

## Genesis 28.10-31.55: Structure and Themes

### OVERALL CHIASM

A: 28.10-29.12: Jacob on his way to Haran; dream encounter with YHWH at Bethel; meeting Rachel

B: 29.13-30: Jacob and Laban: "serving" for wives

C: 29.31-30.24: Rachel and Leah (see also Deut 21.15-17)

29.31-35: YHWH "sees" Leah and "opens" her womb: Leah's four sons

30.1-8: Jacob/Rachel: Rachel's two sons through Bilhah

30.9-13: Leah's two sons through Zilpah

30.14-21: Leah/Rachel: Leah's two sons and daughter

30.22-24: God "remembers" Rachel and "opens" her womb: Rachel's son

B1: 30.25-31.2: Jacob and Laban: "serving" for wives

A1: 31.3-18: Jacob leaves Haran, dream encounter with God of Bethel; meeting with Rachel (and Leah)

### CHIASM, 31.19-30

A: 19: Rachel steals Laban's "household gods" (*teraphim*)

B: 20-23: Jacob deceives Laban in not telling him he intended to flee; pursuit into hill country of Gilead

C: 24: God speaks to Laban in dream

B1: 25-28: In hill country in Gilead, Laban accuses Jacob of deceiving him in fleeing secretly

A1: 29-30: Laban accuses Jacob of stealing his household gods (*teraphim*)

### CHIASM, 31.19-55

A: 19-25: Jacob flees and Laban pursues

B: 26-30: Laban accuses Jacob

C: 31-35: the search for the *teraphim*

B1: 36-42: Jacob accuses Laban

A1: 43-55: Jacob and Laban make a covenant of *shalom*

**STONE THEME:** Outside these chapters, Hebrew for "stone" (*'even*) only at 2.12; 11.3; 35.14; 49.24; in these chapters, 12 times, as follows:

28.11: He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. *Taking one of the stones of the place*, he put it under his head and lay down in that place.

28.18: So Jacob rose early in the morning, and *he took the stone that he had put under his head* and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it.

28.22: ...*this stone, which I have set up for a pillar*, shall be God's house

29.2-3: *The stone on the well's mouth was large*, and when all the flocks were gathered there, *the shepherds would roll the stone from the mouth of the well*, and water the sheep, and *put the stone back in its place on the mouth of the well*.

29.8: But they said, "We cannot until all the flocks are gathered together, and *the stone is rolled from the mouth of the well*; then we water the sheep."

29.10: *Jacob went up and rolled the stone from the well's mouth*, and watered the flock of his mother's brother Laban.

31.45-46: *So Jacob took a stone, and set it up as a pillar*. And Jacob said to his kinsfolk, "*Gather stones,*" and they took stones, and made a heap; and they ate there by the heap.