

Genesis 25.19-35.22 chiasm

[from Michael Fishbane, *Biblical Text and Texture* (1998, p. 42)]

A: 25:19-34: oracle sought, Rebekah struggles in childbirth, *bekhorah*-birthright; birth; themes of strife, deception, fertility; the "prologue"

B: ch. 26: interlude; strife, deception, *berakhah*-blessing; covenant with foreigner

C: 27:1-28:9: deception; *berakhah*-stolen; fear of Esau; flight from land

D: 28:10-22: encounter (*paya`*) with divine at sacred site, near border, *berakhah*

E: ch. 29: internal cycle opens; arrival; Laban at border; deception, wages

F: 30:1-24: Rachel barren, then fertile

F¹: 30:25-43: Jacob exploits fertility of sheep

E¹: ch. 31: internal cycle closes; departure; Laban at border; deception, wages

D¹: ch. 32: encounter (*paya`*) with divine at sacred site, near border, *berakhah*

C¹: ch. 33: deception planned; fear of Esau; *berakhah*-gift returned; return from land

B¹: ch. 34: interlude; strife, deception, *berakhah*-gift; covenant with foreigner

A¹: 35:1-22: oracle fulfilled; Rachel struggles in childbirth, *berakhah*; death, resolutions

cf. G. Wenham, *Genesis*, p. 169 for slightly different arrangement, placing 29:31-30:24 as "G" center