



Summary of the פְּרָשָׁה, עלִיּוֹת

בְּחֵן - הָרַחֵם וְהוֹרֵם On the way, he slept in a place (הַר הַמּוֹרֵה) and dreamt about מְלָאכִים going up and down on a ladder. In the dream, ה' stood over him. ה' promised יַעֲקֹב he would have many descendants and become a great nation. ה' promised to look after יַעֲקֹב. When יַעֲקֹב awoke, he set up the stone which was under his head as a pillar and poured oil on it. He named the place 'Bet El.'

לָבָן As יַעֲקֹב continued his journey he came across a well with sheep lying beside it. יַעֲקֹב asked the shepherds where they were from and whether they knew his uncle לָבָן. They were from תְּרַח and they did know him. יַעֲקֹב asked whether לָבָן was well. They said he was, and that his daughter רַחֵל was coming with her father's flock. When רַחֵל arrived יַעֲקֹב rolled the large stone from the mouth of the well and watered לָבָן's sheep. יַעֲקֹב kissed רַחֵל and told her who he was. She ran to tell her father. לָבָן ran out to meet יַעֲקֹב. יַעֲקֹב agreed to work for seven years for רַחֵל.

שְׁלִישִׁי At the end of seven years לָבָן tricked יַעֲקֹב, giving him לָאָה instead of רַחֵל. לָבָן said that in that place the younger girl did not marry before the older. After a week יַעֲקֹב married רַחֵל. He worked for another seven years. רַחֵל was upset she did not have children and gave יַעֲקֹב her שְׁפָחָה, בִּלְהָה. בִּלְהָה bore דָּן and נַפְתָּלִי. יַעֲקֹב bore four sons - רְאוּבֵן, שִׁמְעוֹן, לֵוִי and יְהוּדָה. יַעֲקֹב bore לָאָה. לָאָה bore זְלָפָה, שְׁפָחָה, זְלָפָה bore גָּד and אֲשֶׁר. יַעֲקֹב bore זְלָפָה, שְׁפָחָה, לָאָה gave her זְלָפָה.

רְבִיעִי לָאָה bore יִשְׁשַׁכָּר and זְבֻלוֹן. Then she bore a daughter and called her דִּינָה. יַעֲקֹב asked לָבָן to let him leave with his family. לָבָן now bore a son, and she called him יוֹסֵף.

חֲמִישִׁי יַעֲקֹב agreed to give לָבָן, as a wage, all of the speckled, spotted and brownish lambs and speckled and spotted goats. However, he removed these and gave them to his sons to look after, at a three day distance from יַעֲקֹב. יַעֲקֹב peeled streaks in some rods and put them in the watering troughs when the animals mated. He became very wealthy: וַיִּפְרֹץ הָאִישׁ מְאֹד מְאֹד וַיְהִי-לוֹ צֹאן רְבוּת וּשְׁפָחוֹת וַעֲבָדִים וּגְמָלִים וְחֲמֹרִים: לָבָן's sons were saying that יַעֲקֹב had become wealthy dishonestly. ה' told יַעֲקֹב to leave and that He would look after him. יַעֲקֹב told רַחֵל and לָאָה that ה' had told them to go. They said they had no reason to stay, they would not inherit anything from their father. They would do as ה' had said.

שֵׁשִׁי יַעֲקֹב left with his children, his wives, and all of his livestock and property. רַחֵל stole idols belonging to her father. יַעֲקֹב did not tell לָבָן he was leaving. לָבָן found out יַעֲקֹב had left. He chased him and caught up. ה' warned לָבָן not to speak with יַעֲקֹב either good or bad. לָבָן told יַעֲקֹב how upset he was that they had left so secretly - לָבָן would have sent them off with joy, song and music. He asked why they had stolen his idols. יַעֲקֹב said he had thought that לָבָן would steal his daughters away from him. He added that whomever is found to have the idols should not live. לָבָן searched but did not find them. רַחֵל was sitting on them, they were under her camel saddle. יַעֲקֹב now spoke to לָבָן of how loyal and hardworking he had always been for twenty years. Without ה' looking after him he would surely have left empty-handed.

שְׁבִיעִי יַעֲקֹב and לָבָן made a בְּרִית, an agreement. They set up a pile of rocks, which they would not cross to do harm to each other. In the morning, לָבָן kissed and blessed his sons and daughters then went on his way. יַעֲקֹב left, too, and came across מְלָאכִי אֱלֹקִים - angels of ה'.

סֵפֶר בְּרֵאשִׁית

- בְּרֵאשִׁית
- נח
- לֵךְ-לֵךְ
- וַיֵּרָא
- חַיֵּי שָׂרָה
- תּוֹלְדוֹת
- וַיֵּצֵא
- וַיִּשְׁלַח
- וַיֵּשֶׁב
- מִקָּץ
- וַיִּגַּשׁ
- וַיַּחֲיוּ

Pirkei Avot - Chapter 4: Mishnah 1
בֵּן זֹמַא זֹמַא said: "Who is wise? He who learns from all men, as it is said: 'From all my teachers I have gained understanding...' " (Tehillim 119)

פְּרָקִי אֲבוֹת ד': א
בֵּן זֹמַא זֹמַא, אִיזְהוּ חָכֵם, הַלּוֹמֵד מִכָּל אָדָם, שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר (תהילים קיט), מִכָּל מְלַמְדֵי הַשְּׂכַלְתִּי כִּי עֲדוֹתַיִךְ שִׁיחָה לִּי.

Now read these פְּסוּקִים and the translations beneath them:

בְּרֵאשִׁית כ"ט כ"ה

וַיְהִי בַבֹּקֶר וַהֲנִה הוּא לֹאָה וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-לָבָן מַה-זֹּאת עָשִׂיתָ לִּי הֲלֹא בְרַחֵל עָבַדְתִּי עַמּוּדָה וְלָמָּה רָמִיתָנִי:

And it was, in the morning, that behold it was לֹאָה! So he (יעקב) said to לָבָן ,
"What is this you have done to me? Was it not for רַחֵל that I worked for you?
Why have you deceived me?"

בְּרֵאשִׁית ל"א ו'

וַיֹּאמְרָה יָדַעְתָּן כִּי בְּכָל-כַּחֲצִי עָבַדְתִּי אֶת-אָבִיכֶן:
ז וַאֲבִיכֶן הִתֵּל בִּי וַהֲחִלֵּף אֶת-מִשְׁכָּרְתִּי עֲשָׂרַת מָנִים וְלֹא-נָתַנּוּ אֱלֻקִּים לְהָרַע עַמּוּדִי:

6 Now you have known that it was with all my might that I served your father,
7 yet your father mocked me and changed my wage a hundred times, but ה' did not permit him to harm me.

How difficult it must have been to live under these conditions! Imagine being deceived into marrying the wrong person! Think what it must have been like for יַעֲקֹב to have his wages changed a hundred times!

However, יַעֲקֹב אָבִינוּ knew all along that ה' was protecting him, and that he would be all right in the end. We see this in פְּסוּק ז' , above. Knowing that he had ה'’s help enabled יַעֲקֹב to put up with לָבָן’s terrible cheating and deceit for twenty years.

If we, too, believe that we have ה'’s help, it can be easier for us to get through even very difficult circumstances. Our אֱמוּנָה , faith in ה', can help us to believe that everything will work out all right.

1. What was the excuse לָבָן gave for switching רַחֵל for לֹאָה?	4. Who bore רֵאוּבֵן , שְׁמֵעוֹן , and לֵוִי ?
2. How did יַעֲקֹב make sure he would get spotted and speckled animals?	5. What was the name of רַחֵל’s שִׁפְחָה?
3. Where were the idols לָבָן was looking for?	6. What was the name of לֹאָה’s שִׁפְחָה?
	7. According to בֶּן זֹכֵיזָא , who is wise? Do you understand what he means?

שְׁבַת שְׁלוֹם!