

Jacob Makes Great Sacrifices to Marry in the Covenant

Letting God prevail in our lives will affect whom we choose to date and marry.

Though his brother Esau married outside the covenant (see Genesis 26:34–35), Jacob was determined to follow the Lord. His father, Isaac, instructed him to travel over 400 miles, or 640 kilometers, to find someone who was willing to make and keep covenants with God. His father gave him a blessing from the Lord to be able to succeed. (see Genesis 28:1–4)

Read Genesis 29:16–20, looking for what else Jacob was willing to do to marry in the covenant.

- What can we learn from these verses?

Things did not turn out as Jacob planned. Read Genesis 29:21–28 to see what happened next. It is helpful to know that the Lord accepted the plural marriages He commanded (see Doctrine and Covenants 132:34, 37).

Jacob, Leah, and Rachel faced serious struggles. However, as they kept their covenants with God, their family became large and prosperous. Between Leah, Rachel, and two additional wives, the Lord blessed Jacob with 12 sons whose posterity would become the twelve tribes of Israel.

- How did Jacob let God prevail in life, even when it was difficult?
- What are some ways we can let God prevail in our lives now, including who we date, that could show the Lord we value a temple marriage?
- Though prioritizing a temple marriage may be difficult, why would it be worth it?

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