Genesis 28-33 NRSVUE

Non-Priestly, (E/J) Priestly (P), **Editor/Redactor** **(R),** *Other*

**28***Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him and charged him, “You shall not marry one of the Canaanite women.****2****Go at once to Paddan-aram to the house of Bethuel, your mother’s father, and take as wife from there one of the daughters of Laban, your mother’s brother.****3****May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and numerous, that you may become a company of peoples.****4****May he give to you the blessing of Abraham, to you and to your offspring with you, so that you may take possession of the land where you now live as an alien, land that God gave to Abraham.”****5****Thus Isaac sent Jacob away, and he went to Paddan-aram, to Laban son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, Jacob’s and Esau’s mother.*

***6****Now Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Paddan-aram to take a wife from there and that as he blessed him he charged him, “You shall not marry one of the Canaanite women,”****7****and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother and gone to Paddan-aram.****8****So when Esau saw that the Canaanite women did not please his father Isaac,****9****Esau went to Ishmael and took Mahalath daughter of Abraham’s son Ishmael and sister of Nebaioth to be his wife in addition to the wives he had.*

**10**Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. **11**He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. **12**And he dreamed that there was a stairway set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. **13**And the Lord stood beside him and said, “I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring, **14**and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. **15**Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” **16**Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!” **17**And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

**18**So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. **19**He called that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first. **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, **22**and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God’s house, and of all that you give me I will surely give one-tenth to you.”

**29**Then Jacob went on his journey and came to the land of the people of the east. **2**As he looked, he saw a well in the field and three flocks of sheep lying there beside it, for out of that well the flocks were watered. The stone on the well’s mouth was large, **3**and when all the flocks were gathered there, the shepherds would roll the stone from the mouth of the well and water the sheep and put the stone back in its place on the mouth of the well.

**4**Jacob said to them, “My brothers, where do you come from?” They said, “We are from Haran.” **5**He said to them, “Do you know Laban son of Nahor?” They said, “We do.” **6**He said to them, “Is it well with him?” “Yes,” they replied, “and here is his daughter Rachel, coming with the sheep.” **7**He said, “Look, it is still broad daylight; it is not time for the animals to be gathered together. Water the sheep, and go, pasture them.” **8**But they said, “We cannot until all the flocks are gathered together, and the stone is rolled from the mouth of the well; then we water the sheep.”

**9**While he was still speaking with them, Rachel came with her father’s sheep, for she kept them. **10**Now when Jacob saw Rachel, the daughter of his mother’s brother Laban, and the sheep of his mother’s brother Laban, Jacob went up and rolled the stone from the well’s mouth and watered the flock of his mother’s brother Laban. **11**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.

**13**When Laban heard the news about his sister’s son Jacob, he ran to meet him; he embraced him and kissed him and brought him to his house. Jacob told Laban all these things, **14**and Laban said to him, “Surely you are my bone and my flesh!” And he stayed with him a month.

**15**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 elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. **17**Leah’s eyes were weak, but Rachel was graceful and beautiful. **18**Jacob loved Rachel, so 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 his love for her.

**21**Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife that I may go in to 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 Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her. **24**(Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) **25**When morning came, it was Leah! 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, “This is not done in our country—giving 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 as a wife. **29**(Laban gave his maid Bilhah to his daughter Rachel to be her maid.) **30**So Jacob went in to Rachel also, and he loved Rachel more than Leah. He served Laban for another seven years.

**31**When the Lord saw that Leah was unloved, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren. **32**Leah conceived and bore a son, and she named him Reuben, for she said, “Because the Lord has looked on my affliction, surely 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 named him Simeon. **34**Again she conceived and bore a son and said, “Now this time my husband will be joined to me, because I have borne him three sons”; therefore he was named Levi. **35**She conceived again and bore a son and said, “This time I will praise the Lord,” therefore she named him Judah; then she ceased bearing.

**30**When Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, she envied her sister, and she said to Jacob, “Give me children, or I shall die!” **2**Jacob became very angry with Rachel and said, “Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?” **3**Then she said, “Here is my maid Bilhah; go in to her, that she may bear upon my knees and that I too may have children through her.” **4**So she gave him her maid 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 named him Dan. **7**Rachel’s maid 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 named him Naphtali.

**9**When Leah saw that she had ceased bearing children, she took her maid Zilpah and gave her to Jacob as a wife. **10**Then Leah’s maid Zilpah bore Jacob a son. **11**And Leah said, “Good fortune!” So she named him Gad. **12**Leah’s maid Zilpah bore Jacob a second son. **13**And Leah said, “Happy am I! For the women will call me happy,” so she named him Asher.

**14**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.” **15**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 for your son’s mandrakes.” **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. **17**And God heeded Leah, and she conceived and bore Jacob a fifth son. **18**Leah said, “God has given me my hire because I gave my maid to my husband,” so she named him Issachar. **19**And Leah conceived again, and she bore Jacob a sixth son. **20**Then Leah said, “God has endowed me with a good gift; now my husband will honor me, because I have borne him six sons,” so she named him Zebulun. **21**Afterwards she bore a daughter and named her Dinah.

**22**Then God remembered Rachel, and God heeded her and opened her womb. **23**She conceived and bore a son and said, “God has taken away my reproach,” **24**and she named him Joseph, saying, “May the Lord add to me another son!”

**25**When 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, and let me go, for you know very well the service I have given you.” **27**But Laban said to him, “If you will allow me to say so, I have learned by divination that the Lord has blessed me because of you; **28**name your wages, and I will give it.” **29**Jacob said to him, “You yourself know how I have served you and how your livestock have 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; if you will do this for me, I will again feed your flock and keep it: **32**let me pass through all your flock today, removing from it every speckled and spotted sheep and every black lamb and the spotted and speckled among the goats, and such shall be my wages. **33**So my honesty will answer for me later, when you come to look into my wages with you. Every one that is not speckled and spotted among the goats and black among the lambs, if found with me, shall be counted stolen.” **34**Laban said, “Good! Let it be as you have said.” **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 charge of his sons, **36**and he set a distance of three days’ journey between himself and Jacob, while Jacob was pasturing the rest of Laban’s flock.

**37**Then Jacob took fresh rods of poplar and almond and plane and peeled white streaks in them, exposing the white of the rods. **38**He set the rods that he had peeled in front of the flocks in the troughs, that is, the watering places, where the flocks came to drink. And since they bred when they came to drink, **39**the flocks bred in front of the rods, and so the flocks produced young that were striped, speckled, and spotted. **40**Jacob separated the lambs and set the faces of the flocks toward the striped and the completely black animals in the flock of Laban, and he put his own droves apart and did not put them with Laban’s flock. **41**Whenever the stronger of the flock were breeding, Jacob laid the rods in the troughs before the eyes of the flock, that they might breed among the rods, **42**but for the feebler of the flock he did not lay them there, so the feebler were Laban’s and the stronger Jacob’s. **43**Thus the man grew exceedingly rich and had large flocks and male and female slaves and camels and donkeys.

**31**Now Jacob heard that the sons of Laban were saying, “Jacob has taken all that was our father’s; he has gained all this wealth from what belonged to our father.” **2**And Jacob saw that Laban did not regard him as favorably as he did before. **3**Then the Lord said to Jacob, “Return to the land of your ancestors and to your kindred, and I will be with you.” **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 as favorably 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. **8**If he said, ‘The speckled shall be your wages,’ then all the flock bore speckled, and if he said, ‘The striped shall be your wages,’ then all the flock bore striped. **9**Thus God has taken away the livestock of your father and given them to me.

**10**“During the mating of the flock I once had a dream in which I looked up and saw that the male goats that leaped upon the flock were striped, speckled, 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, ‘Look up and see that all the goats that leap on the flock are striped, speckled, 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 leave this land at once and return to the land of your birth.’ ” **14**Then Rachel and Leah answered 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 been using up the money given for us. **16**All the property that God has taken away from our father belongs to us and to our children; now then, do whatever God has said to you.”

**17**So Jacob arose and set his children and his wives on camels, **18**and he drove away all his livestock, all the property that he had gained, the livestock in his possession that he had acquired in Paddan-aram, to go to his father Isaac in the land of Canaan.

**19**Now Laban had gone to shear his sheep, and Rachel stole her father’s household gods. **20**And Jacob deceived Laban the Aramean, in that he did not tell him that he intended to flee. **21**So he fled with all that he had; starting out he crossed the Euphrates and set his face toward the hill country of Gilead.

**22**On the third day Laban was told that Jacob had fled. **23**So he took his kinsfolk with him and pursued him for seven days until he caught up with him in the hill country of Gilead. **24**But God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream by night and said to him, “Take heed that you say not a word to Jacob, either good or bad.”

**25**Laban overtook Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the hill country, and Laban with his kinsfolk camped in the hill country of Gilead. **26**Laban said to Jacob, “What have you done? You have deceived me and carried away my daughters like captives of the sword. **27**Why did you flee secretly and deceive me and not tell me? I would have sent you away with mirth and songs, with tambourine and lyre. **28**And why did you not permit me to kiss my sons and my daughters farewell? What you have done is foolish. **29**It is in my power to do you harm, but the God of your father spoke to me last night, saying, ‘Take heed that you speak to Jacob neither good nor bad.’ **30**Even though you had to go because you longed greatly for your father’s house, why did you steal my gods?” **31**Jacob answered Laban, “Because I was afraid, for I thought that you would take your daughters from me by force. **32**But anyone with whom you find your gods shall not live. In the presence of our kinsfolk, point out what I have that is yours, and take it.” Now Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen the gods.

**33**So Laban went into Jacob’s tent and into Leah’s tent and into the tent of the two maids, but he did not find them. And he went out of Leah’s tent and entered Rachel’s. **34**Now Rachel had taken the household gods and put them in the camel’s saddle and sat on them. Laban felt all about in the tent but did not find them. **35**And she said to her father, “Let not my lord be angry that I cannot rise before you, for the way of women is upon me.” So he searched but did not find the household gods.

**36**Then Jacob became angry and upbraided Laban. Jacob said to Laban, “What is my offense? What is my sin, that you have hotly pursued me? **37**Although you have felt about through all my goods, what have you found of all your household goods? Set it here before my kinsfolk and your kinsfolk, so that they may decide between us two. **38**These twenty years I have been with you; your ewes and your female goats have not miscarried, and I have not eaten the rams of your flocks. **39**That which was torn by wild beasts I did not bring to you; I bore the loss of it myself; of my hand you required it, whether stolen by day or stolen by night. **40**It was like this with me: by day the heat consumed me and the cold by night, and my sleep fled from my eyes. **41**These twenty years I have been in your house; I served you fourteen years for your two daughters and six years for your flock, and you have changed my wages ten times. **42**If the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had not been on my side, surely now you would have sent me away empty-handed. God saw my affliction and the labor of my hands and rebuked you last night.”

**43**Then Laban answered and said to Jacob, “The daughters are my daughters, the children are my children, the flocks are my flocks, and all that you see is mine. But what can I do today about these daughters of mine or about their children whom they have borne? **44**Come now, let us make a covenant, you and I, and let it be a witness between you and me.” **45**So Jacob took a stone and set it up as a pillar. **46**And Jacob said to his kinsfolk, “Gather stones,” and they took stones and made a heap, and they ate there by the heap. **47**Laban called it Jegar-sahadutha, but Jacob called it Galeed. **48**Laban said, “This heap is a witness between you and me today.” Therefore he called it Galeed **49**and the pillar Mizpah, for he said, “The Lord watch between you and me, when we are absent one from the other. **50**If you ill-treat my daughters or if you take wives in addition to my daughters, though no one else is with us, remember that God is witness between you and me.”

**51**Then Laban said to Jacob, “See this heap and see the pillar, which I have set between you and me. **52**This heap is a witness, and the pillar is a witness, that I will not pass beyond this heap to you, and you will not pass beyond this heap and this pillar to me, for harm. **53**May the God of Abraham and the God of Nahor judge between us.” So Jacob swore by the Fear of his father Isaac, **54**and Jacob offered a sacrifice on the height and called his kinsfolk to eat bread, and they ate bread and tarried all night in the hill country.

**55**Early in the morning Laban rose up and kissed his grandchildren and his daughters and blessed them; then he departed and returned home.

**32**Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him; **2**when Jacob saw them he said, “This is God’s camp!” So he called that place Mahanaim.

**3**Jacob sent messengers before him to his brother Esau in the land of Seir, the country of Edom, **4**instructing them, “Thus you shall say to my lord Esau: Thus says your servant Jacob, ‘I have lived with Laban as an alien and stayed until now, **5**and I have oxen, donkeys, flocks, male and female slaves, and I have sent to tell my lord, in order that I may find favor in your sight.’ ”

**6**The messengers returned to Jacob, saying, “We came to your brother Esau, and he is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him.” **7**Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed, and he divided the people who were with him and the flocks and herds and camels into two companies, **8**thinking, “If Esau comes to the one company and destroys it, then the company that is left will escape.”

**9**And Jacob said, “O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O Lord who said to me, ‘Return to your country and to your kindred, and I will do you good,’ **10**I am not worthy of the least of all the 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 companies. **11**Deliver me, please, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau, for I am afraid of him; he may come and kill us all, the mothers with the children. **12**Yet you have said, ‘I will surely do you good and make your offspring as the sand of the sea, which cannot be counted because of their number.’ ”

**13**So he spent that night there, and from what he had with him he took a present for his brother Esau, **14**two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams, **15**thirty milch camels and their colts, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten male donkeys. **16**These he delivered into the hand of his servants, every drove by itself, and said to his servants, “Pass on ahead of me, and put a space between drove and drove.” **17**He instructed the one in the lead, “When Esau my brother meets you and asks you, ‘To whom do you belong? Where are you going? And whose are these ahead of you?’ **18**then you shall say, ‘They belong to your servant Jacob; they are a present sent to my lord Esau, and moreover he is behind us.’ ” **19**He likewise instructed the second and the third and all who followed the droves, “You shall say the same thing to Esau when you meet him, **20**and you shall say, ‘Moreover your servant Jacob is behind us.’ ” For he thought, “I may appease him with the present that goes ahead of me, and afterwards I shall see his face; perhaps he will accept me.” **21**So the present passed on ahead of him, and he himself spent that night in the camp.

**22**The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. **23**He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. **24**Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. **25**When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob’s hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. **26**Then he said, “Let me go, for the day is breaking.” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go, unless you bless me.” **27**So he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” **28**Then the man said, “You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed.” **29**Then Jacob asked him, “Please tell me your name.” But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And there he blessed him. **30**So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved.” **31**The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip. **32**Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the thigh muscle that is on the hip socket, because he struck Jacob on the hip socket at the thigh muscle.

**33**Now Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming, and four hundred men with him. So he divided the children among Leah and Rachel and the two maids. **2**He put the maids with their children in front, then Leah with her children, and Rachel and Joseph last of all. **3**He himself went on ahead of them, bowing himself to the ground seven times, until he came near his brother.

**4**But Esau ran to meet him and embraced him and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. **5**When Esau looked up and saw the women and children, he said, “Who are these with you?” Jacob said, “The children whom God has graciously given your servant.” **6**Then the maids drew near, they and their children, and bowed down; **7**Leah likewise and her children drew near and bowed down; and finally Joseph and Rachel drew near, and they bowed down. **8**Esau said, “What do you mean by all this company that I met?” Jacob answered, “To find favor with my lord.” **9**But Esau said, “I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself.” **10**Jacob said, “No, please; if I find favor with you, then accept my present from my hand, for truly to see your face is like seeing the face of God, since you have received me with such favor. **11**Please accept my gift that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me and because I have everything I want.” So he urged him, and he took it.

**12**Then Esau said, “Let us journey on our way, and I will go alongside you.” **13**But Jacob said to him, “My lord knows that the children are frail and that the flocks and herds, which are nursing, are a care to me, and if they are overdriven for one day, all the flocks will die. **14**Let my lord pass on ahead of his servant, and I will lead on slowly, according to the pace of the cattle that are before me and according to the pace of the children, until I come to my lord in Seir.”

**15**So Esau said, “Let me leave with you some of the people who are with me.” But he said, “Why should my lord be so kind to me?” **16**So Esau returned that day on his way to Seir. **17**But Jacob journeyed to Succoth and built himself a house and made booths for his cattle; therefore the place is called Succoth.

**18**Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, **which is in the land of Canaan, on his way from Paddan-aram**, and he camped before the city. **19**And from the sons of Hamor, Shechem’s father, he bought for one hundred pieces of money the plot of land on which he had pitched his tent. **20**There he erected an altar and called it El-Elohe-Israel.