

## January 23 Answers

- 1) Jacob, who deceived his father, was himself deceived by his uncle Laban. How true it is that we **reap** what we sow (Gal 6:7–8)! Laban’s deception set the stage for a bitter **war** between his daughters, Leah and Rachel. Jacob loved Rachel, and when God saw that Leah was unloved, He opened her womb while Rachel remained barren. Truly, we serve a **compassionate** God! Not only did Leah have the honor of mothering the priestly (**Levi**) and royal (**Judah**) tribes of Israel, she was ultimately the mother of **Jesus**, who Himself embodies both roles (Heb 7:11–22). Rather than seeking God as her aunt Rebekah had done (Gen 25:21), Rachel took matters into her own hands and urged Jacob to father children through her maid **Bilhah** (cf. Gen 16:1–2). Leah soon returned the favor, and Jacob’s children grew up caught in the middle of a resentful **struggle** between his wives. In the meantime, Laban realized that he was being **blessed** because of Jacob. He convinced Jacob to stay, and then tried to cheat him. Yet God prospered Jacob, and he became very rich (Gen 30:43). Jacob’s life with Laban is a fascinating example of how God used one deceiver to **discipline** and **train** another. Do we recognize and appreciate that God brings **irritations** into our lives in order to **refine** our character?