



GOD

is greater  
than

# God is Greater Than My Struggles

Genesis 29:31-30:24

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Leah= weary

1st son: Reuben= look a son 29:32

32 Leah conceived and bore a son and named him Reuben, for she said, “Because the Lord has seen my affliction; surely now my husband will love me.”

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Leah= weary

2nd son: Simeon = heard. 29:33

33 Then she conceived again and bore a son and said, “Because the Lord has heard that I am unloved, He has therefore given me this son also.” So she named him Simeon.

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Leah= weary

3rd son: Levi = attached 29:34

34 She conceived again and bore a son and said, “Now this time my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons.” Therefore he was named Levi.

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Leah= weary

4th son: Judah = let Him be praised

29:35

35 And she conceived again and bore a son and said, “This time I will praise the Lord.” Therefore she named him Judah. Then she stopped bearing.

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Leah's heart seen in her sons.

**Reuben:** Look, a son, perhaps now my husband will love me.

**Simeon:** God heard that I am hated.

**Levi:** Maybe now my husband will join with me if I bear him a son.

**Judah:** This time I will praise the Lord.

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# Genesis 30

- 1 Now when **Rachel** saw that she bore Jacob no children, she became jealous of her sister; and she said to Jacob, “Give me children, or else I die.”
- 2 Then Jacob’s anger burned against Rachel, and he said, “Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?”

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# Genesis 30

3 She said, “Here is my maid **Bilhah**, go in to her that she may bear on my knees, that through her I too may have children.”

4 So she gave him her maid Bilhah as a wife, and Jacob went in to her.

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Rachel = ewe 30:1-8

Rachel uses Bilhah to bear children:

Bilhah = troubled.

5th son: Dan = God has vindicated 30:5, 6

Bilhah conceived and bore Jacob a son.

Then Rachel said, “God has vindicated me, and has indeed heard my voice and has given me a son.” Therefore she named him Dan

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Rachel = ewe 30:1-8

Rachel uses Bilhah to give bear children:  
Bilhah = troubled.

6th son: Naphtali = I am wrestling 30:7, 8

Rachel's maid Bilhah conceived again and bore Jacob a second son. So Rachel said, "With mighty wrestlings I have wrestled with my sister, and I have indeed prevailed." And she named him Naphtali.

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Leah uses Zilpah to bear children:  
Zilpah = trickling.

7th son: Gad = fortunate

10 Leah's maid Zilpah bore Jacob a son.

11 Then Leah said, "How fortunate!" So she named him Gad.

8th son: Asher = happy, "I am lucky, all is right"

12 Leah's maid Zilpah bore Jacob a second son.

13 Then Leah said, "Happy am I! For women will call me happy." So she named him Asher.

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Rachel and Leah trade mandrakes for Jacob and more children. 30:14-16  
(Mandrakes supposedly caused fertility at that time.)

14 Now in the days of wheat harvest Reuben went and found a 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."

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# Genesis 30

15 But she said to her, “Is it a small matter for you to take my husband? And would you take my son’s mandrakes also?” So Rachel said, “Therefore he may lie with you tonight in return for your son’s mandrakes.”

16 When Jacob came in from the field in the evening, then Leah went out to meet him and said, “You must come in to me, for I have surely hired you with my son’s mandrakes.” So he lay with her that night.

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# Leah gives birth again:

9th son: Issachar = there is recompense.

30:17, 18

17 God gave heed to Leah, and she conceived and bore Jacob a fifth son. 18 Then Leah said, “God has given me my wages because I gave my maid to my husband.” So she named him Issachar.

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# Leah gives birth again:

10th son: Zebulun = dowry, honor, gift.

30:19, 20

Leah conceived again and bore a sixth son to Jacob. Then Leah said, “God has endowed me with a good gift; now my husband will dwell with me, because I have borne him six sons.” So she named him Zebulun

Daughter Dinah = judgment 30:21

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Rachel finally has her own child:

11th son: Joseph = Jehovah has added.

30:22-24

Afterward she bore a daughter and named her Dinah. Then God remembered Rachel, and God gave heed to her and opened her womb. So she conceived and bore a son and said, "God has taken away my reproach." She named him Joseph, saying, "May the LORD give me another son."

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# Lessons from these women on the back:

1. Many struggles come out of my own self effort to achieve my desires:
  - Conditional love Genesis 29:32, “Now my husband will love me”
  - Jealousy, strife in competition and comparison with others. Genesis 30:1
  - Resentment and unforgiving spirit Genesis 30:6-8

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- Bargaining and manipulating people for my goals. Genesis 29:34,
- Blaming and attacking others. Genesis 30:1
- Unwillingness to listen or understand another person's needs. Genesis 30:2

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2. I must acknowledge and turn from my selfish efforts.

*Are any of the above part of your life?*

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3. Grow in my knowledge and faith in God's sovereign rule in all of my life:

- God knows my struggles. Genesis 29:31, 32  
*Now the Lord saw that Leah was unloved...  
the Lord has seen my affliction*

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- God offers grace for my weaknesses.  
Genesis 30:17, 22 God gave heed to Leah...  
Then God remembered Rachel
- God will heal and provide in His time and way. Genesis 30:23,24 So she conceived and bore a son and said, "God has taken away my reproach." She named him Joseph, saying, "May the LORD give me another son."

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