

Old Testament Survey

October 28 – Genesis Lecture
Lakeside Institute of Theology
Ross Arnold, Fall 2016

The First Five Books of the Old Testament

Torah	Hebrew: “Law, Instruction”
Pentateuch	Greek: “Five-Part Book”

Torah – “The Law” or The Pentateuch – “Five Books” or “The Five Fifths of Moses”

- Genesis – *bereshith*, (“In the beginning”); from Greek *Geneseos*, “History of origins”
- Exodus – *we’elleh shemoth*, (“These are the names of”); from Greek *Exodos*, “Exit”
- Leviticus – *wayyiqra*, (“And the Lord called”);
from Greek for “Relating to the Levites”
- Numbers – *bemidbar*, (“In the dessert”); from Greek,
referring to census lists, chapters 1 and 26
- Deuteronomy – *‘elleh haddebarim*, (“These are the words”); from Greek “2nd Repetition of the Law”

Genesis

From creation thru the origins of God's people to Egypt

Exodus

Relates God's deliverance of Israel from Egypt and establishing His covenant/Law

Leviticus

Sets forth the Laws of worship

Numbers

Relates the wilderness wanderings

Deuteronomy

Gives the Law to a new generation with special emphasis to those entering the land

The Book of Genesis

- Author: Moses
- Date: c. 1450 BC - 1400 BC
- Theme: Beginnings – of the universe, the human race, and the Jewish people.
- Purpose: To show that the creator God is sovereign and loves His creation.
- Outline: Prologue: Creation, Fall, Flood, Babel (1-11)
The Hebrew People (11-50)
 - * Father Abraham (11-25)
 - * Isaac and Jacob (25-36)
 - * Joseph (37-50)

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:- c. 2100 BC (Abraham)–c.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 the Great of Akkadian Empire
- 2000 BC – Stonehenge is built in England
- 1800s BC – Rise of Assyrian & Babylonian cultures





The Prehistoric Prologue

Genesis 1-11

- Events Predominant
 - Creation (1-2)
 - Fall (3-5)
 - Flood (6-9)
 - Babel (10-11)

Genesis 1:1-2:25 – Creation

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning — the first day.

Genesis 1:1-5

Interpretive Options for Creation

1. Evolution by Natural Selection.
2. Theistic Evolution.
3. Day-Age View.
4. Ruin-Reconstruction View (Gap Theory).
5. Creationism.
6. Literal Day View (Young Earth).

Days of Creation

Day 1: Light

Day 4: Light-sources
(sun, moon, stars)

Day 2: Water & sky
divided

Day 5: Fish & birds to
fill water & sky

Day 3: Dry land &
vegetation

Day 6: Land animals
& man

Day 7: Sabbath Rest

Creation complete: Heavens & earth created;
God finished His work (1-3)

Man created: Formed from dust (4-9)

Trees & Rivers in garden given **names** (9-14)

Man assigned task of guarding & keeping the
garden (15)

Forbidden fruit (16-17)

Man in need of a helper: not good to be alone
(18)

Animals in garden are given **names** (19-20)

Woman created: Formed from rib (21-24)

Creation complete: Man & woman naked &
unashamed in presence of God (25)

Genesis 1

The heavens and the earth are created in six days.

Man in his cosmic setting

Panorama of creation as a whole

Centers on God creating the heavens and the earth

Genesis 2

Creation of the man and woman (no time element mentioned).

Man as central to God's purpose

Detailed focus on one aspect of creation

Centers on man as the crowning act of God's creation

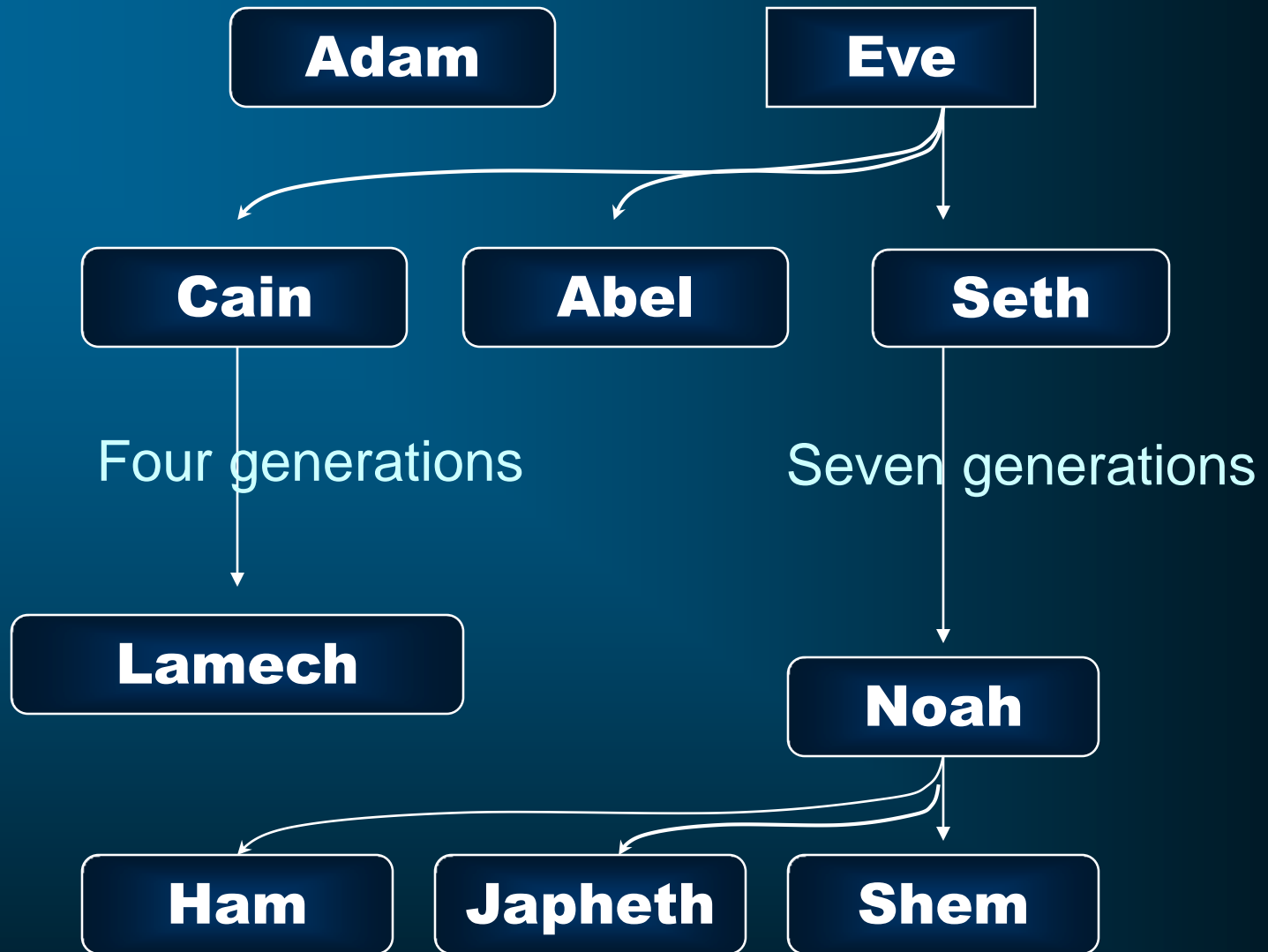
Genesis 3:1-24 – The Fall

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will certainly die."

^{3:1} Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ...

⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened...

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1,6-7



Genesis 6-9 – The Flood

Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. ¹² God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. ¹³ So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. ¹⁴ So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. ¹⁵ This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be three hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide and thirty cubits high. ¹⁶ Make a roof for it, leaving below the roof an opening one cubit high all around. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks. ¹⁷ I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. ¹⁸ But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁹ You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you.

Genesis 6:11-19



HITTITES

FERTILE CRESCENT

Tarsus•

CYPRUS

Paphos•

Mediterranean Sea
(Great Sea)

Byblos•

Sidon•

Tyre•

CANAAN

Jericho•

Jerusalem•

Amman•

Gaza•

Bethlehem•

On•

Noph
(Memphis)

Ezion-geber•

EGYPT

Thebes•

Red
Sea

Mt. Ararat▲

HURRIANS

Haran•

MESOPOTAMIA

Ugarit•

Hamath•

Damascus•

Mari•

ASSYRIA

Nineveh•

Nimrud•

T. Tigris River

Euphrates River

BABYLONIA

Babylon•

Tower of Babel?

Nippur•

SUMER

Garden of Eden?

Ur•

Susa•

ELAM

ARMENIA

Caspian Sea

Ecbatana•

MEDIA

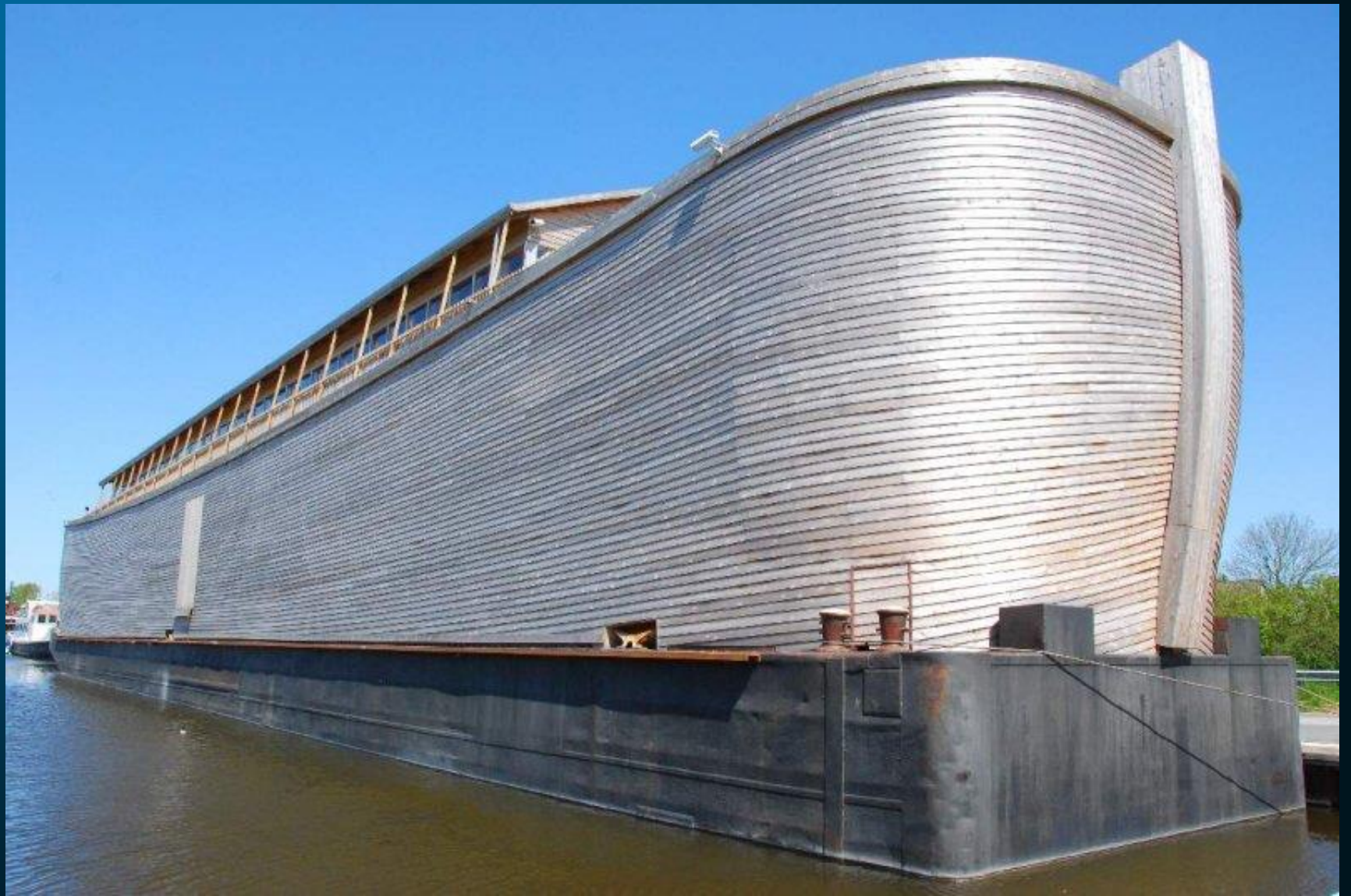
Persepolis•

PERSIA

Persian Gulf
(Arabian Gulf)

**ARABIAN
DESERT**







Noah's three sons (6:10)

Covenant with Noah (6:18)

- Promise to destroy the earth with a flood

Command to take food (6:21)

Noah & Family enter the ark (7:1)

Flood on the earth (7:11 – 8:13)

Noah & Family come out of ark (8:14)

Command not to eat blood (9:14)

Covenant with Noah (9:8-17)

- Promise not to destroy the earth with a flood

Noah's three sons (9:18)

The Lord shuts the door and it rains 40 days and nights (7:15-16)

Waters increase until the mountains are covered (7:18-20)

150 days waters prevail (7:21-24)

God Remembers Noah (8:1)

150 days waters abate (8:3)

Waters decrease until the mountain become visible (8:4-5)

At the end of 40 days Noah opens the window (8:6)

Genesis 11:1-9 – Tower of Babel

Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. ² As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.

³ They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. ⁴ Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

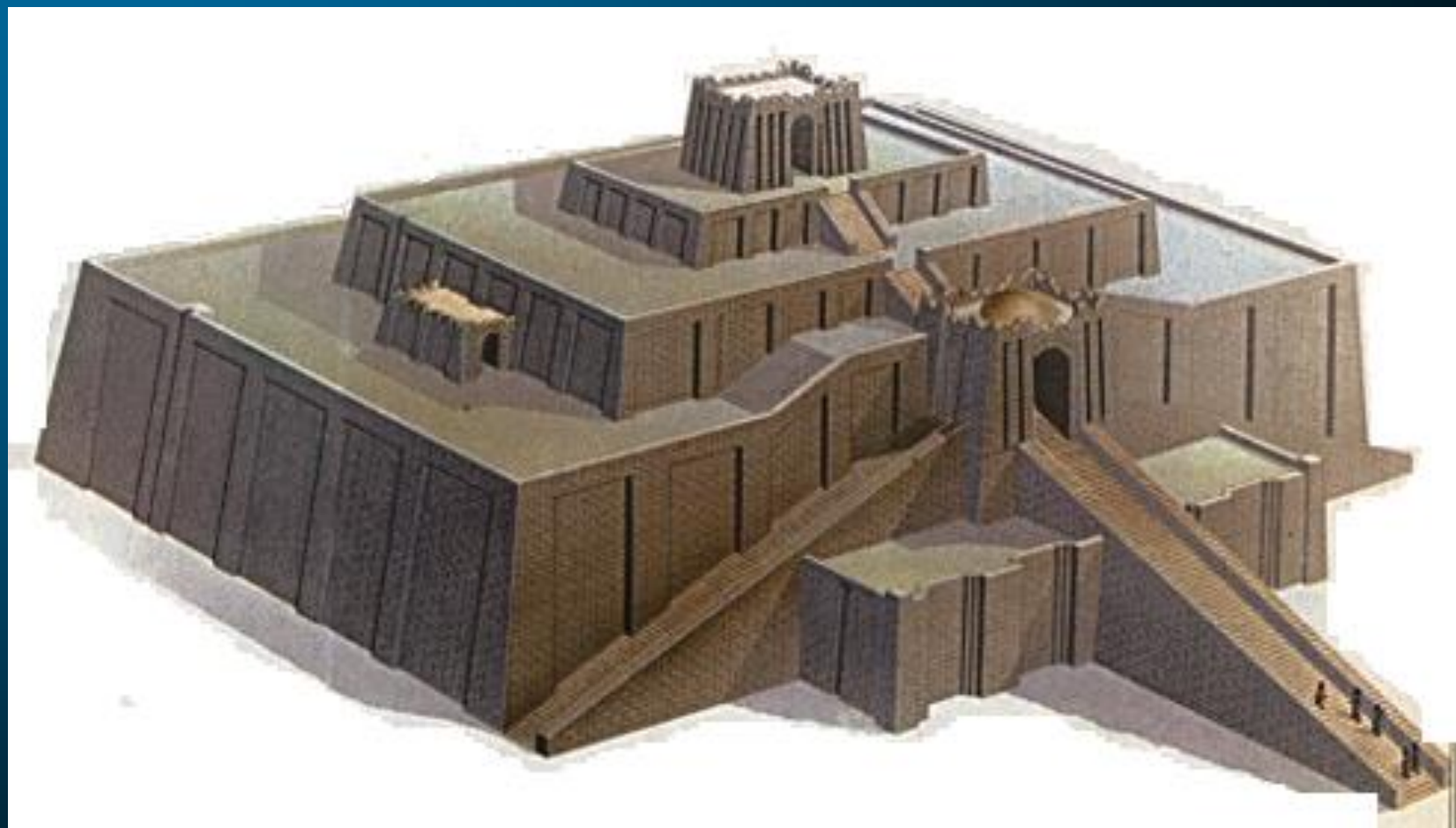
⁵ But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower that they were building. ⁶ The Lord said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. ⁷ Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."

⁸ So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. ⁹ That is why it was called Babel—because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

Genesis 11:1-9









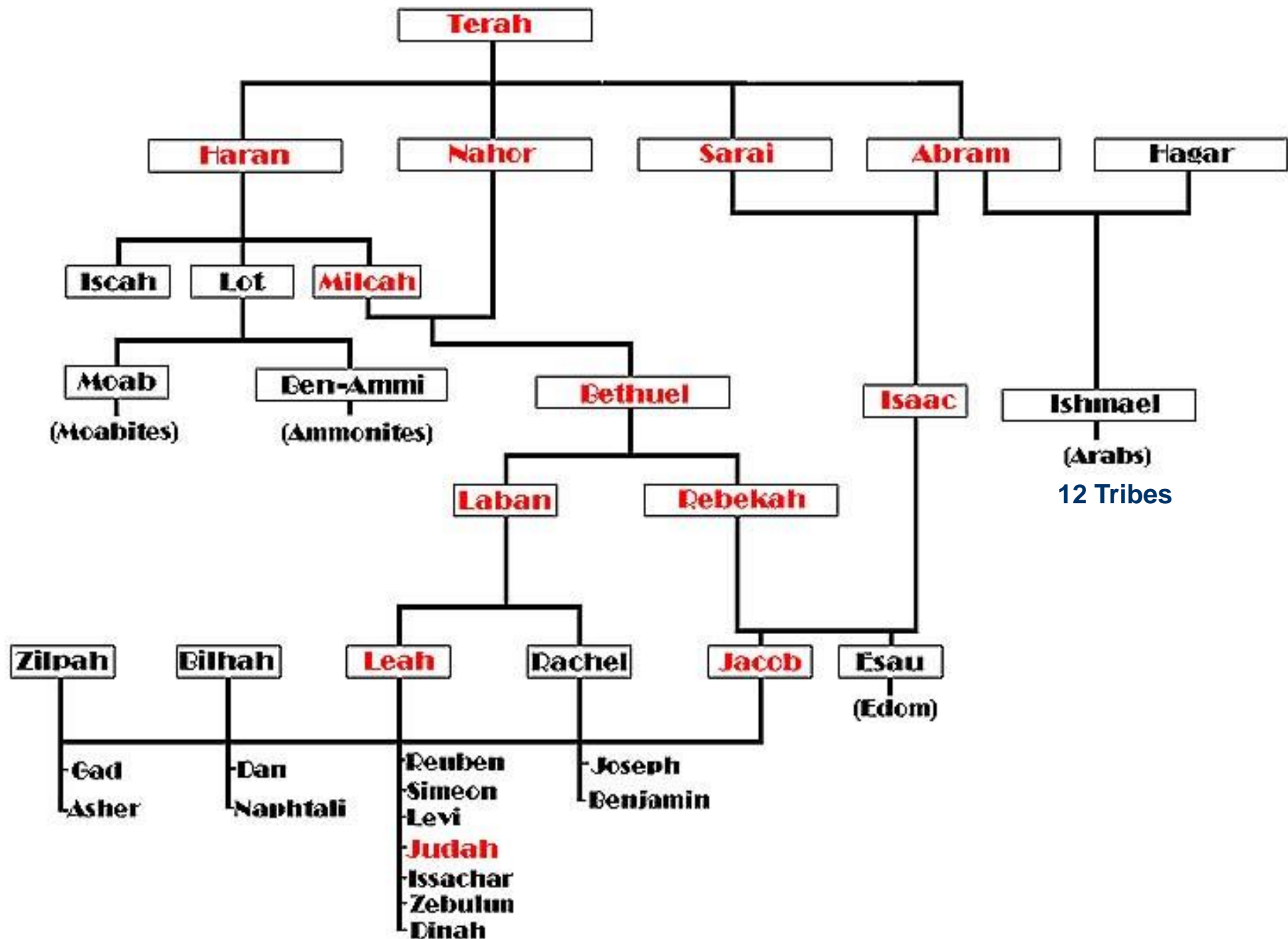


The Patriarchs

Genesis 12-50

People Predominant

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



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

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)

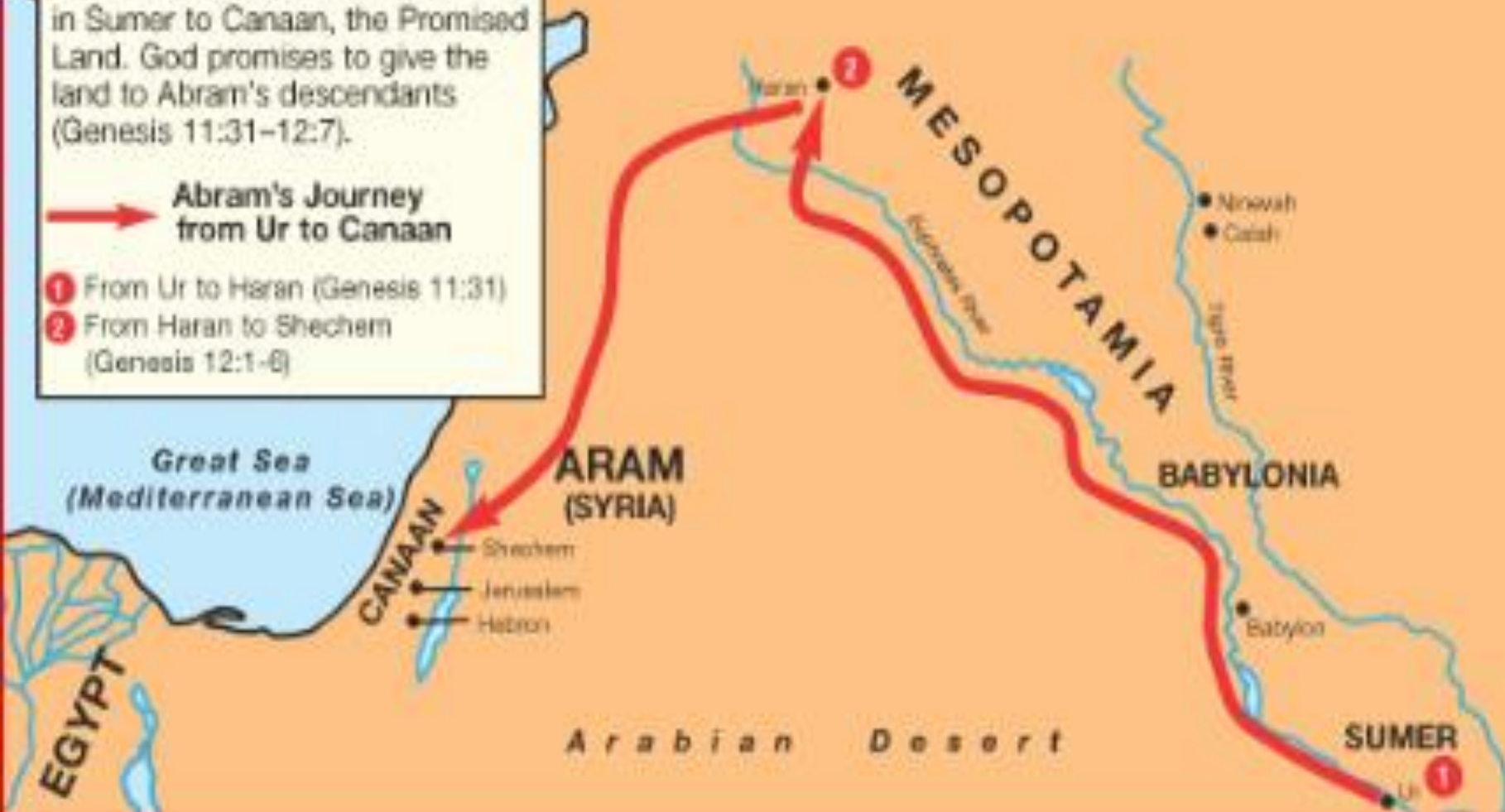
- Ishmael separates from Abram (21)

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."

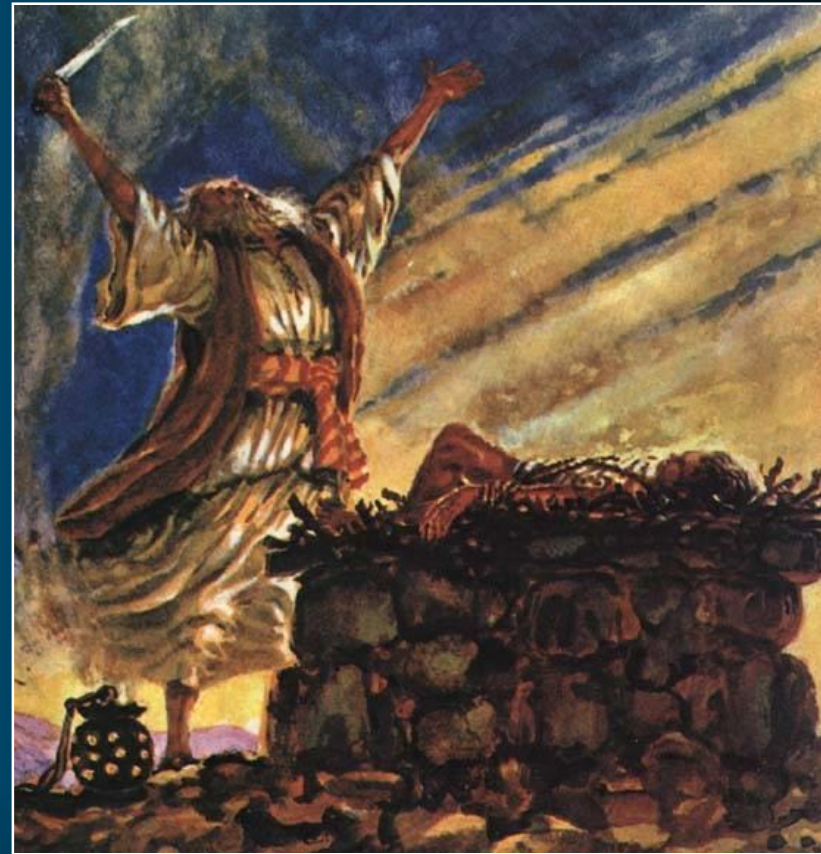
³ Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵ He said 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."

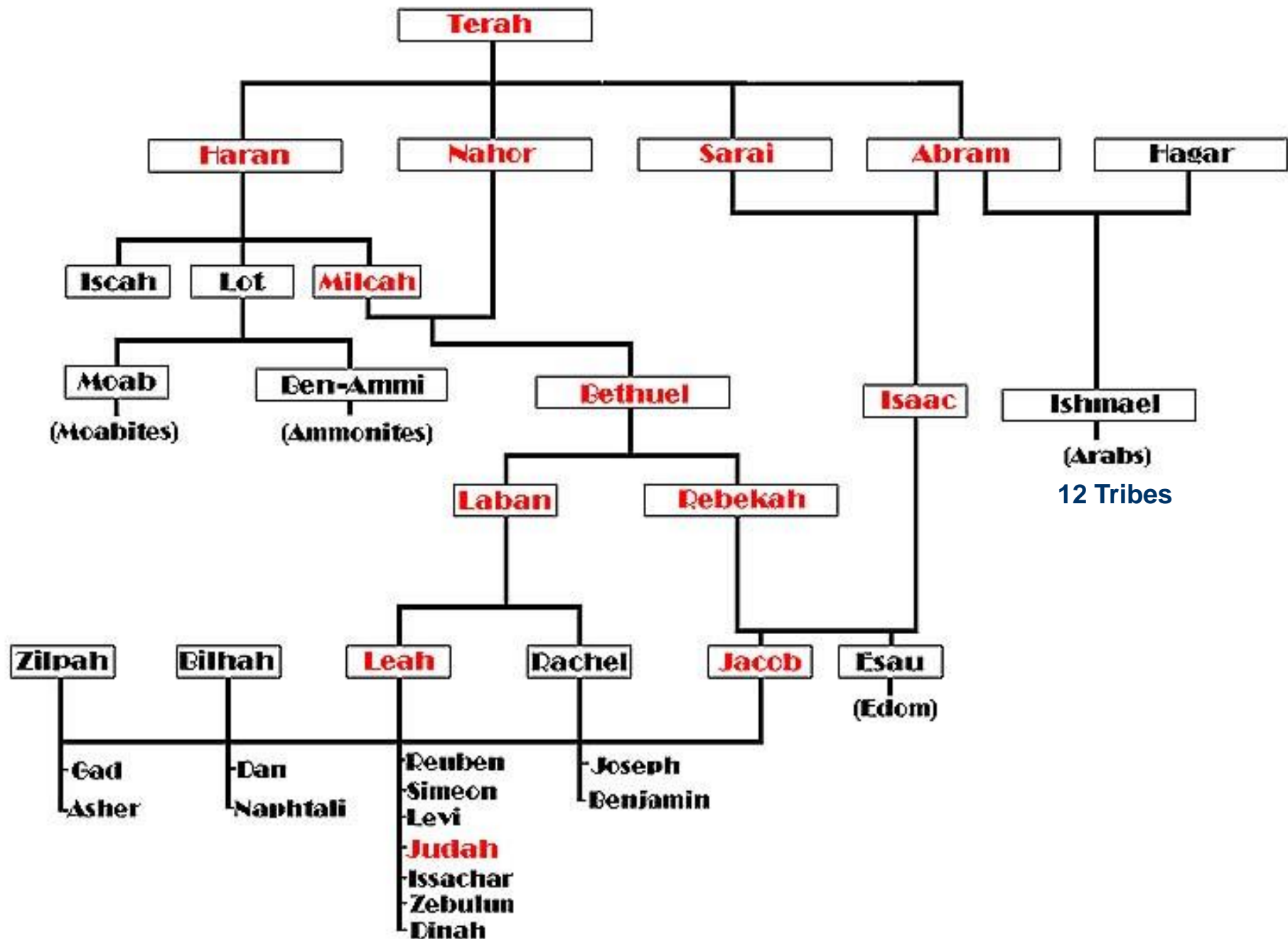
When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven,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

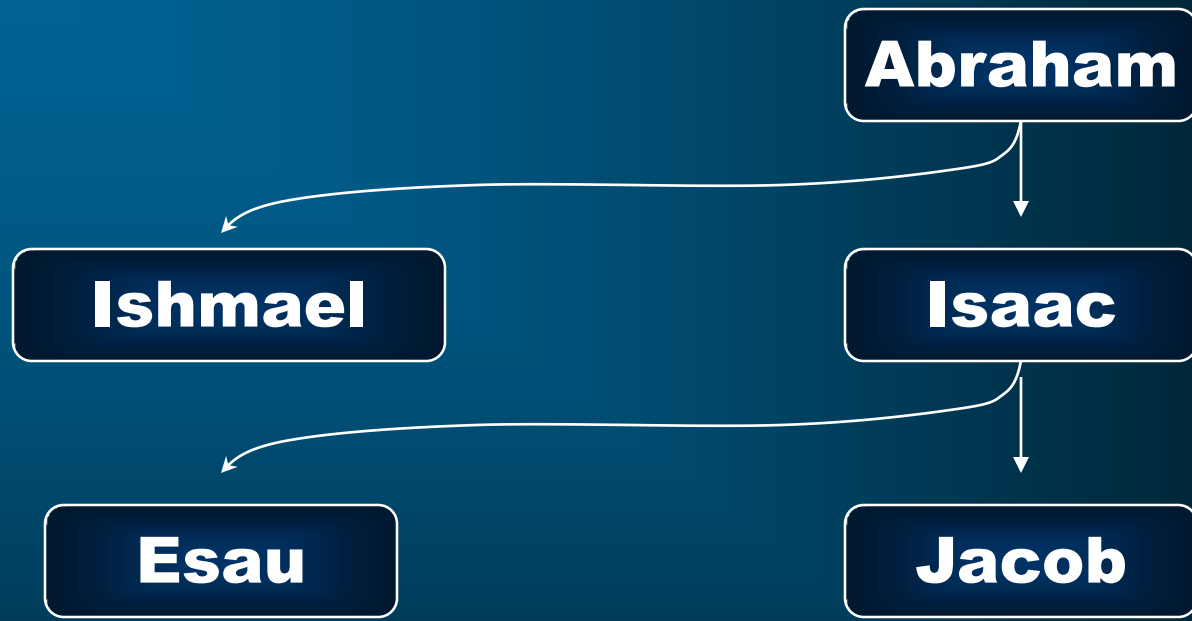
"Here I am," he replied.

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

The Jacob Narrative

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

God Renews His Covenant with Jacob

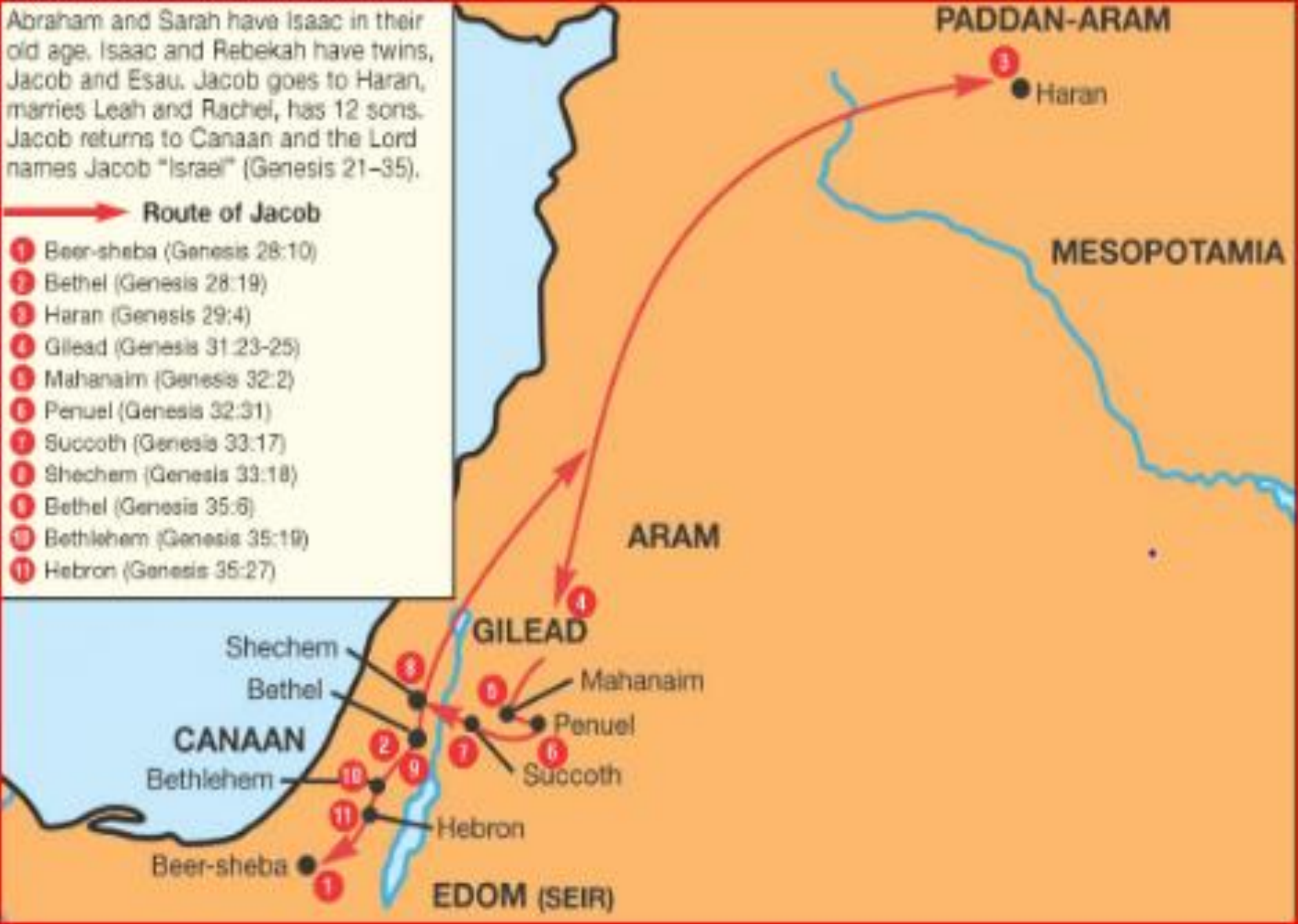
Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. ¹¹ When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. ¹² He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to 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."

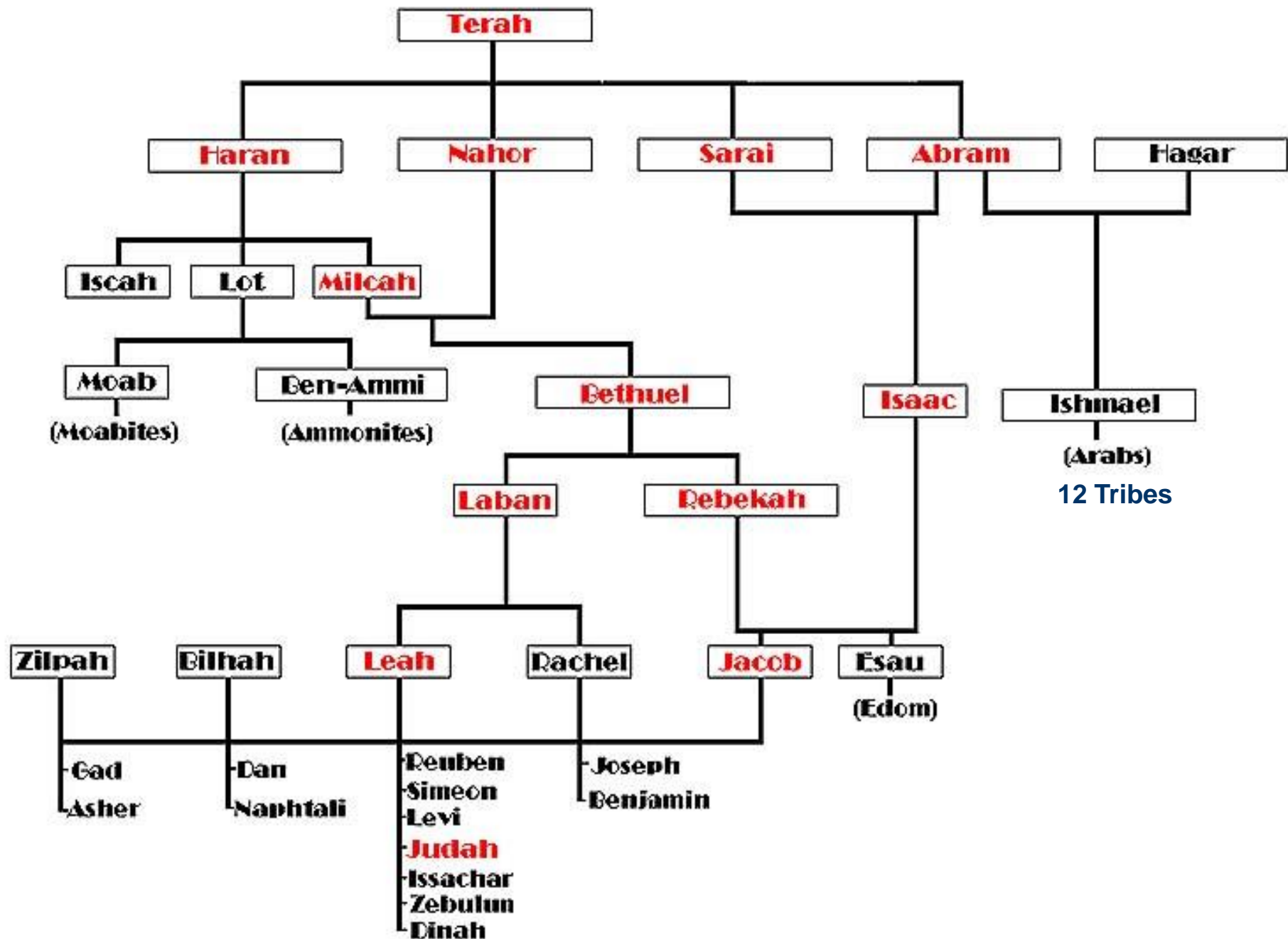
Genesis 28:10-15

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.

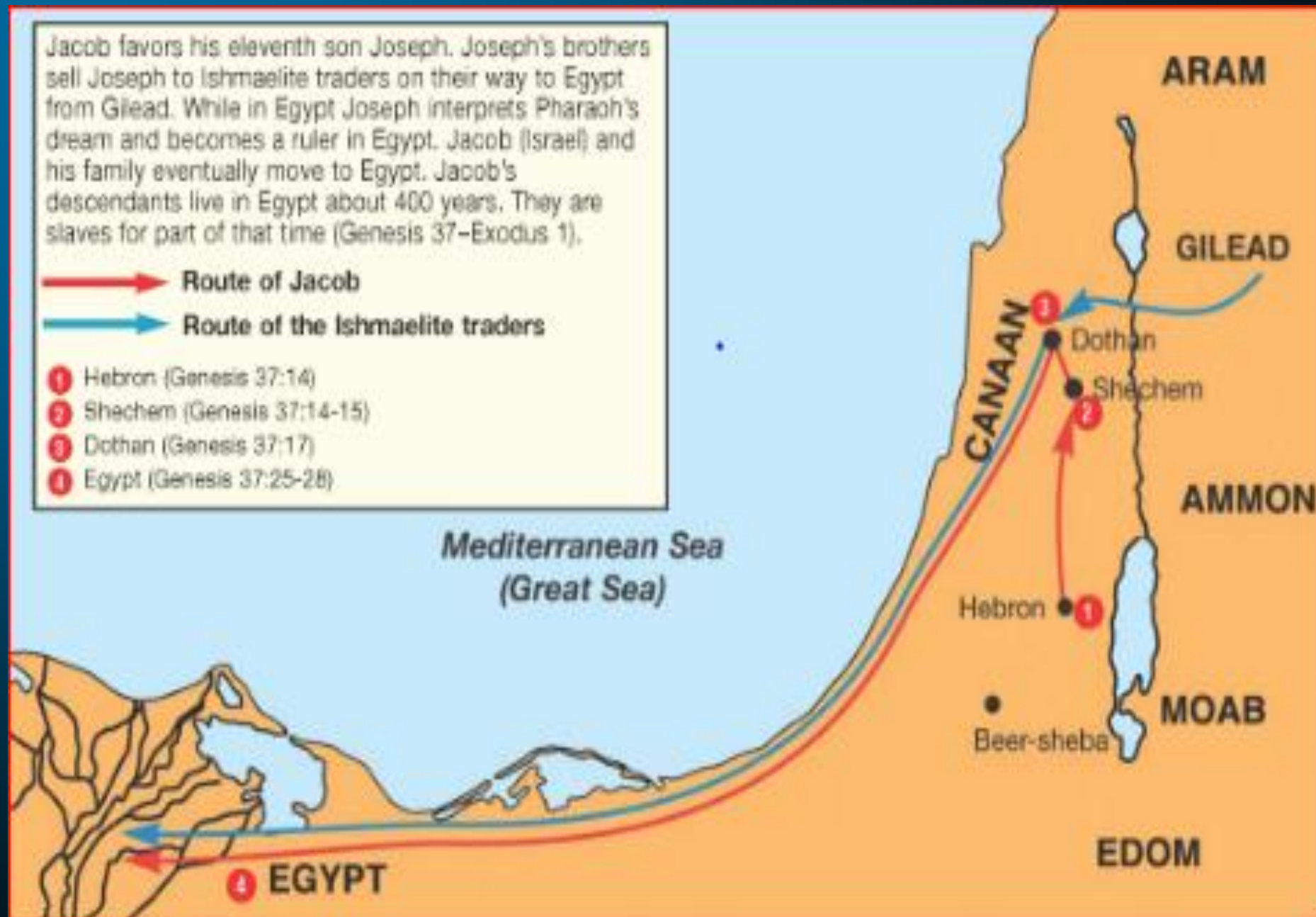
Genesis 37:17-20, 23-24, 26-28

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 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

