

Chronological Bible Study

Week 2:

God's Promise of Blessing and Life

Death of Abraham to Joseph

Genesis 25:1-50:26

Opening Prayer

[Link to Video](#)





Welcome

Introductions

- Name
- What was your first job? The first thing you did to earn money?

Questions?

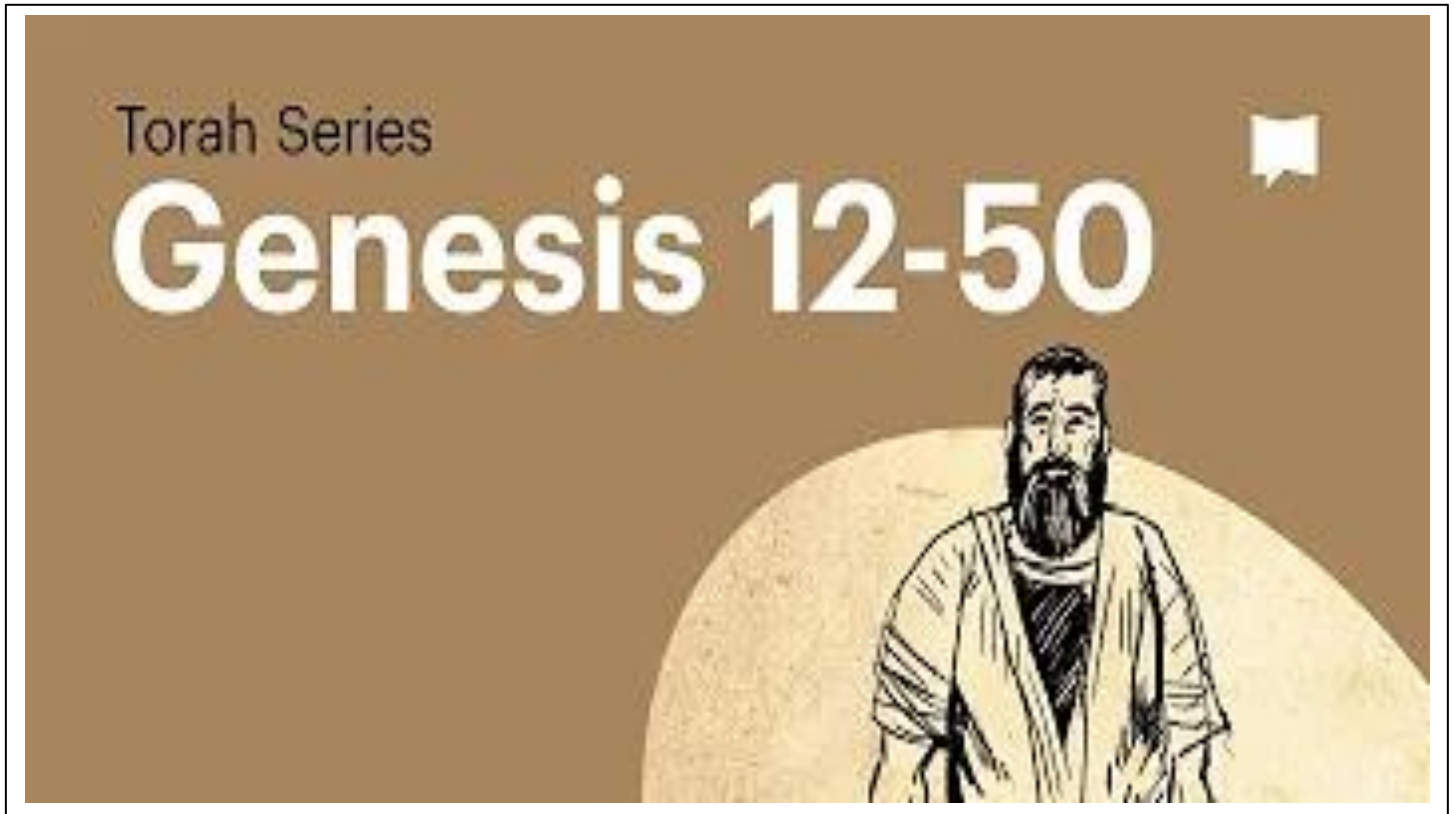
Comments?

Summary of This Week's Readings

- Death of the Patriarchs
- Jacob and Esau
- Jacob and His Family
- Jacob Wrestles with God
- Joseph and His Brothers
- Joseph in Egypt

Genesis 12-50 Video

[Video Link](#)



Theme: God Rescues His People

God remains committed to Abraham's family and His promises and constantly intervenes to rescue them

- God rescues Sarah (twice) and Rebecca from the folly of their husbands (GE 12:17-20, 20:6-10; 26:8-10)
- God provides an heir for Abraham and Sarah (GE 18, 21)
- God protects Jacob despite his selfishness and deception (GE 27-35)
- *God transforms the evil of Joseph's brothers into something that saves the lives of people from many nations (GE 50:20).*



Theme verse of Genesis





God is Present

- God is seen and present and active
- God's works in the best interests of people and the entire creation.
- God enters into a relationship with people
- God doesn't give up on his people.
- God keeps his covenant.
- God blesses his people, sometimes in unexpected ways.



**Themes:
Salvation comes
from God not
Mankind**

- God finds us; we don't find him.
- God is faithful to his promises. He turns barrenness to joy, death to life, evil to good.
- The patriarchs are recipients of God's blessing, which overflows to others. God has a worldwide scope of love.

DISCUSSION

In what ways do we try to take control to “help” God fulfill his promises?



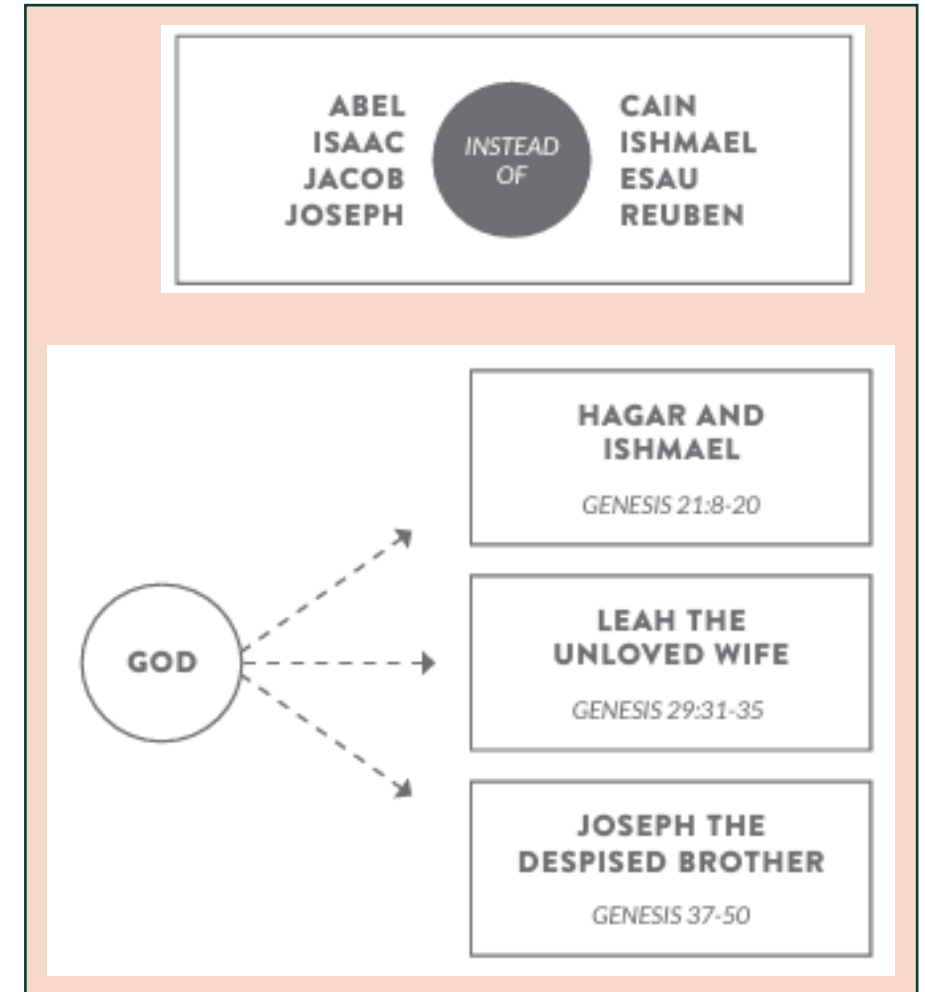
Theme: God Works Through Marginalized People

The pattern of how God works in the world begins in Genesis and continues through the Bible: He works through people of low status who are weak or marginalized.

- God does not make the firstborn sons the vehicles of His promise
- God moves towards those who are rejected

God ensures the continuation of the unique family lineage through which the nations of the earth will be blessed despite childlessness of Sarah, Rachel, and Rebekah. Childlessness marginalized women.

There is hope for all!





Opposites, Reversals, and Deception

Opposites and Reversals generate both irony and reversals in stories of Abraham's family

- Esau vs Jacob
- Rachel and Leah
- Jacob and God
- Abundance and famine
- Punishment and redemption

Deceptions

- Isaac deceiving Abimelech
- Jacob deceiving Isaac to steal Esau's blessing
- Laban deceiving Jacob
- Rachel deceiving Laban
- Jacob's sons deceiving men of Shechem
- Joseph's brothers deceiving Joseph
- Joseph deceiving his brothers in Egypt

The Last Will Be First Video

[Video Link](#)



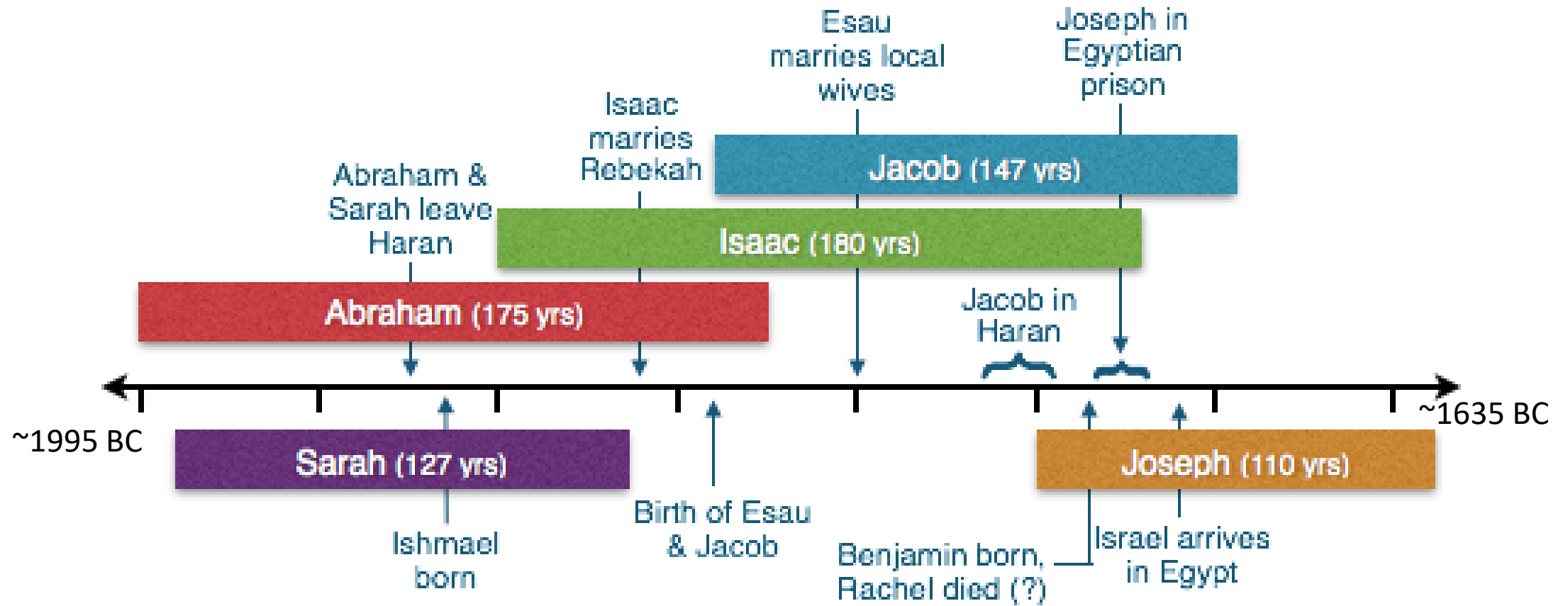
DISCUSSION

How have you best gained insight into who you are and what purpose you have? Through struggles? pain? blessings? disappointment?

Where have you seen reversals that God uses for his purpose?

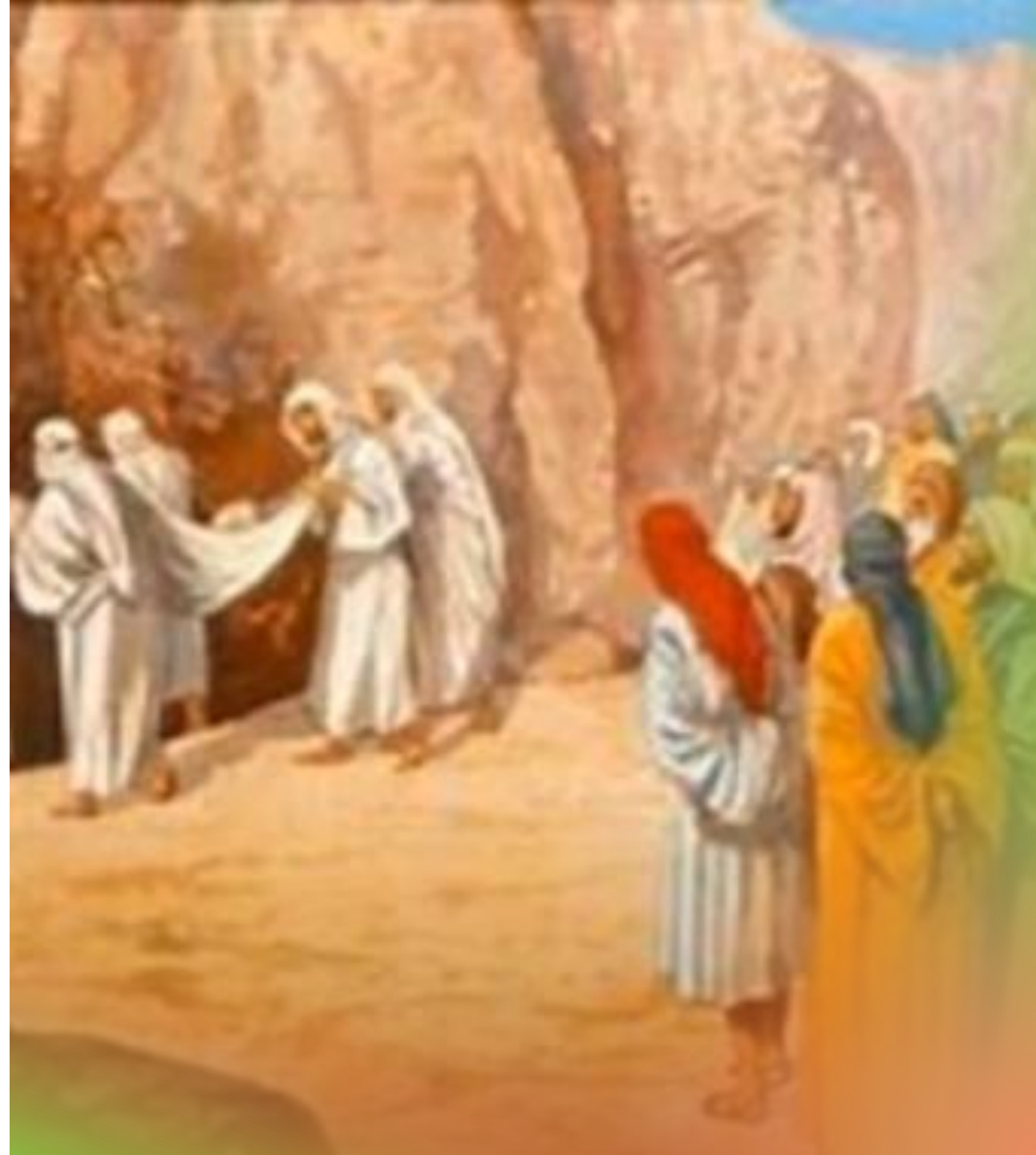


A Chronology of Abraham's Family



Death of Abraham

- Keturah mentioned as Abraham's wife. Her sons inherited nothing when he dies.
- Isaac alone is Abraham's heir.
- Abraham was buried in the cave of Machpelah (bought from Ephron when Sarah died) in Canaan.
- Isaac, Rebekah, Leah, and Jacob (brought from Egypt) would also be buried here.
- The covenant continues through the generations.



Ishmael's 12 Sons

- Nebaioth
- Kedar
- Adbeel
- Mibsam
- Mishma
- Dumah
- Massa
- Hadad
- Tema
- Jetur
- Naphish
- Kedemah



...And they lived in hostility toward all the tribes related to them

Isaac

Isaac's actions closely parallel his father Abraham

- Isaac receives the promises God made to Abraham.
- Isaac meets Abimelek
- Isaac moves around a lot, returning to places where Abraham had lived.
- Like Abraham, Isaac prospers.
- Isaac and Abimelek form a treaty for peace, as Abraham did with the King of Gerar at Beersheba.



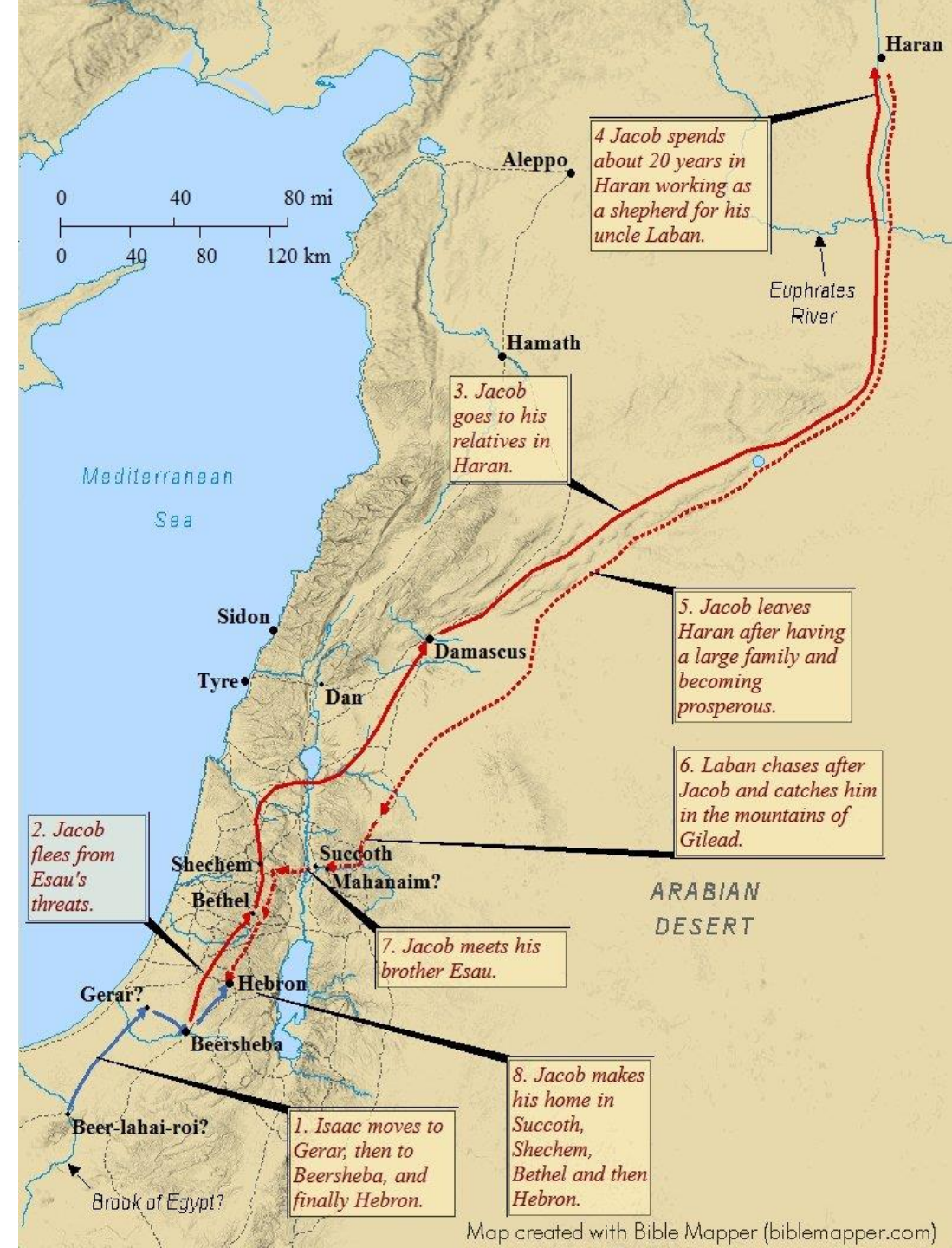
Esau and Jacob



- Twins Jacob and Esau struggle with each other.
- Birthrights and blessings are the key theme.
- Jacob and Esau represent two nations (Israel and Edom), one stronger than the other (GE 25:22-23).
- Jacob was a deceiver.
- Esau dismisses his birthright as unimportant displaying contempt for all that God promised to Abraham and his family line.
- The older will serve the younger – a cultural reversal.

Jacob Flees Esau and Goes to Haran (GE 25:21-33:18)

- Jacob tricked his father (Isaac) into giving him the blessing that should have belonged to Esau.
- Jacob, fearing Esau's anger, fled to Haran for safety.
- In Haran, Jacob marries Leah then Rachel. Jacob stayed in Haran for 20 years.
- Jacob and his wives and children left Haran and returned to Canaan in time to see Isaac before he died.
- On the way back to Canaan Jacob wrestled with God and God changed his name to Israel (the one who wrestles with God).



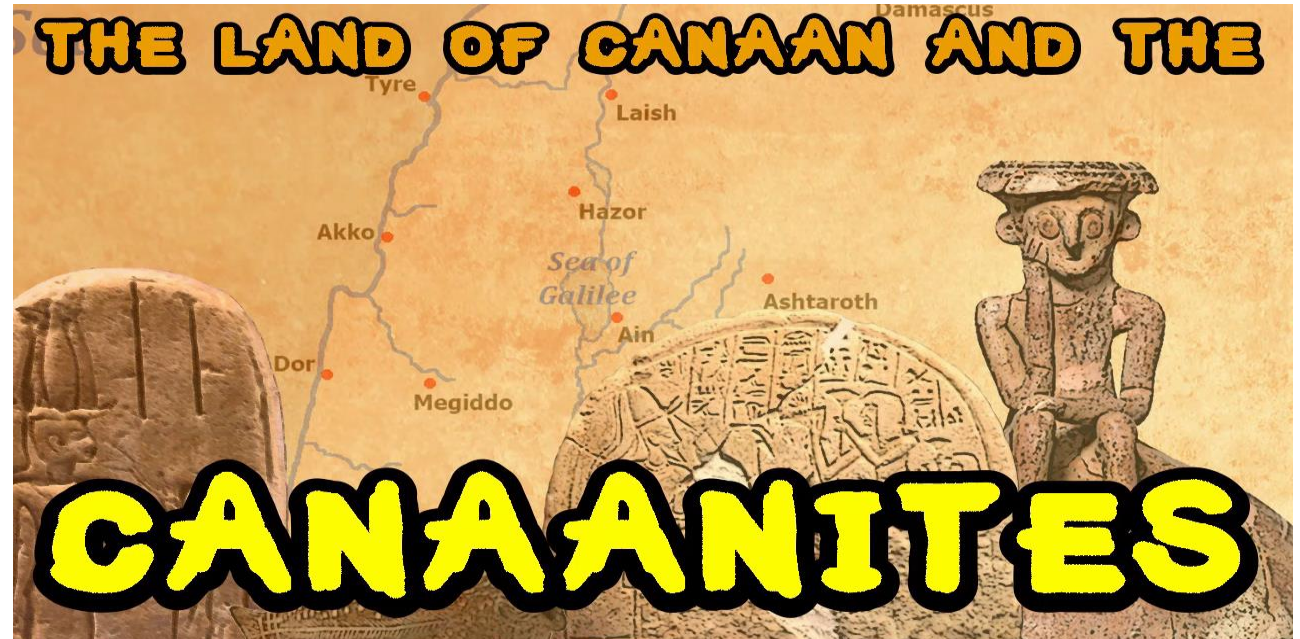


Jacob's Ladder (GE 28:10-22)

- Jacob has a dream. God recalls his earlier promises to Abraham and Isaac and promises to protect Jacob.
- The Hebrew term “sullam” better translates to stairs like those on ancient ziggurats. The stairs linked heaven to earth and reminds Jacob that God intends to reside on the earth.
- The ladder links other Biblical references to God on earth in Eden, the tabernacle, and Jesus (our link to God on earth).
- God renews the covenant promise.
- Jacob's vow (GE 28:20-21) suggests his future commitment to God is contingent on God bringing him back safely to his Father's household. God is still working on him!
- Jacob calls the location of the dream Bethel. Bethel means “House of God.” It is also the location where Abraham had built an altar. (GE 12:8).

Canaan Video

[Video Link](#)



Esau Settles Edom

- Esau left Canaan and settled in the land southeast of the Dead Sea (Edom). His descendants become the Edomites.
- Esau has many wives.
- Esau's sons become tribal leaders of Seir
- Esau's grandson was Amalek who settled in the land southwest of the Dead Sea (Amalek). His descendants become the Amalekites.
- Esau's separation from Jacob (GE 36:6-8) echoes the account of Abraham and Lot parting company.



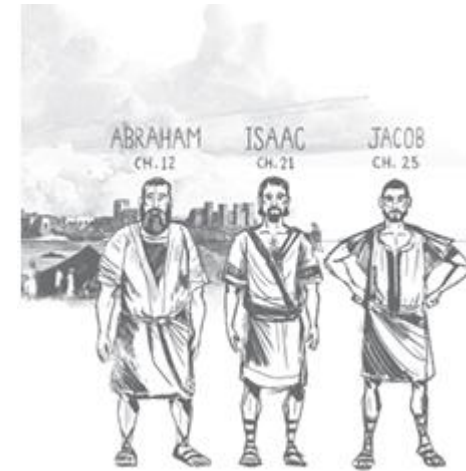


Jacob's Family

- Jacob arrives in Paddan Aram and meets Rachel at a well.
- Jacob arrived with no means to pay a bride-price so had to work for Laban without wages.
- Laban deceives the deceiver Jacob.
- God often acts on behalf of the underdog.
- Leah's Son Judah will be the ancestor of the Messianic line. Leah's son Joseph will lead the family in Egypt.

The Sin and Folly of Abraham's Family

- GE 12-50 relates the sin and folly of Abraham's family and how they constantly put God's promises into jeopardy.
- Abraham's family so dysfunctional that divine promises will only be fulfilled through God's faithfulness, not theirs.



Abraham
Endangers the promise of a large family by giving his wife away twice!
(GE 12, 20)

Sarah
Tries to force God's Hand to give them a child by having Abraham sleep with Hagar
(GE 16, 21)

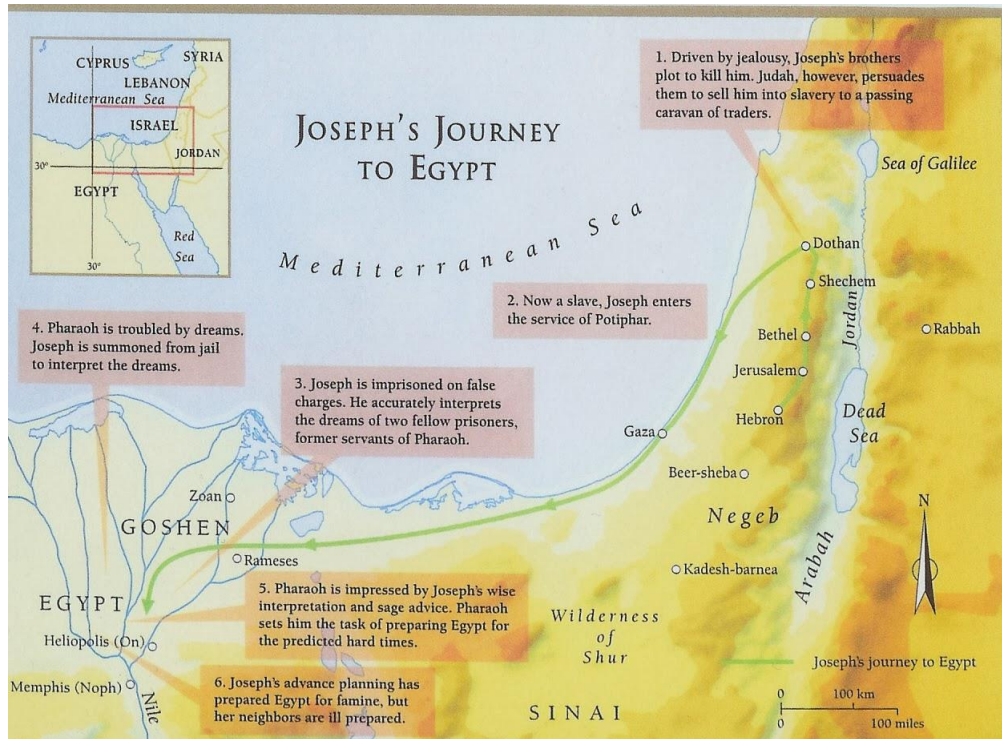
Isaac
Gives away his wife Rebekah
(GE 26)

Jacob
Is a thief and liar and gains the blessing by stealing
(GE 25, 27)

Joseph's Brothers
Try to kill Joseph
(GE 37)



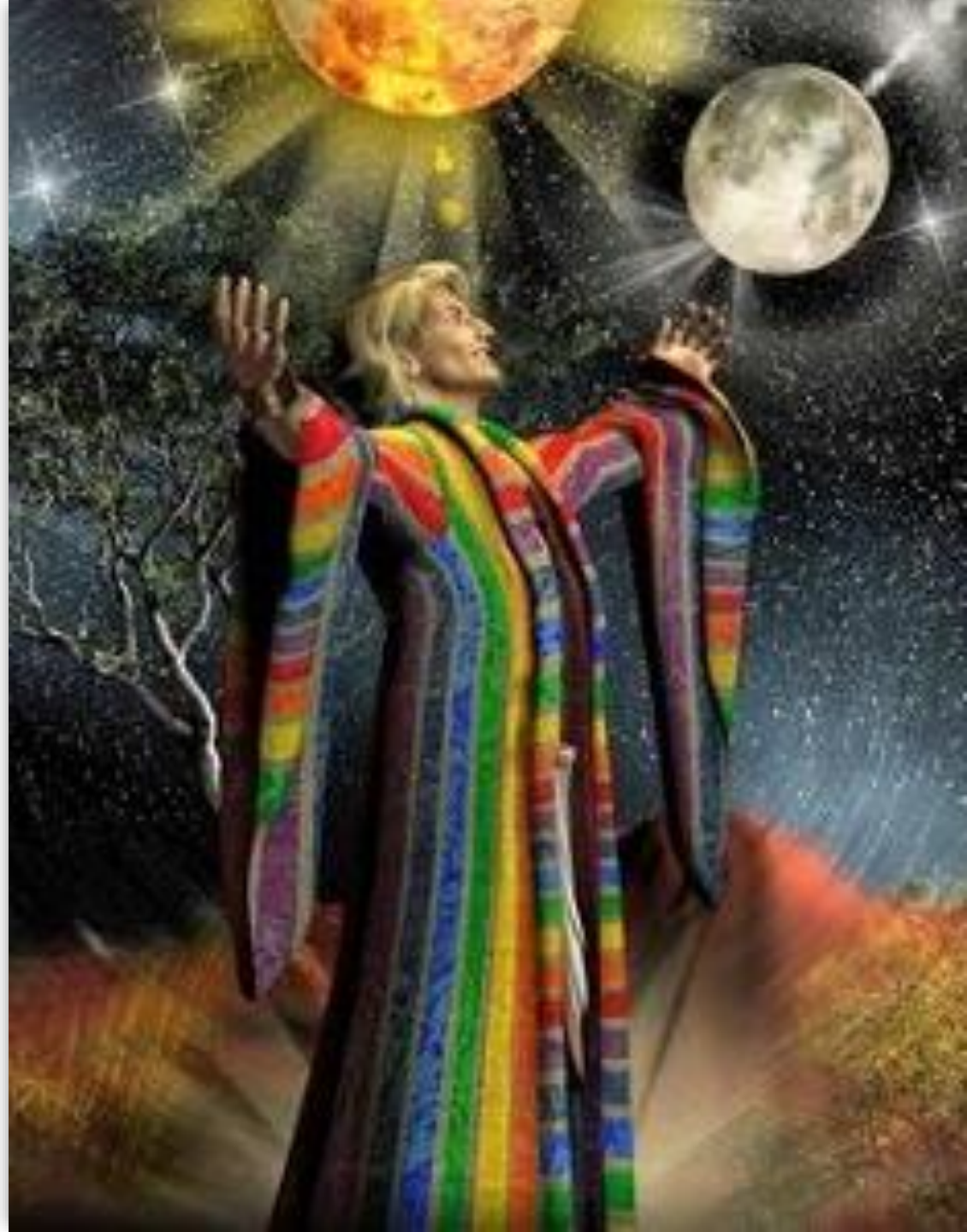
Joseph is Taken to Egypt (GE 35:16-45:24)



- Israel (Jacob) favored his 11th son, Joseph, because he was the first son born to his favorite wife (Rachel).
- Israel's other 10 sons became jealous of their much younger brother (sibling rivalry theme) and sold him to traders who were traveling through Canaan on their way to Egypt.
- God is with Joseph and Joseph is loyal to God. Joseph's success comes from God.
- God rescued Joseph from his murderous brothers and through Joseph, God saved his brothers from famine.
- Joseph married an Egyptian woman and had 2 sons: Ephraim and Manasseh..
- Back in Canaan, Rachel gave birth to Israel's 12th son (Benjamin) but died in childbirth.

Joseph and Dreams

- Throughout Genesis dreams are revelations from God. God never speaks directly to Joseph but does speak through dreams.
- Before Egypt, Joseph has two dreams where he sees his brothers bowing down to him.
- Joseph shows an ability to interpret dreams, indicating he has a special God-given ability. Joseph credits God with the interpretation.
- Joseph not only interprets Pharaoh's dream but offers a plan of action to address the situation, leading to Joseph taking on a key role of second in command to Pharaoh.



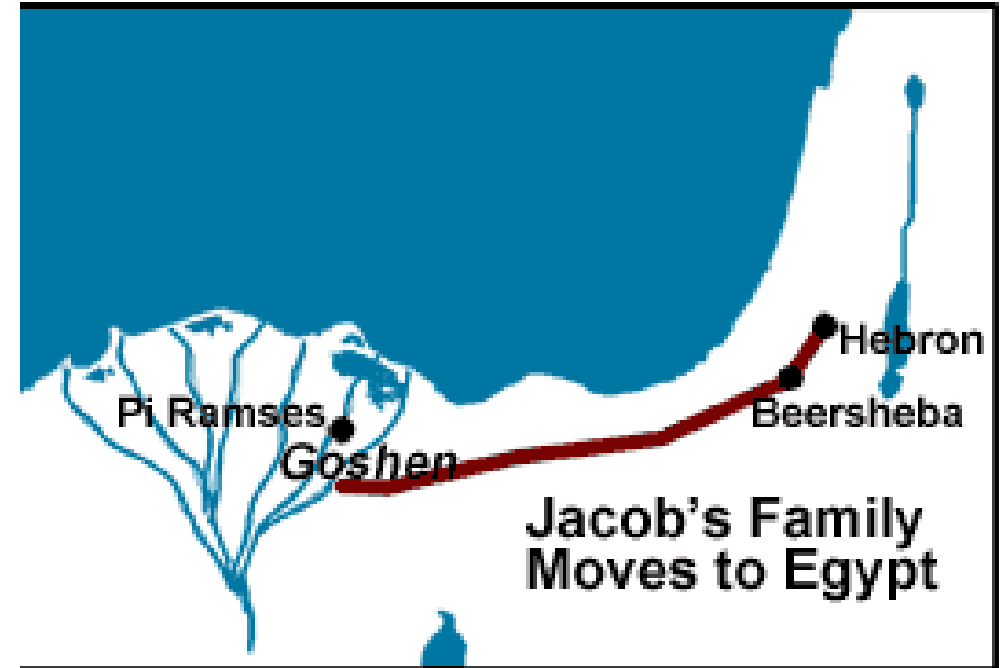


Judah and Tamar (GE 38)

- Judah and his sons were not doing their duty in caring for Tamar. Tamar had no legal redress against her father-in-law's injustice.
- With much trickery, Tamar has twins from Judah, who is now a widower: Zerah and Perez. Perez is the ancestor of David.
- This story shows a transformation in the character of Judah. Judah acknowledges his own guilt and this is a turning point in Judah's life.

Jacob's Family Moves to Egypt (GE:45:25-50:26)

- After several rough years, Jacob and his sons and their families traveled to Egypt. They would not have known of Joseph's position but sought some of the food stored there.
- Joseph's brothers end up bowing down to him, unknowingly fulfilling Joseph's dreams.
- The brothers leave and return to buy more grain and meet again with Joseph, still not knowing he is their brother.
- Joseph does not seek vengeance toward his brothers and eventually makes himself known to them. He asks them to move to Egypt. God authorizes Jacob to go to Egypt and they do.
- For several generations Jacob and his descendants (the Israelites) were welcomed guests of the Pharaohs of Egypt. They settled in the fertile Goshen region of Egypt and became numerous.



DISCUSSION

Joseph forgives his brothers despite their utter betrayal.

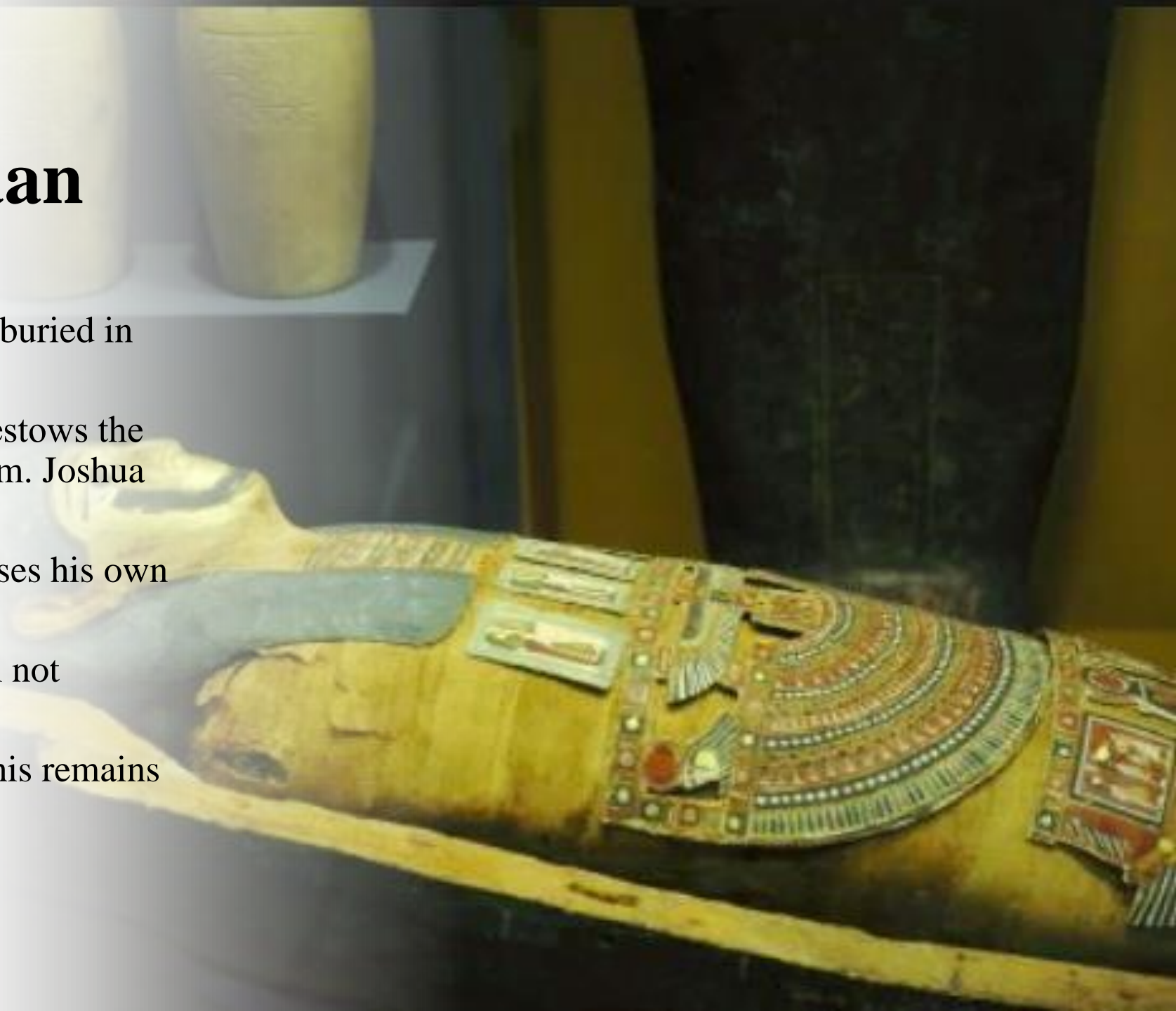
Should forgiveness have limitations?

What does this story tell us about forgiving our own betrayers?



Bury Me in Canaan

- Jacob nears death and wants to be buried in Canaan.
- Jacob blesses Joseph's sons and bestows the blessing of the firstborn on Ephraim. Joshua is in the line of Ephraim.
- After blessing Ephraim Jacob blesses his own sons in order of birth.
- Joseph assures his family they will not remain in Egypt forever.
- When dying, Joseph asks to have his remains taken to Canaan.



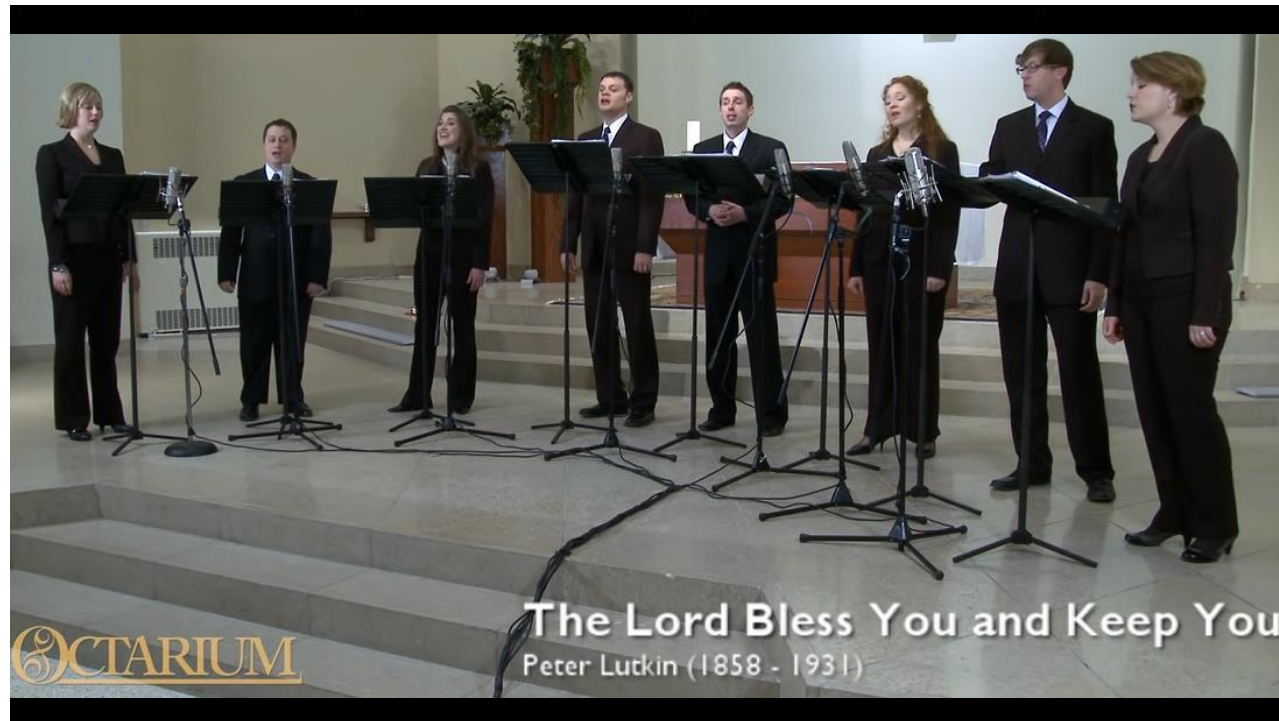
Old Testament In 5 Minutes

[Video Link](#)



Closing Hymn

[Video Link](#)



God's Promise of Blessing and Life

19-25 SEPT 2023

GE 25–50

Week 2 --- 50 Weeks to Go

God blesses by bringing life. In Abraham and Sarah's old age, they are blessed with a son, Isaac. Through the experience of Abraham's offspring (the Israelites), God shows great love and His faithfulness to humanity. But God also demands that humanity live in accordance with God's expectations – to restore the image of God in their lives. The relationship between God and God's chosen people is described. We see examples of obedience, peace and prosperity, but also see times of disobedience, punishment and suffering. People are called to repent (turn back to God). The importance of obedience and repentance are overarching themes of these readings, as well as themes of the entire Bible.

Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: GE 25:1—27:46
Day 2: GE 28:1—30:43
Day 3: GE 31:1—32:32
Day 4: GE 33:1—36:43
Day 5: GE 37:1-41:56
Day 6: GE 42:1-46:34
Day 7: GE 47:1-50:26

Outline

The Close of Abraham's Life (Days 1-4)
The Life of Isaac (Day 1)
The Life of Jacob (Days 1-4)
The Life of Joseph (Days 5-6)
Jacob Enters Egypt (Day 7)
Jacob's Last Days (Day 7)

Key Characters

Abraham	Ishmael
Isaac	Rebekah
Jacob (Israel)	Esau
Abimalek	Laban
Leah	Rachel
Zilpah	Dinah
Judah	Tamar
Jacob's Sons	Joseph

Key Locations

Canaan
Land of the Philistines
Beersheba
Harran
Moriah
Hebron
Bethel
Edom
Upper Mesopotamia
Egypt

Key Terms

Covenant, promise, swear
Blessing
Descendants, offspring
Land (Canaan)
Sacrifice
Birthright

Key Verses

Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation [GE 21:18]

And through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me [GE 22:18]

I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed [GE 26:4]

But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance [GE 45:7]

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. [GE50:20]

Teachings About God

- God re-initiates his relationship with every generation when they run from him (GE 35:11).
- God uses imperfect, flawed people to advance his kingdom.
- God is present, intimately involved, and interacts with his people.
- God works through marginalized people.

Teachings About Humanity

- People who follow God struggle with God at times to see him for who he is.
- Jacob's name means deceiver. People can be tricky/deceptive, yet their deception earns them praise and privilege.
- Jacob's name is changed to "Israel" which means "one who struggles with God." His very nature is reborn through his struggle and belief in God.
- We see the struggles of Israel with an unseen God in Jacob's wrestling match with God.

Teachings About Salvation

- GE 12-50 shows the beginning of God's covenant people and how he remains committed to them.
- God often unexpectedly chooses the marginalized and reversing expectation.
- Abraham and his family play a significant role in the outworking of God's redemptive plan.
- Joseph demonstrates punishment and redemption with his brothers, as God does with his people.
- Joseph takes harmful motivations and weaves something redemptive in their midst, central to redemption.
- God's covenant achieved through struggle.

Reflections of Christ

- The ladder that Jacob dreams of his prophecy of Jesus being our link with God here on earth (JOHN 1:51).
- Joseph is a forerunner to Jesus (GE 37-50).
- Jesus is born through the line of Judah.
- Joseph is sold for 20 pieces of silver; Jesus is betrayed by Judas for 30 pieces of silver.
- Like Christ, Joseph's life is divided into two (humiliation and exaltation). He goes through many trials ending up in glory. All things work together for good.
- Jesus will be referred to as the "Lion of the tribe of Judah" (REV 5:5) alluding to the royal image in GE 49:9.

Literary Genres/Techniques

- Historical narrative.
 - The story of the direct ancestors of the Israelites (GE 12-50)
- Genealogies (GE 36; 46).
- Binary opposites used to divide (Esau/Jacob, Rachel/Leah, Joseph's sons, wrestling match of God/Man, abundance/famine).

Author/Date of Writing/Location

- Moses, ~1445 BC.
- Began as an oral tradition of narrative stories passed down generation to generation.
- The events about Abraham and his family take place primarily in Canaan.

First Audience

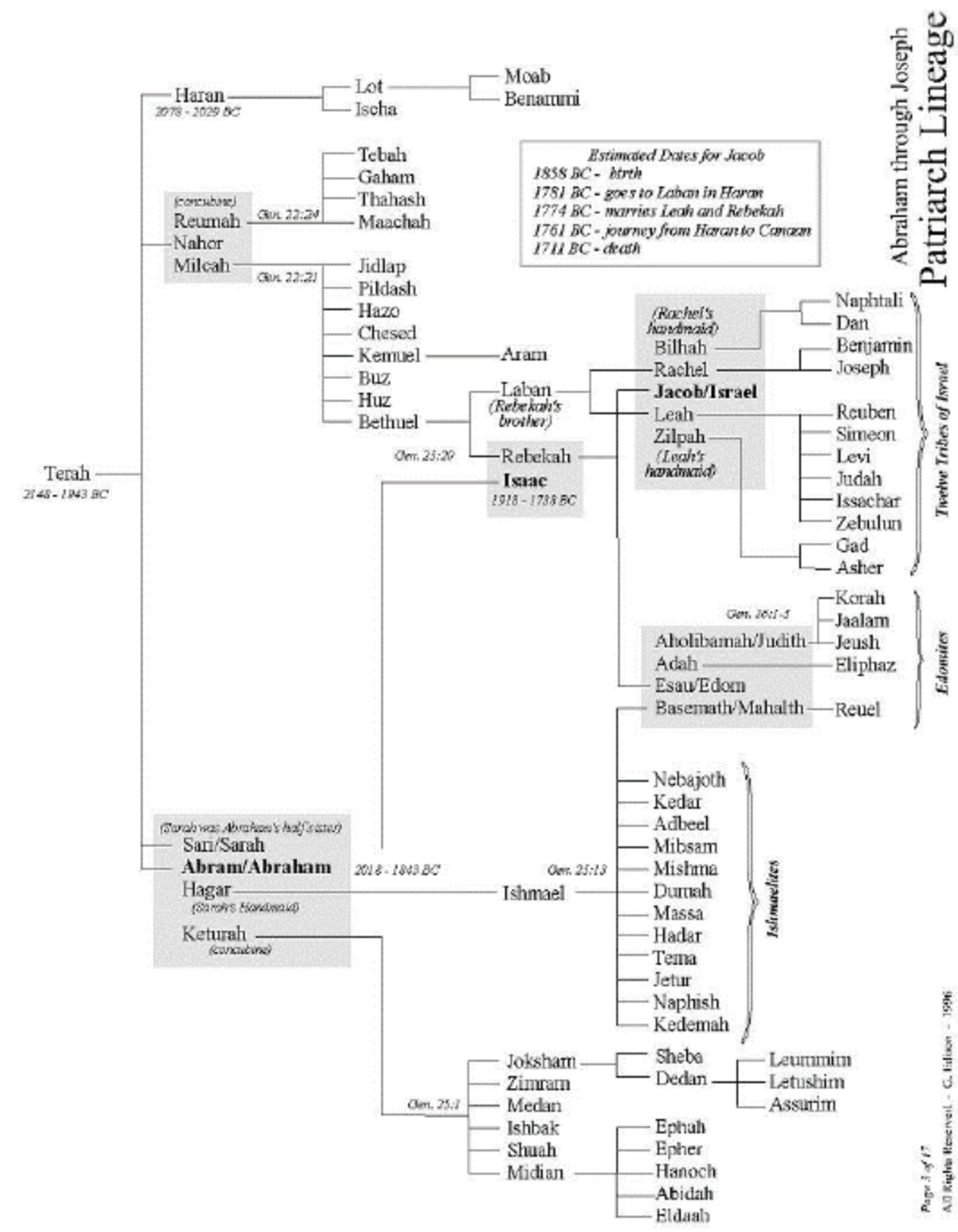
- The Israelites at Mount Sinai in the wilderness on their way to Canaan.

God's Promise of Blessing and Life

19-25 SEPT 2023

GE 25-50

Week 2 --- 50 Weeks to Go



Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

GE25: Abraham died and was buried with Sarah. Isaac and Rebekah had twins: Esau and Jacob. Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for a meal.

GE26: In Gerar Isaac lied about Rebekah. He grew so rich that Abimelech sent him away. He dug wells, and at Beersheba the LORD blessed him.

GE27: Rebekah and Jacob tricked Isaac into giving Jacob his blessing. Esau vowed revenge so Rebekah told Jacob to go to her brother Laban.

GE28: Isaac sent Jacob to marry one of Laban's daughters. On the way Jacob dreamed of a ladder reaching to heaven and the LORD blessed him.

GE29: Jacob worked for Laban seven years to marry Rachel, but Laban gave him Leah and made him work seven more for Rachel. Leah had sons.

GE30: Rachel's maid had sons for Jacob, then Leah's maid, then Leah. Finally Rachel had a son. Laban allowed Jacob flocks as wages to stay.

GE31: The Lord told Jacob to return home. Jacob left in secret and Rachel took Laban's idols. Laban chased Jacob but they made a treaty.

GE32: Jacob heard that Esau was coming to meet him. He was afraid and sent gifts. That night he wrestled with a man who renamed him Israel.

GE33: Esau and his men arrived. Jacob bowed down but Esau ran to embrace him. Jacob settled near Shechem and built an altar.

GE34: Shechem raped Jacob's daughter and asked to marry her. Jacob's sons told him to circumcise his men, then Simeon and Levi killed them.

GE35: Jacob went to Bethel and God renamed him Israel. They journeyed on. Rachel died having Israel's twelfth son. Isaac died in Hebron.

GE36: Esau's sons were Eliphaz, Reuel, Jeush, Jalam and Korah. Esau and his family moved away to Seir. They became the Edomites.

GE37: Joseph was Israel's favorite son. He had dreams and his brothers were jealous so they sold him. He was bought by Potiphar in Egypt.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

GE38: Judah's sons Er and Onan died, leaving Tamar a widow. Judah sent her away but she put on a veil and he slept with her. She had twins.

GE39: Potiphar put Joseph in charge of his house. His wife tried to seduce Joseph, then lied about it, so Potiphar put Joseph in prison.

GE40: Pharaoh put his cupbearer and baker in prison. Joseph interpreted their dreams. The cupbearer was restored but the baker was hanged.

GE41: Pharaoh had a dream and called for Joseph to interpret it. The dream predicted a famine. Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of all Egypt.

GE42: Joseph's brothers went to Egypt to buy grain but didn't recognize him. He kept Simeon in prison and sent the rest to fetch Benjamin.

GE43: When the grain ran out, Joseph's brothers went back to Egypt with Benjamin. Joseph invited them to his house and gave them a feast.

GE44: Joseph hid his cup in Benjamin's sack, then sent a steward after his brothers. Judah offered himself as a slave instead of Benjamin.

GE45: Joseph told his brothers who he was. They were afraid, but he told them, "God sent me here." His brothers went to fetch their father.

GE46: So Israel set out with all his household. God told him not to be afraid. Israel and all his family came to Egypt and Joseph met him.

GE47: Pharaoh allowed Joseph's family to settle in Goshen. The famine continued and the Egyptians sold all they had to Pharaoh for food.

GE48: Jacob became ill, so Joseph took his sons to see him. Jacob blessed Joseph's sons as his own, putting Ephraim ahead of Manasseh.

GE49: Jacob gathered his sons and blessed each of them. He charged them to bury him with Abraham in the cave in Canaan, and then he died.

GE50: Pharaoh allowed Joseph to go and bury Jacob. Before Joseph died, he said that God would lead his people back to the Promised Land.

WEEK 2 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What did I learn about God?

- Through the experiences of Abraham and his family, what do we learn about the way God treats us when we are obedient? When we are fearful? When we are wayward?
- God changed a deceiver into one favored; he chose a younger son over the older. What does this say about God and God's purpose? Who does God bless?
- Why do you think God chose to wrestle with Jacob? Why did God wrench Jacob's hip?
- What ways do you see God taking things intended for harm and turning them to good?

What did I learn about human nature?

- Esau made several terrible choices. He traded his birthright to his birthright for a bowl of stew, chose wives from the pagan peoples of the world and he moved away from his family. . . Can our desire for something be so strong that we give up a blessing for the rest of our life to fulfill an immediate desire? Where do we see people today who are seeking immediate pleasure/satisfaction instead of seeking longer term blessing?
- Jacob was a schemer (steals Esau's birthright and blessing, increases his flocks at Laban's expense). What do his deceptive actions reveal about his true character and his trust in (or his relationship with) God?
- There are many broken relationships in this week's reading (Jacob and Esau, Jacob and Laban, Joseph and his brothers). What caused these problems? What do these examples tell us about how to deal with relationship issues?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- Can you be patient and wait for God's timing in delivering His promises and blessings? In what ways do we try to take control to "help" God fulfill his promises?
- Abraham found the meaning of his life to be serving God – he sought to make God his love, his life's focus and to bring God pleasure. What tends to distract us from God?
- When you meet with success, are you more likely to soak it in and be proud, deflect it with ungratefulness, or reflect it to its true source (God)? Do you react differently in different kinds of situations (work, with family, with friends, in competitions)?
- How have you best gained insight into who you are and what purpose you have? Through struggles? pain? blessings? disappointment?

Shared Time/Culture Insights

- In antiquity, both the birthright and the blessing were of vital importance. What does Jacob mean to achieve through his trickery? How did God use Jacob to fulfill His purpose?
- Abraham and his family lived amidst cultures that had many gods and idols. Joseph lived in Egypt who had their own gods. How did Abraham's family maintain their faithfulness. How is this similar to coping in the secular world we live in today?