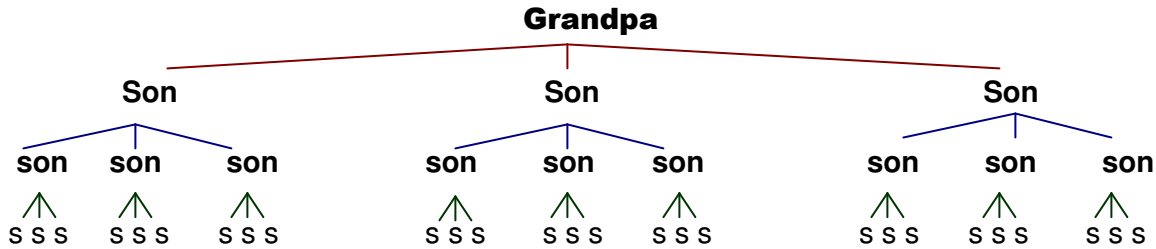


## IF - THEN?? ~ Genesis 29:31- 30:24

→ Scripture Reading 1 Timothy 6:6-10

### INTRODUCTION



### UNLOVED LEAH HAS FOUR SONS ~ Genesis 29:31-35

[31] When the LORD saw that Leah was not loved, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren. [32] Leah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Reuben, for she said, "It is because the LORD has seen my misery. Surely my husband will love me now." [33] She conceived again, and when she gave birth to a son she said, "Because the LORD heard that I am not loved, he gave me this one too." So she named him Simeon. [34] Again she conceived, and when she gave birth to a son she said, "Now at last my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons." So he was named Levi. [35] She conceived again, and when she gave birth to a son she said, "This time I will praise the LORD." So she named him Judah. Then she stopped having children.

### FOUR SONS through SLAVE WIVES ~ Genesis 30:1-13

[30:1] When Rachel saw that she was not bearing Jacob any children, she became jealous of her sister. So she said to Jacob, "Give me children, or I'll die!" [2] Jacob became angry with her and said, "Am I in the place of God, who has kept you from having children?"

**Two DESPERATE women - one desperate for LOVE and the other desperate for CHILDREN.** Hughes

[3] Then she said, "Here is Bilhah, my maidservant. Sleep with her so that she can bear children for me and that through her I too can build a family." [4] So she gave him her servant Bilhah as a wife. Jacob slept with her, [5] and she became pregnant and bore him a son. [6] Then Rachel said, "God has vindicated me; he has listened to my plea and given me a son." Because of this she named him Dan. [7] Rachel's servant Bilhah conceived again and bore Jacob a second son. [8] Then Rachel said, "I have had a great struggle with my sister, and I have won." So she named him Naphtali. [9] When Leah saw that she had stopped having children, she took her maidservant Zilpah and gave her to Jacob as a wife. [10] Leah's servant Zilpah bore Jacob a son. [11] Then Leah said, "What good fortune!" So she named him Gad. [12] Leah's servant Zilpah bore Jacob a second son. [13] Then Leah said, "How happy I am! The women will call me happy." So she named him Asher.

### NEGOTIATING FOR A NIGHT WITH ISAAC ~ Genesis 30:14-21 (3 more children for Leah)

[14] During wheat harvest, Reuben went out into the fields and found some mandrake plants, which he brought to his mother Leah. Rachel said to Leah, "Please give me some of your son's mandrakes." [15] But she said to her, "Wasn't it enough that you took away my husband? Will you take my son's mandrakes too?" "Very well," Rachel said, "he can sleep with you tonight in return for your son's mandrakes." [16] So when Jacob came in from the fields that evening, Leah went out to meet him. "You must sleep with me," she said. "I have hired you with my son's mandrakes." So he slept with her that night. [17] God listened to Leah, and she became pregnant and bore Jacob a fifth son. [18] Then Leah said, "God has rewarded me for giving my maidservant to my husband." So she named him Issachar. [19] Leah conceived again and bore Jacob a sixth son. [20] Then Leah said, "God has presented me with a precious gift. This time my husband will treat me with honor, because I have borne him six sons." So she named him Zebulun. [21] Some time later she gave birth to a daughter and named her Dinah.

### GOD GIVES RACHEL A SON ~ Genesis 30:22-24 (son #11 is born)

[22] Then God remembered Rachel; he LISTENED to her and opened her womb. [23] She became pregnant and gave birth to a son and said, "God has taken away my disgrace." [24] She named him JOSEPH, and said, "May the LORD add to me another son."

## APPLICATION

**1 Timothy 6:6-9** (ESV) Now there is GREAT GAIN in **godliness with CONTENTMENT**, [7] for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. [8] But **IF** we have food and clothing, with these **WE WILL BE CONTENT**. [9] But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and HARMFUL DESIRES that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

**Philippians 4:11-13** (NIV) ...**I have learned to be CONTENT whatever the circumstances**. [12] I know what it is to be in NEED, and I know what it is to have PLENTY. I have **learned the secret of being CONTENT** in any and EVERY SITUATION, whether **WELL FED** or **HUNGRY**, whether living **IN PLENTY** or **in want**.

[13] I can do EVERYTHING **through him** who gives me strength.

## APPLICATION

This is the story of the triumph of God's power over human sinfulness. It is into this most bitterly divided family that the forefathers of the twelve tribes were born. Fathered by a lying trickster and mothered by sharp-tongued shrews, the patriarchs grew up to be LESS than perfect themselves. Yet through them the promises of Abraham took a great step toward their fulfillment, showing it is divine grace not human merit that give mankind HOPE of Salvation. Wenham

## TAKE AWAY ??

**Psalm 73:25** (NLT) Whom have I in heaven but you? I desire you more than anything on earth.

**Psalm 73:25** (NET) Whom do I have in heaven but you? I desire no one but you on earth.