

A Voice in Ramah

Jeremiah 31:15 This is what the LORD says: “A voice is heard in Ramah, mourning and great weeping, Rachel weeping for her children, and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.” (BSB)

Genesis 35:16-20 ¹⁶Then they moved on from Bethel. While they were still some distance from Ephrath, Rachel began to give birth and had great difficulty. ¹⁷And as she was having great difficulty in childbirth, the midwife said to her, “Don’t despair, for you have another son.” ¹⁸As she breathed her last—for she was dying—she named her son Ben-Oni. But his father named him Benjamin. ¹⁹So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem). ²⁰Over her tomb Jacob set up a pillar, and to this day that pillar marks Rachel’s tomb. (NIV)

I. Here are the details of these texts.

- A.** Jeremiah gives a sad prophecy regarding the death of **Jewish** children. Jeremiah 31:15
- B.** The voice that cries out is from Rachel the beloved **wife** of Jacob.
- C.** Her voice cries out from **Ramah**, just outside of Bethlehem. This is where Rachel’s tomb was said to be.
- D.** Rachel refuses to be **comforted** because of the prophesied tragedy.
- E.** This passage is quoted by Matthew in his gospel to explain the tragedy that happened while Herod was trying to murder the prophesied **Messiah**.

II. Why this prophecy is so important?

- A.** Human life is **sacred** because we are created in the image of God.
- B.** Mother’s are meant to have the **heart** of Rachel for their own children.
- C.** Fathers are also **essential** in raising their children as the protectors and mentors.
- D.** Mankind’s enemy seeks to **destroy** anything good that God wants to do in us and through us. We see this in the story of Moses and Jesus.
- E.** The church is to **stand in the gap** when the mother and father cannot fully nurture and protect their own children on their own.