

Genesis 35:16-20 **Birth of Benjamin and Death of Rachel**

¹⁶ Then they journeyed from Bethel. And when there was but a little distance to go to Ephrath, Rachel labored in childbirth, and she had hard labor. ¹⁷ Now it came to pass, when she was in hard labor, that the midwife said to her, "Do not fear; you will have this son also." ¹⁸ And so it was, as her soul was departing (for she died), that she called his name Ben-Oni; but his father called him Benjamin. ¹⁹ So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem). ²⁰ And Jacob set a pillar on her grave, which is the pillar of Rachel's grave to this day. NKJV

Facts revealed:

- ✧ Jacob is moving south from Bethel toward his father in Hebron, approximately 30 miles away.
- ✧ As they approached Ephrath (Bethlehem), about 14 miles, Rachel travailed in childbirth and she had hard labor and the boy was born as she was departing this life for she died, that she named him Ben Oni (Son of my sorrow), but Jacob named him Benjamin (Son of my right hand).
- ✧ Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (Bethlehem).
- ✧ Jacob set a pillar on her grave, which is the pillar of Rachel's grave to this day.
- ✧ It must be noted that the pillar of Rachel's grave is a holy spot to the Jews in Israel and a point of contention with the Palestinians who desecrate it when they gain access to it because they claim the land for their state and attempt to destroy all evidence that Israel was ever in the land.
- ✧ The Palestinians of today claim Israel has no right to the land of Shechem, Bethel, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, or Hebron which are all significantly important Israeli historical cities in the land God gave to Israel.