

November 9, 2013

VAYETZE

In this week's *parasha*, Ya'acov sees Rachel and falls head over heels in love with her. He immediately sets out to make her his bride. But Rachel's father, Laban, does not make it easy. Jacob spent seven years working for Rachel, but he was tricked and ended up with Leah. After having to spend a week with the weak-eyed Leah, Jacob's dreams finally come true. After Jacob had been worked fourteen years for Laban in order to marry the girl of his dreams, he thought maybe it would be a good idea to work for himself for a change. Laban, seeing that God had favored Jacob greatly, wanted him to stick around for a few more years. As part of the deal, Jacob was allowed to have his own flocks, but he chose the spotted and speckled sheep and goats and let Laban keep all of the white ones. By manipulating the livestock, Jacob managed to have strong, healthy sheep, while Laban's flocks were feeble. In that way, Jacob, with the intervention of HaShem became exceedingly prosperous.

In the *haftarah*, the prophet, Hosea, uses the constant obstacles that Jacob faced as a starting point for admonishing the Jewish people. They had forgotten about HaShem and were worshipping idols. They thought that they attained success through their own ability. They needed to learn from Jacob's example that wealth, power, and success come only from God.

The *B'rit Chadasha* Scriptures in the Gospel of John make mention of the calling of some of the disciples. After Yeshua has spoken to Nathanael, He makes a reference to this week's *parashah*. He tells them all that they will see heaven open and the angles of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man, just as Jacob saw the angles ascending and descending the ladder that reached into the heavens.

We can see that the angles - the messengers of HaShem - are descending the ladder in both the *parashah* and the *B'rit Chadasha*. If they are indeed descending, and if they are indeed messengers from God, they must be doing it for a reason. Could it be that they are here to help us?