

A circular illustration showing a diverse group of people, including men, women, and children, in various poses and expressions. The style is simple and cartoonish, with a warm color palette of oranges, yellows, and browns. The people are depicted in a way that suggests a large gathering or a community.

# Jacob Father of the 12 Tribes

Reader from  
Genesis 29:13,15-20,23-29,31-  
35, 30:1-13,17-24,35:16-18

By Felicia Mollohan

1  
So when La-ban heard  
the news of Ja-cob his  
sis-ter's son, he ran to  
meet him, and  
em-braced him and  
kissed him and brought  
him to his house. Then he  
re-lat-ed to La-ban all  
these things. Then  
La-ban said to Ja-cob,  
"Be-cause you are my  
rel-a-tive, should you  
there-fore serve me for  
noth-ing? Tell me, what  
shall your wag-es be?"

<sup>2</sup> Now La-ban had two daughters; the name of the old-er was Le-ah, and the name of the young-er was Ra-chel. And Le-ah's eyes were weak, but Ra-chel was bea-u-ti-ful of form and face. Now Ja-cob loved Ra-chel, so he said, "I will serve you sev-en years for your young-er daugh-ter Ra-chel."

La-ban said, "It is bet-ter<sup>3</sup> that I give her to you than to give her to a-noth-er man; stay with me." So Ja-cob served sev-en years for Ra-chel and they seemed to him but a few days be-cause of his love for her.

<sup>4</sup> Now in the e-ven-ing he  
took his daugh-ter Le-ah,  
and brought her to him.  
La-ban also gave his maid  
Zil-pah to his daugh-ter  
Le-ah as a maid. So it  
came about in the  
morn-ing that, be-hold, it  
was Le-ah!

And he said to La-ban, <sup>5</sup>  
"What is this you have  
done to me? Was it not  
for Ra-chel that I served  
with you? Why then have  
you de-ceived me?" But  
La-ban said, "It is not the  
prac-tice in our place to  
mar-ry off the young-er  
be-fore the first-born.

6 Com-plete the week of  
this one, and we will give  
you the oth-er al-so for  
the ser-vice which you  
shall serve with me for  
a-noth-er sev-en years.”

Ja-cob did so and 7  
com-plet-ed her week,  
and he gave him his  
daugh-ter Ra-chel as his  
wife. La-ban al-so gave  
his maid Bil-hah to his  
daugh-ter Ra-chel as her  
maid.

<sup>8</sup> Now the Lord saw that  
Le-ah was un-loved, and  
He o-pen-ed her womb,  
but Ra-chel was bar-ren.  
Le-ah con-ceived and  
bore a son and named him  
Reu-ben. Then she  
con-ceived a-gain and  
bore a son and she named  
him Simeon.

She con-ceived a-gain and<sup>9</sup>  
bore a son and he was  
named Le-vi. And she  
con-ceived a-gain and  
bore a son and - she  
named him Ju-dah. Then  
she stopped bear-ing.

<sup>10</sup> Now when Ra-chel saw that she bore Ja-cob no child-ren, she be-came jeal-ous of her sis-ter; and she said to Ja-cob, "Give me child-ren, or else I die." She said, "Here is my maid Bil-hah." So she gave him her maid Bil-hah as a wife. Bil-hah con-ceived and bore Ja-cob a son.

Then Ra-chel said, "God <sup>11</sup> has vin-di-ca-ted me, and has in-deed heard my voice and has giv-en me a son." There-fore she named him Dan. Ra-chel's maid Bil-hah con-ceived a-gain and bore Ja-cob a sec-ond son. So Ra-chel said, "With might-y wrest-lings I have wrest-led with my sis-ter, *and* I have in-deed pre-vailed." And she named him Naph-tal-i.

<sup>12</sup> When Le-ah saw that she had stopped bear-ing, she took her maid Zil-pah and gave her to Ja-cob as a wife. Le-ah's maid Zil-pah bore Ja-cob a son. Then Le-ah said, "How for-tun-ate!" So she named him Gad. Le-ah's maid Zil-pah bore Ja-cob a se-cond son. Then Le-ah said, "Hap-py am I! For wo-men will call me hap-py." So she named him Ash-er.

God gave heed to Le-ah,<sup>13</sup> and she con-ceived and bore Ja-cob a fifth son. She named him Is-sa-char. Leah con-ceived a-gain and bore a sixth son to Ja-cob. She named him Zeb-u-lun. Af-ter-ward she bore a daugh-ter and named her Di-nah.

<sup>14</sup> Then God re-mem-bered Ra-chel, and God gave heed to her and o-pened her womb. So she con-ceived and bore a son and said, "God has tak-en a-way my re-proach." She named him Jo-seph, say-ing, "May the Lord give me a-noth-er son."

Then they jour-neyed from Beth-el and Ra-chel be-gan <sup>15</sup> to give birth and she suf-fered sev-ere la-bor. When she was in sev-ere la-bor the mid-wife said to her, "Do not fear, for now you have a-noth-er son." It came a-bout as her soul was de-part-ing (for she died), that she named him Ben-on-i; but his fath-er called him Ben-jam-in.