

Genesis 35:21-26 **Reuben lay with Bilhah**

21 Then Israel journeyed and pitched his tent beyond the tower of Eder. 22 And it happened, when Israel dwelt in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine; and Israel heard about it.

Now the sons of Jacob were twelve: 23 the sons of Leah were Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, and Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun; 24 the sons of Rachel were Joseph and Benjamin; 25 the sons of Bilhah, Rachel's maidservant, were Dan and Naphtali; 26 and the sons of Zilpah, Leah's maidservant, were Gad and Asher. These were the sons of Jacob who were born to him in Padan Aram. NKJV

Facts revealed:

- ✧ Jacob was still journeying and stayed a while in the land beyond the tower of Eder (the location is unknown).
- ✧ Reuben, the first born son of Jacob by Leah, lay with Bilhah the maid servant of Rachel who had become Jacob's concubine in Padan Aram and mother of Dan and Naphtali.
- ✧ Jacob heard about it but did nothing until on his death bed he pronounced a prophetic blessing on his sons and brought up the deed saying, "Reuben, you are my firstborn, My might and the beginning of my strength, The excellency of dignity and the excellency of power. Unstable as water, you shall not excel, Because you went up to your father's bed; Then you defiled it-- He went up to my couch. [\[Genesis 49:3-4\]](#)