

## Genesis 29:31–35

### *The God Who Sees, Hears, and Attaches Himself to Us Is Enough*

**Main idea:** The Lord Jesus always sees, always hears, always cares, has attached His people to Himself, and is able to do according to all His holy and loving will for us.

<sup>31</sup> When the LORD saw that Leah was unloved, He opened her womb; but Rachel was barren. <sup>32</sup> So Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben; for she said, “The LORD has surely looked on my affliction. Now therefore, my husband will love me.” <sup>33</sup> Then she conceived again and bore a son, and said, “Because the LORD has heard that I am unloved, He has therefore given me this son also.” And she called his name Simeon. <sup>34</sup> She conceived again and bore a son, and said, “Now this time my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons.” Therefore his name was called Levi. <sup>35</sup> And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, “Now I will praise the LORD.” Therefore she called his name Judah. Then she stopped bearing.

### **Introduction**

We have heard and seen this before (Genesis 16:6–14). But what did we see and hear there? The God who sees and hears!

#### 1. The God who sees

- a. “When Yahweh saw” —cf. “Beer-lahai-roi.” The Lord always sees and is always both carrying out His grand and glorious plan, as well as responding to the unnoticed details of the lives of His people.
- b. “Yahweh has surely looked on my affliction.” Leah says this without the benefit of having the book of Genesis and the first half of v31.
- c. “Now therefore my husband will love me.”
  - i. The Lord always sees, but our loved ones often don’t.
  - ii. Also, even if Jacob had seen, he couldn’t have done anything about it (cf. 30:1–2)
  - iii. So, don’t put your hope in your loved ones.

#### 2. The God who hears

- a. “For Yahweh heard that I am unloved.” Cf. “Ishmael”
- b. Prayer: giving the God who sees and hears everything something to hear from you.

#### 3. The God who is attached to us

- a. Leah still hoped in her idea of what God was doing. “Now this time my husband will become attached to me.” We may or may not be right (most often not) about particular things that the Lord is doing in our lives.
- b. What God sees and hears from us is not good; apart from Christ, His seeing and hearing is not a comfort. How desperately we need the Lord to attach Himself to us, not upon the basis of our worthiness (e.g. three sons, or anything else), but upon the basis of the Lord Jesus Himself and in the Lord Jesus Himself! Then, what He sees in our works and hears in our prayers will be the Lord Jesus in Whom He has attached Himself to us.

#### 4. The God Whose praise is our purpose

- a. Why praise? There is no mention of her situation. There is no mention of her husband. There is no reason to think that anything has changed in either of them. In fact, since it is not said that Yahweh closes her womb, the end of v35 is probably the result of Jacob cutting her off altogether, and probably at the demand of Rachel (cf. 30:14–16)
- b. God Himself is enough. Like so many of the Psalms, Leah’s bearing spree and naming spree comes to this conclusion. And so must we. It needs to be not only our conclusion, but our starting point. But contentment in God must produce praise of God, a virtuous cycle.

### **Conclusion**

The Lord Jesus always sees, always hears, always cares, has attached His people to Himself, and is able to do according to all His holy and loving will for us.