

GENESIS

Why The Beginning Matters

STUDY 20
JACOB AND HIS FAMILY
GENESIS 29-31



Abraham's Journey

From Ur to Haran to Egypt

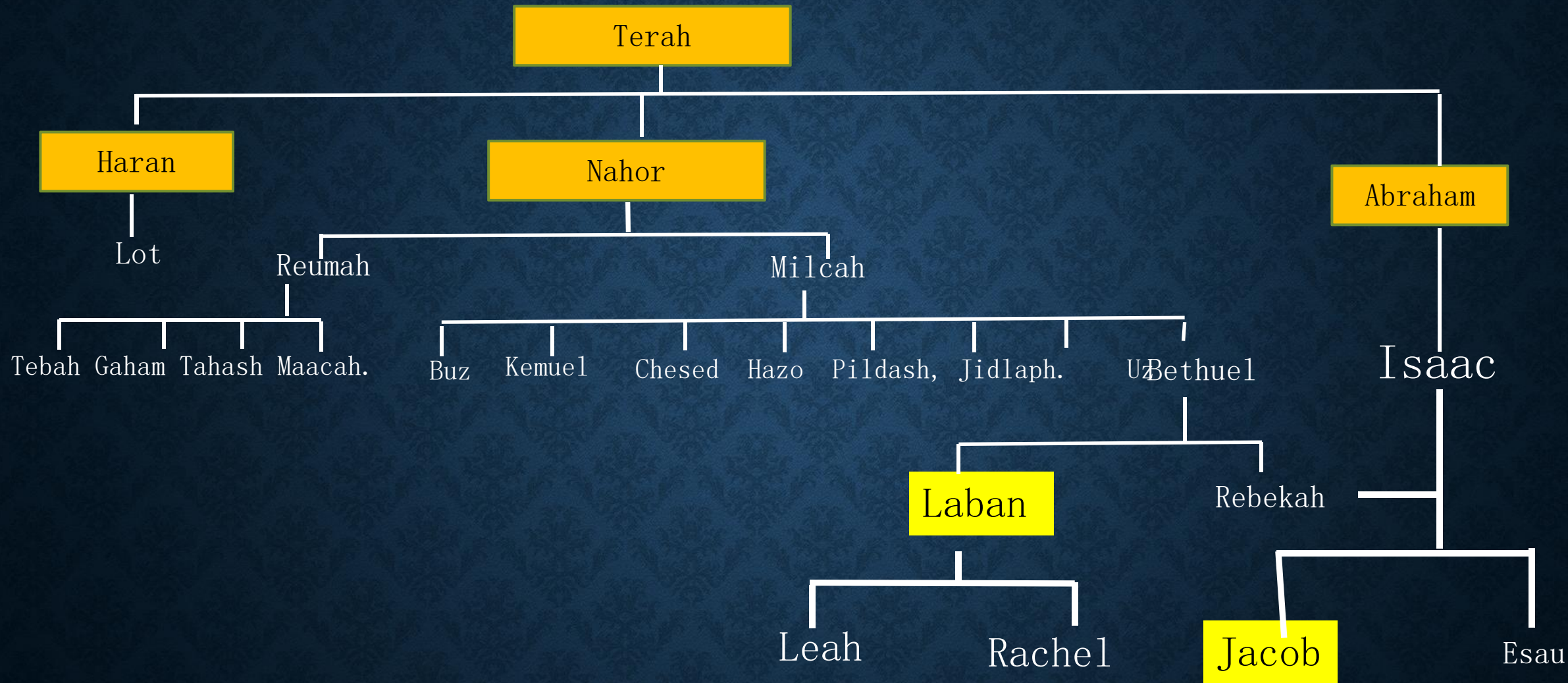
Secondary Call

Paddan Aram
• Haran





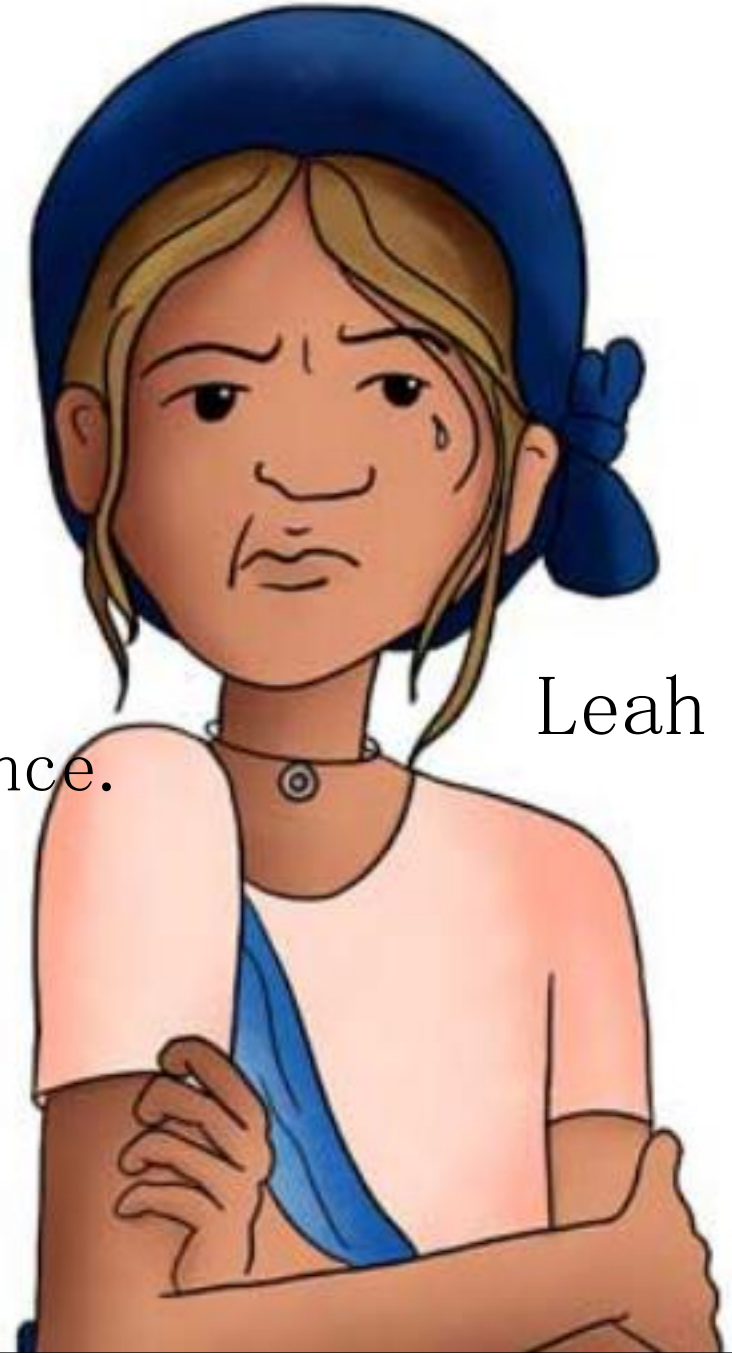
Genesis 29:11-12 (ESV)
Then Jacob kissed Rachel
and wept aloud. 12 And
Jacob told Rachel that he
was her father's kinsman,
and that he was Rebekah's
son, and she ran and told
her father.





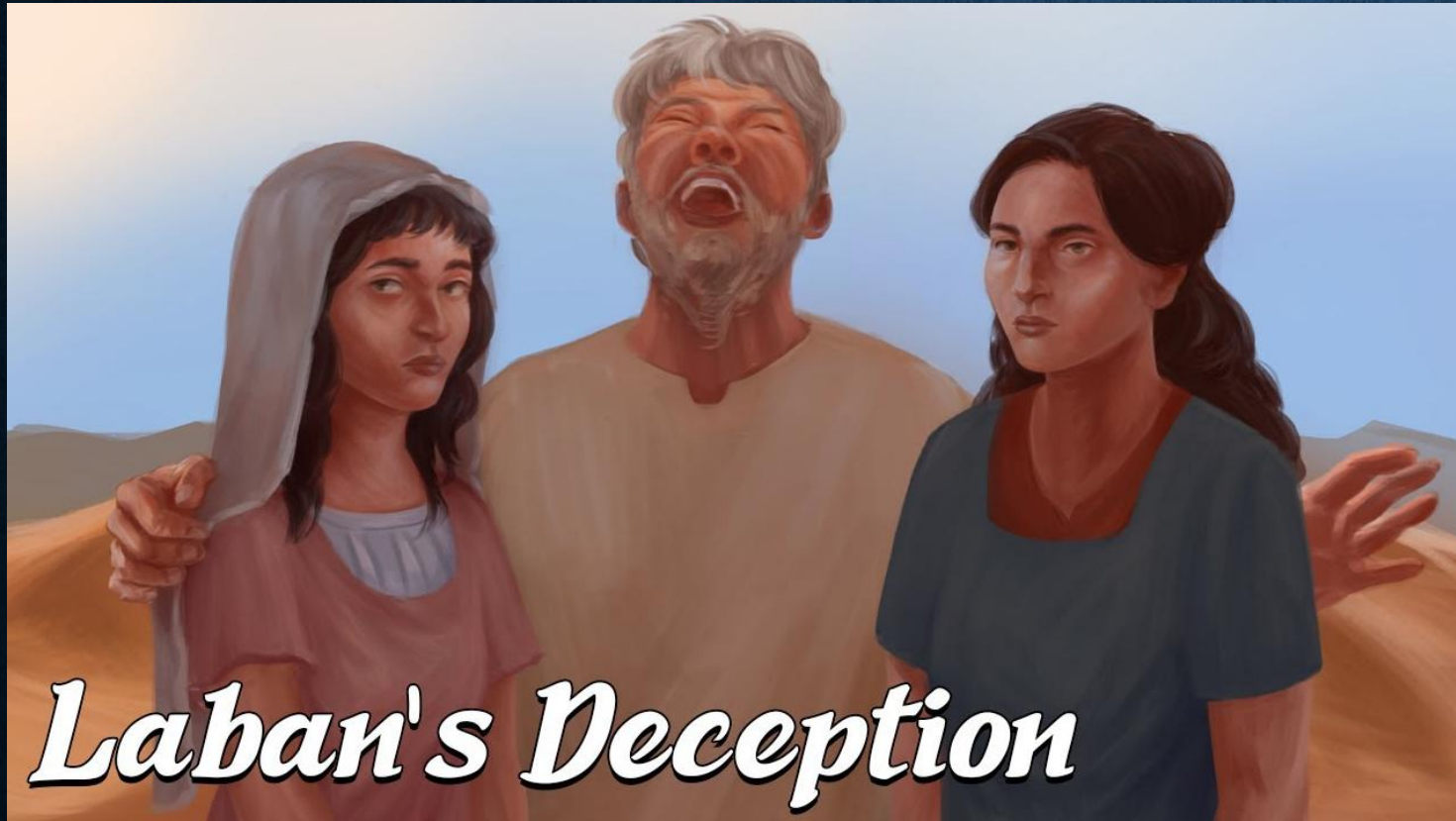
Rachel

Genesis 29:17
Leah's eyes were weak, but Rachel was beautiful in form and appearance.



Leah

LABAN THE SCHEMER



Jacob

- Alone
- Far from home
- Penniless
- Genesis 29:18 Jacob loved Rachel. And he said, “I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.

BRIDE PRICE

- Deut 22:29 29 then the man who lay with her shall give to the father of the young woman fifty shekels of silver, and she shall be his wife, because he has violated her. He may not divorce her all his days.
- Worker pay 1.5 shekels/ month =18 shekels / year
- 7 years pay is 126 shekels = 2.5x maximum bride

Genesis 29:20–21 (ESV) So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

21 Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.”

THE NEXT MORNING



Genesis 29:23–25 But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her. 24 (Laban gave his female servant Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her servant.) 25 And in the morning, behold, it was Leah!

Genesis 29:25–27 (ESV) 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.”

LABAN'S SCHEME

Pros

- Married off two daughters at 3 times normal price each!!!
- One of them totally wouldn't have had any chance of marriage

Cons

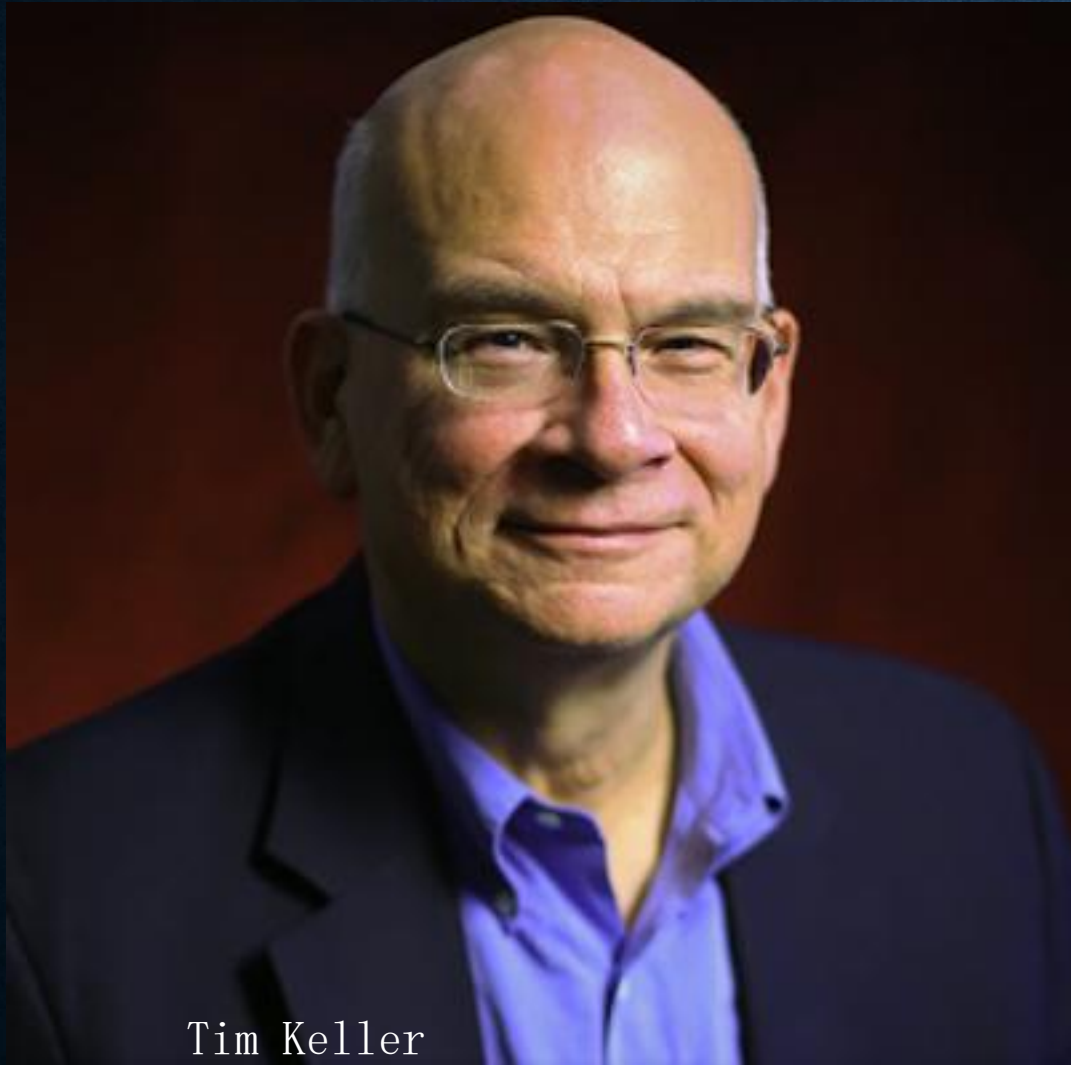
- Risk Embittering Jacob
- Trapped his own daughter in a loveless force marriage
- Cheated his own nephew

LABAN INSTRUMENT OF DRAMATIC IRONY



Gen 29: 26 Laban said,
“It is not so done
in our country, to
give the younger
before the firstborn.
How did you think
Jacob would have felt
hearing these words?

SIMILARITY BETWEEN THE FORMS OF DECEPTION BY JACOB AND LABAN



Tim Keller

Conversation btw Jacob and Leah

And he said to her, “I called out ‘Rachel’ in the dark — and you answered! Why did you do that to me?” And Leah said to him, “Your father called out ‘Esau’ in the dark — and you answered! Why did you do that to him?”

RACHEL

Genesis 29:30 (ESV) So Jacob went in to Rachel also, and he loved Rachel more than Leah, and served Laban for another seven years.

LEAH

- Genesis 29:31 (ESV) When the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren.

Leah's birth statements

Ruben

Gen 29:32 Because the Lord has looked upon my affliction; for now my husband will love me

Simeon

Gen 29:33 Because the Lord has heard that I am hated, he has given me this son also

Levi

Gen 29:34 Now this time my husband will be attached to me, because I have borne him three sons

Judah

Gen 29:35 This time I will praise the Lord.”

Genesis 30:1 (ESV) When Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, she envied her sister. She said to Jacob, “Give me children, or I shall die!”

2 Jacob’s anger was kindled against Rachel, and he said, “Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?”

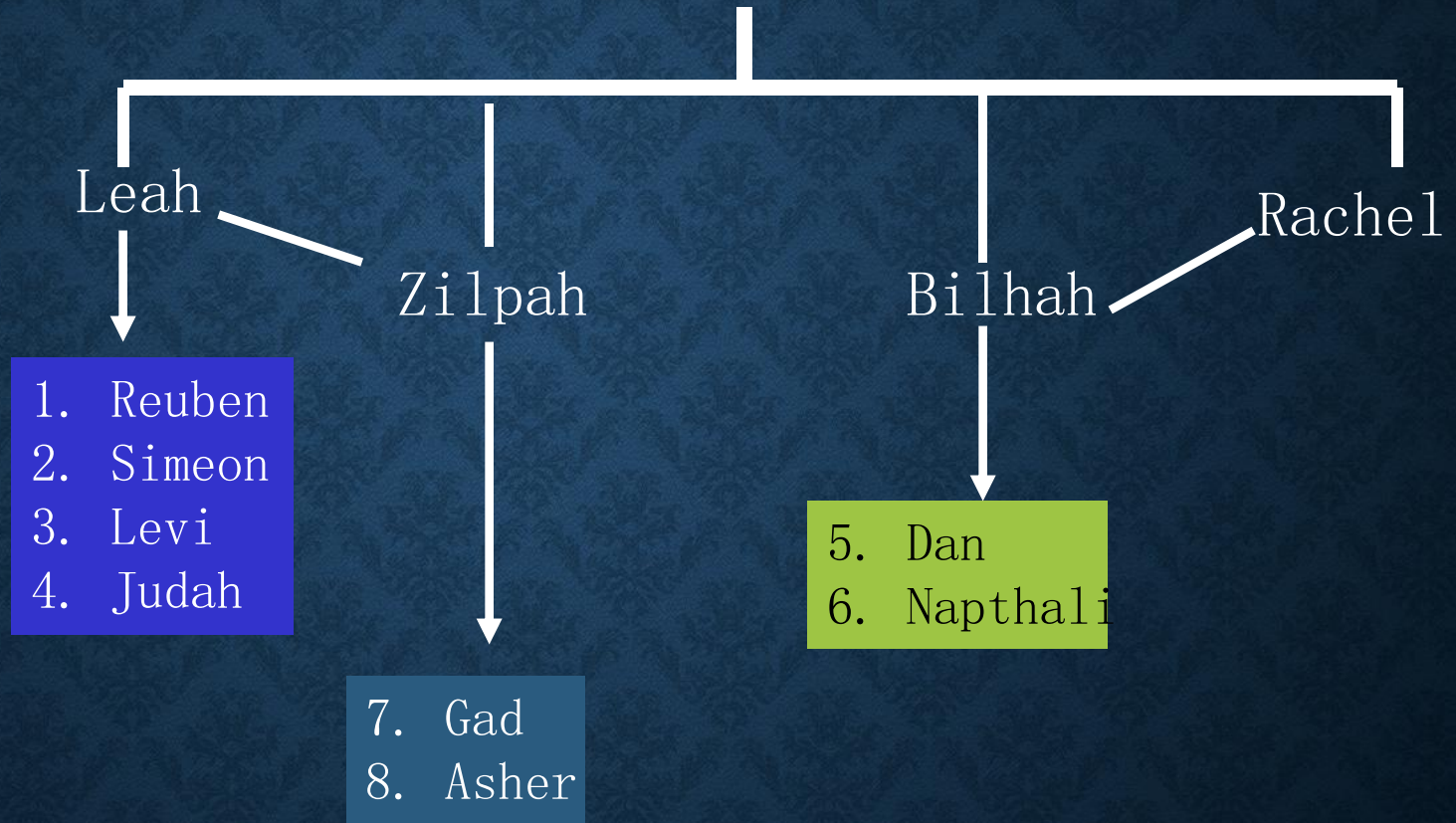
POLYGAMY-SURROGACY

Genesis 30:3 (ESV) Then she said, “Here is my servant Bilhah; go in to her, so that she may give birth on my behalf, that even I may have children through her.”

SELF ESTEEM BASED ON CHILDREN BY PROXY

Genesis 30:4–8 (ESV) So she gave him her servant Bilhah as a wife, and Jacob went in to her. 5 And Bilhah conceived and bore Jacob a son. 6 Then Rachel said, “God has judged me, and has also heard my voice and given me a son.” Therefore she called his name Dan. 7 Rachel’s servant Bilhah conceived again and bore Jacob a second son. 8 Then Rachel said, “With mighty wrestlings I have wrestled with my sister and have prevailed.” So she called his name Naphtali.

JACOB





NARCOTIC, APHRODISIAC ENHANCE FERTILITY

Genesis 30:14 (ESV) In the days of wheat harvest Reuben went and found mandrakes in the field and brought them to his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, “Please give me some of your son’s mandrakes.



Genesis 30:15–16 But she said to her, “Is it a small matter that you have taken away my husband?

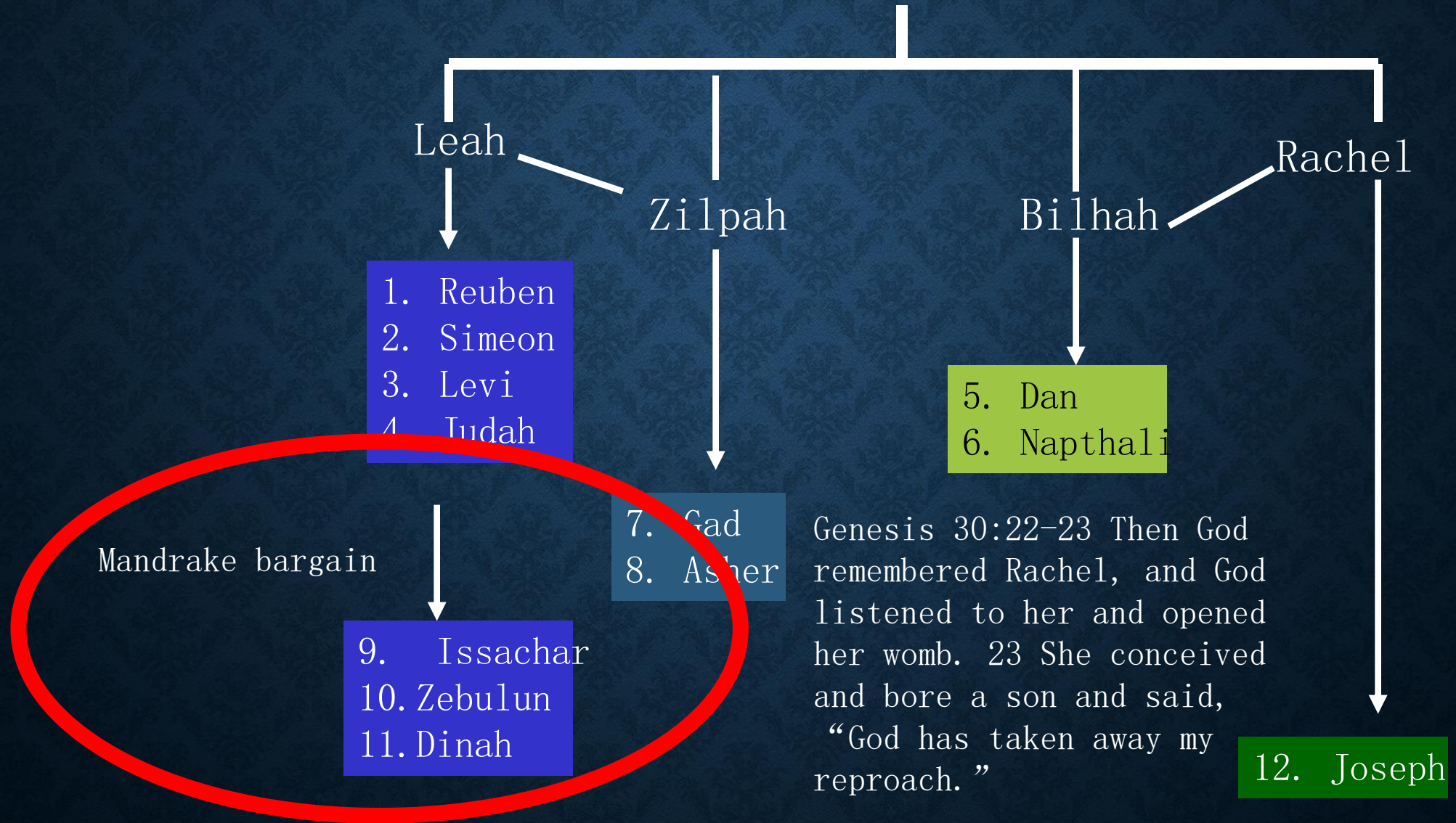
Would you take away my son’s mandrakes also?”

Rachel said, “Then he may lie with you tonight in exchange for your son’s mandrakes.”

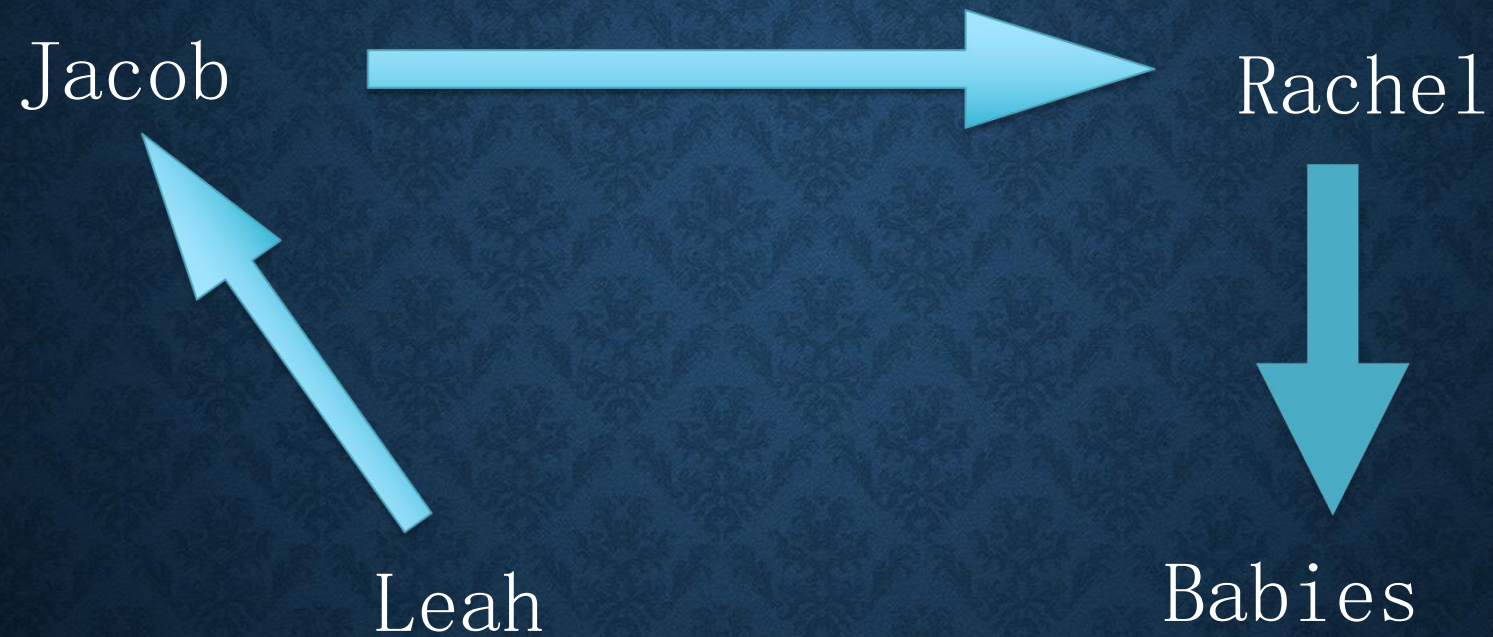
JEALOUSY

16 When Jacob came from the field in the evening, Leah went out to meet him and said, “You must come in to me, for I have hired you with my son’s mandrakes.” So he lay with her that night.

JACOB



What are their immediate idols?



What are their ultimate idols?

PROBLEM WITH IDOLS

Idols threatened

- Angry
- Afraid
- Anxious

Idols destroyed

- Lost
- Devastated
- Directionless

HOW DOES IT AFFECT THEIR FAMILY LIVES?

- Favouritism
- Envy
- Strife
- Competition
- Anger
- Disunity

LORDS GRACE REINTERPRETED

God had endorsed their plans

- Genesis 30:5–6 (ESV) And Bilhah conceived and bore Jacob a son. 6 Then Rachel said, “God has judged me, and has also heard my voice and given me a son.
- Genesis 30:16–18 (ESV) So he lay with her that night. 17 And God listened to Leah, and she conceived and bore Jacob a fifth son. 18 Leah said, “God has given me my wages because I gave my servant to my husband.” So she called his name Issachar.

THE ENDS DO NOT JUSTIFY THE MEANS

POLYGAMY

- Lamech Gen 4:19
- Abraham Gen 16
- Esau Gen 26:34; 28:9
- Jacob Gen 29:30
- Ashur 1 Chron 4:5
- Gideon Judges 8:30
- Elkanah 1 Sam 1:2
- David 1 Sam 25:39-44
- Solomon 1 Kings 11:1-8
- Rehoboam 2 Chron 11:18-23
- Abijah 2 Chron 13:21
- Jehoram 2 Chroni 21:14
- Joash 2 Chron 24:3
- Ahab 2 Kings 10
- Jehoichin 2 Kings 24:15
- Belshazzar Dan 5:2
- Hosea Hosea 3:1-2

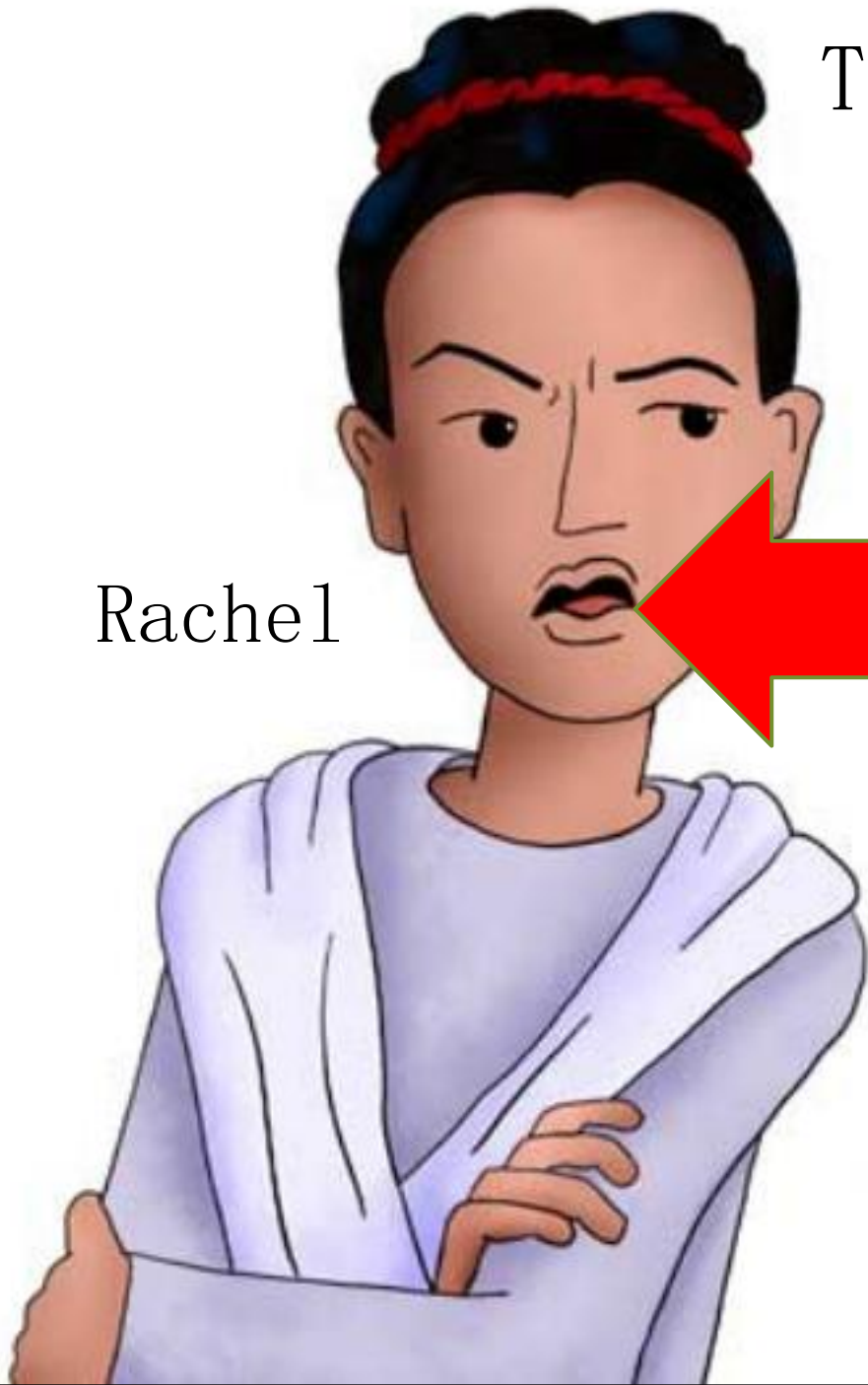
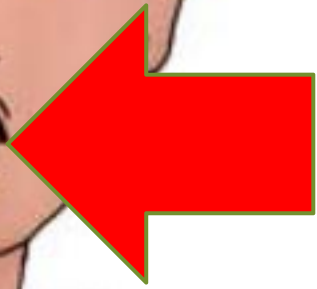
COMMANDS FOR MONOGAMY

- Proverbs 5:18–19 Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, 19 a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love

The Lord's grace

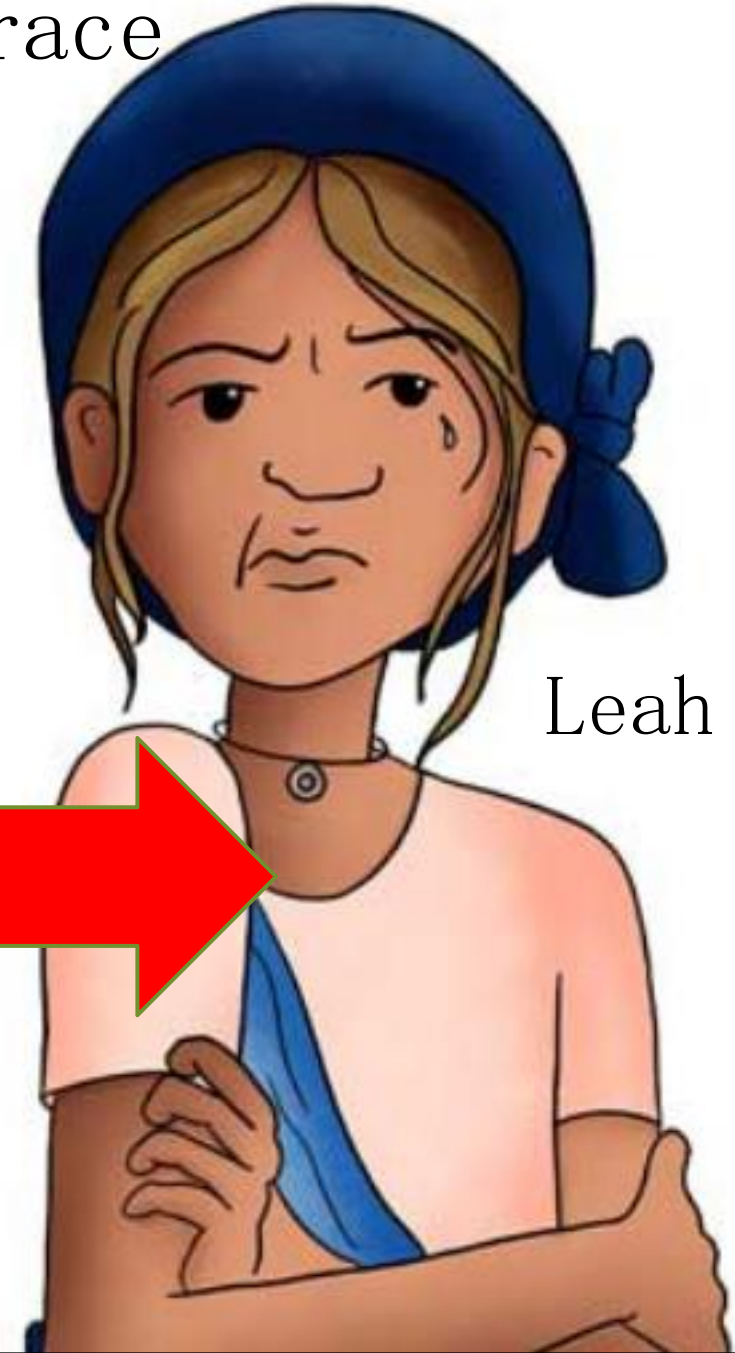
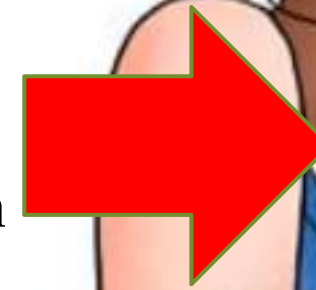
Rachel

Opens her womb .. Joseph
Greatest son of
the generation
Salvation to
family

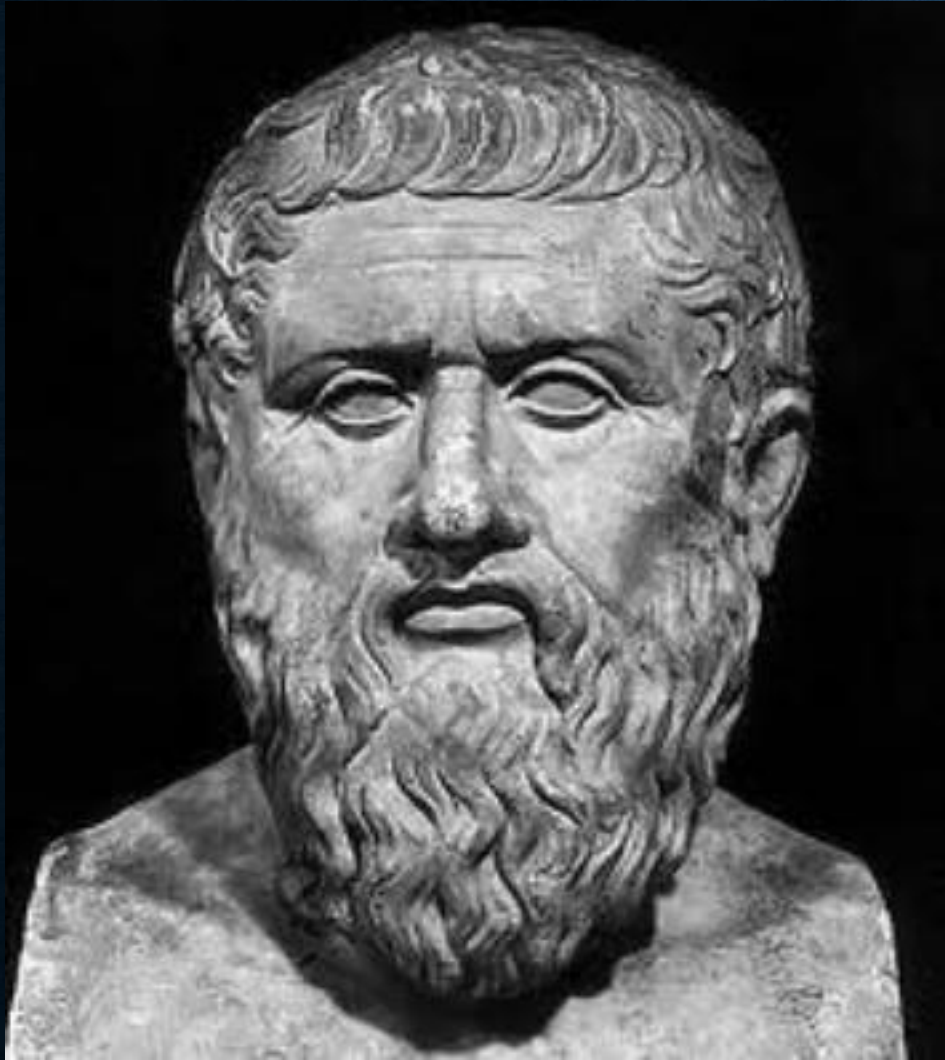


Leah

Opens her womb
Gives birth to
Judah (from which
will arise the
line of the
Messiah)
Changes her
attitude



PLATO ON LOVE



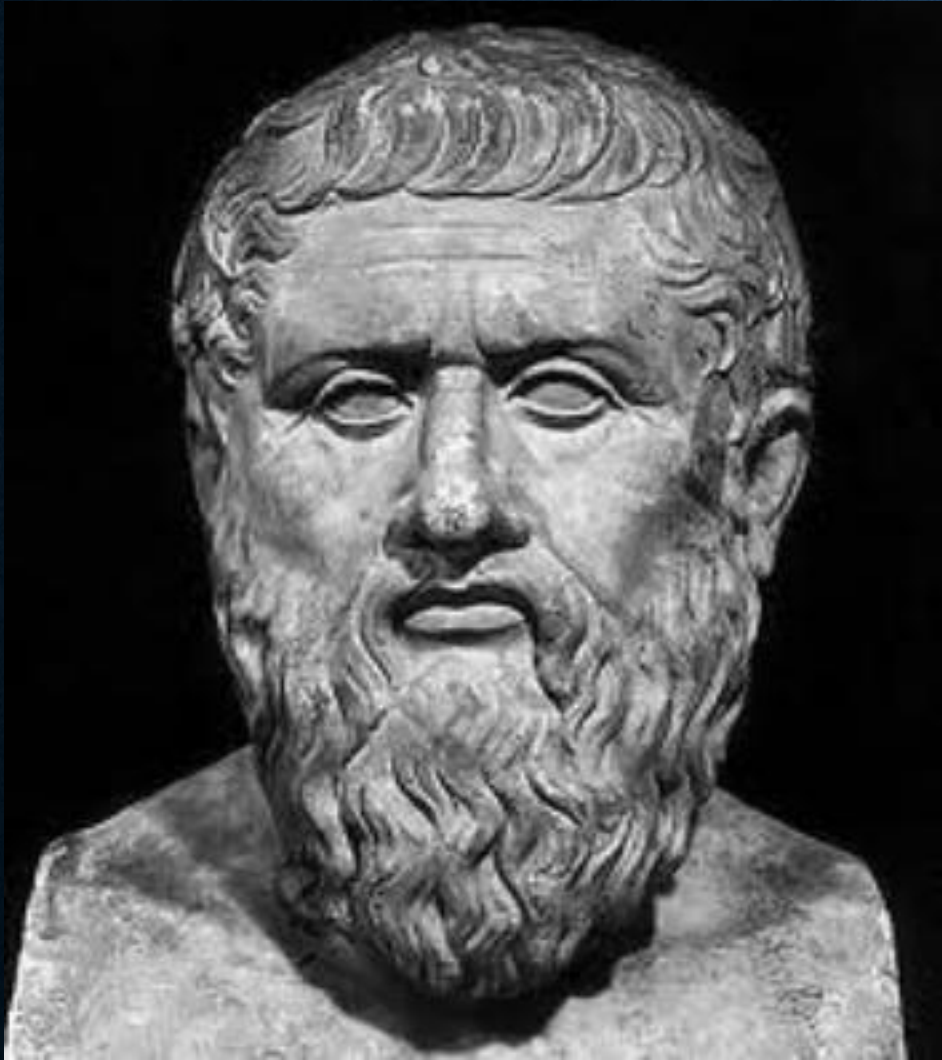
Human love, is the child of Poverty – of want or lack; it is caused by a real or supposed goal in its beloved which the lover needs and desires.

HUMAN LOVE

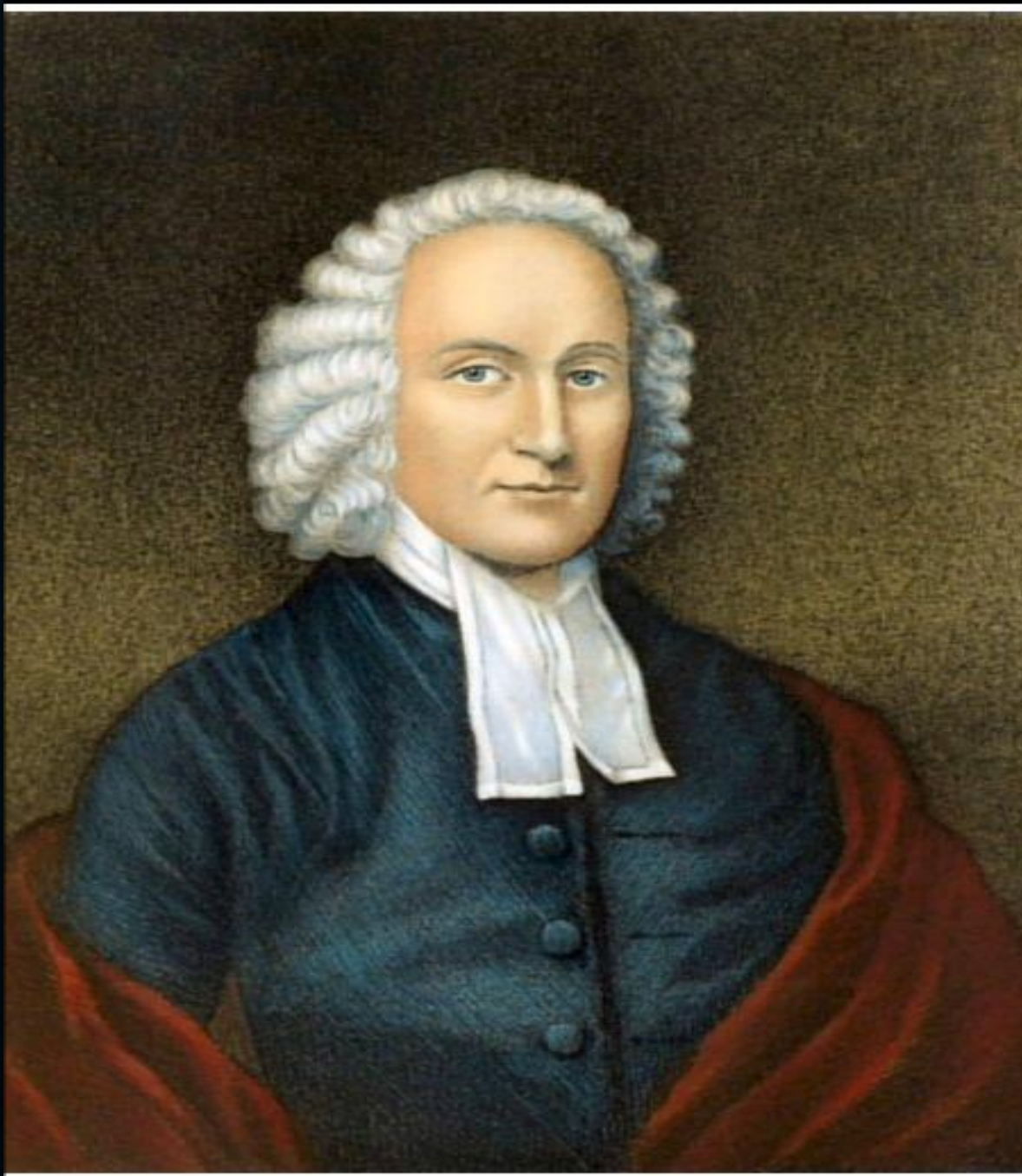
A man and a woman are embracing each other warmly. The woman is on the left, wearing a red top and smiling broadly. The man is on the right, wearing a blue shirt and smiling. They are standing in front of a red brick wall.

I got needs .. affirms me , opens
doors for me, committed to my
good and my glory. my agenda..
This kind of love is a hunger for
someone to fill up your ego

PLATO ON LOVE



But God's love, far from being caused by goodness in the object, causes all the goodness which the object has, loving it first into existence, and then into real, though derivative, lovability



JONATHAN EDWARDS

'What can be more properly called love to any being or any thing than to place one's happiness in that thing causing the good of another now to be your good'

PARENTS LOVE FOR CHILD



DESIGNED TO GLORIFY GOD

John 15:10–11 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you,

WHICH CHILD WILL HAVE THE MOST JOY?



JACOB WANTS TO HEAD HOME

Genesis 30:25–28 As soon as Rachel had borne Joseph, Jacob said to Laban, “Send me away, that I may go to my own home and country. 26 Give me my wives and my children for whom I have served you, that I may go, for you know the service that I have given you.” 27 But Laban said to him, “If I have found favor in your sight, I have learned by divination that the LORD has blessed me because of you. 28 Name your wages, and I will give it.”

JACOB'S PERSPECTIVE CHANGED

Genesis 30:29–31 Jacob said to him, “You yourself know how I have served you, and how your livestock has fared with me. 30 For you had little before I came, and it has increased abundantly, and the LORD has blessed you wherever I turned. But now when shall I provide for my own household also?” 31 He said, “What shall I give you?” Jacob said, “You shall not give me anything.”

Jacob's plan

art-gallery.com

This watermark does not appear on the painting



The plan: Only spotted stopped or black would be his

The logic is that a certain percentage would always be striped or black hence any increase in flock would also bring profit to Jacob..win win situation



LABAN'S DECEIT

Gen 30: 35 But that day Laban removed the male goats that were striped and spotted, and all the female goats that were speckled and spotted, every one that had white on it, and every lamb that was black, and put them in the charge of his sons. 36 And he set a distance of three days' journey between himself and Jacob, and Jacob pastured the rest of Laban's flock.



JACOB'S BREEDING PROGRAM

- Superstition?
- Sovereignty of God

JACOB RECOGNIZES GOD'S CARE

Genesis 31:9–13 (ESV) Thus God has taken away the livestock of your father and given them to me. 10 In the breeding season of the flock I lifted up my eyes and saw in a dream that the goats that mated with the flock were striped, spotted, and mottled. 11 Then the angel of God said to me in the dream, ‘Jacob,’ and I said, ‘Here I am!’ 12 And he said, ‘Lift up your eyes and see, all the goats that mate with the flock are striped, spotted, and mottled, for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you. 13 I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and made a vow to me. Now arise, go out from this land and return to the land of your kindred.’ ”

LOOK AT JACOB'S ATTITUDE NOW

Gen3 1: 4 So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah into the field where his flock was 5 and said to them, “I see that your father does not regard me with favor as he did before. But the God of my father has been with me. 6 You know that I have served your father with all my strength, 7 yet your father has cheated me and changed my wages ten times. But God did not permit him to harm me.

HIS WIVES AGREE

Gen 23 14 Then Rachel and Leah answered and said to him, “Is there any portion or inheritance left to us in our father’s house? 15 Are we not regarded by him as foreigners? For he has sold us, and he has indeed devoured our money. 16 All the wealth that God has taken away from our father belongs to us and to our children. Now then, whatever God has said to you, do.”

THE TRANSFORMATION OF CHARACTER



Wrestles in womb

Wrestles for birth right

Wrestles for blessings

Wrestles with Laban for the two sisters

Trusts no one

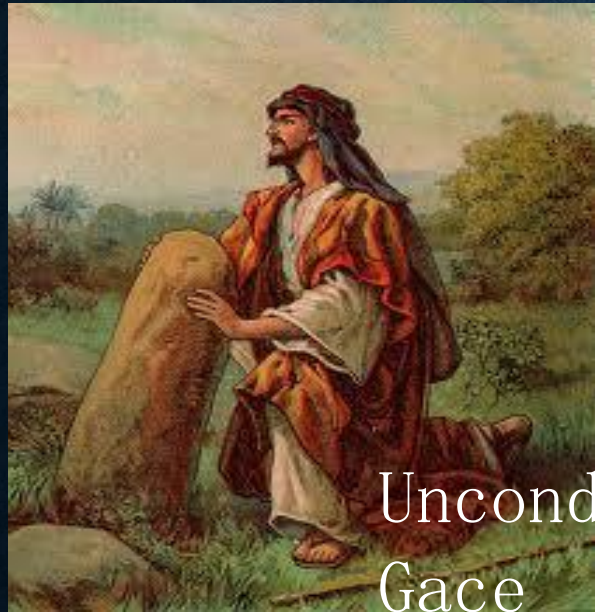
Always had to hustle

Always maneuvering, negotiating

Even when he receives covenant he says I will follow you ..if you do this

The process of Transformation

Bethel



Unconditional love
Grace
Blessing
Promise

Frees his heart from
denial and
repression



Laban

bigger crook than himself



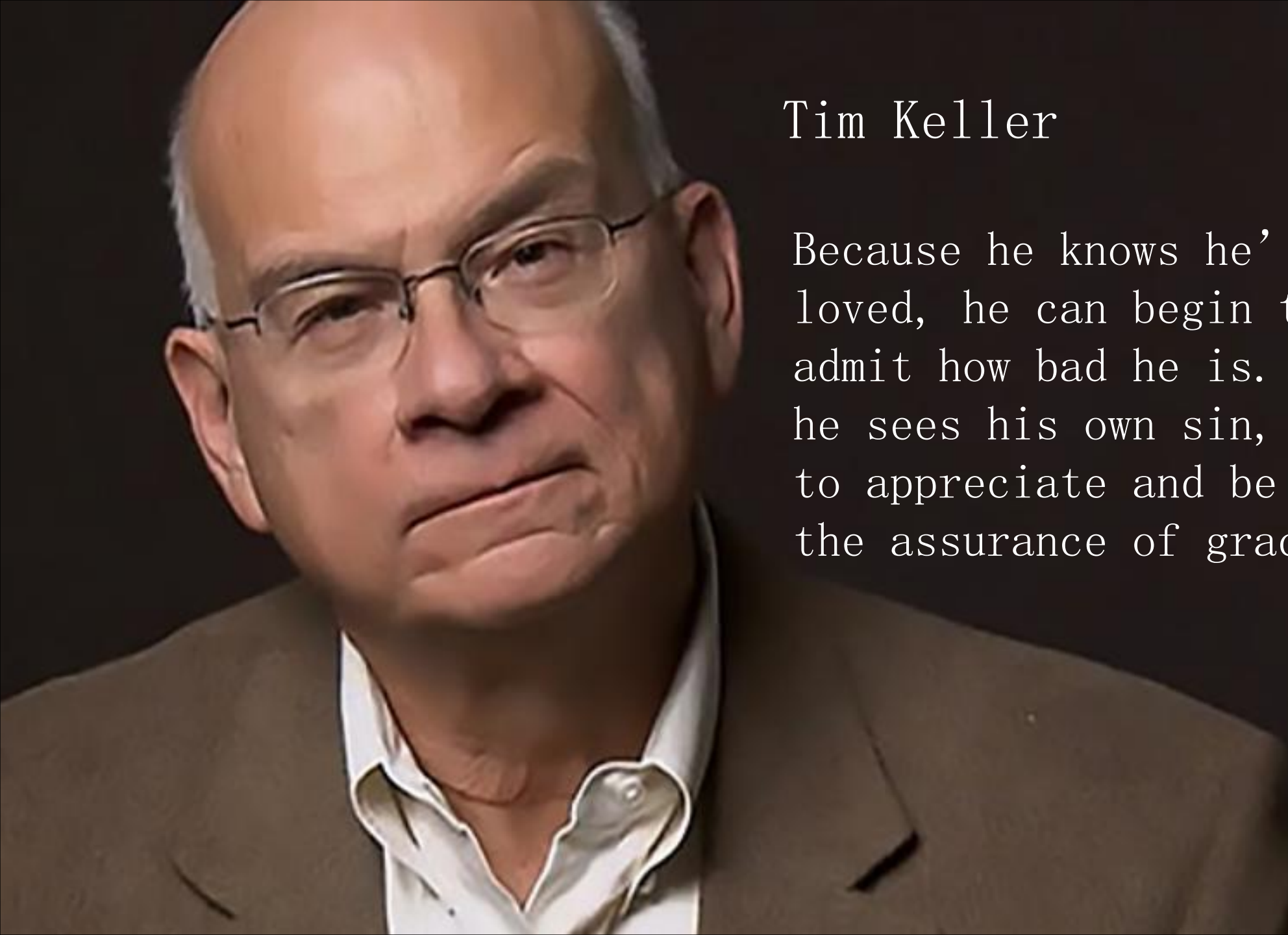
Makes Jacob face his
own sin..

The transformation

Gen 28: 20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, 21 so that I come again to my father’s house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God,



Gen 32: 10 I am not worthy of the least of all the deeds of steadfast love and all the faithfulness that you have shown to your servant, for with only my staff I crossed this Jordan, and now I have become two camps.



Tim Keller

Because he knows he's chosen and loved, he can begin to finally admit how bad he is. But because he sees his own sin, he can begin to appreciate and be amazed at the assurance of grace

OUR TRANSFORMATION

Hebrews 12: 7 It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ...

10 For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.

ABRAHAM'S COVENANT FORMULA

Election

Genesis 12



Live
Righteously



Genesis 13-22



Covenantal
promises

Still to come

JACOB'S COVENANT FORMULA

Election

Genesis 27

Live
Righteously



Genesis 28–35

Covenantal
promises

Still to come

OUR COVENANT FORMULA

...we may share his holiness.

