

# The Story of Genesis

"Adam and Eve Driven Out of Eden" by Gustave Doré



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Gen 3:24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

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Written by Jeffrey L. Smith.

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Feel free to contact us with questions or answers for each lesson.  
[haymarketcofc@live.com](mailto:haymarketcofc@live.com)

# The Story of Genesis

## Lesson 1: Introduction, Creation, Fall \_\_\_\_\_ 1:1-3:24

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1, ASV)*

### Introduction \_\_\_\_\_ 1:1-2

Many recognize the above as the first verse of the Bible. How many accept it as true and accurate? How we deal with Genesis 1:1 directly affects how we deal with the Book of Genesis. How we deal with the Book of Genesis directly affects how we deal with the Bible. And how we deal with the Bible directly affects how we deal with God. Hence, a proper understanding of the Book of Genesis is most important. It lays and secures the foundation of our relationship with our Heavenly Father.

In the first two verses of the Bible God presents the start of things clearly and succinctly, if unscientifically.

- In the beginning (unqualified beginning, the beginning of everything)
- God, (who is eternal, without beginning or end),
- Created (caused to be from absolutely nothing),
- Everything (the heavens and the earth).

Things in our world evolve but evolution doesn't explain the beginning of our world. Things in our world are old but that doesn't mean they are eternal. *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1)*

### Creation \_\_\_\_\_ 1:3-2:7

In Genesis 1 God presents an overview of creation. Then in Genesis 2 God reviews and expands on the creation of man. As the only creature created in God's image man's origin deserves extra attention.

Day	Ref	Creation	Day	Ref	Creation
1	1:3-5		4	1:14-19	
2	1:6-8		5	1:20-23	
3	1:9-13		6	1:24-31	
7	2:1-3				

Notice how creations on days 1 and 4 are related? On day 1 God created light. On day 4 god created lights. Notice the relation between creation on days 2 and 5 and days 3 and 6? We can say that on days 1-3 God **formed** creation and on days 4-6 he **filled** creation.

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### Study Questions (1:3-2:7)

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1. God rested on the 7<sup>th</sup> day. Does he refer to that 7<sup>th</sup> day as a sabbath? YES NO
2. Do you know where Sabbath is first mentioned in the Bible? Where?
3. What commentary does God make about His creation at the end of each day?  
(see chapter 1 vs. 4,10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31)
4. We generally think of God in the Old Testament (OT) as God the Father. What does Genesis 1:26 suggest about God?
5. What was man's original dominion upon the earth? (1:26)
6. What directions was man initially given? (1:28-30)
7. What was man's initial diet? (1:29-30)

### Creation and Fall of Man

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2:8-3:24

*And Jehovah God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. (Genesis 2:7)*

Man is unique in God's creation. Only of man was it said that he was created in God's image (1:26). Man was given dominion over the earth (1:26). Man's original home was a garden and he was the gardener (2:15). Did you realize that man had work to do even before the fall? Work did not come to man as a result of man's fall. Work was man's purpose from the beginning.

In the midst of this beautiful garden was a special tree: the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Tradition holds it was an apple tree but the Bible doesn't say anything about that. Man's initial commandment pertained to the fruit of this tree. Don't eat its fruit, God says, for in the day you eat of it you shall die. Surely die!

God makes another commentary on His creation in Genesis 2:18, "It is not good that man should be alone." What follows is a parade before Adam of every living thing. Adam names the creature and notes that none of them is a suitable mate for him. God intervenes to remedy the lack, causing Adam to sleep and fashioning Eve from a rib. When done God presents Eve to Adam and performs the first wedding. Chapter two closes with the first couple naked, together, and unashamed, speaking to the intimacy of marriage.

Paradise didn't last long. In Chapter 3 the serpent tempts mother Eve, wondering if God had prohibited their eating anything at all (3:1). Eve correctly relates God's prohibition and the serpent foists the first lie. He says God didn't mean what He said. Mother Eve is deceived, is tempted, and then eats of the forbidden fruit. She then gave the fruit to Adam and he partook. Please list the curses bestowed upon the malefactors in the table below.

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Entity	Ref	Curse
Serpent	Gen 3:14-15	
Eve	Gen 3:16	
Adam	Gen 3:17-19	

The first couple are clothed by God, turned out of the garden, and denied access to the tree of life.

## Study Questions (2:8-3:24)

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1. Do you see any parallel between Eve's temptation and 1 John 2:15-16?
2. What are the 3 key elements of a marriage (2:24)?
3. Was there a difference between the way Adam and Eve partook of the forbidden fruit? (See 1 Timothy 2:14)

## Digging Deeper

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1. Can you describe the Gap Theory?
2. The Day-Age Theory?
3. How do those theories comport with Genesis 1-2 and Exodus 20:11?
4. Did Adam or Eve bring sin into the world?
5. Do humans ever regain access to the tree of life? Where do we read of that?
6. Where else in scripture do we read of the seed of woman?

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### Lesson 2: The Ante-diluvian World 4:1-5:32

*And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth. For, said she, God hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel; for Cain slew him. (Genesis 4:25, ASV)*

#### Cain and Abel 4:1-16

Man has fallen from God's grace, been cursed, and cast out of the Garden. What comes next? Chapter four records the first sacrifices to God, the first rejection of a sacrifice, and the first murder.

Chapter four opens with the birth of two sons to Adam and Eve. Cain raised crops while Abel raised sheep. "In the process of time" each brought of the fruit of their labors to the Lord. The Lord respected Abel's offering of the firstlings of his flock but He rejected Cain's grain. God exhorted Cain in his disappointment assuring him that if brought the right sacrifice it would be accepted. God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34-35).

In God's admonishment to Cain comes information about man's relationship to sin. Sin was waiting for Cain as it would wait for all men. But Cain should rule over it as all men should rule over sin (Romans 6:12). Cain had a choice: obey God and be accepted or disobey and be rejected. God was no respecter of persons, as stated before, but He will not accept what he disapproves.

Cain is first example of man's anger working unrighteousness (James 1:19-20). He murders his brother and conceals the corpse. God confronts Cain and he pleads ignorance. But the blood of righteous Abel cried forth to God from the grave. No prohibition against murder had been set forth prior to this so God invents a punishment for Cain. He lost the ability to raise crops. The ground would not yield for him any longer. If you can't stay in one spot and farm you are relegated to a nomadic life. And so Cain was henceforth to be a wanderer. Cain worried that he would be killed as he wandered. God's solution was to mark Cain in some way so that those he met would know not to slay him. Many have guessed what the "mark of Cain" is. Some say it is "red hair." We can't know.

#### Study Questions (4:1-16)

1. Were Cain and Abel the first two children born to Adam and Eve? Why or why not?
2. Was God playing a guessing game with Cain and Abel and their offerings? (Reference Hebrews 11:1,4)
3. Did God eventually accept grain offerings? YES NO Please give a reference?

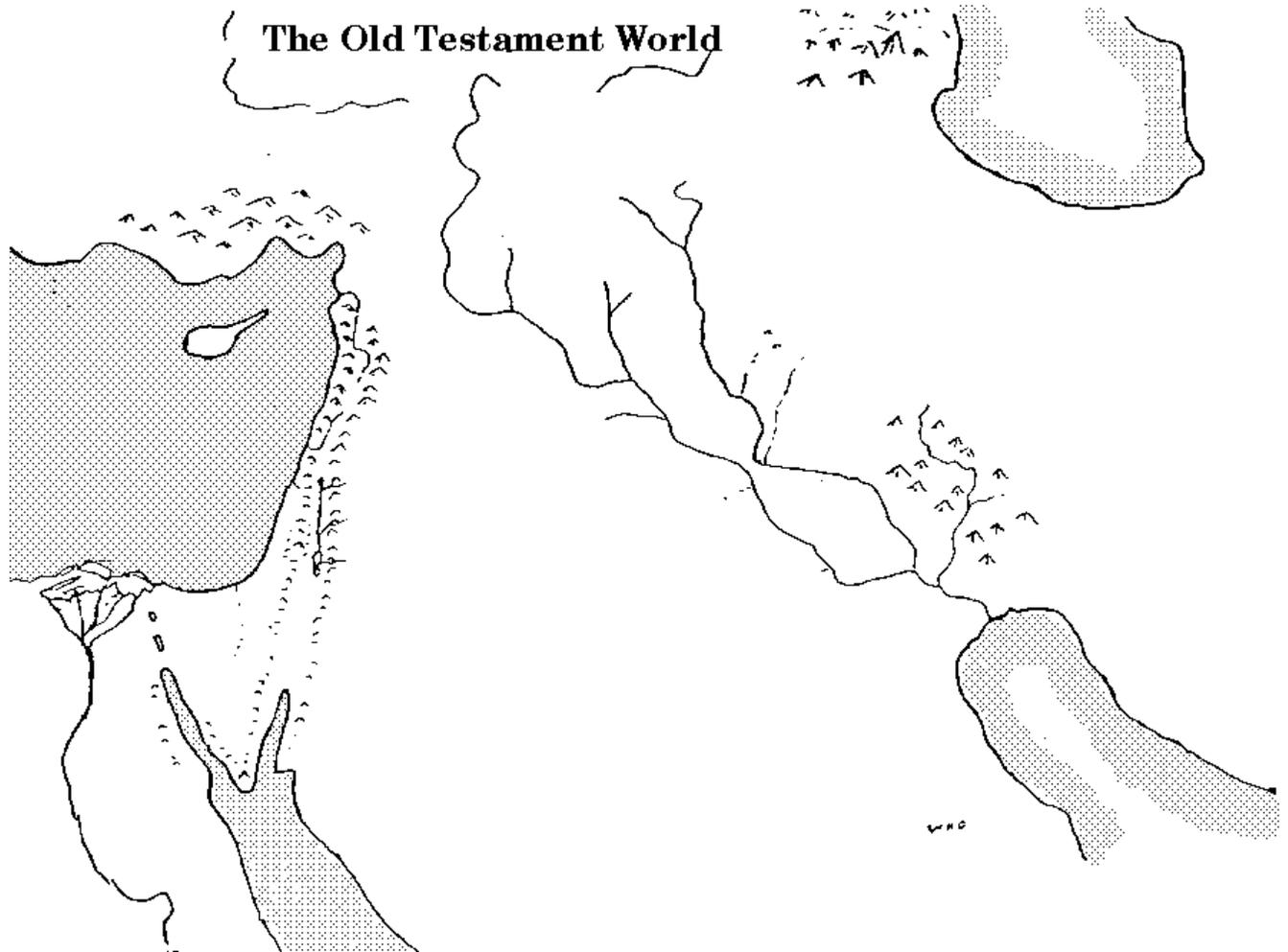
#### A Bunch of Begettings 4:17-5:32

Is there anything in scripture more boring to read than lists of births and deaths? If you're like me when you get to the Book of Numbers in the course of your daily Bible readings you aren't too thrilled. But we know all things written in the Old Testament are for our edification. So, what are we to learn from this section?

In the second half of chapter four we read of the descendents of Adam in an "informal" way. By contrast chapter five gives a formal treatment. In chapter five we have names of parents, ages at the time of a child's birth, years of their life, and some other details given as appropriate. We get a large cast of characters for the rest of the book. Also presented are a number of places. We are developing a rich geography to go with our rich genealogy. On the

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map below locate the places named in Genesis 1-5.



## Digging Deeper

1. Why did God ask Cain where Abel was (Genesis 4:9)? How is this similar to Genesis 3:9?
2. What is the pattern for presenting information about each person in Genesis 5? How is this significant?
3. What broader application of Cain and Abel can we make to our worship today?

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### Lesson 3: The Flood

6:1-8:22

*And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. (Genesis 6:13)*

#### The State of Men

6:1-14

Mankind is multiplying, as God directed them, as chapter six opens. It's interesting that those who are multiplying are referred to as offspring of different entities. "Sons of God" took wives of "daughters of men." Much speculating has been done on that difference. In addition verse four says there were "giants" or "Nephilim" (ASV) in the earth in those days. Again, much speculation has been done around this term and the origins of these creatures.

Yet and still, verses three and five reveal that God was exasperated with man and consequences were coming. After the list of long lifetimes recorded in chapter five 6:3 says man's new term upon the earth would be 120 years. It could be that God is saying He will do something to all mankind within 120 years, or that the new lifespan for the entire race will be 120 years. The latter seems to fit better. And with a few exceptions, such as Abraham, men didn't live longer than 120 years after the flood.

In addition to this long-term change a short term consequence was to come upon Mankind; a flood.

1. In what moral condition was mankind at this time (6:5)?
2. In what way was God "sorry" that He had made mankind (6:6)?
3. Why did Noah find grace in God's sight (6:8, 7:1)?

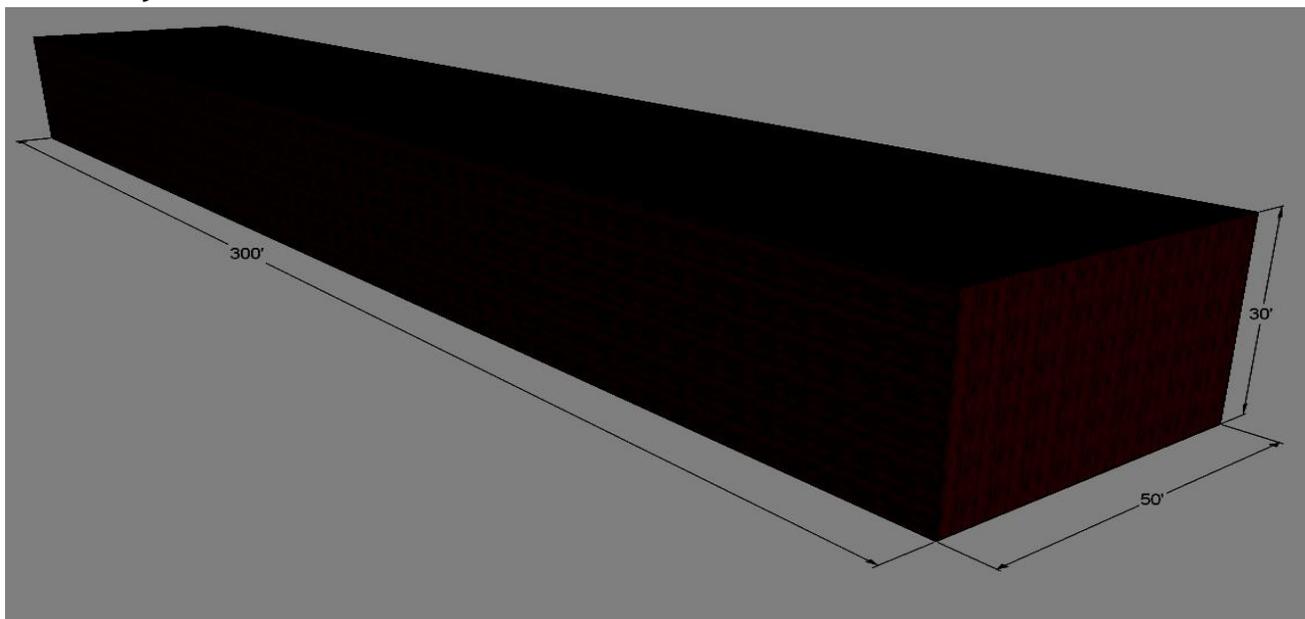
#### The Ark

6:14-7:3

A sketch of the outside of the ark is shown on the next page. The numbers shown are cubits as given in Genesis 6:15. One cubit is one and a half feet, so in feet the dimensions would be 450 by 75 by 45. Sometimes you'll see the ark pictured with elaborate curves and features. That the ark was a simple box as shown below seems most likely.

4. Of what was the Ark made? What are modern names for these materials?
5. List all that Noah was to take with him into the Ark. Give quantities.
6. How long did it take Noah to build the ark (5:32, 7:6)?
7. What else did he do while building it (2 Peter 2:5)?

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A sketch of Noah's Ark.

### The Flood 7:4-8:22

8. How long did God cause it to rain upon the earth (7:4)?
9. How long did the flood waters prevail upon the earth (7:24)?
10. What depth did the waters reach during the flood (7:20)?
11. Was this a localized flood or world-wide flood (7:22-23)?
12. How long after the rain started did the Ark come to rest on Mount Ararat (8:4)?
13. How long, in total, was Noah in the Ark (7:11, 8:13)?
14. What did Noah do after leaving the Ark (8:20)?
15. What did God promise after the flood (8:21-22)? What sign was given?

**Digging Deeper:** Did you know most cultures in the world have a world-wide flood in their history or mythology? Check out this article: <http://www.nwcreation.net/noahlegends.html>

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### Lesson 4: The Post-diluvian World 9:1 - 11:32

*I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud, and I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. (Genesis 9:13-15, ASV)*

#### **A New Era** 9:1-17

All humans have common ancestry in Adam and Eve, and so do we in Noah and his wife. As Adam's habitation changed drastically so did Noah's. Noah, his wife, his sons, and their wives, emerge from the ark into a very different world.

In chapter nine God reinforces old rules and sets forth new rules for his children. As Adam and Eve had been told to go forth and multiply (1:28) so God commands Noah (9:1,7). Man's dominion over the earth was also restated (9:2). Those commandments were confirmed but some changes were made, too.

The first change involved man's diet. Originally plants and herbs had been given to man to eat (2:16; 3:2). Now God places meat on their table (9:3) with an important reservation. Although meat is now permitted its blood is not permitted (9:4). The second change involved punishment for murder. Whereas God had to invent a punishment for Cain's sin of murder, a race-wide murder penalty is now set forth in 9:5. Whoever sheds man's blood by man his blood shall be shed. So the death penalty is set forth for murderers and mankind is made executioner.

God vows in chapter 9 to never again destroy the earth by flood (9:15). Floods would come again but never another whole-earth flood. As a sign of this he gives the rainbow. Each time a rainbow appears it should remind the race that God has vowed never again to destroy the earth with water.

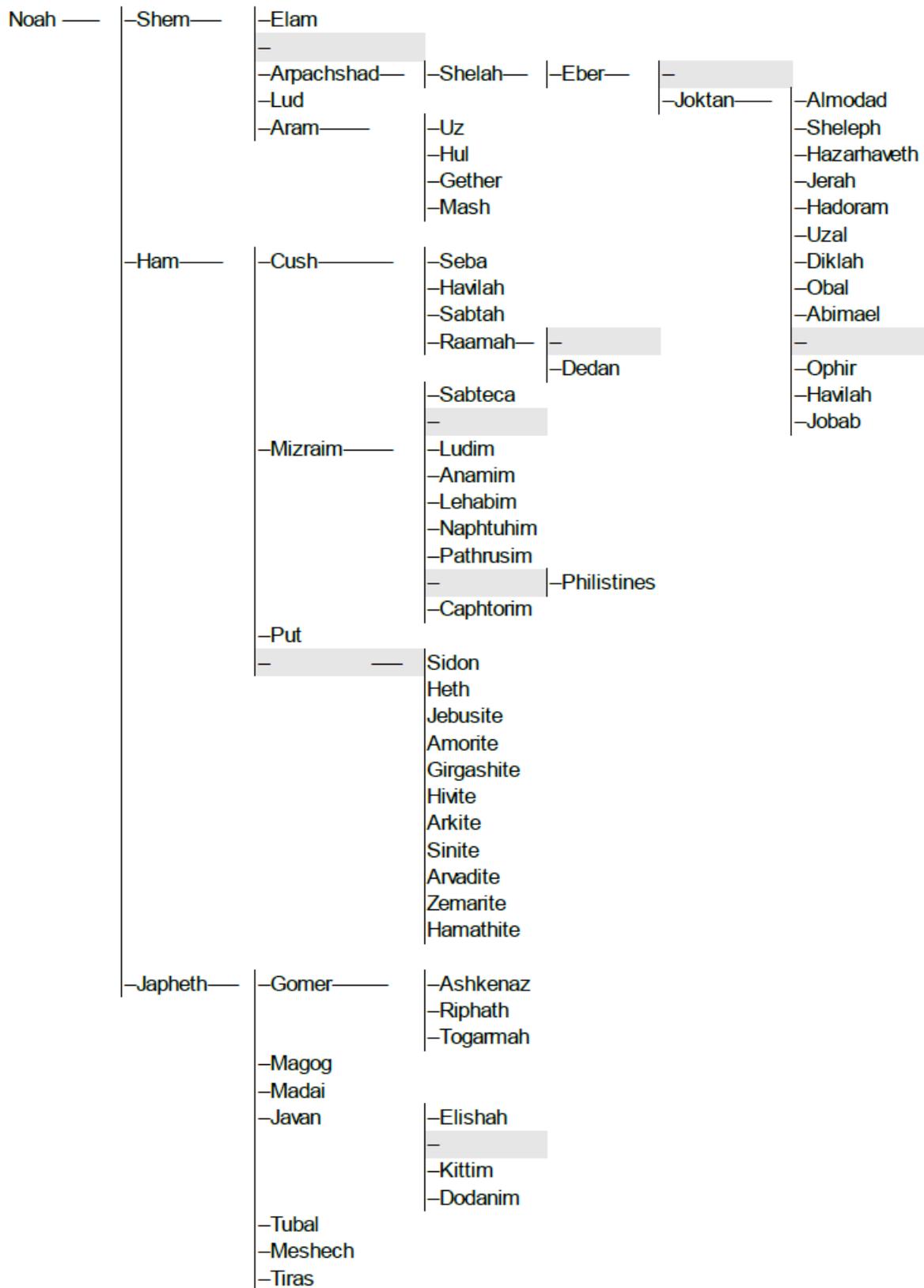
#### **Noah Uncovered** 9:18-29

Once all was ready Noah and family went forth from the ark. Verses 20 and following record an alcohol-related incident. Noah drank of the wine from his grapes and became drunk. In that state he was uncovered in his tent. Perhaps he was simply naked or perhaps it was more than that. Many speculate as to exactly what Noah was doing and what Ham did wrong. We know that Shem and Japheth did the correct thing by covering their father. Ham's sin was to not cover his father, rather to go and tell others about what he saw. How Noah knew what Ham had done is another mystery. But grave consequences followed Ham's transgression (vs. 25-27).

#### **Noah's Descendants** 10:1-32

We all are descended from Noah as we are descended from Adam. Genealogies are somewhat tedious to study but understanding Noah's descendants lays the foundation for all the places and characters in the Old Testament. On the next page please fill in the correct name in each shaded blank in Noah's family tree. Refer to Genesis chapter 10.

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## Tower of Babel \_\_\_\_\_ 11:1-9

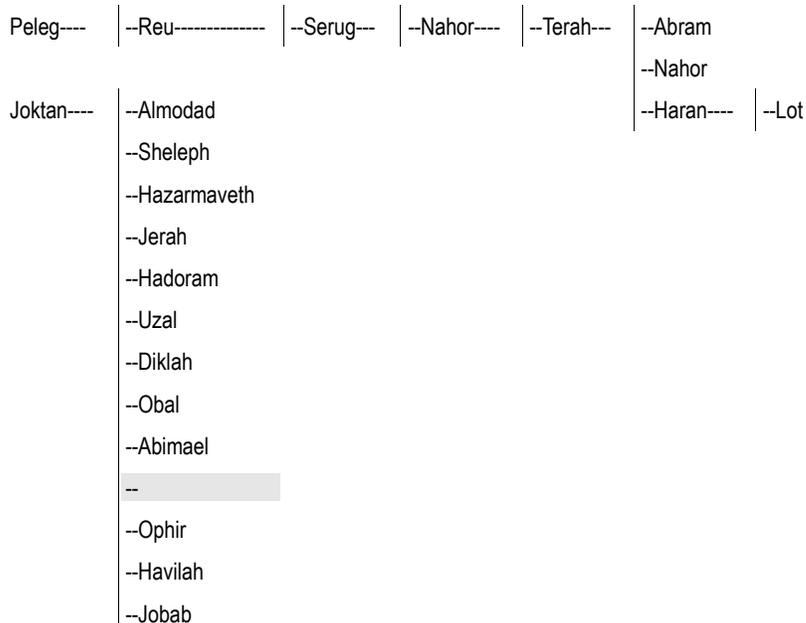
Until this time only one language existed and that language was Hebrew. Perhaps the world would have continued with only one language if not for the events at Babel. Having moved west to the plain of Shinar the people purposed to pause and build a sky-scraper to make a name for themselves. God looked down and decided to thwart their efforts. If people can't communicate it is difficult to cooperate. So Jehovah confounded their languages. Imagine waking up one morning speaking an entirely different language than you knew the day before, having forgotten yesterday's language. So it was at Babel. This is the first time God shows mastery over human languages but it is not the last.

### Study Questions (11:1-9) \_\_\_\_\_

5. Locate Shinar on the map on page 6. What modern city lies in that place?
6. What should the people have been doing instead of building a tower?
  
7. There was no law forbidding construction of a tower. Why was it wrong?
  
8. Where else in the Bible did God show mastery of human languages?

## Ammended Genealogies \_\_\_\_\_ 11:10-32

The last part of chapter 11 amends genealogies given in chapter 10. Peleg's descendents are given leading to the next main character, Abram.



Digging Deeper: Read the article at the below address to see how moder linguistics validate the Genesis record:

<http://creation.com/the-tower-of-babel-account-affirmed-by-linguistics>

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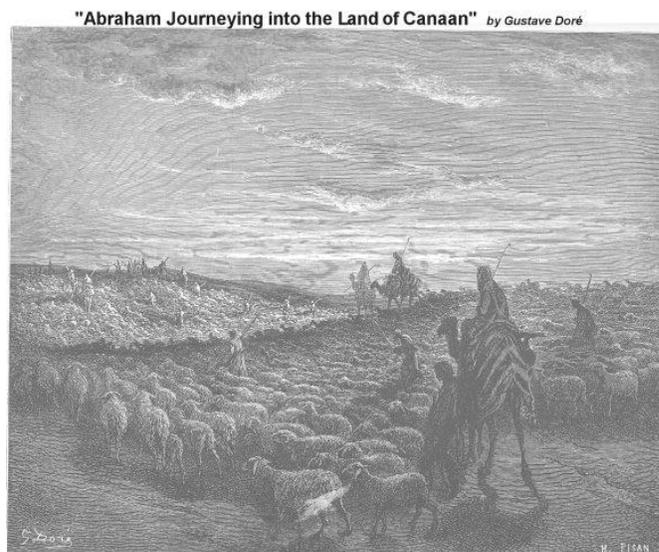
## Lesson 5: Abraham (Part 1)

Text: 12:1-15:21

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you; And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed." (Genesis 12:1-3 NASB)

The Promise and Journey \_\_\_\_\_ 12:1-9

Chapter 11 closed introducing Terah and his family which resided at Ur of the Chaldees. God called Abram to leave family and country and journey to another land. Jehovah didn't tell Abram what his destination was. Amazingly, Abram did not hesitate to obey.



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Gen 12:1 Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee....

Study Questions (12:1-9) \_\_\_\_\_

1. How old were Abram and Sarai when they left Haran?
2. List all the people who accompanied them on their journey.
3. Where did Abram build an altar unto Jehovah?

Sarai's Lie \_\_\_\_\_ 12:10-20

Traveling through unfamiliar territory Abram, Sarai, and company must have faced untold dangers. Abram anticipate problems from strange men as they noticed Sarai's beauty. He supposed that if these men knew she was married they would kill to get her. So Abram asked Sarai to lie when the situation arose saying they were merely brother and sister.

Events unfolded as Abram had predicted. Sarai lied as prompted and was taken into Pharaoh's house. Eventually Pharaoh deduced that Sarai was Abram's wife. He summoned Abram and rebuked him sharply.

Study Questions (12:10-20) \_\_\_\_\_

4. What event forced Abram and Sarai to journey to Egypt?
5. What problems came upon Pharaoh's house while Sarai was his?
6. Was it fair to punish Pharaoh for taking Sarai since he didn't know the truth?
7. What might Abram have done instead of asking Sarai to lie for him?

Abram and Lot Separate \_\_\_\_\_ 13:1-18

Study Questions (13:1-18)

8. Why weren't Abram and Lot able to remain together?
9. Who chose the lands each went to?
10. Upon what basis was the decision made?

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Abram the Warrior \_\_\_\_\_ 14:1-24

Fourteen chapters into the Bible we find the first recorded war. Abram performed admirably as a warrior-rescuer. Bera, king of Sodom, and neighboring kings made war with Cherdorlaomer, king of Elam, and other kings aligned with him. Lot and all his household were taken as spoils of war. Abram led 318 men from his house on a rescue mission. He divided his forces, conquered his foes, and rescued Lot.

On the way home Abram passed by Salem. Melchizedek, King of Salem, came out to honor Abram, and Abram gave him a tenth of all he had taken.

Study Questions (14:1-18) \_\_\_\_\_

11. Locate the place Abram rescued Lot on the map on page 12.
12. Did Abram keep spoils for himself?
13. How is Melchizedek unique in the Book of Genesis? (Hebrews 7:1-4)

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### The Promise Restated

15:1-21

God comforted and reassured Abram at the start of chapter 15. Abram shared that little else mattered without an heir. God then promised that Abram would have a son, and God promised much more. God says Abram's heir will be innumerable as the stars in the heavens. Abram and Sarai were already advanced in years. The idea that a child would come to these who had remained childless thus far.. .well, it defied logic. Nevertheless, his response came to summarize Abram throughout scripture,

*Genesis 15:6 And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.*

Even though God assured Abram that He could deliver on His promises, Abram asked for proof. God commanded Abram to bring and offer a heifer, a she-goat, a ram, a turtledove, and a pigeon. Abram obeyed then found himself having to protect the offerings from scavenging birds. At sundown, exhausted from the bird chasing, Abram fell into a deep sleep and dreamed a dream from the Lord. In the dream God's promise to Abram is fleshed-out and a time-line is given.

### Study Questions (15:1-21)

14. Give the duration of Abram's offspring's affliction in a foreign land (15:13):

- In years

- In generations

15. How was fire involved with the sacrifices Abram offered (15:17)?

16. See if you, can locate on the map the region God would eventually give Abram's descendents (15:19-21).

### Digging Deeper

A conditional statement takes the form of "If..., Then...". That is to say, the phrase that follows "then" is conditional depending on phrase following the "if". In Genesis 12:1-3 did God give Abram a conditional statement? That is, was God only going to do the good things for Abram (vs. 2) if Abram first left all (vs. 1).

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### Lesson 6: Abraham (Part 2) \_\_\_\_\_ 16:1 - 20:18

*Genesis 17:3-5 Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, (4) "Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. (5) No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.*

#### Abram, Hagar, and Ishmael \_\_\_\_\_ 16:1-16

In the ten years since God had promised an heir to Abram Sarai had not conceived. Sarai came up with a scheme of her own. Sarai invites Abram to have a child with Hagar, Sarai's handmaid. Why in the world Abram didn't object to this plan we can only imagine. However pure and just the motives were the results of this action grew worse and worse. After conceiving Hagar became contemptuous of Sarai. Even though the affair was Sarai's idea she became enraged toward Hagar. And it was all downhill from there.

#### Study Questions (16:1-16) \_\_\_\_\_

1. Why did Hagar run away from Abram and Sarai (16:6)?
2. Why did the angel compel Hagar to return (16:9-12)?
3. How old were Abram and Sarai when Ishmael was born (16:16)?

#### The Promise Restated, Circumcision Commanded \_\_\_\_\_ 17:1-27

Thirteen years after Ishmael's birth God appears to Abram again. The first order of business is a name change. No longer Abram, which literally means "high father", he would now be called Abraham, which means "father of a multitude." Second, Jehovah's promise to Abraham is restated. Third, the sign of circumcision is commanded for all males. Fourth, Sarai's name would also be changed. Sarai literally means, "my princess," while Sarah means, "princess."

Have you ever reacted inappropriately to news you have received? Well, Abraham and Sarah both did; Abraham here and Sarah a bit later. The idea of a 99 year old man having a child by an 89 year old woman causes Abraham to fall on his face laughing. Not an appropriate response. He makes a counter offer asking the Father to accept Ishmael as Abraham's heir.

#### Study Questions (17:1-27) \_\_\_\_\_

4. What did Abraham do in response to the new commandment of circumcision (17:23)?

#### Entertaining Angels Unaware \_\_\_\_\_ 18:1-33

In Genesis 18:2 it says three men appeared unto Abraham. In the preceding verse it says Jehovah appeared unto him. In Hebrews 13:2 it implies these men were angels. Interesting.

#### Study Questions (18:1-33) \_\_\_\_\_

5. Is it possible to harmonize the three accounts listed above?
6. List the provisions Abraham made for his surprise guests (18:4-8).
7. How did Sarah react to the announcement that she would bear a child?
8. Why had a cry come up to God concerning Sodom (18:20)?
9. Was Abraham's bargaining with God over Sodom effectual (18:23-33)?

#### Sodom and Gomorrah \_\_\_\_\_ 19:1-38

Two of the three angels Abraham entertained went down to Sodom where Lot met them at the gate. Upon his insisting they came into Lot's house to spend the night. One of Lot's motives in inviting them in was to spare them from the city's depravity. In this he was unsuccessful.

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The men of the city surrounded Lot's house and demanded that his visitors be brought out.

Study Questions (19:1-38) \_\_\_\_\_

10. What did the men of Sodom desire from Lot's guests (19:5)?
11. Was it proper for Lot to offer his daughters instead (19:8)? Why or why not?
12. For what purpose had the angels been sent to Sodom (19:13)?
13. What did Jehovah use to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah (19:24)?
14. What happened to Lot's wife (19:26)?
15. How did Lot's daughters trick him into lying with them (19:33)?
16. What two great nations were born of Lot's union with his daughters (19:37-38)?

Abraham and Abimelech \_\_\_\_\_ 20:1-18

Even though it hadn't gone well the last time Abraham had Sarah say she was only his sister (12:11-20), he does it again in Gerar. Abimelech was the one who unwittingly took Sarah.

Study Questions (20:1-18) \_\_\_\_\_

17. What was Abraham's motive for having Sarah lie (20:11)?
18. What curse had Jehovah imposed upon Abimelech's household for this sin (20:18)?
19. What can we learn about Jehovah's estimation of marriage from this chapter?

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### Lesson 7: Abraham (Part 3)

21:1-25:34

*Genesis 22:9-10 KJV And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. (10) And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.*

#### Isaac and Ishmael

21:1-21

Finally, God visits Sarah, she conceives and Isaac is born. Abraham circumcised Isaac on the eighth day. Sarah laughed before when she overheard that she would conceive. Now she laughs after giving birth (21:6). A different kind of laughter now than before.

An indiscretion at Isaac's celebration seals Ishmael's fate. Sarah sees Ishmael mocking his younger, half-brother. Sarah tells Abraham that Ishmael and Hagar must go. Although grieved by the prospect of casting them out God reassures Abraham that casting them out is the right thing to do, and out they go.

With only bread and water Hagar's situation soon grows desperate. In short order she thinks that she and her son will surely die. As God had reassured Abraham He reassured Hagar that all would be well with her. God promises that Ishmael would be made a great nation (21:18). He then provided water for them and their prospects improved.

#### Study Questions (21:1-21)

1. How old were Abraham and Sarah when Isaac was born?
2. At what age were children weaned back in that day?
3. On a map locate Beersheba, Paran, and Egypt. How are these place relevant to Ishmael?

#### Abraham and Abimelech

21:22-34

As Abraham and Lot had difficulty dwelling together so Abraham and Abimelech struggled to get along. Abimelech knew that God was with Abraham so he sought a truce with Abraham. Abraham reveals that some of Abimelech's men violently stolen water from him. The two come to a truce and name the place Beersheba.

#### Study Questions (21:22-34)

4. What does Beersheba literally mean?
5. How long did Abraham dwell in Philistia?

#### Abraham Offers Isaac

22:1-19

The Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away. Job's lament would have applied in Abraham's situation. The long awaited son, Isaac, was demanded as a sacrifice to God. Abraham is to be commended in that he neither protested or delayed. First thing the next day he, Isaac, and two young men departed for the specified place. After reaching the site Abraham leaves the two men behind and continues on with Isaac. I can only imagine Abraham's emotions as he bound his beloved son and raised the knife to slay him. Offering Isaac would have gone against every fatherly feeling. Still, Abraham obeys. At the last moment an angel intervenes. A ram in a nearby thicket would be the sacrifice, not Isaac.

## The Story of Genesis

### Study Questions (22:1-19)

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6. How does Abraham's parting comment to the two young men reveal his faith in God (22:5)?
7. How did Abraham allay young Isaac's concern that they had no sacrifice to offer (22:8)?
8. At what point in this ordeal did the angel know Abraham feared God (22:12)?
9. What blessing did Abraham receive from this?

### Sarah's Death and Burial

23:1-20

Chapter 23 begins with the death of Sarah. Most of the chapter is devoted to burial arrangements. Abraham was a sojourner in the land but wanted a permanent burial site for his beloved wife. The dialogue seems formal and stilted, but Genesis 23 gives those who would learn an insight into the formal practice of negotiating. Summarize each step of the process. The first two steps are summarized for you.

Abraham: vs. 3-4

Abraham opens negotiations with his request

Children of Heth: vs. 5-6

Children of Heth respond by offering it as a gift

Abraham: vs. 7-9

Children of Heth: vs. 11

Abraham: vs. 12-13

Children of Heth: vs. 14-15

Abraham: vs. 16

Author: vs. 17-18

10. Locate Sarah's burial place on the map.

### A Bride for Isaac

23:1-67

In his advanced years Abraham sought a proper wife for Isaac. He commissioned his eldest servant to return to Abraham's people to find that wife. I wish that we knew the name of this servant that we might give the honor that is due to his name. But his name is not provided, only his title. The bulk of the chapter is devoted to his search. With minimal direction from his master this servant sets out on his trek of over 500 miles. Hard to estimate how long this took, but the trust Abraham placed in this servant was not misplaced. Most impressive is the servant's approach to this overwhelmingly difficult task. In 24:12 he prays to Abraham's God and offers up a plan for recognizing the right woman. When the woman served Abraham's servant, fulfilling the sign he sought, he reveals his identity and purpose to Rebekah. Her humble spirit extends beyond service at the well to her accepting the shocking news graciously. The servant's work was not done. He had to persuade Rebekah and Rebekah's family. Once in her home he recounts the entire tale. Her family is convinced. After a few days mourning and celebrating they send Rebekah off with their blessing.

One more humble spirit is evidenced in this chapter; that of Isaac. This whole affair was what we call an arranged marriage. No courtship. No dating. Isaac saw Rebekah coming, took her to his tent, and married her.

The entire chapter tells of humble souls trying to cheerfully obey the Lord's will, and is inspiring to those of us trying to do the same.

## The Story of Genesis

### Study Questions (23:1-67)

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10. How were Isaac and Rebekah related (24:15)?
11. Why didn't the Holy Spirit reveal the name of Abraham's servant in this chapter?
12. What attribute of Rebekah's was the sign unto Abraham's servant?

### Abraham Fathers Another Nation 25:1-18

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14. How many children were born to Abraham by Keturah? List their names.
15. Did any of Keturah's children have nations named after them? List them.
16. What was Abraham's age at his death?
17. How many children did Ishmael have? List their names.
18. How old did Ishmael Live to be?

### Digging Deeper

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1. Was Keturah Abraham's second or third wife?
2. Harmonize Genesis 22:1 and James 1:13.
3. Abraham's casting out Hagar and Ishmael is seized upon by Paul to illustrate the relationship between the Old Covenant and the New (Galatians 4:22-31). Had any other Biblical writer hinted at this deeper significance of Hagar and Ishmael being cast out prior to Paul's writing?
4. Are arranged marriages appropriate today?

## The Story of Genesis

### Lesson 8: Isaac

25:19 - 28:22

*Genesis 26:12-14 KJV Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him. (13) And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great: (14) For he had possession of flocks, and possession of herds, and great store of servants: and the Philistines envied him.*

#### Isaac's Sons

25:19-28

Isaac and Rebekah initially had difficulty conceiving but Isaac's petitions were answered by Jehovah and Rebekah conceived. Her pregnancy was problematic from the start. Prayer is always appropriate and Rebekah asks God about her atypical pregnancy. I don't imagine she liked the answer, "Two nations are in your womb." The tradition then and now is for the elder to be served by the younger. But Rebekah was told that the reverse would be true with her boys.

As strange as the pregnancy had been the birth was stranger. The second twin came forth holding onto the heel of the firstborn.

#### Study Questions (25:19-28)

1. How old was Rebekah when Esau and Jacob were born?
2. Describe the ways Esau and Jacob were different.
3. In Genesis 25:28 the word reveals that Isaac and Rebekah each had a favorite son. Do you think this is natural? Healthy?

#### Isaac in Gerar

26:1-35

(Notice we have skipped some verses. In our study of Isaac we'll pass over passages and study them later as we study Jacob.) It's interesting that Isaac doesn't have anywhere near the number of verses devoted to him as are devoted to either Abraham or Jacob.

Chapter 26 opens with word of a famine in the land. Isaac was told not to go into Egypt as his father had once done but was told to stay in Gerar, in Philistia. The promise God had given to Abraham was restated directly to Isaac and Abraham's obedience to God is given as a reason for Isaac's blessing (26:3-5).

In Gerar Isaac has the same problem with Rebekah that Abraham had with Sarah; other men took interest in her because of her beauty. Recall that when Abraham and Sarah conspired to lie they had half a truth to base it upon (Genesis 20:12). Although Isaac and Rebekah were related they were not brother and sister. Before Rebekah was taken by another man Abimelech observed Isaac showing affection to Rebekah and knew that she was Isaac's wife. He summoned Isaac and rebuked him for his deception. Abimelech then charged his people to leave Rebekah alone. With the King's protection in effect Isaac and Rebekah stayed in Gerar and were richly blessed. Isaac re-established many wells in that region that Abraham had dug but the Philistines had filled in. After a period of strife between Isaac's herdsmen and the locals Abimelech visited Isaac and the two confirmed a truce between them.

#### Study Questions (26:1-35)

4. How could Rebekah be passed off as Isaac's sister when she had two sons?

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### Isaac Blesses His Sons

27:1-41

Certainly Rebekah had told Isaac what the Lord had said about their sons, that is, "the elder shall serve the younger" (Genesis 25:23). Why then is Isaac about to bless Esau as chapter 27 begins? Did Isaac ask the Lord who he should bless? There is no record of that. This is one of those amazing twists of providence. Everyone is selfishly pursuing their own wishes with no thought of what God wants, yet God's will is done. Amazing.

Rebekah overhears Isaac's charge to Esau and schemes to have Isaac get the blessing instead. Rebekah and Jacob wind up plotting, disguising, and lying to usurp Isaac's plan. It sure doesn't appear to be a happy, healthy, Godly family. Isaac, although suspicious, is fooled completely by Jacob's performance and gives his blessing to Jacob. When Esau comes in to receive the blessing both he and Isaac realize Jacob's deception. The blessing, though mistakenly given, is irrevocable. Having given the best to Jacob there is little left for Esau, but Isaac blesses him also. In his anger Esau vows to kill Jacob after Isaac dies.

### Isaac Sends Jacob to Laban

28:1-7

Esau married Canaanite women and they were "a grief of mind" to his parents (Gen26:34-35). Isaac acted to ensure Jacob married differently. Isaac sent Jacob back to Padanaram, to Rebekah's brother, Laban. And Jacob obeyed. Rebekah wanted to Jacob sent to Laban for this and another reason; to get him away from Esau until Esau's anger abated.

In chapter 28 the focus shifts from Isaac to Jacob. After Genesis chapter 28 Isaac is mentioned three times in chapter 31, once in 32, and four times in chapter 35, which records Isaac's death. After chapter 28 his name is used to identify Jehovah, that is, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Exodus 3:6, Acts 7:32, etc.).

### Isaac's Death

35:27-29

As Genesis 35 comes to a close the passing of Isaac is recorded. He still is living in Hebron, where he lived so long and near where his father and mother were buried. The record states that Isaac lived 180 years. Even though his sons had difficult years they were both present at his burial.

### Study Questions (35:27-29)

1. Give Isaac's age at these key events in his life:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Ishmael is sent away
- \_\_\_\_\_ Isaac is "offered up" by Abraham
- \_\_\_\_\_ Isaac weds Rebekah
- \_\_\_\_\_ Esau and Jacob are born
- \_\_\_\_\_ Isaac blessed his sons
- \_\_\_\_\_ Isaac dies.

2. Was Isaac a godly man?

3. Was Isaac a good father?

4. Hebrews 11:20 mentions Isaac. Harmonize that verse with what we studied.

## The Story of Genesis

### Lesson 9: Jacob (Part 1)

29:1 - 31:55

*Genesis 29:18-20 ASV And Jacob loved Rachel. And he said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter. (19) And Laban said, It is better that I give her to thee, than that I should give her to another man. Abide with me. (20) And Jacob served seven years for Rachel. And they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her.*

#### Jacob's Early Life

Various

As we studied Isaac's life in the last lesson we neglected some events of Jacob's early life. Let's visit those now. Recall that his time in Rebekah's womb was strange as two nations were there. He fought with his brother even before they were born. His birth also was strange in that he came forth grasping his older brother's heel.

Of greatest significance during his years in his father's house were the two times he abused his brother. When once Esau returned from a hunt famished, instead of feeding him freely, as you would expect brother to treat brother, Jacob offered to sell Esau a bowl of stew. As if that isn't strange enough the price he required was exorbitant. He offered a bowl of stew for Esau's birthright. A birthright is an extra share of the expected inheritance. You might expect a man with two sons to divide his estate in half. In fact the estate would be divided into three parts with the elder receiving two shares and the younger one. So, Jacob sold a bowl of stew for one third of his father's estate. It's hard to decide which is worse. Offering a bowl of stew for that price or buying a bowl of stew for that price. The two boys were quite a pair.

The other abuse occurred when Isaac was about to bless the boys. He planned to give the best blessing to Esau. But while Esau was off fulfilling his father's request Jacob and Rebekah conspired and deceived Isaac. So Jacob stole both his elder brother's birthright and his blessing. This latter deception was the last straw for Esau. He vowed to kill Jacob once Isaac died.

#### Study Question

1. What does Jacob literally mean?

#### Jacob Marries

29:1-30

At the bidding of both his parents Jacob visited his uncle, Laban. His arrival in that foreign land resembled that of Abraham's servant (Genesis 24). It was at a well that a bride was found. From that point on the plots diverge. Jacob is instantly taken with Rachel, who ran home to tell Laban the news. Jacob was a trickster but he met his match in Laban. Laban agreed to give Rachel to Jacob at the end of seven years' service. Jacob agreed and the time passed swiftly because he loved her so. At the end of seven years the wedding occurred. But upon waking the morning after Jacob discovered that Leah, Rachel's elder sister, was substituted in Rachel's stead. Can you imagine Laban purposing such a deception? How would Leah feel to be married in this manner? How would Rachel feel? When Jacob protested Laban agreed to give Rachel to him upon two conditions. First, Jacob had to fulfill Rachel's week, and second he had to work seven more years for Laban. What recourse did Jacob have? He agreed. And thus the most famous family in Israel, or of Israel, begins. Is anyone seeking God's advice or will? Is anyone being courteous or even respectable? What a start.

# The Story of Genesis

## Jacob's Children

29:31-30:24

In the table below please write the names of Jacob's sons, in order, with the meaning of each name.

Birth Order	Birth Mother	Son's Name	Meaning of Name
1	Leah		
2	Leah		
3	Leah		
4	Leah		
5	Bilhah		
6	Bilhah		
7	Zilpah		
8	Zilpah		
9	Leah		
10	Leah		
11	Rachel		
12	Rachel		

## Jacob and Laban

30:25-31:12

After fourteen years' service to Laban Jacob has two wives, eleven children, and nothing else to show for his labor. He asked Laban to release him. Laban asked him to name the wages for which he would stay. Jacob asked for the speckled, spotted, and black from the flocks of sheep and goats. Laban agreed and Jacob stayed for six years. In a creative yet unfounded attempt to get animals to birth more of his kind he put spotted branches in the watering troughs. Perhaps he thought if they saw spots they would give birth to spotted animals. It seemed to be working and Laban's servants noticed. But Jehovah revealed to Jacob that He was the one who caused Jacob to prosper under Laban's heavy hand (31:9-12).

## Jacob Leaves

31:13-55

God told Jacob to leave Laban. Rachel and Leah had no objections. All of them had been mistreated by Laban. Instead of saying goodbye Jacob decided to slip away secretly. His absence is soon discovered and Laban pursued Jacob and his family. Having been mistreated so consistently Jacob supposed Laban was coming to do him harm. Jacob was not only defenseless, he was encumbered by so many women and children to protect. His situation was desperate. However, God intervened by warning Laban not to harm Jacob (31:24). After a pointed exchange between the two men, and a fruitless search for some missing idols, Jacob and Laban parted company with an altar to witness (31:52).

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### Lesson 10: Jacob (Part 2)

32:1-36:43

*Genesis 32:27-28 ASV* And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. (28) And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for thou hast striven with God and with men, and hast prevailed.

#### Jacob Wrestles with God

32:1-32

Having broken ties with Laban, with all his family in tow, Jacob returns to Canaan. Knowing that Esau had vowed to kill him, Jacob sends messengers to Esau informing him of his return. The messengers return with news that Esau was coming out with 400 men. The logical conclusion was that Esau was coming to fulfill his old vow to kill Jacob. Jacob's troop of women, children, and servants was completely vulnerable to any attack and Jacob was greatly afraid. Jacob proceeded to cut his losses. He divides his troop into two parts and separates each from himself. His strategy is to perhaps preserve one half while his brother destroys him and the other half. He also sends gifts to his brother in an attempt to appease him.

At night, while alone, Jacob is met by a man and wrestles with him. How and why the wrestling match began is not divulged, but they wrestled all night with no winner. The man dislocated Jacob's hip with a simple touch. In that condition Jacob could never win, so he "locked up" and vowed not to release the man unless he blessed him. The man then changed Jacob's name to Israel. When Jacob asked the man his name he avoided the question. Jacob called the place Peniel, "for, said he, I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved" (Genesis 32:30). So even though the scriptures say Jacob wrestled with a man he thought he had wrestled with God.

1. What does "Israel" literally mean?
2. Locate Peniel on a map.
3. With whom did Jacob wrestle?

#### Jacob and Esau

33:1-20

The dreaded reunion was then upon Jacob. As Esau and his 400 approached Jacob bowed before him seven times. But Esau was no longer angry. Their reunion was amicable. Introductions were made then Esau questioned the gifts Jacob had sent on before. Esau refused the gifts claiming he had plenty. But Jacob persisted so Esau finally accepted. The brothers parted company on good terms.

Jacob located in Succoth and built buildings for his family and his cattle. Then came to Shechem. And he built an altar and called it El-Elohe-Israel.

#### The Dinah Incident

34:1-31

Chapter 39 records a terrible series of events centered around Dinah, the only daughter of Jacob mentioned in scripture. While Dinah was visiting local women Shechem, a son of the prince, took her and lay with her. Afterward he sought to have Dinah for a wife and his father, Hamor, approached Jacob to ask permission. Hamor proposed that his children and Jacob's children intermarry and trade; an amicable proposition. Notice that Hamor did not express any remorse for what had happened either on his or his son's behalf better control of his anger than his sons were. Why Jacob didn't speak up we don't know.

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but Jacob's sons told Hamor that circumcision was a prerequisite to Dinah's being given in marriage. Not just Shechem, but all the men needed to be circumcised. Now circumcision was not required of them by God. Rather, Jacob's sons were setting a vicious trap. Amazingly, the men of the city consented to circumcision, motivated by the prospect of getting rich and possibly getting wives of their own as a result. The trap was sprung by Simeon and Levi on the third day after circumcision when the men would have been in the most pain. They entered the city and killed every man with the sword. Then all Jacob's sons plundered the city. Jacob worried that others in the region would mount up against him for this deed. But the brothers felt their actions were justified based on what Shechem had done to Dinah.

You might wonder why this event is recorded in scripture. Well, it bears on the question of which of Jacob's sons would get his blessing. By this act the second and third born sons, Simeon and Levi, besmirched their reputation and disqualified themselves (Genesis 49:5).

Moving to Beth-el \_\_\_\_\_ 35:1-16

God commanded Jacob to move up to Beth-el. Before leaving Jacob commanded his household to leave their idols behind and a large pile of rings, ear-rings, and idols was left under some oak tree in Shechem. Arriving in Beth-el he had come full circle to the place where he had the dream on his way to see Laban. Before he set up the rock he had used as a pillow but this time he built a regular altar. Jehovah restates Jacob's new name. He is now Israel. God also tells him to be fruitful and multiply and restates the promise, again.

Benjamin's Birth, Rachel's Death \_\_\_\_\_ 35:17-21

On their way to Ephrath, Rachel found herself in a difficult labor. She was able to deliver the son, whom she named "Ben-oni," but died soon after. Israel renamed the boy "Benjamin." Israel buried Rachel there in Bethlehem.

4. What are the translations of Ben-oni and Benjamin?

Reuben's Sin and Isaac's Death \_\_\_\_\_ 35:22-29

For some reason Reuben lay with his father's concubine, Bilhah, handmaiden of Rachel. This act only receives a brief mention in scripture; just one verse. Yet it is important because this act disqualified Reuben from receiving his father's blessing (Genesis 49:3-4). The end of the chapter records Isaac's death, which we covered previously.

Esau is Edom \_\_\_\_\_ 36:1-43

The last verse of chapter 36 equates "Esau" the man with the nation of "Edom." The bulk of the chapter is devoted to the genealogy of Esau's descendents.

5. Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to generate a family tree depicting the people mentioned in chapter 36.

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### Lesson 11: Joseph (Part 1)

37:1-41:57

*Genesis 39:4-5 ESV So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. (5) From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had, in house and field..*

#### Joseph the Dreamer

37:1-11

As we move into the last quarter of the Book of Genesis our last major character moves to the fore. Joseph, Israel's eleventh son, was most beloved by his father because he was the firstborn of Rachel, Israel's beloved. Israel demonstrated his favor by giving Joseph a coat of many colors that instantly served as a wedge between Joseph and his elder brothers.

The Lord gave Joseph two dreams depicting his preeminence over his brothers. In the first the brothers' sheaves bowed down to Joseph's sheaf. In the second his brothers, plus his mother and father, bowed down to him in a celestial setting. Not only are his brother angered by these dreams, Israel is also put off a little by the second one.

#### Joseph the Slave

37:12-36

When Joseph visited his brethren in the fields the brethren seized the opportunity to vent their anger against Joseph. The original plan to kill him was stayed at Reuben's urging. But Joseph was sold into slavery, given over to an Ishmaelite caravan on its way to Egypt.

Imagine Joseph's helplessness as the caravan pulled away. I suspect that Joseph trusted that his father would rescue him as soon as he discovered he was missing. He couldn't have known the lie his brethren were foisting upon their father. The brothers killed a goat and smeared the blood on Joseph's coat of many colors. They presented it to Israel and asked if he recognized it. Israel fell for the ruse and concluded that Joseph was dead. So Israel did not search for Joseph. In many ways he was on his own, but God was with him.

#### Judah's Family Problems

38:1-30

Although Joseph is the son focused upon in Genesis, Judah is next in importance. And that is why some of Judah's history is included in chapter 38. Judah had three sons, and the eldest, Er, married Tamar. Without providing details verse 7 simply states that the Lord killed Er because he was wicked. Judah commanded his second son, Onan, to have relations with Tamar and raise up a son to Er's name. Onan creatively disobeyed, and the Lord killed him, too. Judah intended to have his third son, Shelah, fulfill this duty to Tamar, but invited Tamar to wait vowing to give him to her when he was old enough. Time passed and even though Shelah was old enough Judah did not give Shelah to Tamar, so she devised a trap and sprung it upon Judah. She pretended to be a harlot and Judah went in to her. She held Judah's signet, cord, and staff as pledges until her fee could be brought, but disappeared before the fee was delivered. Later, when her pregnancy became known, Judah purposed to burn her for her sin. But she produced the pledges to identify the father, and Judah pronounced her more righteous than he. From this union twins were born; Perez and Zerah.

#### Joseph in Potiphar's House

39:1-20

Potiphar, captain of Pharaoh's guard, bought Joseph and compelled him to serve in his house. God was with Joseph in his servitude and blessed all that he did. Because of this Joseph rose to the top of all Potiphar's slaves and had oversight over all Potiphar's house. Joseph was handsome and Potiphar's wife invited Joseph to lie with her. Joseph refused for righteous reasons, understanding what a great sin that would be. But she kept after him and one day, when they were alone, tried to force him. Joseph ran away but she kept his coat. Later she

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produced the coat and accused Joseph of trying to force her, the opposite of what actually happened. Potiphar was angered and sent Joseph to prison.

Joseph the Prisoner \_\_\_\_\_ 39:21-40:4

As God had blessed Joseph in Potiphar's house so He blessed him in prison. And as Joseph arose to the top of Potiphar's servants so he arose to the top of the prisoners. The warden actually let Joseph run the prison!

Joseph the Dream Interpreter \_\_\_\_\_ 40:5-41:37

Joseph's first occasion to interpret dreams came with two high-ranking prisoners. Pharaoh's baker and cup-bearer were imprisoned together and on the same night each dreamed a troubling dream that they couldn't interpret. Joseph listened to the dreams, interpreted them, and then implored the cup-bearer to remember him when he was restored to his office. Events unfolded as Joseph foretold, but when restored to his office the cup-bearer didn't remember Joseph until Pharaoh had a dream two years later. After the wisest men in Egypt failed to interpret the dream, Joseph was sent for. Joseph listened to Pharaoh's dream, interpreted it, and then proposed a solution to the problem.

Joseph Second Only to Pharaoh \_\_\_\_\_ 41:28-57

Pharaoh promoted Joseph to ruler of Egypt, second only to Pharaoh himself. As ruler Joseph enacted a plan for grain collection during seven years of plenty to stave off seven years of famine to follow. The plan worked and Egypt was delivered from famine. In fact, they had so much grain that they become the storehouse for the region. People traveled to Egypt from all around to buy grain.

### Digging Deeper

1. Trace the effect that parental favoritism played in the families of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Discuss how favoritism can be used constructively in a family.
2. Discuss Judah's hypocrisy in dealing with Tamar. Is hypocrisy practiced today? Have you been guilty of practicing it?
3. How many years elapsed from the time Joseph was sold into slavery and the end of chapter 41?
4. What Judah commanded Onan to do for Tamar eventually became part of the Law of Moses (Deuteronomy 25:5-10) called Levirate Marriage. The practice was used to trap Jesus in Matthew 22:24-28, but He taught his way out of the trap.

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### Lesson 12: Joseph (Part 2)

42:1-45:28

*Genesis 45:4-5 ESV* So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. (5) And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.

#### Brothers' First Trip to Egypt

42:1-38

The famine foretold in Pharaoh's dream had begun and its effects reached even to Canaan and Israel's house. Word that grain was available in Egypt prompted Israel to send his 10 elder sons there to buy grain. Neither Joseph nor his brothers knew it but their paths were about to cross again and his dreams were about to be fulfilled.

Joseph, as governor of Egypt, was in charge of selling grain. How could his brothers have imagined that the Egyptian before whom they bowed was the brother they had sold years earlier? Surely Joseph's appearance had changed and served as an effective disguise. So it is not surprising that his brothers didn't recognize him. But to Joseph's eye his brothers were immediately known. Joseph clearly had the upper hand and was in control of the meeting.

Consider for a moment all the thoughts and emotions evoked in Joseph by contact with his brethren. He had been severely abused by them; nearly murdered then sold into slavery! His crime? He had been loved by his earthly father and chosen by his heavenly father. Certainly neither of these warranted what the brothers did. And Joseph had no idea why his father hadn't rescued him. As evinced by his sons' names he was full of hurtful memories of his family, except one. His younger and only full-brother had played no part in his abuse nor could have been expected to rescue him. Of all his family the only one who hadn't wronged Joseph was Benjamin.

A Biblical principal not yet revealed at this time is, 'Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."' 'Romans 12:19 ESV. Joseph at first toys with his brethren then plots to have Benjamin brought to him. By accusing his brothers of spying he puts them on the defensive and sets them up to comply with his demands. After three days in prison he brings them forth and announces he will hold one brother hostage while the youngest brother is brought to him. Bringing the youngest would serve as proof that their story was true and that they were not spies. Of course the brothers protested but they had no choice. Simeon was taken hostage and the brothers returned to Canaan. On their return trip the brothers were surprised to find the purchase price for their grain in their grain sacks. Joseph had hidden it there.

1. Why didn't Israel send Benjamin along on the first trip to buy grain?
2. Why didn't Israel send Benjamin back immediately as requested?
3. Could the brothers return to Egypt to buy grain without taking Benjamin?
4. Was Joseph totally mean to his brothers, totally nice, or something in between?

#### Brothers' Second Trio to Egypt

43:1-34

Israel was forced to reconsider his refusal to send Benjamin when the famine continued and the grain previously purchased ran out. He was still reluctant to send Benjamin, afraid of losing another son (of his beloved Rachel) until Judah appealed to Israel, offering himself as

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surety for Benjamin. With Egypt as the only source of food they had no other option, and Israel reluctantly allowed Benjamin to go on the second trip to Egypt. According to Israel's custom generous gifts were taken to Pharaoh of the best of what they had. Also double the purchase price was taken.

Upon their arrival in Egypt Joseph ordered that the brothers be taken to his residence for a meal. The brothers were taken aback and afraid. Joseph had Simeon sent in to rejoin the others then Joseph joined the group. The brothers tried to explain the money mix-up but Joseph dismissed it saying he had received their payment. Joseph then inquired about their father, feigning mere curiosity. When he laid eyes on Benjamin he was overcome with emotion and had to leave the room. He wept in his chambers.

He amazed and confused his brothers by seating them in birth order and placing five times as much food in front of Benjamin. How could a stranger know their birth order? And why give Benjamin so much more? Joseph again was toying with them.

### Study Questions

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5. Why was Joseph overcome with emotion when he saw Benjamin?

### Joseph Springs His Trap 44:1-13

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Joseph directed his servants to fill each brother's sack with grain and to put their money into their sacks as before. He ordered them to plant a silver cup into Benjamin's sack then sent the brothers on their way. After a short delay he sent his servants in pursuit. They overtook the brothers and accused them of stealing a cup. Their search revealed the cup in Benjamin's sack and Benjamin was compelled to return to answer for his crime. The . brothers followed in tow; their worst fears realized.

### Judah's Plea 44:14-34

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Back before Joseph Benjamin was formally charged and sentenced to remain in Egypt. The others were free to go. If the brothers had returned home without Benjamin Joseph would have wrested from his old house the only one who bore no guilt for his abuse. He could have kept his full-brother in Egypt and simply forgotten his abusive family. But Judah pleaded for himself, his brethren, and his father. As Judah spoke Joseph realized several important things he had not known. Joseph learned that Israel thought Joseph was dead and had grieved for him. That explained why Israel hadn't searched for and rescued him. Judah also explained how devastated Israel would be to lose Benjamin, too. Joseph also learned that his brothers weren't all bad. Judah's offer to replace Benjamin showed selflessness and compassion. The cumulative effect was more than Joseph could bear.

### Revelation 45:1-28

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Joseph was completely overcome. He wept openly, cleared the room of all servants, then identified himself to his brethren. As they struggled to understand he gave them his perspective on his ordeal; that God had been behind it all. Joseph had been sent by Jehovah to preserve and deliver Israel's household. When Pharaoh learned of Joseph's reunion Pharaoh invited all to come to Egypt as his guests. With many gifts the brothers returned to Israel, who consented to relocate to and sojourn in Egypt.

## The Story of Genesis

### Lesson 13: Joseph (Part 3)

46:1 - 50:26

Genesis 50:19-21 KJV And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God? (20) But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive. (21) Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them.

#### Israel Goes to Egypt

46:1-34

As Israel was traveling to Egypt the Lord spoke to him confirming the promise yet another time, and reassuring him that going to Egypt was the right thing to do. The scriptures list all Israel's sons, and their sons. And in 46:27 summarize the extent of Israel's family at that time; 70 souls. The reunion between Israel and Joseph is touching. Israel was an old man who had long thought his favorite son was dead. Many tears were shed at that reunion.

Joseph prepared Israel for a meeting with Pharaoh, and that meeting was arranged.

#### Israel and Pharaoh

47:1-12

Joseph took his father and five of his brethren to meet Pharaoh. Having been prompted by Joseph, the brothers asked Pharaoh for permission to sojourn in the Land of Goshen, and Pharaoh graciously granted that permission. Then Pharaoh interviewed Israel, who was 130 years old.

#### Effects of the Famine

47:13-26

The famine pressed on and the economic effects were extensive. Joseph sold grain until everyone ran out of money. Then he traded grain for cattle until all the cattle were Pharaoh's. Then he traded grain for real estate until, at the last, Pharaoh owned everything in Egypt. Joseph then instated a 20% tax on all future production from the land. The people would get four parts and Pharaoh would get the fifth. Only the priests were excluded from the tax.

#### The Death of Israel

47:27-31

Israel's death is recorded toward the end of chapter 47 but details of the days leading up to his death are recorded in chapters 48 and 49. At the end of chapter 47 Israel demanded that Joseph promise not to leave his bones in Egypt but to bury his remains in Canaan.

#### Joseph and Sons are Blessed

48:1-22

When Israel was old and failing in health Joseph brought his sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, before him. Israel's eyesight had failed due to his 147 years, so Joseph helped him bless the boys. Israel seem to err, blessing the younger above the elder. But Israel assured Joseph that he knew what he was doing. And while blessing the sons Israel blessed Joseph, giving him an extra portion of his inheritance.

#### Israel Blesses His Sons

49:1-33

Chapter 49 records the blessings Israel gave to each of his sons. Please list after the name of each son the blessing Israel bestowed on him.

- Reuben
- Simeon

## The Story of Genesis

- Levi
- Judah
- Dan
- Naphthali
- Gad
- Asher
- Issachar
- Zebulun
- Joseph
- Benjamin

Joseph Buries Jacob \_\_\_\_\_ 50:1-14

After Israel died all Egypt mourned for him. Then Joseph asked permission and Pharaoh allowed him to go and bury Israel back with his people. So all the Israelites proceeded by caravan back to Canaan where they continued mourning and accomplished the burial. Then they all returned to Egypt.

Joseph Reassures His Brethren \_\_\_\_\_ 55:15-21

Joseph's brethren felt sure that Joseph would seek retribution against them after Israel's death. Even though Joseph had assured them he bore no ill feelings they couldn't believe it. So they came to him after Israel's death and apologized again. He reassured them that he wasn't going to harm them and he puts the entire affair in perspective. The brothers had no intention of furthering God's will when they abused Joseph. But God's will was furthered and served through him. God brought about good through Joseph, saving his chosen people.

Joseph's Death \_\_\_\_\_ 50:22-26

Joseph lived to be 110 years old and enjoyed seeing great-great grandchildren. He made the same request of his children that Israel had, to be buried back in Canaan. However, after he died and was embalmed, his remains were kept in Egypt for 400 years.

### Summary

The Book of Genesis can be summed up in the translation of Genesis; Beginning. It reveals the beginning of the world, of sin, of murder, and of languages. It reveals the beginning of man and traces the genealogy of the patriarchs; Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. Entire nations are born and populated in Genesis. Understanding the story of Genesis sets a firm foundation for the rest of the Bible.

Please write to me at [haymarketcofc@live.com](mailto:haymarketcofc@live.com) and let me know what you thought of the material. If you would like to get a final exam to test your knowledge of Genesis please include your e-mail or snail-mail address. May God bless us as we serve Him.

Jeff