

May 29, 2016

When the Lord saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren. And Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name **Reuben**, for she said, "Because the Lord has looked upon my affliction; for now my husband will love me." She conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Because the Lord has heard that I am hated, he has given me this son also." And she called his name **Simeon**. Again she conceived and bore a son, and said, "Now this time my husband will be attached to me, because I have borne him three sons." Therefore his name was called **Levi**. And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, "This time I will praise the Lord." Therefore she called his name **Judah**. Then she ceased bearing. Genesis 29:31–35 (ESV)

When Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, she envied her sister. She said to Jacob, "Give me children, or I shall die!" Jacob's anger was kindled against Rachel, and he said, "Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?" Then she said, "Here is my servant Bilhah; go in to her, so that she may give birth on my behalf, that even I may have children through her." So she gave him her servant Bilhah as a wife, and Jacob went in to her. And Bilhah conceived and bore Jacob a son. Then Rachel said, "God has judged me, and has also heard my voice and given me a son." Therefore she called his name **Dan**. Rachel's servant Bilhah conceived again and bore Jacob a second son. Then Rachel said, "With mighty wrestlings I have wrestled with my sister and have prevailed." So she called his name **Naphtali**. Genesis 30:1–8 (ESV)

When Leah saw that she had ceased bearing children, she took her servant **Zilpah** and gave her to Jacob as a wife. Then Leah's servant Zilpah bore Jacob a son. And Leah said, "Good fortune has come!" so she called his name **Gad**. Leah's servant Zilpah bore Jacob a second son. And Leah said, "Happy am I! For women have called me happy." So she called his name **Asher**. Genesis 30:9–13 (ESV)

In the days of wheat harvest Reuben went and found mandrakes in the field and brought them to his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, "Please give me some of your son's mandrakes." But she said to her, "Is it a small matter that you have taken away my husband? Would you take away my son's mandrakes also?" Rachel said, "Then he may lie with you tonight in exchange for your son's mandrakes." When Jacob came from the field in the evening, Leah went out to meet him and said, "You must come in to me, for I have hired you with my son's mandrakes." So he lay with her that night. And God listened to Leah, and she conceived and bore Jacob a fifth son. Leah said, "God has given me my wages because I gave my servant to my husband." So she called his name **Issachar**. And Leah conceived again, and she bore Jacob a sixth son. Then Leah said, "God has endowed me with a good endowment; now my husband will honor me, because I have borne him six sons." So she called his name **Zebulun**. Afterward she bore a daughter and called her name **Dinah**. Genesis 30:14–21 (ESV)

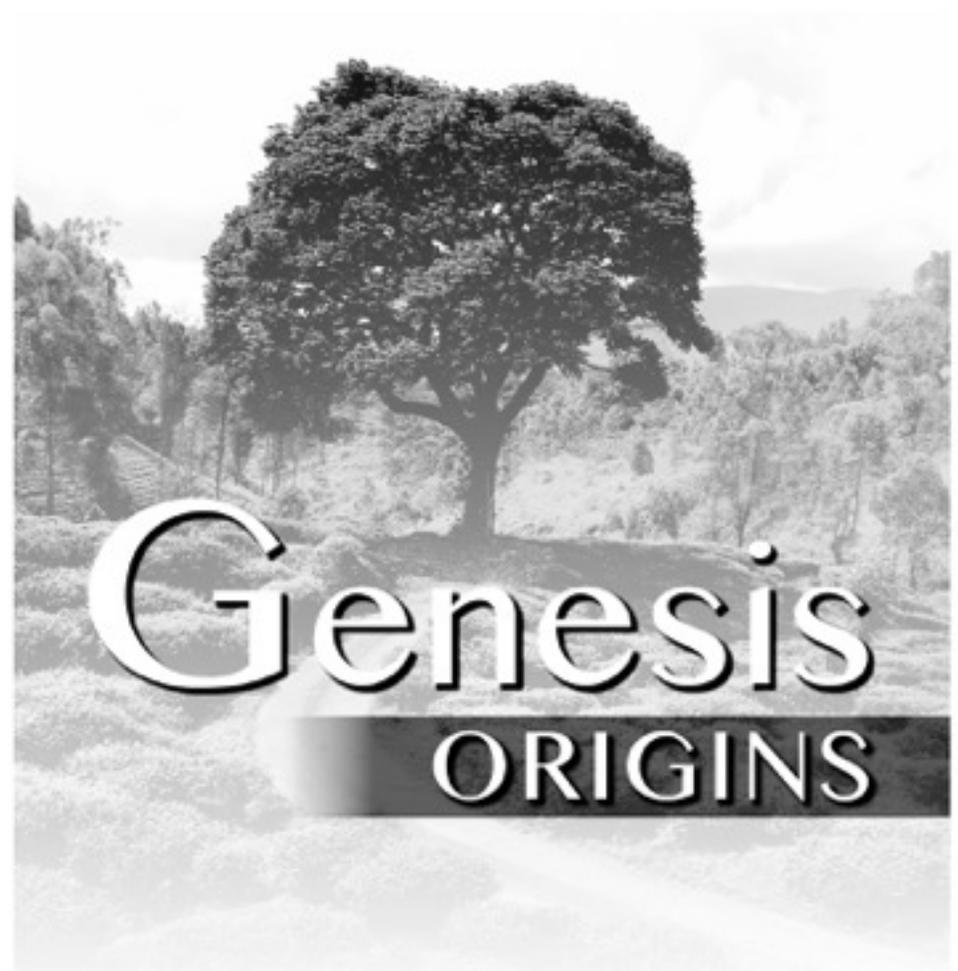
*Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb. She conceived and bore a son and said, "God has taken away my reproach." And she called his name Joseph, saying, "May the Lord add to me another son!" Genesis 30:22–24 (ESV)*

### Conclusion

1. *The God-sized hole in our heart can only be filled by God.*
2. *Don't be surprised when God's people are messed up people.*
3. *God's people are a grand display of undeserved grace.*

*...on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed— Revelation 21:12 (ESV)*

June 5 — Genesis 30:25-31:55 - Shady Business  
June 12 — Genesis 32 - Facing Those You Hurt



## **Genesis 29:31–30:24 — Desperate Housewives**



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