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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pastor Joe's Email is joe@southreno.com.  
You can locate this passage in your Chair Bible on Page 21 (in the OT Section).

## A. Meet Leah

1. Leah, in Hebrew, לֵאָה, means *tired* or *weary*.
2. Her father was Laban.
3. Her younger sister, who was very beautiful, was Rachel.
4. Laban tricked Jacob into marrying Leah.
5. Jacob loved Rachel but not Leah.
6. Jacob ends up marrying both of them.
7. Jacob's two wives spent their lives competing for his affection.
8. In that culture, childbearing was a big deal.
9. Leah had six sons—who became leaders of six tribes of Israel.
10. Rachel eventually had two sons by birth and four by surrogacy.
11. Jacob was the son of Isaac and Rebekah.
12. Jacob was also the grandson of Abraham and Sarah.

The first person in Scripture described as “seen by God” is not a king, a prophet, or a hero—it is Leah, the rejected wife. Leah began naming her children out of pain, but she ended in praise—“This time I will praise the Lord.” Leah's tears were not wasted; they were counted by the God who bends toward the brokenhearted. Rachel had fading beauty, but Leah had lasting destiny. Rachel was loved by Jacob, but Leah was loved and chosen by God.

– Dr. Walter Brueggemann (an OT Scholar)

## B. Leah, the Woman “Seen by God”

### 1. Leah's Reality

**Genesis 29:31, NASB95** -<sup>31</sup> Now the LORD saw that Leah was unloved, and He opened her womb, but Rachel was barren.

**Genesis 29:31, NLT** -<sup>31</sup> When the LORD saw that Leah was unloved, he enabled her to have children, but Rachel could not conceive.

**Jacob never chose her • Her father used her  
Her sister overshadowed her • God saw what others missed**

### 2. Leah's Revelation

**Genesis 29:32–35, NASB95** -<sup>32</sup> Leah conceived and bore a son and named him Reuben, for she said, “Because the LORD has seen my affliction; surely now my husband will love me.”<sup>33</sup> Then she conceived again and bore a son and said, “Because the LORD has heard that I am unloved, He has therefore given me this *son* also.” So she named him Simeon.<sup>34</sup> She conceived again and bore a son and said, “Now this time my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons.” Therefore he was named Levi.<sup>35</sup> And she conceived again and bore a son and said, “This time I will praise the LORD.” Therefore she named him Judah. Then she stopped bearing.

**She named each child out of pain, then came the turning point  
She stopped striving • She worshipped • She rested**

### 3. Leah's Reward

In Genesis 49:29-32, Leah was buried with her parents and grandparents—not Rachel.

In Ruth 4:11, Leah is remembered as the mother of Israel.

In the OT, Leah was the mother of six of the 12 tribes of Israel.

In Exodus 6:16-19, the Levites came from her son, Levi.

In Matthew 1:2-3, the Messiah came from her son, Judah.

## C. Lessons from Leah's Life

1. **Unfading beauty is not on the outside.**
2. **Comparison is a trap.**
3. **Jealousy blinds us to God's blessings.**
4. **You are seen by God also.**
5. **God is enough.**