

The War of the Wives



Genesis 30 : 1 - 26

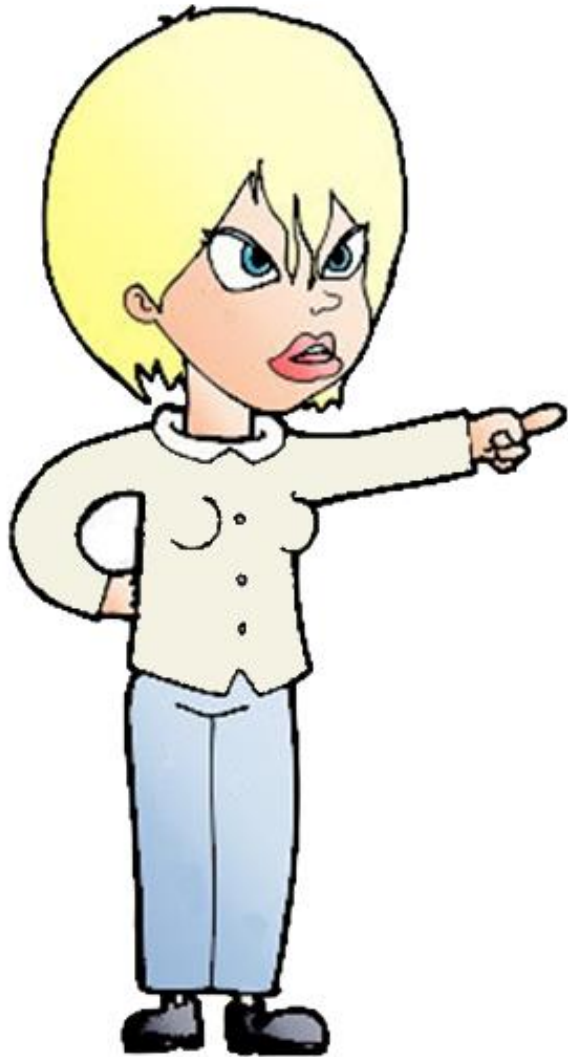
When Rachel saw that she was not bearing Jacob any children, she became jealous of her sister.

Genesis 30: 1



Why is jealousy a sin ?

So she said to Jacob, "Give me children, or I'll die!" Genesis 30:1



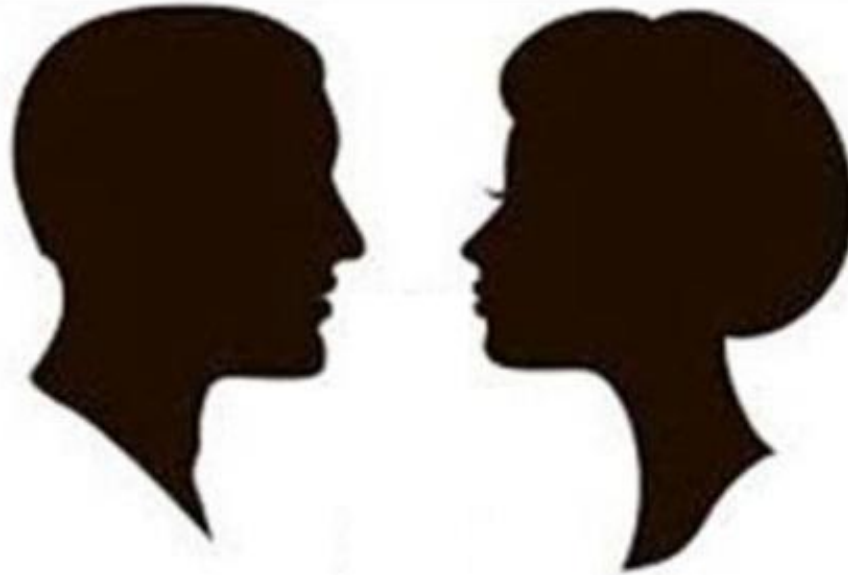
Is it Jacob's fault ?

**Who do you blame when
it seems to go wrong ?**

Jacob became angry with her and said, "Am I in the place of God, who has kept you from having children?"

Genesis 30: 2

It's Not Me, It's You



**How do you feel when you can't fix it yourself ?
What can you do?**

Then she said, "Here is Bilhah, my maidservant. Sleep with her so that she can bear children for me and that through her I too can build a family." So she gave him her servant Bilhah as a wife.

Genesis 30: 3-4



Surrogate vs. Adoption

How did Bilhah feel ?

Eg. Abraham & Sarah
Another wife !

This will not turn out well !

Jacob slept with her, and she became pregnant and bore him a son.
Genesis 30: 5

Why did Jacob go along with this ?



Then **Rachel said**, "God has **vindicated** me; he has listened to **my plea** and given me a son. "

Genesis 30: 6

Misusing God's name !





No. 5 “Judged”



Rachel`s servant Bilhah conceived again and bore Jacob a second son. Then **Rachel said**, "I have had a great struggle with my sister, and I have won." So she named him **Naphtali**.

Genesis 30: 7-8



No. 6 “Struggle”

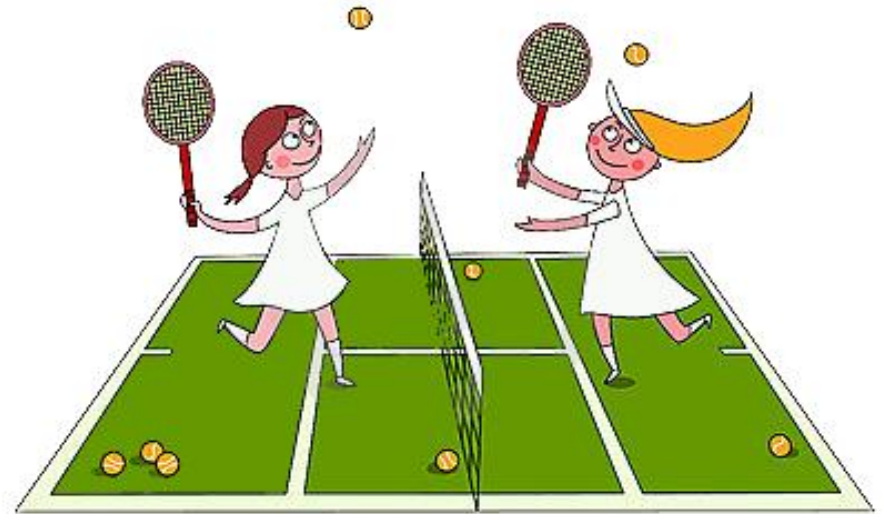


Not much sisterly love !

When Leah saw that she had stopped having children, she took her maidservant Zilpah and gave her to Jacob as a wife.

Genesis 30:9

Oh brother, here we go



Surrogate vs. Adoption

How did Zilpah feel ?

Leah`s servant Zilpah bore Jacob a son. Then Leah said, "What good fortune!" So she named him **Gad**. Genesis 30: 10-11

No. 7 “Good Fortune”



Leah`s servant Zilpah bore Jacob a second son. Then Leah said, "How happy I am! The women will call me happy. "So she named him Asher.
Genesis 30: 13-14

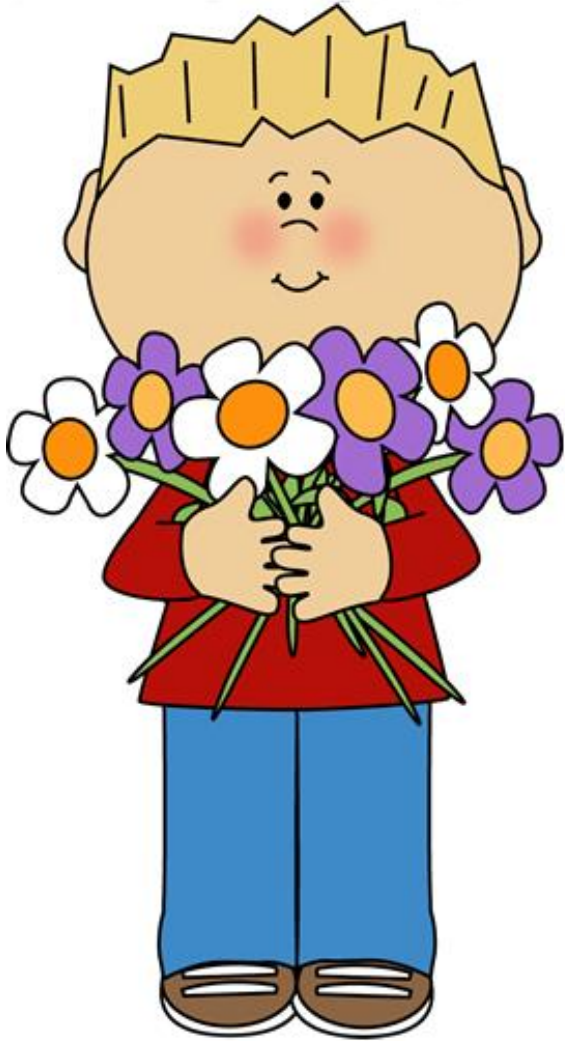
No. 8 “Happy”



This is War !

During wheat harvest, Reuben went out into the fields and found some mandrake plants, which he brought to his mother Leah.

Genesis 30: 14



Reuben would be under 10 years old



Rachel said to Leah, "Please give me some of your son`s mandrakes. "

Genesis 30: 14



Trying to be nice ?

"But Leah said to her, "Wasn't it enough that you took away my husband? Will you take my son's mandrakes too?" Genesis 30: 15



A gentle answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger.
Proverbs 15:1

What's happened to
"This time I will praise the Lord."

Living God's way is a DAILY challenge,
not a once-for-all time matter.

"Very well," Rachel said, "he can sleep with you tonight in return for your son`s mandrakes."

Genesis 30: 15

SOMETIMES IT IS MY TURN
TO GO FIRST



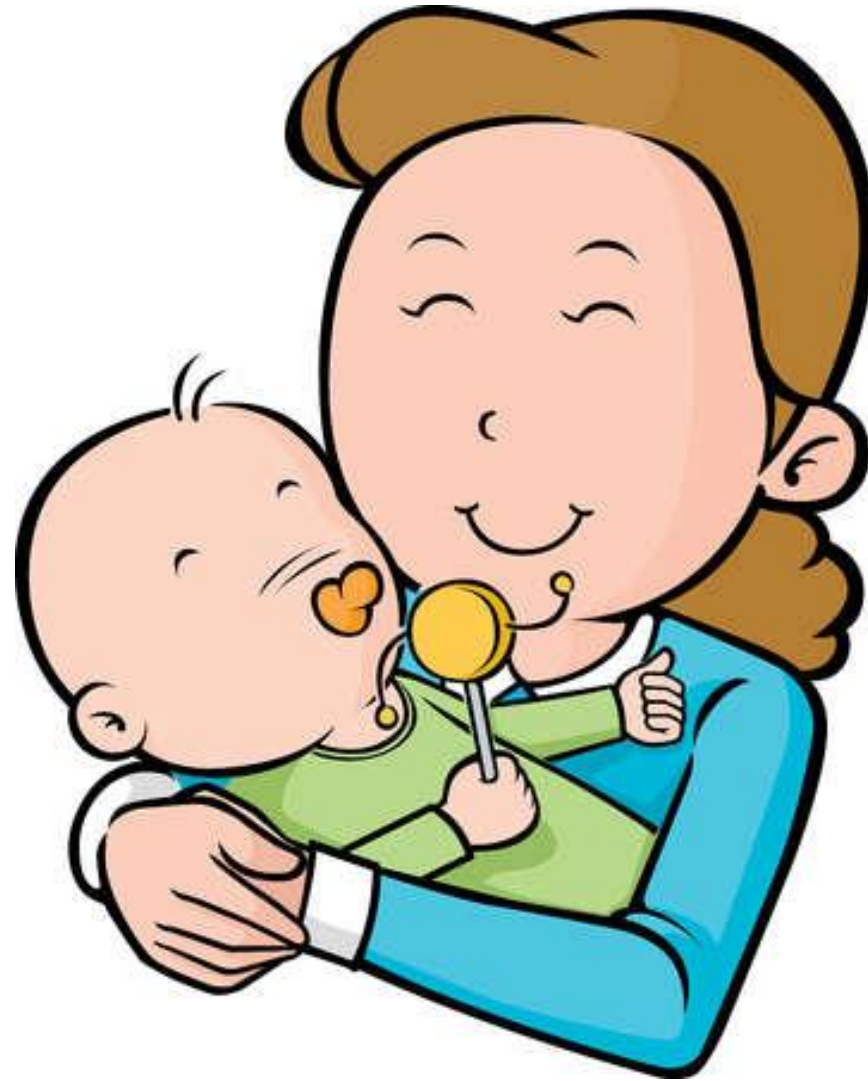
AND SOMETIMES
IT IS NOT.

So when Jacob came in from the fields that evening, Leah went out to meet him. "You must sleep with me," she said. "I have hired you with my son`s mandrakes. " So he slept with her that night.

Genesis 30: 16



God **listened** to Leah, and she became pregnant and bore Jacob a fifth son.
Genesis 30:17

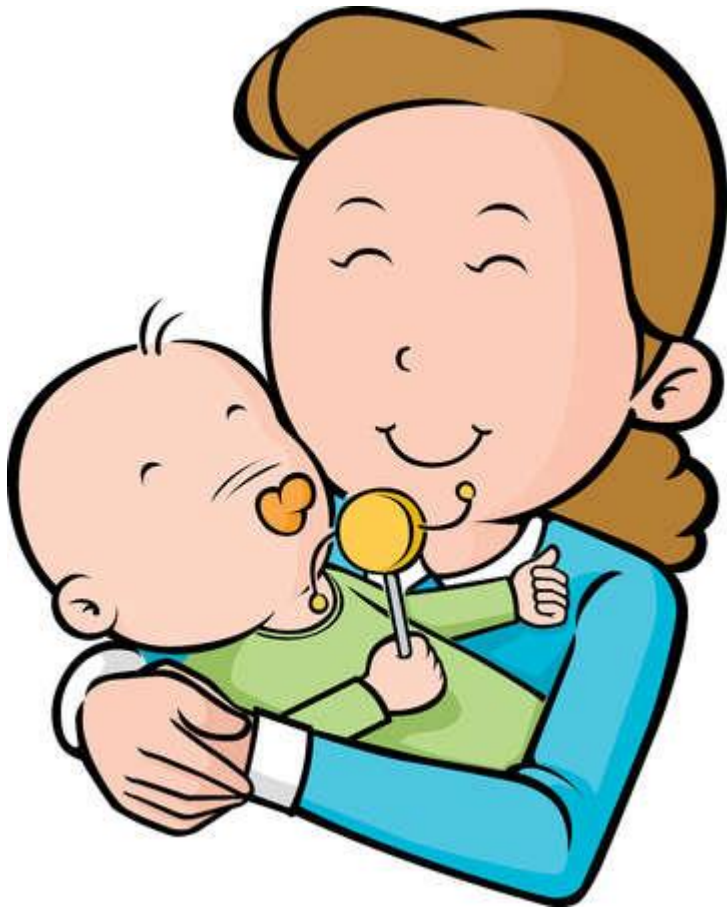


Then Leah said, "God has rewarded me for giving my maidservant to my husband." So she named him **Issachar**. Genesis 30:18

No. 9 "Reward"

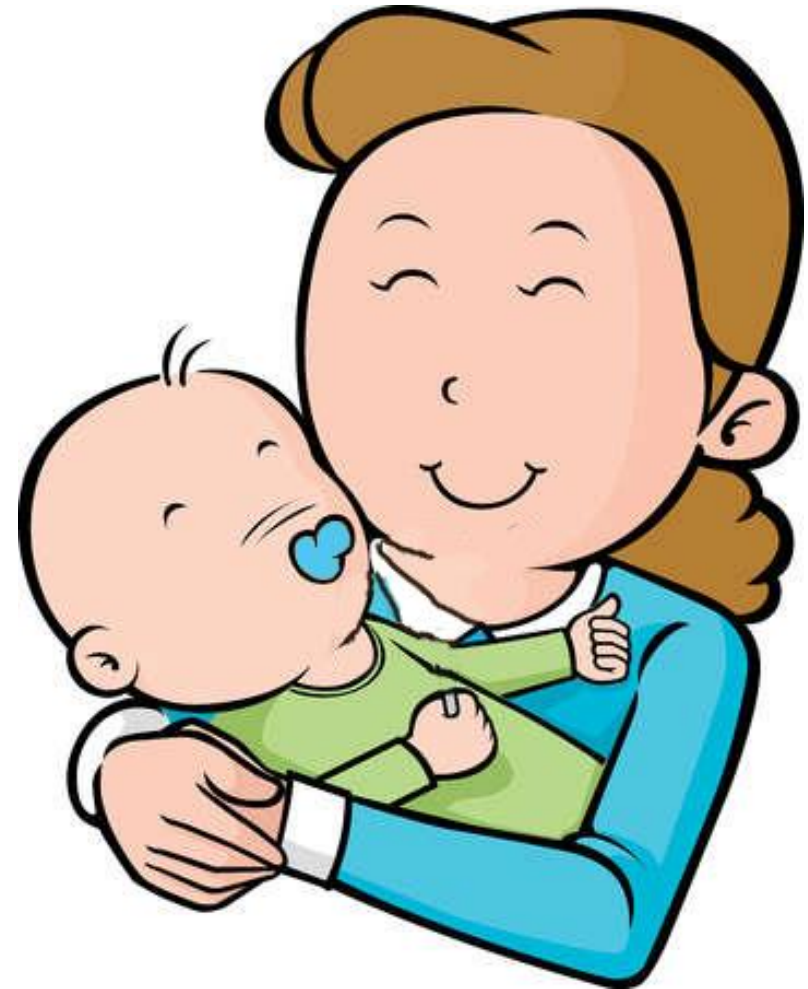
God gets the "credit"

The danger of
reading into things



Leah conceived again and bore Jacob a sixth son. Then Leah said, "God has presented me with a precious gift. Genesis 30:19

a precious gift



This time my husband will **treat me with honour**, because I have borne him six sons." So she named him **Zebulun**. Genesis 30: 20



No. 10 "Residence"



Some time later she gave birth to a daughter and named her

Dinah. (*female version of Dan*)

Genesis 30: 20



**Were there other girls in Jacob's family ?
Why are they not mentioned ?**

Then God **remembered** Rachel; he listened to her and opened her womb. She became pregnant and gave birth to a son and said, "God has taken away my disgrace. " Genesis 30: 22-23



“My disgrace”

Did she worry about what others thought ?

"She named him **Joseph**, and said, "May the LORD **add** to me another son ."

Genesis 30:24

No. 11 "More"



"She named him Joseph, and said, "May the LORD add to me another son ."

Genesis 30:24

“More”



After Rachel gave birth to Joseph, Jacob said to Laban, "Send me on my way so I can go back to my own homeland. Give me my wives and children, for whom I have served you, and I will be on my way.

Genesis 30:25-26



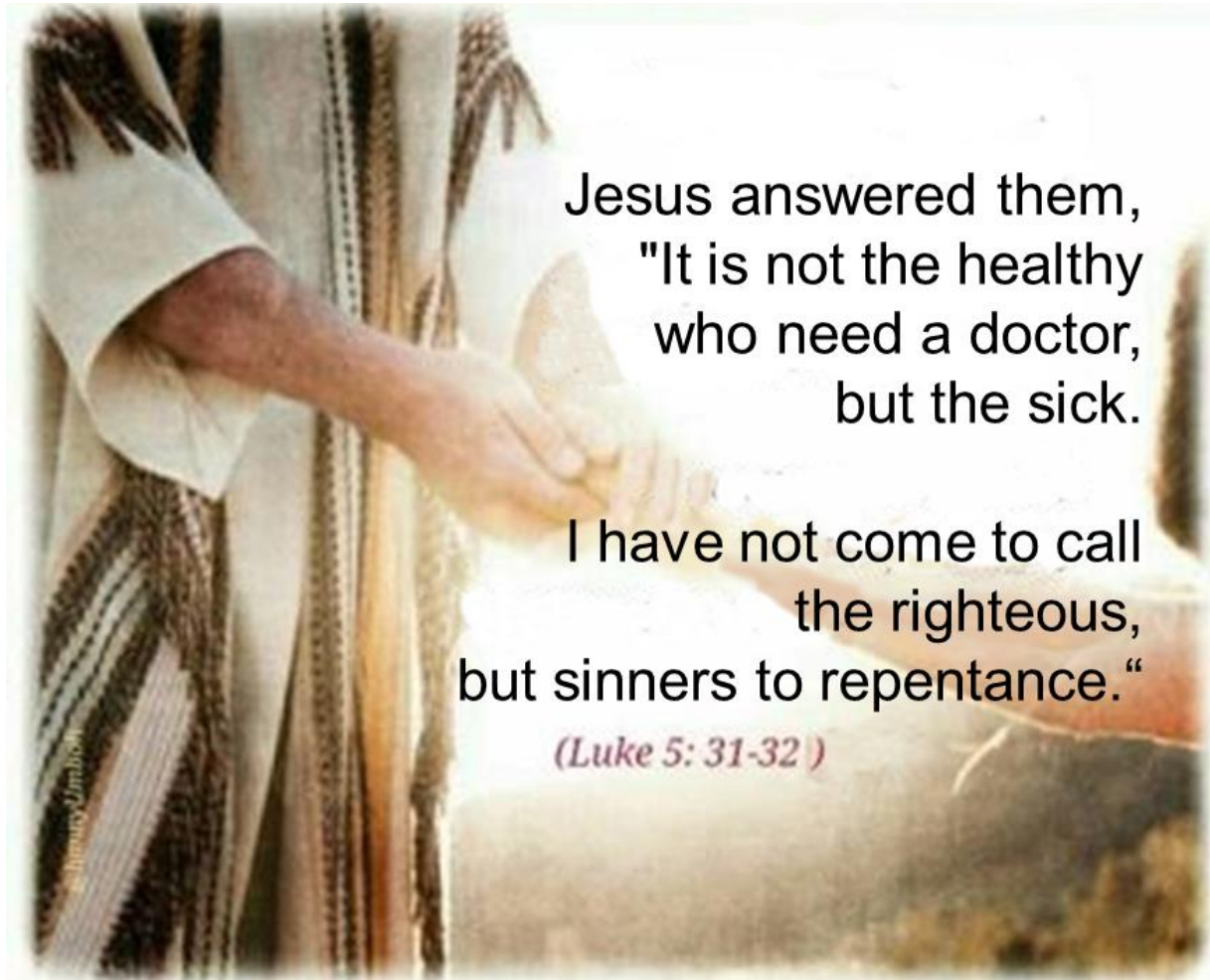
Conclusions:-

- 1, What a mess ! Polygamy isn't God's way.
- 2, God doesn't condone their sin
but in grace still blesses the sinner.
- 3, The promise of a great nation is still on track.
- 4, The detail of their lives (unknown to them)
can be seen as prophetic.

| Name | Meaning | Fulfillment |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Reuben | A son | God's people in Egypt |
| Simeon | Heard | Moses sent |
| Levi | Attached | Covenant at Sinai |
| Judah | Praise | Giving of the Torah |
| Dan | Judged | Golden calf |
| Naphtali | Struggle | Wilderness |
| Gad | Favour | Battles in Canaan |
| Asher | Happy | Victories |
| Issachar | Reward | |
| Zebulun | Residence | Settled in the land |
| Joseph | More | Rulers |
| Benjamin | Right hand son | The Messiah |

Conclusion:-

5, If the chosen family were that messed up – there's hope for anybody.



Jesus answered them,
"It is not the healthy
who need a doctor,
but the sick.

I have not come to call
the righteous,
but sinners to repentance."

(Luke 5: 31-32)