

Rachel

Matriarchs and Mothers · Women of the Bible

Jacob's beloved wife, for whom he labored fourteen years, Rachel endured barrenness before bearing Joseph and Benjamin. Her death in childbirth brought sorrow, yet her sons became pivotal to Israel's history.

Note: Jeremiah's prophecy of 'Rachel weeping for her children' (Jeremiah 31:15) found fulfillment in Herod's slaughter of Bethlehem's infants (Matthew 2:18). Rachel's tomb near Bethlehem made her an apt symbol of maternal grief over Israel's suffering.

Key Verses

Genesis 29:17

Leah was tender eyed; but Rachel was beautiful and well favoured.

Genesis 29:20

And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her.

Genesis 30:22

And God remembered Rachel, and God hearkened to her, and opened her womb.

Genesis 35:19

And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem.

Jeremiah 31:15

Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not.