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Jacob Had Twelve Sons
35: 22b-26

With the addition of **Benjamin**, the family was complete and **Jacob had twelve sons (35:22b).** The names do not appear in order of birth, but according to **their** respective **mothers**. The children of **Leah** and **Rachel** come first, and then the children of **Bilhah** and **Zilpah**. **His twelve sons** were another assurance that **God** is faithful and **His** promises are true. These **sons** are the firstfruits of **the twelve** tribes of Isra'el that would become a great nation, and Moses, the compiler of eleven family documents, thought it was appropriate to provide an accurate summary here.

Leah's six **sons** were listed first. **Reuben** was **the firstborn of Jacob, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar** and **Zebulun (35:23). The** two **sons of Rachel** were **Joseph** and **Benjamin (35:24).** Then afterwards, the maidservants are mentioned. **The** two **sons of Rachel's maidservant Bilhah** were **Dan** and **Naphtali (35:25). The** two **sons of Leah's maidservant Zilpah** were **Gad** and **Asher. These were the sons of Ya'akov, who were born to him in Paddan Aram** with the exception of **Benjamin (35:26).**

Jacob had left **his** father's house with no other possession than a staff, and now **he** returned, and once **Benjamin** was born, **he** would have **twelve sons** that would become **the twelve** tribes of Isra'el. **God** had been faithful and blessed **him** greatly.