**The Book of Genesis**

**Genesis Chapter 1**

The Creation

1In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

2And the earth was formless and empty, and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

3God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. 4And God saw the light, that it was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. 5And God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

6And God said, “Let there be an expanse in the middle of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” 7And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse; and it was so. 8And God called the expanse “heaven.”[[1]](#footnote-10011) And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.

9And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together to one place, and let the dry land appear,” and it was so. 10And God called the dry land “earth”[[2]](#footnote-14543) and the gathering together of the waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good.

11God said, “Let the earth sprout forth vegetation: plants seeding *forth* seed *and* fruit trees of every kind on the earth, bearing fruit with its seed in it,” and it was so. 12And the earth brought forth vegetation, plants of every kind seeding *forth* seed, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with its seed in it. And God saw that it was good. 13And there was evening and there was morning, a third day.

14And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons[[3]](#footnote-19774) and for days and years; 15and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth,” and it was so. 16God made the two great lights: the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night; and *he made* the stars. 17And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth 18and to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19And there was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

20And God said, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living souls, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the expanse of the heavens.”[[4]](#footnote-32276) 21And God created the large sea creatures and every living soul that moves, of every kind *of creature* with which the waters swarmed, and every kind of winged bird. And God saw that it was good. 22And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” 23And there was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

24And God said, “Let the earth bring forth every kind of living soul—every kind of livestock and creeping thing and *wild* animal of the earth.” And it was so. 25And God made every kind of *wild* animal of the earth, and every kind of livestock, and every kind of creeping thing. And God saw that it was good.

26And God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

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| 27 | So God created humankind in his own image.  In the image of God he created him.  Male and female he created them. |

28And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that creeps upon the earth.” 29And God said, “Behold, I have given you[[5]](#footnote-15894) every plant seeding *forth* seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree that bears fruit yielding seed. They will be food for you. 30And to every animal of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the ground in which is living soul, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so.

31And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, a sixth day.

**Genesis Chapter 2**

1And the heavens and the earth were finished, with everything that was in them. 2By[[6]](#footnote-14847) the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. 3And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all his work that creating, God had done.

Man and Woman in the Garden

4This is the history of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in *the* day that Yahweh God made the earth and the heavens.

5Before any shrub of the field was on the earth, and before any plant of the field had sprung up—because Yahweh God had not caused it to rain on the earth and *because* there was no man to till the ground— 6springs[[7]](#footnote-26061) went up out of the earth and watered the whole face of the earth. 7And Yahweh God formed man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.

8And Yahweh God had planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. 9Yahweh God had made every *kind of* tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food to spring up from the ground, and the tree of life in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

10A river went out from Eden to water the garden, and from there it divided and became four headwaters. 11The name of one is Pishon. It winds through the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold, 12and the gold of that land is good. Bedellium and the onyx stone are there. 13The name of the second river is Gihon, it winds through the whole land of Cush. 14The name of the third river is Hiddekel;[[8]](#footnote-14877) it runs east of Assyria. The fourth river is the Euphrates.

15Yahweh God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden[[9]](#footnote-28623) to work it and to care for it. 16Yahweh God commanded the man, saying, “From every tree of the garden you may eat, yes, eat, 17but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you must not eat from it, for in the day[[10]](#footnote-26265) that you eat from it you will die, yes, die.”

18Yahweh God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper corresponding to him.” 19Yahweh God had formed out of the ground every animal of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. Whatever the man called each living soul, that was its name. 20The man gave names to all the livestock, and to the birds of the heavens, and to every animal of the field, but for Adam, there was not found a helper corresponding to him. 21Yahweh God caused a deep sleep to fall on the man, and he slept, and he took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at its spot. 22And Yahweh God built the rib that he had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man. 23The man said,

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|  | “This one at last is bone of my bones  and flesh of my flesh.  This one will be called ‘woman,’  because she was taken out of man.” |

24This is why a man will leave his father and his mother and will join with his wife, and they will become one flesh. 25They were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

**Genesis Chapter 3**

The Temptation and the Fall

1Now the serpent was more crafty than any animal of the field that Yahweh God had made. He said to the woman, “Has God really said, ‘You must not eat from any tree of the garden?’”

2The woman said to the serpent, “From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat, 3but from the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You must not eat from it, nor are you to touch it, or you will die.’”

4But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die,[[11]](#footnote-11688) 5for God knows that in *the* day you eat it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God,[[12]](#footnote-20623) knowing good and evil.” 6When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked, so they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

Sin’s Consequences

8They heard the sound of Yahweh God walking around in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of Yahweh God among the trees of the garden. 9Then Yahweh God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”

10The man said, “I heard the sound of you *walking* in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid myself.”

11God said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

12The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me *fruit* from the tree, and I ate.”

13Yahweh God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

14Yahweh God said to the serpent,

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|  | “Because you have done this,  you are cursed above all livestock  and above every animal of the field.  On your belly you will go,  and you will eat dust all the days of your life. |
| 15 | I will put hostility between you and the woman,  and between your seed and her seed.[[13]](#footnote-12082)  He will strike your head,  and you will strike his heel.” |

16To the woman he said,

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|  | “I will increase, yes, increase your pain *and toil* in childbirth.  In pain *and toil* you will bear children.  Your desire will be for your husband,  and he will rule over you.” |

17To Adam he said, “Because you have listened to your wife’s voice and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You must not eat of it,’

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|  | cursed is the ground because of you.  In pain *and toil* you will eat from it  all the days of your life. |
| 18 | It will produce thorns and thistles for you,  and you will eat the plants of the field. |
| 19 | By the sweat of your face you will eat bread  until you return to the ground,  for out of it you were taken.  For you are dust,  and to dust you will return.” |

20Adam called his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all living. 21Yahweh God made tunics of skin for Adam and for his wife and clothed them.

22Yahweh God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil. Now, so that he does not reach out his hand and also take of the tree of life and eat, and live forever….” 23So Yahweh God sent him out from the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. 24So he drove out the man, and east of the garden of Eden he stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword that was turning in every direction, to guard the way to the tree of life.

**Genesis Chapter 4**

Cain Murders Abel

1The man knew Eve his wife. She conceived and gave birth to Cain and said, “I have gotten a man with Yahweh’s *help*.” 2She then gave birth to his brother, Abel. Abel was a shepherd of flocks, but Cain was a worker of the ground. 3And at the end of *the appointed* days, Cain brought an offering to Yahweh from the fruit of the ground. 4Abel also brought some of the firstborn of his flock, even of their fat portions. Yahweh had regard for Abel and his offering, 5but he did not have regard for Cain and his offering. So Cain was very angry, and the *expression on* his face fell.

6Then Yahweh said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why has *the expression of* your face fallen? 7If you do *what is* good, will you not be accepted?[[14]](#footnote-25935) But if you do not do *what is* good, sin crouches at the door. Its desire is for you, but you are to rule over it.”

8Nevertheless, Cain said to Abel his brother, *“Let’s go out into the field.”*[[15]](#footnote-25317) And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

9Yahweh said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?”

He said, “I do not know. Am I my brother’s keeper?”

10And he said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying out to me from the ground. 11Now you are cursed from the ground that opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. 12From now on, when you work the ground it will no longer continue to give its strength to you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth.”

13Cain said to Yahweh, “My sin is too great to be forgiven. 14Behold, today you have driven me away from the face of the ground. I will be hidden from your face, and I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.”

15Yahweh said to him, “Not so. If anyone kills Cain, he will be avenged seven times.” Yahweh appointed a sign for Cain, lest anyone finding him should strike him down. 16Then Cain went out from Yahweh’s presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

The Line of Cain

17Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and gave birth to Enoch. He built a city and called the name of the city after the name of his son, Enoch. 18To Enoch was born Irad. Irad fathered Mehujael. Mehujael fathered Methushael. Methushael fathered Lamech. 19Lamech took two wives; the name of one was Adah and the name of the other was Zillah. 20Adah gave birth to Jabal, who was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. 21His brother’s name was Jubal; he was the father of all who handle the harp and pipe. 22Also, Zillah gave birth to Tubal-cain, the forger of all kinds of implements of bronze and iron. Tubal-cain’s sister was Naamah.

23Lamech said to his wives,

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|  | “Adah and Zillah, hear my voice.  You wives of Lamech, listen to my speech:  for I have killed a man for wounding me,  a young man for bruising me. |
| 24 | If Cain will be avenged seven times,  truly Lamech 77 times.” |

25Adam knew his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth, saying, “For God has appointed me another seed instead of Abel, because Cain killed him.” 26And to Seth, in turn, a son was born, and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of Yahweh.

**Genesis Chapter 5**

The Line of Seth

1This is the record of the descendants of Adam. In the day that God created man, he made him in God’s likeness. 2He created them male and female, and blessed them and called their name “Adam” in the day when they were created.

3Adam lived 130 years and fathered *a son* in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth. 4The days of Adam after he fathered Seth were 800 years; and he fathered sons and daughters. 5And all the days that Adam lived were 930 years, and he died.

6Seth lived 105 years and fathered Enosh. 7Seth lived after he fathered Enosh 807 years and fathered sons and daughters. 8And all the days of Seth were 912 years, and he died.

9Enosh lived 90 years and fathered Kenan. 10Enosh lived after he fathered Kenan 815 years and fathered sons and daughters. 11And all the days of Enosh were 905 years, and he died.

12Kenan lived 70 years and fathered Mahalalel. 13Kenan lived after he fathered Mahalalel 840 years and fathered sons and daughters. 14And all the days of Kenan were 910 years, and he died.

15Mahalalel lived 65 years and fathered Jared. 16Mahalalel lived after he fathered Jared 830 years and fathered sons and daughters. 17And all the days of Mahalalel were 895 years, and he died.

18Jared lived 162 years and fathered Enoch. 19Jared lived after he fathered Enoch 800 years and fathered sons and daughters. 20And all the days of Jared were 962 years, and he died.

21Enoch lived 65 years and fathered Methuselah. 22Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and fathered sons and daughters. 23And all the days of Enoch were 365 years. 24Enoch walked with God, and he was no more, because God took him.

25Methuselah lived 187 years and fathered Lamech. 26Methuselah lived after he fathered Lamech 782 years and fathered sons and daughters. 27And all the days of Methuselah were 969 years, and he died.

28Lamech lived 182 years and fathered a son, 29and he named him Noah, saying, “This one will comfort us in our work and in the pain *and toil* of our hands, because of the ground that Yahweh has cursed.” 30Lamech lived after he fathered Noah 595 years, and he fathered sons and daughters. 31And all the days of Lamech were 777 years, and he died.

32Noah was 500 years old, and Noah fathered Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

**Genesis Chapter 6**

The Nephilim

1And when man began to multiply on the face of the earth and daughters were born to them 2the sons of God saw the daughters of man, that they were desirable, and they took for themselves wives of all that they chose. 3Yahweh said, “My spirit will not always remain in man, because he also is flesh; yet his days will be 120 years.” 4The Nephilim were on the earth in those days (and also after this) when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, the famous men.

Judgment Decreed

5Yahweh saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6And Yahweh regretted that he had made humankind on the earth, and it grieved him in his heart. 7Yahweh said, “I will blot out humankind that I have created from the face of the earth; humans, along with animals, creeping things, and birds of the heavens, for I regret that I have made them.” 8But Noah found favor in Yahweh’s eyes.

God Warns Noah

9These are the descendants of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time. Noah walked with God. 10Noah was the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

11The earth was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. 12God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, because all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. 13God said to Noah, “I have decided to put an end to all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

14Make an ark of gopher wood. You are to make rooms in the ark and cover it inside and outside with pitch. 15This is how you are to make it: The length of the ark will be 300 cubits,[[16]](#footnote-20541) its width 50 cubits,[[17]](#footnote-21123) and its height 30 cubits.[[18]](#footnote-18034) 16You are to make an opening for daylight on the ark, and have it end a cubit from the top. Put a door on the side of the ark. Make it with lower, second, and third decks.

17I, even I, am bringing a flood of water on the earth to destroy from under the heavens all flesh in which is the breath of life. Everything that is on the earth will breathe its last. 18But I will establish my covenant with you. You are to come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you. 19You are to bring into the ark two of every kind of living creature—some of all flesh—to keep them alive with you. They are to be a male and a female. 20From every kind of bird, from every kind of livestock, *and* from every kind of creeping thing of the ground—pairs of every kind will come to you to keep them alive. 21Take with you some of all the food that is eaten, and gather it to yourself; and it will be for food for you and for them.” 22And Noah did this. According to all that God commanded him, so he did.

**Genesis Chapter 7**

Entering the Ark

1Yahweh said to Noah, “Come with all of your household into the ark, for I have seen you to be righteous before me in this generation. 2You are to take seven pairs[[19]](#footnote-20069) of every clean animal with you, the male and his female. Of the animals that are not clean, take two, the male and his female. 3Also of the birds of the heavens, seven pairs,[[20]](#footnote-18611) a male and a female, to keep seed alive on the face of all the earth. 4In seven days I will cause it to rain on the earth for 40 days and 40 nights. Every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the surface[[21]](#footnote-32744) of the ground.” 5Noah did according to all that God commanded him.

6Noah was 600 years old when the flood came: waters upon the earth. 7Noah went into the ark with his sons, and his wife and his sons’ wives because of the waters of the flood. 8The clean animals, the animals that are not clean, the birds, and everything that crawls on the ground, 9came by pairs to Noah into the ark, male and female, as God commanded Noah. 10And after the seven days the waters of the flood came on the earth.

The Flood

11In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the same day all the fountains of the great deep were burst open and the windows of heaven were opened. 12The rain fell on the earth 40 days and 40 nights. 13On that same day Noah, and Shem and Ham and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah’s wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered into the ark, 14they and every kind of *wild* animal, every kind of livestock, every kind of crawling thing that crawls on the earth, and every kind of bird: every chirping bird, every winged bird. 15And they went to Noah into the ark; pairs of all flesh in which there is the breath of life. 16Those that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, just as God had commanded him; and Yahweh shut him in.

17The flood was 40 days on the earth. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it was lifted up above the earth. 18The waters rose and greatly increased upon the earth, and the ark floated[[22]](#footnote-26945) on the surface of the waters. 19The waters rose very very high upon the earth. And all the high mountains that were under all the heavens were covered. 20The waters rose 15 cubits upward, and the mountains were covered. 21All flesh that moved on the earth took its last breath—birds, livestock, animals, every swarming creature that swarms on the earth, and all humankind— 22all in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life of all that was on the dry land died. 23Every living thing that was on the face[[23]](#footnote-32602) of the ground was blotted out, from humankind, to livestock, to creeping things, to birds of the heavens. They were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah remained, and those who were with him in the ark. 24The waters rose over the earth 150 days.

**Genesis Chapter 8**

The Flood Recedes

1Then God remembered Noah and all the animals and all the livestock that were with him in the ark, and God made a wind to pass over the earth and the waters subsided. 2The fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed and the rain from the heavens was held back. 3The waters returned from *off* the earth, advancing and returning. At the end of 150 days the waters *began to* recede. 4And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat.

5The waters receded continually until the tenth month. In the tenth month on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen. 6And at the end of 40 days, Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made 7and he sent out a raven. It went back and forth until the waters had dried up from the earth. 8Then he sent out the dove from him to see if the waters had decreased from the surface of the ground; 9but the dove found no place to rest her foot, and she returned to him into the ark, for the waters were *still* on the surface of the whole earth. He put out his hand and took her and brought her to him into the ark. 10So he waited another seven days and sent the dove out of the ark again. 11The dove came back to him at evening and, behold, in her mouth was an olive leaf plucked off. So Noah knew that the waters had decreased on the earth. 12Then he waited another seven days and sent out the dove, and she did not return to him any more. 13And in the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters began to dry up from the earth. Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked. He saw that the surface of the ground had begun to dry up. 14In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was *completely* dry.

Yahweh’s Promise

15Then God spoke to Noah, saying, 16“Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons’ wives with you. 17Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—including birds, livestock and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—so that they can increase abundantly[[24]](#footnote-12047) on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.” 18So Noah went out with his sons, his wife and his sons’ wives with him. 19Every animal, every creeping thing, and every bird, whatever moves on the earth, according to their families, went out of the ark.

20Noah built an altar to Yahweh and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. 21Yahweh smelled the pleasing aroma, and Yahweh said in his heart, “I will never again curse the ground because of humankind, because the imagination of people’s hearts is evil from their youth, nor will I ever again strike down every living thing as I have done. 22While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night will not cease.”

**Genesis Chapter 9**

God’s Covenant with Noah

1God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. 2The fear of you and the dread of you will come upon every animal of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens. Everything which moves on the ground and all the fish of the sea are given into your hand. 3Every moving thing that lives will be food for you. As with the green plants, I have *now* given everything to you. 4But flesh with its life, its blood, you are not to eat. 5Surely I will require a reckoning for your lifeblood—from the hand of every animal I will require it, and from the hand of every man. From the hand of a brother human I will require a reckoning for the life of a human.

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| 6 | “Whoever sheds the blood of man,  by man his blood is to be shed,  for God made man in his own image. |

7Be fruitful and multiply. Increase abundantly on the earth and multiply on it.”

8God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying, 9“And I, behold, I *now* establish my covenant with you and with your seed[[25]](#footnote-32537) after you, 10and with every living soul that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every animal of the earth with you, of all that go out of the ark; every animal of the earth. 11I will establish my covenant with you; all flesh will not be cut off again by the waters of a flood, nor will there again be a flood to destroy the earth.”

12God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living soul that is with you, for *all* generations to come: 13I set my bow in the cloud, and it will be a sign of a covenant between me and the earth. 14And when I cloud the earth with clouds and the bow is seen in the clouds, 15I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living soul of all flesh, and the waters will never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. 16When the bow is in the cloud, I will look at it, remembering the everlasting covenant between God and every living soul of all flesh that is on the earth.” 17Then God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Prophecies about Noah’s Family

18The sons of Noah who went out from the ark were Shem, and Ham, and Japheth (Ham is the father of Canaan). 19These three were the sons of Noah, and from these *the people of* the whole earth spread out.

20Noah began to be a man of the soil, and planted a vineyard. 21He drank of the wine and got drunk. He was uncovered inside his tent. 22Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father and told his two brothers outside. 23But Shem and Japheth took a cloak and laid it on both their shoulders and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were backward, and they did not see their father’s nakedness.

24And Noah awoke from his wine and knew what his youngest son had done to him. 25He said,

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|  | “Cursed be Canaan;  he will be a servant of servants to his brothers.” |

26And he said,

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|  | “Blessed be Yahweh, the God of Shem.  Canaan will be his servant. |
| 27 | God will enlarge Japheth.  He will dwell in the tents of Shem.  Canaan will be his servant.” |

28Noah lived 350 years after the flood. 29So all the days of Noah were 950 years, and then he died.

**Genesis Chapter 10**

The Table of Nations

1Now these are the descendants of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And sons were born to them after the flood.

2The sons of Japheth: Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras. 3The sons of Gomer: Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah. 4The sons of Javan: Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim. 5From these the coastlands[[26]](#footnote-28776) of the nations were separated into their lands, each according to its *own* tongue, according to their clans within their nations.

6The sons of Ham: Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan. 7The sons of Cush: Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabteca. The sons of Raamah: Sheba and Dedan.

8Cush fathered Nimrod. He was the first to be a mighty one in the earth. 9He was a mighty hunter before[[27]](#footnote-31832) Yahweh. That is why it is said, “Like Nimrod, a mighty hunter before Yahweh.” 10The beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. 11Out of that land he went into Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah, 12and *built* Resen between Nineveh and Calah (which is the great city).

13Mizraim fathered the Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim, 14Pathrusim, Casluhim (from whom the Philistines came out), and Caphtorim.

15Canaan fathered Sidon (his firstborn), Heth, 16the Jebusite, the Amorite, the Girgashite, 17the Hivite, the Arkite, the Sinite, 18the Arvadite, the Zemarite, and the Hamathite. Afterward, the clans of the Canaanites were spread out. 19The territory of the Canaanites was from Sidon going in the direction of Gerar to Gaza; *then* going in the direction of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboiim, to Lasha.

20These are the sons of Ham according to their clans, according to their tongues, in their lands, according to their nations.

21To Shem, the father of all the children of Eber, the brother of Japheth the elder, to him also were sons born. 22The sons of Shem: Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, and Aram.

23The sons of Aram: Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash.

24Arpachshad fathered Shelah. Shelah fathered Eber. 25To Eber were born two sons. The name of the one was Peleg, because in his days the earth was divided. His brother’s name was Joktan. 26Joktan fathered Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah, 27Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, 28Obal, Abimael, Sheba, 29Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. All these were the sons of Joktan. 30Their dwelling places were from Mesha as you go toward Sephar, the mountain of the east.

31These are the sons of Shem, according to their clans, according to their tongues, in their lands, according to their nations.

32These are the clans of the sons of Noah, according to their generations, in their nations. From these the nations were separated on the earth after the flood.

**Genesis Chapter 11**

The Tower of Babel

1The whole earth had one language and one set of words. 2And as they traveled east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and they settled there. 3They said to one another, “Come, let’s make bricks, and burn them with fire.” They had brick for stone, and they had bitumen for mortar. 4They said, “Come, let’s build ourselves a city and a tower whose top is in the heavens, and let’s make ourselves a name, lest we become spread out over the face of the whole earth.”

5And Yahweh came down to see the city and the tower that the children of men built. 6Yahweh said, “Behold, they are one people and they have all one language, and this is what they are beginning to do. Now all the things that they intend to do will not be withheld from them. 7Come, let’s go down there and confuse their language, so that they do not understand each other’s language.” 8So Yahweh spread them out from there over the face of the whole earth. So they stopped building the city. 9Therefore its name was called Babel, because there Yahweh confused the language of all the earth, and from there Yahweh spread them out over the face of the whole earth.

From Shem to Abram

10These are the descendants of Shem. Shem was 100 years old and fathered Arpachshad two years after the flood. 11Shem lived 500 years after he fathered Arpachshad and fathered sons and daughters.

12Arpachshad lived 35 years and fathered Shelah. 13Arpachshad lived 403 years after he fathered Shelah and he fathered sons and daughters.

14Shelah lived 30 years and fathered Eber; 15and Shelah lived 403 years after he fathered Eber and fathered sons and daughters.

16Eber lived 34 years and fathered Peleg. 17Eber lived 430 years after he fathered Peleg and fathered sons and daughters.

18Peleg lived 30 years and fathered Reu. 19Peleg lived 209 years after he fathered Reu and fathered sons and daughters.

20Reu lived 32 years and fathered Serug. 21Reu lived 207 years after he fathered Serug and fathered sons and daughters.

22Serug lived 30 years and fathered Nahor. 23Serug lived 200 years after he fathered Nahor and fathered sons and daughters.

24Nahor lived 29 years and fathered Terah. 25Nahor lived 119 years after he fathered Terah and fathered sons and daughters.

26Terah lived 70 years and fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran.

27Now these are the descendants of Terah. Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Haran fathered Lot. 28Haran died before his father Terah in the land of his birth, in Ur of the Chaldees. 29Abram and Nahor took wives. The name of Abram’s wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor’s wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran who also was the father of Iscah. 30Sarai was barren; she had no child.

31Terah took Abram his son, Lot the son of Haran, his grandson,[[28]](#footnote-17467) and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram’s wife. They went from Ur of the Chaldees to go to the land of Canaan, but they went as far as Haran and settled there. 32The days of Terah were 205 years. Terah died in Haran.

**Genesis Chapter 12**

The Call of Abram

1Now Yahweh said to Abram,

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|  | “Go from your country  and from your relatives  and from your father’s house  *and go* to the land that I will show you. |
| 2 | And I will make of you a great nation,  and I will bless you  and make your name great,  and you will be a blessing. |
| 3 | And I will bless those who bless you,  and the one who treats you with contempt I will curse,  and all of the clans of the earth  will be blessed through you.” |

4So Abram went just as Yahweh had told him to, and Lot went with him. Abram was 75 years old when he departed from Haran. 5Abram took his wife Sarai, *and* his nephew[[29]](#footnote-32060) Lot, *along with* all their possessions that they had gained and the people[[30]](#footnote-30027) whom they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, 6Abram passed through the land to the Place of Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. 7And Yahweh appeared to Abram and said, “I will give this land to your seed.” So he built an altar there to Yahweh, who appeared to him. 8From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. He built an altar to Yahweh there, and called on the name of Yahweh. 9Abram traveled, going on by stages toward the Negev.

Abram in Egypt

10Then there was a famine in the land. So Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, because the famine was severe in the land. 11And when he was about to enter Egypt, he said to Sarai his wife, “Look, I know that you are a beautiful woman. 12So, when the Egyptians see you they will say, ‘This is his wife,’ and they will kill me, but they will keep you alive. 13Please say that you are my sister so that it will be well with me for your sake, and so that my soul will live because of you.” 14And when Abram came into Egypt, the Egyptians saw the woman, that she was very beautiful. 15The officials of Pharaoh saw her and praised her to Pharaoh, and the woman was taken into Pharaoh’s house. 16And he treated Abram well for her sake, so that Abram[[31]](#footnote-22690) came to have sheep, cattle, male donkeys, male slaves, female slaves, female donkeys, and camels.

17But Yahweh plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram’s wife. 18Pharaoh called Abram and said, “What is this that you have done to me? Why didn’t you tell me that she is your wife? 19Why did you say, ‘She is my sister,’ so that I took her to be my wife? So now, here is your wife! Take *her* and go!”

20So Pharaoh gave his men orders about him, and they sent him away, with his wife and all that he had.

**Genesis Chapter 13**

Abram and Lot Separate

1So Abram went up out of Egypt, he, his wife, all that he had, and Lot with him, into the Negev. 2Abram was very wealthy in livestock, in silver, and in gold. 3He went on, *making and* breaking camp from the Negev as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the first, between Bethel and Ai, 4to the place of the altar that he had made there earlier. And Abram called on the name of Yahweh there.

5Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. 6The land was not able to support them while they were living together, because they had so many possessions that they could not live together, 7and there were quarrels between the herdsmen of Abram’s livestock and the herdsmen of Lot’s livestock. (The Canaanite and the Perizzite were living in the land at that time).

8So Abram said to Lot, “Please let there be no strife between me and you and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen, because we are relatives. 9Isn’t the whole land before you? Please separate yourself from me. If you go to the left, then I will go to the right, or if you go to the right, then I will go to the left.”

10Lot lifted up his eyes and saw all the plain of the Jordan, that all of it was well-watered, as you go toward Zoar, like the Garden of Yahweh, like the land of Egypt (this was before Yahweh destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah). 11So Lot chose the plain of the Jordan for himself and Lot traveled east. So they separated from each other, 12and Abram lived in the land of Canaan and Lot lived among the cities of the plain and moved his tent near Sodom. 13(But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against Yahweh).

Reaffirmation of the Blessings

14After Lot had separated from him, Yahweh said to Abram, “Now, lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are to the north and south and east and west, 15for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your seed forever. 16I will make your seed like the dust of the earth, in that if a man could count the dust of the earth, then your seed could also be counted. 17Get up. Walk through the land, through its length and its width, because I will give it to you.”

18And Abram moved his tent and went and lived by the oaks of Mamre that are in Hebron, and he built an altar to Yahweh there.

**Genesis Chapter 14**

Abram Rescues Lot

1Now in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim, 2they made war with Bera king of Sodom and Birsha king of Gomorrah *and* Shinab king of Admah and Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar). 3All these joined together in the Plain of Siddim (that is, the Salt Sea). 4They served Chedorlaomer for 12 years, and in the thirteenth year they rebelled. 5In the fourteenth year, Chedorlaomer came, and the kings who were with him, and struck down the Rephaim in Ashteroth-karnaim, and the Zuzim in Ham, and the Emim in Shaveh-kiriathaim, 6and the Horites in the hill country of Seir as far as El-paran, which is by the desert. 7Then they turned back and came to En-mishpat (that is, Kadesh) and struck down all the territory of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites that lived in Hazazon-tamar.

8The king of Sodom, and the king of Gomorrah, and the king of Admah, and the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) went out, and they lined up in the Plain of Siddim for battle against them; 9against Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim, and Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar; four kings against the five. 10Now the Plain of Siddim was full of bitumen pits, and as the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, some *people* hid themselves in them,[[32]](#footnote-26394) and the rest of them fled to the hill country. 11They took all the possessions of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their food, and went away. 12They also took Lot, the son of Abram’s brother, who lived in Sodom, and his possessions, and went away.

13Then someone who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew. Now he was living by the oaks of Mamre the Amorite, the brother of Eshcol and the brother of Aner; and these were allies of Abram. 14When Abram heard that his relative was taken captive, he led out his trained men, born in his house, 318, and pursued *them* as far as Dan. 15He split up *his forces* against them at night, he and his servants, and struck them down and pursued them to Hobah, which is north[[33]](#footnote-21712) of Damascus. 16He brought back all the possessions, and he also brought back his relative Lot and his possessions, and also the women and the people.

Melchizedek’s Blessing

17Then after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King’s Valley). 18And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine, and he was a priest of God Most High. 19He blessed him and said,

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|  | “Blessed be Abram of God Most High,  creator of heaven and earth; |
| 20 | and blessed be God Most High,  who has given your enemies into your hand.” |

And Abram gave him a tenth of all.

21And the king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give me the people, and take the possessions for yourself.”

22Abram said to the king of Sodom, “I have lifted up my hand *and sworn* to Yahweh, God Most High, creator of heaven and earth, 23that I will not take a thread nor a sandal strap nor anything that is yours, so that you cannot say, ‘I have made Abram rich.’ 24Nothing for myself! But what the young men have eaten and the share *of the spoil* of the men who went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre, they must get their share.”

**Genesis Chapter 15**

The Abrahamic Covenant

1After these things the word of Yahweh came to Abram in a vision, saying,

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|  | “Do not be afraid, Abram,  I am your shield;  your reward is exceedingly great.” |

2But Abram said, “Lord Yahweh, what will you give me, since I continue to be[[34]](#footnote-25832) childless, and he who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” 3Abram said, “Behold, you have given no seed to me, and behold, a member of my household[[35]](#footnote-19657) is my heir.”

4But behold, the word of Yahweh came to him, saying, “This *man* will not be your heir, but he who will come out of your own body will be your heir.” 5Yahweh brought him outside and said, “Look now toward the heavens and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” He said to Abram, “So your seed will be.”

6And he believed[[36]](#footnote-22978) Yahweh, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

7He said to him, “I am Yahweh who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldees to give you this land to possess it.”[[37]](#footnote-23959)

8And he said, “Lord Yahweh, how will I know that I will possess it?”

9So he said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.”

10So he brought him all of these and cut them down the middle and laid each half opposite the other, but he did not divide the birds. 11And the birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away. 12When the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram, and behold, terror and a great darkness fell on him.

13And he said to Abram, “Know, yes, know that your offspring will live as sojourners in a land that is not theirs (and will serve them and they will afflict them) 400 years. 14But I will judge that nation whom they will serve, and in the end they will come out with great wealth. 15But you will go to your fathers in peace. You will be buried at a good old age. 16In the fourth generation they will come here again, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.”

17And when the sun went down and it became dark, behold, a smoking firepot and a flaming torch passed between the pieces. 18On that day Yahweh cut a covenant with Abram, saying, “I have given this land to your offspring, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates: 19*the land of* the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, 20the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, 21the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.”

**Genesis Chapter 16**

Hagar and Ishmael

1Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had not borne him *any* *children*. Now she had a female slave, an Egyptian whose name was Hagar. 2So Sarai said to Abram, “Behold now, Yahweh has prevented me from bearing. Go in to[[38]](#footnote-12022) my slave. Perhaps I can build *a family* by her.” And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. 3So after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram’s wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her slave, and gave her to Abram her husband as his wife. 4He went in to Hagar, and she conceived. When she saw that she had conceived, her mistress became insignificant in her eyes. 5Sarai said to Abram, “This abuse is because of you! I gave my slave into your bosom, and when she saw that she had conceived, I became insignificant in her eyes. May Yahweh judge between me and you.”

6But Abram said to Sarai, “Look, your slave is in your hand. Do to her whatever is good in your eyes.” Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, so she ran away from her.

7The angel of Yahweh found her by a spring of water in the desert; by the spring on the road to Shur. 8He said, “Hagar, Sarai’s slave, where did you come from and where are you going?”

So she said, “I am running away from my mistress Sarai.”

9Then the angel of Yahweh said to her, “Return to your mistress and submit yourself to the harsh treatment under her hands.” 10The angel of Yahweh said to her, “I will make your seed many, yes, many, so that they will not be able to be counted because of the multitude.”

11The angel of Yahweh said to her,

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|  | “Behold, you are with child, and will bear a son,  and you are to call his name Ishmael,  because Yahweh has heard *and paid attention to* your affliction. |
| 12 | He will be a wild donkey of a man.  His hand will be against every man  and every man’s hand will be against him.  He will live nearby all of his brothers.” |

13She called the name of Yahweh who spoke to her, “You are a God who sees me.” For she said, “Here I have seen the one who sees me!” 14Therefore the well was called, “Well of the Living One Who Sees Me.” Behold, it is between Kadesh and Bered.

15So Hagar bore a son for Abram. Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. 16And Abram was 86 years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.

**Genesis Chapter 17**

Covenant Expansion, Name Changes, and Circumcision

1When Abram was 99 years old Yahweh appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am El Shaddai. Walk before me and be blameless. 2I will make my covenant between me and you, and will increase you exceedingly exceedingly much.

3Abram fell on his face, and God spoke to him, saying, 4“As for me, behold, my covenant is with you. You will be the father of a multitude of nations. 5No longer will your name be called Abram,[[39]](#footnote-30029) but your name will be Abraham,[[40]](#footnote-26119) for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. 6I will make you exceedingly exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations from you, and kings will come out from you. 7I will establish my covenant between me and you and your seed after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your seed after you. 8I will give to you and to your seed after you the land of your sojournings—all the land of Canaan—as an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.”

9And God said to Abraham, “As for you, you are to keep my covenant, you and your seed after you throughout their generations. 10This is my covenant between me and you and your seed after you that you must keep: every male among you is to be circumcised. 11You must circumcise the flesh of your foreskin and it will be a sign of the covenant between me and you. 12He who is eight days old among you must be circumcised, every male throughout your generations; including a *slave* who is born in your house or bought with money from any foreigner who is not your seed. 13He who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money must be circumcised, yes, circumcised. My covenant will be in your flesh as a permanent covenant. 14The uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person[[41]](#footnote-30722) will be cut off from his people. He has broken my covenant.”

15And God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you are not to call her name Sarai, for her name will be Sarah. 16I will bless her, and also I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she will become *a mother of* nations. Kings of peoples will come from her.”

17Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said in his heart, “Will *a child* be born to him who is 100 years old? Will Sarah, who is 90 years old, give birth?” 18Abraham said to God, “Oh that Ishmael might live before you!”

19God said, “Yes, but Sarah your wife will bear you a son, and you are to call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his seed after him. 20And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him and will make him fruitful and will exceedingly exceedingly multiply him. He will become the father of 12 rulers, and I will make him into a great nation. 21But I will establish my covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this set time next year.” 22When he finished talking with him, God departed from Abraham.

23Then Abraham took Ishmael his son and all *the slaves* who were born in his house and all who were bought with his money, every male among the men of the house of Abraham, and circumcised the flesh of their foreskin on the same day, just as God had spoken to him. 24Abraham was 99 years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. 25And Ishmael, his son, was 13 years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. 26On the same day both Abraham and Ishmael his son were circumcised, 27and *also* all the men of his house, those born in the house and those bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him.

**Genesis Chapter 18**

Abraham’s Three Visitors

1And Yahweh appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he was sitting at the entrance of the tent in the heat of the day. 2And he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing nearby him. When he saw them, he ran from the entrance of the tent to meet them and he bowed down to the ground 3and said, “Lord, if now I have found favor in your eyes, please do not *just* pass your servant by. 4But let a little water be brought, then wash your feet and rest yourselves under the tree. 5I will get a piece of bread so you can refresh yourselves, then pass on by. For that is why you are passing by your servant.”

They said, “Very well, do as you have said.”

6Then Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, “Quick! Three measures[[42]](#footnote-13803) of fine flour! Knead it and make loaves.” 7Abraham ran to the herd and took a tender and good calf, and gave it to the servant, who hurried to prepare it. 8And he took curds, and milk, and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

Sarah Laughs

9They asked him, “Where is Sarah, your wife?”

He said, “Here, in the tent.”

10He said, “I will return, yes, return to you at this time next year. And, behold, Sarah your wife will have a son.” Sarah was listening at the entrance of the tent, which was behind him.

11Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in days. The way of women had ceased to be for Sarah. 12So Sarah laughed within herself, saying, “After I am worn out and my lord is also old, will I have *this* pleasure?”

13But Yahweh said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, saying, ‘Will I really give birth *to a child* now that I am old?’ 14Is anything too hard for Yahweh? At the set time I will return to you—at this time next year—and Sarah will have a son.”

15Then Sarah denied *it*, saying, “I didn’t laugh,” for she was afraid.

But he said, “No. Indeed, you laughed.”

Abraham Intercedes for Sodom

16The men got up from there and looked down toward Sodom. Abraham was walking with them to send them on their way. 17Yahweh said, “Should I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, 18since Abraham will become, yes, become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed through him? 19For I have chosen him, so that he will command his children and his house after him to keep the way of Yahweh by doing what is right and just, so that Yahweh can bring on Abraham what he has spoken concerning him.” 20And Yahweh said, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin is so very grievous, 21that I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to reports that have come to me. And if not, I will know.”

22The men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before Yahweh. 23And Abraham drew near and said, “Will you really sweep away the righteous with the wicked? 24What if there are 50 righteous inside the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the 50 righteous who are in it? 25Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are *treated* alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do what is right?”

26And Yahweh said, “If I find in Sodom 50 righteous inside the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

27And Abraham answered and said, “Behold now, I have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord, though I am but dust and ashes. 28What if of the 50 righteous, five are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city because of five?”

And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find 45 there.”

29And he spoke to him again, and said, “What if 40 are found there?”

And he said, “I will not do it for the sake of the 40.”

30Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak. What if there are 30 found there?”

He said, “I will not do it if I find 30 there.”

31He said, “Behold now, I have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord. What if 20 are found there?”

And he said, “I will not destroy it for the sake of the 20.”

32And he said, “Oh let the Lord not be angry, and I will speak just once *more*. What if ten are found there?”

He said, “I will not destroy it for the sake of the ten.” 33And when he finished speaking with Abraham, Yahweh departed, and Abraham returned to his place.

**Genesis Chapter 19**

The Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah

1And the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. Lot saw them and rose up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the earth. 2And he said, “Behold now, my lords, please turn aside into your servant’s house, spend the night and wash your feet. Then you can rise up early and go on your way.”

But they said, “No, rather we will spend the night in the city square.” 3But he pressed them strongly, so they turned aside with him and went into his house. He made a banquet for them and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.

4But before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both young and old, all the people to the last man, surrounded the house. 5They called out to Lot and said to him, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, so that we can know them *sexually*.”

6But Lot went out to them, to the entrance, and shut the door behind him. 7And he said, “Please, my brothers, do not act so wickedly. 8Behold now, I have two daughters who have not known a man. Let me bring them out to you, and do to them whatever is good in your eyes. Only do not do anything to these men, because they have come under the shadow of my roof.”

9But they said, “Stand aside!” Then they said, “This one came as a sojourner and he is behaving like a judge. Now we will deal worse with you than with them!” And they pressed strongly against the man, against Lot, and drew near to break down the door. 10But the men reached out their hands and brought Lot to them, into the house, and shut the door. 11They struck the men who were at the door of the house with blindness, both young and old,[[43]](#footnote-15879) so that they became weary *of trying* to find the door.

12Then the men said to Lot, “Do you have anyone else here? Sons-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and all that you have in the city, bring them out of this place. 13For we are about to destroy this place, because the outcry against them is so great before the face of Yahweh that Yahweh has sent us to destroy it.”

14So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were takers of his daughters *in marriage*, and said, “Get up! Get out of this place, for Yahweh is about to destroy the city.” But in the eyes of his sons-in-law he was as one who was joking.

15And when the dawn arose, the angels urged Lot on, saying, “Get up! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away because of the iniquity of the city!” 16But he hesitated. So the men grabbed his hand, and his wife’s hand, and his two daughters’ hands, because Yahweh was merciful to him, and they brought him out and left him outside the city.

17And when they had brought them out, one *of them* said, “Escape for your life! Do not look behind you, and do not stop anywhere in the plain. Escape to the hill country or you will be swept away!”

18But Lot said to them, “Please, no, Lord. 19Behold, your servant has found favor in your eyes, and you have shown me great faithfulness by saving my life. But I cannot escape to the hill country, lest this disaster overtake me and I die. 20Look, this city is close *enough* to escape to, and it is small. Let me escape there—isn’t it small?—and my soul will live.”

21And he said to him, “Behold, I will grant you this request too, and I will not overthrow the city of which you have spoken. 22Be quick! Escape to there!—for I cannot do anything until you get there.” That is why the name of the city was called Zoar.

23The sun had risen over the earth when Lot came to Zoar. 24Then Yahweh rained on Sodom and on Gomorrah sulfur and fire—*it was* from Yahweh out of heaven. 25And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and the vegetation of the ground. 26But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

27And Abraham started early in the morning to *go to* the place where he had stood before Yahweh. 28He looked out toward Sodom and Gomorrah and toward all the land of the plain. And he looked, and behold, the smoke of the land went up like the smoke of a kiln. 29And when God destroyed the cities of the plain, God remembered Abraham and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow when he overthrew the cities where Lot had settled.

The Origin of Moab and Ammon

30And Lot went up out of Zoar and settled in the hill country, and his two daughters with him, for he was afraid to live in Zoar. So he lived in a cave with his two daughters. 31Then the firstborn said to the younger, “Our father is old, and there is not a man on the earth to come into us as is the way of all the earth. 32Come, let’s make our father drink wine, and let’s lie with him, so that we can keep seed alive through our father.” 33So they made their father drink wine that night; and the firstborn went in and lay with her father. But he didn’t know when she lay down nor when she arose.

34And on the next day the firstborn said to the younger, “Behold, last night I lay with my father. Let’s make him drink wine again tonight. Then you go in and lie with him so that we can keep seed alive through our father.” 35So they made their father drink wine that night also. And the younger arose and lay with him, but he didn’t know when she lay down nor when she arose.

36Thus the two daughters of Lot became pregnant by their father. 37The firstborn gave birth to a son and called his name Moab. He is the father of the Moabites of today. 38The younger also gave birth to a son and called his name Ben-ammi. He is the father of the children of Ammon of today.

**Genesis Chapter 20**

Sarah Rescued from Abimelech

1Abraham traveled from there toward the land of the Negev and dwelt between Kadesh and Shur. *Then,* while sojourning at Gerar, 2Abraham said about Sarah his wife, “She is my sister.” So Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah.

3But God came to Abimelech in a dream in the night and said to him, “Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man’s wife.”

4Now Abimelech had not come near her, so he said, “Lord, will you kill a nation even *though it is* righteous? 5Didn’t he himself say to me, ‘She is my sister?’ And she herself said, ‘He is my brother.’ In the integrity of my heart and with clean hands I have done this.”

6God said to him in the dream, “Indeed, I know that in the integrity of your heart you have done this, and I also kept you from sinning against me. Therefore I did not let you touch her. 7But now, return the man’s wife. Indeed, he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and *you will* live. But if you do not return her, know that you will die, yes, die; you and all who are yours.”

8So Abimelech rose early in the morning and called all his servants and spoke all these things in their ears, and the men were greatly frightened.

9Then Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, “What have you done to us? How have I sinned against you that you have brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin? You have done things to me that should not be done!” 10And Abimelech went on asking Abraham, “What did you see, that you have done this thing?”

11And Abraham said, “Because I said *to myself*, ‘Surely there is no fear of God in this place. They will kill me because of my wife. 12And also, she really is my sister, the daughter of my father but not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife. 13And when God had me wander from my father’s house, I said to her, “This is the faithfulness that you can show to me. Everywhere that we go, say about me, ‘He is my brother.’”

14Then Abimelech took sheep and cattle, male slaves and female slaves, and gave them to Abraham, and returned Sarah his wife to him. 15Abimelech said, “Behold, my land is before you. Wherever it seems good in your eyes, dwell there.” 16And to Sarah he said, “Behold, I have given your ‘brother’ 1,000 pieces of silver. Behold, it is for you a covering of the eyes to everyone who is with you. In front of everyone you are vindicated.”

17Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech and his wife and his female slaves so that they gave birth, 18for Yahweh had closed, yes, closed all the wombs of the house of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham’s wife.

**Genesis Chapter 21**

The Birth of Isaac

1Now Yahweh visited Sarah as he had said, and Yahweh did to Sarah what he had spoken. 2And Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age at the set time that God had told him. 3And Abraham called his son who was born to him—whom Sarah bore to him—Isaac. 4Abraham circumcised his son Isaac at eight days old, as God had commanded him. 5Abraham was 100 years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

6And Sarah said, “God has made me laugh. Everyone who hears will laugh with me.” 7And she said, “Who would have declared to Abraham that Sarah would nurse sons? Yet I have given birth to a son in his old age!”

Hagar and Ishmael Sent Away

8The child grew and was weaned. Abraham made a great banquet on the day that Isaac was weaned. 9But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, laughing. 10So she said to Abraham, “Send away this slave woman and her son! For the son of this slave woman will not be heir with my son Isaac.”

11But the matter was very distressing in Abraham’s eyes, because of his son. 12But God said to Abraham, “Do not let it be distressing in your eyes because of the boy and because of your slave woman. In all that Sarah says to you, listen to her voice, because it is through Isaac that your seed will be called. 13And I will also make a nation of the son of the slave woman, because he is your seed.”

14Abraham rose up early in the morning and took bread and a skin-bottle of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, and *gave her* the child, and sent her away. She departed and wandered in the wilderness of Beer-sheba. 15When the water in the skin was used up, she placed the child under one of the shrubs. 16Then she went and sat down by herself opposite *him* at a distance; about a bow shot away. For she said, “Do not let me see the death of the child.” She sat opposite *him* and lifted up her voice and wept.

17But God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid. For God has heard the voice of the boy in the place where he is. 18Get up, lift up the boy and hold him tightly with your hand. For I will make him into a great nation.” 19And God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went, filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink. 20God was with the boy, and he grew up and lived in the wilderness and became an archer. 21He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother took a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Abraham’s Covenant with Abimelech

22At that time Abimelech, and Phicol the commander of his army, spoke to Abraham, saying, “God is with you in everything that you do. 23So now swear to me here by God that you will not deal falsely with me nor with my son nor with my son’s son. Rather, according to the loyalty that I have shown you, you are to show to me and the land in which you have sojourned.”

24And Abraham said, “I will swear.” 25But Abraham complained to Abimelech because of a water well that Abimelech’s servants had seized by force.

26But Abimelech said, “I do not know who has done this thing. You did not tell me, nor have I heard about it until today.”

27Then Abraham took sheep and cattle and gave them to Abimelech, and the two of them cut a covenant. 28Then Abraham set apart seven ewe lambs of the flock by themselves. 29Then Abimelech said to Abraham, “What is the meaning of these seven ewe lambs that you have set apart by themselves?”

30He said, “Take these seven ewe lambs from my hand, so that it will be a witness for me that I have dug this well.” 31So he called that place Beer-sheba, because the two of them swore *an oath* there. 32So they cut a covenant at Beer-sheba. Then Abimelech rose up with Phicol, the commander of his army, and they returned into the land of the Philistines.

33And Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beer-sheba, and there he called on the name of Yahweh, the Everlasting God. 34Abraham sojourned in the land of the Philistines for many days.

**Genesis Chapter 22**

The Binding of Isaac

1And after these things, God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!”

And he said, “Here I am.”

2Then he said, “Now take your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go into the land of Moriah and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I will tell you of.”

3So Abraham rose up early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and he split the wood for the burnt offering and rose up and went to the place that God had told him of. 4On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place in the distance. 5Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey while the boy and I go over there and bow down *in worship*, then come back to you.” 6Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son, and he took in his own hand the fire and the knife. And the two of them walked on together.

7And Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, “My father!”

And he said, “Here I am, my son.”

And he said, “Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”

8And Abraham said, “God will himself see to *providing* the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they both went together.

9And they came to the place that God had told him of, and Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on the wood. 10Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son.

11But the angel of Yahweh called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!”

And he said, “Here I am.”

12He said, “Do not reach out your hand toward the boy; do not do anything to him. For now I know that you fear God because you have not withheld your son, your only *son*, from me.” 13Then Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and saw that behind him was a ram caught in the thicket by his horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in place of his son. 14So Abraham called the name of that place “Yahweh Will Provide.” As it is said to this day, “On Yahweh’s mountain it will be provided.”

15And the angel of Yahweh called to Abraham a second time out of heaven 16and said, “I have sworn by myself,” says Yahweh, “because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17that I will bless, yes, bless you, and I will make your seed many, yes, many, like the stars of the heavens and like the sand that is on the seashore. And your seed will possess the gate of his enemies. 18Through your seed all the nations of the earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

19Then Abraham returned to his young men, and they rose up and went together to Beer-sheba. And Abraham lived at Beer-sheba.

Rebekah’s Family

20And after these things it was told to Abraham, saying, “Behold, Milcah has also borne sons to your brother Nahor: 21Uz his firstborn and Buz his brother and Kemuel (the father of Aram), 22and Chesed, and Hazo, and Pildash, and Jidlaph, and Bethuel.” 23Bethuel fathered Rebekah. These eight Milcah bore to Nahor, Abraham’s brother. 24And his concubine, whose name was Reumah, also bore Tebah, and Gaham, and Tahash, and Maacah.

**Genesis Chapter 23**

Sarah’s Burial

1Now Sarah lived 127 years. *These were* the years of Sarah’s life. 2Sarah died in Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham came to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her.

3And Abraham rose up from before his dead *wife* and spoke to the sons of Heth, saying, 4“I am a sojourner and a foreigner *living* among you. Give me property for a tomb[[44]](#footnote-14115) among you, so that I may bury my dead from before me.”

5The sons of Heth answered Abraham, saying to him, 6“Hear us, my lord. You are a mighty ruler[[45]](#footnote-19871) among us. Bury your dead in the best of our tombs. No man among us will withhold from you his tomb for burying your dead.”

7Then Abraham rose up and bowed down to the people of the land, *that is,* to the sons of Heth. 8And he spoke with them, saying, “If you are willing *to allow* me to bury my dead from before me, hear me and intercede with Ephron the son of Zohar for me, 9that he give me the cave of Machpelah that he owns, which is at the edge of his field. For the full *price in* silver let him give it to me in your presence as a property for a burying place.”

10Now Ephron was sitting among the sons of Heth, and Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the hearing of the sons of Heth, *that is,* of all those who come to the gate of his city, saying, 11“No, my lord, hear me! I give you the field and I give you the cave that is in it. Before the eyes of the sons of my people I give it to you. Bury your dead.”

12And Abraham bowed down before the people of the land. 13And he spoke to Ephron in the hearing of the people of the land, saying, “Hear me, if you will. I will give the price of the field. Accept *it* from me, and I will bury my dead there.”

14Ephron answered Abraham, saying to him, 15“My lord, hear me. A piece of land worth 400 shekels of silver[[46]](#footnote-25608)—what is that between me and you? Bury your dead.” 16And Abraham listened to Ephron. Abraham weighed out to Ephron the silver that he had named in the hearing of the sons of Heth, 400 shekels of silver, according to the current merchants’ rate.

17So the field of Ephron that was at Machpelah, which was to the east[[47]](#footnote-18689) of Mamre, the field and the cave that was in it and all the trees that were in the field, that were within its boundaries, were deeded over 18to Abraham as a possession before the eyes of the sons of Heth, before all those who come to the gate of his city. 19And after this, Abraham buried his wife Sarah in the cave of the field of Machpelah east of Mamre[[48]](#footnote-29796) (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan. 20The field and the cave that is in it were deeded over from the sons of Heth to Abraham as property for a burying place.

**Genesis Chapter 24**

A Wife for Isaac

1Now Abraham was old and well advanced in days, and Yahweh had blessed Abraham in all things. 2And Abraham said to his servant, the senior one in his house who was in charge of all that he had, “Please put your hand under my thigh, 3and I will have you swear by Yahweh, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I live, 4but you are to go to my country and to my relatives, and take a wife for my son Isaac.”

5The servant said to him, “What if the woman is not willing to follow me to this land? Should I then take your son back to the land that you came out from?”

6But Abraham said to him, “Make sure that you don’t take my son back there again! 7Yahweh, the God of heaven, who took me from my father’s house and from the land of my birth,[[49]](#footnote-19077) and who has spoken to me, and who has sworn to me, saying, ‘I will give this land to your seed,’ he himself will send his angel before you so that you can take a wife for my son from there. 8But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be clear from this oath of mine. Only you must not take my son back there.” 9So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his lord, and swore to him concerning this matter.

10Then the servant took ten camels of his lord’s camels and departed, having all kinds of good things of his lord’s with him. He arose and went to Aram-naharaim to the city of Nahor. 11And he made the camels kneel down outside the city by the water well at evening time, the time when the women go out to draw water.

12And he said, “O Yahweh, the God of my lord Abraham, please let it happen for me this day, and deal faithfully with my lord Abraham. 13Behold, I am standing by the spring of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water. 14Let it come to pass that the girl to whom I will say, ‘Please let down your *water* jug that I may drink,’ and she responds, ‘Drink, and I will also give your camels a drink,’—let her be the one you have appointed for your servant Isaac. By this I will know that you have shown faithfulness to my lord.”

15And before he had finished speaking, behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel the son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham’s brother, came out with her *water* jug on her shoulder. 16The girl was very beautiful in appearance, a virgin; no man had known her. And she went down to the spring and filled her *water* jug, and came up. 17And the servant ran to meet her and said, “Please give me a sip, a little water from your *water* jug.”

18And she said, “Drink, my lord.” She quickly let down her *water* jug to her hand and gave him a drink. 19And when she had finished giving him a drink, she said, “I will also draw *water* for your camels until they have finished drinking.” 20And she quickly emptied her *water* jug into the watering trough and ran back to the well to draw *water*, and drew for all his camels. 21The man kept watching her, remaining silent, to know if Yahweh had made his journey successful or not.

22And when the camels finished drinking, the man took a gold nose ring of half a shekel weight,[[50]](#footnote-29378) and two bracelets weighing ten shekels[[51]](#footnote-23098) of gold for her wrists, 23and said, “Whose daughter are you? Please tell me. Is there a place in your father’s house for us to spend the night?”

24And she said to him, “I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor.” 25And she said to him, “Yes, there is straw, *and* yes, plenty of feed, and yes, a place to spend the night.”

26The man kneeled down and worshiped[[52]](#footnote-12633) Yahweh. 27And he said, “Blessed be Yahweh, the God of my lord Abraham, who has not forsaken his covenant faithfulness and his truthfulness toward my lord. As for me, Yahweh has guided me on the way to the house of my lord’s relatives.”

28Then the girl ran and told her mother’s house about these things. 29Rebekah had a brother, and his name was Laban. Laban ran out to the man, to the spring. 30And when he saw the nose ring, and the bracelets on his sister’s hands, and when he heard the words of Rebekah his sister, saying, “This is what the man said to me,” he went to the man. And behold, he was standing by the camels at the spring.

31And he said, “Come, O blessed of Yahweh! Why are you standing outside? For I have prepared the house, and a place for the camels.” 32So the man came into the house. And *Laban* unloaded the camels, and he gave straw and feed for the camels, and water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him.

33But when *food* was set before him to eat, he said, “I will not eat until I have stated my business.”

And he said, “Speak.”

34So he said, “I am Abraham’s servant. 35Yahweh has blessed my lord abundantly, and he has become great. He has given him flocks and herds and silver and gold and male slaves and female slaves and camels and donkeys. 36Sarah, my lord’s wife, bore a son to my lord when she was old, and he has given all that he has to him. 37My lord made me swear, saying, ‘You are not to take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live, 38but you are to go to my father’s house and to my clan, and take a wife for my son.’ 39I said to my lord, ‘What if the woman will not follow me?’ 40And he said to me, ‘Yahweh, before whom I have walked, will send his angel with you and make your journey a success so that you will take a wife for my son from my clan and from my father’s house. 41Then will you be free from my oath. Or, when you come to my clan, if they do not give her to you, you will be free from my oath.’

42“I came today to the spring and said, ‘O Yahweh, the God of my lord Abraham, if now you are making the journey on which I am going successful, 43behold, as I am standing by this spring of water, let the young woman who comes out to draw *water*, to whom I say, “Please give me a little water to drink from your jug,” 44and she says to me, “Drink, and I will also draw for your camels,”—let her be the woman whom Yahweh has appointed to be for my lord’s son.’

45“Before I had finished speaking in my heart, behold, Rebekah came out with her jug on her shoulder. She went down to the spring and drew *water*. I said to her, ‘Please give me a drink.’ 46And she quickly let down her jug from her shoulder and said, ‘Drink, and I will also give water to your camels.’ So I drank, and she also gave water to the camels. 47Then I asked her and said, ‘Whose daughter are you?’ And she said, ‘The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor’s son, whom Milcah bore to him.’ So I put the ring on her nose and the bracelets on her wrists, 48and I kneeled down and worshiped Yahweh and blessed Yahweh, the God of my lord Abraham, who had led me in the true way to take my lord’s brother’s daughter for his son. 49Now if you will deal with my lord in covenant faithfulness and truth, tell me. If not, tell me, so that I may turn to the right hand or to the left.”

50Then Laban and Bethuel answered, “The thing has come from Yahweh. We cannot speak to you bad or good. 51Behold, Rebekah is before you. Take her and go, and let her be the wife for your lord’s son, as Yahweh has spoken.”

52And when Abraham’s servant heard their words, he bowed down on the ground before Yahweh. 53Then the servant brought out articles of silver and articles of gold, and clothing, and gave them to Rebekah. He also gave valuable presents to her brother and her mother.

54He and the men who were with him ate and drank and spent the night.

They rose up in the morning and he said, “Send me away to my lord.”

55But her brother and her mother said, “Let the young girl stay with us a few days, at least ten. After that she will go.”

56But he said to them, “Do not delay me, for Yahweh has made my journey successful. Send me away that I may go to my lord.”

57And they said, “We will call the young girl and ask *for an answer from* her *own* mouth.”

58Then they called Rebekah and said to her, “Will you go with this man?”

And she said, “I will go.” 59So they sent away Rebekah their sister with the one who had nursed *and raised* her, *and* Abraham’s servant and his men.

60They blessed Rebekah and said to her,

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|  | “Our sister, may you become  thousands of ten thousands,  and may your seed possess  the gate of those who hate him.” |

61Rebekah arose with her young women, and they rode on the camels and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and went away.

62Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, for he was living in the land of the Negev. 63Isaac went out for a stroll in the field in the evening. He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, there were camels coming. 64And Rebekah lifted up her eyes and saw Isaac. So she got down from the camel. 65She said to the servant, “Who is that man walking in the field to meet us?”

The servant said, “It is my lord.” So she took her veil and covered herself. 66And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done.

67Then Isaac brought her into the tent of Sarah his mother, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her, and Isaac was comforted after his mother’s *death*.

**Genesis Chapter 25**

Abraham’s Other Wife and Sons

1And Abraham had taken another wife, and her name was Keturah. 2And she bore him Zimran and Jokshan and Medan and Midian and Ishbak and Shuah. 3And Jokshan fathered Sheba and Dedan. The sons of Dedan were Asshurites Letushites, and Leummites. 4The sons of Midian: Ephah and Epher and Hanoch and Abida and Eldaah. All these were the children of Keturah. 5Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac, 6but to the sons of the concubines whom Abraham had, he gave gifts while he was still living, and he sent them away from Isaac his son, eastward, to the land of the east.

Abraham’s Death

7Now these are the days of the years of Abraham’s life that he lived: 175 years. 8Abraham breathed his last and died at a good old age, old and full *of years*, and was gathered to his people. 9And Isaac and Ishmael, his sons, buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite, that is before Mamre, 10the field that Abraham purchased from the children of Heth. Abraham was buried there with Sarah his wife. 11And after the death of Abraham God blessed Isaac his son. Isaac lived by Beer Lahai Roi.

Ishmael’s Family Records

12Now these are the descendants of Ishmael, Abraham’s son whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah’s slave girl, bore to Abraham. 13And these are the names of the sons of Ishmael, by their names, according to *the order of* their birth: the firstborn of Ishmael, Nebaioth, then Kedar, and Adbeel, and Mibsam, 14and Mishma, and Dumah, and Massa, 15and Hadad, and Tema, and Jetur, and Naphish, and Kedemah. 16These are the sons of Ishmael and these are their names, by their villages and by their encampments, twelve rulers according to their tribal groups. 17These are the years of the life of Ishmael: 137 years. And he breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people. 18And he settled from Havilah to Shur, which is east of Egypt as you go toward Asshur. And he lived near all his brothers.

The Birth of Jacob and Esau

19Now these are the descendants of Isaac, son of Abraham. Abraham fathered Isaac. 20Isaac was 40 years old when he took Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, the sister of Laban the Aramean, to be his wife. 21And Isaac prayed to Yahweh for his wife because she was barren, and Yahweh answered his prayer and Rebekah his wife conceived. 22But the children struggled together inside her. She said, “If *it is* so, why am I this *way*?” And she went to inquire of Yahweh. 23And Yahweh said to her,

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| --- | --- |
|  | “Two nations are in your womb,  and two peoples from your belly will be divided.  One people will be stronger than the other people;  and the elder will serve the younger.” |

24And her days to give birth were fulfilled, and behold, there were twins in her womb. 25The first came out reddish with *hair* all over him like a hairy cloak. They named him “Esau.” 26And after that his brother came out, and his hand was grasping Esau’s heel, so he was named “Jacob.” Isaac was 60 years old when she bore them.

Esau Sells His Birthright

27The boys grew up. Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the field. Jacob was a quiet man, staying among the tents. 28Now Isaac loved Esau because he had a taste for his *wild* game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

29Once when Jacob was boiling some boiled stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was exhausted *and hungry.* 30And Esau said to Jacob, “Please! Let me gulp down some of that red *stuff*, that red *stuff*, because I am exhausted *and hungry*. So his name was called Edom.

31But Jacob said, “First, sell me your birthright.”

32And Esau said, “Look, I am about to die, so of what use is a birthright to me?”

33Jacob said, “First, swear to me.” So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. 34Then Jacob gave Esau bread and boiled lentils. And he ate, drank, got up, and went off; so Esau showed contempt for his birthright.

**Genesis Chapter 26**

The Promise Reaffirmed to Isaac

1Now there was a famine in the land besides the previous famine that had occurred in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Gerar, to Abimelech king of the Philistines. 2And Yahweh appeared to him and said, “Do not go down into Egypt. Live in the land where I will tell you. 3Sojourn in this land and I will be with you and will bless you. For to you and to your seed I will give all these lands, and I will fulfill the oath that I swore to Abraham your father. 4I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven and will give to your seed all these lands. And through your seed all the nations of the earth will be blessed, 5because Abraham listened to my voice and kept my requirements, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.” 6So Isaac lived in Gerar.

Isaac’s Deception

7And the men of the place asked him about his wife, and he said, “She is my sister,” because he was afraid to say, “My wife.” *He thought,* “Otherwise the men of this place might kill me for Rebekah, because she is beautiful in appearance.” 8But when he had been there a long time, Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out of a window and saw, and behold, Isaac was caressing Rebekah, his wife.

9So Abimelech called Isaac and said, “Behold, surely she is your wife! So how could you say, ‘She is my sister?’”

And Isaac said to him, “Because I said, ‘Otherwise I might die because of her.’”

10Then Abimelech said, “What is this you have done to us? Before long one of the people might have lain with your wife, and you would have brought guilt on us!” 11And Abimelech commanded all the people, saying, “He who touches this man or his wife will be put to death, yes, death.”

Conflicts over Wells

12Isaac sowed *seed* in that land, and reaped in that same year a hundredfold, and Yahweh blessed him. 13And the man became great, becoming greater and greater until he became very great. 14And he owned flocks, herds, and a large group of servants. So the Philistines envied him. 15Now all the wells that his father’s servants had dug in the days of Abraham his father, the Philistines stopped up and filled with dirt. 16And Abimelech said to Isaac, “Go away from us, for you are much stronger than we are.”

17So Isaac departed from there and encamped in the valley of Gerar and lived there. 18Then Isaac reopened the wells of water that they had dug in the days of Abraham his father. For the Philistines had stopped them up after the death of Abraham. And he called their names by the names that his father had called them. 19Isaac’s servants dug in the valley and found a well of running water there.[[53]](#footnote-20490) 20The herdsmen of Gerar argued with Isaac’s herdsmen, saying, “The water is ours.” He called the name of the well Esek, because they quarreled with him. 21So they dug another well, but they argued over that *well* also. So he called its name Sitnah. 22Then he left that place and dug another well but they did not argue over that one. He called it Rehoboth. He said, “Now Yahweh has made room for us, and we will be fruitful in the land.”

Yahweh Appears to Isaac

23And he went up from there to Beer-sheba. 24Yahweh appeared to him the same night and said, “I am the God of Abraham your father. Do not be afraid, for I am with you and will bless you and multiply your seed for my servant Abraham’s sake.”

25So he built an altar there and called on the name of Yahweh, and pitched his tent there. Isaac’s servants also dug a well there.

Covenant with Abimelech

26Then Abimelech went to him from Gerar, *with* Ahuzzath his counselor and Phicol the commander of his army. 27Isaac said to them, “Why have you come to me, since you hate me and have sent me away from you?”

28They said, “We have seen, yes, seen that Yahweh was with you. So we said, Let there be an oath between us, between us and you, and let us cut a covenant with you, 29so that you will do us no harm, because we have not touched you and because we have done to you nothing but good and have sent you away in peace. You are now the blessed of Yahweh.”

30So he made them a banquet, and they ate and drank. 31And they rose up early in the morning and swore *an oath* to each other. Then Isaac sent them away, and they departed from him in peace. 32On the same day, Isaac’s servants came and told him about the well that they had dug, and said to him, “We have found water.” 33He called it Shibah. So the name of the city is Beer-sheba to this day.

Esau’s Wives

34When Esau was 40 years old he took as wife Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite, 35and they were a source of bitterness[[54]](#footnote-29216) to Isaac and to Rebekah.

**Genesis Chapter 27**

The Stolen Blessing

1And when Isaac was old and his eyes were dim so that he could not see, he called Esau his older son and said to him, “My son?”

He said to him, “Here I am.”

2He said, “See now, I am old. I do not know the day of my death. 3So now, take your gear, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt *wild* game for me, 4and make me tasty food, such as I love, and bring it to me in order that I may eat, and so that my soul will bless you before I die.”

5Now Rebekah heard when Isaac spoke to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt for *wild* game and to bring it. 6Then Rebekah spoke to Jacob her son, saying, “Behold, I heard your father speak to Esau your brother, saying, 7‘Bring me *wild* game and make me tasty food, so that I can eat and bless you in the presence of Yahweh before my death.’ 8So now, my son, obey my voice in that which I command you. 9Go now to the flock and get me two good young goats from there. I will make from them tasty food for your father, such as he loves. 10You bring it to your father to eat, so that he will bless you before his death.”

11But Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, “Behold, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man. 12What if my father feels me? In his eyes I will be a deceiver and I will bring a curse on myself and not a blessing.”

13But his mother said to him, “Let your curse be on me, my son. Only obey my voice, and go get them for me.”

14So he went, got them, and brought them to his mother. And his mother made tasty food, such as his father loved. 15Rebekah took the best clothes of Esau, her older son, that were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son. 16She put the skins of the young goats on his hands and on the smooth of his neck. 17Then she gave the tasty food and the bread that she had made into the hand of her son Jacob.

18And he went to his father and said, “My father.”

And he said, “Here I am. Who are you, my son?”

19Jacob said to his father, “I am Esau your firstborn. I have done what you told me. Please get up. Sit and eat of my *wild* game, so that your soul will bless me.”

20Isaac said to his son, “How did you find it so quickly, my son?”

He said, “Because Yahweh your God made it happen for me.”

21Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, *to know* whether you are really my son Esau or not.”

22So Jacob went near to Isaac his father. He felt him and said, “The voice is Jacob’s voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau.” 23(He did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau’s hands. So he blessed him). 24Then He said, “Are you really my son Esau?”

He said, “I am.”

25And he said, “Bring it near to me, and I will eat of my son’s *wild* game that my soul may bless you.” So he brought it near to him, and he ate. He brought him wine, and he drank.

26His father Isaac said to him, “Come near and kiss me, my son.” 27So he went near and kissed him. He smelled the smell of his clothing and blessed him and said,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | “Look, the smell of my son  is like the smell of a field  that Yahweh has blessed. |
| 28 | May God give you  of the dew of heaven,  of the fatness of the earth  and plenty of grain and new wine. |
| 29 | Let peoples serve you  and nations bow down to you.  Be master over your brothers.  Let your mother’s sons bow down to you.  Cursed be everyone who curses you.  Blessed be everyone who blesses you.” |

30And as soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, and Jacob had gone, yes, gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, Esau his brother came from his hunting. 31He also had made tasty food, and he brought it to his father. He said to his father, “Let my father get up and eat of his son’s *wild* game, in order that your soul will bless me.”

32Isaac his father said to him, “Who are you?”

He said, “I am your son, your firstborn, Esau.”

33Then Isaac trembled with an exceedingly great trembling and said, “Who was it then who hunted game and brought it to me, and I ate from all of it before you came, and have blessed him? Indeed, he will be blessed.”

34When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried out with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, “Bless me, me also, father!”

35But he said, “Your brother came with deceit, and has taken away your blessing.”

36And he said, “Isn’t he rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright, and look, now he has taken away my blessing.” And he said, “Haven’t you reserved a blessing for me?”

37Isaac answered Esau, “Behold, I have made him your master, and I have given to him all his brothers as servants. With grain and new wine I have sustained him. What then can I do for you, my son?”

38Esau said to his father, “Do you have just that one blessing, my father? Bless me, me too, my father!” And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.

39Isaac his father answered him,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | “Behold, far from[[55]](#footnote-31714) the fatness of the earth  will be your dwelling place,  and far from the dew of heaven above. |
| 40 | By your sword will you live,  and you will serve your brother.  But it will be when you break loose  you will shake his yoke from off your neck.” |

Esau’s Anger

41Then Esau held a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him. And Esau said in his heart, “The days of mourning for my father are at hand. Then I will kill my brother Jacob.”

42But the words of Esau, her elder son, were told to Rebekah. She sent and called Jacob her younger son and said to him, “Behold, your brother Esau is comforting himself about you *by planning* to kill you. 43So now my son, obey my voice. Arise, flee to Laban my brother in Haran 44and stay with him a few days, until your brother’s fury turns away— 45until your brother’s anger turns away from you and he forgets what you have done to him. Then I will send and get you from there. Why should I be bereaved of you both in one day?”

46And Rebekah said to Isaac, “I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth. If Jacob takes a wife from the daughters of Heth like these, from the daughters of the land, what good will my life be to me?”

**Genesis Chapter 28**

Jacob’s Departure

1Isaac called Jacob, blessed him and commanded him, “Do not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan. 2Arise, go to Paddan-aram to the house of Bethuel your mother’s father. Take a wife from there from the daughters of Laban your mother’s brother. 3May El Shaddai[[56]](#footnote-25123) bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, so that you may become an assembly of peoples, 4and may he give you the blessing of Abraham, *both* to you and to your seed after you, so that you inherit the land of your sojournings, *the land* that God gave to Abraham.” 5Then Isaac sent Jacob away. He went to Paddan-aram, to Laban, son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, the mother of Jacob and Esau.

6Now Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Paddan-aram to take a wife from there, and that as he blessed him he gave him a command, saying, “Do not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan,” 7and *also* that Jacob obeyed his father and his mother and had gone to Paddan-aram. 8Esau saw that the daughters of Canaan were displeasing in the eyes of Isaac his father. 9So Esau went to Ishmael and took, besides the wives that he had, Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham’s son, the sister of Nebaioth, to be his wife.

Jacob at Bethel

10When Jacob went out from Beer-sheba and went toward Haran, 11he arrived at a certain place and spent the night there because the sun had set. He took of the stones of the place, and put *it* near his head and lay down in that place to sleep. 12And he dreamed. And behold, a stairway was sitting on the earth, and its top reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. 13Behold, Yahweh stood at the top of it and said, “I am Yahweh, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you are lying, to you I will give it and to your seed. 14Your seed will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south. Through you and through your seed all the clans of the earth will be blessed. 15Behold, I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and will bring you again into this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised to you.”

16Then Jacob woke up from his sleep and said, “Surely Yahweh is in this place and I, I did not know it.” 17And he was afraid and said, “How awe-inspiring[[57]](#footnote-29444) is this place! This is none other than *the* house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

18So Jacob rose up early in the morning and took the stone that he had put near his head and set it up as a standing-stone and poured oil on top of it. 19And he called the name of that place Bethel,[[58]](#footnote-15382) but the name of the city was Luz at the first. 20And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will watch over me in this way that I am going, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, 21so that I come again to my father’s house in peace, then Yahweh will be my God, 22and this stone that I have set up for a standing-stone will be a house of God. And of all that you will give me I will give a tenth, yes, a tenth, to you.”

**Genesis Chapter 29**

Jacob Meets Rachel

1Then Jacob went on his journey and came to the land of the children of the east. 2He looked, and behold, there was a well in the field, and behold, three flocks of sheep lying there by it, because from that well they watered the flocks. Now the stone on the well’s mouth was large, 3and when all the flocks were gathered there, they rolled the stone from the well’s mouth and watered the sheep, and *then* put the stone back in its place on the well’s mouth.

4Jacob said to them, “My brothers, where are you from?”

They said, “We are from Haran.”

5And he said to them, “Do you know Laban the son of Nahor?”

They said, “We know him.”

6He said to them, “Is all well with him?”

They said, “It is well. And look, here comes Rachel his daughter with the sheep.”

7He said *to the shepherds*, “Look, it’s still the middle of the day, not the time to gather the livestock together. Water the sheep, then go and take them out to pasture.”

8They said, “We can’t *do that* until all the flocks are gathered together and the stone is rolled from the well’s mouth. Then we water the sheep.”

9While he was still speaking with them, Rachel came with her father’s sheep, for she was a shepherdess. 10And when Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban, his mother’s brother, and the sheep of Laban, his mother’s brother, Jacob went near and rolled the stone from the well’s mouth and watered the flock of Laban, his mother’s brother. 11Jacob kissed Rachel and lifted up his voice and wept. 12Jacob told Rachel that he was her father’s relative, and that he was Rebekah’s son. Then she ran and told her father.

Jacob Deceived

13And when Laban heard the news about Jacob, his sister’s son, he ran to meet Jacob and embraced him and kissed him and brought him to his house. Then Jacob told Laban all these things.

14Laban said to him, “Surely you are my bone and my flesh.” So he lived with him for a month.

15Then Laban said to Jacob, “*Just* because you are my relative, should you serve me for nothing? Tell me, what will your wages be?”

16Now Laban had two daughters. The name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. 17Leah’s eyes were weak, but Rachel was beautiful in form and attractive. 18Jacob loved Rachel, so he said, “I will serve you seven years for Rachel, your younger daughter.”

19Laban said, “It is better that I give her to you than I give her to another man. Stay with me.” 20So Jacob served seven years for Rachel and they seemed to him like a few days for the love he had for her.

21Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife so that I may go to her, for my days are completed.” 22Laban gathered all the people of the place together and made a banquet. 23But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to him, and he went to her. 24Laban gave her Zilpah his slave; *he* *gave her* to his daughter Leah as a slave.

25And in the morning, behold, it was Leah! So he said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served you? Why have you deceived me?”

26Laban said, “It is not done that way in our place, to give the younger before the firstborn. 27Fulfill the bridal week of this one, and we will give you the other *girl* also for the service of yet another seven years that you will serve me.”

28Jacob did just that, and fulfilled her bridal week. Then he gave him Rachel his daughter as wife, 29and Laban gave Bilhah his slave to his daughter Rachel to be her slave. 30So Jacob also went to Rachel, and he also loved Rachel more than Leah, and served him another seven years.

Jacob’s Sons by Leah

31When Yahweh saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren. 32So Leah conceived and bore a son, and she named him Reuben. For she said, “Indeed, Yahweh has seen my affliction! Indeed, now my husband will love me!”

33She conceived again and bore a son, and said, “Indeed, Yahweh has heard that I am hated, so he has given me this son also.” And she named him Simeon.

34She conceived again and bore a son and said, “Now this time my husband will be joined to me, because I have borne him three sons.” Therefore his name was called Levi.

35She conceived again and bore a son and said, “This time I will praise Yahweh.” Therefore she named him Judah. Then she stopped bearing.

**Genesis Chapter 30**

Jacob's Sons by Bilhah and Zilpah

1When Rachel saw that she did not bear *any children*, Rachel envied her sister. She said to Jacob, “Come! Give me children or else I will die.”

2Then Jacob became angry with Rachel, and he said, “Am I in God’s place, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?”

3She said, “Here is my slave Bilhah. Go to her, that she may bear on my knees, and I also may build *a family* by her.” 4She gave him Bilhah her slave as wife, and Jacob went to her. 5Bilhah conceived and bore Jacob a son. 6Then Rachel said, “God has judged me, indeed, he has heard my voice and has given me a son.” So she called his name Dan.

7Then Rachel’s slave Bilhah conceived again, and bore Jacob a second son. 8Then Rachel said, “With mighty wrestlings[[59]](#footnote-24194) I have wrestled with my sister and have prevailed.” So she named him Naphtali.

9When Leah saw that she had stopped bearing, she took Zilpah her slave and gave her to Jacob as a wife. 10And Zilpah Leah’s slave bore Jacob a son. 11Leah said, “How fortunate!” So she called his name Gad.

12And Leah’s slave Zilpah bore Jacob a second son. 13Leah said, “I am happy, for the daughters will call me happy.” So she called his name Asher.

Children of Jacob by Leah and Rachel

14In the days of wheat harvest, Reuben went and found mandrakes in the field and brought them to his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, “Please give me some of your son’s mandrakes.”

15She said to her, “Is it not enough that you have taken my husband? Would you take away my son’s mandrakes also?”

Rachel said, “Very well, he may lie with you tonight *in exchange* for your son’s mandrakes.”

16When Jacob came from the field in the evening, Leah went out to meet him and said, “You must come to me, for I have hired, yes, hired you with my son’s mandrakes.”

So he lay with her that night.

17God listened to Leah and she conceived and bore Jacob a fifth son. 18Leah said, “God has given me a reward because I gave my slave to my husband.” She named him Issachar.

19Leah conceived again, and bore a sixth son to Jacob. 20Leah said, “God has endowed me with a precious gift. Now my husband will honor me, because I have borne him six sons.” She named him Zebulun. 21Afterwards she bore a daughter and named her Dinah.

22Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb. 23She conceived and bore a son and said, “God has taken away my reproach.” 24She named him Joseph, saying, “May Yahweh add another son to me.”

Jacob’s Flocks Multiply

25And when Rachel had borne Joseph, Jacob said to Laban, “Send me away, that I may go to my own place and to my land. 26Give me my wives and my children for whom I have served you and let me go, for you know my service with which I have served you.”

27Laban said to him, “If I have found favor in your eyes…for I have learned by divination that Yahweh has blessed me because of you.” 28And he said, “Tell me your wage and I will pay it.”

29So he said to him, “You yourself know how I have served you, and how *well* it has gone with your livestock under my care. 30For the little you had before I came has increased abundantly. Yahweh has blessed you wherever I turned. Now when will I provide for my own house also?”

31So he said, “What should I give you?”

Jacob said, “You do not need to give me anything. I will still pasture your flock and keep it if you will do this thing for me: 32Let me pass through all your flock today, removing from there every speckled and spotted sheep, and every sheep that is dark-colored among the lambs, and the spotted and speckled among the goats. This will be my wage. 33So my righteousness will testify for me in the future when you come concerning my wage that is in front of you. Any that are with me that are not speckled and spotted among the goats and dark-colored among the sheep will be counted as stolen.”

34Laban said, “Good. Let it be according to your word.”

35That day he[[60]](#footnote-21841) removed the male goats that were streaked and spotted, and all the female goats that were speckled and spotted, every one that had white in it, and all the dark ones among the sheep, and gave them into the hand of his sons. 36He set *a distance of* three days’ journey between himself and Jacob, and Jacob continued to shepherd the rest of Laban’s flocks.

37Jacob took branches of fresh *cut* poplar, almond, and *oriental* plane tree, and peeled white streaks in them, exposing the white that was in the branches. 38He set the branches that he had peeled in front of the flocks in the troughs, in the watering troughs, where the flocks came to drink. And they bred when they came to drink. 39So the flocks bred in front of the branches and the flocks gave birth to streaked, speckled, and spotted *offspring*. 40Jacob separated the lambs and set them in the direction of the streaked and all the dark in the flock of Laban. And he put herds apart for himself and did not put them with Laban’s flock.

41And whenever the stronger of the flock conceived, Jacob laid the branches in the troughs in front of the eyes of the flock, in order that they would conceive by[[61]](#footnote-20349) the branches, 42but when an *animal of the* flock *or herd* was feeble he did not put it in. So the feebler were Laban’s and the stronger were Jacob’s. 43So the man increased exceedingly and had large flocks, female servants and male servants, and camels and donkeys.

**Genesis Chapter 31**

Jacob Separates from Laban

1Now he heard the words of Laban’s sons, *who were* saying, “Jacob has taken away all that was our father’s, and from what was our father’s has he gotten all this wealth.” 2Jacob saw the expression on Laban’s face, that his attitude toward him had changed.

3Then Yahweh said to Jacob, “Return to the land of your fathers and to your relatives,[[62]](#footnote-28022) and I will be with you.”

4So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to the field to his flock 5and said to them, “I see the expression on your father’s face, that his attitude toward me has changed. But the God of my father has been with me. 6You know that I have served your father with all of my strength. 7Your father has cheated me and changed my wages ten times, but God didn’t allow him to hurt me. 8If he said this, ‘The speckled will be your wages,’ then all the flock bore speckled. If he said this, ‘The streaked will be your wages,’ then all the flock bore streaked. 9Thus God has taken away your father’s livestock and given them to me.

10“And during the mating time of the flock, I lifted up my eyes and saw in a dream, and behold, the male goats that mated with the flock were streaked, speckled, and spotted. 11And the angel of God said to me in the dream, ‘Jacob!’ And I said, ‘Here I am.’ 12Then he said, ‘Now lift up your eyes, and behold, all the male goats that mate with the flock are streaked, speckled, and spotted, for I have seen all that Laban does to you. 13I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a standing-stone, where you vowed a vow to me. Now arise, get out from this land and return to the land of your birth.’”

14Rachel and Leah answered him, “Is there any portion or inheritance left to us in our father’s house? 15Aren’t we considered by him as foreigners? For he has sold us and has eaten up, yes, eaten up our money. 16For all the riches that God has taken away from our father, that is ours and our children’s. Now then, whatever God has said to you, do.”

17So Jacob rose up and set his sons and his wives on the camels, 18and he led away all his livestock and all his possessions that he had gained, including the livestock that he had gained in Paddan-aram, to go to the land of Canaan, to Isaac his father. 19Now Laban had gone to shear his sheep, and Rachel stole the teraphim[[63]](#footnote-16295) that were her father’s. 20So Jacob concealed *his plan* from Laban the Syrian, not telling him that he was about to flee. 21So he fled with all that he had. He rose up, crossed over the River, and set his face toward the hill country of Gilead.

Laban Overtakes Jacob

22Laban was told on the third day that Jacob had fled. 23So he took his relatives with him and pursued him; a seven days’ journey. He caught up with him in the hill country of Gilead. 24But God came to Laban the Syrian in a dream at night and said to him, “Watch yourself, that you do not speak to Jacob from good to evil.”

25Laban overtook Jacob. Jacob had nailed down his tent in the hill country, and Laban with his relatives nailed down *his tent* in the hill country of Gilead. 26Laban said to Jacob, “What have you done, that you have concealed *your plan* from me and carried away my daughters like captives *taken by* the sword? 27Why did you flee secretly and conceal it from me, and did not tell me, so that I could have sent you away with joy and with songs, with tambourine and with harp, 28and you did not allow me to kiss my *grand*children and my daughters *goodbye*? Now you have acted foolishly. 29It is in the power of my hand to hurt you, but the God of your father spoke to me last night, saying, ‘Watch yourself, that you do not speak to Jacob from good to evil.’ 30Now you went, yes, went, because you longed, yes, longed for your father’s house, but why have you stolen my gods?”

31Jacob answered Laban, “Because I was afraid, for I thought, ‘Perhaps you would take your daughters from me by force.’ 32With whomever you find your gods—he will not live. In the presence of our relatives, point out what I have that is yours, and take it.” But Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them.

33Laban went into Jacob’s tent, into Leah’s tent and into the tent of the two female servants, but he did not find them. He went out of Leah’s tent and entered Rachel’s tent. 34Now Rachel had taken the teraphim[[64]](#footnote-16911) and put them in the camel’s saddle-cushion and sat on them. Laban felt around the whole tent but did not find them.

35She said to her father, “Let my lord not become angry that I cannot rise up before you, for the way of women is upon me.” And he searched but did not find the teraphim.

Jacob’s Covenant with Laban

36Then Jacob was angry and argued with Laban. Jacob answered and said to Laban, “What is my offense? What is my sin, that you have hotly pursued me? 37Now that you have felt around in all my goods, what have you found of all your household goods? Set it here before my relatives and your relatives, that they may judge between the two of us. 38“These 20 years I have been with you. Your ewes and your female goats have not miscarried, and I haven’t eaten the rams of your flocks. 39What was torn by wild animals, I didn’t bring to you. I bore its loss. You held me responsible for it,[[65]](#footnote-24371) whether stolen by day or stolen by night. 40This is how I was: by day parching heat consumed me, and the piercing cold by night, and my sleep fled from my eyes. 41These 20 years I have been in your house. I served you 14 years for your two daughters, and six years for your flock, and you have changed my wages ten times. 42Unless the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had been with me, surely now you would have sent me away empty-handed. God has seen my affliction and the labor of my hands and rebuked you last night.”

43Laban answered Jacob, “The daughters are my daughters, the children are my children, the flocks are my flocks, and all that you see is mine. And what can I do this day for these my daughters or to their children whom they have borne? 44Now come, let’s cut a covenant, you and I. And let it be for a witness between me and you.”

45So Jacob took a stone and set it up as a standing-stone. 46And Jacob said to his relatives, “Gather stones.” They took stones and made a heap. They ate there by the heap. 47Laban called it Jegar-sahadutha, but Jacob called it Gal-ed.

48Laban said, “This heap is witness between me and you today.” Therefore it was named Gal-ed 49and Mizpah, because he said, “Yahweh watch between me and you, when we are out of sight of each other. 50If you afflict my daughters, or if you take wives besides my daughters…! *Although* no man is with us, look, God is witness between me and you.” 51Laban said to Jacob, “See this heap and see the standing-stone that I have cast up between me and you. 52This heap is a witness and the standing-stone is a witness that I am not to cross beyond this heap to you, and that you are not to cross beyond this heap and this standing-stone to me, for harm. 53May the God of Abraham and the God of Nahor, the God of their father, judge between us.” Then Jacob swore by the Fear of his father Isaac. 54Jacob offered a sacrifice on the mountain and called his relatives to eat bread. They ate bread and stayed all night on the mountain. 55Early in the morning Laban rose up and kissed his *grand*children[[66]](#footnote-28508) and his daughters and blessed them. Laban departed and returned to his place.

**Genesis Chapter 32**

Preparing to Meet Esau

1And Jacob went on his way, and angels of God met him. 2When he saw them, Jacob said, “This is God’s camp.” He called the name of that place Mahanaim.

3And Jacob sent messengers ahead of him to Esau his brother in the land of Seir, the territory of Edom. 4He commanded them, saying, “This is what you are to say to my lord Esau: ‘This is what your servant Jacob says; I have sojourned with Laban and stayed *there* until now. 5I have oxen, donkeys, flocks, male servants, and female servants. I have sent to tell my lord, in order to find favor in your eyes.’”

6The messengers returned to Jacob, saying, “We came to your brother Esau, and furthermore, he is coming to meet you and there are 400 men with him.” 7Then Jacob was greatly afraid and was distressed. And he divided the people who were with him, and the flocks and the herds and the camels, into two camps. 8And he said, “If Esau comes to the one camp and attacks it, then the camp that is left will escape.”

9And Jacob said, “God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O Yahweh who said to me, ‘Return to your land and to your relatives, and I will do good *things* for you,’ 10I am not worthy of all the faithfulness and all the steadfastness that you have shown to your servant, for with just my staff I passed over this Jordan, and now I have become two camps. 11Please deliver me from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau. For I am afraid of him, that he will come and strike me, and the mothers with the children. 12But you yourself said, ‘I will do good *things* for you, yes, good *things*, and make your seed as the sand of the sea, which is too numerous to count.’”

13And he stayed there that night, and from what he had with him he took a present for Esau his brother: 14200 female goats and 20 male goats, 200 ewes and 20 rams, 1530 milking camels and their calves, 40 cows, ten bulls, 20 female donkeys and ten male donkeys. 16He gave them into the hands of his servants, each herd by itself, and said to his servants, “Cross over ahead of me and put a space between herd and herd.”

17And he commanded the first *group*, saying, “When Esau my brother meets you and asks you, saying, ‘To whom do you belong?’ and ‘Where are you going?’ and ‘To whom do these *herds* ahead of you belong?’ 18Then you are to say, ‘They are your servant Jacob’s. It is a present sent to my lord, to Esau, and look! He himself is behind us.’”

19And he also commanded the second and the third *groups*, and all that walked behind the herds, saying, “This is how you are to speak to Esau when you come upon him, 20and you are to say, ‘Furthermore, look, your servant Jacob is behind us.’” For he said, “I will appease him[[67]](#footnote-25980) with the present that goes ahead of me;[[68]](#footnote-17416) and afterward I will see his face. Perhaps he will accept me.”[[69]](#footnote-26036)

21So the gift crossed over *the Jabbok River* ahead of him,[[70]](#footnote-14034) whereas he himself stayed that night in the camp. 22And he arose during that night and took his two wives, and his two female slaves, and his 11 sons, and crossed over the ford of the Jabbok. 23He took them and brought them across the stream, and brought across whatever he had.

Jacob Wrestles with an Angel

24And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the coming of dawn. 25And when he saw that he did not prevail against him, he struck the socket of his hip, and the socket of Jacob’s hip was strained as he wrestled with him. 26He said, “Let me go, for dawn has come.”

But Jacob said, “I won’t let you go unless you bless me.”

27And he said to him, “What is your name?”

And he said, “Jacob.”

28And he said, “Your name will no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.”

29Jacob asked him, “Please tell me your name.”

But he said, “Why is it that you ask for my name?” And he blessed him there.

30Jacob called the name of the place Peniel,[[71]](#footnote-22584) because *he said*, “I have seen God face to face and *yet* my life has been spared.” 31The sun rose on him as he crossed by Penuel;[[72]](#footnote-29398)he was limping because of his hip. 32Therefore, to this day the children of Israel do not eat the tendon of the thigh that is on the hip socket, because he struck Jacob’s hip socket at the tendon of the thigh.

**Genesis Chapter 33**

Jacob Meets Esau

1Jacob lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, Esau was coming, and with him were 400 men. He divided the children between Leah, Rachel, and the two female slaves. 2He put the female slaves and their children in front, Leah and her children after *them*, and Rachel and Joseph after *them*. 3He himself advanced in front of them, and bowed down to the ground seven times as he came near his brother.

4Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and hugged his neck,[[73]](#footnote-24677) and kissed him, and they wept. 5Then he lifted up his eyes and saw the women and the children, and said, “Who are these with you?”

He said, “The children whom God has graciously given your servant.” 6Then the female slaves came near, with their children, and they bowed down. 7Leah also and her children came near and bowed down. After them, Joseph came near with Rachel, and they bowed down.

8And Esau said, “What do you mean by all these herds[[74]](#footnote-10427) that I met?”

Jacob said, “*These are* to find favor in the eyes of my lord.”

9But Esau said, “I have an abundance, my brother. Let what you have be yours.”

10Jacob said, “No, please! If I have now found favor in your eyes, then receive my present from my hand, because I have seen your face, which is like seeing the face of God, and you have received me favorably. 11Please take the blessing that has been brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have all *I need*.” So he urged him, and he took it.

12Esau said, “Let’s begin our journey and go, and I will accompany you.”

13But Jacob said to him, “My lord knows that the children are *quite* young,[[75]](#footnote-30908) and that the flocks and herds with me are nursing their young, so if they are driven too hard *for even* one day, all the flocks will die. 14Please let my lord go on ahead of his servant, and I will lead *my flocks* on slowly, according to the pace of the livestock that are before me and according to the pace of the children, until I come to my lord, toward Seir.”

15So Esau said, “Let me leave with you some of the men who are with me.”

He said, “Why do that? My lord has already been kind enough to me.”

16So Esau returned that day, *going* on his way toward Seir. 17But Jacob traveled to Sukkoth, and built himself a house and made shelters[[76]](#footnote-30508) for his livestock (so the name of the place is called “Sukkoth”).

18Jacob came safely[[77]](#footnote-30557) to the city of Shechem that is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Paddan-aram, and encamped before the city. 19He bought the parcel of ground (where he spread his tent) from the hand of the sons of Hamor, Shechem’s father, for 100 qisitah,[[78]](#footnote-29056) 20He erected an altar there and called it El Elohe Israel.

**Genesis Chapter 34**

Dinah Defiled

1Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land. 2Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, the ruler of the land, saw her and seized her, and lay with her by force. 3His soul was strongly attached to Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the young woman and spoke tenderly[[79]](#footnote-19078) to the young woman. 4So Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, “Get me this girl as a wife.”

5Jacob heard that he had defiled Dinah his daughter, but his sons were with his livestock in the field, so Jacob kept silent until they came. 6Hamor, the father of Shechem, went out to Jacob to speak with him. 7The sons of Jacob came in from the field when they heard. The men were grieved and were very angry because he had done a disgraceful thing against Israel in lying with Jacob’s daughter, a thing that should not be done.

8Hamor spoke with them, saying, “The soul of my son Shechem longs for your daughter. Please give her to him as a wife. 9Make marriage alliances with us. Give your daughters to us, and take our daughters for yourselves, 10and live with us. The land will be before you. Live and trade in it, and acquire possessions in it.”

11Shechem said to her father and to her brothers, “Let me find favor in your eyes, and whatever you ask of me I will give. 12Make the bride-price and the *marriage-*gift as great *as you want,* and I will give whatever you ask of me, but give me the young woman as a wife.”

13The sons of Jacob answered Shechem and Hamor his father deceitfully (because he had defiled Dinah their sister), and spoke 14and said to them, “We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one who is uncircumcised, for that is a disgrace to us. 15We will consent to you only on this condition: if you will be like us by having every male among you be circumcised. 16Then will we give our daughters to you, and we will take your daughters to us, and we will live with you and we will become one people. 17But if you will not listen to us to be circumcised, then we will take our sister, and go.”

18Their words pleased Hamor and Shechem, Hamor’s son. 19The young man did not delay to do this thing, because he desired Jacob’s daughter. He was the most respected of all the household of his father. 20So Hamor and Shechem his son went to the gate of their city and spoke to the men of their city, saying,

21“These men are at peace with us. Therefore let them live in the land and trade in it. Look, the land is large enough for them. Let’s take their daughters as wives for ourselves, and let’s give them our daughters. 22But the men will consent to us to live with us *and* to become one people only on this condition: if every male among us is circumcised as they are circumcised. 23Won’t their livestock and their possessions and all their animals become ours? Let’s just consent to them, and they will live with us.”

24All who went out of the gate of his city listened to Hamor and to Shechem his son, and every male was circumcised, all who went out of the gate of his city. 25But on the third day, when they were sore, two of Jacob’s sons, Simeon and Levi, Dinah’s brothers, each took his sword, came upon the unsuspecting city and killed all the males. 26They killed Hamor and Shechem his son with the mouth of the sword and took Dinah out of Shechem’s house and went away. 27Jacob’s sons came upon the slain and plundered the city because they had defiled their sister. 28They took their flocks, and their herds, and their donkeys, and whatever was in the city, and whatever was in the field 29and all their wealth. They took captive all their little ones and their wives, and took as plunder everything that was in the houses.

30Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, “You have caused trouble for me, making me stink to the inhabitants of the land; to the Canaanites and to the Perizzites. I am few in number. They will gather together against me and strike me down, and I will be destroyed, I and my house.”

31They said, “Should he treat our sister like a prostitute?”

**Genesis Chapter 35**

Return to Bethel

1God said to Jacob, “Arise, go up to Bethel and live there. Make there an altar to God who appeared to you when you fled from the face of your brother Esau.”

2Then Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, “Get rid of the foreign gods that are among you, purify yourselves, and change your clothing. 3Let’s arise and go up to Bethel. I will make an altar there to the God who answered me in the day of my distress and was with me on whatever road I traveled.”

4They gave to Jacob all the foreign gods that were in their hands, and the rings that were in their ears, and Jacob hid them under the oak that was by Shechem. 5They traveled, and a terror from God was on the cities that were around them so that they did not pursue the children of Jacob. 6So Jacob came to Luz (that is, Bethel), which is in the land of Canaan, he and all the people who were with him. 7He built an altar there and called the place El Bethel, because the divine beings were revealed to him there when he fled from the face of his brother.

8And Deborah, the one who had nursed *and raised* Rebekah, died, and she was buried below Bethel under the oak; so its name was called Allon-bacuth.

9God appeared to Jacob again, when he came from Paddan-aram, and blessed him. 10And God said to him,

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|  | “Your name is Jacob.  Your name will not be Jacob anymore,  but your name will be Israel.” |

He named him Israel.11God said to him,

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|  | “I am El Shaddai.[[80]](#footnote-30238)  Be fruitful and multiply.  A nation, even many nations,  will come from you,  and kings will come from your loins. |
| 12 | The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac  I will give it to you,  and to your seed after you I will give the land.” |

13God went up from him at the place where he spoke with him.

14Jacob set up a standing-stone in the place where he spoke with him, a pillar of stone. He poured out a drink offering on it and poured oil on it. 15Jacob called the name of the place where God spoke with him “Bethel.”

Rachel’s Death

16They traveled from Bethel. When there was still a stretch of land to go to *reach* Ephrath, Rachel began to give birth, but she had hard labor. 17And during her hardest labor, the midwife said to her, “Do not be afraid, for this one also is a son for you.” 18But as she was dying—for she died—she named him Benoni, but his father named him Benjamin. 19So Rachel died and was buried on the road to Ephrath (which is Bethlehem). 20Jacob set up a standing-stone on her grave, which is the standing-stone marking Rachel’s grave to this day.

Israel’s Sons

21Israel traveled and spread his tent beyond the Migdal-eder.[[81]](#footnote-11371) 22And while Israel lived in that land, Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father’s concubine, and Israel heard about it.

Jacob had 12 sons.

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| 23 | The sons of Leah: Reuben (Jacob’s firstborn),  Simeon, Levi, Judah,  Issachar, and Zebulun. |
| 24 | The sons of Rachel:  Joseph and Benjamin. |
| 25 | The sons of Bilhah (Rachel’s slave):  Dan and Naphtali. |
| 26 | The sons of Zilpah (Leah’s slave):  Gad and Asher. |

These are the sons of Jacob who were born to him in Paddan-aram.

Isaac’s Death

27Jacob came to Isaac his father, to Mamre, to Kiriath-arba (which is Hebron), where Abraham and Isaac had sojourned. 28Now the days of Isaac were 180 years. 29Isaac breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people, old and full of days. And Esau and Jacob his sons buried him.

**Genesis Chapter 36**

Esau’s Family

1Now these are the descendants of Esau (that is, “Edom”). 2Esau took his wives from the daughters of Canaan: Adah the daughter of Elon the Hittite, and Oholibamah the daughter of Anah *and* the granddaughter of Zibeon the Hivite, 3and *also* Basemath, Ishmael’s daughter, sister of Nebaioth. 4Adah bore to Esau, Eliphaz. Basemath bore Reuel. 5Oholibamah bore Jeush, Jalam, and Korah. These are the sons of Esau who were born to him in the land of Canaan.

6Esau took his wives, his sons, his daughters, and all the members of his household, with his livestock, all his *other* animals, and all his possessions that he had acquired in the land of Canaan, and went into a land away from his brother Jacob. 7For their possessions were too great for them to dwell together, and the land of their sojournings could not support them because of their livestock. 8Esau lived in the hill country of Seir. Esau is “Edom.”

9These are the descendants of Esau the father of the Edomites in the hill country of Seir.

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| 10 | These are the names of Esau’s sons:  Eliphaz the son of Adah the wife of Esau,  and Reuel the son of Basemath the wife of Esau. |
| 11 | The sons of Eliphaz were  Teman, Omar, Zepho, and Gatam and Kenaz. |
| 12 | Timna was concubine to Eliphaz, Esau’s son,  and she bore Amalek to Eliphaz.  These are the sons of Adah, Esau’s wife. |
| 13 | These are the sons of Reuel:  Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah.  Those were the grandsons of Basemath, Esau’s wife. |
| 14 | These were the sons of Oholibamah, Esau’s wife, *who was* the daughter of Anah  *and* the granddaughter of Zibeon:  she bore *these sons* to Esau: Jeush, Jalam, and Korah. |
| 15 | These are the chiefs of the sons of Esau,  the sons of Eliphaz the firstborn of Esau:  chief Teman, chief Omar, chief Zepho, chief Kenaz, |
| 16 | chief Korah, chief Gatam, chief Amalek;  these are the chiefs who came of Eliphaz  in the land of Edom;  these are the sons of Adah. |
| 17 | These are the sons of Reuel, Esau’s son:  chief Nahath, chief Zerah, chief Shammah, chief Mizzah;  these are the chiefs who came of Reuel  in the land of Edom;  these are the descendants of Basemath, Esau’s wife. |
| 18 | These are the sons of Oholibamah, Esau’s wife:  chief Jeush, chief Jalam, chief Korah.  These are the chiefs who came from Esau’s wife Oholibamah,  the daughter of Anah. |
| 19 | These are the sons of Esau (that is, Edom),  and these are their chiefs. |

Seir’s Family

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| 20 | These are the sons of Seir the Horite,  the inhabitants of the land:  Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah, |
| 21 | Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan.  These are the chiefs who descended from the Horites,  the children of Seir in the land of Edom. |
| 22 | The children of Lotan were Hori and Heman.  Lotan’s sister was Timna. |
| 23 | These are the children of Shobal:  Alvan, Manahath, Ebal, Shepho, and Onam. |
| 24 | These are the children of Zibeon: Aiah and Anah.  This is Anah who found the hot springs in the wilderness,  as he fed the donkeys of Zibeon his father. |
| 25 | These are the children of Anah:  Dishon and Oholibamah the daughter of Anah. |
| 26 | These are the children of Dishon:  Hemdan, Eshban, Ithran, and Cheran. |
| 27 | These are the children of Ezer:  Bilhan, Zaavan, and Akan. |
| 28 | These are the children of Dishan: Uz and Aran. |
| 29 | These are the chiefs who descended from the Horites:  chief Lotan, chief Shobal, chief Zibeon, chief Anah, |
| 30 | chief Dishon, chief Ezer, and chief Dishan.  These are the chiefs who descended from the Horites,  according to their chiefs in the land of Seir. |

Rulers of Edom

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| 31 | These are the kings who reigned in the land of Edom,  before any king reigned over the children of Israel. |
| 32 | Bela the son of Beor reigned in Edom.  The name of his city was Dinhabah. |
| 33 | Bela died, and Jobab the son of Zerah of Bozrah reigned in his place. |
| 34 | Jobab died, and Husham of the land of the Temanites reigned in his place. |
| 35 | Husham died, and Hadad the son of Bedad,  who struck Midian in the field of Moab,  reigned in his place.  The name of his city was Avith. |
| 36 | Hadad died, and Samlah of Masrekah reigned in his place. |
| 37 | Samlah died, and Shaul of Rehoboth by the river reigned in his place. |
| 38 | Shaul died, and Baal-hanan the son of Achbor reigned in his place. |
| 39 | Baal-hanan the son of Achbor died, and Hadar reigned in his place.  The name of his city was Pau. His wife’s name was Mehetabel,  the daughter of Matred, the daughter of Mezahab. |

Geography of the clans of Esau

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| 40 | These are the names of the chiefs who came from Esau,  according to their families, according to their places,  and by their names:  chief Timna, chief Alvah, chief Jetheth, |
| 41 | chief Oholibamah, chief Elah, chief Pinon, |
| 42 | chief Kenaz, chief Teman, chief Mibzar, |
| 43 | chief Magdiel, and chief Iram.  These are the chiefs of Edom,  according to their settlements in the land that was their possession.  This is Esau, the father of the Edomites. |

**Genesis Chapter 37**

Joseph’s Dreams

1Now Jacob lived in the land where his father had sojourned in the land of Canaan. 2These are the descendants of Jacob.

Joseph, being 17 years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers. He was a young man *working together* with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father’s wives; but Joseph gave a bad report about them to their father.

3Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children because he was the son of his old age, and he made him a multi-colored tunic. 4But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.

5And Joseph dreamed a dream and he told it to his brothers, and they hated him even more. 6And he said to them, “Listen to this dream that I have dreamed. 7Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf rose up and also stood upright, and behold, your sheaves gathered around and bowed down to my sheaf.”

8And his brothers said to him, “Will you reign, yes, reign as king over us? Or will you rule, yes, rule us?” So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.

9Then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and said, “Behold, I have dreamed another dream, and behold, the sun, and the moon, and 11 stars were bowing down to me.”

10When he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him and said to him, “What is this dream that you have dreamed? Will we come, yes, come, I and your mother and your brothers, and bow down to the ground before you?” 11His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter *in mind*.

Joseph Sold into Slavery

12Now his brothers went to pasture their father’s flock in Shechem. 13And Israel said to Joseph, “Aren’t your brothers pasturing *the flock* at Shechem? Come, and I will send you to them.”

And he said to him, “I am ready.”[[82]](#footnote-21874)

14So he said to him, “Go now, see whether it is well with your brothers and well with the flock, and bring back word to me.” So he sent him out of the Hebron Valley, and he came to Shechem.

15And a man found him, and behold, he was wandering in the countryside. And the man asked him, saying, “What are you looking for?”

16And he said, “I am looking for my brothers. Please tell me where they are pasturing *their flock*.”

17And the man said, “They have left here. In fact, I heard them say, ‘Let’s go to Dothan.’” So Joseph went after his brothers and found them in Dothan.

18When they saw him from a distance and before he came close to them they conspired against him to kill him. 19They said one to another, “Look! This master of dreams is coming. 20So now, come, and let’s kill him and throw him into one of the cisterns, and we will say a wild animal has devoured him. Then we will see what will become of his dreams.”

21But Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands and said, “We must not take his life.” 22And Reuben said to them, “Shed no blood! Throw him into this cistern that is *here* in the countryside, but do not lay *your* hands on him”—so that he could deliver him out of their hand to return him to his father.

23So when Joseph came to his brothers they stripped Joseph of his tunic, the multi-colored tunic that he had on, 24and they took him and threw him into the cistern. Now the cistern was empty—no water was in it.

25Then they sat down to eat *their* food. And they lifted up their eyes and looked, and they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, and their camels were carrying spices and balm and myrrh, going down to Egypt.

26Then Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is it if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? 27Come, and let’s sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not let our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our flesh.” And his brothers listened to him. 28And some Midianite men who were merchants passed by, and the brothers pulled *him* up and drew Joseph out of the cistern, and sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for 20 pieces of silver, and they brought Joseph to Egypt.

29When Reuben returned to the cistern, behold, Joseph was not in the pit, so he tore his clothes. 30And he returned to his brothers and said, “The child is no more! And I, where am I to go?” 31So they took Joseph’s tunic and slaughtered a male goat and dipped the tunic in the blood. 32Then they took the multi-colored tunic and brought it to their father and said, “We have found this. Please identify it, whether it is your son’s tunic or not.”

33And he identified it and said, “It is my son’s tunic. A wild animal has devoured him. Joseph is torn; torn to pieces.” 34So Jacob tore his clothes and put sackcloth on his waist and mourned for his son many days. 35All his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. He said, “No. I will go down to Sheol to my son, mourning.” And his father wept for him.

36Meanwhile, the Midianites sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh’s, the captain of the guard.

**Genesis Chapter 38**

Judah and Tamar

1And at that time Judah went down from his brothers and visited a certain Adullamite, whose name was Hirah. 2Judah saw there a daughter of a certain Canaanite whose name was Shua. He took her *as a wife* and went in to her. 3She conceived and bore a son, and he named him Er. 4She conceived again and bore a son, and she named him Onan. 5And she conceived again and gave birth, and named him Shelah. And it was at Chezib when she gave birth.

6Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, and her name was Tamar. 7Er, Judah’s firstborn, was evil in the eyes of Yahweh, so Yahweh put him to death. 8So Judah said to Onan, “Go in to your brother’s wife and perform the duty of a brother-in-law to her, and raise up seed for your brother.” 9But Onan knew that the seed would not be his, so whenever he went in to his brother’s wife he wasted *his semen* on the ground in order not to give seed to his brother. 10But what he did was evil in the eyes of Yahweh, so he put him to death also.

11Then Judah said to Tamar his daughter-in-law, “Remain a widow in your father’s house, until Shelah my son has grown up.” For he said *to himself*, “Otherwise he may also die like his brothers.” So Tamar went and lived in her father’s house.

12Now after many days Shua’s daughter, the wife of Judah, died. When Judah was comforted, he went up to his sheepshearers to Timnah, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite. 13And it was told to Tamar, saying, “Behold, your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep.” 14So she took off the clothes she wore as a widow and covered herself with a veil and wrapped herself and sat in the gate of Enaim that is on the road to Timnah, for she saw that Shelah was grown up but she had not been given to him as a wife. 15And when Judah saw her, he thought that she was a prostitute because she had covered her face.

16So he turned aside to her by the road and said, “Here now, let me come in to you,” because he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law.

So she said, “What will you give me so that you may come in to me?”

17And he said, “I will send you a young goat from the flock.”

And she said, “Will you give me a pledge until you send it?”

18And he said, “What pledge should I give you?”

Then she said, “Your seal and your cord and your staff that is in your hand.” He gave them to her and went in to her, and she conceived by him. 19Then she arose and went away and took off her veil and put on the clothes she wore as a widow.

20And Judah sent the young goat by the hand of his friend the Adullamite to get the pledge back from the woman’s hand, but he did not find her. 21Then he asked the men of her place, saying, “Where is the temple prostitute who was beside the road at Enaim?”

But they said, “No temple prostitute has been here.”

22So he returned to Judah and said, “I did not find her, and also the men of the place said, ‘No temple prostitute has been here.’”

23So Judah said, “Let her keep them for herself, otherwise we will be *viewed with* contempt. Behold, I sent this young goat but you could not find her.”

24Now about three months later Judah was told, “Tamar your daughter-in-law has committed prostitution, and moreover, look, she is pregnant by prostitution.”

So Judah said, “Bring her out and let her be burned.”

25But as she was being brought out, she sent to her father-in-law, saying, “By the man to whom these belong I am pregnant.” She also said, “Please identify whose these are; the seal and the cords and the staff.”

26And Judah identified them and said, “She is in the right rather than I, because I did not give her to Shelah my son.” And he knew her again no more.

27And when the time came for her to give birth, behold, twins were in her womb. 28And as she was giving birth, one put out a hand, and the midwife took and tied a scarlet *thread* on his hand, saying, “This one came out first.” 29But when he drew back his hand, behold, his brother came out! So she said, “What a breach you have made for yourself!” So his name was called Perez. 30Afterward his brother came out, *the one* who had the scarlet thread on his hand, and his name was called Zerah.

**Genesis Chapter 39**

Joseph in Potiphar’s House

1Joseph was brought down to Egypt. Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh’s, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the hand of the Ishmaelites that had brought him down there. 2But Yahweh was with Joseph, so he became a successful man. And he was in the house of his lord the Egyptian. 3His lord saw that Yahweh was with him and that Yahweh made all that he did successful. 4Joseph found favor in his eyes, and he became his personal attendant. And Potiphar made him overseer over his house and put all that he had into his hand. 5And from the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, Yahweh blessed the Egyptian’s house because of Joseph, and the blessing of Yahweh was on all that he had, *both* in the house and in the field. 6So he left all that he had in Joseph’s hand. He did not concern himself with anything except for the food that he ate.

Now Joseph was well-built and handsome. 7And after these things his lord’s wife cast her eyes on Joseph and she said, “Lie with me.”

8But he refused and said to his lord’s wife, “Behold, with me here, my lord does not concern himself with anything in the house, and he has put all that he has into my hand. 9There is no one greater in this household than I am, and he has not kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great wickedness and sin against God?”

10Even though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he did not listen to her, to lie beside her, to be with her. 11One such day, when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house were inside, 12she grabbed him by his garment, saying, “Lie with me!” But he left his garment in her hand and ran outside. 13And when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled outside, 14she called to the men of her house and spoke to them, saying, “Behold, he has brought in a Hebrew to us to mock us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice. 15And when he heard that I raised my voice and cried out, he left his garment beside me and fled outside.”

16She kept his garment by her until his lord came home. 17Then she spoke to him with words like these, saying, “The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought to us, came in to me to mock me, 18but as soon as I raised my voice and cried out, he left his garment with me and fled outside.”

19And when his lord heard the words of his wife that she spoke to him, “This is what your servant did to me,” his anger flared up. 20Then Joseph’s lord took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king’s prisoners were bound, and he was there in the prison.

Joseph in Prison

21But Yahweh was with Joseph and extended covenant faithfulness to him and gave him favor in the eyes of the warden of the prison. 22The prison warden committed to Joseph’s hand all the prisoners who were in the prison, and he was in charge of everything that was done there. 23The prison warden did not concern himself with anything that was under Joseph’s hand because Yahweh was with him, and whatever he did, Yahweh made successful.

**Genesis Chapter 40**

Joseph Interprets Two Prisoners’ Dreams

1And after these things, the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt committed an offense against their lord the king of Egypt. 2And Pharaoh was angry with his two officers—against the chief cupbearer and the chief baker. 3So he put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, into the prison, the place where Joseph was confined. 4And the captain of the guard assigned them to Joseph, and he served them. And they stayed in prison *many* days.

5And they both dreamed a dream on the same night, each man had his *own* dream. Each man—the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt who were bound in the prison—had his own dream and each dream had its own interpretation, 6When Joseph went to them in the morning and looked at them, behold, they were troubled. 7He asked Pharaoh’s officers who were with him in custody in his lord’s house, saying, “Why do you look so sad today?”

8They said to him, “We have dreamed a dream and there is no one who can interpret it.”

Joseph said to them, “Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell *it* to me.”

9The chief cupbearer told his dream to Joseph and said to him, “In my dream, behold, a vine was in front of me, 10and on the vine were three branches. And as soon as it was budding, the blossoms came up, and its clusters ripened into grapes. 11And Pharaoh’s cup was in my hand, and I took the grapes and pressed them into Pharaoh’s cup and I put the cup into Pharaoh’s hand.”

12Joseph said to him, “This is its interpretation: the three branches are three days. 13In three more days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your position, and you will place Pharaoh’s cup into his hand the way you did when you were his cupbearer. 14But remember me when it is well with you, and please show kindness to me and make mention of me to Pharaoh, and bring me out of this place. 15For indeed, I was stolen, yes, stolen from the land of the Hebrews, and here also I have done nothing that they should put me into the dungeon.”

16When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was good, he said to Joseph, “I also was in my dream: and behold, three wicker baskets[[83]](#footnote-17147) were on my head. 17In the uppermost basket there was all kinds of baked food for Pharaoh, and the birds were eating it out of the basket on my head.”

18Joseph answered and said, “This is its interpretation: the three baskets are three days. 19In three more days, Pharaoh will lift up your head from off you and will hang you on a tree, and the birds will eat your flesh from off you.”

20And thus it happened on the third day, which was Pharaoh’s birthday, that he made a banquet for all his servants and he lifted up the head of the chief cupbearer and the head of the chief baker among his servants. 21He restored the chief cupbearer to his position, so that he put the cup into Pharaoh’s hand, 22but he hanged the chief baker, just as Joseph had interpreted to them. 23Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.

**Genesis Chapter 41**

Joseph Interprets Pharaoh’s Dreams

1And at the end of two full years, Pharaoh dreamed, and behold, he stood by the Nile. 2And behold, seven fine-looking and fat cows came up out of the Nile, and they fed in the marsh grass. 3And behold, after them seven other cows came up out of the river, ugly and thin, and they stood beside the other cows on the bank of the Nile. 4The ugly and thin cows ate up the seven fine-looking and fat cows. Then Pharaoh woke up. 5And he fell asleep and dreamed a second time, and behold, seven heads of grain came up on one stalk, fat and good. 6And behold, seven heads of grain, thin and scorched by the east wind, sprouted up after them. 7And the thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven fat, full heads of grain. And Pharaoh woke up, and behold, *it was* a dream.

8And in the morning his spirit was troubled, and he sent and called for all of Egypt’s magicians and wise men. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was no one who could interpret them to Pharaoh.

9Then the chief cupbearer spoke to Pharaoh, saying, “Today I am reminded of my faults. 10Pharaoh was angry with his servants and put me in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, *both* me and the chief baker. 11We dreamed a dream on the same night, he and I. Each man dreamed a dream with its own interpretation. 12A young Hebrew man was there with us, a slave of the captain of the guard, and we told *them to* him, and he interpreted our dreams for us. He interpreted for each man according to his *own* dream. 13And just as he interpreted for us, so it happened: me, he restored to my office, but him he hanged.”

14Then Pharaoh sent and called for Joseph, and they quickly brought him out of the dungeon. He shaved, changed his clothes, and came before Pharaoh.

15Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I have dreamed a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. I have heard it said about you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.”

16Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, “It is not me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.”

17Pharaoh spoke to Joseph, “In my dream, behold, I stood on the bank of the Nile. 18And behold, seven cows, fat and sleek, came up out of the Nile, and they fed in the marsh grass. 19And behold, seven other cows came up after them, poor and very ugly and thin; I never saw such ugly cows in all the land of Egypt. 20The thin and ugly cows ate up the first seven fat cows, 21and when they had eaten them up you would not know that they had eaten them, but they were still as ugly as at the beginning. Then I woke up. 22I also saw in my dream, and behold, seven heads of grain came up on one stalk, full and good. 23And behold, seven heads of grain, withered, thin, and scorched by the east wind, sprung up after them. 24Then the thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven good heads of grain. I have spoken with the magicians, but there was no one who could explain it to me.”

25Joseph said to Pharaoh, “The dream of Pharaoh is one; what God is about to do he has declared to Pharaoh. 26The seven good cows are seven years and the seven good heads of grain are seven years; the dream is one. 27The seven thin and ugly cows that came up after them are seven years, and likewise the seven empty heads of grain scorched by the east wind; there will be seven years of famine.

28It is just as I said to Pharaoh; What God is about to do, he has shown to Pharaoh. 29Behold, seven years of great plenty are coming throughout all the land of Egypt. 30But there will arise seven years of famine after them, and all the plenty in the land of Egypt will be forgotten. The famine will consume the land, 31and the plenty will be unknown in the land because of that famine that follows, for it will be very severe. 32The dream was doubled to Pharaoh because the matter is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass.

33“So now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt. 34Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint overseers over the land and collect one-fifth *of the produce* of the land of Egypt in the seven plenteous years. 35Let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming, and store up grain under the hand of Pharaoh for food in the cities, and keep it under guard. 36The food will be held in reserve for the land—for the seven years of famine that will be in the land of Egypt—so that the land does not perish because of the famine.”

Joseph Exalted

37The advice was good in the eyes of Pharaoh and in the eyes of all his servants. 38Pharaoh said to his servants, “Can we find someone like this, a man in whom is the spirit of God?” 39Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Because God has made all this known to you, there is no one as discerning and wise as you. 40You will be Over My House, and by your command all my people will be ruled; only in respect to the throne will I be greater than you.” 41Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Behold, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.” 42So Pharaoh took his signet ring off of his hand and put it on Joseph’s hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen, and put a gold chain around his neck, 43and he had him ride in the chariot of his second-in-command. They cried out before him, “Bow the knee!” Thus he set him over all the land of Egypt. 44And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I am Pharaoh, and without you no one will lift up his hand or his foot in all the land of Egypt.” 45Pharaoh called Joseph’s name Zaphenath-paneah. And he gave him Asenath the daughter of Potiphera priest of On as a wife. Joseph went out over the land of Egypt.

Joseph’s Administration

46Joseph was 30 years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh and went throughout all the land of Egypt.

47In the seven years of plenty the land produced abundantly. 48And he gathered up all the food of the seven years *of plenty* in the land of Egypt and stored the food in the cities. In every city he stored the food from the fields that were around it. 49Joseph stored up grain like the sand of the sea, very much, so that he stopped counting because it could not be measured.

50And before the year of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph, whom Asenath the daughter of Potiphera priest of On bore to him. 51Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh,[[84]](#footnote-11262) “Because,” he said, “God has made me forget all my toil and all my father’s house.” 52The name of the second he called Ephraim, “For God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction.”

53Then the seven years of plenty that were in the land of Egypt came to an end. 54The seven years of famine began to come, just as Joseph had said. There was famine in all lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread. 55When all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried out to Pharaoh for bread, and Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, “Go to Joseph. What he says to you, do.” 56The famine was over all the face of the land. Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold to the Egyptians. The famine was severe in the land of Egypt. 57And all the lands came into Egypt to Joseph to buy *grain*, because the famine was severe in all lands.

**Genesis Chapter 42**

Joseph’s Brothers in Egypt

1When Jacob saw that there was grain in Egypt, he said to his sons, “Why are you looking at one another?” 2He said, “Behold, I have heard that there is grain in Egypt. Go down there and buy *grain* for us there so that we will live and not die.” 3So Joseph’s ten brothers went down to buy grain from Egypt. 4But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph’s brother, with his brothers, for he said, “*Some* disaster might happen to him.”

5And so the sons of Israel were among those who came to buy *grain*, for the famine was in the land of Canaan. 6Joseph was the one in power over the land. It was he who sold *grain* to all the people of the land. Joseph’s brothers came and bowed down before him with their faces to the ground. 7Joseph saw his brothers and recognized them, but he acted like a stranger to them and spoke harshly to them.

He said to them, “Where did you come from?”

They said, “From the land of Canaan, to buy food.”

8Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him. 9And Joseph remembered the dreams that he dreamed about them, and said to them, “You are spies! You have come to see the nakedness of the land.”

10But they said to him, “No, my lord. Your servants have come to buy food. 11We are all sons of one man. We are honest men. Your servants are not spies.”

12He said to them, “No! You have come to see the nakedness of the land!”

13But they said, “We, your servants, are 12 brothers, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan, and behold, today the youngest is with our father and one is no more.”

14Then Joseph said to them, “It is like I said to you, you are spies! 15This is how you will be tested: by the life of Pharaoh, you will not depart from this *place* unless your youngest brother comes here. 16Send one of you to get your brother. *The rest of* you will be confined *as prisoners*, so that your words may be tested, whether there is truth in you. Or else, by the life of Pharaoh, surely you are spies.” 17Then he put them all together in custody for three days.

18Joseph said to them the third day, “Do this and live, for I fear God: 19if you are honest men, then let one of your brothers be confined where you are *now* in prison, but *the rest of* you go and carry grain for your hungry households. 20And bring your youngest brother to me. In this way your words will be verified, and you will not die.”

And they agreed to do that.

21Then they said to one another, “We are truly guilty concerning our brother because we saw the distress of his soul when he begged us and we would not listen. That is why this distress has come upon us.”

22Reuben answered them, saying, “Did I not tell you, saying, do not sin against the child, but you would not listen? So now, behold, his blood is required.”

23But they did not know that Joseph understood them, for there was an interpreter between them. 24He stepped away from them and wept. Then he returned to them and spoke to them, and he took Simeon from among them and bound him before their eyes. 25Then Joseph gave a command to fill their bags with grain, and to put each man’s money[[85]](#footnote-19198) back into his sack, and to give them food for the journey. So that was done for them. 26So they loaded their donkeys with their grain and departed from there.

The Brothers Return Home

27As one of them opened his sack to give his donkey food in the lodging place, he saw his money. Behold, it was in the mouth of his pack. 28He said to his brothers, “My money has been put back! Behold, it is in my pack!” Their hearts failed them, and trembling, they turned to one another, saying, “What is this that God has done to us?”

29They came to Jacob their father in the land of Canaan, and told him all that had happened to them, saying, 30“The man, the lord of the land, spoke harshly to us and treated us as if we were spying on the land. 31We said to him, ‘We are honest men; we are not spies. 32We are 12 brothers, sons of our father. One is no more, and today the youngest is with our father in the land of Canaan.’ 33The man, the lord of the land, said to us, ‘This is how I will know that you are honest men: leave one of your brothers with me, and take grain for your hungry households, and go. 34Bring your youngest brother to me, then I will know that you are not spies but that you are honest men. Then I will give your brother back to you, and you will be able to trade in the land.’”

35But when they emptied their sacks, behold, each man’s pouch of money was in his sack. And when they and their father saw their pouches of money, they were afraid.

36Jacob their father said to them, “You have bereaved me of my children! Joseph is no more, Simeon is no more, and you want to take Benjamin away. All these things have come upon me.”

37Reuben spoke to his father, saying, “You may kill two of my sons if I do not bring him to you. Put him in my hands, and I will bring him to you again.”

38He said, “My son will not go down with you, for his brother is dead and he alone is left. If *some* disaster happens to him on the journey on which you are going, then you will bring my gray hairs in sorrow down to Sheol.”

**Genesis Chapter 43**

Decision to Return to Egypt

1The famine was severe in the land. 2And when they had eaten up the grain that they had brought out of Egypt, their father said to them, “Go again, buy us a little *more* food.”

3But Judah spoke to him, saying, “The man warned, yes, warned us, saying, ‘You will not see my face unless your brother is with you.’ 4If you will send our brother with us, we will go down and buy you food. 5But if you will not send him, we will not go down, because the man said to us, ‘You will not see my face unless your brother is with you.’”

6Israel said, “Why did you treat me so badly by telling the man that you had another brother?”

7They said, “The man asked, yes, asked about us and about our relatives, saying, ‘Is your father still alive? Do you have another brother?’ We just answered his questions. Could we have known, yes, known that he would say, ‘Bring your brother down’?”

8Judah said to Israel his father, “Send the boy with me, and we will get up and go. Then we will live and not die; we, and also you, and also our little ones. 9I myself pledge security for him. You may hold me responsible for him. If I do not bring him to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame before you all my life. 10For if we had not delayed, surely we could have returned there *and back* two times by now.”

11Their father Israel said to them, “If it must be so, then do this: take from the best products of the land in your bags, and carry down a present for the man; a little balm, a little honey, spices, myrrh, nuts, and almonds. 12And take double the money[[86]](#footnote-24729) in your hand and take back the money that was returned in the mouth of your packs. Perhaps it was a mistake. 13Take your brother also, get up, and return to the man. 14May El Shaddai[[87]](#footnote-13555) grant you mercy before the man, so that he will release to you your other brother and Benjamin. If I am bereaved of my children, I am bereaved.”

The Return to Egypt

15The men took that present, and they took double the money in their hand, and Benjamin, and got up, went down to Egypt and stood before Joseph.

16When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the one over his house, “Bring the men into the house, and butcher *an animal* and prepare *a meal*, for the men are to dine with me at noon.” 17The man did as Joseph commanded and the man brought the men to Joseph’s house.

18The men were afraid because they were brought into Joseph’s house, and they said, “It is because of the money that was put back into our packs the first time that we were brought in, so that he can accuse us, fall upon us, and take us as slaves, along with our donkeys.” 19So they came near to the man who was over the house of Joseph, and they spoke with him at the door of the house 20and said,

“Oh, my lord, we came, yes, came down the first time to buy food. 21When we came to the lodging place we opened our packs, and behold, each man’s money was in the mouth of his pack, our money in full weight. We have brought it back in our hand. 22We have brought down additional money in our hand to buy food. We do not know who put our money in our packs.”

23He said, “Peace be to you, do not be afraid. Your God and the God of your father has given you treasure in your packs. I received your money.” Then he brought Simeon out to them. 24The man brought the men into Joseph’s house and gave them water and they washed their feet. He gave their donkeys fodder. 25They prepared the present for Joseph’s coming at noon, for they heard that they were to eat bread there. 26When Joseph came home, they brought the present that was in their hand to him in the house and bowed down to the ground before him.

27He asked them how they were doing, and said, “Is your father well, the old man of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?”

28They said, “Your servant our father is well; he is still alive,” and they kneeled and bowed down *before him*.

29He lifted up his eyes and saw Benjamin his brother, his mother’s son, and said, “Is this your youngest brother, of whom you spoke to me?” He said, “God be gracious to you, my son.” 30Joseph hurried out, for he was overcome by affection for his brother, and he looked for a place to weep. He went into a room and wept there. 31Then he washed his face and came out. He controlled himself and said, “Serve the food.”

32They served him by himself, and them by themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves, because the Egyptians do not eat food with the Hebrews, for that is an abomination to the Egyptians. 33They were seated before him, the firstborn according to his birthright and the youngest according to his youth, and the men were astonished, one with another. 34He sent portions to them from his table,[[88]](#footnote-22218) but Benjamin’s portion was five times as much as any of theirs. They drank and got drunk with him.

**Genesis Chapter 44**

Joseph’s Final Test

1Then he commanded the one over his house, saying, “Fill the men’s packs with food, as much as they can carry, and put each man’s money in his pack’s mouth. 2Put my cup, the silver cup, in the mouth of the youngest one’s pack, with his grain money.” So he did according to the word that Joseph had spoken.

3As soon as the morning was light, the men were sent away, they and their donkeys. 4When they had gone out of the city but were not yet far off, Joseph said to the one over his house, “Up, follow after the men. When you overtake them, ask them, ‘Why have you repaid evil for good? 5Is this not that *cup* from which my lord drinks, and by which he divines, yes, divines? You have done evil in doing this.’”

6He overtook them, and he spoke these words to them. 7They said to him, “Why does my lord speak such words as these? Far be it from your servants that they should do such a thing! 8Behold, the money[[89]](#footnote-15203) that we found in the mouth of our packs we returned to you from the land of Canaan. Why would we steal silver or gold out of the house of your lord? 9He with whom it is found among your servants, let him die, and we also will be my lord’s slaves.”

10He said, “Now also let it be according to your words: he with whom it is found will be my slave, and you will be blameless.”

11Then they hurried and each man took his pack down to the ground, and each man opened his pack. 12Then he searched, beginning with the eldest and ending at the youngest. The cup was found in Benjamin’s pack! 13Then they tore their clothes, and each man loaded his donkey and returned to the city.

14Judah and his brothers came to Joseph’s house, and he was still there. They fell on the ground before him. 15Joseph said to them, “What is this thing that you have done? Do you not know that a man like me can discern, yes, discern by divination what happened?”

16Judah said, “What can we say to my lord? What can we speak? Or, how can we justify ourselves? God has found out the iniquity of your servants; behold, we are my lord’s slaves, both we and also he in whose hand the cup is found.”

17He said, “Far be it from me that I should do this. The man in whose hand the cup is found, he will be my slave. But as for you, go up in peace to your father.”

Judah’s Plea for Benjamin

18Then Judah came close to him and said, “Oh my lord, please let your slave speak a word in my lord’s ears, and do not let your anger burn against your slave, for you are even as Pharaoh. 19My lord asked his slaves, saying, ‘Do you have you a father or *another* brother?’ 20We said to my lord, ‘We have a father, an old man, and a child of his old age, a little one whose brother is dead. And he is the only one of his mother’s sons left, and his father loves him.’ 21You said to your slaves, ‘Bring him down to me so that I can see him.’ 22We said to my lord, ‘The boy cannot leave his father, for if he leaves his father, his father would die.’ 23You said to your slaves, ‘Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you will see my face no more.’

24“And when we went up to your slave, my father, we told him the words of my lord. 25And our father said, ‘Go back, buy us a little food.’ 26But we said, ‘We cannot go down. If our youngest brother is with us, then we will go down. For we will not be able to see the man’s face unless our youngest brother is with us.’ 27Your slave, my father, said to us, ‘You know that my wife bore me two *sons*, 28and the one went away from me, and I said, “Alas, he is torn, yes, torn to pieces,” and I haven’t seen him since. 29If you take this one from me also, and *some* disaster happens to him, you will bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to Sheol.’

30“So now, when I come to your slave, my father, and the boy is not with us, since his life is bound up in the boy’s life, 31when he sees that the boy is not *with us*, he will die. Your slaves will have brought down the gray hairs of your slave, our father, with sorrow to Sheol. 32For your slave pledged *to be* security for the boy to my father, saying, ‘If I do not bring him to you, then I will bear the blame before my father forever.’ 33So now, please let your slave stay instead of the boy, a slave to my lord, and let the boy go up with his brothers. 34For how can I go up to my father if the boy is not with me? Then I would see the evil that will come on my father.”

**Genesis Chapter 45**

Joseph Reveals His Identity

1Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood before him, and he cried out, “Have everyone go out from me!” So no one else stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers. 2Then he wept aloud. The Egyptians heard, and the house of Pharaoh heard. 3Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?” His brothers could not answer him, because they were dumbfounded at his presence.

4Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me, please.” So they came close. He said, “I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. 5Now do not be grieved nor angry with yourselves that you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. 6For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. 7God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on the earth, and to save you alive by a great deliverance. 8So now it was not you who sent me here, but God. And he has made me a father to Pharaoh, lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

9Hurry and go up to my father and tell him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me. Do not wait. 10You will settle in the land of Goshen and you will be near me, you, your children, your children’s children, your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. 11I will provide for you there because there are still five years of famine, so that you don’t come to poverty, you and your household, and all that you have.’ 12Behold, your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. 13You must tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. You must hurry and bring my father down here.”

14He fell on his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck. 15Then he kissed all his brothers and wept on them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

The Return for Jacob

16The news *of this* was heard in the house of Pharaoh, “Joseph’s brothers have come.” And it was good in the eyes of Pharaoh and in the eyes of his servants. 17And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Tell your brothers, ‘Do this: load your animals and go, travel to the land of Canaan. 18Take your father and your households, and come to me, and I will give you the good of the land of Egypt and you will eat the fat of the land.’ 19Now you are commanded, ‘Do this: take wagons out of the land of Egypt for your little ones and for your wives, and bring your father, and come. 20Also, do not let your eye look with regret about your belongings, for all the good of the land of Egypt—it is yours!”

21The sons of Israel did so: Joseph gave them wagons, according to the commandment of Pharaoh, and gave them provisions for the way. 22He gave each one of them changes of clothing, but to Benjamin he gave 300 pieces of silver and five changes of clothing. 23He sent the following to his father: ten donkeys loaded with the good *things* of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain and bread and food for his father on the way. 24So he sent his brothers *on their way*, and as they departed he said to them, “Do not quarrel on the way.”

25They went up out of Egypt and came into the land of Canaan to Jacob their father, 26and they told him, saying, “Joseph is still alive, and he is ruler over all the land of Egypt.” His heart went numb, because he did not believe them. 27Then they told him all the words of Joseph that he had said to them. And when he saw the wagons that Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of Jacob their father came alive.

28And Israel said, “I’m convinced! Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die.”

**Genesis Chapter 46**

Jacob Leaves for Egypt

1Israel traveled with all that he had and came to Beer-sheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. 2God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night, and said, “Jacob, Jacob!”

He said, “Here I am.”

3He said, “I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, because I will make you into a great nation there. 4I myself will go down with you into Egypt and I myself will also bring you up, yes, up. Joseph will close your eyes.”

5So Jacob rose up from Beer-sheba, and the sons of Israel put Jacob their father, their little ones, and their wives in the wagons that Pharaoh had sent to carry him. 6And they took their livestock and their possessions that they had acquired in the land of Canaan, and came into Egypt; Jacob and all his seed with him, 7his sons, and his sons’ sons with him, his daughters, and his sons’ daughters. So he brought all his seed with him into Egypt.

Jacob’s Family

8These are the names of the sons of Israel who came into Egypt, Jacob and his sons:

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| --- | --- |
|  | Reuben, Jacob’s firstborn. |
| 9 | The sons of Reuben: Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi. |
| 10 | The sons of Simeon: Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jachin, Zohar, and Shaul the son of a Canaanite woman. |
| 11 | The sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. |
| 12 | The sons of Judah: Er, Onan, Shelah, Perez, and Zerah; but Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan.  The sons of Perez were Hezron and Hamul. |
| 13 | The sons of Issachar: Tola, Puvah, Job, and Shimron. |
| 14 | The sons of Zebulun: Sered, Elon, and Jahleel. |
| 15 | These are the sons of Leah, whom she bore to Jacob in Paddan-aram, and *also* his daughter Dinah. All the souls of his sons and his daughters were 33. |
| 16 | The sons of Gad: Ziphion, Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon, Eri, Arodi, and Areli. |
| 17 | The sons of Asher: Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi, Beriah, and Serah their sister. The sons of Beriah: Heber and Malchiel. |
| 18 | These are the sons of Zilpah, whom Laban gave to Leah his daughter; and these she bore to Jacob—16 souls. |
| 19 | The sons of Rachel, Jacob’s wife: Joseph and Benjamin. |
| 20 | To Joseph in the land of Egypt were born Manasseh and Ephraim, whom Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, bore to him. |
| 21 | The sons of Benjamin: Bela, Becher, Ashbel, Gera, Naaman, Ehi, Rosh, Muppim, Huppim, and Ard. |
| 22 | These are the sons of Rachel who were born to Jacob—all the souls were 14. |
| 23 | The son of Dan: Hushim. |
| 24 | The sons of Naphtali: Jahzeel, Guni, Jezer, and Shillem. |
| 25 | These are the sons of Bilhah, whom Laban gave to Rachel his daughter, and these she bore to Jacob—all the souls were seven. |
| 26 | All the souls who came with Jacob into Egypt, who came out of his thigh,[[90]](#footnote-32595) not counting Jacob’s sons’ wives, all the souls were 66. |
| 27 | The sons of Joseph, who were born to him in Egypt, were two souls. All the souls of the house of Jacob who came into Egypt were 70. |

Jacob Arrives in Egypt

28He sent Judah before him to Joseph to give notice before *his arrival* at Goshen, and they came into the land of Goshen. 29Joseph prepared his chariot and went up to meet Israel his father in Goshen. He presented himself to him and fell on his neck and wept on his neck a long time.

30Israel said to Joseph, “Now I am ready to die, since I have seen your face, that you are still alive.”

31Joseph said to his brothers and to his father’s house, “I will go up and speak with Pharaoh and will tell him, ‘My brothers and my father’s house, who were in the land of Canaan, have come to me. 32These men are shepherds because they have *always* been keepers of livestock, and they have brought their flocks and their herds and all that they have.’ 33So when Pharaoh summons you and says, ‘What is your occupation?’ 34Then say, ‘Your servants have been keepers of livestock from our youth even until now, both we and our fathers.’ *Say this* in order that you can dwell in the land of Goshen, because every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians.”

**Genesis Chapter 47**

Pharaoh Welcomes Jacob

1Then Joseph went in and told Pharaoh and said, “My father and my brothers, with their flocks and their herds and all that they own, have come out of the land of Canaan, and behold, they are in the land of Goshen.”

2And from among his brothers he took five men and presented them to Pharaoh. 3Pharaoh said to his brothers, “What is your occupation?”

They said to Pharaoh, “Your servants are shepherds, both we and our fathers.” 4They said to Pharaoh, “We have come to sojourn in the land, for there is no pasture for your servants’ flocks because the famine is severe in the land of Canaan. So now, please let your servants dwell in the land of Goshen.”

5Pharaoh spoke to Joseph, saying, “Your father and your brothers have come to you. 6The land of Egypt is before you. Have your father and your brothers dwell in the best of the land. Let them dwell in the land of Goshen. If you know any capable men among them, then put them in charge of my livestock.”

7Joseph brought in Jacob his father and stood him before Pharaoh, and Jacob blessed Pharaoh. 8Pharaoh said to Jacob, “How many are the days of the years of your life?”

9Jacob said to Pharaoh, “The days of the years of my sojournings are 130 years. Few and hard have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not reached the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their sojournings.” 10Jacob blessed Pharaoh and went out from the presence of Pharaoh.

11Joseph settled his father and his brothers, and gave them a possession in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had commanded. 12Joseph provided for his father, his brothers, and all of his father’s household with food, according to *the number of* their little children.

The Land Becomes Pharaoh’s

13There was no bread in all the land, for the famine was very severe, so that the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan wasted away because of the famine. 14Joseph collected all the money[[91]](#footnote-28500) that was in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan for the grain that they bought. And Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh’s house. 15When all the money in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan had run out, all the Egyptians came to Joseph and said, “Give us bread, for why should we die right in front of you *just* because our money is gone?”

16Joseph said, “Since your money is gone, give your livestock, and I will give you *bread* in exchange for your livestock.” 17They brought their livestock to Joseph, and Joseph gave them bread in exchange for the horses, and for the flocks, and for the herds, and for the donkeys. So he helped them survive by *providing them* with bread in exchange for all their livestock for that year.

18When that year was ended, they came to him the second year and said to him, “We cannot hide from my lord since our money is all spent and the herds of livestock are my lord’s. There is nothing left for my lord but our bodies and our lands. 19Why should we die before your eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land for bread and we and our land will be servants to Pharaoh. Give us seed so that we will live and not die, and so that the land won’t be desolate.”

20So Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh, because each Egyptian sold his field since the famine was severe on them. So the land became Pharaoh’s. 21As for the people, he made them servants[[92]](#footnote-22793) from one end of the territory of Egypt even to the other end of it. 22But he did not buy the land of the priests, because the priests had an allotted amount from Pharaoh and ate their allotted amount that Pharaoh gave them; that is why they did not sell their land.

23Then Joseph said to the people, “Behold, today I have bought you and your land for Pharaoh. Behold, here is seed for you, sow the land! 24And at the harvests you are to give a fifth to Pharaoh, and four parts will be your own, for seed for the field, for your food, for those of your households, and for food for your little ones.”

25They said, “You have saved our lives! Let us find favor in the eyes of my lord, and we will be Pharaoh’s servants.” 26Joseph made it a law concerning the land of Egypt to this day, that Pharaoh would have one-fifth; only the land of the priests, that alone did not become Pharaoh’s.

Israel Settles in Goshen

27Israel settled in the land of Egypt, in the land of Goshen. And they acquired possessions in it and were fruitful and multiplied exceedingly. 28Jacob lived in the land of Egypt 17 years. So the days of Jacob, the years of his life, were 147 years.

29The days drew near for Israel to die, and he called his son Joseph and said to him, “If now I have found favor in your eyes, please put your hand under my thigh and deal with me in covenant faithfulness and truth. Please do not bury me in Egypt, 30but when I sleep with my fathers, you are to carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their burying place.”

He said, “I will do as you have said.”

31He said, “Swear to me,” and he swore to him. And Israel bowed down at the head of the bed.

**Genesis Chapter 48**

Jacob Blesses Ephraim and Manasseh

1And after these things, Joseph was told, “Behold, your father is sick.” So he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. 2Jacob was told, “Behold, your son Joseph is coming to you,” so Israel strengthened himself and sat up on the bed.

3Jacob said to Joseph, “El Shaddai[[93]](#footnote-27401) appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me, 4and said to me, ‘Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you an assembly of peoples and will give this land to your seed after you for an everlasting possession.’ 5Now your two sons, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you into Egypt, are mine. Ephraim and Manasseh, even as Reuben and Simeon, will be mine. 6Your offspring whom you father after them will be yours. They will be called after the name of their brothers in their inheritance. 7As for me, when I came from Paddan, Rachel died by me in the land of Canaan on the road, when there was still some distance to come to Ephrath, and I buried her there on the way to Ephrath (which is Bethlehem).”

8Israel saw Joseph’s sons and said, “Who are these?”

9Joseph said to his father, “They are my sons, whom God has given me here.”

He said, “Bring them to me so that I can bless them.” 10(Now the eyes of Israel were failing due to *his* age, so that he could not see). So Joseph[[94]](#footnote-12250) brought them close to him, and he kissed them and embraced them. 11Then Israel said to Joseph, “I didn’t think I would see your face; and behold, God has let me see your seed as well!” 12Joseph took them out from beside Israel’s[[95]](#footnote-20936) knees, and he bowed down with his face to the ground.

Ephraim’s Greater Blessing

13Joseph took the two of them, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel’s left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel’s right hand, and brought them close to him. 14Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on Ephraim’s head, who was the younger, and his left hand *he placed* on Manasseh’s head, crossing his hands intentionally, although Manasseh was the firstborn. 15Then he blessed Joseph and said,

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| --- | --- |
|  | “The God in whose presence[[96]](#footnote-17697) my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked,  the God who has been my shepherd all my life long to this day, |
| 16 | the angel who has redeemed me from all evil,  bless the young men,  and let my name be named on them,  and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac;  let them grow into a multitude among the earth.” |

17When Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him. He took hold of his father’s hand to move it from Ephraim’s head to Manasseh’s head. 18Joseph said to his father, “Not like that, my father; for this is the firstborn, put your right hand on his head.”

19But his father refused and said, “I know, my son, I know. He also will become a people, and he also will be great. However, his younger brother will be greater than he, and his seed will become a multitude of nations.” 20So he blessed them that day, saying,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | “By you Israel will pronounce blessings, saying,  ‘God make you like Ephraim and like Manasseh’”  Thus he set Ephraim before Manasseh. |

21And Israel said to Joseph, “Behold, I am dying, but God will be with you and bring you again to the land of your fathers. 22Moreover, I have given to you one portion more than your brothers that I took out of the hand of the Amorite with my sword and with my bow.”

**Genesis Chapter 49**

Jacob’s Last Words

1Jacob called for his sons and said, “Gather around and I will tell you what will happen to you in the future.

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| --- | --- |
| 2 | “Assemble yourselves and listen, O sons of Jacob,  listen to Israel your father. |
| 3 | “Reuben, you are my firstborn, my might,  and the firstfruits of my strength,  excelling in dignity and excelling in power. |
| 4 | Uncontrollable as water, you will not excel,  because you went up on your father’s bed  then you defiled *it*! He went up on my couch. |
| 5 | “Simeon and Levi are brothers;  their agreements are weapons of violence. |
| 6 | My soul, do not come into their council;  O my glory, do not be united in their assembly.  For in their anger they killed men  and hamstrung an ox as they pleased. |
| 7 | Cursed be their anger, for it was fierce,  and their wrath, for it was cruel.  I will divide them in Jacob  and scatter them in Israel. |
| 8 | “Judah, your brothers will praise you;  your hand will be on the back of the necks of your enemies!  Your father’s sons will bow down before you. |
| 9 | Judah is a lion’s cub;  from the prey, my son, you have gone up.  He stooped down, he crouched like a lion.  Like *with* a lion, who will *dare* rouse him up? |
| 10 | The scepter will not depart from Judah,  nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet,  until he comes to whom it belongs;  and to him will be the obedience of the peoples. |
| 11 | Binding his foal to the vine,  his donkey’s colt to the choice vine,  he will wash his clothing in wine,  his cloaks in the blood of grapes. |
| 12 | His eyes, darker than wine, and his teeth, whiter than milk. |
| 13 | “Zebulun will dwell at the shore of the sea.  He will be a *haven*-shore for ships.  His border will be at Sidon. |
| 14 | “Issachar is a strong-boned donkey,  lying down between the campfires. |
| 15 | He saw a resting place, that it was good  and the land, that it was pleasant.  He bent his shoulder to bear *the load*,  and became a servant doing forced labor. |
| 16 | “Dan will judge his people  as one of the tribes of Israel. |
| 17 | Dan will be a serpent on the road,  a horned viper on the path,  that bites the horse’s heels  so that his rider falls backward. |
| 18 | I have waited for your salvation, Yahweh! |
| 19 | “Gad will be raided by raiders,  but he will raid at their heels. |
| 20 | “Asher’s food will be rich.  He will yield the delicacies of a king. |
| 21 | “Naphtali is a doe set free  who bears beautiful fawns. |
| 22 | “Joseph is a fruitful son,  a fruitful son by a spring:  *his* daughters stride over a wall. |
| 23 | The archers bitterly attacked him,  shot at him and were hostile to him, |
| 24 | but his bow remained strong;  the arms of his hands were made agile  by the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob,  by the name of[[97]](#footnote-32109) the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel, |
| 25 | by the God of your father who will help you,  by *El* Shaddai[[98]](#footnote-18956) who will bless you  with blessings of heaven above,  blessings of the deep that lies below,  blessings of the breasts and of the womb. |
| 26 | The blessings of your father transcend  above the blessings of my ancestors,  as far as the delight of the ancient hills.  They will be on the head of Joseph,  on the crown of the head of him who is separate from his brothers. |
| 27 | “Benjamin is a ravenous wolf.  In the morning he will devour the prey.  At evening he will divide the spoil.” |

28All these are the twelve tribes of Israel. And this is what their father spoke to them and blessed them. He blessed each according to his *own* blessing.

Jacob’s Burial Instructions

29He commanded them and said to them, “I am about to be gathered to my people. Bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite, 30in the cave that is in the field of Machpelah that is facing Mamre in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought along with the field from Ephron the Hittite as a burial place. 31There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife. There they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah— 32*our* property, the field and the cave that is in it, *purchased* from the sons of Heth.” 33When Jacob finished giving commands to his sons, he gathered up his feet into the bed and breathed his last and was gathered to his people.

**Genesis Chapter 50**

Jacob’s Burial

1Joseph fell on his father’s face, wept over him and kissed him. 2Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel. 3And this required forty days, because that is the full *number of* days it takes to embalm. And the Egyptians wept for him for 70 days.

4When the days of weeping for him had passed, Joseph spoke to the house of Pharaoh, saying, “If now I have found favor in your eyes, please speak in the ears of Pharaoh, saying, 5My father made me swear, saying, ‘Behold, I am dying. Bury me in my grave that I have dug for myself in the land of Canaan.’ So now, please let me go up and bury my father, then I will return.”

6Pharaoh said, “Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear.”

7So Joseph went up to bury his father, and with him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his house and all the elders of the land of Egypt, 8and all the house of Joseph, and his brothers, and his father’s house. They left only their little ones, their flocks, and their herds in the land of Goshen. 9Both chariots and horsemen went up with him. It was a very great company. 10They came to the threshing floor of Atad that is beyond the Jordan, and there they mourned with a great and intense mourning. He mourned for his father seven days. 11When the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the mourning in the threshing floor of Atad, they said, “This is a heavy mourning by the Egyptians!” Therefore its name was called Abel Mizraim,[[99]](#footnote-22920) which is beyond the Jordan.

12His sons did for him just as he commanded them, 13for his sons carried him into the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave *that is* in the field of Machpelah that Abraham bought along with the field to be a possession of a burial site from Ephron the Hittite, facing Mamre. 14After he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt—he and his brothers and all who went up with him to bury his father.

Joseph’s Kindness

15When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “What if Joseph hates us and repays, yes, repays us for all of the evil that we did to him?”

16They sent a message to Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this command before he died, saying, 17‘Tell Joseph, please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.’ Now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. 18Then his brothers themselves also went and fell down before his face and said, “Behold, we are your servants.”

19Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! For am I in the place of God? 20Now you, you planned evil against me, but God planned for good, in order to do as it is this day, to keep many people alive. 21So now, do not be afraid. I will provide for you and your little ones.” He comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Joseph’s Death

22So Joseph lived in Egypt, he and his father’s house. And Joseph lived 110 years. 23Joseph saw Ephraim’s children to the third generation. Also, the children of Machir the son of Manasseh were born on Joseph’s knees.

24Joseph said to his brothers, “I am dying, but God will visit, yes, visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.” 25Joseph had the sons of Israel swear an oath. He said, “God will visit, yes, visit you, and then you must carry my bones up from this *place*.”

26So Joseph died, being 110 years old. And they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

1. Or “sky” [↑](#footnote-ref-10011)
2. Or “land” [↑](#footnote-ref-14543)
3. Or “appointed times” [↑](#footnote-ref-19774)
4. Or, “the sky” [↑](#footnote-ref-32276)
5. “you” is plural. [↑](#footnote-ref-15894)
6. Or “On” [↑](#footnote-ref-14847)
7. Or “mist” [↑](#footnote-ref-26061)
8. The Tigris River [↑](#footnote-ref-14877)
9. Septuagint is “paradise” [↑](#footnote-ref-28623)
10. Or “when” [↑](#footnote-ref-26265)
11. Literally, die, yes, die, the Devil quoted God (Gen. 2:17). [↑](#footnote-ref-11688)
12. Or “like gods” [↑](#footnote-ref-20623)
13. Or “offspring” [↑](#footnote-ref-12082)
14. Lit. “a lifting up,” thus “accepted; forgiven” [↑](#footnote-ref-25935)
15. Supplied from the LXX and Aramaic [↑](#footnote-ref-25317)
16. 450 feet (137 meters) [↑](#footnote-ref-20541)
17. 75 feet (22.8 meters) [↑](#footnote-ref-21123)
18. 45 feet (13.7 meters) [↑](#footnote-ref-18034)
19. Lit. “seven seven” [↑](#footnote-ref-20069)
20. Lit. “seven seven” [↑](#footnote-ref-18611)
21. Lit. “face” [↑](#footnote-ref-32744)
22. Lit. “went” [↑](#footnote-ref-26945)
23. Meaning “surface” [↑](#footnote-ref-32602)
24. Lit. “swarm” (cf. Gen. 1:20, 21) [↑](#footnote-ref-12047)
25. “Offspring,” “descendants” [↑](#footnote-ref-32537)
26. The Hebrew word can also mean “islands.” [↑](#footnote-ref-28776)
27. Or “in the face of,” i.e., “in defiance of” [↑](#footnote-ref-31832)
28. Lit. “his son’s son” [↑](#footnote-ref-17467)
29. Lit. “brother’s son” [↑](#footnote-ref-32060)
30. Lit. “soul”; a collective singular for “souls”; people [↑](#footnote-ref-30027)
31. Lit. “he,” here referring to Abram [↑](#footnote-ref-22690)
32. Perhaps more literally, “threw themselves into them” [↑](#footnote-ref-26394)
33. Lit. “on the left hand,” meaning north [↑](#footnote-ref-21712)
34. Lit. “walk” or “go,” referring to living life [↑](#footnote-ref-25832)
35. Lit. “a son of my house” [↑](#footnote-ref-19657)
36. Or “trusted” [↑](#footnote-ref-22978)
37. Or “to inherit it” [↑](#footnote-ref-23959)
38. Lit. “go to,” an idiom for sexual intercourse [↑](#footnote-ref-12022)
39. “Abram” means “Exalted father” [↑](#footnote-ref-30029)
40. “Abraham” means “Father of a multitude” [↑](#footnote-ref-26119)
41. Heb. “nephesh,” “soul” [↑](#footnote-ref-30722)
42. About 21 quarts (20 liters) [↑](#footnote-ref-13803)
43. Or “small and great” [↑](#footnote-ref-15879)
44. Or “burying place” [↑](#footnote-ref-14115)
45. Or “ruler exalted by God” [↑](#footnote-ref-19871)
46. Roughly ten pounds (4.5 kilograms) [↑](#footnote-ref-25608)
47. Lit. “before Mamre” [↑](#footnote-ref-18689)
48. Lit. “before Mamre” [↑](#footnote-ref-29796)
49. Or “the land of my relatives” [↑](#footnote-ref-19077)
50. A shekel was roughly .4 ounces (11.4 grams) [↑](#footnote-ref-29378)
51. Roughly 4 ounces (113 grams) [↑](#footnote-ref-23098)
52. Or “bowed down before” [↑](#footnote-ref-12633)
53. Lit. “living water” [↑](#footnote-ref-20490)
54. Lit. “a bitterness of spirit” [↑](#footnote-ref-29216)
55. Or “from” (2x) [↑](#footnote-ref-31714)
56. Traditionally “God Almighty” [↑](#footnote-ref-25123)
57. Or “frightening” [↑](#footnote-ref-29444)
58. “Bethel” means “house of God.” [↑](#footnote-ref-15382)
59. Or “In wrestling with God” [↑](#footnote-ref-24194)
60. Laban [↑](#footnote-ref-21841)
61. Or “by means of” [↑](#footnote-ref-20349)
62. Or “birthplace” [↑](#footnote-ref-28022)
63. Teraphim were household gods. [↑](#footnote-ref-16295)
64. Teraphim were household gods. [↑](#footnote-ref-16911)
65. Lit. “from my hand you required it” [↑](#footnote-ref-24371)
66. Lit. “sons” [↑](#footnote-ref-28508)
67. Lit. “his face” [↑](#footnote-ref-25980)
68. Lit. “my face” [↑](#footnote-ref-17416)
69. Lit. “lift up my face” [↑](#footnote-ref-26036)
70. Lit. “his face” [↑](#footnote-ref-14034)
71. Peniel means “face of God.” [↑](#footnote-ref-22584)
72. Penuel is also spelled “Peniel.” [↑](#footnote-ref-29398)
73. Lit. “fell on his neck” [↑](#footnote-ref-24677)
74. Lit. “this camp” [↑](#footnote-ref-10427)
75. Lit. “soft” [↑](#footnote-ref-30908)
76. Lit. “booths;” Heb. “sukkoth” [↑](#footnote-ref-30508)
77. Lit. “peace” [↑](#footnote-ref-30557)
78. A qisitah is an unknown unit of money. [↑](#footnote-ref-29056)
79. Lit. “to the heart” [↑](#footnote-ref-19078)
80. Traditionally “God Almighty” [↑](#footnote-ref-30238)
81. Heb. “Tower of the Flock” [↑](#footnote-ref-11371)
82. Lit. “Here I am” [↑](#footnote-ref-21874)
83. Or “three baskets of white bread” [↑](#footnote-ref-17147)
84. Meaning “making forget” [↑](#footnote-ref-11262)
85. Lit. “silver” [↑](#footnote-ref-19198)
86. Lit. “silver” [↑](#footnote-ref-24729)
87. Traditionally “God Almighty” [↑](#footnote-ref-13555)
88. Lit. “from before his face” [↑](#footnote-ref-22218)
89. Lit. “silver” [↑](#footnote-ref-15203)
90. Meaning “Jacob’s direct descendants” [↑](#footnote-ref-32595)
91. Lit. “silver” [↑](#footnote-ref-28500)
92. LXX reading. The MT reads, “he moved them to the cities” [↑](#footnote-ref-22793)
93. Traditionally “God Almighty” [↑](#footnote-ref-27401)
94. Lit. “he,” but referring to Joseph [↑](#footnote-ref-12250)
95. Lit. “his” referring to Israel [↑](#footnote-ref-20936)
96. Lit. “before whose face” [↑](#footnote-ref-17697)
97. Following the Peshitta and Targums [↑](#footnote-ref-32109)
98. Heb. “Shaddai,” no “El” [↑](#footnote-ref-18956)
99. Lit. “mourning of Egypt” [↑](#footnote-ref-22920)