

## Women of the Bible:

### *Rachel (Jacob's Favorite Wife)*

*First: Start with the facts from each passage:*

*Second: What would her life have been like at this time*

*Third: What traits do we discover about her*

*Fourth: How did God work through this person, even after their mistake(s)*

*Fifth: What inspiration or lessons can be learned?*

Genesis 29:4-14

Genesis 29:15-31

Genesis 30:1-8

Genesis 30:14-25

Genesis 31:1-21

Genesis 31:33-35

Genesis 33:1-7

Genesis 35:16-20

Ruth 4:11

Jeremiah 31:15

Matthew 2:18

Lessons for Our Lives:

## **DID YOU NOTICE:**

Genesis 29:4-14 No mention is made of Leah (Rachel's older sister)

or Rachel's brothers, watching the sheep

Genesis 29:15-31 Rachel accepted her lot to be married after her sister. Jacob felt she was worth another 7 years of labor. Rachel was the favored of the two wives, but remained barren.

Genesis 30:1-8 Rachel's jealousy led to her giving Jacob to another woman. Eventually, Leah and her actions caused their own children to receive LESS of an inheritance.

Genesis 30:14-25 Rachel relied on her own efforts to have children, rather than waiting for God's timing. Her efforts only led to Jacob having more children by OTHER women. God in time (probably at least 7 years after Rachel and Jacob were married) gave Rachel a son. She was not content and sought another son (which would end up killing her).

Genesis 31:1-21 It appears that Rachel (and Leah) were more concerned about getting all they could get from their family, and once they realized they had, they were willing for Jacob to follow God's leading. Rachel's greed (taking her father's gods) almost cost her life and threatened Jacob) and led her to more deception.

Genesis 31:33-35 Greed, deceit, and wanting "false gods"; further divided Rachel from her family.

Genesis 33:1-7 Rachel (and her son) are clearly the most loved and protected of all.

Genesis 35:16-20 Rachel received what she had asked for (Genesis 30:14-25) and she lost her life as a result. Jacob's great joy (favorite wife bore him another son) was coupled with tremendous sadness. Rachel looked at the moment in naming her son; Jacob would look to the future.

Ruth 4:11 Remembered with her sister for how they built up the house (using their maidservants as well)

Jeremiah 31:15 Prophecy where "Rachel" stands for the tribe of "Benjamin" (her son). Benjamin had gone his whole life without his mother (she died in childbirth); now, it is Rachel's descendants who will go the remainder of their lives without their sons.

Matthew 2:18 Prophecy of Jeremiah 31:15 is fulfilled when Herod has all the boys of Bethlehem age 2 and under killed. Even in the midst of the greatest joy in life (coming of the Messiah), there can still be pain that has to be dealt with (slaughter of infants). God alone can comfort and help us focus on the joy (now and for all of eternity) in such times.