

**Lesson # 71 ( April 16, 2019)****Genesis 35.9-29 The Blessings and the Struggles**

9 When Jacob came back from Paddan Aram, God appeared to him again. God blessed Jacob 10 and said to him, “Your name is Jacob, but I will change that name. You will no longer be called Jacob. Your new name will be Israel.” So God named him Israel. 11 God said to him, “I am God Almighty, and I give you this blessing: Have many children and grow into a great nation. Other nations and other kings will come out of you. 12 I gave Abraham and Isaac some special land. Now I give the land to you and to all your people who will live after you.” 13 Then God left that place. 14-15 Jacob set up a memorial stone there. He made the rock holy by pouring wine and oil on it. This was a special place because God spoke to Jacob there, and Jacob named the place Bethel.

16 Jacob and his group left Bethel. Before they came to Ephrath, Rachel began giving birth to her baby. 17 She was having a lot of trouble with this birth. She was in great pain. When her nurse saw this, she said, “Don’t be afraid, Rachel. You are giving birth to another son.”

18 Rachel died while giving birth to the son. Before dying, she named the boy Benoni. But Jacob called him Benjamin.

19 Rachel was buried on the road to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem).

20 Jacob put a special rock on Rachel’s grave to honor her. That special rock is still there today. 21 Then Israel continued his journey. He camped just south of Eder tower.

22 Israel stayed there for a short time. While he was there, Reuben slept with Israel’s slave woman Bilhah. Israel heard about this, and he was very angry.

These are the names of Jacob's twelve sons:

23 His firstborn son was Reuben, whose mother was Leah.

Jacob's other sons by Leah were Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun.

24 His sons by Rachel were Joseph and Benjamin.

25 His sons by Bilhah, Rachel's maid, were Dan and Naphtali.

26 His sons by Zilpah, Leah's maid, were Gad and Asher.

These were Jacob's sons who were born in Paddan Aram.

27 Jacob went to his father Isaac at Mamre in Kiriath Arba (Hebron). This is where Abraham and Isaac had lived. 28 Isaac lived 180 years. 29 Then Isaac became weak and died and went to be with his people. He had lived a long and full life. His sons Esau and Jacob buried him.

## IMPORTANT

- \* Can God appear to people today?
- \* What is the purpose of a "blessing" from God?
- \* God wants to change your character
- \* Are you open to receive a blessing from God?
- \* Are you willing to show respect and gratitude to God for his blessings?
  
- \* We must honor those who we love and today are with the Lord
- \* We must move forward in life after they go to Heaven
  
- \* Some people will betray us, can we protect ourselves of it?
  
- \* The 12 tribes of Israel
  
- \* Regardless of differences among siblings, they must work together to honor their parents.