

Laban and his daughters: an allegory of the monarchy

GENESIS	MONARCHY
Laban, the foreign father of Rachel and Leah	Monarchy itself as “foreign”
Leah the elder, mother of Judah	Judah, the “elder”
Rachel the younger, mother of Benjamin and Joseph, grandmother of Ephraim/Manesseh	Israel, the “younger,” called “Ephraim,” 1 Kg 12.25
Jacob served seven years for Leah before Rachel, Gen 29.20	David reigned seven years over Judah before Israel, 2 Sam 2.11; 5.5; 1 Kg 2.11
Jacob “slaves” (Heb, <i>`avod</i>) for Laban, Gen 29.20, 30; 30.26, 29; 31.6, 41	Israel “slaved” (Heb, <i>`avodah</i> , only use in monarchy narrative) for the Solomonic monarchy
Rachel, the barren wife, demands “sons,” envying her rival sister-wife, Gen 30.1	Hannah, the barren wife, prays for a “son”, envying her rival wife, 1 Sam 1 (as itself an allegory of the monarchy)
Jacob is inspired to “return” to land of his ancestry, Gen 31.3	Israel returns to land of its ancestry, 1 Kg 12.16
Then Rachel and Leah answered him, "Is there any portion or inheritance left to us in our father's house?" Gen 31.14	When all Israel saw that the king would not listen to them, the people answered the king, "What share do we have in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse." 1 Kg 12.16
Jacob “takes away” Laban’s livestock and daughters, Gen 31.9	David “takes away” Bathsheba and Saul’s daughters, 2 Sam 12
<i>Teraphim</i> as expression of idolatry, Gen 31.19 (only mention of <i>teraphim</i> in torah)	<i>Teraphim</i> as expression of idolatry, 1 Sam 19.13; 2 Kg 23.24 (only mention of <i>teraphim</i> in monarchy)