

In the beginning God...

Just think about this....authors today write volumes on just the Civil War. Yet God tells about our creation in just two brief chapters in the Bible!

When the creations for each day were completed, all were said to be "Good." Everything was created after its own kind. Everything was orderly. It wasn't a thing of having cattle on the earth and no grass for them to eat.

Yes, there is evolution—**micro-evolution**, changes evolving within a species through selective breeding. Macro-evolution changes across species. This has never been proven, but it is what many want to hold on to.

On the seventh day God rested? Why? Was He tired?

How old was Adam when he was placed in the garden?

How did he learn a language?

How long were Adam & Eve in the garden? Why couldn't they stay?

Some of the answers only God can answer. However, it would be difficult to say there is no intelligence behind all of this!

We know what was in the Garden of Eden, but have you considered what was not in the Garden? There were no parents, children or grandparents, pain or sickness or death or grocery bills.

Who created everything? John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:16

Who wrote the first five books of the Bible? _____

Exodus 24:4;34:27-28;Numbers 33:2; Deuteronomy 31:9, 22,24



1

The world was not created like a ping pong ball. It was created with mountains, valleys, oceans, rivers and deserts.

2

Mankind was created in the image of God and with freewill.

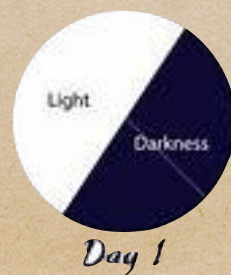
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What does the word Genesis mean?

4

What book in the New Testament begins with the same three words?

(Check the Gospel books.)





Life in Paradise



God's Explicit Command:

"Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of Knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."
Genesis 2:16-17



What God expected from these new tenants:

Help Themselves to the Abundance of Food - Every Green Herb, Fruit

To Tend and to Keep Up the Garden

Be Fruitful & Multiply

Name all of the Animals

ANOTHER FIRST: The first example of "passing the buck."

Adam to God - "the woman You gave me..."

Eve to God - "the serpent deceived me..."

I suppose this is where Flip Wilson came up with

"The devil made me do it!"

It appears Adam & Eve were vegetarians while in the garden.

Meat was added to their diet after the flood.

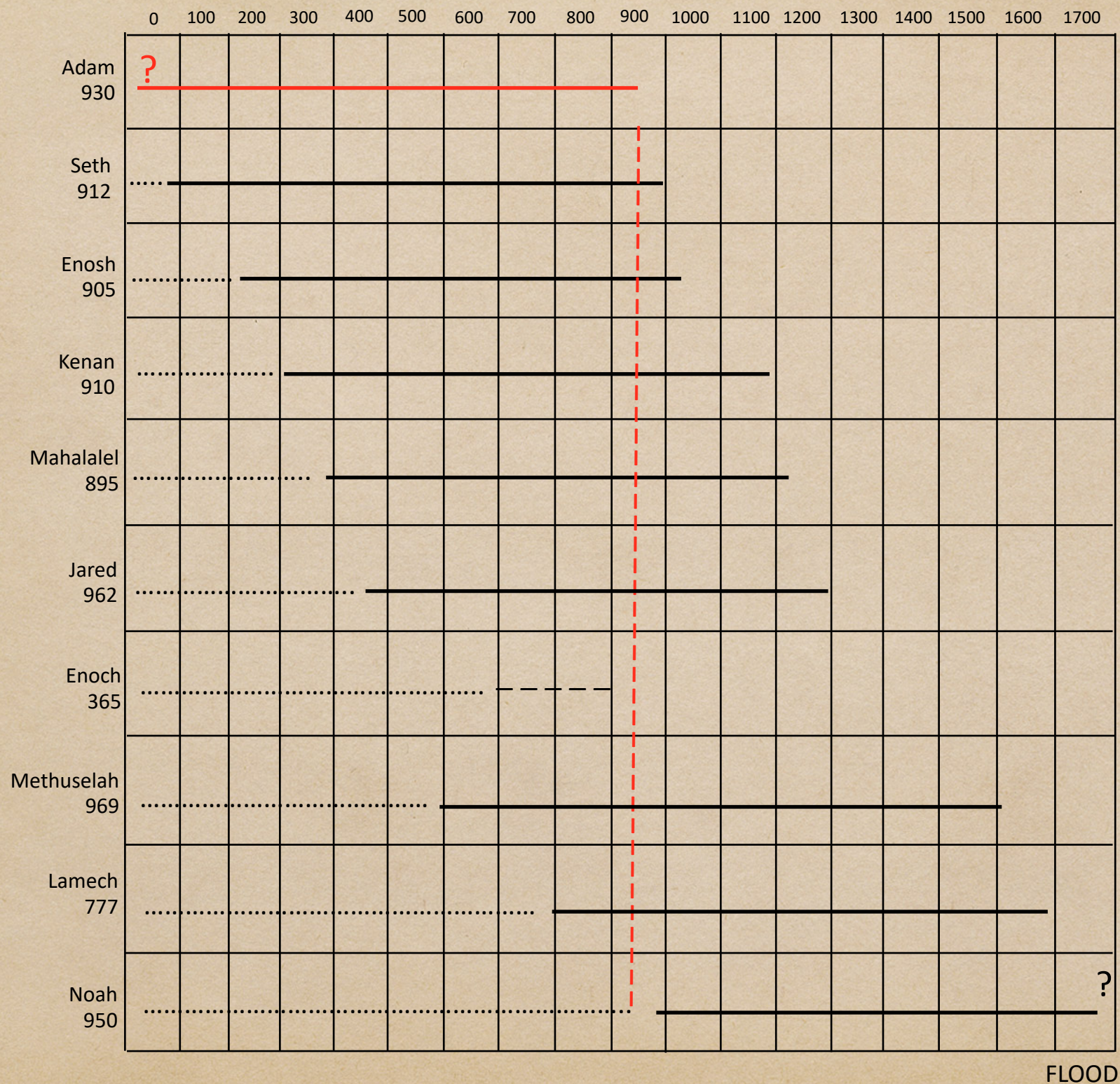
Genesis 9:3

Which tree was forbidden? Adam and Eve were cast out of the garden so they wouldn't have access to another tree, which one?

Which tree may we see again?

Revelation 22:2

Who was around when Adam was still here?



Japeth/ Europe



Shem/ Middle East



Ham/ Africa



Genesis 10

Genesis 3 The Fall



The Penalties: The Serpent



By sinning, what did Adam & Eve give up?

Relationship with God
Innocence
Life in Paradise
Purity
No Grocery Bills

God's command: "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shalt not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you surely die."

When Satan tempted Eve he changed only one word in God's command to Adam and Eve—"you shall NOT surely die." Satan made it sound like God was holding out on them and if the fruit was eaten they would not be God, but like Him.

Was it wrong for Eve to desire some food? Of course not. Satan exploited it by tempting Eve to leave God out of her decision making. This was when it became wrong.

When Adam and Eve's act

unleashed sin upon God's "good" world we now have the world Adam, Eve and Satan made—after *their* own image.

Some say we all inherited their sin. However, sin is an act and you can not inherit an action. Everyone of us does inherit the consequences of this original sin.

But they didn't drop dead right away! Why? It was two-fold. They died spiritually immediately when they became separated from God. Then they began the process of dying physically.

Eve

Adam

"Am I my brother's
keeper?"

First Murder
Wouldn't you know it
would be between
siblings?

Abel's
Offering of
"Faith"

Why didn't God accept
both offerings? They
were both offering
worship to God?



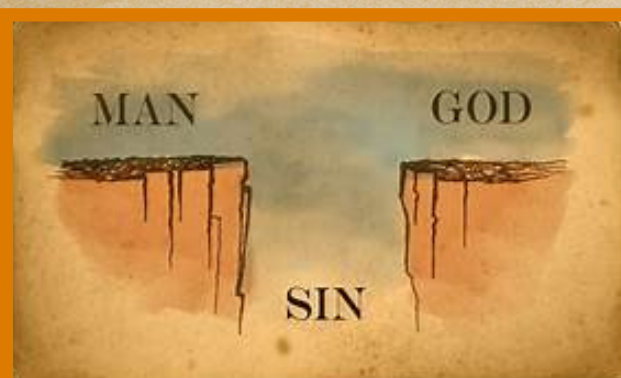
Romans 10:17
Hebrews 11:4

*"So then faith cometh
by hearing, and hearing
by the word of God."*

This is during the period,
before written law, when God
spoke directly to the people
to let His will be known.

At some time God expressed
His desire since Abel's offering
was by "faith." Cain chose to go
his own way.

Our worship today must also be
by faith—from God's holy word.



What is sin? "Missing the Mark"

Sin can be pleasurable for a season
Hebrews 11:25

Sin separates us from God
Isaiah 59:2

Sin is transgression of the law
(Sin of Commission)
1 John 3:4

Sin of Omission
James 4:17 Matt23:23

Sin against Conscience
Romans 14:23

Sin is Death
Romans 6:23

What is death?

Death always means "separation."
It never means total annihilation .
Physical death is separation of the
spirit from the body. Spiritual death
means a separation from God.



Everyone will be
tempted & helped.
1 Corinthians 10:13

Temptation is not
the same as sin.

Use God's word
to help overcome
temptation.

Ephesians 6:1-18

What are the avenues of sin?

1 John 2:16
"lust of the flesh"
"lust of the eyes"
"pride of life"

How are these tactics
used in:

1. Eve's Temptation?

Genesis 3

2. Jesus' Temptation?

Matthew 4:1-11

Who Uses these tactics?

The process: James 1:13-15

An interesting exercise to do is
to critique today's commercials
and advertisements. They use
these "avenues" in abundance!
Find some examples.



Missing the Mark

Never, never underestimate Satan.
That is what the prince of this world
wants. The temptations of Eve and
of Christ were custom made. They
are for you too. Satan never sleeps
and is persistent. Do you think he will
tempt you with truth—even when he
quotes scripture?

In Galatians 5:16-26 it gives things to
avoid and characteristics we should
develop. Satan has quite an arsenal to
work with. Notice the list of spiritual
aspects says "fruit" singular—we don't
pick and choose as we must try to mature
in all of these spiritual attributes.

Works of the Flesh

sexual immorality
impurity
debauchery
idolatry
witchcraft
hatred
discord
jealousy
fits of rage
selfish ambition
dissension
factions
envy
drunkenness
orgies

Fruit of the Spirit

love
joy
peace
patience
kindness
goodness
faithfulness
gentleness
self-control





Shaking the Family Tree “The Begats”

The genealogy sections of the Bible or the “begats” can be rather boring to read. However, they do serve a purpose and you can discover little nuggets of information embedded within them.

In this first genealogy you find Seth takes Abel’s place. Adam and Eve had other sons and daughters who are unnamed and unnumbered. There is also a man who commits bigamy. Builders, Iron workers and musicians can be found among the people at this early time. Methuselah lived the longest—969 years! Enoch was so righteous he did not die. Like Elijah later on he was taken directly up to Heaven.

The genealogies also preserve the prophesied lineage leading to Christ. After Christ came, there are no more “begats.” This was also the period when these early people lived hundreds of years. After all, they are to be fruitful and multiply! And they are leading us straight to a man named Noah.

Women were not usually included in these genealogies. Interestingly enough these women were included: Rahab (the harlot) who helped the spies escape Jericho and is in the lineage of Christ), Ruth (a Moabitess and great-grandmother of David) and Mary, mother of Jesus.

In the gospels, only Matthew and Luke give the genealogies. Both Mary and Joseph were from the tribe of Judah. Both lines were traced in the gospel accounts.



The world had become so corrupt that the people were consumed with evil thoughts. Things had gotten so perverse God regretted even creating mankind. In the midst of this overwhelming corruption, one just man emerged, a 500-year-old man named Noah who walked with God.

Noah had a wife and three sons and their wives. God gave them a charge to build an ark so eight people would survive the coming destruction. Noah was given specific instructions on how to build this ark. Noah did exactly as God instructed. So Noah did not suggest, “I’m sure God forgot about this, but having a ski rig on the back of the ark would be great!”

Rather than look like the whimsical pictures that are painted of the ark, it was more like a barge with no bow or stern. It was made for floating rather than navigating.

All of the animals were to be included, two of each animal, male and female. Seven of the clean animals (used for sacrifices) were to be put on the ark. Noah did not have to run about trying to catch these animals, they came to him!

Noah was 600 years old when the work was completed and he and his family entered the ark when the “fountains of the deep” and the “windows of heaven” were opened. This may have been the first time people experienced rain. Earlier God had a mist to come up to water the “face of the earth”. Genesis 2:6

Water, water everywhere...



• Who closed the door on the ark?

• How long were they in the ark?

• Why were the birds sent out?



After all the animals and Noah and his family left the ark, Noah built an altar and offered sacrifice to God. As a sign of His covenant to Noah, God placed a rainbow in the sky. God declared He would never again kill every living creature nor would He cursed the earth again. Seeing the rainbow as we often do, it is somewhat like seeing a miracle before our very eyes! The next destruction will be by fire.



The Flood & Archaeology



It is common to find marine fossils on mountain tops around the world. The Bible tells us the waters covered the mountains.

Through the years several claim they have found the ark encased in ice on Mt. Ararat. However, the ark was said to rest on the "mountains of Ararat." Pictures taken of this image (below) claim this is where the ark rests. You see these accounts every once in awhile, but they have not been definitely proven.





Changes After the Flood

After Noah, his family and all the animals left the ark, Noah built an altar to the Lord and offered burnt sacrifices pleasing to the Lord.

God said He would never again destroy every living creature with a flood. He went on to say,

*While the earth remains,
Seedtime and harvest,
Cold and heat,
Winter and summer,
And day and night
Shall not cease.*

Genesis 8:22

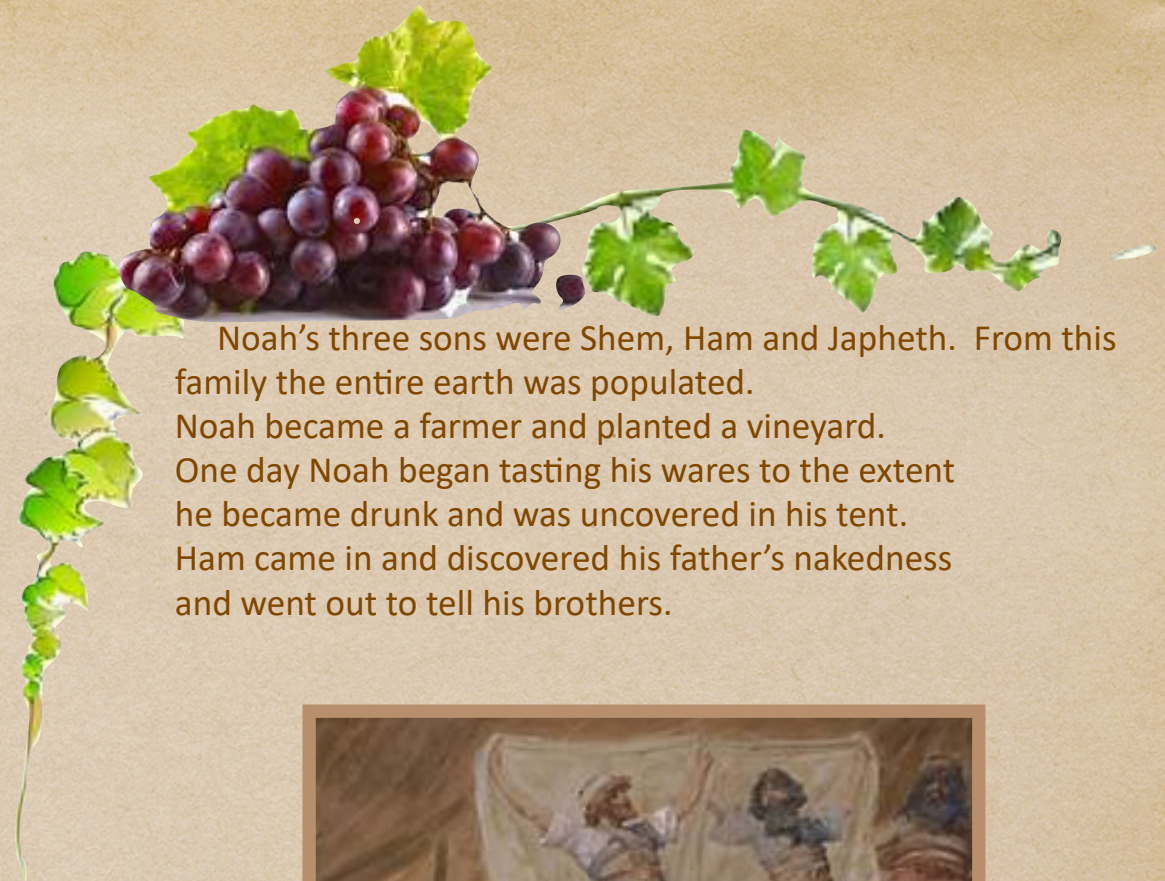
The family was admonished to "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. God set mankind with dominion over all the animals. They also can now eat meat along with the green herbs and fruits. He further said they could eat the meat but not with the blood in it, because the life is in the blood.

Then God established **capital punishment**, as follows:

*Whoever sheds man's blood;
By man his blood shall be shed;
For in the image of God
He made man.*

Genesis 9:6

As time moves on we find that capital punishment was to be carried out by the government, not by the individual.



Noah's three sons were Shem, Ham and Japheth. From this family the entire earth was populated.

Noah became a farmer and planted a vineyard.

One day Noah began tasting his wares to the extent he became drunk and was uncovered in his tent.

Ham came in and discovered his father's nakedness and went out to tell his brothers.



Shem and Japheth took some cloth and held it up and backed into the tent so they could cover up their father's nakedness without seeing him. When Noah was awake he knew what had happened and cursed Canaan (Ham's son) and said he would become a servant. It was all a matter of showing respect for their father.

What were people doing before the flood? What will people be doing before Christ comes again?

Cross-References: Matthew 24:37-39; 2 Peter 2:5; 3:3-7



The Tower of Babel

At this time everyone spoke the same language. They planned an ambitious building project to build a city and a tower. The reasons they gave for this are as follows:

1. The tower would reach heaven.
2. Make a name for ourselves.
3. To prevent being scattered everywhere.

Some things never change. Ironically, many churches today operate on this same level of thinking.

Why did the Lord not like this plan? What was His solution to the problem?

Conversely, God actually tells how this plan can be used for good by churches. Genesis 11:6



So, in the confusion they scattered all over the face of the earth.

★ The Call of Abram/ Abraham Genesis 12

God is going to make up a race of people who are to be representative of Him. In Ur of the Chaldees He found a man to be the father of the Hebrew people. There was a 75-year-old patriarch named Abram who fit the job description. God gives him special instructions and iron clad promises. And in these remarkable promises—*we are included! Stay tuned.

The promises:

1. I will make you a great nation.
2. I will bless you and make your name great.
3. You will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you & curse those who curse you.
4. *In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

Abram was told in essence to pack his bags and go to a place with no name, as yet, that is promised to him and his descendants. He also did not have any maps for his travels. There were not any expressways with signs or any frequent mileage rewards. Packing his bags was no little task.



Check the list good—did he leave anything out??
What about water and food? (and no refrigeration)



We have a map neither Abraham nor Moses had and they did an amazing amount of traveling. You will notice a green area on the map. This is called the **Fertile Crescent**. You could only travel on it as the land outside of it is a scorching desert.



The Beginning of the Jews as a People: Genesis 12



What are some other names these special people were called?

Genesis 14:13 _____

Genesis 32:28-30 _____

What was Jesus? John 4:9 _____

What are the people who are not of these people called? _____

Which are you? Isaiah 42:6 _____

The countries that were not Jewish were called "the nations."

Stop and think! We are talking about a large family—how do they become a NATION? 1. population

2. laws 3. land

God works this out as we go along, but was it easy? Numbers 14:11-17

Islam → Christianity → Judaism →

When Abram got to Canaan he built an altar to the Lord and called on His name. Abraham himself will never own any land in Canaan, just his burial site. A severe famine pushed them on to go to Egypt. Sarai's beauty caused Abram to tell Sarai to say she was his sister so he would not be killed. If she revealed she was his wife Pharaoh would have killed Abram and put Sarai in his harem. God sent a plague on the Egyptians to protect Sarai. Pharaoh was more than happy to see Abram's group get out of sight.

"And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars in the sky; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed."





Abraham Rescues Lot

We have spoken on how wealthy Abraham was and so much so because he could also get his own army together!

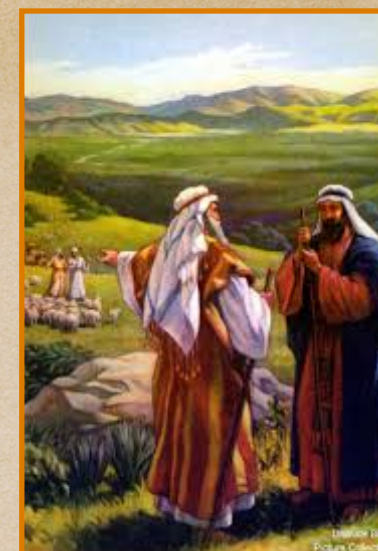
Several kings joined forces and formed their own armies. These were kings of cities, not of nations. The kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled and the kings' army attacked and plundered Sodom and Gomorrah and took Lot with them—and all of his baggage.

When Abram heard about this he immediately armed his 318 trained servants who were born in his own house. They attacked by night and they took Lot and all of the women and recovered all of the goods that had been taken from them.

Abraham the Hebrew (sojourner)

Abram was quite wealthy in livestock, in silver and in gold. His nephew Lot came on this trip with his uncle and he also had tents, flocks and herds. The land could not support all of Abram's and Lot's livestock. The herdsmen began fighting for each of their herds.

When Abram was aware of this he gave Lot the choice of the land he wanted. Abram would then go the opposite way to avoid strife. Lot chose the fertile land along the plain of Jordan and came to live in Sodom.



Melchizedek, King of Salem & Priest of the Most High God

After Abram's successful campaign against the army of the Five Kings, Abram meets a mysterious person, Melchizedek, king and priest of the most high God, who brings wine and bread to Abram and blesses him. Abraham gives him tithes.



As important as Abram was he was subject to this King of Salem (ancient name for Jerusalem). Later on as the Hebrews get more organized, Kings were supposed to come from the tribe of Judah and priests were to come from the tribe of Levi. Only one to possess both titles is Christ, our High Priest. Christians are a "kingdom of priests" since we offer our own acceptable worship and sacrifice to the Lord.

Genesis 14:18-20; Psalms 110:4; Hebrews 4:14; 5:8-10; 5:6, 10; 7:1-3, 9; 11:14-17

Genesis 12	Genesis 15	Genesis 16	Genesis 17	Genesis 21	Genesis 23	Genesis 25
Calling of Abram Promise to Abram Great Nation	Abram suggests children by his servant Eliezer God says will come from your own body	Sarai offers Hagar to Abram to have children	Circumcision instituted Nations, kings will come from Abram AND Sarah	Isaac, the Promised Child Born Hagar & Ishmael Sent Away	Sarah Dies Buried at Hebron	Abramham Takes Keturah as a Wife & Has More Children Abraham dies
Age 75		Age 86		Age 100	Age 137	Age 175
<div> <div>← Promise (child)</div> <div>25 Years</div> <div>Fulfillment →</div> </div>						

Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years.

Genesis 15:12-21



In a vision God reiterates His promise to Abram and tells what the future will hold for his many descendants. Abraham believed on the Lord and He accounted it to him for righteousness. 15:6

Although descendants of Abram and Sarai were promised, they had difficulty figuring out how this was going to happen, since they were old and had no children. A Hebrew woman considered being barren a disgrace.

They each came up with a plan to assist God in this effort. Abram came up with Eliezer, a servant in Abram's household. God said this child would come from Abram's own body. That made the initial promise a little more specific.

However, that information didn't say anything about Sarai. So, she figures out a way she can also help God. Sarai decided her young maidservant, Hagar, could have a child with Abram. Hagar was probably acquired when they were in Egypt. Hagar did conceive which made Sarai despise Hagar and her son, Ishmael. Abram was 86.



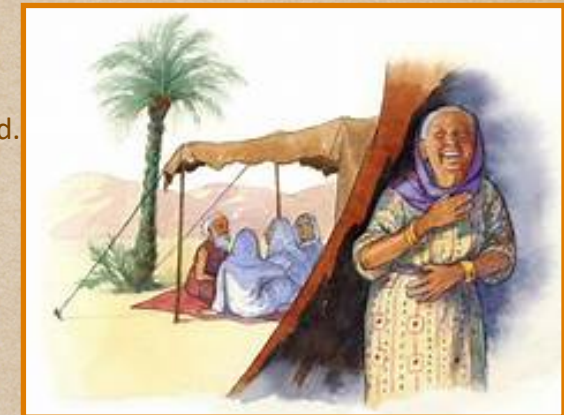
Visitors on a Mission

Is there anything too hard for the Lord?



The three travelers accepted Abraham's hospitality and told him he and Sarah would have a child at this time next year. The potential parents had a laugh over that. Abram was 100 and Sarai was 90.

The visitors also revealed Sodom and Gomorrah were going to be destroyed. Knowing his nephew Lot and his family were there Abraham begged to spare them. It got down to finding 10 righteous people and they would be spared this destruction.



Three strangers came and one was the Lord. The two angels departed and went to Sodom where they met Lot at the city gate. Lot invited them to come and stay at his house.

The men of the city came and surrounded Lot's house demanding the visitors come out so they could "know" them. They wanted to do sexual acts with these visitors. Even today sexual activities like this are called "sodomy" and the term harkens back to this incident.

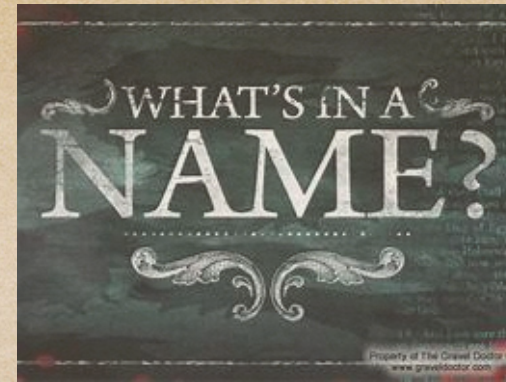
A Pillar of Salt

The two angels in Lot's house told Lot to get his family together and to get out because they were going to destroy the city. Only Lot, his wife and their two daughters would leave since the two sons-in-law refused to leave, as they thought it a joke.

Morning came and they left the city with orders go to the mountains and to not look back and to not stay anywhere in the plain area or near the city. Lot wanted to go rather to a city in the area. What a time to argue!! Unfortunately, Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt. Lot and his two daughters ended up in a cave.



Lot's daughters were lamenting over Lot's lineage being cut off. They devised a scheme to prevent this. They would get their father to drink some wine. When he became sleepy a daughter would go into Lot. The daughters each had sons. The Moabites and the Ammonites came from this family. More from them later.



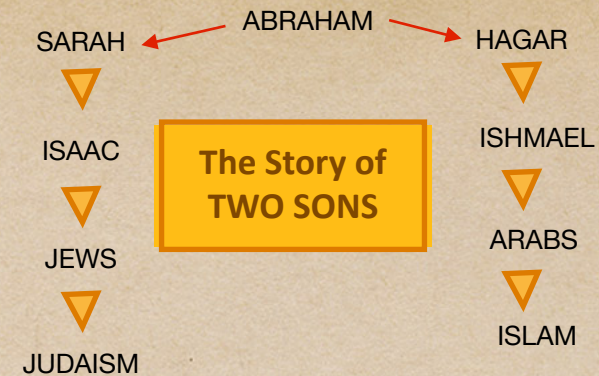
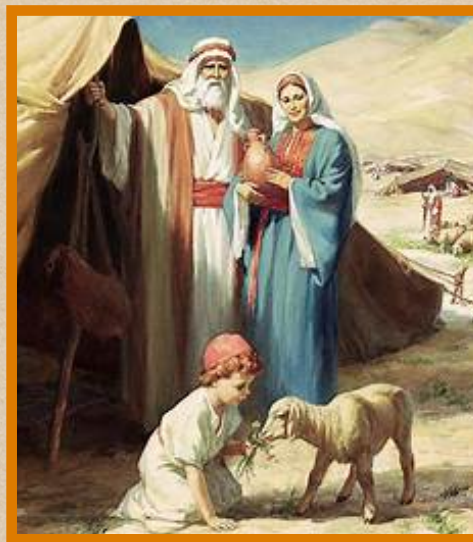
God quite often tells someone what to name a child. The name usually ties in with the circumstances or personalities around the child. Now it is Abram's turn. Abram means "exalted father." Now he is to be called Abraham which means "father of many nations." His people will be as numerous as the stars in the sky or the sand on a beach. Nations and kings will come from Abraham.

Now it is Sarai's turn. Her name is changed to Sarah. She shall be the "mother of nations" and kings and nations will come from her.

Circumcision is Instituted

Another sign of God's covenant with His people is circumcision. All Hebrew males had to be circumcised. Baby boys eight days old must be circumcised. Abraham took Ishmael with him and both of them were circumcised. Abraham was 99 years old when he was circumcised and Ishmael was 13 years old. Hebrews are known by several names such as: the circumcision, Israel, the Twelve Tribes of Israel, Judah and Jews. Chapter 17 gives detailed instructions about circumcision.

Isaac The Child of Promise



In the book of Galatians in the New Testament we are told how these two women represent the two covenants. Galatians 4:22-31

The inheritance that Christians have and the one that really counts is in Romans 8:17 "And if children then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ..."

It has taken us 25 years, but we, at last, have the child of promise! Isaac is born and his name means "laughter." Where would that name come from? He was born to the two oldest parents! Sarah was ninety and Abraham was 100 years old.

Abraham made a great feast celebrating Isaac being weaned. He was probably around two years old. Sarah saw Ishmael scoffing. She wanted Hagar and Ishmael gone! She didn't want Ishmael to be an heir along side of Isaac. This grieved Abraham. Ishmael was a young teenager, but he was a son of Abraham! Sarah's solution to helping God only caused strife. And it still causes strife today in the Middle East.

God comforted Abraham and told him he would look after Ishmael because he came from Abraham. He would also make a nation from Ishmael. Abraham was told to do as Sarah wanted.

The lineage of Christ continues to be protected.



Hagar and Ishmael Go

Abraham sorrowfully sends Hagar and Ishmael away with some water and bread. The desert is a harsh place to be. When the water runs out and Hagar is fearful she might lose her son she cries out. An angel appears and assures Hagar her son will be a great nation. A well appeared and had the life giving water!

Before Ishmael was born Hagar ran away to get away from Sarah's bitter treatment. An angel appeared and told her to return. Then the angel told her what kind of child she would have. He will be named Ishmael and he would be a wild man. His hand would be against every man and every man would be against him. He lived in the wilderness and became an archer—and a nation. Hagar found a wife for Ishmael from Egypt.

Abraham's Great Test of Faith

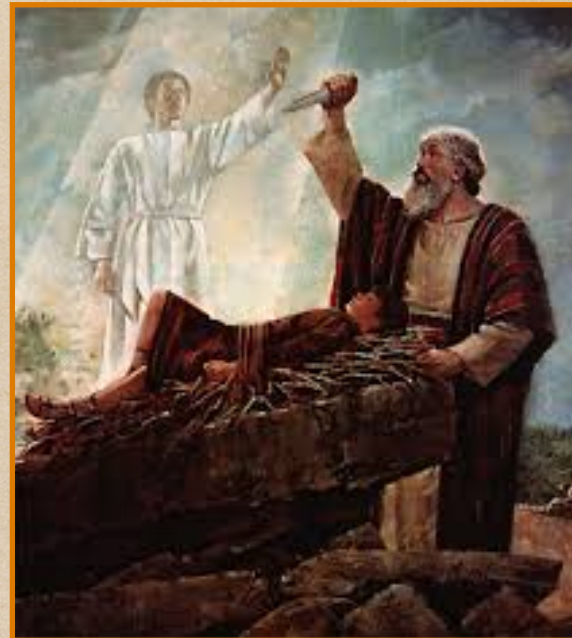
"Take now your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

This is the chilling command ^{Genesis 22} God gave to Abraham. Early the next morning Abraham packed supplies (including fire wood) and had two young men and Isaac to go on this journey. A three day journey—that much time to think of the job at hand.

Abraham sees the mountain God had selected so he gathers the fire wood and takes Isaac with him. He tells the young men to wait there until he returns.

Isaac is understandably curious and wants to know where is the lamb for the sacrifice? His father replies that "God will provide."

Abraham built an altar, put the firewood on it, bound up Isaac and put him on the altar over the wood. As Abraham stretched out his hand with a knife the Angel of the Lord told Abraham to not lay a hand on Isaac as He saw the proof of Abraham's great faith.



A few random thoughts. I truly believe that losing a beloved child is the worst anguish for anyone to endure. Because that is what God went through for us. Again, God did provide.

Isaac is the one who intrigues me. I hear little said about him and his response! If it had been me I would have been scrambling every which way to get off of that potential hot seat! Yet like Christ, Isaac said nothing. He just obeyed. Incredible.

What was Abraham thinking during this ordeal? Hebrews 11:17-19

A good water supply is always at a premium, especially in the desert



Look at the mass of people and livestock to water. No one could turn on a faucet and have water coming out! Everyone had to bring their jars or large wineskins to fill and to refill and to refill again daily.

Genesis 20 tells about a dispute over a well. How did Abraham handle it?



Typical ways to carry water—large wineskins & pottery jugs.



Finding a wife for Isaac

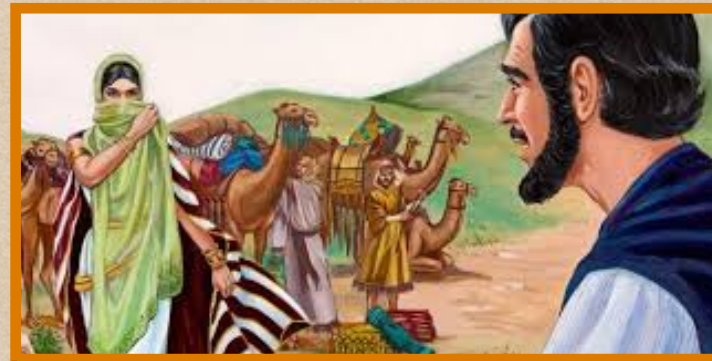
Abraham did not want a Canaanite wife for Isaac, so he sent his servant on a mission. He was to go to Abraham's country and family to find a wife for Isaac. Abraham was resolute in keeping Isaac away from his current country. Why?

The servant loaded up and headed for Mesopotamia and to the city of Nahor. He went to the city's well when the women go to draw water. He asked for a sign—he would ask for a drink and the woman would give him one and offer water for his camels also. Then he would know she was the right one!



Rebekah passed the test and the servant, upon questioning her, discovered her family was kin to Abraham. He was invited to stay with the family and they made provisions for the camels.

Rebekah chose to go rather than wait several days. When she saw Isaac walking toward them she quickly put a veil over her face. She and Isaac married and this gave him comfort after losing his mother.



Isaac & Ishmael bury their father Abraham by Sarah.

20
Years
Later



The birth of twins—Jacob & Esau

The Twins Couldn't be More Different!

It had been 20 years and Isaac pleaded with the Lord because Rebekah had been barren all those years. The Lord granted his plea and Rebekah conceived.

Rebekah had such a painful time she asked the Lord why she was having so much trouble. She was going to have "two nations." He didn't say twin boys, but nations and they were already fighting before they were born. One people would be stronger than the other and the older one would serve the younger.

Esau was born first and was red and hairy (as his name implies) all over. As he grew he became a skillful hunter. As Jacob was being born he grasped Esau's heel. His name means "supplanter" or "one who takes the heel."

Jacob was a mild man and stayed around the tents more.

Doesn't Esau sound a lot like Ishmael?

What grieved Isaac & Rebekah? 26:34-35; 27:46

Esau said Jacob "took away his birthright." Did he? ★



Esau came in from hunting and was famished. Jacob had cooked some stew and Esau wanted some. The bargain was for Esau to give his birthright in exchange for the stew. Esau thought so little of his birthright that he agreed immediately.

Isaac was quite old and wanted Esau to hunt and bring him a special stew. When Rebekah heard about this she dreamed up a scheme to make Isaac appear like Esau and go into Isaac and get his blessing. They pulled it off and when Esau saw he couldn't get his father's blessing because Jacob already had it. Jacob had to escape to Rebekah's country and family or Esau would have killed him.

Birthrights & Blessings

Birthrights were normally given to the eldest son. However, this was not always the case. This included respect in the household or tribe and the father's official authority. He also inherited (and managed) a double portion of the father's property.

Gen. 25:33; Deut. 21:15-17;

2 Chronicles 21:3

A **blessing** could be given regardless of birthright. However, a greater blessing was given to the one who had the birthright. Anyone could receive a blessing. Some served as a "last will and testament" using it as a means of showing God's will.

★
What all did Rebekah do to disguise Jacob as Esau?



Uncle Laban had a Doctorate in Trickery

Laban's
New Math

$7+7+6=$ changed wages

Jacob had to flee from Esau's anger as he was already plotting to kill Jacob after losing his birthright and blessing from their aged father, Isaac. Isaac and Rebekah did not want Jacob to marry any of the Canaanite women, as his brother Esau had done, so he was to go back to their homeland among their own family to find a wife.

While journeying to Padan Aram Jacob spent the night with a rock as a pillar! He had a strange dream with a ladder reaching to heaven and angels were going up and down the ladder. God speaks to Jacob and reiterates His promise He gave to Abraham. God assures Jacob He will be with him.

Jacob arrived in Haran and since the wells had been a proven good meeting place Jacob went there. And who should appear? Rachel, of course, and she was very pretty. After Jacob had been with the family of Laban, his mother's brother, he agreed to work seven years for Rachel. When Jacob had finished the seven years, it was time for him to marry Rachel. Morning came and Jacob realized he had been deceived and had been given Leah. Uncle Laban came up with some extra small print in his contract with Jacob!



(Come to think of it, Laban and his sister, Rebekah, sound a lot alike!) He couldn't let the younger daughter marry before the older daughter. BUT Uncle Laban struck another deal—Jacob could have Rachel in a week if he agreed to work for him another seven years!

The baby derby was on. Each daughter wanted to have a baby and it seemed Rachel was barren. After awhile Leah was barren. Then, the handmaids were drafted. When Jacob came in from work in the fields he didn't know which tent he was to go to. Eventually, Rachel was able to conceive and she had Joseph. Since Jacob loved Rachel the most, Jacob was partial to Joseph and this brought about jealousy among the other ten brothers.

Jacob and Laban had to sort out what was Jacob's and what was Laban's. Jacob pulled out all of the flocks which were spotted or brown and turned them over to his sons. God made Jacob's livestock to increase.

How did Jacob & Laban agree on livestock?



Laban accused Jacob of stealing his idol. He was told to search. Neither knew that Rachel had the idol. When they came to her tent, she apologized for not getting up as she was sick. She was hiding the idol. Nobody knew it.



After wrestling all night with God, Jacob's name was changed to ISRAEL.



Why did Laban really want Jacob to stay? Genesis 30:25-28

What did Jacob fear Laban would do? Genesis 31:31

Jacob & Esau have a Curious Reunion

The Family of Jacob

Leah	Bilhah	Rachel	Zilpah
1. Reuben	5. Dan	11. Joseph	7. Gad
2. Simeon	6. Naphtali	12. Benjamin	8. Asher
3. Levi			
4. Judah			
9. Issachar			
10. Zebulon			
Dinah			



Jacob had finally gotten free of Laban and was loaded up and ready to get back home. If he had not decided to go, Laban would have probably tried to get Jacob to work another seven years—for any reason!

Jacob knew he would be meeting his brother Esau. Did Esau still want to kill Jacob for getting his birthright and blessing? Jacob is working this out in his mind. What to do? Angels of God met Jacob before his meeting with Esau. Strangely enough, nothing was said by the angels. Were they there for moral support? Jacob did name the place where the angels were “Mahanaim” meaning “God’s double camp.”

Jacob sent messengers to Esau catching him up on where he had been and where he was going. Esau answered back that he was coming to meet Jacob with 400 men! Jacob quickly divided his men and livestock into two companies in case there was an

attack. Jacob also arranged his family, putting Leah, Rachel, the handmaids and the children in the rear. Rachel and Joseph were at the very back, the most protected place. Jacob knew this was certainly time for an impassioned prayer to God.

Jacob and his company spent the night there and Jacob pulled out a huge amount of livestock to give to Esau. He had servants corral the livestock, go in the front to greet Esau, and give him Jacob’s gift.

Esau wanted Jacob to follow him and they would go to Seir, where he lived. Jacob made all kinds of excuses why they couldn’t follow Esau right then. They would come later. He had assured Esau they would be coming to Seir. However, when Jacob was ready to travel again he did not go to Seir, but went in the direction of Succoth. **Why??**



Jacob's Daughter Dinah Violated Causing Revenge

After leaving Esau, for some curious reason, Jacob went to Succoth (meaning booths) and set up a campsite. He made himself a house (bigger tent?) and made booths for his livestock.

When he came to Shechem, in Canaan, Jacob set up his tent in sight of the city. In fact, he even bought some land around his campsite from the children of Hamor, Shechem's father, for one hundred pieces of money.

As was Jacob's custom he set up an altar and this one he called "Israel." God had changed Jacob's name to Israel because he wrestled with God and man and prevailed. Israel became the collective name for his sons (12 tribes of Israel) and the name of the Hebrew people (Israelites) and the name of their country when they obtained it.

Dinah, Jacob's only daughter, went out to visit the women of the land. Shechem, Hamor's son, saw Dinah and defiled her. He loved Dinah and asked his father if he would ask Jacob for her.

Hamor went to Jacob to ask for Dinah for his son. It was possible if all of the men in the city were circumcised. Hamor agreed to this and they complied. However, when the defilement was known Dinah's brothers were furious.

On the third day when the men of the city were still sore Simeon and Levi, on their own, went in and slaughtered all of them, thereby grieving Jacob who wanted peace.

Then Simeon and Levi took Dinah, the women and children, livestock, completely plundered the city, thereby taking all their wealth. Jacob was distressed over their actions. Coming back home these actions didn't do anything to help Jacob's reputation.

God told Jacob to go to Bethel. Although Jacob didn't know foreign gods were in his family, but God did. So Jacob told them if they had any to get rid of them. Foreign gods and earrings showed up and they were all buried outside of Shechem.

To assure safe passage for Jacob God put fear in the people of the cities as they passed through Canaan. God also reiterated His promise to Abraham which was passed on to Isaac. He also reminded Jacob of his name change to "Israel."

When they came to Bethlehem (Ephrath, Rachel went into labor and delivered Benjamin. Sadly, Rachel lived long enough to name the baby Ben-O-ni but Jacob changed it to Benjamin. Rachel's name meant "son of my sorrow" while Benjamin meant "son of my right hand." Ironically, the Bible refers to the tribe of Benjamin as having a lot of left-handed people! Rachel was buried in Bethlehem.



What would be the benefits if Dinah and Shechem had married?

In Matthew 2:18 it mentions that Rachel is figuratively crying. Why?

What does "Israel" mean? (The "el" means God in Hebrew.)

Why didn't God let the Israelites go on and possess the promised land, Canaan? They were in the land then.
Genesis 15:16



Joseph, The Dreamer

Since we are about to close out the lives of the main patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob), why is it even important for us to study about them? It could be because they are carrying the lineage that will lead us to Christ. Don't lose sight of that.

I must confess, the story of Joseph is probably my favorite account in the Bible. Every emotion is experienced throughout this narrative. Each of the main characters have just one side of the story!

Jacob couldn't help but show his favoritism toward Rachel's children, especially Joseph. She died and she and Jacob did not get to share Benjamin like they had with Joseph.



The things that inflamed jealousy and hatred in his brothers was when Jacob gave Joseph a special coat of many colors. If that were not enough Joseph had these strange dreams and he told



everyone about them. It didn't matter if the dreams had sheaves in the field or the sun, moon and stars they were all bowing down to Joseph. Not a good thing to tell his brothers.

Jacob sent Joseph to check on his brothers and see if they were all right. They were doing fine until they saw Joseph "the dreamer" approaching. They made plans to kill him, but Reuben heard them and said for them to not kill Joseph, but to put him in a pit. He planned to come back and free Joseph.

With Reuben gone the nine brothers came up with another scheme. Judah encouraged his brothers to not lay a hand on him, but sell him to some Ishmaelite traders who were approaching. They hauled Joseph out of the pit and sold him as a slave to the passing caravan for twenty shekels of silver.

The Intermission: Chapter 38

Wedged in-between Genesis 37 and 39, right in the middle of the Joseph in Egypt account, we have Chapter 38 which takes us back to activities in Canaan. A sort of “meanwhile back at the ranch” approach.

This involves the abuse of a Levirate marriage. So, what is a Levirate marriage? Does it come from the tribe of Levi?

No, it does not come from a Levitical tribe, it comes from the Latin word *levi* meaning “husband’s brother.”

Ordinarily, Hebrews forbade a marriage with a brother’s widow (Leviticus 18:16; 20:21). However, this became an obligation when there was no male issue (Deuteronomy 25:5-10) and when the two brothers had been dwelling on the same family estate. The surviving brother could avoid the obligation by the ceremony of Halitzah. Described in the above Deuteronomy passage.

Some have mistakenly taken this chapter as a prohibition against birth control. The mistake was in not fulfilling the purpose of the Levirate marriage.

A **Levirate marriage** is a type of marriage in which the unmarried brother of a deceased man is obliged to marry his brother’s widow if the man died without a child. This was done in hopes of providing an heir (first son born from this union) for the deceased brother and for perpetuating the family name and estate. Simply put, it is a marriage with a brother-in-law.

Tamar’s husband died and the next brother, Onan, did not want to marry her because he didn’t want to bring up an heir that wouldn’t be his, so he refused to consummate the marriage with Tamar.

Judah then promised Tamar another son, Shelah, when he was old enough. Tamar went home and waited as Judah instructed her.

She saw she had not been given Shelah, so she posed as a harlot when Judah came along. He unknowingly went into Tamar. For payment he was to send her some goats, but she wanted a pledge to be assured of getting the payment. She wanted his signet, cord and staff. In the meantime others went to Judah to tell him Tamar had been playing the harlot because she was expecting a child. Judah was enraged and planned to punish her. She told him the father of her child had these pledge items. Judah was remorseful and said she was more righteous than he was as he didn’t keep his promise to give her Shelah.



The book of Ruth is a prime example of this type of marriage. With Naomi’s guidance Ruth sought Boaz to be her “kinsman-redeemer” and to marry her to save the land her husband had owned (Ruth 2:1 - 4:17). Boaz went through all of the eligible men to make sure he could marry Ruth. They, in turn, became the great grandparents of King David.

What famous king of England ran into this problem?

Joseph in Egypt

Reuben returned and saw Joseph wasn't in the pit. He tore his clothes in anguish. The brothers took Joseph's coat of many colors and dipped it in some animal blood to take to their father.

The brothers showed Jacob the blood stained coat and asked him could he identify it as his son's coat or not. (Notice they didn't identify the coat as "our brother's coat.") Jacob knew it at once and he assumed Joseph had been torn to pieces by wild animals. His sons let him continue thinking that. Jacob tore his clothes and went into mourning and refused to be comforted.



Jacob is overcome with grief.

And Joseph is on his way to Egypt.



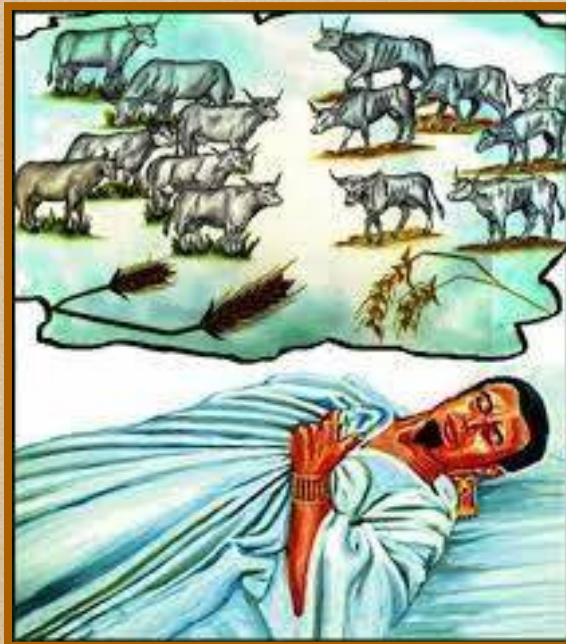
God told Abraham his descendants would be in a strange land and be afflicted for 400 years. That prophecy is beginning to unfold. Another verse says they were in Egypt for 430 years. Is this a discrepancy? No, as they had 30 years of peace while Joseph was still alive, then 400 years of slavery. Genesis 15:13-16 This very specific prophecy was made four generations ago!

Feeling alone and bewildered, Joseph was put up for sale and an Egyptian official named, Potiphar, bought Joseph. The Lord so blessed Joseph that Potiphar made him the overseer of his house and Joseph had authority over everything Potiphar had.

Unfortunately, Potiphar's wife had other ideas. She persisted in demanding that Joseph "lie with her." Joseph refused as he considered it **a sin against God** and he also had respect for Potiphar.

How many youngsters today after leaving family roots for college or a new job would hold on to their integrity and care about pleasing God?

Joseph is Elevated in Egypt



Pharaoh dreams and Joseph interprets.



On the strength of Joseph's God given ability to interpret the pharaoh's dream and his plan to handle this situation, Joseph was put in charge of Egypt. Only the Pharaoh, himself, was higher than Joseph.

Pharaoh set up Joseph with new clothes, new name, a wife, a chariot, his signet ring and all authority under Pharaoh. His name became Zaphnath-Paaneah.



Joseph's wife, Asenath, was the daughter of the priest of On. They had two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. Manasseh's name meant "For God has made me forget all my toil and all my father's house."

It Has been 20 Long Years

The dreaded famine came and it severely affected all the lands. Only in Egypt was there bread. Anyone wanting grain had to come to Joseph. Jacob sends his sons (except Benjamin) to Egypt.

Joseph's Twenty Year Reunion



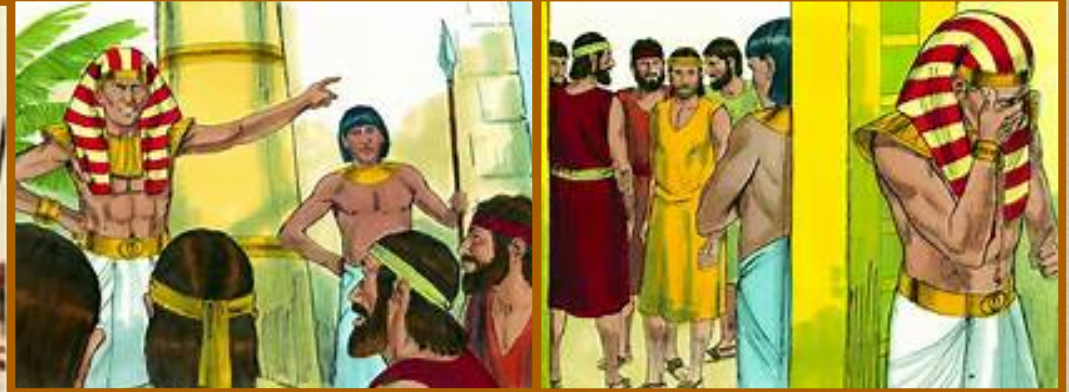
Nobody knows the whole story! That goes for Joseph, Jacob and the 10 brothers. It is going to take awhile to start putting the pieces together. Let us concentrate on Joseph for now as he is holding the upper hand. It is *deja vu* time again.

He would naturally be thinking things like:

- Why didn't my father come after me??
After all, these brothers got here.
- Is my father still alive?
- Where is my real brother Benjamin?
- Are these brothers still as mean spirited as before?

Joseph's line of questioning show how he's trying to get the answers without giving anything away.

Why did Joseph's brothers not recognize him?



Joseph questions his brothers harshly and accuses them of being spies. He finds out his father and his brother, Benjamin are alive. He also discovered that all of his brothers did not want to kill him. He had to step aside and weep when he heard how their guilt still tormented them. They didn't know Joseph could understand them.

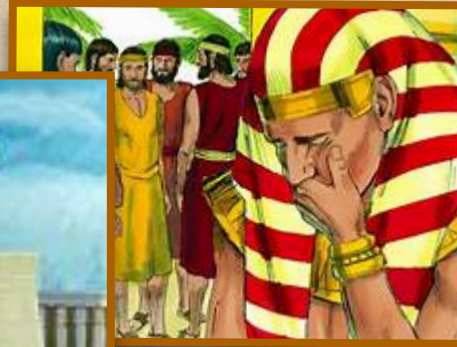
Why did Joseph keep Simeon? _____

Joseph ordered men to fill up the men's sacks with grain and to put each one's money in each bag. They left and sometime later it was discovered that their money had been returned.

When the brothers returned to Canaan they related everything to Jacob, who was alarmed! When they had to go back (or all of them would starve) Judah and Reuben both promised they would make sure to bring Benjamin back to him. Jacob sorrowfully agreed and told them to gather some things for a present for the governor in Egypt. And they were to take twice the money and return what they found in their bags.



Joseph is At Last with His Brother Benjamin



Once Joseph saw his brother Benjamin, Joseph quickly made special plans. He ordered a servant to prepare a meal at his house for himself and all of these men. When Joseph saw his brother Benjamin he was so touched he had to quickly leave to weep.

In setting up the meal it was revealed that eating with Hebrews was an abomination to Egyptians. Therefore, Joseph was set off to himself and the brothers were seated separately. The Egyptians, who were there to help, sat off to themselves. And, yet, here is a Hebrew in charge of their country!

The brothers thought it was amazing that they were seated according to birth order! Joseph even began to serve them from his table. However, Benjamin was served five times as much as the others!

Now Joseph was planning another test for the brothers.

Joseph ordered the servants to return the brothers' money to their bags and to put his silver cup in Benjamin's bag. When the group had gotten a short distance out of town the servant was to follow them and after a prepared speech he was to find that Benjamin "stole" the silver cup in his bag. This outcome had everyone tearing their clothes and returning to Joseph's house.



Judah asked Joseph to step aside so they could talk and he pleads with Joseph not to take Benjamin as it would kill his father. Judah offers to stay in Benjamin's place. Joseph could wait no longer to reveal himself to them. Amid tears he said "I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into Egypt."



The Great At Last!



During the celebration with the brothers all crying, laughing, kissing and embracing, the celebration carried all the way to the Pharaoh's house. He was pleased to hear this was Joseph's family and immediately made plans for the brothers' trip to Canaan to get Joseph's father. He told them to take carts for his aged father, women and children when they returned to Egypt he would settle them in the choicest land in Egypt.

Joseph loaded them up with food, clothing and money. He gave Benjamin more food and more clothing than the rest.

Yet, Joseph admonished his brothers to not quarrel on the way to Canaan.

What an insightful thing for Joseph to tell his brothers! Can't you hear them now? What are we going to tell our father? We have let him believe this lie all these years. Well, you are the ones who sold him. I begged all of you to save him, he was our brother. In our own lives we might consider, along the way, "What am I going to tell my Father?"

All of Jacob's family (who came from his body) were seventy who went to Egypt. When they arrived in Egypt, they settled in the land of Goshen. There was plenty of grass for their livestock. Egyptians also looked upon shepherds as an abomination.

Joseph instructed them to say they were shepherds. Jacob met Pharaoh and blessed him. Pharaoh asked Jacob how old was he and Jacob replied, 130. Some of the brothers were taken to Pharaoh and he enquired about their occupation and they told him they were shepherds and their fathers before them had also been shepherds. Jacob lived in Egypt 17 years.

"But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life."

Jacob's Requests & Burial



Israel is now 147 years old and he is wrapping up the final details of his life. Joseph assures him everything will be done as he requests it.

Jacob adopts Joseph's two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. They are in essence the tribe of Joseph. They are to have the same standing as Reuben or Simeon or of any of the other brothers. You can always see the favoritism toward Rachel's children. You can see it in Joseph's treatment of Benjamin.

Israel wants to have some parting remarks to each of his sons. He brings up some things in their past and how it will affect their future.

One prophecy to pay special attention to is the tribe of Judah—the lion of Judah. Jacob says the “scepter shall not depart from Judah.” Only kings have scepters. Here they are just a big family, not a nation and they certainly don't have a king for several centuries.



Joseph fell on his father's face and kissed him. He ordered physicians to embalm his father, requiring 40 days. The Egyptians mourned for him 70 days.

Joseph asked Pharaoh to grant his father's request to be buried with his family in Canaan. A whole entourage accompanied the funeral procession. Not only all of Jacob's family, but high Egyptian officials and elders of the land of Egypt with chariots and horsemen.

People, along the way, marveled at how this had to be a very important Egyptian burial.



The only Hebrews that were embalmed were Jacob and Joseph. Both asked to be buried with their family in the field and the cave Abraham purchased from the Hittites.

The Aftermath



Although Joseph tended to his family's needs, he still had a difficult job to do. People were starving all the time and had to come to him for any hope of getting some food.

As the people returned to get more grain, Joseph worked out a plan to implement in stages. When their money was gone, then they sold their livestock to the Pharaoh. When that was gone they also sold their land to the Pharaoh.

When they could plant some seed the Pharaoh was to get one fifth of the harvest and the planter received four-fifths. Joseph made that into law.

After Jacob dies, the brothers fear their insurance policy has expired with him. They now think Joseph will take out his revenge on them for their evil deeds. They don't realize (although their bondage was prophesied) their policy really expires when Joseph and the Pharaoh die.

The brothers sent Joseph a message saying their father begs him to forgive their trespass. This brings Joseph to tears. They are ready to grovel. Joseph is their brother but they don't understand him. Joseph tells them,

"Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive ... I will provide for you and your little ones." Genesis 50:19-21

True to his word, Joseph did just as he said and he lived to see his great grandchildren upon his knees. As he was approaching death he told his brethren that he had faith God will bring them out of this land and take you to the land God promised to Abraham, Isaac and to Jacob. When that time came, he wanted his bones to be taken with them when they leave. Joseph lived 110 years. He was embalmed and placed in a coffin in Egypt. Much later on, when they crossed the Red Sea, they took Joseph's bones with them.

The Rosetta Stone



Jean-Francois Champollion
The first to Translate the
Rosetta Stone



The Rosetta Stone hid thousands of years of Egyptian history. The figures looked intriguing, but no one knew anything about them!

In 1799 some of Napoleon Bonaparte's soldiers found the stone in Rosetta, Egypt. A Captain Boussard recognized the importance of the stone.

The stone has three obvious sections, each with a different language. There is Egyptian hieroglyphics at the top. The middle section is written in Egyptian Demotic with ancient Greek on the bottom. It was discovered that each section said the same thing! The Greek was the known language, unlocking the door.

The race was on for translators to be the first to break the code. Jean-Francois Champollion was the first to accomplish that feat.

The Rosetta is presently in London's British Museum. Since the French ran into a little trouble at Waterloo, Britain took over the archaeological finds. And that's why they aren't in the Louvre in Paris.