

Leah and Rachel, Genesis 29:30 to 30:24

And Jacob וַיְבֹא אִם אֶל־רָחֵל וַיֵּאָהֶב גַּם־אֶת־רָחֵל מִלֵּאָה וַיַּעֲבֹד עִמּוֹ עוֹד שִׁבְע־שָׁנִים אַחֲרֹתַי: cohabited with Rachel also; indeed, he loved Rachel more than Leah. And he served him another seven years.

The LORD saw that Leah was וַיֵּרָא יְהוָה כִּי־שְׂנוּאָה לָאָה וַיִּפְתַּח אֶת־בְּרִחְמָהּ וְרָחֵל עֲקָרָה: unloved and He opened her womb; but Rachel was barren.

Leah וַתַּהַר לָאָה וַתֵּלֶד בֶּן וַתִּקְרָא שְׁמוֹ רְאוּבֵן כִּי אָמְרָה כִּי־רָאָה יְהוָה בְּעַנְיִי כִּי עָתָה יֵאָהֲבֵנִי אִישִׁי: conceived and bore a son, and named him Reuben; for she declared, “It means: ‘The LORD has seen my affliction’; it also means: ‘Now my husband will love me.’”

וַתַּהַר עוֹד וַתֵּלֶד בֶּן וַתֹּאמֶר כִּי־שָׁמַע יְהוָה כִּי־שְׂנוּאָה אָנֹכִי וַיִּתֶּן־לִי גַם־אֶת־זֶה וַתִּקְרָא שְׁמוֹ שִׁמְעוֹן: She conceived again and bore a son, and declared, “This is because the LORD heard that I was unloved and has given me this one also”; so she named him Simeon.

וַתַּהַר עוֹד וַתֵּלֶד בֶּן וַתֹּאמֶר עָתָה הִפְעַלְתָּ יְהוָה אִישִׁי אֵלַי כִּי־יִלְדָתִי לוֹ שְׁלֹשָׁה בָנִים עֲלֵי־כֶן קָרָא־שְׁמוֹ לְוִי: Again she conceived and bore a son and declared, “This time my husband will become attached to me, for I have borne him three sons.” Therefore he was named Levi.

וַתַּהַר עוֹד וַתֵּלֶד בֶּן וַתֹּאמֶר הִפְעַלְתָּ אֹתָהּ יְהוָה עֲלֵי־כֶן קָרָאֶה שְׁמוֹ יְהוּדָה וַתִּעְמַד מִלְדוֹת: She conceived again and bore a son, and declared, “This time I will praise the LORD.” Therefore she named him Judah. Then she stopped bearing.

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וַתִּרְא רָחֵל כִּי לֹא יֵלְדָהּ לִיְעֻקֵּב וַתִּקְנֶה רָחֵל בְּאֲחֻזַּתָּהּ וַתֹּאמֶר אֶל־יַעֲקֹב הֲבֵה־לִּי בָנִים וְאִם־אֵין מִתָּה אָנֹכִי: When Rachel saw that she had borne Jacob no children, she became envious of her sister; and Rachel said to Jacob, “Give me children, or I shall die.”

Jacob was incensed at וַיִּסְרֹאֶף יַעֲקֹב בְּרָחֵל וַיֹּאמֶר הֲתַסַּח אֱלֹהִים אָנֹכִי אֲשֶׁר־מָנַע מִמֶּנּוּ פְּרִי־בֶטֶן: Rachel, and said, “Can I take the place of God, who has denied you fruit of the womb?”

וַתֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה אֲמַתִּי בִלְהָה בָּא אֵלַיָּהּ וַתֵּלַד עֲלֵי־בְרָכִי וְאֲבָנָה גַם־אָנֹכִי מִמֶּנָּה: She said, “Here is my maid Bilhah. Consort with her, that she may bear on my knees and that through her I too may have children.”

So she gave him her maid Bilhah as concubine, and Jacob cohabited with her.

Bilhah conceived and bore Jacob a son.

And Rachel said, “God has vindicated me indeed, He has heeded my plea and given me a son.” Therefore she named him Dan.

Rachel’s maid Bilhah conceived again and bore Jacob a second son.

And Rachel said, “A fateful contest I waged^b with my sister; yes, and I have prevailed.” So she named him Naphtali.

When Leah saw that she had stopped bearing, she took her maid Zilpah and gave her to Jacob as concubine.

And when Leah’s maid Zilpah bore Jacob a son,

Leah said, “What luck!” So she named him Gad.

When Leah’s maid Zilpah bore Jacob a second son,

Leah declared, “What fortune!” So she named him Asher.

וַיֵּלֶךְ רְאוּבֵן בִּימֵי קְצִיר־חֹטִים וַיִּמְצָא דֹדָאִים בַּשָּׂדֶה וַיָּבֵא אֹתָם אֶל־לֵאָה וַתֹּאמֶר רַחֵל אֶל־לֵאָה תְּנֵי־נָא לִי מִדֹּדָאֵי בְנֶיךָ: Once, at the time of the wheat harvest, Reuben came upon some mandrakes in the field and brought them to his mother Leah. Rachel said to Leah, “Please give me some of your son’s mandrakes.”

וַתֹּאמֶר לָהּ הֲמַעַט קָחְתְּךָ אֶת־אִישִׁי וְלָקַחְתְּ גַם אֶת־דֹּדָאֵי בְנֵי וַתֹּאמֶר רַחֵל לָכֵן יִשְׁכַּב עִמָּךְ הַלַּיְלָה תַּחַת: But she said to her, “Was it not enough for you to take away my husband, that you would also take my son’s mandrakes?” Rachel replied, “I promise, he shall lie with you tonight, in return for your son’s mandrakes.”

וַיָּבֹא יַעֲקֹב מִן־הַשָּׂדֶה בְּעֶרְבַּיִם וַתֵּצֵא לָאָה לִקְרֹאתוֹ וַתֹּאמֶר אֵלָי תָּבוֹא כִּי שָׂכַר שָׂכַרְתִּיךָ בְּדוּדָאִי בְּגִי וַיִּשְׁכַּב
:וַיֵּצֵא יַעֲקֹב מִן־הַשָּׂדֶה בְּעֶרְבַּיִם וַתֵּצֵא לָאָה לִקְרֹאתוֹ וַתֹּאמֶר אֵלָי תָּבוֹא כִּי שָׂכַר שָׂכַרְתִּיךָ בְּדוּדָאִי בְּגִי וַיִּשְׁכַּב
:When Jacob came home from the field in the evening, Leah went out
to meet him and said, “You are to sleep with me, for I have hired you with my
son’s mandrakes.” And he lay with her that night.

וַיִּשְׁמַע אֱלֹהִים אֶל־לֵאָה וַתַּהַר וַתֵּלֶד לַיַּעֲקֹב בֶּן חַמִּישִׁי:
:God heeded Leah, and she conceived
and bore him a fifth son.

וַתֹּאמֶר לָאָה נָתַן אֱלֹהִים שָׂכָרִי אֲשֶׁר־נָתַתִּי שְׂפָחָתִי לְאִשְׁתִּי וַתִּקְרָא שְׁמוֹ יִשָּׂשכָר:
:And Leah said, “God has given me my reward for having given my maid to my husband.” So she
named him Issachar.

וַתַּהַר עוֹד לָאָה וַתֵּלֶד בֶּן־שֵׁשִׁי לַיַּעֲקֹב:
:When Leah conceived again and bore Jacob a sixth
son,

וַתֹּאמֶר לָאָה זָבָלְנִי אֱלֹהִים | אֲתִי זָבָד טוֹב הַפְּעַם וַיִּזְבְּלֵנִי אִשְׁתִּי כִּי־יִלְדַתִּי לוֹ שֵׁשָׁה בָנִים וַתִּקְרָא אֶת־שְׁמוֹ
:וַתֹּאמֶר לָאָה זָבָלְנִי אֱלֹהִים | אֲתִי זָבָד טוֹב הַפְּעַם וַיִּזְבְּלֵנִי אִשְׁתִּי כִּי־יִלְדַתִּי לוֹ שֵׁשָׁה בָנִים וַתִּקְרָא אֶת־שְׁמוֹ
:Leah said, “God has given me a choice gift; for I have borne him six sons.”
So she named him Zebulun.

וַאֲחֵר יָלְדָה בֵּת וַתִּקְרָא אֶת־שְׁמָהּ דִּינָה:
:Last, she bore him a daughter, and named her
Dinah.

וַיִּזְכֹּר אֱלֹהִים אֶת־רַחֵל וַיִּשְׁמַע אֵלֶיהָ אֱלֹהִים וַיִּפְתַּח אֶת־רַחֲמָהּ:
:Now God remembered Rachel;
God heeded her and opened her womb.

וַתַּהַר וַתֵּלֶד בֶּן וַתֹּאמֶר אָסַף אֱלֹהִים אֶת־חַרְפָּתִי:
:She conceived and bore a son, and said,
“God has taken away^hHeb. ‘asaph. my disgrace.”

וַתִּקְרָא אֶת־שְׁמוֹ יוֹסֵף לֵאמֹר יוֹסֵף יְהוָה לִי בֶן אַחֵר:
:So she named him Joseph, which is to say,
“May the LORD add another son for me.”