

# Genesis - Lesson 30

## Genesis 30

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Memory verses for this week: *Joh 3:20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. Joh 3:21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.*

**Introduction:** We continue our study on the book of Genesis this week as we cover the offspring born to Jacob. These make up the 12 tribes of Israel. Genesis 30 is not pleasant reading, but it is recorded for our learning. A thoughtful Christian will read and see the awful consequences of polygamy as described in this chapter. In Gen. 30 we see that a plurality of wives must of necessity produce discord, jealousy and hatred. We can be thankful that God has left us a better plan, wherein each man should have his own wife, and each woman should have her own husband. Having multiple wives was never in God's perfect plan, but he allowed this sometimes in the Old Testament in his permissive will. We are going to backup and read the last 5 verses of chapter 29 to get the full story on all the children born to Jacob.

## I. The Children Born and Named

*Gen 29:31 And when the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel was barren.*

*Gen 29:32 And Leah conceived, and bare a son, and she called his name Reuben: for she said, Surely the LORD hath looked upon my affliction; now therefore my husband will love me.*

*Gen 29:33 And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Because the LORD hath heard that I was hated, he hath therefore given me this son also: and she called his name Simeon.*

*Gen 29:34 And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Now this time will my husband be joined unto me, because I have born him three sons: therefore was his name called Levi.*

*Gen 29:35 And she conceived again, and bare a son: and she said, Now will I praise the LORD: therefore she called his name Judah; and left bearing.*

Chapter 29 gives us the record of the four older sons of Leah. Reuben means "behold a son." This is what God said of His Son, "Behold the Lamb of God ...." Simeon means "hearing." This points to the reception of the gospel by faith, for faith cometh by hearing. Levi means "joined." This reminds us of the blessed union by which the Holy Spirit makes us one with the Son through the hearing of the Word when we accept Christ as our Lord and Savior. Judah means "praised." Praise is manifested in the Divine life of the believer, because Christ is of the tribe of Judah.

**Gen 30:1** *And when Rachel saw that she bare Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister; and said unto Jacob, Give me children, or else I die.*

**Gen 30:2** *And Jacob's anger was kindled against Rachel: and he said, Am I in God's stead, who hath withheld from thee the fruit of the womb?*

*Gen 30:3 And she said, Behold my maid Bilhah, go in unto her; and she shall bear upon my knees, that I may also have children by her.*

*Gen 30:4 And she gave him Bilhah her handmaid to wife: and Jacob went in unto her.*

*Gen 30:5 And Bilhah conceived, and bare Jacob a son.*

*Gen 30:6 And Rachel said, God hath judged me, and hath also heard my voice, and hath given me a son: therefore called she his name Dan.*

*Gen 30:7 And Bilhah Rachel's maid conceived again, and bare Jacob a second son.*

*Gen 30:8 And Rachel said, With great wrestlings have I wrestled with my sister, and I have prevailed: and she called his name Naphtali.*

We read about Bilhah in last week's lesson as Laban gave her the handmaid when she married Jacob. Verse 3 tells of how Rachel tells Jacob to take her that she might have children for Jacob. The two sons of Rachel's maid were Dan and Naphtali. Rachel's desire for children was only natural, but once again we see the folly of human cunning as opposed to prayer unto God. The first son Dan means "judgment." God's judgment fell upon the idolatrous tribe of Dan. In the sealing of the 12 tribes, Dan's name is left out, replaced by the tribe of Manasses.

**Rev 7:4** *And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.*

*Rev 7:5 Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand.*

*Rev 7:6 Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephtalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand.*

*Rev 7:7 Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand.*

*Rev 7:8 Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.*

The second son born to Bilhah was Naphtali, whose name means "wrestling." This reminds us of the necessity of earnestness in prayer.

*Gen 30:9 When Leah saw that she had left bearing, she took Zilpah her maid, and gave her Jacob to wife.*

*Gen 30:10 And Zilpah Leah's maid bare Jacob a son.*

*Gen 30:11 And Leah said, A troop cometh: and she called his name Gad.*

*Gen 30:12 And Zilpah Leah's maid bare Jacob a second son.*

*Gen 30:13 And Leah said, Happy am I, for the daughters will call me blessed: and she called his name Asher.*

Not to be outdone by Rachel's handmaid, Leah now brings here handmaid Zilpah to Jacob to become a wife so she might bring forth more children. From this union, the two sons of Leah's maid were Gad and Asher. Gad means "fortune and/or a troop or company." This name reminds us of the company and fellowship of God's own. Asher means "happy." Happiness should be the result of our relationship with God. As our pastor has expressed several times over the past few months, real happiness

and joy comes from serving the Lord. You may buy some temporary happiness in the world, but true joy comes only from the God of heaven.

*Gen 30:14 And Reuben went in the days of wheat harvest, and found mandrakes in the field, and brought them unto his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, Give me, I pray thee, of thy son's mandrakes.*

*Gen 30:15 And she said unto her, Is it a small matter that thou hast taken my husband? and wouldest thou take away my son's mandrakes also? And Rachel said, Therefore he shall lie with thee to night for thy son's mandrakes.*

*Gen 30:16 And Jacob came out of the field in the evening, and Leah went out to meet him, and said, Thou must come in unto me; for surely I have hired thee with my son's mandrakes. And he lay with her that night.*

*Gen 30:17 And God hearkened unto Leah, and she conceived, and bare Jacob the fifth son.*

*Gen 30:18 And Leah said, God hath given me my hire, because I have given my maiden to my husband: and she called his name Issachar.*

*Gen 30:19 And Leah conceived again, and bare Jacob the sixth son.*

*Gen 30:20 And Leah said, God hath endued me with a good dowry; now will my husband dwell with me, because I have born him six sons: and she called his name Zebulun.*

*Gen 30:21 And afterwards she bare a daughter, and called her name Dinah.*

This is another of the strange stories that came from polygamy. There was no doubt a lot of friction in the family between all these wives. Rachel and Leah argue about the mandrakes that Reuben had gathered, and they agree for Jacob to be with Leah that night. The Lord blessed Leah and she bare Jacob his fifth son, Issachar. Again she conceived and brought forth Zebulun and then a daughter named Dinah.

Issachar means "reward." and meant the result of service. Zebulun means "dwelling." As Christians, we are commanded to occupy until Christ comes.

*Gen 30:22 And God remembered Rachel, and God hearkened to her, and opened her womb.*

*Gen 30:23 And she conceived, and bare a son; and said, God hath taken away my reproach:*

*Gen 30:24 And she called his name Joseph; and said, The LORD shall add to me another son.*

Rachel had been barren for quite some time, but finally God remembered her and allowed her to conceive and bring forth two illustrious sons, Joseph and Benjamin. Because of the great love Jacob had for Rachel, I believe the bible is clear that they were Jacob's favorite sons, and this also brought about strife, particularly in the case of Joseph. But God brought good from the evil as we know when Joseph was sold into slavery and taken to Egypt.

Joseph means "increase or added." This reminds us of the reward that God will give for service. Joseph is doubtless one of the greatest men in the Bible. From the humble beginnings in prison there in Egypt, he rose to power as the right hand man of Pharaoh when he interpreted the dream that Pharaoh had.

Benjamin means "son of my right hand." He was promised in verse 24, but was not born

until later.

*Gen 35:15 And Jacob called the name of the place where God spake with him, Bethel.*

*Gen 35:16 And they journeyed from Bethel; and there was but a little way to come to Ephrath: and Rachel travailed, and she had hard labour.*

*Gen 35:17 And it came to pass, when she was in hard labour, that the midwife said unto her, Fear not; thou shalt have this son also.*

*Gen 35:18 And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin.*

*Gen 35:19 And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem.*

## **II. Jacob's Desire and Contract with Laban**

*Gen 30:25 And it came to pass, when Rachel had born Joseph, that Jacob said unto Laban, Send me away, that I may go unto mine own place, and to my country.*

*Gen 30:26 Give me my wives and my children, for whom I have served thee, and let me go: for thou knowest my service which I have done thee.*

*Gen 30:27 And Laban said unto him, I pray thee, if I have found favour in thine eyes, tarry: for I have learned by experience that the LORD hath blessed me for thy sake.*

*Gen 30:28 And he said, Appoint me thy wages, and I will give it.*

*Gen 30:29 And he said unto him, Thou knowest how I have served thee, and how thy cattle was with me.*

*Gen 30:30 For it was little which thou hadst before I came, and it is now increased unto a multitude; and the LORD hath blessed thee since my coming: and now when shall I provide for mine own house also?*

*Gen 30:31 And he said, What shall I give thee? And Jacob said, Thou shalt not give me any thing: if thou wilt do this thing for me, I will again feed and keep thy flock:*

*Gen 30:32 I will pass through all thy flock to day, removing from thence all the speckled and spotted cattle, and all the brown cattle among the sheep, and the spotted and speckled among the goats: and of such shall be my hire.*

*Gen 30:33 So shall my righteousness answer for me in time to come, when it shall come for my hire before thy face: every one that is not speckled and spotted among the goats, and brown among the sheep, that shall be counted stolen with me.*

*Gen 30:34 And Laban said, Behold, I would it might be according to thy word.*

*Gen 30:35 And he removed that day the he goats that were ringstraked and spotted, and all the she goats that were speckled and spotted, and every one that had some white in it, and all the brown among the sheep, and gave them into the hand of his sons.*

*Gen 30:36 And he set three days' journey betwixt himself and Jacob: and Jacob fed the rest of Laban's flocks.*

Laban did his best to keep the best of the flocks for himself, but whatever Jacob chose, God blessed him. He received a large portion and is blessed with many cattle after six years of working for Laban. (After the initial 14 years he worked for Rachel and Leah.) After Joseph's birth, Jacob desires to return to his own land. Laban gave him his blessing and made an offer of wages in verse 27. Jacob's plan called for him to receive the odd colored animals that were born in the future for himself. God has a way of taking care of his own, and he sure proved it in Jacob's case.

*Gen 30:37 And Jacob took him rods of green poplar, and of the hazel and chesnut tree; and pilled white strakes in them, and made the white appear which was in the rods.*

*Gen 30:38 And he set the rods which he had pilled before the flocks in the gutters in the watering troughs when the flocks came to drink, that they should conceive when they came to drink.*

*Gen 30:39 And the flocks conceived before the rods, and brought forth cattle ringstraked, speckled, and spotted.*

*Gen 30:40 And Jacob did separate the lambs, and set the faces of the flocks toward the ringstraked, and all the brown in the flock of Laban; and he put his own flocks by themselves, and put them not unto Laban's cattle.*

*Gen 30:41 And it came to pass, whensoever the stronger cattle did conceive, that Jacob laid the rods before the eyes of the cattle in the gutters, that they might conceive among the rods.*

*Gen 30:42 But when the cattle were feeble, he put them not in: so the feebler were Laban's, and the stronger Jacob's.*

*Gen 30:43 And the man increased exceedingly, and had much cattle, and maidservants, and menservants, and camels, and asses.*

Jacob had a background in scheming as we just studied about his deception of his father a few weeks ago to take the birthright. Again Jacob comes up with devious scheme. Jacob's plan worked and he became wealthy. In Gen. 31, we see it wasn't Jacob's big plan that made it happen, but that God was the One that made it work.

*Gen 31:7 And your father hath deceived me, and changed my wages ten times; but God suffered him not to hurt me.*

*Gen 31:8 If he said thus, The speckled shall be thy wages; then all the cattle bare speckled: and if he said thus, The ringstraked shall be thy hire; then bare all the cattle ringstraked.*

*Gen 31:9 Thus God hath taken away the cattle of your father, and given them to me.*

*Gen 31:10 And it came to pass at the time that the cattle conceived, that I lifted up mine eyes, and saw in a dream, and, behold, the rams which leaped upon the cattle were ringstraked, speckled, and grised.*

*Gen 31:11 And the angel of God spake unto me in a dream, saying, Jacob: And I said, Here am I.*

*Gen 31:12 And he said, Lift up now thine eyes, and see, all the rams which leap upon the cattle are ringstraked, speckled, and grised: for I have seen all that Laban doeth unto thee.*

*Gen 31:13 I am the God of Bethel, where thou anointedst the pillar, and where thou vowedst a vow unto me: now arise, get thee out from this land, and return unto the land of thy kindred.*

### **III. Additional Lessons from these Events**

#### **A. The reason why Leah and Rachel wanted children.**

We believe that it was more than just carnal motives. They must have been by the promises of God to Abraham, which involved the richest blessings upon his posterity and from whom would spring the Messiah.

#### **B. The Hand Of God In It All.**

1. In spite of human sin and failure, we see a sovereign God intervene and bring

triumph.

2. By example, God is showing us the sin and folly of bigamy

3. The children of Leah and Rachel far outshine the sons of the handmaids.

Such men as Levi, Judah and Joseph show this.

C. In Prophetic Type, The History Of Israel Is Given In The Births.

1. There was affliction and hatred of Israel down in Egypt.

*Exo 2:23 And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage.*

*Exo 2:24 And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.*

*Exo 2:25 And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them.*

*Exo 3:7 And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;*

*Exo 3:8 And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.*

2. Israel was joined to God.

*Gen 39:21 But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.*

*Gen 39:22 And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it.*

*Gen 39:23 The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because the LORD was with him, and that which he did, the LORD made it to prosper.*

Israel was certainly also joined to God on the eve of the Passover.

*Jer 31:32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:*

*Jer 31:33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

3. Praise of the Lord was given by Leah to the Lord.

*Gen 29:35 And she conceived again, and bare a son: and she said, Now will I praise the LORD: therefore she called his name Judah; and left bearing.*

At the Red Sea praise was give to God.

*Exo 15:10 Thou didst blow with thy wind, the sea covered them: they sank as lead in the mighty waters.*

*Exo 15:11 Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in*

*holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?*

*Exo 15:12 Thou stretchedst out thy right hand, the earth swallowed them.*

*Exo 15:13 Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people which thou hast redeemed: thou hast guided them in thy strength unto thy holy habitation.*

4. God hath judged me. God judged Israel when they murmured and complained for quail.

5. Israel's wrestling that happened between Rachel and Leah.

*Gen 30:8 And Rachel said, With great wrestlings have I wrestled with my sister, and I have prevailed: and she called his name Naphtali.*

Israel later wrestled with Amalek

*Exo 17:10 So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.*

*Exo 17:11 And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.*

6. God is faithful in giving just hire and good dowry. Both of these tell of Israel's occupation of the goodly inheritance.

*Gen 30:18 And Leah said, God hath given me my hire, because I have given my maiden to my husband: and she called his name Issachar.*

*Gen 30:19 And Leah conceived again, and bare Jacob the sixth son.*

*Gen 30:20 And Leah said, God hath endued me with a good dowry; now will my husband dwell with me, because I have born him six sons: and she called his name Zebulun.*

7. Israel's reproach was removed and another son given. Benjamin's name: "Son of my sorrow" was changed to, "Son of my right hand." These two point forward to the kingdom established during the days of David and even more so to the coming Kingdom age.

## STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Name the twelve sons of Jacob?

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin.

2. What was the name of his daughter and of which wife was she?

Dinah from Leah

3. Who were the two sons of Rachel?

Joseph and Benjamin

4. What is the meaning of each of their names?

Joseph means "increase or added."

Benjamin means "son of my right hand."

5. What contract was made between Jacob and Laban concerning Jacob's wages?

One man would take the solid color, and the other the speckled.

6. What was Jacob's scheme in this matter?

*Gen 30:37 And Jacob took him rods of green poplar, and of the hazel and chesnut tree; and pilled white strakes in them, and made the white appear which was in the rods.*

*Gen 30:38 And he set the rods which he had pilled before the flocks in the gutters in the watering troughs when the flocks came to drink, that they should conceive when they came to drink.*

*Gen 30:39 And the flocks conceived before the rods, and brought forth cattle ringstraked, speckled, and spotted.*

The reality was that God gave him the solid color or the speckled which was in his favor each time. Just like Jacob, many times we think we have a lot to do with God's blessings, when in reality it all is coming from the Lord. Worldly wisdom has little to do with the good things that come from God.

*James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*

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*Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.*

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