

Genesis 30:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Rachel said, God hath judged me, and hath also heard my voice, and hath given me a son: therefore called she his name Dan.

Analysis

And Rachel said, God hath judged me, and hath also heard my voice, and hath given me a son: therefor... 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

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does understanding this verse shape our doctrine of humanity, sin, or salvation?
2. How should this truth about Jacob's Prosperity shape our daily decisions and priorities?
3. How does this verse fit into the broader biblical story culminating in Christ?

Interlinear Text

וְתִּשְׁמַע עַ	יְהוָה יְמִינְךָ פִּ	בְּחִיל	וְתִּשְׁמַע אַתָּה	וְתִּשְׁמַע אַתָּה	וְתִּשְׁמַע אַתָּה	וְתִּשְׁמַע אַתָּה
said	And Rachel	hath judged	God	H1571	me and hath also heard	
H559	H7354	H1777	H430		H8085	
בְּחִיל	לִפְנֵי	לְ	בְּ	עַל	כִּי	כִּי
my voice	and hath given	H0	me a son	H5921	H3651	therefore called
H6963	H5414		H1121			H7121
שְׁמַע	דָּנֵן					
she	his name	Dan				
H8034	H1835					

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 35:24 (Judgment): Judge me, O LORD my God, according to thy righteousness; and let them not rejoice over me.

Psalms 43:1 (Judgment): Judge me, O God, and plead my cause against an ungodly nation: O deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man.

Lamentations 3:59 (Judgment): O LORD, thou hast seen my wrong: judge thou my cause.

Jeremiah 13:2 (Parallel theme): So I got a girdle according to the word of the LORD, and put it on my loins.

Jeremiah 13:24 (Parallel theme): Therefore will I scatter them as the stubble that passeth away by the wind of the wilderness.

Genesis 46:23 (Parallel theme): And the sons of Dan; Hushim.

Genesis 35:25 (Parallel theme): And the sons of Bilhah, Rachel's handmaid; Dan, and Naphtali:

Deuteronomy 33:22 (Parallel theme): And of Dan he said, Dan is a lion's whelp: he shall leap from Bashan.

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