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## Leah's Servant Zilpah Bore Jacob a Son and Leah Named Him Asher

### 30: 9-13

Leah's servant Zilpah bore Jacob a son and Leah Named him Asher DIG: How do you think the maidservants felt about all this? What do you think Jacob was feeling? Bliss? Sadness? Confusion? Does Ya'akov seem like the head of his household or a pawn in the hands of his two wives? Who is the decision maker here?

REFLECT: When have you competed in the wrong way? How can you escape such a vicious cycle? Has jealousy ever had a positive outcome for you? Is it healthy? What can you do instead? How can you ask the Lord to help you in that regard?



As if in competition, **Rachel** gave **Jacob** to **Bilhah**, her maidservant to sleep with so that **Bilhah** could bear children for her. Consequently, **Bilhah** bore two sons for **Rachel**. **Leah**, however, was not yet ready to accept defeat. Two could play at this game! When **Leah** saw that she had stopped having children, she took her maidservant **Zilpah** and legally gave her to **Ya'akov** as a wife (30:9). That **Jacob** was one busy guy. He now has four women on his hands. Gentlemen, let me state the obvious. We were only

created to love one.

**Leah's servant Zilpah bore Ya'akov a son (30:10). Then Leah said: What good fortune!** In Hebrew that is *bagad*, or *literally with fortune*. **So she named him Gad**, meaning *good fortune or fortune has come* (30:11). The name **Gad** was associated with a pagan god of luck. But **Leah**, no doubt, used the word as merely an expression of **her** good fortune, in the form of a fifth **son**.<sup>481</sup> It was like calling **him** "Lucky." It seems that **Leah** did not think of **God** in connection with **the birth** of this **son**, or **her** next one.

**Leah's servant Zilpah bore Jacob a second son (30:12). Then Leah** had a sixth **son** and said: **How happy I am!** In Hebrew it is *beashri*, *literally with my happiness*. **The women will call me happy** or *ishruni*, *from the same root*. **So she named him Asher**, meaning *happy* (30:13). All **women** will **call Leah happy** because of **the child Asher** whom **she bears**, but all generations will call **Mary** blessed because of **the Child she** will bear, a **Child** who will bring salvation to all the nations (**Luke 1:50** and **55**). But for now, **Leah**, who had not been worthy of marriage for so long, now had six **sons**. **She** was overjoyed.

Keeping score, these two **sons** are **Jacob's** seventh and eighth children, *four* mothered by **Leah: Reuben, Simeon, Levi** and **Judah**; *two* by **Rachel's** maidservant **Bilhah: Dan** and **Naphtali**; and *two more* by **Leah's** maidservant **Zilpah: Gad** and **Asher**. Advantage **Leah**.