

# Genesis 29:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, when Laban heard the tidings of Jacob his sister's son, that he ran to meet him, and embraced him, and kissed him, and brought him to his house. And he told Laban all these things.

## Analysis

**And it came to pass, when Laban heard the tidings of Jacob his sister's son, that he ran to meet him...** 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

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does this verse contribute to the biblical doctrine of creation, fall, or redemption?
2. How should this truth about Children shape our daily decisions and priorities?
3. What connections can we trace from this verse to Jesus' life, death, and resurrection?

## Interlinear Text

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|              |                                |                                |                  |                  |                |       |
|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|-------|
| וַיְהִי      | כַּשֵּׁמַע עַ                  | לָלֵב                          | אֶת              | שֵׁ מַעַן        | בֶּן יַעֲקֹב   | בֶּן  |
| H1961        | heard                          | And it came to pass when Laban | H853             | the tidings      | of Jacob       | son   |
|              | H8085                          | H3837                          |                  | H8088            | H3290          | H1121 |
| וְאֶחָת וְ   | וַיָּרָץ                       | לִקְרָאתוֹ                     | וַיִּחְבֹּק      | לוֹ              | וַיִּנָּשֶׁק   |       |
| his sister's | that he ran                    | to meet                        | him and embraced | H0               | him and kissed |       |
| H269         | H7323                          | H7125                          | H2263            |                  | H5401          |       |
| ל וְ         | וַיְבִיֵּא הוּ                 | אֵל                            | בֵּית וְ         | וַיֹּסֶפַּ ר     |                |       |
| H0           | him and brought                | H413                           | him to his house | And he told      |                |       |
|              | H935                           |                                | H1004            | H5608            |                |       |
|              | לָלֵב                          | אֵת                            | כָּל             | הַדְּבָרִים      | הָאֵלֶּה:      |       |
|              | And it came to pass when Laban | H853                           | H3605            | all these things | H428           |       |
|              | H3837                          |                                |                  | H1697            |                |       |

## Additional Cross-References

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**Genesis 24:29** (Parallel theme): And Rebekah had a brother, and his name was Laban: and Laban ran out unto the man, unto the well.

**Acts 20:37** (Parallel theme): And they all wept sore, and fell on Paul's neck, and kissed him,

**Exodus 18:7** (Parallel theme): And Moses went out to meet his father in law, and did obeisance, and kissed him; and they asked each other of their welfare; and they came into the tent.

**Exodus 4:27** (Parallel theme): And the LORD said to Aaron, Go into the wilderness to meet Moses. And he went, and met him in the mount of God, and kissed him.

**Romans 16:16** (Parallel theme): Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.

**Genesis 45:15** (Parallel theme): Moreover he kissed all his brethren, and wept upon them: and after that his brethren talked with him.

**Luke 7:45** (Parallel theme): Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.

**2 Samuel 19:39** (Parallel theme): And all the people went over Jordan. And when the king was come over, the king kissed Barzillai, and blessed him; and he returned unto his own place.