

## GENESIS

### Conversational Yahveh Version

#### **The Whole Creation**

**1:1**In the beginning God created earth and sky.

**2**Earth was unformed and empty, and open water lay in the darkness. God's Spirit was moving over the ocean. **3**God said, "*Let there be light,*" and there was light. **4**He saw the light was good and separated it from darkness. **5**He called light "day" and darkness "night." Morning and evening made day one.

**6**God said, "*Let an expanse separate the water below it from the water above it.*" It happened. **8**He called the expanse "sky." Morning and evening made day two.

**9**God said, "*Let the water below the sky gather in one place and dry land appear.*" It happened. **10**He called the dry part "land" and called the water "ocean." He saw it was good. **11**He said, "*Let the land sprout vegetation—plants with seeds and trees that bear fruit with seeds after their kind.*" It happened. **12**The land sprouted vegetation—plants with seeds like themselves and trees that bore fruit with seeds in them. **13**He saw it was good. Morning and evening made day three.

**Gen 1:1-13**

**14**God said, "*Let there be lights in the sky to separate day from night and to mark days, years, and seasons.* **15***Let them shine on the earth.*" It happened. **16**He made two big lights, the bigger one to govern the day and the smaller one to govern the night. He made the stars too. **17**God put them in the sky to shine on the earth, **18**to separate light from darkness, and to preside over day and night. He saw it was good. **19**Morning and evening made day four.

**20**God said, "*Let the water teem with animals, and let birds fly in the sky above the land.*" **21**He created large ocean animals and every animal that moves in the water after their kind and the birds that fly after their kind. He saw it was good. **22**He blessed them, "*Reproduce and fill the water in the oceans, and let birds multiply on the land.*" **23**Morning and evening made day five.

**Gen 1:14-23**

**24**God said, "*Let the ground produce animals that reproduce after their kind: cattle, crawling things, living things.*" It happened. **25**He made living things from the ground after their kind, cattle after their kind, and every small animal that moves around on the ground after its kind. He saw it was good.

<sup>26</sup>God said,

*“Let’s make people in our image—like us. Let’s make them responsible for the fish, the birds, the cattle, the earth, and everything that moves around on the ground.”*

<sup>27</sup>So he created people in his own image, created them male and female, <sup>28</sup>and blessed them, *“Reproduce, populate the earth, and preside over it. Be responsible for the fish in the ocean, the birds in the sky, and the animals on the ground.* <sup>29-30</sup>*Green plants that yield seed and trees that bear fruit I’ve given you and the animals for food.”* It happened. <sup>31</sup>He saw that everything he’d made was very good. Morning and evening made day six.

<sup>2:1-2</sup>The seventh day God had finished creating the earth and sky and everything in them, and he rested from his work. <sup>3</sup>He blessed the seventh day and set it aside because he’d finished working that day.

Gen 1:24-2:3

### **The Creation of Mankind**

<sup>4</sup>This is what Yahveh God did when he created the earth and sky. <sup>5</sup>Shrubs and plants hadn’t sprouted yet, because he<sup>Y</sup> hadn’t made it rain and there wasn’t anybody to cultivate the ground. <sup>6</sup>A mist was coming up from the ground to water it. <sup>7</sup>Then he<sup>Y</sup> formed a man out of the “ground,” breathed into him, and made him alive. The man became a living, breathing being.

<sup>8</sup>Yahveh God planted an orchard in the East in Eden and put the man there. <sup>9</sup>From the ground he<sup>Y</sup> made trees grow that looked nice and were good for producing food. In the orchard *he planted* the tree of life and the tree for knowing good and bad. <sup>10</sup>A river ran out of Eden to water the orchard. Then it separated into four rivers: <sup>11-12</sup>the Pishon, that flows around the land of Havilah, where there’s fine gold, bdellium, and onyx; <sup>13</sup>the Gihon, that flows around Cush; <sup>14</sup>the Tigris, that flows east of Assyria; and the Euphrates.

Gen 2:4-14

<sup>15</sup>Yahveh God put the man in the orchard to trim it and take care of it. <sup>16</sup>He<sup>YG</sup> told him,

*“You’re free to eat the fruit from any tree in the orchard <sup>17</sup>except the one that gives the knowledge of good and bad. If you eat its fruit, you’ll die.”*

<sup>18</sup>Yahveh God said, *“It’s not good for the man to be by himself. I’ll make him a helper that corresponds to him.”* <sup>19</sup>Out of the ground he’d<sup>Y</sup> formed every land animal and bird. He brought *them* to the man to see what he’d call them. Whatever he called them became their name. <sup>20</sup>He named the cattle, birds, and wild animals; but he didn’t find a helper that corresponded to him.

Gen 2:15-20

<sup>21</sup>So Yahveh God put him into a deep sleep, took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in place of it. <sup>22</sup>He<sup>Y</sup> formed a woman from the rib and brought her to him. <sup>23</sup>The man said,

*“This is bone from my bones,*

*flesh from my flesh.*

*She’ll be called ‘woman,’*

*because she was taken out of ‘man.’”*

**24**That’s why a man is to leave his parents and unite with his wife, and they’ll become one physical identity. **25**The man and his wife were both naked, but they weren’t self-conscious.

**Gen 2:21-25**

## The Fall

**3:1**The snake was more devious than any other wild animal Yahveh God had made. It asked the woman, “*Did God really tell you<sup>pl</sup> not to eat the fruit of any tree in the orchard?*”

**2**She said, “*We’re free to eat fruit from any tree <sup>3</sup>but the one in the middle of the orchard. God said not to eat its fruit or touch it. We’ll die.*”

**4**The snake said, “*You’re<sup>pl</sup> not going to die! <sup>5</sup>God knows that when you<sup>pl</sup> eat its fruit, it’ll open your<sup>pl</sup> eyes, and you’ll<sup>pl</sup> be like gods, knowing good and bad.*”

**6**When she saw that the tree was good for food, looked nice, and was desirable for making a person wise, she ate some of its fruit and gave it to her husband, and he ate some. **7**Their eyes were opened, and they realized they were naked. They sewed fig leaves together and made loin cloths.

**Gen 3:1-7**

## Punishments for Sin

**8**When they heard Yahveh walking in the orchard in the evening, they hid from him Yahveh among the trees. **9**He<sup>Y</sup> called out for the man, “*Where are you?*”

**10**The man said, “*When I heard you walking in the orchard, I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid.*”

**11**“*Who told you you were naked? Did you eat some fruit from the tree I told you not to?*”

**12**“*The woman you made to be with me gave me some, and I ate it.*”

**13**Yahveh God asked her, “*What did you do?*”

“*The snake lied to me, and I ate the fruit.*”

**Gen 3:8-13**

**14**Yahveh God told it,

*“Because you’ve done that,  
you’re more accursed than any cattle  
or animals in the field.  
You’ll slither around on your belly,  
and eat dust your whole life.*

**15**I’ll put hostility  
between you and the woman,  
between your offspring and hers.

Her offspring will crush your head,  
and you’ll bruise her offspring’s heel.”

**Gen 3:14-15**

**16**He told the woman,

*“I’ll significantly increase  
your pain in childbirth.  
Though you’ll bear children in pain,  
you’ll still desire your husband,  
and he’ll have authority over you.”*

**17**He told the man,

*“Because you’ve listened to your wife  
and eaten fruit from the tree I told you not to,  
the ground is cursed.  
Your whole life you’ll work to eat from it.  
**18-19**It’ll grow thorns and thistles for you;  
you’ll eat by sweating  
till you go back to the ground.  
You were taken from dust,  
and you’ll go back to it.”*

**Gen 3:16-19**

**20**Adam called his wife Eve because she was the mother of everyone that’s “lived.” **21**Yahveh God made clothes for them out of skin. **22**He<sup>Y</sup> said, “*People have become like one of us, knowing good and bad. Now, to keep them from taking fruit from the tree of life, eating it, and living forever . . .*” **23**He<sup>Y</sup> sent them out of the orchard to cultivate the ground he’d taken them from. **24**He stationed cherubs east of the orchard in Eden, and a flaming sword that pointed in every direction to block access to the tree of life.

**Gen 3:20-24**

### Cain Murders Abel

**4:1**Adam had relations with Eve, and she had Cain. She said, “*I’ve ‘produced’ a man with Yahveh’s help.*” **2**She also had Abel. Abel herded sheep; Cain cultivated the ground. **3**In time, Cain brought some produce to offer to Yahveh. **4**Abel brought some firstborn from the best in his flock. Yahveh regarded Abel and his offering favorably, **5**but not Cain and his offering. It made Cain mad.

**6**Yahveh God asked him, “*What are you mad about? Why are you sad? Won’t you feel happy if you do well? If you don’t, sin’s making its den at your door. It wants you, but you have to overrule it.*” **8**Cain told Abel *about it*. While they were in the field, Cain attacked him and killed him.

**Gen 4:1-8**

**9**Yahveh God asked him, “*Where’s your brother?*”  
“*I don’t know. I’m not his shepherd, am I?*”

**10**“*What’ve you done? His blood is crying out to me from the ground.*” **11***You’re cursed from the ground that soaked up his blood that you shed.* **12***When you cultivate it, it won’t produce like it did. You’ll roam around and be on the run in the world.*”

<sup>13</sup>Cain said,

*"I can't take such punishment! <sup>14</sup>You've driven me away from the ground, you're withdrawing from me, and I'll be roaming around and on the run in the world. Whoever finds me will kill me!"*

1

- <sup>5</sup>Yahveh told him, "*Whoever kills you I'll pay back seven times as much.*" He<sup>Y</sup> put a mark on him so nobody would kill him. <sup>16</sup>He went away from Yahveh and settled in Nod, east of Eden.**Gen 4:9-16**

•

- <sup>17</sup>Cain had relations with his wife, and she had Enoch. Cain built a city and named it after his son. <sup>18</sup>Enoch was father of Irad Avi-Mehujael Avi-Methushael Avi-Lamech.

- <sup>19</sup>Lamech had two wives, Adah and Zillah. <sup>20</sup>Adah had Jabal, the forerunner of nomads and herdsmen. <sup>21</sup>His brother Jubal was the forerunner of musicians that play lyres and flutes. <sup>22</sup>Zillah had Tubalcain, the forerunner of artisans in bronze and iron. His sister was Naamah.

- <sup>23</sup>Lamech told his wives,

- *"Adah and Zillah, listen;  
wives of Lamech, attend to what I'm saying.*

- *I killed a man for wounding me,  
a young man for striking me.*

- <sup>24</sup>*If Cain was avenged 7 times over,*

- *Lamech will be avenged 77 times."*

•

- <sup>25</sup>Adam had relations with his wife again, and she had a son she named Seth, because "*God gave me an 'offspring' to replace Abel that Cain killed.*" <sup>26</sup>Seth had a son he named Enosh.

•

- people began to call on Yahveh.

P

**Gen 4:17-26**

•

- **5:1 Adam's Descendants**

•

- God created people to be like himself. <sup>2</sup>He made them male and female, blessed them, and called them human.

- <sup>3</sup>Adam lived 130 years and had a son in his own image like himself. He named him Seth. <sup>4</sup>He lived 800 years after that and had sons and daughters. <sup>5</sup>Altogether he lived 930 years and died.

•  
Seth lived 105 years and had Enosh. <sup>7</sup>He lived 807 years after that and had sons and daughters.  
<sup>8</sup>Altogether he lived 912 years and died. Gen 5:1-8

- <sup>9</sup>Enosh lived 90 years and had Kenan. <sup>10</sup>He lived 815 years after that and had sons and daughters. <sup>11</sup>Altogether he lived 905 years and died.

- <sup>12</sup>Kenan lived 70 years and had Mahalalel. <sup>13</sup>He lived 840 years after that and had sons and daughters. <sup>14</sup>Altogether he lived 910 years and died.

- <sup>15</sup>Mahalalel lived 65 years and had Jared. <sup>16</sup>He lived 830 years after that and had sons and daughters. <sup>17</sup>Altogether he lived 895 years and died.

•

<sup>8</sup>Jared lived 162 years and had Enoch. <sup>19</sup>He lived 800 years after that and had sons and daughters. <sup>20</sup>Altogether he lived 962 years and died. Gen 5:9-20

- <sup>21</sup>Enoch lived 65 years and had Methuselah. <sup>22</sup>Then Enoch walked with God 300 years after that and had sons and daughters. <sup>32</sup>Altogether he lived 365 years. <sup>24</sup>He walked with God and wasn't there because God took him.

- <sup>25</sup>Methuselah lived 187 years and had Lamech. <sup>26</sup>He lived 782 years after that and had sons and daughters. <sup>27</sup>Altogether he lived 969 years and died.

- <sup>28</sup>Lamech lived 182 years and had a son. <sup>29</sup>He named him "Noah," "*He'll 'relieve' us of our labor from the ground Yahveh cursed.*" <sup>30</sup>Lamech lived 595 years after that and had sons and daughters. <sup>31</sup>Altogether he lived 775 years and died.

•

<sup>2</sup>Noah was 500 years old and had Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Gen 5:21-32

•

### •      Evil Multiplies

- <sup>6:1</sup>When people were multiplying and having daughters, <sup>2</sup>the sons of God saw they were beautiful and took as many wives as they wanted.

- <sup>3</sup>Yahveh God said, "*My breath won't remain in humans as long because they're physical. They'll come to live 120 years.*"

•

There were important men then and later when the sons of God had relations with women and had children. They were the powerful men of old, men of renown. <sup>5</sup>Yahveh saw that people had become so wicked that every motive was evil. <sup>6</sup>He<sup>Y</sup> was grieved from having made them. <sup>7</sup>"*I'll<sup>Y</sup> wipe them out along with the animals, crawling things, and birds.*" <sup>8</sup>But Noah was pleasing to him<sup>Y</sup>. Gen 6:1-8

•

### • <sup>9</sup>Noah's Generations

- Noah was a good man, blameless in his time, one that followed God. <sup>10</sup>He had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. <sup>11</sup>The world had become corrupt and full of violence. [<sup>12</sup>]
    - <sup>13</sup>God told Noah,
      - *"It's obvious that I need to wipe people out. They've filled the world with violence. I'm going to destroy them along with the world. <sup>14</sup>Build an ark out of gopher wood, make rooms in it, and coat it with pitch inside and out. <sup>15</sup>Make it 450 x 75 x 45ft tall. <sup>16</sup>Put a window in it 1½ft from the top and a door in the side of it. Build 3 floors in it. <sup>17</sup>I'm going to bring a flood on the world to destroy everything that breathes, everything on land. <sup>18</sup>But I'll make a covenant with you. Get in the ark with your wife, sons, and their wives. <sup>19</sup>Take a male and female from every kind of animal to keep them alive: <sup>20</sup>birds, animals, and crawling things will come to you. <sup>21</sup>Gather as much food as you and the animals will eat."*
  - <sup>22</sup>Noah followed his instructions.

Gen 6:9-22

## The Great Flood

- **7:1**Then Yahveh told Noah,
    - *“Get in the ark with your family. I’ve seen that you’re good. 2Take every clean animal by sevens, male and female. Take every ceremonially unclean animal by twos, male and female. 3Take birds by sevens, male and female, to keep offspring alive. 4A week from now, I’ll make it rain for 40 days and nights, and wipe out every living thing I’ve made.”*

Gen 7:1-5

- <sup>6</sup>Noah was 600 years old when the flood came. <sup>7</sup>He, his wife, sons, and their wives went into the ark because the flood was coming. <sup>8</sup>Ceremonially clean and unclean animals, birds, and small animals <sup>9</sup>went into the ark to Noah by twos, male and female—like God told him.

1

- <sup>10</sup>After a week the flood started. <sup>11</sup>In Noah's 600<sup>th</sup> year, on the seventeenth day, second month, the fountains in the great deep burst, and the flood gates in the sky opened. <sup>12</sup>Rain fell for 40 days and nights.

Gen 7:6-12

<sup>13</sup>Noah, his wife, his sons, and their wives went into the ark the same day. <sup>14</sup>So did every wild animal, all the cattle, every small animal that moves around on the ground, and every kind

of bird after their kind. <sup>15</sup>Two by two everything that breathes went into the ark to Noah—like God told him. <sup>16</sup>Yahveh closed *the door* behind him.

<sup>17</sup>The flood kept coming for **40 days**. <sup>18</sup>As it got deeper and deeper, the ark floated on it. <sup>19-20</sup>Water covered the tall mountains everywhere by some 22ft. <sup>21</sup>Land animals died—birds, cattle, wild animals, swarming things, people—<sup>22</sup>everything that breathed. <sup>23</sup>Only Noah and what was with him in the ark were left. <sup>24</sup>The water prevailed over the world for **150 days**.

Gen 7:13-24

**8:1**God remembered Noah and the animals in the ark. He made wind blow over the whole world, and the water started to recede. <sup>2</sup>The fountains in the deep and the floodgates in the sky closed, and the rain stopped. <sup>3</sup>The water receded steadily for **150 days**. <sup>4</sup>**On the seventeenth day, seventh month**, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. <sup>5</sup>The water kept going down till **the tenth month**. **The first day, tenth month**, mountains became visible.     **Gen 8:1-5**

<sup>6</sup>After **40 days** Noah opened the window of the ark, <sup>7</sup>and sent out a raven that flew around till the water dried up. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent out a pigeon to see if the water had gone down, <sup>9</sup>but it didn't find anywhere to land and came back. The water was still covering the ground. Noah held out his hand and brought *the pigeon* into the ark. <sup>10</sup>After a week he sent it out again. <sup>11</sup>It came back toward evening with a new olive leaf in its beak. So Noah knew the water had gone down. <sup>12</sup>Another week later he sent it out again, and it didn't come back.

<sup>13-14</sup>On the **first day, first month, 601<sup>st</sup> year**, the water had dried up. **The twenty-seventh day, second month** Noah took the roof off the ark and saw that the ground was dry. <sup>14</sup>  
<sup>15</sup>God told him <sup>16</sup>to leave<sup>pl</sup> the ark <sup>17</sup>and take the animals out so they could reproduce and multiply. <sup>18</sup>Noah's family went out, <sup>19</sup>and the animals left the ark after their kind.     **Gen 8:6-19**

## Life After the Flood

<sup>20</sup>Noah built an altar to Yahveh and took *one* from every *ceremonially* clean animal and bird, and offered burnt offerings on it. <sup>21</sup>Yahveh smelled the pleasing aroma and said to himself,

*"I'll never curse the ground again because of people's evil motives from their youth up. I'll never destroy every living thing again. <sup>22</sup>As long as the world is here, seedtime and harvest, heat and cold, summer and winter, day and night will keep happening."*

**9:1**God blessed Noah and his sons,

*"Reproduce and repopulate the world. <sup>2</sup>Animals and birds will be afraid of you. I've made you responsible for what moves on the ground and for the fish in the ocean. <sup>3</sup>You can eat anything that lives and moves as well as the green plants, <sup>4</sup>but don't eat the blood with the meat. <sup>5</sup>I'll demand your life from every animal and everyone <sup>6</sup>that sheds*

*someone's blood. They will have their blood shed because I made people in my image.*  
*7Reproduce and repopulate the world abundantly."*

**Gen 8:20-9:7**

**8**God told Noah and his sons,

**9**“I'm establishing a covenant with you, your descendants, **10**and the living things that left the ark: **11**I'll never again get rid of people and animals and destroy the world with a flood. **12-13**My rainbow in the clouds represents that covenant for all generations: **14**when I bring clouds over the earth, the rainbow **15**will remind me of my covenant.” [**16**-**17**]

**18**Noah's sons that came out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth; Ham was Canaan's father.

**19**Noah's sons began to repopulate the world.

**Gen 9:8-19**

**20**Noah began to cultivate the ground and planted a vineyard. **21**He drank the wine and got drunk and uncovered himself in his tent. **22**Ham saw him naked and told his brothers outside. **23**Shem and Japheth held a cloak over their shoulders, walked backwards, and looked away so they wouldn't see him naked.

**24**When Noah woke up from his wine, he found out what his youngest son had done. **25**He said,

*“Accursed be Canaan. He'll be the lowest of servants to his brothers. **26**Bless Yahveh, Shem's God. Canaan will serve Shem. **27**May God give Japheth an extensive inheritance. He'll live in Shem's tents, and Canaan will serve him.”*

**28**Noah lived 350 years after the flood. **29**Altogether he lived 950 years and died. **Gen 9:20-29**

## The Table of Nations

**10:1**The Generations of Shem, Ham, and Japheth,  
 Noah's Sons and Their Descendants

**2**Japheth was the father of Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.

**3**Gomer was the father of Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah.

**4**Javan was the father of Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim.

**5**Those descendants spread inland from the coasts into their nations, each by language and clan.

**Gen 10:1-5**

**6**Ham was the father of Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan.

**7**Cush was the father of Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabteca.

Raamah was the father of Sheba and Dedan.

**8**Cush was also the father of Nimrod, who became prominent in the world, **9**a great hunter before Yahveh. It became an expression, “Like

*Nimrod, a great hunter before Yahveh.”* <sup>10</sup>His kingdom stretched across Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh in Shinar. <sup>11</sup>From that land he went to Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth-Ir, Calah, <sup>12</sup>and Resen, a big city between Nineveh and Calah.

<sup>13</sup>Mizraim became the father of the Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim, <sup>14</sup>Pathrusim, Casluhim (ancestors of the Philistines), and Caphtorim. **Gen 10:6-14**

<sup>15</sup>Canaan became the father of Sidon, *his firstborn*, Heth, <sup>16</sup>the Jebusites, Amorites, Gergashites, <sup>17</sup>Hivites, Arkites, Simites, <sup>18</sup>Arvadites, Zemarites, Hamathites. Afterwards the Canaanite clans spread out <sup>19</sup>from Sidon—on the way to Gera—as far as Gaza across to Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim as far as Lasha.

<sup>20</sup>Those were Ham’s descendants by clan, language, territory, and nation. **Gen 10:15-20**

<sup>21</sup>Shem, Japheth’s older brother, became the ancestor of Eber’s descendants. <sup>22</sup>Shem’s sons were Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, and Aram.

<sup>23</sup>Aram’s sons were Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash.

<sup>24</sup>Arpachshad became the father of Shelah Avi-Eber.

<sup>25</sup>Eber had two sons.

One was Peleg; in his time the earth divided. Joktan was *his* brother, <sup>26</sup>and father of Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah, <sup>27</sup>Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, <sup>28</sup>Obal, Abimael, Sheba, <sup>29</sup>Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. <sup>30</sup>They lived from Mesha all the way to Sephar in the eastern hill country.

<sup>31</sup>Those were Shem’s descendants by clan, language, territory, and nation.

<sup>32</sup>Those were the clans of Noah’s descendants by genealogy, language, and nation. Nations spread out from them after the flood. **Gen 10:21-32**

### The Confusion of Languages

**11:**<sup>1</sup>The whole world was speaking the same language. <sup>2</sup>As people spread east, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. <sup>3</sup>They said, “*Let’s make bricks and fire them thoroughly.*” They used brick for stone and tar for mortar. <sup>4</sup>“*Let’s build a city and a tower that reaches the sky. Let’s make a name for ourselves so we won’t get scattered out all over the world.*”

<sup>5</sup>Yahveh came down to see the city and tower they were building,

<sup>6</sup>“They’re one set of people with the same language. They’re starting to do this, and they’ll be able to do anything they want to. <sup>7</sup>Let’s confuse their language so they can’t understand each other.”

<sup>8</sup>Yahveh scattered them across the world, and they stopped building their city. <sup>9</sup>They called the city Babel because that’s where Yahveh “confused” the language of the world. Gen 11:1-9

#### <sup>10</sup>Shem’s Generations

Shem was 100 years old when Arpachshad was born, two years after the flood. <sup>11</sup>He lived 500 years after that and had sons and daughters.

<sup>12</sup>Arpachshad had lived 35 years when Shelah was born. <sup>13</sup>He lived 403 years after that and had sons and daughters.

<sup>14</sup>Shelah had lived 30 years when Eber was born. <sup>15</sup>He lived 403 years after that and had sons and daughters.

<sup>16</sup>Eber had lived 34 years when Peleg was born. <sup>17</sup>He lived 209 years after that and became the father of sons and daughters. Gen 11:10-17

<sup>18</sup>Peleg had lived 30 years when Reu was born. <sup>19</sup>Peleg lived 209 years after that and had sons and daughters.

<sup>20</sup>Reu had lived 32 years when Serug was born. <sup>21</sup>He lived 207 years after that and had sons and daughters.

<sup>22</sup>Serug had lived 30 years when Nahor was born. <sup>23</sup>He lived 200 years after that and had sons and daughters.

<sup>24</sup>Nahor had lived 29 years when Terah was born. <sup>25</sup>He lived 119 years after that and had sons and daughters.

<sup>26</sup>Terah had lived 70 years when Abram, Nahor, and Haran were born. Gen 11:18-26

#### <sup>27</sup>Terah’s Generations

Terah was the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran Avi-Lot. <sup>28</sup>Haran died before his father Terah in Ur of the Chaldeans, where he was born.

<sup>29</sup>Abram and Nahor married. Abram’s wife was Sarai; Nahor’s wife was Micah, daughter of Haran and sister of Iscah. <sup>30</sup>Sarai couldn’t have children. <sup>31</sup>Terah took his son Abram and his grandson Lot, and left Ur to settle in Canaan. They made it as far as Haran and lived there.

<sup>32</sup>Terah died in Haran at age 205. Gen 11:27-32

### The Call of Abram

**12:1**Yahveh told Abram,

*"Leave your country, your relatives, your father's family,  
and go to the land I'll show you.*

*<sup>2</sup>I'll make you into a big nation, bless you,  
and give you a great reputation so you'll be a blessing.*

*<sup>3</sup>I'll bless the ones that bless you and curse the ones that curse you.  
In you I will bless all the families in the world."*

<sup>4</sup>Abram left when he was 75. <sup>5</sup>He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, everything they owned, and the persons they'd gained in Haran. They got to Canaan, <sup>6</sup>and Abram traveled through it as far as Shechem, to the Oak of Moreh. Canaanites were living in the land. Gen 12:1-6

<sup>7</sup>Yahveh appeared to Abram, "I'm going to give your descendants this land"; so he built an altar to him. <sup>8</sup>He went on from there to the mountain east of Bethel and pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. He built an altar to Yahveh and called on him. <sup>9</sup>He kept on migrating toward the Negev.

<sup>10</sup>A severe famine arose in the land; so he went on down to Egypt to stay awhile. <sup>11</sup>When he got close to Egypt, he told Sarai, "You're a beautiful woman. <sup>12</sup>When the Egyptians see you, they'll say you're my wife and kill me. <sup>13</sup>Say you're my sister so they will treat me well."

Gen 12:7-13

### Abram and Sarai in Egypt

<sup>14</sup>When Abram got to Egypt, the Egyptians did see she was really beautiful. <sup>15</sup>Pharaoh's officials praised her to Pharaoh and took her to his palace. <sup>16</sup>He treated Abram well out of regard for her, and gave him sheep, cattle, donkeys, male and female servants, and female donkeys and camels.

<sup>17</sup>But Yahveh struck Pharaoh and his household with severe plagues because of her. <sup>18</sup>Pharaoh called Abram, "What have you done to me? Why didn't you tell me she was your wife? <sup>19</sup>Why did you say she was your sister; so I took her for my wife? Here's your wife; take her and get out." <sup>20</sup>Pharaoh told his men to escort him away with his wife and everything he had.

Gen 12:14-20

### Abram and Lot Separate

<sup>13:1</sup>Abram, his wife, Lot, and everything he had, went up from Egypt to the Negev. <sup>2</sup>He was wealthy in livestock, silver, and gold. <sup>3</sup>From the Negev he traveled back to the place between Bethel and Ai where he'd pitched his tent before. <sup>4</sup>He went to the altar he'd built there and called on Yahveh.

<sup>5</sup>Lot had flocks, herds, and tents too, <sup>6</sup>and the land couldn't support them both. They had too many possessions, <sup>7</sup>and conflict kept breaking out between their herdsmen. There were Canaanites and Perizzites in the land as well. <sup>8</sup>Abram told Lot,

*"Let's not have conflicts between us or our herdsmen; we're relatives.<sup>9</sup> The whole land lies open to you. Separate from me. If you go left, I'll go right; or vice versa."*

<sup>10</sup>Lot could see that the Jordan valley was well-watered—like Yahveh's orchard, like Egypt on the way to Zoar. (That was before Yahveh destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah). <sup>11</sup>So Lot chose the Jordan valley and moved east. <sup>12</sup>Abram settled in Canaan; Lot settled in the towns in the valley and moved his tents as far as Sodom. <sup>13</sup>The men in Sodom were especially wicked. Gen 13:1-13

<sup>14</sup>After Lot separated from Abram, Yahveh said,

*“Look around in every direction. <sup>15</sup>I’m going to give your descendants permanently the land you see. <sup>16</sup>I’ll make them like dust; if you could count it, that’s how many there’d be. <sup>17</sup>Travel around all over it.”*

<sup>18</sup>Abram moved and settled by the grove of oaks that belonged to Mamre at Hebron and built an altar to Yahweh. Gen 13:14-18

## Abram Rescues Lot

**14:1** Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim <sup>2</sup>fought Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Adman, Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (Zoar). <sup>3</sup>Those 5 joined forces in the Valley of Siddim (the Dead Sea). <sup>4</sup>They'd served Chedorlaomer for 12 years, then revolted. <sup>5</sup>That year, he and his allied kings came and defeated the Rephaim in Asheroth-karnaim, the Zuzim in Ham, the Emim in Shaveh-kiriathaim, <sup>6</sup>and the Horites in Mount Seir, as far as El-paran by the open country. <sup>7</sup>Then they turned back to En-mishpat (Kadesh) and conquered the Amalekites and Amorites in Hazazon-tamar. <sup>8</sup>The kings of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim, and Bela (Zoar) pitched battle against them in the Valley of Siddim—<sup>9</sup>5 kings against 4. <sup>10</sup>The valley was full of tar pits. When the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, they fell into them. The ones that survived escaped to the hills. <sup>11</sup>*The four kings* took the goods and food from Sodom and Gomorrah and left. <sup>12</sup>They also took Lot and what he had because *he* was living in Sodom.

<sup>13</sup>One man escaped to tell Abram the Hebrew. He was living by the Oaks of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and Aner, Abram's allies. <sup>14</sup>When Abram heard they'd captured his nephew, he mustered 318 trained men born in his house, and pursued *them* all the way to Dan. <sup>15</sup>He divided his men against them at night. He and his forces defeated them and chased them all the way to Hobah, north of Damascus. <sup>16</sup>He brought back the goods, Lot, and *Lot's* possessions, along with the women and other captives.

## Melchizedek Blesses Abram

<sup>17</sup>When he got back from defeating Chedorlaomer and his allies, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (the King's Valley). <sup>18</sup>Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest

of God Most High, brought out bread and wine <sup>19</sup>and blessed Abram, “*May you be blessed by God Most High, owner of earth and sky,* <sup>20</sup>*who delivered your enemies to you.*” Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

<sup>21</sup>The king of Sodom said to Abram, “*Give me the captives and keep the goods.*”

<sup>22</sup>Abram said,

“*I've sworn to Yahveh God Most High, owner of earth and sky,* <sup>23</sup>*that I won't take a thread, a sandal thong, or anything else that's yours. I don't want you to claim you made me rich.* <sup>24</sup>*I'll only take what the young fighting men have eaten, and the share that belongs to Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre.*”

Gen 14:17-24

### The LORD’s Covenant with Abraham

<sup>15</sup><sup>1</sup>After that, a message from Yahveh came to Abram in a vision, “*Don't worry, Abram; I'm your shield. You'll have a great reward.*”

<sup>2</sup>Abram asked,

“*Yahveh God, what will you give me? I don't have any children; Eliezer of Damascus is my heir.* <sup>3</sup>*Since you haven't given me any offspring, a man born in my household will inherit.*”

<sup>4</sup>A message from Yahveh came to him,

“*He won't inherit. Your heir will come from your body.*” <sup>5</sup>He took him outside, “*Look at the sky and count the stars if you can. That's how many descendants you'll have,*”

<sup>6</sup>Abram trusted him, and Yahveh considered him good because of it.

<sup>7</sup>God said, “I'm Yahveh who brought you out of Ur in Chaldea to give you this land.”

<sup>8</sup>“What guarantee do I have of that?”

<sup>9</sup>“Bring me a three-year-old heifer, goat, and ram, and a turtledove and young pigeon.”

<sup>10</sup>He brought them, cut them in half—except for the birds—and laid the halves across from each other. <sup>11</sup>Birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but he shooed them away.

Gen 15:1-11

<sup>12</sup>As the sun was going down, he fell into a deep sleep, and an eerie darkness came over him. <sup>13</sup>God told him,

“*Your descendants will be foreigners in a country that enslaves them and oppresses them for 400 years.* <sup>14</sup>*I'll judge that nation, and your descendants will come out with lots of possessions.* <sup>15</sup>You will pass on to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. <sup>16</sup>*In the fourth generation, they'll come back here. The sinfulness of the Amorites hasn't climaxed yet.*”

<sup>17</sup>After sundown, it was pitch dark. A fire pot and flaming torch passed between the halves of the carcasses. <sup>18</sup>That day Yahveh made a covenant with Abram,

*"I'll give your descendants this land from the River of Egypt to the Euphrates River, along with <sup>19</sup>the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, <sup>20</sup>Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaim, <sup>21</sup>Amorites, Canaanites, Gergashites, and Jebusites."*

Gen 15:12-21

### The Birth of Ishmael

**16:1**Sarai, Abram's wife, hadn't had any children. She had an Egyptian maid named Hagar. **2**Sarai told Abram, "*Yahveh has kept me from having children. Sleep with my maid. Maybe I can have children through her.*" Abram took her advice. **3**That happened after Abram had lived in Canaan for 10 years. **4**He slept with Hagar, and she became pregnant. When she saw she was pregnant, she started disrespecting her mistress. **5**Sarai told Abram,

*"You're responsible for the way she's acting toward me. I gave you my servant; but when she saw she was pregnant, she started disrespecting me. Yahveh decide between you and me."*

**6**Abram said, "*She's under your authority. Deal with her as you see fit.*"

Sarai was so rough on her that she ran away.

Gen 16:1-6

**7**The angel of Yahveh found her by a spring in the desert on the way to Shur. **8**"*Hagar, Sarai's servant, where have you come from? Where are you going?*"

*"I'm getting away from my mistress."*

**9**The angel told her,

*"Go back and submit to her. **10**I'll multiply your descendants till they'll be too many to count. **11**You'll have a son. Call him Ishmael because 'Yahveh has listened' to your plight. **12**He'll be like a wild donkey, opposed to everybody and by everybody. He'll live east of his relatives."*

**13**She called Yahveh Elroi because she said, "*I'm still alive after I saw him.*" **14**So the well was called Beer-lahai-roi between Kadesh and Bered. **15**Hagar gave Abram a son he named Ishmael. **16**He was 86 when she had him.

Gen 16:7-16

### Abram Renamed Abraham

**17:1**When Abram was 99, Yahveh appeared to him, "*I'm God Almighty [El-Shaddai]. Follow me faithfully, **2**and I'll multiply you many times over.*" **3**Abram fell on his face, and God told him,

***4**"This is my side of the covenant with you: you'll be the ancestor of many nations. **5**Your name won't be Abram anymore; it'll be Abraham because I'll make you 'the ancestor of many nations.' **6**I'll make you really numerous. Nations will descend from you; kings will come out of you. **7**With you and your descendants I'll establish my permanent covenant to be your God. **8**I'll give you and your descendants an ongoing possession—Canaan, where you've lived as a nomad.*

Gen 17:1-8

## Circumcision as the Covenant Sign

**9-10** “This is your and your descendants’ side of the covenant: circumcise every male among you **11**as a covenant sign between us. **12**Circumcise them when they’re eight days old. Circumcise a servant that’s not your descendant whether born in your house or bought from a foreigner. **13**Circumcision will be the ongoing, physical covenant sign in sons and servants. **14**Any uncircumcised male will be excluded from the community because he hasn’t observed the terms of my covenant.

Gen 17:9-14

## Sarai Renamed Sarah

**15** “Your wife’s name won’t be Sarai anymore; it’ll be Sarah. **16**I’ll bless her and give you a son by her. She’ll be the mother of many nations; kings will come from her.”

**17** Abraham fell on his face and “laughed” to himself,

“Can a man that’s 100 years old become a father? Can Sarah have a baby when she’s 90? **18**If only Ishmael would live under your blessing!”

**19** God said,

“No, Sarah will have a child. Name him Isaac. I’ll make a permanent covenant with him and his descendants. **20**I’ve listened to you about Ishmael. I’ll bless him and make him really numerous, the father of 12 princes, a large nation. **21**But my covenant will be with Isaac that Sarah will have next year.”

**22** When God finished talking, he ascended. **23** That same day Abraham circumcised Ishmael, the male servants born in his house, and the ones he’d bought—like God said. **24** He was 99 when he was circumcised; **25** Ishmael was 13. [**26-27**]

Gen 17:15-27

## The Birth of Isaac Promised

**18:1** Yahweh appeared to Abraham by the grove of oaks that belonged to Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent during the heat of the day. **2** He looked up and saw three men standing a little way off. He ran to meet them and bowed to the ground,

**3** “Sir, if you<sup>sg</sup> please, **4** let me bring some water so you can wash your feet and rest under the tree. **5** I’ll bring a loaf of bread so you can refresh yourselves. Then you can go on.”

“All right.”

**6** Abraham hurried to Sarah in the tent, “Quick! Get three measures of fine flour ready, knead it, and make bread cakes.” **7** He ran to the herd and took a choice, tender calf, and gave it to a servant to fix quickly. **8** He took yogurt, milk, and the veal he’d fixed and set it in front of them. He stood there under the tree while they ate.

Gen 18:1-8

**9** Then they asked, “Where’s Sarah?”

*“In the tent.”*

<sup>10</sup>He said, “*I’ll come back next year at this time, and Sarah will have a son.*” She was listening at the entrance to the tent behind him. <sup>11</sup>Abraham and Sarah were getting old. She was too old to have children.

<sup>12</sup>Sarah laughed to herself, “*At this age, am I really going to have that delight? My husband [lord] is old too.*”

<sup>13</sup>Yahveh asked Abraham,

*“Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Will I really have a child when I’m so old?’* <sup>14</sup>*Is there anything I<sup>Y</sup> can’t do? Like I said, at this time next year Sarah will have a son.”*

<sup>15</sup>Sarah denied it, “*I didn’t laugh.*” (She was afraid.)

*“Oh yes, you did.”*

**Gen 18:9-15**

### **Abraham Intercedes for Sodom**

<sup>16</sup>The men got up and looked down toward Sodom. Abraham was walking with them to see them off. <sup>17</sup>Yahveh said,

*“Should I keep from Abraham what I’m about to do? <sup>18</sup>He’ll certainly become a large, strong nation, and bless every nation. <sup>19</sup>I’ve chosen him to command his children and household after him to keep my<sup>Y</sup> way by doing what’s good and just; so I can bring on him what I’ve promised.”*

<sup>20</sup>He<sup>Y</sup> told Abraham, “*The outcry from Sodom and Gomorrah is extreme. Their sin is awful. <sup>21</sup>I’m going down to see if they’re as bad as their outcry. If not, I’ll know.*”

**Gen 18:16-21**

<sup>22</sup>The other men turned and started toward Sodom while Abraham was still standing in front of Yahveh, <sup>23</sup>Abraham came and said,

*“Will you sweep away the good with the bad? <sup>24</sup>Supposing there are 50 good people in the city; won’t you spare it for their sake? <sup>25</sup>Surely you wouldn’t kill the good with the bad and treat them alike! Surely not! Won’t the Judge of the whole world do what’s right?”*

<sup>26</sup>Yahveh said, “*If I find 50 good people in Sodom, I’ll spare the whole place.*”

**Gen 18:22-26**

<sup>27</sup>Abraham answered, “*I’ve dared to speak to you though I’m only dust and ashes,*

<sup>28</sup>*Suppose there are 45, will you destroy the whole city because of 5?*”

*“I won’t destroy it if I find 45.”*

<sup>29</sup>*“Suppose there are 40?”*

*“I won’t do it for the 40.”*

<sup>30</sup>*“Lord, don’t be angry. I’ll ask again: suppose you find 30 there?”*

*“I won’t do it if I find 30 there.”*

**31** “I’ve dared to speak to the Lord; suppose there are 20?”

“I won’t destroy it for the 20.”

**32** “Lord, don’t be angry, and I’ll speak just one more time. Suppose there are 10?”

“I won’t destroy it for the 10.”

**33** As soon as he’d finished talking to Abraham, he left, and Abraham went back.

Gen 18:27-33

### The Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah

**19:1** The two angels went to Sodom in the evening as Lot sat in Sodom’s gate. When he saw them, he got up to meet them and bowed to the ground. **2** “Sirs, turn aside to my house, wash your feet, and spend the night. You can get up early and go on.”

“No, we’ll spend the night in the square.”

**3** But he urged them strongly, so they went to his house. He fixed them a meal and baked flat bread, and they ate. **4** Before they went to bed, men from all over the city surrounded the house—young and old. **5** They called out to Lot, “Where are the men that came tonight? Bring them out so we can rape them.”

**6** But Lot went out and shut the door behind him,

**7** “Brothers, don’t be wicked. **8** Look, I have two daughters that haven’t slept with men. Let me bring them out, and you can do to them whatever you like. Just don’t do anything to those men, since they’ve come under my roof.”

Gen 19:1-8

**9** “Get out of the way.” Besides, they said, “This foreigner has come in already acting like a judge. We’ll treat you worse than them.” They pressed toward Lot to break down the door.

**10** But the angels reached out and pulled him in and shut the door. **11** They struck the men blind, big and small; so they wore themselves out groping around for the door.

**12** The two angels said to Lot,

“Who else do you have here? Bring out any son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whoever else you have in the city. **13** We’re about to destroy this place; their outcry has become so great before Yahveh that he has sent us to destroy it.” Gen 19:9-13

**14** Lot went out to tell his daughters’ fiancés, “Get up! Get out of here! Yahveh is going to destroy the city.” But they acted like he was joking. **15** When it started to get daylight, the angels urged Lot, “Get up! Take your wife and two daughters so you won’t get swept away in the punishment of the city.” **16** He hesitated so the angels grabbed his hand and his wife’s and daughters’ hands. Yahveh had mercy on him and took him outside the city.

**17** Then one of them said, “Escape for your life! Don’t look back or stay anywhere in the valley. Escape to the mountains so you won’t be swept away.”

**18** Lot said,

*"No, Sir! <sup>19</sup>I'm pleasing to you, and you've shown me great kindness by saving me; but I can't escape to the mountains. The disaster would overtake me, and I'd die.*

*<sup>20</sup>That town is near enough to run to. Isn't it small? Let me escape there to save my life."*

*<sup>21</sup>All right, I won't overthrow it. <sup>22</sup>Hurry and get on over there! I can't do anything till you do."* The town was Zoar. Gen 19:14-22

*<sup>23</sup>The sun had climbed high by the time Lot got to Zoar. <sup>24</sup>Then Yahveh rained fire and sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah. <sup>25</sup>He overthrew those towns, the whole valley, its people, and what grew there. <sup>26</sup>But Lot's wife, behind him, looked back, and became a pillar of salt.*

*<sup>27</sup>Abraham got up early and went to where he'd stood with Yahveh. <sup>28</sup>He looked down toward Sodom, Gomorrah, and the valley, and saw smoke coming up as from a furnace. <sup>29</sup>When God destroyed the towns in the valley, he remembered Abraham and got Lot away from his house.* Gen 19:23-29

### **Lot and His Daughters**

*<sup>30</sup>Lot went up from Zoar and stayed in the mountains with his two daughters. He was afraid to keep staying in Zoar. They were living in a cave. <sup>31</sup>The older daughter told the younger one,*

*<sup>32</sup>There's not a man around to come into us in the normal way. <sup>32</sup>Let's get our father drunk on wine and lie with him so we can preserve our family through him."*

*<sup>33</sup>They got him drunk that night, and the older one went in and lay with him. He didn't know when she lay down or got up. <sup>34</sup>The next day the older one said, "Last night I lay with my father. Let's get him drunk again tonight. You go in and lie with him so we can preserve our family."*

*<sup>35</sup>They got their father drunk that night too, and the younger daughter lay with him. He didn't know when she lay down or got up. <sup>36</sup>So both daughters got pregnant from their father. <sup>37</sup>The firstborn had a boy she named Moab (ancestor of today's Moabites). <sup>38</sup>The younger daughter had a boy too and named him Ben-ammi (ancestor of the Ammonites).* Gen 19:30-38

### **Abraham and Abimelech**

*<sup>20:1</sup>Abraham moved toward the Negev and settled between Kadesh and Shur, living for a while in Gerar. <sup>2</sup>He said of Sarah, "She's my sister"; so Abimelech, king of Gerar, sent and took her. <sup>3</sup>But God came to him in a dream at night, "You're a dead man. The woman you've taken is married."*

*<sup>4</sup>Abimelech hadn't come near her, and he said,*

*"Lord, will you kill a blameless nation? <sup>5</sup>Didn't he say she was his sister, and she say he was her brother? I've done this in integrity and innocence."*

*<sup>6</sup>God said to him in the dream,*

*"I know. I've kept you from sinning against me and didn't let you touch her.  
 7Give the man his wife. He's a prophet; he'll pray for you, and you'll live. If you don't,  
 you can be sure you and everybody you have will die."*

**Gen 20:1-7**

**8**Abimelech got up early and called his officials and told them. They were really afraid.  
**9**He called Abraham,

*"What have you done to us? How have I sinned against you that you brought a  
 serious sin on me and my kingdom? That shouldn't be done. 10What made you do it?"*

**11***"I thought, there's no respect for God here. They'll kill me for my wife.  
 12Besides, she really is my sister, my father's daughter, but not my mother's. 13When God  
 had me wander from my father's family, I told her to show me kindness wherever we went  
 by saying I was her brother."*

**Gen 20:8-13**

**14**Abimelech gave Abraham sheep, cattle, male and female servants, and gave Sarah back to him. **15**He said, *"My land is open to you. Settle anywhere you like."* **16**He told Sarah, *"I've given your brother 1,000 pieces of silver to exonerate you to everybody with you and anywhere else."*

**17**Abraham prayed and God restored Abimelech, his wife, and maids so they could have children again. **18**Yahveh had closed the wombs in his household because of Sarah. **Gen 20:14-18**

### The Birth of Isaac

**21:1**Yahveh kept his promise to Sarah. **2**She became pregnant and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time God had indicated. **3**He named him Isaac **4**and circumcised him the eighth day—like God said. **5**Abraham was 100 when Isaac was born. **6**Sarah said,

*"God made me 'laugh.' Everybody that hears about this will laugh too. 7Who would've told Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I've borne him a son in his old age."*

**Gen 21:1-7**

**8**The child grew and was weaned, and Abraham held a big feast the day he was weaned.

### Hagar and Ishmael Sent Away

**9**Sarah saw Hagar's son making fun of Isaac **10**and told Abraham, *"Get rid of her and her son. He's not going to inherit with my son."* **11**Abraham agonized over it, **12**but God told him,

*"Don't agonize over the boy and your maid. Take Sarah's advice. Your lineage will descend through Isaac, **13**but I'll make a nation out of the maid's son too because he's your descendant."*

<sup>14</sup>Abraham got up early and gave Hagar bread and a skin of water. He put *them* on her shoulder, *gave her* the boy, and sent her away. She wandered in the desert around Beersheba. <sup>15</sup>When the water in the skin was gone, she left him under a bush <sup>16</sup>and sat down about a bowshot away, “*Don’t let me watch him die.*” She cried out loud. <sup>17</sup>God heard the boy crying, and his angel called to Hagar from the sky, “*What’s wrong, Hagar? Don’t be afraid. God has heard the boy.*” <sup>18</sup>*Go get him up and hold him by the hand; I’ll make a big nation out of him.*” <sup>19</sup>God caused her to notice a well. She went and filled the skin with water and gave him a drink. <sup>20-21</sup>God was with him. He grew up and lived in the Wilderness of Paran and became an archer. His mother took a wife for him out of Egypt.

Gen 21:8-21

### Treaty with Abimelech

<sup>22</sup>At that time, Abimelech and Phicol, commander of his army, said to Abraham, “*God’s with you whatever you do.*” <sup>23</sup>*So swear by him here that you won’t deal falsely with me or my descendants. The kindness I’ve shown you please show me and the land where you’ve lived.*”

<sup>24</sup>“*I swear it.*”

<sup>25</sup>But Abraham complained to him about the well his servants had seized.

<sup>26</sup>Abimelech said, “*I don’t know who did that. I hadn’t heard about it.*”

<sup>27</sup>Abraham gave Abimelech sheep and cattle, and the two made a treaty. <sup>28</sup>Abraham also set aside 7 ewe lambs. <sup>29</sup>Abimelech asked, “*What are they for?*”

<sup>30</sup>“*Take them as a sign of agreement that I dug this well.*” <sup>31</sup>He called the place Beersheba because the two of them took an “oath” at that “well.” <sup>32</sup>Abimelech and Phicol went back to Philistine territory. <sup>33</sup>Abraham planted a tamarisk tree there and called on Yahveh, the eternal God. <sup>34</sup>He lived in Philistine territory quite a while.

Gen 21:22-34

### God Tests Abraham

<sup>22:1</sup>After this, God tested Abraham, “*Abraham.*”

“*Yes*”

<sup>2</sup>“*Take Isaac, that you love, your only son, and go to the area around Moriah. Offer him as a burnt offering on the mountain where I tell you.*”

<sup>3</sup>Abraham got up early, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men and Isaac. He split wood for the burnt offering and left for the place God told him.

<sup>4</sup>On the third day, Abraham saw it in the distance. <sup>5</sup>He told his young men, “*Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I are going up there to worship and come back.*” <sup>6</sup>Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac and carried the fire and knife by hand; so the two of them walked on together.

<sup>7</sup>Isaac said, “*Dad.*”

“Yes?”

*“There’s fire and wood, but where’s the lamb for the burnt offering?”*

**8**“God will provide it, Son”; so the two of them walked on together. Gen 22:1-8

**9**They came to where God had told him. Abraham built an altar, arranged the wood, bound *Isaac*, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. **10**He took a knife to kill him, **11**but the angel of Yahveh called from the sky, “*Abraham!*”

**12**“Yes?”

*“Don’t do anything to him. I know now that you respect me; you haven’t withheld your only son from me.”*

**13**Then Abraham looked up and noticed a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. He took it and offered it for a burnt offering in place of his son. **14**He called the place Yahveh Will Provide [Yahveh-jireh], as it’s still said, “*In ‘Yahveh’s’ mountain he’ll ‘provide.’*” Gen 22:9-14

**15**The angel called to Abraham again from the sky,

**16**“*I’ve sworn by myself **17**to multiply your descendants like stars in the sky and sand on the shore. Your descendants will conquer the cities of their enemies **18**and bless all nations because you’ve obeyed me.*”

**19**Abraham returned to his young men, and they went back to Beersheba to live.

### Nahor’s Sons

**20**After that, Abraham heard,

*“Milcah has also had children to your brother Nahor: **21**Uz his oldest, Buz his brother; Kemuel Avi-Aram; **22**Chesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph; and Bethuel **23**[Rebekah’s father]—those eight. **24**Nahor’s concubine Reumah had Tebah, Gaham, Tahash, and Maacah.”* Gen 22:15-24

### The Death of Sarah

**23:**<sup>1</sup>Sarah lived 127 years <sup>2</sup>and died in Kiriath-arba (Hebron) in Canaan. Abraham went in to mourn for her and cry. <sup>3</sup>Then he got up from beside his dead and said to the descendants of Heth, <sup>4</sup>“*I’m a foreigner among you. Let me have a place to bury my dead.*”

<sup>5</sup>] <sup>6</sup>“*Listen, Sir, you’re a prince of God among us. Bury your dead in the best grave we have. None of us will refuse you his grave.*”

<sup>7</sup>Abraham stood up and bowed to the local people,

<sup>8</sup>“*If you’ll let me bury my dead, approach Ephron Ben-Zohar for me, <sup>9</sup>to let me have the Cave of Machpelah at the end of his field. Will he let me buy it at full price for a burial place among you?*” Gen 23:1-9

<sup>10</sup>Ephron was sitting there and answered Abraham in front of everyone that was going in his city gate, <sup>11</sup>*No, Sir; listen. In my people's presence, I'll give you the field and the cave that's in it. Bury your dead."*

<sup>12</sup>Abraham bowed <sup>13</sup>and told him, *"I'll pay you the price for the field. Accept it so I can bury my dead there."*

<sup>14</sup>He answered, <sup>15</sup>*"Listen, a piece of land worth 10 lbs <sup>400 shekels</sup> of silver—what's that between us? Bury your dead."*

<sup>16</sup>Abraham listened and weighed out 10 lbs <sup>400 shekels</sup> of silver, merchant's standard. <sup>17</sup>Ephron deeded the field, its trees, and the cave <sup>18</sup>to Abraham in front of everyone in his city gate. *It became a possession among the descendants of Heth.* <sup>19</sup>Abraham buried Sarah in the Cave of Machpelah east of Mamre (Hebron) in Canaan. [<sup>20</sup>] Gen 23:10-20

## A Wife for Isaac

**24:1** Abraham was getting older, and Yahveh had blessed him in every way. **2**He told his oldest servant that managed everything he owned,

*"Put your hand under my thigh <sup>3</sup>and swear by Yahveh God of earth and sky that you won't choose a wife for my son from the Canaanites where I'm living. <sup>4</sup>Go to my relatives in my country to find him a wife."*

**5***"What if she doesn't want to come back with me? Should I take your son there?"*

**6***"Make sure you don't! <sup>7</sup>Yahveh God in heaven took me from my father's family in the land where I was born. He swore to me he'd give my descendants this land. He'll send his angel ahead of you. Choose a wife for my son from there. <sup>8</sup>If she doesn't want to come with you, you'll be free from this oath. Just don't take my son back there."*

**9**The servant put his hand under Abraham's thigh and swore to him. Gen 24:1-9

**10**The servant took 10 camels and left with lots of his master's good things and went to Nahor's city in Mesopotamia. **11**He had the camels kneel down outside the city by the well in the evening when the women came out to draw water. **12**He said,

*"Yahveh, my master's God, make me successful today and be kind to my master.*

**13***I'm standing by the well, and the daughters of men in the city are coming out to draw water. <sup>14</sup>The girl I ask to let her jar down so I can have a drink, and she says, 'Take a drink. I'll water your camels too'—may she be the one you've chosen for Isaac. That way I'll know you've been gracious to my master."*

**15**Before he'd finished talking, Rebekah came out with her jar on her shoulder. She was a daughter of Bethuel, son of Abraham's brother Nahor and his wife Milcah. **16**The girl was beautiful, a virgin. She went down to the spring, filled her jar, and came back up. **17**The servant hurried over to her, *"Let me have a drink from your jar."* Gen 24:10-17

<sup>18</sup>“Take a drink, Sir.” Right away she lowered her jar and gave him a drink. <sup>19</sup>Then she said, “I’ll draw water for your camels too, till they finish drinking.” <sup>20</sup>She emptied her jar into the trough and hurried back to the well to draw water for his camels. <sup>21</sup>In the meantime, the man was gazing at her silently to know if Yahveh had made his journey successful. <sup>22</sup>When the camels finished, he took a gold ring weighing .2 oz <sup>a half-shekel</sup> and two bracelets for her wrists weighing 4 lbs <sup>ten shekels</sup> of gold, <sup>23</sup>and asked, “Who’s your father? Does he have room for us to stay?”

<sup>24</sup>“Bethuel Ben-Milcah, Nahor’s wife. <sup>25</sup>We have plenty of straw and feed, and room for you to stay.”

<sup>26</sup>The man bowed low in worship to Yahveh <sup>27</sup>and said, “Bless Yahveh God of Abraham, who hasn’t abandoned his kindness and truthfulness toward my master. He has guided me to my master’s relatives.”

Gen 24:18-27

<sup>28</sup>The girl ran to tell her mother’s household. <sup>29</sup>Rebekah’s brother Laban rushed out to meet the man at the spring. <sup>30</sup>When he saw the ring and the bracelets on his sister’s wrists and heard her tell what the man had told her, he went to him standing with his camels. <sup>31</sup>“Come in, blessed by Yahveh! Why stand out here? The house is ready, and there’s room for your camels.”

Gen 24:28-31

<sup>32</sup>He went in. Laban unloaded the camels and gave them straw and feed. He brought water to wash the feet of Abraham’s servant and the ones that were with him. <sup>33</sup>But when Laban brought him food, Abraham’s servant said, “I won’t eat till I’ve told you my business.”

“Go ahead.”

<sup>34</sup>“I’m Abraham’s servant. <sup>35</sup>Yahveh has greatly blessed my master, so he’s become wealthy in flocks and herds, silver and gold, servants and maidservants, camels and donkeys. <sup>36</sup>His wife Sarah had a son when she was old, and Abraham has willed everything to him. <sup>37</sup>He made me swear, ‘Don’t choose a wife for my son from the Canaanites where I live. <sup>38</sup>Go to my father’s family to find him a wife.’ <sup>39</sup>I said, ‘What if she doesn’t want to come back with me?’ <sup>40</sup>He said, ‘Yahveh I serve will send his angel with you to make your journey successful. <sup>41</sup>You’ll be free from my oath if you get to my relatives and they won’t give her to you.’

Gen 24:32-41

<sup>42</sup>“I came to the spring today and said, ‘Yahveh, God of Abraham, make my journey successful. <sup>43</sup>I’m standing by the spring. The young woman who comes out to draw water, and I say, ‘Let me have a drink from your jar,’ <sup>44</sup>and she says, ‘Take a drink, and I’ll draw water for your camels too’—may she be the woman you’ve chosen for my master’s son.’ <sup>45</sup>Before I’d finished talking to myself, Rebekah came out with her jar on her shoulder and went down to the spring and drew water. I said to her, ‘Let me have a drink.’ <sup>46</sup>Right away she lowered the jar from her shoulder and said, ‘Take a drink. I’ll water your camels too.’ I took a drink, and she watered them.

Gen 24:42-46

**47** “Then I asked her whose daughter she was. She said, ‘The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor’s son that Micah had.’ I put the ring on her nose and the bracelets on her wrists.

**48** I bowed in worship and blessed my master’s God, who had guided me on the right road to choose the daughter of my master’s relative for his son. **49** Tell me now if you’re going to deal graciously and honestly with my master. If not, let me know so I can decide what to do.”

**50** Laban and Bethuel said,

“Since the thing comes from Yahveh, there’s nothing for us to say. **51** Rebekah’s here; take her and go. She can be the wife of your master’s son, like Yahveh has said.”

Gen 24:47-51

**52** When Abraham’s servant heard it, he bowed to the ground in front of Yahveh. **53** He brought out silver and gold articles, and clothes for Rebekah, and gave precious things to her brother and mother. **54** He and his men ate and spent the night. When they got up, he said, “Let me go to my master.”

**55** Her brother and mother said, “Let the girl stay with us a few days, maybe ten. Then she can go.”

**56** He said, “Let me leave so I can go to my master.”

**57** They said, “We’ll call her and see what she says.”

**58** “Will you go with this man?”

“Yes.”

**59** They sent away their sister and her nurse with Abraham’s servant and his men. **60** They blessed Rebekah,

“May you, our sister, become thousands of ten thousands.

May your descendants conquer the cities of their enemies.”

**61** Rebekah got up with her servant girls and mounted the camels the man had with him. He took her and left.

Gen 24:52-61

**62** Isaac had come from a trip to Beer-lahai-roi because he was living in the Negev. **63** He had gone out to meditate in the field toward evening and looked up and saw camels coming.

**64** Rebekah saw him and got down from the camel. **65** She asked the servant, “Who is the man walking in the field to meet us?”

“He’s my master.”

She put on her veil.

**66** The servant told Isaac what all he’d done. **67** Isaac took Rebekah into his mother’s tent, and she became his wife. He loved her, and she was a comfort to him after his mother died.

Gen 24:62-67

## The Death of Abraham

**25:1** Abraham married another wife, Keturah. **2** She had Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah.

**3** Jokshan had Sheba and Dedan. The sons of Dedan were Asshurim, Letushim, and Leummim.

**4** Midian's sons were Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abida, and Eldaah.

Those descended from Keturah.

**5** Abraham willed everything to Isaac. **6** He gave gifts to his concubines' sons before he died and sent them east away from Isaac. **7** Abraham lived 175 years **8** and died at a good old age, satisfied with *life*; and passed on to his people. **9-10** Isaac and Ishmael buried him with Sarah in the Cave of Machpelah, in the field Abraham had bought from Ephron, east of Mamre. **11** After Abraham died, God blessed Isaac, who continued to live in Beer-lahai-roi. **Gen 25:1-11**

### **12** Ishmael's Generations

(Abraham's Son by Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's Maid)

**13, 16** Ishmael's sons in the order of birth, by villages and camps, 12 princes by tribes: Nebaioth, Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam, **14** Mishma, Dumah, Massa, **15** Hadad, Tema, Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah. **17** Ishmael lived 137 years and passed on to his relatives. **18** His *descendants* settled from Havilah to Shur, east of Egypt on the road to Assyria, away from his relatives. **Gen 25:12-18**

### **19** Isaac's Generations

**20** Isaac was 40 when he married Rebekah. **21** He prayed for her because she wasn't having children. Yahveh answered him, and she became pregnant, **22** but the children struggled with each other inside her. She said, "*Why am I this way?*" She went to ask Yahveh. **23** He said,

*"You have two nations in your womb;  
two nations will come from your body.  
One will be stronger than the other;  
the older will serve the younger."*

**24** When it came time to deliver, she had twins. **25** The first was born red all over like a "hairy" piece of clothes. They named him Esau. **26** His brother was born "holding" onto Esau's "heel"; so they named him Jacob. Isaac was 60 when she had them. **Gen 25:19-26**

**27** When the boys grew up, Esau became a skilled hunter, an outdoorsman. Jacob stayed around home, living in tents. **28** Isaac liked Esau because he had a taste for game; Rebekah liked

Jacob. <sup>29</sup>One day when Jacob was cooking stew, Esau came in from the countryside famished.

<sup>30</sup>He told Jacob, “*Let me have some of that ‘red’ stew. I’m starving.*” (So he was called Edom.)

<sup>31</sup>“*Sell me your birthright first.*”

<sup>32</sup>“*I’m about to die. What good’s a birthright?*”

<sup>33</sup>“*Swear to me first;*” so he swore to him and gave him his birthright. <sup>34</sup>Then Jacob gave him bread and lentil stew. He ate it, got up, and left.

Gen 25:27-34

### Isaac and Abimelech

<sup>26:1</sup>Another famine came over the region besides the one in Abraham’s time. Isaac went to Gerar, to Abimelech, king of the Philistines. <sup>2</sup>Yahveh appeared to him,

“*Don’t go down to Egypt. Stay here, and I’ll be with you and bless you. I’ll give your descendants these lands and keep the oath I swore to your father. I’ll multiply your descendants like stars in the sky. Your seed will bless all the nations in the world because Abraham obeyed me, kept my charges, commandments, statutes, and laws.*”

<sup>6</sup>So Isaac lived in Gerar. <sup>7</sup>When the men there asked about his wife, he said, “*She’s my sister.*” He was afraid to say, “*My wife,*” afraid the men would kill him on account of Rebekah; she was beautiful. <sup>8</sup>When he’d been there a long time, Abimelech looked out the window, and saw Isaac caressing Rebekah. <sup>9</sup>He called him, “*She has to be your wife! Why say she was your sister?*”

“*For fear that I’d die on account of her.*”

<sup>10</sup>Abimelech said, “*What have you done to us? One of the men might easily have lain with your wife, and you would have brought guilt on us.*” <sup>11</sup>Abimelech charged everybody, “*I’ll execute whoever touches this man or his wife.*”

Gen 26:1-11

<sup>12</sup>Isaac sowed grain, and the same year it yielded 100 times as much as he planted. Yahveh blessed him, <sup>13</sup>and he kept getting richer and richer till he was extremely wealthy. <sup>14</sup>He had flocks, herds, and such a large household that the Philistines got jealous. <sup>15</sup>They filled the wells his father’s servants had dug. <sup>16</sup>Abimelech told Isaac, “*Go away from us. You’re too big to be around us.*” <sup>17</sup>Isaac left and settled down in the Valley of Gerar.

<sup>18</sup>He dug again the wells they’d dug in Abraham’s time. The Philistines had stopped them up after Abraham died. He named them the same as his father did. <sup>19</sup>But when Isaac’s servants dug in the valley and found a well with flowing water, <sup>20</sup>the herdsmen at Gerar “quarreled” with his herdsmen, “*That’s our water!*” so he named the well Esek. <sup>21</sup>They dug another well, and they “quarreled” over that one too; so he named it Sitnah. <sup>22</sup>He moved and dug another well. They didn’t quarrel over it; so he named it Rehoboth because he said, “*Finally, Yahveh has made ‘room’ for us to prosper here.*”

Gen 26:12-22

<sup>23</sup>He went up to Beersheba, <sup>24</sup>and Yahveh appeared to him that night, “*I’m your father’s God. Don’t be afraid; I’m with you. I’ll bless you and multiply your descendants out of regard for Abraham.*” <sup>25</sup>He built an altar and called on Yahveh. He pitched his tent there, and his servants dug a well.

<sup>26</sup>Abimelech came to him from Gerar with Ahuzzath his advisor and Phicol his commander. <sup>27</sup>Isaac asked them,

“*Why did you come to me? You despise me and drove me away.*”

<sup>28</sup>“*We can see Yahveh’s been with you, so we said, ‘Let’s take an oath between us now.’ Let us make a treaty with you: <sup>29</sup>you won’t harm us like we haven’t done anything but good to you and sent you away on good terms. You’re Yahveh’s blessed.*”

<sup>30</sup>He held a feast for them, and they ate together. Gen 26:23-30

<sup>31</sup>In the morning they got up early and exchanged oaths. Isaac saw them off, and they left on good terms. <sup>32</sup>The same day, Isaac’s servants came in and told him about the “well” they’d dug, “*We found water.*” <sup>33</sup>So he called it Shibah. The town’s name is still Beersheba.

<sup>34</sup>When Esau was 40, he married two Hittite wives: Judith Bat-Beeri and Basemath Bat-Elon. <sup>35</sup>They were a grief to Isaac and Rebekah. Gen 26:31-35

### Isaac Blesses Jacob

<sup>27:1</sup>When Isaac grew old, his eyesight was bad. He called for his older son Esau.

“*Yes?*”

<sup>2</sup>“*I’m getting old, and I don’t know how long I’ll live. <sup>3</sup>Take your bow and quiver, and hunt game for me. <sup>4</sup>Make the kind of dish I like and bring it to me so I can eat it and bless you before I die.*”

<sup>5</sup>Rebekah overheard it. When Esau went out into the countryside to hunt, <sup>6</sup>she told Jacob,

“*I overheard your father tell your brother, <sup>7</sup>‘Bring me some game and make me a tasty dish. I’ll bless you in Yahveh’s presence before I die.’ <sup>8</sup>Listen, son. <sup>9</sup>Bring me two choice kids from the flock so I can make a dish your father likes. <sup>10</sup>Then take it to him so he can bless you before he dies.*” Gen 27:1-10

<sup>11</sup>“*I’m not hairy like Esau. <sup>12</sup>My father may feel me. I’ll be a liar in his mind and bring a curse on myself, not a blessing.*”

<sup>13</sup>“*That curse be on me. Just do what I’m telling you. Go get them.*”

<sup>14</sup>He got them and she made a meal Isaac liked. <sup>15</sup>Then she took Esau’s best clothes, which were in the house, and put them on her younger son. <sup>16</sup>She put the kids’ skins on his hands and neck, <sup>17</sup>and gave Jacob the tasty food and bread she’d made. Gen 27:11-17

<sup>18</sup>He went to his father and said, “*Father.*”

“*Yes, who are you, son?*”

**19** “Esau your firstborn. I’ve done like you said. Sit up and eat my game so you can bless me.”

**20** “How did you get it so quick?”

“Yahveh our God helped me.”

**21** “Come here so I can feel if you’re really Esau.”

**22** Jacob went up to him, and he felt him, “It’s Jacob’s voice but Esau’s hands.” **23** He didn’t recognize him because his hands were hairy like Esau’s; so he blessed him. **24** “Are you really Esau?”

“Yes.”

**25** “Bring it to me, and I’ll eat your game so I can bless you.” He took it to him, and he ate it. He took him wine to drink too. **26** Then he said, “Come and kiss me, son.” **27** He went and kissed him. When he smelled his clothes, he blessed him,

“You smell like a field Yahveh has blessed.

**28** Now may God give you dew from the sky,  
fertility from the ground,  
and abundant grain and new wine.

**29** May nations serve you;  
may they bow to you.

Have authority over your relatives;  
may your mother’s sons bow to you.  
Cursed be the ones that curse you;  
blessed be those who bless you.”

Gen 27:18-29

**30** No sooner had Isaac finished blessing him and he’d left than Esau came in from hunting. **31** He made delicious food too and took it to his father, “Sit up, Father, and eat your son’s game so you can bless me.”

**32** Isaac said, “Who are you?”

“Esau, your firstborn.”

**33** Isaac shook terribly “Then who was it that hunted game and brought it to me to eat and I blessed him? Yes, and he’ll stay blessed.”

**34** When Esau heard it, he let out a bitter cry, “Bless me too, father!”

**35** “Your brother came and deceived me and took your blessing.”

**36** Esau said, “Isn’t ‘Jacob’ a good name for him? He’s ‘usurped’ my position twice. He took my birthright; now he’s taken my blessing. Haven’t you kept a blessing for me?”

**37** “I’ve put him over you and given him his relatives as servants. I’ve sustained him with grain and new wine. What’s left that I can do, son?”

**38** “Don’t you even have one blessing for me, father?” Esau cried out loud.

**39** Isaac said,

*“You’ll live away from fertile ground  
and dew from the sky.*

**40** *You’ll live by your sword  
and serve your brother.  
But when you break free,  
you’ll break his yoke from off your neck.”*

**Gen 27:30-40**

**41** Esau held a grudge against Jacob because his father had given Jacob the blessing. He said under his breath, “*The days for mourning my father’s death are coming. Then I’ll kill Jacob.*”

**42** When his threat reached Rebekah, she called *Jacob*,  
*“Your brother is consoling himself with the thought of killing you. 43 Run off to my brother in Haran. 44 Stay with him 45 till your brother’s anger wears off. Then I’ll send for you. Why should I mourn for both of you the same day?”*

**46** Rebekah told Isaac, “*I’m as grieved as I can be over these Hittite women. If Jacob marries a woman like them, what good will my life be to me?*”

**Gen 27:41-46**

### **Jacob Sent to Laban**

**28:1** Isaac called Jacob, blessed him, and charged him,  
*“Don’t marry a Canaanite. 2 Go to Paddan-aram, to Bethuel your mother’s father, and choose a wife from Laban your uncle. 3 May God Almighty [El-Shaddai] bless you and make you numerous so you’ll become a group of nations. 4 May he give you and your descendants Abraham’s blessing so you’ll receive the land where you’ve lived as a nomad, the land God gave Abraham.”*

**5** Isaac sent Jacob to Paddan-aram, to Laban Ben-Bethuel the Aramean.

### **Esau Marries an Ishmaelite**

**6** Esau saw that Isaac had blessed him, sent him to Paddan-aram to find a wife, and charged him not to marry a Canaanite. **7** He saw that Jacob had obeyed his parents **8** and that Isaac didn’t like Canaanite women. **9** So he went to Ishmael and—besides the wives he had—married Ishmael’s daughter Mahalath/Basemath, sister of Nebaioth.

**Gen 28:1-9**

### **Jacob’s Dream**

**10** Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran. **11** After sundown he stopped for the night and lay down with a stone under his head. **12** He dreamed that a ladder was set up on the earth with its top in the sky. God’s angels were climbing up and down on it. **13** Yahveh stood at the top of it and said,

*“I’m Yahveh God of Abraham and your father Isaac. I’ll give you and your descendants the ground you’re lying on. 14 They’ll be like the dust on the ground and*

*spread out in every direction. In you and your descendants, I will bless all the families in the world. <sup>15</sup>I'll protect you wherever you go, and bring you back here. I won't leave you till I've done what I've promised."*

**16**Jacob woke up and said, "Yahveh is certainly here, and I didn't know it." **17**He was afraid, "This place is awesome! It's nothing but 'God's house' and heaven's door." Gen 28:10-17

**18**He got up early and took the stone that was under his head, set it up as a marker, and poured olive oil on it. **19**He called the place Bethel (named Luz before) **20**and vowed, "If God protects me on this trip, gives me food and clothes, **21**and brings me back to my father's family safely, then Yahveh will be my God. **22**This stone will be 'God's house,' and I'll give him a tenth of what he gives me." Gen 28:18-22

### **Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel**

**29:1**Jacob continued on his trip to the country in the east. **2**Up ahead he saw a well in a pasture where they watered the flocks. Three flocks of sheep were lying by it, and it had a big stone over it. **3**When all the flocks got there, they'd roll the stone off the well, water the sheep, and put it back. **4**Jacob asked them, "Brothers, where are you from?"

"Haran."

**5**"Do you know Laban Ben-Nahor."

"Yes."

**6**"How is he?"

"He's good. That's his daughter Rachel coming with the sheep."

**7**Jacob said, "It's still the middle of the day, not time to herd the livestock. Why aren't you watering the sheep and taking them to pasture?"

**8**"We can't water them till all the flocks get here and they roll the stone off the well."

**9**While he was still talking to them, Rachel came with her father's sheep. **10**When Jacob saw her and Laban's sheep, he went and rolled the stone off the well and watered Laban's flock. **11**He kissed Rachel and cried out loud. **12**He told her he was Rebekah's son, a relative of her father. She ran to tell her father. Gen 29:1-12

**13**When Laban heard it, he rushed to meet Jacob, hugged him, kissed him, and took him to his house. Jacob told him what all had happened. **14**Laban said, "For sure, you're my flesh and bone." Jacob stayed with him a month.

**15**Laban said, "Because you're my relative doesn't mean you have to work for nothing. What do you want for pay?"

**16**Laban had two daughters, Leah, the older one, and Rachel. **17**Leah had less beautiful eyes, but Rachel was beautiful in form and appearance. **18**Jacob loved Rachel, so he said, "I'll work for you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel."

**19**Laban said, “It’s better to give her to you than to anybody else. Stay on with me.”

**20**Jacob worked seven years for Rachel, but they seemed like just a few days because he loved her so much.

Gen 29:13-20

**21**Then Jacob told Laban, “Give me my wife so I can sleep with her. I’ve completed my time.” **22**Laban gathered the men in the place and made a feast. **23**In the evening he brought Leah to him, and Jacob slept with her. **24**Laban also gave his maid Zilpah to Leah as a servant. **25**In the morning, it was Leah! Jacob said to Laban, “What’ve you done to me? Didn’t I work for you for Rachel? Why have you deceived me?”

**26**But Laban said, “It’s not the custom here to marry off the younger before the firstborn.

**27**Complete the bridal week for this one, and we’ll give you the other one too for another seven years’ work.”

**28**Jacob completed her week, and Laban gave him Rachel as a wife. **29**He also gave his servant Bilhah to Rachel as her maid. **30**Jacob slept with Rachel too. He loved her more than Leah and worked for Laban for seven more years.

Gen 29:21-30

### Jacob’s Children

**31**Yahveh saw that Leah wasn’t loved, and opened her womb, but Rachel was barren.

**32**Leah had a son she named Reuben, “Because Yahveh has ‘seen’ my misery. Surely my husband will love me now.” **33**She had another son, “Because Yahveh has ‘heard’ that I’m not loved, he gave me this son too”; so she named him Simeon. **34**She had another son, “This time my husband will be ‘attached’ to me, because I’ve borne him three sons”; so she named him Levi. **35**She became pregnant again and bore Jacob a son and said, “This time I’ll ‘praise’ Yahveh”; so she named him Judah. Then she stopped having children.

Gen 29:31-35

**30:1**When Rachel saw she wasn’t having children, she became jealous of her sister and told Jacob, “Give me children, or I’m going to die!”

**2**Jacob’s anger flared, “I’m not God, am I? He’s the One that’s kept you from having children!”

**3**“Here’s my maid Bilhah. Sleep with her so I can have children through her”; **4**so she gave him Bilhah as a wife. **5**She became pregnant and had a son. **6**Rachel said, “God has ‘vindicated’ me. He’s heard me and given me a son”; so she named him Dan. **7**Rachel’s maidservant had a second son. **8**So Rachel said, “I’ve ‘wrestled’ hard with my sister and won”; so she named him Naphtali.

Gen 30:1-8

**9**When Leah saw she’d stopped having children, she gave her maid Zilpah to Jacob as a wife. **10**Zilpah had a son. **11**Leah said, “How fortunate!” so she named him Gad. **12**Zilpah had a second son. **13**Leah said, “I’m happy, and women will call me ‘happy’”; so she named him Asher.

<sup>14</sup>During wheat harvest Reuben found mandrakes in the field and brought them to his mother Leah. Rachel said to Leah, “*Give me some of your son’s mandrakes.*” <sup>15</sup>But she said, “*Is it a small matter for you to take my husband? Would you take my son’s mandrakes too?*” <sup>16</sup>When Jacob came in from the field in the evening, Leah went out to meet him, “*You have to sleep with me; I’ve certainly hired you with my son’s mandrakes*”; he slept with her that night. <sup>17</sup>God listened to Leah, and she had a fifth son. <sup>18</sup>Leah said, “*God has paid me my ‘wages’ because I gave my maid to my husband*”; so she named him Issachar. <sup>19</sup>She had a sixth son, <sup>20</sup>“*God has endowed me with a good gift. Now my husband will ‘live with’ me; I’ve had six sons for him*”; so she named him Zebulun. <sup>21</sup>Later she had a daughter she named Dinah. <sup>22</sup>God remembered Rachel, listened to her, and opened her womb. <sup>23</sup>So she had a son and said, “*God has taken away my disgrace.*” <sup>24</sup>She named him Joseph, “*May Yahveh give me ‘another’ son.*”

Gen 30:9-24

### Jacob’s Prosperity

<sup>25</sup>At the time when Rachel had Joseph, Jacob said to Laban, “*Let me go now so I can return to my own country.*” <sup>26</sup>*Let me have the wives and little ones I’ve worked for. You know the work I’ve done for you.*”

<sup>27</sup>But Laban said to him, “*If it pleases you, stay. I’ve seen that Yahveh has blessed me because of you.*” <sup>28</sup>*Name your wages; I’ll pay it.*”

<sup>29</sup>But Jacob said,

*“You know how I’ve worked for you and how your livestock fared with me. <sup>30</sup>You didn’t have much before I came, but it has increased to a big herd. Yahveh has blessed you wherever I turned. But when will I provide for my own family?”*

<sup>31</sup>Laban asked, “*What do you want me to give you?*”

Jacob said,

*“Don’t give me anything. Do this, and I’ll go on shepherding your flock: <sup>32</sup>let me go through your entire flock today and take out every speckled and spotted sheep, black lamb, and speckled and spotted goat. That’ll be my pay. <sup>33</sup>So my honesty can answer for me later when you figure my pay, consider stolen each one with me that’s not speckled and spotted among the goats or black among the lambs.”*

<sup>34</sup>“*All right.*”

Gen 30:25-34

<sup>35</sup>That day, Jacob took out the striped and spotted male goats, the speckled and spotted female goats, the ones with white on them, and the black sheep. He gave them to his sons to take care of. <sup>36</sup>Laban put three-days’ distance between himself and Jacob, and Jacob fed the rest of Laban’s flocks. <sup>37</sup>Then Jacob took fresh poplar, almond, and plane stakes, and peeled white stripes around them. <sup>38</sup>He set the peeled stakes in front of the flocks by the watering troughs where the flocks drank, and they mated when they *came to drink.* <sup>39</sup>So the flocks mated by the

stakes and brought forth striped, speckled, and spotted young. <sup>40</sup>Jacob separated the lambs and had the flocks face the striped and the black in Laban's flock. He set his own herds apart and didn't put them with Laban's. <sup>41</sup>In addition, whenever the stronger ones in the flock were mating, Jacob would put the stakes by the troughs so the flock could see them so they'd mate by the stakes. <sup>42</sup>But when the flock was weak, he didn't put *them* there; so the weaker ones were Laban's, and the stronger ones were Jacob's. <sup>43</sup>*Jacob* became really prosperous with large flocks, with camels, donkeys, and male and female servants.

Gen 30:35-43

### Jacob Flees from Laban

**31:1** Jacob overheard Laban's sons say, “*Jacob has taken everything our father had and created that wealth.*” <sup>2</sup>He saw that Laban's attitude had changed. <sup>3</sup>Yahveh told him, “*Go back to the land of your ancestors and relatives. I'll be with you.*”

<sup>4</sup>Jacob sent for Rachel and Leah to come to his flock in the pasture. <sup>5</sup>He told them, “*Your father's attitude toward me has changed, but my father's God has been with me.*” <sup>6</sup>You know I worked hard for him, <sup>7</sup>but he cheated me and switched my pay ten times. But God didn't let him hurt me. <sup>8</sup>If he said, ‘The speckled will be your pay,’ the flock brought forth speckled. If he said, ‘The striped will be your pay,’ the flock brought forth striped. <sup>9</sup>That's how God took your father's livestock and gave them to me. <sup>10</sup>At the time when the flock was mating, I looked up and saw in a dream that the male goats were striped, speckled, and mottled. <sup>11</sup>Then God's angel said in the dream, ‘Jacob,’ and I said, ‘Yes?’ <sup>12</sup>‘Look up and see that the male goats that are mating are striped, speckled, and mottled, because I've seen what Laban's been doing to you. <sup>13</sup>I'm the God in Bethel, where you anointed a marker and took a vow to me. Now leave this country and go back where you were born.’”

<sup>14</sup>Rachel and Leah answered,

“*Do we still have any inheritance in our father's family? Doesn't he treat us like foreigners? He's sold us and completely used up our purchase price.*” <sup>15</sup>The wealth God has taken from him clearly belongs to us and our children; do what God has told you.”

Gen 31:1-16

<sup>17</sup>Then Jacob put his wives and offspring on camels, <sup>18</sup>and drove away the livestock and property he'd accumulated in Paddan-aram, to go to his father Isaac in Canaan. <sup>19</sup>When Laban went to shear his flock, Rachel stole his household idols. <sup>20</sup>Jacob deceived Laban the Aramean by not telling him he was leaving. <sup>21</sup>He left with everything he had, crossed the *Euphrates* River, and headed toward the hill country in Gilead.

Gen 31:17-21

<sup>22</sup>Three days later, Laban heard Jacob had left. <sup>23</sup>He took some of his relatives and chased him for a week. He caught up with him in the hill country in Gilead. <sup>24</sup>God came to

Laban in a dream at night, “*Don’t say anything to Jacob good or bad.*” <sup>25</sup>Jacob had pitched his tent in the hill country, and Laban and his relatives also camped there. <sup>26</sup>Laban said to Jacob,

“*What have you done, deceiving me and taking my daughters like captives of the sword?* <sup>27</sup>*Why did you leave secretly so I couldn’t send you away with joy and songs, with tambourine and harp?* <sup>28</sup>*You didn’t let me kiss my sons and daughters. You’ve done foolishly.* <sup>29</sup>*I can do you harm, but your father’s God told me last night not to say anything to you good or bad.* <sup>30</sup>*Okay, you’ve indeed gone away because you longed for your father’s family, but why steal my gods?*”

<sup>31</sup>Jacob answered him,

“*I left secretly because I was afraid you’d take your daughters away from me by force.* <sup>32</sup>*The one you find your gods with will die. In front of everybody, point out what’s yours in my belongings and take it.*”

Jacob didn’t know Rachel had stolen them.

Gen 31:22-32

<sup>33</sup>Laban went to Jacob’s tent, Leah’s tent, the two maids’ tent, but didn’t find them. He left Leah’s tent and went to Rachel’s. <sup>34</sup>She’d put the household idols in a camel’s saddle and sat on them. Laban rummaged through the tent but didn’t find them. <sup>35</sup>She told her father, “*Don’t be mad at me for not getting up. The way of women is on me.*” He looked around but didn’t find them.

Gen 31:33-35

<sup>36</sup>Jacob fussed at Laban,

“*What’s my transgression? What’s my sin that you’ve hotly chased me?* <sup>37</sup>*You’ve rummaged through everything. What have you found from your household goods? Set it here in front of my relatives so they can decide between us.* <sup>38</sup>*For the 20 years I’ve been with you, your ewes and female goats haven’t miscarried. I haven’t eaten the rams from your flocks.* <sup>39</sup>*I didn’t bring you what wild animals tore apart; I took the loss myself. You required from me what was stolen day or night.* <sup>40</sup>*That’s how I was: in the daytime the heat consumed me; at night the frost kept me awake.* <sup>41</sup>*I worked 14 years for your two daughters and 6 for your flocks. You switched my pay ten times.* <sup>42</sup>*If the God of my grandfather Abraham, the one Isaac fears, hadn’t been on my side, you would’ve sent me away with nothing. He’s seen my mistreatment and hard work, and he rendered judgment last night.*”

Gen 31:36-42

<sup>43</sup>Laban answered him,

“*By rights, the daughters belong to me, the little ones and flocks too; everything you’re looking at is mine. But what can I do about my daughters and their children now?*

<sup>44</sup>*Let’s make a treaty, a witness between us.*”

<sup>45</sup>Jacob set up a stone marker. <sup>46</sup>He told his relatives to gather up some rocks; they made a cairn of rocks and ate a covenant meal beside it. <sup>47</sup>Laban called it Jegar-sahadutha; Jacob

called it Galeed. <sup>48</sup>Laban said, “*This ‘mound’ serves as a ‘witness’ between us*”; so they named it Galeed <sup>49</sup>(also called Mizpah) because he said,

“*May Yahveh ‘watch over’ us while we’re apart.* <sup>50</sup>*If you mistreat my daughters or take other wives, though no one is with us, God is ‘witness’ between us.* <sup>51</sup>*This ‘cairn’* <sup>52</sup>*signifies that neither of us will go past it to harm the other.* <sup>53</sup>*The God of Abraham, Nahor, and their father judge between us.*”

Jacob swore out of respect for his father Isaac. <sup>54</sup>He offered a sacrifice on the mountain and called his relatives to eat and spent the night there. <sup>55</sup>In the morning, Laban got up early, kissed his daughters and grandchildren, blessed them, and went home. Gen 31:43-55

### Jacob Travels to Meet Esau

**32:1** As Jacob was going along, angels from God met him. **2**When he saw them, he said, “*This is God’s ‘camp’*”; so he named the place Mahanaim.

**3**He sent messengers to his brother Esau in Seir (Edom).

**4**“*Tell Esau that his servant Jacob says, ‘I’ve lived temporarily with Laban till now. I have cattle, donkeys, flocks, male and female servants. I’ve sent to tell you so I’ll be pleasing to you.’*”

**6**The messengers came back to Jacob and said, “*We went to Esau; he’s coming to meet you with 400 men.*” **7**Jacob was terribly afraid and distressed. He divided the people, the flocks, herds, and camels into two companies. **8**“*If Esau attacks one drove, the other can escape.*”

**9**He said,

*“God of my grandfather Abraham and my father Isaac, Yahveh who told me to go back to my country and my relatives, and you’d make me prosper,* **10***I don’t deserve the kindness and faithfulness you’ve shown me. I crossed this Jordan with just a staff. Now I’ve become two companies.* **11***Protect me from Esau. I’m afraid he might attack me and the mothers of my offspring.* **12***You did say, ‘I’ll make you prosper and make your descendants like sand on the shore that can’t be counted.’”* Gen 32:1-12

**13**He spent the night there. Then he chose from what he had with him a gift for Esau: **14**200 female goats, 20 male goats, 200 ewes, 20 rams, **15**30 milking camels and their colts, 40 cows and 10 bulls, 20 female donkeys and 10 male donkeys. **16**He gave them to his servants, “*Go on ahead and space out the droves.*” **17**He told the first drove, “*When Esau meets you and asks who they belong to and where you’re going,* **18***say, ‘They belong to Jacob. They’re a gift to you. Jacob is behind us.’” **19**He told the second and third drove, and everybody that followed the droves, **20**“*Tell Esau when you meet him, ‘Your servant Jacob is behind us too.’”* He said, “*I’ll appease him with the gift first. Then when I see him, maybe he’ll accept me.*” **21**His gift passed on ahead while he spent that night in the camp. Gen 32:13-21*

## Jacob Wrestles with a Man

<sup>22</sup>He got up that night and took his 2 wives, 2 maids, and 11 children, and crossed the Jabbok ford. <sup>23</sup>He sent them across the stream along with what he had. <sup>24</sup>He was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till dawn. <sup>25</sup>When *the man* saw he hadn't won, he struck the socket of Jacob's hip and dislocated it as they wrestled. <sup>26</sup>Then *the man* said, "Let me go; it's getting daylight."

"I won't let you go unless you bless me."

<sup>27</sup>"What's your name?"

"Jacob."

<sup>28</sup>"It won't be Jacob anymore. It'll be Israel; you've 'wrestled with God' and men and prevailed."

<sup>29</sup>"Tell me your name."

"Why are you asking?" That's where he blessed him.

<sup>30</sup>Jacob named the place Peniel; "I've seen 'God face to face,' but I'm still alive." <sup>31</sup>The sun was coming up as he crossed Penuel, and he was limping because of his hip. <sup>32</sup>Israelites still don't eat the sinew that's on the hip socket, because *the man* struck the sinew on Jacob's hip socket.

Gen 32:22-32

## Jacob Meets Esau

<sup>33:1</sup>Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming with his 400 men. He divided the children between Leah, Rachel, and the two maids. <sup>2</sup>He put the maids and their children in front, Leah and her children next, Rachel and Joseph last. <sup>3</sup>He went on ahead of them and bowed to the ground seven times as he got closer to his brother. <sup>4</sup>Then Esau ran to meet him, embraced him, hugged him, and kissed him. They cried *together*. <sup>5</sup>Esau looked up and saw the women and children, "Who are these?"

"Children God has graciously given me."

Gen 33:1-5

<sup>6</sup>The maids came with their children and bowed. <sup>7</sup>Leah came up with her children and bowed. Last, Joseph and Rachel came and bowed.

<sup>8</sup>Esau asked, "What do you mean by all this?"

Jacob said, "To please you."

<sup>9</sup>But Esau said, "I have plenty, brother. Keep what you have."

<sup>10</sup>"No, if I'm pleasing to you, accept my present; I look up to you like someone looks up to God, and you've received me graciously. <sup>11</sup>Take the gift I've brought you; God has been generous to me; I have plenty."

He kept urging him, so he took it.

<sup>12</sup>Esau said, "Let's travel on. I'll go ahead of you."

<sup>13</sup>But he told him,

*“You know the children are young, and I’m concerned about the flocks and herds that are nursing. If they’re driven hard for a day, they’ll die. <sup>14</sup>Go on ahead. I’ll go at the pace of the livestock and children till I come to you in Seir.”*

**15** “Let me leave some of my people.”

“What’s the need? Be gracious to me on this.”

**16** Esau went back that day to Seir. **17** Jacob traveled to Succoth, built a house, and made “corrals” for his livestock; so the name of the place became Succoth.

**18** Jacob went safely to Shechem in Canaan and camped by the city. **19** The piece of land where he’d pitched his tent, he bought from the sons of Hamor, Shechem’s father, for 100 pieces of silver. **20** He built an altar and called it El-Elohe-Israel [El the God of Israel]. Gen 33:6-20

### Dinah and the Shechemites

**34:**<sup>1</sup> Leah’s daughter Dinah went out to visit the daughters in the area. **2** When Shechem Ben-Hamor the Hivite, the prince of the territory, saw her, he took her and lay with her. **3** He was deeply attracted to her, and loved her, and spoke tenderly to her. **4** Shechem spoke to his father, “Get me this young girl for a wife.” **5** Jacob heard that he’d defiled Dinah, but his sons were with his livestock in the pasture; he kept quiet till they came in. **6** Then Hamor went to speak to Jacob. **7** Jacob’s sons came in from the pasture when they heard. They were grieved and mad, because Shechem had done such an awful thing in Israel. Something like that shouldn’t be done. Gen 34:1-7

**8** But Hamor said to them,

“My son longs for your daughter. Let him marry her. **9** Intermarry with us. **10** That way you’ll live with us, and the country will be open to you. Live, carry on business, and buy property in it.”

**11** Shechem also told her father and brothers, “If I’m pleasing to you, I’ll give whatever you say. **12** Ask me whatever bridal price and gift, and I’ll give it, but let me marry the girl.”

**13** But Jacob’s sons answered Shechem and his father with deception because Shechem had defiled their sister,

**14** “We can’t give our sister to someone that’s not circumcised. That would be offensive to us. **15** There’s only one way we’ll consent. If you’ll become like us by circumcising every male among you, **16** we’ll intermarry with you and live with you as one people. **17** If you won’t be circumcised, we’ll take our daughter and go.” Gen 34:8-17

**18** Their proposal seemed agreeable to Hamor and Shechem. **19** The young man didn’t delay doing what they asked because he was delighted with Jacob’s daughter. He was more respected than anybody else in his father’s family. **20** He and Hamor went to their city gate and said,

**21** “These men are peaceful with us. Let them live in the land and do business here. The land is big enough for them. Let them intermarry with us. **22** Only on this condition will they agree to live with us and become one people: every male among us must be circumcised like they are. **23** Won’t their livestock, property, and animals be ours? Let’s agree with them, and they’ll live with us.”

**24** Everybody that went out of the city gate listened to Hamor and Shechem, and every male was circumcised.

Gen 34:18-24

**25** On the third day, when the men in Shechem were very sore, Simeon and Levi, Dinah’s brothers, took a sword apiece and attacked the city by surprise and killed every male. **26** They killed Hamor and Shechem, took Dinah out of Shechem’s house, and left. **27** Jacob’s sons came on the slain and looted the city because they’d defiled their sister. **28** They took their flocks, herds, donkeys, what was in the city and in the countryside. **29** They captured and looted their wealth, took their little ones, their wives, and everything in the houses. **30** Jacob told Simeon and Levi,

*“You’ve created a problem for me and made me repulsive to the Canaanites and Perizzites here. We only have a few men. They’ll gather against me and destroy me and my household.”*

**31** They said, “Should he treat our sister like a prostitute?”

Gen 34:25-31

### Jacob Returns to Bethel

**35:1** God told Jacob,

*“Go up to Bethel and live and build an altar to me. I’m the One that appeared to you when you were running from Esau.”*

**2** Jacob told his household and everybody with him,

*“Put away your foreign gods, purify yourselves, and change clothes. **3** Let’s go to Bethel. I’m going to build an altar to God there, who answered me in my distress and was with me wherever I’ve gone.”*

**4** They gave Jacob their foreign gods and earrings, and he buried them under a terebinth tree near Shechem.

**5** As they moved along, a deep dread hovered over the towns around them, and they didn’t pursue Jacob’s sons. **6** So Jacob and his people were able to reach Luz (Bethel) in Canaan. **7** He built an altar, and called the place El-Bethel, because “God” revealed himself to him there when he was running from his brother. **8** Deborah, Rebekah’s nurse, died, and Jacob buried her below Bethel under the oak named Allonbacuth [Oak of Weeping].

Gen 35:1-8

**9** God appeared to Jacob again after he came from Paddan-aram and blessed him.

**10** “You’re Jacob,

*but you won’t be called Jacob anymore.*

*Your name will be Israel.*

<sup>11</sup>*I'm God Almighty [El-Shaddai].*

*Have children and multiply.*

*A group of nations will come from you;  
kings will descend from you.*

<sup>12</sup>*I'll give you and your descendants*

*the land I promised Abraham and Isaac."*

<sup>13</sup>God ascended from him, <sup>14</sup>and Jacob set up a stone marker “where God” had spoken to him. He poured out a liquid offering on it, poured olive oil on it, <sup>15</sup>and named the place Bethel.

**Gen 35:9-15**

### The Deaths of Rachel and Isaac

<sup>16</sup>They moved on from Bethel. When they were still some distance from Ephrath (Bethlehem), Rachel started to have contractions and suffered hard labor. <sup>17</sup>The midwife said, “*Don't be afraid; you have another son.*” <sup>18</sup>As her life was draining away, she named him Benoni; but his father called him Benjamin. <sup>19</sup>Rachel died and was buried along the road to Ephrath. <sup>20</sup>Jacob set up a marker over her grave that's still there. <sup>21</sup>Jacob kept traveling and pitched his tent beyond the Tower of Eder. <sup>22</sup>While he was living there, Reuben went and slept with Bilhah, his father's concubine, and Israel found out about it.

**Gen 35:16-22a**

Jacob had 12 sons.

<sup>23</sup>by Leah: Reuben, his firstborn, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun;

<sup>24</sup>by Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin;

<sup>25</sup>by Bilhah, Rachel's maid: Dan and Naphtali; and

<sup>26</sup>by Zilpah, Leah's maid: Gad and Asher.

His 12 sons were born in Paddan-aram.

<sup>27</sup>Jacob went to see his father Isaac at Mamre near Kiriath-arba (Hebron), where Abraham and Isaac had lived temporarily. <sup>28</sup>Isaac lived 180 years, <sup>29</sup>breathed his last, and passed on to his people. He'd lived to a ripe age, and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.

**Gen 35:22b-29**

### 36:<sup>1</sup>Esau's (Edom's) Generations

<sup>2</sup>Esau married Canaanite women: Adah Bat-Elon the Hittite; Oholibamah Bat-Anah Ben-Zibeon the Hivite; <sup>3</sup>and Basemath/Mahalath Bat-Ishmael, sister of Nebaioth. <sup>4</sup>Adah had Eliphaz; Basemath had Reuel, <sup>5</sup>Oholibamah had Jeush, Jalam, and Korah—all born in Canaan.

<sup>6</sup>Esau took his wives, sons, daughters, household, livestock, cattle, and goods he'd gained in Canaan, and moved to a territory away from Jacob. <sup>7</sup>Their livestock had become too much for the land to support them both. <sup>8-9</sup>Esau, ancestor of the Edomites, lived in the hill country of Seir.

**Gen 36:1-9**

<sup>10</sup>Esau's sons

Eliphaz by Adah, Reuel by Basemath, and

(<sup>11</sup>Eliphaz was father of Teman, Omar, Zepho, Gatam, and Kenaz.

(<sup>12</sup>Timna, the concubine of Eliphaz, had Amalek.)

(<sup>13</sup>Reuel was father of Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah.)

<sup>14</sup>Jeush, Jalam, and Korah by Oholibamah.

<sup>15</sup>The chiefs descending from Esau's sons

(The sons of Eliphaz, Esau's firstborn): Teman, Omar, Zepho, <sup>16</sup>Korah, Gatam, Amalek—descendants by Adah.

(<sup>17</sup>The sons of Reuel, Esau's son): Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, Mizzah—descendants by Basemath;

<sup>18</sup>Jeush, Jalam, Korah—descendants by Oholibamah Bat-Anah

<sup>19</sup>Esau's sons and their chiefs

Gen 36:10-19

### The Previous Inhabitants of Edom

<sup>20</sup>The sons of Seir the Horite, the people in the land: Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah,

<sup>21</sup>Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan—chiefs descended from the Horites, sons of Seir in Edom

<sup>22</sup>The sons of Lotan: Hori and Hemam; Lotan's sister was Timna.

<sup>23</sup>The sons of Shobal: Alvan, Manahath, Ebal, Shepho, and Onam

<sup>24</sup>The sons of Zibeon: Aiah and Anah (who found the hot springs in the countryside when he was pasturing Zibeon's donkeys)

<sup>25</sup>The children of Anah: Dishon and Oholibamah, Anah's daughter

<sup>26</sup>The sons of Dishon: Hemdan, Eshban, Ithran, and Cheran

<sup>27</sup>The sons of Ezer: Bilhan, Zaavan, and Akan

<sup>28</sup>The sons of Dishan: Uz and Aran

[29-30]

Gen 36:20-30

### Rulers of Edom

<sup>31</sup>The kings that ruled in Edom before any king ruled in Israel:

<sup>32</sup>Bela Ben-Beor ruled over Edom; his city was Dinhbabah. <sup>33</sup>He died, and

Jobab Ben-Zerah from Bozrah ruled. <sup>34</sup>He died, and

Husham from the land of the Teman ruled. <sup>35</sup>He died, and

Hadad Ben-Bedad (who defeated Midian in Moab) ruled. <sup>36</sup>He died, and

Samlah from Masrekah ruled. <sup>37</sup>He died, and

Shaul from Rehoboth on the River *Euphrates* ruled. <sup>38</sup>He died;

Baal-hanan Ben-Achbor ruled. <sup>39</sup>He died, and

Hadar ruled. His city was Pau; his wife was Mehetabel Bat-Matred Bat-Mezahab.

<sup>40</sup>The chiefs that descended from Esau by family, locality, and name: Timna, Alvah, Jetheth,  
<sup>41</sup>Oholibamah, Elah, Pinon, <sup>42</sup>Kenaz, Teman, Mibzar, <sup>43</sup>Magdiel, and Iram

**37:1**Jacob lived in Canaan, where his father had lived as a nomad. Gen 36:31-37:1

## <sup>2</sup>Jacob's Generations

When Joseph was still a youth of 17, he was pasturing the flock with his half-brothers, including the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives. He brought his father a bad report about what they were doing. <sup>3</sup>Now Israel loved Joseph more than his other sons because he was born when Israel was old. He made him a tunic with many colors in it. <sup>4</sup>His brothers saw that their father loved him more than them, so they despised him and wouldn't speak to him in a civil way.

<sup>5</sup>Joseph had a dream. When he told it to his brothers, they despised him more, <sup>6</sup>*"Let me tell you a dream I had. <sup>7</sup>We were tying up bundles in the field. My bundle stood up straight and yours gathered around and bowed to mine."* <sup>8</sup>His brothers asked, "*You're think you're going to reign over us? You're going to rule us?*" They hated him even more for his dreams and what he said.

<sup>9</sup>He told his brothers another dream he had, "*The sun, moon, and 11 stars were bowing down to me.*" <sup>10</sup>He told his father too, who scolded him, "*What's a dream like that mean? Are your brothers, your mother, and I really going to bow to you?*" <sup>11</sup>His brothers resented him, but his father wondered what it might mean. Gen 37:2-11

### **Joseph Sold by His Brothers**

<sup>12</sup>His brothers went to pasture their father's flock at Shechem. <sup>13</sup>Israel told Joseph, "*Your brothers are pasturing at Shechem? Go join them.*" <sup>14</sup>He told him to bring him word how they and the flock were doing. He sent him from the Valley of Hebron to Shechem. <sup>15</sup>A fellow found him walking in the countryside and asked him, "*What are you looking for?*"

<sup>16</sup>*"My brothers. Where are they pasturing the flock?"*

<sup>17</sup>*"They've moved on from here. I heard them say they were going to Dothan."*

Joseph trailed them to Dothan. Gen 37:12-17

<sup>18</sup>When they saw him in the distance, they said,

<sup>19</sup>*"Here comes the dreamer! <sup>20</sup>Let's kill him and throw him into one of the cisterns. We can say a wild animal ate him. Then let's see what comes of his dreams!"*

<sup>21</sup>But Reuben heard about their scheme and came to his rescue, “*Let’s not kill him.*” <sup>22</sup>*Don’t shed blood. Throw him into this cistern in the open country, but don’t lay hands on him.*” He intended to rescue him and get him back to his father. <sup>23</sup>When Joseph got to his brothers, they stripped off his multi-colored robe <sup>24</sup>and put him in an empty cistern. **Gen 37:18-24**

<sup>25</sup>They sat down to eat. When they looked up, a caravan of Ishmaelite *traders* was coming from Gilead with camels carrying aromatic gum, salve, and myrrh—headed for Egypt. <sup>26</sup>Judah said to his brothers, “*What’s in it for us if we kill our brother and cover up his blood?*” <sup>27</sup>*Let’s sell him to the Ishmaelites, not hurt him. He’s our brother, our own flesh.*” They agreed. <sup>28</sup>Then some of the Midianite traders (Ishmaelites) went by; they pulled him out of the cistern and sold him to them for 20 *pieces* of silver. They took him to Egypt. **Gen 37:25-28**

<sup>29</sup>Reuben went back to the cistern, and Joseph wasn’t in it. He tore his clothes! <sup>30</sup>He went to his brothers, “*The boy’s not there. What am I going to do?*” <sup>31</sup>They took Joseph’s robe and slaughtered a male goat. They dipped the robe in its blood <sup>32</sup>and took it to their father, “*We found this. See if it’s your son’s robe.*”

<sup>33</sup>He examined it, “*It’s his. A wild animal has torn him to pieces and eaten him!*”

<sup>34</sup>Jacob tore his clothes and put burlap around his waist and mourned for him many days. <sup>35</sup>His sons and daughters tried to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted, “*I’ll go down to Sheol mourning for him.*” His father cried over him. <sup>36</sup>Meanwhile, the Midianites sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the bodyguard. **Gen 37:29-36**

### **Judah and Tamar**

**38:1**About that time, Judah left his brothers and went down to visit an Adullamite named Hirah. <sup>2</sup>He saw the daughter of a Canaanite named Shua<sup>mas</sup>. He married her and slept with her. <sup>3</sup>She had a son he named Er, <sup>4</sup>another he named Onan, <sup>5</sup>and one he named Shelah. That happened at Chezib.

<sup>6</sup>Judah took a wife named Tamar for Er his firstborn. <sup>7</sup>But Er did what Yahveh considered evil, so he took Er’s life. <sup>8</sup>Judah told Onan, “*Sleep with your brother’s wife and perform your duty as a brother-in-law to her. Raise up offspring for your brother.*” <sup>9</sup>Onan knew the offspring wouldn’t be his; so when he slept with her, he ejected his semen on the ground so he wouldn’t provide offspring for his brother. <sup>10</sup>That displeased Yahveh; so he took his life too. <sup>11</sup>Judah told Tamar, “*Remain a widow in your father’s family till my son Shelah grows up.*” (He told himself, “*I’m afraid he’ll die like his brothers.*”) Tamar went and lived in her father’s family.

**Gen 38:1-11**

<sup>12</sup>After quite a while, Shua’s daughter, Judah’s wife, died. After the time of mourning, Judah went up to his sheepshearers at Timnah with his friend Hirah the Adullamite. <sup>13</sup>Tamar found out that her father-in-law was going there to shear his sheep. <sup>14</sup>She took off her widow’s

clothes, put on a veil, wrapped herself, and sat in the gate of Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah. She'd seen that Shelah had grown up, but *Judah* hadn't given her to him as a wife. <sup>15</sup>When Judah saw her, he thought she was a *shrine* prostitute, because she'd covered her face. <sup>16</sup>He turned aside to her by the road, and said, "*Let me sleep with you.*"

*"What will you give me?"*

<sup>17</sup>*"I'll send you a kid from the flock."*

*"Will you give me a pledge till you send it?"*

<sup>18</sup>*"What pledge do you want?"*

*"Your seal and cord, and the staff that's in your hand."*

He gave *them* to her and slept with her, and she got pregnant. <sup>19</sup>She got up and left, took off her veil, and put her widow's clothes back on. Gen 38:12-19

<sup>20</sup>When Judah sent the kid by his friend the Adullamite to get back the pledge, he couldn't find her. <sup>21</sup>He asked the men there, "*Where's the shrine prostitute that was by the road at Enaim?*"

*"There hasn't been any shrine prostitute here."*

<sup>22</sup>So he went back, "*I couldn't find her.* The men said there hasn't been any *shrine* prostitute there. <sup>23</sup>Judah said, "*Let her keep them so they don't ridicule us. I did send this kid, but you couldn't find her.*" Gen 38:20-23

<sup>24</sup>About three months later, Judah was informed, "*Your daughter-in-law Tamar has served as a shrine prostitute and got pregnant.*"

Judah said, "*Bring her out and burn her!*"

<sup>25</sup>While she was being brought out, she sent to her father-in-law, "*I'm pregnant by the man that owns these things. See whose signet ring, cords, and staff they are.*"

<sup>26</sup>Judah recognized them, "*She's better than I am, because I didn't give her to my son Shelah.*" He never slept with her again.

<sup>27</sup>When it was time for her to deliver, she was carrying twins. <sup>28</sup>As she was giving birth, one put out a hand, and the midwife tied a red *thread* on it, "*This one came out first.*" <sup>29</sup>But he pulled his hand back and his brother came out. The midwife said, "*What a 'breach' you've made for yourself*"; so he was named Perez. <sup>30</sup>Afterward his brother was born with the "red" *thread* on his hand. He was named Zerah. Gen 38:24-30

### Joseph and Potiphar's Wife

**39:**<sup>1</sup>The Ishmaelite traders had taken Joseph down to Egypt, and sold him to Potiphar, an Egyptian officer of Pharaoh, captain of the bodyguard. <sup>2</sup>Yahveh was with him, so he became successful in his master's house. <sup>3</sup>His master saw Yahveh was with him to make everything he did succeed. <sup>4</sup>He was pleased with Joseph and made him his personal servant. Joseph oversaw his household and everything he owned. <sup>5</sup>From the time he made him overseer, Yahveh blessed

his house, everything in it and in the field. <sup>6</sup>So he left everything in his charge. With him around, he didn't concern himself with anything except what to eat. Gen 39:1-6a

Joseph was good looking. <sup>7</sup>His master's wife looked at him with lust and said, "Lie with me." <sup>8</sup>But he refused,

*"With me here, my master doesn't concern himself with anything in the house. He's put me in charge of everything. <sup>9</sup>There's nobody higher than me, and he hasn't withheld anything from me except you because you're his wife. How could I do such a thing and sin against God?"*

<sup>10</sup>She hounded Joseph day after day, but he wouldn't give in to her. <sup>11</sup>One day he went into the house to work; none of the other men were inside. <sup>12</sup>She grabbed his cloak, "Lie with me!" He left his cloak in her hand and ran outside. <sup>13</sup>When she saw his cloak in her hand, <sup>14</sup>she yelled to the other men in her household,

*"Look, he brought us a Hebrew to abuse us. He came in to rape me. <sup>15</sup>When I screamed, he ran out and left his cloak beside me."*

<sup>16</sup>She left his cloak lying beside her till her husband came home. <sup>17</sup>Then she told him, "The Hebrew slave you brought us came in to abuse me. <sup>18</sup>When I screamed, he left his cloak and fled outside." Gen 39:6b-18

<sup>19</sup>When she said, "That's what your slave did to me," he was mad <sup>20</sup>and put him in jail with his prisoners. <sup>21</sup>Yahveh was with Joseph and made him a favorite of the chief jailer. <sup>22</sup>He committed the prisoners to his charge and made him responsible for whatever happened there. <sup>23</sup>The chief jailer didn't supervise anything under his charge. Yahveh prospered whatever Joseph did. Gen 39:19-23

### The Cupbearer and the Baker

**40:**<sup>1</sup>After that, the king's cupbearer and baker offended him. <sup>2</sup>Pharaoh was furious <sup>3</sup>and jailed them in the captain of the bodyguard's house, where Joseph was. <sup>4</sup>The captain put Joseph in charge of them, and he took care of them for some time. <sup>5</sup>The cupbearer and baker both had a dream the same night, each man's dream with its own meaning.

<sup>6</sup>When Joseph came to them in the morning, he saw how dejected they looked.

<sup>7</sup>"Why are you so down?"

<sup>8</sup>"We've had a dream nobody can interpret." Gen 40:1-8

<sup>9</sup>The chief cupbearer told Joseph his dream,

*"I saw a vine <sup>10</sup>that had three branches. It blossomed, and its clusters produced ripe grapes. <sup>11</sup>I had Pharaoh's cup in my hand. I took the grapes and squeezed them into it and gave it to him."*

<sup>12</sup>Joseph said,

*"The three branches represent three days. <sup>13</sup>In three days Pharaoh will put you back in office. You'll hand him the cup like before. <sup>14</sup>Just keep me in mind when that happens and get me out of this house. <sup>15</sup>I was kidnapped from the land of the Hebrews, and I haven't done anything here that warranted putting me in the dungeon."* Gen 40:9-15

<sup>16</sup>When the chief baker saw he'd interpreted sensibly, he told Joseph, "I dreamed I saw three baskets of white bread on my head. <sup>17</sup>The top basket had all kinds of baked food for Pharaoh, and birds were eating it."

<sup>18</sup>Joseph said,

*"The three baskets represent three days. <sup>19</sup>In three days Pharaoh will take off your head and impale you on a pole, and birds will peck away at your body."*

<sup>20</sup>Three days later, on his birthday, Pharaoh held a banquet for all his officials. He called up the chief cupbearer and the chief baker. <sup>21</sup>He gave the cupbearer his office back; he gave the cup to Pharaoh. <sup>22</sup>He impaled the baker like Joseph had interpreted, <sup>23</sup>but the cupbearer didn't remember to mention Joseph.

Gen 40:16-23

### Pharaoh's Dreams

**41:**<sup>1</sup>Two years later, Pharaoh dreamed he was standing by the Nile. <sup>2</sup>Seven healthy, well-fed cows came up from the river and started grazing on the marsh grass. <sup>3</sup>Seven scrawny, bony cows came up <sup>4</sup>and ate the seven healthy, well-fed ones. Then he woke up.

<sup>5</sup>He went back to sleep and had another dream. Seven heads of filled-out, good grain grew on a single stalk. <sup>6</sup>Seven thin, wind-scorched grain heads sprouted up <sup>7</sup>and swallowed the filled-out heads. Pharaoh woke up and realized it was a dream. <sup>8</sup>In the morning, *the dreams* haunted him. He sent for Egypt's astrologers and wise men. He told them the dreams, but no one could figure out what they meant.

Gen 41:1-8

<sup>9</sup>The cupbearer said to Pharaoh,

*"I remember my own sins today. <sup>10</sup>You were furious with us and confined me and the chief baker in the captain of the bodyguard's house. <sup>11</sup>We both had a dream the same night. <sup>12</sup>A Hebrew young man was with us there, a servant to the captain. We told him the dreams, and he interpreted them for us. <sup>13</sup>Things came about like he said. You gave me back my office but impaled the chief baker."*

Gen 41:9-13

<sup>14</sup>Pharaoh called for Joseph, and they hurried and brought him out of the dungeon. He shaved and changed clothes and went to Pharaoh. <sup>15</sup>Pharaoh told him, "I've had a dream that no one can interpret. I've heard that you can interpret dreams."

<sup>16</sup>"It's not me. God will give you a sensible answer."

<sup>17</sup>Pharaoh told Joseph,

*"I dreamed I was standing on the bank of the Nile. <sup>18</sup>Seven healthy, well-fed cows came up from the river and started grazing on the marsh grass. <sup>19</sup>Seven unhealthy, scrawny, boniest cows I'd ever seen anywhere in Egypt, <sup>20</sup>came up and ate the first seven cows. <sup>21</sup>Yet when they'd eaten them, you couldn't tell it. They were as scrawny as before. Then I woke up.*

*<sup>22</sup>"I also dreamed about seven filled-out, good grain heads that grew on a single stalk. <sup>23</sup>Seven withered, thin, wind-scorched grain heads sprouted up, <sup>24</sup>and swallowed the seven good heads. When I told the astrologers the dream, none of them could explain it to me."*

Gen 41:14-24

**<sup>25</sup>Joseph told him,**

*"Your dreams both mean the same thing. God has told you what he's going to do. <sup>26</sup>The seven good cows and seven good ears represent seven years. <sup>27</sup>The seven bony, scrawny cows that came up after them and the seven thin heads scorched by the east wind represent seven years of famine. [<sup>28</sup>] <sup>29</sup>Seven abundant years are coming on Egypt. [<sup>30</sup>] <sup>31</sup>The seven-year famine that follows will ruin the land. It'll be severe enough to erase the memory of previous abundance. <sup>32</sup>Repeating the dream emphasizes that God is determined to do it. He'll make it happen soon. <sup>33</sup>Now you can look for a discerning man to appoint over Egypt. <sup>34</sup>He can appoint land managers and exact a fifth of the crop during the seven abundant years. <sup>35</sup>They can gather the food during those years, store it up in cities under your authority, and guard it. <sup>36</sup>It can remain in reserve for the seven famine years so the land won't perish from the famine.*

Gen 41:25-36

### Joseph Made Ruler of Egypt

**<sup>37</sup>The plan made sense to him and his officials. <sup>38</sup>He asked, "Can we find anyone else like this who has a divine spirit in him?" <sup>39</sup>Pharaoh told Joseph,**

*"Since God has informed you about this, there's nobody more discerning and wise than you. <sup>40</sup>You'll be over my house, and my people will pay you homage. Only in regard to the throne will I have more authority than you. <sup>41</sup>I've set you over Egypt."*

**<sup>42</sup>Pharaoh took off his signet ring and put it on Joseph's finger, dressed him in fine linen, and put a gold chain around his neck. <sup>43</sup>He had him ride in his second chariot, and they declared ahead of him, "Bend the knee!" <sup>44</sup>Pharaoh told him, "I'm Pharaoh, but without your permission nobody will lift hand or foot anywhere in Egypt." <sup>45</sup>Pharaoh named him Zaphenath-paneah and gave him as a wife Asenath, daughter of Potiphera, priest of On.**

Gen 41:37-45

**<sup>46</sup>Joseph was 30 when he stood in front of Pharaoh. He went out from Pharaoh all over Egypt. <sup>47</sup>During the seven abundant years, the ground produced abundantly. <sup>48</sup>He gathered food**

during those years and put it in each city from its own fields. <sup>49</sup>He stored up so much grain that he stopped trying to measure it—like sand on the seashore.

<sup>50</sup>Before the first famine year, Asenath bore Joseph two sons. <sup>51</sup>He named the first son Manasseh, “*God has ‘made me forget’ my problems and my father’s family.*” <sup>52</sup>He named the second son Ephraim, “*God has made me ‘productive’ in the country where I suffered adversity.*”

<sup>53</sup>The seven abundant years came to an end, <sup>54</sup>and seven famine years set in—like Joseph had said. The famine spread over all the surrounding countries, but Egypt had food. <sup>55</sup>The entire country was famished, and the people appealed to Pharaoh for food. He told them to go to Joseph and do what he said. <sup>56</sup>When the famine had spread over the whole region, Joseph opened the storehouses and sold *grain* to the Egyptians. <sup>57</sup>People from all over the region came to Egypt to buy grain from him because the famine was severe everywhere.

Gen 41:46-57

### Joseph’s Brothers Come to Egypt

**42:1** Jacob found out that Egypt had grain and said to his sons, “*Why are you just looking at one another? I’ve heard that Egypt has grain. Go down and buy some so we can stay alive.*” <sup>2</sup>Ten of Joseph’s brothers went down, <sup>3</sup>but Jacob didn’t send Joseph’s full brother Benjamin with them; he was afraid something would happen to him. <sup>4</sup>His sons went with other people from Canaan because the famine wore on in Canaan too.

<sup>6</sup>Joseph governed the country and was the one that sold people *the grain*. His brothers came and bowed to the ground. <sup>7</sup>When he recognized them, he disguised himself and was gruff with them, “*Where are you from?*”

“Canaan; we came to buy food.”

<sup>8</sup>They didn’t recognize him. <sup>9</sup>He remembered his dreams about them, and said, “*You’re spies. You’ve come to look for weak places in our country.*”

<sup>10</sup>“No, my lord; we’ve come to buy food. <sup>11</sup>We’re honest men, not spies.”

<sup>12</sup>“No, you’ve come to look for weak places in our country!”

<sup>13</sup>“We’re 12 brothers, sons of one man in Canaan. The youngest is with our father and one has died.”

<sup>14</sup>“The truth is, you’re spies. <sup>15</sup>I’ll check out your claims. By Pharaoh’s life, you won’t leave here unless your youngest brother comes! <sup>16</sup>One of you, go back to get him while the others stay here confined so I can verify what you claim.”

<sup>17</sup>He put them in prison together for three days.

Gen 42:1-17

<sup>18</sup>The third day, he said,

“*Do this and live; I respect God:* <sup>19</sup>if you’re telling the truth, one of you can remain in custody. The rest can take grain for your households. <sup>20</sup>Bring your youngest brother, and you won’t die.”

That’s what they did.

<sup>21</sup>They said to one another, “*We’re guilty about our brother. We saw his distress when he pleaded with us, but we didn’t care. That’s why this distress has come on us.*”

<sup>22</sup>Reuben answered, “*Didn’t I tell you not to sin against the boy? But you wouldn’t listen. Now comes the reckoning for his blood.*”

<sup>23</sup>They didn’t know Joseph understood them; there had been a translator between them.

<sup>24</sup>He turned the other way and got tears in his eyes. But when he turned back around and spoke to them, he had Simeon bound right in front of them. <sup>25</sup>He gave orders to fill their bags with grain, put each man’s money back in his sack, and give them supplies for the return trip.

Gen 42:18-25

<sup>26</sup>They loaded their donkeys with grain and left. <sup>27</sup>When one of them opened his sack to feed his donkey where they stopped for the night, he saw his money in the top of the sack. <sup>28</sup>He told his brothers, “*My money’s been put back in my sack!*” Their hearts sank, and they *turned* to one another shaking, “*What’s God done to us?*”

<sup>29</sup>When they got to Canaan, they told their father what had happened,

<sup>30</sup>“*The lord of the land was gruff with us and accused us of being spies. 31But we told him, ‘We’re honest men, not spies. 32We’re 12 brothers. One’s dead and the youngest is with our father in Canaan.’ 33The man said, ‘Here’s how I’ll find out if you’re telling the truth: leave one of your brothers. Take the grain for your households and go. 34Bring your youngest brother to me so I can tell you’re not spies. I’ll release your brother, and you can do business here.’*”

Gen 42:26-34

<sup>35</sup>When they emptied their sacks, every man’s bag of money was in his sack. When they and their father saw their money, they were scared. <sup>36</sup>Jacob said, “*You’ve deprived me of my children: Joseph’s gone, Simeon’s gone, and you want to take Benjamin! Everything’s going against me!*”

<sup>37</sup>Reuben told him, “*You can put my two sons to death if I don’t bring him back. Put him in my care.*”

<sup>38</sup>But Jacob said, “*He’s not going. His brother’s dead; he’s the only one left. If something happens to him on the trip, you’ll send my gray hair down to Sheol in grief.*”

Gen 42:35-38

### Joseph’s Brothers Return to Egypt

<sup>43:1</sup>The famine continued to be severe. <sup>2</sup>When they’d eaten their grain from Egypt, their father said, “*Go back and buy us a little food.*”

<sup>3</sup>But Judah told him,

“*The man strictly warned us that we wouldn’t see him unless our brother came with us. 4If you send our brother with us, we’ll go down and buy you food. 5If you don’t, we won’t go.*”

<sup>6</sup>Israel said, “*Why did you do me such a bad turn by telling the man you had another brother?*”

<sup>7</sup>They said,

*“He questioned us closely about us and our relatives, ‘Is your father still alive? Do you have another brother?’ We were just answering his questions. Could we possibly know he’d say, ‘Bring your brother down here?’”*

<sup>8</sup>Judah said,

*“Send the boy with me, and we, you, and your children will live. <sup>9</sup>I’ll be his guarantee. Hold me responsible. If I don’t bring him back, you can blame me permanently. <sup>10</sup>If we hadn’t delayed, we could have gone back twice.”* Gen 43:1-10

<sup>11</sup>Israel told them,

*“If it has to be that way, in your bags take some of the best things our land produces. Take them to the man as a gift—some salve, honey, aromatic gum and myrrh, pistachio nuts, almonds. <sup>12</sup>Take twice the money that someone put back in your sacks. Maybe it was a mistake. <sup>13</sup>Take your brother too. <sup>14</sup>May God Almighty [El-Shaddai] grant you mercy so he’ll release your other brother and Benjamin. If I grieve, I grieve.”*

<sup>15</sup>They took the gift, twice the money, and Benjamin, and went down to meet Joseph.

Gen 43:11-15

<sup>16</sup>When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he told his palace overseer, “*Bring them into the house, butcher an animal, and prepare for them to eat with me at noon.*” [<sup>17</sup>].

<sup>18</sup>They were afraid, “*Because of the money brought back the first time, he’s taking us in to arrest us and make slaves out of us and our donkeys.*” <sup>19</sup>They went and talked to the overseer at the entrance to Joseph’s house,

*“Sir, we really did come down the first time to buy food. <sup>21</sup>When we stopped at a place to stay and opened our sacks, each man’s money was in the top of the sack. We’ve brought it back. <sup>22</sup>We’ve brought other money to buy food this time. We don’t know who put our money back in our sacks before.”*

*“<sup>23</sup>Don’t worry. Your and your father’s God put your treasure in your sacks. I handled it.”*

Then he brought Simeon out. <sup>24</sup>He took the brothers into Joseph’s house, gave them some water to wash their feet, and fed their donkeys some hay. <sup>25</sup>They got their gift ready for when Joseph came at noon; they’d heard they were to eat a meal there.

Gen 43:16-25

<sup>26</sup>When he came home, they brought their gift into the house and bowed to the floor.

<sup>27</sup>He asked them how they were doing, “*How’s your elderly father? Is he still alive?*”

*“<sup>28</sup>He’s alive and well.” They bowed again in homage.*

<sup>29</sup>He looked up and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother’s son, “*Is this your youngest brother you told me about? God be gracious to you, son.*”

<sup>30</sup>He hurried out because he was deeply moved over his brother, and looked for a place to cry. He went back to his room and cried, <sup>31</sup>then washed his face and came back. He controlled himself and said, “*Serve the meal.*” <sup>32</sup>They served him by himself, *the brothers* by themselves, and the Egyptians that ate with him by themselves. (Egyptians wouldn’t eat with Hebrews. That would have been demeaning.) <sup>33</sup>They were sitting, the firstborn according to his birthright, the youngest according to his youth. They looked at one another amazed. <sup>34</sup>He took portions to them from his own table; Benjamin’s portion was 5 times any of theirs. They ate with him as much as they wanted.

Gen 43:26-34

### Joseph’s Silver Cup

<sup>44:1</sup>Then he told his palace overseer, “*Fill their sacks with as much as they can transport. Put each man’s money in his sack, <sup>2</sup>and put my silver cup with the money in the top of the youngest man’s sack.*”

<sup>3</sup>At daylight they sent them away with their donkeys. <sup>4</sup>They’d just got out of the city when Joseph told his palace overseer, “*Follow them. When you catch up with them, say, ‘Why repay good with bad? <sup>5</sup>Isn’t this what my lord drinks out of and uses for fortunetelling? You’ve done wrong.’*” <sup>6</sup>He caught up with them and told them that.

<sup>7</sup>“*Why say something like that? We wouldn’t do that. <sup>8</sup>We brought back the money we found in our sacks. Why would we steal silver or gold from your lord’s house? <sup>9</sup>Kill whoever you find it with, and we’ll be your slaves.*”

<sup>10</sup>“*All right. The one that has it will be my slave. The rest of you will go free.*”

<sup>11</sup>They hurried and lowered their sacks to the ground and opened them. <sup>12</sup>He searched from the oldest to the youngest and found the cup in Benjamin’s sack. <sup>13</sup>They tore their clothes and loaded their donkeys and went back to the city.

Gen 44:1-13

<sup>14</sup>When Judah and his brothers got to Joseph’s house, he was still there. They prostrated themselves on the floor. <sup>15</sup>He asked, “*What’ve you done? Don’t you know a man like me can tell fortunes?*”

<sup>16</sup>Judah said, “*What can we say? How can we explain this? God has found out our sin. We’re your slaves, we and the one he found the cup with.*”

<sup>17</sup>He said, “*I wouldn’t do that. The one the cup was with will be my slave. The rest of you can go up to your father in peace.*”

Gen 44:14-17

<sup>18</sup>Judah came up to him and said,

“*May I say something to you? Don’t be mad; you’re equal to Pharaoh. <sup>19</sup>You asked us if we had a father or brother. <sup>20</sup>We told you we had an elderly father and a young brother that was born when our father was old. He’s the only one left from his mother, and his father loves him (a full brother of his is dead).*”

<sup>21</sup>“Bring him down so I can see him.”  
<sup>22</sup>“The boy can’t leave his father. His father would die.”  
<sup>23</sup>“Unless he comes with you, you won’t see me again.”  
<sup>24</sup>“We went up and told him what you said.  
<sup>25</sup>“Later, he told us to come back and buy more food.  
<sup>26</sup>“But we said, ‘We can’t. If our youngest brother’s not with us, we won’t be able to see the man.’  
<sup>27</sup>“You know my wife had two sons. <sup>28</sup>One of them went out and must have been torn to pieces by wild animals. I haven’t seen him since. <sup>29</sup>If you take this one and something happens to him, you’ll send my gray hair down to Sheol in grief.” Gen 44:18-29  
<sup>30-31</sup>“If I go back and he sees the boy’s not with us, he’ll die. His life is wrapped up in the boy’s life. We’ll send his gray hair down to Sheol in grief. <sup>32</sup>I became a guarantee for the boy, I said I’d bear the blame permanently if I didn’t bring him back. <sup>33</sup>Let me stay in his place so he can go with his half-brothers. <sup>34</sup>How could I go up to my father if he’s not with me? I’d see how hard it would be on him.” Gen 44:30-34

### Joseph Reveals Himself to His Brothers

<sup>45</sup><sup>1</sup>Joseph couldn’t control himself in front of everybody that was standing there. He cried out, “Everybody out!” Nobody was with him when he introduced himself to his brothers. <sup>2</sup>He cried so loud the Egyptians heard it, and Pharaoh’s household heard about it. <sup>3</sup>He told his brothers,

“I’m Joseph. Is my father still alive?”

They were so overwhelmed by his presence they couldn’t answer him.

<sup>4</sup>Then he said, “Come closer.”

“I’m Joseph that you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup>Don’t grieve or be angry with yourselves. God sent me ahead of you to save you. <sup>6</sup>The famine has been in the land for two years. There won’t be any plowing or harvesting for five more years. <sup>7</sup>God sent me ahead to preserve you as a remnant here and keep you alive by a great rescue. <sup>8</sup>It wasn’t so much you as God. He’s made me like a father to Pharaoh, manager over his household and ruler over Egypt. <sup>9</sup>Hurry back and tell my father his son Joseph says, ‘God has made me lord over Egypt. Come down to me right away. <sup>10</sup>You’ll live in the territory of Goshen near me—you, your children, grandchildren, flocks and herds, everything you own. <sup>11</sup>I’ll take care of you there so your household and possessions won’t perish. The famine’s going to last five more years.’ <sup>12</sup>You and my brother Benjamin can see I’m telling you this directly. <sup>13</sup>Tell my father about my splendor in Egypt and everything you’ve seen. Hurry and bring him down here.”

<sup>14</sup>Then he embraced Benjamin and cried, and Benjamin cried and embraced Joseph. <sup>15</sup>Joseph kissed his brothers and cried on them. Afterward they talked. Gen 45:1-15

<sup>16</sup>When Pharaoh's household heard that Joseph's brothers had come, they were happy.

<sup>17</sup>Pharaoh said,

*"Tell them to load their animals and go to Canaan, <sup>18</sup>get their father and households, and come to me. I'll give them the best land in Egypt. They'll eat off the rich land. <sup>19</sup>Have them take wagons for their wives and little ones, and bring their father.*

*<sup>20</sup>Tell them not to worry about their personal belongings; they'll have the best in Egypt."* Gen 45:16-20

<sup>21</sup>Joseph gave them wagons and supplies for their trip. <sup>22</sup>He gave each of them a change of clothes, but he gave Benjamin 300 pieces of silver and 5 changes of clothes. <sup>23</sup>He sent his father 10 donkeys loaded with the best things Egypt had to offer and 10 female donkeys loaded with grain, bread, and provisions for his father's trip back. <sup>24</sup>He sent them off, "Don't quarrel on the trip." <sup>25</sup>They went up to Canaan <sup>26</sup>and told their father, "Joseph's still alive! He's actually the ruler of Egypt!" He was stunned! He couldn't believe it! <sup>27</sup>When they told him what Joseph had said and he saw the wagons he sent to take him back, he revived. <sup>28</sup>"Joseph must still be alive! I'll go see him before I die." Gen 45:21-28

### **Joseph Brings His Brothers to Egypt**

**46:**<sup>1</sup>Israel set out with everything he had. He went to Beersheba and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. <sup>2</sup>God spoke to him in a vision at night,

"Jacob, Jacob."

"Yes?"

<sup>3</sup>"I'm God, your father's God. Don't be afraid to go down to Egypt. I'll make a big nation out of you there. <sup>4</sup>I'll go down with you and bring you back. Joseph will close your eyes."

<sup>5</sup>He left Beersheba. His sons hauled him, their little ones, and wives in the wagons Pharaoh sent. <sup>6-7</sup>They took him, his sons, grandsons, daughters, and granddaughters, their livestock and property they'd gained in Canaan, and went to Egypt. Gen 46:1-7

<sup>8</sup>The names of Jacob's sons that went to Egypt

Reuben, Jacob's firstborn: <sup>9</sup>his sons Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi

10 Simeon: his sons Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jachin, Zohar—and Shaul, the son of a Canaanite woman

11 Levi: his sons Gershon, Kohath, Merari

12 Judah: his sons Er, Onan, Shelah, Perez, Zerah (Er and Onan died in Canaan.)

Perez's sons: Hezron and Hamul

13 Issachar: his sons Tola, Puvvah, Iob, and Shimron

**<sup>14</sup>Zebulun:** his sons Sered, Elon, Jahleel

**<sup>15</sup>The descendants of Leah that she bore to Jacob in Paddan-aram with his daughter Dinah, were 34.**

**<sup>16</sup>Gad:** his sons Ziphion, Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon, Eri, Arodi, and Areli

**<sup>17</sup>Asher:** his sons Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi, Beriah (and their sister Serah)  
Beriah's sons: Heber and Malchiel.

**<sup>18</sup>The descendants of Zilpah that Laban gave his daughter Leah, were 16.**

**<sup>19</sup>Joseph:** his sons Manasseh and Ephraim, **<sup>20</sup>born to him in Egypt by Asaneth, daughter of Potiphera, priest of On**

**<sup>21</sup>Benjamin:** his sons Bela, Becher, Ashbel, Gera, Naaman, Ehi, Rosh, Muppim, Huppim, and Ard

**<sup>22</sup>The descendants of Rachel born to Jacob were 14.**

**<sup>23</sup>Dan:** his son Hushim

**<sup>24</sup>Naphtali:** his sons Jahzeel, Guni, Jezer, and Shillem

**<sup>25</sup>The descendants of Bilhah that Laban gave his daughter Rachel, were 7.**

**<sup>26</sup>66 direct descendants of Jacob went to Egypt (not including his daughters-in-law) <sup>27</sup>plus Joseph's two sons born there. 70 people in Jacob's household ended up Egypt.** **Gen 46:8-27**

**<sup>28</sup>Jacob** sent Judah on ahead so Joseph could give them directions to Goshen. **<sup>29</sup>Joseph** prepared his chariot and went there to meet his father. When he met him, he hugged him and cried on his shoulder a long time. **<sup>30</sup>Israel** told him, “*Now I can die! I've seen you're still alive!*”

**<sup>31</sup>Joseph** told his brothers and his father's family,

“*I'll go tell Pharaoh you've arrived from Canaan <sup>32</sup>with your herdsmen, flocks and herds, and everything you have. <sup>33</sup>When he calls you and asks what your occupation is, <sup>34</sup>tell him you and your ancestors have always been herdsmen. Say that so you can live in Goshen; shepherds have low status in Egypt.*”

**Gen 46:28-34**

### **Jacob's Family Settles in Goshen**

**<sup>47:1</sup>Joseph** went in and told Pharaoh, “*My father and brothers, their flocks and herds, and everything they own have come from Canaan to Goshen.*” **<sup>2</sup>He** took five of his brothers and presented them to Pharaoh. **<sup>3</sup>Pharaoh** asked,

“*What's your occupation?*”

*"We and our ancestors have been shepherds. <sup>4</sup>We've come here to live a while. There's no pasture in Canaan because the famine's severe. Would you let us live in Goshen?"*

**5-6**Pharaoh told Joseph,

*"Egypt is at your disposal. Settle your father and brothers in the best land—in Goshen. If you know any capable men among them, have them manage my livestock."*

**7**Joseph brought Jacob and introduced him to Pharaoh, and Jacob blessed Pharaoh.

**8**Pharaoh asked, *"How old are you?"*

**9***"130. My years have been few and unpleasant, not as many as my ancestors."* **10**He blessed Pharaoh and went out.

**11**Joseph settled his father and brothers, and gave them a possession in Rameses, the best land in Egypt. **12**He provided his father, brothers, and *Jacob's* household with food in proportion to how many children they had.

**Gen 47:1-12**

### **Joseph and the Famine in Egypt**

**13**There wasn't any food in the whole region because the famine was so severe. Egypt and Canaan were starving. **14**Joseph collected all the money in Egypt and Canaan for the grain people bought, and brought it to Pharaoh's house. **15**When the money was gone in Egypt and Canaan, the Egyptians came to Joseph, *"Give us food. Why should we die in front of you? Our money's gone."* **16**Joseph said, *"Trade your livestock for food."* **17**So they brought their livestock, and he gave them food in exchange for horses, flocks, herds, and donkeys that year.

**18**At the end of the year, they came and said,

*"We won't hide it from you that we've spent all our money, and the livestock belong to you. We don't have anything left except our bodies and land. **19**Why should we and our land die in front of you? Buy us and our land for food, and we and our land will be Pharaoh's slaves. Give us seed so we can stay alive, and the land won't be desolate."*

**Gen 47:13-19**

**20**Joseph bought the land in Egypt for Pharaoh. Every Egyptian sold his field because the famine was so severe. The land became Pharaoh's. **21**He moved the people to the cities from all over Egypt. **22**He didn't buy the priests' lands because they lived off their allotments from Pharaoh. **23**Joseph told the people,

*"I've bought you and your land for Pharaoh today. Here's seed so you can sow the land. **24**At harvest, give a fifth to Pharaoh, and four-fifths will be yours for planting and for feeding your household and little ones."*

**25**They said, *"You've saved us! Be gracious to us, my lord, and we'll be Pharaoh's slaves."* **26**Joseph made it a statute about land in Egypt that's still in force: Pharaoh would have a fifth. The priests' land was all that didn't become Pharaoh's.

**Gen 47:20-26**

<sup>27</sup>Israel kept living in Goshen, acquired property, and became very numerous. <sup>28</sup>Jacob lived in Egypt 17 years, 147 years in all. <sup>29</sup>When the time came to die, he called Joseph,

*"Do me a favor. Put your hand under my thigh and deal with me in kindness and truth. Don't bury me in Egypt. <sup>30</sup>When I lie down with my ancestors, carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their burial place."*

*"I'll do that."*

<sup>31</sup>*"Swear to me."*

He swore to him.

Then Israel bowed at the head of the bed.

Gen 47:27-31

### **Jacob Blesses Ephraim and Manasseh**

**48:1**After this, they told Joseph, *"Your father is failing."* So he took his sons Manasseh and Ephraim with him. **2**When they told Jacob, *"Joseph's here,"* Israel gathered his strength and sat up in bed. **3**He told Joseph,

*"God Almighty [El-Shaddai] appeared to me in Luz and blessed me: <sup>4</sup>I'll make you countless, a group of nations. I'll give your descendants this land as a permanent possession.' <sup>5</sup>Your two sons born in Egypt before I came will be considered mine alongside Reuben and Simeon. (<sup>6</sup>Your later offspring will be yours.) They'll inherit with their brothers. <sup>7</sup>When I was coming from Paddan, sadly, Rachel died in Canaan on the way before we got to Ephrath (Bethlehem). I buried her there."*

Gen 48:1-7

**8**When Israel saw Joseph's sons, he asked, *"Who are these?"*

**9***"They're the sons God gave me here."*

*"Bring them to me so I can bless them."*

**10**Israel's sight was so weak from age he could hardly see. Joseph brought them, and he kissed them and hugged them. **11**He told Joseph, *"I never expected to see you, and God has let me see your children too!"* **12**Joseph took them from his knees and bowed to the ground. **13**Joseph took Ephraim with his right hand toward Israel's left, and Manasseh with his left hand toward Israel's right. **14**But Israel put his right hand on Ephraim's head, crossing his hands, even though Manasseh was the firstborn. **15**He blessed Joseph,

*"God in whose presence my forefathers Abraham and Isaac lived,*

*God that's been my shepherd my whole life,*

*<sup>16</sup>the angel that redeemed me from every misfortune,  
bless the boys.*

*May I and my forefathers live on in them,  
and they become a large number."*

Gen 48:8-16

<sup>17</sup>When Joseph saw his father put his right hand on Ephraim's head, it displeased him. He took hold of his father's hand to move it to Manasseh's head, <sup>18</sup>"*Not that way, father. This is the firstborn. Put your hand on his head.*"

<sup>19</sup>But his father refused, "*I know, son; I know. He'll become numerous too. But his younger brother will be more numerous. Many nations will descend from him.*" <sup>20</sup>He blessed them that day,

*"By you Israel will pronounce blessing and say,  
'May God make you like Ephraim and Manasseh!'"*

He put Ephraim ahead of Manasseh.

<sup>21</sup>Then he told Joseph,

*"I'm about to die, but God will be with you and take you back to where your ancestors lived. <sup>22</sup>I'm giving you one portion more than your brothers, which I took from the Amorite with my sword and bow."*

Gen 48:17-22

### Jacob Blesses His Sons

<sup>49:1</sup>Jacob called for his sons, "*Gather around so I can tell you what will happen to you.*

*"Gather together, sons of Jacob;  
listen to your father Israel."*

<sup>3</sup>"Reuben, my firstborn,  
my power and the first issue of my virility,  
preeminent in dignity and power,  
<sup>4</sup>uncontrolled like water.

*You won't have preeminence,  
because you defiled your father's bed;  
you got on my marriage couch."*

Gen 49:1-4

<sup>5</sup>"Simeon and Levi are brothers;  
their swords are violent tools.

*"Let my soul not join their council;  
let my honor not agree with their assembly;  
because in their anger they killed people,  
in their unrestraint they lamed oxen.*

*"Cursed be their fierce anger,  
their cruel wrath.  
I'll disperse them in Jacob  
and scatter them in Israel."*

Gen 49:5-7

**8** “Judah, your brothers will praise you;  
     your hand will be on your enemies’ neck;  
     your father’s sons will bow to you.

**9** Judah is a lion’s whelp;  
     son, you’ve risen up from the prey.  
     He crouches and lies down like a lioness;  
     who dares to rouse him?

**10** The scepter won’t leave Judah,  
     or the ruler’s staff from between his feet  
     till Shiloh comes.  
     The nations will obey him.

**11** He ties his foal to a grapevine,  
     his donkey colt to the best vine.  
     He washes his clothes in wine,  
     his robes in the juice from grapes.

**12** His eyes are stained from wine;  
     his teeth are white from milk.”

Gen 49:8-12

**13** “Zebulun will live by the lake;  
     he’ll be a haven for boats;  
     his border will extend toward Sidon.”

**14** “Issachar is a strong donkey,  
     lying between the sheepfolds.  
**15** When he sees how good his resting place is  
         and how pleasant his land is,  
         he’ll bend his shoulder to carry burdens  
         and submit to forced labor.”

Gen 49:13-15

**16** “Dan will judge his people,  
     as one of the tribes in Israel.  
**17** He’ll be a snake along the road,  
     a pit viper in the path  
     that bites a horse’s heels,  
     so its rider falls off backward.

**18** I wait for your salvation, Yahveh.”

**19** “Raiders will raid Gad,

*but he'll raid back.*

Gen 49:16-19

**20** “Asher will eat tasty food  
and produce food fit for kings.”

**21** “Naphtali is an untamed doe  
that bears beautiful fauns.”

**22** “Joseph is a fruitful limb,  
a fruitful bough beside a spring;  
its branches extend out over the wall.

**23** The archers bitterly attacked him,

shot at him, and harassed him;

**24** but his bow stayed strong,

and his arms maintained their endurance

because of the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob  
(from there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel),

**25** because your father's God helps you,

because the Almighty blesses you

with blessings of the deep that lies below,

blessings of the animals and the womb.

**26** Your father's blessings

have surpassed his ancestors' blessings

up to the utmost boundary of the everlasting hills.

May they be on Joseph's head,

the distinguished one among his brothers.”

Gen 49:20-26

**27** “Benjamin is a ravenous wolf.

He eats prey in the morning  
and divides spoil at dusk.”

### Jacob's Death and Burial

**28** That's what their father told his sons when he blessed them, each with an appropriate blessing. **29** Then he charged them,

“I'm about to pass on to my people. Bury me with my ancestors in the cave in the field of Ephron the Hittite, **30** in Machpelah east of Mamre, in Canaan, in the cave Abraham bought for a burial site. **31** They buried Abraham and his wife Sarah there. They buried Isaac and his wife Rebekah there. That's where I buried Leah.” **[32]** Gen 49:27-32

<sup>33</sup>When Jacob finished charging his sons, he drew his feet into bed, breathed his last, and passed on to his people. <sup>50:1</sup>Joseph fell on his father's face and cried and kissed him. <sup>2</sup>He told the physicians to embalm him. <sup>3</sup>The embalming took 40 days, and the Egyptians mourned him 70 days.

Gen 49:33-50:3

<sup>4</sup>After the time of mourning, Joseph told Pharaoh's advisors,

*"If I'm pleasing to you, tell Pharaoh <sup>5</sup>my father had me swear, 'I'm about to die. Bury me in the grave I dug for myself in Canaan.' Let me go up and bury him. Then I'll be back."*

<sup>6</sup>Pharaoh said, "Go up and bury him like he had you swear." Gen 50:4-6

<sup>7</sup>So Joseph went up to bury him. Pharaoh's officials, the senior members of his household, the senior officers of Egypt, Joseph's household, his brothers, and his father's family went with him. They left only their little ones, flocks, and herds in Goshen. <sup>9</sup>A large company of chariots and cavalry also went up. <sup>10</sup>When they came to Atad's threshing floor, not far from the Jordan, they mourned greatly. Joseph observed a week of mourning. <sup>11</sup>When the Canaanites saw the mourning, they said, "This is extreme 'mourning' for 'Egyptians'"; so they named it Abel-mizraim. <sup>12</sup>His sons did for him what he'd said. <sup>13</sup>They carried him to the Cave of Machpelah east of Mamre, which Abraham had bought for a burial site from Ephron the Hittite along with the field. <sup>14</sup>After he'd buried him, Joseph and the whole company went back to Egypt.

Gen 50:7-14

### Joseph Reassures His Brothers

<sup>15</sup>When Joseph's brothers thought about the fact that their father was dead, they said "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for what we did to him?" <sup>16</sup>They sent him a message, "Before our father died, he charged us <sup>17</sup>to tell you, 'Forgive your brothers' sin; they did wrong.' Forgive the servants of your father's God." Joseph cried when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers came and prostrated themselves, "We're your servants." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said,

*"I'm not God, am I? <sup>20</sup>You meant to harm me, but he turned it out for good to bring about saving lots of people. <sup>21</sup>Don't worry. I'll keep taking care of you and your little ones."*

He reassured them and dealt with them graciously.

Gen 50:15-21

### The Death of Joseph

<sup>22</sup>Joseph and his father's family stayed in Egypt. <sup>23</sup>He saw three generations of Ephraim's descendants and claimed the sons of Machir Ben-Manasseh as his own. <sup>24</sup>He told his brothers, "I'm about to die, but God will take care of you, and take you up to the land he swore

*to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”* <sup>25</sup>He had the sons of Israel swear, “*Take my bones up from here.*” <sup>26</sup>Joseph died at 110; his body was embalmed and placed in a coffin in Egypt. **Gen 50:22-26**

Version by Virgil Warren: christir.org

