

29:1-3

So Jacob went on his journey and came to the land of the people of the East. Probably the same geography, then, as the episode in 11:1-2. Many maps say, then, that **Jacob** traveled in excess of 400 miles to get to this “well” of verse 2. **2 And he looked, and saw a ^bwell in the field; and behold, there were three flocks of sheep lying by it; for out of that well they watered the flocks. A large stone was on the well’s mouth. 3 Now all the flocks would be gathered there; and they would roll the stone from the well’s mouth, water the sheep, and put the stone back in its place on the well’s mouth.**

29:4

And Jacob said to them, “My brethren, three of them (verse 2)? where *are* you from?” And they said, “We *are* from ^cHaran.”

29:5

Then he said to them, “Do you know ^dLaban the son of Nahor?” And they said, “We know him.”

29:6

So he said to them, “Is he well?” And they said, “*He is well.* And look, his daughter Rachel ^fis coming with the sheep.”

29:7

Then he said, “Look, *it is still* ¹high day; *it is not time for the cattle to be gathered together. Water the sheep, and go and feed them.*” A pretty audacious Jacob. We’re not surprised here, but this does speak of his agricultural expertise.

29:8

But they said, “We cannot until all the flocks are gathered together, and they It’s hard to ascertain who this is. Maybe there was a ranking shepherd that comes last and owns the well or is the president of the co-op? **have rolled the stone from the well’s mouth; It’s hard to know why they had to wait. **then we water the sheep.”****

⁹ Now while he was still speaking with them, ⁸Rachel came with her father’s sheep, for she was a shepherdess. ¹⁰ And it came to pass, when Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother’s brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother’s brother, that Jacob went near and ^hrolled the stone from the well’s mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mother’s brother. ¹¹ Then Jacob ⁱkissed Rachel, and lifted up his voice and wept. ¹² And

^b Gen. 24:10, 11; Ex. 2:15, 16

^c Gen. 11:31; 28:10

^d Gen. 24:24, 29; 28:2

^e Gen. 43:27

^f Gen. 24:11; Ex. 2:16, 17

¹ early in the day

^g Ex. 2:16

^h Ex. 2:17

ⁱ Gen. 33:4; 45:14, 15

Jacob told Rachel that he was ^jher father's relative Genesis 24:15 helps us with how these two are related. If **Jacob's** father is Isaac and **Jacob's** mother is **Laban's** sister, then **Jacob** is currently talking to his first cousin. So **Jacob** is **Rachel's father's** nephew. Funny thing: even though Laban is **Jacob's** uncle, they are also 2nd cousins (sharing the same great grandfather (Terah: 1. Father of Abraham, **Jacob's** grandfather; 2. Father of Nahor, Laban's grandfather).

and that he was Rebekah's son. ^kSo she ran and told her father. We saw this almost exactly with her aunt reacted in chapter 24.

^{l3} **Then it came to pass, when Laban heard the report about Jacob his sister's son, that he ran to meet him,** maybe **Laban** loved his extended family...but the last time they had a visitor from Abraham's side it meant riches to their own family.

and embraced him and kissed him, and brought him to his house. How long has it been since this **Laban** saw Rebekah, his sister, leave? Well, Jacob is no less than 40 years old (last verses of Genesis 25) while he was born 20 years into his mother and father's marriage. So it has been 60 years since these two branches of the same family have seen one another (as far as we know). **So he told Laban all these things. ^{l4} And Laban said to him, ^m"Surely you are my bone and my flesh."** And he stayed with him for a month.

^j Gen. 13:8; 14:14, 16; 28:5

^k Gen. 24:28

^l Gen. 24:29–31; Luke 15:20

^m Gen. 2:23; 37:27; Judg. 9:2; 2 Sam. 5:1; 19:12, 13