

Scripture Reading: Genesis 49:16-18

Dan – Jacob's fifth Son

Until now we have been studying about the children that Jacob had through Leah. Dan was born to Jacob and Rachel's maid servant Bilhah. Concerning Dan, Jacob said, "Dan shall judge his people as one of the tribes of Israel. Dan shall be a serpent by the way, A viper by the path, that bites the horse's heels so that its rider shall fall backward". It was from this tribe that Samson during the time of judges and Jeroboam during the time of kings judged the land of Israel. Though both had a very good start, their end was pathetic because of their fleshly characters.

Question:

Did not Samson defeat the Palestinians and delivered the people of Israel and Jeroboam deliver the land of Israel from the hands of Solomon's son who went astray from God?

Answer:

Rachel did not have any children for 4 years after marriage. But since Leah had already delivered 4 children by then, Rachel influenced by her fleshly zeal gave one of her maid servants to Jacob after she had wept and prayed to God. Through that maid servant Jacob had a son. Therefore she named the son Dan which meant, "God has judged me". Samson who was born in this lineage, though was strong in the spirit, he gave place to fleshly lusts and thereafter lost his might and his eyes to the enemies. Similarly, Jeroboam saved the people of Israel from Rehoboam, but later in an urge to save his throne, he led people into idol worship. If we give room to our fleshly desires, the devil will easily defeat us.

"And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires". Galatians 5:24

Prayer

Dear father, abide in us and quicken us each day. Give us the strength to overcome our fleshly desires and live a godly life. Amen