29 When the LORD saw that Leah was not loved, * he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren. 
30 When Rachel saw that she was not bearing Jacob any children, she became jealous of her sister. So she said to Jacob, “Give me children, or I will die!”

31 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.

32 She conceived again, 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.

33 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. Then she stopped having children.

34 When Rachel saw that she was not bearing Jacob any children, she became jealous of her sister. So she said to Jacob, “Give me children, or I will die!”

35 Then she said, “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.”

36 Then Rachel said, “God has vindicated me; he has listened to my plea and given me a son.” Because of this she named him Dan.

37 Rachel’s servant Bilhah conceived again and bore Jacob a second son. Then Rachel said, “I have had a great struggle with my sister, and I have won.” So she named him Naphtali.

38 When Leah saw that she had stopped having children, she took her maidservant Zilpah and gave her to Jacob as a wife. Then Leah said, “What good fortune!” So she named him Gad.

39 Then Leah said, “How happy I am! The women will call me happy.” So she named him Asher.
During wheat harvest, Reuben went out into the fields and found some mandrake plants, which he brought to his mother Leah. Rachel said to Leah, “Please give me some of your son’s mandrakes.”

But she said to her, “Was it not enough that you took away my husband? Will you take my son’s mandrakes, too?”

“Very well,” Rachel said, “he can sleep with you tonight in return for your son’s mandrakes.”

So when Jacob came in from the fields that evening, Leah went out to meet him. “You must sleep with me,” she said. “I have hired you with my son’s mandrakes.” So he slept with her that night.

God listened to Leah, and she became pregnant and bore Jacob a fifth son. Then Leah said, “God has rewarded me for giving my maidservant to my husband.” So she named him Issachar.

Leah conceived again and bore Jacob a sixth son. Then Leah said, “God has presented me with a precious gift. This time my husband will treat me with honor because I have borne him six sons.” So she named him Zebulun.

Some time later she gave birth to a daughter and named her Dinah.

Then God remembered Rachel; he listened to her and opened her womb.

She became pregnant and gave birth to a son and said, “God has taken away my disgrace.” She named him Joseph, and said, “May the LORD add to me another son.”

After Rachel gave birth to Joseph, Jacob said to Laban, “Send me on my way so I can go back to my own homeland. Give me my wives and children, for whom I have served you, and I will be on my way. You know how much work I have done for you.”

But Laban said to him, “If I have found favor in your eyes, please stay. I have learned by divination that the LORD has blessed me because of you.”

He added, “Name your wages, and I will pay them.”

Jacob said to him, “You know how I have worked for you and how your livestock has fared under my care. The little you had before I came has increased greatly, and the LORD has blessed you wherever I have been. But now, when may I do something for my own household?”

What shall I give you?” he asked.

“Do not give me anything,” Jacob replied. “But if you will do this one thing for me, I will go on tending your flocks and watching over them: Let me go through all your flocks today.
and remove from them every speckled or spotted sheep, every
dark-colored lamb and every spotted or speckled goat. They
will be my wages. 33 And my honesty will testify for me in the
future, whenever you check on the wages you have paid me.
Any goat in my possession that is not speckled or spotted, or
any lamb that is not dark-colored, will be considered stolen.” 34
“Agreed,” said Laban. “Let it be as you have said.” 35 That
same day he removed all the male goats that were streaked or
spotted, and all the speckled or spotted female goats (all that
had white on them) and all the dark-colored lambs, and he
placed them in the care of his sons. 36 Then he put a three-day
journey between himself and Jacob, while Jacob continued to
tend the rest of Laban’s flocks.

37 Jacob, however, took fresh-cut branches from poplar,
almond and plane trees and made white stripes on them by
peeling the bark and exposing the white inner wood of the
branches. 38 Then he placed the peeled branches in all the
watering troughs, so that they would be directly in front of the
flocks when they came to drink. When the flocks were in heat
and came to drink, 39 they mated in front of the branches. And
they bore young that were streaked or speckled or spotted.
40 Jacob set apart the young of the flock by themselves, but
made the rest face the streaked and dark-colored animals that
belonged to Laban. Thus he made separate flocks for himself
and did not put them with Laban’s animals. 41 Whenever the
stronger females were in heat, Jacob would place the branches
in the troughs in front of the animals so they would mate near
the branches, 42 but if the animals were weak, he would not
place them there. So the weak animals went to Laban and the
strong ones to Jacob. 43 In this way the man grew exceedingly
prosperous and came to own large flocks, and maidservants
and menservants, and camels and donkeys.

*Literally, my husband will live with me

31 Jacob heard that Laban’s sons were saying, “Jacob has
taken everything our father owned and has gained all this
wealth from what belonged to our father.” 2 And Jacob noticed
that Laban’s attitude toward him was not what it had been.

3 Then the LORD said to Jacob, “Go back to the land of
your fathers and to your relatives, and I will be with you.”
4 So Jacob sent word to Rachel and Leah to come out to the
fields where his flocks were. 5 He said to them, “I see that your
father’s attitude toward me is not what it was before, but the
God of my father has been with me. 6 You know that I have
worked for your father with all my strength, 7 yet your father
has cheated me by changing my wages ten times. However,
God has not allowed him to harm me. 8 If he said, ‘The
speckled ones will be your wages,’ then all the flocks gave
birth to speckled young; and if he said, ‘The streaked ones
will be your wages,’ then all the flocks bore streaked young. 9 So
God has taken away your father’s livestock and has given them
to me.

10 In breeding season I once had a dream in which I looked
up and saw that the male goats mating with the flock were
streaked, speckled or spotted. 11 The angel of God said to me in
the dream, ‘Jacob.’ I answered, ‘Here I am.’ 12 And he said,
‘Look up and see that all the male goats mating with the flock
are streaked, speckled or spotted, for I have seen all that Laban
has been doing to you. 13 I am the God of Bethel, where you
anointed a pillar and where you made a vow to me. Now leave
this land at once and go back to your native land.’”

14 Then Rachel and Leah replied, “Do we still have any
share in the inheritance of our father’s estate? 15 Does he not
regard us as foreigners? Not only has he sold us, but he has
used up what was paid for us. 16 Surely all the wealth that God
took away from our father belongs to us and our children. So
do whatever God has told you.”

17 Then Jacob put his children and his wives on camels,
and he drove all his livestock ahead of him, along with all the
goods he had accumulated in Paddan Aram, to go to his father
Isaac in the land of Canaan.

19 When Laban had gone to shear his sheep, Rachel stole her
father’s household gods.* 20 Moreover, Jacob deceived Laban
the Aramean by not telling him he was running away. 21 So he
fled with all he had, and crossing the River; he headed for the
hill country of Gilead.

22 On the third day Laban was told that Jacob had fled.
23 Taking his relatives with him, he pursued Jacob for seven
days and caught up with him in the hill country of Gilead.
24 Then God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream at night
and said to him, “Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either
good or bad.”
25 Jacob had pitched his tent in the hill country of Gilead
when Laban overtook him, and Laban and his relatives camped
there too. 26 Then Laban said to Jacob, “What have you done?
You have deceived me, and have carried off my daughters like captives in war. 27 Why did you run off secretly and deceive me? Why did you not tell me, so I could send you away with joy and singing to the music of tambourines and harps? 28 You did not even let me kiss my grandchildren and my daughters good-by. You have done a foolish thing. 29 I have the power to harm you; but last night the God of your father said to me, ‘Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad.’ 30 Now you have gone off because you longed to return to your father’s house. But why did you steal my gods?”

31 Jacob answered Laban, “I was afraid, because I thought you would take your daughters away from me by force. 32 But if you find anyone who has your gods, he shall not live. In the presence of our relatives, see for yourself whether there is anything of yours here with me; and if so, take it.” Now Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen the gods.

33 So Laban went into Jacob’s tent and into Leah’s tent and into the tent of the two maidservants, but he found nothing. After he came out of Leah’s tent, he entered Rachel’s tent. 34 Now Rachel had taken the household gods and put them inside her camel’s saddle and was sitting on them. Laban searched through everything in the tent but found nothing.

35 Rachel said to her father, “Do not be angry, my lord, that I cannot stand up in your presence; I am having my period.” So he searched but could not find the household gods.

36 Jacob was angry and took Laban to task. “What is my crime?” he asked Laban. “What sin have I committed that you hunt me down? 37 Now that you have searched through all my goods, what have you found that belongs to your household? Put it here in front of your relatives and mine, and let them judge between the two of us.

38 “I have been with you for twenty years now. Your sheep and goats have not miscarried, nor have I eaten rams from your flocks. 39 I did not bring you animals torn by wild beasts; I bore the loss myself. And you demanded payment from me for whatever was stolen by day or night. 40 This was my situation: The heat consumed me in the daytime and the cold at night, and sleep fled from my eyes. 41 It was like this for the twenty years I was in your household. I worked for you fourteen years for your two daughters and six years for your flocks, and you changed my wages ten times. 42 If the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had not been with me, you would surely have sent me away empty-handed. But God
has seen my hardship and the toil of my hands, and last night he rebuked you.”

43 Laban answered Jacob, “The women are my daughters, the children are my children, and the flocks are my flocks. All you see is mine. Yet what can I do today about these daughters of mine, or about the children they have borne? 44 Come now, let us make a covenant, you and I, and let it serve as a witness between us.”

45 So Jacob took a stone and set it up as a pillar. 46 He said to his relatives, “Gather some stones.” So they took stones and piled them in a heap, and they ate there by the heap. 47 Laban called it Jegar Sahadutha, and Jacob called it Galeed.

48 Laban said, “This heap is a witness between you and me today.” That is why it was called Galeed. 49 It was also called Mizpah, because he said, “May the LORD keep watch between you and me when we are away from each other. 50 If you mistreat my daughters or if you take any wives besides my daughters, even though no one is with us, remember that God is a witness between you and me.”

51 Laban also said to Jacob, “Here is this heap, and here is this pillar I have set up between you and me. 52 This heap is a witness, and this pillar is a witness, that I will not go past this heap to your side to harm you and that you will not go past this heap and pillar to my side to harm me. 53 May the God of Abraham and the God of Nahor, the God of their father, judge between us.”

So Jacob took an oath in the name of the Fear of his father Isaac. 54 He offered a sacrifice there in the hill country and invited his relatives to a meal. After they had eaten, they spent the night there.

55 Early the next morning Laban kissed his grandchildren and his daughters and blessed them. Then he left and returned home.

* Literally, teraphim