Date: April 26, 2026 **Pastor: Asa Hart**

Title: "Polygamous Progeny Problems and Providence"

Series: Genesis – Beginnings **Text: Genesis 29:31-30:24**

Main point: *God overcomes human rebellion, our resulting plight, and our utter barrenness to bring life.*

I. God overcomes human **Rebellion** against his **Design**, 29:31-30:13 *(see also Gen. 1:27-28; 2:24; 3:15; Deut. 21:15-17; Matt. 19:3-9; Rom. 1:18-32; 1 Tim. 2:12-15)*

II. God overcomes the sad **Consequences** of **Sin**, 29:31; 30:14-21 *(see also Gen. 2:25; 3:7; 4:1; Gal. 6:7-10; Eph. 5:22-33; 1 Pet. 3:7; Rev. 19:6-10; 21:9-14; 22:17)*

III. God overcomes our utter **Barrenness** to bring **Life**, 29:31-35; 30:22-24 *(see also Gen. 16:1; 18:12; 25:21; Ps. 100:3; Is. 54:1; Ezek. 37:1-14; Lk. 1:24-37; Eph. 2:1-10)*

Questions for Reflection

1. Read Genesis 29:31 and 30:22. What is similar about these two passages? Now scan through Genesis 29:31-30:24. Is there a dominant character? No matter who is giving birth to these children, who is the most prominent character throughout the text? Do humans play a role in procreation? Ultimately, who is the one who gives life? What does that teach us about life in the womb? What does that teach us about our own lives?

2. This text is sometimes can be referred to as a narrative genealogy. Are there any genealogies in the New Testament? God has always created His people. How does God create His people in the New Covenant? Read John 3:1-15. Why would Nicodemus, a Jew, struggle with the idea that he must be born again? If the family is God's idea, what might give us the healthiest families? In the same way, if the church is God's idea, how might we cultivate a healthy church?

3. Read Genesis 2:24-25. Now read Matthew 19:3-9. According to these passages, does God sanction polygamy? If Jesus says that marriage is between one man and one woman, why is the Lord silent about it here? How are the family dynamics presented in this text? Does this text approve of polygamy? What is the difference between a descriptive text and a prescriptive text and how can you tell the difference between the two?

4. Look back at Genesis 29:31-35. Now look at 30:1-8. Is there a difference between Leah's initial attitude in her circumstances and Rachel's? What can we learn from Leah's faithfulness? Why might she suddenly get competitive and depart from God's design in 30:9-13? What changes in Rachel's names between 30:5-8 and 30:22-24? How does a proper view of God help us in our response to suffering?

5. Christ is speaking so that you might hear and in hearing you might turn to him, and in turning to him, he might heal you. What do you need to bring before him today?

NEXT WEEK: Genesis 30:25-31:55, Asa Hart

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