

Subdued by Family

Gen 29:31- 30:2

Gen 29:31 When the LORD saw that Leah was not loved, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren. 32 Leah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Reuben, for she said, "It is because the LORD has seen my misery. Surely my husband will love me now." 33 She conceived again, and when she gave birth to a son she said, "Because the LORD heard that I am not loved, he gave me this one too." So she named him Simeon. 34 Again she conceived, and when she gave birth to a son she said, "Now at last my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons." So he was named Levi. 35 She conceived again, and when she gave birth to a son she said, "This time I will praise the LORD." So she named him Judah. Then she stopped having children.

Gen 30:1 When Rachel saw that she was not bearing Jacob any children, she became jealous of her sister. So she said to Jacob, "Give me children, or I'll die!" 2 Jacob became angry with her and said, "Am I in the place of God, who has kept you from having children?" NIV

Leah's Children

Leah appears very _____ in seeking her husband's love.

- First born was Reuben: the child of sore _____. Leah _____ God here, even in her bitterness and loneliness. She is the first one in Jacob's family to _____ faith in God.
- Second born was Simeon: the child of simple _____. When Reuben was born, his name meant "God has _____." Now Leah says about Simeon "God has _____"

What is Jacob's sin here?

On detecting the fraud he could have instantly _____ the engagement under the law.

They needed to learn, and would learn, the gift of God's _____ to all of them.

- Third born was Levi: The child of _____ discouragement. Notice even spiritual discouragement cannot _____ the manifestation of God's grace. Remember God has a _____.
- Fourth born was Judah: The child of splendid _____. By now, time and God's grace has helped her to regain her spiritual _____. God must be the source of my _____.

Rachel's _____

Rachel's heart is full of _____.

- Dan: the child of sustained _____
- Naphtali: the child of supposed _____
The birth was a great _____ for spiritual victories cannot be won in the flesh.

Leah's Response

- Gad: The child of sad _____
- Asher: The child of sudden delight; Asher means "_____"
- Issachar: means "hire"
- Zebulun: the child of strong desire
- Dinah: the child of silent dignity

Gen 30:22 Then God remembered Rachel; he listened to her and opened her womb. 23 She became pregnant and gave birth to a son and said, "God has taken away my disgrace." 24 She named him Joseph, and said, "May the LORD add to me another son."

- Joseph: the child of sweet _____
Rachel's _____ reached out more and more to the Lord.

What do we learn here?

1. God's blessing doesn't mean God's _____.
2. Spiritual plateaus can be fallen off of easily by _____ your relationship with God.
3. Painful _____ leads to solid lessons.

Gen 35:16 Then they moved on from Bethel. While they were still some distance from Ephrath, Rachel began to give birth and had great difficulty. 17 And as she was having great difficulty in childbirth, the midwife said to her, "Don't be afraid, for you have another son." 18 As she breathed her last--for she was dying--she named her son Ben-Oni. But his father named him Benjamin.

In the end, God's plan will always come to fulfillment.