

# Genesis 29:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, that in the morning, behold, it was Leah:  
and he said to Laban, What is this thou hast done unto me?  
did not I serve with thee for Rachel? wherefore then hast thou  
beguiled me?

## Analysis

**And it came to pass, that in the morning, behold, it was Leah: and he said to Laban, What is this th...** 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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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does this verse contribute to the biblical doctrine of creation, fall, or redemption?
2. What obstacles prevent us from living out the truths presented in this verse?
3. How does this verse fit into the broader biblical story culminating in Christ?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיְהִי י	בַּבֹּקֶר	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה
H1961	And it came to pass that in the morning	H2009	H1931	H1931	behold it was Leah
	H1242				H3812
וַיֹּאמֶר	אֶל	לָבָן	מָה	זֹאת	עָשָׂה יְתָ
and he said	H413	to Laban	H4100	H2063	What is this thou hast done
H559		H3837			H6213
הֵלֹא	בְּרַחֵל	עַבַּדְתִּי	עִמָּךְ	וְלָמָּה	
H3808	with thee for Rachel	unto me did not I serve	H5973	H4100	
	H7354	H5647			
	רַמִּיתָנִי:				
	wherefore then hast thou beguiled				
	H7411				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 7:2** (Parallel theme): For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

**Proverbs 11:31** (Parallel theme): Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner.

**Revelation 3:19** (Parallel theme): As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

**1 Corinthians 3:13** (Parallel theme): Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

**Genesis 12:18** (Parallel theme): And Pharaoh called Abram, and said, What is this that thou hast done unto me? why didst thou not tell me that she was thy wife?

**Judges 1:7** (Parallel theme): And Adoni-bezek said, Threescore and ten kings, having their thumbs and their great toes cut off, gathered their meat under my table: as I have done, so God hath requited me. And they brought him to Jerusalem, and there he died.

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