

BRIDES OF SCRIPTURE: RACHEL.

INTRODUCTION. As with other brides in Genesis, Rachel is a picture of the relationship of Christ to the church. In each case, there is at least hint that the cross had to precede the bringing in of the bride. A deep sleep fell on Adam before Eve was presented to him. Isaac had to go to the altar before Rebecca was brought to him. Joseph had to experience rejection by his brothers, before, in exaltation, he received his bride Asenath. In the case of Rachel, Jacob served for many years before she became his own.

- 1) **HER DUTY.** Gen. 29.9. She kept her father's sheep, as did Joseph, and as did Jethro's daughters, and David. Lesson; families should feel a responsibility to the general well-being of the home. See Matt. 21.28, Luke 15.29. David's sons were pampered, and it didn't do them any good! 1 Kings 1.6.
- 2) **HER DILIGENCE.** Gen. 29.12. "She *ran* and told her father". Follow through the theme of people running in Genesis. Abraham, ch.18.2,7. His servant. ch.24.17. Rebekah. ch.24.20,28. Laban. ch.24.29. 29.13. Esau. ch.33.4. Joseph. ch.41.14, translated *brought hastily out*.
- 3) **HER DESIRE.** She had a desire for children, and she was discontented because this ambition was unfulfilled. A) She was beautiful yet discontented, ch.29.17. "Favour is deceitful and beauty is vain", Prov.31.30. B) She had a handmaid ch.29.29, which would remove much of the drudgery from her life, yet she was discontented. C) In the rivalry, which existed with her sister, she had the chief place in her husband's affection, ch.29.30, yet she was discontented. D) Her barrenness was by divine decree, Ch.29.31, yet there was no spirit of submission to the will of God. Rather, she envied her sister, was unreasonable with her husband, resorted to a socially acceptable answer to the problem of infertility, and coveted a fertility potion, before evidently praying about the situation! Ch.30.1-24.
- 4) **HER DECEIT.** A) Unknown to her husband, she stole her father's images, small household gods, ch. 31.19. After God answering her prayers, she still had a hankering for idols! See 2 Kings 17.33. B) She cunningly hid these idols from her father. She was not no. 1 suspect!! She must have been a good actress; she had taken on her father's features.
- 5) **HER DEATH.** Her death is recorded in ch.35.16-20. It was unexpected and premature: she died when giving birth to her second child. A) Jacob had moved to Bethel in obedience to a divine command, V1. He left without any such instruction. He always protected Rachel formerly. Did he not take her condition into account on this occasion? Was he more concerned for flocks and herds in ch. 33.13 than he was for Rachel here? B) Her death was at Bethlehem, the first mention of Bethlehem in Scripture. Benjamin was born there, with a midwife in attendance. Not so when the Lord Jesus was born at Bethlehem. C) Rachel called her son, Benoni, *the son of my sorrow*. Jacob renamed him Benjamin, *the son of my right hand*. It is a little picture of Him Who was *the Man of Sorrows*, now exalted at the right hand of God. D) Jacob raised a pillar in her memory. He never seemed to get over her death, Ch.48.7.