

**THE COMPLICATED LIFE OF**

Jacob



**A LIFE LIKE YOURS AND MINE**

## Prophecy of Genesis 25 to Rebekah

23 The Lord said to her, “Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, **and the older will serve the younger.**”

## God's Covenant with Jacob

“I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. 14 Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. 15 I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”

Genesis 28

# 1. Jacob's Misplaced Hope

1 Then Jacob continued on his journey and came to the land of the eastern peoples...  
10 Jacob saw Rachel daughter of his uncle Laban... He had told Rachel that he was a relative of her father and a son of Rebekah. So she ran and told her father. 13 As soon as Laban heard the news about Jacob, his sister's son, he hurried to meet him.

Genesis 29

# 1. Jacob's Misplaced Hope

After Jacob had stayed with him for a whole month, 15 Laban said to him, “Just because you are a relative of mine, should you work for me for nothing? **Tell me what your wages should be.**”

Genesis 29

## **Jacob Answers Laban**

Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. 17 Leah had weak eyes, but Rachel had a lovely figure and was beautiful. 18 Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, ***“I’ll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel.”***



# **1. Jacob's Misplaced Hope**

So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her.

Genesis 29:20

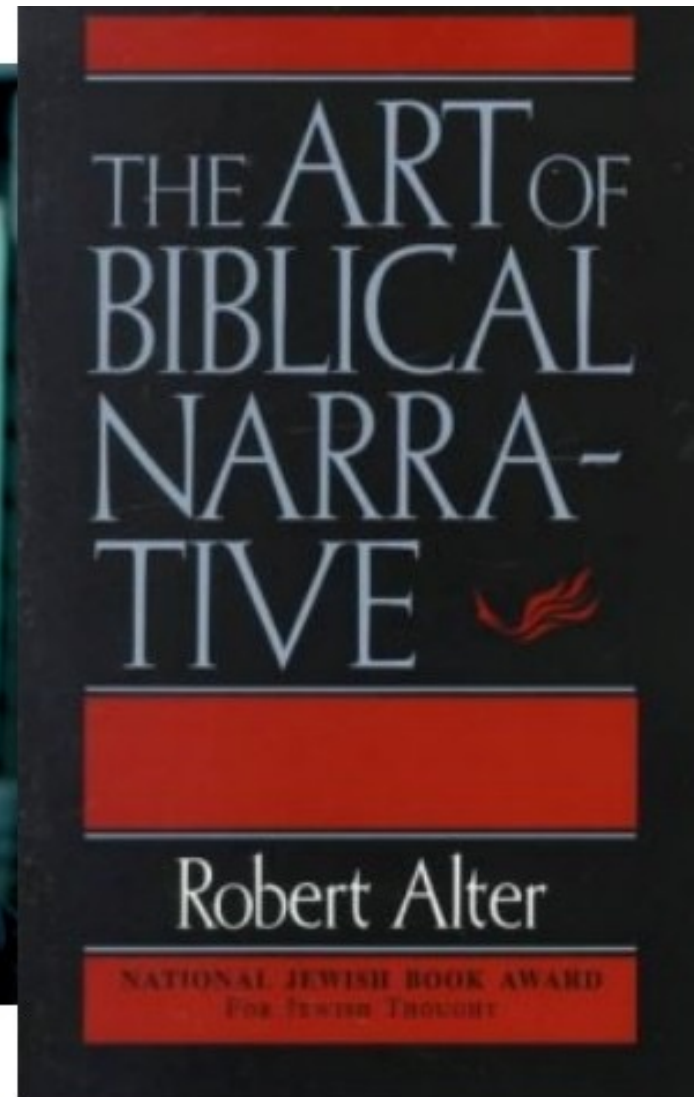


## 1. Jacob's Misplaced Hope

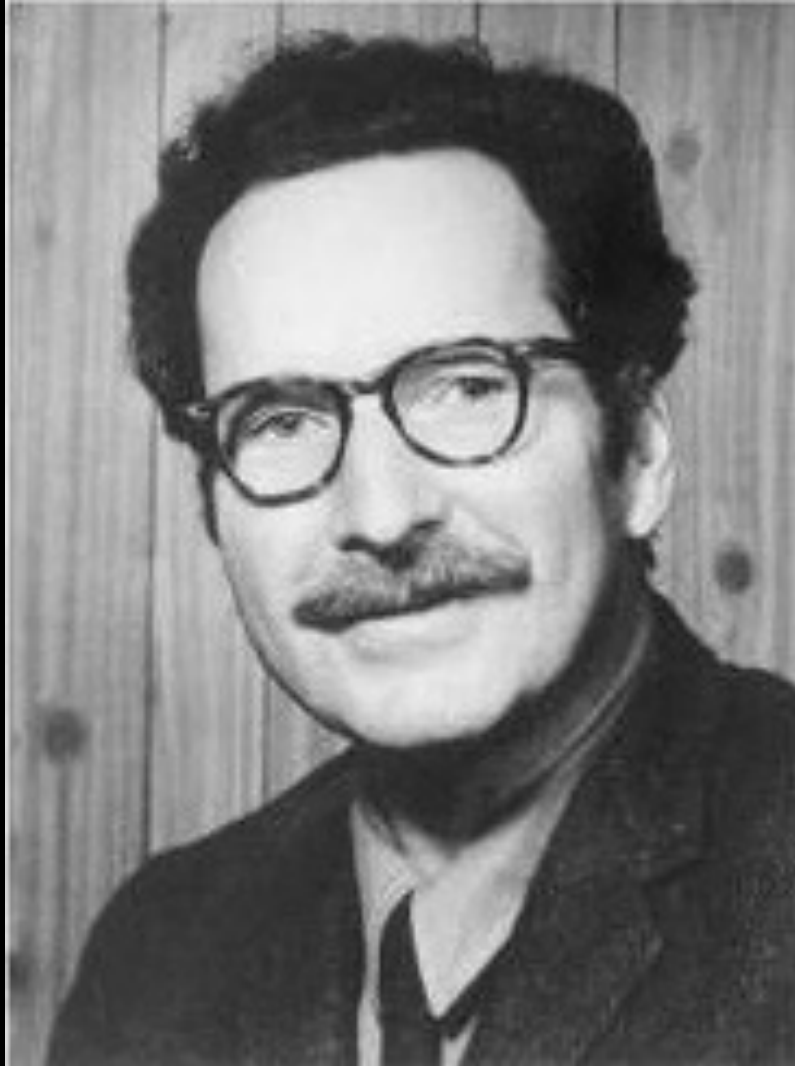
Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife. My time is completed, and *I want to make love to her.*"

Genesis 29:21

An American professor of Hebrew and comparative literature at the University of California, Berkeley, where he has taught since 1967.







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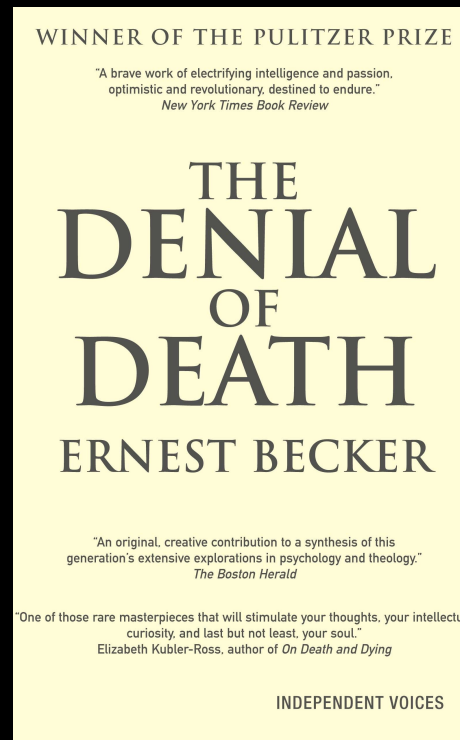
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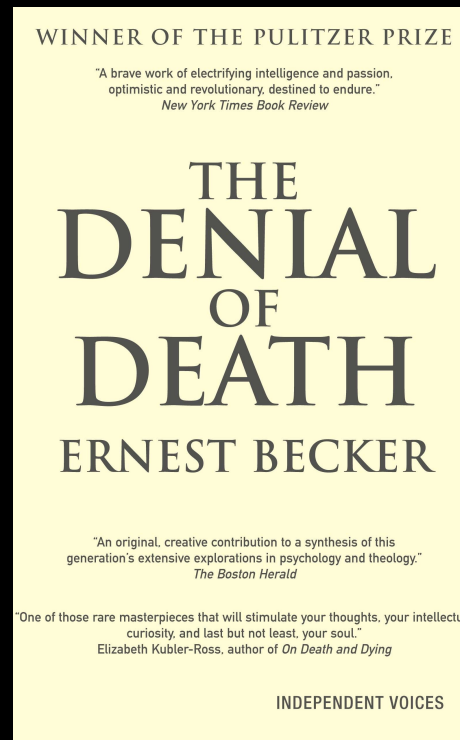
Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, author of *On Death and Dying*

INDEPENDENT VOICES

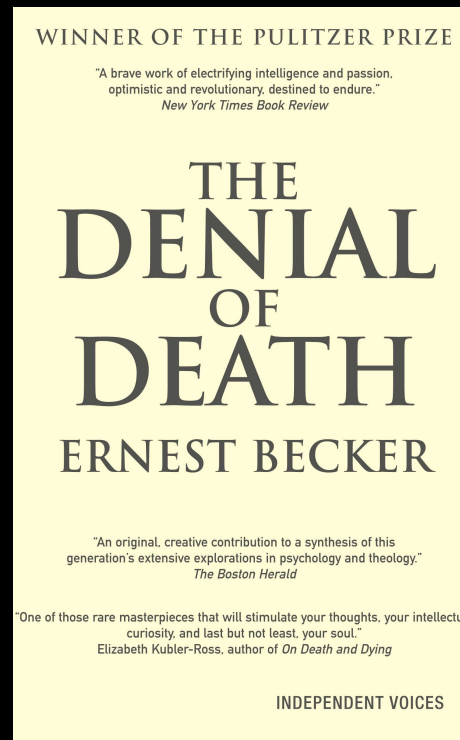
“We still need to feel that our life matters in the scheme of things. We still want to merge ourselves with some higher self-absorbing meaning in trust and in gratitude, but if we no longer have God how are we to do this?”



One of the first ways that occurred to the modern secular person was the romantic solution. The self-glorification we need in our innermost being, we now look for in a love partner.



What is it that we want when we elevate the love partner to this position? We want to be rid of our faults. We want to be rid of our feeling of nothingness. We want to be justified. We want to know our existence hasn't been in vain. We want redemption; nothing less ...”







## **2. The Disillusionment Brought On By Misplaced Hope**

**Laban's Plot** -The minute Jacob says, "I'll work seven years for Rachel," Laban's mind goes to work. *"Here's a guy who will do anything."*

## **2. The Disillusionment Brought On By Misplaced Hope**

### **Laban's Plot**

Laban said, "It's better that I give her to you than to some other man. Stay here with me." Genesis 29:19

## **2. The Disillusionment Brought On By Misplaced Hope**

### **Laban's Plot**

But when evening came, he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and Jacob made love to her. ...25 When morning came, there was Leah!

## **2. The Disillusionment Brought On By Misplaced Hope**

### **Laban's Plot**

So Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn't I? Why have you deceived me?”

## **2. The Disillusionment Brought On By Misplaced Hope**

### **Laban's Plot**

“It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one.



## **2. The Disillusionment Brought On By Misplaced Hope**

**Leah's Lot** : *“Leah had weak eyes,  
but Rachel was lovely in form, and  
beautiful.” vs. 17*

## **2. The Disillusionment Brought On By Misplaced Hope**

### **Leah's Lot**

When the Lord saw that Leah was not loved, he enabled her to conceive, but Rachel remained childless. 32 Leah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Reuben, for she said, "It is because the Lord has seen my misery. Surely my husband will love me now."



## **2. The Disillusionment Brought On By Misplaced Hope**

### **Leah's Lot**

She conceived again, and when she gave birth to a son she said, "*Because the Lord heard that I am not loved, he gave me this one too.*" So she named him Simeon.

## **2. The Disillusionment Brought On By Misplaced Hope**

### **Leah's Lot**

Again she conceived, and when she gave birth to a son she said, “*Now at last my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons.*” So he was named Levi.



How am I to understand the travesties  
of family life in the Patriarchs?

At every single place, where you  
have polygamy and slavery and  
bride purchase and that sort of  
thing, in every place they bring  
devastation.

Isn't it great we live today in modern world, where were so much more advanced culturally and sociologically that we don't have to live back in those times where a woman's looks could just set the course of her entire life?



**The MORAL of the story  
is- morals won't get you  
into God's story, but God  
has come into your story.**







## ***C.S. Lewis***

“Most people, if they had really learned to look into their own hearts, would know that they do want, and want acutely, something that cannot be had in this world. There are all sorts of things in this world that offer to give it to you, but they never quite keep their promise.



## ***C.S. Lewis***

The longings which arise in us when we first fall in love, or first think of some foreign country, or first take up some subject that excites us, are longings which no marriage, no travel, no learning, can really satisfy.



## ***C.S. Lewis***

There was something we grasped at, in that first moment of longing, which just fades away in the reality.



### **3. Who will ultimately fulfill this hope for one true love**

She (Leah) conceived again, and when she gave birth to a son she said, "This time I will praise the Lord." So she named him Judah.

And she stopped having children. vs. 35

### **3. Who will ultimately fulfill this hope for one true love**

The scepter will not depart from **Judah**, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he to whom it belongs shall come and the obedience of the nations shall be his.

Genesis 49:10







