GENESIS 30

Jacob's Descendants

1 Rachel envied[i] her sister because she did not bear Jacob any children. So she said to Jacob, "Give me children, or else I will die."

2 But Jacob became angry with Rachel and said, "I am not Elohim! He is the one who has kept you from getting pregnant."

3 So she said, "Look! Here is my maid Bilhah. Go in to her. She will bear on my knees,[ii] that I may also have children by her."

4 So she gave Bilhah, her female servant, to him as a wife. So when Jacob went in to her, **5** Bilhah conceived and bore Jacob a son. **6** Then Rachel said, "Elohim has judged me. He has also heard my voice and has given me a son." Therefore, she called his name Dan.[iii]

7 Then Bilhah, Rachel's maid, conceived again. When she bore Jacob a second son, **8** Rachel said, "I have wrestled with my sister with great wrestling and I have prevailed." So she called his name Naphtali.[iv]

9 When Leah saw that she had stopped bearing children, she took her maid Zilpah and gave her to Jacob as a wife. **10** And Leah's maid Zilpah bore Jacob a son. **11** So Leah said, "I am now a troop." So she called his name Gad.[v]

12 And Leah's maid Zilpah bore Jacob a second son. **13** So Leah said, "Happy am I. Now the daughters will call me blessed." So she called his name Asher.[vi]

14 In the days of wheat harvest, Reuben found erotic herbs[vii] in the field. So he brought them to his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, "Please give me one of your son's erotic herbs."

15 But Leah replied, "Is it a small matter that you have taken my husband? Why would you also want to take away my son's erotic herbs?" So Rachel said, "Therefore, he will lie with you tonight in exchange for your son's erotic herbs."

16 When Jacob came out of the field in the evening, Leah went out to meet him. She said, "You must be with me tonight. For I have surely paid for you with my son's erotic herbs." So he slept with her that night. **17** Then Elohim hearkened to Leah, and she conceived. She bore Jacob the fifth son.

18 Then Leah said, "Elohim has given me my reward because I have given my maiden to my husband." She called his name Issachar.[viii]

19 Then Leah conceived again and bore Jacob the sixth son. **20** Then Leah said, "Elohim has given[ix] me a precious dowry. Now my husband will live with me because I have given him six sons." So she called his name Zebulun.[x]

21 After that she bore Jacob a daughter and called her name Dinah.[xi]

22 Then Elohim remembered Rachel. Elohim listened to her and opened her womb. **23** She conceived and gave birth to a son. Then she said, "Elohim has taken away my shame." **24** So she called his name Joseph.[xii] She said, "Yahveh will give me another son."

Jacob Plans For Home

25 It came to pass, after Rachel gave birth to Joseph, that Jacob said to Laban, "Send me away. Let me go
to my own place and to my country. **26** Give me my wives and my children, for whom I have served you,
and let me go. For you know the work that I have done for you."

27 So Laban said to him, "If I have found favor in your eyes, please stay with me. For I have learned by
experience that Yahveh has blessed me for your sake." **28** And Laban said, "Name your wages, and I will
pay it."

29 So Jacob said to him, "You know how I have served you, and how your cattle were with me. **30** For you
had very little before I came, but it is now a multitude. Yahveh has blessed you since I arrived. Now it is
time for me to provide for my own house as well!"

31 Laban answered, "What can I give[xiii] you?"

And Jacob said, "Don't give me anything. But do this one thing for me. I will feed and keep your flock
one more time. **32** Then I will pass through all your flock today. I will remove all the speckled and spotted
cattle, all of the brown sheep, and the spotted and speckled goats. Those blemished animals will be my
wages. **33** In the future, you can easily check on how I have done right with you. Whenever you want to
prove my wages, you can consider every animal that has no speckles and spots among the goats or has no
brown among the sheep, as if I stole them."

34 And Laban said, "Good! I hope it happens as you have said."

35 So that day Jacob removed the he-goats that were striped[xiv] and spotted, and all the she-goats that had
speckles and spots, everyone that had some white in them, and all the brown sheep. He put the blemished
animals into the hands of his sons. **36** Then he set a three-day journey between himself and Jacob. Then
Jacob fed the rest of Laban's flocks. **37** He took rods of green poplar, hazel, and chestnut trees and peeled
back the bark so that white streaks appeared in the rods. **38** Then he set the rods that had the white streaks
in them before the flocks in the gutters of the watering troughs when the flocks came to drink. He wanted
them to mate when they came to drink. **39** So the flocks conceived before the rods, and gave birth to striped,
speckled, and spotted animals.[xv]

40 Then Jacob separated the lambs and set the faces of the flocks toward the striped rods. He kept all the
blemished animals from the flock of Laban. He put them by themselves in his own flocks and did not put
them with Laban's cattle.

41 It came to pass, whenever the stronger cattle conceived, that Jacob laid the rods before their eyes in the
gutters, that they might conceive among the rods. **42** But when the feeble cattle started to conceive, he did
not put the rods before them. So the feebler animals were Laban's, and the stronger ones were Jacob's.
43 The man increased exceedingly. He had many cattle, female servants, male servants, camels, and
donkeys.

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i The Hebrew קָנָא means zealous. Synonyms include jealous, passionate, intense, envious, envy, anger, and watchful.

ii Or children that can sit on my knees. They would legally consider the children of the concubines (second-class wives) as belonging to Rachel.

iii Dan means "a judge." She thinks God has corrected a wrong.

iv Naphtali means "wrestling."

v Gad means "troop."

[vi] Asher means “happy.”

[vii] Or “mandrakes.” They thought those herbs were an aphrodisiac.

[viii] Issachar means “he will bring a reward.”

[ix] The Hebrew זָבַד (*zeh-vehd*) means: to endow, to bestow, or to grant a gift. It refers to giving something valuable or beneficial to someone. Here, it describes God giving Leah a gift, honor, or blessing by way of her sixth son.

[x] Zebulun means “habitation.”

[xi] The Hebrew is אֶת־שָׁמָה דִינָה. A maqqeph joins the **Aleph**-**Tav** with Dinah. Her name means “judgment” or “vindicate.” Jesus loves women as well. Jesus is with Dinah as much as He is with Jacob’s other children.

[xii] Joseph means “Yahveh will add.” Joseph is the first son of the loved wife. Joseph is a type of Jesus in that he is the only beloved son. When we get to Genesis 49, we will see that Joseph is really the “firstborn.” Firstborn is a word that has very little to do with birth order.

[xiii] The Hebrew אֶתֶן is an **Aleph**-**Tav**-Nun. It refers to giving when referring to an oath, covenant, or promise. Laban wants to give Jacob wages. He is not really interested in a covenant. See the article “The **Aleph**-**Tav**.”

[xiv] The Hebrew עָקֹד means streaked or striped.

[xv] It is doubtful that this behavior actually changes the DNA. This is NOT the point. The point is that God’s hand was in the results no matter what rituals Jacob was following.