

The Sons of Jacob

MOTHER	SON	MEANING of NAME	REFERENCE
LEAH	Reuben	“see, a son”	“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.’” • Genesis 29:32
	Simeon	“one who hears”	“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.” • Genesis 29:33
	Levi	“be joined to”	“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.” • Genesis 29:34
	Judah	“praise Yahweh”	“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.” • Genesis 29:35
BILHAH <i>The maidservant of Rachel (Gen. 29:29)</i>	Dan	“judge, vindicate”	“So she gave him her servant Bilhah as a wife. Jacob slept with her, and she became pregnant and bore him a son. 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.” • Genesis 30:4-6
	Naphtali	“wrestler” or “I have fought well”	“Rachel’s servant Bilhah conceived again and bore Jacob a second son. Then Rachel said, ‘I have had a great struggle with my sister, and I have won.’ So she named him Naphtali.” • Genesis 30:7-8
ZILPAH <i>The maidservant of Leah (Gen. 29:24)</i>	Gad	“good fortune”	“Leah’s servant Zilpah bore Jacob a son. Then Leah said, ‘ What good fortune! ’ So she named him Gad.” • Genesis 30:10-11
	Asher	“happy”	“Leah’s servant Zilpah bore Jacob a second son. Then Leah said, ‘ How happy I am! The women will call me happy.’ So she named him Asher.” • Genesis 30:12-13
LEAH	Issachar	“man for hire”	“God listened to Leah, and she became pregnant and bore Jacob a fifth son. Then Leah said, ‘God has rewarded me for giving my maidservant to my husband.’ So she named him Issachar.” • Genesis 30:17-18
	Zebulun	“elevated dwelling”	“Leah conceived again and bore Jacob a sixth son. 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.” • Genesis 30:19-20
RACHEL	Joseph	“add”	“She became pregnant and gave birth to a son and said, ‘God has taken away my disgrace.’ She named him Joseph, and said, ‘May the Lord add to me another son.’” • Genesis 30:23-24
	Benjamin	“son of the right hand” or “son of the south”	“And as she was having great difficulty in childbirth, the midwife said to her, ‘Don’t be afraid, for you have another son.’ As she breathed her last—for she was dying—she named her son Ben-Oni [“son of my sorrow”]. But his father named him Benjamin .” • Genesis 35:17-18