

Rachel (Hebrew name) רַחֵל

<http://www.morfix.co.il/en/%D7%A8%D6%B8%D7%97%D6%B5%D7%9C>

Rachel: Angel known as the Air's Lady. She is one of the great angels of Humor and Self-Confidence. She is responsible of Temperance which permits us not to be crushed by the negative events occurring in our lives. Rachel prevents men and women to consider events with too much gravity.

<http://www.bethcoleman.net/angelsrst.html>

# Rachel

This article is about the biblical character. For other uses, see Rachel (disambiguation).

Rachel	
<span></span> <div><i>Rachel and Jacob</i> by William Dyce</div>	
Holy Matriarch	
Born	Paddan Aram
Died	Canaan
Honored in	Judaism Christianity Islam
Major shrine	<i>Rachel's Tomb</i>
Feast	Roman Catholicism: 1 November Orthodox Church: Sunday before Christmas

**Rachel** (Hebrew: רַחֵל‎, Modern *Rakhél* Tiberian *Rāhēl*, Arabic: راحيل‎, *Rāḥīl*) was the favorite of Biblical patriarch Jacob's two wives as well as the mother of Joseph and Benjamin who helped father the twelve tribes of Israel (along with their brothers). The name "Rachel" is from an unused root meaning: "to journey as a ewe that is a good traveller."<sup>[1][2]</sup> Rachel was the daughter of Laban and the younger sister of Leah, Jacob's first wife. Jacob was her first cousin and she was the youngest niece of Rebekah.

## In Islam

Rachel, the wife of Jacob (Yaqub), the mother of Joseph (Yusuf) and Benjamin (Binyamin), is an honored woman in Islam. Yaqub and Yusuf are frequently mentioned by name in the Qur'an whilst Rachel is only referenced and not mentioned by name.

## Marriage to Jacob

Rachel is first mentioned in the Bible in Genesis 29 when Jacob happens upon her as she is about to water her father's flock. She was the second daughter of Laban, Rebekah's brother.<sup>[3]</sup> Jacob had traveled a great distance to find Laban. Rebekah had sent him there to be safe from his furious twin brother, Esau.

During Jacob's stay, he fell in love with Rachel and agreed to work seven years for Laban in return for her hand in marriage. On the night of the wedding, the bride was veiled and Jacob did not notice that Leah, Rachel's older sister, had been substituted for Rachel. Whereas "Rachel was lovely in form and beautiful," "Leah had tender eyes".<sup>[4]</sup> Later Jacob confronted Laban, who excused his own deception by insisting that the older sister should marry first. He assured Jacob that after his wedding week was finished, he could take Rachel as a wife as well, and work another seven years as payment for her.

After Leah had given birth to four sons, Rachel remained unable to conceive. She became jealous of Leah and gave Jacob her maidservant, Bilhah, to be a surrogate mother for her. Bilhah gave birth to two sons that Rachel named and raised (Dan and Naphtali). Leah responds by offering her handmaid Zilpah to Jacob, and names and raises the two sons (Gad and Asher) that Zilpah bears. According to some commentaries, Bilhah and Zilpah are actually half-sisters of Leah and Rachel.<sup>[5]</sup>

After Leah conceived again, Rachel was finally blessed with a son, Joseph, who would become Jacob's favorite child.

## Death and burial



Fresco by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo of Rachel sitting on the idols.

After Joseph's birth, Jacob decided to return to the land of Canaan with his family. Fearing that Laban would deter him, he fled with his two wives, Leah and Rachel, and twelve children without informing his father-in-law. Laban chased him and accused him of stealing his idols. Indeed, Rachel had taken her father's idols, hidden them inside her camel's seat cushion, and sat upon them. Not knowing that the idols were in his wife's possession, Jacob pronounced a curse on whoever had them: "With whoever you will find your gods, he will not live" (Genesis 31:32). Laban proceeded to search the tents of Jacob and his wives, but when he came to Rachel's tent, she told her father,

"Let not my lord be angered that I cannot rise up before you, for the way of women is upon me" (Genesis 31:35). Laban left her alone, but the curse Jacob had pronounced came true shortly thereafter.

Near Ephrath, Rachel went into a difficult labor with her second son, Benjamin. The midwife tells her in the middle of the birth that her child is a boy.<sup>[6]</sup> Before she died, Rachel named her son Ben Oni ("son of my mourning"), but Jacob called him Ben Yamin (Benjamin). Rashi explains that Ben Yamin either means "son of the right" (i.e., "south"), since Benjamin was the only one of Jacob's sons born in Canaan, which is to the south of Paddan Aram; or it could mean "son of my days," as Benjamin was born in Jacob's old age.

Rachel was buried by Jacob on the road to Efrat, just outside Bethlehem,<sup>[7]</sup> or alternatively near Al-Ram. Wikipedia:Citation needed Today a site claimed to be Rachel's Tomb, located between Bethlehem and the Israeli settlement of Gilo, is visited by tens of thousands of visitors each year.<sup>[8]</sup>



Rachel's Tomb, near Bethlehem, 1891

## Rachel's children

Rachel's son, Joseph, is destined to be the leader of Israel's tribes between exile and nationhood. This role is exemplified in the Biblical story of Joseph, who prepared the way in Egypt for his family's exile there,<sup>[9]</sup> and in the future figure of *Mashiach ben Yosef* (Messiah, son of Joseph), who, in the Rabbinic Jewish view, will fight the apocalyptic Wars of Gog and Magog, preparing the way for the kingship of *Mashiach ben David* (Messiah, son of David) and the messianic age.<sup>[10][11]</sup> Rachel also had a second son named Benjamin; she died during labor with him.



Rachel and Jacob by James Tissot.

## Additional references in the Bible

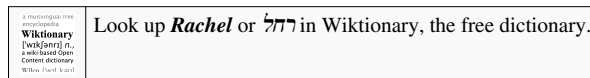
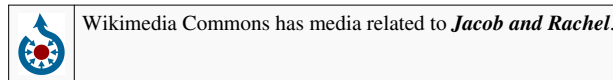


Rachel is weeping for her children, 14th century fresco from Marko's Monastery.

- In Jeremiah 31:15, the prophet speaks of 'Rachel weeping for her children' (KJV). This is interpreted in Judaism as Rachel crying for an end to her descendants' sufferings and exiles following the destruction by the Babylonians of the First Temple in ancient Jerusalem. According to the Midrash, Rachel spoke before God: "If I, a mere mortal, was prepared not to humiliate my sister and was willing to take a rival into my home, how could You, the eternal, compassionate God, be jealous of idols, which have no true existence, that were brought into Your home (the Temple in Jerusalem)? Will You cause my children to be exiled on this account?" God accepted her plea and promised that, eventually, the exile would end and the Jews would return to their land.<sup>[12]</sup>
- In the second chapter of the Gospel of Matthew (part of the New Testament), this reference from Jeremiah is interpreted as a prediction of the Massacre of the Innocents by Herod the Great in his attempt to kill the young Jesus. The Jeremaic prophecy is the inspiration behind the medieval dramatic cycle *Ordo Rachelis*, concerned with the infancy of Jesus.
- Mordechai, the hero of the Book of Esther, and Queen Esther herself, were descendants of Rachel through her son Benjamin. The Book of Esther details Mordechai's lineage as "Mordechai the son of Yair, the son of Shimi, the son of Kish, a man of the right (*ish yemini*)" (Esther 2:5). The designation of *ish yemini* refers to his membership in the Tribe of Benjamin (*ben yamin*, son of the right). The rabbis comment that Esther's ability to remain silent in the palace of Ahasuerus, resisting the king's pressure to reveal her ancestry, was inherited from her ancestor Rachel, who remained silent even when Laban brought out Leah to marry Jacob.

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- [4] "Leah had tender eyes" (Hebrew: **יעיני לאה רכה**) (Genesis 29:17). It is debated as to whether the adjective "tender" (**רכה**) should be taken to mean "delicate and soft" or "weary." Some translations say that it may have meant blue or light colored eyes. Some say that Leah spent most of her time weeping and praying to God to change her destined mate. Thus the Torah describes her eyes as "soft" from weeping.
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# Rachel (given name)

For other people with an alternate spelling, see Rachael. For a variation of the name, see Raquel.

Not to be confused with Rachel, Rachel (disambiguation).

<b>Rachel</b>	
	
The Biblical Rachel and Leah by Dante Gabriel Rossetti.	
<b>Pronunciation</b>	<span><span>/<span><span>ˈ</span><span>r</span><span>eɪ</span><span>tʃ</span><span>əl</span></span>/</span></span> <i>RAY-chəl</i> , French: <span>[ʁa<span> </span>ʃəl]</span>
<b>Gender</b>	Female
<b>Origin</b>	
<b>Word/Name</b>	Hebrew
<b>Meaning</b>	<i>ewe, one with purity</i>
<b>Other names</b>	
<b>Nickname(s)</b>	<i>Rae Rach</i>
<b>Related names</b>	Rachael, Rae, Rahel, Rahela, Raquel, Raye, Ruchel

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**Rachel** (Hebrew: רַחֵל, Standard Raḥel Tiberian Rāḥēl, Rāḥēl), Arabic: راحيل, Rāḥīl); also spelled Rachael, from an unused root meaning: "to journey as a ewe that is a good traveller".<sup>[1][2]</sup> is a feminine given name. The name ranks in the top hundred most popular names for girls in the United States, Canada, England and Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Ireland, and Australia as well as in Israel. According to United States Social Security card applications in 2005, the name Rachel ranked 38th out of the top 100 names chosen by parents for their baby girls.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Variants

- Raakel (Finnish)
- Raechel (English)
- Rachael (English)
- Racheal (English)
- Rachela (Polish)
- Rachele (Italian)
- Rachelle (French)
- Racquel (English)
- Raghnaíl (Irish) (note that this name is etymologically unrelated to Rachel)



- Ráhel (Hungarian)
- Rahel/Rachel (German, Hebrew, Polish)
- Rahela (Hawaiian, Romanian)
- Rahil (Russian)
- Ráichéal (Irish)
- Ραχήλ (Rahil) (Greek)
- Raket (Scandinavian)
- Rakhil (Russian)
- Rakhila (Russian)
- Raheli (Swahili)
- Rakul (Faroese)
- Raquel (Catalan, Galician, Portuguese, Spanish)
- Rashel (Russian)
- Rashka (Hebrew)
- Rashke (Hebrew)
- Rechell (Hebrew)
- Ruchel (Yiddish)
- Rachelle (Finnish) The woman who can't be seen.
- راحيل (Raaheel) (Arabic)
- ریچل (Rachel) (Urdu) <sup>[4]</sup>

## People named Rachel

- Rachel, in the Bible, the wife of Jacob
  - Rachel (actress), 19th-century French actress (Elisabeth Rachel Félix, better known only as Rachel)
  - Rachel (singer), a French singer of the 1960s
  - Rachel Allen, Irish celebrity chef
  - Rachel Bilson, actress
  - Rachel Bluwstein, usually referred to solely as "Rachel", Israeli poet
  - Rachel Bolan, born James Southworth, bassist of Skid Row
  - Rachel Carson, environmentalist, scientist
  - Rachel Corrie, American political activist
  - Rachel Cosgrove Payes, author
  - Rachel Crow, American actress and singer
  - Rachel Entwistle, American murder victim
  - Rachel Félix (1821-1858), French actress
  - Rachel G. Fox, actress
  - Rachel Fuller, British singer-songwriter
  - Rachel Harris, Australian swimmer
  - Rachel Hunter, model
  - Rachel Hurd-Wood, British actress
  - Rachel Kolly d'Alba, Swiss soloist violinist
  - Rachel Maddow, American journalist
  - Rachel McAdams, Canadian actress
  - Rachel Nichols, American actress
  - Rachel Nickell, British murder victim
  - Rachel Parish, British sportswoman
  - Rachel Portman, British composer
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- Rachel Rath, Irish actress
- Rachel Ryan, actress
- Rachel Reynolds, American actress and model on the TV game show *The Price Is Right*
- Rachel Scott, a victim in the Columbine High School massacre
- Rachel Smith, Miss USA 2007
- Rachel Stevens, British pop singer, best known as a member of the band S Club 7
- Rachel Stuart, Jamaican-Canadian model and actress
- Rachel Sutherland, New Zealand field hockey player
- Rachel Trachtenburg, American rock singer and drummer
- Rachel True, actress
- Rachel Walker, English field hockey player
- Rachel Weisz, actress
- Rachel York, actress

## People named Rachelle

- Rachelle Lefevre (born 1979), Canadian actress
- Rachelle Ann Go (born 1986), Filipina singer
- Rachelle Ferrell (born 1964), American vocalist and musician

## Fictional characters named Rachel

- Rachel (Animorphs), one of the six main characters of *Animorphs*
  - Rachel (Ninja Gaiden), a female warrior from the *Ninja Gaiden* series of video games
  - Naughty Rachel, a character in the British TV Series *Green Wing*
  - Rachel Berry (*Glee*), a character in the television series *Glee*
  - Rachel Brown, a character in the play *Inherit the Wind*
  - Rachel Carruthers, a character in the *Halloween* film series
  - Rachel Elizabeth Dare, a character in the young adult book series *Percy Jackson and the Olympians*
  - Rachel Dawes, Assistant District Attorney in the *Batman* series of movies.
  - Rachel Gatina, a character in the TV show *One Tree Hill*
  - Rachel Gibson, a character in Season 5 of *Alias*
  - Rachel Green, a character in the TV series *Friends*
    - The Rachel haircut, a hairstyle popularized by the *Friends* character
  - Rachel Greene, a character in the TV series *ER*
  - Rachel Kinski, a character in the Australian TV show *Neighbours*
  - Rachel Lang, a character in *The Rage: Carrie 2*
  - Rachel Mason, Headmistress of Waterloo Road in the BBC drama *Waterloo Road*
  - Rachel Menken, Don Draper's client's daughter and a love interest in *Mad Men*
  - Rachel Moore (Case Closed), of *Case Closed (Detective Conan)*
  - Rachel Summers, a character in the Marvel Universe
  - Rachel Teller, a character in the *Need for Speed Underground 2*
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**German Meaning:**

The name Rachel is a German baby name. In German the meaning of the name Rachel is: **Lamb.**

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**American Meaning:**

The name Rachel is an American baby name. In American the meaning of the name Rachel is: **Lamb.**

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**Hebrew Meaning:**

The name Rachel is a Hebrew baby name. In Hebrew the meaning of the name Rachel is: **Ewe. Rachel was the second and favoured wife of Jacob in the Old Testament.**

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**Biblical Meaning:**

The name Rachel is a Biblical baby name. In Biblical the meaning of the name Rachel is: **Sheep.**

<http://www.sheknows.com/baby-names/name/rachel>