

### ~LEAH (305)

(Le'ah) [possibly related to an Akkadian word meaning, cow, or to an Arabic word meaning, wild cow]

- The older daughter of Laban, the grandnephew of Abraham. Laban was the brother of Rebekah, Jacob's mother, so **Leah** was Jacob's cousin.
- Now it came about after these things that the report got through to Abraham. Here Milcah herself has also borne sons to Nahor your brother. (**Genesis 22:20**)
- Uz his firstborn and Buz his brother and Kemuel the father of Aram. (**Genesis 22:21**)
- And Chesed and Hazo and Pildash and Jidlaph and Bethuel. (**Genesis 22:22**)
- And Bethuel became the father of Rebekah. These eight Milcah bore to Nahor the brother of Abraham. (**Genesis 22:23**)
- At that she said to him;
- At that she said to him; I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor. (**Genesis 24:24**)
- Now Rebekah had a brother and his name was Laban. So Laban went running to the man who was outside at the fountain. (**Genesis 24:29**)
- As it was, Laban had two daughters. The name of the older was Leah and the name of the younger Rachel. (**Genesis 29:16**)
- **Leah** was not as beautiful as her younger sister Rachel, it especially was noted that her eyes lacked luster, or were dull or weak.
- But the eyes of **Leah** had no luster, whereas Rachel had become beautiful in form and beautiful of countenance. (**Genesis 29:17**)
- In the case of Oriental women, bright or lustrous eyes especially are considered to be an evidence of beauty.

- Look! You are beautiful, O girl companion of mine. Look! You are beautiful. Your eyes are those of doves. (**Song of Solomon 1:15**)
- You have made my heart beat, O my sister, my bride, you have made my heart beat by one of your eyes, by one pendant of your necklace. (**Song of Solomon 4:9**)
- Your neck is like an ivory tower. Your eyes are like the pools in Heshbon, by the gate of Bath-rabbim. Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon, which is looking out toward Damascus. (**Song of Solomon 7:4**)
- **Leah** became Jacob's first wife because, at night, Laban deceived Jacob by giving him Leah as a wife instead of Rachel, whom Jacob loved. Jacob protested his being tricked, but Laban argued that it was not the custom of the place to give the younger daughter in marriage before the firstborn.
- **Leah** likely was veiled, in keeping with the ancient Oriental custom of heavily veiling a prospective bride, and this doubtless contributed to the success of the ruse.
- Jacob had served seven years with Rachel in mind, but for this work he received Leah. Rachel was granted to him after he celebrated a week of seven days with **Leah**, but Jacob had to work seven more years to pay for Rachel.
- And Jacob was in love with Rachel. So he said; I am willing to serve you seven years for Rachel your younger daughter. (**Genesis 29:18**)
- To this Laban said; It is better for me to give her to you than for me to give her to another man. Keep dwelling with me. (**Genesis 29:19**)
- And Jacob proceeded to serve seven years for Rachel, but in his eyes they proved to be like some few days because of his love for her. (**Genesis 29:20**)
- Then Jacob said to Laban; Give over my wife, because my days are up, and let me have relations with her. (**Genesis 29:21**)
- With that Laban gathered all the men of the place and made a

- feast. ([Genesis 29:22](#))
- But it turned out that during the evening he resorted to taking Leah his daughter and bringing her to him that he might have relations with her. ([Genesis 29:23](#))
  - Moreover, Laban gave to her Zilpah his maidservant, even to Leah his daughter, as a maidservant. ([Genesis 29:24](#))
  - So it followed in the morning that here it was Leah! Consequently he said to Laban; What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served with you? So why have you tricked me? ([Genesis 29:25](#))
  - To this Laban said; It is not customary to do this way in our place, to give the younger woman before the firstborn. ([Genesis 29:26](#))
  - Celebrate to the full the week of this woman. After that there shall be given to you also this other woman for the service that you can serve with me for seven years more. ([Genesis 29:27](#))
  - Accordingly Jacob did so and celebrated fully the week of this woman, after which he gave him Rachel his daughter as his wife. ([Genesis 29:28](#))
  - The account tells us that **Leah** was hated.
  - When Yehowah came to see that **Leah** was hated, he then opened her womb, but Rachel was barren. ([Genesis 29:31](#))
  - And she became pregnant again and brought a son to birth and then said; It is because Yehowah has listened, in that I was hated and so he gave me also this one. Hence she called his name Simeon. ([Genesis 29:33](#))
  - But it also recounts that, after he had finally got Rachel, Jacob expressed more love for Rachel than for **Leah**.
  - Then he had relations also with Rachel and also expressed more love for Rachel than for **Leah**, and he went serving with him for yet seven years more. ([Genesis 29:30](#))

· Undoubtedly Jacob did not hold malicious hatred for **Leah** but viewed Rachel more lovingly, as his favorite wife. He continued to care for Leah and to have relations with her. **Leah's** being hated, therefore, would merely mean that Jacob **loved her less than Rachel**.

### **See Also HATE**

· **Leah** became the mother of seven of Jacob's children, his six sons Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun and a daughter, Dinah.

· And **Leah** became pregnant and brought a son to birth and then called his name Reuben, for she said; It is because Yehowah has looked upon my wretchedness, in that now my husband will begin to love me. (**Genesis 29:32**)

· And she became pregnant again and brought a son to birth and then said; It is because Yehowah has listened, in that I was hated and so he gave me also this one. Hence she called his name Simeon. (**Genesis 29:33**)

· And she became pregnant yet again and brought a son to birth and then said; Now this time my husband will join himself to me, because I have borne him three sons. His name was therefore called Levi. (**Genesis 29:34**)

· And she became pregnant once more and brought a son to birth and then said; This time I shall laud Yehowah. She therefore called his name Judah. After that she left off giving birth. (**Genesis 29:35**)

· When Jacob was coming from the field in the evening, Leah went on out to meet him and then said; It is with me you are going to have relations, because I have hired you outright with my sons mandrakes. Accordingly he lay down with her that night. (**Genesis 30:16**)

· And God heard and answered Leah and she became pregnant and in time bore to Jacob a fifth son. (**Genesis 30:17**)

· Then Leah said; God has given me a hirelings wages, because I have given my maidservant to my husband. So she called his name Issachar. (**Genesis 30:18**)

- **And Leah became pregnant once more and in time bore a sixth son to Jacob. (Genesis 30:19)**
- **Then Leah said; God has endowed me, yes, me, with a good endowment. At last my husband will tolerate me, because I have borne him six sons. So she called his name Zebulun. (Genesis 30:20)**
- **And afterward she bore a daughter and then called her name Dinah. (Genesis 30:21)**
- **Accordingly, Leah is named at;**
- **At this all the people that were in the gate and the older men said; Witnesses! May Yehowah grant the wife who is coming into your house to be like Rachel and like Leah, both of whom built the house of Israel, and you prove your worth in Ephrathah and make a notable name in Bethlehem. (Ruth 4:11)**
- **Along with Rachel as one of those who built the house of Israel. Leah had the honor of having borne Levi, who became the founder of Israel's priestly tribe, and Judah, who became the father of the nations royal tribe.**
- **Leah and her children accompanied Jacob when he left Paddan-aram and returned to Canaan, the land of his birth.**
- **Then the angel of the true God said to me in the dream, Jacob! To which I said; Here I am. (Genesis 31:11)**
- **And he continued, Raise your eyes, please, and see all the he-goats springing upon the flock are striped, speckled and spotty, for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you. (Genesis 31:12)**
- **I am the true God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and where you vowed a vow to me. Now get up, go out of this land and return to the land of your birth. (Genesis 31:13)**
- **At this Rachel and Leah answered and said to him; Is there a share of inheritance for us anymore in the house of our father? (Genesis 31:14)**
- **Are we not really considered as foreigners to him since he has sold us, so that he keeps eating continually even from the money**

- given for us? (**Genesis 31:15**)
- For all the riches that God has taken away from our father are ours and our childrens. So now everything God has said to you do. (**Genesis 31:16**)
  - Then Jacob got up and lifted his children and his wives onto the camels. (**Genesis 31:17**)
  - 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**)
  - Before Jacob met Esau en route, he protectively divided off the children to **Leah** and to Rachel and their maidservants, putting the maidservants and their children foremost, followed by **Leah** and her children, with Rachel and Joseph to their rear.
  - In time Jacob raised his eyes and looked, and here Esau was coming and with him four hundred men. Consequently he divided off the children to **Leah** and to Rachel and to the two maidservants. (**Genesis 33:1**)
  - And he put the maidservants and their children foremost and **Leah** and her children after them and Rachel and Joseph to the rear of them. (**Genesis 33:2**)
  - And he himself passed on ahead of them and proceeded to bow down to the earth seven times until he got near to his brother. (**Genesis 33:3**)
  - And Esau went running to meet him, and he began to embrace him and fall upon his neck and kiss him, and they burst into tears. (**Genesis 33:4**)
  - Then he raised his eyes and saw the women and the children and said; Who are these with you? To which he said; The children with whom God has favored your servant. (**Genesis 33:5**)
  - At that the maidservants came forward, they and their children, and bowed down. (**Genesis 33:6**)
  - And **Leah** too came forward, and her children, and they bowed

down, and afterward Joseph came forward, and Rachel, and they bowed down. ([Genesis 33:7](#))

- **Leah's** children accompanied Jacob into Egypt, but the Bible account does not say that she did so.
- These are the sons of **Leah**, whom she bore to Jacob in Paddanaram, together with his daughter Dinah. All the souls of his sons and of his daughters were thirty-three. ([Genesis 46:15](#))
- The time, place, and circumstances of her death are not furnished, but she may have died in Canaan. Whatever the case, the patriarch had her body taken to the family burial place, the cave in the field of Machpelah.
- Jacob's instructions respecting his own remains show that it was his desire to be buried where Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, and Leah had been buried.
- After that he commanded them and said to them; I am being gathered to my people. Bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite. ([Genesis 49:29](#))
- In the cave that is in the field of Machpelah that is in front of Mamre in the land of Canaan, the field that Abraham purchased from Ephron the Hittite for the possession of a burial place. ([Genesis 49:30](#))
- There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife. There they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried **Leah**. ([Genesis 49:31](#))
- The field purchased and the cave that is in it were from the sons of Heth. ([Genesis 49:32](#))