

Genesis 29-31

**Jacob: His Wives, Sons,
and Trouble with His
Father-in-Law Laban.**

Introduction

- In today's message we will briefly summarize the troubles Jacob encountered when he left his mother and father to go to his uncle Laban's home in Padan-Aram.
- Our focus is found in **Genesis 29-31**.
- **Jacob** is now **77 years old**.

Jacob's Wives and Children

- In **Genesis 29:1–30:24** the birth of Jacob's children is recorded: **11 sons** and **1 daughter**. (Benjamin is not yet born).
- These children are the offspring of **four** different women, **Leah** and **Rachel**, his wives, and **Zilpah** and **Bilhah**, their respective handmaids.

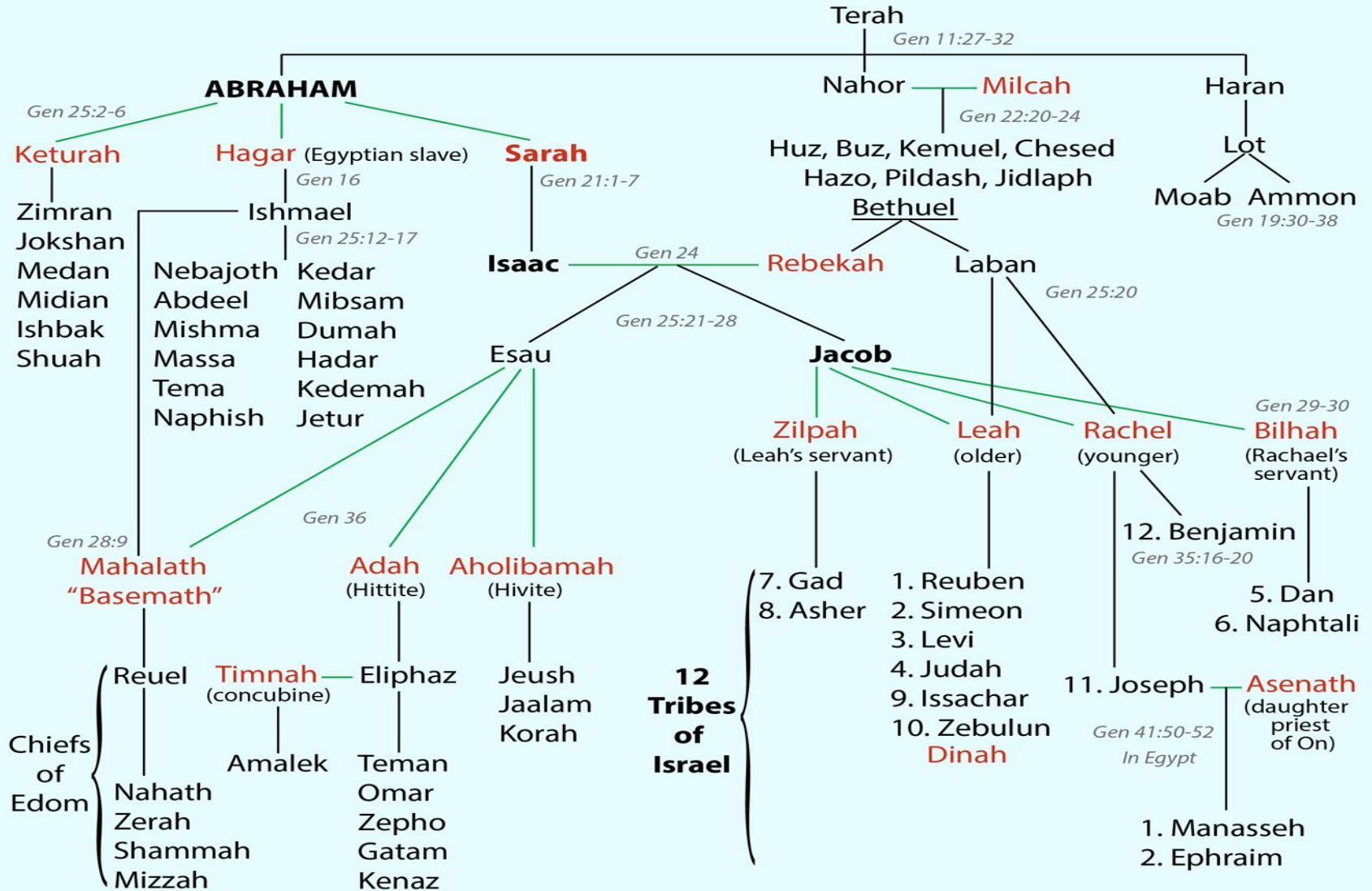
Jacob's Wives and Children

- Scripture tells us that **Jacob** had bargained with **Laban** to serve him seven years for his daughter Rachel.
- He was deceived by Laban at the end of that seven years and found himself married to Leah, the older daughter and sister of Rachel. (Gen. 29:18-25).

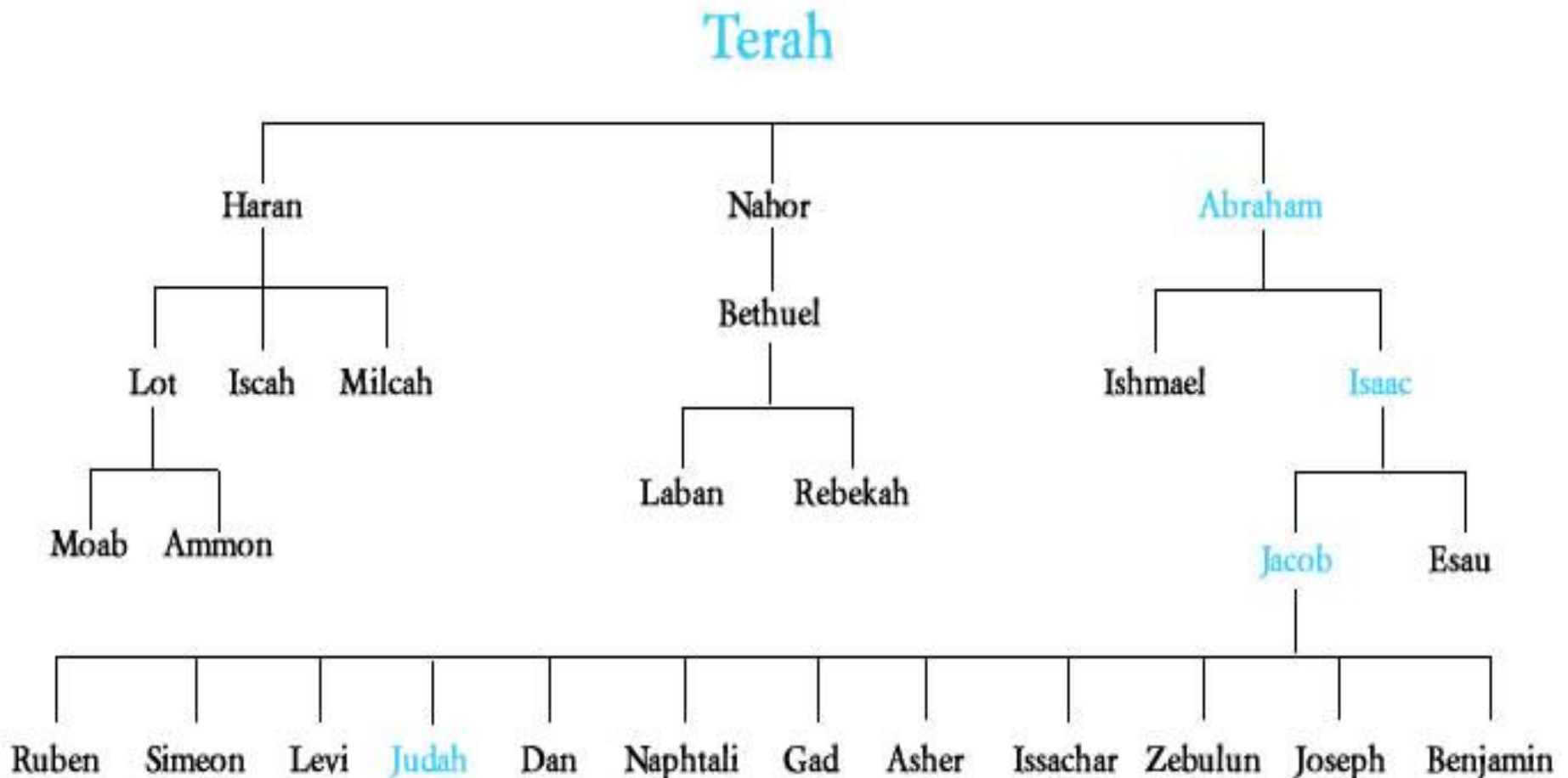
Jacob's Wives and Children

- Through further bargaining and mutual agreement, for seven more years of service Jacob was given Rachel, the woman he loved, one week later (Gen. 29:26-30).
- God fulfilled the Abrahamic Covenant blessings given to Jacob at Beth-el and Jacob's family grew.

GENEALOGY OF ABRAHAM



The Chosen Line in Genesis



This chart indicates the chosen line found in the Book of Genesis.
The names in blue are the lineage of the Messiah.

Jacob's Family

JACOB

Leah

Zilpah

Rachel

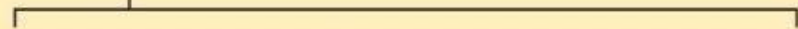
Bilhah



Leah's
servant



Rachel's
servant



Reuben

Simeon

Levi

Judah

Issachar

Zebulun

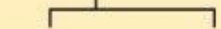


Gad

Asher

Joseph

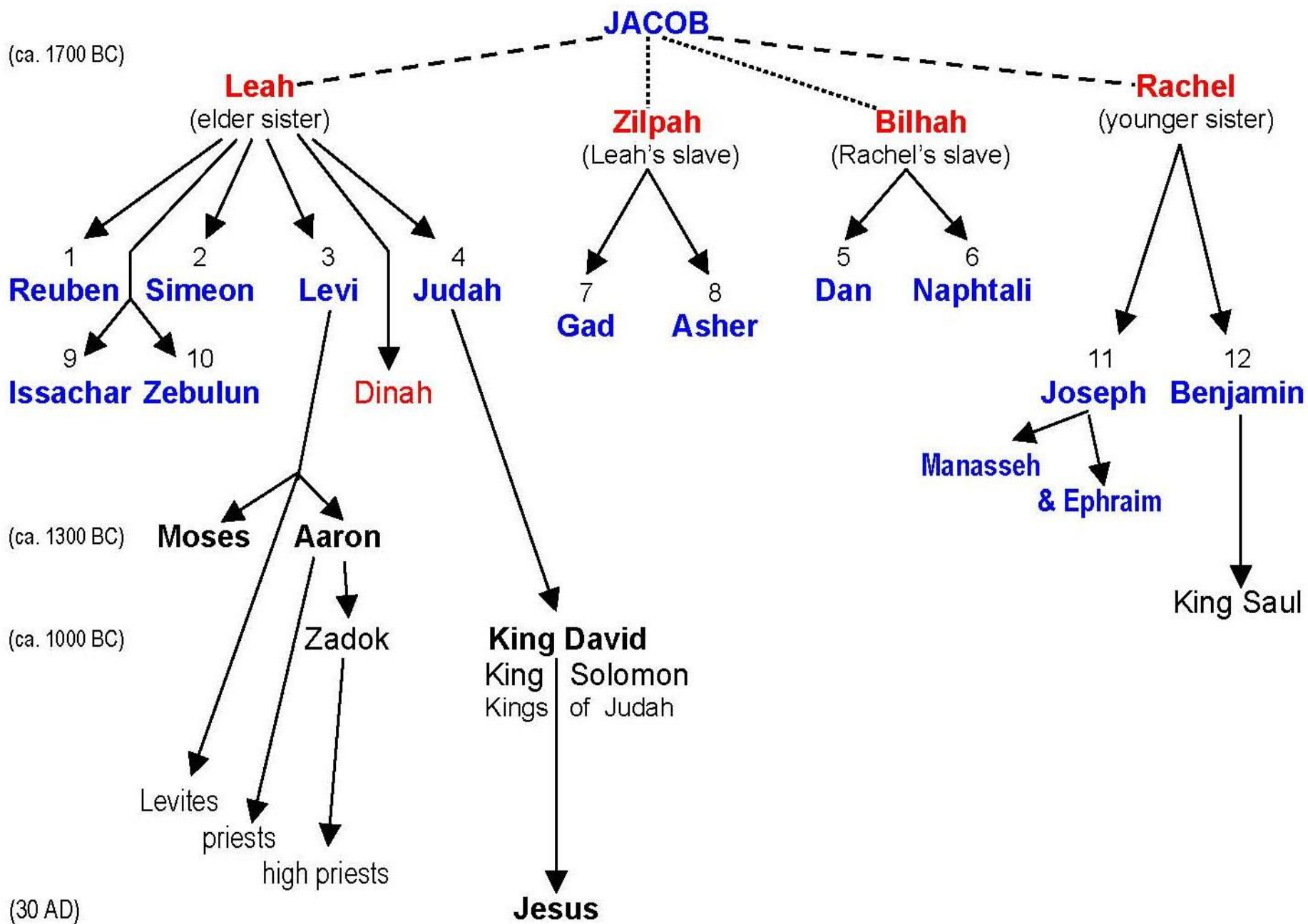
Benjamin



Dan

Naphtali

Sons of Jacob / Tribes of Israel



Jacob's Sons & their Notable Descendants

Jacob's 12 sons were the ancestors of the 12 tribes of Israel.
The entire nation of Israel came from these men.

Reuben	None
Simeon	None
➔ Levi	Aaron, Moses, Eli, Zacharias, John the Baptist
Judah	David, Jesus
Dan	Samson
Naphtali	Barak, Elijah (?)
Gad	Jephthah (?)
Asher	None
Issachar	None
Zebulun	None
Joseph	Joshua, Gideon, Samuel
Benjamin	Saul, Esther, Paul



Jacob's Troubles with Laban

- After the 14 years of service for his two wives was finished, Jacob wished to return to his father (Isaac) and mother (Rebekah) in Canaan.
- Laban recognized God had blessed his herds because of Jacob's presence. He urged Jacob to stay on at wages. (Gen. 30:25-28)

Jacob's Troubles with Laban

- Instead of money, Jacob agreed to work for the black **sheep** and the speckled and spotted among the **goats** as wages. (Genesis 30:31-36).

Jacob's Troubles with Laban

- In the Mediterranean world the sheep are normally white and the goats black or brown. Thus Jacob is requesting the irregular, abnormal parts of Laban's flock.
- Perhaps the only reason Laban consents (v. 34) is because of Jacob's willingness to accept so little.

Jacob's Troubles with Laban

- Jacob's sheep and goats were removed from Laban's animals and put in the care of Laban's sons a 3-day journey away from Laban's flocks.
- Jacob looked after Laban's flocks.
- Laban's sons looked after Jacob flocks.

Jacob's Troubles with Laban

- Jacob tried to have Laban's flocks produce specked and spotted offspring by trickery. (Gen. 30:37-43)
- God blessed Jacob and caused Laban's animals to produce specked and spotted offspring. (Jacob thought he caused it; God caused it and Jacob knew it (Gen. 31:8-9).

Jacob's Troubles with Laban

- Jacob's herds grew and Laban's did not.
- Jacob became rich: "Thus the man increased greatly and had large flocks, female servants and male servants, and camels and donkeys". (Gen. 30:43)

Jacob's Troubles with Laban

- Six more years passed and tensions grew. Jacob had been there 20 yrs.
- Laban had changed the agreement with Jacob 10 times (Gen. 31:7)
- God appeared in a dream and told Jacob to return to the land of his birth (Gen. 31:13).

Jacob's Troubles with Laban

- Jacob feared Laban and his men would not let him leave, so he plotted and left when Laban was away shearing sheep. (Gen. 31:19)
- Laban chased after Jacob for 7 days and most likely intended harm to Jacob. (Gen. 31:22-23).

Jacob's Troubles with Laban

- Just before Laban caught up with Jacob and his family, God warned Laban in a dream not to harm Jacob. (Gen. 31:24).
- Jacob claims to be innocent of all of Laban's charges (read Gen. 31:26-42).

Jacob's Troubles with Laban

- Jacob and Laban make a covenant of peace between them (Gen. 31:43-55).
- Laban return home (Padan-Aram) and Jacob continues on his journey back to the land of Canaan.

Genesis 29-31

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The 12 Sons of Jacob

MOTHER	SON	BIRTH ORDER	REFERENCE OF BIRTH	SYMBOL OF BLESSING	ORDER OF BLESSING	REFERENCE OF BLESSING
LEAH	Reuben	1	Genesis 29:32	Reckless	1	Genesis 49:3-4
	Simeon	2	Genesis 29:33	Violence	2	Genesis 49:5-7
	Levi	3	Genesis 29:34	Violence	3	Genesis 49:5-7
	Judah	4	Genesis 29:35	Lion	4	Genesis 49:8-12
BILHAH RACHEL'S HANDMAID	Dan	5	Genesis 30:6	Serpent	7	Genesis 49:16-18
	Naphtali	6	Genesis 30:8	Doe	10	Genesis 49:21
ZILPAH LEAH'S HANDMAID	Gad	7	Genesis 30:11	Raider	8	Genesis 49:19
	Asher	8	Genesis 30:13	Rich Food	9	Genesis 49:20
LEAH	Issachar	9	Genesis 30:18	Donkey	6	Genesis 49:14-15
	Zebulun	10	Genesis 30:20	Ships	5	Genesis 49:13
RACHEL	Joseph	11	Genesis 30:24	Fruitful	11	Genesis 49:22-26
	Benjamin	12	Genesis 35:18	Wolf	12	Genesis 49:27



"Also God said to him: "I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you, and kings shall come from your body." Genesis 35:11