

Series "In The Beginning...God"
"Birth Wars"
Genesis 29:31-30:24
Study-56

Genesis 29:31-35; Genesis 30:1-11

Genesis 29:31-30:24 When it is God's will, for the Procreation of Children

Genesis 30:25-43 given to one another in Prosperity and adversity;

Jacob was enrolled in the School Of Faith for 20 years! NLT Proverbs 12:1

Thought Of Our Passage: "Jacob Came From A Divided And Competitive Home Which Created A Divided And Competitive Family"

- 1. Genesis 29:31-35 Leah's Four Sons:**
- 2. Genesis 30:1-8 Rachel's Maid Bilhah's Two Sons:**
- 3. Genesis 30:9-13 Leah's Maid Zilpah's Two Sons:**
- 4. Genesis 30:14-21 Leah's Two Sons And Daughter:**
- 5. Genesis 30:22-24 Rachel's Son:**

1. Genesis 29:31-35 Leah's Four Sons:

Genesis 29:31 Now Context - Jacob came to Haran, and Uncle Laban had two daughters. The oldest was Leah and the youngest was Rachel. Jacob committed to work for seven years for Rachel in marriage. Laban switched sisters, and Jacob married Leah instead. Jacob realized that he was learning a lesson for the deception of his father, Isaac, and Esau.

the LORD saw that Leah was unloved,
Nothing escapes God's notice. **1 Peter 5:7**

that Leah was unloved, (KJV)
"Leah was hated" better reading, "*Leah was neglected*"
Jacob loved Rachel more. It was love at first sight.

We have polygamy, and along with it comes problems. **Genesis 2:24**

God's Response To Jacob's Treatment Of Leah: and He opened her womb, but Rachel was barren. God intervening
Deuteronomy 21:15-17

but Rachel was barren.

We note that Sarah, Abraham's wife, was barren, then Rebekah, Isaac's wife, was barren. Now it is Rachel who is barren.

Genesis 29:32 Leah conceived and bore a son –
Leah conceived and had 6 sons and 1 daughter.

(1) Reuben – “see a son” God has seen my affliction. surely now my husband will love me.” (Leah appears to be more spiritual than Rachel)
The name **LORD** is God’s covenant name, Leah uses with her children.
Genesis 49:31

after 150 years of promise to Abraham about his heirs there has been only one. Isaac then Jacob but now 12 sons which will multiply into 12 nations.

Genesis 29:33

(2) Simeon – “hears, one who hears”
The Lord Had Heard “Because the LORD has heard that I am unloved,

Turn to God in distress and when your life is barren:

Reuben and Simeon would be replaced with Joseph’s sons **Ephraim and Manasseh.**

Genesis 29:34

(3) Levi. – “attachment”
Husband will be attached to me!

Genesis 29:35 “This time I will praise the LORD.”

Somehow there was some new hope that was brought into the relationship.

(4) Judah – “praise”

Instead of complaining to the Lord Leah started praising the Lord for what He has done. (Jesus came from this tribe)

We can pray about our situations, but at the same time, we need to take the time to give thanks for what the Lord has done

God did not change Leah’s situation with Jacob, but he changed her

2. Genesis 30:1-8 Rachel’s Maid Bilhah’s Two Sons:

Genesis 30:1 she became jealous of her sister; Rachel was more miserable than Leah.

Leah was at least spiritual, and it helped her through her difficult relationship with her husband.

“Give me children, or else I die.”

(Prophetic because Rachel died giving birth in Genesis 35:18)
Jewish Thinking – “Being a parent is the entire purpose for living”

Genesis 30:2 Then Jacob's anger burned against Rachel,
Rachel in jealousy and now we see Jacob filled with anger.

and he said, “Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?” Jacob realized that God is the giver of life. **Psalm 127:3**

(Prayer like Isaac) Genesis 25:21; 1 Peter 3:7

Genesis 30:3 She said, "Here is my maid Bilhah,
Surrogate mother. (Like great grandma Sarah did!) **Genesis 16:2**

bear on my knees, that through her I too may have children." (Adoption)

Genesis 30:4-5 The amazing thing about these four wives that Jacob had is that God allowed blessing to result from all of this, the 12 Tribes of Israel.

A great lesson that we learn here that as difficult and even sinful that a situation can be God can bring good out of it.

Genesis 30:6
(5) Dan – *"he argued the case"*
Success in Strife!

Genesis 30:7-8 And she named him
(6) Naphtali. – *"my struggle"*
Rachel's struggle with Leah
2 Corinthians 10:1-3 Not flesh & Blood

3. Genesis 30:9-13 Leah's Maid Zilpah's Two Sons:

Genesis 30:9 she took her maid Zilpah and gave her to Jacob as a wife.
The rivalry was so intense that Leah was not satisfied with the four sons she had given birth to.

Now Jacob is the husband of four wives.

Genesis 30:10-11
(7) Gad – *"luck has come, how fortunate"* named after the Babylonian god of fate. **No Good Luck Only The Gracious God of Providence.**

Genesis 30:12-13 "Happy am I! For women will call me happy."
So she named him
(8) Asher – *"blessed, happy"*
Happiness is the result of happenings.

4. Genesis 30:14-21 Leah's Two Sons And Daughter:

Genesis 30:14 Reuben went and found mandrakes in the field,
Reuben is believed to be 7-8 years of age.
Mandrakes – The fruit of this plant was yellow berries that were called "love apple" it was considered to be a powerful love potion, fertility.

Then Rachel said to Leah, "Please give me some of your son's mandrakes." It was believed that they could make one fertile.

Genesis 30:15 So Rachel said, "Therefore he may lie with you tonight in return for your son's mandrakes."

You see this scheming taking place in the home.

Genesis 30:16 for I have surely hired you with my son's mandrakes."

It reminds us of the dealings of Rebekah behind the back of Isaac.

Genesis 30:17 God gave heed to Leah,

So Leah prayed to the Lord, and the Lord heard.

Genesis 30:18 So she named him

(9) Issachar. – *"he has hired, wages"*

God has recompensed

Genesis 30:19-20 So she named him

(10) Zebulun. – *"honor"*

God's justice in the face of human injustice

Genesis 30:21 Afterward she bore a daughter and named her Dinah.

Jacob had other daughters, **Genesis 37:35; 46:7,15.** We will see **Dinah** in **Genesis 34.** She will be raped.

5. Genesis 30:22-24 Rachel's Son:

Genesis 30:22 Then God remembered Rachel,

"to pay special attention, lovingly care for"

Genesis 8:1 But God remembered Noah

Genesis 19:29 God remembered Abraham,

Genesis 30:23-24

(11) Joseph – *"to take away, and to add"*

May God add or may He increase!

"May the LORD give me another son."

Cost of her life. **Genesis 35:16-20**

(12) Benjamin – *"son of my right hand"*

Application:

1. Like Leah, We Should Turn To God In Distress And When Our Life Is Barren. We Can Pray About Our Situations, But At The Same Time, We Need To Take The Time To Give Thanks For What The Lord Has Done. God Did Not Change Leah's Situation With Jacob, But He Changed Her.
2. A Great Lesson That We Learn From Jacob's Four Wives Is That As Difficult And Even Sinful As A Situation Can Be, God Can Bring Good Out Of It: (12 Sons Became 12 Tribes).