


***The Bible doesn't
gloss over character flaws***

BETRAYAL- DECEIT- JEALOUSY- RIVALRY

GENESIS 29:4-5



⁴ Jacob asked the shepherds, “My brothers, where are you from?” “We’re from Harran,” they replied.

⁵ He said to them, “Do you know Laban, Nahor’s grandson?” “Yes, we know him,” they answered.

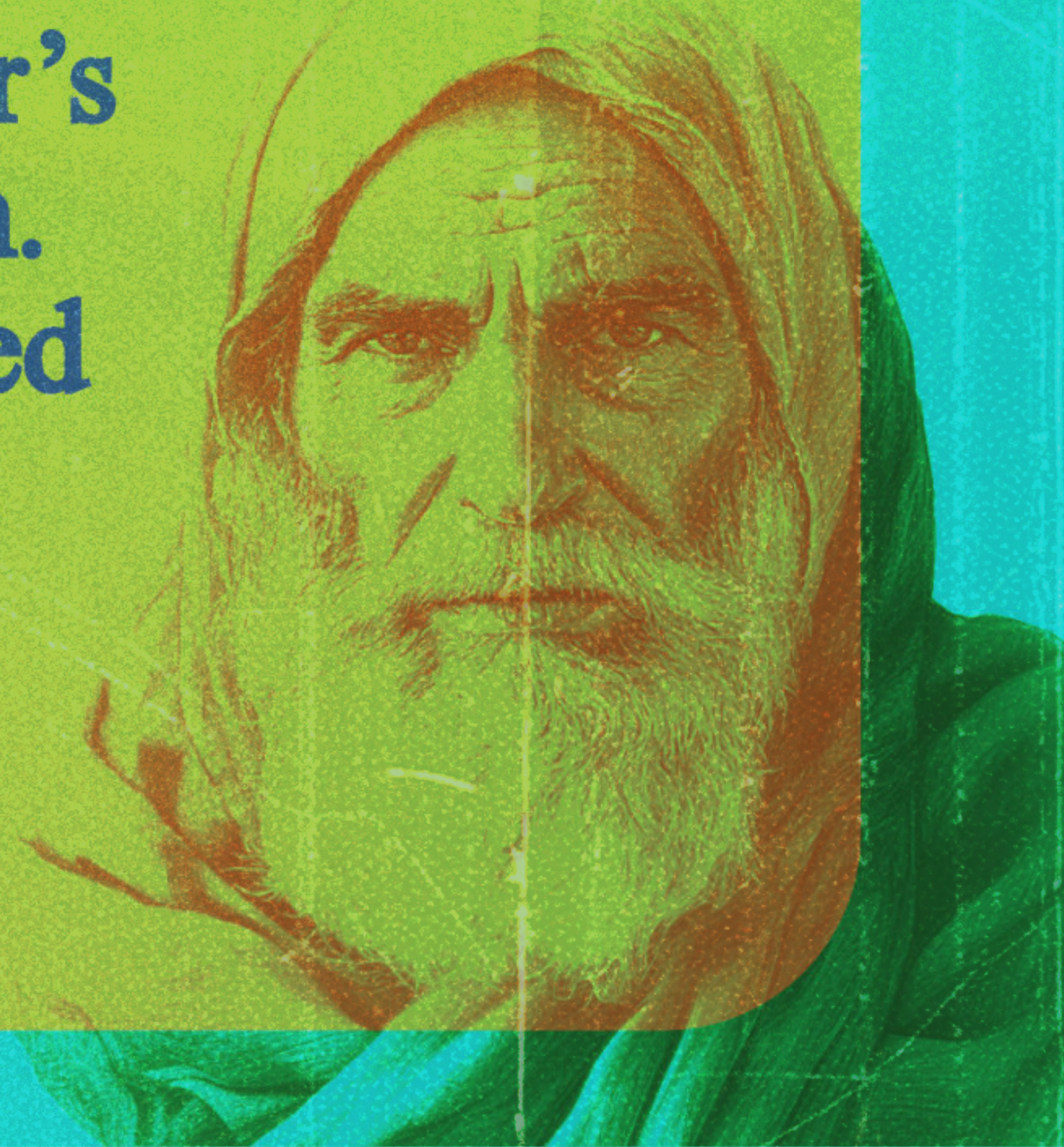
GENESIS 29:6

⁶ Then Jacob asked them, “Is he well?” “Yes, he is,” they said, “and here comes his daughter Rachel with the sheep.”



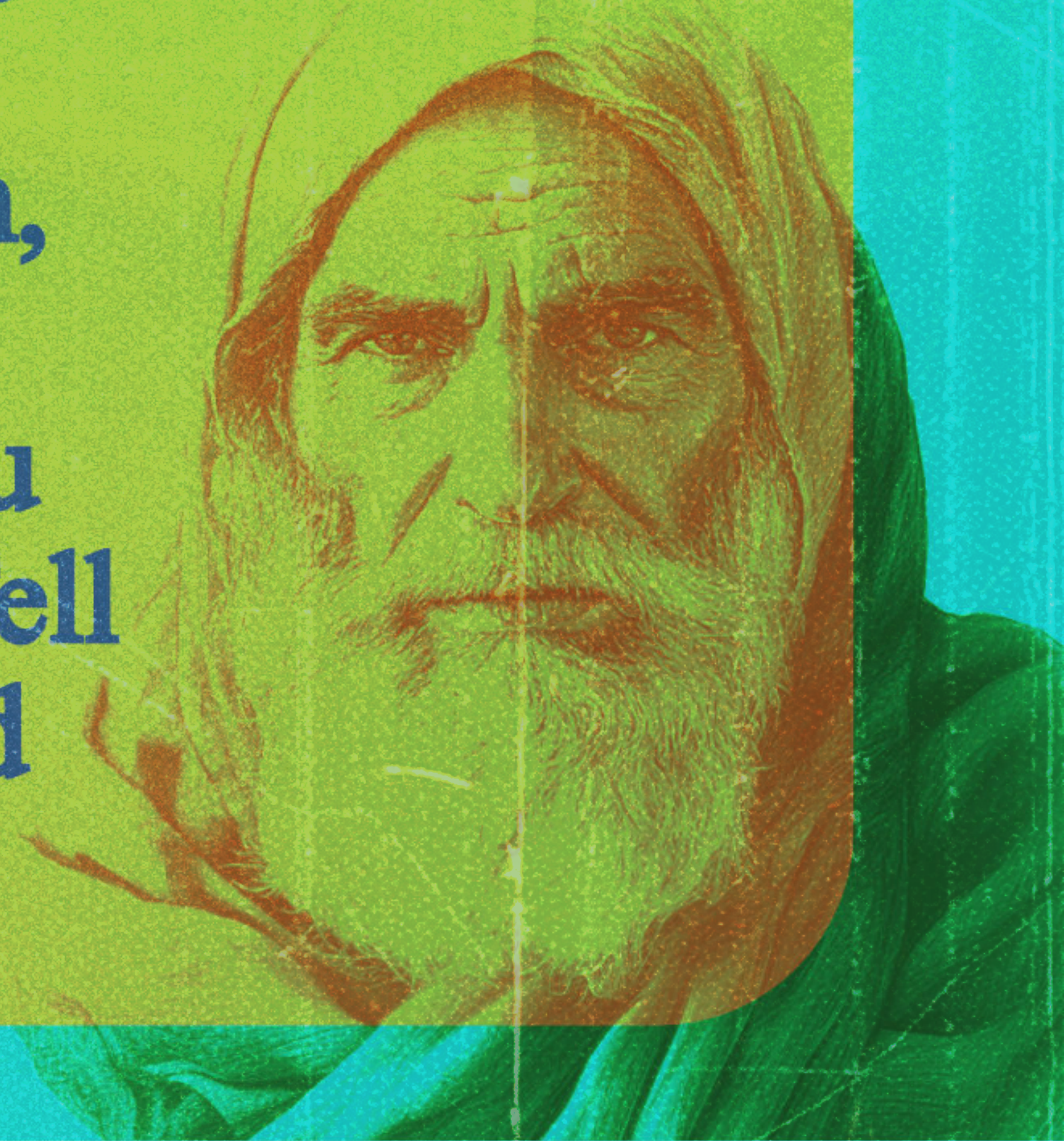
GENESIS 29:13

¹³ As soon as Laban heard the news about Jacob, his sister's son, he hurried to meet him. He embraced him and kissed him and brought him to his home, and there Jacob told him all these things.



GENESIS 29:14-15

¹⁴ Then Laban said to him, “You are my own flesh and blood.” After Jacob had stayed with him for a whole month, ¹⁵ Laban said to him, “Just because you are a relative of mine, should you work for me for nothing? Tell me what your wages should be.”



GENESIS 29:16-18



¹⁶ Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷ Leah had weak eyes, but Rachel had a lovely figure and was beautiful. ¹⁸ Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, “I’ll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel.”



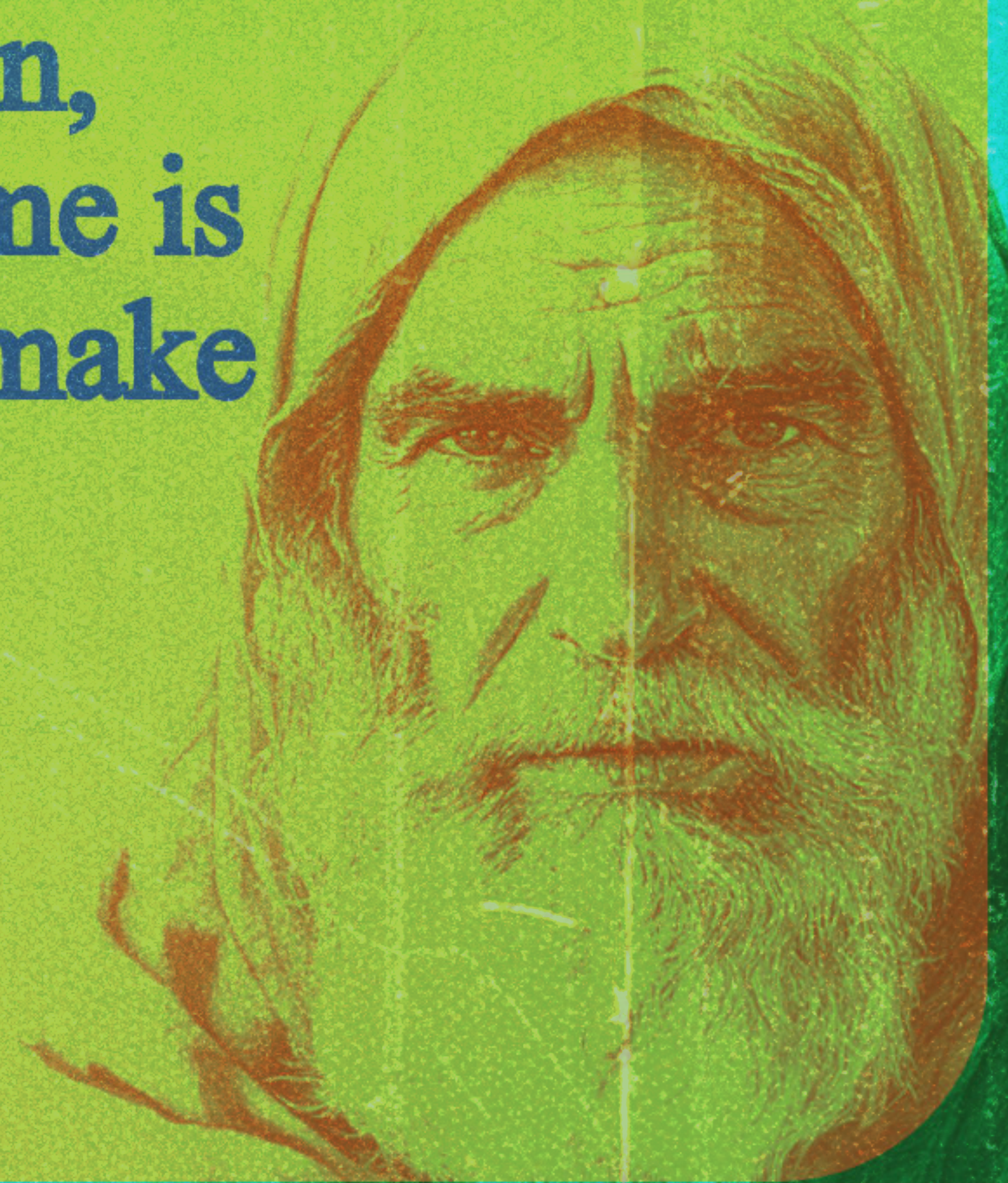
GENESIS 29:19-20

¹⁹ Laban said, “It’s better that I give her to you than to some other man. Stay here with me.” ²⁰ So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her.



GENESIS 29:21

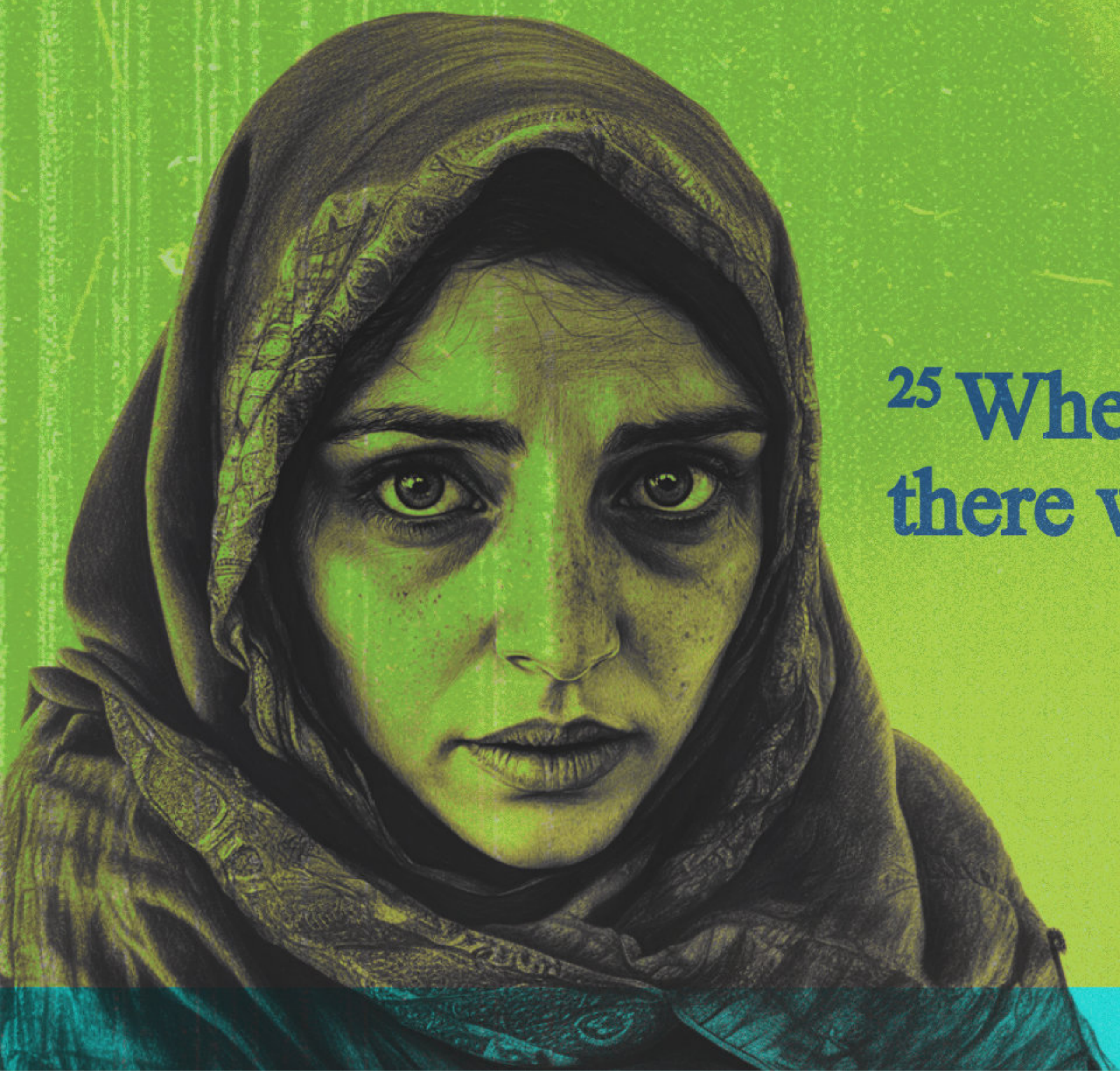
**²¹ Then Jacob said to Laban,
“Give me my wife. My time is
completed, and I want to make
love to her.”**



GENESIS 29:22-24

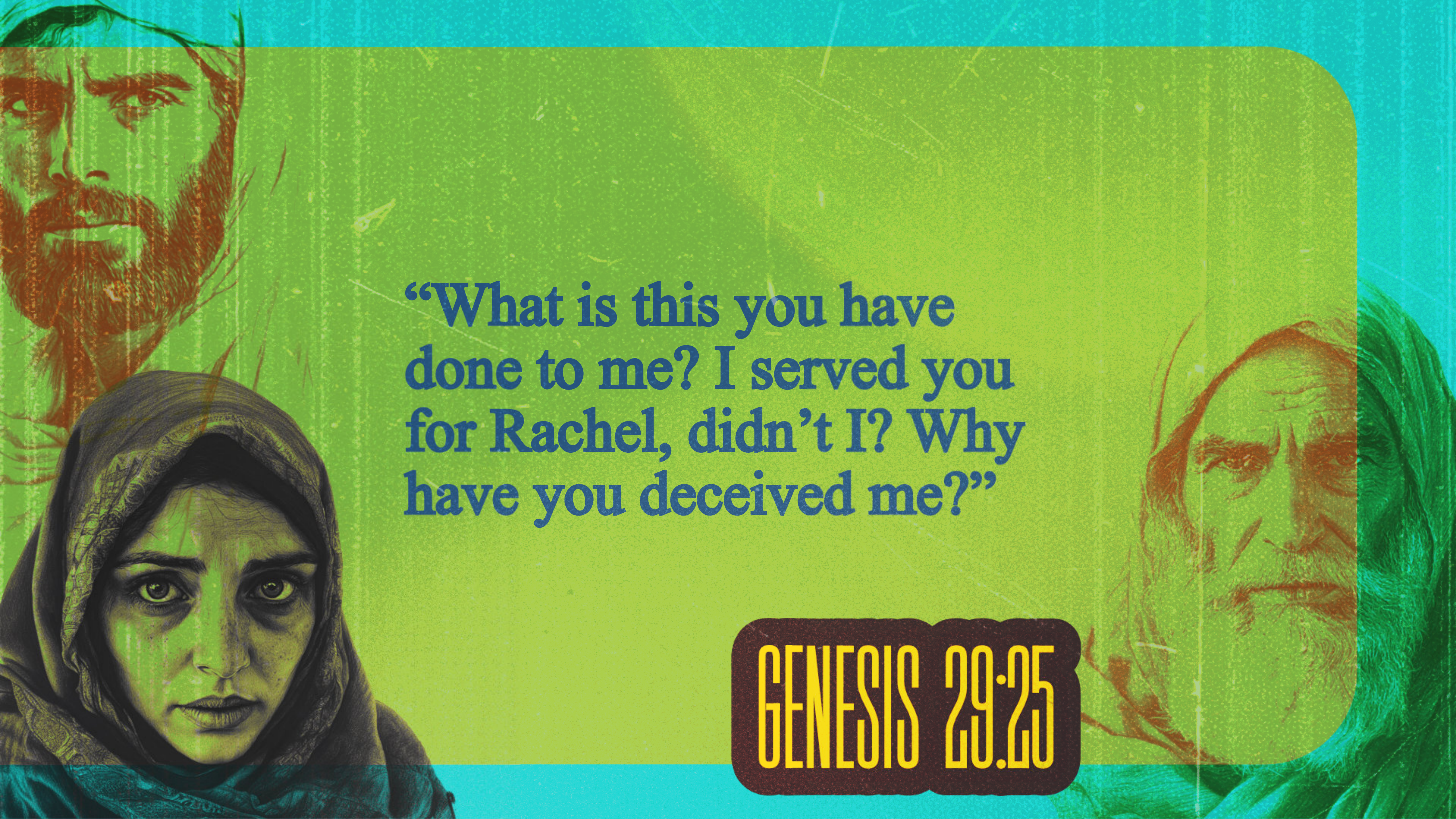
²² So Laban brought together all the people of the place and gave a feast. ²³ But when evening came, he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and Jacob made love to her. ²⁴ And Laban gave his servant Zilpah to his daughter as her attendant.






**²⁵ When morning came,
there was Leah!**

GENESIS 29:25



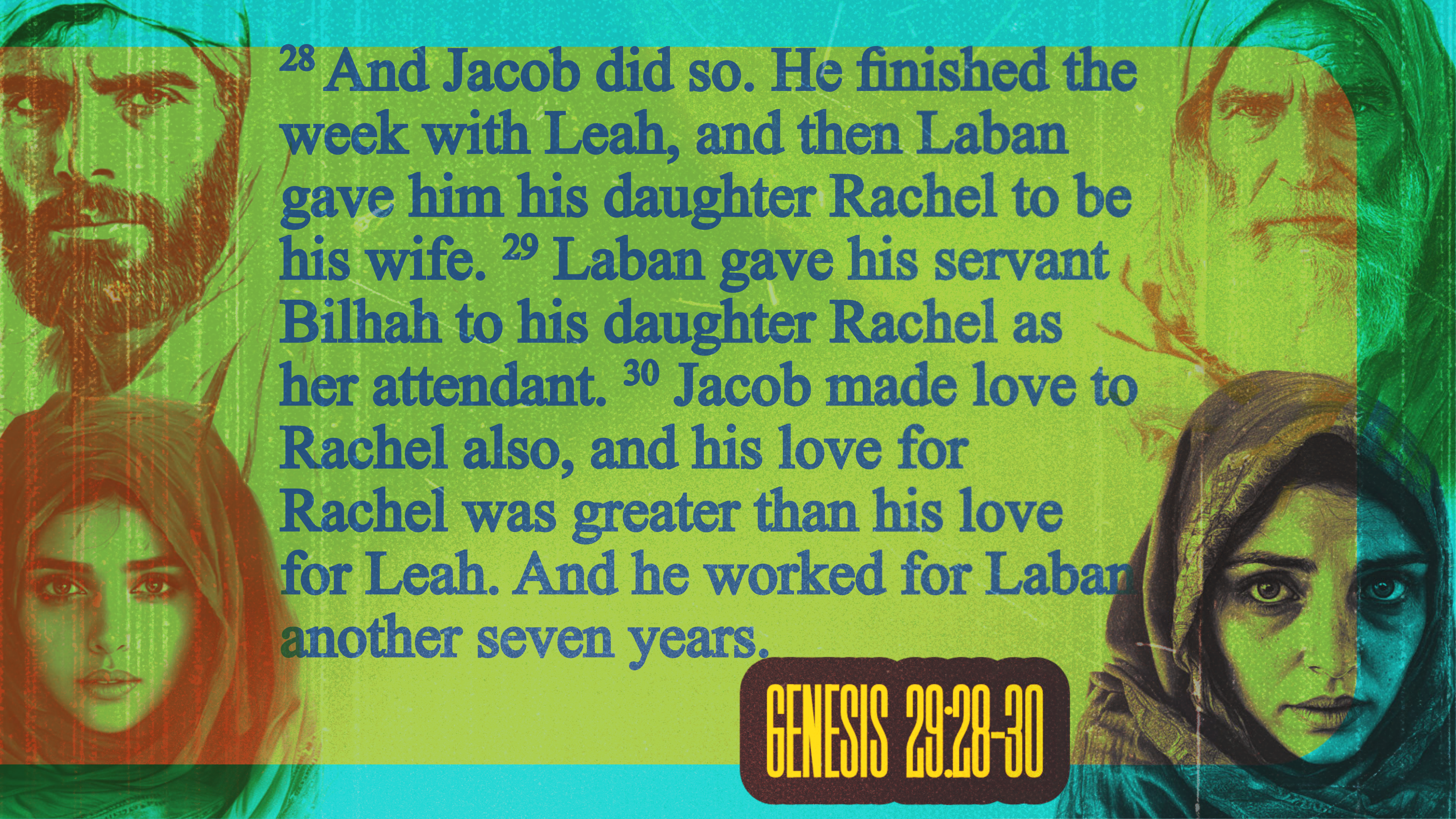
**“What is this you have
done to me? I served you
for Rachel, didn’t I? Why
have you deceived me?”**

GENESIS 29:25

The background of the slide features a composite illustration. On the left, there is a portrait of a man with a full, dark beard and mustache, looking slightly to the right. Below him, in the bottom left corner, is a portrait of a woman wearing a dark headscarf, looking directly at the viewer. On the right side, there is a portrait of an older man with a long, white beard and hair, looking slightly to the left. The central text is overlaid on a semi-transparent dark blue rectangular area.

²⁶ Laban replied, “It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one. ²⁷ Finish this daughter’s bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, in return for another seven years of work.”

GENESIS 29:26-27

The background of the image is a composite illustration. On the left, there is a portrait of a man with a beard and long hair, identified as Jacob. On the right, there is a portrait of an older man with a long white beard, identified as Laban. In the bottom left and bottom right corners, there are portraits of two women wearing headscarves, identified as Leah and Rachel. The central text is overlaid on a semi-transparent yellow rectangular area.

²⁸ And Jacob did so. He finished the week with Leah, and then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife. ²⁹ Laban gave his servant Bilhah to his daughter Rachel as her attendant. ³⁰ Jacob made love to Rachel also, and his love for Rachel was greater than his love for Leah. And he worked for Laban another seven years.

GENESIS 29:28-30

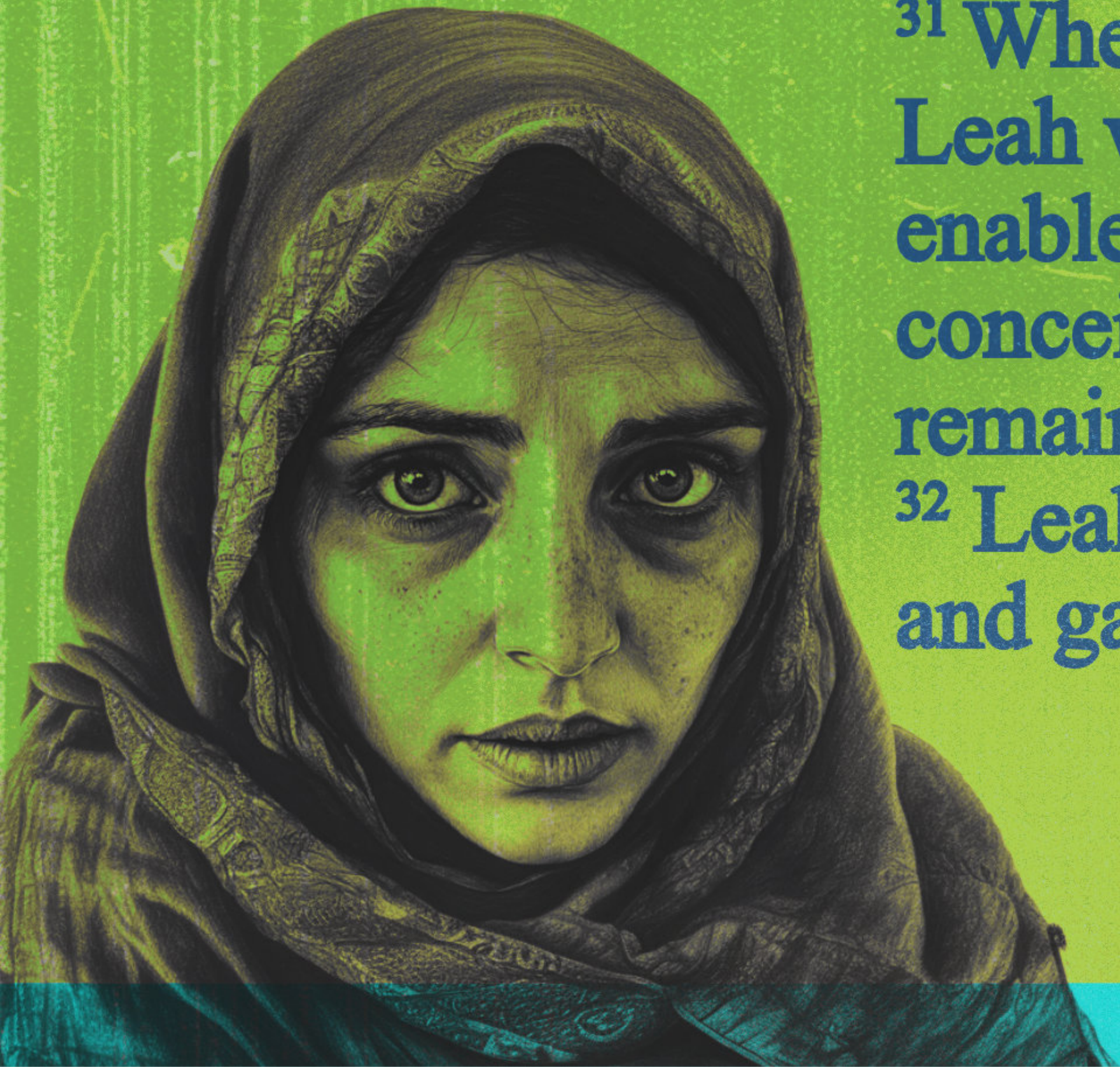
MULTIPLE WIVES

RIVAL SISTERS

WHAT COULD GO WRONG?

*How about a 7 year
baby war?*





³¹ When the Lord saw that Leah was not loved, he enabled her to conceive, but Rachel remained childless.

³² Leah became pregnant and gave birth to a son.

GENESIS 29:31-32

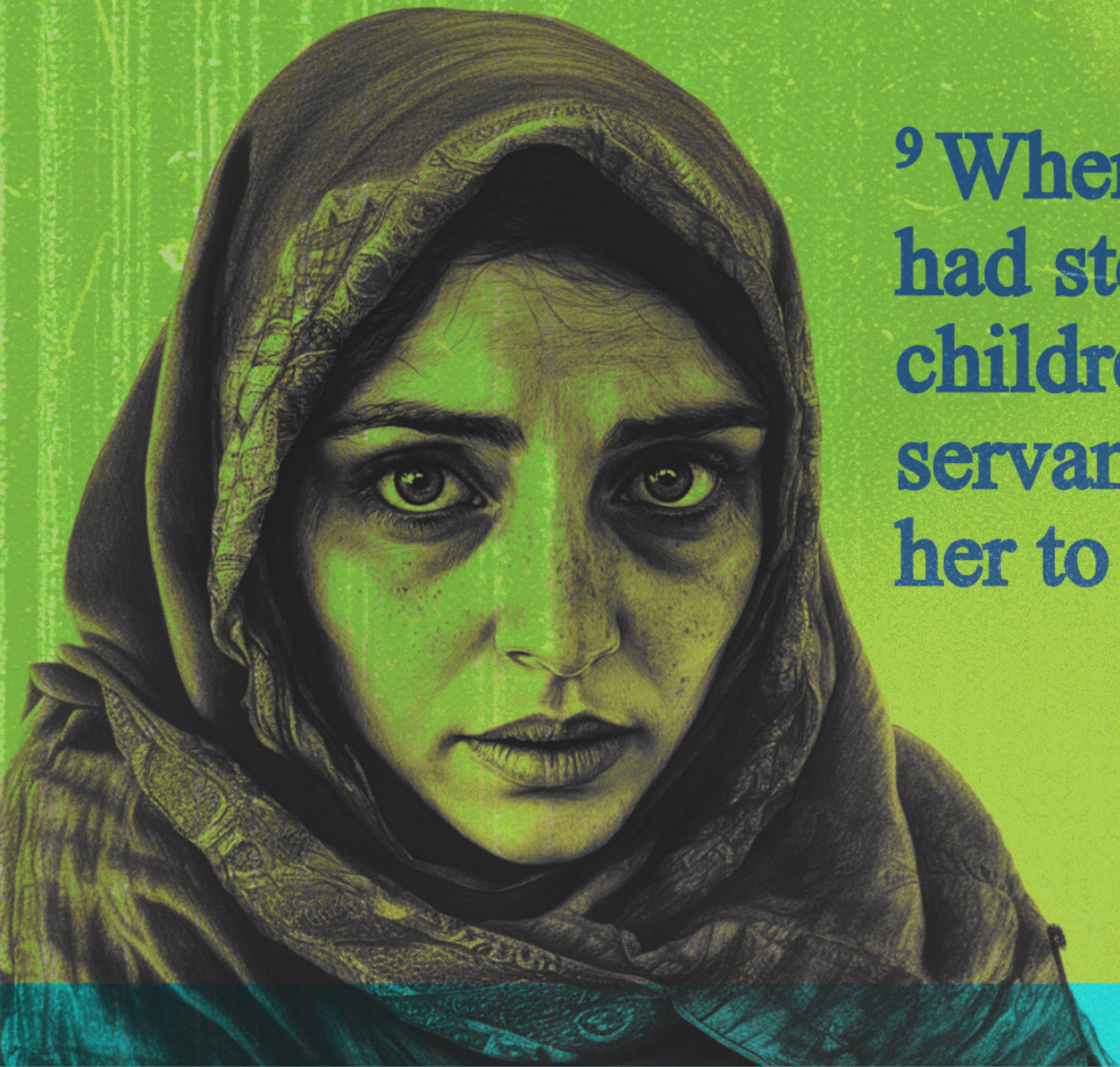
The baby's name
reflects the emotions
and circumstances
each woman is
experiencing.



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’ll die!”² Jacob became angry with her and said, “Am I in the place of God, who has kept you from having children?”


GENESIS 30:1-2





⁹ When Leah saw that she had stopped having children, she took her servant Zilpah and gave her to Jacob as a wife.

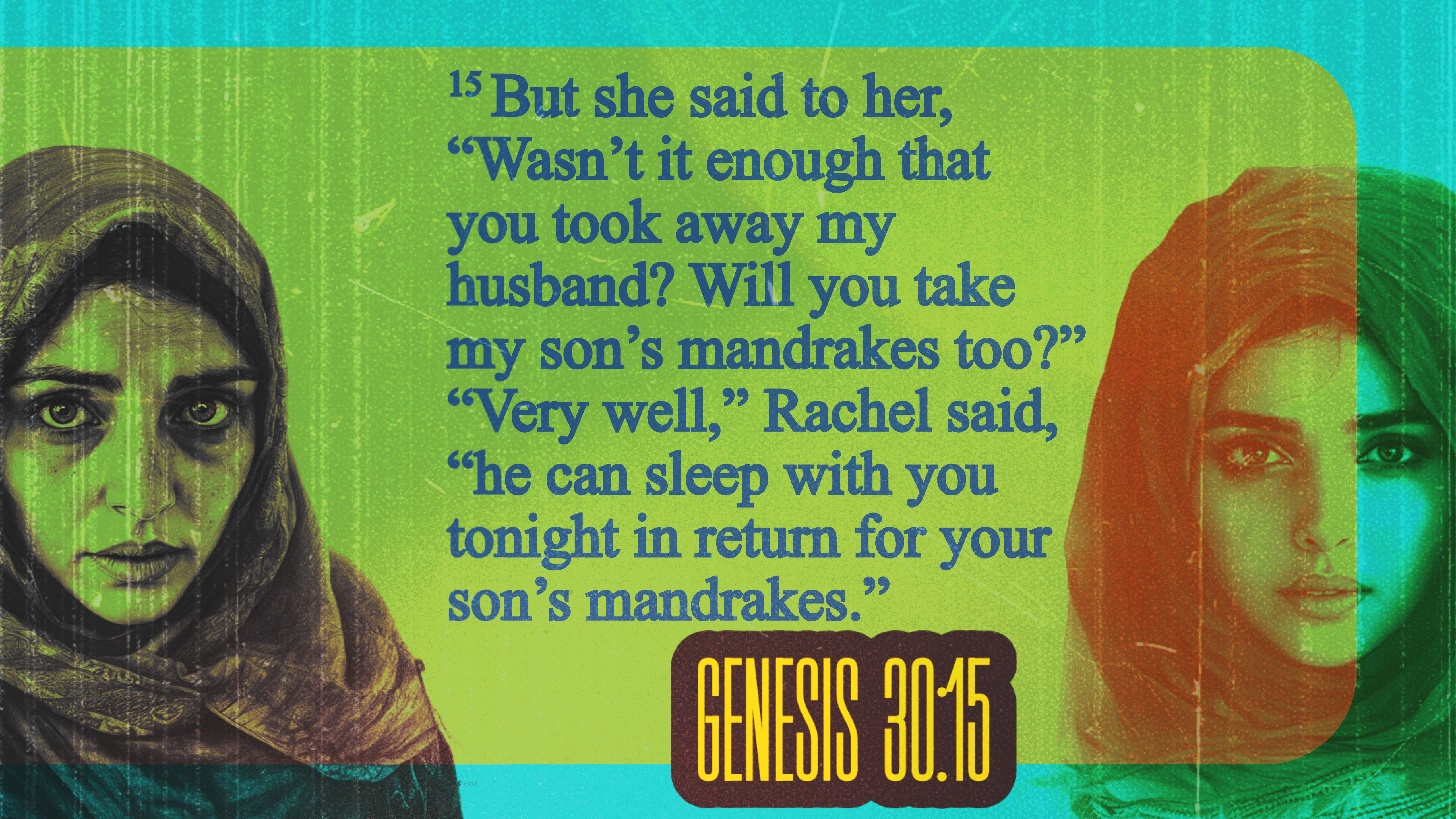
GENESIS 30:9



¹⁴ 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.”

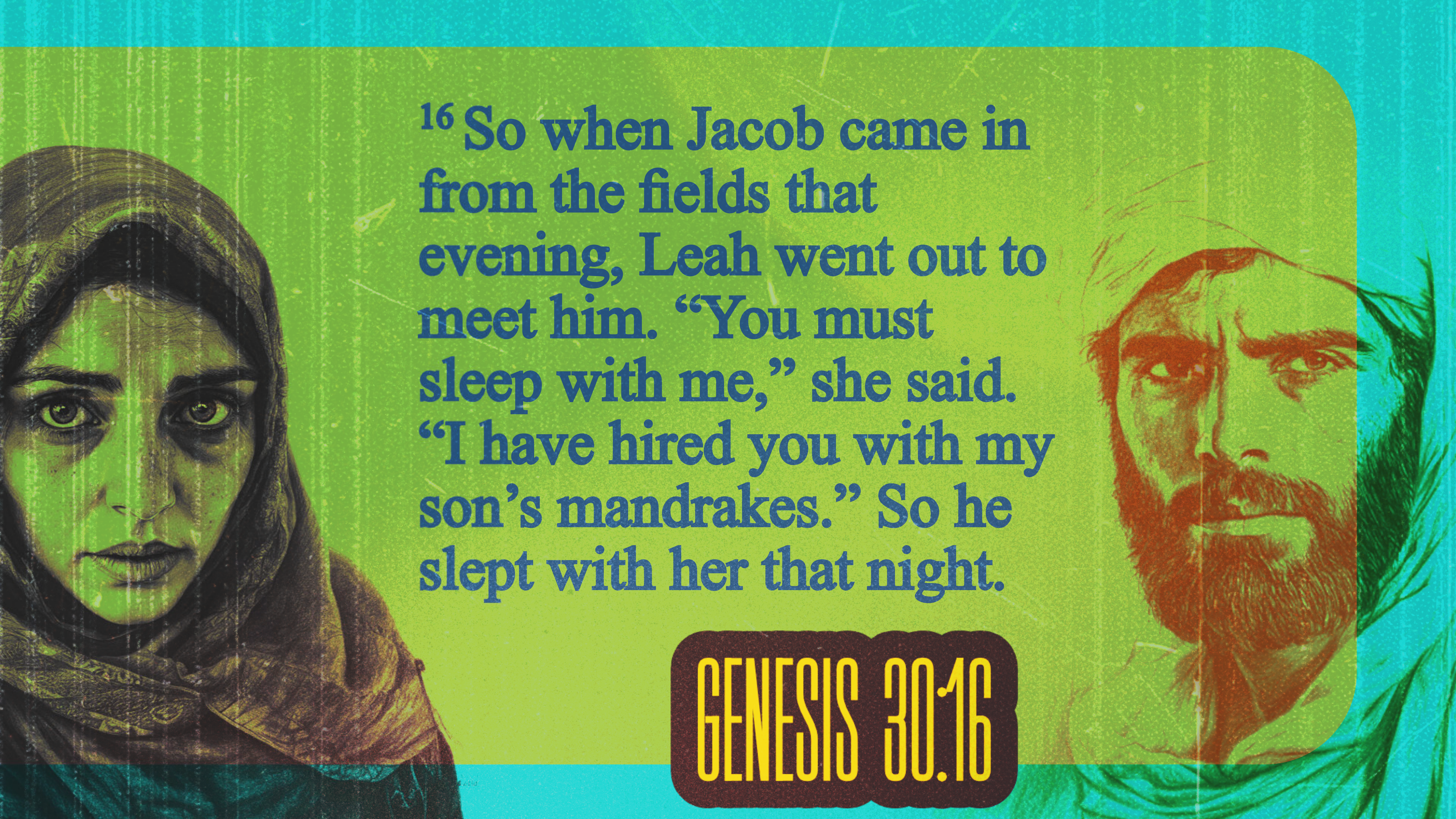


GENESIS 30:14



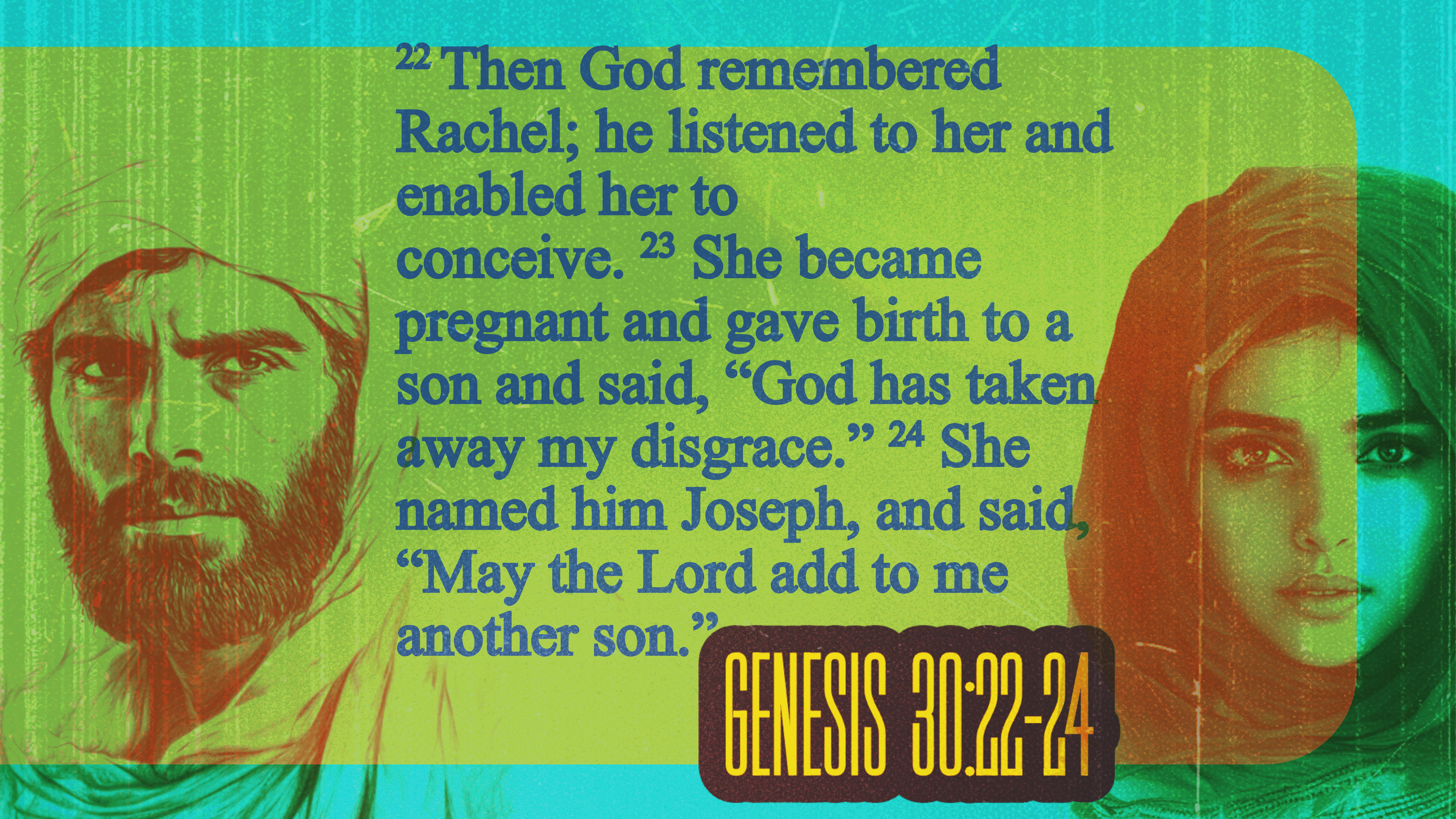
¹⁵ But she said to her,
“Wasn’t it enough that
you took away my
husband? Will you take
my son’s mandrakes too?”
“Very well,” Rachel said,
“he can sleep with you
tonight in return for your
son’s mandrakes.”

GENESIS 30:15



¹⁶ 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.

GENESIS 30:16



²² Then God remembered Rachel; he listened to her and enabled her to conceive. ²³ She became pregnant and gave birth to a son and said, “God has taken away my disgrace.” ²⁴ She named him Joseph, and said, “May the Lord add to me another son.”

GENESIS 30:22-24

YOUR LONGINGS AND DESIRES

though often good

WILL NEVER TOTALLY SATISFY



JOSEPH "MAY HE ADD"

*the only thing
she wanted
was not enough*

ULTIMATELY

***YOUR LONGING
CAN ONLY BE MET
IN THE LORD***

**IT'S EASY TO SEE ALL
THAT OTHERS HAVE**

and miss what God has given you



**GOD HAS A SPECIAL CONCERN
FOR THE OVERLOOKED AND HURTING**

*It would be through Leah,
this hurting wife,
the overlooked sister,
that would lead to Jesus!*