

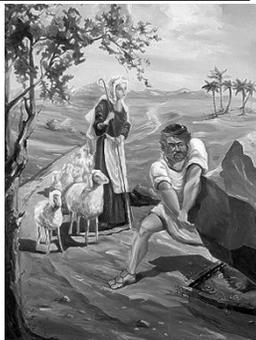
The Twelve Sons

Ripples Through Time

Family Dynamics

Jacob Meets Rachel

- Jacob travels to the land of his relative Laban.
- Jacob is smitten with Rachel, whose name means "sheep".
- Jacob is 77 years old at the time of the meeting



Leah and Rachel
And Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel.



And Leah's eyes were weak; but Rachel was of beautiful form and fair to look upon. Gen. 29:17

10 Similarities Between the Sisters

- They both produced chiefs.
 - Judah from Leah
 - Manasseh from Rachel
- They both produced kings.
 - David and his descendants from Judah
 - Saul, Ish-bosheth, Jeroboam, Ahab, and Jehu from Ephriam
- They both had killers of lions.
 - David killed a lion (1 Sam. 17:36) Benaiah son of Jehoida (1 Chr. 27:5) a Cohen (2 Sam. 23:20)
 - Samson from Dan

10 Similarities Between the Sisters

- 4. From both emerged prophets
 - 1. Moses, Samuel from Levi, Isaiah from Judah
 - 2. Joshua from Ephraim, Elijah from Benjamin
- 5. From both emerged judges
 - 1. Othniel son of Kenaz 9l Chr. 4;1,13) from Judah, Tola from Issachar (Judges 10:1), Ibzan from Judah, Elon from Zebulun, Eli from Levi
 - 2. Ehud from Benjamin, Gideon from Manasseh, Jephthah from Manasseh,
 - Abdon from Ephraim

10 Similarities Between the Sisters

- 6. From both emerged conquerors of lands.
 - 1. David from Judah 2. Joshua and Saul
- 7. From both emerged dividers of lands.
 - Many kings conquered lands and divided lands.
- 8. The sacrifice of the son would override the Sabbath.
 - 1. Solomon from the tribe of Judah, sacrificed for seven days. (2 Chron.7:9)
 - 2. Tribe of Ephraim brought sacrifices on Shabbat. (Num. 7:48)

10 Similarities Between the Sisters

- 9. The war raged by their son would override the Sabbath.
 - 1. David with the Philistines (1 Sam 23)
 - 2. Joshua at Jericho (Joshua 6)
- 10. Both sisters were given two nights of victories
 - 1. Moshe with the Exodus (Ex. 12:29) Hezekiah (2 Kings 18:17-19:37)
 - 2. Gideon (Rachel) Judges 7 Mordechai (Esther 2:5)

The Wedding

According to Gen.29 Jacob agrees to work for Laban for seven years to marry Rachel. At the wedding it was Leah instead of Rachel.

Laban gives Leah Zilpah as a handmaiden.

The next morning Jacob was unhappy about this and confronts Laban.

A new agreement was reached and Jacob was given Rachel seven days latter.

Leah's Feelings

Leah did not ask to be married to Jacob yet it was arranged by her father.

She may not have had a voice in the matter.

How did Leah feel knowing that she was part of a deception?

How did she feel knowing that her father was using this opportunity to marry her off deceitfully so that he could marry her sister off to the same man?

Rachel

How does Rachel feel knowing that she was the one that was intended to be married but was cast aside for a while for her older sister to be married off?

If Rachel had feelings for Jacob, how would she feel knowing that on Jacob and Leah's wedding night that the affection that was meant for her was being given to her sister?

How did Rachel feel knowing that Jacob was being intimate with Leah instead of her and that any feelings that she might have for Jacob had to be put on hold?

Gen. 29: 28-29

And Jacob did so, and fulfilled her week: and he gave him Rachel his daughter to wife also.

²⁹ And Laban gave to Rachel his daughter Bilhah his handmaid to be her maid.

Rachel Gen. 29:30

- ³⁰ And he went in also unto Rachel, and he loved also Rachel more than Leah, and served with him yet seven other years.

What was the relationship between the two sisters? What ripples did it cause? Were they close? Or was there some underlying feelings of insecurity, jealousy, and rivalry?

Jacob's Reaction
How did the betrayal affect Jacob? What did it do to his level of trust?
How did it affect his relationship with Rachel?
What was his relationship with Leah like afterwards?
What affect did it have with Leah's children?

Life Lesson
One lesson that we can learn from this situation is the importance of honesty and integrity in interpersonal relationships.

Reuben's Birth

- And he went in also unto Rachel, and he loved also Rachel more than Leah, and served with him yet seven other years.
- ³¹ **And when the L-RD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel was barren.**
- ³² And Leah conceived, and bare a son, and she called his name Reuben: for she said, Surely the L-RD hath looked upon my affliction; now therefore my husband will love me. (Gen 29:30-32 KJV)

Simeon's Birth and Name

(Gen 29:33 KJV)

"And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Because the L-RD hath heard that I was hated, he hath therefore given me this son also: and she called his name Simeon."

- Root of name = "to hear".
- Some suggested ominous overtones: "*Sham avon*" "there is sin".
- Simeon = dichotomy of being both good and bad.

Levi's Birth Gen. 29:34

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

Name means "joined to"
In Hebrew it reads " **Therefore He named him Levi**"

Judah's Birth

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

Rachel's Anguish (Genesis 30:1-2)

"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."

"And Jacob's anger was kindled against Rachel: and he said, Am I in G-d's stead, who hath withheld from thee the fruit of the womb?"

Dan's Birth (Gen 30:5-6)

"And Bilhah conceived, and bare Jacob a son. 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."

Naphtali's Birth

And Bilhah Rachel's maid conceived again, and bare Jacob a second son.

⁸ And Rachel said, With great wrestlings have I wrestled with my sister, and I have prevailed: and she called his name Naphtali. (Gen 30:7-8 KJV)

Gad's Birth

When Leah saw that she had left bearing, she took Zilpah her maid, and gave her Jacob to wife.

¹⁰ And Zilpah Leah's maid bare Jacob a son.

¹¹ And Leah said, A troop cometh: and she called his name Gad. (Gen 30:9-11 KJV)

Asher's Birth (Gen 30:12-13)

“And Zilpah Leah's maid bare Jacob a second son.”

“And Leah said, Happy am I, for the daughters will call me blessed: and she called his name Asher.”

Reuben and the Dudaim 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.”

Reuben and the Dudaim

“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.”

Reuben and the Dudaim

- “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 30:14-16 KJV)

Issachar's Birth Gen. 30:17-18

- *"And G-d gave heed to Leah, and she conceived and bore Jacob a fifth son. Then Leah said, 'God has given me my wages, because I gave my maid to my husband.' So she named him Issachar."*

Zebulun's Gen. 30:19

- ¹⁹ Then Leah conceived again and bore Jacob a sixth son. ²⁰ And Leah said, "God has endowed me *with* a good endowment; now my husband will dwell with me, because I have borne him six sons." So she called his name Zebulun.

Dinah

- ²¹ Afterward she bore a daughter, and called her name Dinah.

Joseph's Birth (Gen 30:22-24)

And G-d remembered Rachel, and G-d hearkened to her, and opened her womb.

²³ And she conceived, and bare a son; and said, G-d hath taken away my reproach:

²⁴ And she called his name Joseph; and said, The L-RD shall add to me another son.

Benjamin (Gen 35:16-18 KJV)

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.

Manasseh's Birth (Gen 41:50-51)

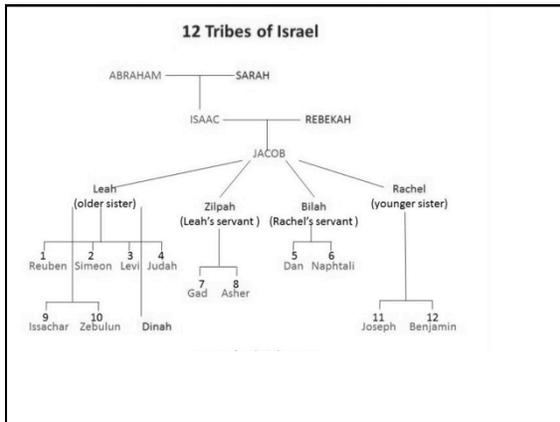
• And unto Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came, which Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On bare unto him.

• ⁵¹ And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: For G-d, *said he*, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house.

•

Ephraim's Birth (Gen 41:52)

- ⁵² And the name of the second called he Ephraim: For G-d hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.



Who Divided the Land and How?

“Notwithstanding the land shall be divided by lot: according to the names of the tribes of their fathers they shall inherit.” (Num 26:55)

“Now therefore divide this land for an inheritance unto the nine tribes, and the half tribe of Manasseh,” (Jos 13:7 KJV)

“Ye shall therefore describe the land *into* seven parts, and bring *the description* hither to me, that I may cast lots for you here before the LORD our God.” (Jos 18:6 KJV)
