



Way Point Chronicles

Traveling through the Old Testament by Chronological Stories

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that are born to Jacob by four different women. The # before each name is the birth order of the sons. They are listed under their mothers in the chart. If you follow, Zilpah down you will find Gad and Asher born to her by Jacob. The meaning of each name is given in italics following.

wife	Leah	Bilhah (Rachel's handmaid)	Zilpah (Leah's handmaid)	Rachel	
son	1-Ruben " <i>see, a son</i> " 2- Simeon " <i>hearing</i> " 3- Levi " <i>joined</i> " 4- Judah " <i>praise</i> "	5- Dan " <i>judge</i> " 6- Naphtali " <i>wrestling</i> "	7- Gad " <i>troop</i> " 8- Asher " <i>gladness</i> "		<i>Twelve Boys One Daddy Four Moms</i>
	9- Issachar " <i>he brings wages</i> " 10- Zebulun " <i>dwelling</i> "		11- Joseph " <i>adding</i> " 12- Benjamin " <i>son of my right hand</i> "		

II- The Compassion of God toward Leah:

It is obvious that Jacob loved Leah less than he loved Rachel. This does not mean he was unkind to her and did not love her but simply that his first love was Rachel. Leah knew this as well and lived with it her whole life. God loved Leah and was concerned with her. Notice it says in *Genesis 29:31 And when the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel was barren.*

The one thing that Jacob desired out of his marriages was to have children. Rachel was barren and Leah was used of God to bring forth the first four sons to Jacob.

Genesis 29:32-35 And Leah conceived, and bare a son, and she called his name Reuben (1): for she said, Surely the LORD hath looked upon my affliction; now therefore my husband will love me. 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(2). 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(3). 35 And she conceived again, and bare a son: and she said, Now will I praise the LORD: therefore she called his name Judah(4); and left bearing.

These four sons were born in apparent quick succession. Some speculate as many as one a year. After the fourth son was born, we see that she became barren for a period as well.

The Reese Chronological Bible dates them Reuben DOB 12/1723; Simeon DOB 11/1722; Levi DOB 10/1721; Judah DOB 08/1720. These four sons were given named by their mother based on



Coordinates:
Gen 29:32-30:24; 35:16-18

Sights to See:

- 1- God did not condone the behavior of Jacob and these women He only records it.
- 2- Desperation for someone to love you can potentially cause many problems.
- 3- God is keeping his promise and has used Jacob's failures to advance his promises.



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others. It is also translated love fruit and love apples in other translations. We do not know what they were for sure. Some claim to know but most say it is uncertain what type of fruit they were. What ever they were they apparently were considered a prize because they were thought to be an aphrodisiac and thought to help with fertility. Rachel wanted to have any help she could because she was barren.

Genesis 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. 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.*

Leah accuses Rachel of stealing her husband and now wanting to steal the mandrakes. So the deal is stuck that Leah would get to spend the night with Jacob and Rachel would get the mandrakes. None the less God continued to use the sinful ways of Jacob and the women to fulfill His purpose.

V- Leah's Next Children:

Leah quickly informs Jacob of the bargain she has made with Rachel and he spends the night and she again is pregnant by him. **Genesis 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. 17 And God hearkened unto Leah, and she conceived, and bare Jacob the fifth son. 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(9). 19 And Leah conceived again, and bare Jacob the sixth son. 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(10). 21 And afterwards she bare a daughter, and called her name Dinah.*

The way the sons are given does not mean that this was the fifth and sixth sons born to Jacob but the fifth and sixth born to Leah. Issachar DOB 10/1718 and Zebulun DOB 6/1717 The sadness of the whole situation seems to bubble at the surface. Leah keeps wanted love so desperately.

VI- Rachel's Firstborn:

Still through it all, Jacob never loved any of these women that bore him children like he loved Rachel. Rachel had tried everything she could to have a child for Jacob. God had not forgotten her however. **Genesis 30:22-24** *And God remembered Rachel, and God hearkened to her, and opened her womb. 23 And she conceived, and bare a son; and said, God hath taken away my reproach: 24 And she called his name Joseph(11); and said, The LORD shall add to me another son.*

Joseph DOB 7/1717, is born to Rachel. This brings the total sons now to 11 but remember there are twelve tribes of Israel. We have to go forward 17 years with a lot of water under the bridge between the brothers to find that the 12th sons born to Jacob was after Joseph was sold into slavery. **Genesis 35:16-18** *And they journeyed from Bethel; and there was but a little way to come to Ephrath: and Rachel travailed, and she had hard labour. 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. 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(12). Twelve sons, one Daddy and four Moms. The birth of the twelve tribes.*