



Genesis

GRAND NARRATIVE OF THE HOLY BIBLE

Written by
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iBIBLE: The Grand Narrative, Genesis

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ONE | Creation (Part 1)

(Genesis Chapter 1:1–25)

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and empty, and darkness was upon the face of the deep. The Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said:

GOD Let there be light.

And there was light. God saw the light, and it was good. Then, He separated the light from the darkness. God called the light “Day,” and the darkness He called “Night.” And there was evening, and there was morning, the first day.

Then God said:

GOD Let there be an expanse in the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.

God made the expanse and separated the waters. The expanse between the waters He called “Sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning, the second day.

And God said:

GOD Let the waters below be gathered together and let dry ground appear.

And it happened just as God had commanded. Then God called the dry ground “Land,” and the waters which He had gathered together He called “Seas.” Seeing that it was good, God said:

GOD Let the land bring forth grass and plants and trees bearing fruit with seed to reproduce.

The land brought forth grass, plants, and trees, each with seeds according to its own kind. God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning, the third day.

God spoke again:

GOD Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate day from night. And let them be for signs, seasons, days, and years.

So God made two great lights: the sun to rule the day, and the moon to rule the night. He made all the stars and placed them in the heavens. God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning, the fourth day.

Then God said:

GOD Let the seas be filled with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth and across the sky.

God created every living creature, great and small, that lives in the seas, each one according to its own kind. He created every variety of winged bird, each according to its own kind. And seeing that it was good, God blessed them and said:

GOD Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters and the earth and the sky.

And there was evening, and there was morning, the fifth day.

Then God said:

GOD Let the earth produce livestock, creatures that crawl, every beast, and all wildlife according to its own kind.

So it happened. God created the beasts of the earth, the livestock, and everything that crawls on the earth, each according to its own kind. And God saw that it was good.

Memory Verses

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

Genesis 1:1-3

TWO | Creation (Part 2)

(Genesis Chapters 1:26–2:25)

After creating the heavens and the earth, day and night, the sun, the stars, and the moon, and all the animals that live in the sea, that fly above the earth, and all those that dwell on the land, God said:

GOD Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness; and let them have dominion over all the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, over the livestock, over every living thing that crawls, and over all the earth.

Then the LORD God formed man out of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. God named the man Adam and gave him dominion over all living things in the land, in the sky, and in the sea.

The LORD God planted a garden toward the east in Eden. There He placed Adam to tend the garden and to cultivate it. In the garden, He caused beautiful trees to grow that produced fruit that was good to eat.

God caused a mist to rise from the earth to water the ground. And a river flowed out of Eden to water the garden and flowed through the surrounding area.

In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God spoke to Adam and said:

GOD From every tree in the garden, you may freely eat. But you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. For if you do, you shall surely die.

Then the LORD God brought all the cattle, every beast of the field, and every bird of the air to Adam to see what he would call them. Whatever name Adam gave each of the living creatures, that became its name. Now all the creatures God had created had their mate, but for Adam no suitable helper was found.

And the LORD God said:

GOD It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make for him a companion suitable for helping him.

The LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and while he slept, God removed one of his ribs. And with the rib He removed from the man, He made a woman and brought her to him. When Adam woke up and saw the LORD God's new creation, he exclaimed:

ADAM You are bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh, and because you were formed from man, you will be called woman.

And the woman was named Eve, for she is the mother of all the living.

So it was that the LORD God created mankind in His own image. Male and female He created them in God's likeness. The man and the woman were naked, yet they were not ashamed.

God blessed Adam and Eve and said:

GOD Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and subdue it. I give you dominion over every creature that I have created. I am giving you every seed-bearing plant and every seed-bearing fruit as food to eat. And to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to every creature that crawls in which there is a living soul, I am giving every plant for food.

God provided man with a mate and established that when a man and his wife unite, the two should become as one. God saw all that He had created and that it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning, the sixth day.

On the seventh day, God's creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was finished. He rested on the seventh day from all His work. God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, for on this day God rested from all His work in creation.

Memory Verses

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply
and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea
and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on
the earth."

Genesis 1:27-28

THREE | **The Fall**

(Genesis Chapter 3)

Now the serpent, who was craftier than any of the creatures that the LORD God had made, said to Eve:

SERPENT Did God really say not to eat of any tree in the garden?

EVE We may eat the fruit of any tree, except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Of that tree, we must never eat, for if we do, God said we shall surely die.

SERPENT You will not surely die. For God knows that if you eat from that tree, your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.

EVE God said we should not even touch this tree!

Tempted by the serpent's words, Eve turned her gaze to the forbidden tree. She saw it was good for food, pleasant to the eyes, and desirable for gaining wisdom. So Eve went against God's command, and she ate of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and gave it to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

After eating the forbidden fruit, their eyes were opened, and they realized that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together to cover their bodies. And when they heard the sound of God as He was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, they hid from God's presence.

GOD Adam, where are you?

ADAM I heard Your voice in the garden. And I was afraid because I was naked.

GOD Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil—the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?

ADAM The woman You gave to be with me—she gave me the fruit from the tree, and I ate it.

GOD Eve, what have you done?

EVE The serpent—he deceived me. And I ate.

And the LORD God said to the serpent:

GOD Because you have done this, cursed are you—cursed above all livestock and above all living creatures of the field. You shall crawl on your belly and eat the dust of the earth all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between her seed and yours. He will crush your head, and you will bruise his heel.

Then the LORD God said to Eve:

GOD I will multiply your sorrow in childbearing. In great pain shall you give birth. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.

And then unto Adam, God said:

GOD Cursed is the ground because of you, for you have listened to your wife and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat. In pain you shall have to work the ground. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and in sorrow and sweat you shall work the ground for your food until you return to the ground from which you were taken. For dust you are, and to dust you shall return.

And the LORD God made garments of animal skins and clothed Adam and his wife. Then the LORD God said:

GOD Behold, the man has become like one of Us, understanding good and evil. He must not be allowed to stretch out his hand and take also from the tree of life and live forever.

So the LORD God drove the man from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was formed. And He placed at the east of the garden of Eden the cherubim, and a flaming sword that turned in every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.

Memory Verses

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

He [God] drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

Genesis 3:6, 24

FOUR | Cain & Abel

(Genesis Chapter 4)

Eve gave birth to a son named Cain.

EVE I have given birth to a man with the help of the LORD.

Eve also gave birth to Cain's brother, and his name was Abel. Cain worked the ground, while Abel tended sheep.

In the course of time, Cain brought an offering to the LORD from the produce of the ground. Abel also brought an offering to the LORD from the firstborn of his sheep. The LORD accepted Abel and his offering, but He did not accept Cain or his offering. Realizing this, Cain became very angry, and his countenance fell. And the LORD spoke to Cain, saying:

GOD Why are you angry and downcast? If you do what is good, will you not be accepted? If you do not do what is good, sin is crouching at the door and desires to overtake you. You must rule over it.

After hearing the warning of God, Cain went to speak to his brother Abel; and when they were in the field together, Cain turned on his brother Abel and killed him.

After Abel's death, the LORD called out to Cain:

GOD Where is your brother Abel?

CAIN I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?

GOD What have you done? I hear the voice of your brother's blood crying out to Me from the ground! Now you are cursed from the very ground that received your brother's blood by your hands. From this day forth, you will work the ground, but it will no longer yield its strength for you. You shall roam the earth, a fugitive and a wanderer.

After hearing God's judgment, Cain cried out to the LORD:

CAIN My punishment is greater than I can bear. You are banning me from the land and from Your presence. I will be a fugitive, wandering the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.

GOD Not so. Whoever kills Cain will receive vengeance sevenfold.

And the LORD set a mark upon Cain so that anyone who found him would not kill him.

After the death of Abel, Adam fathered another son in his likeness, and Eve named him Seth.

EVE God has granted me a son in place of Abel, whom Cain has killed.

When Seth was 105 years old, he had a son and named him Enosh. At that time, people began to call upon the name of the LORD.

Cain left the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of Nod that was east of Eden. He was intimate with his wife, and she bore him a child named Enoch. Cain built a city and named it Enoch after the name of his son.

The generations of Cain grew. One of Cain's descendants was named Lamech, who had two wives: Adah and Zillah. They bore him three sons: Jabal, the ancestor of those who live in tents and have livestock; Jubal, the ancestor of those who play lyre and pipe; and Tubal-cain, who forged tools from bronze and iron.

One day, Lamech came to Adah and Zillah and said to them:

LAMECH Adah, Zillah, listen to me. Hear what I say. I have killed a man, a young man, for striking me. If Cain's revenge is sevenfold, then Lamech's shall be seventy and sevenfold!

Memory Verses

The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it."

Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.

Genesis 4:6-8

FIVE | The Flood (Part 1)

(Genesis Chapters 5–7)

It came to pass, as mankind began to multiply on the earth, that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were attractive. And they took wives for themselves as they pleased.

And the LORD God said:

GOD My Spirit will not abide in man forever, for they are flesh; therefore, their lifespan shall be 120 years.

And in those days, the Nephilim were on the earth. These were mighty men of old, men of renown.

And God saw that the people on earth were very wicked. The intentions of their hearts were only evil. And God regretted that He had created mankind, and it grieved Him in His heart.

GOD I will destroy mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth, both man and beast, and everything that crawls, and the birds of the air, for I am sorry that I ever made them.

Among all the wicked people of the earth, there was a man who found favor with the LORD God. His name was Noah, and he walked with God. He was a direct descendant of Seth through eight generations: Enosh, Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, and Lamech, whose son was Noah. Noah had three sons named Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

And God spoke to Noah:

GOD The end of humanity has come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence because of them, and I will destroy them with the earth.

Make for yourself an ark of gopher wood. The length of the ark shall be 300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide, and 30 cubits high. It shall contain three levels, and you shall make rooms. At the top of the ark you shall make a window, and in its side a door. Then you shall cover the ark with pitch inside and out.

For behold, I Myself will cause the waters to flood the earth and destroy every living thing under heaven that breathes. Yet I will establish My covenant with you, for I have seen that you are not given to wickedness like other men. You are righteous before Me and those around you. You

will enter the ark along with your wife, your sons, and your sons' wives, and you only shall be saved.

Of every living creature you shall gather, of every kind of livestock, wild beast, and creature that crawls, and you shall bring them into the ark. You shall take seven of each clean animal, a male and its mate, and two of each of the unclean animals, a male and its mate. And you shall take seven of each kind of bird, a male and its mate, and keep them all alive with you and your family to repopulate the earth. And you shall gather every kind of food for your family and for all the animals.

Noah did just as God had commanded him. And when Noah was 600 years old, he entered the ark with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives. And all the animals that were gathered together entered two by two, male and female alike, and then the LORD God closed the door of the ark.

After seven days, the fountains of the earth burst, and the windows of heaven opened, and it rained on the earth for 40 days and 40 nights. As the waters grew higher, the ark lifted and floated on its surface. The waters completely overpowered the earth, covering the highest mountains by 15 cubits. All living things that dwelled on the earth perished. Only Noah was left, along with those who were with him in the ark.

Memory Verses

And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth."

Genesis 6:12-13

SIX | The Flood (Part 2)

(Genesis Chapters 8–9)

God remembered Noah and all the animals in the ark and made a wind to blow over the earth, and the waters began to recede. And 150 days from the time the flood began, the ark came to rest upon the mountains of Ararat. The waters continued to subside, and soon other mountain tops were visible.

After another 40 days, Noah opened the window at the top of the ark and released a raven, which flew back and forth until the waters had dried up. Then Noah sent out a dove to see if the waters had subsided, but the dove found no place to rest her feet and returned to the ark. So Noah brought the dove safely back into the ark with him.

Noah waited another seven days and again released the dove. And that evening, the dove returned to Noah, and in her mouth was a freshly plucked olive leaf. Noah waited another seven days and sent out the dove, only this time she did not return. And Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked out and saw that the surface of the ground was dry.

After a year on the ark, God spoke to Noah, saying:

GOD Come out from the ark—you and your wife, and your sons and their wives. Bring forth every beast, all the livestock, every bird, and everything that crawls on the ground, that they may multiply and replenish the earth.

Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and offered burnt offerings on the altar from every clean animal and every clean bird. And the LORD smelled the sweet aroma and said in His heart:

GOD I will never again curse the ground because of mankind, for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth. I will never again destroy all living things as I have done. As long as the earth remains, planting and harvesting, summer and winter, and day and night will not cease.

And the LORD God blessed Noah and his sons:

GOD Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth. Every beast of the earth, every fowl of the air, every creature on the ground, and all the fish of the sea will now fear you. I hand them over to you. Every living thing that moves shall be food for you; just as I gave you green plants, now I give you everything.

Whoever sheds man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made mankind in His own image. Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and multiply on it.

God spoke again to Noah and the sons who were with him:

GOD As for Me, I am establishing My covenant with you, with your descendants after you, and with every living creature that came out of the ark with you: every living creature of the earth. I will establish My covenant with you that never again will all living beings be destroyed by a flood. Never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.

This is the sign of My covenant I am making between Myself and you and every living creature for all generations to come: I have set My bow in the cloud, and it will be a sign of the covenant between Me and the earth.

Whenever I bring clouds over the earth, and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember My covenant, which is between Me and you and every living creature: the waters will never again destroy all living beings.

After the great flood, Noah began to work the ground, and he planted a vineyard. As his vineyard matured, Noah made wine from the grapes that he had planted. And one day, after drinking the wine, Noah became drunk, falling asleep naked in his tent.

Noah's youngest son, Ham, looked upon his father's nakedness and went out to tell his two brothers what he had seen. However, Ham's older brothers proceeded to walk backward into their father's tent with a garment to cover his naked body. Their faces were turned away, so they did not see their father's shame.

When Noah woke up from his drunken state and learned what Ham had done, he cursed Ham's youngest son, Canaan.

NOAH Cursed be Canaan! A servant of servants he shall be to his brothers. Blessed be the LORD God of Shem, and let Canaan be his servant. May God enlarge Japheth, and let him dwell in the tents of Shem, and let Canaan be his servant.

The sons of Noah that went forth from the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. These three were the sons of Noah, and by these the whole earth was populated. After the flood, Noah lived 350 years. All the days of Noah were 950 years, and then he died.

Memory Verses

I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

Genesis 9:13–15

SEVEN | The Tower of Babel

(Genesis Chapters 10:1–11:9)

After the great flood, the sons of Noah and their wives began to repopulate the earth. And among their descendants was a mighty man, a leader among men, and a fierce hunter before the LORD. His name was Nimrod, and he was the great-grandson of Noah through his son Ham and Ham's son Cush. And the beginnings of his kingdom included Babel in the land of Shinar.

At that time, the people of the earth spoke one language. And as it came to pass, they traveled from the east and found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there, desiring to make a name for themselves.

NIMROD With bricks and mortar, we shall build a great city! And in our city, we will build a tower with its top reaching up into the heavens! We shall settle here. We shall not be scattered all over the face of the earth.

As the people continued to build, the LORD came down to see their city and their tower. And the LORD said:

GOD Behold, the people are united, and they all share one language, and this is what they have started to do. Now nothing they set out to accomplish will be impossible for them. Come, let Us go down and confuse their language, so they might not understand one another's speech.

So the LORD scattered the people all over the earth, and the building of the city and the tower stopped. Therefore its name was called Babel, because it was there that God confused their language and scattered the people over the face of the earth.

Memory Verses

The LORD said... "Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech."

So the LORD dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth. And from there the LORD dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

Genesis 11:6a, 7–9

EIGHT | The Call of Abram

(Genesis Chapters 11:10–12:20)

These are the generations of Shem: Arpachshad, Shelah, Eber, Peleg, Reu, Serug, Nahor, and Terah.

And Terah had three sons: Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Haran fathered Lot and died in the presence of his father in Ur of the Chaldeans.

Abram and Nahor took wives for themselves. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's was Milcah. But Sarai was barren; she was without child.

One day, Terah took his son Abram, his daughter-in-law Sarai, and his grandson Lot, and left the land of Ur to go into the land of Canaan. However, once they reached the land of Haran, they settled there. And Terah lived to the age of 205 and died in Haran.

While in Ur, the LORD had said to Abram:

GOD Go out from your country, away from your kindred, away from your father's house, and go to the land that I will show you. And I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and curse those who curse you. In you all the families of the earth will be blessed.

When Abram was 75 years of age, after his father had died, he gathered his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, and all their possessions and servants, and set out for the land of Canaan, as the LORD had instructed him.

On his way to Canaan, Abram passed through Shechem to the oak of Moreh. At that time, the Canaanites dwelled in the land. Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said:

GOD To your descendants I will give this land.

And Abram built an altar to the LORD, Who had appeared to him. Then he left that place and went to the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent. And there he built another altar and called on the name of the LORD.

Abram continued his journey south toward the Negeb, but there was a severe famine in the land, so Abram went down into Egypt. As they approached the land of Egypt, Abram said to his wife, Sarai:

ABRAM I know that you are a beautiful woman, and when the Egyptians see you, they will say that you are my wife, and they will kill me but keep you

alive. Please say that you are my sister so that they will treat me well, and I will stay alive because of you.

It came to pass that when Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians did notice that Sarai was very beautiful. And the princes of Pharaoh saw her and praised her to Pharaoh, so Sarai was taken into Pharaoh's palace. Pharaoh treated Abram very well and gave him sheep, cattle, donkeys, camels, and male and female servants.

But the LORD inflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, the wife of Abram. And Pharaoh called Abram and said:

PARAOH What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? Why did you say, "She is my sister," so that I took her to be my own wife? Now, here is your wife! Take her and go away!

And Pharaoh gave orders to his men, and they sent Abram away, along with his wife and everything he had.

Memory Verses

Now the LORD said to Abram,

"Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Genesis 12:1-3

NINE | Abram & The Kings' War

(Genesis Chapters 13–14)

Abram went up out of Egypt, along with his wife and all that he had, for Abram was very wealthy, possessing livestock, silver, and gold. And Abram's nephew Lot went with him. And he traveled to Bethel, to the place he had pitched his tent at the beginning, where he had first built the altar and called on the name of the LORD.

And Lot, who was traveling with Abram, also had flocks, herds, and tents. But the land could not support them living together, for their possessions were too great. And the herdsmen of Abram and Lot began to quarrel.

Abram said to Lot:

ABRAM Let us not have quarreling between me and you, or between my herdsmen and yours, since we are family. Is not the entire land before you? Please separate yourself from me. If you go to the left, I will go to the right; if you go to the right, I will go to the left.

And Lot lifted his eyes and saw that the plain of Jordan was well watered, like the garden of God and the land of Egypt. So Lot chose all the Jordan Valley for himself, and they separated themselves one from another. Abram lived in Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the valley and pitched his tent near Sodom. But the men of Sodom were evil, committing great sins against the LORD.

After Lot had moved away, the LORD said unto Abram:

GOD Lift up your eyes and look all around from where you are—to the north, the south, the east, and the west. All the land you see I will give to you and to your descendants forever. And I will make your descendants as numerous as the sands of the earth. Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you.

Abram moved his tent and came to live by the oaks of Mamre which are in Hebron, and there he built an altar to the LORD.

And it came to pass, Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim made war against Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboiim and the king of Bela, which is Zoar.

All these forces joined in battle in the Valley of Siddim—where the Dead Sea is—four kings warring against five. And the Valley of Siddim was full of tar pits, and when the

kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, some fell into them, while the rest fled to the mountains.

And the victors took all the possessions of Sodom and Gomorrah, along with all their provisions. And as they left, they took Abram's nephew Lot, who was living in Sodom, along with all his possessions.

One who had escaped the battle came to Abram, who was living by the oaks of Mamre. And when Abram heard that his nephew had been taken captive, he gathered his trained men, 318 of them, who had been born in his house, and went in pursuit of the kings' armies as far as Dan.

During the night, he divided his forces and attacked and defeated them, and pursued them all the way to Hobah, which is north of Damascus. He recovered all the goods and brought back his nephew Lot, with his possessions, together with the others who had been taken captive.

After Abram's return from the defeat of the four kings, the king of Sodom went out to meet Abram in the Valley of Shaveh—the King's Valley. And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was the priest of the Most High God, and he blessed Abram, saying:

MELCHIZEDEK Blessed be Abram of God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth, and blessed be God Most High, Who delivered your enemies into your hands.

And Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of everything.

Then the king of Sodom said to Abram:

KING OF SODOM Give me the people and keep the goods for yourself.

And Abram answered the king of Sodom, saying:

ABRAM I have raised my hand in an oath to the LORD, the Most High God, the possessor of heaven and earth, that I will not take so much as a thread or a strap of a sandal of anything that is yours, so that you will not be able to say, "I made Abram rich." I will only take what my young men have eaten and the share of the spoil belonging to the men who came with me: Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them have their share.

Memory Verses

And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine.
(He was priest of God Most High.) And he blessed him and said,

“Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and
earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies
into your hand!”

And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

Genesis 14:18–20

TEN | Everlasting Covenant

(Genesis Chapter 15)

After the rescue of Lot and the encounter with Melchizedek, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision.

GOD Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, and the One Who will reward you with great abundance.

ABRAM LORD God, what good will be your gifts if I continue to be childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus? You have not given me a child; a member of my house will be my heir.

GOD This man will not be your heir. No. Your heir will be your own son.

And then the LORD God brought Abram outside and said:

GOD Look up at the sky and count the stars—if you are able to count them. So shall be the number of your offspring.

And Abram believed the LORD, and He counted it to him as righteousness.

Then God said to Abram:

GOD I am the LORD, Who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as your possession.

ABRAM LORD God, how am I to know that I will possess the land?

GOD Bring me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.

Abram gathered all of these, divided them in two—except for the birds—and placed the pieces opposite each other. And when birds of prey came down to eat the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

And as the sun was setting, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and horror and great darkness came upon him. And the LORD said to Abram:

GOD Know this for certain: your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs. They will become slaves and will be held in oppression for 400 years. But I will judge that nation that makes them slaves, and afterward they shall leave with great possessions.

As for you, you will join your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. Only in the fourth generation will your descendants come back here because the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.

After the sun had set, and it was dark, a smoking pot and a flaming torch appeared and passed between the pieces of the animals. And that day, the LORD made a covenant with Abram:

GOD I have given this land to your descendants, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river of Euphrates.

Memory Verses

And [God] brought [Abram] outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Genesis 15:5–6

ELEVEN | The Birth of Ishmael

(Genesis Chapter 16)

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had not borne him any children. But she had an Egyptian servant named Hagar, so Sarai said to Abram:

SARAI Behold, the LORD has kept me from having children. Go and sleep with my servant, that I may have children through her.

Abram listened to what Sarai said. So after Abram had lived in the land of Canaan for ten years, Sarai took Hagar, her Egyptian servant, and gave her to Abram as his wife.

After Hagar became aware that she was pregnant, she looked on Sarai with contempt. And Sarai said to Abram:

SARAI This outrage upon me is your fault! I gave my servant to you, but when she saw that she was pregnant, I was despised in her eyes. May the LORD judge who is right—me or you!

Abram answered Sarai and said:

ABRAM Behold, she is your servant. Deal with her as you please.

And when Sarai dealt harshly with her, Hagar ran away.

The Angel of the LORD found Hagar by a spring in the desert. And the Angel said:

ANGEL OF THE LORD Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?

HAGAR I am running away from my mistress Sarai.

ANGEL OF THE LORD Go back to your mistress and submit to her authority. I will greatly increase your descendants so that it will not be possible to count them all.

Behold, you will give birth to a son. You shall call him Ishmael because the LORD has heard your affliction. He will be a wild man. His hand will be against everyone, and everyone's hand shall be against him. He shall live in conflict with his brethren.

So Hagar called on the name of the LORD, Who spoke to her, and she said:

HAGAR You are the God Who sees me. Now I have seen the One Who sees me.

Therefore, the well was called Beer-lahai-roi, meaning “The well of the One Who sees me,” and it lies between Kadesh and Bered.

So Hagar returned to Sarai, and when Abram was 86 years old, Hagar bore him a son. Abram named him Ishmael.

Memory Verses

So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram’s wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife.

And Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.

Genesis 16:3, 15–16

TWELVE | Abram to Abraham

(Genesis Chapter 17)

When Abram was 99 years old, the LORD appeared to him.

GOD I am the Almighty God. Walk before Me and be purehearted, and I will make a covenant between Me and you, and I will increase your descendants greatly.

Abram fell on his face, and God said to him:

GOD As for Me, this is My covenant with you: you shall be the father of many nations. Your name will no longer be Abram. Your name is now Abraham because I have made you the father of many nations.

I will cause you to be exceedingly fruitful. I will make nations of you, and kings will descend from you. I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your offspring after you—generation after generation—as an everlasting covenant. I will be God for you and for your descendants after you.

And I will give you and your descendants after you the land in which you are now foreigners—all the land of Canaan—as an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.

As for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you, generation after generation. This is My covenant which you and the descendants after you are to keep:

Every male among you is to be circumcised. You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin. This will be the sign of the covenant between Me and you.

Generation after generation, every male among you who is eight days old is to be circumcised, including servants born within your household and those bought from a foreigner. My covenant shall be in your flesh as an everlasting covenant. Any male who will not let himself be circumcised, that person will be cut off from his people because he has broken My covenant.

And God said unto Abraham:

GOD As for Sarai, your wife, you are not to call her Sarai; her name is to be Sarah. And I will bless her and give you a son by her. Truly, I will bless

her. She will be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.

Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself:

ABRAHAM Will a child be born of a man 100 years old? Will Sarah give birth at 90?

And Abraham said to God:

ABRAHAM Oh, that Ishmael might live in Your presence!

But God answered:

GOD No. Sarah your wife will bear you a son, and you are to call him Isaac. I will establish My covenant with him as an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him.

And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and I will make him fruitful and multiply his descendants. He will father 12 princes, and I will make him a great nation. But I will establish My covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this time next year.

When God finished speaking with Abraham, He went up from him.

And on that very day, Abraham took Ishmael his son, all of those born in his house, and all those bought with money, every male among the men of Abraham's house, and circumcised the flesh of their foreskins as God had instructed him.

Abraham was 99 years old when he was circumcised, and his son Ishmael was 13 years old when he was circumcised.

Memory Verses

"Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.

And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

Genesis 17:4–5, 7

THIRTEEN | **Divine Negotiation**

(Genesis Chapter 18)

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre as he sat by the entrance of his tent during the heat of the day.

Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there in front of him stood three men. When he saw them, he ran to meet them and bowed to the ground and said:

ABRAHAM My Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, please do not pass by. Please let me send for some water so you may wash your feet and rest under the tree. I will bring you some bread. Now that you have come to your servant, refresh yourself before going on.

GOD Very well. Do as you have said.

Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said:

ABRAHAM Quick! Take three measures of the best flour; knead it and make cakes.

Then Abraham ran to the herd and selected a calf and gave it to his servant, who quickly prepared it. Then he took butter, milk, and the calf that he had prepared, and he brought it to the three men. Abraham stood by them under the tree while the men ate.

And the men said to Abraham:

GOD Where is Sarah your wife?

ABRAHAM She is there in the tent.

GOD I will return to you around this same time next year, and Sarah, your wife, will have a son.

Sarah was listening from the entrance of the tent. Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing, so Sarah laughed to herself.

SARAH I am old, and so is my husband. Shall I have this pleasure again?

And the LORD said to Abraham:

GOD Why did Sarah laugh and ask, “Am I really going to bear a child when I am so old?” Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time, at this time next year, I will return, and Sarah will have a son.

But Sarah denied it because she was afraid:

SARAH I did not laugh.

GOD Yes, you did laugh.

The three men rose up and looked toward Sodom, and Abraham went with them to see them on their way.

As the three men journeyed to Sodom with Abraham, the LORD said:

GOD Should I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, seeing that Abraham is sure to become a great nation and all the nations of the earth will be blessed by him? For I have made Myself known to him, so that he will command his children and his household after him to keep the ways of the LORD, to do what is right and just, so the LORD may bring about for Abraham what He has promised him.

Then the LORD said to Abraham:

GOD The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is so serious, I will go down there now and see if they have done according to the outcry that has reached Me.

And the men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the LORD.

While the men walked toward Sodom, Abraham approached the LORD and said:

ABRAHAM Will you destroy the righteous with the wicked? Perhaps there are 50 righteous in the city. Will you not spare the city for the sake of the 50 righteous? Far be it from You! Should not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?

GOD If I find 50 righteous people in Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake.

ABRAHAM I, who am but dust and ashes, have taken it upon myself to speak to the LORD. What if there are five less than 50?

GOD If I find 45 righteous, I will not destroy it.

ABRAHAM What if 40 are found there?

GOD For the sake of the 40, I will not do it.

Abraham continued to speak to the LORD about sparing the city of Sodom if righteous men could be found in the city.

ABRAHAM I hope the LORD will not be angry if I speak, but what if 30 are found there?

GOD I will not do it if I find 30 there.

ABRAHAM I have taken it upon myself to speak to the LORD. What if 20 men are found there?

GOD For the sake of the 20, I will not destroy it.

ABRAHAM I hope the LORD will not be angry if I speak just once more. What if ten are found there?

GOD For the sake of the ten, I will not destroy the city.

And the LORD went His way after He had finished speaking with Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.

Memory Verses

The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son."

Genesis 18:13–14

FOURTEEN | Lot & Sodom

(Genesis Chapter 19)

In the evening, Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom when he saw the two angels of the LORD approach. He greeted them, bowing to the ground.

LOT My lords, please come over to your servant's house. Spend the night, wash your feet, rise up early, and go on your way.

ANGEL No, we will spend the night in the city square.

But Lot kept pressing them, and so they went home with him, and he made a feast for them and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.

Before Lot's guests could go to bed, the men from all over the city, both young and old, surrounded Lot's house.

MEN Where are the men who came to you tonight?

Bring them out to us, that we may know them.

Lot went out, stood in the doorway, and shut the door behind him.

LOT Please, my brothers, do not do such a wicked thing. Behold, I have two daughters who have never been with a man. Let me bring them out, and you can do with them as you please. Do not do anything to these men, for they are guests in my house.

MEN Stand back!

This fellow came to live here, and now he has become the judge. For that, we will deal with you worse than with them.

Then they crowded around Lot, pushing against him to break down the door. But the angels inside pulled Lot into the house with them and shut the door, and they struck the men at the door with blindness so that they wore themselves out groping for the door.

The angels said to Lot:

ANGEL Do you have anyone else here? Whoever you have in the city—sons-in-law, sons, daughters—bring them out of this place because the LORD has sent us to destroy it.

And Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were going to marry his daughters:

LOT Get up, leave this place! The LORD is about to destroy this city!

But his sons-in-law did not take him seriously.

As morning dawned, the angels urged Lot:

ANGEL Get up! Take your wife and your two daughters, or you will be consumed in the punishment of this city.

But Lot lingered. So the men seized him, his wife, and his daughters by the hand—the LORD being merciful—and they brought them and set them outside the city.

ANGEL Flee for your life! Do not look behind you and do not stop anywhere in the valley! Escape to the hills, otherwise you will be swept away.

LOT Please, no, my lord! Behold, you have shown your servant great mercy by saving my life. But I cannot escape to the hills; I am afraid the disaster will overtake me, and I will die. Look, there is a small town nearby. Please let me escape there.

ANGEL I agree to what you have asked. I will not overthrow that city. Escape there quickly, for I cannot do anything until you arrive there.

By the time Lot came to Zoar, the sun had risen over the land. And the LORD rained sulfur and fire out of the sky on Sodom and Gomorrah, and He overthrew the cities, the entire plain, and everything that grew in the ground.

But Lot's wife, behind him, looked back and became a pillar of salt.

And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the LORD and looked out toward the land of the valley. There before him, the smoke was rising from the land. And so it happened that when God destroyed the cities of the plains, He remembered Abraham and sent Lot away from the destruction.

Lot was afraid to live in Zoar, so he went up into the hills and lived in a cave with his two daughters.

And the firstborn said to the younger:

OLDER DAUGHTER Our father is old, and there is not a man in the earth to come unto us in the customary manner. Let us make our father drunk with wine, then we will lay with him. In this way, our father will have descendants.

So they made their father drink wine that night. And the older daughter went in and

slept with her father. Lot did not know when she laid down or when she rose.

The following night, Lot's daughters also made their father drink wine, and the younger one slept with him. Lot did not know when she laid down or when she rose.

The firstborn gave birth to a son and called him Moab. He is the ancestor of the Moabites. The younger also gave birth to a son and called him Ben-ammi. He is the ancestor of the Ammonites.

Memory Verses

Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the LORD out of heaven. And he overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. But Lot's wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

So it was that, when God destroyed the cities of the valley, God remembered Abraham and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow when he overthrew the cities in which Lot had lived.

Genesis 19:24–26, 29

FIFTEEN | Abraham & Abimelech

(Genesis Chapter 20)

Abraham traveled south from the oaks of Mamre toward the Negeb and dwelt in Gerar. And Abraham said of his wife, Sarah:

ABRAHAM She is my sister.

So Abimelech, king of Gerar, sent and took Sarah. But God came to Abimelech in a dream and said to him:

GOD Behold, you are but a dead man, for the woman that you have taken is a man's wife.

But Abimelech had not come near Sarah.

Then Abimelech said to the LORD:

KING ABIMELECH LORD, will you also slay a righteous nation? Did he not say to me, "She is my sister"? And even she herself said, "He is my brother." I have done this in the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands.

And God said to him in the dream:

GOD Yes, I know that you did this in the integrity of your heart, and I have kept you from sinning against Me. This is why I did not let you touch her.

Return the man's wife to him now. He is a prophet, and he will pray for you so that you will live. But if you do not return her, know that you and all who belong to you will certainly die.

Abimelech rose early in the morning, called all his servants, and told them these things. And the men became very afraid.

Then Abimelech called Abraham and said to him:

KING ABIMELECH What have you done to us? And how have I offended you to cause you to bring upon me and my kingdom such a great sin? Whatever could have caused you to do such a thing?

And Abraham replied:

ABRAHAM It was because I thought the fear of God was not in this place and that they would kill me in order to get my wife. And she is indeed my sister. She is the daughter of my father but not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife. When God caused me to leave my father's house, I told her, "Do this favor for me: wherever we go, say about me, 'He is my brother.'"

Then Abimelech took sheep, oxen, and male and female servants and gave them to Abraham. And he returned Sarah, his wife. And Abimelech said:

KING ABIMELECH Behold, my land is before you; live where you please.

And to Sarah he said:

KING ABIMELECH Behold, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver. It is a sign of your innocence in the eyes of all who are with you, and before everyone you are vindicated.

So Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech and his wife and all the female slaves so that they bore children. For the LORD had closed all the wombs of the house of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham's wife.

Memory Verses

And Abimelech said, "Behold, my land is before you; dwell where it pleases you."

To Sarah he said, "Behold, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver. It is a sign of your innocence in the eyes of all who are with you, and before everyone you are vindicated."

Genesis 20:15–16

SIXTEEN | **The Birth of Isaac**

(Genesis Chapter 21)

The LORD remembered Sarah and did for her what He had promised. Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the very time God had said she would.

Abraham called the son, whom Sarah had born to him, Isaac. And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, just as God had commanded him. Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born to him.

And Sarah said:

SARAH God has given me good reason to laugh. Now everyone who hears will laugh with me. Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age!

Isaac grew, and on the day that he was weaned, Abraham made a great feast. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar, Ishmael, making fun of Isaac.

So Sarah said to Abraham:

SARAH Cast out this slave woman and her son. The son of the slave woman will not be an heir along with my son, Isaac.

Abraham became very distressed over this matter with his son. But God said to him:

GOD Do not be distressed because of the boy and the slave girl. Listen to everything Sarah says to you because it is your descendants through Isaac who will be counted. But I will also make a nation from the son of the slave girl, since he is your offspring.

So Abraham rose early in the morning, took bread and a skin of water, gave it to Hagar, and sent her away, along with her child.

After leaving, Hagar wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba, and when the water was gone, she left the child under a bush.

She went and sat down opposite him, about the distance of a bowshot away, saying:

HAGAR I cannot bear to watch my child die.

She sat there, looking the other way, and wept. And God heard the boy's voice, and the angel of God said to Hagar from out of Heaven:

ANGEL OF GOD What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid. God has heard the voice of the boy. Arise! Lift the boy up and hold him tightly in your hand because I am going to make him into a great nation.

Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave her son water to drink. God was with the boy, and as he grew, he became an archer and lived in the wilderness of Paran. And his mother chose a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

At that time, Abimelech and Phicol, the commander of his army, said to Abraham:

KING ABIMELECH God is with you in everything you do. Therefore, swear to me now that you will never deal falsely with me or my sons or grandsons. According to the kindness with which I have treated you, you will treat me and the land in which you have lived as a foreigner.

ABRAHAM I swear it.

And Abraham complained to Abimelech about a well that Abimelech's servants had violently seized. And Abimelech answered:

KING ABIMELECH I do not know who has done this. You did not tell me. I heard about it only today.

And Abraham gave sheep and oxen to Abimelech, and the two of them made a covenant.

Then Abraham put seven female lambs from the flock by themselves. And Abimelech asked Abraham:

KING ABIMELECH What is the meaning of these seven female lambs you have put by themselves?

ABRAHAM You are to accept these seven female lambs from me as a witness that I dug this well.

Therefore, the place was called Beersheba because there they both swore an oath.

After they made the covenant at Beersheba, Abimelech and Phicol returned to the land of the Philistines, and Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba and called on the name of the LORD, the everlasting God.

And Abraham lived for a long time in the land of the Philistines as a foreigner.

Memory Verses

The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had promised. And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac.

Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

Genesis 21:1–3, 5

SEVENTEEN | Abraham's Test

(Genesis Chapters 22–23)

And it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham and said to him:

GOD Abraham!

ABRAHAM Here I am.

GOD Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you are to offer him as a burnt offering on a mountain that I will tell you.

So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men along with Isaac his son. He cut the wood for the burnt offering, and he went toward the place God had told him. And on the third day, Abraham raised his eyes and saw the place in the distance. And Abraham said to his young men:

ABRAHAM Stay here with the donkey. I and the boy will go there and worship, and we will return to you.

Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. Then he took the fire and the knife, and together they went on.

And Isaac spoke to his father Abraham:

ISAAC My father...

ABRAHAM Here I am, my son.

ISAAC I see the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?

ABRAHAM My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering.

So they continued on together.

When they came to the place that God had told him of, Abraham built the altar, set the wood in order, bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar. Then Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to kill his son.

But the Angel of the LORD called to him out of Heaven:

ANGEL OF THE LORD Abraham, Abraham!

ABRAHAM Here I am.

ANGEL OF THE LORD Do not lay your hand on the boy! Do not do anything to him! For, now I know that you are a man who fears God because you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.

And Abraham looked up, and there behind him was a ram caught in the bushes by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up for a burnt offering in place of his son.

And Abraham called the place Yahweh Yireh, as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD, it shall be provided."

And the Angel of the LORD called out to Abraham again, out of Heaven, and said:

ANGEL OF THE LORD By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD. Because you have not withheld your son, your only son, I will bless you; and I will multiply your offspring as the stars of the heavens and as the sands of the sea.

Your offspring will possess the cities of their enemies. And by your offspring all the nations of the earth will be blessed because you have obeyed My voice.

So Abraham returned to his young men, and together they went to Beersheba.

Sarah lived to be 127 years old, and she died in Hebron in the land of Canaan. And Abraham came to mourn Sarah and weep for her. Then Abraham rose up and spoke to the sons of Heth.

ABRAHAM I am a stranger and living as a foreigner here with you. Let me have a burial site with you, so that I may bury my wife.

And the sons of Heth answered Abraham, saying:

SONS OF HETH Listen to us, my lord. You are a prince of God among us, so choose any of our tombs to bury your dead.

Not one of us would refuse his tomb.

Abraham bowed himself before the people of the land and said:

ABRAHAM If it is your desire to allow me to bury my dead, then listen to me. Ask Ephron, the son of Zohar, to sell me the cave of Machpelah, which he owns—the one at the end of his field.

Ephron the Hittite was sitting among the sons of Heth, and he answered Abraham, saying:

EPHRON No, my lord, listen to me. I am giving you the field with its cave. In the presence of my people, I give it to you.

Abraham bowed again before the people of the land and said to Ephron:

ABRAHAM Please listen to me. I will pay the full value for the field; accept it from me, and I will bury my dead there.

EPHRON My lord, listen to me. The plot of land is worth 400 pieces of silver. What is that between me and you?

Then Abraham listened to Ephron and weighed out 400 shekels of silver in the presence of the sons of Heth. And after this, Abraham buried his wife Sarah in the cave of Machpelah, by Mamre, in the land of Canaan.

Memory Verses

Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."

Genesis 22:10-12

EIGHTEEN | Rebekah Is Chosen

(Genesis Chapter 24:1–28)

When Abraham was old and the LORD had blessed him in all things, Abraham said to the servant who had served him the longest and was in charge of all he owned:

ABRAHAM Put your hand under my thigh and swear by the LORD, the God of Heaven and earth, that you will not choose a wife for my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I am living, but that you will go to my homeland, to my kindred, and choose a wife for my son Isaac.

SERVANT OF ABRAHAM Suppose the woman is not willing to follow me to this land. Must I then bring your son back to the land from which you came?

ABRAHAM Do not bring my son back there. The LORD, the God of Heaven—Who took me away from my father’s house and away from the land I was born in, Who swore to me, “I will give this land to your descendants”—He will send His angel ahead of you, and you shall bring a wife to my son from there. But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you are released from this oath of mine, only do not bring my son back there.

Then the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham, his master, and swore to him concerning this matter.

The servant took ten of his master’s camels and all kinds of gifts from his master and went to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor. As evening approached, when the women went out to draw water, he had his camels kneel down by a well outside the city. And the servant said:

SERVANT OF ABRAHAM Oh LORD God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show Your kindness to my master Abraham. Here I am standing by the well of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water.

I will say to one of the young women, “Please lower your pitcher that I may drink.” If she answers, “Drink, and I will give water to your camels as well,” then let her be the one You intend for Your servant Isaac. This is how I will know that You have shown kindness to my master.

Before the servant had finished speaking, Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel, the son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham’s brother, came out with her pitcher upon her shoulder. The young woman was very beautiful and a virgin. She went down to the

well, filled her pitcher, and came up. Abraham's servant ran to meet her and said:

SERVANT OF ABRAHAM Please give me a little water to drink from your pitcher.

REBEKAH Drink, my lord.

And Rebekah immediately lowered her pitcher onto her arm and gave him a drink. When she was done letting him drink, she said:

REBEKAH I will also draw water for your camels until they are done drinking.

Rebekah quickly emptied her pitcher into the trough and ran to the well to draw more water. She continued to draw water for all his camels. And the servant watched her, waiting to see whether the LORD had made his trip successful or not.

When the camels were done drinking, the servant took a gold ring and two gold bracelets and asked:

SERVANT OF ABRAHAM Whose daughter are you? And please tell me, is there room in your father's house for us to spend the night?

REBEKAH I am the daughter of Bethuel, the son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor. We have plenty of straw and food for your animals and room for you to spend the night.

Then the servant bowed his head and worshipped the LORD, saying:

SERVANT OF ABRAHAM Blessed be the LORD, God of my master Abraham, Who has not forsaken His love for my master. The LORD has guided me to the house of my master's relatives.

And the young woman ran off and told those of her mother's house what had happened.

Memory Verses

Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years. And the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things. And Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he had, "Put your hand under my thigh, that I may make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell, but will go to my country and to my kindred, and take a wife for my son Isaac."

Genesis 24:1-4

NINETEEN | Isaac & Rebekah

(Genesis Chapters 24:29–25:11)

Rebekah had a brother named Laban. When he saw the ring and the bracelets on his sister's wrists, and heard the report of what the man had said to her, he ran out to the well and found the man standing there by the camels and said:

LABAN Come in, you who are blessed by the LORD. Why are you standing outside when I have prepared a room for you in the house and a place for your camels?

So Abraham's servant went inside, and his camels were unloaded and given food. And water was provided for the servant to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him.

And when food was set before him, he said:

SERVANT OF ABRAHAM I will not eat until I say what I have to say.

LABAN Speak on.

The servant told them about his master Abraham and the oath he had made to find a wife for Isaac in the land of Abraham's father and among his kindred. He then shared how he asked the LORD to show him who He intended for Isaac, and how Rebekah not only offered him a drink but offered to water his camels as well.

When he was finished speaking, he said:

SERVANT OF ABRAHAM And now, please tell me if you are going to deal kindly and truly with my master.

Then Laban and Bethuel answered Abraham's servant and said:

LABAN Since this comes from the LORD, we cannot say anything to you good or bad.

BETHUEL Rebekah is here in front of you, take her and go. Let her be your master's son's wife, as the LORD has spoken.

When Abraham's servant heard their words, he bowed down before the LORD. And the servant brought out jewels of silver, jewels of gold, and garments, and gave them to Rebekah. He also gave valuable gifts to her brother and her mother.

Then he and the men with him ate and drank and stayed the night.

In the morning, Abraham's servant said:

SERVANT OF ABRAHAM Send me away to my master.

But her brother and mother said:

MOTHER OF REBEKAH Let Rebekah stay with us a few days—at least ten.

LABAN After that, she will go.

SERVANT OF ABRAHAM Do not delay me. Since the LORD has made my trip successful, let me go back to my master.

And they answered:

MOTHER OF REBEKAH We will call the girl and see what she says.

So they called Rebekah and asked her:

LABAN Will you go with this man?

REBEKAH I will go.

So they sent Rebekah away, along with her nurse, with Abraham's servants and his men. And they blessed Rebekah with these words:

LABAN Our sister, may you be the mother of tens of thousands, and may your descendants possess the cities of those who hate them.

Then Rebekah and her young women rode on the camels and followed Abraham's servant. So the servant took Rebekah and went on his way.

Meanwhile, Isaac, after coming along the road from Beer-lahai-roi, went out walking in the field. And as he looked up, he saw camels approaching. Rebekah also looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she quickly dismounted from the camel and said to the servant:

REBEKAH Who is the man walking in the field to meet us?

When the servant replied,

SERVANT OF ABRAHAM it is my master,

she took her veil and covered herself. The servant told Isaac everything he had done. And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent and took Rebekah as his wife.

Isaac loved her, and he was comforted after his mother's death.

Abraham took another wife, and her name was Keturah. And she bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah.

And Jokshan fathered Sheba and Dedan. And the sons of Dedan were Asshurim, Letushim, and Leummim.

And the sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abida, and Eldaah.

All of these were the children of Keturah. And Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac. But to the sons of his concubines Abraham gave gifts, and he sent them away from Isaac his son.

Abraham died at a good old age of 175 years, an old man full of years, and was gathered to his people. Abraham's sons, Isaac and Ishmael, buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron, that Abraham purchased from the Hittites.

There Abraham was buried with Sarah his wife.

After Abraham died, God blessed Isaac, and Isaac lived near Beer-lahai-roi.

Memory Verses

And they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will go." So they sent away Rebekah their sister and her nurse, and Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

"Our sister, may you become thousands of ten thousands, and may your offspring possess the gate of those who hate him!"

Then Rebekah and her young women arose and rode on the camels and followed the man. Thus the servant took Rebekah and went his way.

Genesis 24:58-61

TWENTY | **Jacob & Esau (Part 1)**

(Genesis Chapters 25:19–26:33)

Isaac was 40 years old when he married Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean. She was unable to conceive, so Isaac prayed to the LORD on her behalf, and 20 years later, when Isaac was 60, his prayer was answered.

Rebekah became pregnant, and the children struggled together within her womb, causing her to inquire of the LORD:

REBEKAH Why is this happening to me?

And the LORD said to her:

GOD There are two nations in your womb. From birth they will be divided. One will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger.

Now when the time came for Rebekah's delivery, she gave birth to twins. The first to be born was red and covered all over with hair like a coat. They named him Esau.

When the second child came out, his hand was grasping Esau's heel. That child was named Jacob. As the brothers grew, they were very different. Jacob was a quiet man who stayed inside the tents, while Esau became a skilled hunter.

Their father, Isaac, had an appetite for game, so he favored his son Esau, while Rebekah favored Jacob.

One day, as Jacob was cooking stew, his brother came to him.

ESAU I am exhausted! Let me have some of that stew.

JACOB First, sell me your birthright.

ESAU My birthright? Agreed! I am about to die anyway; what good is it to me?

JACOB Swear it, Esau.

Despising his birthright, Esau swore it to his younger brother Jacob that day. Esau ate and drank and walked away.

There came a famine upon the land of Canaan, and Isaac went to Gerar on his way toward Egypt.

And the LORD God appeared to Isaac:

GOD Do not go down into Egypt. Live in the land that I will tell you. I will fulfill the promise I made to your father Abraham: I will multiply your offspring, making them as numerous as the stars in the heavens. I will give these lands to your descendants, and by them all the nations of the world will be blessed. I will do this because your father Abraham obeyed all that I commanded.

So Isaac settled in Gerar.

When the men of Gerar asked Isaac about Rebekah, out of fear he said:

ISAAC She is my sister!

But it so happened that after Isaac had been there a long time, Abimelech, king of the Philistines, saw him caressing Rebekah. So Abimelech summoned Isaac and said:

KING ABIMELECH Rebekah is your wife! Why would you say she is your sister?

ISAAC I was afraid to lose my life because of her.

KING ABIMELECH One of the men could have slept with her, and you would have brought guilt upon us.

So King Abimelech warned all the people:

KING ABIMELECH Anyone who touches this man or his wife shall be put to death!

As time passed, the LORD God blessed Isaac, and he became very wealthy. He harvested more than he planted, and his flocks and herds multiplied. This caused jealousy among the Philistines, and in their envy, they filled his wells with dirt.

Then Abimelech said to Isaac:

KING ABIMELECH Go away from us, for you have become much mightier than we are!

So Isaac left from there and stayed in the Valley of Gerar. He uncovered two more wells that his father had dug, but the people of Gerar also quarreled over those. He continued his search, eventually arriving in Beersheba, and that very night the LORD God appeared to him.

GOD Do not be afraid, for I am with you. I am the God of your father Abraham, and for his sake, I will bless you and increase your descendants.

Isaac settled in the land of Beersheba. There he built an altar, and his servants dug a well.

It was then that King Abimelech, along with his advisor and the captain of his army, came to Isaac.

And Isaac asked them:

ISAAC Why have you come to me, seeing that you hate me and sent me away?

KING ABIMELECH We see clearly that the LORD is with you and has blessed you. So let us make a treaty together.

Isaac prepared for them a feast, and early the next morning they swore an oath to each other. Then Isaac sent them on their way in peace. That very day his servants came to him, saying:

SERVANTS We have found water!

So Isaac named the well Shibah, and to this day the city is called Beersheba—the well of oaths.

Memory Verses

Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright now." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me now." So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Genesis 25:31–34

TWENTY-ONE | **Jacob & Esau (Part 2)**

(Genesis Chapters 26:34–28:9)

When Esau was 40 years old, he married two Hittite women, Judith and Basemath, and they made life difficult for Isaac and Rebekah.

As it happened, when Isaac was old, and his eyesight was nearly gone, he called for his older son Esau.

ESAU Here I am.

ISAAC You see how old I am, and I do not know when I may die. Go now. Take your arrows and your bow and hunt wild game. Prepare it for me in the way that I love, so that I may eat it, and then I will bless you.

Rebekah heard Isaac and Esau’s conversation. So, when Esau went out to hunt for game, Rebekah spoke to Jacob:

REBEKAH Listen to me and do exactly as I say. Go pick out two young goats from our flock and bring them to me. I will prepare the food just as your father loves. Then you will be the one to take it to him, that he may bless you before he dies.

JACOB I am not like my brother. You know he is hairy, and look—I am not. What if father feels me, and accuses me of trying to trick him, and it brings me a curse rather than a blessing?

REBEKAH Then let the curse fall upon me. Now go.

Jacob did as his mother told him, and she prepared the food that Isaac loved.

And Rebekah took Esau’s best clothes and put them on Jacob. She tied the skins of the young goats on his hands and neck. Then she handed the food and bread she had prepared to her son Jacob.

Jacob took the food his mother prepared and brought it to his father.

JACOB Father.

ISAAC Here I am. Who are you, my son?

JACOB It is I, your firstborn, Esau. I did as you asked. Sit up now and eat of my game so I may receive your blessing.

ISAAC How is it that you have found this so quickly?

JACOB The LORD your God. He made it possible.

ISAAC Come closer that I may touch you—that I may know for certain that you are in fact my son Esau.

Your voice, it is like that of my son Jacob, but your hands are like those of Esau. Are you really my son Esau?

JACOB I am.

ISAAC Then bring me the food and let me eat, and when I am done, I will bless you.

So Isaac ate the meal that Jacob brought to him, and said:

ISAAC Come close and kiss me, my son.

The smell of my son is like the smell of the field which the LORD God has blessed! May God grant you the dew of heaven and the wealth of the earth. May the nations bow down to you. Be lord over your kinsmen, and may your mother's descendants also bow to you. Cursed is anyone who curses you, and blessed are those who bless you.

As soon as Jacob left his father's presence, Esau returned from the hunt.

ESAU Father, sit and eat, that you may give me your blessing.

ISAAC Who are you?

ESAU I am Esau, your firstborn.

ISAAC Who was it then that brought me the game that I just ate? I thought it was you, and I blessed him.

ESAU Father! Bless me too!

ISAAC Your brother Jacob has deceived me. He has taken away your blessing.

And Esau said to his father:

ESAU This is the second time my brother has cheated me! First, he took away my birthright, and now he has taken my blessing. No wonder he is called Jacob!

ISAAC Esau, I have made Jacob lord over you, I have given him servants, grain, and wine. What else can I do for you, my son?

ESAU Father, do you only have one blessing? Will you not bless me as well?!

ISAAC Behold, your home will be from the riches of the earth and the dew of heaven. You will live by your sword and serve your brother. But when you become restless, you will break free from his yoke.

Because of the blessing his father gave him, Esau hated Jacob.

ESAU The days of mourning for my father are at hand, and then I will kill my brother Jacob.

The words of Esau were told to Rebekah. So, she called Jacob to her.

REBEKAH Esau is planning to kill you. Listen to me. Escape to my brother Laban in Haran. Stay with him until your brother's fury turns away and he forgets what you did to him. Then I will send for you and bring you back. Why should I lose both of you in one day?

Then Rebekah said to Isaac:

REBEKAH My husband, I loathe my life because of the Hittite women. If Jacob takes on a wife from among the Hittites, my life will not be worth living.

So Isaac called his son Jacob.

ISAAC Jacob, you will not take a wife from the Canaanites. Go, travel to Haran, to the house of your mother's father, and take a wife from one of your uncle Laban's daughters.

May God bless you and make you fruitful and increase your descendants. May He give you the blessing of Abraham, that you and your offspring may take possession of the land that God gave to Abraham.

So Isaac sent Jacob away with his blessing.

After Esau learned that his brother Jacob had been sent to Haran with a blessing, and that the Canaanite women did not please his father, he went to Ishmael, the son of Abraham, and married Ishmael's daughter, Mahalath, and she joined the other wives he already had.

Memory Verses

Rebekah said to her son Jacob, "I heard your father speak to your brother Esau, 'Bring me game and prepare for me delicious food, that I may eat it and bless you before the LORD before I die.'

Now therefore, my son, obey my voice as I command you. Go to the flock and bring me two good young goats, so that I may prepare from them delicious food for your father, such as he loves. And you shall bring it to your father to eat, so that he may bless you before he dies."

Genesis 27:6–10

TWENTY-TWO | **Jacob's Ladder**

(Genesis Chapters 28:10–29:14)

On his way to Haran, Jacob stopped to rest. And as he slept, he began to dream. In his dream, Jacob saw a ladder set on the earth, reaching to Heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And, at the very top, the LORD appeared.

GOD I am the LORD, the God of Abraham, your father, and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie, I will give to you and to your offspring.

Your offspring will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread abroad to the west and the east, and to the north and the south, and in you and your descendants will all the families of the earth be blessed.

Know that I am with you, and I will keep you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. For, I will not leave you until I have fulfilled what I have promised.

When Jacob awoke, he said:

JACOB Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it. This must be the house of God and the gate of Heaven!

Early the next morning, Jacob took the stone he had used as a pillow and set it as a pillar, pouring olive oil over the top of it. And he named the place Bethel, meaning "house of God," and made a vow, saying:

JACOB If the LORD God goes with me and guards me on my journey, if He gives me food to eat and clothes to wear so that I may return to my father's house in peace, then the LORD will be my God, and this stone that I have set up as a pillar shall be His house. And of all that You give me, I will surely give one tenth back to You.

As Jacob approached Haran, he came upon a well that was covered by a large stone, where shepherds had gathered with their sheep to drink.

JACOB My brothers, where are you from?

SHEPHERD We are from the land of Haran.

JACOB Do you know Laban, the son of Nahor?

SHEPHERD Yes, we know Laban. And look, his daughter Rachel is coming now with his sheep.

Then Jacob said to the shepherds:

JACOB Roll the stone away so that the sheep may drink and go to pasture.

SHEPHERD No. Not until all the flocks have been gathered together. Only then will the stone be rolled away from the mouth of the well.

As they were still speaking, Rachel arrived with her father's sheep. And Jacob rolled the stone away from the mouth of the well, and he watered his uncle's flock. Then Jacob kissed Rachel and began to weep.

When Laban learned that his sister's son had arrived, he brought Jacob to his house, and Jacob explained all that had happened to him. And Laban said:

LABAN Ah, Jacob! You are indeed my own flesh and blood.

Memory Verses

And he [Jacob] dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it!

And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring."

Genesis 28:12–13

TWENTY-THREE | Rachel & Leah

(Genesis Chapters 29:14–30:24)

Jacob had worked for his uncle for one month when Laban approached him, saying:

LABAN Jacob, even though you are my relative, you should not work for me for nothing in return. Tell me—what shall I pay you?

Laban had two daughters. The older was named Leah, and she had tender eyes. The younger was named Rachel. She was beautiful in form and appearance, and Jacob loved her.

JACOB I will work for you for seven years in exchange for your younger daughter Rachel.

LABAN It is better that I give her to you in marriage than to another man. You shall stay with me.

Jacob worked for Laban for seven years, but to him the years seemed only like a few days because of the love he had for Rachel.

JACOB Give me my wife since I have worked for you for seven years, and the time has come for me to sleep with her.

So, Laban gathered together all the people and made a great banquet in celebration of the marriage. And that evening, Laban brought his daughter Leah to Jacob.

When morning had come, Jacob realized that he had been deceived, for it was not Rachel that Laban brought to him the night before, but her older sister Leah!

And Jacob said to Laban:

JACOB What have you done to me? Did I not work for you for your daughter Rachel? Why now have you deceived me?

LABAN Jacob, that is not how things are done in our country. We do not give the younger daughter in marriage before the firstborn.

Complete the marriage celebration with my eldest daughter, and when the week is done, we will give you the younger one as well. In return, you must agree to serve me for another seven years.

So Jacob agreed to work for his uncle for seven more years, and then took Rachel as his wife along with Leah, but he loved Rachel more.

The LORD saw that Leah was unloved, and He blessed her with four sons. She named them Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah.

LEAH The LORD looked upon my humiliation and blessed me. Now my husband will love me and be joined to me, and I will give thanks and praise to the LORD.

Then Rachel came to Jacob and said:

RACHEL Jacob, give me children, or I will die!

JACOB Am I in the place of God, Who is denying you children?

RACHEL Then take my servant Bilhah, that she may give birth on my behalf, and I may have children through her.

So, Jacob took Rachel's servant as his wife, and she bore him two sons on behalf of Rachel. The first son she named Dan, and the second son she named Naphtali.

RACHEL God has judged in my favor. Indeed, I have wrestled mightily with my sister, and I have prevailed.

When Leah realized she was now barren, she gave her servant Zilpah for Jacob to take as his wife, and Zilpah bore Jacob two more sons. Leah named them Gad and Asher.

LEAH How happy I am! Women shall call me blessed.

Now, as Leah's firstborn son Reuben was working in the field, he found mandrakes and brought them to his mother. But Rachel pleaded with Leah that she may have the mandrakes and offered to let Leah sleep with Jacob in exchange for them.

God blessed Leah with two more sons and a daughter. She named the sons Issachar and Zebulun, and the daughter she named Dinah. God also heard Rachel's prayers and blessed her with a son, and Rachel called him Joseph, saying:

RACHEL May the LORD add to me another son!

Memory Verses

Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?"

Now Laban had two daughters. The name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were weak, but Rachel was beautiful in form and appearance.

Jacob loved Rachel. And he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel."

Genesis 29:15-18

TWENTY-FOUR | **Jacob Leaves Haran**

(Genesis Chapters 30:25–31:21)

After the birth of Joseph, Jacob said to Laban:

JACOB You know how hard I have served you all these years. Now, let me go my way, along with my wives and my children, so that I may return to my own country.

LABAN If I have found favor in your sight, listen to me, for I have seen that the LORD has blessed me because of you. Name your wages, and I will pay you whatever you ask.

JACOB The LORD has blessed you through my labor. Your livestock has flourished under my care, but now I should provide for my own family.

LABAN Then what shall I give you?

JACOB You shall not give me anything. If you do this one thing for me, I shall continue to care for your flocks.

And Jacob said to Laban:

JACOB Let me pass through all your flocks today, and pick out every speckled, spotted, or brown sheep and their offspring, and every speckled or spotted goat along with their offspring. That shall be my wage.

And let my integrity stand: any sheep found in my possession that is not speckled, spotted, or brown, and any goat that is not speckled or spotted, shall be counted as stolen.

LABAN I agree. Let it be just as you have spoken.

After agreeing to Jacob's proposal, Laban quickly removed every speckled, spotted, and brown sheep, and every speckled and spotted goat, along with all the offspring from his flocks, and gave them to his sons; and he put a three-day distance between them and Jacob.

And Jacob continued to care for the rest of Laban's flock just as he had promised.

When breeding season came, Jacob gathered fresh branches and peeled away some of the bark, revealing the white underneath. He then set the branches in the water troughs so the flock would see them when they came to drink, and they bred.

However, Jacob only did this with the strongest of the sheep and goats, and they bred speckled and spotted offspring, which he placed in his own flocks away from those that belonged to Laban.

And the LORD God blessed Jacob and increased his flocks, his camels, his donkeys, and the number of his servants.

As Jacob's flocks increased, the sons of Laban began to complain amongst themselves:

SONS OF LABAN Jacob has taken from our father.

And has become rich.

Jacob heard what the sons of Laban were saying and realized that Laban did not regard him as he had before. Then the LORD spoke to him again.

GOD Return to the land of your fathers and to your kindred, and I will be with you.

So Jacob called Rachel and Leah and told them it was time to leave.

JACOB I see the way your father looks at me now. You know that I have served him faithfully, but he has cheated me and changed my wages ten times. But God has been with me and did not allow him to do me any harm. God even caused the animals to have speckled and spotted offspring so they would be mine. And now God has instructed me to return to the land where I was born.

The angel of God had said to me in a dream:

GOD Jacob.

JACOB Here I am.

GOD Lift up your eyes and look; the male goats mating with the females are streaked and spotted, for I have seen all that Laban has done to you. I am the God of Bethel, where you set up a pillar and anointed it with oil, where you made your vow to Me. You must leave this land and return to the land where you were born.

Then Rachel and Leah said to Jacob:

RACHEL Is there any portion of an inheritance left for us?

LEAH Our father has sold us, and we are like foreigners in his house.

RACHEL All the wealth that God has taken from our father now belongs to us and our children.

LEAH So let us do as God has instructed.

While Laban was away shearing his sheep, Jacob quickly gathered his wives, children, and servants, along with all his possessions and his flocks, and prepared to leave and return to Canaan.

And as they were gathering all their belongings, Rachel entered her father's house and stole his household gods.

Then Jacob fled. He crossed the Euphrates River and set out to the hill country of Gilead.

Memory Verses

And [Jacob] said to them, "I see that your father does not regard me with favor as he did before. But the God of my father has been with me. You know that I have served your father with all my strength, yet your father has cheated me and changed my wages ten times.

But God did not permit him to harm me.

Genesis 31:5-7

TWENTY-FIVE | Treaty With Laban

(Genesis Chapters 31:22-55)

Three days later, when Laban learned that Jacob had fled, he immediately gathered his family and began to pursue Jacob.

After seven days, Laban overtook Jacob, but not before God had warned him in a dream.

GOD Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad.

The next morning, Laban and his kinsmen confronted Jacob.

LABAN Why did you deceive me and carry away my daughters as if by the sword, and why did you flee without telling me? I could have sent you away with joy and singing.

You did not even permit me to kiss my family goodbye. It was a foolish thing to do, and it is in my power to do you harm.

But God warned me in a dream last night and told me to be careful what I say to you.

JACOB I was afraid because I thought you would take your daughters from me by force.

LABAN But why did you steal my household gods?

JACOB If you find that someone is in possession of your gods, that person shall not remain alive.

However, Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen the gods.

Laban searched through Jacob's tent and each of his wives' tents but did not find the idols, for Rachel had hidden them in the camel's saddle on which she sat.

When Laban approached Rachel, she said:

RACHEL Please do not be angry with me for not rising to greet you, for the way of women is upon me.

And Jacob said to Laban:

JACOB What is my sin? Why have you pursued me? You have searched our tents and did not find your gods. I served you 14 years for your two daughters and six more years for your flocks, and in return you changed my wages ten times!

If the God of Abraham—the One Whom Isaac fears—had not been with me, surely you would have sent me away empty-handed. God has seen my affliction and the labor of my hands and rebuked you in a dream last night.

LABAN These daughters are my daughters, the children are my children, the flocks are my flocks, and all that you see belongs to me. What can I do this day for my daughters or for the children they have born? Come, let us make a covenant between you and me.

So Jacob set a stone upright as a pillar and instructed his men to gather stones and set them in a pile, and together they agreed before the LORD God of Abraham to do each other no harm. Jacob and Laban called these stones the “pile of witness” in their respective languages.

They ate together that night, and early the next morning, Laban kissed his daughters and his grandchildren and returned to his home.

Memory Verses

These twenty years I have been in your house. I served you fourteen years for your two daughters, and six years for your flock, and you have changed my wages ten times. If the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had not been on my side, surely now you would have sent me away empty-handed.

Genesis 31:41-42

TWENTY-SIX | **Jacob to Israel**

(Genesis Chapters 32–33)

After making a covenant with his uncle Laban in the hills of Gilead, Jacob continued with his family, servants, and flocks toward his homeland of Canaan, just as the LORD had instructed him.

As he journeyed, Jacob was met by the angels of God, and when he saw them, he exclaimed:

JACOB This is God's camp!

After his encounter with the angels of God, Jacob sent messengers ahead of him to meet his brother Esau in the land of Seir, in the country of Edom, and gave them instructions about what to say.

JACOB Here is what you are to say to my lord Esau. "Your servant Jacob says, 'I have been living with Laban until now. I have cattle, donkeys, and flocks. I have male and female servants. I have sent these messengers to tell you these things in order to win your favor, my lord.'"

After meeting with Esau, the messengers returned to Jacob.

MESSENGER We went to your brother Esau, and he is coming to meet you with 400 men!

Hearing the news, Jacob became very afraid. He divided all those who were with him and all his cattle, camels, and flocks into two herds, reasoning:

JACOB If Esau comes to one camp and attacks it, at least the other will be able to escape.

Oh, God of my fathers, Abraham and Isaac, the LORD Who said to me, "Return to your country and your kinsmen and I will make you prosper," I am not worthy of all the love and faithfulness You have shown me.

I crossed the Jordan with only my staff, and now I have become two camps. Please deliver me from the hand of my brother Esau, for I fear Esau will attack me and will have no regard for the women and children.

You said that You would be good to me and make my descendants as numerous as the sands of the sea, which cannot be counted.

The next morning, after dividing all that he had into two camps, Jacob

gathered 220 goats, 220 sheep, 30 camels with their calves, 50 head of cattle, and 30 donkeys as a gift for his brother Esau.

Having separated his flocks into herds, he set servants over them and instructed them about what to do.

JACOB Go in front of me and put a distance between you and the other groups. When you meet my brother Esau, and he asks, "Whose servants are you, and who do these animals belong to?" Say to him, "They belong to your servant Jacob and are a gift sent to you, lord Esau. Jacob himself is just behind us."

I will appease Esau with these gifts, and then I will see him myself. Perhaps he will be friendly toward me.

While the servants journeyed toward Esau, Jacob remained in the camp that night and gathered Rachel, Leah, the two maidservants he had married, along with his 11 sons, and sent them across the stream. And Jacob was left alone.

That very night, a Man appeared to Jacob and the two began to wrestle. They wrestled through the night until the early morning hours. And, when the Man saw that He could not defeat Jacob, He dislocated Jacob's hip simply by touching it. Then the Man said:

MAN Let Me go, for the new day is breaking.

JACOB I will not let You go unless You bless me.

MAN What is your name?

JACOB My name is Jacob.

MAN Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men, and you have prevailed.

JACOB (ISRAEL) Please tell me, what is Your name?

MAN Why is it you ask My name?

Then the Man blessed Jacob. And Jacob called the place Peniel, meaning "face of God."

JACOB (ISRAEL) For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life was preserved.

After wrestling through the night, Jacob saw his brother Esau approaching with 400 men. So Jacob gathered his family and placed the two maidservants with their children in the front, Leah with her children next, and Rachel and Joseph last.

Then Jacob went ahead of his family and bowed seven times before approaching his brother.

Seeing his brother, Esau ran toward him, threw his arms around his neck, and kissed him. Together, they wept.

Seeing the women and children, Esau asked:

ESAU Who are these with you?

JACOB (ISRAEL) These are the children God has graciously given to your servant.

ESAU What was the meaning of the herds of animals that I encountered?

JACOB (ISRAEL) They were my gift to you—to win your favor.

ESAU I have plenty already, my brother. Keep your possessions.

JACOB (ISRAEL) No, please! If I have won your favor, please accept my gift. God has dealt kindly with me and I, too, have enough.

So, at Jacob's urging, Esau accepted his brother's gift.

After their reunion, Esau offered to travel with Jacob back to Esau's home.

ESAU Let us journey on our way, and I will go ahead of you.

JACOB (ISRAEL) My lord, the children are frail, and we have young animals that are nursing. Please go on without us.

ESAU Then let me at least leave some of my men with you.

JACOB (ISRAEL) Thank you, but there is really no need.

So Esau and his men journeyed that day back to Seir.

However, Jacob went on to Succoth, where he built a home and shelters for his herds.

He then traveled on to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan. Jacob set up his tent outside the city and purchased the land where he pitched his tent from the sons of Hamor for 100 pieces of money.

There Jacob put up an altar which he called El-Elohe-Israel, meaning, "God, the God of Israel."

Memory Verses

Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed."

So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered."

Genesis 32:28, 30

TWENTY–SEVEN | **The Attack on Dinah**

(Genesis Chapters 34:1–35:5)

Having settled near the city of Shechem, Dinah, the daughter of Jacob and Leah, set out to visit with other young women.

But when Shechem, the son of the local ruler, saw her, he seized her and forced himself on her.

And Shechem's soul was drawn to Dinah. He fell in love with the young woman and spoke tenderly to her.

So he went to his father, seeking his help.

SHECHEM Get this girl for me. I want her to be my wife.

When Jacob heard that Shechem had defiled his daughter, his sons were out tending the livestock, so he restrained himself until they returned.

When Shechem's father, Hamor, came to speak with Jacob on behalf of his son, Jacob's sons had already returned from the field. By then, they had heard what happened and were outraged by what Hamor's son had done, for such a thing should never happen.

HAMOR My son's heart longs for your daughter. Please give her to him as his wife.

Give your daughters to us and take our daughters as your wives. You can live with us, and the land will be available to you. You can do business, trade with us, and acquire property.

SHECHEM Please let me find favor in your eyes. Ask me for as large of a dowry as you would like. I will pay whatever you ask—only give me your daughter as my wife.

The sons of Jacob devised a plan and answered Shechem and his father deceitfully because he had defiled their sister Dinah. They said to them:

SIMEON We cannot do as you ask because it would be a disgrace to give our sister to someone who has not been circumcised. Only on this condition will we consent to your request: become like us by having every male among you circumcised.

LEVI Do this one thing, and we will give our daughters to you and take your daughters to be our wives. We will live with you and become one people.

SIMEON However, if you do not listen to us and circumcise every male, we will take our sister and be gone.

Hamor and his son were pleased with the offer made by Jacob's sons. Shechem was the most respected member of his father's family, and he was so delighted by Dinah that he did not delay in doing what was asked of him.

So Hamor and Shechem came to the entrance of their city and spoke to the men.

SHECHEM These men who dwell outside the city are at peace with us. Let them live in the land and do business here, for this land is large enough for them. We will take their daughters for our wives, and we will give them our daughters to be their wives.

HAMOR On this condition they will consent to become one people with us: every male among us must be circumcised as they are circumcised.

SHECHEM Will not their livestock, their property, and all their beasts be ours? So let us agree to do what they have asked.

All the men who went out of the gate, who listened to what Hamor and his son had to say, agreed with them, and every male in the city was circumcised.

On the third day after the men were circumcised, and still in pain, two of Jacob's sons, Simeon and Levi, took their swords and boldly descended on the city.

They killed every male with their swords, including Hamor and Shechem, and left, taking their sister Dinah with them.

Then the sons of Jacob entered the city and looted it. They took the sheep, cattle, and donkeys—whether in the city or in the fields. They also took the wives and children captive and took everything that was in their homes. They did all of this because of what had happened to their sister Dinah.

After his sons had plundered the city, Jacob came to Simeon and Levi.

JACOB (ISRAEL) You have caused me trouble by making me stink in the opinion of the local inhabitants, the Canaanites and the Perizzites. I do not have many people, and they will align themselves against me and attack me and my household, and we will be destroyed.

LEVI Should we let our sister be treated like a whore?

After Jacob confronted his sons, God spoke to him, saying:

GOD Arise, go to Bethel and live there. Make an altar to God Who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau.

So Jacob gathered his household and all who were with him and spoke to them.

JACOB (ISRAEL) Get rid of the foreign gods that you have with you. Purify yourselves and put on fresh clothing. We will go to Bethel. There, I will build an altar to God Who answered me when I was in distress and stayed with me wherever I went.

All of Jacob's household, and all who were with them gave Jacob the foreign gods they had in their possession. They also removed their earrings, and Jacob buried them along with the foreign gods under the oak tree that was by Shechem.

And while they were traveling toward Bethel, a terror from God fell upon the cities around them so that none of them pursued the sons of Jacob.

Memory Verses

Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to see the women of the land. And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, the prince of the land, saw her, he seized her and lay with her and humiliated her.

The sons of Jacob had come in from the field as soon as they heard of it, and the men were indignant and very angry, because he had done an outrageous thing in Israel by lying with Jacob's daughter, for such a thing must not be done.

Genesis 34:1-2, 7

TWENTY-EIGHT | **The Birth of Benjamin**

(Genesis Chapters 35:6–36:8)

After fleeing Shechem, Jacob and all those who were with him arrived at Bethel in the land of Canaan.

And there he built an altar and called the place El-bethel because it was there that God had appeared to him when he fled from his brother Esau.

At that time, Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died. She was buried below El-bethel, under the oak, which was given the name Allon-bacuth, meaning "oak of weeping."

Then God appeared to Jacob and blessed him, saying:

GOD Your name is Jacob, but no longer will you be called Jacob; your name will be Israel. I am El Shaddai, God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply. A nation, indeed, a group of nations, will come from you, and kings will descend from you. And the land which I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you and your descendants.

Then God went up from Jacob in the place where He was speaking. In that place, Jacob set up a pillar of stone, and he poured a drink offering and oil on it. Jacob named the place where God spoke with him Bethel.

From Bethel, they journeyed toward Ephrath, and during their journey, Rachel went into hard labor. And while she was having great difficulties in childbirth, her midwife spoke to her:

MIDWIFE Do not be afraid. You have another son.

And as she breathed her last breath, Rachel named her son Ben-oni, meaning "son of my sorrow." But Jacob called him Benjamin, meaning "son of my right hand."

Rachel was buried on the journey to Ephrath, which is also called Bethlehem, and Jacob set up a pillar over Rachel's tomb.

Israel continued his travels and pitched his tent beyond the tower of Edar. And while Israel was living in that land, Reuben, his eldest son, slept with Bilhah, his father's concubine. And Israel heard about it.

Then Jacob returned to see his father in Hebron, where Abraham and Isaac had lived as foreigners.

The days of Isaac were 180 years. Then he breathed his last and was gathered to his people. He died an old man, full of years, and was buried by his sons Esau and Jacob.

After Isaac's death, Esau gathered his wives, his sons and daughters, and all the members of his household, along with his livestock, and all that he had acquired in Canaan, and traveled to a new country away from his brother Jacob.

For their possessions had become too great for them to live in the same land, and the countryside through which they traveled could not support their livestock.

Esau settled in the hill country of Seir, and he became the father of the Edomites.

Memory Verses

When they were still some distance from Ephrath, Rachel went into labor, and she had hard labor. And when her labor was at its hardest, the midwife said to her, "Do not fear, for you have another son."

And as her soul was departing (for she was dying), she called his name Ben-oni; but his father called him Benjamin. So Rachel died, and she was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem).

Genesis 35:16b-19

TWENTY-NINE | **Joseph's Dreams**

(Genesis Chapter 37)

When Joseph was 17 years old, he was feeding the flock with his brothers, and he brought a bad report about them to his father.

Israel loved Joseph more than all his other children because Joseph was the son of his old age. Israel made a long-sleeved robe of many colors for him.

When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they began to hate Joseph and could not even speak to him in a peaceful manner.

Joseph had a dream, and when he told his brothers about his dream, they hated him even more.

JOSEPH Listen to me as I tell you this dream of mine. We were tying up bundles of wheat in the field when suddenly my bundle arose by itself and stood upright. Then your bundles came and gathered around mine and bowed down before it.

And his brothers said:

BROTHERS Shall you rule over us?

Yes, you will certainly be our king!

And they hated him more and more for his dream and for what he had said.

Joseph had another dream. And again, he told it to his brothers.

JOSEPH I have dreamed another dream: the sun and the moon and eleven stars bowed down before me.

But when Joseph also told the dream to his father, Israel rebuked him, saying:

JACOB (ISRAEL) What is this dream that you have had? Do you really expect me, your mother, and your brothers to come and bow on the ground before you?

His brothers were jealous of Joseph, but his father kept the matter in mind.

After these events, Joseph's brothers traveled to feed their father's flock near Shechem. And Israel called for Joseph.

JACOB (ISRAEL) Are not your brothers pasturing the sheep near Shechem? Come, I will send you to them.

JOSEPH Here I am.

JACOB (ISRAEL) Go now and see if things are going well with your brothers and with the sheep and bring word back to me.

So Israel sent Joseph out from Hebron. And when he arrived in Shechem, a man found him wandering around the countryside.

MAN What are you looking for?

JOSEPH I am looking for my brothers. Please tell me where they are pasturing their flocks.

MAN They have gone away, for I heard them say, "Let us go to Dothan."

So Joseph continued to Dothan.

When Joseph's brothers spotted him in the distance, even before he had arrived, they conspired to kill him.

BROTHERS Look! Here comes the dreamer.

Let's kill him and throw him into one of these pits and say a wild animal devoured him. Then we shall see what becomes of his dreams.

However, when Joseph's oldest brother Reuben heard this, he rescued Joseph from his brother's hands.

REUBEN We should not kill him. Do not shed his blood. Throw him into the pit, but do not lay a hand on him.

Reuben spoke these words so that he might later rescue Joseph from the pit and return him to his father.

And it came to pass, when Joseph reached his brothers, they stripped him of his robe of many colors and cast him into an empty pit.

They sat down to eat, and when they looked up, they saw a caravan of Ishmaelite merchants coming up from Gilead on their way to Egypt. Their camels were loaded with myrrh, balm, and spices.

Seeing this, Judah said to his brothers:

JUDAH What profit is it to us if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? Let us sell him to the Ishmaelites instead of putting him to death by our own hands. After all, he is our brother—our own flesh.

Judah's brothers listened to him, and when the merchants passed by, they lifted Joseph out of the pit and sold him to the merchants for 20 pieces of silver. After buying Joseph, the Ishmaelites took him to Egypt.

Later, when Reuben returned to the pit where Joseph had been placed and saw that it was empty, he tore his clothes in agony and returned to his brothers.

REUBEN The boy is gone! Where can I go now?

So they took Joseph's robe of many colors, killed a young goat, and dipped the robe in its blood. Then they brought the robe to their father, saying:

BROTHER We found this robe. Do you know if it is your son's robe or not?

Jacob immediately recognized the robe of many colors and cried out:

JACOB (ISRAEL) It is my son's robe! A wild beast attacked him! Joseph has, without a doubt, been torn to pieces.

Jacob tore his clothes, put sackcloth around his waist, and mourned for his son for many days. Though all his sons and daughters tried to comfort him, he refused to be comforted.

JACOB (ISRAEL) No. I shall go to my grave mourning my son.

Meanwhile, in Egypt, the merchants sold Joseph to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and a captain of the guard.

Memory Verses

Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers listened to him.

Then Midianite traders passed by. And they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. They took Joseph to Egypt.

Genesis 37:26–28

THIRTY | Judah & Tamar

(Genesis Chapter 38)

It was at this time that Judah went down from his brothers and settled near an Adullamite man named Hirah. There, Judah saw a daughter of a Canaanite man named Shua. He took her as his wife, slept with her, and she became pregnant. When their son was born, Judah named him Er.

Shua became pregnant again and had a son and called him Onan. She became pregnant a third time and had a son she called Shelah.

As time passed, Judah took a wife for Er, his firstborn; her name was Tamar. But Er was wicked in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD killed him. And Judah said to Onan, his second son:

JUDAH Marry your brother's wife, and sleep with her, as is your duty, and raise up offspring for your brother.

However, Onan knew that the child would not be considered his, so whenever he slept with his brother's wife, he spilled his seed on the ground so he would not give his brother any offspring. What Onan did was evil in the sight of the LORD, so the LORD killed him as well.

Then Judah told Tamar:

JUDAH Remain a widow and stay in your father's house until my son Shelah grows up.

For Judah thought:

JUDAH I do not want him to die like his brothers.

So Tamar went and lived in her father's house.

In the course of time, Judah's wife, the daughter of Shua, died. After Judah was comforted, he went up with his friend Hirah, the Adullamite, to his sheepshearers in Timnah.

While he was there, Tamar was told that her father-in-law was going up to Timnah to shear his sheep.

So Tamar took off her widow's clothes and completely covered her face with her veil. She then sat at a gate in Enaim, which is on the way to Timnah, because she saw that Shelah had grown up and she had not been given to him as his wife.

When Judah saw Tamar, he thought she was a prostitute because she had covered her face. And he turned to her and said:

JUDAH Please let me sleep with you.

Judah did not know it was his daughter-in-law, and she replied:

TAMAR What will you pay me that you may sleep with me?

JUDAH I will send you a young goat from the flock.

TAMAR Will you give me a pledge until you send it?

JUDAH What should I give you as a pledge?

TAMAR Your seal and cord and the staff that you carry in your hand.

Judah gave them to her and slept with her, and she became pregnant. Then she left, removed her veil, and put on her widow's clothes.

Judah sent the young goat with his friend the Adullamite to collect the pledged items back from the woman. But Hirah could not find her. So he asked the men that were nearby:

HIRAH Where is the prostitute that was by the gate in Enaim?

MAN OF ENAIM No prostitute has been here.

So Hirah returned to Judah and said:

HIRAH I could not find her, and the men there said, "No prostitute has been here."

JUDAH Let her keep the things so we will not be shamed. I sent the young goat, and she could not be found.

About three months later, Judah was told:

MESSENGER Your daughter-in-law, Tamar, has been acting like a prostitute, and now she is pregnant.

JUDAH Bring her out and let her be burned!

When Tamar was brought out, she said:

TAMAR I am pregnant by the man to whom these things belong. Please determine to whom the seal, the cord, and the staff belong.

Then Judah acknowledged that they were his.

JUDAH She is more righteous than me because I did not let her become the wife of my son Shelah.

And Judah did not sleep with her again.

When it came time for Tamar to give birth, it was discovered that she would have twins. And when she was in labor, one child put out his hand, and the midwife tied a scarlet thread on it and said:

MIDWIFE This one came out first.

But he withdrew his hand, and his brother came out. And the midwife said:

MIDWIFE How did you manage to break out first?

Therefore, he was named Perez, meaning “he who breaks through.”

Then his brother came out with the scarlet thread on his hand, and he was given the name Zerah.

Memory Verses

As she was being brought out, she sent word to her father-in-law, “By the man to whom these belong, I am pregnant.” And she said, “Please identify whose these are, the signet and the cord and the staff.”

Then Judah identified them and said, “She is more righteous than I, since I did not give her to my son Shelah.” And he did not know her again.

Genesis 38:25–26

THIRTY-ONE | Joseph the Faithful Servant

(Genesis Chapters 39:1–40:4)

Joseph was brought down to Egypt. And Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him there.

And the LORD was with Joseph, and he became successful while he was in the house of his Egyptian master.

His master saw that the LORD was with Joseph and that the LORD prospered everything he did. So he appointed Joseph manager of his household and entrusted all his possessions to him.

From the time he appointed Joseph manager of his household, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's household for Joseph's sake.

The LORD's blessing was on all he owned, whether in the house or in the field. So he left all his possessions in Joseph's care and paid no attention to his own affairs, except for the food he ate.

Now Joseph was a handsome man, and, in time, a day came when the master's wife looked at Joseph and said:

POTIPHAR'S WIFE Come to bed with me.

But Joseph refused.

JOSEPH Because of me, my master does not know what is going on in his house. He has put me in charge of all his possessions. In this house I am his equal, and he has not withheld anything from me except you because you are his wife.

How could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?

The master's wife kept pressing Joseph day after day, but Joseph did not listen to her. He refused to sleep with her and to even be near her.

However, one day when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men were in the house, she grabbed him by his robe.

POTIPHAR'S WIFE Sleep with me!

But Joseph ran out of the house, leaving his robe in her hand. When the master's wife saw that he had fled, leaving his robe, she called the men of her house:

POTIPHAR'S WIFE Look at this! My husband brought in a Hebrew to make fools of us. He came in and wanted to sleep with me, but I yelled out loudly. And when he heard me yelling, he left his robe with me and ran out.

Then she put the robe aside until his master came home, and she told the same story to him.

POTIPHAR'S WIFE This Hebrew slave you brought us came in to make a fool of me. But when I yelled out, he left his robe with me and fled outside.

When Joseph's master heard what his wife said, he became furious. He took Joseph and put him in prison where the king's prisoners were kept.

But the LORD was with Joseph, showing him kindness and giving him favor in the sight of the prison warden.

And the warden made him a supervisor and put him in charge over all the prisoners. The warden paid no attention to anything Joseph did because the LORD was with Joseph, and whatever he did, the LORD prospered.

Memory Verses

Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me." But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge.

He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?"

Genesis 39:6b-9

THIRTY-TWO | Interpreter of Dreams

(Genesis Chapter 40:5-23)

The king's cupbearer and the king's baker offended their lord, king of Egypt. And Pharaoh became angry with his officers: the chief cupbearer and the chief baker. He took them into custody, in the house of the captain of the guard, and put them in prison, the same place where Joseph was kept.

And the captain of the guard appointed Joseph to be their attendant while they remained in prison.

One night in the prison, the king's cupbearer and baker both had dreams. Each dream had its own meaning.

When Joseph came in the next morning, he saw that Pharaoh's officers looked troubled and he asked them:

JOSEPH Why are you looking so sad today?

CUPBEARER We each had a dream, and there is no one to interpret them.

And Joseph said to them:

JOSEPH Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell them to me, please.

Then the chief cupbearer told Joseph his dream:

CUPBEARER In my dream, there in front of me was a vine, and the vine had three branches. Then the branches budded, and suddenly began to bloom, and finally clusters of ripe grapes appeared.

Pharaoh's cup was in my hand, so I took the grapes and pressed them into his cup and gave the cup to Pharaoh.

Then Joseph said to the cupbearer,

JOSEPH Here is the interpretation: the three branches are three days. Within three days, Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your office. You will give Pharaoh his cup as you once did when you were his cupbearer.

But remember me when it goes well with you and show me kindness, please. Mention me to Pharaoh so that he will release me from this prison.

For the truth is, I was kidnapped from the land of the Hebrews, and I have done nothing wrong that would justify putting me in this dungeon.

When the chief baker saw that the cupbearer's interpretation was favorable, he said to Joseph:

BAKER I too saw in my dream three baskets of white bread on my head. In the top basket there were all kinds of baked goods for Pharaoh. But the birds ate them out of the basket that was on my head.

And Joseph said to the baker:

JOSEPH Here is the interpretation: the three baskets are three days. Within three days, Pharaoh will lift up your head and hang you on a tree, and the birds will eat your flesh.

On the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, he made a feast for all his officials. And he lifted up the head of the chief cupbearer before his officials and restored him back to his position so that he again gave Pharaoh his cup. But he hanged the chief baker, just as Joseph had said to them.

However, the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph.

Memory Verses

When Joseph came to them in the morning, he saw that they were troubled. So he asked Pharaoh's officers who were with him in custody in his master's house, "Why are your faces downcast today?"

They said to him, "We have had dreams, and there is no one to interpret them." And Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Please tell them to me."

Genesis 40:6-8

THIRTY-THREE | Pharaoh's Dreams

(Genesis Chapter 41:1-45)

Two years had passed since Joseph interpreted the dreams of the cupbearer and the baker, then Pharaoh had a dream. He was standing beside the Nile River, and up out of the river came seven attractive and fat cows, and they fed in the meadow.

And after them, seven ugly and thin cows came up out of the Nile and stood by the other cows on the edge of the river.

Then the ugly and thin cows ate the seven attractive and fat cows.

At this point, Pharaoh woke up. And, when he went back to sleep, he had a second dream.

Seven full and ripe ears of grain grew out of a single stalk. After them, seven ears, thin and blasted by the east wind, sprang up.

And the thin ears swallowed up the seven full, ripe ears. Then Pharaoh woke up and realized it had been a dream.

In the morning, Pharaoh was so troubled that he called all the magicians and wise men of Egypt and told them his dreams. But no one could interpret them for Pharaoh.

Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh:

CUPBEARER Today I am reminded of my faults.

When Pharaoh was angry with his servants and put the chief baker and me in the prison, both he and I had dreams.

And there was a young man with us, a Hebrew, a servant of the captain of the guard, and we told him our dreams, and he interpreted them for us.

And it came about just as he had interpreted. I was restored to my office, and the baker was hanged.

Then Pharaoh summoned Joseph, and they quickly brought him out of the dungeon.

When Joseph had shaved and changed his clothes, he came in to see Pharaoh. And Pharaoh said to him:

PHARAOH I had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. But I have heard that when you hear a dream, you can interpret it.

JOSEPH It is not in me. God will give Pharaoh an answer that will set his mind at peace.

So Pharaoh revealed his dream to Joseph.

PHARAOH In my dream, I stood at the edge of the river, and seven cows came up out of the river and fed in the meadows.

And after them, seven ugly and thin cows, such as I have never seen before in all the land of Egypt.

Then the ugly and thin cows ate the first seven cows. But no one would have known they had eaten them because they were still as thin as before.

Then, I woke up. But I dreamt again and saw seven full, ripe ears of grain growing out of a single stalk. After them, seven ears, thin and blasted by the east wind, sprang up. And the thin ears swallowed up the ripe ears.

I told this to the magicians, but none of them could explain it to me.

Then Joseph said to Pharaoh:

JOSEPH The dreams of Pharaoh are the same, and God has told Pharaoh what He is about to do.

The seven good cows and the seven good ears of grain are seven years.

Likewise, the seven ugly and thin-looking cows are seven years. Also, the seven empty ears, blasted by the east wind, shall be seven years of famine.

It is as I told Pharaoh. God has shown Pharaoh what He is about to do.

There will be seven years of abundance throughout the whole land of Egypt. But afterward, there will come seven years of famine, and Egypt will forget all the abundance.

The famine will consume the land, and the abundance will not be known in the land because the famine that will follow will be very severe.

Why was the dream doubled for Pharaoh? Because the matter has been established by God, and God will make it happen shortly.

Therefore, Pharaoh should look for a man both discerning and wise and put him in charge over the land of Egypt.

Pharaoh should do this, and he should appoint supervisors over the land to take up a twenty percent tax on the produce of the land of Egypt during the seven years of abundance.

They should gather all the food produced during these good years and set aside grain under the supervision of Pharaoh. This will be the food supply for the seven years of famine that will come over the land of Egypt, so that the land will not perish because of the famine.

Joseph's proposal seemed good to Pharaoh and to his officials. And Pharaoh said to his officials:

PHARAOH Can we find anyone else like him, a man in whom the Spirit of God lives?

So Pharaoh said to Joseph:

PHARAOH Since God has shown you all of this, and there is no one as discerning and wise as you, you will oversee my household. All my people will be ruled by what you command. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you. I place you in charge of the whole land of Egypt.

Then Pharaoh took his ring from his hand and put it on Joseph's hand. He had him clothed in fine linen with a gold chain around his neck and had him ride on the second-best chariot. They cried out before him, "Bow the knee."

Pharaoh set him over all the land of Egypt, and said to Joseph:

PHARAOH I am Pharaoh, and without your approval, no one shall raise his hand or his foot in all the land of Egypt.

And Pharaoh called Joseph by the name Zaphenath-paneah and gave him Asenath, the daughter of Potiphra, priest of On, as his wife. Then Joseph went out over all the land of Egypt.

Memory Verses

And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?"

Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are. You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command. Only as regards the throne will I be greater than you."

And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt."

Genesis 41:38-41

THIRTY-FOUR | **The Famine**

(Genesis Chapters 41:46–42:17)

Joseph was 30 years old when he stood before Pharaoh and entered his service. During the seven years, when the earth brought forth abundance, Joseph traveled throughout the land of Egypt and collected all the food and stored it in the cities.

Joseph stored grain in quantities like the sands of the sea—so much that they stopped counting because it was beyond measure.

Before the year of the famine, Joseph had two sons born to him by Asenath. Joseph called his firstborn Manasseh, saying:

JOSEPH For God has made me forget all my troubles I suffered at the hands of my family.

The second son born he called Ephraim, saying:

JOSEPH For God has made me fruitful in the land of my misfortune.

When the seven years of abundance in the land of Egypt ended, the seven years of famine began, just as Joseph had said.

There was famine in all the lands, but throughout the land of Egypt, there was food.

And when the people of Egypt began to feel the famine, they cried out to Pharaoh for food, and Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians:

PHARAOH Go to Joseph and do whatever he tells you.

The famine was all over the face of the earth, and Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold food to the Egyptians. And people from all over the earth came to Egypt to see Joseph and buy grain.

When Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt, he said to his sons:

JACOB (ISRAEL) Why are you looking at each other? I have heard there is grain in Egypt. Go down there and buy some for us so that we may live and not die.

So all of Joseph's brothers went down to buy grain from Egypt, except for Benjamin. Jacob did not send him with his brothers because he feared something would happen to him.

Now Joseph was governor over Egypt, and it was he who sold to all the people of the land. And when Joseph's brothers came and bowed down before him, Joseph recognized them. But he acted as though he were a stranger and spoke harshly to them.

JOSEPH Where are you from?

BROTHER We are from the land of Canaan, and we came to buy food.

And while Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him.

Joseph remembered the dreams he had about his brothers, and he said:

JOSEPH You are spies; you have come to spot the weakness of our land.

BROTHER No, my lord. Your servants have come to buy food. We are all the sons of one man. We are honest men, not spies.

JOSEPH No. You have come to spy on the weaknesses of our land.

BROTHER We, your servants, are twelve brothers, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan. The youngest has stayed with our father, and another one is gone.

JOSEPH Just as I said: you are spies. Here is how you can prove that you are not lying.

As Pharaoh lives, you will not leave here unless your youngest brother comes here. Send one of you and let him bring your brother. Meanwhile, you will be kept in custody.

This will prove whether there is truth in what you say. Otherwise, as Pharaoh lives, you are surely spies.

Then Joseph put all of them together in prison for three days.

Memory Verses

Now Joseph was governor over the land. He was the one who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed themselves before him with their faces to the ground.

Joseph saw his brothers and recognized them, but he treated them like strangers and spoke roughly to them. "Where do you come from?" he said. They said, "From the land of Canaan, to buy food."

And Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him.

Genesis 42:6-8

THIRTY-FIVE | Joseph Tests His Brothers

(Genesis Chapter 42:18–38)

On the third day, Joseph said to his brothers:

JOSEPH Do what I say, and you will stay alive, for I fear God. If you are honest men, let one of your brothers remain in prison while you go and carry grain back for the famine in your homes.

But bring back your youngest brother to me. In this way your words will be verified, and you shall not die.

And they did as Joseph instructed and said to one another:

BROTHER We are, in fact, guilty. Our brother was in distress and pleaded with us. We saw it and would not listen. That is why this distress has come upon us now.

Then Reuben said to them:

REUBEN Didn't I tell you, "Do not sin against the boy"? And you would not listen. Now comes the reckoning for his blood!

But they had no idea that Joseph understood them since there was an interpreter translating for them.

Joseph turned away from them and wept. Then he returned to them and bound Simeon before their eyes and took him away. He ordered that their containers be filled with grain, their money be returned to them, and that they be given provisions for their journey.

After loading the grain on their donkeys, Joseph's brothers departed. When they stopped for the night, one of them opened his pack to give food to his donkey, and he noticed his money inside the pack.

And he said to his brothers:

BROTHER My money has been returned. There it is in my pack!

Hearing this, their hearts sank.

BROTHER What is this that God has done to us?

They returned to Jacob in the land of Canaan and told him all that had happened to them.

BROTHER The man, the lord of the land, spoke harshly to us. He said we were spies. We told him we were honest men; we were not spies, we are twelve brothers, sons of our father. And we told him that one of our brothers is gone and the youngest stayed with our father in the land of Canaan. But the man, the lord of the land, said to us:

“Here is how I will know that you are honest men: leave one of your brothers with me, take grain to your families, and go on your way, but bring your youngest brother to me. By this I will know you are not spies. Then I will return your brother to you, and you will do business in the land.”

As they emptied their packs, each man’s money was in his pack. And when they, and their father, saw the money, they became afraid. And Jacob said to them:

JACOB (ISRAEL) You have robbed me of my children! Joseph is gone, Simeon is gone, and now you are taking Benjamin away! All of this has fallen on me.

Then Reuben said to his father:

REUBEN If I do not bring him back to you, you can kill my own two sons. Put Benjamin in my care; I will return him to you.

JACOB (ISRAEL) My son will not go with you. His brother is dead, and he is left alone. If anything were to happen to him while traveling with you, you would bring my gray hairs to the grave with grief.

Memory Verses

[Joseph said,] “If you are honest men, let one of your brothers remain confined where you are in custody, and let the rest go and carry grain for the famine of your households, and bring your youngest brother to me. So your words will be verified, and you shall not die.” And they did so.

Then they said to one another, “In truth we are guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the distress of his soul, when he begged us and we did not listen. That is why this distress has come upon us.”

Genesis 42:19–21

THIRTY-SIX | **The Feast**

(Genesis Chapter 43)

The famine was severe, and when the grain that Israel's sons brought back from Egypt was gone, their father said to them:

JACOB (ISRAEL) Go again and buy us some food.

But Judah said to him:

JUDAH The man expressly warned us: "You will not see my face unless your youngest brother is with you." If you send our brother with us, we will go down and buy you food. But if you will not send him, we will not go down.

JACOB (ISRAEL) Why did you bring me such trouble by telling the man you had another brother?

BROTHER The man kept questioning us about ourselves and our family. "Is your father still alive?" and, "Do you have another brother?" And we answered him according to his questions. How were we to know he would say, "Bring your brother down"?

Then Judah said to Israel his father:

JUDAH Send the boy with me, and we will go, that we may live and not die. I will guarantee his safety. You can hold me responsible. If I fail to bring him back to you, let me bear the blame forever. If we had not delayed, we would have been there twice by now.

JACOB (ISRAEL) If it must be like this, then take the best products in the land and bring the man a gift—some honey, spices, and myrrh, and nuts. And take twice the amount of money with you and return the money that came back with you in your packs. It could have been an oversight.

Take your brother as well and go again to the man. May God Almighty give you favor in the man's sight so that he will release your brother and Benjamin.

As for me, if I must lose my children, then I will lose them.

After listening to the instructions of their father Israel, the men took the gift, doubled

the money, and, along with Benjamin, went down to Egypt and stood before Joseph.

When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to his household manager:

JOSEPH Take the men inside the house, slaughter an animal, and prepare the meal, for these men will dine with me at noon.

When the men came to Joseph's house, they became fearful and said:

BROTHERS It is because of the money that was placed in our packs.

He may use it as an excuse to attack us, take us as slaves, and seize our donkeys.

As they approached the entrance to Joseph's house, they said to the manager:

BROTHERS Please, my lord, the first time we came down to buy food, but when we came to our place of lodging, we opened our packs, and there inside was each man's money in full. We have brought it back with us, along with more money to buy food.

We do not know who put the money in our packs.

But the manager replied:

MANAGER Do not be afraid. I was the one who received your money. Your God and the God of your father put treasure in your packs.

Then he brought Simeon out to them and brought them all into Joseph's house. He gave them water to wash their feet, and he provided food for their donkeys.

Then the men prepared their gift for Joseph's arrival at noon, for they had heard that they were going to eat a meal there.

When Joseph arrived home, they went into the house and presented him with the gift they had brought with them and bowed before him.

Joseph asked them how they were and inquired:

JOSEPH Is your father well, the old man of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?

BROTHERS Our father, your servant, is well.

He is still alive.

As they bowed their heads in respect, Joseph looked up and saw Benjamin, his brother, his mother's son, and said:

JOSEPH Is this your youngest brother of whom you spoke? May God be gracious to you, my son.

Then Joseph hurried out of the room because his feelings for his brother were so strong that he wanted to cry. He went into his chamber, and there he wept.

After washing his face and regaining control, he came out and gave the order to serve the meal.

They served Joseph by himself, the brothers by themselves, and the Egyptians that were included at the meal by themselves. This is because the Egyptians do not eat with the Hebrews; it is an abomination for the Egyptians to do so.

And the brothers sat before Joseph, the firstborn in the place of honor and the youngest according to his youth. And the men looked at one another in amazement.

Each was given his serving, but Benjamin's portion was five times as large as any of the others. And they drank and enjoyed themselves.

Memory Verses

And he lifted up his eyes and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, and said, "Is this your youngest brother, of whom you spoke to me? God be gracious to you, my son!" Then Joseph hurried out, for his compassion grew warm for his brother, and he sought a place to weep. And he entered his chamber and wept there.

Genesis 43:29-30

THIRTY–SEVEN | **The Reunion**

(Genesis Chapters 44:1–45:5)

Then Joseph commanded the manager of his house:

JOSEPH Fill each man’s pack with food, as much as he can carry, and put each man’s money inside the opening of his pack. And put my cup, the silver one, inside the opening of the pack of the youngest, along with his money.

The manager did what Joseph asked him to do, and at daybreak the men were sent off with their donkeys.

But before they were far away from the city, Joseph said to his manager:

JOSEPH Go after the men, and when you overtake them, say, “Why have you repaid good with evil? Is this not the cup my lord drinks from and uses for divination? What you have done is evil.”

And when the manager overtook them, he said these words as Joseph had instructed. And they replied:

BROTHERS Why does my lord speak this way? Far be it from your servants to have done such a thing. The money we found inside our packs we brought back to you from the land of Canaan. How then should we steal silver or gold from your lord’s house?

Whoever is found with the cup, let him be put to death and let the rest of us be your lord’s slaves.

Then the manager answered:

MANAGER Let it be as you have stated. Whoever is found with the cup will be my slave, but the rest of you will be blameless.

Then each of the men quickly put his pack down on the ground, and each one opened his pack.

The manager searched each pack, starting with the oldest and ending with the youngest. And the silver cup was found in the pack belonging to Benjamin.

The brothers tore their clothes in grief, and each loaded up his donkey and returned to

the city.

When Judah and his brothers arrived at Joseph's house, Joseph was still there, and they fell down before him on the ground. And Joseph said to them:

JOSEPH How could you do such a thing? Do you not know that a man such as myself can learn truth through divination?

And Judah answered:

JUDAH What shall we say to my lord? What shall we speak? There is no way we can clear ourselves. God has revealed your servant's guilt. So here we are, my lord's slaves, both we and the one in whose possession the cup was found.

JOSEPH God forbid that I should act in such a way. The man in whose possession the cup was found will be my slave; but as for you, go in peace to your father.

Then Judah approached Joseph and said:

JUDAH Please my lord, let your servant speak to you in private, and do not be angry with your servant, for you are like Pharaoh himself.

My lord asked his servants, "Do you have a father or a brother?" We answered my lord, "We have a father who is an old man, and a young brother, a little one whose brother is dead. Of his mother's children, he alone is left, and his father loves him."

And you said to your servants, "Bring him down to me, that I may set my eyes upon him." And we answered my lord, "The boy cannot leave his father. If he were to leave his father, his father would die."

You said to your servants, "You will not see my face again unless your brother is with you." So we went back to your servant, my father, and told him what my lord had said.

And when our father said to go again and buy us some food, we answered that we could not go down. We could only go if our youngest brother was with us because we could not see the man's face unless our youngest brother was with us.

Then your servant, our father, said to us, "You know my wife bore me two sons. One left me, and I said, 'Surely he has been torn to pieces,' and I have not seen him since. Now if you also take this one away from me and something happens to him, you will bring my gray hair down to the

grave in grief.”

And Judah continued to plead with Joseph:

JUDAH So now if I return to your servant, my father, and the boy is not with us—seeing that his heart is bound up in the boy’s heart—he will die, and your servants will bring our father to the grave in grief.

For your servant himself guaranteed the boy’s safety. I said, “If I fail to bring him back to you, then I will bear the blame before my father forever.”

Therefore, I beg you, let your servant stay as a slave to my lord instead of the boy. Let the boy go back with his brothers. For how can I go up to my father if the boy is not with me? I could not bear to see the evil that would find my father.

Joseph could no longer control his feelings before his attendants, and he cried out:

JOSEPH Get everyone away from me!

And when no one stood before him except his brothers, he revealed who he was to his brothers. He wept aloud, and the Egyptians heard. Pharaoh’s household also heard, and Joseph said to his brothers:

JOSEPH I am Joseph! Is it true that my father is still alive?

But his brothers could not answer him, for they were terrified at his presence. And Joseph said to his brothers:

JOSEPH Please come closer.

And when they came closer, he said:

JOSEPH I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. But do not be sad that you sold me into slavery here because it was God Who sent me ahead of you to preserve life.

Memory Verses

So Joseph said to his brothers, “Come near to me, please.” And they came near. And he said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.”

Genesis 45:4-5

THIRTY-EIGHT | Israel Invited to Egypt

(Genesis Chapter 45:6–46:27)

After Joseph revealed who he was to his brothers, he explained what God had shown to him:

JOSEPH This famine has been over the land for the past two years, and for yet another five years there will be neither plowing nor harvest.

God sent me ahead of you to save your lives and to ensure that you will have descendants on the earth. So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, lord of all his household, and ruler over the whole land of Egypt.

Hurry! Go back to my father and tell him, “Here is what your son Joseph says: ‘God has made me lord over all of Egypt. Come down to me; do not delay! You will live in the land of Goshen and be near me—you, your children, your grandchildren, flocks, herds, and everything you own. I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come.’”

Your own eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin, that it is my own mouth speaking to you now. Tell my father how honored I am in Egypt and about everything you have seen; and bring my father down here quickly.

And then Joseph embraced his brother Benjamin and wept. And Benjamin wept upon his brother’s neck. And Joseph kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. And after that, his brothers talked with him.

The report of this reached Pharaoh’s house: “Joseph’s brothers have come.” And Pharaoh and his servants were pleased. And Pharaoh said to Joseph:

PHARAOH Tell your brothers, “Here is what you are to do. Load up your animals, go to the land of Canaan, take your father and your families, and come back to me. I will give you good land in Egypt, and you shall eat the fat of the land.”

And you Joseph—this is an order—you are to say: “Take wagons from the land of Egypt to carry your little ones and your wives, and bring your father, and come. Do not worry about your possessions, because the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.”

The sons of Israel did as Pharaoh instructed. And Joseph gave them wagons, as Pharaoh

had ordered, and gave them provisions for their journey. He gave each of them a set of new clothes, but to Benjamin he gave three hundred pieces of silver and five sets of new clothes. He sent ten donkeys loaded with grain, bread, and food for his father to eat on his return journey.

So Joseph sent his brothers away, and as they departed, he said to them:

JOSEPH Do not quarrel among yourselves while you are traveling!

And they went up out of the land of Egypt, entered the land of Canaan, and came to Jacob, their father, and told him:

BROTHERS Joseph is still alive.

And he is ruler over all the land of Egypt!

Jacob was stunned at the news and could not believe them. So they reported everything Joseph had said to them, and when Jacob saw the wagons that Joseph sent to carry him, his spirit revived. And Israel said:

JACOB (ISRAEL) It is enough; my son Joseph is still alive! I must go and see him before I die.

After realizing that Joseph was still alive, Israel began his journey to Egypt, taking with him all that he had. When he came to Beersheba, he offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. And God spoke to Israel in a vision at night.

GOD Jacob, Jacob.

JACOB (ISRAEL) Here I am.

GOD I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt. It is there that I will make you into a great nation. Not only will I go down with you to Egypt, but I will also bring you back here again, and Joseph's hand will close your eyes.

Jacob left Beersheba, and the sons of Israel carried Jacob their father, their little ones, and their wives in the wagons Pharaoh had sent to carry them.

They took their cattle and their possessions, which they had acquired in the land of Canaan, and arrived in Egypt—Jacob and his sons, grandsons, daughters, and granddaughters. All his descendants he brought with him to Egypt.

These are the generations who came into Egypt.

Jacob and his sons. Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, and the sons of Reuben. The sons of

Simeon. The sons of Levi. The sons of Judah. The sons of Issachar. The sons of Zebulun.

These were the sons of Leah whom she bore to Jacob, as well as his daughter Dinah. All together they numbered 33.

The sons of Gad. And the sons of Asher.

These are the sons of Zilpah, the servant whom Laban gave to Leah his daughter, and these she bore to Jacob, 16 people in all.

The sons of Rachel, Jacob's wife, were Joseph and Benjamin.

And the sons of Joseph and the sons of Benjamin.

The sons of Rachel, who were born to Jacob, were 14 people in all.

The son of Dan, and the sons of Naphtali.

Dan and Naphtali were born of Bilhah, the servant whom Laban gave to Rachel his daughter. And these she bore to Jacob—seven people in all.

All the people belonging to Jacob who came to Egypt, his direct descendants, not including the wives of Jacob's sons, totaled 66.

The sons of Joseph, born to him in Egypt, were two in number. All the people in Jacob's family numbered 70.

Memory Verses

And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry."

Genesis 45:7-9

THIRTY-NINE | Joseph & Jacob Reunited

(Genesis Chapters 46:28–47:26)

And Jacob sent Judah ahead of him to Joseph to guide him on the road to Goshen. So, Joseph prepared his chariot and went up to Goshen to meet his father, Israel.

Joseph presented himself to Israel, and he embraced him and wept on his neck for a long time. Then Israel said to Joseph:

JACOB (ISRAEL) Now I can die, because I have seen your face, and because you are still alive.

And Joseph said to his brothers and his father's family:

JOSEPH I will go up and say to Pharaoh, "My brothers and my family, who were in the land of Canaan, have come to me. The men are shepherds and keepers of livestock. They have brought their herds and all their possessions."

When Pharaoh calls you and asks, "What is your occupation?" tell him, "Your servants have been keepers of livestock from our youth until now, both we and our ancestors."

This will ensure that you will live in the land of Goshen, because every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians.

Then Joseph went to Pharaoh and said:

JOSEPH My father and my brothers have come from the land of Canaan with their flocks, livestock, and all their possessions, and they are now in the land of Goshen.

And Joseph presented five of his brothers to Pharaoh, and Pharaoh asked his brothers:

PHARAOH What is your occupation?

BROTHERS Your servants are shepherds, both we and our ancestors.

We have come to live in the land, for there is no place to pasture your servants' flocks in Canaan because of the severe famine. Therefore, please let your servants live in the land of Goshen.

Then Pharaoh said to Joseph:

PHARAOH Your father and your brothers have come to you, and the land of Egypt lies before you. Let them live on the best land in the country; let them live in the land of Goshen. And if you know some that are capable, put them in charge of my livestock.

Then Joseph brought Jacob, his father, and presented him to Pharaoh. Jacob blessed Pharaoh, and Pharaoh asked Jacob:

PHARAOH How old are you?

JACOB (ISRAEL) The time of my stay on earth is 130 years. They have been few and difficult and less than the years my ancestors lived.

Jacob blessed Pharaoh and left his presence. Then Joseph found a place for his father and brothers in the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had ordered. Joseph also provided food for his father and his brothers and all his father's household, taking full care of even the youngest.

There was no food because the famine was so severe, and both Egypt and Canaan grew weaker from hunger. Joseph had collected all the money there was in Egypt and Canaan in exchange for the grain they bought and put the money in Pharaoh's house.

When all the money in Egypt and in Canaan had been spent, all the Egyptians came to Joseph and said:

EGYPTIAN Give us some food, even though we do not have any money. Why should we die before your eyes?

JOSEPH Give me your livestock if you do not have money. I will give you food in exchange for your livestock.

So they brought Joseph their horses, flocks, cattle, and donkeys, and Joseph gave them food. All that year Joseph provided them with food in exchange for all their livestock.

When the year was over, the Egyptians approached Joseph again and said to him:

EGYPTIAN We will not hide it from my lord. All our money is spent, and all our livestock belongs to you, my lord. We have nothing left, as my lord can see, but our bodies and our land.

Should we die before your eyes? Buy us and our land for food; we will be servants to Pharaoh. But also give us seed to plant so that we can stay alive and so the land will not be desolate.

One by one they sold their fields because the famine was so severe. So Joseph bought all the land in Egypt for Pharaoh.

He also made servants of the people, from city to city and from one end of Egypt to the

other. Only the priests' land he did not purchase because the priests had a portion that was assigned by Pharaoh. They ate from what Pharaoh had provided them, and they did not need to sell their land.

Then Joseph said to the people:

JOSEPH I have acquired you and your land for Pharaoh. Here is seed for you to sow the land. When harvest time comes, you are to give 20 percent to Pharaoh, and 80 percent will be yours to keep for seed to plant in the fields and for food for your households and your little ones.

EGYPTIAN You have saved our lives! If it pleases my lord, we will be Pharaoh's servants.

Joseph made it a law over the land of Egypt, valid to this day, that Pharaoh should have 20 percent. Only the property belonging to the priests did not become Pharaoh's.

Memory Verses

Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Your father and your brothers have come to you. The land of Egypt is before you. Settle your father and your brothers in the best of the land. Let them settle in the land of Goshen, and if you know any able men among them, put them in charge of my livestock."

Genesis 47:5–6

FORTY | **Jacob Blesses Joseph's Sons**

(Genesis Chapters 47:27–48:22)

Israel lived in the land of Egypt, in the country of Goshen, and their numbers multiplied greatly, and their possessions grew.

Jacob lived in the land of Egypt for 17 years. So, the days of Jacob were 147 years. And when the time came, when Israel was approaching death, he called for his son Joseph and said to him:

JACOB (ISRAEL) If I have found favor in your sight, please put your hand under my thigh and deal kindly with me. Pledge that you will not bury me in Egypt. When I sleep with my fathers, carry me out of Egypt and bury me where they are buried.

JOSEPH I will do as you have said.

JACOB (ISRAEL) Swear unto me.

And Joseph swore it to him, and Israel bowed down at the head of his bed.

After Joseph had sworn to Jacob to bury him in the land of his fathers, he was informed his father was ill.

So Joseph took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, and Jacob was told:

SERVANT Your son Joseph has come to you.

And Israel gathered his strength, sat up in his bed, and said to Joseph:

JACOB (ISRAEL) God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me, saying:

“I will make you fruitful and numerous. I will make of you a people, and I will give this land to your descendants as an everlasting possession.”

Now your two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine. They will be mine, just as Reuben and Simeon are.

The children born to you after them will be yours, but for the purpose of inheritance, they shall be counted with your older brothers.

As for me, when I came to Padan, Rachel died as we were traveling through the land of Canaan. So I buried her there on the way to Ephrath, that is, Bethlehem.

Then Israel noticed Joseph's sons and said:

JACOB (ISRAEL) Who are these?

JOSEPH These are my sons, whom God has given me here.

JACOB (ISRAEL) Bring them to me, and I will bless them.

Israel's eyes were dim with age so that he could not see. So Joseph brought his sons to Jacob, and he kissed and embraced them. And Israel said to Joseph:

JACOB (ISRAEL) I never expected to see you again. But now God has also allowed me to see your children.

Then Joseph brought them from Israel's knees and bowed himself with his face to the ground. And Joseph took them both, Ephraim toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh toward Israel's right hand.

But Israel put out his right hand and laid it on the head of the younger one, Ephraim, and put his left hand on Manasseh. He intentionally crossed his hands, even though Manasseh was the firstborn. Then he blessed Joseph:

JACOB (ISRAEL) The God, in Whose presence my fathers, Abraham and Isaac lived, the God Who has been my own shepherd all my life to this day, the Angel Who has rescued me from all harm, bless these boys.

May my name be named in them, and the name of my fathers, Abraham and Isaac, and let them grow into a multitude on the earth.

When Joseph saw that his father's right hand was on Ephraim's head, it displeased him, and he held up his father's hand to remove it from Ephraim's head and placed it on Manasseh's head. And Joseph said to his father:

JOSEPH Not this way, my father, for this one is the firstborn. Put your right hand on his head.

But Jacob refused and said:

JACOB (ISRAEL) I know, my son. He too will become a people, and he too will be great, but his younger brother will be greater than he, and his descendants will grow into many nations.

And Jacob blessed them that day, adding:

JACOB (ISRAEL) Israel will speak of you in their own blessing by saying, "May God make me like Ephraim and Manasseh."

Then Israel said to Joseph:

JACOB (ISRAEL) You see that I am about to die. But God will be with you and bring you back to the land of your fathers. Also, more than to your brothers, I am giving you the portion of land that I captured from the Amorites with my sword and my bow.

Memory Verses

And he blessed Joseph and said,

"The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life long to this day, the angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the boys; and in them let my name be carried on, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth."

Genesis 48:15–16

FORTY-ONE | **Jacob Blesses His Sons**

(Genesis Chapter 49)

Then Jacob called for his sons and said:

JACOB (ISRAEL) Gather together, that I may tell you what will happen to you in the days to come. Come together and listen, sons of Jacob. Pay attention to Israel your father.

Reuben, you are my firstborn, my strength, and the firstfruits of my strength. While you are superior in dignity and power, you are unstable as water. Your superiority will end because you climbed into your father's bed and defiled it—he went up to my concubine's couch.

Simeon and Levi are brothers, related by weapons of violence. My soul will not enter their council; my honor will not be connected to their people, for in their anger they have killed men, and at their whim they have maimed cattle.

Cursed be their anger, for it has been fierce, and their wrath, for it is cruel. I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel.

Judah, your brothers shall praise you. Your hand will be on the neck of your enemies. Your father's sons will bow down before you.

You are a lion's cub, Judah, my son. You stand over the prey.

He crouches down and stretches like a lion; like a lioness, who dares to provoke him? The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor a ruler's staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes. It is he whom the people shall obey.

Tying his donkey to the vine and his donkey's colt to the best grapevine, he washes his clothes in wine and his robes in the blood of grapes. His eyes will be darker than wine, and his teeth whiter than milk.

Zebulun shall live by the shore of the sea, with ships anchoring along his coast, and his borders shall extend to Sidon.

Issachar is a strong donkey lying down between the sheepfolds. He saw that rest was good and how pleasant the land is, so he bowed

his back to the burden and became a servant to forced labor.

Dan will judge his people as one of the tribes of Israel. He will be a serpent on the road, a viper on the path that bites the horse's heel so that its rider falls off backward. I will wait for your salvation, oh LORD.

A troop shall raid Gad, but he will attack them at their heels.

Asher's food is rich; he will provide food fit for a king.

Naphtali is a doe set free that bears beautiful fawns.

Joseph is a fruitful plant by a spring, with branches climbing over the wall. The archers attacked him fiercely, but his bow will remain steady and his hands strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; by the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel, the God of your father, Who will help you. By the Almighty Who will bless you with blessings from Heaven above, blessings of the deep that lies below, and blessings of the breasts and of the womb.

The blessings of your father are greater than the blessings of my ancestors, extending to the farthest of the everlasting hills. They will be on the head of Joseph, the one set apart from his brothers.

Benjamin is a ravenous wolf: in the morning devouring the prey, and in the evening dividing the spoil.

All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is how their father spoke to them and blessed them, giving each the blessing appropriate to him. Then Jacob instructed them:

JACOB (ISRAEL) I am about to be gathered to my people. Bury me with my ancestors in the cave in the field of Machpelah, by Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought for a place of burial from Ephron the Hittite.

There they buried Abraham and his wife Sarah, and Isaac and his wife Rebekah, and there I buried Leah.

When Jacob had finished instructing his sons, he pulled up his legs into the bed, breathed his last breath, and was gathered to his people.

Memory Verses

The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

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

Genesis 49:10, 33

FORTY-TWO | **The Death of Joseph**

(Genesis Chapter 50)

After Jacob died, Joseph fell on his father's face, kissed him, and wept. Then Joseph ordered the physicians in his service to prepare his father for burial. The physicians took the full 40 days required to prepare Israel for burial, and the Egyptians mourned him for 70 days.

When the period of mourning was over, Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh, saying:

JOSEPH If I have found favor in your sight, say to Pharaoh, "My father made me swear an oath; he said, 'I am about to die. You are to bury me in my grave, which I dug myself in the land of Canaan.' Therefore, let me go up and bury my father, then I will return."

And Pharaoh answered:

PHARAOH Go and bury your father, just as he has made you swear.

So Joseph went up to Canaan to bury his father. And all the servants of Pharaoh, the leaders of his household, and the leaders of the land of Egypt, along with Joseph's entire household, his brothers, and his father's household, chariots and horsemen went with him.

They left only their little ones, their flocks, and their cattle in the land of Goshen.

When they arrived at the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, they mourned Jacob's death with great sorrow for seven days.

When the local people, the Canaanites, saw the mourning on the threshing floor of Atad, they said:

CANAANITES How bitterly the Egyptians mourn.

Therefore, the place was given the name Abel-mizraim, meaning "the mourning of Egypt."

Then Jacob's sons did as he had ordered them to do. They carried him to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave in the field of Machpelah, which Abraham had purchased along with the field from Ephron the Hittite as a place for burial.

After burying his father, Joseph returned to Egypt along with his brothers and all who

had gone with him.

Now that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said:

BROTHER Joseph may hate us now for all the evil we did to him.

So they sent a message to Joseph:

LEVI "Your father gave this command before he died. 'Say to Joseph, "I beg you now, please forgive your brothers' sin because they did evil to you.'" So we beg you now, forgive the sin of your servants of the God of your father."

Joseph wept when this message was presented to him. And then his brothers came and fell down before him and said:

BROTHERS Here we are.

We are your slaves.

But Joseph said to them:

JOSEPH Do not be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, so He could save the lives of many people. So do not be afraid; I will provide for you and for your little ones.

And Joseph's brothers were comforted as he spoke kindly to them.

Joseph continued to live in the land of Egypt along with his father's household.

Joseph lived 110 years and lived to see Ephraim's children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. And he lived to see the children of Manasseh's son Machir, who were counted as Joseph's own.

And Joseph said to his brothers:

JOSEPH I am about to die. But God will remember you and bring you out of this land to the land He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear an oath.

JOSEPH God will surely remember you, and you must carry my bones up from this place.

So Joseph died at the age of 110, and after they prepared his body for burial, they placed it in a coffin in Egypt.

Memory Verses

But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Genesis 50:19–21