

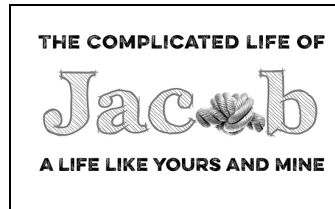
### 3. Who will ultimately fulfill this hope for one true love?

She 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.  
Genesis 29:35

Finally Leah took the deepest, most passionate desires of her heart away from her husband and put them on the Lord.

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

Leah is a picture of how God is going to save the world. He's not a God who says, *"Strong people, if you live virtuous lives you can come up to heaven."* Instead He comes down. He dies on the cross and fulfills the requirements for you.



### Misplaced Hope in the Search for True Love

The Story of Jacob, Laban, Leah and Rachel  
**Genesis 29**

#### 1. Jacob's Misplaced Hope

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...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 verses 1, 10,13,14,15

#### 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."* ...So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her. Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife. My time is completed, and I want to make love to her."  
Genesis 29:16-18,20,21

**Ernest Becker**, is an prominent atheist, wrote a Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *The Denial of Death*, and in it he points out in ancient times romantic love was seldom the basis for marriage.

**Becker says not so in our secular world today:**  
*"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."*  
**Becker is linking Jacob's desires towards Rachel with where we go today in our secular godless culture.**

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

We see it first by looking at **Laban's plot**, and secondly, at **Leah's lot**.

**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.*"

**Jacob says**, "*I'll work for Rachel for seven years.*"  
**What does Laban say?** He doesn't say, "Yes!"

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

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! 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?"26 Laban replied, "It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one. Genesis 29:23,25,26

**Leah's Lot-** What do we know about Leah up till now?  
"Leah had weak eyes, but Rachel was lovely in form, and beautiful." Genesis 29:17

### Here are some of the most sad sentences in the Bible.

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.*" Genesis 29:31,32

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. Genesis 29:33

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. Genesis 29:34

### What is Leah doing?

How is she handling the hole in her heart?  
The same way Jacob handled the fact Esau was preferred to him.  
So as Jacob pursued Rachel to fill the void  
so now Leah pursues Jacob to fill her void.

2 Sidebars to draw from this narrative:

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**The moral of the story** is morals won't get you into God's story.  
But God has to come into your story.

### Jacob and Leah's story teaches us:

That in all of life, through every event, through every aspect of your life, there will always be an undercurrent of disappointment.  
When morning came, there was Leah! vs. 25