

GENESIS

"In the beginning God. . ." Gen. 1:1



By Angela Wisdom

Genesis

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Genesis

GOD

During this study we will see God's name used in many of the lessons, and in different ways. Below are names for God:

1. **EL** (*God*) This root word word for GOD refers to God in the general sense.
2. **ELOHIM** (*Deity*) *El* is a Hebrew word that means God. *Elohim* is the plural form of *El*. *Elohim* means the one Supreme, true God. This word for God was used in Genesis 1: 1 "*In the beginning GOD*", and refers to all three persons in the Godhead.
3. **YAHWAH** (*Jehovah*) *Yahwah* means "the existing One"; the eternal One. The proper name of the one true God. This word is used in Genesis 12:8; 13:4 and other places in the Bible.
4. **EL ROI** (*God Who Sees*) Hagar used this word for God in Genesis 16:13. God saw her in her distress and helped her.
5. **EL SHADDAI** (*God Almighty*) This term for God is used in Genesis 17:1. It means the Almighty; the most powerful God.

Many times the word "GOD" is defined by a particular form of the word, like "JEHOVAH".

Example: "*I, the LORD (Jehovah) your God (Elohim), am a jealous God (El)" -- Deut. 5:9*

As we study Genesis, see how many ways that you see the name of GOD used!

Years after the Flood – 1556 years after Creation

Years BC – 1556 1848 1948 2008 2099 2129 2209 2200 2250

Noah ————— - *died 58 years after Abraham born (350 yrs after flood)*

Shem ————— - *died 50 yrs after Jacob born (502 yrs after flood)*

Terah ——— - *born 1756 yrs after flood - (lived 205 years)*

Abraham ————— - *born 1848 yrs after flood (lived 175 yrs)*

Ishmael ————— - *born 1934 yrs after flood (lived 123 yrs)*

Isaac ————— - *1948 yrs after flood (lived 180 yrs)*

Jacob ————— - *2008 yrs after flood (147 yrs)*

Joseph ————— - *2099 yrs after flood (110 yrs)*

Ephraim & Manassah ——— - *2129 - 2136 yrs after flood
(died during the 400 yr period between end of Gen. and beginning of Ex.)*

(Chart by Larry Wisdom)

**Notice that Shem's life overlaps that of Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, and he died 50 years after Jacob was born.*

Years of Abraham

Abraham Arrives in Canaan – 75 yrs old Gen. 12:4

Nephew Lot is with them

Birth of Ishmael – Abraham was 86 yrs old Gen. 16:16

Birth of Isaac – Abraham was 100 yrs old Gen. 17:17; 21:5

Death of Sarah – Abraham was 137 yrs old Gen. 23:1-2; 17:17

Sarah 10 years younger than Abraham - 127 yrs

Isaac Marries Rebekah – Abraham was 140 yrs old Gen. 25:20

Birth of Jacob and Esau – Abraham was 160 yrs old Gen. 25:26

Death of Abraham – 175 yrs old Gen. 25:7-8

Jacob and Esau – 15 years old at Abraham's death

Isaac 75 years old – Ishmael 89 years old at Abraham's death

(Compiled by Larry Wisdom)

GENESIS

LESSON ONE -- TIME PERIOD: Before the Flood

There are 17 periods of Bible history and the book of Genesis covers four (4) of these periods:

Before the Flood

The Flood

The Scattering of the People

The Patriarchs

These are the four periods of Bible History covered in Genesis.

Exodus

Wandering in the Wilderness

Invasion and Conquest

Judges

United Kingdom

Divided Kingdom

Judah Alone

Captivity

Return from Captivity

Years of Silence

Life of Christ

Early Church

Letters to the Christians

VOCABULARY:

Genesis - The origin or coming into existence of something.

Godhead - The nature of God existing in three persons; Deity; divine nature or essence.

Omnipresent - Present everywhere at the same time.

"In the beginning GOD . . ."

John 17:11- 21; Acts 4: 27, 30; Matt. 1:18; Lev. 11: 44 -45; John 14: 8 - 11; John 1: 1 - 3; Eph. 4: 4 - 6

The book of Genesis was written by Moses by the inspiration of God. He wrote the first 5 books of the Old Testament. In Genesis chapters 1 and 2 we will learn about the Creation of the world.

It is important that we believe what the Bible says about Creation. If we believe this, then we can believe everything that the Bible says. The Bible is God's word and our faith needs to be in what God says.

When we read Genesis 1:1, the story of Creation starts by saying, *"In the beginning GOD . . ."*. The word "GOD" in this verse is a Hebrew word that is plural and means "the gods". How can this be since there is only ONE God?

God's word tells us that there is ONE God, but there are three (3) persons in the godhead. There is:

- **GOD the Father** -- He directed the plan for the Word (Christ) to come to earth in the flesh and die for all the sins of mankind.
- **GOD the Son** (or Christ) -- He came to earth in a fleshly body to die for all of mankind.
- **GOD the Holy Spirit** -- He brought about, by miracles, the Word coming to earth in the form of a baby. He testified by miraculous works that the Word was the Christ and He gave us the inspired Bible so that we can know the mind of Christ.

All three persons in the godhead (God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit) are ONE in purpose -- they all make up the ONE GOD. They are all HOLY, they are all a SPIRIT, they are all in UNITY, they all have a WILL, they all have a MIND, they all LOVE, and they all seek to have a close relationship with man. Can you see that they are all ONE in their attributes and what they have planned for man? This ONE purpose is what makes them ONE GOD!

Where is the GOD of creation now? He is in heaven (Acts 1:11; 2:33; 7:55 - 56; Col. 3:1; John 14:1 - 3). But, even though His being is in heaven, His presence is everywhere! This is called being "omnipresent" -- present everywhere at the same time. That is an awesome thought isn't it?

When we read about Cain and Abel in Genesis, notice that they were in His presence as they worshipped (Gen. 4: 3 - 8). After Cain sinned, he went out from the presence of the Lord (Gen. 4:16).

Later on in your Bible study you will learn about God's presence being with His people in a pillar of cloud and a pillar of fire (Ex. 13:21). You will learn about His presence being in the Tabernacle and in the Temple. His presence is NOW in His church (Rev. 2: 13; 3:8; Matt. 28:18; Eph. 1: 22 - 23). His presence is with Christians as they partake of the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week. His presence is with Christians by His Word (Eph. 3:17; Col. 3:16).

The GOD of Creation is the *same GOD we serve!* He can do anything He wills to do. He knows our hearts. He will execute all of His judgments and He will keep all His promises!

As you learn about Him, let His word build your faith in Him!!

Memory Work

John 1:1
In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

QUESTIONS

1. What four periods of Bible history does the book of Genesis cover? _____

2. Name the three persons in the Godhead and the role of each:

3. Where is the God of Creation now? _____

4. Where is God's presence now? _____

5. Who wrote the book of Genesis? _____

THE GODHEAD

The Godhead is composed of three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. They are sometimes called "Father, Son and Holy Spirit" (Matt. 28: 18 - 20).

All three were present in the beginning of time (Gen. 1: 1- 2; John 1: 1- 3).

All three were present at the baptism of Jesus (Matt. 3: 16 - 17).

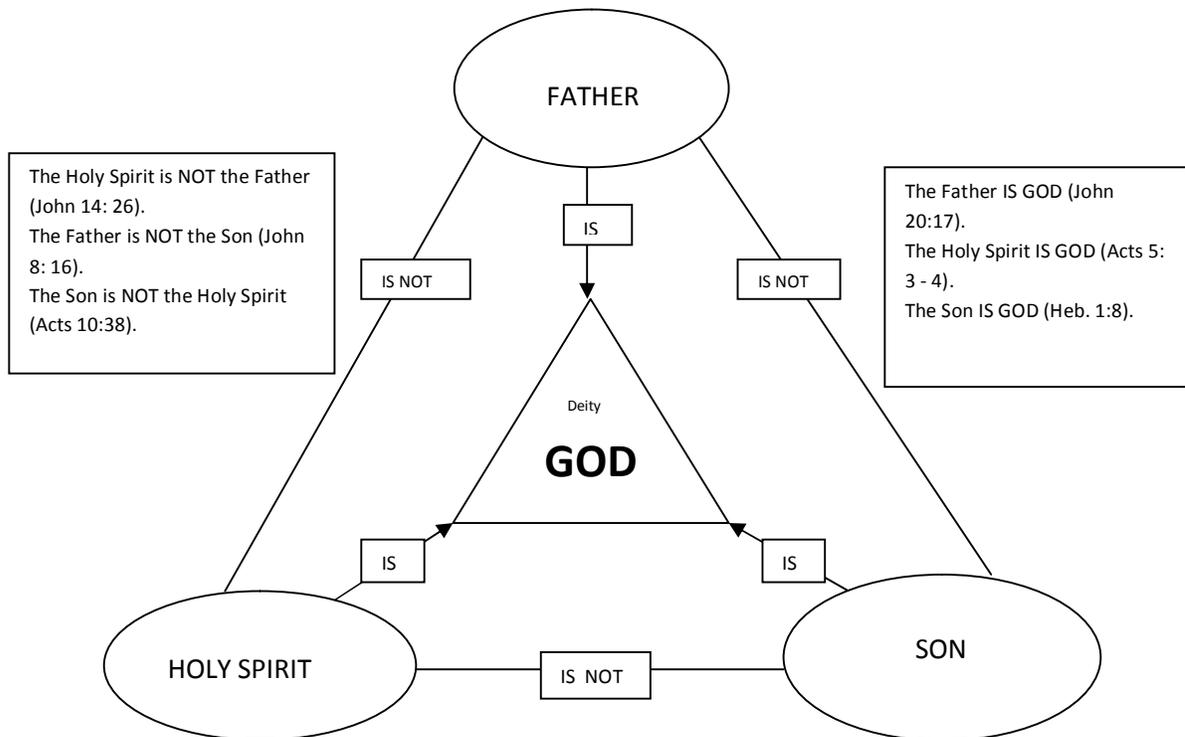
Jesus speaks of Himself, the Father and the Comforter when speaking of the Spirit's work (John 14: 16 - 18, 28; 15: 26 - 27; 17: 3 - 5).

Jesus commanded baptism into the name of all three (Matt. 18 - 20).

All three -- the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost, are said to bear record in heaven (I John 5:7).

God anointed Jesus with the Holy Ghost (Acts 10:38).

The chart below may help you understand better how there is ONE GOD, yet three persons in the GODHEAD.



GENESIS

LESSON TWO -- Time Period: Before the Flood

Vocabulary:

Genesis - Beginning

Created - To make; do

Void - Empty

Firmament - The visible arch of the sky; and expanse.

Herb - Any tender shoot; grass; to be green.

Seed - The part of the plant or animal that allows it to reproduce itself.

Fruitful - To grow; increase

Replenish - To make full; fulfill; satisfy

Holy - To sanctify; dedicate; to make pure or clean ceremonially or morally.



INTRODUCTION

God had a plan for man before He even created the world (Eph. 1: 3 - 4). Isn't that an awesome thought? God created all things so that He could receive glory of His creation (Rev. 4:11). When we look at the world that God created, from the biggest things to the very smallest things, we can see how God paid great attention to the details of His creation. God's creation shows us His divine nature and eternal power (Rom. 1:20). It is this God who, "measured the waters in the hollow of His hand and measured the heavens with the span of His hand" (Isa. 40:12). Let's learn about this great God of ours!

The very first verse of Genesis tells us that there was a "beginning". This is when God brought the heavens and earth into existence. God didn't make the heavens and earth from something that already existed as man would do, but He made what had never existed before. As God created each thing, what He created worked just as He intended it would.

The way God created the world was by the word of His mouth! As we look at Genesis chapter one notice the same phrase made over and over "And God said...". God SPOKE everything into existence! His word has power! This is important because as the creation of God demonstrates the great power of His spoken word it should also demonstrate to us that His word has power TODAY! This great power is what saves us from our sins! (Rom. 1:16)

If we have faith in the Creation of the Bible we will believe ALL that the Bible tells us!

Genesis 1 - 2:4

In the beginning God **created** the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and was **void** and darkness was over the face of the deep. The Spirit of God moved over the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light", and there was light. God saw that the light was good and He separated the light from the darkness.

God called the light "day" and the darkness He called "night". And the evening and the morning was the first day.

And God said, "Let there be a **firmament** to separate and divide the waters from the waters. And God made the **firmament** and divided the waters that were under the **firmament** from the waters that were above the **firmament**: and it was so. God called the **firmament** heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear. And it was so. And God called the dry land "earth" and the waters that were gathered together He called "seas". And God saw that it was good.

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, **herb** producing **seed**, and fruit trees bearing fruit, each according to its kind." And God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the third day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the **firmament** to divide the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and for years. Let them be lights in the **firmament** of heaven to give light upon the earth." And it was so.

And God made two great lights -- the greater to rule the day and the lesser to rule the night. He made the stars also. And God set them in the **firmament** of the heaven to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and the night, to divide the light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. And the morning and evening were the fourth day.

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open **firmament** of heaven."

And God **created** great sea creatures, and every living creature that moves and lives in the waters according to their kinds, and every winged creature according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And He blessed all the creatures and said, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth." And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kind -- cattle, creeping things and beasts of the earth." And it was so. God made the beasts of the earth according to their kind, the cattle according to their kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to their kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens, and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.

So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He made him: male and female He made them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be **fruitful** and multiply and **replenish** the earth and bring it under your control. Be rulers over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

And God said, "See, I have given you every plant producing **seed** on the face of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit producing **seed**. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and bird of the heavens, and everything that creeps on the earth I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.

And God saw everything that He had made, and it was very good. And the morning and the evening were the sixth day.

And the heavens and the earth were finished.

On the seventh day God ended His work that He had done, and He rested from all the work that He had done in creation. God blessed the seventh day and made it **holy** because on that day God rested from all the work He had done in creation. This is the history of how the heavens and the earth were created.

DID YOU NOTICE? *When God created each thing it was created "according to its kind" or "after its kind". This means that each thing God created would multiply or reproduce the same thing. A cow would have baby cows, plants would reproduce other plants like itself, etc. A bird would not "evolve" from a beast of the field -- it would have a bird! God made each thing full-grown and ready to reproduce. We don't have to worry about what came first-- "the chicken or the egg" -- God made full-grown chickens ready to have eggs!*

When God made man He made him in God's own image -- He made him with a SOUL. This is the part of man that makes him who he is, and the part that will live on through eternity after he dies. It is this part of man that sets him apart from the animals -- animals do not have souls.

QUESTIONS (Use Your Bible)

1. What does the Bible say about the earth after it was first created? (Gen. 1:2) _____

2. List what was created on each day of Creation:
(First Day) _____
(Second Day) _____
(Third Day) _____
(Fourth Day) _____
(Fifth Day) _____
(Sixth Day) _____
3. What did each day have? (Gen. 1: 5,8,13,19,23,31) _____

4. Did God want man to do anything after He created him? (Gen. 1: 26, 28) _____ What?

5. What did God do on the Seventh Day? (Gen. 2:2) _____
6. Why Did God bless the Seventh Day and make it holy? (Gen. 2:3) _____
7. *Thought Question:* God's Word was powerful during Creation. Does His Word have power today? (Read Romans 1:16) _____ What kind of power? _____

MEMORY WORK

Days of Creation

- 1. Light**
- 2. Heavens**
- 3. Plants and Trees**
- 4. Sun, moon and stars**
- 5. Fish and birds**
- 6. Animals on land and man**
- 7. God rested**

Genesis

LESSON THREE -- Time Period: Before the Flood

Vocabulary

Soul - That which breathes; The spirit of man that has will and affections; The soul of man has will, desires, sorrow, joy, love, and hope; The soul of man is what makes him different from every other man and from the animals.

Jehovah - The eternal or self-existent God.

Woman - Taken out of man; compound of womb and man (a woman has a womb and can have children)

Adam - The red earth; man; mankind.

Cleave - Cling together; be joined; hold to firmly; to adhere to (to be glued together).

Serpent - A snake (*in this lesson the Serpent is Satan or the devil*); Notice: when God pronounces a curse on the serpent He infers that the snake had once been a beast, because from the time of the curse on it will go on its belly. So it must have had legs before the curse.

Enmity - Hostility; hatred

Eve - Life giver

Genesis 2:5 - 3: 1 - 24

After God created all the plants and herbs He did not cause it to rain on the earth because there was no man to till or cultivate the ground. God watered the earth with a mist that came up from the earth.

When God formed man it was from the dust of the ground and He breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. Man became a living soul. (This is what sets man apart from the animals -- he has a **soul**.)

Jehovah God planted a garden in the east. This garden was Eden and God put man there whom He had made. Out of the ground of this garden God made every tree to grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. He put a tree in the middle of the garden -- the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and this river divided and became four rivers -- the Pishon, the Gihon, the Tigris and the Euphrates rivers.

Then **Jehovah** God took the man He had made and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. **Jehovah** God commanded the man, "You may eat of every tree in the garden, except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil because on the day you eat that tree you will surely die."

Then **Jehovah** God said, "It is not good that man should be alone. I will make a help suitable for him." And out of the ground **Jehovah** God formed every beast of the field, and every bird of the heavens, and brought them to the man He had made to see what he would call them. Whatever man called every living creature became its name. Man gave names to all the cattle, to the birds of the heavens, and to every beast of the field. But for the man Adam there was no animal or bird that was a help suitable for him.

So **Jehovah** God caused a deep sleep to fall upon **Adam**, and while he slept God took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh. **Jehovah** God took the rib He had taken out of **Adam** and made He a **woman**, and brought her unto the man.

Adam said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. She shall be called **Woman** because she was taken out of man." For this cause a man will leave his father and mother and **cleave** unto his wife and they will be one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Now the **serpent** was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord had made. One day he said to the **woman**, "Did God really say that you shall not eat every tree in the garden?"

The **woman** replied, "We may eat of the trees of the garden, but of the fruit of the tree in the midst of the garden God has said not to eat of it, or even touch it or we will die."

The **serpent** said to the **woman**, "You will not surely die. God knows that on the day you eat of that tree your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

So the **woman** looked at the tree. She saw that it was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and that it was desirable to make one wise. So she took of the fruit and ate of it, and then she gave some to her husband with her, and he ate it also.

After they had eaten the fruit of the tree their eyes were opened and they knew they were naked. They sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

In the cool of the day **Adam** and the **woman** heard Jehovah God walking in the garden. **Adam** and his wife hid themselves from God's presence among the trees in the garden. Jehovah God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"

Adam answered, "I heard Your voice in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked and I hid myself."

Jehovah God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree that I commanded you not to eat of?"

Adam replied, "The **woman** whom you gave to be with me gave me of the tree, and I ate."

Then Jehovah God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?"

The **woman** said, "The serpent deceived me and I ate."

So Jehovah God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all the cattle and beasts of the field. You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. I will put **enmity** between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; by her seed your head shall be bruised, and you will bruise his heel."* *(*God is telling Satan that one day woman's offspring would win the battle against Satan. Through the woman sin entered the world, but through a woman God would bring forth offspring, and that offspring would deal a death blow to Satan. That offspring would be Jesus Christ.)*

To the **woman** He said, "I will greatly increase your pain when you bear a child and when you give birth to children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he will rule over you."* *(*God is telling the woman that she will be subjection to man after this.)*

Jehovah God then said to **Adam**, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree which I commanded you not to eat, the ground is cursed because of you. In toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. The ground will produce thorns and thistles and you will eat of the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you will eat bread till you return to the ground; for you were taken out of the ground. You are dust and to dust you will return."* *(*God is telling Adam that from now on man will have to work hard to grow the things he eats. There will be weeds that will spring up and grow abundantly. He will have to work hard until he dies and his body returns to the dust of the ground.)*

Adam called his wife **Eve** because she was the mother of all living.

Jehovah God made garments of skin and clothed **Adam** and **Eve**. He said, "Man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, eat it and live forever."

So, Jehovah God sent man out of the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. He drove man out of the garden and placed a cherubim at the east of the Garden, and a flaming sword which turned every way to guard the tree of life.

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

*Satan still works the same way today that he did when he tempted Eve to sin. I John 2:16 tells us that there are **three ways we are tempted to sin:***

- ✓ **The lust of the flesh** (Eve saw the fruit was good for food.)
- ✓ **The lust of the eyes** (Eve saw the fruit was pleasant to the eyes.)
- ✓ **The pride of life** (Eve saw that the fruit was desirable to make one wise.)

Adam and Eve were the first people on earth to learn that sin brings sorrow and hardship. All they had known before sin entered their lives was happiness. They were living in paradise. God supplied every need they had and they had no worries, fear or shame before they sinned. When they sinned they knew, for the first time, shame, guilt and fear.

When Satan (the serpent) told Eve, "You will NOT surely die.", he was making Eve doubt whether eating the fruit was a sin or not. When he said "God knows that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God knowing good and evil.", Satan was denying that there was any danger in them eating the fruit, and he also suggested that there was much advantage in eating it. He blinded her to what God said.

Does Satan work on us the same way TODAY? YES!! He tries to make sin look like it is good for us (Lust of the flesh); He tries to make sin look pleasant and fun, even pretty (Lust of the eyes); He tries to make us think there is advantage for us in some way when we are tempted to sin (Pride of life).

BEWARE!! 1Pet. 5:8 *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*



MEMORY WORK

**Be able to say John 1:1 and the Days of Creation (our memory work from lessons 1 &2)
from memory!**

QUESTIONS

1. Where did God put man after He made him? _____
2. What watered the garden of Eden? _____
3. What four rivers divided from the river coming out of Eden?
 - (1) _____
 - (2) _____
 - (3) _____
 - (4) _____
4. What one tree in the garden could man not eat? _____

5. Was there a good help suitable for Adam among the animals and birds? _____
6. How did God make woman? _____

7. USE YOUR BIBLE: (read Genesis 2:24) What was God's law of marriage for man? _____

8. How were Adam and Eve dressed when God made them? _____
9. What three things did Eve see about the tree of knowledge of good and evil? (Gen. 3:6)
 - (1) _____

 - (2) _____

 - (3) _____

10. Who did Eve blame for her sin? _____
11. Was Adam deceived like Eve was? (read I Tim. 2:14 before you answer) _____
12. THOUGHT QUESTION: (read Rom. 5:12) What entered into the world because of sin? _____
13. Were there consequences for Adam, Eve and the Serpent for the sins they did? _____
14. Could Adam and Eve eat of the tree of life anymore? _____ Who guarded the tree of life? _____

15. USE YOUR BIBLE AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS (*you can ask for help*): Rev. 22:1, 2, 14 Where is the Tree of Life now? _____ Who has a right to eat from the Tree of Life? _____

Genesis

LESSON FOUR -- Time Period: Before the Flood

Vocabulary

Cain - Possession; a spear; to get or acquire (When Eve had him she said, "*I have gotten a man from the Lord.*")

Abel - A breath, vapor

Countenance - Appearance; the outward way the face looks.

Faith - To trust; to believe; to obey

Fugitive - One who runs away; to wander

Vengeance - To give pain or punishment to another in return for an offense or injury.

Seth - Foundation; compensation

GENESIS 4; Heb. 11: 4

After a time, Adam and Eve were to become parents. Eve had a son whom she named **Cain**. When she had him she said, "I have gotten a man from the Lord."

Eve had another son whom she named **Abel**.

Abel was a keeper of the sheep and **Cain** was a worker of the ground. In the course of time, **Cain** brought an offering unto Jehovah. It was an offering of things he had grown from the ground.

Abel also brought an offering to Jehovah, but his offering was the firstborn of his flock and the fat portions from the animals. Jehovah was pleased with **Abel** and his offerings, but not for **Cain** and his. This made **Cain** very angry and his **countenance** fell.

Jehovah said to **Cain**, "Why are you angry? Why has your **countenance** fallen? If you do right, won't you be accepted? But if you don't do right, sin lies at the door. Sin desires to have you, but you must rule over it."

Abel's offering was more acceptable to Jehovah than **Cain's** offering. Jehovah God did not accept **Cain's** offering because it was not offered according to **faith**.

Cain talked with his brother **Abel**, and one day when they were in the field **Cain** rose up against his brother and killed him. How sad that **Cain** should have such bad feelings against his brother that he would commit the first murder.

After **Cain** killed **Abel**, Jehovah spoke to **Cain** and said, "Where is **Abel** your brother?"

Cain replied, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

Then the Lord said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. Now you are under a curse and are driven away from the ground that opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood when you killed him. Now when you till the ground it will no longer produce its crops for you. You will be a **fugitive** and wander the earth."

Cain said to Jehovah, "My punishment is more than I can bear. Today you have sent me from this land and I will be hidden from your face. I will be a **fugitive** and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me."

Jehovah said, "Whoever kills you will suffer **vengeance** seven times over."

Then the Lord put a mark on **Cain** so that no one would put him to death. **Cain** went out from the presence of the Lord and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

Cain married and he and his wife had a son named Enoch. He built a city and named it after his son.

After **Cain** killed **Abel**, his father Adam and his mother Eve had another son named **Seth**. Eve said, "God has given me another son in the place of **Abel** whom **Cain** killed."

Adam's son was named **Seth**. **Seth** had a son named Enosh, and at that time men began to call upon the name of Jehovah.

Cain's son Enoch had a son named Irad. Irad had a son named Mehujah, and Mehujah had a son named Methushael. Methushael had a son named Lamech, and Lamech had two wives, Adah and Zillah. Adah had a son named Jubal and his descendants lived in tents and raised livestock. Zillah had a son named Jubal. Jubal's descendants were people who played the harp and the flute. Zillah also had a son named Tubal-cain. Tubal-cain made tools out of bronze and iron

One day Lamech said to his wives, "Adah and Zillah, hear me speak, I have killed a man for wounding me. If Cain's **vengeance** is seven times over, then mine is seventy times seven."

THINK ABOUT IT:

Did you notice that when **Seth's** son Enosh was born that men began to call upon the name of Jehovah (4:26)? In other words, **Seth's** descendants worshipped God.

Did you notice that Cain's descendants began to turn away from God (4:23)? Lamech had two wives instead of one. Like his ancestor Cain, Lamech murdered a man. We can already see that Cain's descendants are not turning to Jehovah, but are turning to their own ways.

The direction of these two men, one toward God and the other one toward Satan, determines the outcome of their descendants.

Learning about the Old Testament from the New Testament and having Faith.

When we want to learn any subject in the Bible we need to learn everything God says about it in His word. Sometimes we can learn things about Old Testament times from reading our New Testament. Here are a few things:

- *Adam named his wife Eve in Genesis 3:20 because she was the mother of all living.*
- *The apostle Paul tells us in Romans 5:12: "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"*
- *Acts 17: 26 tells us: And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place,*
- *These scriptures should tell us that ALL MEN descended from ONE MAN -- Adam.*

Some people want to ask questions -- questions that God has not revealed the answers to. First, we can know ONLY what God has revealed to us. Deuteronomy 29:29 tells us that the secret things belong to God. If God wanted us to know some things, He would have told us.

There are some people who want to ask the question: "Where did Cain get his wife?"

The answer is-- we don't know. We can draw some conclusions from the Bible though. We learned in the scriptures above that all people descended from Adam and Eve. Adam lived 800 years after he and Eve had Seth, and they had other children (Gen. 5:4). Whoever he married must have descended from Adam and Eve.

Cain could have married a sister or a niece. We will learn later that sometimes people did this in Old Testament times (Abram did in Gen. 11: 27 - 29; 20:12). But, we cannot say for sure who Cain married -- Why? Because the "secret things belong to God" (Deut. 29:29). If we have questions about things in the Bible, and the Bible does not reveal this to us, then we must be content with the things God did reveal. That is part of what faith in God is about!

USE YOUR BIBLE

Read I John 3:12,15 and answer the questions:

1. What kind of works did Cain have? _____
2. What kind of works did Abel have? _____
3. What does the Lord say about one who would hate his brother? _____

Read Hebrews 11:4:

1. What does God say about Abel's sacrifice? _____

Read Romans 10:17:

1. How does man have faith in God? _____
2. THOUGHT QUESTION: How would Cain and Abel have known what kind of sacrifice God wanted? _____

MULTIPLE CHOICE (underline the correct answers)

1. Adam and Eve had two sons named (Esau and Jacob, Cain and Abel).
2. (Cain , Abel) was a tiller of the ground.
3. (Cain, Abel) was a keeper of the sheep.
4. (Cain's , Abel's) offering was the firstborn of his flock.
5. (Cain's , Abel's) offering was the things he had grown.
6. (Jehovah, Adam) was pleased with (Abel's , Cain's) offering.
7. (Cain , Abel) rose up against his brother (Cain, Abel) and killed him.
8. (Adam, Jehovah) spoke to (Abel, Cain) and said, "Where is (Cain, Abel) your brother?"

9. Jehovah told (Abel, Cain), "You will be a (performer, fugitive) and wander the (garden of Eden, earth).
10. Jehovah put a (tatoo , mark) on (Cain, Abel).
11. Adam and Eve had another son named (Enosh, Seth).
12. Cain's descendants turned (toward, away from) God.
13. Seth's descendants turned (toward, away from) God.
14. Lamech had (one, two, three) wives.
15. Lamech murdered a man like his ancestor (Abel, Cain) had.
16. We (should, should not) be content with knowing what the Bible has revealed to us.

MEMORY WORK

The Generations of Adam from Adam to Noah:

Adam

Seth

Enos

Kenan

Mahalalel

Jared

Enoch

Methuselah

Lamech

Noah

Genesis

LESSON FIVE -- Time Period: The Flood

Genesis 5; 6; 7; Heb. 11: 5,6,7; Jude 14, 15; Matt. 24: 38 - 39; Lk. 17:27; I Pet. 3:20; II Pet. 2:5

Vocabulary

Noah - Rest; quiet

Nephalim - Giants; bullies; tyrants

Corrupt - Desires of the flesh; ruined; changing from good to evil

Ark - a box

Pitch - A resin or asphalt that would be waterproof

Cubit - A unit of measure; the length would be about the length of the forearm, about 18 inches

In our last lesson:

We learned about the first two brothers, Cain and Abel, in our last lesson. Cain killed his brother Abel and we saw how his descendants were already turning away from God. However, the descendants of Seth (another son of Adam and Eve) began to call upon the name of the Lord.

*In our lesson today we will learn about some of the descendants of Seth. One of his descendants was named **Noah**.*

Adam was 130 years old when he had his son Seth. He lived 800 more years and had more sons and daughters.

Adam's son Seth had a son named Enos. Seth lived 912 years, and he had other sons and daughters.

Enos lived 905 years and he had a son named Kenan (or Cainan). Kenan lived 910 years and had a son named Mahalalel. Mahalalel lived 895 years and he had a son named Jared. Jared lived 962 years and he had a son named Enoch.

God tells us several things about Seth's descendant Enoch. His life was shorter than those who came before him. He lived 365 years. The scriptures tell us that he "walked with God". This means he had a life spent in fellowship with God, doing what God wanted. God said "*He was not, for God took him. . .*" -- this means that he did not die. God took him to heaven before he died. The book of Hebrews says that he was not found, so he must have been looked for by others after God took him. Before God took Enoch, he had testimony from God that God was pleased with him. He prophesied for the Lord and predicted the coming of the Lord in judgment; a coming that would convince the ungodly.

We don't know why God took him, other than the fact that God was pleased with him. This would have been a lesson for his generation, and the generations of men who lived after him, including us!

Enoch had a son before God took him named Methuselah. Methuselah lived 969 years before he died. This means he was the oldest living man ever recorded in the Bible.

Methuselah had a son named Lamech. Lamech lived 777 years. He had a son named **Noah**. **Noah** had three sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth.

NOAH

You probably noticed in the first part of our story that men lived on the earth a very long time. In this lesson we will begin to see men's lives become very much shorter.

Men and women began to multiply, or become more and more, and they populated the earth. The sons of God (*or descendants of Seth*) began to look at the daughters of men (*or descendants of Cain*). They saw that these women were beautiful, so they began to marry these women and have children by them.

Jehovah was not pleased with this and he said, "My Spirit will not abide in man forever, his days will be 120 years." (*In other words, God said, "I'm not going to put up with man's behavior forever before the flood. I will only give him 120 years."*)

During this period of time there were **Nephalim** on the earth. These **Nephalim** were men of fame and reputation. Jehovah saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth and that man's heart was on evil all the time.

Jehovah became sorry that He had made man on the earth and He was grieved in His heart. He said, "I am going to destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth -- man, animals, creeping things and birds because I am sorry that I made them.

But, there was one man who found favor in the eyes of Jehovah. His name was **Noah**. **Noah** was a righteous man and blameless during the time that he lived. **Noah** walked with God.

Noah had three sons Shem, Ham and Japheth. The earth was **corrupt** and violence was everywhere. God looked at the earth and it was **corrupt**. All flesh had become evil on the earth.

God said to **Noah**, "I've decided to make an end of all flesh because the earth is filled with violence through them. I will destroy man with the earth. Make yourself an **ark** of gopher wood. Make rooms in the **ark** and cover it inside and out with **pitch**. Make it 300 **cubits** (450 feet) long, 50 **cubits** (75 feet) wide and thirty **cubits** (45 feet) high. Make it with lower, second, and a third floor. Make a roof (or window; skylight) and a door."

"Behold, I am going to bring a flood of waters on the earth to destroy all flesh -- everything that has the breath of life. Everything on the earth will die. But I will establish a covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you and your sons and your wife and your son's wives. Of every living thing of flesh you are to bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive, a male and a female. Of birds according to their kinds, of beasts according to their kinds, and every creeping thing according to their kinds to keep them alive."

"Also you are to take every kind of food that is eaten and gather it up. It will be food for you and for the animals."

Noah did everything that the Lord told him to do. He had faith and God warned him of things that had not yet been seen.

In the days before the flood, people went about their lives as normal: eating, drinking and marrying. **Noah** was moved with fear to do what God commanded him to do and he prepared the ark to save his family. God was longsuffering and waited for people to repent while Noah prepared the ark. For over 100 years **Noah** preached and warned and prepared to save himself and his family.

Finally, God was ready to destroy the earth. He said to **Noah**, " Come into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation. Take seven of every clean animal, male and female, and two of every kind of unclean animal, male and female."

"After seven days, I will cause it to rain upon the earth for forty days and nights. I will destroy every living creature that I have made from off the ground."

Noah obeyed Jehovah and did everything that He commanded him to do. He was 600 years old when the flood came upon the earth. **Noah** and his sons, his wife and his sons wives went into the ark because of the waters of the flood. Clean animals, unclean animals, birds and creeping things came to **Noah** and went in. And when they were all in the ark, God shut them in.

Just as God said, the flood waters came upon the earth after seven days. The fountains of the deep were broken up. The windows of heaven were opened and it rained for 40 days and 40 nights. The ark rose high above the earth and the floodwaters. The waters increased. Every man, every animal, every bird and every creeping thing on the earth died. They were unaware until the flood waters swept them away. The only ones who were living were **Noah** and those with him on the ark. The waters were on the earth for 150 days.

LESSONS LEARNED !

*The world in the days of **Noah** probably thought him odd. He was preaching and warning about the flood God was going to send. He preached to people who would not listen to what he had to say about God's will. All during this period of time, God was patiently waiting and giving man time to repent and turn back to Him. In spite of what the people of **Noah's** day said to him, he did things God's way. People today would probably look at a man like **Noah** and say he was a failure. After all, he only saved himself and his family--no one else. But, the point of the lesson of **Noah** is that in the face of all these tremendous pressures and temptations he continued to serve God, save himself AND save his family.*

***Noah** had to stand up to the whole world who was doing evil. Are we ever afraid to stand up to just ONE friend who tries to get us to do wrong? Do we have enough faith to teach others what God says, just as **Noah** did? Do we have enough faith to DO what God says, just as **Noah** did?*

*Another lesson we can learn from **Noah** is that he did things just as God planned. God wants His plans carried out exactly as He wants. He does not want us to change it. Do you think **Noah** would have been saved if he had used pine wood to build the ark instead of Gopher wood? What if he had put in two windows and doors instead of one?*

God's pattern for doing His will was important then, and it is important NOW!! (Rev. 22: 18 - 19)

MEMORY WORK

The Generations of Adam from Adam to Noah:

Adam, Seth, Enos, Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, Noah

QUESTIONS

1. What son was born to Adam and Eve after Abel was killed? _____
2. Did Enoch die? _____ What did God do with Enoch? _____

3. What kind of man was Enoch? _____
4. Who was the oldest living man recorded in the Bible? _____
5. Who was Noah's father? _____
6. What were the names of Noah's three sons? _____

7. Were the people of Noah's day good people? _____ Why? _____

8. Was God happy He had made man? _____
9. What did God tell Noah would happen to the earth? _____

10. What did God tell Noah to do to prepare for the flood? _____

11. Had the things God warned Noah about ever been seen before? _____
12. Were the people worried about the flood coming? _____ How do we know? _____

13. How did Noah get all the animals into the ark when it was time for the flood? _____

14. Who shut the door of the ark? _____
15. How long did it rain? _____
16. How many were killed in the flood? _____

Did You Notice??

God told **Noah** to take SEVEN of every CLEAN animal on the ark, and TWO of every unclean animal. WHY? Look at Genesis 8:20 and figure it out! Then write the answer: _____

Genesis

LESSON SIX

GENESIS 8; 9 -- Time Period: The Flood

Vocabulary

Abated - decreased; to become less

Fruitful - To grow, increase

Replenish - To bring back to former fullness.

God remembered Noah and every living thing that was on the ark with him. God made a wind to pass over the earth and the flood waters began to go down. The fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven were closed and the rain from heaven was stopped. The water began to steadily go down on the earth and at the end of 150 days the waters were lower.

On the seventeenth day of the seventh month the ark rested on the mountains of Ararat. The waters continued to go down, and in the tenth month the tops of the mountains could be seen. After 40 days, Noah opened the window of the ark and sent out a raven. The raven did not come back, but continued flying to and fro until the waters went down on the earth.

Noah also sent out a dove. The dove did not find a place to rest, so she returned to the ark. Noah put out his hand and brought the dove back into the ark.

After seven more days, Noah sent the dove out of the ark again. She came back to him in the evening with an olive leaf in her mouth. Noah knew by this that the waters were **abated** from the earth. He waited another seven days and sent out the dove again. This time the dove did not return.

On the six hundred and first year of Noah's life, on the first day of the first month, Noah removed the covering of the ark and saw that the earth was dry. (*The six hundredth year of Noah, the second month and the seventeenth day, was the day the flood began [Gen 7:1]. They had been on the ark for almost a year!*) By the twenty seventh day of the second month the earth was dry enough so that Noah could leave the ark. God spoke to him and said, "Go out of the ark with your wife, your sons and their wives. Bring out every living thing that is on the ark -- the birds, the cattle, the creeping things -- so that they can be **fruitful** and multiply on the earth. So Noah, his sons, his wife and his sons wives came out of the ark. Every beast, bird and living thing went out of the ark.

The first thing God tells us that Noah did when he came out of the ark was to build an altar to the Lord. Then Noah took some of every clean animal, and of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. The Lord smelled the sweet aroma of the sacrifice and said in His heart, "I will never again destroy every

living thing on the earth with a flood again. As long as the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will not end."

God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be **fruitful** and multiply and **replenish** the earth. The beasts, the birds, things that creep on the ground and the fish will all be afraid of you. They are all placed under your power. Every moving thing that lives will be food for you. As I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. But, you are not to eat the meat with the blood still in it because life is in the blood. If any man or beast sheds man's blood, their own blood will be required. The reason is because man is made in the image of God."

"You are to be **fruitful** and multiply and increase abundantly in the earth, and multiply to increase it."

Then God said to Noah and his sons, "I am going to make a covenant with you and your descendants, and with every living creature for unending generations. I will never again destroy the earth with a flood. The token of this covenant between Me and you, and every living creature, is a rainbow in the clouds. Whenever I cover the earth with clouds, a rainbow will be seen in the sky, and I will remember my covenant between Me and you and every living creature. Whenever you see a rainbow, remember My covenant with you, that I will not destroy the whole earth with a flood again."

So, it was from Noah's three sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth that the whole world became populated with people again.

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After Noah came out of the ark, he became a farmer and planted a vineyard. Noah drank some wine, made from the fruit of his vineyard, and he became drunk. Noah lay in his tent uncovered while he was drunk, and his son Ham saw the nakedness of his father. Then Ham told his two brothers about their father Noah. After Ham told them about Noah, Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on their shoulders, and walking backwards they went into the tent and covered Noah's nakedness. Their faces were turned backward and they did not see Noah.

When Noah woke up from his drunken state, it became known to him what his youngest son Ham had done to him. Noah then put a curse on Ham's son Canaan. He said, "Canaan will be the lowest of slaves to his brother. Blessed be Jehovah, the God of Shem. Canaan will be his servant." *(This curse was fulfilled when Abraham's descendants, the Israelites, took the land of Canaan from the Canaanites and made the Canaanites their slaves.)*

"God will cause the territory of Japheth to increase and Japheth will live in the tents of Shem, and Canaan will be his servant." *(This promise was fulfilled when Christ brought the gospel to the Gentiles -- when both Gentiles (descendants of Japheth) and Jews (descendants of Shem) would be one and share blessings in Christ's church. Shem and Japheth both behaved honorably with their father, and they both received a blessing ( Eph. 2: 13 - 18).*

**Do you know this??** God set forth a law in every dispensation of time (Patriarchal, Mosaic, and New Testament) about eating blood. He said that man is not to eat blood. Why? Because life is in the blood. Man was not to eat blood under the Law of Moses (Lev. 17: 12 - 14). Man is not to eat blood under God's new covenant today (Acts 15:29). Blood, the blood of Jesus, was required to save man from his sins (Matt. 26:28; Eph. 1:7).

Genesis 9: 5 - 6 tells us that if a man or beast killed a man, their own blood would be required. The reason? Man is made in the image of God and this would be the only penalty that would be enough, according to God, for such an action.

## **SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:**

*Genesis 8:22 states that "While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease." (NKJV).*

*Man today wants to tell us that man is destroying the earth, and that it will eventually become uninhabitable. Is this what God said? No!! **As long as the world stands**, God has promised that the earth will have its seasons, and will have day and night. Who should we believe? We should stand with what God says!!*

*God also told Noah in Genesis 9:2 - 3 that every animal on earth was given to man for food. Up until this time, man and animal ate plants and herbs (Gen. 1: 29 - 30). After the flood man could eat the meat of animals.*

*There are people today that want to put animal's rights ahead of man's rights. But God told man "they are given into your hand" -- this means the animals are under man's control to do with as he pleases. Man is more important than animals. Man has a living soul.*

## **MEMORY WORK**

**The Generations of Adam from Adam to Noah:**

**Adam, Seth, Enos, Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, Noah**

**HEBREWS 11: 6**

**But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**

## **MATCH**

|                |                                                                                          |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Raven</b>   | <b>The sign of God's covenant that He will not destroy the earth with a flood again.</b> |
| <b>Dove</b>    | <b>The son of Ham who received a curse because of what Ham did.</b>                      |
| <b>Rainbow</b> | <b>He built an altar to the Lord after coming off the ark and sacrificed on it.</b>      |
| <b>Canaan</b>  | <b>God does not want man to eat this in any dispensation of time.</b>                    |
| <b>Ham</b>     | <b>Noah sent this bird out of the ark first.</b>                                         |
| <b>Noah</b>    | <b>This bird returned with an olive leaf in its mouth.</b>                               |
| <b>Blood</b>   | <b>He saw his father's nakedness and told his brothers.</b>                              |

## **THOUGHT QUESTIONS:**

Is God still keeping his covenant of the rainbow with man today? \_\_\_\_\_

How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_

# Genesis

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## LESSON SEVEN -- Time Period: Scattering of the People

### Vocabulary Words

**Babel** - Confusion by mixing.

**Descendants** - The children or offspring of an ancestor.

**Ancestor** - The one from whom a person descends (the mother or father is whom one descends from).

### GENESIS 10; 11:1 - 9

The **descendants** of Noah's sons became one nation of people to begin with. They all spoke one common language. They journeyed east to the plain of the land of Shinar.

The people began to plan and to say to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly." So the people began to make bricks instead of using stones and used tar for mortar. Then they began to say to one another, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower that reaches into the heavens. Let us make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

Jehovah was not happy with their plan. He came down to see the city and the tower that they had built. And Jehovah said, "See, this people are all united and all have one language. They have begun this and now nothing they plan to do will be withheld from them. Come, let us go down and confuse their language so that they cannot understand one another."

So Jehovah scattered the people from there all over the earth, and they stopped building the city. The name of the city was called **Babel** because it was there that the Lord confused the language of the whole world, and from there scattered the people over the face of the whole earth.

Genesis chapter 10 tells us about the **descendants** of Noah's three sons - Shem, Ham and Japheth, and the places they went to live in the world. Genesis 10: 32 tells us: *"These were the families of the sons of Noah, according to their generations, in their nations; and from these nations were divided on the earth after the flood."*

### JAPHETH

Japheth was the oldest son of Noah (10:21). When Moses wrote the book of Genesis, Japheth's **descendants** did not have as much to do with the Bible story, so Moses mentions them very briefly. The Gentiles descended from Japheth.

Japheth had sons named Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras. Gomer's **descendants** went to what we know as modern day Europe, north of the Black Sea. Magog's **descendants** went north and east of the Caspian Sea. South of the Caspian Sea is where the **descendants** of Madai went. They were called the Medes. Javan's **descendants** went to Greece. Tubal's **descendants** went to the area west of the upper

Euphrates River. Meshech's **descendants** settled between the Black and Caspian sea -- the area we call Russia. Tira's **descendants** went to the islands and coastlands of the Aegean Sea.

## HAM

Ham's sons were Cush, Mizraim, Canaan, and Phut. The **descendants** of Ham are discussed in the Old Testament as they come in contact with God's people (the **descendants** of Shem).

Cush means "black", and his **descendants** went to the countries around the Nile river and into Ethiopia. One of Cush's **descendants** was named Nimrod. Nimrod was a mighty hunter against the Lord. He was a mighty warrior and he began the kingdoms of Babel, Erech, Accad and Calnah in the land of Shinar. Nimrod left there and went to Assyria where he built Ninevah and some other cities.

Mizraim means "Egypt". His sons settled in the land of Egypt.

Canaan means "humiliated". Remember, from our last lesson, that Canaan was cursed to be the lowest of servants to his brethren who descended from Shem and Japheth. Canaan had eleven sons who were all leaders of eleven nations (10: 15 - 18), and they went to the coastal region of Palestine, west of the Jordan River and Dead Sea, with the mountains to the East. God allowed the **descendants** of Canaan to become rich and prosperous for a period of time. The land they settled in is called "*a land flowing with milk and honey*" (Ex. 3:8). God allowed the **descendants** of Canaan (or the Canaanites) to live in the land until He gave it into the hands of His chosen people, the Israelites (or descendants of Shem). These **descendants** of Ham received a better land than Shem and Japheth, but Shem and Japheth would inherit something even better -- spiritual blessings!

Phut settled in North Africa, or what we would call modern day Libya.

## SHEM

The sons of Shem were Elam, Asshur, Arphaxad, Lud, and Aram. Elam settled east of Babylon and northeast of the Persian Gulf (we call this area Iran today). This area of land eventually was called Elam in that day.

Asshur is thought to have settled in the area of Assyria, and the people of Assyria descended from him.

Arphaxad settled in the area of Mesopotamia. It is through Arphaxad that the Hebrew people (or Israelites) descended from through Arphaxad's son Eber. It is through Arphaxad that we will see a **descendant** named Abraham. Abraham was who the Israelites descended. This is important because it is through the **descendants** of Arphaxad that we will see Jesus Christ the Son of God come to earth.

Lud is thought to be the **ancestor** of people who lived in Lydia of Asia Minor.

Aram's **descendants** lived in Syria.

### MEMORY WORK

The Generations of Adam from Adam to Noah:

Adam, Seth, Enos, Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, Noah

HEBREWS 11: 6

**But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**

## THINK ABOUT IT

God had given Noah and his sons instructions to replenish or fill the earth (Gen. 9:1). This command of God was not obeyed when the people decided to stay in one place and build a city. They wanted to "make a name" for themselves. The idea of "make a name" means that they wanted to make a memorial for themselves -- something that would give them fame and glory. This was not God's plan! They *are* remembered, but not in a good way. The very name given to them - **Babel**- leaves a memorial that one cannot be proud of.

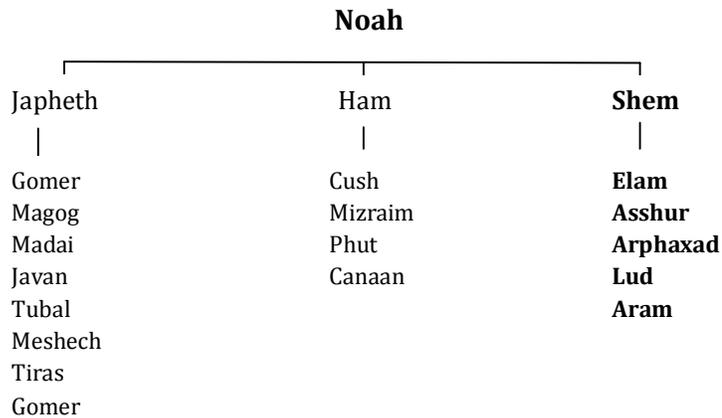
God saw that the people were united - all wanting to do the same thing. But their unity was not the kind of unity that God wanted. They were not united to serve God, but to fulfill a plan for themselves. God destroyed their unity, then He continued with His plan to restore true unity to the earth. This true unity would happen when God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to the earth to save man and begin His church.

Scattering men all over the earth was a miracle -- it was proof of God's power over the minds and tongues of men. This was also a great judgment on the builders by God. God took vengeance on their attempt to build a tower.

After God scattered the men of **Babel**, never again has the earth had only one language and speech. The consequences of scattering man and his language was that they would carry their knowledge of the true God to all the lands they went to, and God would replenish the earth, just as He gave them instructions to do in Genesis 9:1! *We* suffer the consequences of their sin to this day. Different languages makes it difficult for man to communicate with one another and causes much misunderstanding between people.

Being scattered, the very thing they were trying to prevent from happening, became their own punishment!

## NOAH'S FAMILY TREE



**We will see in the next lesson that SHEM is the son of Noah through whom the scheme of redemption unfolds for man. It will be through Shem's lineage that the Christ comes.**

## QUESTIONS

1. Read Genesis 11: 3 - 4 -- Who did the people leave out of their plans? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why did the people want to build a city and a tower? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What was the consequence of the men of Babel's sin? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Who were the sons of Ham? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Which son of Noah did the Israelites descend from? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Does the Bible story tell us much about Japheth's descendants? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Who did God give the land of the Canaanites to? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What son of Shem did Jesus Christ descend from? \_\_\_\_\_

# Genesis

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## LESSON EIGHT-- Time Period: The Patriarchs

### Vocabulary

**Barren** - To have no children. In that day, women were very concerned when they could have no children. Having children was important to the Jews and it was noticed when a woman was barren.

**Blessing** - Wishing happiness to; a gift, benefit or advantage.

**Seed** - Offspring; descendant

**Negeb** - South

**Famine** - A period of time when it does not rain and the crops do not grow.

**Plague** - An affliction, disease or calamity

### Genesis 11: 10 - 32; 12; Acts 7: 2 - 4

*We learned in our last lesson that it is through Shem, Noah's son, that the Son of God came to earth. Shem had a descendant named Arphaxad, and Arphaxad had a descendant named Abraham. It was through Abraham that the Israelite, or Hebrew, people descended. These people were God's people under the Old Law. Shem's descendants were:*

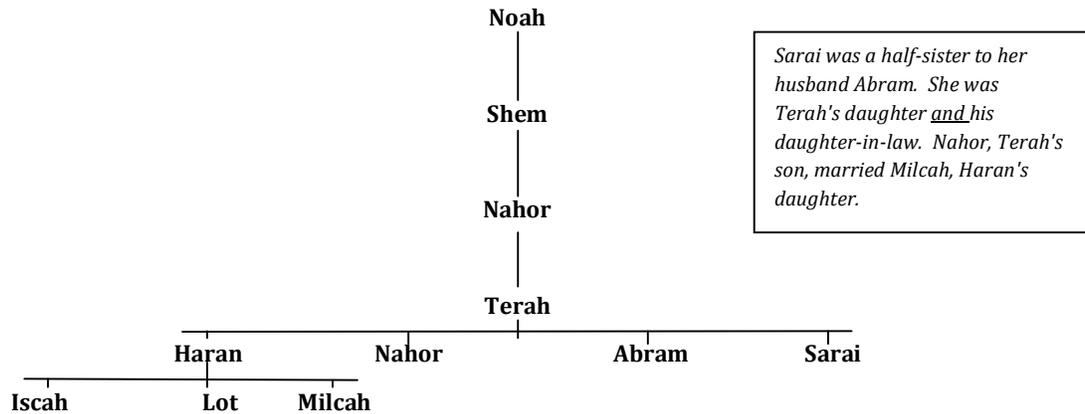
#### ***Arphaxad, Shelah, Eber, Peleg, Reu, Serug, Nahor, Terah and Abraham***

Terah was 70 years old when he had a son named Abram. Terah was the father of Abram (or Abraham as he will be called later), Nahor and Haran. Haran was the father of Lot. Abram took a wife named Sarai. Sarai was **barren**.

Nahor took Milcah for a wife, who was the daughter of Haran.

Terah took his son Abram, his nephew Lot and Sarai his daughter-in-law and they left the region of Ur of the Chaldees to go into the land of Canaan. When they came to Haran they settled there. Terah died in Haran at the age of two hundred and five.

## ABRAHAM'S FAMILY TREE



After Terah died, Jehovah said to Abram, "Leave your country, your relatives and your father's house and go to a land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation. I will bless you and make your name great, and you will be a **blessing**. I will bless all those who bless you and I will curse all those who curse you. In you all families of the earth will be blessed."

So, Abram departed just as Jehovah told him to, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran. He took Sarai his wife, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had acquired in Haran and all their servants. They all began to travel to the land of Canaan.

When they arrived in Canaan they came first to a place called Shechem, and Canaanites were living in the land. Jehovah appeared to Abram there and said, "This is the land I will give to your seed." Abram built an altar to Jehovah who had appeared to him there.

From there Abram moved to the mountain east of Bethel and pitched his tent there. Bethel was on the west of him and Ai on the east. He built an altar to Jehovah there, and called upon the name of Jehovah.

Abram left there and journeyed to the **Negeb**. When he got to the **Negeb** there was a **famine** in the land. The **famine** was very bad, so Abram journeyed on toward Egypt.

When Abram was about to enter Egypt he said to his wife, "You are a very beautiful woman. When the Egyptians see you they will say, 'This is his wife.', and they will kill me, but they will let you live. Say that you are my sister so that it will be well with me and they will let me live for your sake."

When Abram entered Egypt the Egyptians saw that Sarai was very beautiful. The princes of Pharaoh saw her and praised her to Pharaoh. Then Sarai was taken into Pharaoh's house.

Pharaoh treated Abram well for Sarai's sake and gave him gifts of sheep, oxen, donkeys, servants and camels. But, Jehovah plagued Pharaoh and his house with **plagues** because of Sarai, Abram's wife.

Pharaoh called for Abram and said to him, "What is this you have done to me? Why didn't you tell me that she is your wife? Why did you tell me that she is your sister? I might have taken her for my wife. Now, take her and go on your way."

Pharaoh gave orders to his men concerning Abram, and they sent Abram away with his wife and all his possessions.

**MEMORY WORK** (*Notice the new generations you are to learn*):

The Generations of Adam from Adam to Abraham:

Adam, Seth, Enos, Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, Noah

*Shem, Arphaxad, Shelah, Eber, Peleg, Reu, Serug, Nahor, Terah and Abraham*

**HEBREWS 11: 6**

**But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**

**Yes or No**

1. \_\_\_\_ Abram knew about the land he was going to.
2. \_\_\_\_ Sarai was the wife and sister of Abram.
3. \_\_\_\_ Terah was Abram's father.
4. \_\_\_\_ Terah died in Ur of the Chaldees.
5. \_\_\_\_ Abram worshipped God wherever he lived.
6. \_\_\_\_ Abram took Sarai and Terah to Canaan.
7. \_\_\_\_ There was a **famine** in the **Negeb**, so Abram went to Egypt.
8. \_\_\_\_ Abram wanted Sarai to tell Pharaoh that she was his sister.
9. \_\_\_\_ Pharaoh was blessed by Jehovah for taking Sarai into his house.

**REMEMBER GOD'S  
PROMISES TO  
ABRAHAM:**

- 1. LAND**
- 2. NATION**
- 3. SEED**

**USE YOUR BIBLE:**

What are the three promises from God to Abram? (Hint - They are underlined in your lesson.)

(1) Gen. 12:2 \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Gen. 12:3 \_\_\_\_\_

(3) Gen. 12: 7 \_\_\_\_\_

What does the Bible say about Abraham's faith? Rom. 4:3 \_\_\_\_\_

Who was Abraham a friend of? James 2:23 \_\_\_\_\_

# Genesis

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## LESSON NINE -- Time Period: The Patriarchs

### Vocabulary Words

**Strife** - To quarrel, debate, wrangle; to struggle for victory

**Herdsmen** - Keepers of cattle

**Brethren** - Brothers; people who are related or kin to one another.

**Exceedingly** - Very much; abundantly

**Seed** - Offspring; descendant

**Tithe** - A tenth part

### ***Something for your information:***

*Hebron means "friend" in the Hebrew and Arabic languages. The city of Hebron is about 32 kilometers south of Jerusalem and is one of the oldest cities of the world. Even today it is a city of much unrest. Today the people of Israel and the Palestinians argue and fight over who has a right to live in the city of Hebron. Much of their arguing is because the Jews who live there, and in other parts of the world, say that God gave the land to Abraham, their ancestor.*

*God did give Abraham the land in Hebron, but God has fulfilled His land promise to Abraham (Joshua 21: 43 - 45). The land promise that God made to Abraham does not need to be fulfilled today -- it was fulfilled by God in the Old Testament days. A promise fulfilled by God in the past does not need to be fulfilled today.*

*The only "holy land" that we should be concerned about today is the one that Abraham looked forward to -- a city whose designer and builder is God -- HEAVEN! (Heb. 11: 10, 16; Rev. 21: 10 -27)*

## Genesis 13; 14

Abram had been in Egypt because of the famine in the land. When he left Egypt he took his wife, all the possessions that he had, and his nephew Lot and they went into the Negeb.

Abram was a very rich man. He had cattle, silver and gold. He traveled from place to place until he came to a place between Bethel and Ai where he had camped before and built an altar. It was at this place that Abram called upon the name of Jehovah. At this time the Canaanites and the Perizzites were living in the land.

Lot, who was traveling with Abram, had many flocks, herds and tents also. Because there was not enough room where they were all camped together, Lot's **herdsmen** and Abram's **herdsmen** began to quarrel and have **strife**. Abram said to Lot, "Let there be no **strife** between me and you, and between your **herdsmen** and between my **herdsmen**, for we are **brethren**. Isn't the whole land before you? Separate yourself from me. If you take the land on the left hand, then I will go to the right. Or if you take the land on the right hand, I will go to the left."

Lot looked up and saw all the plain of the Jordan River. It was well watered like the garden of Eden and like Egypt. So Lot chose for himself all the well watered plains of the Jordan valley. He left Abram and journeyed east, pitching his tent toward the city of Sodom.

The men of Sodom were wicked men who sinned **exceedingly**.

After Lot separated himself from Abram, Jehovah said to Abram, "Lift up your eyes and look north, south, east and west. I will give you and your **seed** all the land that you see forever. I will make your **seed** as the dust of the earth, so much that if a man could count the dust of the earth he could count your offspring. Get up and walk the length and breadth of the land, for I will give it to you.

So Abram moved his tent and lived near the great trees of Mamre in Hebron. There he built an altar to Jehovah.

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After a time, Lot came to live in Sodom. While he was living there, the four kings of the area around the Tigris and Euphrates (Mesopotamia) made war with the kings of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim and Zoar. The kings of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim and Zoar joined their forces in the valley of the Salt Sea (or the Dead Sea).

One of the kings from Mesopotamia, named Chedorlaomer, ruled over the kings from Sodom and Gomorrah for 12 years. The kings of Sodom and Gomorrah decided to rebel against the kings of Mesopotamia in the 13th year. In the fourteenth year, Chedorlaomer led the Mesopotamian kings down the east side of the Jordan River and defeated their enemies as they went.

The kings of Sodom, Admah, Zeboiim, Zoar and Gomorrah went out to fight the kings of Mesopotamia, fighting them in the valley of Siddim that was full of tar pits. The Kings of Sodom and Gomorrah were killed, and the other kings of that area fled to the mountain, some of them falling in the tar pits.

The kings of Mesopotamia went to Sodom and Gomorrah and took all their goods and food. They also took Lot, Abram's nephew, and his possessions.

One person escaped from the battle and went to Abram to tell him what had happened. Abram was living near the Oaks of Mamre the Amorite and his brothers Eshcol and Aner. These men were friends of Abram.

When Abram learned what had happened to Lot he took 318 of his trained servants and pursued the kings. He pursued them as far as Dan. During the night, he divided his men and attacked the kings, then he pursued them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus. Abram took back all the possessions that had been taken and he also recovered Lot, the women, and others who had been taken by the kings.

As Abram returned home from defeating Chedorlaomer, the king of Sodom came out to meet him. Melchizedek, the king of Salem and priest of the most High God, came to meet him also. Melchizedek brought out food and wine for Abram and he blessed him saying, "Blessed be Abram by the God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. Blessed be the Most High God who has delivered your enemies into your hand."

Abram gave Melchizedek a **tithe** of all the goods he had recovered.

The king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the people and keep the goods for yourself."

Abram told him, "I have sworn before the Lord, the Most High God, the One who possesses Heaven and Earth, that I will not take even a thread or a sandal strap so that you cannot say, 'I have made Abram rich.' I will not accept anything except what my young men have eaten, and the share of goods that belongs to Mamre, Eshcol and Aner. Let them take their share."

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT: *(Do not worry if you do not understand all of this. This introduces you to the thoughts, and you will build on what you know later when you are older.)*

The king, Melchizedek, who met Abram is also a man who is discussed in the New Testament book of Hebrews (Heb. 7). Melchizedek was a "shadow" of Christ.

What does this mean? Sometimes we talk about things in the Old Testament being "shadows" of things that are in the New Testament. "Shadows" are things that look forward to a person, thing or event to come in the days of Christ. A shadow is not the real thing, it represents or symbolizes the real thing.

Melchizedek was a shadow of Christ, but he was not Christ. How can this be? The real person Christ was represented by Melchizedek. Melchizedek was a king of Salem; Melchizedek means "king of righteousness"; Melchizedek was a priest, but the scripture does not tell us what lineage he descended from; Melchizedek was priest of the Most High God, and he was greater than Abram because he blessed Abram. Look at the chart below to see how Melchizedek is a shadow of Christ:

MELCHIZEDEK

- *His name means "King of Righteousness"*
- *Salem means "Peace"*
- *He was not of a certain priestly lineage, but appointed by God.*

CHRIST

*Christ is the King of Righteousness
Christ is the King of Peace
Christ was not of a certain priestly lineage, but appointed by God.*

Melchizedek was only a man, but he was a symbol of Christ. Christ was God and man. Christ is not a "shadow" because he is the reality -- Christ is the real King and Priest!

MEMORY WORK

The Generations of Adam from Adam to Abraham:

*Adam, Seth, Enos, Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, Noah
Shem, Arphaxad, Shelah, Eber, Peleg, Reu, Serug, Nahor, Terah and Abraham*

NEW VERSE! HEBREWS 11: 8

8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

TRUE OR FALSE

1. ___ Abram was a poor man.
2. ___ The plain of Jordan was very poor land.
3. ___ Abram traveled with his nephew Lot.
4. ___ When Abram would camp somewhere he would worship God.
5. ___ Lot's herdsmen and Abram's herdsmen had strife.
6. ___ There was plenty of room for both Lot and Abram in the place they had camped.
7. ___ Abram told Lot to choose the land he would go to.
8. ___ Lot chose Sodom because the people who lived there worshiped God.
9. ___ Jehovah repeated the land and nation promises to Abram.
10. ___ The kings of Mesopotamia captured Lot and his possessions.
11. ___ Lot was living in Sodom.
12. ___ Abram and his servants rescued Lot.
13. ___ Melchizedek blessed Abram.
14. ___ Melchizedek gave Abram tithes.
15. ___ Melchizedek was a shadow of Christ.

Fill-in-the-blanks

Heb. 7: 1 - 4

(1) For this Melchisedec, _____ of Salem, _____ of the most high God, who met _____ returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him;

(2) To whom also Abraham gave a _____ part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace;

(3) Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the _____; abideth a priest continually.

(4) Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch _____ gave the _____ of the spoils.

Genesis

LESSON TEN -- Time Period: The Patriarchs

Vocabulary Words

Heifer - A female calf (cow)

Birds of prey - Birds, such as vultures, that eat dead animals.

Sojourner - An alien, stranger, a foreigner

Wilderness - A desolate place where no one lived; a place suitable for pasturing sheep and cattle.

Submit - To yield or give oneself up to the power or authority of another.

Seed - Offspring, descendant

Beerlahairoi - Well of the Living One seeing me.

Ishmael - God will hear.

Abram - High, or exalted father.

Abraham - Father of a multitude.

Circumcision - Cutting off part of a baby boy's skin. Circumcision was an outward sign (a sign that others could see) that showed others they belonged to Jehovah.

Sarai - Princess

Sarah - Noblewoman

Isaac - Laughter; he laughs

INTRODUCTION

In Genesis 12: 1 - 3, 7 (Lesson 8) we learned that God made some promises to Abraham. God said he would make of Abram a great nation, He would give him a land, and in Him all families of the earth would be blessed. In this lesson we will see God make a covenant with Abram concerning these three promises. To "make a covenant" literally means "to cut a covenant" (Brown-Driver-Briggs definition). "To cut a covenant" refers to the cutting up of the animals. "Covenant" comes from the Hebrew word "barah" which means to feed or to eat (Strong's definition).

In ancient times, the terms of a covenant was decided and then a sacrifice was offered to make the covenant legal. Those making the covenant passed between the cut pieces of animal (Gen. 15: 9,10, 17, 18; Ex. 24: 8 - 11; Jer. 34: 18, 19) and the ones making the covenant would share the sacrifice of the animal (animals) in a meal (Ex. 24:11; Gen. 31: 44 - 46).

When God made the covenant with Abram, only God passed between the pieces of animal. This covenant with God was not like a covenant made with man because man is not equal with God. God extended His covenant because of His grace toward man.

Genesis 15; 16;17; James 2:23

Jehovah makes a Covenant with Abram.

Sometime after the battle where **Abram** saved Lot, the word of Jehovah came to **Abram** in a vision. Jehovah said, "Don't be afraid **Abram**. I am your shield and your great reward."

But **Abram** said, "O Lord Jehovah, what will You give me, because I continue to remain childless. My servant Eliezer will be the one to inherit my house. You have given me no seed (or offspring), so my servant who was born in my house will be my heir."

The word of Jehovah came to **Abram** and said, "This man will not be your heir. Your own son will be your heir."

Then Jehovah brought **Abram** outside and said, "Look toward the heavens at the stars and see if you can count them. This is how many your seed will be."

Abram believed in Jehovah and God counted it to him for righteousness.

Jehovah said, "I am Jehovah that brought you out of Ur of the Chaldees to give you this land to inherit."

Abram said, "O Lord Jehovah, how am I to know that I will inherit it?"

Jehovah said to **Abram**, "Bring me a three year old **heifer** and a three year old female goat, a three year old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon."

Abram brought all the animals. He cut them in half and laid the halves opposite the other, but he did not cut the birds in half. **Birds of prey** came down on the carcasses of the animals, but **Abram** drove them away. The sun went down and **Abram** fell into a deep sleep. An horror of great darkness fell upon **Abram** while he was asleep.

Jehovah said, "Know for sure that your seed will be strangers in a land that does not belong to them. They will be **sojourners** in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there. They will be treated cruelly for four hundred years. But, I will punish the nation that they serve, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. At an old age you will go to your fathers in peace and be buried. After four generations pass, your descendants will come back to this land, for the sin of the Amorites is not yet full."

When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking fire pot and a burning lamp that passed between the pieces of the cut animals. That same day Jehovah made a covenant with Abram and said, "Unto your descendants I give this land -- from the river of Egypt unto the great river Euphrates." This was the land that belonged to the tribes of the land of Canaan. (God will give His people all this land later on in the Bible story.)

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### **Ishmael is born.**

Sarai had not given birth to any children. She had an Egyptian handmaid whose name was Hagar. One day Sarai said to her husband **Abram**, "See, the Lord has not let me have any children. Go in to my handmaid and perhaps I will have children by her."

**Abram** listened to Sarai. After **Abram** had lived in Canaan for ten years, Sarai gave Hagar to **Abram** to be his wife. Hagar conceived a child, but when she knew that she was to have a child she began to despise her mistress Sarai.

Sarai realized how Hagar felt about her and she said to **Abram**, "My wrong be on you. I gave my handmaid into your embrace and when she saw that she was going to have a child I became despised in her eyes. May the Lord judge between you and me."

**Abram** replied, "Your handmaid is under your control. Do to her as you please."

So Sarai dealt harshly with Hagar, and Hagar ran away from her. Hagar fled to a spring of water in the **wilderness** on the way to Shur. It was there that the angel of the Lord found her and said to her, "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?"

Hagar replied, "I am running away from my mistress Sarai."

The angel of the Lord said, "Go back to her and **submit** to her. I will multiply your **seed** and it will be so large that it cannot be numbered. See, you are going to have a child. You will have a son and call his name **Ishmael** because Jehovah has heard your trouble. Your son will be a wild man among men; his hand will be against everyone and everyone against him. He will live in the presence of all his brethren."

Hagar called the name of Jehovah, who spoke to her, and said, "You are a God Who Sees -- I have seen the One who sees me." It was for this reason that the well there was called "**Beerlahairoi**" -- the well between Kadesh and Bered.

Hagar gave birth to **Abram's** son and **Abram** called him **Ishmael**. Abram was 86 years old when Hagar had **Ishmael**.

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The Covenant of Circumcision.

Abram was ninety-nine years old when Jehovah appeared to him again and said, "I am God Almighty (El Shaddai). I will make My covenant between Me and you and multiply you exceedingly."

Abram fell on his face and God talked with him saying, "My covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called **Abram**, but your name will be **Abraham** because I am making you the father of many nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. My covenant between Me and you is an everlasting covenant through all their generations. I will be a God to you and to your **seed** after you."

"I will give you, and your **seed** after you, the land where you are a **sojourner**. It will be an everlasting possession, and I will be their God. You are to keep My covenant and I will be their God."

"You and your **seed** are to keep My covenant for all generations to come. This is My covenant that you and your descendants shall keep: Every male child is to be **circumcised** and this will be a sign of the covenant between Me and you. Every male child who is eight days old, any born in your house or bought

with money, is to be **circumcised**. Any male child who is not **circumcised** is to be cut off from My people because he has broken my covenant."

Then God said, "As for **Sarai** your wife, you shall not call her **Sarai** anymore, but you shall call her **Sarah**. I will bless her and give you a son by her. She will become the mother of nations and kings of people will come from her."

Upon hearing what God said, **Abraham** fell on his face and laughed. He said to himself, "Will a son be born to a man who is 100 years old? Will **Sarah** bear a child when she is 90?"

Then Abraham said unto God, "Oh that **Ishmael** might live before you!"

God said, "No, but **Sarah** your wife will bear you a son, and you will call his name **Isaac**. I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him. As for **Ishmael**, I have heard you. I have blessed him and will give him many children and descendants. He will be the father of twelve princes and I will make of him a great nation. But, My covenant I will establish with **Isaac**, who will be born to **Sarah** about this time next year."

When God finished speaking with **Abraham**, He went up from him. Then **Abraham** took his son **Ishmael**, and every male who had been born in his house, as well as those bought with his money, and he **circumcised** them all that very day just as God had told him to do.

MEMORY WORK

The Generations of Adam from Adam to Abraham:

*Adam, Seth, Enos, Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, Noah
Shem, Arphaxad, Shelah, Eber, Peleg, Reu, Serug, Nahor, Terah and Abraham*

HEBREWS 11: 8

8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out
into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance,
obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

God Keeps His Promises

Jehovah told Abram, "Know for sure that your seed will be strangers in a land that does not belong to them. They will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there. They will be treated cruelly for four hundred years. But, I will punish the nation that they serve, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. At an old age you will go to your fathers in peace and be buried. After four generations pass your descendants will come back to this land, for the sin of the Amorites is not yet full."

When we study the book of Exodus we learn that this prophecy of God will be fulfilled (or happen). Exodus 1:1, 7; 12:37 tells us that indeed a mighty nation descended from Abraham and lived in the land of Egypt (a land not theirs). Exodus 12: 41 tells us that this nation of people who descended from Abraham came out of Egypt after 430 years. Exodus 12: 35, 36

tells us that this nation took many possessions from the Egyptians before they left Egypt. They traveled back to the land that God gave Abraham. Joshua 21:43 tells us that they received ALL the land that God promised them.

The fulfillment of this prophecy, and of this promise of God, should increase our faith in God. HE KEEPS HIS PROMISES!!

LIST the three promises God made to Abraham: _____, _____, _____

MATCH

Match the following words and names to the sentences below:

Eliezar, Abram, Sarai, Hagar, Beerlahairoi, Ishmael, circumcision, Isaac, God, covenant

1. He laughed when God told him that Sarah would bear him a son. _____
2. Abram told God that his servant _____ would inherit his house because he had no offspring.
3. She conceived a child by Abram, and began to despise her mistress Sarai. _____
4. God changed his name to Abraham. _____
5. God changed her name to Sarah. _____
6. The covenant of _____ was to be an outward sign that the descendants of Abraham were God's chosen people.
7. Jehovah made a _____ with Abram and said, "Unto your descendants I give this land -- from the river of Egypt unto the great river Euphrates."
8. Jehovah saw Hagar at the well between Kadesh and Bered, so the well was called _____.
9. Hagar gave birth to Abram's son called _____.
10. God said he would establish His covenant with this son of Abraham, and with his descendants after him:

OBEDIENCE

As you study your Bible you will see that God wants obedience from His people, and He wants it without delay. God wants the same thing today. Read Genesis 17: 23. When did Abraham obey God?

Read Col. 3:20. Does God want our obedience? _____

Do you think God wants us to delay obedience to our parents? _____

How old was Abraham when he obeyed God? (Gen. 17:24) _____

How old was Ishmael? (Gen. 17:25) _____

Genesis

LESSON ELEVEN -- Time Period: The Patriarchs

Vocabulary Words:

Deny, denied - To contradict; to declare a statement not to be true.

Grievous - Painful, distressing; causing grief or sorrow

Outcry - Cry of distress; to be troubled and frightened

Spare - To gain something by escaping from evil; to save from something

Gate - In ancient times the gate of a city was not only an entrance into the city, but also a place where men with positions of great importance sat. Some gates contained rooms over the gateway. The gate of a city would be carefully guarded and closed at nighttime. Many times the gate of a city was a place to conduct business, bargaining, the place of justice and a place to learn the news of the city.

Genesis 18; 19; II Pet. 2: 7 - 8

Abraham is visited by the Lord.

Abraham was sitting by the door of his tent in the heat of the day at the great trees of Mamre when Jehovah appeared to him. Abraham looked up and saw three men standing in front of him. When he saw them he ran from the tent door to meet them, and he bowed himself to the ground. He said, "My Lord, if I have found favor in your sight do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought to wash your feet and rest yourself under the tree. I'll bring you some bread so that you can refresh yourself and go on your way."

The three men said, "Do as you have said."

Then Abraham went quickly into the tent where Sarah was and said to her, "Quickly prepare three measures of fine meal. Knead it and make it into cakes."

Then he ran into the herd of animals and took a calf that was tender and good and gave it to his servant to prepare to eat quickly. When the meal was prepared, he set it before the three men, and stood by them under the tree as they ate. The men said to Abraham, "Where is Sarah your wife?"

Abraham replied, "She is in the tent."

Then the Lord said, "I will return to you about this time next year and your wife Sarah will have a son."

While he was talking to Abraham, Sarah was behind him listening at the tent door. She and Abraham were old -- too old to have a child-- so she laughed to herself and thought, "After I am worn out and old and my master is old, will I have this pleasure?"

The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, "Shall I have a child now that I am old?"? Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the time appointed next year and Sarah will have a son."

But Sarah **denied** saying this and said, "I did not laugh." She did this because she was afraid.

The Lord said, "No, but you did laugh."

Then the men got up and looked toward the city of Sodom. Abraham was walking with them to see them on their way.

Jehovah said, "Should I hide from Abraham what I am going to do, seeing that his descendants will become a great and powerful nation, and all nations will be blessed in him? I have chosen him so that he will command his children and household to keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, so that the Lord will bring about for him what God has promised him."

Then the Lord said, "Because the **outcry** against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very **grievous**, I will go down to see if what they have done is as bad as the **outcry** -- if not I will know."

The men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham was still standing with the Lord. Abraham came near to Him and said, "Will you destroy the righteous with the wicked? What if there are fifty righteous in the city? Will you not **spare** the city for fifty righteous? Far be it for You to do this -- to kill the righteous with the wicked. Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

The Lord replied, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous people, I will **spare** the whole city for their sakes."

Then Abraham said, "Now that I am bold enough to speak to you, and I am but dust and ashes, what if there are forty-five righteous people? Will you destroy it for forty-five?"

The Lord said, "I will not destroy it for forty-five."

Abraham spoke again, "What if only forty are found there?"

The Lord said, "I will not destroy it for forty."

Abraham spoke again and said, "Oh, don't be angry Lord and I will speak. What if there are only thirty found there?"

The Lord said, "I will not destroy it for thirty."

Abraham spoke and said, "Indeed, I have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord. What if twenty are found there?"

The Lord answered, "I will not destroy it for twenty's sake."

Then Abraham said, "Oh, don't let the Lord be angry and I will speak one more time. Suppose ten should be found there?"

The Lord said, "I will not destroy it for ten's sake." Then the Lord went on His way, and Abraham returned home.

The Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah

In the evening the two angels came to Sodom. Lot was sitting in the **gate** of the city, and when he saw the two angels he rose up to meet them and bowed with his face to the ground. Lot said to the angels, "My lords,

please come into your servant's house to wash your feet and spend the night. Then you may get up early and go on your way."

The angels replied, "No, we will spend the night in the open square of the city."

Lot began to insist strongly that they come with him, so the two angels went home with Lot. Lot made them a feast and unleavened bread to eat. Before they went to bed that night, men from every part of the city of Sodom came to Lot's house and surrounded it. The men called out to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we may know them."

Lot knew how wicked the city was, and he knew that these men would want to do terrible things to the two angels, so he went out of his house and shut the door after him. He said to the crowd of men surrounding his house, "Please my brethren. Don't do this wicked thing. Look, I have two daughters who have never been married. Let me bring them out to you and you can do with them as you like, only do nothing to these men because they are under the protection of my roof."

The men of Sodom said, "Get out of the way! This fellow Lot came here to live and he wants to act as judge. We'll deal worse with you than with the two men!"

The men of Sodom pressed hard against Lot and came near to break down the door. But the two angels in the house reached out their hands and pulled Lot back inside the house and shut the door. Then they struck the men of Sodom with blindness, and the men of Sodom wore themselves out trying to find the door of Lot's house.

The angels said to Lot, "Have you anyone else here? Son-in-laws? Sons? Daughters? Whoever you have in this city, take them out of this place because we are going to destroy it. The **outcry** against this city has grown great before the Lord, and he has sent us to destroy it."

Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-laws who had married his daughters. He said, "Hurry, get out of this place because the Lord will destroy this city." But when Lot said this to them they thought he was just joking.

When it was morning the angels urged Lot to hurry. They said, "Get up and take your wife and two daughters who are here, or you'll be consumed when the city is punished."

Lot lingered, and the angels took hold of his hand and his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters and brought them out of the city because Jehovah was merciful to them. When they were outside the city one of the angels said, "Escape for your life! Don't look back and don't stay anywhere in the plain. Run to the mountains or you will be destroyed!"

Lot said, "Oh no my lords! Your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have shown mercy in saving my life, but I can't run to the mountains or some disaster will overtake me and I will die. Look, there is a small city near. Let me escape there and live."

One of the angels told Lot, "I will do as you request and I will not destroy the city you are speaking of. Hurry and escape there, for I cannot do anything until you reach the city. (The name of the city was Zoar.)

The sun had risen in the sky by the time Lot reached the city of Zoar. Then the Jehovah rained down brimstone (sulfur) and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah out of heaven. He also overthrew the cities of the plain as well as the vegetation and plants there.

Lot's wife looked back and she became a pillar of salt.

The next morning Abraham got up early and went to the place where he had stood before the Lord. He looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land in the plain. He saw the smoke rise up from the land like the smoke of a furnace. God had remembered His promise to Abraham when He saved Lot from that city.

Lot was afraid to stay in Zoar, so he left Zoar and went into the mountains to live with his daughters. They lived in a cave.

The sinful influence of Sodom had made an impression on Lot's daughters. They made a very wicked plan to get their father Lot drunk and then have children by their own father. They did this because they wanted to preserve their father's family and they thought they would have no husbands. The oldest daughter had a child named Moab (*father to the Moabite people*), and the youngest daughter had a child named Ben-ammi (*father of the Ammonites*).

Think About It:

When we study the story of Abraham concerning the destruction of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah we see God's longsuffering with these wicked cities, and His reluctance to destroy them. (Longsuffering means to be slow to anger and slow to punish.) It was because there were no good or righteous people in this city that brought God's longsuffering was brought to an end. He would not have destroyed it had there been only ten righteous people there.

We also see how Lot moved himself and his family closer and closer to the wickedness of this city. In Gen. 13:12 we learned that he "pitched his tent toward Sodom". In Gen. 14:12 we learned that he was living in Sodom. In Gen. 19:1 we learned that he became important enough in the city to "sit in the gate" of Sodom. This wicked city had begun to affect him because "he lingered" when it was time to leave it, though II Peter 2: 7 - 8 tells us that he was "greatly distressed" by the conduct of the wicked in Sodom.

Lot's wife "looked back" after they had been commanded not to, and she became a pillar of salt. She is an example to every person who is disobedient to God's commands. Lot's daughters were affected by the sin in Sodom, as we see their own plan to commit sin with their own father. They thought that their sin would be okay and justified it because they wanted to preserve their family line by having children -- but there is never a "good" reason to sin.

The destruction of Sodom would have made a great impression on Abraham, Lot, and everyone who knew about it. Its destruction shows the evil of sin and the justice of God. The area of the Dead Sea (where these cities are thought to have been located) is a testament to God's anger and fury because of the sins committed there.

MEMORY WORK

Hebrews 11: 8, 9

(8) By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

(9) By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

TRUE OR FALSE

1. ___ Abraham did not want to help the men who appeared to him at the oaks of Mamre.
2. ___ Abraham took his time getting a meal prepared for the three men.
3. ___ Sarah laughed to herself when she learned that she would have a son.
4. ___ The Lord knew what Sarah was thinking.
5. ___ Sarah lied and said, "I did not laugh."
6. ___ The three men who visited Abraham were only men.
7. ___ Abraham asked the Lord if he would destroy the righteous with the wicked when He destroyed the cities.
8. ___ The Lord said He would destroy Sodom if there were only ten righteous people there.
9. ___ Lot let the angels spend the night in the open square of the city.
10. ___ Men from every part of the city of Sodom surrounded Lot's house.
11. ___ The two angels reached out their hands outside Lot's house and saved him.
12. ___ The angels struck the men of Sodom with blindness.
13. ___ Lot's sons-in-law wanted to go with him when he left Sodom.
14. ___ When Lot lingered the angels took their hands and led them out of the city.
15. ___ Lot's wife was turned to a pillar of salt when she looked back at Sodom.
16. ___ Jehovah rained down brimstone and fire on the cities of the plains.
17. ___ Lot's daughters wanted to preserve their father's family and had children by their father Lot.
18. ___ What Lot's daughters did was okay because it was for a good cause.

Genesis

LESSON TWELVE -- Time Period: The Patriarchs

Vocabulary Words

Sojourn - To live in a place that is not one's own; a temporary place to live for a period of time.

Womb - The part of a woman where a baby grows and is nourished until it is born.

Isaac - Laughter; to laugh.

Wean - The period of time in a child's life when he is no longer dependent on his mother to nurse him with her milk.

Mock - To make fun of; ridicule

Heir - One who receives the possessions of another. After a person has died, the person to receive (or inherit) the possessions or blessings that had belonged to the dead person is their heir.

Archer - One skilled with a bow and arrow.

Swear - To declare with an oath or promise.

Beersheba - Well of the oath.

Genesis 20; 21

King Abimelech

Abraham left the oaks of Mamre and began to journey toward the Negeb to the area between Kadesh and Shur. He **sojourned** in Gerar. The king of Gerar was Abimelech.

Abraham said that Sarah was his sister, so Abimelech had Sarah brought to him. After Abimelech took Sarah, God came to him in a dream and said, "Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman you have taken, for she is the wife of a man."

Abimelech had not approached Sarah yet, so he said, "Lord, will you kill a righteous nation? Didn't Abraham say to me that she is his sister? Even she said to me that he is her brother. I have done this with a clear conscience and did this innocently."

Then God said to Abimelech in the dream, "Yes, I know you did this with a pure heart, and it was I that kept you from sinning against Me. I did not let you touch her. Now return the man's wife. He is a prophet and he will pray for you, and you shall live. Know that if you do not return her you will surely die, you and all who belong to you."

So Abimelech rose up early the next morning and called all his servants together to tell them what God said to him. This made his servants very afraid.

Then Abimelech called Abraham to him and said, "What have you done to us? How have I sinned against you that you would bring on me and my kingdom this great sin? You have done things to me that ought not to be done. What did you see that caused you to do this thing?"

Abraham said, "I did this because I thought the fear of God is not in this place, and they would kill me because of my wife. Indeed, she is my sister, the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife."

"When God caused me to wander from my father's house I said to her, 'This is the kindness that you will show to me: at every place we come to say of me 'He is my brother' '".

Then Abimelech took sheep and oxen, men servants and woman servants, and gave them to Abraham. He returned Sarah back to Abraham. He said to Abraham, "Look, my land is before you. Live wherever it pleases you."

Abimelech said to Sarah, "Look, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver. It is a sign to show your innocence to all who are with you."

Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, his wife, and his maid-servants so that they could have children. Jehovah had closed up the **wombs** of the women in Abimelech's house because of Sarah, Abraham's wife.

Isaac and Ishmael

Just as Jehovah had promised, Sarah had a child, a son for Abraham in his old age. This happened at the set time that God had said it would happen.

Abraham called the son that Sarah bore him, **Isaac**. When **Isaac** was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him just as God commanded him. Abraham was one hundred years old when **Isaac** was born. Sarah said, "God has made me to laugh, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me. Who would have said that Abraham and Sarah would nurse children? Yet, I have borne him a son in his old age."

The baby **Isaac** grew and was **weaned**. Abraham made a great feast for his son on the day that he was **weaned**. That day Sarah saw Ishmael, the son of Hagar, **mocking Isaac**. Sarah became angry and went to Abraham and said, "Send away this slave woman and her son, because the son of this slave woman will not be **heir** with my son **Isaac**."

This was a big grief for Abraham because Ishmael was his son. But God told Abraham, "Don't be displeased because of Ishmael and Hagar. Do whatever Sarah says for you to do because in **Isaac** your seed will be called. I will make a nation of Ishmael because he is your seed."

Early the next morning Abraham took bread and a bottle of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder. He gave her the child Ishmael and sent her away. She left and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba.

When the water was gone, she put Ishmael under a bush. Then she went a long way off, about the distance of a bow shot, and sat down. She said, "Don't let me see the death of the child." and she began to cry.

God heard the voice of Ishmael. The angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven and said, "What troubles you? Don't be afraid because God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Get up and lift up the boy and hold him with your hand. For I will make him a great nation."

Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went and filled the bottle with water and gave it to Ishmael to drink.

God was with the boy Ishmael and he grew up living in the wilderness of Paran. He became an **archer**. His mother took him a wife from the land of Egypt.



Abraham's Covenant with Abimelech

Abimelech, along with the captain of his army Phicol, said to Abraham, "God is with you in everything you do. Now, **swear** to me by God that you will not deal falsely with me and my descendants. I have dealt kindly with you, so you deal with me and the land that you have **sojourned** in the same way."

Abraham said, "I will **swear**."

Then Abraham made a protest to Abimelech about a well of water that Abimelech's servants had taken away violently. When Abraham told Abimelech about this, Abimelech said, "I don't know who has done this thing. You had not told me, and I did not hear of it until today."

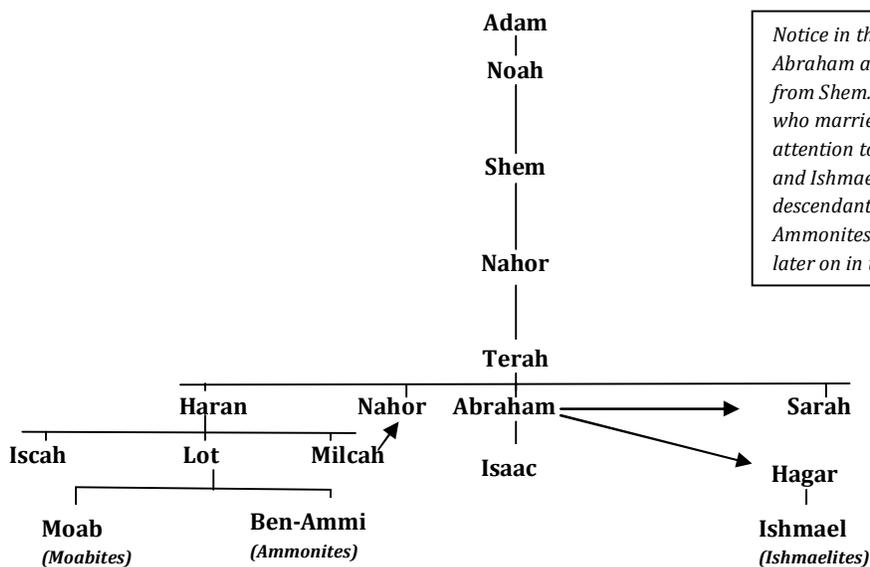
So Abraham took sheep and oxen and gave them to Abimelech, and the two men made a covenant. Abraham set seven ewe lambs apart from the rest of the flock. Abimelech said, "What is the meaning of these seven ewe lambs that you have set apart?"

Abraham replied, "These seven ewe lambs you are to take from my hand as a witness that I dug this well." And he called the place **Beersheba** because both of them swore an oath there.

After they made a covenant with one another, Abimelech and Phicol, the captain of his army, returned to the land of the Philistines.

Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in **Beersheba** and worshipped Jehovah, the Everlasting God there. He **sojourned** in the land of the Philistines for a long time.

FAMILY TREE



Notice in this chart that Abraham and Isaac both descend from Shem. The arrows indicate who married each other. Pay attention to Moab, Ben-Ammi and Ishmael. You will see their descendants, the Moabites, Ammonites and Ishmaelites, later on in the Bible story.

Thought Questions

1. Was Sarah Abraham's sister, just as Abraham claimed she was to Abimelech? _____
2. Why was Abraham's claim about Sarah to Abimelech wrong for him to make? _____

3. Had Abraham lied in this manner before? (Gen. 12:13) _____
4. How does God feel about lying? (Prov. 6: 16 - 18; Prov. 12:22) _____

5. How should we feel about lying? (Psalms 119: 63; I Pet. 3:10) _____

6. What will happen to people who lie? (Rev. 21:8) _____

MATCH

Abraham	He mocked Isaac on the day Isaac was weaned.
Sarah	He called to Hagar from heaven.
Abimelech	He lied to Abimelech.
Isaac	He made a covenant with Abraham.
Ishmael	She said "God has made me laugh."
Hagar	His name means "to laugh".
Angel of God	She left Abraham and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba.

MEMORY WORK

Hebrews 11: 8, 9

(8) By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

(9) By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

Genesis

LESSON THIRTEEN -- Time Period: Before the Flood; The Flood; The Scattering of the People; The Patriarchs

REVIEW of lessons 1 - 12

1. What four periods of Bible history are covered in the book of Genesis? (look back at lesson one)

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____
- (4) _____

2. Is the God of Creation the same God we serve? _____

3. Who are the three persons in the Godhead? (look back at lesson one)

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

4. What did God do on each day of Creation? (see lesson two)

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____
- (4) _____
- (5) _____
- (6) _____
- (7) _____

5. What happened to Adam and Eve after they sinned? _____

6. Why did God bring a flood to destroy the world? _____

7. Who was saved from the flood? _____

8. What was the sign God put in the sky that He would not destroy the earth with a flood ever again? _____

-
9. What three sons of Noah did all people on the earth descend from after the flood? (1) _____
(2) _____ (3) _____
10. Which son of Noah do we learn that Abraham and his descendants come from? _____
11. What were the three promises of God to Abraham? (Gen. 12: 2,3, 7)
(1) _____
(2) _____
(3) _____
12. Why did God destroy the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah with fire and brimstone? _____

13. Why did God want Abraham's descendants to be circumcised? _____

14. Would God's promises to Abraham be fulfilled through his son Ishmael or Isaac? _____

MEMORY WORK

Be able to say from memory:

John 1:1

Days of Creation

The Generations from Adam to Abraham

Heb. 11:8-9

Genesis

LESSON FOURTEEN -- Time Period: The Patriarchs

Vocabulary Words:

Bound - To hold fast by a band, rope or fetters.

Slay - To put to death; to kill.

Jehovahjireh - Jehovah will see to it; the Lord provides.

lord - A person with power and authority; a ruler of one's subjects.

Sepulchre - A place of burial. Sometimes a natural cave was used to bury people in.

The children of Heth - The descendants of Heth would become a people known as the "Hittites".

Genesis 22: 1 - 19; 23

Abraham offers Isaac

God decided to test Abraham so He said to him one day, "Abraham!"

Abraham replied, "Here I am."

God said, "Take your son, your only son whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I tell you."

So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young servants and his son Isaac. He cut the wood for the burnt offering, got up, and went to the place God told him to go.

On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place afar off. He said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey. I and the boy will go over there and worship and then we will come back to you."

Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. He carried the fire and the knife. Both of them went together. On the way Isaac spoke to his father and said, "My father!"

Abraham said, "Here I am, my son."

Isaac said, "Look, here is the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

Abraham said, "God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." So they continued on their way.

When they came to the place that God told him to go to, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. Then he **bound** his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife in it to **slay** his son. As he did this, the angel of Jehovah called to him out of heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham."

Abraham said, "Here I am."

The angel said, "Don't lay your hand on the boy, or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God and I see that you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."

Abraham looked up and he saw a ram caught in a thicket by his horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. He called the name of that place **Jehovahjireh**, and after that people would say "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

Then the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time and said, "I have taken a vow by My own name because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me. I will surely bless you and I will multiply your seed, so many they will be as the stars of heaven or the sand on the seashore. Your seed will possess the gate of his enemies, and in your seed will all nations of the earth be blessed because you have obeyed My voice."

Abraham returned to the young men who were waiting for him and they went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived in Beersheba.

The Death of Sarah

Sarah died in Hebron in the land of Canaan, and she was one hundred twenty seven years old. Abraham went in to mourn for her and to weep for her. Then he rose up and said to the children of a man named Heth, "I am a stranger and a sojourner with you. Give me a possession of a burying place here that I may bury my dead out of my sight."

The children of Heth answered Abraham, "Hear us, my **lord**, you are a prince of God among us. Bury your dead in the **sepulchre** that you choose. We will be glad to give you the **sepulchre** that you choose to bury your dead."

Abraham got up and bowed himself to the children of Heth. He said to them, "If you are willing, please ask Ephron the son of Zohar if he will give me the cave of Machpelah which he owns. It is at the end of his field. Let him sell me the cave for as much money as it is worth, so I can have this possession for a burial place."

Ephron was sitting among the children of Heth and he answered Abraham where all could hear him, "No, my **lord**, hear me. I will give you the cave. In the presence of the children of my people I will give it to you. Bury your dead."

Abraham bowed before all the people there and said to Ephron where all the people could hear, "But if you will, hear me. I will give you the price of the field. Take it from me and I bury my dead there."

Ephron answered, "My **lord**, hear me. The land is worth four hundred shekels of silver, but what is that between me and you? Bury your dead."

Abraham listened to Ephron and paid him the four hundred shekels of silver. So the field of Ephron in Machpelah and the cave and everything in the field there became the possession of Abraham. Abraham buried Sarah there in the cave.

**Interesting note: The cave of Machpelah was the only land that Abraham ever owned in the land of Canaan. His descendants (the Israelites) received all the land of Canaan many years later as a fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham. Later, Abraham was buried there (Gen. 25:9), and Jacob was buried there (Gen. 50:13).*

Think about it: *Have you thought about how Abraham could offer his own son Isaac on the altar, when he knew that this was the son through which all the promises of God were to be fulfilled? It would have been easy for Abraham to make excuses to God about using Isaac for a sacrifice. He could have said, "But what about the promises You made to me? Why would you make me do such a terrible thing? You promised to make my descendants as the dust of the earth." . . . and so on. But Abraham did not make excuses. He obeyed.*

Abraham had faith that God would provide either an alternative or raise Isaac from the dead (Gen. 22:8; Heb.11:17 - 19). He showed his faith by his obedience to God (Gen. 22:15 - 18). He proved that faith without works is a dead (or worthless) faith (James 2: 21 - 24). God made great promises to Abraham, but Abraham had to pass the test God gave him to be able to receive those promises.

TRUE OR FALSE

1. ___ Abraham was unwilling to obey God.
2. ___ Abraham waited a few days before he obeyed God.
3. ___ Abraham told his two servants that he and Isaac would go and worship God.
4. ___ Isaac asked Abraham, "Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the sacrifice?"
5. ___ Abraham knew God would provide the sacrifice.
6. ___ Abraham killed Isaac for the sacrifice.
7. ___ Abraham offered a cow for a sacrifice.
8. ___ Obeying God may demand sacrifice on our part.
9. ___ Sarah was 127 years old when she died.
10. ___ Abraham mourned for Sarah when she died.
11. ___ Abraham went to the Amorites to find a burial place for Sarah.
12. ___ Abraham paid Ephron 400 shekels of silver for the cave of Machpelah to bury Sarah in.

MEMORY WORK

Hebrews 11: 8, 9, 10

(8) By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

(9) By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs of him of the same promise:

(10) For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Genesis

LESSON FIFTEEN -- Time Period: The Patriarchs

Vocabulary Words:

Kindred - People who are related to one another by blood; relation by birth; member of the same tribe or family.

Beware - Take heed; observe

Virgin - An unmarried girl; a maiden; one who has never been in the state of marriage

Genesis 24 - 25:19

A Wife for Isaac

Abraham was old now, and Jehovah had blessed him in all things. One day Abraham said to the oldest servant who ruled over his household, "Put your hand under my thigh so that I may make you swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanite people that live where I am living. You must go back to my country, to my **kindred**, and take a wife for my son Isaac."

The servant replied, "If the woman is not willing to come to this land, must I take your son back to the land from which you came?"

Abraham said, "**Beware** that you do not take my son back there. Jehovah, the God of heaven who took me from my father's house, and from the land of my **kindred**, spoke to me and said to me, 'I will give this land to your offspring.' Jehovah will send his angel before you and you will take a wife for my son from there. And if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be free from this promise, only you must not take my son back there."

So Abraham's servant put his hand under Abraham's thigh and swore to him concerning this matter. Then he took ten of his master's camels loaded with all sorts of good gifts from his master, and went to Mesopotamia to the city of Nahor.

When the servant came to the city of Nahor he came to a well of water outside the city, and made the camels kneel down there. It was the time of day that that the women of the city would go out to draw water from the well.

While he was there, the servant prayed, "O Jehovah, the God of my master Abraham, please give me success today and show kindness to my master Abraham. See, I am waiting here by the spring of water where the daughters of the men of the city come to get water. Let it happen that the woman to whom I say, 'Please let down your pitcher so that I may drink.' And she will say, 'Drink and I will give to your camels to

drink also.' -- Let her be the one that You have appointed for your servant Isaac. By this I will know that you have shown steadfast love to my master."

Before the servant had finished his prayer to Jehovah, Rebekah came out, the daughter of Bethuel who was the son of Milcah. Milcah was the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother. Rebekah came out to the well with her pitcher on her shoulder. She was a very beautiful girl and a **virgin** no man had known. She went to the well and filled her pitcher, and came up.

The servant of Abraham ran to meet her and said, "Give me to drink, a little water from your pitcher."

The young girl said, "Drink my lord." She quickly let down the pitcher in her hand and gave him a drink. When she had finished giving him a drink, she said, "I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking."

Then the girl hurried and emptied her pitcher into the trough for the camels, and ran to the well to draw more water until she had watered all his camels. The servant continued to look at the girl in silence to learn whether the Lord had prospered his journey or not.

When the camels were through drinking, the servant took a gold ring that weighed half a shekel, and two bracelets for her arms weighing ten gold shekels, and said to her, "Please tell me whose daughter you are? Is there room in your father's house for us to spend the night?"

The girl said, "I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor. We have plenty of straw and food for your camels, and room to spend the night."

Abraham's servant bowed his head and worshipped Jehovah. He said, "Blessed be Jehovah, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His love and faithfulness toward my master. As for me, Jehovah has led me to the house of my master's kinsmen."

The young woman Rebekah ran home and told her mother's household about all these things that had happened. Rebekah had a brother named Laban, and Laban ran out to the well where Abraham's servant was. As soon as he saw the ring and bracelets on his sister's arms, and heard that she said, "This is what the man spoke to me." he went to the servant.

The servant was standing by the camels at the well and Laban said to him, "Come in, O blessed of Jehovah. Why do you stand outside? I have prepared the house and room for the camels."

The man came to the house and unharnessed the camels. He gave them straw and food, and gave the servant water to wash his feet, and the feet of the men who were with him. He set food before him to eat.

But, the servant said, "I will not eat until I have said what I have to say."

Laban said, "Speak on."

The servant said, "I am Abraham's servant. Jehovah has greatly blessed my master, and he has become a great man. He has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, men and maid servants, camels and donkeys. My master's wife, Sarah, bore my master a son when she was old, and my master has given all he has to him. My master made me swear that I would not take a wife for his son from the daughters of Canaan, in the land where I live. Instead he said to go to his father's house, to his **kindred**, and take a wife for his son."

"I said unto my master, 'Perhaps the woman will not follow me.', but he said, 'Jehovah, whom I walk before, will send his angel with you and prosper your way. You will take a wife for my son from my **kindred**, and from my father's house. If they do not give her to you, then you will be free from my oath.'"

"And I came today to this well of water and I said, ' O Jehovah, the God of my Master Abraham, if you are prospering the way that I go, I am standing by the well of water. Let the **virgin** who comes to draw water, and to whom I shall say, 'Please give me a little water from your jar to drink.', and who will say back to me, 'Drink, and I will draw for your camels also.'--let her be the woman whom Jehovah has chosen for my master's son."

"And before I had finished speaking in my heart, Rebekah came with her water jar on her shoulder, and she went down to the well and drew water. I said to her, 'Please give me a drink.' She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder and said, 'Drink, and I will give to your camels to drink also.', so I drank and she gave the camels water to drink."

"Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' And she said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son whom Milcah bare to him.' Then I put the ring on her nose and the bracelets on her arms. I bowed my head and worshipped Jehovah, and blessed Jehovah, the God of my master Abraham, who led me in the right way to take my master's kinsman for his son."

"Now, if you will deal kindly and truly with my master, tell me. If not say so and I will decide what to do."

When the servant was done speaking, Laban and Bethuel said, "The thing has come from Jehovah. We cannot speak to you bad or good. Look, Rebekah is before you; take her and go, and let her be the wife of your Master's son as Jehovah has spoken."

When Abraham's servant heard them say this, he bowed himself to the earth before Jehovah. The servant brought out jewelry of silver and gold and garments and gave them to Rebekah. He also gave precious things to her mother and brother. Then the servant and the men with him ate and drank and spent the night there.

When they got up the next morning, the servant said, "Send me away to my master."

The brother and mother of Rebekah said to him, "Let the young woman stay with us a few more days, at least ten. After that she may go."

But the servant replied, "Do not delay me since Jehovah has made my journey a success. Send me away so that I can go back to my master."

They said, "Let us call the young woman and ask her."

They called Rebekah and said, "Will you go with this man?"

She said, "I will go." So they sent away Rebekah and her nurse, Abraham's servant and his men. They blessed Rebekah and said, "Our sister, may you become the mother of thousands and ten thousands, and let your seed possess the gate of those who hate him."

Rebekah got up with her young women and rode upon their camels following Abraham's servant.

As they neared the Negeb, Isaac was returning from Beer-lahai-roi. He went out in the evening to meditate in the field, and when he looked up he saw that there were camels coming.

Rebekah also looked up, and she saw Isaac. She stopped and got off of her camel and said to Abraham's servant, "Who is that man who is walking in the field to meet us?"

The servant said, "It is my master.", so she took her veil and covered herself. When they reached Isaac, the servant told him all the things he had done.

Isaac brought Rebekah into the tent that had belonged to his mother, and she became his wife. Isaac loved Rebekah, and he was comforted after the death of his mother.

Abraham dies.

Abraham married another woman whose name was Keturah. Keturah bore him six sons. One of these sons was Midian *(Watch for the descendants of this son called the Midianites as we learn more of the Bible story.)*

Abraham gave all his possessions to Isaac, but to the sons of Keturah he gave gifts while he was still living and sent them away to the east.

Abraham was 175 years old when he died. His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah where Sarah was buried. After Abraham died, God blessed his son Isaac.

MEMORY WORK

Hebrews 11: 8, 9, 10

(8) By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

(9) By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs of him of the same promise:

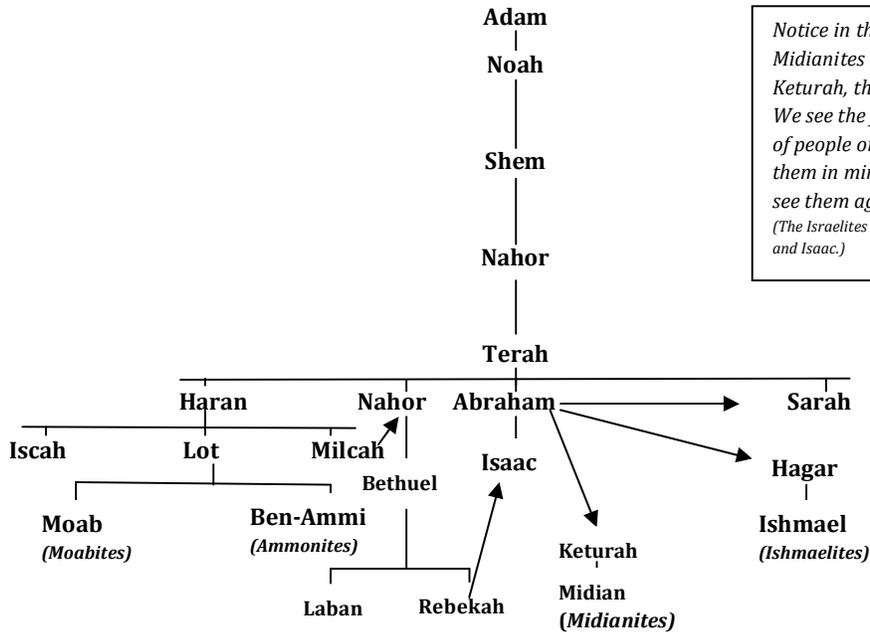
(10) For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Who Said It?

Abraham , Abraham's servant, Rebekah, Laban, Laban and Bethuel

1. "Put your hand under my thigh so that I may make you swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanite people that live where I am living. You must go back to my country, to my **kindred**, and take a wife for my son Isaac." _____
2. "O Jehovah, the God of my master Abraham, please give me success today and show kindness to my master Abraham. See, I am waiting here by the spring of water where the daughters of the men of the city come to get water. Let it happen that the woman to whom I say, 'Please let down your pitcher so that I may drink.' And she will say, 'Drink and I will give to your camels to drink also.' -- Let her be the one that You have appointed for your servant Isaac. By this I will know that you have shown steadfast love to my master." _____
3. "The thing has come from Jehovah. We cannot speak to you bad or good. Look, Rebekah is before you; take her and go, and let her be the wife of your Master's son as Jehovah has spoken." _____
4. "Who is that man who is walking in the field to meet us?" _____
5. "Come in, O blessed of Jehovah. Why do you stand outside? I have prepared the house and room for the camels." _____

FAMILY TREE



Notice in this chart that the Midianites descend from Keturah, the wife of Abraham. We see the fathers of five nations of people on this chart. Keep them in mind because you will see them again in the Bible story. (The Israelites descended from Abraham and Isaac.)

USE YOUR BIBLE

1. The age of Abraham when Isaac was born: Gen. 21:5 _____
2. The age of Isaac when he married: Gen. 25:20 _____
3. The age of Abraham when he died: Gen. 25:7 _____
4. The age of Ishmael when he died: Gen. 25:17 _____
5. Where did the descendants of Ishmael live? Gen. 25: 18 _____

Genesis

LESSON SIXTEEN -- Time Period: The Patriarchs

Vocabulary Words:

Esau - Red

Jacob - Supplanter; one who follows on the heels of another; holding the heel.

Cunning - Skillful

Edom - Red; the name given to Esau. The country that the Lord gave to Esau was called Edom. *(You will see the name "Idumea" used later on in the Bible story to refer to Edom or the Edomites who descended from Esau.)*

Birthright - In Patriarchal times the firstborn son in a family enjoyed certain privileges called his "birthright". When their father died, usually they would receive a double portion (or double the amount) of possessions from their father's estate. Great respect was paid to the oldest son of a family or tribe. You may remember that Ishmael was Abraham's oldest son, but Sarah protested against Ishmael receiving the rights of a firstborn son (Gen. 21:10). In this instance, God's law overruled any traditions of the day and time so that Isaac became Abraham's heir to receive the birthright.

Despised - To look at with contempt; to undervalue; to scorn.

Envy - To be unhappy at the happiness or prosperity of another; unhappy that one has possession of something they themselves desire to possess.

Esek - Quarrel.

Sitnah - Enmity; hatred.

Rehoboth - Space; wide places.

Shibah - Vow; Oath.

Beersheba - Well of the oath.

Genesis 25: 19 - 26: 35; Hebrews 12:16

Isaac

Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah to be his wife. Rebekah could not have any children, so Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife. Jehovah answered Isaac's prayer and Rebekah was going to have two babies.

While the babies were still in her womb they struggled together. Rebekah said, "If it is so, why is this happening to me?" So she went to ask the Lord about it.

Jehovah said to her, "Two nations are in your womb and two peoples from within you will be divided. One will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger."

It came time for Rebekah to have her babies and she was carrying twins. When the first baby boy was born he was red and hairy all over like a hairy garment. They called his name **Esau**.

The second baby boy was born holding his brother **Esau's** heel. His name was called **Jacob**. Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah had the babies.

The boys grew up. **Esau** became a **cunning** hunter. He was a man who loved the outdoors. **Jacob** was a quiet man who lived at home in the tents.

Isaac loved **Esau** because he ate meat of the animals he killed. Rebekah loved **Jacob**.

One day **Esau** came in from the field faint from hunger. **Jacob** was cooking some stew. **Esau** said to **Jacob**, "Feed me, I pray, some of that red stew because I am faint. *(This is why his name was called **Edom**.)*

Jacob replied to **Esau**, "Sell me first your **birthright**."

Esau said, "I am about to die. What use is a **birthright** to me?"

Jacob said, "Swear to me now that you will give me your **birthright**." So **Esau** did and sold his **birthright** to **Jacob**. **Jacob** gave **Esau** bread and the red stew, and **Esau** ate it and went on his way. So **Esau despised** his **birthright**.

Isaac and Abimelech

We don't know if the Abimelech of this story is the same one we met in the story of Abraham. More than 40 years have passed, so this may be a different man. It seems that Abimelech may have been the title given to kings of Gerar.

Pay attention in this story to God repeating the promises to Isaac that He had made to Abraham. God gave these promises to Isaac because of Abraham's obedience to God.

There was a famine in the land, so Isaac went to Abimelech the king of the Philistines in Gerar. Jehovah appeared to Isaac and said, "Don't go down into Egypt. Live in the land that I tell you to dwell in. Sojourn in this land and I will be with you and bless you. Unto you and your seed I will give all these lands and I will keep the promise that I made to your father Abraham. I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and give your seed all these lands. In your seed all nations of the earth will be blessed because Abraham obeyed My voice, My commandments and My laws."

So Isaac lived in Gerar. The men of Gerar asked Isaac about his wife and he replied, "She is my sister." Isaac said this because he was afraid the men of that place would kill him to get Rebekah because she was very beautiful.

When Isaac had been there a long time, Abimelech looked out a window and saw Isaac laughing with Rebekah his wife. Abimelech called Isaac to him and said, "Behold, she is your wife. Why did you say that she is your sister?"

Isaac said, "Because I thought I would die because of her."

Abimelech said, "What is this you have done to us? One of the people might have easily lain with your wife, and you would have brought great guilt upon us."

Then Abimelech warned all the people in Gerar saying, "Whoever touches this man or his wife shall surely be put to death."

Isaac planted grain in the land and reaped one hundred fold. Jehovah blessed him and he became a wealthy man with many possessions of flocks and herds and many servants. The Philistines **envied** Isaac. They stopped up all the wells with dirt that Isaac's father Abraham had dug. Abimelech told Isaac, "Go away from us. You are mightier than we are."

So Isaac left and camped in the valley of Gerar. He began to dig again the wells that his father Abraham had dug, and he gave the wells the names that his father had given them.

When Isaac's servants were digging they found a spring of flowing water. The herdsmen of Gerar began to quarrel with the herdsmen of Isaac saying, "The water is ours." (Isaac named the well **Esek**.)

Isaac's men dug another well and they quarreled over that one too. (Isaac named this one **Sitnah**.) He left there and dug another well, but they did not quarrel over this one. He called this well **Rehoboth**. He said, "Jehovah has made room for us, and we will be fruitful in the land."

From there Isaac went to Beersheba. That same night Jehovah appeared to him and said, "I am the God of Abraham your father. Fear not, for I am with you and will bless you, and I will multiply your seed for my servant Abraham's sake."

Isaac built an altar there and called upon the name of Jehovah there. He pitched his tent there and his servants dug a well.

While Isaac was there, Abimelech along with his advisor and commander of his army came to see Isaac. Isaac said to them, "Why have you come, seeing that you hate me and sent me away?"

Abimelech and his men said, "We see plainly that the Lord has been with you, so we said, 'Let there be an oath between us. Let us make a covenant with you that you will do us no harm, just as we have not harmed you, and done nothing but good to you and sent you away in peace. You are now the blessed of Jehovah.'"

Isaac made them a feast and they ate and drank. The next morning they rose up and made their promises with one another. Isaac sent them away and they left him in peace. The same day, Isaac's servants came to him and said, "We have dug a well and found water."

Isaac called the new well **Shibah**, so the city is called **Beersheba**.

Esau Marries

When Esau was forty years old he married two Hittite women. What Esau did was a grief of mind to Isaac and Rebekah.

MEMORY WORK

Psalm 105: 4

Seek the Lord, and his strength: seek his face evermore.

QUESTIONS:

1. How old was Isaac when he married Rebekah? _____
2. How many babies did Rebekah have? _____
3. What did Jehovah tell her about the two babies in her womb? _____

4. What kind of man was Esau? _____

5. What kind of man was Jacob? _____

6. What did Esau sell to Jacob? _____
7. Was this a wise thing for Esau to do? _____ Why? _____

8. Why did Isaac go to Abimelech the king? _____
9. Did Isaac lie to Abimelech? _____
10. Is it ever okay to tell a lie? (read Col. 3:9; Prov. 6: 16 - 17; Rev. 21:8) _____
11. Why did the Philistines stop up all the wells that Abraham had dug with dirt? _____

12. Were Isaac and Rebekah happy with Esau's choice of a wife? _____
13. Thought Question: Why do you think Isaac and Rebekah were not happy with Esau's choice of wife? _____

DID YOU NOTICE?

Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah (Gen. 25: 20). He was 60 years old when Jacob and Esau were born (Gen. 25:26).

When Ishmael died, Jacob and Esau were 63 years old (Gen. 25:17).

In our next lesson, Jacob and Esau will be 77 years old (*Jacob was 91 when his son Joseph was born, after he had worked 14 years for his wives -- 91 minus 14 years = 77 years.*)

Genesis

LESSON SEVENTEEN -- Time Period: The Patriarchs

Vocabulary Words:

Guile - Fraud; deceit; false

Jacob - Supplanter; one who follows on the heels of another; holding the heel.

Profane - To treat as unholy; without proper regard for important things.

Genesis 27; 28: 1 - 9; Heb. 12:16

Jacob Receives a Blessing from Isaac

Isaac became old and his eyes were so dim that he could not see. One day he called for his son Esau and said to him, "My son."

Esau answered, "Here I am."

Isaac said, "You see that I am old and I do not know the day that I will die. I want you to take your weapons, your quiver and your bow and go out in the field and hunt and kill an animal for me. Then make me some meat that you know I love and bring it to me. Afterwards I will bless you before I die."

Now Rebekah was listening and heard what Isaac said to his son Esau. So, when Esau went hunting Rebekah spoke to her son Jacob and said, "I heard that your father said to your brother Esau to bring him some venison and make some delicious meat so that he could eat it and bless Esau before Jehovah before he dies. Now, I want you to obey whatever I command you to do. Go to the flock and bring me two young goats so that I can prepare the meat that your father loves. You shall bring it to your father, so that he can eat it and bless you before he dies."

Jacob said to his mother Rebekah, "But Esau is a hairy man and I am a smooth man. Perhaps my father will feel me, and I will seem as one who wants to deceive him. Then I will bring a curse upon me and not a blessing."

Jacob's mother said, "Let your curse be on me my son. Only obey my voice and go bring me the goats."

So Jacob went and brought the animals to his mother. Rebekah prepared delicious food that Isaac loved. Then she took the best garments of her son Esau that were with her in the house and put them on Jacob. She put skins of the young goats on his hands and the smooth part of his neck. Then she gave the delicious food that she had prepared into the hand of her son Jacob.

Jacob went in to see his father Isaac and said, "My father."

Isaac said, "Here am I. Who are you my son?"

Jacob said, "I am Esau, your firstborn. I have done as you told me to do. Now sit up and eat of the venison so that your soul may bless me."

Isaac said, "How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?"

Jacob replied, "Because Jehovah gave me success."

Isaac said, "Come near, I pray you, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are Esau or not."

Jacob went near and Isaac his father felt him. He said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau." So Isaac did not recognize Jacob because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's. So Isaac blessed Jacob.

Isaac said, "Are you really my son Esau?"

Jacob answered, "I am."

Isaac said, "Bring some of the meat near me, and I will eat it that my soul will bless you."

So Jacob brought the meat near and he ate. He brought him some wine to drink, and he drank. Then Isaac said, "Come near now and kiss me, my son."

As Jacob came near to kiss his father, Isaac smelled the smell of his garments and blessed him. He said, "See the smell of my son is as the smell of a field which Jehovah has blessed. God give you the dew of heaven and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of grain and new wine. Let people serve you and bow down to you. Be lord over your brethren, and your mother's sons bow down to you. Let everyone who curses you be cursed, and everyone who blesses you be blessed." As Isaac finished blessing Jacob, Jacob was barely gone when his brother Esau came in from hunting. He also had prepared delicious food and brought it to his father.

Esau said, "Let my father get up and eat of his son's venison, so that you may bless me."

Isaac said, "Who are you?"

Esau replied, "I am your son, your firstborn Esau."

When Esau said this, Isaac began to tremble violently and said, "Who was it then that brought me the venison? I ate all of it before you came and have blessed him. He is the one that will be blessed."

As soon as Esau heard this, he began to cry out with a loud and bitter cry, "Bless me, bless me too, O my father!"

Isaac said, "Your brother came with **guile** and has taken away your blessing."

Esau said, "Is he not rightly named **Jacob**? He has supplanted me two times and taken away my birthright, and now has taken away my blessing." Then he said, "Have you reserved a blessing for me?"

Isaac replied, "I have made him your lord, and all his brothers I have given him for servants. With wine and new grain I have strengthened him. What else is there I can do for you my son?"

Esau said, "Do you have only one blessing my father? Bless me too, O my father!" And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.

Isaac said, "You will live away from the fatness of the earth and the dew from heaven above. You will live by the sword, and you will serve your brother. It will happen later that you will shake off the control of your brother."

Esau hated his brother Jacob because he had received the blessing from his father. Esau said, "The days of mourning my father are near and then I will kill my brother Jacob."

When Rebekah heard what Esau her son had said, she called Jacob to her and said to him, "Your brother is comforting himself by planning to kill you. Now, obey what I say. Get up and flee to my brother Laban in Haran. Stay with him a few days until your brother's anger is gone, and he forgets what you did to him. Then I will send for you and bring you home. Why should I lose both of you in one day?"

Then Rebecca went to Isaac and said, "I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth. If Jacob marries one of the daughters of Heth, like these women, what good will my life be to me?"

Isaac called Jacob to him and commanded him not to take a wife from the Canaanite women. He said, "Get up and go to Bethuel who is your mother's father. Take yourself a wife from the daughters of Laban, your mother's brother. May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you so that you become a multitude of people. May He give the blessing of Abraham to you and your offspring, that you may inherit the land where you sojourn that God gave to Abraham."

Then Isaac sent Jacob away. Jacob went to Padanaram, to Laban's house who was the son of Bethuel and the brother of Rebekah.

When Esau learned that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Padanaram to take a wife from there, and that Isaac had commanded Jacob not to take a wife of the Canaanite women. He saw that Jacob obeyed Isaac and left to go to Padanaram, and he also saw that his own wives who were Canaanite women did not please his father Isaac. So Esau went to Ishmael, the son of Abraham, and took him another wife.

MEMORY WORK

Psalm 105: 4

Seek the Lord, and his strength: seek his face evermore.

Think About It:

*The birthright would have made Esau the head of the tribe because he was the firstborn. This right would have given him most of his father's wealth. However, Esau despised his birthright and treated this privilege in a **profane** manner, selling it to his brother Jacob for a meal. Later, Esau regretted this rash decision (27:36). This is a lesson for us, that we are to treat things that are important in a serious manner so as not to regret what we did later.*

Jacob did not conduct himself in a right manner either. He should have been willing to feed his brother. He should not have been willing to take advantage of his brother.

The Bible tells us of the good in people's lives, but it also tells us of the bad too.

Remember that the birthright was something that was supposed to belong to the firstborn son. This had nothing to do with the promises God made to Abraham. Only God could give those promises (28:4).

UNDERLINE THE CORRECT ANSWER

1. Isaac wanted to bless (Jacob , Esau) before he died.
2. Rebekah wanted (Jacob, Esau) to deceive (Jacob, Esau).
3. Jacob said to Rebekah, "But Esau is a (hairy , smooth) man, and I am a (hairy, smooth) man.
4. Rebekah wanted Jacob to bring (goats, bears) for her to prepare for Esau.
5. Rebekah took the best garments of (Jacob, Esau) and put them on (Esau, Jacob).
6. Isaac said, "Come near, I pray you, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are (Esau, Jacob) or not."
7. Isaac said, "The voice is (Jacob's, Esau's) voice, but the hands are the hands of (Esau, Jacob)."
8. (Jacob, Esau) hated his brother (Jacob, Esau) because he had received the blessing from his father.
9. Isaac sent (Esau, Jacob) away to Laban's house.

Genesis

LESSON EIGHTEEN -- Time Period: The Patriarchs

Vocabulary Words:

Dreadful - To fear; powerful; awe inspiring; terror; the reverence and fear inspired by God.

Bethel - House of God.

Dowry - A gift

Genesis 28: 10 - 30:24

Jacob's Ladder

Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and decided to stay there all night because the sun had set. He took one of the stones in that place and put it under his head for a pillow, and he lay down and went to sleep.

When Jacob went to sleep, he dreamed. In his dream was a ladder set up on earth, and the top of it reached unto heaven. Angels were going up and down the ladder. Jehovah God stood above the ladder and He said, "I am Jehovah, the God of Abraham your father, and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and your seed. Your seed will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread abroad to the west, to the east, to the north and to the south. In you and your seed all the families of the earth will be blessed. And see, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

Jacob woke up from his dream and he said, "Surely Jehovah is in this place, and I did not know it." He was afraid and said, "How **dreadful** is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

Early in the morning he got up and took the stone he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil on the top of it. He called the name of that place **Bethel**. Then Jacob made a vow saying, "If God will be with me and protect me in the way I go, if He will give me bread to eat and clothes to wear so that I can come back safely to the home of my father, then the Lord shall be my God, and this stone that I have set up will be God's house. I will give you a tenth of all that You give me."

Jacob's Wives and Children

Jacob continued on his journey and came to the land that was in the east. He looked and saw a well in a field with three flocks of sheep lying beside it to be watered.

A large stone was on the mouth of the well. Whenever the flocks would gather at the well, the shepherds would roll away the stone from the mouth of the well and water the flocks, then they would put the stone back over the well.

Jacob came to the well and said, "My brethren, where are you from?"

The men at the well said, "From Haran."

Jacob said, "Do you know Laban, the son of Nahor?"

The shepherds said, "We know him."

Jacob said, "Is it well with him?"

The shepherds said, "It is well. Look, Rachel his daughter is coming with the sheep!"

Jacob said, "It is still high day, and not time for the livestock to be gathered together. Water the sheep and go pasture them."

But the men replied, "We cannot until all the flocks are gathered together and the stone is rolled from the mouth of the well -- then we will water the sheep."

While Jacob was still speaking with the men, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she kept her father's sheep. As soon as Jacob saw Rachel, the daughter of Laban, he went near and rolled the stone from the well and watered the flock of his uncle Laban. Then Jacob kissed Rachel and he wept. He told her that he was her father's kinsman and Rebekah's son. Rachel ran to tell her father.

When Laban heard about Jacob, his sister's son, he ran to meet him and embraced him and kissed him. He brought him to his house. Jacob told Laban all that had happened. Laban said, "Surely you are my bone and my flesh!"

Jacob stayed with Laban for a month. One day Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my near kinsman, should you work for me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?"

Now Laban had two daughters named Leah and Rachel. Leah was the oldest and her eyes were weak, but Rachel was beautiful and well-favored. Jacob loved Rachel, so he said to Laban, "I will serve you seven years for Rachel your younger daughter."

Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than to any other man. Stay with me." So Jacob served Laban for seven years, but they seemed as only a few days because of the love he had for her. Then Jacob went to Laban and said, "Give me my wife, for I have served you seven years."

Then Laban gathered everyone and had a feast. When it was evening, he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob. He gave Leah his servant Zilpah.

Jacob did not realize until the next morning that he did not have Rachel, but had Leah. Jacob went to Laban and said, "What is this you have done to me? Didn't I serve you for Rachel? Why have you deceived me?"

Laban replied, "It is not the custom in our country to give the younger before the firstborn. Fulfill the week for Leah and I will give you my other daughter if you will serve me another seven years."

Jacob agreed to do so, and completed the week for Leah. Then Laban gave Jacob his daughter Rachel, along with his servant Bilhah to be her handmaid.

Jacob went in to Rachel and he loved her more than Leah, and he served Laban another seven years. Jehovah saw that Jacob loved Rachel more, so He opened Leah's womb so that she could have children, but Rachel could not.

Leah bore Jacob a son and named him Reuben. She said, "Jehovah has looked on my trouble. Now my husband will love me."

Leah conceived and had another son. She said, "Jehovah has heard that I am hated, so He has given me this son." And she called his name Simeon.

Leah conceived again and bore a son named Levi. She said, "Now this time my husband will be joined to me because I have borne him three sons."

She conceived again and had another son named Judah. She said, "This time I will praise Jehovah." Then she quit bearing children.

When Rachel saw that she could have not children, she envied her sister Leah. She said to Jacob, "Give me children, or else I die."

This made Jacob angry against Rachel. He said, "Am I in the place of God who keeps you from having children?"

Rachel said to Jacob, "Here is my handmaid Bilhah. Go in to her and have children with her on my behalf so that I can have children through her." She gave Bilhah to Jacob, and Bilhah conceived and had a son. Rachel said, "God has judged me and heard me, and has given me a son." And she called his name Dan.

Bilhah conceived and had another son named Naphtali. Rachel said, "With mighty struggles I have struggled with my sister and have prevailed."

When Leah realized that she could have no more children, she took her handmaid Zilpah and gave her to Jacob for a wife. Zilpah had a son, and Leah said, "Good fortune has come!" and she name the son Gad.

Zilpah bore a second son and Leah said, "How happy I am! For women have called me happy." And she called his name Asher.

One year, during the time of wheat harvest, Reuben went into the field and found mandrakes and brought them to his mother Leah. When Rachel saw the mandrakes she said, "Give me some of your son's mandrakes."

But Leah said, "Is it a small matter that you have taken away my husband? Would you take away my son's mandrakes also?"

Rachel said, "If you will give me your son's mandrakes, Jacob will be with you tonight." When Jacob came in from the field in the evening, Leah went to meet him and said, "You must come in to me because I have hired you with my son's mandrakes." So he went in to her that night.

God listened to Leah, and she conceived a fifth son for Jacob. She said, "God has given me my wages because I gave my servant to my husband." And she called his name Issachar.

Leah had a sixth son. She said, "God has given me a good **dowry**, now my husband will honor me because I have borne him six sons." And she named her son Zebulun.

Afterwards she bore him a daughter that she named Dinah.

God remembered Rachel, and listened to her, and He opened her womb. She conceived and bore a son and said, "God has taken away my reproach." And she called his name Joseph, and said, "May the Lord add to me another son."

Think About It:

Have you wondered how Jacob could marry Leah and not know it was her instead of Rachel? The marriage ceremony of that day would look nothing like our modern-day weddings that we have today. The marriage ceremony of Jacob's day would have been a ceremony of removing the bride from her father's house and taking her to the house of her bridegroom. Most likely there would be a feast before she went, and the ceremony of taking her to the bridegroom would be performed at night. The bride would be completely veiled so that no one could see her face as she was taken to her new home. In a situation like this, it would have been easy to deceive Jacob.

Laban's deceptive action of giving Leah to Jacob first caused much jealousy and problems. It caused Jacob to take Leah and concubine (servant) wives that he did not love. When we look at the meanings of the son's names we see the jealousy and bad feelings between the wives.

MEMORY WORK

Psalm 105: 4 - 5

4 Seek the Lord, and his strength: seek his face evermore.

5 Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

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### **SONS OF JACOB**

**Reuben**

**Simeon**

**Levi**

**Judah**

**Dan**

**Naphtali**

**Gad**

**Asher**

**Issachar**

**Zebulun**

**Joseph**

**Benjamin**

## True or False

1. \_\_\_ Jacob dreamed about some stairs that reached to heaven.
2. \_\_\_ Jacob called the place of his dream Bethel.
3. \_\_\_ Leah came to water the sheep at the well.
4. \_\_\_ Jacob told Laban that he would work for Rachel seven years.
5. \_\_\_ Jacob loved Leah more than Rachel.
6. \_\_\_ The Lord opened Leah's womb so she could have children.
7. \_\_\_ Rachel envied Leah when she saw that she could have no children.
8. \_\_\_ When Rachel saw she could have no children, she gave her servant Bilhah to Jacob.
9. \_\_\_ Leah gave her servant Zilpah to Jacob when she saw she could not have more children.
10. \_\_\_ Rachel had a son named Zebulun.

**LEAH'S CHILDREN: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Dinah**

**BILHAH'S CHILDREN: Dan, Naphtali**

**ZILPAH'S CHILDREN: Gad, Asher**

**RACHEL'S CHILDREN: Joseph, Benjamin (Benjamin was not born till they were back in the land of Canaan.)**

**JACOB'S SONS BY BIRTH ORDER:**

**Reuben  
Simeon  
Levi  
Judah  
Dan  
Naphtali  
Gad  
Asher  
Issachar  
Zebulun  
Joseph  
Benjamin**

# Genesis

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## LESSON NINETEEN -- Time Period: The Patriarchs

### Vocabulary Words:

**Hire** - A wage or something else paid for services rendered.

**Righteousness** - To be pure and right in the way one thinks and feels; being in a state that God approves of, and as one ought to be.

**Exceedingly** - To go beyond the proper bounds; beyond measure; abundantly.

**Affliction** - Misery; trouble.

### Genesis 30: 25 - 43; 31; 32: 1 - 21

#### Laban's Agreement With Jacob

After Rachel had given birth to their son Joseph, Jacob said to Laban, "Send me away so that I can go to my own home and country. Give me my wives and children for whom I have served you, and let me go. You know the service that I have given you."

Laban replied, "If I have found favor in your sight, stay, because I have learned from experience that Jehovah has blessed me because of you. Tell me your wages and I will give it to you."

Jacob said, "You know how I have served you, and how your cattle have done well. You had little when I came and it has increased into a multitude. The Lord has blessed you since I came, but when shall I provide for my own family?"

Laban said, "What shall I give you?"

Jacob said, "You shall not give me anything. If you will do this for me, I will continue to take care of your flock: I will go through your flock today and remove every speckled and spotted sheep, and every black sheep, and the speckled and spotted goats will be my **hire**. My **righteousness** will answer for me later when it comes time for you to look at my **hire**. Then every goat that is not speckled and spotted, and black among the sheep, will be considered stolen by me."

Laban answered, "Let our agreement be as you have said." But that day Laban took all the male goats that were striped and spotted, and all the female goats that were speckled and spotted, and every one that had some white on it, and every black lamb, and put his sons in charge of them. Then he set three day's journey between himself and Jacob. Jacob fed the rest of Laban's flocks that Laban left behind.

Jacob took young branches of poplar, almond and plane trees and peeled white streaks in them. He set the sticks that he had peeled in front of the flocks of the watering places where the flocks came to drink. The flocks of sheep and goats conceived and gave birth to young that were speckled, spotted and striped.

Jacob separated these lambs, and set the faces of the flock toward the striped and black animals of Laban's flock. It was in this way that he built up his own flock and kept it separate from Laban's flock. Whenever the stronger animals in the flock were ready to conceive, Jacob would lay the rods he made where the animals could see them. He did not put the rods he made before the weaker animals. So the feebler animals were Laban's and the stronger animals were Jacob's.

Jacob's flock increased **exceedingly** until he had large flocks. He also had maidservants and menservants, camels and donkeys.

Word came to Jacob that Laban's sons were saying, "Jacob has taken away all that was our father's." and "He has gotten his wealth from what was our father's."

Jacob noticed that Laban did not regard with him the same favor as he had before.

Jehovah spoke to Jacob and said, "Return to the land of your fathers, and to your kindred, and I will be with you."

After Jehovah spoke to him, Jacob called Rachel and Leah into the field where his flock was. He said, "I see that your father does not regard me as he did before. But the God of my father has been with me. You know that I served your father Laban with all my strength, but your father has deceived me and changed my wages ten times. But God did not permit him to harm me. If your father said, 'The speckled will be your wages.', then all the flock bore spotted animals. If your father said, 'All the striped will be your wages.', then all the flock bore striped animals. In this way God took the flocks from your father and gave them to me."

"It was during the time that the animals conceived that I saw in a dream that the goats were mated with those in the flock that were speckled, spotted and striped. An angel said to me in the dream, 'Jacob', and I said, 'Here I am.' The angel said, 'Look up and see that all the goats that mate with the flock are striped, spotted and speckled, for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you. I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and made a vow to Me. Now get up, leave this land and return to the land of your kindred."

Rachel and Leah answered Jacob, "Is there anything left for us to inherit from our father's house? Doesn't he regard us as foreigners? He has sold us and used up our money. All the riches which God has taken from our father is ours and our children's. Now, whatever God has said to you, do."

So Jacob made things ready to go back to his own home, to the land of Canaan and his father Isaac. He put his sons and his wives upon camels. He carried away all his flocks, all the property he had gained.

Rachel went to her father's home while he was gone shearing the sheep and stole her father's household gods. Jacob did not tell Laban that he was leaving. He fled with everything he had and crossed the river Euphrates. He set his face toward the hill country of Gilead.

After three days had passed, Laban was told that Jacob had gone. Laban took all the men in his family and pursued after Jacob for seven days. He overtook Jacob in the hill country of Gilead. But God came to Laban in a dream that night and said, "Be careful not to say anything to Jacob either good or bad."

Laban overtook Jacob where Jacob had pitched his tent in the hill country. Laban and his men had also pitched their tents. Laban said, "What have you done? You have tricked me and carried my daughters away like captives of the sword. Why did you flee secretly and not tell me about it? I might have sent you away with mirth and songs, with tambourine and harp. Why did you not permit me to kiss my sons and my daughters goodbye? You have done foolishly. It is in the power of me to do you hurt, but the God of your father spoke to me last night and said, 'Be careful not to say anything to Jacob good or bad.'. And now you have gone away because you longed to go back to your father's house, but why did you steal my gods?"

Jacob replied, "Because I was afraid. I thought you would take your daughters from me by force. Whoever you find with your gods will not live. In the presence of our brethren, look for what is yours and take it."

Now, Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen the gods from Laban.

Laban went into Jacob's tent and into Leah's tent. He went into the tent of the two maidservants, but he did not find his gods. When he left Leah's tent, he went into Rachel's tent. Rachel had taken the gods and put them in a camel's saddle and sat upon them. Laban searched all about the tent, but did not find them. Rachel said to Laban, "Let not my lord be angry because I cannot get up before you, for the way of women is upon me."

Laban searched and did not find the gods. Jacob was angry and said to Laban, "What is my sin that you have hotly pursued after me? After you have searched through all my goods, what have you found? Set it here before my brethren and your brethren that they may decide between us two. These twenty years I have been with you. Your sheep and your goats have not failed to have their young, and I have not eaten any of the rams of your flock. I did not bring you any animal torn by a wild beast but bore the loss of it myself. You required I make good anything stolen by day or by night. The days of heat consumed me and at night I could not sleep because of the cold. For twenty years I have been in your house. I served your 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 and the God of Abraham, and the fear of Isaac had not been with me your would have already sent me away empty-handed. God saw my **affliction** and the labor of my hands and He rebuked you last night."

Laban answered, "The daughters are my daughters, and the children are my children. The flocks are my flocks, and all that you see are mine. But what can I do this day for my daughters and the children they have borne? Come, let us make a covenant, and let it be a witness between me and you."

So Jacob took a stone and set it up as a pillar. He told his brethren to gather stones, and they set the stones up into a heap, and ate by the heap. Jacob called the heap Galeed and Mizpah. Laban said, "The Lord watch between you and me when we are absent from one another. If you mistreat my daughters, God is watching us even if no one sees. This heap is a witness that I will not pass it to go to you and you will not pass it to do me harm. The God of Abraham and of Nahor judge between us." And Jacob swore by the fear of his father Isaac. He offered a sacrifice and called his brethren to eat.

The next morning, Laban got up. He kissed his daughters and grandchildren and blessed them. Then he returned home.

### Jacob's Journey Home

The angels of God met Jacob as he went on his way home. When he saw the angels he said, "This is God's camp!" He called the place Mahanaim (or two camps).

As Jacob came close to the land of Seir where his brother Esau lived, he sent messengers to Esau. He told the messengers, "You are to tell Esau that his servant Jacob has sojourned with Laban and been there until now. I have oxen, donkeys, flocks, servants, and I am sending word in the hope of gaining favor in his sight."

The messengers returned and said, "We came to your brother Esau and he is coming to meet you with four hundred men."

When Jacob heard this he was very distressed and divided the people, flocks and animals into two camps. He thought to himself, "If Esau attacks one camp, then the other camp will escape." Then Jacob prayed, "O

God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, O Jehovah who told me to return to my country and You will do me good. I am not worthy of all Your loving-kindness and truth shown to me. I passed over this Jordan with only my walking staff and now I have become two camps. Deliver me, I pray, from my brother Esau, for I fear that he will attack me and the mothers with the children. You told me you would surely do me good and make my offspring as the sand of the sea which cannot be numbered."

After Jacob prayed, he camped that night and chose a gift for his brother -- two hundred female goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams, thirty camels and their colts, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten male donkeys. He gave these over to his servants and told them, "Go on ahead of me and put a space between each herd of animals. When Esau meets the first group and asks, "To whom do you belong, and where are you going?", you shall say, "They belong to your servant Jacob. It is a present to my lord Esau. Jacob is behind us."

Then Jacob instructed each group to say the same thing. He thought to himself, "I will win him over with the gifts that go before me, and then when I see him he will accept me."

## **MEMORY WORK**

**Psalm 105: 4 - 5**

**4 Seek the Lord, and his strength: seek his face evermore.**

**5 Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,**

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SONS OF JACOB

Reuben

Simeon

Levi

Judah

Dan

Naphtali

Gad

Asher

Issachar

Zebulun

Joseph

Benjamin

QUESTIONS

1. What did Jacob want to do after the birth of Joseph? _____

2. What did Jacob say his **hire** would be? _____

3. What did Jacob do with the tree branches to get his animals to have spotted, speckled and striped animals? _____

4. Did Laban treat Jacob right? _____
5. Did Rachel and Leah want to stay with their father Laban? _____
6. What did Rachel steal from her father? _____
7. What did Jacob and Laban make at Galeed and Mizpah? _____

8. How many men were coming with Esau to meet Jacob? _____
9. Was Jacob concerned about meeting his brother Esau again? _____
10. What gift did Jacob choose for Esau? _____

Genesis

LESSON TWENTY -- Time Period: The Patriarchs

Vocabulary Words:

Peniel - Face of God.

Tender - Weak, soft.

Seir - Another name for Edom. Esau was called Edom and the land he settled in was called the land of Edom, or the mountain of Seir. Esau's descendants became known as the Edomites. Edom also became known as Idumea. Notice this nation as you study the Bible story.

Booth - A tabernacle or tent.

El-Elohe-Israel - The mighty God of Israel.

Elbethel - God of Bethel.

Israel - The prince that prevails with God; contender with God -- the descendants of Israel became known as "Israelites".

Bethel - House of God.

Midwife - A woman who helps another woman deliver her baby.

Genesis 32: 22 - 32; 33;35; 49:31

Jacob Wrestles With an Angel.

Jacob sent the gifts ahead of himself, and stayed in the camp that night. He rose up in the night and crossed the ford of Jabbok with his wives and children. He sent them and all that he owned ahead of himself. When he was alone, a man wrestled with him until the morning. When the man saw he was not winning the struggle with Jacob, he touched Jacob's hip socket and put it out of joint. Then he said to Jacob, "Let me go for the day has broken." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

The man said, "What is your name?"

He said, "Jacob."

The man said, "You will not be called Jacob anymore, but you will be called Israel, because you have struggled with God and with man and you have won."

Jacob asked, "Tell me your name." But the man said, "Why do you ask my name?", and he blessed him there.

Jacob called the name of the place **Peniel** and said, "I have seen God face to face, and I am still living."

As the sun rose in the sky he left **Peniel**, limping as he walked because of his hip.

Jacob Meets With Esau

Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming, and four hundred men with him. As he saw them coming he divided his wives with their children. He put the handmaids and their children in front, Leah and her children after, and Rachel and Joseph last of all. Then he passed before them going toward Esau. He bowed himself to the ground seven times before he came near to them.

Esau ran to meet Jacob and embraced him and fell on his neck and kissed him. He and Jacob both wept. When Esau looked up, he saw the women and children who belonged to Jacob. He said, "Who are these with you?"

Jacob said, "The children that God has graciously given your servant. Then the handmaids came near and bowed themselves. Leah and her children came near and bowed themselves, and last Joseph and Rachel came near and bowed themselves.

Esau said, "What did you mean by all the company I met on the way?"

Jacob said, "It was to find favor in your sight my lord."

Esau replied, "I have enough my brother; keep what you have."

Jacob said, "No, please, if I have found favor in your sight accept my present from my hand. I have seen your face which is like seeing the face of God, and you have accepted me. Please accept my gift that is brought to you because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough." Jacob urged Esau and Esau took the gift.

Then Esau said, "Let us journey on our way, and I will go ahead of you."

Jacob replied, "My lord, you know that the children are **tender**, and the flocks of animals have their young. If they are driven hard for one day, all the flocks will die. Let my lord pass on ahead of his servant, and I will lead on gently, at the pace of the livestock ahead of me and at the pace of the children until I come to you in **Seir**.

So Esau left Jacob and returned on his way to **Seir**. Jacob journeyed to Succoth. There he built a house and **booths** for his livestock. From there he went to Shechem in the land of Canaan and camped before the city there. He bought a piece of land for one hundred pieces of money from the descendants of Hamor who was the father of Shechem. He put up an altar there and called it **El-Elohe-Israel**.

Jacob Has A New Name

God said to Jacob, "Get up and go to Bethel and live there. Make an altar to the God who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau."

So Jacob said to all of his family and all who were traveling with him, "Put away the foreign gods that are among you and purify yourselves and put on clean clothes. Let us get up and go to Bethel. I will make an altar there to the God who answers me in the day of my trouble and has been with me wherever I go."

So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods they had, and the earrings in their ears and Jacob hid them under the terebinth tree that was near Shechem.

As Jacob and his family traveled a terror from God was upon the cities around them and they did not pursue after Jacob and his sons. Jacob came to Luz in the land of Canaan and he built an altar there and called the place **Elbethel** because it was there that God appeared to him when he had fled from his brother Esau.

Rebekah's nurse Deborah died there and was buried beneath an oak below Bethel. The tree became known as the "Oak of Weeping".

When Jacob was coming from Padanaram, God appeared to Jacob again and blessed him. God told him, "Your name will be no longer Jacob, but **Israel** shall be your name." So God named Jacob **Israel**.

God said to **Israel**, "I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply. A nation and a company of nations will come from you. Kings will descend from you. The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and to your offspring after you." Then God left him.

Jacob set up a pillar in the place that God talked to him. He poured a drink-offering and oil on the pillar and called the place **Bethel**.

Jacob left **Bethel** and journeyed on. When he was still some distance from Ephrath the time came for Rachel to have her baby. The **midwife** said to her, "Don't be afraid for you have another son." Rachel was dying after the birth of her son and she called her baby boy's name Ben-oni, but his father called him Benjamin. Rachel died and she was buried on the way to Ephrath (or Bethlehem). Jacob set up a pillar over her tomb

Israel (*Jacob*) journeyed on and pitched his tent beyond the tower of Eder. He journeyed on home to where his father Isaac lived in Mamre. When Isaac died he was 180 years old. Esau and Jacob buried him in the cave of Machpelah.

MEMORY WORK

Psa. 105: 4 - 6

4 Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!

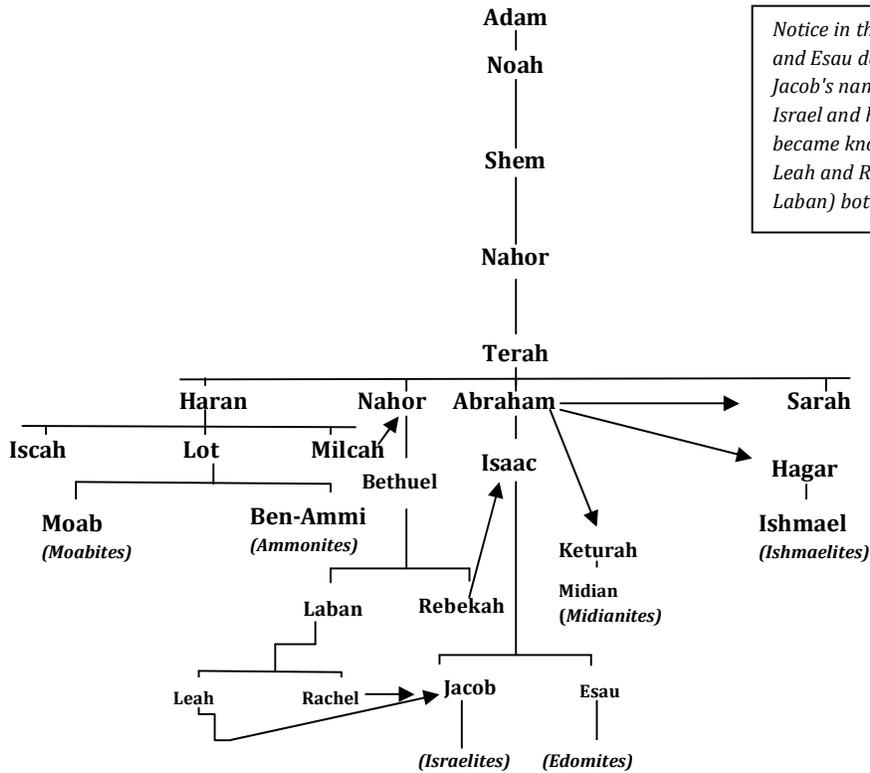
**5 Remember the wondrous works that he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,**

6 O offspring of Abraham, his servant, children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

MATCH

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Morning | Jacob and Esau buried Isaac here. |
| Peniel | Jacob called the place where he wrestled the angel this. |
| Esau | Jacob called Rachel's son this. |
| Seir | Jacob called the place by this name because God appeared to him there when he fled from his brother Esau. |
| Jacob | God told Jacob that he would not be called Jacob anymore, but _____. |
| Israel | Jacob wrestled the angel until _____. |
| Elbethel | Where Esau lived, also called Edom. |
| Rachel | He put up an altar at Shechem called El-Elohe-Israel. |
| Benjamin | She died after the birth of her son. |
| Machpelah | He ran to meet Jacob and embraced him and fell on his neck and kissed him. |

FAMILY TREE



Notice in this chart that Jacob and Esau descended from Isaac. Jacob's name was changed to Israel and his descendants became known as the Israelites. Leah and Rachel (daughters of Laban) both married Jacob.

Genesis

LESSON TWENTY-ONE -- Time Period: The Patriarchs

Vocabulary Words:

Sheaf - A bundle of grain that is bound together. When the grain was reaped or harvested it would be bound into **sheaves**.

Envy - To have hatred and anger; to hold a grudge against; to be uneasy or discontented at another's success; to be jealous of.

Hebrew - A name applied to the Israelites. "Hebrew" was used by other nations in referring to the Israelites.

Genesis 37; 39; 40;41

JOSEPH

Jacob lived in the land where his father had sojourned -- the land of Canaan. His son Joseph was seventeen years old and he took care of the flocks of his brothers. Joseph would take reports to his father about the bad things his brothers were doing.

Israel loved Joseph more than his other sons because he was the son he had in his old age. Israel made Joseph a coat of many colors. But, when Joseph's brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.

One day Joseph dreamed a dream and told it to his brothers. This dream made them hate him even more. He said to them, "Hear this dream I dreamed: We were binding **sheaves** in the field, and my **sheaf** arose and stood up. Your **sheaves** gathered around my **sheaf** and bowed down to it."

Joseph's brothers said, "Are you indeed going to reign over us? Are you going to rule over us?" And they hated Joseph even more because of his dreams and the things he said.

Then Joseph dreamed another dream and told his brothers about it. He said, "See, I have dreamed another dream. In my dream the sun, the moon and the eleven stars were bowing down to me."

Joseph told his father this dream, and his brothers. His father rebuked him and said, "What is this you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come and bow ourselves to the earth before you?"

Joseph's brothers **envied** him, but his father kept these things Joseph told him in his mind.

One day Joseph's brothers went to Shechem to feed their father's flock. Israel said to Joseph, "Aren't your brothers feeding the flock at Shechem? I am going to send you to them."

Joseph said, "Here I am."

Israel said, "Go and see if things are well with your brothers and the flock and bring me back word about them." Then Israel sent Joseph out of Hebron to Shechem.

While Joseph was wandering in the fields, a certain man found him and said, "What are you seeking?"

Joseph said, "I am looking for my brothers. Please tell me where they are feeding the flock."

The man said, "They have gone away. I heard them say, 'Let's go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went to Dothan and found his brothers.

Joseph's brothers could see him coming while he was still afar off, so before he got there they conspired to kill Joseph. They said, "Look, this dreamer is coming. Come, let's kill him and throw his body into one of the pits and then we will say that a fierce beast devoured him. Then we will see what becomes of his dreams."

Reuben heard what the other brothers were planning and tried to rescue Joseph by saying, "Let us not take his life. Don't shed his blood, but throw him into this pit in the wilderness and lay no hand on him." Reuben said this so that he could rescue Joseph out of their hand and restore him back to his father.

When Joseph came his brothers stripped off his coat of many colors and threw him into an empty pit. They sat down to eat and as they looked up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels carried spices, balm and myrrh on their way to Egypt. Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let's not kill him; for he is our brother, our own flesh."

The brothers listened to Judah. As some Midianite traders passed by they took Joseph out of the pit and sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. Then they took Joseph with them to Egypt.

When Reuben came back to the pit and saw that Joseph was not in the pit, he was so upset he tore his clothes. He went to his brothers and said, "The boy is gone, and what am I to do?"

Then they took Joseph's coat and killed a goat and dipped the coat in the blood. They brought the coat to their father Israel and said, "We have found this and want to know whether it is your son's coat or not."

Israel looked at the coat and said, "It is his coat. An evil beast has devoured him and he is no doubt torn to pieces." Then Israel tore his clothes and put sackcloth on. He mourned for Joseph many days. All his sons and daughters tried to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. He said, "I will go down to the grave mourning for my son." And Israel wept for Joseph.

Meanwhile, Joseph was sold in Egypt by the Ishmaelites to a man named Potiphar, a captain of the guard in Pharaoh's army.

Joseph in Egypt

Jehovah was with Joseph and he became a successful man living in the house of his Egyptian master Potiphar. Potiphar could see that Jehovah was with Joseph, and that He caused all that Joseph did to succeed. Joseph found favor in Potiphar's eyes and Potiphar made him the overseer of his house, putting him in charge of all that he had. Jehovah blessed Potiphar's house for Joseph's sake.

Because he put Joseph in charge of everything in his house, Potiphar did not have to concern himself with anything except the food that he ate. After a period of time, Potiphar's wife began to notice Joseph. She said to him, "Lie with me."

Joseph refused to do what Potipher's wife wanted, and he said to her, "Look, it is because of me that my master has no concern for anything in his house. He has put me in charge of everything, and has kept back nothing from me except you. How then could I do this great wickedness and sin against God?"

Day after day Potipher's wife spoke to Joseph, but he would not listen to her, be with her, or lie with her. One day he went to do his work in the house of Potipher and none of the men of house were with him. Potipher's wife caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." Joseph escaped from her, running out of the house and leaving his garment in her hand.

As soon as she saw that he had fled from her, and left his garment with her, she called the men who worked in her house to her and said to them, "See, Potipher has brought a **Hebrew** here to mock us. He came in to lie with me and I cried out loudly, and as soon as he heard my voice he left his garment with me and fled leaving the house."

Then she put Joseph's garment beside her, waiting till Potipher came home. She told Potipher, " The **Hebrew** servant that you brought in to us, came in to mock me, but as soon as I lifted up my voice, he left his garment by me and fled. This is the way your servant treated me."

When Potipher heard what his wife had to say about Joseph he became angry. He put Joseph in prison, in the place where the king's servants were confined.

But, Jehovah was with Joseph, and showed him steadfast love. He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. The keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners in the prison. He was responsible for anything that needed to be done in the prison. The keeper of the prison did not have to concern himself with anything that Joseph took care of because Jehovah was with Joseph. Whatever Joseph did, Jehovah made it to prosper.

The Butler and the Baker

After all these things had happened to Joseph, the King's butler and baker offended the King. Pharaoh was very angry and put them in prison, in the place where Joseph was confined. The captain of the guard ordered Joseph to serve them.

One night the butler and the baker both dreamed a dream. When Joseph came in to them the next morning, both of them were sad. Joseph said, "Why are you both so sad today?"

They said, "We have had dreams and there is no one to tell us what they mean."

Joseph replied, "Don't interpretations of dreams belong to God? Please tell me your dreams."

The chief butler said, "In my dream a vine was before me with three branches. It budded and blossoms came forth on it, and then clusters ripened into grapes. Pharaoh's cup was in my hand, and I took the grapes and pressed the juice from them into Pharaoh's cup placing it in his hand."

Joseph said, "This is what your dream means: The three branches are three days. In three days Pharaoh will restore you to the same job you had before as butler. When all is well with you, please remember me, and make mention to me of Pharaoh, and bring me out of this prison. For I was stolen out of the land of the Hebrews, and I have done nothing to deserve putting me in this dungeon."

When the chief baker saw that the butler's dream had a good interpretation, he said to Joseph, "I also had a dream. In my dream three baskets were on my head. In the top basket were all sorts of baked foods for Pharaoh, but the birds were eating it out of the basket on my head."

Joseph said, "This is what your dream means: The three baskets are three days. In three days, Pharaoh will lift up your head from off you! He will hang you on a tree and the birds will eat your flesh."

On the third day, Pharaoh had his birthday. He made a feast for all his servants and he released the butler and the baker from prison. He restored the chief butler to his former position, but he hanged the chief baker, just as Joseph's interpretations said would happen.

Yet, the chief butler did not remember Joseph. He forgot him.

Pharaoh's Dream

Two years passed, and Pharaoh dreamed a dream. In his dream he was standing by the Nile River. Out of the river came seven fat, good-looking cows that were eating the grass. Then, seven thin and ugly cows came up out of the river and stood with the other cows. The thin and ugly cows ate up the fat, good-looking cows. Then Pharaoh woke up from his dream.

Pharaoh went back to sleep and dreamed another dream. In this dream seven plump and good ears of grain were growing on one stalk. After them, seven other ears that were thin and blighted by the wind sprang up. The seven thin ears swallowed the plump ears. Then Pharaoh woke up from this dream.

The next morning, Pharaoh was troubled. He called for all the magicians and wise men in Egypt to come, and he told them his dream. None of them could tell Pharaoh the meaning of his dreams. Then the chief butler said to Pharaoh, "I do remember my faults this day. When Pharaoh was angry with his servants he put me and the chief baker in prison. He and I both dreamed a dream. A young **Hebrew**, who was a servant of the captain of the guard, told each of us what our dreams meant. What he told us came to pass. I was restored to my office and the baker was hanged."

When Pharaoh heard this he sent for Joseph quickly. Joseph shaved and changed his clothes and came before Pharaoh. Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream and no one can tell me what it means. I've heard it said that you can interpret dreams."

Joseph replied, "The power to do this is not in me. God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace."

So Pharaoh began to tell his dream. He said, "In my dream I stood on the banks of the Nile River. Seven fat and attractive cows came out to eat the grass. Then seven thin, ugly cows, such as I have never seen in Egypt, came out of the river after them. Then the thin cows ate the fat cows, but it could not be known that they ate them because they were still thin. Then I awoke."

"I also saw in my dream seven fat and good ears of grain growing on one stalk. Seven thin ears, blighted by the wind sprouted after them. The thin ears swallowed the good ears. I told this to the magicians, but no one could explain the dreams to me."

Joseph said, "The dreams you had are one. God has shown you what He is going to do. The seven good cows are seven years and the seven good ears are seven years. The seven thin cows and the seven thin ears are seven years of famine. God is telling you that there will be seven years a great plenty in Egypt, but after that there will be seven years of famine. The famine will consume the land and be so severe that the days of plenty will be forgotten. You dreamed this twice because this is going to be done by God, and it will happen shortly. Now, Pharaoh needs to look out for a man who is wise and set him over the land of Egypt. Let him appoint men to take up one fifth of all the food that is produced in the years of plenty. Gather food in the good years and store it up so that it will supply Egypt with food during the years of famine."

This plan was good in the eyes of Pharaoh and his servants, and he said, "Can we find a man like this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?"

Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "God has shown all this to you and there is no one as wise as you are. I have set you over all the land of Egypt." Then he took off his signet ring and put it on Joseph's hand. He clothed him in fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. Joseph rode in the second royal chariot and as the chariot came people would call out, "Bow the knee!"

Pharaoh called Joseph by the name Zaphenath-paneah and gave him the daughter of the priest of On to marry. Joseph was thirty years when this came about.

God fulfilled the dream just as He said he would. During the seven years of plenty Joseph gathered up all the food and stored it. There was so much grain he stopped measuring it.

During this period of time Joseph had two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.

After the seven years of plenty, the famine came to all the lands, but in the land of Egypt there was plenty of food. When the people began to cry out for food, Pharaoh said, "Go to Joseph. What he says, do."

All the countries around came to Joseph to buy food because Egypt had grain.

Think About It:

Can you see that all throughout Joseph's life, God is with him? It seems at times that Joseph has some pretty bad things happen to him, but God always helps him "rise to the top" and blesses him in spite of it. Why? Joseph was determined to obey God. Notice his statement to Potipher's wife, "How then could I do this great wickedness and sin against God?". Sure, Potipher sent him to prison, but do you see that God blessed him even there?

We need to remember Joseph when bad times come to us. If we put God first, He will bless us.

MEMORY WORK

Psa. 105: 4 - 6

4 Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!

**5 Remember the wondrous works that he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,**

6 O offspring of Abraham, his servant, children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

TRUE OR FALSE

1. ____ In Joseph's dream, his brother's sheaves bowed down to his sheaf.
2. ____ Joseph's brothers loved him very much.
3. ____ Israel gave Joseph a red coat.
4. ____ Joseph's brothers sold him and dipped his coat in goat's blood to trick their father.
5. ____ Potipher's wife tried to get Joseph to sin with her.
6. ____ The keeper of the prison would not give Joseph any duties.
7. ____ Both the Butler and the Baker had good endings to their dreams.
8. ____ The butler forgot his promise to Joseph when he went back to Pharaoh's house.
9. ____ Pharaoh's dreams were easy for his wise men to interpret.
10. ____ The dreams represented seven years of plenty and seven year of famine.
11. ____ Joseph became a great man in Pharaoh's kingdom.
12. ____ Joseph's two sons were Manasseh and Ephraim.

Genesis

LESSON TWENTY-TWO -- Time Period: The Patriarchs

Vocabulary Words:

Interpreter - One who expresses the thoughts or explains another language.

Provisions - food

Famine - A time when there is no rain and the crops do not grow. If there are no crops, then the people begin to do without food.

Remnant - What is left; the rest.

Genesis 42; 43; 44; 45: 1 - 15

Joseph

Joseph was 17 years old when he was a shepherd for his father (Genesis 37: 2) and told his brothers and father of his dreams where they would bow down to him. Thirteen years passed while he became a slave in Potiphar's house and then was sent to prison.

He was 30 years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh (Genesis 41:46).

The seven years of plenty passed and the years of famine begin (Genesis 41:46, 53), so Joseph was at least 37 years old when his brothers came to Egypt for grain. See if Joseph's dreams, that he had as a 17 year old youth, are fulfilled in this lesson.

**Remember that Jacob and Israel are the same person.*

There was a **famine** in the land of Canaan, and when Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt he said to his sons, "Why do you look at one another? I have heard that there is grain in Egypt. Go there and buy grain for us so that we can live and not die."

So, all of Joseph's brothers traveled to Egypt to buy grain, except for Benjamin. Jacob would not let Benjamin go because he was afraid harm would happen to him.

Jacob's sons, along with others from other countries, went to Egypt to buy grain. At this time, Joseph was a governor over the land, and he sold grain to all the people who came to him. Joseph's brothers came to him and bowed with their faces to the ground.

Joseph saw his brothers and knew who they were, but he acted as if he did not know them and he spoke roughly to them. He said, "Where do you come from?"

His brothers said, "We come from the land of Canaan to buy food." They did not recognize Joseph.

Joseph remembered the dreams he had about them, and he said to them, "You are spies and have come secretly to see how poor the land is."

Joseph's brothers said, "No, my lord, but we have come as your servants to buy food. We are all the sons of one man and we are honest. We are not spies."

Joseph replied, "No, you have come to see the nakedness of the land."

His brothers said, "We are your servants and are twelve brothers, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan. The youngest brother is with our father, and one of our brothers is no more."

But Joseph said to them, "It is just as I said to you. You are spies. By this you will be tested: By the life of Pharaoh, you will not leave unless your youngest brother comes here. Send one of you to bring your brother, while the rest of you remain in prison. This will prove whether you are telling the truth, or else by the life of Pharaoh, you are spies."

Then Joseph put them into prison for three days. On the third day, Joseph said to them, "Do this and you will live, for I fear God. If you are honest, let one of your brothers remain in prison, and the rest of you carry your grain home. Bring your youngest brother to me to prove you are truthful, and you will not die." So they did so.

Then they said to one another, "We are very guilty concerning our brother. 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."

Reuben said, "Didn't I tell you not to sin against the boy? But you did not listen, so now there is punishment on us for his blood."

As the brothers talked among themselves they did not know that Joseph understood them, because Joseph was using an **interpreter** between them. Joseph turned away from them and wept. When he returned to them he took Simeon and had him bound where they could see him. Then Joseph gave orders to his men to fill his brother's sacks with grain, to put every man's money in his sack and to give them **provisions** for the journey.

The brothers loaded their donkeys with the grain they had bought and left. When they stopped for the night, one of the brothers opened his sack to give his donkey some grain. He saw the money in the top of the sack, and said to his brothers, "My money has been restored, it is in my sack!"

When the brother's heard this, their hearts sank and they became afraid. Trembling, they said to one another, "What is this that God has done to us?"

When they returned home, they told their father everything that had happened. They said, "The man who was lord of the land spoke roughly to us and told us we were spies. We told him that we are honest men and not spies, that we are twelve brothers, with one who is not, and one with our father in the land of Canaan. But the man who was lord of the land told us, 'This is how I will know you are honest men: leave one of your brothers with me and take your grain home. Bring your youngest brother to me, then I will know you are not spies but honest men. Then I will give your brother back to you and you can trade in the land.'"

As they brothers began to empty their sacks of grain, every man's money was in his sack. When they and their father saw this, they became afraid. Jacob said, "You have taken my children from me -- Joseph is not, Simeon is not, and now you would take Benjamin. All these things are against me."

Reuben said, "Kill my two sons if I do not bring him back to you. Put him in my hands and I will bring him back." But Jacob said, "My son shall not go with you. He is the only one left. If harm should happen to him you will bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave."

Joseph's Brothers Return to Egypt

Time passed, and the **famine** had become much worse. They had eaten all the grain that had been bought in Egypt, so Jacob said to his sons, "Go again and buy us a little food."

Judah said, "The man in Egypt did solemnly warn us that we would not see him unless we brought our brother with us. If you will send our brother, we will go buy food. But, if you will not send him, we will not go down."

Then Israel said, "Why did you treat me so badly by telling the man that you had another brother?"

The brothers replied, "The man questioned us about ourselves and our kin. He asked, 'Is your father still alive?' 'Do you have another brother?'. We answered his questions. How could we know that he would ask us to bring our brother with us?"

Judah said, "Send the boy with me and we will go so that we may live and not die, both we, you and our little ones. I will keep him safe. If I do not bring him back, let me bear the blame forever. If we had not waited so long we could have made two trips there by now."

Israel said, "If it must be so, do this: take the choice fruits of the land with you and carry the man a present of a little balm, a little honey, spices, myrrh, nuts, almonds, and take double the money in your hands. Carry back the money returned to you in your sacks, for perhaps it was an oversight. Take your brother also and go again unto the man. May God Almighty grant you mercy before the man, and may he send back your brother Benjamin. If I must lose my children, I must lose them."

So the brothers took the gifts, the money, and Benjamin and went to Egypt to stand before Joseph.

When Joseph saw Benjamin with his brothers, he said to the servant in charge of his house, "Bring these men into the house. Make a meal for the men are to dine with me at noon."

The brothers were brought to Joseph's house, but this made them afraid because they thought, "We are being brought here because of the money returned in our sacks the first time. He may attack us, take our donkeys and make us his servants."

So the brothers went to the servant of Joseph's house and said, "Oh, my lord, the first time we came to buy food, we came to our lodging place on the way home and each man's money was in his sack. We have brought this money back to you. We have brought other money with us to buy food. We don't know who put the money back in our sacks."

The servant replied, "Peace to you and don't be afraid. Your God, and the God of your father has put the treasure in your sacks. I received your money." Then he brought Simeon out to them. He brought the brothers into Joseph's house and gave them water and washed their feet. He took care of their donkeys.

The brothers made their present ready for Joseph because they heard that Joseph would eat his meal there. When Joseph came, they gave him the present and bowed to the ground before him.

Joseph said, "Is your father well, the old man you told me about? Is he still alive?"

The brothers said, "Your servant, our father is well and alive." And they bowed on their faces before him.

As Joseph looked up, he saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son. He said, "Is this your youngest brother of whom you spoke? God be gracious unto you, my son."

Because he was so filled with emotion, Joseph left the room quickly and entered his room to weep. He washed his face and went back and said, "Serve the food."

Joseph was served by himself. Egyptians did not eat with Hebrews because it was an abomination to them.

Joseph had seated the brothers from the firstborn to the youngest. This made the brothers look at one another in amazement. Portions of food were taken to them from Joseph's table, but Benjamin was given five times as much as the rest of the brothers. The brothers drank and were merry with Joseph.

Joseph Makes Himself Known to His Brothers

Joseph commanded his servant, "Fill the men's sacks with food, as much as they can carry. Put each man's money in the mouth of his sack, and put my silver cup in the sack of the youngest brother." The servant did as Joseph told him.

As soon as it was morning, the brothers were sent away from Egypt. When the brothers had gone only a short distance, Joseph told his servant, "Follow after the men and overtake them. Ask them, "Why have you repaid evil for good? Have you stolen the cup from where my lord drinks? You have done evil in doing this."

The servant overtook the brothers and told them what Joseph said. The brothers said, "Why does my lord say these things? Far be it that your servants would do such a thing! You know we brought you the money that we found in our sacks from the land of Canaan. How could we steal silver or gold from your master's house? Whichever servant is found with the cup, let him die, and we will be your servants."

Joseph's servant said, "Let it be as you say, but let the one it is found with be my servant. The rest of you will be innocent."

Each man quickly lowered his sack to the ground and opened it. The servant searched the sacks beginning with the oldest son and ending with the youngest. The cup was found in Benjamin's sack. When the brothers saw this, they became so upset they rent their clothes. They loaded up their donkeys and returned to the city.

When Judah and his brothers returned to Joseph's house, Joseph was still there. They fell to the ground before Joseph. Joseph said, "What deed have you done? Do you not know that a man like me has the power to know what you do?"

Judah said, "What shall we say my lord? What shall we do? How can we clear ourselves? God has found out our iniquity. We are your servants, we and the one in whose hand the cup is found."

Joseph replied, "Far be it that I would make all of you my servants. Only the man in whose hand the cup is found shall be my servant. The rest of you may go in peace to your father."

Judah knew how this would upset his father, so he came near to Joseph and said, "Oh, my lord, please let me speak, and do not be angry with me for you are like Pharaoh himself. You have asked us, 'Have you a father or a brother?' and we said, 'We have a father, an old man, and a young brother, the child of his old age. His brother is dead, and he alone is left of his mother, and his father loves him.'"

"You said to us, 'Bring him down to me that I may look at him.', and we told you that the lad cannot leave his father, for if he does his father will die. Then you told us that unless our youngest brother come, you would not see our faces again. We went back and told our father what you said. When our father told us to go again to buy food, we told him what you said. Then my father said to us, 'You know that my wife bore me two sons. One is surely torn in pieces and I have not seen him since. If you take this one too, and harm happens to him, you will bring down my gray hairs to the grave. If I go back to my father without the lad, as soon as he sees that he is not with us he will die. I pledged safety to the boy to my father and told him that if I did not bring him back I would bear the guilt until I die.'"

"Now, please let me, your servant, remain instead of the boy. Let the boy go back with his brothers. For how can I go back if the boy is not with me? I fear to see the evil that would happen to my father."

Joseph could not control himself any longer. He ordered his servants to leave and he told his brothers who he was. He wept out loud, and the Egyptians heard him and the house of Pharaoh heard him. Joseph said, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?"

Joseph's brothers were so terrified that they could not answer his questions. So Joseph said, "Come near to me please."

The brothers came near and he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. Do not be upset or angry with yourselves because you sold me, for God sent me before you to save people's lives. The famine has been in the land two years, and there are five years left of famine. God sent me before you to save a **remnant** in the earth, to save your lives. 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 a ruler over Egypt."

"Now, hurry back to my father and tell him that God has made his son Joseph lord of all Egypt. Come down to me without delay. You will live in the land of Goshen, and you will be near to me, you, your children and your grandchildren, your flocks, your herds and all that you have. I will provide for you the last five years of the famine so that you will not starve. Now, all of you see, and my brother Benjamin sees that I am really Joseph. You are to tell my father all my glory in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. You will hurry and bring down my father."

Then Joseph fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept. He kissed all his brothers and wept. After that, his brothers talked with him.

MEMORY WORK

Psalm 105: 4 - 7

- 4 Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!**
- 5 Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,**
- 6 O offspring of Abraham, his servant, children of Jacob, his chosen ones!**
- 7 He is the LORD our God; his judgments are in all the earth. (ESV)**

Did You Notice?

Joseph could see how God used the bad things that happened in his life for good. It was not good that his brothers sold him as a servant. It was not good that he became a prisoner because of the lie of Potipher's wife. But even though these things were not good, God used them for good and put Joseph in a position to be able to help not only the nation of Egypt survive a famine, but able to help his own brethren.

We need to remember this in our own lives. If we follow God and do His will, there may be bad things happen to us, but God will use those things for good in our lives and the lives of others. Joseph is a good example to us!

Underline the Correct Answer

1. (Ten, Eleven) of Jacob's sons went to Egypt to buy grain.
2. Jacob (would, would not) let his son Benjamin go with his brothers to buy grain.
3. Joseph's brothers (knew, did not know) him.
4. Joseph told his brothers that they were (friends, spies).
5. Joseph told his brothers, "Bring your (oldest, youngest) brother back to me and I will know you are not spies.
6. As the brothers emptied their sacks of grain, their money (was, was not) in the top of the sack.
7. Joseph kept their brother (Judah, Simeon) until they returned.
8. When Joseph saw his brother Benjamin he (was angry, cried).
9. When the brothers left Egypt the second time, Joseph's (ring, cup) was in (Judah's, Benjamin's) sack.
10. Joseph told his brothers to go home and bring their father, children, grandchildren, flocks and herds to live in the land of (Canaan, Goshen).

Genesis

LESSON TWENTY-THREE -- Time Period: The Patriarchs

VOCABULARY WORDS:

Abomination - Something disgusting; to make to stink. The Egyptians considered it an abomination to eat with Hebrews (Gen. 43:32).

Pilgrimage - A temporary place to live or abide; to be a stranger in a land.

Swear - A solemn appeal to God to the truth of a statement.

Genesis 45: 16 - 28; 46;47;48; 49; 50

When Pharaoh learned that Joseph's brothers had come to Egypt it pleased him and his servants. Pharaoh told Joseph to tell his brothers go home and to bring their father and their families back to Egypt. Pharaoh told Joseph that he would give him the best of the land of Egypt and they would eat of the best of the land.

So Joseph's brothers went home to get their families. He gave them wagons and food for the journey. He gave them all a change of clothes, but to Benjamin he gave three hundred pieces of silver and five changes of clothes. As Joseph sent his brothers on their way he told them, "Do not quarrel on the way."

Joseph's brothers came home and told their father Jacob, "Joseph is still alive, and he is ruler over all the land of Egypt." When Jacob heard this he did not believe it. But the brothers told Jacob all the things that Joseph had said to them, and when Jacob saw all the wagons that Joseph had sent him he believed them and said, "It is enough; Joseph my son is still alive. I will go see him before I die."

So Israel (Jacob) took all he had and journeyed on to Egypt. When he came to Beersheba he offered sacrifices to God. God spoke to him that night in a vision. He said, "Jacob, Jacob."

Jacob said, "Here I am."

God said, "I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go to Egypt because I will make of you a great nation there. I will go down with you, and I will also bring you up again, and Joseph will be with you when you die."

So Jacob and all his family left Beersheba. All the people who went to Egypt, not including Jacob's wives, were sixty-six persons. Joseph had two sons, so all the family of Jacob who were in Egypt was seventy people.

Jacob sent Judah ahead of him to Joseph. Then Joseph prepared his chariot and went to meet his father Jacob in Goshen. When Joseph saw his father he fell on his neck and wept for a good while.

Israel said, "Now, let me die since I have seen your face and know that you are still alive."

Joseph told his brothers, "I will tell Pharaoh that my brothers and my father's household are come. The men are shepherds and have brought their herds and all they have." Now, when Pharaoh shall call you and say, "What is your occupation?" you shall tell him that you have been keepers of livestock from your youth

until now. In this way you will be able to have the land of Goshen because shepherds are an **abomination** to the Egyptians."

Then Joseph went to Pharaoh and said, "My father, my brothers and all their flocks and herds along with all they possess have come out of the land of Canaan, and they are now in the land of Goshen."

Joseph took five of his brothers and presented them to Pharaoh. Pharaoh said, "What is your occupation?" They said, "Your servants are shepherds just as our fathers were. We have come to sojourn in the land because there is no pasture for our flocks and the famine is great in Canaan. Now, please let your servants live in the land of Goshen."

Pharaoh spoke to Joseph, "Your father and brothers are come to you. Settle them in the best of the land, and let them live in the land of Goshen. If you know any able men among them, put them in charge of my livestock."

Then Joseph brought his father Jacob before Pharaoh, and Jacob blessed Pharaoh. Pharaoh asked Jacob, "How old are you?"

Jacob replied, "The days of my **pilgrimage** are 130 years. Few and evil have those days been and I have lived less years than the **pilgrimage** of my fathers." Then Jacob blessed Pharaoh and left him.

Joseph settled his brethren in the land of Rameses as the king commanded. He provided them with food.

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The famine had become so bad in the land of Canaan that there was no food there. Joseph gathered up all the money for grain that could be found in Egypt and in Canaan. He brought the money into Pharaoh's house.

When all the Egyptian's money was gone, they came to Joseph and said, "Give us food. Why should we die before you? Our money is gone."

So Joseph said, "Give us your cattle and I will give you food." So the people brought Joseph their livestock in exchange for food."

When the year was ended, the people said to Joseph, "We will not hide from you the fact that our money is gone, our livestock belongs to our lord, and we have nothing left but our bodies and our land. Don't let us die. Buy us and our land for food. We will be servants to Pharaoh. Give us seed so that we may live and not die and the land not be a waste."

So Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh. Every man sold his land because the famine was so severe. He made the people servants. The only land he did not buy was the land of the priests because Pharaoh gave them food. Joseph told the people, "I have bought you and your land for Pharaoh. Here is seed for you to sow in the land. At harvest time you must give a fifth of your crop to Pharaoh, the rest will be your own to use for seed, and food for your families."

The people said, "You have saved our lives. If it please you my lord, we will be servants to Pharaoh."

After that, Joseph made a law that Pharaoh should have a fifth.

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Israel lived in the land of Goshen, and they gained possessions there. They were fruitful and they multiplied.

Jacob lived in Egypt for seventeen years until he was 147 years old. The time came for Israel to die and he called for his son Joseph. He said, "If I have found favor in your sight, put your hand under my thigh and promise to deal kindly and truly with me. Do not bury me in Egypt. Let my body lie where my fathers are buried. Carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their burying place."

Joseph said, "I will do as you have said."

Israel said, "**Swear** to me." So Joseph swore to him. Then Israel bowed himself on his bed.

Sometime after this, Joseph was told, "Your father is sick."

Joseph went to him and took his two sons Ephraim and Manasseh.

Someone told Jacob, "Your son Joseph is come to you." So Israel summoned up his strength and sat up on his bed. He said to Joseph, "God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me. He said to me, 'I will make you fruitful and multiply you and will make you a nation of people; I will give this land to your seed for an everlasting possession.' And now your two sons, born in the land of Egypt before I came to you, are mine. Ephraim and Manasseh will be mine as much as Reuben and Simeon are mine. Any children you have after them shall be yours. They shall be called by the name of their brothers in the inheritance."

"As for me, when I came to Paddan, to my sorrow Rachel died in the land of Canaan on the way. I buried her on the way to Ephrath (or Bethlehem)."

Then Jacob saw Joseph's sons and said, "Who are these?"

Joseph said, "They are my sons, whom God has given me here."

Jacob said, "Bring them to me please, that I may bless them."

Now the eyes of Israel were dim with age and he could not see. Joseph brought his two sons near to Israel, and Israel kissed them and embraced them. Israel said to Joseph, "I never thought I'd see your face, and behold, God has let me see your children also."

Joseph removed his children from Israel's embrace and he bowed himself with his face to the ground. Then Joseph took his two sons, Ephraim on his right toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh on his left toward Israel's right hand, and he brought them close to Israel. Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on Ephraim, the younger son. He put his left hand on Manasseh who was the firstborn. He blessed Joseph and said, "The God before whom my fathers Abraham, and Isaac walked, the God who has fed me all my life long until this day, the angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the boys; in them let my name be carried on, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac. Let them grow into a multitude."

When Joseph saw that his father's right hand was on Ephraim, it displeased him. He held up his father's hand to remove it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head. Joseph said, "Not this way, my father, for this is the firstborn. Put your right hand on his head."

But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a great people, and he also shall be great, but his younger brother shall be greater than he. His seed shall become a multitude of nations." So he blessed them that day. He said, "Israel will use your names when they bless and say 'God make you as Ephraim and Manasseh.'"

Israel said to Joseph, "I am about to die, but God will be with you and will bring you to the land of your fathers. I have given you, rather than to your brothers, the land I took from the hand of the Amorites with my sword and bow."

Then Israel call all his other sons to him and told them the things that would happen to them in the future. He blessed them and charged them, "I am to be gathered to my people. Bury me with my fathers in the cave of Machpelah in the land of Canaan. Where Abraham and Sarah are buried. Where Isaac and Rebekah are buried, and where I buried Leah."

When Jacob finished, he drew his feet into the bed and died.

Joseph fell on his father's face and wept, and kissed him. He commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. It took forty days to embalm him. The Egyptians mourned for him seventy days. When the days of mourning were over, Joseph said to Pharaoh, "If I have found favor in your eyes, let me speak. My father made me swear that I would bury him in a tomb in the land of Canaan. Now, let me please go and bury my father. Then I will return."

Pharaoh said, "Go up and bury your father as he made your swear."

Joseph went to bury him with all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his household, and all the elders of the land of Egypt. All of the house of Joseph, his brethren and his father's household went. Only the children, flocks and herds stayed in the land of Goshen. As they traveled to Canaan it was a very large company of people with chariots and horsemen.

When they came to the threshing-floor of Atad, they stopped and mourned for Israel for seven days. The people in Canaan saw them mourning and said, "This is a grievous mourning of the Egyptians."

Jacob's sons did as he commanded them to do. They buried him in the cave of Machpelah.

After he buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt with his brothers. His brothers began to say, "Maybe Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil we did to him."

So they sent a message to Joseph that said, "Your father gave this command before he died: 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the sins of your brothers and what they did to you." Now please forgive the transgression of the servants of God of your father.'"

Joseph wept when he spoke to him. His brothers fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants."

Joseph said, "Do not fear. Am I in the place of God? You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring to pass saving many people alive. Do not fear. I will provide for you and your little ones." Then he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Joseph lived 110 years and saw Ephraim's children to the third generation. He also lived to receive the children of the son of Manasseh, and they were counted as his own.

When it was time for him to die he said to his brethren, "I am about to die, but God will visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land that He swore to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."

Joseph made his brethren swear that when God took them out of Egypt they would carry his bones with them back to Canaan. He died at 110 and was embalmed and put in a coffin in Egypt.

MEMORY WORK

Psalm 105: 4 - 7

- 4 Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!**
- 5 Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,**
- 6 O offspring of Abraham, his servant, children of Jacob, his chosen ones!**
- 7 He is the LORD our God; his judgments are in all the earth. (ESV)**

Think about it:

Before Jacob died he gave all of his sons a blessings (Gen. 49). The blessing he gave to Judah was "Messianic". This means that it was a blessing that referred to the Messiah or Christ who would come. The promise was: *Gen 49:10 The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.*

Judah was the son of Jacob through whom Jesus Christ would be born. Judah's name means "praise of Jehovah".

"*The sceptre shall not depart*" is referring to the kingship of Jesus. A "sceptre" was a rod or staff that was used as a symbol of authority by the king. It would be through Judah's family that the kings of Israel would be born before the Christ came.

We learned in Genesis 3:15 of our study that a descendant of Eve would come and defeat Satan. That descendant would be Jesus Christ. Jehovah told Abraham that it would be through his descendants that all families of the earth would be blessed. This blessing referred to Christ. Now we learn that this descendant will have a sceptre and rule -- he will be a king!

The rest of the Bible will reveal much more about this king, the Christ. Pay attention!

A Promise To Be Kept

We learned in this lesson that Joseph made his brethren swear that they would carry his bones out of Egypt and take them to Canaan. Well over 400 years passed before God's people left Egypt (Ex. 12:41) . When they left, they took Joseph's bones with them (Josh. 24:32) and buried them.

Underline the Correct Answer

1. Joseph's brothers went home and told their father, "Joseph is (dead , alive)."
2. God told Jacob (do , don't) be afraid to go to Egypt.
3. All the family of Jacob that were in Egypt were (85 , 70) people.
4. Joseph told his family they could live in the land of Goshen because shepherds were a (blessing, abomination) to the Egyptians.
5. Every man in Egypt sold his land to Pharaoh because the famine was (over, severe).
6. Jacob wanted to be buried in (Egypt , Canaan).
7. Jacob gave (Ephraim, Manasseh) a greater blessing than (Ephraim, Manasseh).
8. (Ephraim , Manasseh) was the firstborn child of Joseph.
9. Joseph made his brethren swear that they would bury his bones in (Egypt, Canaan).