

“Few and evil have the days of the years of my life been ...”

Israel, in Gen. 47:9

1043

1. Israel (Jacob) was not the firstborn.
2. He was not the robust, masculine type.
3. Isaac favored Esau.
4. He was unmarried at an old age (little hope of a “name”).

5. He had to flee for his life from his brother, Esau.
6. He worked for Laban seven years for Rachel, but was given Leah.
7. He worked seven more years for Rachel.
8. He suffered constant strife and jealousy between Leah and Rachel.

9. He suffered years of tension with Rachel because of her barrenness.
10. He worked, altogether, twenty years for Laban.
11. He fled from Laban, and barely escaped.
12. When he fled from Laban, he had no place to go that he knew was safe.

13. Idolatry was in his family.
14. An angel gave him a permanent limp.
15. He bought peace with Esau with a large portion of his herd.
16. Dinah, his only daughter, was molested by a Canaanite.

17. Simeon and Levi wickedly deceived and murdered the men of an entire city.
18. His beloved Rachel died giving birth to Benjamin.
19. There was constant family discord because of his special affection for Joseph.
20. Joseph was apparently killed by a wild animal.

21. When a terrible famine struck, he had to send his sons to Egypt for food.
22. His sons returned, except for Simeon, who was held hostage by the ruler of Egypt.
23. The ruler of Egypt demanded that Rachel’s other son Benjamin be brought to Egypt.
24. Israel refused, until starvation threatened his whole family; the, he sadly sends Benjamin away.