

# **Genesis**

## **Book of Beginnings**

**Character Studies from Genesis**

Des Moines Church of Christ  
Des Moines, IA

# Introduction to the Study

The book of Genesis, the first book of the bible, means “beginnings”. It is one of 5 books written to the Children of Israel by Moses. Because Moses did not get to enter the land of Canaan we know these 5 books would be completed while wandering in the wilderness. This book gives a history of their ancestors and shows how God worked among the Patriarchs. This study focuses upon the main characters of the book. We often studied great lessons from this book as children. A study of it as adults, introduces us to additional perspective and lessons from God, which the questions are intended to bring out. As we study, keep in mind the purpose of the book, Beginnings, and what Moses is instructing his audience.

Ross Ward

# Class Outline

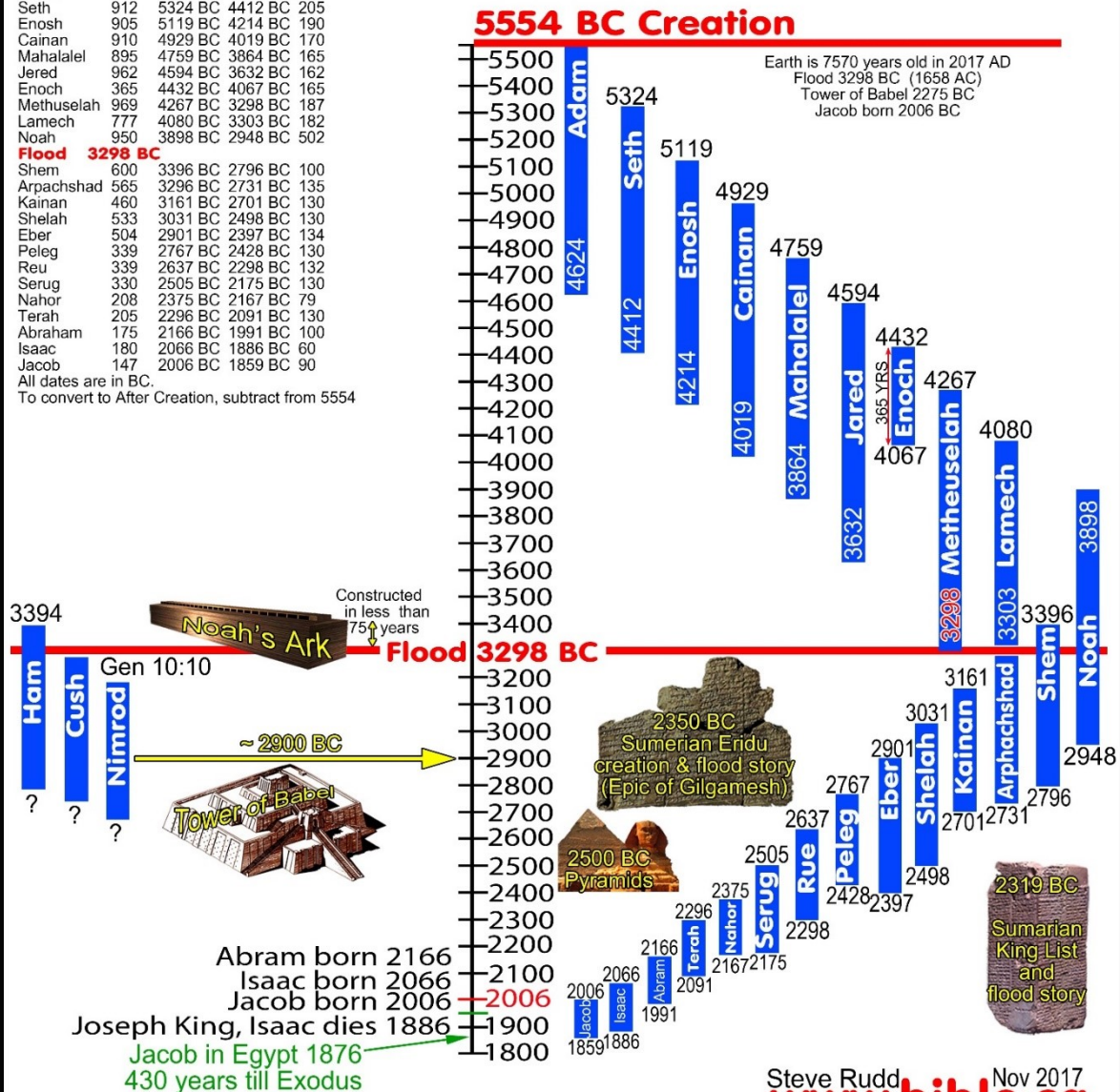
Lesson 1 – Jesus	Gen 1:1-26, Jn 1:1-14, 17:5, Heb 1:1-2, 10
Lesson 2 – Adam	Gen 1:26-3:24, I Cor 15:20-22, Rom 5:12-21
Lesson 3 – Eve	Gen 2:18-3:24, I Tim 2:9-15
Lesson 4 – Satan	Gen 3:1-5, 14-15, I Cor 10:12-13, I Pet 5:8-9, Jas 4:7, Eph 6:11-18
Lesson 5 – Cain & Abel	Gen 4:1-24, Heb 11:4, I Jn 3:10-12
Lesson 6 – Enoch	Gen 5:21-24, Heb 11:5, Jude 14-15
Lesson 7 – Noah	Gen 6:9-9:29, I Pet 3:20-21, Mt 24:36-39
Lesson 8 – Sons of Noah	Gen 9:18-11:9
Lesson 9 – Melchizedek	Gen 14:17-24, Ps 110:1-7, Heb 5:1-11, Heb 7:1-22
Lesson 10 – Abraham	Gen 11:27-25:18, Heb 11:8-19, Lk 16:19-31
Lesson 11 – Sarah	Gen 12:1-5, Gen 12:10-20, Gen 16:1-16, Gen 18:9-15, Gen 20:1-18, 21:1-21, Heb 11:8-19, I Pet 3:1-7
Lesson 12 – Lot	Gen 13:1-13, 14:1-16, 19:1-38, II Pet 2:6-9, Jude 7
Lesson 13 – Hagar & Ishmael	Gen 16:1-16, 17:18-20, 21:1-21, 25:1-18, 37:26-28, Judg 7:22-24, Gal 4:19-31
Lesson 14 – Isaac & Rebekah	Gen 24:1-67, 25:19-28:9, Heb 11:20-21
Lesson 15 – Esau (Edom)	Gen 25:19-34, 26:34-35, 27:30-28:9, 33:1-15, 36:1-43, Heb 12:16-17
Lesson 16 – Jacob (Young)	Gen 25:19-34, 27:1-33, 28:1-22, 29:1-35, 30:1-43, 31:1-55, 32:1-32, 33:1-20, 35:26-29
Lesson 17 – Laban	Gen 24:29-31, 24:49-60, 29:1-30, 30:25-43, 31:1-55
Lesson 18 – Jacob (Old)	Gen 35:1-29, 37:1-36 42:1-4, 29-38, 43:1-14, 48:1-22, 49:1-33, Heb 11:21
Lesson 19 – Jacob's Sons	Gen 34:1-31, 35:1-29, 37:1-36, 38:1-30, 49:1-28, 50:1-26, 1 Chr 5:1-2
Lesson 20 – Joseph (Pre-Famine)	Gen 37:1-36, 39-41
Lesson 21 – Joseph (Famine)	Gen 42-48, 50, Heb 11:22

# Creation | Flood | Abraham Septuagint Chronology<sup>1</sup>

	Life	Birth	Death	Son
Adam	930	5554 BC	4624 BC	230
Seth	912	5324 BC	4412 BC	205
Enosh	905	5119 BC	4214 BC	190
Cainan	910	4929 BC	4019 BC	170
Mahalalel	895	4759 BC	3864 BC	165
Jered	962	4594 BC	3632 BC	162
Enoch	365	4432 BC	4067 BC	165
Methuselah	969	4267 BC	3298 BC	187
Lamech	777	4080 BC	3303 BC	182
Noah	950	3898 BC	2948 BC	502

<b>Flood 3298 BC</b>				
Shem	600	3396 BC	2796 BC	100
Arpachshad	565	3296 BC	2731 BC	135
Kainan	460	3161 BC	2701 BC	130
Shelah	533	3031 BC	2498 BC	130
Eber	504	2901 BC	2397 BC	134
Peleg	339	2767 BC	2428 BC	130
Reu	339	2637 BC	2298 BC	132
Serug	330	2505 BC	2175 BC	130
Nahor	208	2375 BC	2167 BC	79
Terah	205	2296 BC	2091 BC	130
Abraham	175	2166 BC	1991 BC	100
Isaac	180	2066 BC	1886 BC	60
Jacob	147	2006 BC	1859 BC	90

All dates are in BC.  
To convert to After Creation, subtract from 5554



<sup>1</sup>: The Masoretic Text chronology from Abraham to Adam was corrupted by Jews in 160 AD at Zippori for anti-Christian theological reasons. The Septuagint Chronology in whole is the original and correct. Jacob's birth is 2006 BC, Exodus 1446 BC, Solomon's temple started 967 BC in both MT and LXX texts.

**Timeline of Genesis Study Note:** Albert Barns Commentary on Gen 11:10-26 has comparison of the ages used in post flood lineages; special note on Shem's age and his descendants. Excellent Comparison of the discrepancies between the Hebrew, Samaritan Pentateuch, Septuagint, and Josephus text. KJV uses the Hebrew text ages.

# Lesson 1 – Jesus

## Scripture Readings:

Gen 1:1-28, Gen 3:14-15, Jn 1:1-14, 17:5, Eph 3:8-11, Col 1:13-17, Heb 1:2, 8-12

## Key Verse:

John 1:1-3, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.<sup>2</sup> The same was in the beginning with God.<sup>3</sup> All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.”

## Introduction:

From the very beginning of Genesis we find Jesus. Note how John begins his Gospel with the presence and work of Jesus in the beginning. Colossians also identifies Jesus’ work in Genesis. Though we do not find him mentioned specifically by name in Genesis, we see Jesus there. As we study the beginning of the world and mankind, we discover the plan of salvation already being put into action.

## Questions:

1.) Where do we learn about Jesus’s participation in Creation? \_\_\_\_\_

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2.) What was Jesus’ work in Creation, Jn 1:3, 10, Eph 3:9, Col 1:16? \_\_\_\_\_

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3.) Was Jesus a created being, Jn 1:1, 17:5? \_\_\_\_\_

4.) What is meant by the passage in Gen 3:14-15? \_\_\_\_\_

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5.) When was inception of the plan for redemption, Eph 3:8-11? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Lesson 2 – Adam

### Scripture Readings:

Gen 1:26-3:24, 1 Cor 15:20-22, Rom 5:12-21

### Key Verse:

Gen 1:26-27, “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”

### Introduction:

God created Adam in his image! Moses has just informed the children of Israel where mankind originated and how he is different than any other part of creation. The Genesis of Man. Adam was not a perfect man, nor perfect husband. We can often be critical of Adam and his sin; after all Moses states he brought thorns, thistles, and sweat upon mankind. Even worse, Paul states that Adam brought death into the world. It is worthy to notice that he did not have any examples in life to learn from, except his own. We must ascertain that he understood what was expected of him, but he did not have any history (personal knowledge or written history) to drive home the importance of these instructions. This is very different from the wealth of information available to us by simply reading and studying the bible we have. What a great advantage we have.

We learn that Adam is responsible for giving names to all the creatures and to woman. We find the beginning (Genesis) of the marriage relationship and of sin. Beginnings abound in this part of Genesis.

This lesson is full of valuable and important information for the audience, the Israelites, and for us today.

## Questions:

1.) How was Adam formed, Gen 2:7? \_\_\_\_\_

2.) How was Adam made in the image of God, Gen 1:26-27? \_\_\_\_\_

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3.) What authority was given to Adam, Gen 1:26-30? \_\_\_\_\_

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4.) What work was given to Adam, Gen 2:8-15, 17-20? \_\_\_\_\_

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5.) Who was responsible for Adam's Sin, Gen 3:1-7? \_\_\_\_\_

6.) How did Adam respond when he realized his sin was discovered, Gen 3:8-12? \_\_\_\_\_

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7.) What changes happened after Adam's sin, Gen 3:8-10, 17-21? \_\_\_\_\_

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8.) What do we learn about Adams Character, Gen 3:7-12? \_\_\_\_\_

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9.) What did Adam bring into the World, 1 Cor 15:20-22? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Lesson 3 – Eve

### Scripture Readings:

Gen 2:18-3:24, 1 Tim 2:9-15

### Key Verse:

Gen 2:18, 21-24, “And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him... 24 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; 22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. 23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. 24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

### Introduction:

As we consider Eve in Genesis, we are told God’s purpose for her creation, a “help meet” for Adam. God said there was no other part of his creation that fulfills this void. In an age where we have domesticated many animals, it is good to remember that woman was made for man, that there is something that exist in their relationship, beyond procreation, that cannot be found anywhere else. There may not be anything in this world that challenges a person more than that of maintaining our relationship with those close to us. This is never an issue with our pets. Maintaining relationships is a critical component of our Christian life.

Through Eve, we discover the power of deceit and the beginning (Genesis) of sin. Satan approaches her and is successful in tricking her into sinning. Take note of the times Eve could have turned away from Satan and the temptation, but she continued down a path that lead to her and Adam to sin.

The Children of Israel learn many lessons here: marriage, the source of death, the source of some of their hardships, that disobeying God’s instructions brings punishment, and that there is an adversary that will deceive them in to disobeying God. Eve, the mother of all.

## Questions:

1.) How was Eve created, Gen 2:21-22? \_\_\_\_\_

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2.) Is there anything to be said about how Eve was created, Gen 2:18-24?

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3.) What did God say was the purpose for creating Eve, Gen 2:18, 24? \_\_\_\_\_

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4.) What does scripture say led Eve to commit the sin, Gen 3:6? \_\_\_\_\_

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5.) What enmity is there between Satan and Eve, Gen 3:15? \_\_\_\_\_

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6.) What were the consequences for Eve's sin, Gen 3:16? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Lesson 4 – Satan (Serpent)

### Scripture Reading:

Read: Gen 3:1-5, 14-15, 1 Cor 10:12-13, 1 Pet 5:8-9, Jas 4:7, Eph 6:11-18

### Key Verse:

Gen 3:4-5, “And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.”

### Introduction:

Yes, of course, even Satan is found here in Genesis. Moses gives the Children of Israel insight to his tactics and the results of his work, though it does not appear Satan’s work and tactics are specified in the Old Testament history. I believe scripture states that Satan is a fallen angel (2 Pet 2:4, Jude 1:6). Many have questioned the idea that God created evil by creating Satan, but is simple enough to say that all of God’s creation had free will, even the angels. Though God did create Satan, the angel that eventually sinned and was cast out of heaven; Satan became evil when he sinned, when he rebelled against God. We see that evil is not something to be created (it is not material) but is something that is done. There was nothing evil in the world that God created. Now that Satan has been cast out of heaven, he goes about to spread this rebellion among all mankind. Even working in the world today.

## Questions:

1.) What word is used to describe Satan in Gen 3:1? \_\_\_\_\_

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2.) How did Satan convince Eve to take of the Fruit of the Tree of Knowledge, Gen 3:4-5? \_\_\_\_\_

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3.) How would you say Satan's head was bruised, Gen 3:15? \_\_\_\_\_

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4.) How does Peter describe Satan in 1 Pet 5:8-9? \_\_\_\_\_

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5.) What power do we have over Satan according to James, Jas 4:7? \_\_\_\_\_

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6.) How has God limited Satan's power in this world, 1 Cor 10:13? \_\_\_\_\_

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7.) How can we overcome Satan, Eph 6:11-18? \_\_\_\_\_

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# Lesson 5 – Cain & Abel

## Scripture Reading:

Read: Gen 4:1-24, Heb 11:4, I Jn 3:10-12

## Key Verse:

Gen 4:3-5, And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.<sup>4</sup> And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:<sup>5</sup> But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

## Introduction:

As we study the first brothers, we immediately discover that one is immensely jealous of the other. Able is called a righteous man, obeying God. Cain is a jealous brother who, it would seem, would rather live away from the “presence” of God and risk death, than be reconciled. Yes, one can be so obstinate that they would endure great evil before admitting they were wrong. We find that Cain’s lineage ends at the flood, Noah being a descendant of Seth. Children of Israel would again learn of the importance in obeying God’s instructions (especially in regards to worship), loving others, and that there are consequences from living away from the presence of God.

## Questions:

1.) What were Cain’s and Abel’s individual occupations, 4:2? \_\_\_\_\_

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2.) What kind of offering did Cain and Abel offer to God, Gen 4:3? \_\_\_\_\_

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3.) Why was Cain’s offering rejected and Abel’s accepted, Heb 11:4? \_\_\_\_\_

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4.) How did Cain react when he realized his sacrifice was not accepted, Gen 4:5-8? \_\_\_\_\_

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5.) What attitude do we see in Cain when we read 1 Jn 3:12? \_\_\_\_\_

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6.) What were the consequences of Cain's sin of killing Abel, Gen 4:11-16? \_\_\_\_\_

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7.) How does Abel still speak to us today, Heb 11:4? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Lesson 6 - Enoch

### Scripture Reading:

Read: Gen 5:21-24, Heb 11:5, Jude 14-15

### Key Verse:

Gen 5:24, And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.

### Introduction:

There is not much said about Enoch but what is said is profound. He walked with God.

### Questions:

1.) What is said about Enoch's life, Gen 5:21-24? \_\_\_\_\_

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2.) What did Enoch do while he lived, Jude 14-15? \_\_\_\_\_

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3.) What does the Hebrew writer tell us about Enoch, Heb 11:5? \_\_\_\_\_

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4.) This is a good time to consider all the first or beginnings that we have studied. \_\_\_\_\_

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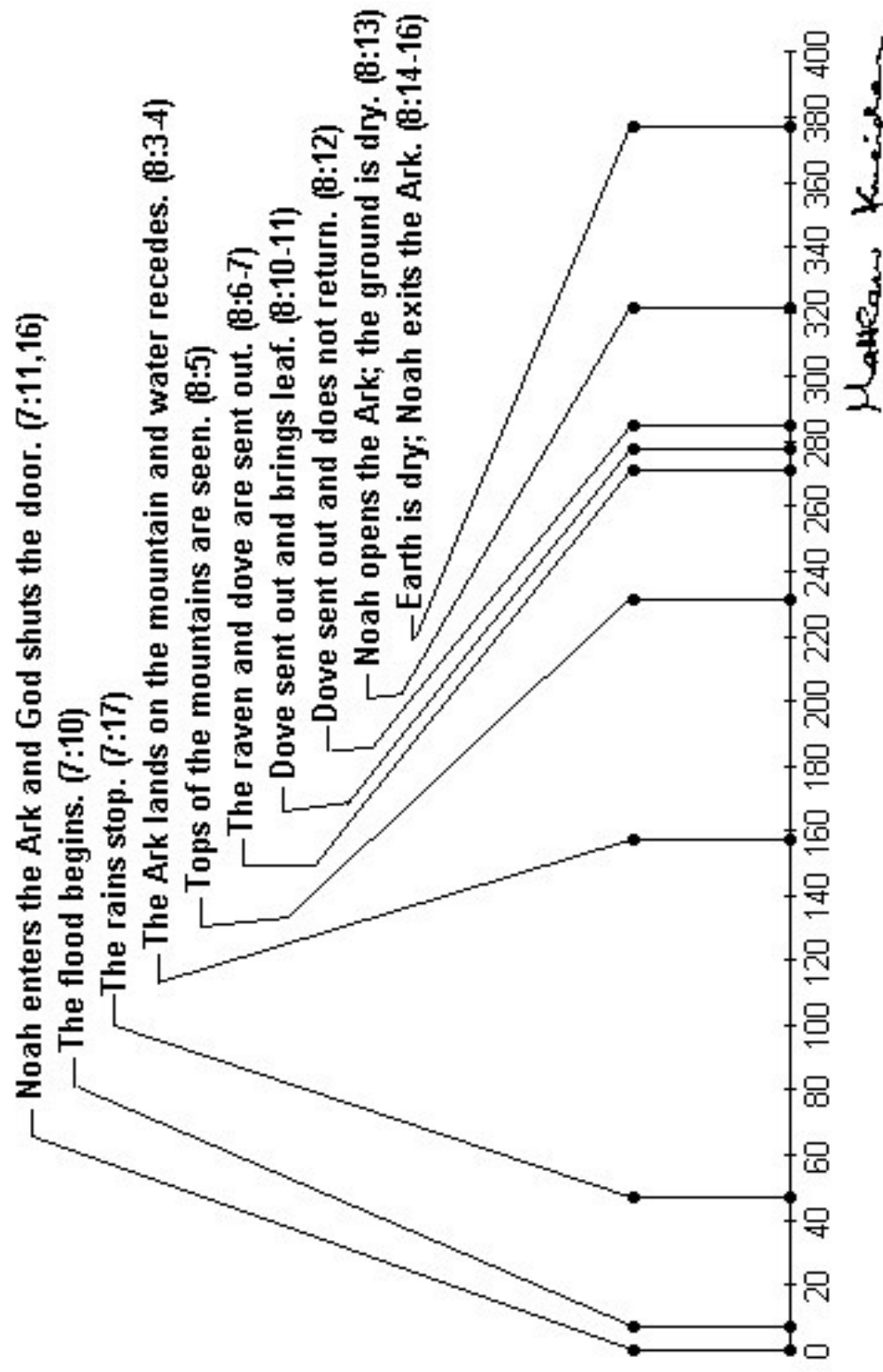
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# Timeline of Noah and the Flood



# Lesson 7 – Noah

## Scripture Reading:

Read: Gen 6:1-9:29, 1 Pet 3:20-21, Mt 24:36-39, 2 Pet 2:1-9

## Key Verse:

Gen 6:8-9, “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.<sup>9</sup> These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.”

## Introduction:

The wording at the beginning of Gen 6 always seem a bit odd to me. Just who were the sons of God and daughters of men? It helps me to consider the audience: Israel was about to enter Canaan and has been instructed to annihilate the inhabitants of the land. They are warned to not marry or make contracts with the Canaanites. It is natural enough to realize that Moses, writing here in Genesis 6, is warning Israel that the world (inhabitants of Canaan) would draw them away from God and his wrath would be upon them, just as God’s wrath is upon wicked men here in Genesis 6.

We find Noah to be a Godly man attempting to reform the world. Though his evangelism efforts did not produce great results, he accomplished the work of God by giving the world a chance to repent. He did save his family, which fulfilled a primary parental responsibility.

From this lesson we also see God’s patience and grace at work. God shows great patience for Noah and the sinful world, by giving Noah many years to accomplish the work he was instructed to perform (building an ark and evangelizing). Noah receives God’s grace and is saved by obedience to the instructions he was given; even though it appears there was no rational reason for Noah to think that his work would result in salvation from a great flood. When the time was fulfilled, it was the end of God’s patience for the world. They were condemned and were punished for rejecting God. Israel should learn from this: God will bless and save those who obey Him, even bestowing grace upon them. Likewise, God will punish those who reject him.

We notice drastic changes after the flood. The length of man’s life deteriorates drastically. From the wording of scripture, it appears that rain became common. The rainbow is given to remind all mankind that God would never again destroy the world by water. Certainly Israel would remember seeing that rainbow while they were in Egypt and now know why it was put in the sky. It was certainly not a sign from an Egyptian god.

## Questions:

1.) What was the condition of God's creation, Gen 6:1-7, 11-13? \_\_\_\_\_

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2.) What is said about Noah, Gen 6:8-9 \_\_\_\_\_

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3.) What results did Noah produce while he lived before the flood, Gen 7:1-16? \_\_\_\_\_

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4.) Give verses and examples that show Noah's obedience to God, Gen 6-8? \_\_\_\_\_

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5.) What was the first thing Noah did after leaving the Ark, Gen 8:15-22? \_\_\_\_\_

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6.) How was God's patience shown, 1 Pet 3:20-21? \_\_\_\_\_

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7.) What were the occupations of Noah before and after the Flood, see also 2 Pet 2:1-9? \_\_\_\_\_

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8.) Was there a last chance call for entrance to the Ark, Mt 24:36-39? \_\_\_\_\_

9.) Discuss the Anti-Type and its importance found in 1 Pet 3:20-21. \_\_\_\_\_

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## Lesson 8 – Sons of Noah

### Scripture Reading:

Read: Gen 9:18-11:9

### Key Verse:

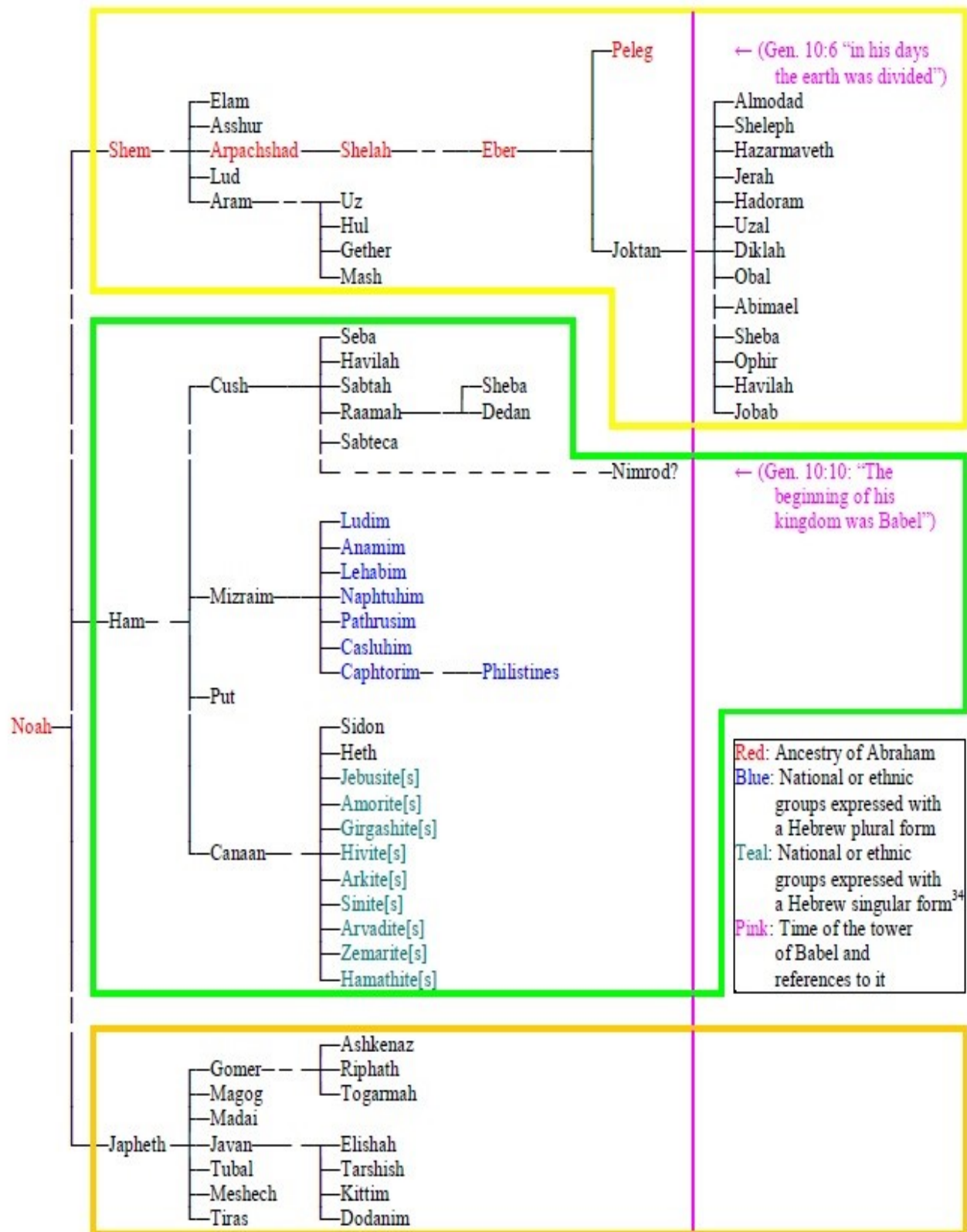
Gen 11:7-9, “Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.<sup>8</sup> So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.<sup>9</sup> Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.”

### Introduction:

In this lesson we Israel would learn of the beginning of all nations and languages. As Israel begins to enter the land of Canaan, they will recognize some of the names of nations they conquer. It is interesting to note that Ham's lineage is the main inhabitant of Canaan that Israel will conquer. It maybe his sin that initiated the beginning of the errors of Canaan that brought about their fall to the Israelites.

### Questions:

- 1.) Which of Noah's sons sinned against him and what were the consequences, Gen 9:20-27? \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 2.) Which descendants from Japheth do we read of later, Gen 10:1-5? \_\_\_\_  
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- 3.) Who was a mighty hunter and what kingdom originates from him, Gen 10:6-12? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4.) What nations came from Ham do you recognize, Gen 10:15-19? \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 5.) Which descendants from Shem do we read of later, Gen 10:21-31? \_\_\_\_  
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- 6.) From the scriptures we have, were Noah's sons faithful to God, or can we say? \_\_\_\_\_

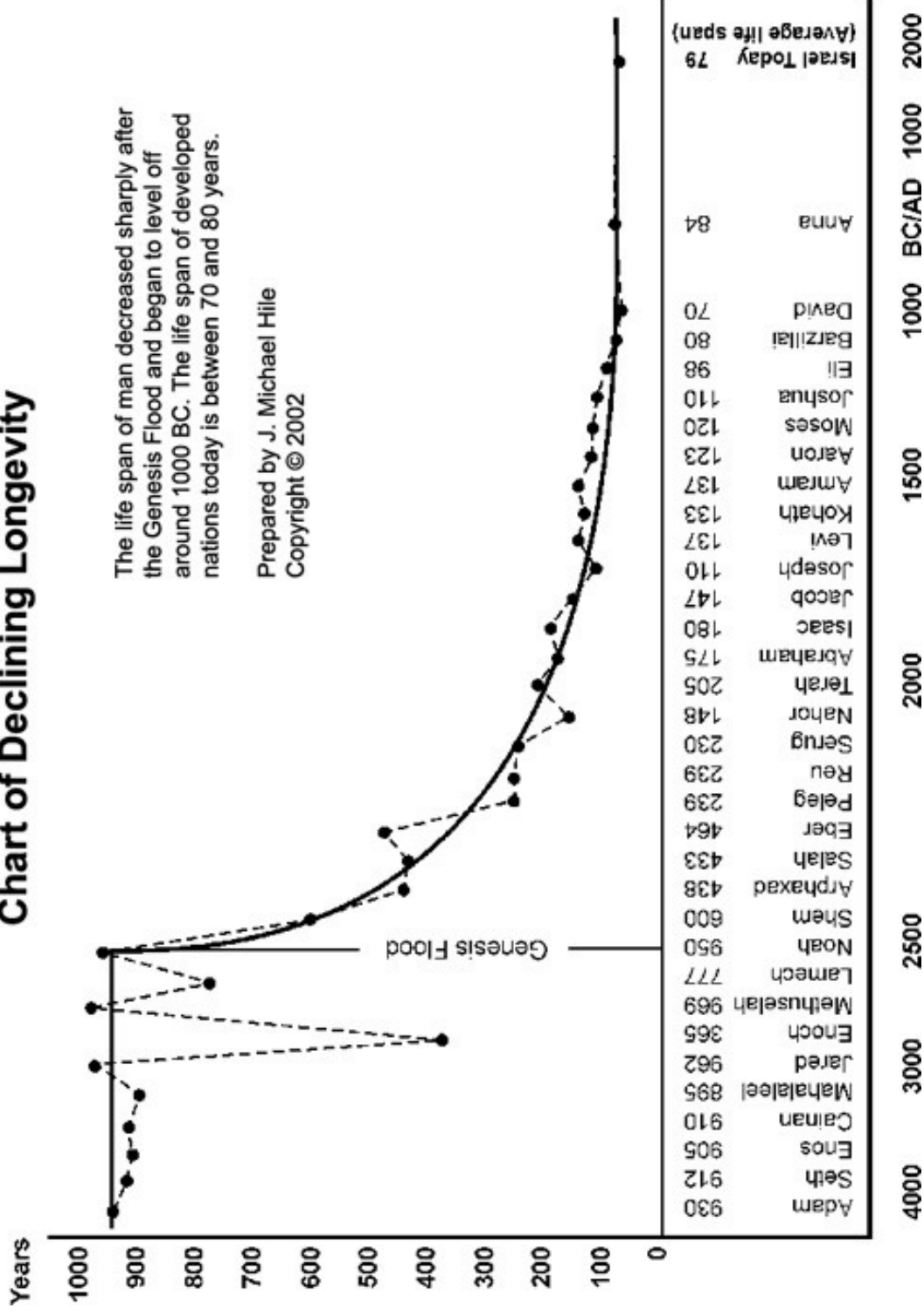




# Chart of Declining Longevity

The life span of man decreased sharply after the Genesis Flood and began to level off around 1000 BC. The life span of developed nations today is between 70 and 80 years.

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## Lesson 9 – Melchizedek

### Scripture Reading:

Read: Gen 14:17-24, Ps 110:1-7, Heb 5:1-11, Heb 7:1-22

### Key Verse:

Gen 14:18-20, “And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.<sup>19</sup> And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:<sup>20</sup> And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.”

### Introduction:

It is quite interesting to find Melchizedek here in Genesis. One might ask: What does Israel learn from this priest and king? It would seem that his mention here is not as much to instruct Israel, but as a forethought by God to help the Jews understand the new kingdom that Jesus would bring. The writer of the New Testament epistle of Hebrews teaches several very powerful analogies between Jesus and Melchizedek. This informed the New Testament Jew of Jesus’ place of honor and the nature of Jesus work in the new kingdom. It is important to take note of this analogy and the lessons we learn from Melchizedek, a priest and king.

### Questions:

1.) What did Abram give to Melchizedek, Gen 14:17-24? \_\_\_\_\_

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2.) What titles or positions did Melchizedek have, Gen 14:18? \_\_\_\_\_

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3.) Why does Abram not accept the gift from the King of Sodom, Gen 14:21-24? \_\_\_\_\_

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4.) What is prophesied about the duration of the Messiah’s priesthood, Ps 110:4? \_\_\_\_\_

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5.) What is noted about the Levitical Priesthood in Heb 5:1-3? \_\_\_\_\_

6.) How did Christ fulfill scripture, Heb 5:4-7? \_\_\_\_\_

7.) What were Christ's qualifications for being Priest, Heb 5:8-11? \_\_\_\_\_



# Lesson 10 – Abraham

## Scripture Reading:

Read: Gen 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24:1-9, & 25:1-10, Heb 11:8-19, Lk 16:19-31

## Key Verse:

Gen 18:16-23, And the men rose up from thence, and looked toward Sodom: and Abraham went with them to bring them on the way.<sup>17</sup> And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do;<sup>18</sup> Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?<sup>19</sup> For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.<sup>20</sup> And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous;<sup>21</sup> I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know.<sup>22</sup> And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD.<sup>23</sup> And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?

## Outline of Scriptures:

Gen 12 – God’s Initial promise to Abraham; Abraham’s journeys: Ur to Canaan then to Egypt  
Gen 13 – Abraham returns from Egypt; He and Lot separate in Canaan  
Gen 14 – Battle of the Kings; Abraham saves Lot; Melchizedek blesses Abraham  
Gen 15 – God promises Abraham a child; Prophecy of his descendants in Egypt  
Gen 16 – Abraham has a son, Ismael, through Hagar  
Gen 17 – God repeats promises; Circumcision is commanded  
Gen 18 – God talks with Abraham about carrying out judgment upon the Cities of the Plains  
Gen 19 – Lot leaves Sodom; Cities of the Plains are destroyed  
Gen 20 – Abraham sins against Abimelech  
Gen 21 – Sarah gives birth to Isaac; Hagar is cast out of the house  
Gen 22 – Abraham is tested with offering Isaac  
Gen 23 – Sarah dies and is buried  
Gen 24 – Abraham finds a wife for Isaac  
Gen 25 – Abraham Dies

## **Introduction:**

The above outlined scriptures are to assist in navigating through the study. Abraham's life covers a vast amount of scripture and maybe this will help with your study and in keeping it organized. You will also find a map showing the approximate route Abraham takes when journeying to the place God would show him and his journey to Egypt.

In these scriptures of Genesis, the Jews learn of God's promises to Abraham, which they are going to help fulfill. For all practical purposes, at the time of the writing of Genesis, the 1st promise to be a great nation is fulfilled. The 2<sup>nd</sup> promise to inherit the land is taught to them here in Genesis and is about to be fulfilled. If this prophecy had not been verbally passed down through their ancestors, they know it now. Though these teachings of Abraham they understand more about their purpose in leaving Egypt. The fulfillment of the 3<sup>rd</sup> promise, that through them all nations will be blessed, is something for which they will be yearning for centuries to come.

The Jews considered Abraham as one of the greatest, if not the greatest patriarch. They drew great confidence and boasted of being his descendant; therefore they thought they were worthy of honor above all others. Though they placed such great honor on him, he too was a man with weaknesses. In this lesson, as much as any other, we see that all men can and do fail, even the great ones. It is not Abraham's failures that draws us to him; but the great faith that he develops, his leadership in his home, and the obvious desire to be right with God above being right with self. Because of all these things, Abraham is used by many New Testament writers for lessons about God and Godliness. We will consider some in this lesson.

As with each lesson, we should ask, what is Moses telling the Children of Israel? This is the audience the book was written to.

We see a man who shows: great faith in God; hospitality, generosity, love, and compassion for his fellow man; wisdom in his life, especially as he dealt with the kings of Sodom.

## Questions:

1.) What events in Abraham's life show the strength of his faith in God? \_\_

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2.) What events in Abraham's life show the weakness of his faith in God?

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3.) What events in Abraham's life show his generosity? \_\_\_\_\_

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4.) What events in Abraham's life show his love and compassion? \_\_\_\_\_

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5.) What events in Abraham's life show his wisdom? \_\_\_\_\_

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6.) What does God say about Abraham's leadership, Gen 18:16-19? \_\_\_\_\_

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7.) What city did Abraham search for, Heb 11:9-10, 13-16? \_\_\_\_\_

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8.) Where do we find Abraham while Christ is living on earth, Lk 16:19-31?

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# Lesson 11 – Sarah

## Scripture Reading:

Read: Gen 12:1-5, 12:10-20, 16:1-16, 18:1-15, 20:1-18, 21:1-21, Heb 11:8-19, 1 Pet 3:1-7

## Key Verse:

Heb 11:11-12, “Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.<sup>12</sup> Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.”

## Introduction:

As with Abraham, Sarah is used in the New Testament to teach lessons. These scripture focus upon her role as a godly woman and wife. She faithfully follows Abraham as he is commanded to leave his homeland and eventually bares the son of promise at an old age. Sarah, as with many other wives, bore hardship at times but we find her referenced in the New Testament as a woman professing Godliness. We see that she was hospitable to strangers and is as human as any other.

## Questions:

1.) What events in Sarah’s life show the strength of her faith in God? \_\_\_\_\_

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2.) What events in Sarah’s life show the weakness of her faith in God? \_\_\_\_\_

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3.) What difficult situations did Abraham put Sarah into? \_\_\_\_\_

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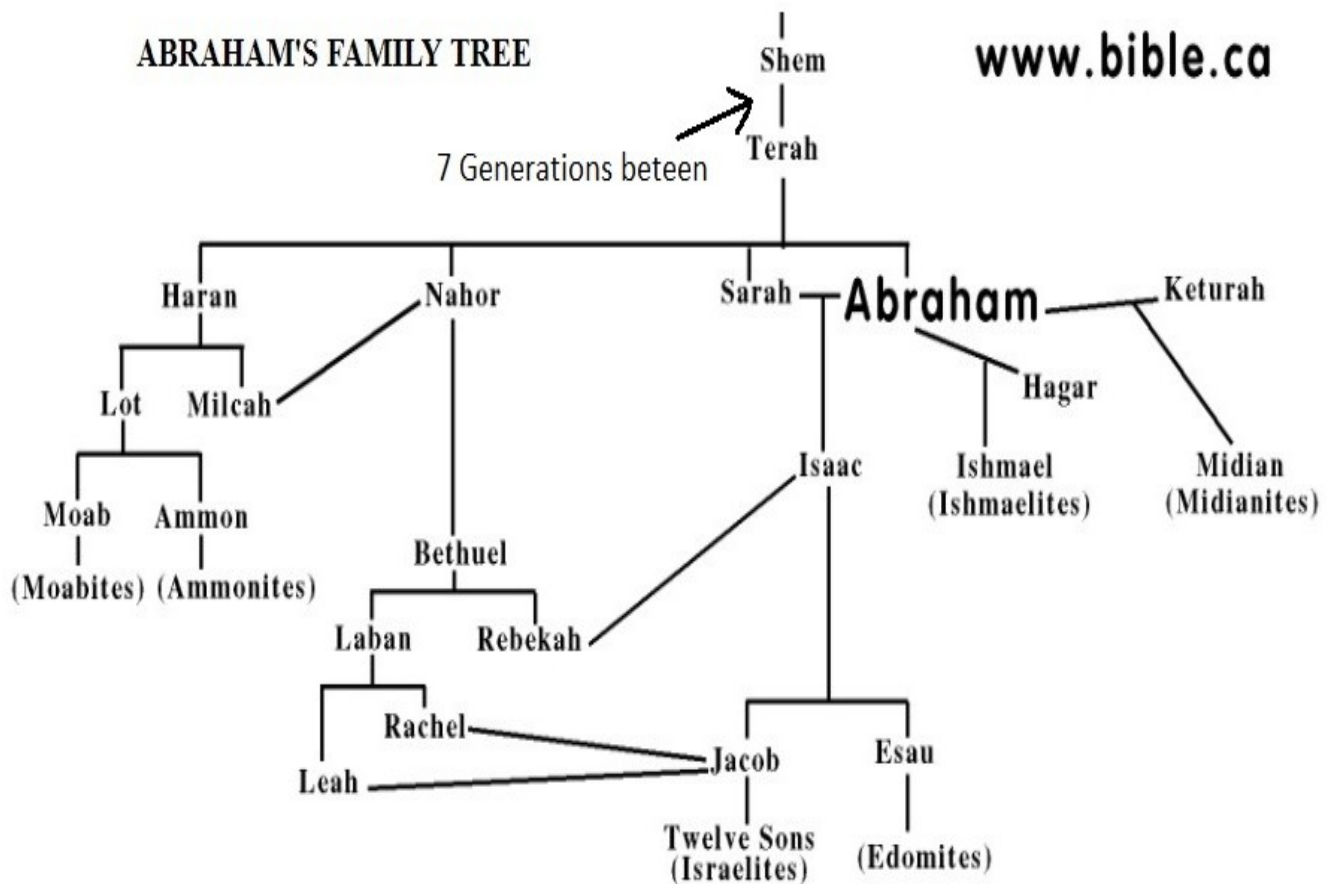
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4.) What do we learn about Sarah when we look at her relationship with Hagar? \_\_\_\_\_

5.) What do we learn about Sarah's faith in Heb 11:8-12? \_\_\_\_\_

6.) What does Peter say about her relationship with Abraham? \_\_\_\_\_



# Lesson 12 – Lot

## Scripture Reading:

Read: Gen 13:1-13, 14:1-16, 19:1-38, 2 Pet 2:6-9, Jude 7

## Key Verse:

2 Pet 2:6-9, “And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;7 And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)9 The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:”

## Introduction:

Lot, the Nephew of Abraham, goes with him out of their home land in Ur. He is greatly blessed as is Abraham. They are both blessed so much that they decide it better to separate their herd and families, than allow the contention to grow. He is a great example of one who chose a path based on what he perceived as easy living. We learn in the New Testament that he was a righteous man, even though he lived in a totally morally corrupt area. He loses many family members as God destroys the cities of the plain, a difficult consequence of his choice of residence. Lessons from Lot, show us how faithful and merciful our God truly is. God was faithful to the promise He made to Abraham. God showed His great mercy, allowing for Abraham to petition on behalf of Lot. God also showed his great mercy and faithfulness in delaying the destruction till Lot left the city. In the end, Lot and his daughters are saved from destruction with the cities of the plain because of their obedience to God. Note that the Moabites and Ammonites are descendants from Lot.

## Questions:

1.) What is said about Lot’s thought process when he chose the plains, Gen 13:1-13? \_\_\_\_\_

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2.) What are some consequences of Lot choosing to live in the plains? \_\_\_\_\_

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3.) What was the condition of Sodom according to Jude 7? \_\_\_\_\_

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4.) How does Lot's choice to live in the plains affect him, 2 Pet 2:6-9? \_\_\_\_\_

5.) Why does Lot want to live in a city and not where God commanded, Gen 19:17-22? \_\_\_\_\_

6.) What do we learn about the patience of God for Lot in Gen 19? \_\_\_\_\_



# Lesson 13 – Hagar & Ishmael

## Scripture Reading:

Read: Gen 16:1-16, 17:18-20, 21:1-21, 25:1-18, 37:26-28, Judg 7:22-24, Gal 4:19-31

## Key Verse:

Gen 21:16-21, “And she went, and sat her down over against him a good way off, as it were a bowshot: for she said, Let me not see the death of the child. And she sat over against him, and lift up her voice, and wept.<sup>17</sup> And God heard the voice of the lad; and the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said unto her, What ails thee, Hagar? fear not; for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he is.<sup>18</sup> Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him in thine hand; for I will make him a great nation.<sup>19</sup> And God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water; and she went, and filled the bottle with water, and gave the lad drink.<sup>20</sup> And God was with the lad; and he grew, and dwelt in the wilderness, and became an archer.<sup>21</sup> And he dwelt in the wilderness of Paran: and his mother took him a wife out of the land of Egypt.”

## Introduction:

Sometimes we just want to help God out. In this lesson we find Abraham and Sarah try to help God fulfill His promise to Abraham. Abraham has a child with Hagar (an Egyptian) in an effort to fulfill God’s promise of a son. We should know ahead of time that this plan was a bad idea. There are consequences for this decision. From Hagar’s son Ishmael comes the Ishmaelite’s, which apparently become joined with the Midianites (Midian is Abraham’s child from Keturah). Joseph is sold to them and taken into Egypt. It appears that the two nations join together. We find Midianites in the life of Moses and they eventually attempt to interfere with the Children of Israel as they go about to inherit the Land of Canaan.

Israel should learn from this that God does not need them help him achieve his plans. Consequences for doing this can last for generations. They should also learn that God is aware of those that are his and will be there for them. This is a very important quality about God even to this day.

Hagar shows great faith in God by obeying his instructions in submitting to Sarah. Ishmael also becomes a great nation having 12 sons.

## Questions:

1.) Of what nation is Hagar, Gen 16:1-3? \_\_\_\_\_

2.) What instruction does the angel give Hagar when she flees to the wilderness, Gen 16:6-12? \_\_\_\_\_

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3.) What does the angel prophesy about Ishmael, Gen 16:11-12? \_\_\_\_\_

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4.) How does Hagar show faith in God, Gen 16:13, 21:17? \_\_\_\_\_

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5.) How does Abraham show love for Ishmael, Gen 17:18-20, 21:9-14? \_\_\_\_

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6.) What does God promise Abraham about his son Ishmael, Gen 17:20? \_\_

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7.) What provoked Hagar and Ishmael to be cast out the second time, Gen 21:6-11? \_\_\_\_\_

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8.) What does Hagar recognize about God, Gen 16:13, 21:17? \_\_\_\_\_

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9.) What does God do for Hagar & Ishmael, Gen 21:15-21? \_\_\_\_\_

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10.) What seems to become of the Ishmaelite nation, Gen 37:26-28, Judg 7:22-24? \_\_\_\_\_

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11.) What are the origins of this nation? \_\_\_\_\_

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# Lesson 14 – Isaac & Rebekah

## Scripture Reading:

Read: Gen 24:1-67, 25:19-26:35, 27:1-28:9, Heb 11:20-21

## Key Verse:

Gen 24:17-20, And the servant ran to meet her, and said, Let me, I pray thee, drink a little water of thy pitcher.<sup>18</sup> And she said, Drink, my lord: and she hasted, and let down her pitcher upon her hand, and gave him drink.<sup>19</sup> And when she had done giving him drink, she said, I will draw water for thy camels also, until they have done drinking.<sup>20</sup> And she hasted, and emptied her pitcher into the trough, and ran again unto the well to draw water, and drew for all his camels.

## Introduction:

Abraham's son of promise seems to have had his hand full with Rebekah. Rebekah is spoken of a woman who is very active and strong. When Abraham's servant meets her at the well, we find her hastening and running to complete her work. She also draws water for the 10 camels and Abraham's servant. Isaac to falls into one of his father's mistakes. Isaac attempts to deceive Abimelech over Rebekah being his wife. Isaac has a confrontation with Abimelech. Isaac seems to hold some resentment over the need to separate his family and stock from Abimelech. Isaac finds water by re-digging his father's wells but the locals push him out, forcing him to find other places. Through these incidents we find that Isaac was not a confrontational man, but peacefully moves on and makes a go in another place. As we see Rebekah interact with Isaac, we quickly see there are difficulties in the family. We find that they each show favoritism toward different sons. This rift in the family shows itself in Rebekah's schemes to deceive Isaac. Her and Jacob deceive Isaac so that Jacob can receive his father's blessing in place of Esau. It is an important lesson to recognize the roll of each party in a Godly marriage. Though it has been prophesied that Jacob would receive this blessing, it does not justify Rebecca's actions. Remember, Judas Iscariot fulfilled the will of God in betraying Jesus. Meekness is an essential quality that allows the strong to respect others and God ordained authorities.

The selection of Rebekah as a wife for Isaac, again demonstrates the importance of marrying from within the nation of Israel.

## Questions:

1.) Where does Abraham send his servant to find Isaac's wife, Gen 24:1-6?

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2.) Who does Abraham's servant meet at the well and what was the relation to Abraham, Gen 24:10-15? \_\_\_\_\_

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3.) What do we learn about Rebekah at the well, Gen 24:16-28? \_\_\_\_\_

4.) How do the men show respect for God, Gen 24:50-52? \_\_\_\_\_

5.) What do we notice about Isaac & Rebekah's attitude towards their son's, Gen 25:27-28? \_\_\_\_\_

6.) How does Isaac fall into the same error as his father, Gen 26:6-11? \_\_\_\_\_

7.) How did Isaac respond to conflicts over the well's his father dug, Gen 26:12-23? \_\_\_\_\_

8.) What feelings did Isaac have in regard to Abimelech, why, Gen 26:11-16, 26-31? \_\_\_\_\_

9.) What did Isaac and Rebekah think of Esau's wife, Gen 26:34-35? \_\_\_\_\_

10.) What is Rebekah's scheme, Gen 27:1-17? \_\_\_\_\_

11.) How was Isaac deceived, Gen 27:18-29? \_\_\_\_\_

12.) What was Isaac's response when he learned he was deceived, Gen 27:30-40? \_\_\_\_\_

13.) What was Rebekah's final scheme to help Jacob, Gen 27:42-46? \_\_\_\_\_

14.) What did Isaac and Rebekah instruct Jacob in regard to a wife, Gen 28:1-9? \_\_\_\_\_

# Lesson 15 – Esau (Edom)

## Scripture Reading:

Read: Gen 25:19-34, 26:34-35, 27:30-28:9, 33:1-15, 36:1-43, Heb 12:16-17

## Key Verse:

Gen 33:8-15, “And he said, What meanest thou by all this drove which I met? And he said, These are to find grace in the sight of my lord.<sup>9</sup> And Esau said, I have enough, my brother; keep that thou hast unto thyself.<sup>10</sup> And Jacob said, Nay, I pray thee, if now I have found grace in thy sight, then receive my present at my hand: for therefore I have seen thy face, as though I had seen the face of God, and thou wast pleased with me.<sup>11</sup> Take, I pray thee, my blessing that is brought to thee; because God hath dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough. And he urged him, and he took it.<sup>12</sup> And he said, Let us take our journey, and let us go, and I will go before thee.<sup>13</sup> And he said unto him, My lord knoweth that the children are tender, and the flocks and herds with young are with me: and if men should overdrive them one day, all the flock will die.<sup>14</sup> Let my lord, I pray thee, pass over before his servant: and I will lead on softly, according as the cattle that goeth before me and the children be able to endure, until I come unto my lord unto Seir.<sup>15</sup> And Esau said, Let me now leave with thee some of the folk that are with me. And he said, What needeth it? let me find grace in the sight of my lord.”

## Introduction:

Esau was the first born son and Isaac’s favorite. He was a manly man and impulsive. He sells his birthright in a moment of passion, then later regrets the decision, attempting to place blame on his brother. His marriage to the daughters of Canaan does not please either of his parents, so he marries a daughter of Ishmael. We see that his poor choice for a wife only leads to more trouble in his life. At the peak of his troubles, he seems to have outright rebelled against his parents in choosing a wife. Because of the deceit of his mother and brother, he is ready to kill his brother Jacob. It has often been said that “time heals all wounds” and “distance makes the heart grow stronger”. This may very well be the case here. It is certainly true that we can dwell on an injury to the point that it consumes our lives, especially in a family environment. At times, we need to set those injuries aside and let them heal. Years later we find Jacob returns to Canaan with great anxiety, but Esau greets him with the love of a brother, not with harbored animosity of an enemy. Truly a great ending, a worthy example for us to consider. What if all family conflict ended in this manner?

The Children of Israel would once again see that marrying of the land of Canaan is not approved. They also learn the origins of the nation of Edom. Edom is a neighbor and frequent topic for the Israelites.

## Questions:

- 1.) What was Esau's occupation, Gen 25:24-28, 27:1-4? \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 2.) What name was given to Esau, Gen 25:29-34? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3.) What do we learn of Esau's nature in Gen 25:29-34? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4.) Who did Esau take as his wives and what nation were they from, Gen 26:34-35? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5.) How did Esau respond to Jacob receiving his blessing, 27:30-41? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6.) How did Esau respond to Jacob's choice of a wife, Gen 28:1-9? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 7.) How did Esau react when he saw Jacob returning, Gen 33:4? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 8.) What did Esau say about the gifts that Jacob offered, Gen 33:9? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 9.) What did Esau offer Jacob, Gen 33:15? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 10.) Who can you think of in the New Testament that endured great personal injury, how did they respond? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 11.) Where does Esau move and why, Gen 36:1-8? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 12.) What do we learn of Esau from the Hebrew writer? \_\_\_\_\_  
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# Lesson 16 – Jacob (Young)

## Scripture Reading:

Read: Gen 25:19-34, 27:1-33, 28:1-22, 29:1-35, 30:1-43, 31:1-55, 32:1-32, 33:1-20

## Key Verse:

Gen 28:20-22, “And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on,<sup>21</sup> So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God:<sup>22</sup> And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.”

## Outline of the Scriptures:

Gen 25:19-28, Jacob & Esau's Birth

Gen 25:29-34, Esau's Birthright given away

Gen 26:1-35, Isaac travels to Egypt

Gen 27:1-46, Rebekah schemes

Gen 28:1-5, Isaac instructs Jacob to Padanaram for a wife

Gen 28:10-22, Jacob's Dream

Gen 29:1-30, Jacob with Laban; Marries Rachel & Leah

Gen 29:31-30:24, Jacob's children born Ruben-Joseph

Gen 30:25-43, Jacob negotiates with Laban to return home

Gen 31:1-55, Jacob Leaves Laban and returns home

Gen 32:1-23, Jacob learns of Esau and his 400 men

Gen 32:24-32, Jacob wrestles with an angel

Gen 33:1-15, Esau meets Jacob coming back from Laban

Gen 34:1-31, Dinah, Leah's daughter goes to the daughters of the land

Chronology of Jacob's Time with Laban		
Year	Event	Scripture
0	Jacob arrives at Laban's	Gen 29
7	Jacob Marries Leah	Gen 29
14	Jacob Marries Rachel	Gen 29
X	Jacob ask to leave Laban	Gen 30:25-43
20	Jacob leaves Laban	Gen 31

## **Introduction:**

I maybe apparent now that Jacob's life covers most of the rest of the book of Genesis. There is much recorded about him and his sons. From this, the Children of Israel learn of how they arrive in Egypt. The outline above is to help in keeping the text organized by topic.

Scripture portrays Jacob as a very passive person, maybe taking after his father Isaac. He is Rebekah's favorite son and is apparently a good cook. He is called a plain man who dwelled in tents. He receives both the birthright and blessing of the family, though he was second born. He takes an active role in the scheme to deceive Isaac and receive Esau's blessing. He obeys his father and mother's instructions for finding a wife and journey's "back home" to Haran. We find that he works for his uncle Laban (Rebekah's brother) for a total of 20 years. He works 7 years to be allowed to marry Rachel for a wife, he is deceived by Laban and is given Leah. He then works another 7 years to be allowed to marry Rachel.

God instructs Jacob to return to Canaan and he starts to follow through on these instructions. Through this we can see Jacob's passive and submissive nature. Jacob states his wages were changed 10 times while working for Laban. When he leaves Laban, he leaves in a hurry in an attempt to avoid conflict with Laban. He also meets Esau with great trepidation, sending many gifts ahead of his convoy in hopes of appeasing Esau's wrath, which he no longer held. I've heard it said: "if we don't know a man, we will create him". We see that Esau did not harbor any animosity toward Jacob, all of Jacob's anxiety was a figment of his imagination and completely unnecessary.

We find that God blesses Jacob greatly. We also find that Jacob unknowingly brings idols back into Canaan, though later in life, he makes sure these are removed from the family. There is much more to say about Jacob during his older years that we will discuss as he resides in the Land of Canaan. We see in Jacob a passive man who will endure wrong and will avoid conflict in life, but when God speaks, he overcomes his anxiety and performs God's will. Israel continues to learn of their origins. They also learn that those who obey God can be blessed greatly in this life, even if at times they suffer seemingly great wrong and injury.

## Questions:

1.) What was Jacob's occupation, Gen 25:27-34? \_\_\_\_\_

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2.) What was Jacob's part in Rebekah's scheme, Gen 27:1-29? \_\_\_\_\_

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3.) Where does Jacob find a wife, Gen 28:1-5? \_\_\_\_\_

4.) What are some notable differences we have seen between Jacob & Esau? \_\_\_\_\_

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5.) What promises does God give Jacob, Gen 28:10-22? \_\_\_\_\_

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6.) How does Jacob respond to Rachel at the well, Gen 29:1-20? \_\_\_\_\_

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7.) How does Jacob respond to Laban's deceit, Gen 29:21-30? \_\_\_\_\_

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8.) What kind of relationship did the sisters Leah & Rachel have, Gen 30:1-24? \_\_\_\_\_

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9.) How can we avoid and resolve rivalry? \_\_\_\_\_

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10.) How does God bless Jacob, what are the consequence, Gen 30:25-31:9?

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11.) In what manner does Jacob finally leave Laban, Gen 31:17-35? \_\_\_\_\_

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12.) What has Rachel taken from Laban, Gen 31:19, 30-35? \_\_\_\_\_

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13.) How does Jacob respond when Laban complains to him about leaving, Gen 31:36-42? \_\_\_\_\_

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14.) How does Jacob respond when he learns Esau is approaching, Gen 32:1-23? \_\_\_\_\_

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15.) Is this response consistent with other activity in his life? How? \_\_\_\_\_

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# Lesson 17 – Laban

## Scripture Reading:

Read: Gen 24:29-31, 24:49-60, 29:1-30, 30:25-43, 31:1-55

## Key Verse:

Gen 31:7-9, “And your father (Laban) hath deceived me, and changed my wages ten times; but God suffered him not to hurt me.<sup>8</sup> If he said thus, The speckled shall be thy wages; then all the cattle bare speckled: and if he said thus, The ringstraked shall be thy hire; then bare all the cattle ringstraked.<sup>9</sup> Thus God hath taken away the cattle of your father, and given them to me.”

## Introduction:

The events of Laban’s life show us a man who exhibits selfish behaviors on several occasions. This behavior results in a covetousness attitude. He also proves over and over to Jacob that he is not faithful to his word, which is also rooted in his selfish nature. Laban recognizes that God blesses him while Jacob works, yet because of his selfish desires, he cannot release Jacob to leave. He still does not have enough. Because of this, God blesses Jacob with much of Laban’s wealth. We see how a covetous attitude will only lead to poverty. God’s prophet Haggai spoke of this in Hag 1:6, “Ye have sown much, and bring in little...”

The Children of Israel should learn that the wealth they will inherit is a great blessing from God, but coveting will lead to much loss.

## Questions:

1.) How is Laban related to Rebekah, Gen 24:29? \_\_\_\_\_

2.) What does Laban want of Abraham's servant, Gen 24:49-60? \_\_\_\_\_

3.) Why did Laban not give Rachel to Jacob, Gen 29:21-30? \_\_\_\_\_

4.) How does Laban respond when Jacob ask to leave, Gen 30:25-43? \_\_\_\_\_

5.) To whom does Laban attribute his gain, Gen 30:25-28? \_\_\_\_\_

6.) What happens to Laban's wealth, Gen 31:1-16? \_\_\_\_\_

7.) How does Laban respond to Jacob leaving, Gen 31:17-55? \_\_\_\_\_

8.) How would you describe Laban's attitude as he dealt with Jacob? \_\_\_\_\_

# Lesson 18 – Jacob (old)

## Scripture Reading:

Read: Gen 35:1-29, 37:1-36 42:1-4, 42:29-38, 43:1-14, 48:1-22, 49:1-33, Heb 11:21

## Key Verse:

Gen 35:2-5, “Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments:3 And let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went.4 And they gave unto Jacob all the strange gods which were in their hand, and all their earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the oak which was by Shechem.5 And they journeyed: and the terror of God was upon the cities that were round about them, and they did not pursue after the sons of Jacob.”

## Outline of the Scriptures:

Gen 35:1-29, deaths and alters

Gen 37:1-36, Joseph’s Dreams

Gen 38:1-30, Judah sin’s with Tamar

Gen 49:1-27, Jacob, on his death bed, speaks to each of his sons

## Introduction:

In this lesson we study Jacob after he returns to the land of Canaan from working for Laban. He now has 11 sons at his side. We see some of his parent’s weaknesses at work in his life. In particular he shows significant favoritism for his second wife Rachel and her children; Joseph and Benjamin. This creates relationship issues in his house. We find jealousy and fighting between his wives and his sons who move with great jealousy toward Joseph. Once again we can be reminded of the proverb found in Ezk 18:1, “The fathers have eaten sour grapes and the children’s teeth are set on edge”. We see Isaac & Rebekah’s favoritism repeated in Jacob’s life.

We find Jacob being deceived again, as his sons tell him Joseph had been killed. This brings much sorrow to Jacob’s life and influences his relationship with his sons even more. Jacob’s favoritism is so prominent that he allows Simon to remain captured in Egypt for about a year for fear of losing his new favorite son Benjamin.

Due to the great famine, the final years of his life are spent in Egypt. At the end of his life we find him calling out his sons for their misdeeds. We also see his faith in God as he instructs his sons to bury him back in the Land of Canaan, the land God had promised him.

The Children of Israel learn of how they came to be in Egypt and that the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh will each receive their own inheritance, though they were not born to Jacob.

## Questions:

1.) What does Jacob have removed from his household, Gen 35:1-5, Where did they come from, Gen 31:19? \_\_\_\_\_

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2.) How does Jacob treat Joseph, Why, Gen 37:5-14? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3.) How does Jacob respond to Joseph's dreams, Gen 37:1-11? \_\_\_\_\_

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4.) Which son remains home as the others journey to Egypt for Grain, Why, Gen 42:1-4, 29-38? \_\_\_\_\_

5.) What is Jacob's response to Simeon being left in Egypt, Gen 42:36-38?

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6.) How long is Simeon imprisoned in Egypt, Gen 43:1-2? \_\_\_\_\_

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7.) What does Jacob do to protect Benjamin, Gen 43:1-14? \_\_\_\_\_

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8.) What does Joseph take issue with as Jacob is blessing his children, Gen 48:5-22? \_\_\_\_\_

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9.) What does Jacob's death bed message to his children say about his nature, Gen 49:1-27? \_\_\_\_\_

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10.) What are Jacob's instructions to his son's as he is about to die, Gen 49:28-33? \_\_\_\_\_

11.) How does Jacob's favoritism affect his family? \_\_\_\_\_

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# Lesson 19 – Jacob’s Children

## Scripture Reading:

Read: Gen 34:1-31, 35:16-26, 37:1-36, 38:1-30, 49:1-28, 50:1-26, I Chr 5:1-2

## Key Verse:

Gen 37:3-4, 11, “Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colors.<sup>4</sup> And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.<sup>11</sup> And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.”

## Introduction:

As we look at Jacob’s children we find what I see as a full-fledged soap opera. There are several “how could they do such thing” events in this lesson. Several of Jacob’s children make bad choices with lasting consequences. The consequences for Ruben sinning with Jacob’s concubine last a long time. He does not receive the birthright, though there are several honorable things he does later in life. Simeon and Levi deceive and slaughter a people over their sister Dinah. Upon Judah comes the prophesy (promise) of future leadership. David and Jesus the Messiah come from his lineage, yet Judah commits a horrible sin too.

In this lesson we find sin results in many hardships. The Children of Israel should learn that there can be lasting consequence for a sin. Several of Jacob’s children experience this. They learn about the originators of their tribes. They see God working through providence to protect those that are His, though for a time they have to endure great hardships.

## Questions:

1.) Where did Dinah go and what are the consequences, Gen 34:1-4? \_\_\_\_\_

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2.) What deal did Hamor seek with Jacob and Why, Gen 34:6-10? \_\_\_\_\_

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3.) What scheme did Simeon and Levi carry out in vengeance against Hamor, what were the consequences, Gen 34:11-31, 49:5-7? \_\_\_\_\_

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4.) What sin did Ruben commit, what were the consequences, Gen 35:22, 49:3-4? \_\_\_\_\_

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5.) How do the brothers respond to Joseph, Why, Gen 37:1-11? \_\_\_\_\_

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6.) What are the brother's schemes against Joseph, Gen 37:18-35? \_\_\_\_\_

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7.) Which brother(s) tries to protect Joseph from the scheme, Gen 37:18-35? \_\_\_\_\_

8.) What happens to Judah's first two sons, Gen 38:1-11? \_\_\_\_\_

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9.) What influenced Tamar to play the Harlot, Gen 38:11-14, 26? \_\_\_\_\_

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10.) How did Judah respond to Tamar's pregnancy, Gen 38:15-26? \_\_\_\_\_

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11.) What does Judah admit about Tamar's situation, Gen 38:26? \_\_\_\_\_

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12.) What do we learn of Tamar's children from the gospel of Matthew, Mt 1:1-17? \_\_\_\_\_

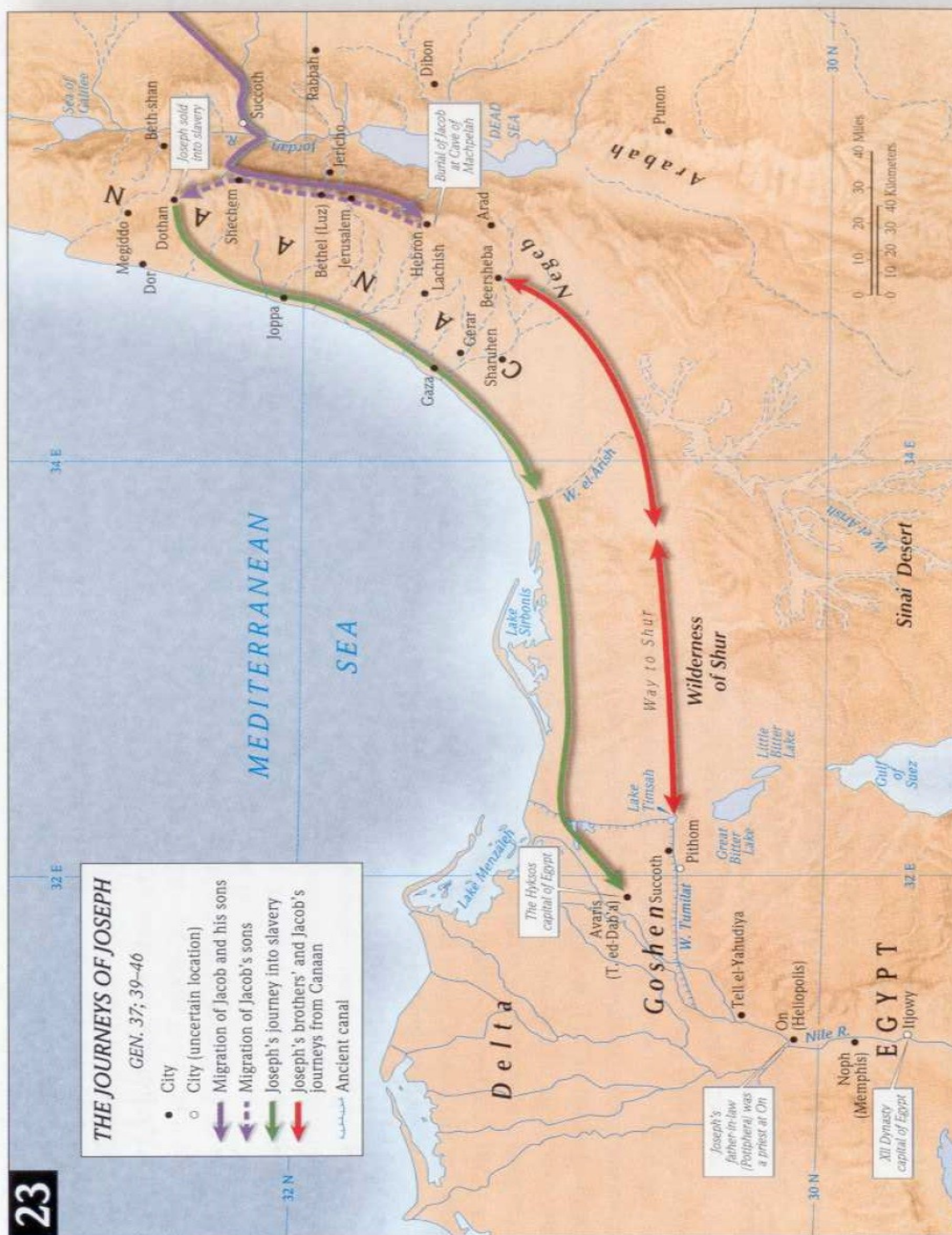
13.) What brothers stand up and make the case to Jacob for going back to Egypt for provisions, What did they offer to console Jacob, Gen 42:35-43:10? \_\_\_\_\_

14.) What is Jacob's prophesy about Judah's lineage, how is it fulfilled, Gen 49:8-12? \_\_\_\_\_

15.) What do Jacob's children do with his body after his death, Gen 50:12-13? \_\_\_\_\_

16.) What great concern do the children of Jacob have after Jacob's death, Gen 50:15-21? \_\_\_\_\_

17.) When do the brothers seek forgiveness from Joseph, Gen 50:15-21? \_\_\_\_\_



## Lesson 20 – Joseph (Pre-Famine)

### Scripture Reading:

Read: Gen 37, 39-41

### Key Verse:

Gen 39:1-6, And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmaelites, which had brought him down thither.<sup>2</sup> And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.<sup>3</sup> And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.<sup>4</sup> And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand.<sup>5</sup> And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field.<sup>6</sup> And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favored.

### Introduction:

The account of Joseph shows extreme jealousy between him and his brothers. The text states Joseph is 17; Ruben his oldest brother could likely be 10-12 years older than Joseph. Moses introduces Joseph, telling of how he came home with an evil report of his brothers. His father helps to provoke this envy by showing great prejudice for Joseph and putting him in a place of authority by sending him to check on his brothers. It is possible that Joseph is a naive teenager interacting with his brothers, or it is also reasonable to think that he is well aware of their envy and purposely provokes them. It seems Moses makes a point to establish the danger of envy. It certainly has significant influence upon the events in Joseph's life. Joseph provides prophecies of the family that are not received with much kindness. The result of the relationship with his brothers, leaves him bound, cast into a pit, then sold to travelling merchants (Ishmaelite's & Midianite's descendants of his Great Grandfather Abraham). Nobody realizes that the providence of God at work in these events, but it works out for the best for Joseph and the family. Joseph ends up in Egypt where he suffers persecutions, then prospers, and in the end, he is able to save his family from a great famine.

We find that overall, Joseph is a righteous man who has faith in God and is greatly blessed. This is recognized by the Egyptians and he gains in authority in their nation. He overcomes an attack by the Potiphar's wife, but is cast in prison being falsely accused. He interprets dreams for the Butler and the Baker, two of Pharaoh's servants, but this is soon forgotten and he remains imprisoned.

We find Joseph endure great trials in his life, yet we also see these trials lead to his family being saved from the famine. Sometimes it is hard for us to see through difficulties. If we have our lives in order and are living righteously, we should look at trials as blessings and not a curse. We should always look at difficulties in life as blessings. There is often something good that will come out of hardships. It is certainly not a reason to complain. This lesson

reminds us of Paul's comforting words written to the Romans, Rom 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Joseph is a great example to consider in this regard. Israel should also learn that God can look out for his own through his providence, though for a time, one may have to endure great trials.

### Questions:

1.) What does Joseph do that provoke his brothers, Gen 37:1-11? \_\_\_\_\_

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2.) How does Jacob contribute to the envy of his brothers, Gen 37:1-14? \_\_\_\_

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3.) How does Joseph's early life in Egypt compare to what is said of his brothers lives back in Canaan, Gen 39:1-10? \_\_\_\_\_

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4.) How does Joseph respond to the advances of Potiphar's wife, Gen 39:7-12? \_\_\_\_\_

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5.) What punishment did Joseph receive after he was falsely accused by Potiphar's wife, What would the typical punishment be? Gen 39:13-23?

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6.) What do we learn of Joseph's faith while he is imprisoned, Gen 40:1-8?

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7.) How does Joseph answer Pharaoh after being in the dungeon for two years, Gen 41:9-16? \_\_\_\_\_

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8.) What does Pharaoh claim is within Joseph, Gen 41:37-45? \_\_\_\_\_

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9.) What is said of Joseph's sorrows, Gen 41:50-52? \_\_\_\_\_

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# Lesson 21 – Joseph (Famine+)

## Scripture Reading:

Gen 42-48, 50, Heb 11:22

## Key Verse:

Gen 45:4-15, “And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt.<sup>5</sup> Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life.<sup>6</sup> For these two years hath the famine been in the land: and yet there are five years, in the which there shall neither be earing nor harvest.<sup>7</sup> And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.<sup>8</sup> So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.<sup>9</sup> Haste ye, and go up to my father, and say unto him, Thus saith thy son Joseph, God hath made me lord of all Egypt: come down unto me, tarry not:<sup>10</sup> And thou shalt dwell in the land of Goshen, and thou shalt be near unto me, thou, and thy children, and thy children's children, and thy flocks, and thy herds, and all that thou hast:<sup>11</sup> And there will I nourish thee; for yet there are five years of famine; lest thou, and thy household, and all that thou hast, come to poverty.<sup>12</sup> And, behold, your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin, that it is my mouth that speaks unto you.<sup>13</sup> And ye shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all that ye have seen; and ye shall haste and bring down my father hither.<sup>14</sup> And he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck, and wept; and Benjamin wept upon his neck.<sup>15</sup> Moreover he kissed all his brethren, and wept upon them: and after that his brethren talked with him.”

## Outline of the Scriptures:

Gen 39, Joseph's incident with Potiphar's wife

Gen 40, Joseph interprets dreams of the Baker and the Butler

Gen 41, Pharaoh's dream

Gen 42, Joseph's brothers 1st trip to Egypt for food

Gen 43, Joseph's brothers 2nd trip to Egypt for food

Gen 44, Joseph's brothers return home but are overtaken by men sent by Joseph

Gen 45, Joseph reveals his identity to his brothers

Gen 46, Jacob (Israel) commanded by God to go into Egypt with Joseph, (Genealogies of Israel)

Gen 47, Pharaoh gives land to Israel

Gen 48, Israel blesses Joseph's children

Gen 49:1-27, Jacob speaks to each of Joseph's sons

Gen 50, Israel dies, Joseph dies in Egypt

Chronology of Joseph's Life (Approximated)		
Age	Event	Scripture
1-3	Jacob leaves Laban, returns to Canaan	Gen 31
17	Joseph sold by Brothers	Gen 37
28	Joseph interprets Butler & Baker's Dreams	Gen 40
30	Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dreams	Gen 41
30-37	Years of Plenty	
38-45	Years of Famine	
38	Brothers come to Egypt	Gen 42
39	Brothers 2 <sup>nd</sup> trip to Egypt	Gen 43-45, 45:6
110	Joseph Dies	Gen 50:22-26

### Introduction:

Though Joseph endures many wrongs, he shows great faith in God and is greatly blessed when all is said and done. He is introduced as a father's favorite child, a dreamer of dreams. Turns out God had given him a special ability to interpret dreams. This ability along with his faithfulness to authorities allows Joseph to be raised up to great authority in Egypt.

Joseph, through the providence of God, saves his family and many others from a great famine in the land. Joseph is promoted to great honor, eventually becoming 2<sup>nd</sup> in command in Egypt. He shows great faith in God by telling his brethren to take his body back home, which is done as the Nation of Israel returns to the Land of Canaan 400 years later.

The Children of Israel learn that Egypt was not really their home, though it was all they knew. They had been in Egypt for over 400 years by the time Moses records this for them. Joseph brings all his family, 75 in all, into Egypt. At the end of their sojourning there, the nation of Israel was 600,000 strong. As they journey toward Canaan, they are returning to their father's home and fulfilling God's promise to them. There are great lessons here for us; we should not be too attached to the home we have here on this earth, since we too are on a journey to our promised home. We should be warned about placing too much emphasis on what we have here, because what is waiting for the faithful is truly the land of milk and honey like no other.

### Questions:

1.) What prophecy is fulfilled in Gen 42:1-6? \_\_\_\_\_

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2.) How does Joseph respond to his brothers when they arrive to purchase grain, Gen 42:7-20? \_\_\_\_\_

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3.) What does Reuben think of their situation, Gen 42:21-24? \_\_\_\_\_

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4.) What does Joseph do for them when they leave on their journey back home, Gen 42:25-28? \_\_\_\_\_

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5.) Which brothers stand up and try to convince Jacob to let them return to Egypt, Gen 42:36-43:10? \_\_\_\_\_

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6.) How did Joseph respond upon seeing his brother Benjamin, Gen 43:15-34? \_\_\_\_\_

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7.) What did Joseph do to his brothers as they left the second time, Gen 44:1-13? \_\_\_\_\_

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8.) What was Joseph's response to his brothers pleading for Benjamin, Gen 45:1-15? \_\_\_\_\_

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9.) To what/whom does Joseph contribute his hardships, Gen 45:1-15, 50:14-21? \_\_\_\_\_

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10.) What great gifts does Joseph offer his brothers, Gen 45:1-15? \_\_\_\_\_

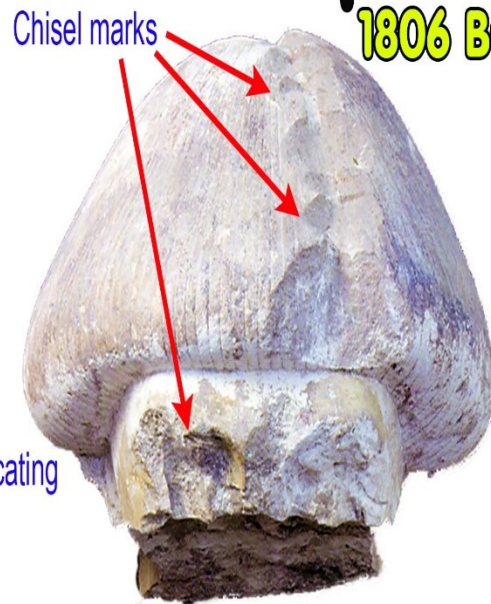
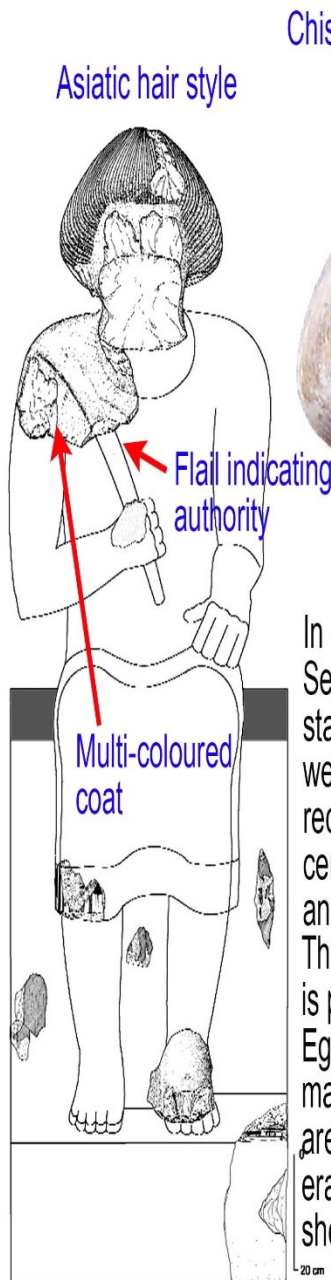
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11.) How does Joseph show his faith in God when he is on his death bed, Gen 50:22-26, Heb 11:22? \_\_\_\_\_

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# Statue of Joseph?

1806 BC



In Goshen (tel El-Dab'a/Avaris)  
Several limestone fragments from the statue of the non-Egyptian Asiatic man were excavated in 1991 AD and reconstructed from the S/E section of cemetery F/I, phases H (1820-1785 BC) and G4 (1785-1750 BC).  
The destruction of the statue, if Joseph, is predictable, given the destruction of Egypt during the Exodus. Deliberate chisel marks on the head and in the eye socket are visible. This is consistent with the erasure of Hatshepsut from images since she adopted Moses.

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