

Leah's Inner Beauty

Genesis 29:16-18; 29:31-35

Leah did not share the physical attributes of her lovely sister Rachel (*Gen. 29:16-17*). Jacob chose beautiful Rachel over her older sister. Jacob, himself a deceiver, was tricked by Laban, and his veiled bride turned out to be Leah. Recovering from such a shock was not easy! It was not Jacob's first choice to have more than one wife, but he found himself in this arrangement by way of deception.

From the beginning, polygamy was never God's design, and it led to great difficulties. Rachel described her bitter relationship with Leah as a wrestling match (*Gen. 30:8*). Leah struggled throughout her marriage to win the love of her husband. In spite of the pain of unrequited love, Leah seemed to have a trust in the God of Jacob. She mentioned the LORD in her naming of five of her six sons. God especially heard Leah and blessed her on certain occasions (*Gen. 29:31; 30:18*).

Laban's household idols were stolen by Rachel, not Leah (*Gen. 31:32*). Six of Israel's twelve tribes came from Leah (and two more from her concubine), including Judah through whose line Christ came. Hence, Leah was a foremother of the Messiah. In naming Judah she said, "Now will I praise the LORD!" In Joseph's dream, the moon represented Leah, not Rachel (*Gen. 37:9-10; Rev. 12:1*).

When barren Rachel was finally given a son, instead of being content with God's gift and thanking God for her long-desired son, her main thought seemed to be: "God, You must give me another" (*Gen. 30:24*). Her prayer was answered as she gave birth, in sorrow on her deathbed (*Gen. 35:16-19*).

We are not told a lot about Leah and her trust in the LORD, but the little we know is positive. Her life was difficult, and her marriage was problematic, but the LORD was very mindful of her.

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org



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