

JACOB'S CHILDREN

Old Testament Lesson #22

Jacob loved his wife Rachel more than his wife Leah. When God saw that Leah was not loved, he intervened and allowed her to conceive children. Rachel remained barren. In the course of time, Leah gave birth to four sons, Reuben, Simeon, Levi and Judah.

Rachel envied her sister because Leah was able to bear children for Jacob. Not to be outdone, Rachel gave her servant Bilhah to Jacob as a wife, hoping that she would bear children for her and in that way build a family for her and Jacob. Bilhah did conceive and eventually gave birth to two sons, Dan and Naphtali.

Leah had stopped conceiving. Again, she sought to gain Jacob's affections. She offered Jacob her servant Zilpah as a wife. Zilpah in time gave birth to two sons, Gad and Asher.

Rachel desired to tip the scale back in her favor. She wanted Leah to give her some mandrakes which had been picked by her son Reuben. Leah agreed to give her some if Jacob could stay with her that night. Rachel agreed. Leah conceived and in time bore Jacob two more sons and a daughter. Their names were Issachar, Zebulun and Dinah.

After this, God answered Rachel's prayer and she bore a son, Joseph. Jacob now had 11 sons and one daughter. After Jacob returned to Canaan, a 12th son was born to Rachel, but she died in childbirth. Before Rachel died, she named him Ben-Oni, which means "son of my trouble," but Jacob changed his name to Benjamin, which means "son of my right hand."

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- God's promise to Jacob (and to Abraham and Isaac as well) to multiply his descendants began to be seen in Jacob's offspring. Jacob's offspring ultimately gave rise to the nation of Israel.
- A mandrake was a plant considered to be a "love potion" and thought to aid women in conceiving children.

Jacob's Children

- I. Jacob had two wives.
 - A. He loved Rachel, who was beautiful. She initially bore no children.
 - B. He loved Leah less. She gave birth to four sons.
- II. Both sisters wanted many children.
 - A. Rachel gave her servant Bilhah to Jacob. They had two sons.
 - B. Leah gave her servant Zilpah to Jacob. They had two sons.
 - C. Leah then bore two more sons and a daughter.
 - D. Rachel finally gave birth to two sons.
 - E. She died following the birth of the second child. (The baby's name meant "son of my sorrow," but Jacob changed the baby's name to Benjamin, "son of my right hand.")



ANSWER KEY:

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

Jacob had 12 sons and 1 daughter. What were their names?



Find their names below.




1.  - op +  - mrla +  - et = _____

2.  - hp +  - ous + **1** - e = _____



3.  - af +  -  = _____

4.  - g +  - isy +  - arp = _____



5.  - og +  - p = _____



6. N +  - ple +  - a +  - bl + i = _____

7. G +  - hn = _____




8. A +  - ll +  - ing = _____

9.  - fh +  - tr +  - I = _____

10.  - ra + ul +  - s = _____

11.  - osur +  - ive = _____

12. J +  - h +  - tele - **1** = _____

13. B +  - h + j +  - lb +  - p = _____



Name _____

Both Leah and Rachel tried to gain Jacob's love by bearing him children.

Connect the dots.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12



Name _____

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