

What was the weakness in Leah's eyes, the wife of Jacob?

Question:

In Genesis 29:16-18, we read:

"Laban had two daughters; the older was Leah, and the younger was Rachel. Leah had weak eyes, but Rachel was beautiful in form and appearance. Jacob loved Rachel and agreed to work seven years to marry her."

When the Bible says Leah's eyes were "weak," what does that mean? Was it poor eyesight or something else?

Answer:

The exact meaning of "weak eyes" (Hebrew: 'arek - often understood as "tender" or "soft" eyes) is not clearly defined in Scripture. It could refer to physical weakness such as poor vision or perhaps a lack of brightness or attractiveness in her eyes. Some scholars suggest it might mean she had less striking or less lively eyes compared to Rachel, who was noted for her beauty (Genesis 29:17).

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However, the key theological point is that God's favor and purpose are not based on outward appearance. Though Jacob loved Rachel more because of her beauty, God chose to bless Leah with many children (Genesis 29:31-35). Nearly half of the twelve tribes of Israel descended from Leah, including the tribe of Judah, through whom the Messiah, Jesus Christ, came (Genesis 49:10; Matthew 1:2-3). This shows God works beyond human preferences and values the heart and faithfulness over external qualities.

This truth aligns with what the prophet Samuel told King Saul when God was choosing a king:

"Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7)

Additionally, the story of Jabez (1 Chronicles 4:9-10) illustrates that even if someone starts life with disadvantages or a name meaning "sorrow," God can elevate and bless them when they

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seek Him sincerely. Jabez prayed for God's blessing and protection, and God granted his requests, showing that limitations or weaknesses don't limit God's power in our lives.

So, if you feel overlooked or rejected by others, remember God's perspective is different. What matters is your heart, faith, and obedience.

Be encouraged by God's Word!

"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength."
(Isaiah 40:3)

God bless you.

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