

Pentateuch

Genesis 12-50: The Patriarchs

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Lakeside Institute of Theology
Ross Arnold, Spring 2013

(Slides adapted from materials by John Stephenson)

Pentateuch (OT3)

1. Introduction to the Pentateuch
2. Genesis 1-11; The Primeval Prologue
3. Genesis 12-50; The Patriarchs
4. Exodus 1-18; God's Deliverance
5. Exodus 19-40' The Covenant at Sinai
6. Leviticus
7. Numbers
8. Deuteronomy; Final Exam

Genesis

The Book of Beginnings

Genesis 1-11	Genesis 12-50
Events Predominant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Creation (1-2) – Fall (3-5) – Flood (6-9) – Babel (10-11) 	People Predominant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Abraham (12-23) – Isaac (24-26) – Jacob (27-36) – Joseph (37-50)
All of humanity	Family of Abraham
Unknown # years	300 years

Key Messages from Genesis

- Genesis tells us that God created from nothing (*ex nihilo*) everything that is.
- Genesis explains to us what is wrong with humanity – why we're confused, broken, lost, self-destructive & unable to communicate.
- Genesis tells us there are consequences for disobedience and betrayal – especially betrayal of God's love.
- Genesis tells the story of God's call & blessing on the people of Israel, the children of Abraham, as a sign of his love for all humanity.



Genesis – Major Parallels in World History

- Genesis:(??)–2100 BC (Abraham)–1805 BC (Joseph's death)
- 3700 BC – Wheel is invented, probably in Sumer, Mesopotamia
- 3500 BC – European cattle domesticated
- 3200 BC – Pictographic writing developed in Sumer
- 3100 BC – First Egyptian Pharaonic Dynasties begin
- 3000 BC – Minoan Bronze Age (Crete); Athens is born
- 2670 BC – First Egyptian pyramid built
- 2475 BC – Maize is domesticated in Central America
- 2340 BC – First major empire: Mesopotamia under Sargon
- 2000 BC – Stonehenge is built in England
- 1800s BC – Rise of Assyrian & Babylonian cultures

The Patriarchs

Genesis 12-50

People Predominant

- Abraham (12-23)
- Isaac (24-26)
- Jacob (27-36)
- Joseph (37-50)

Outline of Genesis 12-50

- I. The Patriarchal History (*division by “toledot” formula*)
 - A. The story of Abraham, 11:27-25:11
 - 1. Abraham’s background, 11:27-32
 - 2. Abraham’s call and response, chs. 12-14
 - 3. Abraham’s faith & God’s Covenant, chs. 15-22.
 - a) Isaac & Rebekah, chapters 21-24
 - 4. Abraham’s final acts, 23:1-25:11
 - B. The Descendants of Ishmael, 25:12-18
 - C. Story of Jacob and Esau, 25:19-35:29
 - 1. Jacob at home, 25:19-27:46
 - a) Birth of Jacob & Esau, 25:21-26
 - b) Theft of Esau’s birthright, 25:29:34
 - c) Jacob steals Esau’s blessing, ch. 27
 - 2. Jacob abroad, chs. 28-30
 - a) God’s covenant renewed with Jacob
 - 3. Jacob at home again, chs. 31-35
 - D. The Descendants of Esau
 - E. Story of Joseph and his brothers, 37:2-50:26
 - A. Joseph’s career, 37:2-41:57
 - B. Jacob’s migration, chs. 42-47
 - C. Jacob’s final days, 48:1-50:14
 - D. Joseph’s final days, 50:15-26

The Call and Covenant with Abraham

The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

² "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

^{17:1} When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. ² Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers."

³ Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, ⁴ "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. ⁵ No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. ⁶ I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. ⁷ I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

Genesis 12:1-4; 17:1-7

The Abraham Story/Palistrophe

Abram called to Faith: Promise of a Seed (12:1-9)

Sojourn in Egypt & Denial of Sarai (12:10-20)

- Lot separates from Abram (13)

War on Sodom; Rescue of Lot by Abram (14)

Covenant Ceremony; Animal sacrifice (15)

Ishmael born (16)

Covenant Sign; Circumcision (17)

Destruction of Sodom; Rescue of Lot by Angels (18-19)

Sojourn in Gerar & Denial of Sarah (20)

- Hagar & Ishmael separate from Abram (21)

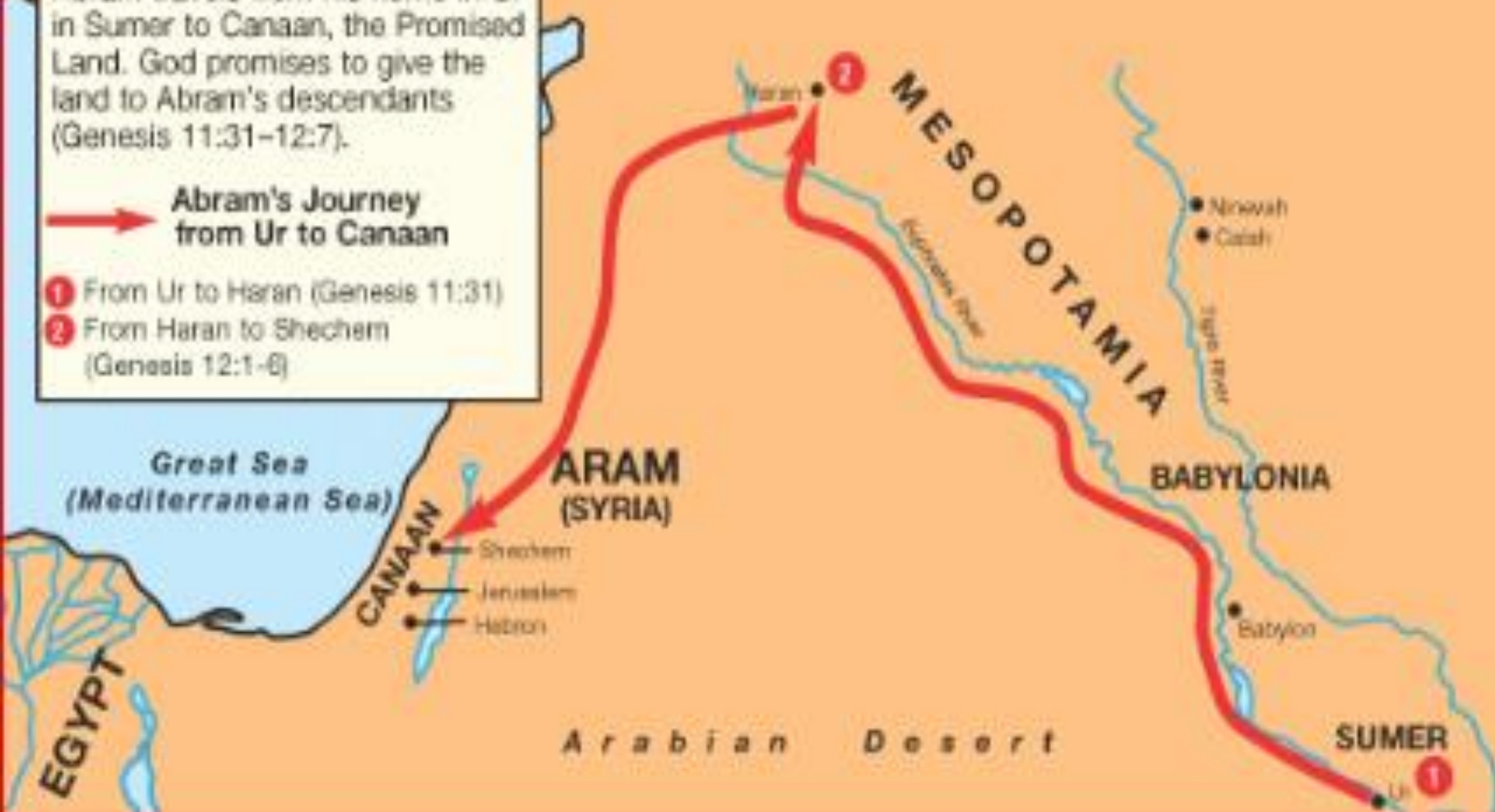
Abraham's Faith Tested: Blessing of the Seed (22)



God tells Abram to go to Canaan. Abram travels from his home in Ur in Sumer to Canaan, the Promised Land. God promises to give the land to Abram's descendants (Genesis 11:31-12:7).

→ Abram's Journey from Ur to Canaan

- ① From Ur to Haran (Genesis 11:31)
- ② From Haran to Shechem (Genesis 12:1-6)

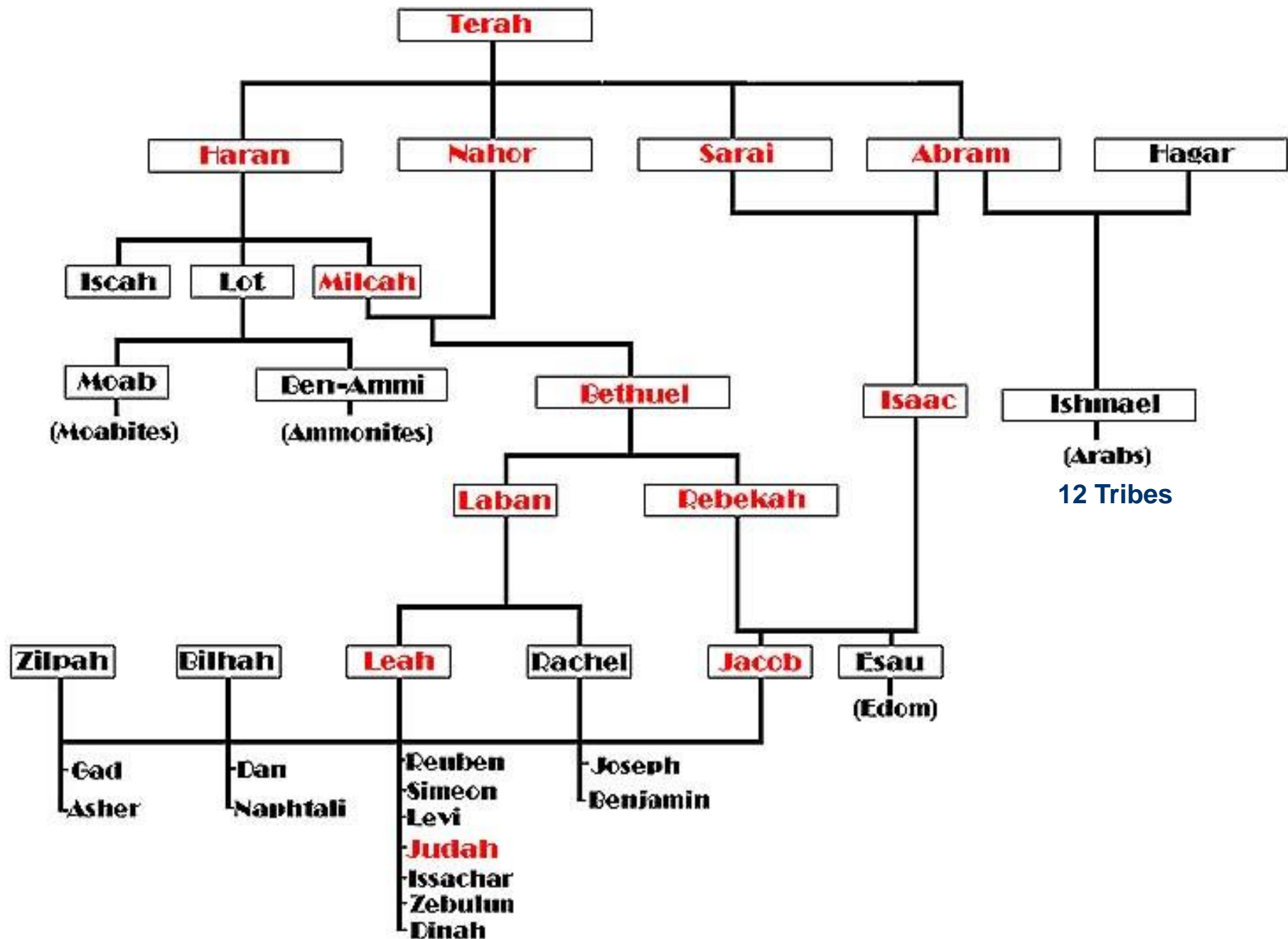


→ Abraham's Journeys in Canaan

..... Campaigns of the Eastern kings against the Canaanite kings

- 1 From Haran to Shechem (Genesis 12:6)
- 2 Mountain between Bethel and Ai (Gen. 12:8)
- 3 The Negev (Genesis 12:9)
- 4 Egypt (Genesis 12:10)
- 5 Mountain between Bethel and Ai (Genesis 13:3, 4)
- 6 Hebron (Genesis 13:18)
- 7 Dan (Genesis 14:14)
- 8 North of Damascus (Genesis 14:15)
- 9 Valley of Shaveh near Jerusalem (Genesis 14:17)
- 10 Hebron (Genesis 18:1)
- 11 Gerar (Genesis 20:1)
- 12 Beer-sheba (Genesis 21:32, 33)
- 13 Land of Moriah—near Jerusalem (Genesis 22:19)
- 14 Beer-sheba (Genesis 22:19)
- 15 Hebron (Genesis 23:2, 19)





Abraham's Test

Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."

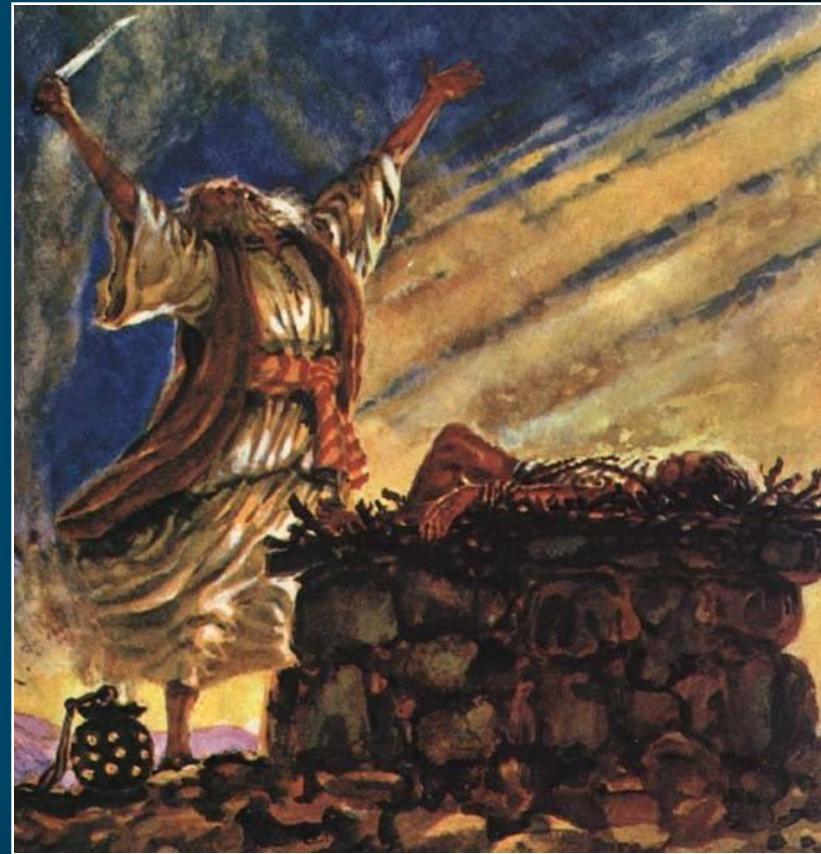
³ Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵ He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."

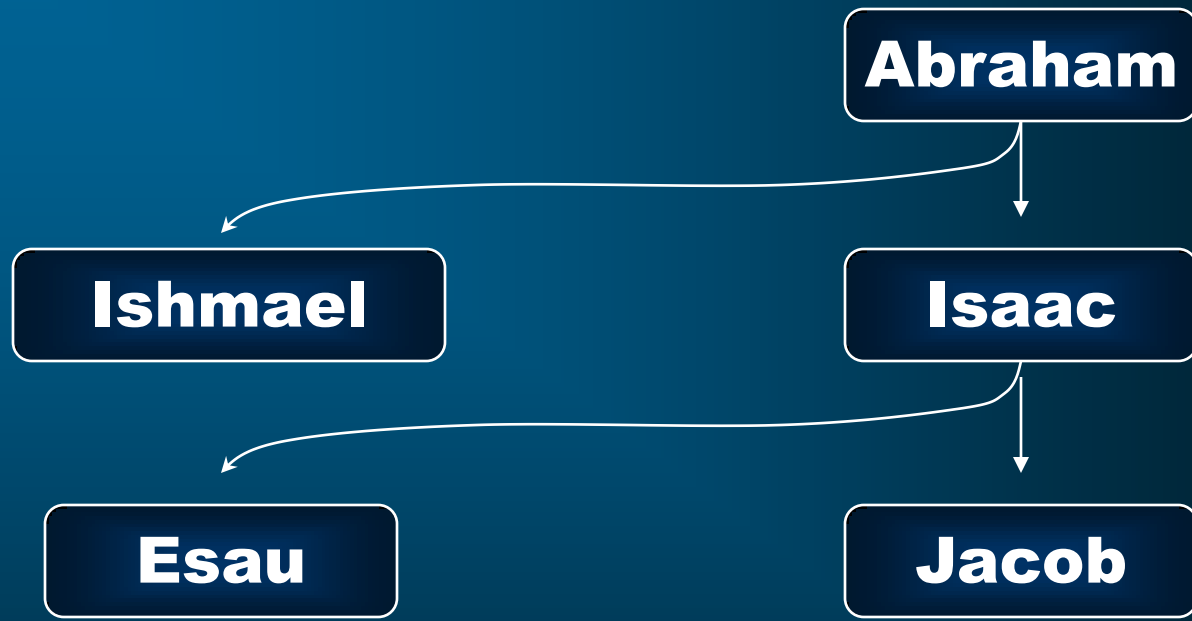
When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

¹² "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."

Genesis 22:2-5; 9-12





God Renews His Covenant with Isaac

The Lord appeared to Isaac and said, "Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land where I tell you to live. ³ Stay in this land for a while, and I will be with you and will bless you. For to you and your descendants I will give all these lands and will confirm the oath I swore to your father Abraham. ⁴ I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, ⁵ because Abraham obeyed me and did everything I required of him, keeping my commands, my decrees and my instructions." ⁶ So Isaac stayed in Gerar.

From there he went up to Beersheba. ²⁴ That night the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bless you and will increase the number of your descendants for the sake of my servant Abraham." ²⁵ Isaac built an altar there and called on the name of the Lord.

Genesis 26:2-6, 23-25

Jacob and Esau Are Born

Isaac prayed to the Lord on behalf of his wife, because she was childless. The Lord answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant. ²² The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, “Why is this happening to me?” So she went to inquire of the Lord.

²³ The Lord said to her,

“Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger.”

²⁴ When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. ²⁵ The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau. ²⁶ After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau’s heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth to them.

Genesis 25:21-26

The Jacob Narrative

- Jacob's name: "Grasps the heel" or "Usurper"
- He tricked his brother Esau out of his birthright.
(ch. 25)
- He (and his mother, Rebekah), stole Esau's blessing. (ch. 27)
- Jacob is himself tricked by his uncle/father-in-law, then gets Laban back in the world's first genetic experiment. (chs. 29-31)
- Jacob wrestles w/God; becomes "Israel." (ch. 32)
- Reconciled to Esau, Jacob/Israel lies again. (ch. 33)

God Renews His Covenant with Jacob

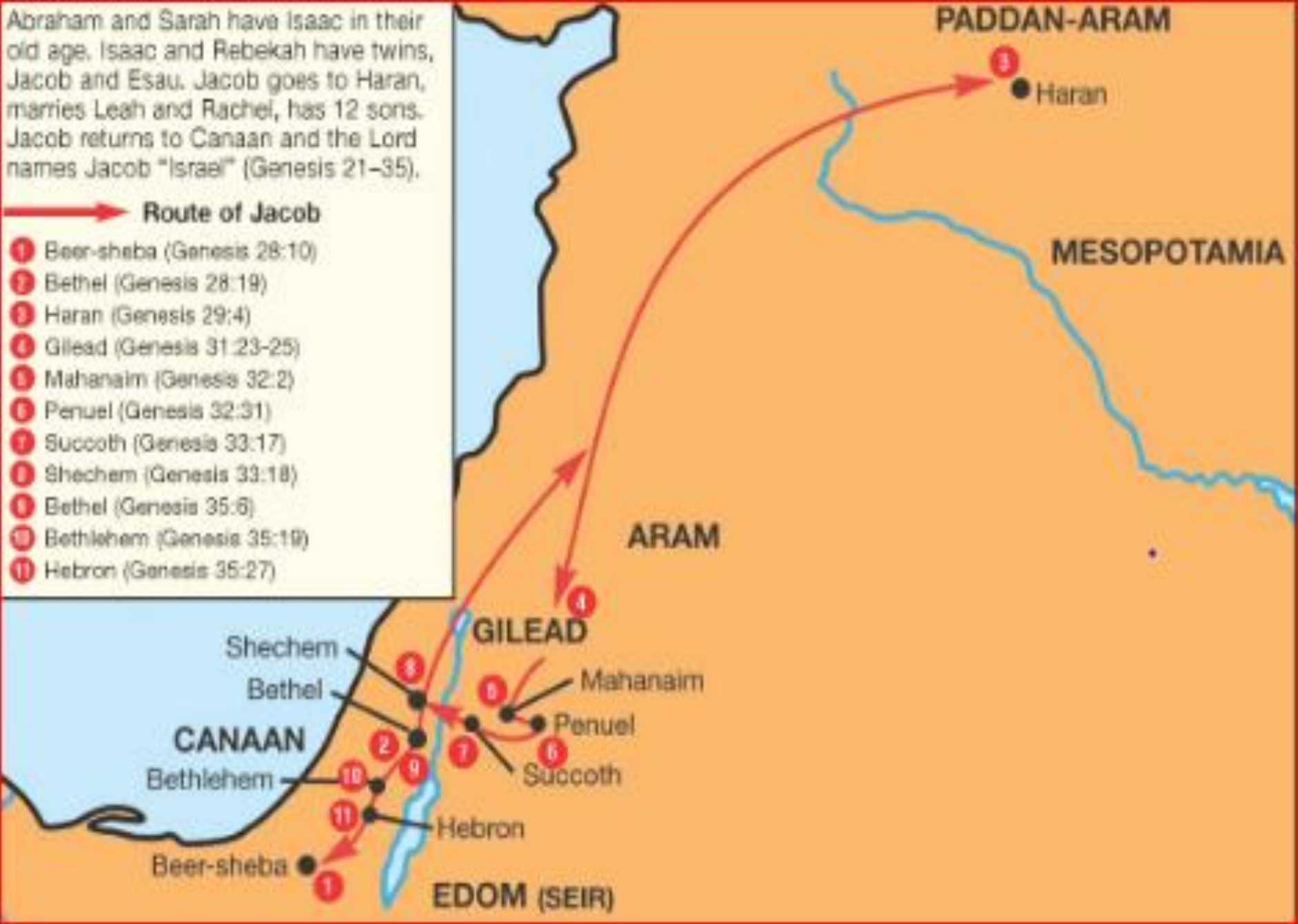
Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. ¹¹ When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. ¹² He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ There above it stood the Lord, and he said: "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. ¹⁴ Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. ¹⁵ I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

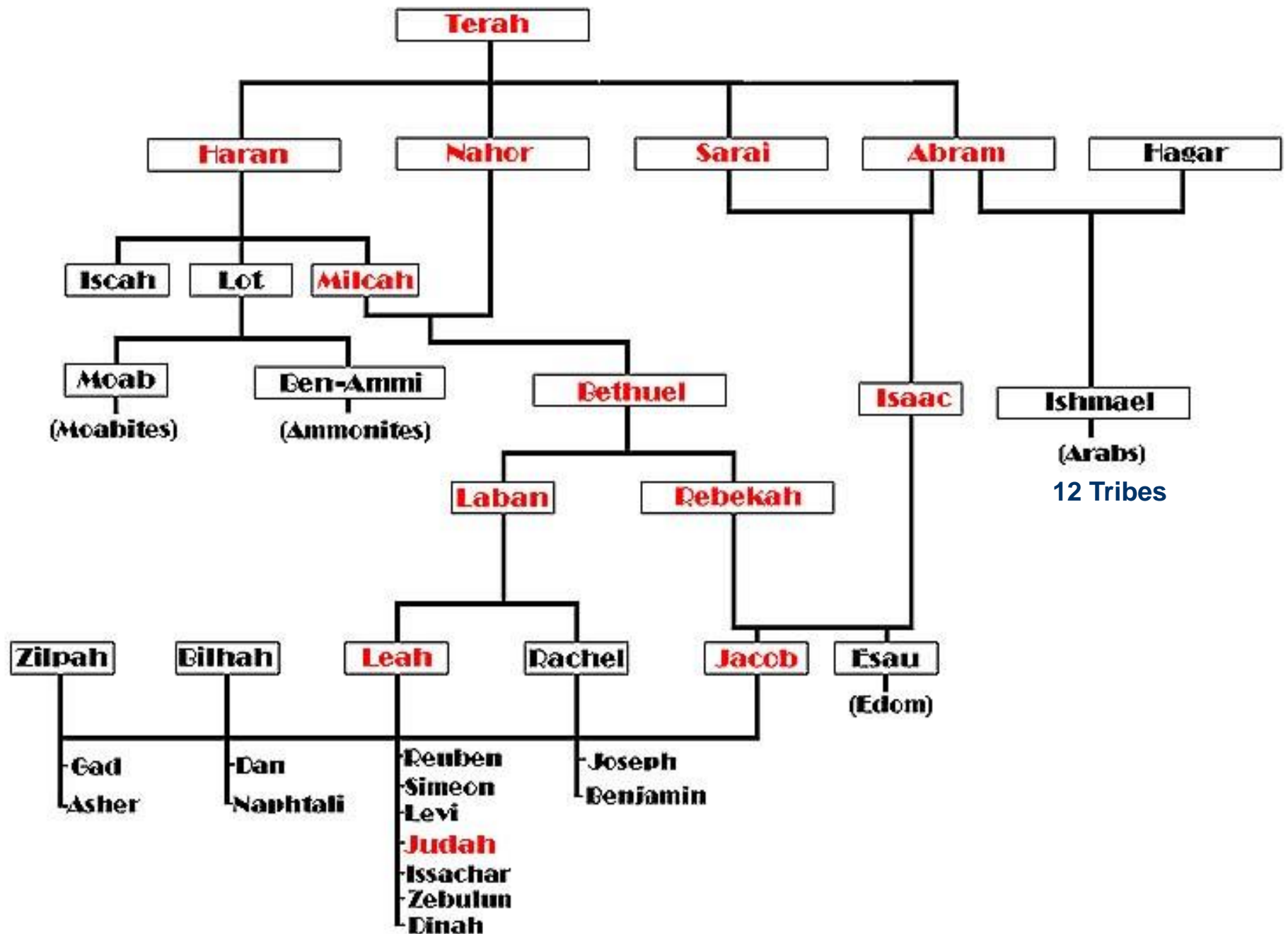
Genesis 28:10-15

Abraham and Sarah have Isaac in their old age. Isaac and Rebekah have twins, Jacob and Esau. Jacob goes to Haran, marries Leah and Rachel, has 12 sons. Jacob returns to Canaan and the Lord names Jacob "Israel" (Genesis 21-35).

Route of Jacob

- 1 Beer-sheba (Genesis 28:10)
- 2 Bethel (Genesis 28:19)
- 3 Haran (Genesis 29:4)
- 4 Gilead (Genesis 31:23-25)
- 5 Mahanaim (Genesis 32:2)
- 6 Penuel (Genesis 32:31)
- 7 Succoth (Genesis 33:17)
- 8 Shechem (Genesis 33:18)
- 9 Bethel (Genesis 35:6)
- 10 Bethlehem (Genesis 35:19)
- 11 Hebron (Genesis 35:27)





Joseph's Brothers Sell Him into Slavery

So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan. ¹⁸ But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him.

¹⁹ "Here comes that dreamer!" they said to each other. ²⁰

"Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams."

²³ So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the richly ornamented robe he was wearing— ²⁴ and they took him and threw him into the cistern. The cistern was empty; there was no water in it. Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? ²⁷ Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed.

²⁸ So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.

Genesis 37:17-20, 23-24, 26-28

Jacob favors his eleventh son Joseph. Joseph's brothers sell Joseph to Ishmaelite traders on their way to Egypt from Gilead. While in Egypt Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dream and becomes a ruler in Egypt. Jacob (Israel) and his family eventually move to Egypt. Jacob's descendants live in Egypt about 400 years. They are slaves for part of that time (Genesis 37-Exodus 1).

→ **Route of Jacob**

→ **Route of the Ishmaelite traders**

- ① Hebron (Genesis 37:14)
- ② Shechem (Genesis 37:14-15)
- ③ Dothan (Genesis 37:17)
- ④ Egypt (Genesis 37:25-28)



Joseph Remains Righteous, But is Imprisoned

The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. ³ When his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did, ⁴ Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned.

⁶ Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, ⁷ and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!" ⁸ But he refused. ...¹⁰ And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.

One day ... ¹² She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.

¹³ When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house, ¹⁴ she called her household servants. "Look," she said to them, "this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed.

¹⁹ When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, "This is how your slave treated me," he burned with anger. ²⁰ Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined.

Genesis 39:2-5,6-8,12-14,19-20

Joseph Becomes Powerful in Egypt

Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, “The dreams of Pharaoh are one and the same. God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do. ²⁶ The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good heads of grain are seven years; it is one and the same dream. ²⁷ The seven lean, ugly cows that came up afterward are seven years, and so are the seven worthless heads of grain scorched by the east wind: They are seven years of famine. ²⁸ “It is just as I said to Pharaoh: God has shown Pharaoh what he is about to do....

³³ “And now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt.

³⁷ The plan seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his officials. ³⁸ So Pharaoh asked them, “Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?”

³⁹ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. ⁴⁰ You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you.”

⁴¹ So Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt.”

Gen 41:25-28,33, 37-41

Joseph Welcomes His Brothers to Egypt

Then Joseph could no longer control himself ... ³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living?" But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt!

⁵ And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.

⁶ For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. ⁷ But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

⁸ "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. ⁹ Now hurry back to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay. ¹⁰ You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.'

Jacob Dies; Joseph Reassures His Brothers

When Jacob had finished giving instructions to his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed, breathed his last and was gathered to his people.

^{50:1} Joseph threw himself on his father and wept over him and kissed him. ² Then Joseph directed the physicians in his service to embalm his father Israel. ...

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: ¹⁷ 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept. ¹⁸ His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹ So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

Genesis 49:33-50:2, 15-21

Major Themes in Genesis 12-50

1. Promise
2. Redemption
3. Covenant
4. Faith
5. Obedience
6. Sacrifice
7. Transformation
8. The Sovereignty of God