

THE HOLY BIBLE

TELEPLAY EDITION

EPISODE 1010

"A Long Seven Years"

By

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Based on the novel by God

TEASER

EXT. ISAAC'S ENCAMPMENT - DAY

SUPER: "2158 Anno Mundi"

Isaac, 111, stands with the flocks around his camp. In the distance, he sees a figure approaching on a camel. He watches the figure for a moment until he recognizes the rider.

Isaac takes off for his tent. He sticks his head in. Rebekah, 86, is working on dinner.

ISAAC
Rebekah, he's home.

Rebekah quickly puts down her utensils and runs out. Together, they look across the expanse of the land at the lonely camel approaching.

The face of the rider becomes clear. It is Jacob, now 51. Isaac and Rebekah run to him. He stops and hops off the camel.

ISAAC & REBEKAH
(various)
Jacob! Oh my son!

They embrace him in a big hug. They start walking back to the camp.

ISAAC
My son, you have come back.

JACOB
Yes. It was about time.

REBEKAH
Thirty-three years is a long time
with Shem.

ISAAC
That's nothing. My father, Abraham,
was with Shem and Noah for almost
fifty. What made you come back?

JACOB

It was on account of Eber.

ISAAC

Is something wrong with him?

JACOB

No. Eber asked for some time to himself.

REBEKAH

Why?

JACOB

Shem died.

Isaac stops and looks at Jacob. Jacob looks at his father sympathetically. Isaac looks away.

ISAAC

He was a good man. He was the last of the men born before the flood.
How old was he?

JACOB

Six hundred years old. Eber is in mourning. He told me my training in the ways of the Lord was complete.

ISAAC

Very good, my son. We shall all mourn the loss of Shem. We will certainly never forget him.

The trio continues walking to the encampment.

JACOB

How is Esau?

ISAAC

Your brother is well.

REBEKAH

He has taken wives of the Canaanites.
He may be well, but-

ISAAC

Rebekah, now is not the time.

JACOB

Where is he?

ISAAC

Here now. He was is Seir for quite some time, and returns there often to hunt.

REBEKAH

That's where he met one of his wives.

JACOB

One?

ISAAC

He has two.

REBEKAH

They're horrible, heathenistic-

ISAAC

This isn't the time.

REBEKAH

I'm just warning him. He married a pair of Hittites of different Hittite families. Even they don't agree on a god to worship.

JACOB

Have you talked to him?

REBEKAH

It's not my place to do so.

ISAAC

He knows. Surely he does too.

REBEKAH

Not until you talk to him.

JACOB

So they're a source of grief to you,
it sounds like. I don't think I've
ever known anything this quick.

ISAAC

I'm sorry, Jacob. Welcome home.
Tonight we're going to feast in
your honor.

REBEKAH

With pleasure.

They walk into the camp.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

EXT. ISAAC'S ENCAMPMENT - DAY

SUPER: "2184 Anno Mundi"

Esau, 77, walks across the camp to Isaac's tent.

INT. ISAAC'S TENT - DAY

Isaac, 137, sits in the tent with Rebekah, 112. His eyes have large cataracts blinding his vision.

ISAAC

When Esau arrives, I wish some time alone with him.

REBEKAH

You'll be okay?

ISAAC

Yes. Esau can guide me if we need to leave the tent, but I see no reason to.

REBEKAH

Okay.

Esau enters. Rebekah stands.

REBEKAH

Excuse me.

ESAU

Yes, mother.

Rebekah exits. Esau walks to Isaac.

EXT. ISAAC'S TENT - DAY

Rebekah walks around the tent and sits down outside it, listening.

INT. ISAAC'S TENT - DAY

Isaac reaches out his hand to Esau.

ISAAC

My son?

ESAU

Here I am.

Esau takes his Isaac's hand. Isaac smiles.

ISAAC

I am now an old man and don't know the day of my death. Now then, get your weapons - your quiver and bow - and go out to the open country to hunt some wild game for me. Prepare me the kind of tasty food I like and bring it to me to eat, so that I may give you my blessing before I die.

ESAU

I would be honored, father. Thank you.

EXT. ISAAC'S TENT - DAY

Rebekah watches as Esau walks away from the tent. She runs over to Jacob nearby. She grabs his arms and drags him into a tent.

REBEKAH

Come here.

JACOB

Okay.

INT. KITCHEN TENT - DAY

Rebekah pulls Jacob in.

REBEKAH

Look, I overheard your father tell your brother to bring him some game prepared the way he likes it, so that he can give Esau his blessing before he dies.

JACOB

Is father dying?

REBEKAH

No, no, no, my son, listen carefully and do what I tell you: Go out to the flock and bring me two choice young goats, so I can prepare some tasty food for your father, just the way he likes it. You will take it to your father to eat, so that he may give you his blessing before he dies.

JACOB

But my brother Esau is a hairy man, and I'm a man with smooth skin. What if my father touches me? I would appear to be tricking him and would bring down a curse on myself rather than a blessing.

REBEKAH

My son, let the curse fall on me. Just do what I say. Go and get the goats for me.

JACOB

Yes, mother.

EXT. ISAAC'S ENCAMPMENT - DAY

Jacob looks out of the tent. He walks out to the fields and locates two goats.

HERDSMAN

Jacob? What are you doing?

JACOB

My mother asked for two choice goats. I am bringing them to her.

Jacob takes the goats without another word and bring them back to the tent where his mother waits. Rebekah looks at them

REBEKAH

Well done. Wait here, and I will prepare them.

INT. KITCHEN TENT - DAY

Rebekah has Jacob dressed in Esau's clothes. She has tied goatskins to Jacob's hands.

REBEKAH

Good. You should smell just like Esau. If your father touches you, these skins will help the illusion.

JACOB

What if Esau comes back before father is done with his blessing?

REBEKAH

I will be watching for your brother. If I see him coming, I will come and get you. Do not rush him, or he will suspect something.

JACOB

Ok.

Rebekah gets the food and gives it to Jacob. She walks with him across the encampment to Isaac's tent.

REBEKAH

Now. Go in there and get your father's blessing.

Rebekah holds the tent flap open for Jacob to enter. He walks in, warily.

INT. ISAAC'S TENT - DAY

Rebekah closes the flap. Jacob stands near the door, nervous. He takes a deep breath.

JACOB

My father.

ISAAC

Yes, my son. Who is it?

Jacob takes another deep breath, nervous.

JACOB

I am Esau your firstborn. I have done
as you told me. Please sit up and
eat some of my game so that you
may give me your blessing.

ISAAC

How did you find it so quickly, my
son?

JACOB

The Lord, your God, gave me success.

Isaac looks wary of this story.

ISAAC

Come near so I can touch you, my
son, to know whether you are my son
Esau or not.

Jacob gulps and leans close in to Isaac. Isaac touches the
goatskins on Jacob's arm. Jacob watches this in fear of
discovery.

ISAAC

The voice is the voice of Jacob, but
the hands are the hands of Esau. Are
you really my son Esau?

JACOB

I am.

ISAAC

My son, bring me some of your game
to eat, so that I may give you my
blessing.

Jacob sets the plate in front of Isaac. Isaac reaches out and
takes the food. He eats.

ISAAC

My son knows how to prepare his game
the way I like it. It is delicious.

JACOB

Thank you, father.

LATER...

Isaac finishes his meal and turns to Jacob.

ISAAC

Come here, my son, and kiss me.

Jacob moves to Isaac. Rebekah come to the door and looks in. Jacob kisses his father on the cheek. Isaac holds Jacob to him and smells of his clothes. Jacob freezes.

ISAAC

Ah, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field that the Lord has blessed. May God give you of heaven's dew and of earth's richness—an abundance of grain and new wine. May nations serve you and peoples bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers, and may the sons of your mother bow down to you. May those who curse you be cursed and those who bless you be blessed.

JACOB

Thank you, father.

Isaac releases Jacob. Jacob turns to Rebekah, who signals him desperately to leave.

JACOB

I will be going now, Father. I am forever honored by your blessings.

Rebekah is insistent. Jacob takes the tray and leaves.

EXT. ISAAC'S ENCAMPMENT - DAY

Rebekah points to the kitchen tent.

REBEKAH

Esau is almost done. Get away from here, now!

JACOB

We did it, mother. I got my father's blessing.

REBEKAH

Yes, you did. You'll be blessed and dead if you don't move!

She shuffle Jacob around the side of the tent just as Esau come around the corner to Isaac's tent.

INT. ISAAC'S TENT - DAY

Isaac lies in his tent, alone. He appears very happy and content. Esau enters with his food.

ESAU

My father, sit up and eat some of my game, so that you may give me your blessing.

Isaac sits up and looks around in horror.

ISAAC

What? Who are you?

ESAU

(hurt)

I am your son - your firstborn, Esau.

Isaac shakes in worry and fear.

ISAAC

You are Esau?

ESAU

Yes.

ISAAC

(with growing anxiety)

Who was it, then, that hunted game and brought it to me? I ate it just before you came and...

Esau looks very worried.

ISAAC
...and I blessed him. And indeed he
will be blessed!

Esau falls to his father's feet.

ESAU
(a desperate cry)
Bless me! Me too, my father!

ISAAC
Your brother came deceitfully and
took your blessing.

ESAU
(angrily)
Isn't he rightly named Jacob? He has
deceived me these two times: He took
my birthright, and now he's taken my
blessing. Haven't you reserved any
blessing for me?

ISAAC
(calm)
I have made him lord over you and
have made all his relatives his
servants, and I have sustained him
with grain and new wine. So what can
I possibly do for you, my son?

ESAU
(desperate)
Do you have only one blessing, my
father? Bless me too, my father!

Esau holds his father's clothing, crying openly in frustration.
Isaac holds his son's hand.

ISAAC
Your dwelling will be away from the
earth's richness, away from the dew
of heaven above. You will live by
the sword and you will serve your
brother. But when you grow restless,
you will throw his yoke from your
neck.

Esau rises up, tears in his eyes. He stands and takes his tray calmly out of the tent.

EXT. ISAAC'S ENCAMPMENT - DAY

Esau stands in front of the tent. With a yell, he throws the tray of food away from the tent. It crashes to the ground. Esau falls to his knees. He looks up angrily.

ESAU

The days of mourning for my father
are near; then I will kill my
brother Jacob.

Rebekah stands beyond the side of the tent. Her eyes widen at the information.

Rebekah walks across the camp to find Jacob in his tent.

JACOB

Mother?

REBEKAH

Your brother Esau is consoling himself with the thought of killing you. Now then, my son, do what I say: Flee at once to my brother Laban in Haran. Stay with him for a while until your brother's fury subsides. When your brother is no longer angry with you and forgets what you did to him, I'll send word for you to come back from there. I don't want to lose you and my husband in the day of his death.

JACOB

When do I leave?

REBEKAH

Soon. I will talk to your father so he will bless your journey.

JACOB

Surely my father knows I deceived him. Would he bless me after such a deception?

REBEKAH

He will. Trust me.

Rebekah exits the tent.

EXT. ISAAC'S ENCAMPMENT - DAY

Rebekah crosses the camp and is stopped by Esau.

ESAU

Mother.

REBEKAH

What is it, Esau?

ESAU

This is your doing, isn't it?

REBEKAH

How dare you address your mother in such a fashion?

ESAU

This deception was your idea. He was always your favorite, and you wanted my father's blessing for him!

REBEKAH

If I have sinned, let your father address it to me. I will not be spoken to like this by my son.

Rebekah leaves him standing, unable to respond. He follows her a little ways to Isaac's tent.

INT. ISAAC'S TENT - DAY

Rebekah walks to Isaac and sits with him. She gently touches his hand.

ISAAC

This is your doing, isn't it?

REBEKAH

What do you mean?

ISAAC

You know how I like my food
prepared. You made it for Jacob to
bring to me. Why?

REBEKAH

I'm disgusted with living because
of these Hittite women. If Jacob
takes a wife from among the women
of this land, from Hittite women
like these, my life will not be
worth living.

ISAAC

You believe Esau is lost to us?

REBEKAH

Esau refused the training of Shem.
He marries evil women.

Isaac ponders this for a moment.

ISAAC

Then the promise of my father
Abraham is for Jacob and not Esau.

REBEKAH

I believe so.

ISAAC

Bring him to me.

Rebekah walks to the tent entry and steps outside the tent. Esau stands nearby.

REBEKAH

Jacob!

Jacob emerges from behind a tent and walks to Rebekah. Esau gives Jacob a cold, cold look.

Rebekah brings him inside Isaac's tent.

REBEKAH

Here is Jacob.

ISAAC

Jacob, come here.

Jacob walks to Isaac and kneels. Esau enters the tent and watches, coldly. As Isaac speaks, Esau's expression runs from cold disinterest to outright surprise.

ISAAC

Do not marry a Canaanite woman. Go at once to Paddam Aran, to the house of your mother's father Bethuel. Take a wife for yourself there, from among the daughters of Laban, your mother's brother. May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and increase your numbers until you become a community of peoples. May he give you and your descendants the blessing given to Abraham, so that you may take possession of the land where you now live as an alien, the land God gave to Abraham.

EXT. ISAAC'S ENCAMPMENT - DAY

Jacob is mounted upon a camel and sets out with gifts for Laban. Rebekah and Isaac stand waiving. Isaac is not certain where to waive. Rebekah points him the right way. Jacob walks into the distance. Esau looks very, very angry.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. ESAU'S FIELDS - DAY

Esau walks up behind his son, ELIPHAZ, who is hunting.

ESAU
Eliphaz.

ELIPHAZ
Yes, father.

ESAU
My brother, Jacob, has cheated me
for the last time. My father has
sent him to Haran to find a wife
from among the family of our
mother, Rebecca. Now, quickly, take
your sword and pursue Jacob and
pass before him in the road. Wait
for him and when he gets to you,
kill him, dump his body in the
mountains, take all he has, and
come back to me.

Eliphaz smiles.

ELIPHAZ
Right away, father.

Eliphaz starts to go.

ESAU
Eliphaz.

Eliphaz turns to him.

ESAU
Take some men with you in case
Jacob gives you any trouble.

ELIPHAZ
Yes, father.

Eliphaz runs off.

ESAU
This will teach you to deceive me,
Jacob.

EXT. ROAD TO HARAN - DAY

Jacob rides upon his camel with all the goods behind him. He looks behind him and sees Eliphaz approaching him with a small band of ten men.

JACOB
That's interesting.

Jacob stops the camel and gets down. Eliphaz approached him, sword drawn. Jacob is unphased.

JACOB
What brings you so far from home?
And what is the meaning of the
swords you carry, drawn for battle?

Eliphaz approaches Jacob.

ELIPHAZ
My father, Esau, commanded me to
kill you for the evils you have
committed against him. I will not
dishonor the orders my father gave
me.

Eliphaz raises his sword to strike. Jacob backs away.

JACOB
Wait!

ELIPHAZ
We will not have you deceive us too.

JACOB
But look at all I have that my mother
and father has given to me for my
journey. Go ahead and take everything
that I have and go, but do not kill
me. Do this and may it be credited to
you as righteousness.

Eliphaz stops.

ELIPHAZ

Perhaps it is the goods that my father desires. We will do as you say. All of this is ours now. Go in peace to Haran.

Eliphaz and his men take everything away, leaving Jacob alone on the road with only enough provisions to make it to Haran alive.

Jacob turns and walks onward.

EXT. ESAU'S ENCAMPMENT - DAY

Eliphaz returns with the entourage of possessions. Esau looks out and sees him coming. He smiles and runs to meet him.

ESAU

Well? you must have killed him, because you have his possessions. Did he die screaming? Did he beg for mercy?

ELIPHAZ

No, father. We approached him to kill him, but he begged for his life and gave us all he carried with him. We took it and left him in peace.

ESAU

What!

Esau grabs his son by the neck and holds him.

ESAU

I told you to kill him!

He throws Eliphaz to the ground.

ELIPHAZ

My father, forgive me. I thought you desired his possessions.

ESAU

I desired him dead. Nevermind.
If he makes it to Haran alive,
he'll nothing to offer Laban for
a wife. He will be penniless and
won't even make it back alive.

Esau laughs.

ESAU

Bring the silver and gold to me
at once.

ELIPHAZ

Yes, father.

Esau re-enters his tent. Eliphaz nurses his neck.

INT. ESAU'S TENT - DAY

Esau looks troubled.

ESAU

My parents are displeased with my
choice of wives. They feel women
of our family are better. I will
take a wife from the daughters of
Ishmael. That will please them.

Esau exits his tent.

EXT. MOUNT MORIAH - NIGHT

Jacob sits on the side of the mountain near where Abraham made his sacrifice. The town of Luz lies dark in the background. Jacob searches the ground and finds a stone. He lays his head on it and goes to sleep.

EXT. MOUNT MORIAH - NIGHT - DREAM SEQUENCE

Jacob stands upon the mountain. Before him is a wide ladder reaching far into heaven. Angels ascend and descend as Jacob watches in awe.

A blinding light issues from the heavens above. A figure stands there, his face obscured in the light. Jacob shields his eyes.

GOD

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. 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. 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.

Jacob kneels to the ground in reverence.

END DREAM

EXT. MOUNT MORIAH - DAY

Jacob awakens. He sits up and looks around.

JACOB

Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it.

Jacob stands. He walks over to what remain of the altar where Abraham had laid Isaac.

JACOB

How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.

Jacob takes the stone he had under his head and places it upright as a pillar. He takes a small flask of oil from his remaining bag and pours it over the stone. He overlooks the town below.

JACOB

As I live, this place will no longer be called Luz, but Bethel because this is the house of God. If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear so that I return safely to my father's house, then the Lord will be my God and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me, I will give you a tenth.

EXT. FIELDS OF HARAN - DAY

Jacob walks into an area where there is a well set amongst several fields of sheep. He looks like it has been many days since Mount Moriah. He is worn out and tired. Shepherds stand with the sheep, and watch the newcomer sit by the well and rest. Over the mouth of the well, there is a large stone blocking it.

After he catches his breath, Jacob calls to the shepherds.

JACOB

(calling out)

My brothers, where are you from?

SHEPHERD

We're from Haran.

JACOB

Do you know Laban, Nahor's grandson?

SHEPHERD

Yes, we know him.

JACOB

Is he well?

SHEPHERD

Yes, he is. In fact, here comes his daughter Rachel with the sheep.

A young woman is yet in the distance coming their direction. Jacob turns to the Shepherds.

JACOB

Look, the sun is still high; it is
not time for the flock to be gathered.
Water the sheep and take them back to
pasture.

SHEPHERD

We can't until all the flocks are
gathered and the stone has been
rolled away from the mouth of the
well. Then we will water the sheep.

Jacob looks back to Rachel, 21. She is most beautiful, like a vision out of a dream. Jacob is entranced by her. He walks to her.

JACOB

You are the daughter of Laban?

RACHEL

I am.

JACOB

Let me help you with this stone so
you can water your sheep.

RACHEL

Thank you.

Jacob walks to the stone and moves it out of the way of the well. He assists Rachel with gathering water to water the sheep.

RACHEL

Who are you?

JACOB

I am Jacob, the son of Isaac and Rebekah, your father's sister. My mother sent me here to find a wife among my relatives. I rejoice that I found you.

RACHEL

I would be honored, but you need to speak with my father, of course.

Rachel looks around.

RACHEL

You come for a wife, but bring
nothing for my father. How are you
to take me with you when you bring
nothing in exchange?

Jacob's expression drops.

JACOB

My brother sent one his sons after
me to kill me, and I was forced to
give them all my mother and father
gave me to them to spare my own
life, and now I have nothing to
give to your father for you.

Jacob drops to the ground, dejected. Rachel sits next to him.
She takes his hand in hers, shyly.

RACHEL

If you talk to my father, I'm sure
an arrangement can be made.

JACOB

Is he the type of man to make such
an arrangement?

RACHEL

I hope so.

JACOB

So do I.

They kiss. When the embrace is broken, he holds her for a
moment. She stands hastily.

RACHEL

I must go to my father and tell him
you are here. Will you bring the
sheep behind me?

JACOB

I will.

Rachel runs across Haran to her father's house. She enters the house.

INT. LABAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Rachel runs into the house. Her mother, ADINAH, looks up, worried.

ADINAH

Rachel, what's wrong? You're supposed to be with the sheep.

RACHEL

Mother, where is my father?

LABAN

I am here, Rachel. What is going on? Answer your mother.

RACHEL

Father, Jacob, the son of your sister is here. She sent him to find a wife among us.

LABAN

Where is he now?

RACHEL

He was following me with the sheep, but he probably doesn't know where to go with them.

LABAN

I will meet him.

Laban exits.

ADINAH

So, my daughter, what do you think of this young man.

RACHEL

I hope he will please father, so I can go with him.

ADINAH

But you are not the eldest.

RACHEL

I know. That's what worries me.

EXT. HARAN - DAY

Laban runs toward the well and finds Jacob with the flock.

LABAN

Are you the son of Rebekah?

JACOB

I am. Are you Laban?

LABAN

Come here, my son.

Laban embraces Jacob.

LABAN

You are welcome here. Come, refresh yourself with bread and water of my household.

JACOB

Thank you.

LABAN

My daughter tells me that my sister sent you here to find a wife among us.

JACOB

Yes, sir. I had with me a large contingency of flocks and silver and gold, but my brother Esau, who hates me, sent his son, Eliphaz to kill me. I bargained for my life with the goods I brought. Now, I come before you with nothing.

LABAN

You are my flesh and blood. You may stay in my house for as long as you need.

Laban and Jacob continue towards his house.

INT. LABAN'S HOUSE - DAY

SUPER: "One Month Later"

The family sits around the table eating. Rachel is present as well as her sister, LEAH (21). Laban looks to Jacob.

LABAN

Jacob, you have been with me for a month now, and your assistance in all we do is greatly appreciated. But just because you are a relative of mine, should you work for me for nothing? Tell me what your wages should be.

Jacob looks over to Rachel and smiles. She smiles back, coyly.

JACOB

I'll work for you for seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel.

Leah looks up, hurt. Laban looks from Jacob to Rachel to Leah.

LABAN

It's better that I give her to you than to some other man. Stay here with me.

JACOB

Then it's done.

EXT. LABAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jacob exits the dwelling with Rachel in hand. He holds her to him, and they kiss.

JACOB

Seven years. You will be mine
in seven years, but to me it
will like a few days because of
my love for you.

RACHEL

I can hardly wait. I am so happy
my father agreed to it.

They kiss again.

INT. LABAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Laban stands at the window, watching them. Adinah comes up
behind him.

ADINAH

Will you let him have Rachel?

LABAN

Of course I will.

ADINAH

But what of Leah?

LABAN

I will handle it.

EXT. FIELDS OF LABAN - DAY

SUPER: "2191 Anno Mundi"

SUPER: "Seven Years Later"

Jacob (84) stands among the sheep. Rachel (28) comes up beside
him. Jacob places his arm around her. She rests her head on his
shoulder.

JACOB

My seven years is complete today.

RACHEL

Really?

JACOB

I am going to ask your father for
your hand today.

RACHEL

We could be together tonight.

JACOB

If he can bring the family together.

RACHEL

I can't wait.

JACOB

Me too.

INT. LABAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Jacob enters the house and stands before Laban.

LABAN

Yes, Jacob?

JACOB

Give me my wife. My time is completed,
and I want to lie with her.

Laban looks at Jacob. He nods.

LABAN

Very well. You keep time well. I
will gather the family immediately,
for we have been preparing for this
day.

JACOB

Tell me when.

LABAN

We will do it tonight. We will
celebrate and my daughter will be
yours.

INT. LABAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

People are dancing within the house. Music plays. Laban adjusts the veil of his daughter, whose face remains obscured.

LABAN

Soon, my friends, we will welcome the man who will become my son-in-law.

Adinah looks out the window. She quickly turns to Laban.

ADINAH

He is here.

LABAN

Quickly! Extinguish the lights!

The people put out all the lights in the house. Jacob enters and stops, confused.

JACOB

What's going on? Why have you extinguished the lights?

LABAN

It is the custom in our land to do this. Come, stand by your wife.

JACOB

All right.

Laban drags Jacob across the floor to stand by his daughter. Jacob leans over to her.

JACOB

You'll have to forgive my ignorance. This is all very new to me.

LABAN

No! You cannot speak until after the bridal chamber! Such is our custom.

JACOB

Sorry.

LABAN
I said to be quiet!

The people dance around them, playing instruments and singing in an unfamiliar language. One word can occasionally be picked out: "Heleah, Heleah".

LABAN
To my daughter in her new life, I give as a handmaid, Zilpah. May she serve you as faithfully as she has always served me.

The woman bows to her father in thanks. Jacob watches them, very confused. The woman beside him does not move but only watches.

LABAN
It is time to lie with your wife. Come through here to your bridal chamber. We will continue the celebration.

JACOB
Ok.

Laban guides Jacob through the dark house into a darkened room.

LABAN
Remember: it is our custom that neither of you can speak until morning.

Laban closes the door behind them. In silhouette, Jacob removes the veil from the woman's face. He kisses her passionately.

JACOB
(whispered)
I love you, Rachel.

WOMAN
MmHm.

Their silhouettes fall to the bed.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. BRIDAL CHAMBER - DAY

Jacob awakens. His wife lies on his chest. Jacob breathes deeply, happily.

JACOB

Well, I'm glad that's over with.

WOMAN

MmHm.

JACOB

Finally, let me look into the eyes of my wife.

Jacob places his hand under the woman's chin. He raises her face to his. It is Leah!

Jacob gasps and backs away from her.

JACOB

What is this deception?!

INT. LABAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Laban eats at the table. Adinah stands nearby. She turns her head quickly toward the bridal chamber.

ADINAH

I believe your ruse is revealed.

Jacob charges out of the chamber and stands before Laban.

JACOB

What have you done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn't I? That was the agreement we came to. Why have you deceived me?

Laban looks at Jacob calmly.

LABAN

It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one. Finish this daughter's bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, in return for another seven years of work.

JACOB

Another seven years?! I served you already for Rachel and you broke our agreement. Why should I continue to serve for what I was promised?

LABAN

My daughter is mine to with as I please, and you brought nothing to offer for her. How am I to know your story of your jealous brother is true? I am losing a daughter and deserve something in return. If you love her, then you will work for her. The wages are mine to give as I please.

JACOB

We had an agreement.

LABAN

I am altering the agreement. Pray I don't alter it any further.

Jacob looks trapped and angry that he is.

JACOB

For the sake of Rachel, I will agree to another seven years. But give her to me once I have completed the marriage week with Leah. I will not work another seven years without the wife I was promised.

LABAN

Agreed.

Jacob storms out of the house.

EXT. LABAN'S FIELDS - DAY

Jacob storms across the field among the flocks. He screams in frustration and falls to the ground.

Someone walks up next to him. Jacob looks over. It is Rachel.

RACHEL

I'm sorry.

JACOB

Did you know this was going to happen?

RACHEL

No. I thought I was going to marry you as my father promised. It was just before the ceremony that I was told that Leah would be given in my stead.

JACOB

He promised to let us be wed next week.

RACHEL

So you would have both I and my sister?

JACOB

Yes. This is not the way it was supposed to go.

RACHEL

I know.

He holds her. They kiss.

JACOB

I will count the minutes. When I am with her, I'll be with you.

RACHEL
Don't talk about her.

They kiss again.

INT. BRIDAL CHAMBER - DAY

Leah looks out of the window at Rachel and Jacob, her husband. A tear runs down her face. She closes the curtains and sits.

LEAH
What has my father done to me?
I am married, but he will not
love me as he loves her.

INT. LABAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

SUPER: "One Week Later"

Jacob and Rachel stand side by side at the wedding celebration. The people celebrate as they did at Leah's but the lights are on. Leah is the only one who does not appear to be enjoying this.

LABAN
To my daughter in her new life, I
give as a handmaid, Bilhah. May
she serve you as faithfully as
she has always served me.

RACHEL
Thank you, father.

LABAN
And now, Jacob, it is time to lie
with your new wife. Go to your bridal
chamber. We will continue the
celebration.

JACOB
Thank you.

Jacob and Rachel begin to leave, but Laban stops him.

LABAN

(low, to Jacob)

Remember, boy, you have a responsibility to Leah as well as Rachel. I will not have one neglected over the other. Are we clear?

JACOB

Yes, sir.

LABAN

Then go!

Jacob and Rachel leave the celebrants.

START SEVEN YEARS MONTAGE

EXT. LABAN'S FIELDS - DAY

Jacob stands with Rachel. They are very flirtatious, like newlyweds. Leah tries to talk to Jacob, but he ignores her. She walks away dejected.

INT. LEAH'S ROOM - DAY

Zilpah hands a newborn baby to Leah, who smiles as she takes him.

LEAH

I have been unloved, but the Lord has seen my misery. Surely my husband will love me now. I have given him a son. He will be named Reuben.

INT. JACOB'S HOUSE - DAY

SUPER: "2192 Anno Mundi"

Jacob walks in to both Rachel and Leah in the house. Jacob ignores Leah, but kisses Rachel. As Jacob passes, Rachel gives Leah a victorious look.

INT. LEAH'S ROOM - DAY

Zilpah gathers a second bundle to Leah.

LEAH

Because the Lord heard that I am
not loved, he gave me this one,
too. He will be called Simeon.

INT. JACOB'S HOUSE - DAY

SUPER: "2193 Anno Mundi"

Reuben (2) and Simeon (1) wait with Laban, Jacob, Rachel, and Bilhah in the kitchen. Leah screams in the background.

RACHEL

Almighty in heaven, not again!

INT. LEAH'S ROOM - DAY

Zilpah hands another son to Leah, who smiles as she looks at him.

LEAH

Now at last my husband will
become attached to me, because
I have borne him three sons.
He will be called Levi.

EXT. JACOB'S HOUSE - DAY

SUPER: "2194 Anno Mundi"

Jacob runs to Rachel as she walks to the house.

JACOB

It's time. Leah is giving birth.

Jacob runs back inside.

RACHEL

(deadpan)

Forgive me if I don't rush right
in.

INT. LEAH'S ROOM - DAY

Zilpah gathers yet another son to Leah. Leah smiles and holds him.

LEAH
This time I will praise the Lord.
His name will be Judah.

INT. JACOB'S HOUSE - DAY

Zilpah carries Judah out to meet the family. Laban and Jacob smile and dote over Judah. Rachel is unhappy.

RACHEL
Jacob.

Jacob turns to her.

RACHEL
Give me children, or I'll die!

JACOB
Am I in the place of God, who has
kept you from having children?

Rachel grabs Bilhah and places her before Jacob.

RACHEL
Here is Bilhah, my maidservant.
Sleep with her so that she can
bear children for me and that
through her I too can build a
family.

JACOB
Rachel, I'm not sure that-

RACHEL
(desperate)
Please, Jacob. For me.

JACOB
Ok.

INT. RACHEL'S ROOM - DAY

SUPER: "Later that year"

Rachel attends to Bilhah who gives birth to another child. Rachel holds him before her.

RACHEL

God has vindicated me. He has
listened to my plea and given me
a son. His name shall be Dan.

INT. JACOB'S HOUSE - DAY

SUPER: "2195 Anno Mundi"

Jacob, Leah, Laban, Adinah, Reuben, Simeon, Judah, and Dan all wait in the kitchen. Bilhah sounds off in the other.

LEAH

First she steals my husband and
now she has sons through her
maidservant. This can't continue.

INT. RACHEL'S ROOM - DAY

Rachel attends to Bilhah, and brings another child. Rachel shows the child to Bilhah.

RACHEL

Well done, Bilhah. I have had a
great struggle with my sister,
and I have won. This is Naphtali.

INT. JACOB'S HOUSE - DAY

Rachel comes out into the house with Naphtali.

RACHEL

My father, you have another
grandson. Look, Jacob, we have
another child.

Jacob takes his fifth son into his arms and smiles.

EXT. JACOB'S HOUSE - DAY

Jacob walks alongside the house. Leah stops Jacob. Zilpah stands behind her looking anxious.

LEAH

God has stopped me from having children.

JACOB

Then talk to God. It is not for me to decide.

LEAH

No? Here, take my servant Zilpah, and have children for me through her.

JACOB

You have four sons of your own.

LEAH

I will not have my sister get more sons than I.

JACOB

All right, Leah.

INT. LEAH'S ROOM - DAY

SUPER: "Later that year"

Leah attends Zilpah who is on the verge of childbirth.

LEAH

One more push.

Zilpah gives one more push. Leah works with cloths and such at a newborn baby. She holds him before her.

ZILPAH

Is it a boy?

LEAH

It is. What good fortune! I shall call him Gad.

INT. JACOB'S HOUSE - DAY

SUPER: "2196 Anno Mundi"

The kitchen is becoming rather crowded. Laban, Adinah, Jacob, Rachel, Bilhah, Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, and Gad await the new arrival.

RACHEL

This is ridiculous.

(to Bilhah)

Why did you stop having children?

BILHAH

I'm sorry ma'am.

INT. LEAH'S ROOM - DAY

Leah holds another son in front of her as Zilpah rests. Leah smiles.

LEAH

Two more sons for me. How happy
I am! The women will call me
happy.

EXT. FIELDS OF JACOB - DAY

Reuben, now only 5, walks through the fields with Leah. Rachel stands nearby. Reuben finds some plants near the ground.

REUBEN

Look, mother. Mandrakes.

Reuben picks the mandrakes and carries them for Leah. As they walk back to the house, Rachel stops them.

RACHEL

Please give me some of your son's
mandrakes.

LEAH

Wasn't it enough that you took
away my husband? Will you take
away my son's mandrakes too?

RACHEL

Very well. He can sleep with you tonight in return for your son's mandrakes.

LEAH

They're yours. Reuben, help your aunt Rachel with the mandrakes.

REUBEN

Yes, mother.

Leah sets off for the house. Jacob is exiting the house with Bilhah. He looks a little tired. Leah grabs his arm and starts marching him back inside.

LEAH

You must sleep with me. I have hired you with my son's mandrakes.

JACOB

Mandrakes?

LEAH

Come on.

She leads him inside.

INT. JACOB'S HOUSE - DAY

SUPER: "Later that year"

The kitchen is very crowded. Laban, Adinah, Jacob, Rachel, Bilhah, Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher all sit and stand in the kitchen. Rachel is not happy, as usual.

RACHEL

This isn't right. What's wrong with me?

LABAN

(to Jacob)

So do you get any work done?

JACOB
Not a lot, sir.

INT. LEAH'S ROOM - DAY

Now it is Leah back on the bed. Zilpah attends her, and hands her another son. Leah takes him and smiles.

LEAH
God has rewarded me for giving my maid-servant to my husband. This son's name will be Issachar.

EXT. FIELDS OF JACOB - DAY

SUPER: "2197 Anno Mundi"

Rachel stands with the flocks. She looks over to where Leah waddles through the fields, very pregnant. She narrows her eyes in jealousy. Reuben (6) stands near her.

REUBEN
Doesn't my mom look beautiful?

Rachel looks at Reuben and smiles.

RACHEL
Yes, Reuben, very beautiful.

A tear falls down her face.

INT. LEAH'S ROOM - DAY

For the sixth time, Zilpah attends to Leah as she gives birth. She hands Leah's sixth son to her. Leah cradles the baby.

LEAH
God has presented me with a precious gift. This time, my husband will treat me with honor, because I have borne him six sons. His name will be Zebulun.

END SEVEN YEARS MONTAGE

INT. JACOB'S HOUSE - DAY

SUPER: "2198 Anno Mundi"

Laban, Adinah, Jacob, Bilhah, Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, and Zebulun crowd the little kitchen. Jacob looks around.

JACOB

Where's Rachel?

LABAN

She isn't here?

ADINAH

I believe she stepped outside.

JACOB

I'll check on her.

LABAN

Hurry back.

Jacob exits.

EXT. JACOB'S HOUSE - DAY

Rachel sits on the ground. Tears roll down her face. Jacob sits next to her.

JACOB

Leah's about to give birth again.

RACHEL

I know how it goes by now.

JACOB

True. It is her seventh.

RACHEL

(angrily)

I know!

Rachel stands up and storms away from him a short distance. Jacob walks over to her.

RACHEL

(between sobs)

I don't know what's wrong with me.
I am loved more than any other
wife you have. I have generously
given you my handmaid so we can
have children. I don't know what
else to do.

JACOB

You must talk to God. He has closed
your womb, and he alone can open it.

RACHEL

I just want him to take away my
disgrace.

JACOB

He will. Just as I have loved you,
so will I love our children more
than any other.

RACHEL

Really?

JACOB

Of course. You were always my first
choice. So will they be too.

They kiss. He holds her. Laban bursts out the door.

LABAN

Jacob! My son, you have a daughter.

JACOB

A daughter?

LABAN

Leah has named her Dinah.

JACOB

(to Rachel)

Now we have a daughter.

Rachel looks like she is about to fall apart again.

JACOB
(to Laban)
I'll be in in a moment.

Laban re-enters the house. Jacob turns to Rachel.

JACOB
Are you going to be ok?

RACHEL
Go on. I'll be fine. Just give me a moment alone.

JACOB
Ok.

Jacob leaves Rachel alone. She falls to her knees.

RACHEL
O Lord God, remember me and visit me, I beg of you, for now my husband will get rid of me, for I have borne him no children. Now O Lord God, hear my supplication before you, and see my pain, and give me children like one of the handmaids, that I may bear no more reproach.

She lowers herself all the way to the ground.

RACHEL
Please, O Lord, please hear me. Please hear me.

INT. JACOB'S HOUSE - DAY

SUPER: "Later that year"

Laban, Adinah, Jacob, Leah, Zilpah, Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, and Dinah all wait in the kitchen. Bilhah opens the door to Rachel's room and comes out.

BILHAAH
Jacob.

Jacob walks reverently towards Rachel's room. He looks at Bilhah.

BILHAAH

She is ok.

INT. RACHEL'S ROOM - DAY

Jacob walks in and looks at Rachel on the bed. In her arms is a baby. She smiles at Jacob, tears in her eyes. Jacob kneels down to her and looks at the baby.

RACHEL

You have a son.

Jacob smiles.

JACOB

You are finally happy?

RACHEL

God has taken away my disgrace.

JACOB

What do you wish to name him?

RACHEL

His name is Joseph.

JACOB

Joseph?

RACHEL

Yes. I have one son. May the Lord add to me another.

JACOB

I'm sure he will.

He kisses her gently. They gaze at baby Joseph as we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

Source Material:

From the Bible:

Genesis 26:34-30:24

From Extracanonical Works:

The Book of Jashar 28:24-29:10, 29:22-30:14, 31:1-31:21