

# **Women In The Bible**

**Women in the Days of the Patriarchs**  
*Study Pack 2*

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### *Study Pack 2*

## REBEKAH – God’s Plan Will Prevail

### I. FACTS WE KNOW ABOUT REBEKAH

A. Rebekah lived around \_\_\_\_\_ B.C.

B. Her name means “\_\_\_\_\_.”

It comes from the Hebrew name Rivkah, meaning “noose.”

Applied to a female the name suggests her beauty by means of which men are snared or bound.

C. Rebekah was a granddaughter of Abraham’s brother, \_\_\_\_\_.

Nahor was with Abraham and their father, Terah, when they left the city of Ur and went and settled in Haran.

We first meet Rebekah in Genesis 24:15.

### II. A WILLING SERVANT

Sarah has died and the time has come to find a wife for Isaac.

A. Abraham sent his faithful servant \_\_\_\_\_ back to the city where he first came from, some 450 miles away, to find a bride for Isaac.

Eliezer, who had served Abraham faithfully for fifty years, immediately went to do what he was asked.

He took the whole entourage—ten camels and all the servants—to go and find a bride for Isaac.

B. Eliezer was a picture of a \_\_\_\_\_, a faithful servant.

We read in Genesis 24:12 that he prayed asking God to help him with this task and help him quickly find a wife for Isaac.

*Genesis 24:12-14 And he said O Lord God of my master Abraham, I pray thee, send me good speed this day, and shew kindness unto my master Abraham. Behold, I stand here by the well of water; and the daughters of the men of the city come out to draw water: And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: let the same be she that thou hast appointed for thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that thou hast shewed kindness unto my master.*

- C. We see that the number one qualification that Eliezer was looking for in this bride for Isaac was that she would have a \_\_\_\_\_.

*Genesis 24:15 And it came to pass, before he had done speaking, that, behold, Rebekah came out, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, with her pitcher upon her shoulder.*

- D. Eliezer had asked God to direct him and now he had to \_\_\_\_\_ that God really was directing him.

*Genesis 24:16 And the damsel was very fair to look upon, a virgin, neither had any man known her: and she went down to the well, and filled her pitcher, and came up.*

- E. What is more important than outward beauty is your \_\_\_\_\_ beauty.

*Genesis 24:17-21 And the servant ran to meet her, and said, Let me, I pray thee, drink a little water of thy pitcher. And she said, Drink, my lord: and she hastened, and let down her pitcher upon her hand, and gave him drink. And when she had done giving him drink, she said, I will draw water for thy camels also, until they have done drinking. And she hastened, and emptied her pitcher into the trough, and ran again unto the well to draw water, and drew for all his camels. And the man wondering at her held his peace, to wit whether the Lord had made his journey prosperous or not.*

- F. \_\_\_\_\_ on the Lord and He will direct your steps – just like He did here for Eliezer and for Rebekah.

Rebekah was just faithfully and quickly doing what God had given her to do at that moment for that day.

- G. Part of a servant's heart is that you do what you're asked to do and do it without \_\_\_\_\_.

### **III. TAKING THE INITIATIVE**

- A. Another important trait of Rebekah - she took \_\_\_\_\_.

*Genesis 24:19 And when she had done giving him drink, she said, I will draw water for thy camels also, until they have done drinking.*

B. The culture in the Middle East required that they show \_\_\_\_\_ to strangers.

C. Rebekah serves with no expectation of \_\_\_\_\_ or gain or what she's going to get out of it.

*Genesis 24:22-25 And it came to pass, as the camels had done drinking, that the man took a golden earring of half a shekel weight, and two bracelets for her hands of ten shekels weight of gold; And said, Whose daughter art thou? tell me, I pray thee: is there room in thy father's house for us to lodge in? And she said unto him, I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, which she bare unto Nahor. She said moreover unto him, We have both straw and provender enough, and room to lodge in.*

D. Rebekah is \_\_\_\_\_ and kind.

*Genesis 24:58 And they called Rebekah, and said unto her, Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go.*

There is no question that God's in this. There's no question that God has been leading all along the way working out every detail.

E. Rebekah sees and understands this and she is willing to leave \_\_\_\_\_ : her country, and her family to do God's will.

Her sacrifice for the Lord was great!

When you faithfully serve where God has put you, your children and your grandchildren, may reap blessings because of your faithful obedience.

#### **IV. DISAPPOINTMENT IN LIFE**

*Genesis 25:20-21 And Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah to wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Padanaram, the sister to Laban the Syrian. And Isaac intreated the Lord for his wife, because she was barren: and the Lord was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived.*

Life is often full of disappointments.

A. Real faith is not getting everything we want when we want it, but \_\_\_\_\_ God to give us what is good, in His timing.

The faith of Rebekah stands as an example of perseverance through temporal disappointment.

B. \_\_\_\_\_ was a miserable position for any woman from the

ancient culture to be in; how much more so for people who believed the divine promises concerning many descendants!

Isaac did not make the mistake of his parents and it seems that Rebekah didn't want that either.

- C. In carrying forward His plans God also trains His people. His apparent \_\_\_\_\_ are for their good.

*Genesis 25:22-23 And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to enquire of the Lord. And the Lord said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.*

- D. The Hebrew word "struggled" means " \_\_\_\_\_ " suggesting that the fetal movements were not normal.

The first battle between these brothers is in their mother's womb and it's so painful Rebekah is driven to despair.

Sometimes God's answers are not what we imagined, and we begin to wonder what God is doing.

- E. Situations like this should drive us \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord.

Rebekah brought her troubles to the Lord. And the Lord answered her and explained what was happening.

## V. FAVORITISM IS WRONG

Each child would produce a nation, and these two nations (Edom and Israel) would compete, but the younger would master the older.

*Genesis 25:24-26 And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb. And the first came out red, all over like a hairy garment; and they called his name Esau. And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau's heel; and his name was called Jacob: and Isaac was threescore years old when she bare them.*

- A. Esau, means " \_\_\_\_\_ ", was given because of Esau's appearance when he was born.
- B. Jacob means " \_\_\_\_\_ ." This describes one tripping up another, a "supplanter" which Esau would one day call Jacob.

*Genesis 25:27-28 And the boys grew: and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents. And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his*

venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob.

- C. Isaac's love of wild game made Esau his \_\_\_\_\_ son and he no doubt made excuses for his undisciplined lifestyle.

His love of Esau made him oblivious to his spiritual condition.

No reason is given why 'Rebekah loved Jacob'.

Tragically, Isaac and Rebekah, who had prayed for twenty years for children, ended up playing favorites.

- D. Showing favoritism, in one child over another, sets that child up to \_\_\_\_\_.

## VI. SIN HAS A PRICE TAG

*Genesis 27:1-13 Now it came to pass, when Isaac was old and his eyes were so dim that he could not see, that he called Esau his older son and said to him, "My son." And he answered him, "Here I am." Then he said, "Behold now, I am old. I do not know the day of my death. Now therefore, please take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me. And make me [a]savory food, such as I love, and bring it to me that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die." Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt game and to bring it. So Rebekah spoke to Jacob her son, saying, "Indeed I heard your father speak to Esau your brother, saying, 'Bring me game and make [b]savory food for me, that I may eat it and bless you in the presence of the Lord before my death.' Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to what I command you. Go now to the flock and bring me from there two choice kids of the goats, and I will make savory food from them for your father, such as he loves. Then you shall take it to your father, that he may eat it, and that he may bless you before his death." And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, "Look, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth-skinned man. Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be a deceiver to him; and I shall bring a curse on myself and not a blessing." But his mother said to him, "Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get them for me."*

- A. Rebekah could have \_\_\_\_\_ and then appealed to Isaac based on what he knew to be God's purpose.

Having done that, she could have left the matter with God, trusting that if He needed to, God could reverse Isaac's wrong action.

- B. Satan has his ways of making us think the situation is out of control and makes us think we have \_\_\_\_\_ except to violate God's moral absolutes.

Did Rebekah get what she was after? On the surface, yes. Jacob got the blessing, but in the end, no.

*Genesis 27:43-45 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice; arise, flee thou to Laban my brother to Haran; And tarry with him a few days, until thy brother's fury turn away; Until thy brother's anger turn away from thee, and he forget that which thou hast done to him: then I will send, and fetch thee from thence: why should I be deprived also of you both in one day?*

- C. The “few days” turned out to be \_\_\_\_\_ years, and Rebekah probably never saw her favorite son again.

Rebekah spent her final years without of her sons, and emotionally estranged from her blind husband.

She sought her own way, didn't get what she wanted, and paid a high price.

*Galatians 6:7-8 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.*

- D. If you live for the things of this world, you may get them, but you'll be \_\_\_\_\_ before God.
- E. You may think you can control the outcome of a situation, but in the end there will be \_\_\_\_\_ consequences to your decision to not submit to God's way and God's timing.

# Comparison Steals Your Joy – RACHEL & LEAH

## I. TWO SISTERS WHO STRUGGLED

This a story about two sisters who struggled to find joy in God and who He made them to be.

A. Comparison steals our \_\_\_\_\_.

It takes our eyes of Jesus and puts them on our selfish desires.

B. Jesus Others You = \_\_\_\_\_

## II. JACOB SEARCHES FOR A WIFE

*Genesis 28:1-3 And Isaac called Jacob, and blessed him, and charged him, and said unto him, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan. Arise, go to Padanaram, to the house of Bethuel thy mother's father; and take thee a wife from thence of the daughters of Laban thy mother's brother. And God Almighty bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude of people;*

A. Jacob is on the run because he \_\_\_\_\_ his dad and stole his brother's blessing and his birthright.

*Genesis 29:1-2 Then Jacob went on his journey, and came into the land of the people of the east. And he looked, and behold a well in the field, and, lo, there were three flocks of sheep lying by it; for out of that well they watered the flocks: and a great stone was upon the well's mouth.*

B. \_\_\_\_\_ came to this well to find a wife for Isaac.

*Genesis 29:3-17 And thither were all the flocks gathered: and they rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the sheep, and put the stone again upon the well's mouth in his place. And Jacob said unto them, My brethren, whence be ye? And they said, Of Haran are we. And he said unto them, Know ye Laban the son of Nahor? And they said, We know him. And he said unto them, Is he well? And they said, He is well: and, behold, Rachel his daughter cometh with the sheep. And he said, Lo, it is yet high day, neither is it time that the cattle should be gathered together: water ye the sheep, and go and feed them. And they said, We cannot, until all the flocks be gathered together, and till they roll the stone from the well's mouth; then we water the sheep. And while he yet spake with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep; for she kept them. And it came to pass, when Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, that Jacob went near, and rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother. And Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted up his voice, and wept. And Jacob told Rachel that he was her father's brother, and that he was Rebekah's son: and she ran and told her father. And it came to pass, when Laban heard the tidings of Jacob his sister's son, that he ran to meet him, and embraced him, and kissed him, and brought him to his house. And he told Laban all these things. And Laban said to him,*

*Surely thou art my bone and my flesh. And Laban said unto Jacob, Because thou art my brother, shouldst thou therefore serve me for nought? tell me, what shall thy wages be? And Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah was tender eyed; but Rachel was beautiful and well favoured.*

- C. The word “but” in the middle of Genesis 29:17 is a give away that God wants us to know these two women were \_\_\_\_\_ in appearances.

God has given each of us everything we need, physically, to accomplish His purpose for our lives.

God was intentional in the way He made us and He’s just as intentional about the plan He has for our lives.

*Genesis 29:18 And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter.*

- D. Upon her marriage, a young woman would be thought of as \_\_\_\_\_ the efficiency of her husband's family and diminishing that of her parents.

Therefore, a young man who expects to get possession of their daughter must be able to offer some sort of adequate compensation.

- E. This compensation was the marriage “\_\_\_\_\_.”

- F. It was usually customary for at least some of the price of the dowry to be given to the \_\_\_\_\_.

Leah and Rachel complained about the stinginess of their father Laban.

### **III. JACOB IS DECEIVED**

*Genesis 29:19-25 And Laban said, It is better that I give her to thee, than that I should give her to another man: abide with me. And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her. And Jacob said unto Laban, Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in unto her. And Laban gathered together all the men of the place, and made a feast. And it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter, and brought her to him; and he went in unto her. And Laban gave unto his daughter Leah Zilpah his maid for an handmaid. And it came to pass, that 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? wherefore then hast thou beguiled me?*

Jacob had tricked and deceived his brother and his father—and it came back to him when Laban tricked him into marrying both Leah and Rachel.

- A. Jacob was \_\_\_\_\_ what he'd sown. He'd sown trickery and deception, and he was definitely reaping it again.
- B. \_\_\_\_\_. He often allows us to face the consequences and repercussions of our sins, just as He allowed Jacob to face his.
- C. God is also \_\_\_\_\_, though. He'd promised that He would be with Jacob, and that He would make a great nation out of Jacob.

Even though He may allow us to face the consequences of our sins at times, God still cares for us. And even if we sin, He is still faithful.

*Genesis 29:26-30 And Laban said, It must not be so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn. Fulfil her week, and we will give thee this also for the service which thou shalt serve with me yet seven other years. And Jacob did so, and fulfilled her week: and he gave him Rachel his daughter to wife also. And Laban gave to Rachel his daughter Bilhah his handmaid to be her maid. And he went in also unto Rachel, and he loved also Rachel more than Leah, and served with him yet seven other years.*

- D. Jacob stayed married to Leah, but a \_\_\_\_\_ later he also took Rachel as his wife—working an additional seven years for her.
- E. The word “\_\_\_\_\_” means that he had an affection for Rachel, he desired her, he treated her like a lover and a friend.

#### **IV. CHILDREN OF LEAH & RACHEL**

*Genesis 29:31 And when the Lord saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel was barren.*

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ had compassion on Leah.

God blessed her with many children.

Leah kept looking for love, approval, and acceptance from Jacob, and she was continually disappointed until her fourth son was born and she reoriented her life toward God.

- B. The names Leah gave her children \_\_\_\_\_ to the miraculous faith God had planted in her heart.

*Genesis 29:32-35 And Leah conceived, and bare a son, and she called his name Reuben: for she said, Surely the LORD hath looked upon my affliction; now therefore my husband will love me. And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Because the LORD hath heard I was hated, he hath therefore given me this son also: and she called his name Simeon. And she conceived*

*again, and bare a son; and said, Now this time will my husband be joined unto me, because I have born him three sons: therefore was his name called Levi. And she conceived again, and bare a son: and she said, Now will I praise the LORD: therefore she called his name Judah; and left bearing.*

*Genesis 30:1-2 And when Rachel saw that she bare Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister; and said unto Jacob, Give me children, or else I die. And Jacob's anger was kindled against Rachel: and he said, Am I in God's stead, who hath withheld from thee the fruit of the womb?*

We are not told that Rachel prayed for a child.

C. Rather she \_\_\_\_\_ with Jacob.

This seems to indicate that Rachel in her love looked to Jacob to provide satisfaction that only the Lord could provide.

*Genesis 30:3-13 And she said, Behold my maid Bilhah, go in unto her; and she shall bear upon my knees, that I may also have children by her. And she gave him Bilhah her handmaid to wife: and Jacob went in unto her. And Bilhah conceived, and bare Jacob a son. And Rachel said, God hath judged me, and hath also heard my voice, and hath given me a son: therefore called she his name Dan. And Bilhah Rachel's maid conceived again, and bare Jacob a second son. And Rachel said, With great wrestlings have I wrestled with my sister, and I have prevailed: and she called his name Naphtali. When Leah saw that she had left bearing, she took Zilpah her maid, and gave her Jacob to wife. And Zilpah Leah's maid bare Jacob a son. And Leah said, A troop cometh: and she called his name Gad. And Zilpah Leah's maid bare Jacob a second son. And Leah said, Happy am I, for the daughters will call me blessed: and she called his name Asher.*

D. Outward beauty is something that Leah never possessed. But her character and relationship with God \_\_\_\_\_ over the years.

God gave Leah seven children of her own, and in the process God taught her to seek comfort in Him.

*Genesis 30:14 And Reuben went in the days of wheat harvest, and found mandrakes in the field, and brought them unto his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, Give me, I pray thee, of thy son's mandrakes.*

E. The mandrakes in ancient times were believed to help cure \_\_\_\_\_ .

*Genesis 30:15-21 And she said unto her, Is it a small matter that thou hast taken my husband? and wouldest thou take away my son's mandrakes also? And Rachel said, Therefore he shall lie with thee to night for thy son's mandrakes. And Jacob came out of the field in the evening, and Leah went out to meet him, and said, Thou must come in unto me; for surely I have hired thee with my son's mandrakes. And he lay with her that night. And God hearkened unto Leah, and she conceived, and bare Jacob the fifth son. And Leah said, God hath given me my hire, because*

*I have given my maiden to my husband: and she called his name Issachar. And Leah conceived again, and bare Jacob the sixth son. And Leah said, God hath endued me with a good dowry; now will my husband dwell with me, because I have born him six sons: and she called his name Zebulun. And afterwards she bare a daughter, and called her name Dinah.*

F. Dinah meant \_\_\_\_\_.

Dinah is raped by a Schechemite named Hamor.

Eventually there's a horrible slaughter of all the male Schechemites by Dinah's brothers Levi and Simeon.

G. God does not open Rachel's womb until Leah is \_\_\_\_\_ having children.

*Genesis 30:22-24 And God remembered Rachel, and God hearkened to her, and opened her womb. And she conceived, and bare a son; and said, God hath taken away my reproach: And she called his name Joseph; and said, The LORD shall add to me another son.*

H. Rachel has another son, \_\_\_\_\_.

This completes the twelve tribes of Israel by two sisters and their two maids.

## **V. FIGHTING FOR CONTENTMENT**

A. We absolutely must fight for \_\_\_\_\_ in our hearts in all circumstances.

*Philippians 4:11-13 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

B. When we strive for what we think will give us value (like \_\_\_\_\_) or work for what we think will bring us love (like \_\_\_\_\_) we miss out on the opportunity to rest in contentment.

The comparison's game has no winners.

C. We need to acknowledge and \_\_\_\_\_ to God's goodness and His promises even as we acknowledge our painful situation.

Remember this that the Lord never once stops walking with us, comforting us, and strengthening us to run and not grow weary.

Remember this, “God hasn’t forgotten me. This is all part of His big picture. Sometimes the big picture has painful turns, but that doesn’t mean He has abandoned me.”

*Ephesians 3:20-21 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, 21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*

D. God is \_\_\_\_\_ only good.

E. In Him \_\_\_\_\_ is where we will find hope.

## **VI. CLINGING TO FALSE GODS**

*Genesis 31:2-3 And Jacob beheld the countenance of Laban, and, behold, it was not toward him as before. And the Lord said unto Jacob, Return unto the land of thy fathers, and to thy kindred; and I will be with thee.*

The sisters finally agree on something!

*Genesis 31:14-16 And Rachel and Leah answered and said unto him, Is there yet any portion or inheritance for us in our father's house? Are we not counted of him strangers? for he hath sold us, and hath quite devoured also our money. For all the riches which God hath taken from our father, that is ours, and our children's: now then, whatsoever God hath said unto thee, do.*

*Genesis 31:19-20 And Laban went to shear his sheep: and Rachel had stolen the images that were her father's. And Jacob stole away unawares to Laban the Syrian, in that he told him not that he fled.*

A. Rachel is a \_\_\_\_\_.

What are the false gods we cling to?

Accounts like this in the Scripture are meant to help us see ourselves, to see our own hearts, and to show us the emptiness and the futility of looking to or leaning on anyone or anything in this world as the basis for our sense of our value, our security, or our well-being.

## **VII. THE DEATH OF RACHEL & LEAH**

*Genesis 35:16-20 And they journeyed from Bethel; and there was but a little way to come to Ephrath: and Rachel travailed, and she had hard labour. 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. And Jacob set a pillar upon her grave: that is the pillar of Rachel's grave unto this*

day.

*Genesis 49:29-31 And he charged them, and said unto them, I am to be gathered unto my people: bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite, In the cave that is in the field of Machpelah, which is before Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field of Ephron the Hittite for a possession of a buryingplace. There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife; there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife; and there I buried Leah.*

- A. After Rachel's death, Leah \_\_\_\_\_ as the wife of Jacob, and the mother of his many children, living in Canaan.

Leah took her place at last beside Jacob as his chief wife and they shared many long-to-be-cherished memories of their long lives together.

- B. From Leah's son \_\_\_\_\_ came the tribe of Judah, from which came the line of Boaz, Jesse, and David, which produced Jesus.
- C. And from her son \_\_\_\_\_ sprang the priesthood.
- D. In the book of \_\_\_\_\_ Leah is honored beside Rachel as one which "did build the house of Israel."