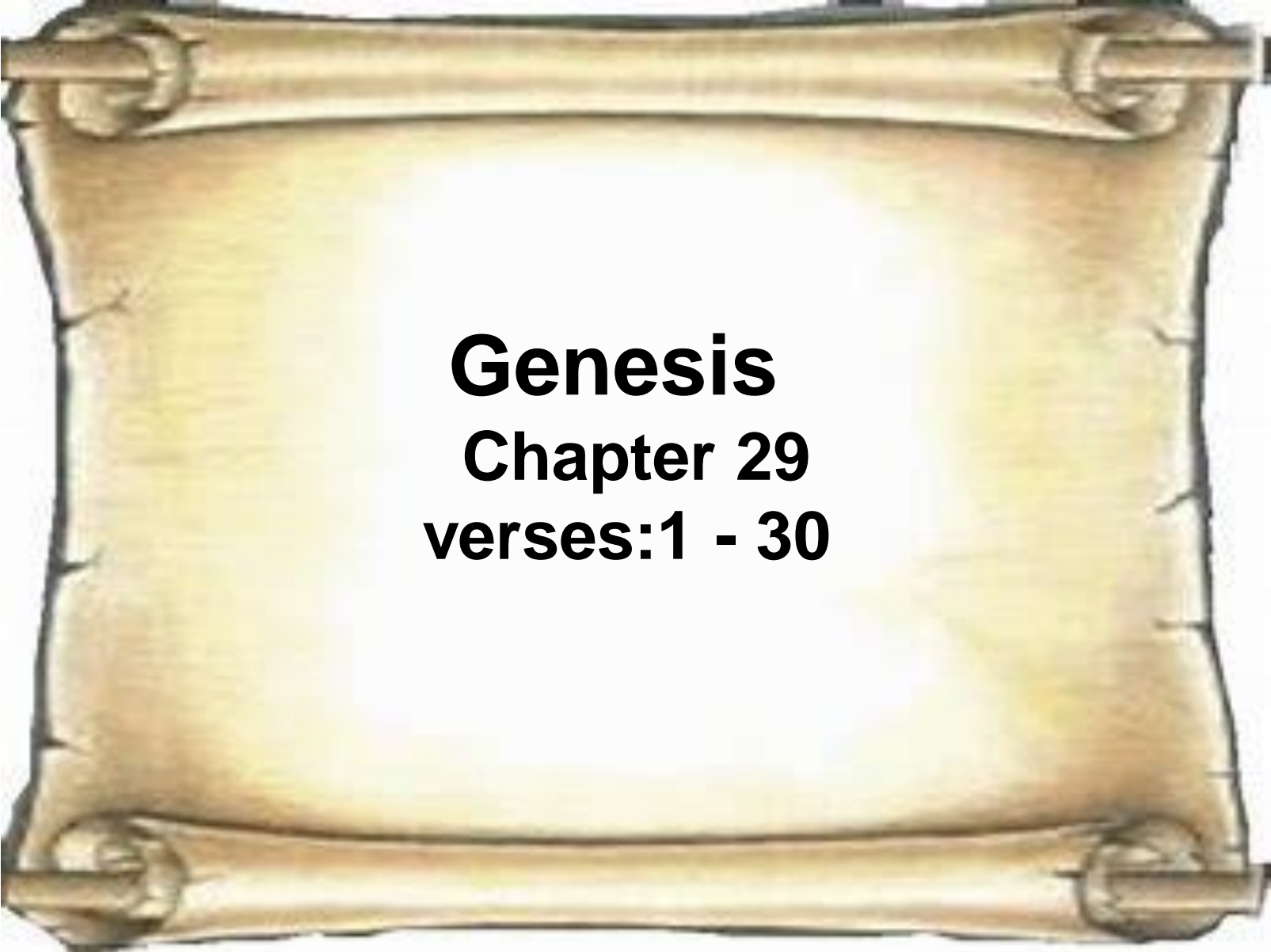


# Jacob v Laban

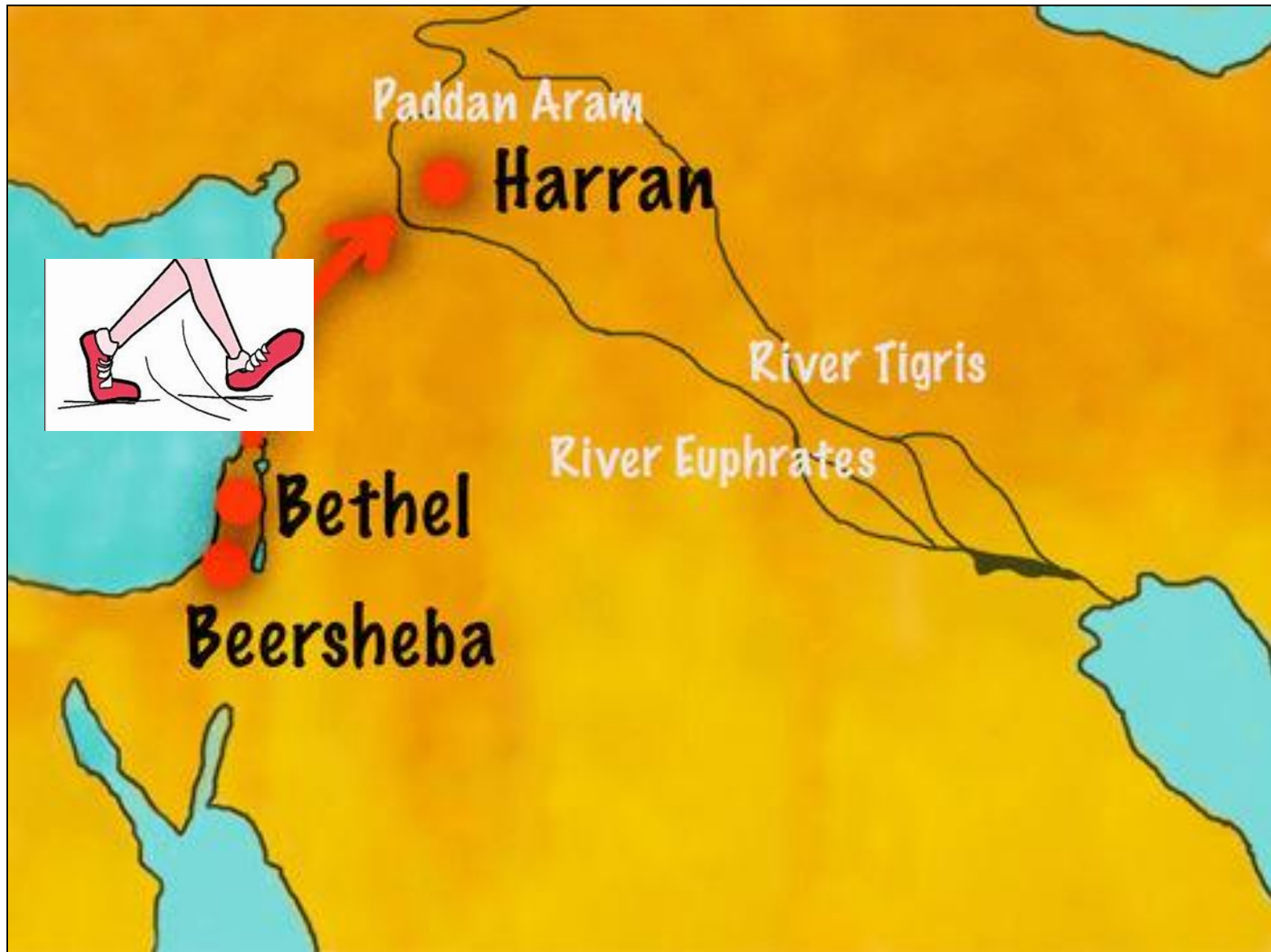


A scroll of parchment with a light beige, aged appearance. The scroll is unrolled, showing a central rectangular area. The edges are slightly frayed and have small dark spots. The scroll is held together by four wooden pegs at the corners. The text is centered on the scroll in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**Genesis**  
**Chapter 29**  
**verses:1 - 30**

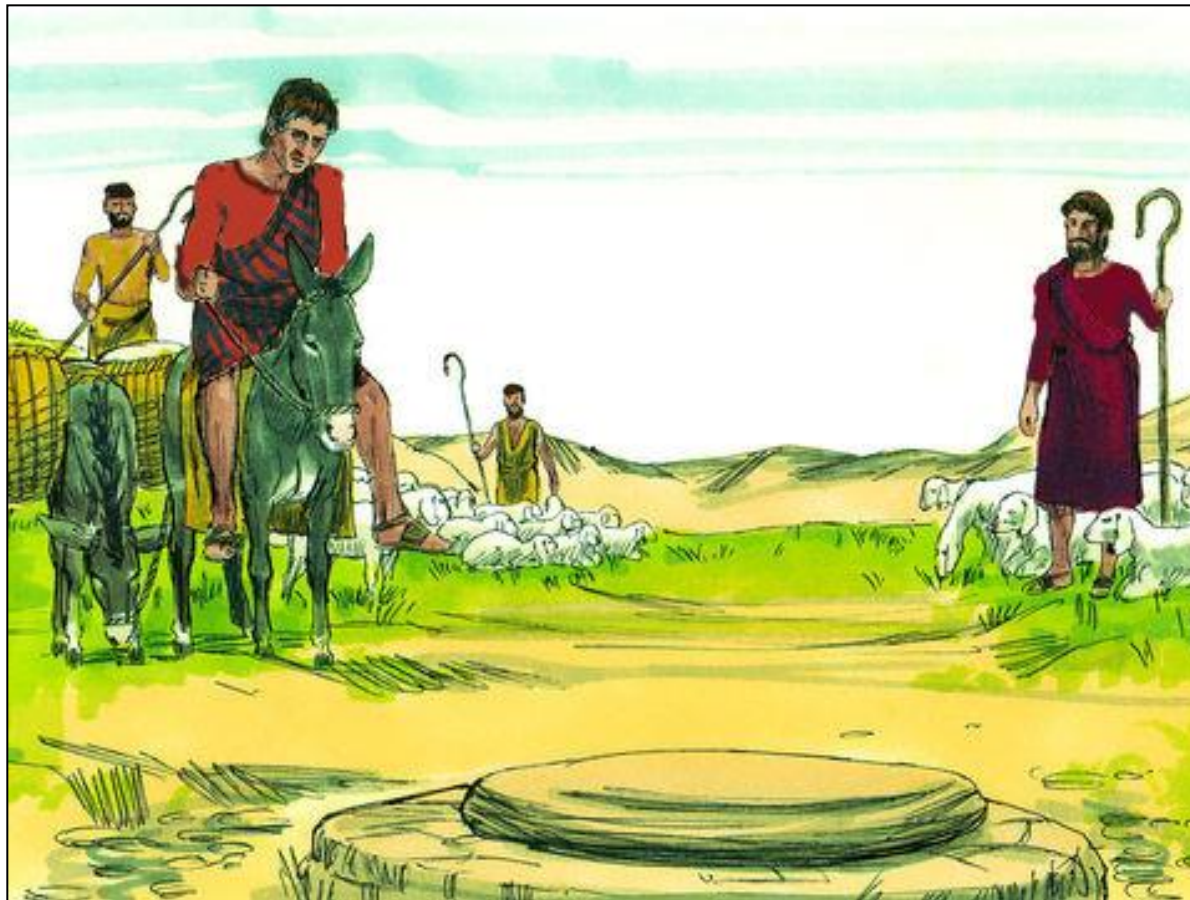
Then Jacob **continued on his journey** and came to the land of the eastern peoples.

Genesis 29:1





There he saw a well in the open country, with three flocks of sheep lying near it because the flocks were watered from that well. The stone over the mouth of the well was large. When all the flocks were gathered there, the shepherds would roll the stone away from the well's mouth and water the sheep. Then they would return the stone to its place over the mouth of the well. Genesis 29:2-3



Jacob asked the shepherds, "My brothers, where are you from?"  
"We're from Harran," they replied. He said to them, "Do you know  
Laban, Nahor's grandson?" "Yes, we know him," they answered.

Genesis 29:4



**How did he get to just the right place ?**

Then Jacob asked them, "Is he well?" "Yes, he is," they said, "and here comes his daughter Rachel with the sheep." Genesis 29:6

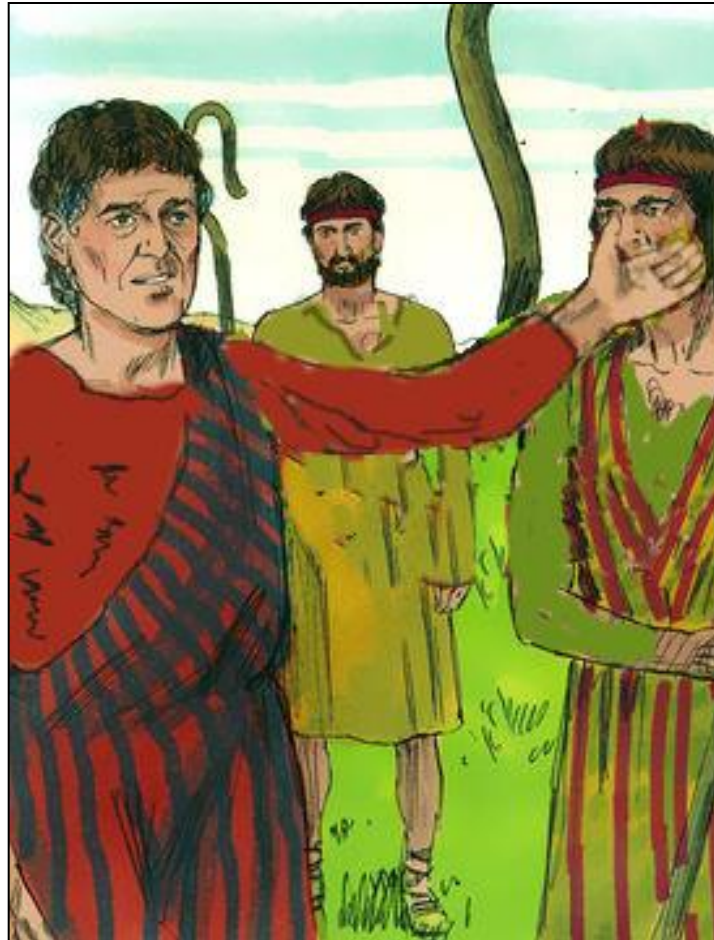


**At just the right time ?**



"Look," he said, "the sun is still high; it is not time for the flocks to be gathered. Water the sheep and take them back to pasture."  
"**We can't**," they replied, "until all the flocks are gathered and the stone has been rolled away from the mouth of the well. Then we will water the sheep."

Genesis 29:7 - 8



While he was still talking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she was a shepherd. When Jacob saw Rachel daughter of his uncle Laban, and Laban's sheep, he went over and rolled the stone away from the mouth of the well and watered his uncle's sheep.

Genesis 29:9-10





Then Jacob kissed Rachel and began to weep aloud. He had told Rachel that he was a relative of her father and a son of Rebekah. So she ran and told her father. Genesis 29:11-12



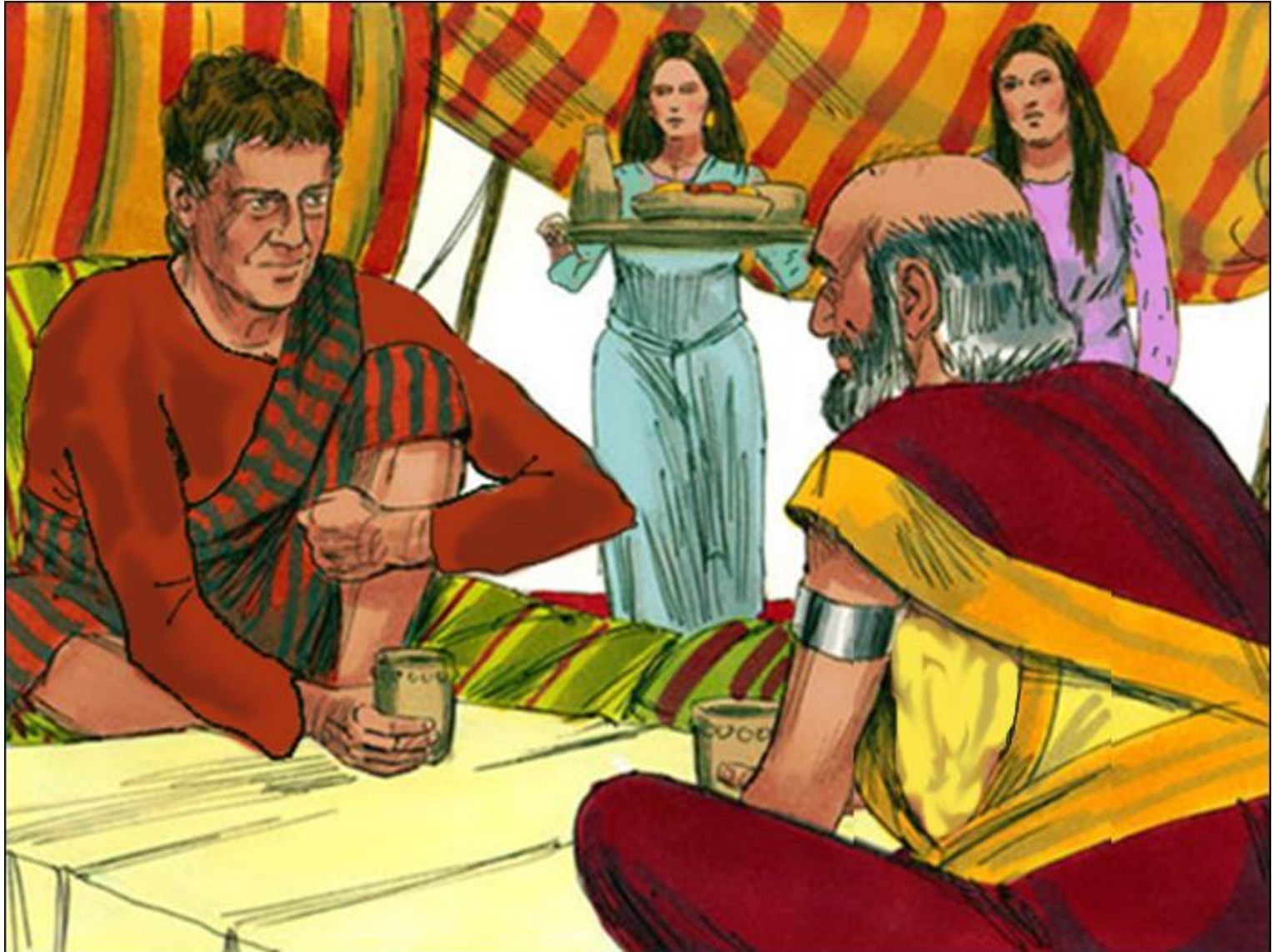
As soon as Laban heard the news about Jacob, his sister's son, he hurried to meet him. He embraced him and kissed him and brought him to his home, and there Jacob told him all these things. Then Laban said to him, "You are my own flesh and blood."

Genesis 29:13-14





After Jacob had stayed with him for a whole month, Laban said to him, "Just because you are a relative of mine, should you work for me for nothing? Tell me what your wages should be." Genesis 29:15





Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah had weak eyes, but Rachel had a lovely figure and was beautiful. Genesis 29:16-17



# What is “beautiful” today ?





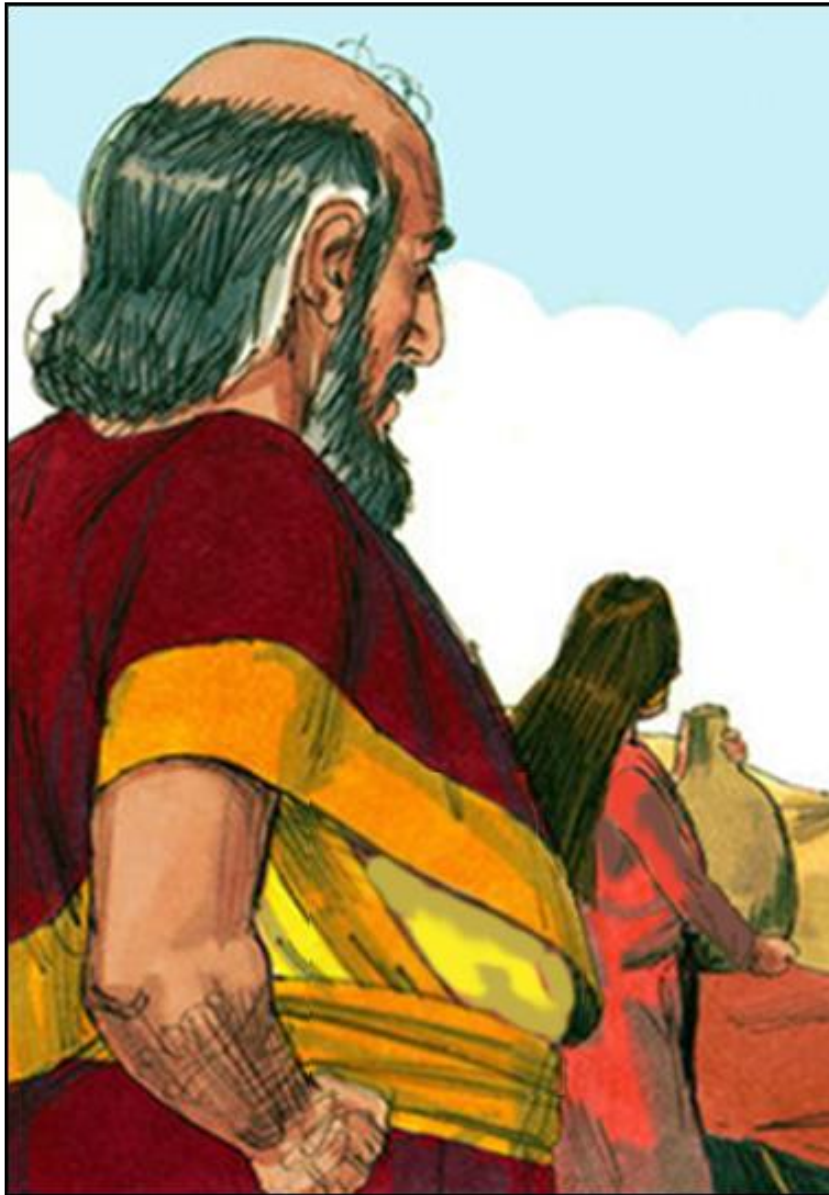
Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, "I'll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel."      Genesis 29:18





Laban said, "It's better that I give her to you than to some other man. Stay here with me."

Genesis 29:19



The women were poorly treated  
In this culture.

What choices would  
Leah and Rachel have?

So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, **but they seemed like only a few days** to him because of his love for her. Genesis 29:20





Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife. My time is completed, and I want to make love to her." So Laban brought together all the people of the place and gave a feast. Genesis 29:21-22





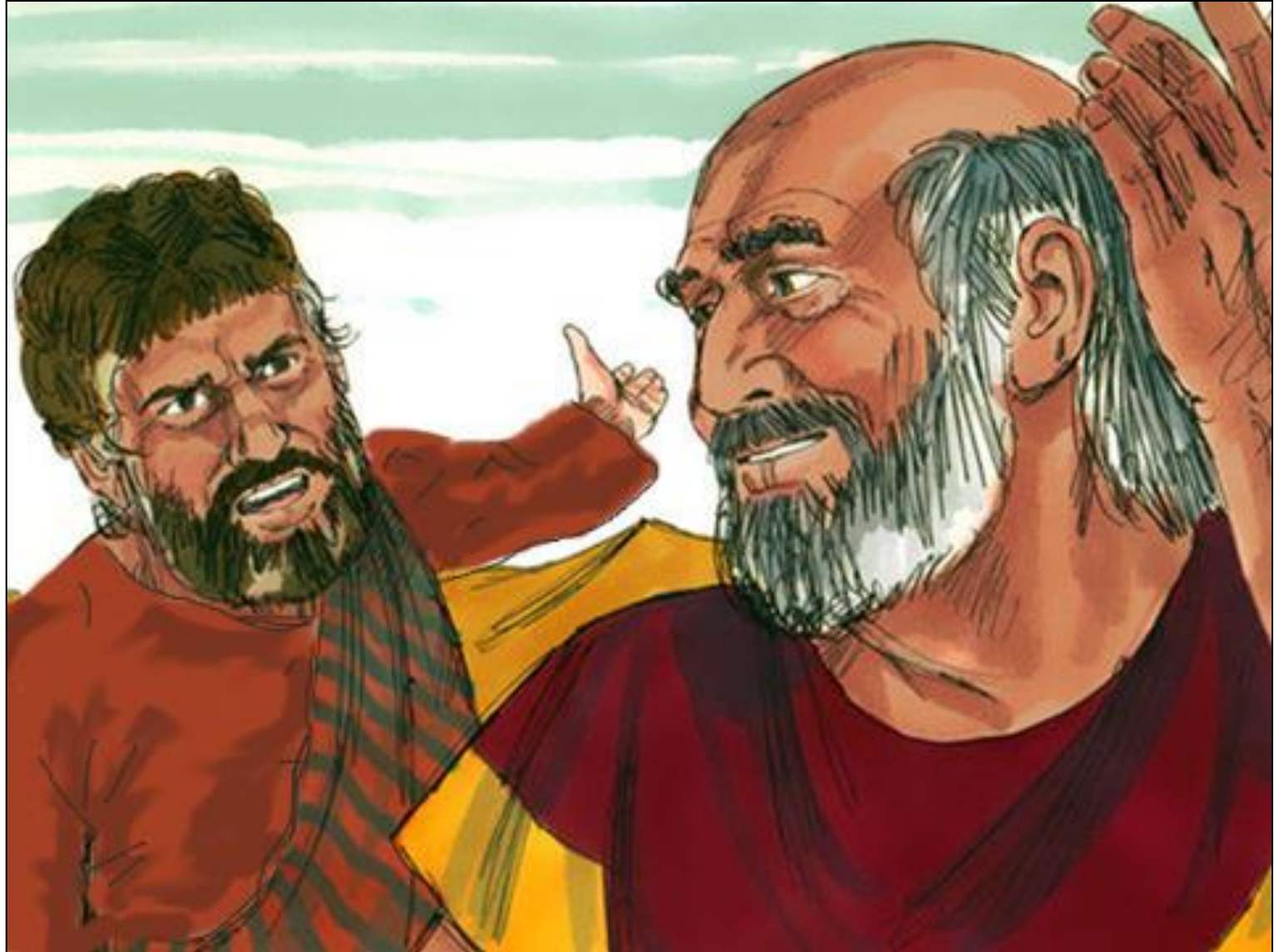
But when evening came, he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and Jacob made love to her. And Laban gave his servant Zilpah to his daughter as her attendant.      Genesis 29:23:24



**Why didn't Leah say anything ?**

When morning came, there was Leah! So Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn't I? Why have you deceived me?"

Genesis 29:25



# You reap what you sow !

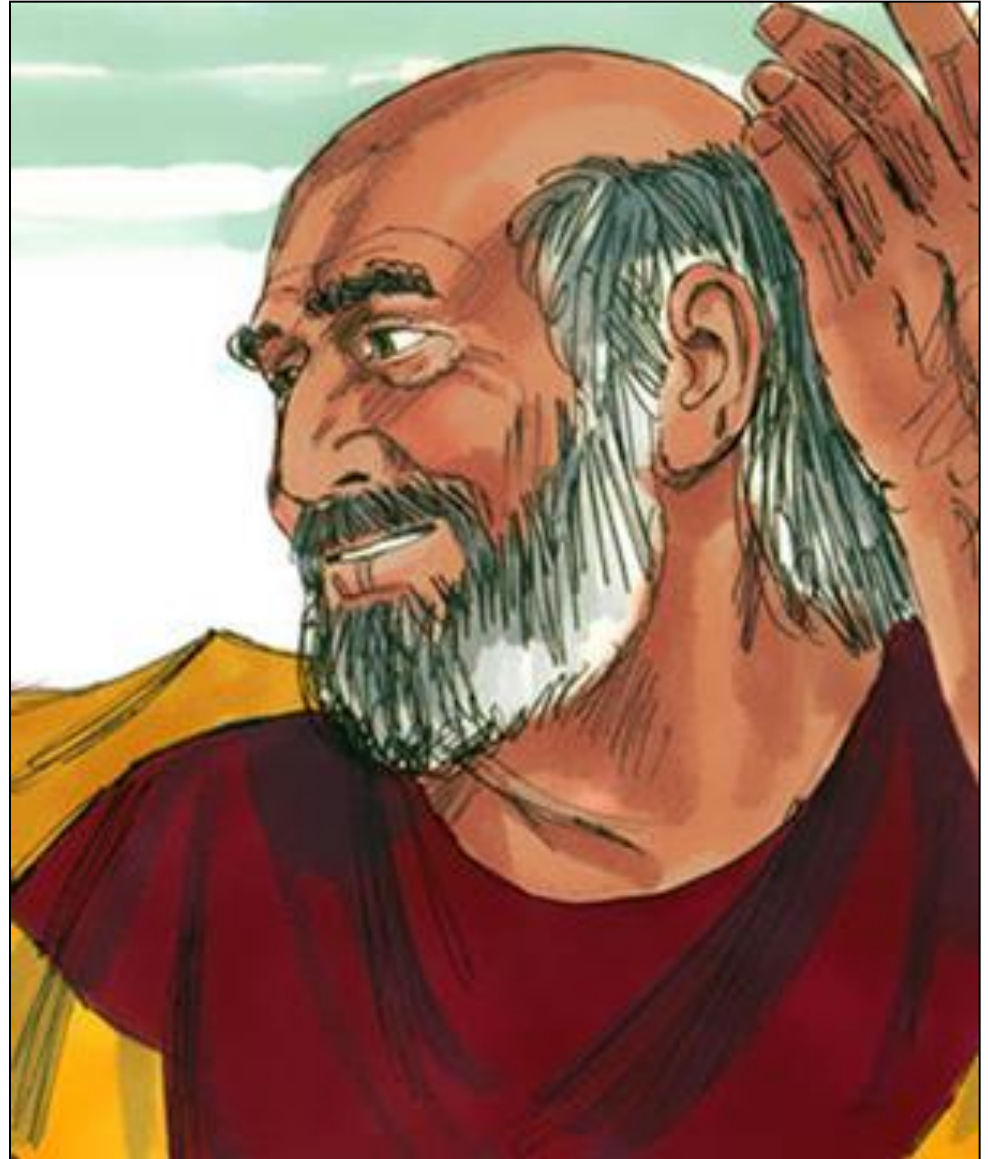


Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Galatians 6:7 -8

He deceived his father  
He deceived his elder brother

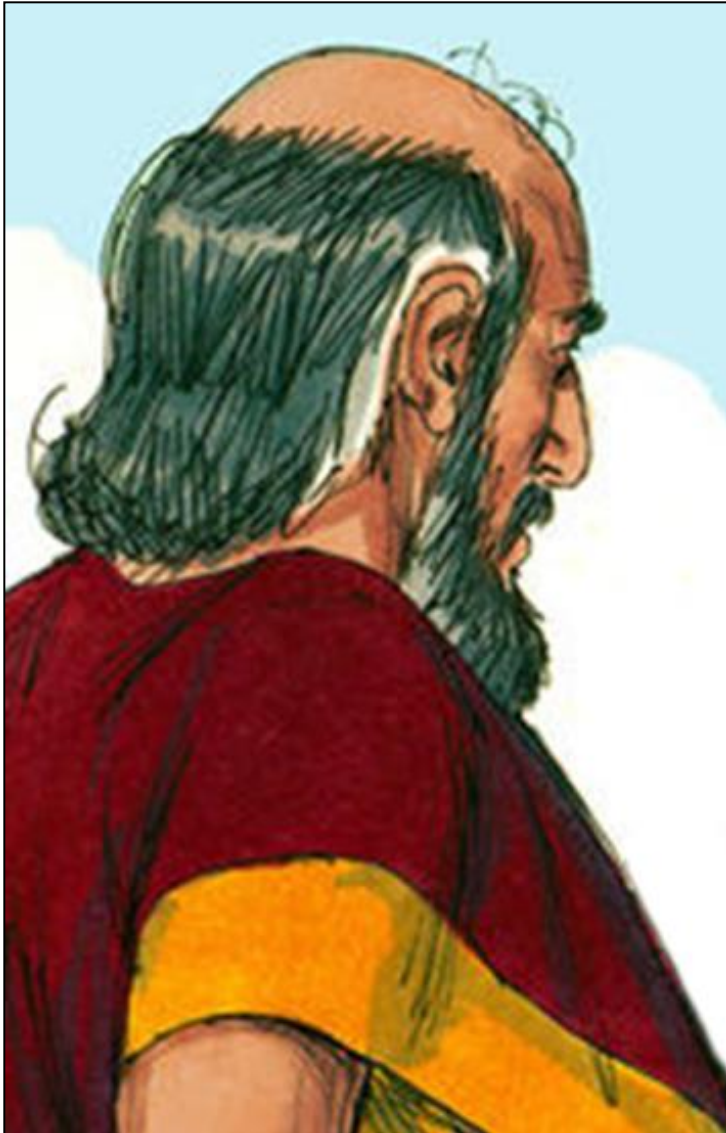


Laban replied, "It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one. Genesis 29:26



Finish this daughter's bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, in return for another seven years of work."

Genesis 29:27



**GOTCHA !**



And Jacob did so. He finished the week with Leah, and then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife. Laban gave his servant Bilhah to his daughter Rachel as her attendant.

Genesis 29:28 -29





Jacob made love to Rachel also, and his love for Rachel was greater than his love for Leah. And he worked for Laban another seven years.

Genesis 29:30



# Health Warning



This account cannot be used to justify polygamy.  
As the story unfolds we will see it's a disaster.

God's plan still stands  
1 man + 1 woman

# What was God doing with Jacob ?

**Just justice ?**

You reap what you sow

**Grace**

Restoring in God's image





Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness,  
so that we can, with reverence, serve you.

Psalm 130:2 - 4



