

GENESIS 30

- Jacob takes 2 wives, Rachel and Leah
- Lavan (Laban) deceived Jacob into marrying both sisters
- Jacob becomes a father in his 80's
- Chapter 29 focused on Leah's children
- Chapter 30 focuses on Rachel's children



THE RACHEL STORY

- Rachel, the beautiful wife, is jealous of Leah
- Rachel does the same thing Sarah did; she gives servant Bilah to Jacob to bear a child
- Bilah not “a wife” but a concubine
- God did NOT validate Jacob’s decision to take 2 wives, as good



WE MUST SEPARATE GOD'S COMMANDS FROM STATEMENTS OF HISTORICAL FACT

- Bible is full of statements by humans that are lies, exaggerations, inaccuracies, superstitions
- Bible does not take the time to comment on each statement or action as to whether it was right or wrong
- We must learn God's principles so that we can know when an action or statement was right or wrong in God's eyes

“.....*may bear on my knees*.....”



- Hebrew idiom means to place a legal claim on that child
- Used when a servant is a surrogate mother, or in an adoption
- NOTE: Rachel NOT obligated to accept her servant's children as her own
- Bilah probably had children of her own, that she kept and raised as her own
- Bilah gives birth to Dan and then to Naftali

SISTERS ENGAGE IN BATTLE OVER JACOB'S AFFECTIONS



Mandrake

- Leah sees Rachel's success and offers her servant girl, Zilpah, to Jacob
- Zilpah bears Gad and then Asher
- Leah's son Rueben gathers Mandrakes for his mother
- Mandrake is an aphrodisiac
- Mandrake = *duda'im*
- Love = *dodai*
- Mandrakes were just an ancient superstition
- Leah bears 3 more children, while Rachel remains barren for 3 more years

The Following is a List of the Fourteen Sons of Jacob

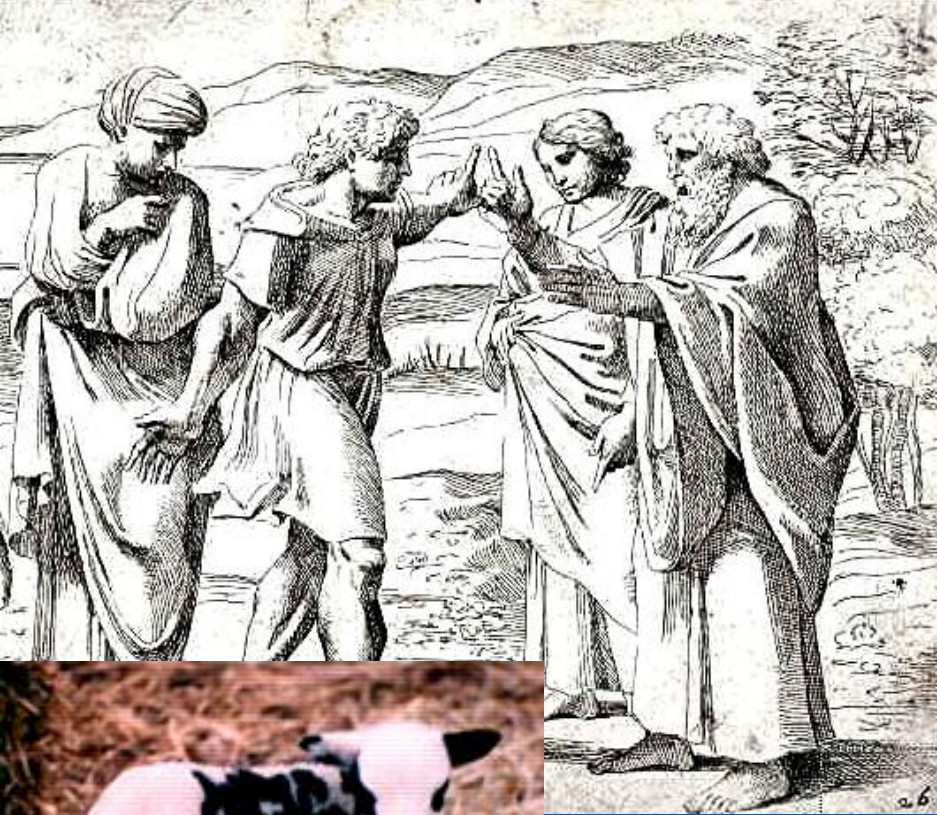
		The numbers assigned reflect the order of birth
LEAH	1. Reuben	
	2. Simeon	
	3. Levi	
	4. Judah	
	9. Issachar	
10. Zebulun		
ZILPAH		Zilpah was Leah's Handmaid
	7. Gad	
	8. Asher	
RACHEL	11. Joseph	Although Joseph was a son of Jacob, there never was a Joseph tribe.
	13. Ephraim	Ephraim and Manasseh were Joseph's sons, but Jacob adopted them, ^[1] on a parity with his other children. ^[2]
	14. Manasseh	
	12. Benjamin	
BILAH		Bilhah was Rachel's Handmaid
	5. Dan	
	6. Naphtali	

JACOB'S SONS BORN IN MESOPOTAMIA

- “God has taken away my disgrace” Vs.23
- Taken away = **asaf**
- “Lord added me a son...”
- Added = **yosef**
- Yosef and asaf together form Joseph’s name
- Prophetic, Joseph taken away, and then added back in



BATTLE OF DECEIVERS



- Laban is a Spiritualist, he believes in many gods
- Lavan invokes God's name because he knows Jacob's God exists
- Jacob agrees to stay in return for all the speckled and spotted sheep and goats

MEET MR. WHITE

- These passages are all about “color”
- Pure white sheep, pure dark goats, go to Laban
- Speckled and spotted go to Jacob
- NORMAL = pure white sheep, dark goats
- Lavan (Laban) in Hebrew means **WHITE!**
- The site of white spots on the goats and sheep that were white and dark infuriated Lavan



GENESIS 31

- History repeats itself
- Jacob's life similar to Abraham's
- Did Jacob belong to Mesopotamia or Canaan?
- Just as Abraham and Lot had to separate over matters concerning herds and flocks, so do Jacob and Laban
- Division and separation are rarely on happy terms
- Jacob will cut family ties with Mesopotamia, and the Land of Canaan becomes his home



JACOBS FLEES

- Laban and his sons grumble over the size of Jacob's herds
- God instructs Jacob to go back to Canaan
- Jacob consults with his wives
- While Laban is away, Jacob and his family quickly pack and flee
- Rachel steals her father's household gods

Rachel took the family gods because the one who possessed the family gods indicated the one who would inherit the family wealth and authority.

