

## ~BENJAMIN 1 (218)

(Ben'ja-min) [Son of the Right Hand]

- Jacob's 12th son and the full brother of Joseph, **Benjamin** appears to be the only son born to Jacob in the land of Canaan, the other sons being born in Paddan-aram.
- When Yehowah came to see that Leah was hated, he then opened her womb, but Rachel was barren. (**Genesis 29:31**)
- And it followed that when Rachel had given birth to Joseph, Jacob immediately said to Laban. Send me away that I may go to my place and to my country. (**Genesis 30:25**)
- And he began driving all his herd and all the goods that he had accumulated, the herd of his acquisition that he had accumulated in Paddanaram, in order to go to Isaac his father to the land of Canaan. (**Genesis 31:18**)
- Rachel gave birth to **Benjamin**, her second son, while on the way from Bethel to Ephrath, Bethlehem, achieving the difficult childbirth at the cost of her life. While dying, she called this son *Ben-oni*, meaning **Son of My Mourning**, but her bereaved husband thereafter named him **Benjamin**, meaning, **Son of the Right Hand**.
- Then they pulled away from Bethel. And while there was yet a good stretch of land before coming to Ephrath, Rachel proceeded to give birth, and it was going hard with her in making the delivery. (**Genesis 35:16**)
- But so it was that while she had difficulty in making the delivery the midwife said to her, Do not be afraid, for you will have this son also. (**Genesis 35:17**)
- And the result was that as her soul was going out, because she died, she called his name **Benoni**, but his father called him **Benjamin**. (**Genesis 35:18**)
- Thus Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath, that is to say; Bethlehem. (**Genesis 35:19**)
- And as for me, when I was coming from Paddan, Rachel died

alongside me in the land of Canaan on the way while there was yet a good stretch of land before coming to Ephrath, so that I buried her there on the way to Ephrath, that is to say, Bethlehem. (**Genesis 48:7**)

- From the time of his birth until after his brother Joseph's being sold into slavery in Egypt, nothing further is told us about **Benjamin**. As Jacob's youngest son by his beloved wife Rachel
- So we said to my master; We do have an aged father and a child of his old age, the youngest. But his brother is dead so that he alone is left of his mother, and his father does love him. (**Genesis 44:20**)
- **Benjamin** was obviously the object of great affection by his father, particularly so now that Jacob assumed that Joseph was dead. Jacob was therefore extremely reluctant to let **Benjamin** go with his brothers to Egypt, doing so only after much persuasion.
- Then Jacob their father exclaimed to them; It is I you have bereaved! Joseph is no more and Simeon is no more, and **Benjamin** you **are going to take!** It is upon me that all these things have come! (**Genesis 42:36**)
- But Reuben said to his father; My own two sons you may put to death if I do not bring him back to you. Give him over to my care, and I shall be the one to return him to you. (**Genesis 42:37**)
- However, he said; My son will not go down with you men, because his brother is dead and he has been left by himself. If a fatal accident should befall him on the way on which you would go, then you would certainly bring down my gray hairs with grief to Sheol. (**Genesis 42:38**)
- Finally Judah said to Israel his father; Send the boy with me, that we may get up and go and that we may keep alive and not die off, both we and you and our little children. (**Genesis 43:8**)
- I shall be the one to be surety for him. Out of my hand you may exact the penalty for him. If I fail to bring him to you and present him to you, then I shall have sinned against you for all time. (**Genesis 43:9**)
- But if we had not lingered around, we should by now have been

there and back these two times. ([Genesis 43:10](#))

- So Israel their father said to them; If, then, that is the case, do this. Take the finest products of the land in your receptacles and carry them down to the man as a gift, a little balsam, and a little honey, labdanum and resinous bark, pistachio nuts and almonds. ([Genesis 43:11](#))
- Also, take double the money in your hand, and the money that was returned in the mouth of your bags you will take back in your hand. Maybe it was a mistake. ([Genesis 43:12](#))
- And take your brother and get up, return to the man. ([Genesis 43:13](#))
- And may God Almighty give you pity before the man, that he may certainly release to you your other brother and **Benjamin**. But I, in case I must be bereaved, I shall certainly be bereaved! ([Genesis 43:14](#))
- It should be noted that, although Judah at this time referred to **Benjamin** as a boy, **Benjamin** by now was a young man.
- Now these are the names of Israel's sons who came into Egypt, Jacob and his sons. Jacob's firstborn was Reuben. ([Genesis 46:8](#))
- And the sons of **Benjamin** were Bela and Becher and Ashbel, Gera and Naaman, Ehi and Rosh, Muppim and Huppim and Ard. ([Genesis 46:21](#))
- Presents **Benjamin** as the father of children at the time of Jacob's taking up residence in Egypt. Nevertheless, he was Jacob's beloved child of his old age, upon whom the elderly parent leaned in many more ways than one. ([Genesis 44:20-22,29-34](#)) Joseph also manifested deep affection for his younger brother.
- When he raised his eyes and saw **Benjamin** his brother, the son of his mother, he went on to say; Is this your brother, the youngest one of whom you have spoken to me? And he added, May God show you his favor, my son. ([Genesis 43:29](#))
- Joseph was now in a hurry, because his inward emotions were excited toward his brother, so that he looked for a place to weep and he went into an interior room and gave way to tears there.

**(Genesis 43:30)**

- After that he washed his face and went out and kept control of himself and said; Set on the meal. (**Genesis 43:31**)
- And he kept having portions carried from before him to them, but he would increase **Benjamin's** portion five times the size of the portions of all the others. So they continued banqueting and drinking with him to the full. (**Genesis 43:34**)
- The genealogy of **Benjamin's** descendants is presented in several places, some apparently more complete than others.
- And the sons of **Benjamin** were Bela and Becher and Ashbel, Gera and Naaman, Ehi and Rosh, Muppim and Huppim and Ard. (**Genesis 46:21**)
- This lists **ten persons** as **sons of Benjamin**, and the absence of the names of several of these in succeeding lists has led some to suggest that certain sons may have died at an early age or may not have fathered sons who produced family lines. There are evidently some variations in spelling of the names in these lists, Ehi, Ahiham, Aharah, and some of those listed at;
- And the sons of **Benjamin** were Bela and Becher and Ashbel, Gera and Naaman, Ehi and Rosh, Muppim and Huppim and Ard. (**Genesis 46:21**)
- May be merely descendants.
- The sons of **Benjamin** by their families were. Of Bela the family of the Belaites. Of Ashbel the family of the Ashbelites. Of Ahiham the family of the Ahihamites. (**Numbers 26:38**)
- Of Shephupham the family of the Shuphamites. Of Hupham the family of the Huphamites. (**Numbers 26:39**)
- The sons of Bela came to be Ard and Naaman. Of Ard the family of the Ardites. Of Naaman the family of the Naamites. (**Numbers 26:40**)
- The sons of **Benjamin** were Bela and Becher and Jediel, three. (**1 Chronicles 7:6**)

- As for **Benjamin**, he became father to Bela his firstborn, Ashbel the second and Aharah the third. (**1 Chronicles 8:1**)
- Objections have been raised to the possibility of **Benjamin's** having so many sons or even having grandsons by this time, yet it should be kept in mind that the reference to them as among the souls who came to Jacob into Egypt does not necessarily require that they had to be born before actual entry into the country. They may have come into Egypt by being born there during the 17 years of Jacob's residence in Egypt prior to his death, even as Joseph's two sons born there are listed among the souls of the house of Jacob who came into Egypt.
- All the souls who came to Jacob into Egypt were those who issued out of his upper thigh, aside from the wives of Jacob's sons. All the souls were sixty-six. (**Genesis 46:26**)
- And Joseph's sons who were born to him in Egypt were two souls. All the souls of the house of Jacob who came into Egypt were seventy. (**Genesis 46:27**)
- By the time of his father's death, **Benjamin** was apparently in his 40's and hence old enough to have grandchildren.
- The parental blessing pronounced upon **Benjamin** as one of the heads of the 12 tribes of Israel is considered below.
- **Benjamin** will keep on tearing like a wolf. In the morning he will eat the animal seized and at evening he will divide spoil. (**Genesis 49:27**)
- All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father spoke to them when he was blessing them. He blessed them each one according to his own blessing. (**Genesis 49:28**)