

# Genesis 29:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, when Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, that Jacob went near, and rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother.

## Analysis

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**And it came to pass, when Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep...** This passage belongs to the Jacob narratives which demonstrate God's sovereign election overriding human merit and the transformation of a deceiver into Israel, the father of the twelve tribes. The Jacob cycle shows how divine purposes advance through flawed individuals whom God graciously transforms.

Key themes include God's sovereign choice ("the older shall serve the younger"), the consequences of deception and family dysfunction, exile and return patterns, wrestling with God leading to blessing, and covenant renewal across generations. Jacob's character development from manipulative deceiver to mature patriarch demonstrates sanctification's lifelong process.

Theologically significant aspects include:

1. divine election based on grace not merit (Romans 9:10-13)
2. God's faithfulness to covenant promises despite human unfaithfulness
3. discipline as evidence of divine love and means of transformation
4. generational patterns of sin requiring divine intervention to break
5. prayer and wrestling with God as legitimate expressions of faith.

Jacob's limp after wrestling God symbolizes how divine encounters leave permanent marks, transforming our approach to life and dependence on God rather than our own cunning.

## Historical Context

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The patriarchal narratives (Genesis 12-50) reflect the cultural, social, and legal customs of the ancient Near East during the Middle Bronze Age (2000-1500 BCE). Archaeological discoveries including the Mari tablets, Nuzi tablets, and Egyptian records confirm many details: nomadic pastoralism, covenant-making ceremonies, marriage customs, property laws, and international travel patterns described in Genesis.

The cultural practices reflected include: treaty/covenant forms (Genesis 15), bride-price customs (Genesis 24, 29), inheritance laws favoring firstborn sons (Genesis 25, 27), adoption practices (Genesis 15, 30), levirate-type arrangements (Genesis 38), and Egyptian administrative systems (Genesis 41, 47). These parallels confirm Genesis's historical reliability while showing how God worked within ancient cultural frameworks to accomplish His purposes.

For later Israelites, these narratives established their identity as Abraham's descendants, explained their claim to Canaan, justified their possession of Joseph's bones (Exodus 13:19), and provided models of faith despite imperfection. The patriarchs' failures and God's faithfulness encouraged Israel that covenant relationship depended on God's grace rather than human merit. The movement from Mesopotamia to Canaan to Egypt set the stage for the Exodus and conquest narratives.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How does this verse deepen our understanding of God's character and His relationship with creation?
2. How can we apply the principles from this passage to contemporary challenges in family, work, or church?
3. What connections can we trace from this verse to Jesus' life, death, and resurrection?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיֵּה י	כָּאֲשֶׁר	רָאָה	יַעֲקֹב	אֶת	רַחֵל
H1961	H834	saw	And it came to pass when Jacob	H853	Rachel
		H7200	H3290		H7354
בֵּת	לָבָן	אָחִי	אִמּוֹ:	וְאֶת	צֹאן
the daughter	of Laban	brother	his mother's	H853	and the sheep
H1323	H3837	H251	H517		H6629
					H3837
אָחִי	אִמּוֹ:	וַיֵּשׁ	יַעֲקֹב	וַיִּגֹּל	אֶת
brother	his mother's	went near	And it came to pass when Jacob	and rolled	H853
H251	H517	H5066	H3290	H1556	
הָאֶבֶן	מֵעַל	פִּי	הַבְּאֵר	וַיִּשְׁקֵן	אֶת
the stone	H5921	mouth	from the well's	and watered	H853
H68		H6310	H875	H8248	
					H6629
לָבָן	אָחִי	אִמּוֹ:			
of Laban	brother	his mother's			
H3837	H251	H517			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 2:17** (Parallel theme): And the shepherds came and drove them away: but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock.

