

Genesis 29:1-35

Hard Knocks College

Introduction:

There are some things you just can't learn out of a book. You must learn the hard way from life's experiences. We tend not to forget those troubling experiences that upset our lives; but we indeed learned valuable lessons that we could not learn any other way except through the difficulties and troubles of life. So far in studying these patriarchs we have learned how God blessed and brought them through various trials and obstacles of life. We may not have received a degree but entering hard knocks college is one of the best schools of the nation. (I Pet. 1:7)

I. Proof that the Lord was with Jacob

A. Theme – “I ‘am with you”

1. The promise to be with us – Acts 2:39; Matt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5

B. Various Proofs:

1. The Lord guided Jacob to a well where he would find the wife of his dreams.
2. Jacob's failures of omission, not engaged in prayer – Gen. 24:12
3. Jacob's design is evidently to be alone with Rachel – v.10
4. God's law of retribution is not forgotten – Prov. 13:5; Gal. 6:7
5. God will be vindicated – Rom. 12:17-21

II. Jacob's Troubles

A. The effects of Jacob's sin: Jer. 30:7-24

1. Jacob's first cloud
2. Jacob's second cloud –v.25
3. Jacob's third cloud – (a fraudulent marriage)
4. Jacob's fourth cloud – v. 27-28; Gal. 6:7

B. Many cases of this in the Scriptures:

1. Pharaoh, King of Egypt decreed to drown the Hebrew children – Exo. 1:22 cf. Exo. 14:26-31
2. Korah caused a split in the congregation – Num. 16:30
3. Wicked Ahab caused Naboth to be slain – I Kings 21:19
4. King Asa caused God's prophet to be placed in prison – II Chron. 16:10; I Kings 15:23
5. Saul of Tarsus stood by consenting to the stoning Stephen – Acts 14:19

C. The Issue of Polygamy:

1. The original institution of marriage as ordained by God was monogamous. Gen. 2:24
2. There is no question about it in spite of Jacob's multiple wives God blesses them opens their wombs to have children. (Polygamy is a matter of fact in the Bible)
3. Why did Biblical Law tolerate and regulate Polygamy?
Ans. Polygamous family was still a family a lower form of a family life but tolerated one. Biblical law protects the family but does not tolerate adultery. I Cor. 7:2; I Tim. 3:2

