



Genesis 29-31: The Sons of Jacob
From Sermon 3.7.21

Read *Acts 7:2-8*

Review from Sunday's sermon: Back in the dramatic narrative of Genesis, Jacob is forced to run from his brother, Esau. He ends up at his uncle's (Laban) clan in Haran. He instantly falls in love with his cousin, Rachel. Jacob works for Laban to get her hand in marriage. Laban deceives Jacob and substitutes Leah on the wedding night. An entire family drama ensues. Many sons will be born to Jacob, but through various wives and maids. God works through all the conflict to prepare the birth of a nation.

1. Name 12 sons, review meaning of their name, & note any major significance in the biblical narrative.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Significance</u>
<u>Reuben</u>	a son	Passed over for birthright and blessing
<u>Simeon</u>	heard	Also passed over for birthright and blessing
<u>Levi</u>	attached	Passed over, but becomes God's priestly line
<u>Judah</u>	praise	<u>God's chosen line for royalty and Messiah</u>
<u>Dan</u>	judge	Excluded and judged for rebellion/idolatry
<u>Naphtali</u>	wrestling	Nothing noteworthy in Genesis
<u>Gad</u>	troop/fortune	Nothing noteworthy in Genesis
<u>Asher</u>	happy	Nothing noteworthy in Genesis
<u>Issachar</u>	wages	Nothing noteworthy in Genesis
<u>Zebulun</u>	dwelling	Nothing noteworthy in Genesis
<u>Joseph</u>	he will add	<u>The major character for remainder of Genesis</u>
<u>Benjamin</u>	son of right hand	Born later. Rachel dies. Only loyal tribe later

2. What famous Bible characters will come from...

...Levi? Moses and Aaron (dominate entire books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, & Deuteronomy)

...Judah? King David and, eventually, Jesus See *Revelation 5:5*

[Teaching Note: Judah will also come to identify as a nation (Judah/Judea), a people group (Jews), and the religion (Judaism)]

...Benjamin? Israel's first king—Saul. See 1 Samuel 9:15-17. In the New Testament—Saul/Paul. See Philippians 3:4-5

3. What interesting dynamic regarding role and influence is similar in the 12 sons (tribes) and the 12 Apostles? Some dominate the narrative and are well known, while others are almost known by name only. Examples: Levi, Judah, Joseph vs. Naphtali, Issachar, Gad. The Apostles Peter, John, and Judas vs. the other Judas, the lesser James, and Bartholomew.

4. Name some other notable 12's in Scripture: Various answers. 12 Apostles, 12 months, 12 spies, 12 loaves, Ishmael fathers 12 nations, Solomon appoints 12 district governors. 12 gates in Holy City

5. What was noted about 1) the mention of God in these three chapters and 2) the prayer life of Jacob. The mention of God is so very rare here. Only 5 times in three chapters. Jacob doesn't pray or seek God's counsel before marrying again, fathering with handmaids, or facing conflict.

6. All the while, God is working. He is shaping, forming, and preparing Jacob. How should that comfort us? The truth and promise that even in the chaos or silence of life, God is there. He sees, He directs, and He is working all things out to His plan and glory. See Psalm 121