



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Genesis 28:10-32:2
- Deuteronomy 17:16-17
- I Kings 10-15
- II Kings 17, 25
- Ephesians 2:11-13
- Ezekiel 37:15-22
- Romans 11:11-24; 8:18-19
- Philippians 3:4-6; 2:1-2
- Matthew 12:22-30
- John 17:20-23
- Ephesians 4:1-6
- I Corinthians 2:16
- II Peter 1:2-4
- Exodus 32:25-26
- I Kings 18:20-21
- II Corinthians 6:11-18; 7:1
- Psalms 10:1-4

A NATION DIVIDED

- Birth Wars
- Spouse and Sibling Rivalry
- Wives and Maidservants
- Sons and Birth Order
- King Solomon
- The Dispersion
- Who are the Jews?
- The Great Re-Union
- Rachel's Sons-no coincidence
- Mother's, Tribes, & Kingdoms
- Kingdoms Divided
- Two Kingdoms; Two Exiles
- A House Divided
- Divided Kingdoms
- Unity
- One Mind
- Divine Nature

Each week as I explore the portion of scripture we will be studying, I wait on the Lord to highlight something to me. Sometimes it's something big right there in the text; and sometimes it's an idea that just jumps off the pages. You know, the Word of God is living, and powerful, and sharper than a two edged sword, and it pierces us right down to the core. This week I saw the great controversy that emerged when Jacob fell in love with Rachel, but was forced to marry Leah first. "That's how we do things around here," Laban insisted.

This launched Jacob into the midst of a baby war. What jumped off the pages was that Leah birthed the line that became the priesthood and the Messiah, and Rachel birthed the line of Joseph who saved Israel from extinction and seems to be the representation of the Church. History has recorded the great schism as Israel became a divided nation after King Solomon's death, and later both kingdoms were exiled for disobedience! Benjamin, Rachel's second son and Jacob's twelfth, became the only tribe to land in both kingdoms during the exiles! And Paul, the Jewish Apostle to the Gentiles, was from the line of Benjamin. Wow! Jews and Gentiles uniting as "One New Man!" Y'shua taught us that a kingdom divided cannot stand, so today, as we live in a divided nation, never before has unity of the faith been more crucial.

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE

“So it came to pass in the morning, that behold, **it was Leah**. And he said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served you? **Why then have you deceived me?**””

Genesis 29:25 NKJV

OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE

“But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: “**Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation**, and every city or **house divided against itself will not stand.**” Matthew 12:25 NKJV

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. Now it is Jacob's turn to get moving. This portion is named for the words in Genesis 28:10, “*And Jacob went out from Beersheba.*” The area we will study this week records the story of Jacob's flight from his brother Esau, his stairway vision at Bethel, how he lands in the employment of his uncle Laban (his mother Rebekah's brother), and his eventual marriage to two sisters (Laban's daughters), Leah (the firstborn) and Rachel. Jacob's double marriage results in the sisters' race to bear Jacob sons, initially giving him eleven, including those that are born from their maidservants. Rachel later bears Benjamin, Jacob's

twelfth son. At the end of the portion, Jacob leaves Laban and returns to the land of Canaan, but not before Laban tries to stop him.

2. **Jacob's Ladder:** This portion contains Jacob's famous vision at Luz which he then renames Bethel.
3. He dreams of a ladder from heaven reaching the earth, with Angels (messengers) going back and forth between heaven and earth.
 - a) I find it interesting to note that when you see any reference to angels in the Old Testament, as we see in Genesis 28:12, the word in Hebrew (malakê) means messenger or representative.
 - b) You may also find it interesting, as well, that the book of Malachi is often thought to be written by the prophet Malachi, as if it is his name. And although that could be true, it is really just saying, *"The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by **Malachi**."* (Malachi 1:1) In Hebrew it says, *The burden of the word of Yahweh to Israel by malākî [my messenger]."*
4. Jacob sees Yahweh standing above the ladder and hears the confirmation of the promises made to his grandfather Abraham. "The land you are on right now will be yours and your descendants, and they will be too numerous to count, and

through them the earth will be blessed.” Plus, “I will always be with you and protect you until all I have promised comes to pass.”

5. Jacob awakes and knows that Yahweh is in this awesome place; he declares, “This can be none other than the ‘house of God [Bethel]!’”
6. Jacob pledges a tenth of all his prosperity if Yahweh will protect and provide for him on his journey to where he going and then on his return to the land of promise.
7. Jacob meets Rachel and kisses her. A bold move!
 - a) Jacob comes upon the well in the land to which he is traveling and he sees three flocks of sheep waiting to be watered. The shepherds explain to him how the well operates, and how they must roll a great stone out of the way before they water the sheep.
 - b) It is the hottest part of the day and the cattle will not gather until later to be watered, so it is time to get the sheep in one place to water them.
 - c) Jacob inquires of these shepherds if they know Laban and if he is well. They affirm both, and behold, in that moment, they point out Laban’s daughter Rachel as she approaches. A woman who approaches a well will eventually be Jacob’s wife? Wow! As you may remember, a similar thing happened

when Abraham's servant was approaching a well on his quest to find Isaac's wife, when he first met Rebekah.

- d) Jacob rolls the stone away for Rachel and waters her dad's sheep, a prophetic foreshadowing of what he is about to do!
 - e) At this point he boldly kisses Rachel, as he reveals that he is her first cousin, the son of Rebekah, her father's sister.
8. Rachel runs to tell her father Laban that Jacob is his sister Rebekah's son and Laban rejoices, and he kisses Jacob when they meet. Rebekah did a similar thing when she ran back to report to her family what happened when she met Abraham's servant. Laban has seen a miracle like this before! Back then it was his sister who finds her husband; now it is his daughter who finds her husband. It just so happens that his daughter's husband-to-be is the fruit of the union of his sister's marriage, the one he instantly approved of back then. Wow!
9. Laban makes a prophetic statement to Jacob, after Rachel's testimony, that is of biblical proportions, affirming Rachel as his wife; *"And Laban said to him, ***'Surely you are my bone and my flesh.'***" And ***he stayed with him for a month.***"* Genesis 29:14 NKJV
- a) **Remember Adam said that when he married Eve:** *"***'And Adam said: ***'This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh;*** She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out****

*of Man.” Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and **be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.**”*

Genesis 2:23-24 NKJV

10. **Flashback:** Look what happened when Rebekah ran back to report to her brother Laban what occurred with Abraham’s servant at the well, and then what Laban says when the servant tells him what happened!

- a) **Rebekah to Laban:** *“Now Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban, and Laban ran out to the man by the well. So it came to pass, when he saw the nose ring, and the bracelets on his sister’s wrists, and **when he heard the words of his sister Rebekah,** saying, “Thus the man spoke to me,” that he went to the man. And there he stood by the camels at the well. And he said, “**Come in, O blessed of the LORD! Why do you stand outside? For I have prepared the house, and a place for the camels.**””* Genesis 24:29-31 NKJV
- b) **The Servant to Laban:** *“Then **Laban and Bethuel answered** and said, “**The thing comes from the LORD;** we cannot speak to you either bad or good. Here is Rebekah before you; **take her and go, and let her be your master’s son’s wife, as the LORD has spoken.**””* Genesis 24:50-51 NKJV

11. Laban is so overjoyed at Rachel's testimony that he offers Jacob employment. He asks Jacob what he would like in return, as he sees that his nephew should not work for free.
12. Jacob looks at Laban's daughters and sees delicate Leah and beautiful Rachel and he knows he is already in love with Rachel. Jacob offers to work seven years for Rachel to become his wife.
13. Laban agrees, as he sees marrying Rachel to a man in the family is better than giving her to another man.
14. But...when seven years are fulfilled Laban tricks Jacob and sends Leah into his marriage chambers (one might ask: "How could Jacob not know?")
 - a) *"So it came to pass in the morning, that behold, it was Leah. And he said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served you? **Why then have you deceived me?**"*" Genesis 29:25 NKJV
 - b) One might see this as the fruit of Jacob's past actions, as he was complicit with his mother Rebekah (Laban's sister) in the **deceptive plot** to steal his brother Esau's blessing. (See [The Impetuous Seed](#))
15. Laban explains to Jacob that in his land it is simply not done that the younger daughter would be given in marriage before

her older sister. Jacob marries Leah and then works another seven years for Rachel! That is commitment!

16. After seven more years he also marries Rachel. Both daughters come with maidservants, Leah has Zilpah and Rachel has Bilhah. These maidservants play prominent roles as they too will bear sons to Jacob, sons who will eventually become the tribes of Israel!

a) See the birth chart on the last page of last year's notes on this Torah Portion: [Still Chasing Idols](#)

17. Jacob agrees to an additional seven years of service for Laban (total 21 years), during which time he prospers and Leah bears his first four sons: Reuben, Simeon, **Levi**, and **Judah**.

18. Rachel is barren up to this point and she is distraught. Jacob is not happy with her as he claims, "It's not my fault." Rachel's solution is to offer her maidservant Bilhah to bear children for her. Bilhah gives Jacob Dan and Naphtali (sons five and six).

19. Since Leah had stopped bearing sons after Judah (#4), she then offers her maidservant Zilpah who gives Jacob sons seven and eight, Gad and Asher.

20. Rueben (Leah's firstborn) then comes in from the field with mandrakes—an ancient plant known for its potential to promote fertility. Rachel wants some, but Leah is like, "You already took my husband, now you want my mandrakes too?"

Rachel promises Leah that she would encourage Jacob to lie with her that evening if she shared her mandrakes. That is exactly what happens and Jacob's ninth son, Issachar comes from it, and then later Yahweh gives Leah her sixth son, Jacob's tenth, Zebulun. Leah does have a daughter Dinah following Zebulun, but as a female she does not figure in the birth order.

21. Then God opens Rachel's womb, as she bears Joseph, Jacob's eleventh son, whom Jacob will ultimately consider like his firstborn, as Joseph IS THE FIRSTBORN of his true love Rachel. Number twelve, Benjamin, will not show up until much later.

22. At the end of the portion, Jacob agrees to leave Laban.

a) *"Give me my wives and my children for whom I have served you, and let me go; for you know my service which I have done for you."* Genesis 30:26 NKJV

23. Laban wants him to stay admitting that he has been abundantly blessed because of Jacob. Name your price and stay he offers:

a) *"And Laban said to him, 'Please stay, if I have found favor in your eyes, for I have learned by experience that the LORD has blessed me for your sake.' Then he said, 'Name me your wages, and I will give it.'"* Genesis 30:27-28 NKJV

24. Jacob says, "We all acknowledge that in my service to you Laban, you have prospered greatly, but you don't have to 'give' me anything." Instead, he asks if he may separate the flock and

take only the spotted and speckled sheep with him, to which Laban is happy to agree. However, Laban then cheats Jacob a second time; the first was the Leah and Rachel swap.

(Remember, we are dealing with a pagan here!) Laban quickly extracts all the marked sheep and gives them to his own sons who take the flocks three-days' journey away from Jacob, so there are none left for him.

25. Jacob sees what Laban has done and is blessed anyway, as Yahweh shows him a way to cause all the strongest sheep to give birth to spotted and speckled offspring.

a) *“Thus the man became exceedingly prosperous, and had large flocks, female and male servants, and camels and donkeys.”* Genesis 30:43 NKJV

26. Laban reports to his wives the testimony of what has just taken place and how Yahweh's hand is over his great prosperity. Laban's daughters are happy to leave their father with Jacob's abundance, as they see it as their rightful inheritance.

27. Jacob sets out to return to the land of Canaan so prosperous that Laban tries to stop him. (How similar this is to Israel leaving Egypt later on in history?)

28. Before they leave, Rachel snatches Laban's household idols to take with her. **This is a Key Prophetic Moment!** I again refer to the teaching which elaborates on this topic: [Still Chasing Idols](#)

a) *“Now Laban had gone to shear his sheep, and Rachel had stolen the household idols that were her father’s.”* Genesis 31:19 NKJV

29. The missing idols infuriate Laban as he pursues Jacob. **Whoever took them will surly die!**

30. Of course, Jacob does not know Rachel stole them and he agrees to that consequence. Laban cannot find anything from his own household among Jacob’s belongings, because Rachel is sitting on them in her tent when her father comes in to search. She apologizes for not being able to “rise to greet her father,” as she tells him she is in her monthly flow. Laban moves on, never suspecting her.

31. Jacob then recounts with Laban his twenty years of faithful service and all the prosperity Laban has enjoyed because of him, and in the end Jacob makes a covenant of peace with Laban.

32. Laban sets up a pillar of stone as a witness to delineate their lands, and the next morning blesses them and departs. Jacob then continues his journey!

BIRTH WARS

1. Spouse and Sibling Rivalry

A. Wives and Maidservants; Sons and Birth Order

- (1) Leah—Laban's firstborn daughter and Jacob's first wife
 - (a) Reuben #1
 - (b) Simeon #2
 - (c) **Levi #3** (the Priesthood comes from this line.)
 - (d) **Judah #4** (the Messiah comes from the line.)
 - (e) Issachar #9 (After the Mandrakes)
 - (f) Zebulun #10
 - (g) Dinah (A girl comes after #10 but does not figure in birth order.)
- (2) Bilhah—Rachel's Maidservant
 - (a) Dan #5
 - (b) Naphtali #6
- (3) Zilpah—Leah's Maidservant
 - (a) Gad #7
 - (b) Asher #8
- (4) Rachel—Laban's second daughter; Jacob's second and favorite wife!
 - (a) **Joseph #11** (THE FIRSTBORN of Jacob's true love—
Prophetically—the Gentile converts to the faith come from this line.)

(b) **Benjamin #12** (Comes much later, not in this narrative, but carries deep prophetic significance.)

1. Rachel Died Giving birth to her 12th son (see Genesis 35:16-22): “And so it was, as her soul was departing (for she died), that she called his name Ben-Oni; but his father called him Benjamin.”

Genesis 35:18 NKJV

B. Prophetic Implications

- (1) Jacob must marry Leah first as she is the oldest daughter and agrees to an additional seven years of service for Laban (total 21 years) in order to obtain his true love Rachel. During that time he prospers and Leah bears his first four sons: Reuben, Simeon, **Levi**, and **Judah**.

- (a) **Prophetic Timeout:** Leah is Laban’s firstborn daughter and Jacob’s first wife. And it is through this union that we have the tribes of **Levi and Judah**. The priesthood, the “Jews”, and the Messiah all descend from these lines. Rachel, who Jacob loved more (Genesis 29:30) is Laban’s second born daughter and she eventually bears Jacob’s eleventh son Joseph from whom come Manasseh and Ephraim, those whom Jacob placed in the firstborn role. Rachel also gives Jacob his twelfth son Benjamin. These four sons, Levi and Judah from Leah,

and Joseph and Benjamin from Rachel, all play vital roles in the great Assyrian and Babylonian exiles that will come in the future! The separation of Israel into two kingdoms, and later the great exiles and dispersion of the twelve tribes into other nations, happen first because Israel becomes a divided kingdom due to King Solomon's sin. The captivity to foreign nations is sealed because of their continued disobedience to Yahweh's commands. The Kingdom of Israel is exiled to the Assyrians in the north, and the Kingdom of Judah is exiled to the Babylonians in the south.

(2) King Solomon: the cause of division

(a) **Line:** Judah—... David—Solomon

(b) **The Command:** "But **he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses**, for the LORD has said to you, 'You shall not return that way again.' **Neither shall he multiply wives for himself**, lest his heart turn away; **nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself.**"

Deuteronomy 17:16-17 NKJV

(3) **What did Solomon do? He multiplied silver, horses, and wives FOR HIMSELF!**

- (a) **Silver and Horses from Egypt:** *“And Solomon gathered **chariots and horsemen**; he had one thousand four hundred chariots and twelve thousand horsemen, whom he stationed in the chariot cities and with the king at Jerusalem. **The king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stones**, and he made cedar trees as abundant as the sycamores which are in the lowland. **Also Solomon had horses imported from Egypt** and Keveh; the king’s merchants bought them in Keveh at the current price.”* I Kings 10:26-28 NKJV
- (b) **Wives:** *This is God’s judgment: “**But King Solomon loved many foreign women**, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites— **from the nations of whom the LORD had said to the children of Israel, “You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods.”** Solomon clung to these in love. And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart. For it was so, when **Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD** his God, as was the heart of his father*

David. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. **Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not fully follow the LORD,** as did his father David. Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon. And he did likewise for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods. **So the LORD became angry with Solomon,** because his heart had turned from the LORD God of Israel, **who had appeared to him twice, and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not keep what the LORD had commanded.** Therefore the LORD said to Solomon, **“Because you have done this,** and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, **I will surely tear the kingdom away from you** and give it to your servant. Nevertheless I will not do it in your days, for the sake of your father David; I will tear it out of the hand of your son. However I will not tear away the whole kingdom; I will give one tribe to your

son for the sake of My servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen.”” 1 Kings 11:1-13 NKJV

- (c) **Solomon’s disobedience:** He multiplied wives, wealth and horses for himself against God’s commands. Notice in James that this dispersion of the tribes was well known by the writers of the New Testament. *“James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, **To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad:** Greetings.”*

James 1:1 NKJV

- (d) The kingdom splits into the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah under Solomon’s servant and son (See 1 Kings 12-16).

- (4) **Continued Disobedience:** The divided kingdoms continued to disobey Yahweh’s commandments—hence the dispersion!

- (a) Because those kingdoms persisted in disobedience to Yahweh, the Northern Kingdom of Israel falls captive to the Assyrians (See 2 Kings 17), and the Southern Kingdom of Judah falls captive to the Babylonians (See 2 Kings 25).

- (5) Who are the Jews?

- (a) Judah, Levi, and half of Benjamin, the “Jews” in the south, eventually come back to the land of Israel and

become what we know as the Jewish people today. You should recognize that the Jews are NOT representative of all twelve tribes, but instead are descendants of the Southern Kingdom of Judah (Judah, Levi, and half of Benjamin). To this day, Joseph and his sons, the other half of Benjamin, and the rest of the tribes, who were exiled to Assyria in the north, remain scattered among the nations (Gentiles), and have yet to come back into the land. They represent the gentile nations—those from which the church has emerged.

1. Where did those northern tribes go?
2. Would you find it interesting to note that, in part at least, it seems that these northern tribes scattered up into what we know today as Europe? I want you to consider this and I am certain you will find it fascinating. Let me ask you, “What does the word British means?”
3. The Hebrew word for a **covenant** is ברית (*b'riyt*)
4. The Hebrew words for man are אָדָם (*adam*) or אִישׁ (*ish*).
 - a) **Note:** (*adam*) is gender neutral and is better translated as “human” and not “man.”

b) So, the better Hebrew word for man is אִישׁ (ish).

5. So what does the British (Brit-ish) mean in Hebrew?

(*b'riyt*) (ish) Covenant Man!

(6) Who are the Gentiles (and the “once Gentiles” of Ephesians 2)?

(a) Is it any wonder why Europe became the original evangelists to the world and the roots of Western (once Gentiles) Christianity? Think of the roles of Great Britain, the Scottish Enlightenment, the Reformation, and the Anabaptist emergence, etc. that all came out of Europe. And realize the part the United States of America played in evangelizing the world!

(b) And now consider how dire it is that our great nations is so divided! And when we dig deep, what is the biggest divide? No, it is not race! It is the fundamental belief in God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (and Judah and Joseph). Who is that God and how can we recognize His image? He tells us that we were made in His divine image, and then He describes that image. “I made man and woman, and then I commanded them to marry and to be fruitful and multiply.”

1. **Here is His image:**

- a) Two absolute and undeniable genders (male and female)
 - b) One absolute union (the marriage of a male and female)
 - c) One absolute command (have children)
 - d) One absolute picture (the Family)
2. Anything that aims to deny, destroy or pervert any of this is the blatant and blasphemous claim that “There is NO God!”
3. Do you now recognize what the real division is in our nation? One side believes in this “Divine Image” of the one true God. The other side says, “there is no such thing as two absolute genders; marriage is between any consenting people no matter what their genders; and the unborn child has no rights to live!” All these abominations have led to the destruction of the family! The wicked arrogantly declare that **“There is NO God!”**
- a) “The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; **God is in none of his thoughts.**” Psalms 10:4 NKJV

b) “In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him; **all his thoughts are, “There is no God.”**”

Psalm 10:4 ESV

c) “In all his scheming, **the wicked arrogantly thinks: “There is no accountability, since God does not exist.”**” Psalms 10:1-4 HCSB

(7) Back to our narrative: The Great Re-Union

(a) What a beautiful picture of Leah’s and Rachels sons, Judah and Joseph, COMING BACK TOGETHER in the end as the “Jewish” Messiah grafts in the “Once Gentiles”, so both “Jew and Gentile” become one new man!

1. *“Therefore remember that you, **once Gentiles** in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—that at that time you were without Christ, being **aliens from the commonwealth of Israel** and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. **But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near** by the blood of Christ.”* Ephesians 2:11-13 NKJV

- (8) Are you ready to have your mind blown? This entire plan was shown to Ezekiel. Put on your prophetic glasses:
- (a) *“Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying, “As for you, son of man, **take a stick** for yourself and write on it: ‘**For Judah [the Southern Kingdom of Judah]** and for the children of Israel, his companions.’ Then take **another stick** and write on it, ‘**For Joseph [the Northern Kingdom of Israel]**, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel, his companions.’ **Then join them one to another for yourself into one stick**, and they will become one in your hand. “And when the children of your people speak to you, saying, ‘**Will you not show us what you mean by these?**’ — say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “**Surely I will take the stick of Joseph**, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel **[the Northern Kingdom of Israel]**, his companions; **and I will join them with it, with the stick of Judah [the Southern Kingdom of Judah]**, and make them one stick, and they will be one in My hand.” ’ And the sticks on which you write will be in your hand before their eyes. “Then say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “**Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations [scattered among and looking like the Gentiles]**,*

*wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side **and bring them into their own land**; and I **will make them one nation** in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and **one king shall be king over them all**; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again.”* Ezekiel 37:15-22 NKJV

- (b) **Please read all of Romans 11, but for a taste, you will now get a much greater understanding about what Paul is saying:** “I say then, have they **[the Jews, the southern exiles, the Kingdom of Judah]** stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the **Gentiles [the northern exiles, the Kingdom of Israel]**. Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness! **For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles**, I magnify my ministry, if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them. For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? For if the firstfruit is holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root is holy, so are the

branches. And if some of the branches were broken off, **and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in** among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you. You will say then, **“Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in.”** Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off. And they also, **if they [the Jews, the southern exiles, the Kingdom of Judah] do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.** For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?” Romans 11:11-24 NKJV

(9) The Mandrake Incident— continuing in our narrative, so we can see how all these things were set in motion:

- (a) Rachel is barren up to this point and she is distraught. Jacob is not happy with her as he claims, “It’s not my fault.” Rachel’s solution is to offer her maidservant Bilhah to bear children for her. Bilhah gives Jacob Dan and Naphtali (sons five and six).
- (b) Since Leah had stopped bearing sons after Judah (#4), she then offers her maidservant Zilpah who gives Jacob sons seven and eight, Gad and Asher.
- (c) Rueben (Leah’s firstborn) then comes in from the field with mandrakes—an ancient plant known for its potential to promote fertility. Rachel wants some, but Leah is like, “You already took my husband, now you want my mandrakes too?” Rachel promises Leah that she would encourage Jacob to lie with her that evening if she shared her mandrakes. That is exactly what happens and Jacobs ninth son, Issachar comes from it, and then later Yahweh gives Leah her sixth son, Jacob’s tenth, Zebulun. Leah does have a daughter Dinah following Zebulun, but as a female she does not figure in the birth order.

(10) Rachel FINALLY has a son!

(a) God finally open's Rachel's womb, as she bears Joseph, Jacob's eleventh son, whom Jacob will ultimately consider like his firstborn, as Joseph IS THE FIRSTBORN of his true love Rachel. Number twelve, Benjamin, will not show up until much later.

1. **Prophetic Timeout:** Just to keep your prophetic juices flowing, if we fast forward, Benjamin is not born to Jacob and Rachel until after Joseph is sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, and he eventually winds up in Egypt. But, Benjamin holds a special place as the twelfth son, who then becomes the twelfth tribe. As I mentioned briefly already, in the Babylonian and Assyrian exiles, Benjamin is split, half goes to the north and half to the south. Benjamin is the common denominator between Kingdoms, the Kingdom of Judah (the Jewish dispersion) and the Kingdom of Israel (the Gentile dispersion).

(11) No such thing as a coincidence!

(a) Do you think it's a coincidence that the apostle Paul, who serves as the Jewish Apostle to the Gentiles, in other words he was the common denominator, is from the tribe of Benjamin? Benjamin—the only tribe that is

part of both the Northern (Gentile) Dispersion and the Southern (Jewish) Dispersion!

1. “For I [Paul] speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an **apostle to the Gentiles**, I magnify my ministry,” Romans 11:13 NKJV
2. “though I [Paul] also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, **of the tribe of Benjamin**, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.” Philippians 3:4-6 NKJV

(12) Jacob must leave with his wives so Yahweh can birth the nation of Israel!

- (a) “Give me my wives and my children for whom I have served you, **and let me go**; for you know my service which I have done for you.”” Genesis 30:26 NKJV
- (b) “And He said, “**Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel**; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.”” Genesis 32:28 NKJV

C. Mother’s, Tribes, and Kingdoms

- (1) **Lineage:** Judah....David and Solomon

- (a) Under King David, Israel was united. All twelve tribes (sons of Jacob) were under one ruler.
- (b) But, King Solomon, David's son, disobeyed Yahweh by violating this law: *"But **he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the LORD has said to you, 'You shall not return that way again.'** Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself."*
Deuteronomy 17:16-17 NKJV
- (c) We see the violations accounted for in I Kings 10:26-28 and I Kings 11:1-13 in Section 1.B (2)(3)&(4) above.
- (d) As a result, after the death of Solomon the kingdom is divided with much controversy. The northern tribes become ruled by one king and Judah by another.

D. Kingdoms Divided

- (1) The Great Divide— Jeroboam (the King's servant)
 - (a) "Now it happened at that time, when **Jeroboam** went out of Jerusalem, that **the prophet Alijah** the Shilonite met him on the way; and he had clothed himself with a new garment, and the two were alone in the field. Then Ahijah took hold of the new garment that was on him, and tore it into twelve pieces. And he said to Jeroboam,

“Take for yourself ten pieces, for thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: **‘Behold, I will tear the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and will give ten tribes to you** (but he shall have one tribe for the sake of My servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel), **because they have forsaken Me, and worshiped** Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the people of Ammon, **and have not walked in My ways to do what is right in My eyes and keep My statutes and My judgments,** as did his father David. **However I will not take the whole kingdom** out of his hand, because I have made him ruler all the days of his life **for the sake of My servant David**, whom I chose because he kept My commandments and My statutes. **But I will take the kingdom out of his son’s hand and give it to you [Jeroboam]—ten tribes.** And to his son **[Rehoboam]** I will give one tribe, that My servant David may always have a lamp before Me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen for Myself, to put My name there. **So I will take you, and you shall reign over all your heart desires, and you shall be king over Israel.** Then it shall

be, **if you heed** all that I command you, walk in My ways, and do what is right in My sight, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as My servant David did, **then I will be with you and build for you an enduring house, as I built for David**, and will give Israel to you. And I will afflict the descendants of David because of this, but not forever.’ ” **Solomon therefore sought to kill Jeroboam**. But Jeroboam arose and fled to Egypt, to Shishak king of Egypt, and was in Egypt until the death of Solomon.” I Kings 11:29-40 NKJV

(2) Then Solomon dies

(a) “Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, all that he did, and his wisdom, are they not written **in the book of the acts of Solomon?** And the period that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel was forty years. Then Solomon rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David his father. **And Rehoboam his son reigned in his place.” [but now over a divided kingdom as 10 tribes went to Jeroboam]** I Kings 11:41-43 NKJV

(3) Rehoboam—Solomon’s son who is King will lose the kingdom!

(a) **Please lighten up from how Solomon ruled please—or else! Jeroboam still fights for unity!**

1. “that they sent and called him. Then Jeroboam and the whole assembly of Israel came and spoke to Rehoboam, saying, “**Your father made our yoke heavy; now therefore, lighten the burdensome service of your father**, and his heavy yoke which he put on us, and we will serve you.”” I Kings 12:3-4

(b) **Rehoboam—rejects the advice of his father:**

1. “Then King Rehoboam **consulted** the elders who stood before his father **Solomon while he still lived**, and he said, “How do you advise me to answer these people?” And they spoke to him, saying, “**If you will be a servant to these people today, and serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever.**” But he rejected the advice which the elders had given him, **and consulted the young men who had grown up with him**, who stood before him. And he said to them, “**What advice do you give?** How should we answer this people who have spoken to me, saying, ‘Lighten the yoke which your father put on us’?” Then the young men who had grown up with him spoke to him, saying, “Thus you should speak to this people who have spoken to you, saying, ‘**Your father made**

our yoke heavy, but you make it lighter on us’—thus you shall say to them: ‘My little finger shall be thicker than my father’s waist! And now, whereas my father put a heavy yoke on you, I will add to your yoke; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scourges!’ ”” I Kings 12:6-11 NKJV

(c) **Rehoboam rules in contrast to his father’s dying advice—Jeroboam (the servant, the non-son) is willing to “reunite” the tribes, but, prophecy is about to be fulfilled, as Rehoboam, (the son and rightful heir) rejects his offer!**

1. “So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had directed, saying, **“Come back to me the third day.”** Then the king answered the people roughly, and rejected the advice which the elders had given him; and he spoke to them according to the advice of the young men, saying, **“My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scourges!”** So the king did not listen to the people; **for the turn of events was from the LORD, that He might fulfill His word,** which the LORD had spoken by Ahijah the Shilonite to

Jeroboam the son of Nebat. [Israel WILL be divided!]

Now when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, saying: "What share have we in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents, O Israel! Now, see to your own house, O David!" So Israel departed to their tents. But Rehoboam reigned over the children of Israel who dwelt in the cities of Judah." I Kings 12:12-17 NKJV

(4) Jeroboam made king over the 10 tribes!

- (a) "Then **King Rehoboam** sent Adoram, who was in charge of the revenue; but all Israel stoned him with stones, and he died. Therefore King Rehoboam mounted his chariot in haste to flee to Jerusalem. So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day. [See this: Israel becomes the Kingdom of Israel, the 10 northern tribes (only half of Benjamin), who eventually scatter among the Gentiles. And the house of David, Judah (plus Levi, and half of Benjamin) becomes the Kingdom of Judah who become the Jews.] Now it came to pass **when all Israel heard that Jeroboam** had come back, they sent for him and called him to the congregation, **and made him king over all Israel.** There

was none who followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah only.” I Kings 12:18-20 NKJV

(5) Rehoboam backs down and the Kingdom stays divided

(a) “And when Rehoboam came to Jerusalem, he assembled all **the house of Judah with the tribe of Benjamin** [Note: Levi is in the south also because they are in Jerusalem with the Temple. They are not spoken of because as they have an inheritance of SERVICE not LAND], one hundred and eighty thousand chosen men who were warriors, to fight against the house of Israel, that he might restore the kingdom to Rehoboam the son of Solomon. But the word of God came to Shemaiah the man of God, saying, “**Speak to Rehoboam the son of Solomon, king of Judah, to all the house of Judah and Benjamin**, and to the rest of the people, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD: “**You shall not go up nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel.** Let every man return to his house, for this thing is from Me.” ’ ”
Therefore they obeyed the word of the LORD, and turned back, according to the word of the LORD.” I Kings 12:21-24 NKJV

(6) Jeroboam leads the north into debauchery—the roots of the future exile!

- (a) “Then Jeroboam built Shechem in the mountains of **Ephraim [from Joseph]**, and dwelt there. Also he went out from there and built Penuel. And Jeroboam said in his heart, **“Now the kingdom may return to the house of David: If these people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn back to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and go back to Rehoboam king of Judah.”** **[Translation: if the people follow God they will want to reunite with Rehoboam and Judah; Can’t have that!]** **Therefore** the king asked advice, made two calves of gold, and said to the people, “It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt!” **[Translation: It is too much work to follow Yahweh; I made some new gods for you and we can pretend that they were the ones who delivered you from Egypt!]** And he set up one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. **Now this thing became a sin**, for the people went to worship before the one as far as Dan. **He made shrines on the high places, and made priests from every class of people, who were not of the sons of Levi.** **[because the Levites were not with his tribes in the**

north!] Jeroboam ordained a feast on the **fifteenth day of the eighth month**, like the feast that was in Judah, **[Except the real Feast of Tabernacles is the fifteenth day of the seventh month!]** and offered sacrifices on the altar. So he did at Bethel, sacrificing to the calves that he had made. And at Bethel **he installed the priests of the high places** which he had made. So he made offerings on the altar which he had made at Bethel on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, in **the month which he had devised in his own heart.** And he ordained a feast for the children of Israel, and offered sacrifices on the altar and burned incense." I Kings 12:25-33 NKJV

- (7) Then in Chapter 13, the "man of God" comes to warn Jeroboam; he shows signs that Yahweh is with him, but Jeroboam kills him anyway! He comes with power and outrageous signs, like we must do present day!
- (a) "So it came to pass when King Jeroboam heard the saying of **the man of God, who cried out against the altar in Bethel**, that he stretched out his hand from the altar, saying, "**Arrest him!**" Then his hand, which he stretched out toward him, withered, so that he could not pull it back to himself." I Kings 13:4 NKJV

- (b) **“The altar also was split apart**, and the ashes poured out from the altar, **according to the sign** which the man of God had given by the word of the LORD. Then the king answered and said to the man of God, “Please entreat the favor of the LORD your God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored to me.” So the man of God entreated the LORD, and the king’s hand was restored to him, and became as before.” I Kings 13:5-6
- (8) In the end it did not matter—Jeroboam insists on his own god and his own ways!
- (a) “After this event Jeroboam **did not turn from his evil way, but again he made priests from every class** of people for the high places; **whoever wished, he consecrated him**, and he became one of the priests of the high places. And this thing **[organizing a false priesthood]** was the sin of the house of Jeroboam, **so as to exterminate and destroy it from the face of the earth.**” I Kings 13:33-34 NKJV
- (b) Chapter 14—judgment comes to the house of Jeroboam, as Rehoboam reigns in the Judah (the south)
- (c) Chapter 15 and 16—various lines of succession are named in both the Kingdom of Judah and the Kingdom of Israel.

E. Two Kingdoms; Two Exiles

(1) Israel into captivity to Assyria

- (a) “Now the **king of Assyria** went throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria and besieged it for three years. In the ninth year of Hoshea, **the king of Assyria took Samaria and carried Israel away to Assyria**, and placed them in Halah and by the Habor, the River of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes. For so it was that the **children of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt**, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and they had **feared other gods, and had walked in the statutes of the nations** whom the LORD had cast out from before the children of Israel, **and of the kings of Israel, which they had made**. Also the children of Israel secretly did against the LORD their God things that were not right, and they **built for themselves high places** in all their cities, from watchtower to fortified city. **They set up for themselves sacred pillars and wooden images** on every high hill and under every green tree. There they burned incense on all the high places, like the nations whom the LORD had carried away before them; and **they did wicked things to**

provoke the LORD to anger, for they **served idols**, of which the LORD had said to them, “You shall not do this thing.” Yet **the LORD testified against Israel and against Judah, by all of His prophets, every seer, saying, “Turn from your evil ways, and keep My commandments and My statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by My servants the prophets.”** Nevertheless **they would not hear**, but stiffened their necks, like the necks of their fathers, who did not believe in the LORD their God. And **they rejected His statutes and His covenant** that He had made with their fathers, and His testimonies which He had testified against them; **they followed idols, became idolaters, and went after the nations** who were all around them, concerning whom the LORD had charged them that they should not do like them. So **they left all the commandments of the LORD** their God, **made for themselves a molded image** and two calves, made a wooden image and worshiped all the host of heaven, and **served Baal**. And they caused their **sons and daughters to pass through the fire**, practiced witchcraft and soothsaying, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to

provoke Him to anger. Therefore the LORD was **very angry with Israel [the Northern Kingdom of Israel]**, and removed them from His sight; there was none left but the tribe of **Judah alone. [the Southern Kingdom of Judah]**” II Kings 17:5-18 NKJV

- (b) **But...** “Also Judah **[the Southern Kingdom of Judah]** did not keep the commandments of the LORD their God, but **walked in the statutes of Israel [the Northern Kingdom of Israel]** which they made. And the LORD **rejected all the descendants of Israel**, afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of plunderers **[the Assyrian Exile]**, until He had cast them from His sight. For He tore Israel from the house of David, and **they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king [the original separation due to Solomon’s sin]**. Then Jeroboam drove Israel from following the LORD, and made them commit a great sin **[the final straw causing the exile]**. For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they did not depart from them, until the LORD removed Israel out of His sight, as He had said by all His servants the prophets. **So Israel was carried away from their own land to Assyria, as it is to**

this day.” [and still is to this day, 2020!] II Kings

17:19-23 NKJV

(2) And Judah was no better

(a) “Now it came to pass in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, that **Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and all his army came against Jerusalem [the Southern Kingdom] and encamped against it;** and they built a siege wall against it all around. So the city was besieged until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah. By the ninth day of the fourth month the famine had become so severe in the city that there was no food for the people of the land. Then the city wall was broken through, and all the men of war fled at night by way of the gate between two walls, which was by the king’s garden, even though the Chaldeans were still encamped all around against the city. And the king went by way of the plain. But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king, and they overtook him in the plains of Jericho. All his army was scattered from him. **So they took the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon** at Riblah, and they pronounced judgment on him. Then they killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, put out the eyes of

Zedekiah, bound him with bronze fetters, and took him to Babylon.” II Kings 25:1-7 NKJV

A HOUSE DIVIDED

2. UNITY

A. A House Divided Will Not Stand

(1) Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation!

(a) “Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. And all the multitudes were amazed and said, “**Could this be the Son of David?**” Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, “This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.” **But Jesus knew their thoughts**, and said to them: “**Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.** If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges. But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the

kingdom of God has come upon you. **Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man?** And then he will plunder his house. He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad." Matthew 12:22-30 NKJV

B. The Remedy to a Divided Kingdom—Unity, One Mind, and the Divine Nature

(1) Oneness and Glory

- (a) "'I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. **And the glory which You gave Me I have given them,** that they may be one just as We are one: **I in them, and You in Me; [the Glory: we are one with God!]** that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me." John 17:20-23 NKJV
- (b) "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with **the glory which shall be revealed in us.** **[the Glory: we are one with God—that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and**

You in Me] For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.”

Romans 8:18-19 NKJV

(2) Unity

- (a) “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, **endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.** There is **one body** and **one Spirit**, just as you were called in **one hope** of your calling; **one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all**, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.” Ephesians 4:1-6 NKJV

(3) One Accord and One Mind

- (a) “Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by **being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.**” Philippians 2:1-2 NKJV

(4) The Mind of Messiah

- (a) “For “who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?” **But we have the mind of Christ.**” I Corinthians 2:16 NKJV

(5) Partakers in the Divine Nature

- (a) “Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” II Peter 1:2-4 NKJV

(6) Pick a Side (Moses and Elijah)

- (a) **After the Golden Calf Incident:** “Now when Moses saw that the people were unrestrained (for Aaron had not restrained them, to their shame among their enemies), then Moses stood in the entrance of the camp, and said, **“Whoever is on the LORD’s side— come to me!”** And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together to him.” Exodus 32:25-26 NKJV
- (b) **After the Prophets of Baal Incident:** “So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel. And Elijah came to all the people, and said, **“How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if**

Baal, follow him.” But the people answered him not a word.” I Kings 18:20-21 NKJV

(7) What must happen for the church to have oneness with Yahweh? Separation—another exodus! Holiness has no mixture with darkness!

(a) “O Corinthians! We have spoken openly to you, our heart is wide open. You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted by your own affections. Now in return for the same (I speak as to children), you also be open. **Do not be unequally yoked** together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? **Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God.** As God has said: “I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.” **Therefore “Come out from among them And be separate,** says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.” “I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty.”” II Corinthians 6:11-18 NKJV

- (b) “Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us **cleanse ourselves from all filthiness** of the flesh and spirit, **perfecting holiness** in the fear of God.” II

Corinthians 7:1 NKJV

- (8) Unity with each other, but separation from those who say...”There is no God!” [Refer to section 1.B(6)]

~**THREE VERSIONS OF PSALMS 10:1-4**

- (a) “Why do You stand afar off, O LORD? Why do You hide in times of trouble? The wicked in his pride persecutes the poor; Let them be caught in the plots which they have devised. **For the wicked boasts of his heart’s desire**; He blesses the greedy and renounces the LORD. The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; **God is in none of his thoughts.**” ~NKJV
- (b) “Why, O Lord, do you stand far away? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble? In arrogance the wicked hotly pursue the poor; let them be caught in the schemes that they have devised. **For the wicked boasts of the desires of his soul**, and the one greedy for gain curses and renounces the Lord. In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him; **all his thoughts are,** **“There is no God.”**” ~ESV

(c) “Lord, why do You stand so far away? Why do You hide in times of trouble? In arrogance the wicked relentlessly pursue the afflicted; let them be caught in the schemes they have devised. **For the wicked one boasts about his own cravings;** the one who is greedy curses and despises the Lord. In all his scheming, **the wicked arrogantly thinks: “There is no accountability, since God does not exist.”**” ~HCSB

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. **Rebekah was brought to Isaac in a miraculous fashion:**

- A. What was similar about how Jacob became connected to Rachel?
- B. Discuss Laban’s profound role in both marriages.

2. **Wives and Maidservants; Sons and Birth Order:**

- A. What is prophetically significant about Levi and Judah being born to Leah, Jacob’s first wife?
- B. What is prophetically significant about Joseph and Benjamin being born to Rachel, Jacob’s second and favorite wife?
- C. What is most unique about Benjamin’s prophetic destiny?
- D. Why does it make total sense that the Apostle Paul is from the line of Benjamin?

- 3. Israel became divided into two kingdoms, first because King Solomon transgressed Yahweh's commands!**
 - A. What did he do that God explicitly told him not to do?
 - B. What was the specific consequence for those actions?
- 4. A combination of Solomon's disobedience and the continued transgressions of the people led to Israel separating into two kingdoms:**
 - A. Discuss the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah.
 - B. Which tribes migrated to each of the kingdoms?
- 5. Both kingdoms were eventually captured by pagan kings:**
 - A. What is prophetically significant about where the kingdoms were sent into exile?
 - B. What is the fascinating prophetic fact about Great Britain?
- 6. Y'shua said, "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand."**
 - A. How do these words relate to a divided Israel?
 - B. What was God's prophetic plan to "reunite the tribes" and why is that significant to the Church?
- 7. Discuss the importance of unity in the Body of Christ:**
 - A. How does unity relate to oneness, the mind of Christ, the Divine nature, and holiness?