

GENESIS

(BERE'SHEET)¹

CHAPTER 29:31 And YHVH saw that Leah *was* hated, and he opened her womb; and Rachel *was* barren. **32** And Leah became pregnant, and brought forth a son, and called his name Reuben,² for she said, “Because YHVH has seen³ my lowness; because now my man will love me.” **33** And she became pregnant still, and brought forth a son, and said, “Because YHVH has heard⁴ that I *am* hated, he has given to me also this one.” And she called his name Simeon.⁵ **34** And she became pregnant still, and brought forth a son, and said, “Now this time, my man will be joined⁶ toward me, because I have brought forth to him three sons.” Therefore he called his name Levi.⁷ **35** And she became pregnant still, and brought forth a son, and said this time, “I praise⁸ YHVH.” Therefore she called his name Judah.⁹ And she stood¹⁰ from bringing forth. **CHAPTER 30:1** And Rachel saw that she had not brought forth to Jacob, and Rachel was jealous with her sister, and said toward Jacob, “Give me sons, and if there *is* not, I die.” **2** And the nose of Jacob burned against Rachel, and he said, “Am I in stead of ELOHIM, who has withheld from you the fruit of the belly?” **3** And she said, “Look!—my *house-servant*^f Bilhah, come toward her, and she will bring forth on my knees, and I will be built up, also I, from her.” **4** And she gave to him Bilhah, her *house-servant*^f, for a woman, and Jacob came toward her. **5** And Bilhah became pregnant, and brought forth to Jacob a son, **6** and Rachel said, “ELOHIM has judged¹¹ me, and also has hearkened with¹² my voice, and given to me a

¹ The books of the Hebrew Bible are named from their opening words: here *Bere'sheet*, meaning “At *the* first of”

² Meaning, “see, a son!”

³ Heb *r'ah*.

⁴ Heb *shama'*.

⁵ Meaning, “hearing.”

⁶ Heb *lavah*.

⁷ Meaning, “joined.”

⁸ Heb *yadah*.

⁹ Meaning, “praise.”

¹⁰ I.e., ceased.

¹¹ Heb *din*.

son.” Therefore she called his name Dan.¹³ **7** And Bilhah, the *house-servant*^f of Rachel, became pregnant still, and brought forth a second son to Jacob. **8** And Rachel said, “Tanglings of ELOHIM!¹⁴—I have tangled¹⁵ with my sister, and I have been able.” And she called his name Naphtali.¹⁶ **9** And Leah saw that she had stood¹⁷ from bringing forth, she took Zilpah her *house-servant*^f, and gave her to Jacob for a woman. **10** And Zilpah, *house-servant*^f of Leah, brought forth to Jacob a son. **11** And Leah said, “With fortune!”¹⁸ And she called his name Gad. **12** And Zilpah, the *house-servant*^f of Leah, brought forth a second son to Jacob, **13** and Leah said, “With my happiness!—for daughters will consider me happy.¹⁹” And she called his name Asher.²⁰ **14** And Reuben walked in the days of *the* cutting of wheat, and found mandrakes in the field, and he caused them to come toward²¹ Leah, his mother. And Rachel said toward Leah, “Give to me, please, from the mandrakes of your son.” **15** And she said to her, “Is your taking my man a little thing, that you would also take the mandrakes of my son?” And Rachel said, “Thus he will lie down with you tonight, under²² the mandrakes of your son.” **16** And Jacob came from the field in the evening, and Leah went out to meet him, and said, “Toward me you are to come, since paying wages—I have *surely* paid wages *for* you,²³ with the mandrakes of my son.” And he lay down with her in that night. **17** And ELOHIM hearkened toward Leah, and she became pregnant, and brought forth to Jacob a fifth son. **18** And Leah said, “ELOHIM has given my wage,²⁴ for I gave my *house-servant*^f to my man.”

¹² Lit “heard with,” meaning in accordance with.

¹³ Meaning, “he judged.”

¹⁴ Or, “mighty tanglings!”

¹⁵ Heb *naphтали*.

¹⁶ Meaning, “my tangling” or “my wrestling.”

¹⁷ I.e., ceased.

¹⁸ The Hebrew text is unclear here, including ambiguous marginal readings as well as the uncertainty of the meaning of the word *gad*. It might mean “with a troop,” or “with fortune,” or even “a troop comes,” or “fortune comes.” Gen 49:19 seems to favor the meaning of “troop,” but Isa 65:11 uses this word to refer to the deity “Fortune.”

¹⁹ Or “With my being set right! For daughters will consider me set right.” Heb *’ashar*, means to be put on a straight and right path, or to be made happy, and the two meanings are likely related.

²⁰ Meaning, “happy” or “set right.”

²¹ I.e., brought them toward her.

²² Or “instead of,” i.e., for the sake of.

²³ Double use of the verb indicates emphasis.

²⁴ Heb *sakar*.

And she called his name Issachar.²⁵ **19** And Leah became pregnant still, and she brought forth a sixth son to Jacob, **20** and Leah said, “ELOHIM has endowed me a good endowment, this time my man will raise²⁶ me for I have brought forth to him six sons. And she called his name Zebulun.²⁷ **21** And after she brought forth a daughter, and she called her name Dinah.

²⁵ Meaning, “hiring.”

²⁶ I.e., “lift up,” Heb *zabal*, is lit “raise,” but cognates in Akkadian mean to take on or acknowledge as a lawful wife.

²⁷ Meaning, “raised”