

Now Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah’s eyes were delicate, but Rachel was beautiful of form and appearance.

Now Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, “I will serve you seven years for Rachel your younger daughter.”

So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed only a few days to him because of the love he had for her.

Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in to her.” And Laban gathered together all the men of the place and made a feast. Now it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. So it came to pass in the morning, that he said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served you?”

And Laban said, “It must not be done so in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn. Fulfill her week, and we will give you this one also for the service which you will serve with me still another seven years.”

Then Jacob did so and fulfilled her week. So he gave him his daughter Rachel as wife also. And he served with Laban still another seven years.

Genesis 29

“The name of the elder was Leah” means the nature of the affection for external truth; “and the name of the younger Rachel” means the nature of the affection for internal truth. Leah is called “the elder” because external truth is learned first, and Rachel “the younger” because internal truth is learned from then on after that. External truths provide the basic outline for internal truths, for they are the general outlines into which particular details are added. Unless a person has a general outline of the idea of a thing he does not make sense of any particular aspect of it. This explains why the literal sense of the Word contains general truths but the internal sense particular truths.

Heavenly Secrets 3819

Jacob’s Wives

January 21, 2024

Rev. Jeffrey O. Smith

The Lord’s Prayer 175
In All Thy Ways 84
Let There Be Love 105

(Children Light Candles)

Jacob’s Ladder handout

Welcome

Opening Prayer

How Good Are Your Tents, O Jacob 13

Opening of the Word

Readings and Talk

Jacob and Rachel handout

Lord’s Prayer

Benediction

As the Deer 85

Offertory

(Children put out the Candles)

Discussion

Closing of the Word

Please join us on Zoom

at 11:00am Sunday for a discussion.

Help is always appreciated:

Putting away the altar, taking down the quilt and rolling up the rug, stacking the chairs on the carts.

Please note: This service is livestreamed and recorded. You and your family may be on camera, and your comments will be part of the live stream and recording.

Musicians: Graham Bier, Anna Martin, Shawn Rose
Sound/Video: Gareth Mergen

“And Leah's eyes were weak” means that the affection for external truth is weak so far as the understanding of it is concerned. External ideas are feeble and shaky, which so to speak allow themselves to be carried along by every puff of wind, that is, to be won over to every opinion. But when those same ideas have been filled in with their particular details they emerge as firm and steadfast ideas, for they then possess the essence and form meant by “beautiful in form and beautiful in appearance” as Rachel was, who represents the affections for interior truth.

Heavenly Secrets 3820

[A person begins to act from their own disposition or nature] from frequent practice or habit, and that practice or habit from the things he has learned. This does not come about until the things he has absorbed through his being taught them have been passed through from a person’s external life to the interior one; for when they exist in the interior life, the person no longer acts from the sensory memory but from his acquired disposition, till at length they flow into action spontaneously. For in this case, they have been inscribed on the person's interior memory, and the things that proceed from this give the appearance of being innate. This may be recognized from the languages a person has learned in childhood, also from the ability to reason, and from conscience too. From these considerations it is evident that the truths of doctrine, even those that are interior, are not joined to a person until they are matters of life.

Heavenly Secrets 3843