

28. Rachel

Laban had two daughters: ... the elder *was* Leah ... the younger *was* Rachel ... Rachel *was* beautiful and well favoured. Jacob loved Rachel ... served seven years for Rachel ... seemed unto him *but* a few days, for the love he had to her.

... in the morning, behold, it *was* Leah; and he said to Laban, What *is* this thou hast done unto me? did not I serve with thee for Rachel ... thou beguiled me? And Laban said, It must not be so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn. ... serve with me yet seven other years ... and he gave him Rachel his daughter to wife also.

And when the LORD saw that Leah *was* hated, he opened her womb; but Rachel *was* barren ... Rachel envied her sister; and said unto Jacob, Give me children, or else I die ...

And Bilhah [Rachel's handmaid] conceived and bare Jacob a son ... Dan ... became pregnant again ... a second son. Rachel named him Naphtali, for she said, "I have had an intense struggle with my sister, and I am winning!"

Then God remembered Rachel's plight and answered her prayers by giving her a child. And she named him Joseph, for she said, "May the LORD give me yet another son."

And Jacob began to notice a considerable cooling in Laban's attitude toward him. Then the LORD said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your father and grandfather and to your relatives there, and I will be with you."

At the time they left, Laban was some distance away, shearing his sheep. Rachel stole her father's household gods and took them with her.

But the previous night God had appeared to Laban in a dream. "Be careful about what you say to Jacob!" he was told.

So when Laban caught up with Jacob as he was camped in the hill country of Gilead ... "What do you mean by sneaking off like this ... Are my daughters prisoners, the plunder of war, that you have stolen them away like this?"

Laban went first into Jacob's tent to search there, then into Leah's ... then ... the two concubines, but he didn't find the gods. Finally, he went into Rachel's tent. Rachel had taken the household gods and had stuffed them into her camel saddle, and now she was sitting on them. ... he couldn't find them. "Forgive my not getting up, Father," Rachel explained. "I'm having my monthly period." So despite his thorough search, Laban didn't find them.

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. 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. And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which *is* Bethlehem.

Genesis 29:16-18, 20, 25-28, 31: 30:1-2, 5-8, 22, 24; 31: 2-3, 19, 24-26, 33-35; 35:17-19 KJV)



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BARREN	DEPARTING	PLIGHT
BEAUTIFUL	ENVIED	PLUNDER
BEGUILED	EPHRATH	PRISONERS
BENJAMIN	GILEAD	RACHEL
BENONI	GRANDFATHER	SADDLE
BILHAH	INTENSE	SEARCH
CAMEL	JOSEPH	SNEAKING
CONCUBINES	LABAN	STUFFED
COOLING	LEAH	WINNING
DAN	NAPHTALI	WOMB