A Biographical Study of Leah

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Leah

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

I. Leah and her spouse
   A. The unexpected bride
      1. She was Laban’s eldest daughter plagued with weak eyes (Ge. 29:16-17).
      2. She was secretly substituted by Laban for Rachel on the night of Jacob’s wedding (Gen. 29:23).
   B. The unloved wife
      1. She was unloved by Jacob (Gen. 29:31).
      2. In spite of this, God loved and blessed her (Gen. 29:31-35).

II. Leah and her sons—She bore Jacob six of his 12 sons and his only recorded daughter.

III. Leah and her servant
   A. Laban gave Zilpah to Leah to help her (Gen. 29:24).
   B. Leah gave Zilpah to Jacob for purposes of childbearing (Gen. 30:9).

IV. Leah and her sister
   A. The malice—Leah accused Rachel of stealing Jacob’s love from her (Gen. 30:15).
   B. The mandrakes
      1. Her son Reuben presented his mother with some mandrakes he had found (Gen. 30:14).
      2. Mandrakes were a leafy plant eaten by peasant women who supposed this would aid them in becoming pregnant.
      3. After eating them, Leah slept with Jacob and Issachar was born (Gen. 30:16-18).

V. Leah and her sepulcher—Leah was later buried by Jacob along with Abraham and Sarah in the cave of Machpelah (Gen. 49:31).

STATISTICS

Father: Laban (Gen. 29:16)
Spouse: Jacob (Gen. 29:23)
Sons: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun (Gen. 35:23)
Daughter: Dinah (Gen. 30:21)
Sister: Rachel (Gen. 29:16)
First mention: Genesis 29:16
Final mention: Ruth 4:11
Meaning of her name: “Weary”
Frequency of her name: Referred to 34 times
Biblical books mentioning her: Two books (Genesis, Ruth)
Place of birth: Haran (Gen. 29:4, 16)
Place of death: Hebron (Gen. 49:30-31)
Important fact about his life: She bore Jacob six sons and one daughter (Gen. 30:21; 35:23).