

# 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.