

GENESIS

Conversational Version

The Whole Creation

1¹In the beginning God created earth and sky.

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

⁶God said, "*Let an expanse separate the water ⁷below it from the water above it.*" It happened. ⁸He called the expanse "sky." Morning and evening made day two.

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

Gen 1:1-13

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

²⁰God said, "*Let the water teem with animals, and let birds fly in the sky above the land.*" ²¹He 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. ²²He blessed them, "*Reproduce and fill the water in the oceans, and let birds multiply on the land.*" ²³Morning and evening made day five.

Gen 1:14-23

²⁴God said, "*Let the ground produce animals that reproduce after their kind: cattle, small animals, living things.*" It happened. ²⁵He 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.

²⁶God 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."

²⁷So he created people in his own image, created them male and female, ²⁸and 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.”* ²⁹⁻³⁰*Green plants that yield seed and trees that bear fruit I’ve given you and the animals for food.”* It happened. ³¹He saw that everything he’d made was very good. Morning and evening made day six.

^{2:1-2}The seventh day God had finished creating the earth and sky and everything in them, and he rested from his work. ³He blessed the seventh day and set it aside because he’d finished working that day. Gen 1:24-2:3

The Creation of Mankind

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

⁸The LORD God planted an orchard in the East in Eden and put the man there. ⁹From the ground he 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. ¹⁰A river flowed out of Eden to water the orchard. Then it separated into four rivers: ¹¹⁻¹²the Pishon, that flows around the land of Havilah, where there’s fine gold, bdellium, and onyx; ¹³the Gihon, that flows around Cush; ¹⁴the Tigris, that flows east of Assyria; and the Euphrates. Gen 2:4-14

¹⁵The LORD God put the man in the orchard to trim it and take care of it. ¹⁶He told him,

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

¹⁸The LORD God said, *“It’s not good for the man to be by himself. I’ll make him a helper that corresponds to him.”* ¹⁹Out of the ground he’d 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. ²⁰He named the cattle, birds, and wild animals; but he didn’t find a helper that corresponded to him. Gen 2:15-20

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

*“This is bone from my bones,
flesh from my flesh.
She’ll be called ‘woman,’
because she was taken out of ‘man.’”*

²⁴That’s why a man is to leave his parents and unite with his wife, and they’ll become one physical identity. ²⁵The man and his wife were both naked, but they weren’t self-conscious. Gen 2:21-25

The Fall

3¹The snake was more devious than any other wild animal the LORD God had made. It asked the woman, *“Did God really tell you^{pl} not to eat the fruit of any tree in the orchard?”*

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

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

⁶When 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. ⁷Their eyes were opened, and they realized they were naked. They sewed fig leaves together to make loin cloths.

Gen 3:1-7

Punishments for Sin

⁸When they heard God walking in the orchard in the evening, they hid among the trees. ⁹He^Y called out for the man, *“Where are you?”*

¹⁰The 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.”*

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

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

Gen 3:8-13

¹⁴The LORD 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

¹⁶He 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.”*

¹⁷He 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

²⁰Adam called his wife Eve because she was the mother of everyone that’s “lived.” ²¹The LORD God made clothes for them out of skin. ²²He^y 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”* ²³He sent them out of the orchard to cultivate the ground he’d taken them from. ²⁴He 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 the LORD’s help.”* ²She also had Abel. Abel herded sheep; Cain cultivated the ground. ³In time, Cain brought some produce to offer to the LORD. ⁴Abel brought some firstborn from the best in his flock. The LORD regarded Abel and his offering favorably, ⁵but not Cain and his offering. It made Cain mad.

⁶The LORD God asked him, *“What are you mad about? Why are you sad? ⁷Won’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.”*

⁸Cain told Abel *about it*. While they were in the field, Cain attacked him and killed him.

Gen 4:1-8

⁹The LORD 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. ¹²When you cultivate it, it won’t produce like it did. You’ll roam around and be on the run in the world.”*

¹³Cain said,

“I can’t take such punishment! ¹⁴You’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!”

¹⁵The LORD told him, *“Whoever kills you I’ll pay back seven times as much.”* He put a mark on him so nobody would kill him. ¹⁶He went away from the LORD and settled in Nod, east of Eden. **Gen 4:9-16**

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

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

²³Lamech told his wives,

*“Adah and Zillah, listen;
wives of Lamech, listen to what I’m saying.
I killed a man for wounding me,
a young man for striking me.
²⁴If Cain was avenged 7 times over,
Lamech will be avenged 77 times.”*

²⁵Adam 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.”* ²⁶Seth had a son he named Enosh.

People began to call on the LORD.

Gen 4:17-26

5:¹ Adam’s Descendants

God created people to be like himself. ²He made them male and female, blessed them, and called them human.

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

⁶Seth lived 105 years and had Enosh. ⁷He lived 807 years after that and had sons and daughters. ⁸Altogether he lived 912 years and died. **Gen 5:1-8**

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

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

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

¹⁸Jared lived 162 years and had Enoch. ¹⁹He lived 800 years after that and had sons and daughters. ²⁰Altogether he lived 962 years and died. **Gen 5:9-20**

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

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

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

³²Noah was 500 years old and had Shem, Ham, and Japheth. **Gen 5:21-32**

Evil Multiplies

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

³The LORD God said, *"My breath won't remain in humans as long because they're physical. They'll come to live 120 years."*

⁴There were important men then and later when the sons of God had relations with women and had children. They became powerful men of old, men of renown. ⁵God saw that people had become so wicked that every motive was evil. ⁶He was grieved from having made them. ⁷*"I'll wipe them out along with the animals, crawling things, and birds."* ⁸But Noah was pleasing to him. **Gen 6:1-8**

⁹Noah's Generations

Noah was a good man, blameless in his time, one that followed God. ¹⁰He had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. ¹¹The world had become corrupt and full of violence. [¹²]

¹³God 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. ¹⁴Build an ark out of gopher wood, build rooms in it, and coat it with pitch inside and out. ¹⁵Make it 450 x 75 x 45ft tall. ¹⁶Put a window in it 1½ft from the top and a door in the side of it. Build 3 floors in it. ¹⁷I'm going to bring a flood on the world to destroy everything that breathes, everything on land. ¹⁸But I'll make a covenant with you. Get in the

ark with your wife, sons, and their wives. ¹⁹Take a male and female from every kind of animal to keep them alive; ²⁰birds, animals, and crawling things will come to you. ²¹Gather as much food as you and the animals will eat.”

²²Noah followed his instructions.

Gen 6:9-22

The Great Flood

^{7:1}Then the LORD 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.”

⁵Noah followed his instructions.

Gen 7:1-5

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

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

Gen 7:6-12

¹³Noah, his wife, his sons, and their wives went into the ark the same day. ¹⁴So did every wild animal, all the cattle, every small animal that moves around on the ground, and every kind of bird after their kind. ¹⁵Two by two everything that breathes went into the ark to Noah—like God told him. ¹⁶The LORD closed *the door* behind him.

¹⁷The flood kept coming for **40 days**. ¹⁸As it got deeper and deeper, the ark floated on it. ¹⁹⁻²⁰Water covered the tall mountains everywhere by some 22ft. ²¹Land animals died—birds, cattle, wild animals, swarming things, people—²²everything that breathed. ²³Only Noah and what was with him in the ark were left. ²⁴The 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. ²The fountains in the deep and the floodgates in the sky closed, and the rain stopped. ³The water receded steadily for **150 days**. ⁴**On the seventeenth day, seventh month**, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. ⁵The water kept going down till **the tenth month. The first day, tenth month**, mountains became visible. **Gen 8:1-5**

⁶After **40 days** Noah opened the window of the ark, ⁷and sent out a raven that flew around till the water dried up. ⁸Then he sent out a pigeon to see if the water had gone down, ⁹but 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. ¹⁰After **a week** he sent it out again. ¹¹It came back toward evening with a new olive leaf in its beak; so Noah knew the water had gone down. ¹²Another **week** later he sent it out again, and it didn't come back.

¹³⁻¹⁴On the **first day, first month, 601st 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. ¹⁵God told him ¹⁶to leave^{pl} the ark ¹⁷and take the animals out so they could reproduce and multiply. ¹⁸Noah's family went out, ¹⁹and the animals left the ark after their kind. Gen 8:6-19

Life After the Flood

²⁰Noah built an altar to the LORD, took *one* from every *ceremonially* clean animal and bird, and offered burnt offerings on it. ²¹The LORD 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. ²²As long as the world remains, there will be sowing time and harvest, heat and cold, summer and winter, day and night."

9:¹God blessed Noah and his sons,

"Reproduce and repopulate the world. ²Animals 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. ³You can eat anything that lives and moves as well as the green plants, ⁴but don't eat the blood with the meat. ⁵I'll demand your life from every animal and everyone ⁶that 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

⁸God told Noah and his sons,

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

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

¹⁹Noah's sons began to repopulate the world.

Gen 9:8-19

²⁰Noah began to cultivate the ground and planted a vineyard. ²¹He drank the wine and got drunk and uncovered himself in his tent. ²²Ham saw him naked and told his brothers outside.

²³Shem and Japheth held a cloak over their shoulders, walked backwards, and looked away so they wouldn't see him naked.

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

“Accursed be Canaan. He'll be the lowest of servants to his brothers.

²⁶Bless the LORD, Shem's God. Canaan will serve Shem. ²⁷May God give Japheth an extensive inheritance. He'll live in Shem's tents, and Canaan will serve him.”

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

The Table of Nations

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

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

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

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

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

Gen 10:1-5

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

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

Raamah was the father of Sheba and Dedan.

⁸Cush was also the father of Nimrod, who became prominent in the world, ⁹a great hunter before the LORD. It became an expression, *“Like Nimrod, a great hunter before the LORD.”* ¹⁰His kingdom stretched across Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh in Shinar. ¹¹From that land he went to Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth-Ir, Calah, ¹²and Resen, a big city between Nineveh and Calah.

¹³Mizraim became the father of the Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim,

¹⁴Pathrusim, Casluhim (ancestors of the Philistines), and Caphtorim.

Gen 10:6-14

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

²⁰Those were Ham's descendants by clan, language, territory, and nation. **Gen 10:15-20**

²¹Shem, Japheth's older brother, became the ancestor of Eber's descendants. ²²Shem's sons were Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, and Aram.

²³Aram's sons were Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash.

²⁴Arpachshad became the father of Shelah, father of Eber.

²⁵Eber had two sons.

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

³¹Those were Shem's descendants by clan, language, territory, and nation.

³²Those 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

11¹The whole world was speaking the same language. ²As people spread east, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. ³They said, "*Let's make bricks and fire them thoroughly.*" They used brick for stone and tar for mortar. ⁴"*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.*"

⁵The LORD came down to see the city and tower they were building,

⁶"*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.* ⁷*Let's confuse their language so they can't understand each other.*"

⁸The LORD scattered them across the world, and they stopped building their city. ⁹They called the city Babel because that's where the LORD "confused" the language of the world. **Gen 11:1-9**

¹⁰Shem's Generations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

²⁷Terah's Generations

Terah was the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran father of Lot. ²⁸Haran died before his father Terah in Ur of the Chaldeans, where he was born.

²⁹Abram and Nahor married. Abram's wife was Sarai; Nahor's wife was Micah, daughter of Haran and sister of Iscah. ³⁰Sarai couldn't have children. ³¹Terah 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. ³²Terah died in Haran at age 205. Gen 11:27-32

The Call of Abram

12:¹The LORD told Abram,

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

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

*³I'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."*

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

⁷The LORD appeared to Abram, *"I'm going to give your descendants this land"*; so he built an altar to him. ⁸He 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 the LORD and called on him. ⁹He kept on migrating toward the Negev.

Abram and Sarai in Egypt

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

Gen 12:7-13

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

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

Gen 12:14-20

Abram and Lot Separate

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

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

“Let’s not have conflicts between us or our herdsmen; we’re relatives. ⁹The whole land lies open to you. Separate from me. If you go left, I’ll go right; or vice versa.”

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

¹⁴After Lot separated from Abram, the LORD said,

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

¹⁸Abram moved and settled by the grove of oaks that belonged to Mamre at Hebron and built an altar to the LORD. **Gen 13:14-18**

Abram Rescues Lot

14:¹Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim ²fought Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Adman, Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (Zoar). ³Those 5 joined forces in the Valley of Siddim (the Dead Sea Sea). ⁴They'd served Chedorlaomer for 12 years, then revolted. ⁵That year, he and his allied kings came and defeated the Rephaim in Asheroth-karnaim, the Zuzim in Ham, the Emim in Shaveh-kiriathaim, ⁶and the Horites in Mount Seir, as far as El-paran by the open country. ⁷Then they turned back to En-mishpat (Kadesh) and conquered the Amalekites and Amorites in Hazazon-tamar. ⁸The kings of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim, and Bela (Zoar) pitched battle against them in the Valley of Siddim—⁹5 kings against 4. ¹⁰The 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. ¹¹*The four kings* took the goods and food from Sodom and Gomorrah and left. ¹²They also took Lot and what he had because *he* was living in Sodom. **Gen 14:1-12**

¹³One 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. ¹⁴When Abram heard they'd captured his nephew, he mustered 318 trained men born in his house, and pursued *them* all the way to Dan. ¹⁵He divided his men against them at night. He and his forces defeated them and chased them all the way to Hobah, north of Damascus. ¹⁶He brought back the goods, Lot, and *Lot's* possessions, along with the women and other captives. **Gen 14:13-16**

Melchizedek Blesses Abram

¹⁷When 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). ¹⁸Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of God Most High, brought out bread and wine ¹⁹and blessed Abram, "*May you be blessed by God Most High, owner of earth and sky,* ²⁰*who delivered your enemies to you.*" Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

²¹The king of Sodom said to Abram, "*Give me the captives and keep the goods.*"

²²Abram said,

"I've sworn to the LORD God Most High, owner of earth and sky, ²³that 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. ²⁴I'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 Abram

15:¹After that, a message from the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "*Don't worry, Abram; I'm your shield. You'll have a great reward.*"

²Abram asked,

“LORD God, what will you give me? I don’t have any children; Eliezer of Damascus is my heir. ³Since you haven’t given me any offspring, a man born in my household will inherit.”

⁴A message from the LORD came to him,

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

⁶Abram trusted him, and the LORD considered him good because of it.

⁷God said, *“I’m the LORD who brought you out of Ur in Chaldea to give you this land.”*

⁸*“What guarantee do I have of that?”*

⁹*“Bring me a three-year-old heifer, goat, and ram, and a turtledove and young pigeon.”*

¹⁰He brought them, cut them in half—except for the birds—and laid the halves across from each other. ¹¹Birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but he shooed them away. **Gen 15:1-11**

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

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

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

“I’ll give your descendants this land from the River of Egypt to the Euphrates River, along with ¹⁹the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, ²⁰Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaim, ²¹Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites, 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. ²Sarai told Abram, *“The LORD has kept me from having children. Sleep with my maid. Maybe I can have children through her.”* Abram took her advice. ³That happened after Abram had lived in Canaan for 10 years. ⁴He slept with Hagar, and she became pregnant. When she saw she was pregnant, she started disrespecting her mistress. ⁵Sarai 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. The LORD decide between you and me.”

⁶Abram 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

⁷The angel of the LORD 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.”

⁹The angel told her,

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

¹³She called the LORD Elroi because she said, *“I’m still alive after ‘I saw him.’”* ¹⁴So the well was called Beer-lahai-roi between Kadesh and Bered. ¹⁵Hagar gave Abram a son he named Ishmael.

¹⁶He was 86 when she had him.

Gen 16:7-16

Abram Renamed Abraham

^{17:1}When Abram was 99, the LORD appeared to him, *“I’m God Almighty [El-Shaddai]. Follow me faithfully, ²and I’ll multiply you many times over.”* ³Abram 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. ⁵Your name won’t be Abram anymore; it’ll be Abraham because I’ll make you ‘the ancestor of many nations.’ ⁶I’ll make you really numerous. Nations will descend from you; kings will come out of you. ⁷With you and your descendants I’ll establish my permanent covenant to be your God. ⁸I’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 ¹¹as a covenant sign between us. ¹²Circumcise 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. ¹³Circumcision will be the ongoing, physical covenant sign in sons and servants. ¹⁴Any 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. ¹⁶I’ll bless her and give you a son by her. She’ll be the mother of many nations; kings will come from her.”*

¹⁷Abraham 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? ¹⁸If only Ishmael would live under your blessing!”

¹⁹God said,

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

²¹But my covenant will be with Isaac that Sarah will have next year.”

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

Gen 17:15-27

The Birth of Isaac Promised

^{18:1}The LORD 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. ²He 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^{sg} please, ⁴let me bring some water so you can wash your feet and rest under the tree. ⁵I’ll bring a loaf of bread so you can refresh yourselves. Then you can go on.”*

“All right.”

⁶Abraham hurried to Sarah in the tent, *“Quick! Get three measures of fine flour ready, knead it, and make bread cakes.”* ⁷He ran to the herd and took a choice, tender calf, and gave it to a servant to fix quickly. ⁸He 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

⁹Then they asked, *“Where’s Sarah?”*

“In the tent.”

¹⁰He 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. ¹¹Abraham and Sarah were getting old. She was too old to have children.

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

¹³The LORD asked Abraham,

“Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Will I really have a child when I’m so old?’

¹⁴Is there anything I can’t do? Like I said, at this time next year Sarah will have a son.”

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

“Oh yes, you did.”

Gen 18:9-15

Abraham Intercedes for Sodom

¹⁶The men got up and looked down toward Sodom. Abraham was walking with them to see them off. ¹⁷The LORD said,

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

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

Gen 18:16-21

²²The other men turned and started toward Sodom while Abraham was still standing in front of the LORD. ²³Abraham came and said,

“Will you sweep away the good with the bad? ²⁴Supposing there are 50 good people in the city; won’t you spare it for their sake? ²⁵Surely 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?”

²⁶The LORD said, *“If I find 50 good people in Sodom, I’ll spare the whole place.”*

Gen 18:22-26

²⁷Abraham answered, *“I’ve dared to speak to you though I’m only dust and ashes, ²⁸Suppose there are 45, will you destroy the whole city because of 5?”*

“I won’t destroy it if I find 45.”

²⁹*“Suppose there are 40?”*

“I won’t do it for the 40.”

³⁰*“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.”

³³As 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.”

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

⁶But 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. ¹⁰But the angels reached out and pulled him in and shut the door. ¹¹They struck the men blind, big and small; so they wore themselves out *groping around* for the door.

¹²The 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 the LORD that he has sent us to destroy it.*” **Gen 19:9-13**

¹⁴Lot went out to tell his daughters’ fiancés, “*Get up! Get out of here! The LORD is going to destroy the city.*” But they acted like he was joking. ¹⁵When 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.*” ¹⁶He hesitated, so the angels grabbed his hand and his wife’s and daughters’ hands. The LORD had mercy on him and took him outside the city.

¹⁷Then 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.*”

¹⁸Lot said,

“*No, Sir! ¹⁹I’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. ²⁰That town is near enough to run to. Isn’t it small? Let me escape there to save my life.*”

²¹“*All right, I won’t overthrow it.* ²²*Hurry and get on over there! I can’t do anything till you do.*” The town was Zoar. **Gen 19:14-22**

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

²⁷Abraham got up early *and went* to where he’d stood with the LORD. ²⁸He looked down toward Sodom, Gomorrah, and the valley, and saw smoke coming up as from a furnace. ²⁹When

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

³⁰Lot 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. ³¹The older daughter told the younger one,

“There’s not a man around to come into us in the normal way. ³²Let’s get our father drunk on wine and lie with him so we can preserve our family through him.”

³³They 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. ³⁴The 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.”* ³⁵They 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. ³⁶So both daughters got pregnant from their father. ³⁷The firstborn had a boy she named Moab (ancestor of today’s Moabites). ³⁸The younger daughter had a boy too and named him Ben-ammi (ancestor of the Ammonites).

Gen 19:30-38

Abraham and Abimelech

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

⁴Abimelech hadn’t come near her, and he said,

“Lord, will you kill a blameless nation? ⁵Didn’t he say she was his sister, and she say he was her brother? I’ve done this in integrity and innocence.”

⁶God 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**

⁸Abimelech got up early and called his officials and told them. They were really afraid.

⁹He 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**

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

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

The Birth of Isaac

²¹¹The LORD kept his promise to Sarah. ²She became pregnant and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time God had indicated. ³He named him Isaac ⁴and circumcised him the eighth day like God said. ⁵Abraham was 100 when *Isaac* was born. ⁶Sarah 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

Hagar and Ishmael Sent Away

⁸The child grew and was weaned, and Abraham held a big feast the day he was weaned. ⁹Sarah saw Hagar's son making fun of *Isaac* ¹⁰and told Abraham, *"Get rid of her and her son. He's not going to inherit with my son."* ¹¹Abraham agonized over it, ¹²but God told him,

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

¹⁴Abraham 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. ¹⁵When the water in the skin was gone, she left him under a bush ¹⁶and sat down about a bowshot away, *"Don't let me watch him die."* She cried out loud. ¹⁷God 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."* ¹⁸Go get him up and hold him by the hand; I'll make a big nation out of him." ¹⁹God caused her to notice a well. She went and filled the skin with water and gave him a drink. ²⁰⁻²¹God 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

²²At that time, Abimelech and Phicol, commander of his army, said to Abraham,
*"God's with you whatever you do. ²³So 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."*

²⁴*"I swear it."*

²⁵But Abraham complained to him about the well his servants had seized.

²⁶Abimelech said, *"I don't know who did that. I hadn't heard about it."*

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

³⁰*"Take them as a sign of agreement that I dug this well."* ³¹He called the place Beersheba because the two of them took an "oath" at that "well." ³²Abimelech and Phicol went back to Philistine territory. ³³Abraham planted a tamarisk tree there and called on the LORD, the eternal God. ³⁴He lived in Philistine territory quite a while. **Gen 21:22-34**

God Tests Abraham

22:¹After this, God tested Abraham, *"Abraham."*

"Yes"

²*"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."*

³Abraham 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.

⁴On the third day, Abraham saw it in the distance. ⁵He told his young men, *"Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I are going up there to worship and come back."* ⁶Abraham 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.

⁷Isaac 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**

⁹They 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. ¹⁰He took a knife to kill him, ¹¹but the angel of the LORD 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."

¹³Then 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. ¹⁴He called the place The LORD Will Provide [Yahveh-jireh], as it's still said, *"In the 'LORD's' mountain he'll 'provide.'"* **Gen 22:9-14**

¹⁵The angel called to Abraham again from the sky,

¹⁶*“I’ve sworn by myself¹⁷ to multiply your descendants like stars in the sky and sand on the shore. Your descendants will conquer the cities of their enemies¹⁸ and bless all nations because you’ve obeyed me.”*

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

Nahor’s Sons

²⁰After that, Abraham heard,

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

Gen 22:15-24

The Death of Sarah

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

^[5] ⁶*“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.”*

⁷Abraham stood up and bowed to the local people,

⁸*“If you’ll let me bury my dead, approach Ephron son of Zohar for me, ⁹to 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

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

¹²Abraham bowed ¹³and told him, *“I’ll pay you the price for the field. Accept it so I can bury my dead there.”*

¹⁴He answered, ¹⁵*“Listen, a piece of land worth 10 lbs ^{400 shekels} of silver—what’s that between us? Bury your dead.”*

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

Gen 23:10-20

A Wife for Isaac

^{24:1}Abraham was getting older, and the LORD had blessed him in every way. ²He told his oldest servant that managed everything he owned,

“Put your hand under my thigh ³and swear by the LORD God of earth and sky that you won’t choose a wife for my son from the Canaanites where I’m living. ⁴Go 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! ⁷The LORD 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. ⁸If she doesn’t want to come with you, you’ll be free from this oath. Just don’t take my son back there.”

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

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

“LORD, my master’s God, make me successful today and be kind to my master. ¹³I’m standing by the well, and the daughters of men in the city are coming out to draw water. ¹⁴The 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.”

¹⁵Before 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. ¹⁶The girl was beautiful, a virgin. She went down to the spring, filled her jar, and came back up. ¹⁷The servant hurried over to her, *“Let me have a drink from your jar.”* **Gen 24:10-17**

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

²⁴*“Bethuel son of Milcah, Nahor’s wife. ²⁵We have plenty of straw and feed, and room for you to stay.”*

²⁶The man bowed low in worship to the LORD ²⁷and said, *“Bless the LORD 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**

²⁸The girl ran to tell her mother’s household. ²⁹Rebekah’s brother Laban rushed out to *meet* the man at the spring. ³⁰When 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. ³¹*“Come in, blessed by the LORD! Why stand out here? The house is ready, and there’s room for your camels.”* **Gen 24:28-31**

³²He 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. ³³But when *Laban* brought him food, *Abraham’s servant* said, *“I won’t eat till I’ve told you my business.”*

“Go ahead.”

³⁴*“I’m Abraham’s servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, so he’s become wealthy in flocks and herds, silver and gold, servants and maidservants, camels and donkeys. ³⁶His wife Sarah had a son when she was old, and Abraham has willed everything to him. ³⁷He made me swear, ‘Don’t choose a wife for my son from the Canaanites where I live. ³⁸Go to my father’s family to find him a wife.’ ³⁹I said, ‘What if she doesn’t want to come back with me?’ ⁴⁰He said, ‘The LORD I serve will send his angel with you to make your journey successful. ⁴¹You’ll be free from my oath if you get to my relatives and they won’t give her to you.’* **Gen 24:32-41**

⁴²*“I came to the spring today and said, ‘LORD, God of Abraham, make my journey successful. ⁴³I’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,’ ⁴⁴and 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.’ ⁴⁵Before 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.’ ⁴⁶Right 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. ⁴⁸I 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. ⁴⁹Tell 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.”*

⁵⁰Laban and Bethuel said,

“Since the thing comes from the LORD, 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 the LORD has said.”* **Gen 24:47-51**

⁵²When Abraham’s servant heard it, he bowed to the ground in front of the LORD. ⁵³He brought out silver and gold articles, and clothes for Rebekah, and gave precious things to her

brother and mother. ⁵⁴He and his men ate and spent the night. When they got up, he said, *“Let me go to my master.”*

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

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

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

⁵⁸*“Will you go with this man?”*

“Yes.”

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

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

May your descendants conquer the cities of their enemies.”

⁶¹Rebekah got up with her servant girls and mounted the camels the man had with him. He took her and left. **Gen 24:52-61**

⁶²Isaac had come from a trip to Beer-lahai-roi because he was living in the Negev. ⁶³He had gone out to meditate in the field toward evening and looked up and saw camels coming. ⁶⁴Rebekah saw him and got down from the camel. ⁶⁵She asked the servant, *“Who is the man walking in the field to meet us?”*

“He’s my master.”

She put on her veil.

⁶⁶The servant told Isaac what all he’d done. ⁶⁷Isaac 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

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

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

⁴Midian’s sons were Ephah, Ephraim, Hanoch, Abida, and Eldaah.

Those descended from Keturah.

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

¹²Ishmael’s Generations

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

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

¹⁹Isaac's Generations

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

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

²⁷When the boys grew up, Esau became a skilled hunter, an outdoorsman. Jacob stayed around home, living in tents. ²⁸Isaac liked Esau because he had a taste for game; Rebekah liked Jacob. ²⁹One day when Jacob was cooking stew, Esau came in from the countryside famished. ³⁰He told Jacob, "*Let me have some of that 'red' stew. I'm starving.*" (So he was called Edom.)

³¹*"Sell me your birthright first."*

³²*"I'm about to die. What good's a birthright?"*

³³*"Swear to me first;"* so he swore to him and gave him his birthright. ³⁴Then Jacob gave him bread and lentil stew. He ate it, got up, and left. **Gen 25:27-34**

Isaac and Abimelech

26:¹Another famine came over the region besides the one in Abraham's time. Isaac went to Gerar, to Abimelech, king of the Philistines. ²The LORD appeared to him,

³*"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* ⁵*because Abraham obeyed me, kept my charges, commandments, statutes, and laws."*

⁶So Isaac lived in Gerar. ⁷When 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. ⁸When he'd been there a long time, Abimelech looked out the window, and saw Isaac caressing Rebekah. ⁹He called him, *"She has to be your wife! Why say she was your sister?"*
"For fear that I'd die on account of her."

¹⁰Abimelech 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."* ¹¹Abimelech charged everybody, *"I'll execute whoever touches this man or his wife."*
Gen 26:1-11

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

¹⁸He 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. ¹⁹But when Isaac's servants dug in the valley and found a well with flowing water, ²⁰the herdsmen at Gerar "quarreled" with his herdsmen, *"That's our water!"* so he named the well Esek. ²¹They dug another well, and they "quarreled" over that one too; so he named it Sitnah. ²²He moved and dug another well. They didn't quarrel over it; so he named it Rehoboth because he said, *"Finally, the LORD has made 'room' for us to prosper here."*
Gen 26:12-22

²³He went up to Beersheba, ²⁴and the LORD 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."* ²⁵He built an altar and called on the LORD. He pitched his tent there, and his servants dug a well.

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

"Why did you come to me? You despise me and drove me away."

²⁸*"We can see the LORD's been with you, so we said, 'Let's take an oath between us now.' Let us make a treaty with you: ²⁹you won't harm us like we haven't done anything but good to you and sent you away on good terms. You're the LORD's blessed."*

³⁰He held a feast for them, and they ate *together*.
Gen 26:23-30

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

³⁴When Esau was 40, he married two Hittite wives: Judith daughter of Beer and Basemath daughter of Elon. ³⁵They were a grief to Isaac and Rebekah. Gen 26:31-35

Isaac Blesses Jacob

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

“Yes?”

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

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

“I overheard your father tell your brother, ⁷‘Bring me some game and make me a tasty dish. I’ll bless you in the LORD’s presence before I die.’ ⁸Listen, son.

⁹Bring me two choice kids from the flock so I can make a dish your father likes.

¹⁰Then take it to him so he can bless you before he dies.” Gen 27:1-10

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

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

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

¹⁸He 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?”*

“The LORD our God helped me.”

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

²²Jacob went up to him, and he felt him, *“It’s Jacob’s voice but Esau’s hands.”* ²³He 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. ²⁶Then he said, *“Come and kiss me, son.”* ²⁷He went and kissed him. When he smelled his clothes, he blessed him,

“You smell like a field the LORD 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

³⁰No sooner had Isaac finished blessing him and he'd left than Esau came in from hunting.

³¹He made delicious food too and took it to his father, *"Sit up, Father, and eat your son's game so you can bless me."*

³²Isaac said, *"Who are you?"*

"Esau, your firstborn."

³³Isaac 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."*

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

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

³⁶Esau 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.

³⁹Isaac 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

⁴¹Esau 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."*

⁴²When his threat reached Rebekah, she called Jacob,

"Your brother is consoling himself with the thought of killing you. ⁴³Run off to my brother in Haran. ⁴⁴Stay with him ⁴⁵till your brother's anger wears off. Then I'll send for you. Why should I mourn for both of you the same day?"

⁴⁶Rebekah 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

28:¹Isaac called Jacob, blessed him, and charged him,
“Don’t marry a Canaanite. ²Go to Paddan-aram, to Bethuel your mother’s father, and choose a wife from Laban your uncle. ³May God Almighty [El-Shaddai] bless you and make you numerous so you’ll become a group of nations. ⁴May 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.”
⁵Isaac sent Jacob to Paddan-aram, to Laban son of Bethuel the Aramean.

Esau Marries an Ishmaelite

⁶Esau saw that Isaac had blessed him, sent him to Paddan-aram to find a wife, and charged him not to marry a Canaanite. ⁷He saw that Jacob had obeyed his parents ⁸and that Isaac didn’t like Canaanite women. ⁹So he went to Ishmael and—besides the wives he had—married Ishmael’s daughter Mahalath/*Bashemath*, sister of Nebaioth. **Gen 28:1-9**

Jacob’s Dream

¹⁰Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran. ¹¹After sundown he stopped for the night and lay down with a stone under his head. ¹²He 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. ¹³The LORD stood at the top of it and said,

“I’m the LORD God of Abraham and your father Isaac. I’ll give you and your descendants the ground you’re lying on. ¹⁴They’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. ¹⁵I’ll protect you wherever you go, and bring you back here. I won’t leave you till I’ve done what I’ve promised.”

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

¹⁸He got up early and took the stone that was under his head, set it up as a marker, and poured olive oil on it. ¹⁹He called the place Bethel (named Luz before) ²⁰and vowed, *“If God protects me on this trip, gives me food and clothes, ²¹and brings me back to my father’s family safely, then the LORD will be my God. ²²This 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

29¹Jacob continued on his trip to the country in the east. ²Up 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. ³When all the flocks got there, they'd roll the stone off the well, water the sheep, and put it back. ⁴Jacob asked them, *"Brothers, where are you from?"*

"Haran."

⁵*"Do you know Laban son of Nahor?"*

"Yes."

⁶*"How is he?"*

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

⁷Jacob 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."*

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

Gen 29:1-12

¹³When 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. ¹⁴Laban said, *"For sure, you're my flesh and bone."* Jacob stayed with him a month.

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

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

¹⁹Laban said, *"It's better to give her to you than to anybody else. Stay on with me."* ²⁰Jacob worked seven years for Rachel, but they seemed like just a few days because he loved her so much.

Gen 29:13-20

²¹Then Jacob told Laban, *"Give me my wife so I can sleep with her. I've completed my time."* ²²Laban gathered the men in the place and made a feast. ²³In the evening he brought Leah to him, and Jacob slept with her. ²⁴Laban also gave his maid Zilpah to Leah as a servant. ²⁵In 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?"*

²⁶But Laban said, *"It's not the custom here to marry off the younger before the firstborn. ²⁷Complete the bridal week for this one, and we'll give you the other one too for another seven years' work."*

²⁸Jacob completed her week, and Laban gave him Rachel as a wife. ²⁹He 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

³¹The LORD saw that Leah wasn't loved, and opened her womb, but Rachel was barren. ³²Leah had a son she named Reuben, *"Because the LORD has 'seen' my misery. Surely my husband will love me now."* ³³She had another son, *"Because the LORD has 'heard' that I'm not loved, he gave me this son too"*; so she named him Simeon. ³⁴She had another son, *"This time my husband will be 'attached' to me, because I've borne him three sons"*; so she named him Levi. ³⁵She became pregnant again and bore Jacob a son and said, *"This time I'll 'praise' the LORD"*; so she named him Judah. Then she stopped having children. **Gen 29:31-35**

30:1When 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!"*

²Jacob'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"*; ⁴so she gave him Bilhah as a wife. ⁵She became pregnant and had a son. ⁶Rachel said, *"God has 'vindicated' me. He's heard me and given me a son"*; so she named him Dan. ⁷Rachel's maidservant had a second son. ⁸So Rachel said, *"I've 'wrestled' hard with my sister and won"*; so she named him Naphtali. **Gen 30:1-8**

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

¹⁴During 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."* ¹⁵But she said, *"Is it a small matter for you to take my husband? Would you take my son's mandrakes too?"* ¹⁶When 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. ¹⁷God listened to Leah, and she had a fifth son. ¹⁸Leah said, *"God has paid me my 'wages' because I gave my maid to my husband"*; so she named him Issachar. ¹⁹She had a sixth son, ²⁰*"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. ²¹Later she had a daughter she named Dinah. ²²God remembered Rachel, listened to her, and opened her womb. ²³So she had a son and said, *"God has taken away my disgrace."* ²⁴She named him Joseph, *"May the LORD give me 'another' son."* **Gen 30:9-24**

Jacob's Prosperity

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

²⁷But Laban said to him, *"If it pleases you, stay. I've seen that the LORD has blessed me because of you."* ²⁸*Name your wages; I'll pay it."*

²⁹But Jacob said,

"You know how I've worked for you and how your livestock fared with me." ³⁰*You didn't have much before I came, but it has increased to a big herd. The LORD has blessed you wherever I turned. But when will I provide for my own family?"*

³¹Laban 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: " ³²*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."* ³³*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."*

³⁴*"All right."*

Gen 30:25-34

³⁵That 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. ³⁶Laban put three-days' distance between himself and Jacob, and Jacob fed the rest of Laban's flocks. ³⁷Then Jacob took fresh poplar, almond, and plane stakes, and peeled white stripes around them. ³⁸He 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*. ³⁹So the flocks mated by the stakes, and brought forth striped, speckled, and spotted young. ⁴⁰Jacob 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. ⁴¹In 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. ⁴²But 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. ⁴³*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."* ²He saw that Laban's attitude had changed. ³The LORD told him, *"Go back to the land of your ancestors and relatives. I'll be with you."*

⁴Jacob sent for Rachel and Leah to come to his flock in the pasture. ⁵He told them, *"Your father's attitude toward me has changed, but my father's God has been with me."* ⁶You know I worked hard for him, ⁷but he cheated me and switched my pay ten times. But God didn't let him hurt me. ⁸If 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. ⁹That's how God took your father's livestock and gave them to me. ¹⁰At the time when the flock was mating, I looked up and saw in a dream that the male goats were striped, speckled, and mottled. ¹¹Then God's angel said in the dream, 'Jacob,' and I said, 'Yes?' ¹²Look 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. ¹³I'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."

¹⁴Rachel and Leah answered,

"Do we still have any inheritance in our father's family? ¹⁵Doesn't he treat us like foreigners? He's sold us and completely used up our purchase price. ¹⁶The wealth God has taken from him clearly belongs to us and our children; do what God has told you."

Gen 31:1-16

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

Gen 31:17-21

²²Three days later, Laban heard Jacob had left. ²³He took some of his relatives and chased him for a week. He caught up with him in the hill country in Gilead. ²⁴God came to Laban in a dream at night, *"Don't say anything to Jacob good or bad."* ²⁵Jacob had pitched his tent in the hill country, and Laban and his relatives also camped there. ²⁶Laban said to Jacob,

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

³¹Jacob answered him,

"I left secretly because I was afraid you'd take your daughters away from me by force. ³²The 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

³³Laban 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. ³⁴She'd put the household idols in a camel's saddle and sat on them. Laban rummaged through the tent but didn't find them. ³⁵She 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

³⁶Jacob fussed at Laban,

"What's my transgression? What's my sin that you've hotly chased me?

³⁷*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.* ³⁸*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.* ³⁹*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.* ⁴⁰*That's how I was: in the daytime the heat consumed me; at night the frost kept me awake.* ⁴¹*I worked 14 years for your two daughters and 6 for your flocks. You switched my pay ten times.* ⁴²*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

⁴³Laban 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?" ⁴⁴*Let's make a treaty, a witness between us."*

⁴⁵Jacob set up a stone marker. ⁴⁶He told his relatives to gather up some rocks; they made a cairn of rocks and ate a covenant meal beside it. ⁴⁷Laban called it Jegar-sahadutha; Jacob called it Galeed. ⁴⁸Laban said, "*This 'mound' serves as a 'witness' between us*"; so they named it Galeed ⁴⁹(also called Mizpah) because he said,

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

Jacob swore out of respect for his father Isaac. ⁵⁴He offered a sacrifice on the mountain and called his relatives to eat and spent the night there. ⁵⁵In 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

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

³He 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.’”*

⁶The messengers came back to Jacob and said, *“We went to Esau; he’s coming to meet you with 400 men.”* ⁷Jacob 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.”*

⁹He said,

“God of my grandfather Abraham and my father Isaac, the LORD who told me to go back to my country and my relatives, and you’d make me prosper, ¹⁰I 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. ¹¹Protect me from Esau. I’m afraid he might attack me and the mothers of my offspring. ¹²You 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

¹³He spent the night there. Then he chose from what he had with him a gift for Esau: ¹⁴200 female goats, 20 male goats, 200 ewes, 20 rams, ¹⁵30 milking camels and their colts, 40 cows and 10 bulls, 20 female donkeys and 10 male donkeys. ¹⁶He gave them to his servants, *“Go on ahead and space out the droves.”* ¹⁷He told the first drove, *“When Esau meets you and asks who they belong to and where you’re going, ¹⁸say, ‘They belong to Jacob. They’re a gift to you. Jacob is behind us.’”* ¹⁹He 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.”* ²¹His gift passed on ahead while he spent that night in the camp.

Gen 32:13-21

Jacob Wrestles with a Man

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

“I won’t let you go unless you bless me.”

²⁷*“What’s your name?”*

“Jacob.”

²⁸*“It won’t be Jacob anymore. It’ll be Israel; you’ve ‘wrestled with God’ and men and prevailed.”*

²⁹*“Tell me your name.”*

“Why are you asking?” That’s where he blessed him.

³⁰Jacob named the place Peniel; *“I’ve seen ‘God face to face,’ but I’m still alive.”* ³¹The sun was coming up as he crossed Penuel, and he was limping because of his hip. ³²Israelites 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

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

“Children God has graciously given me.”

Gen 33:1-5

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

⁸Esau asked, *“What do you mean by all this?”*

Jacob said, *“To please you.”*

⁹But Esau said, *“I have plenty, brother. Keep what you have.”*

¹⁰*“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.”* ¹¹*Take the gift I’ve brought you; God has been generous with me; I have plenty.”*

He kept urging him, so he took it.

¹²Esau said, *“Let’s travel on. I’ll go ahead of you.”*

¹³But 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.” ¹⁴*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.”

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

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

Dinah and the Shechemites

34:¹Leah's daughter Dinah went out to visit the daughters in the area. ²When Shechem son of Hamor the Hivite, the prince of the territory, saw her, he took her and lay with her. ³He was deeply attracted to her, and loved her, and spoke tenderly to her. ⁴Shechem spoke to his father, *"Get me this young girl for a wife."* ⁵Jacob heard that he'd defiled Dinah, but his sons were with his livestock in the pasture; he kept quiet till they came in. ⁶Then Hamor went to speak to Jacob. ⁷Jacob'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**

⁸But Hamor said to them,

"My son longs for your daughter. Let him marry her. ⁹Intermarry with us.

¹⁰That way you'll live with us, and the country will be open to you. Live, carry on business, and buy property in it."

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

¹³But 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. ¹⁵There's only one way we'll consent. If you'll become like us by circumcising every male among you, ¹⁶we'll intermarry with you and live with you as one people. ¹⁷If you won't be circumcised, we'll take our daughter and go."*

Gen 34:8-17

¹⁸Their proposal seemed agreeable to Hamor and Shechem. ¹⁹The 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. ²⁰He 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. ²²Only on this condition will they agree to live with us and become one people: every male among us must be circumcised like they are. ²³Won't their livestock, property, and animals be ours? Let's agree with them, and they'll live with us."*

²⁴Everybody that went out of the city gate listened to Hamor and Shechem, and every male was circumcised. **Gen 34:18-24**

²⁵On 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. ²⁶They killed Hamor and Shechem, took Dinah out of Shechem's house, and left. ²⁷Jacob's sons came on the

slain and looted the city because they'd defiled their sister. ²⁸They took their flocks, herds, donkeys, what was in the city and in the countryside. ²⁹They captured and looted their wealth, *took* their little ones, their wives, and everything in the houses. ³⁰Jacob 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."

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

Gen 34:25-31

Jacob Returns to Bethel

35:¹God 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."

²Jacob told his household and everybody with him,

"Put away your foreign gods, purify yourselves, and change clothes. ³Let'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."

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

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

Gen 35:1-8

⁹God 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.

¹¹*I'm God Almighty [El-Shaddai].*

Have children and multiply.

A group of nations will come from you;

kings will descend from you.

¹²*I'll give you and your descendants*

the land I promised Abraham and Isaac."

¹³God ascended from him, ¹⁴and 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, ¹⁵and named the place Bethel. **Gen 35:9-15**

The Deaths of Rachel and Isaac

¹⁶They moved on from Bethel. When they were still some distance from Ephrath (Bethlehem), Rachel started to have contractions and suffered hard labor. ¹⁷The midwife said, *“Don’t be afraid; you have another son.”* ¹⁸As her life was draining away, she named him Benoni; but his father called him Benjamin. ¹⁹Rachel died and was buried along the road to Ephrath. ²⁰Jacob set up a marker over her grave that’s still there. ²¹Jacob kept traveling and pitched his tent beyond the Tower of Eder. ²²While he was living there, Reuben went and slept with Bilhah, his father’s concubine, and Israel found out about it. **Gen 35:16-22**

Jacob had 12 sons.

²³by Leah: Reuben, his firstborn, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun;

²⁴by Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin;

²⁵by Bilhah, Rachel’s maid: Dan and Naphtali; and

²⁶by Zilpah, Leah’s maid: Gad and Asher.

His 12 sons were born in Paddan-aram.

²⁷Jacob went to see his father Isaac at Mamre near Kiriath-arba (Hebron), where Abraham and Isaac had lived temporarily. ²⁸Isaac lived 180 years, ²⁹breathed 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**

36:¹Esau’s (Edom’s) Generations

²Esau married Canaanite women: Adah daughter of Elon the Hittite; Oholibamah daughter of Anah and granddaughter of Zibeon the Hivite; ³and Basemath/Mahalath Ishmael’s daughter, sister of Nebaioth. ⁴Adah had Eliphaz; Basemath had Reuel, ⁵Oholibamah had Jeush, Jalam, and Korah—all born in Canaan.

⁶Esau took his wives, sons, daughters, household, livestock, cattle, and goods he’d gained in Canaan, and moved to a territory away from Jacob. ⁷Their livestock had become too much for the land to support them both. ⁸⁻⁹Esau, ancestor of the Edomites, lived in the hill country of Seir. **Gen 36:1-9**

¹⁰Esau’s sons

Eliphaz by Adah, Reuel by Basemath, and

(¹¹Eliphaz was father of Teman, Omar, Zepho, Gatam, and Kenaz.

¹²Timna, the concubine of Eliphaz, had Amalek.)

(¹³Reuel was father of Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah.)

¹⁴Jeush, Jalam, and Korah by Oholibamah.

¹⁵The chiefs descending from Esau’s sons

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

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

¹⁸Jeush, Jalam, Korah—descendants by Oholibamah, daughter of Anah

¹⁹Esau's sons and their chiefs

Gen 36:10-19

The Previous Inhabitants of Edom

²⁰The sons of Seir the Horite, the people in the land: Lotan, Shobal, Zibeen, Anah, ²¹Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan—chiefs descended from the Horites, sons of Seir in Edom

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

²³The sons of Shobal: Alvan, Manahath, Ebal, Shepho, and Onam

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

²⁵The children of Anah: Dishon and Oholibamah, Anah's daughter

²⁶The sons of Dishon: Hemdan, Eshban, Ithran, and Cheran

²⁷The sons of Ezer: Bilhan, Zaavan, and Akan

²⁸The sons of Dishan: Uz and Aran

[²⁹⁻³⁰]

Gen 36:20-30

Rulers of Edom

³¹The kings that ruled in Edom before any king ruled in Israel:

³²Bela son of Beor ruled Edom; his city was Dinhabah. ³³He died, and

Jobab son of Zerah from Bozrah ruled. ³⁴He died, and

Husham from the land of the Temanites ruled. ³⁵He died, and

Hadad son of Bedad (who defeated Midian in Moab) ruled. ³⁶He died, and

Samlah from Masrekah ruled. ³⁷He died, and

Shaul from Rehoboth on the River *Euphrates* ruled. ³⁸He died;

Baal-hanan son of Achbor ruled. ³⁹He died, and

Hadar ruled. His city was Pau; his wife was Mehetabel, daughter of Matred, daughter of Mezahab.

⁴⁰The chiefs that descended from Esau by family, locality, and name: Timna, Alvah, Jetheth,

⁴¹Oholibamah, Elah, Pinon, ⁴²Kenaz, Teman, Mibzar, ⁴³Magdiel, and Iram

37:1 Jacob lived in Canaan, where his father had lived as a nomad.

Gen 36:31-37:1

²Jacob's Dreams

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. ³Now 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. ⁴His brothers saw that their father loved him more than them, so they despised him and wouldn't speak to him in a civil way.

⁵Joseph had a dream. When he told it to his brothers, they despised him more, ⁶*"Let me tell you a dream I had. ⁷We were tying up bundles in the field. My bundle stood up straight and yours gathered around and bowed to mine."* ⁸His 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.

⁹He told his brothers another dream he had, *"The sun, moon, and 11 stars were bowing down to me."* ¹⁰He 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?"* ¹¹His brothers resented him, but his father wondered what it might mean.

Gen 37:2-11

Joseph Sold by His Brothers

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

¹⁶*"My brothers. Where are they pasturing the flock?"*

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

Joseph trailed them to Dothan.

Gen 37:12-17

¹⁸When they saw him in the distance, they said,

¹⁹*"Here comes the dreamer! ²⁰Let'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!"*

²¹But Reuben heard about their scheme and came to his rescue, *"Let's not kill him. ²²Don'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. ²³When Joseph got to his brothers, they stripped off his multi-colored robe ²⁴and put him in an empty cistern.

Gen 37:18-24

²⁵They 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. ²⁶Judah said to his brothers, *"What's in it for us if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? ²⁷Let's sell*

him to the Ishmaelites, not hurt him. He's our brother, our own flesh." They agreed. ²⁸Then 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**

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

³³He examined it, "*It's his. A wild animal has torn him to pieces and eaten him!*"

³⁴Jacob tore his clothes and put burlap around his waist and mourned for him many days. ³⁵His 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. ³⁶Meanwhile, the Midianites sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the bodyguard. **Gen 37:29-36**

Judah and Tamar

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

⁶Judah took a wife named Tamar for Er his firstborn. ⁷But Er did what the LORD considered sin, so he took Er's life. ⁸Judah 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.*" ⁹Onan 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. ¹⁰That displeased the LORD; so he took his life too. ¹¹Judah 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

¹²After 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. ¹³Tamar found out that her father-in-law was going there to shear his sheep. ¹⁴She 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. ¹⁵When Judah saw her, he thought she was a *shrine* prostitute, because she'd covered her face. ¹⁶He turned aside to her by the road, and said, "*Let me sleep with you.*"

"*What will you give me?*"

¹⁷"*I'll send you a kid from the flock.*"

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

¹⁸"*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. ¹⁹She got up and left, took off her veil, and put her widow’s clothes *back* on. **Gen 38:12-19**

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

“There hasn’t been any shrine prostitute here.”

²²So he went back, *“I couldn’t find her.”* The men said there hasn’t been any *shrine* prostitute there.

²³Judah 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**

²⁴About 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!”*

²⁵While 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.”*

²⁶Judah recognized them, *“She’s better than I am, because I didn’t give her to my son Shelah.”* He never slept with her again.

²⁷When it was time for her to deliver, she was carrying twins. ²⁸As she was giving birth, one put out a hand, and the midwife tied a red *thread* on it, *“This one came out first.”* ²⁹But 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. ³⁰Afterward his brother was born with the “red” *thread* on his hand. He was named Zerah. **Gen 38:24-30**

Joseph and Potiphar’s Wife

39:¹The Ishmaelite *traders* had taken Joseph down to Egypt, and sold him to Potiphar, an Egyptian officer of Pharaoh, captain of the bodyguard. ²The LORD was with him, so he became successful in his master’s house. ³His master saw the LORD was with him to make everything he did succeed. ⁴He was pleased with Joseph and made him his personal servant. Joseph oversaw his household and everything he owned. ⁵From the time he made him overseer, the LORD around his house, everything in it and in the field. ⁶So he left everything in his charge. With him present, he didn’t concern himself with anything except what to eat. **Gen 39:1-6a**

Joseph was good looking. ⁷His master’s wife looked at him with lust and said, *“Lie with me.”* ⁸But he refused,

“With me here, my master doesn’t concern himself with anything in the house. He’s put me in charge of everything. ⁹There’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?”

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

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

¹⁶She left his cloak lying beside her till her husband came home. ¹⁷Then she told him, *"The Hebrew slave you brought us came in to abuse me. ¹⁸When I screamed, he left his cloak and fled outside."*

Gen 39:6b-18

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

Gen 39:19-23

The Cupbearer and the Baker

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

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

⁷*"Why are you so down?"*

⁸*"We've had a dream nobody can interpret."*

Gen 40:1-8

⁹The chief cupbearer told Joseph his dream,

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

¹²Joseph said,

"The three branches represent three days. ¹³In three days Pharaoh will put you back in office. You'll hand him the cup like before. ¹⁴Just keep me in mind when that happens and get me out of this house. ¹⁵I 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

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

¹⁸Joseph said,

“The three baskets represent three days. ¹⁹In three days Pharaoh will take off your head and impale you on a pole, and birds will peck away at your body.”

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

Gen 40:16-23

Pharaoh’s Dreams

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

⁵He went back to sleep and had another dream. Seven heads of filled-out, good grain grew on a single stalk. ⁶Seven thin, wind-scorched grain heads sprouted up ⁷and swallowed the filled-out heads. Pharaoh woke up and realized it was a dream. ⁸In 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

⁹The cupbearer said to Pharaoh,

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

Gen 41:9-13

¹⁴Pharaoh called for Joseph, and they hurried and brought him out of the dungeon. He shaved and changed clothes and went to Pharaoh. ¹⁵Pharaoh told him, *“I’ve had a dream that no one can interpret. I’ve heard that you can interpret dreams.”*

¹⁶*“It’s not me. God will give you a sensible answer.”*

¹⁷Pharaoh told Joseph,

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

²²*“I also dreamed about seven filled-out, good grain heads that grew on a single stalk. ²³Seven withered, thin, wind-scorched grain heads sprouted up, ²⁴and*

swallowed the seven good heads. When I told the astrologers the dream, none of them could explain it to me.”

Gen 41:14-24

²⁵Joseph told him,

“Your dreams both mean the same thing. God has told you what he’s going to do. ²⁶The seven good cows and seven good ears represent seven years. ²⁷The seven bony, scrawny cows that came up after them and the seven thin heads scorched by the east wind represent seven years of famine. [²⁸] ²⁹Seven abundant years are coming on Egypt. [³⁰] ³¹The seven-year famine that follows will ruin the land. It’ll be severe enough to erase the memory of previous abundance. ³²Repeating the dream emphasizes that God is determined to do it. He’ll make it happen soon. ³³Now you can look for a discerning man to appoint over Egypt. ³⁴He can appoint land managers and exact a fifth of the crop during the seven abundant years. ³⁵They can gather the food during those years, store it up in cities under your authority, and guard it. ³⁶It 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

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

“Since God has informed you about this, there’s nobody more discerning and wise than you. ⁴⁰You’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. ⁴¹I’ve set you over Egypt.”

⁴²Pharaoh 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. ⁴³He had him ride in his second chariot, and they declared ahead of him, *“Bend the knee!”* ⁴⁴Pharaoh told him, *“I’m Pharaoh, but without your permission nobody will lift hand or foot anywhere in Egypt.”* ⁴⁵Pharaoh named him Zaphenath-paneah and gave him as a wife Asenath, daughter of Potiphera, priest of On.

Gen 41:37-45

⁴⁶Joseph was 30 when he stood in front of Pharaoh. He went out from Pharaoh all over Egypt. ⁴⁷During the seven abundant years, the ground produced abundantly. ⁴⁸He gathered food during those years and put it in each city from its own fields. ⁴⁹He stored up so much grain that he stopped trying to measure it—like sand on the seashore.

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

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

42:¹Jacob found out that Egypt had grain and said to his sons, *"Why are you just looking at one another? ²I've heard that Egypt has grain. Go down and buy some so we can stay alive."* ³Ten of Joseph's brothers went down, ⁴but Jacob didn't send Joseph's full brother Benjamin with them; he was afraid something would happen to him. ⁵His sons went with other people from Canaan because the famine wore on in Canaan too.

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

"Canaan; we came to buy food."

⁸They didn't recognize him. ⁹He remembered his dreams about them, and said, *"You're spies. You've come to look for weak places in our country."*

¹⁰*"No, my lord; we've come to buy food. ¹¹We're honest men, not spies."*

¹²*"No, you've come to look for weak places in our country!"*

¹³*"We're 12 brothers, sons of one man in Canaan. The youngest is with our father and one has died."*

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

¹⁷He put them in prison together for three days.

Gen 42:1-17

¹⁸The third day, he said,

"Do this and live; I respect God: ¹⁹if you're telling the truth, one of you can remain in custody. The rest can take grain for your households. ²⁰Bring your youngest brother, and you won't die."

That's what they did.

²¹They 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."*

²²Reuben answered, *"Didn't I tell you not to sin against the boy? But you wouldn't listen. Now comes the reckoning for his blood."*

²³They didn't know Joseph understood them; there had been a translator between them. ²⁴He 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. ²⁵He 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**

²⁶They loaded their donkeys with grain and left. ²⁷When 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. ²⁸He 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?"*

²⁹When they got to Canaan, they told their father what had happened,

³⁰*"The lord of the land was gruff with us and accused us of being spies.*

³¹*But 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**

³⁵When 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. ³⁶Jacob 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!"*

³⁷Reuben told him, *"You can put my two sons to death if I don't bring him back. Put him in my care."*

³⁸But 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

43:¹The famine continued to be severe. ²When they'd eaten their grain from Egypt, their father said, *"Go back and buy us a little food."*

³But 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."

⁶Israel said, *"Why did you do me such a bad turn by telling the man you had another brother?"*

⁷They 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'?"

⁸Judah said,

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

¹¹Israel 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. ¹²Take twice the money that someone put back in your sacks. Maybe it was a mistake. ¹³Take your brother too. ¹⁴May God Almighty [El-Shaddai] grant you mercy so he’ll release your other brother and Benjamin. If I grieve, I grieve.”

¹⁵They took the gift, twice the money, and Benjamin, and went down to meet Joseph. **Gen 43:11-15**

¹⁶When 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.”* [¹⁷].

¹⁸They 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.”* ¹⁹They went and talked to the overseer at the entrance to Joseph’s house,

²⁰*“Sir, we really did come down the first time to buy food. ²¹When 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. ²²We’ve brought other money to buy food this time. We don’t know who put our money back in our sacks before.”*

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

Then he brought Simeon out. ²⁴He took the brothers into Joseph’s house, gave them some water to wash their feet, and fed their donkeys some hay. ²⁵They got *their* gift ready for when Joseph came at noon; they’d heard they were to eat a meal there. **Gen 43:16-25**

²⁶When he came home, they brought their gift into the house and bowed to the floor. ²⁷He asked them how they were doing, *“How’s your elderly father? Is he still alive?”*

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

²⁹He 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.”*

³⁰He 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, ³¹then washed his face and came back. He controlled himself and said, *“Serve the meal.”* ³²they 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.) ³³They were sitting, the firstborn according to his birthright, the youngest

according to his youth. They looked at one another amazed. ³⁴He 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

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

³At daylight they sent them away with their donkeys. ⁴They'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? ⁵Isn't this what my lord drinks out of and uses for fortunetelling? You've done wrong.'"* ⁶He caught up with them and told them that.

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

¹⁰*"All right. The one that has it will be my slave. The rest of you will go free."*

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

Gen 44:1-13

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

¹⁶Judah 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."*

¹⁷He 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

¹⁸Judah came up to him and said,

"May I say something to you? Don't be mad; you're equal to Pharaoh.

¹⁹*You asked us if we had a father or brother. ²⁰We 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)."*

²¹*"Bring him down so I can see him."*

²²*"The boy can't leave his father. His father would die."*

²³*"Unless he comes with you, you won't see me again."*

²⁴*"We went up and told him what you said."*

²⁵*"Later, he told us to come back and buy more food."*

²⁶*“But we said, ‘We can’t. If our youngest brother’s not with us, we won’t be able to see the man.’*

²⁷*“You know my wife had two sons. ²⁸One of them went out and must have been torn to pieces by wild animals. I haven’t seen him since. ²⁹If you take this one and something happens to him, you’ll send my gray hair down to Sheol in grief.”*

Gen 44:18-29

³⁰⁻³¹*“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. ³²I became a guarantee for the boy, I said I’d bear the blame permanently if I didn’t bring him back. ³³Let me stay in his place so he can go with his half-brothers. ³⁴How 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

^{45:1}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. ²He cried so loud the Egyptians heard it, and Pharaoh’s household heard *about it*. ³He told his brothers,

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

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

⁴Then he said, *“Come closer.”*

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

¹⁴Then he embraced Benjamin and cried, and Benjamin cried and embraced Joseph. ¹⁵Joseph kissed his brothers and cried on them. Afterward they talked.

Gen 45:1-15

¹⁶When Pharaoh's household heard that Joseph's brothers had come, they were happy.
¹⁷Pharaoh said,

"Tell them to load their animals and go to Canaan, ¹⁸get their father and households, and come to me. I'll give them the best land in Egypt. They'll eat off the rich land. ¹⁹Have them take wagons for their wives and little ones, and bring their father. ²⁰Tell them not to worry about their personal belongings; they'll have the best in Egypt."

Gen 45:16-20

²¹Joseph gave them wagons and supplies for their trip. ²²He gave each of them a change of clothes, but he gave Benjamin 300 *pieces of silver* and 5 changes of clothes. ²³He 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. ²⁴He sent them off, *"Don't quarrel on the trip."* ²⁵They went up to Canaan ²⁶and told their father, *"Joseph's still alive! He's actually the ruler of Egypt!"* He was stunned! He couldn't believe it! ²⁷When they told him what Joseph had said and he saw the wagons he sent to take him back, he revived. ²⁸*"Joseph must still be alive! I'll go see him before I die."*

Gen 45:21-28

Joseph Brings His Brothers to Egypt

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

"Jacob, Jacob."

"Yes?"

³*"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. ⁴I'll go down with you and bring you back. Joseph will close your eyes."*

⁵He left Beersheba. His sons hauled him, their little ones, and wives in the wagons Pharaoh sent. ⁶⁻⁷They 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

⁸The names of Jacob's sons that went to Egypt

Reuben, Jacob's firstborn: ⁹his sons Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi

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

¹¹Levi: his sons Gershon, Kohath, Merari

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

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

¹⁴Zebulun: his sons Sered, Elon, Jahleel

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

¹⁶Gad: his sons Ziphion, Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon, Eri, Arodi, and Areli

¹⁷Asher: his sons Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi, Beriah (and their sister Serah)

Beriah's sons: Heber and Malchiel.

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

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

²¹Benjamin: his sons Bela, Becher, Ashbel, Gera, Naaman, Ehi, Rosh, Muppim, Huppim, and Ard

²²**The descendants of Rachel born to Jacob were 14.**

²³Dan: his son Hushim

²⁴Naphtali: his sons Jahzeel, Guni, Jezer, and Shillem

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

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

²⁸*Jacob* sent Judah on ahead so Joseph could give them directions to Goshen. ²⁹Joseph 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. ³⁰Israel told him, *"Now I can die! I've seen you're still alive!"*

³¹Joseph told his brothers and his father's family,

"I'll go tell Pharaoh you've arrived from Canaan ³²with your herdsmen, flocks and herds, and everything you have. ³³When he calls you and asks what your occupation is, ³⁴tell 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

^{47:1}Joseph went in and told Pharaoh, *"My father and brothers, their flocks and herds, and everything they own have come from Canaan to Goshen."* ²He took five of his brothers and presented them to Pharaoh. ³Pharaoh asked,

"What's your occupation?"

“We and our ancestors have been shepherds. ⁴We’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?”

⁵⁻⁶Pharaoh 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.”

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

⁸Pharaoh asked, *“How old are you?”*

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

¹¹Joseph settled his father and brothers, and gave them a possession in Rameses, the best land in Egypt. ¹²He 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

¹³There wasn’t any food in the whole region because the famine was so severe. Egypt and Canaan were starving. ¹⁴Joseph collected all the money in Egypt and Canaan for the grain people bought, and brought it to Pharaoh’s house. ¹⁵When 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.”* ¹⁶Joseph said, *“Trade your livestock for food.”* ¹⁷So they brought their livestock, and he gave them food in exchange for horses, flocks, herds, and donkeys that year.

¹⁸At 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. ¹⁹Why 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

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

²³Joseph told the people,

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

²⁵They said, *"You've saved us! Be gracious to us, my lord, and we'll be Pharaoh's slaves."*

²⁶Joseph 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

²⁷Israel kept living in Goshen, acquired property, and became very numerous. ²⁸Jacob lived in Egypt 17 years, 147 years in all. ²⁹When 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. ³⁰When I lie down with my ancestors, carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their burial place."

"I'll do that."

³¹*"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. ²When they told Jacob, *"Joseph's here,"* Israel gathered his strength and sat up in bed. ³He told Joseph,

"God Almighty [El-Shaddai] appeared to me in Luz and blessed me: ⁴I'll make you countless, a group of nations. I'll give your descendants this land as a permanent possession.' ⁵Your two sons born in Egypt before I came will be considered mine alongside Reuben and Simeon. (⁶Your later offspring will be yours.) They'll inherit with their brothers. ⁷When 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

⁸When 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."

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

*"God in whose presence my forefathers Abraham and Isaac lived,
God that's been my shepherd my whole life,*

*¹⁶the 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

¹⁷When 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, ¹⁸*"Not that way, father. This is the firstborn. Put your hand on his head."*

¹⁹But 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."* ²⁰He 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.

²¹Then he told Joseph,

"I'm about to die, but God will be with you and take you back to where your ancestors lived. ²²I'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

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

²*Gather together, sons of Jacob
listen to your father Israel."*

³*"**Reuben**, my firstborn,
my strength and the first issue of my virility,
preeminent in dignity and power,
⁴uncontrolled like water.
You won't have preeminence
because you defiled your father's bed;
you got on my marriage couch."*

Gen 49:1-4

⁵*"**Simeon and Levi** are brothers;
their swords are violent tools.
⁶Let 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.
⁷Cursed 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.

⁹Judah 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?

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

¹¹He 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.

¹²His 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.
¹⁵When 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.
¹⁷He'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.
¹⁸I wait for your salvation, LORD.”

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

²⁸That’s what their father told *his sons* when he blessed them, each with an appropriate blessing. ²⁹Then 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, ³⁰in Machpelah east of Mamre, in Canaan, in the
cave Abraham bought for a burial site. ³¹They 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

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

Gen 49:33-50:3

⁴After the time of mourning, Joseph told Pharaoh's advisors,

"If I'm pleasing to you, tell Pharaoh ⁵my 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."

⁶Pharaoh said, *"Go up and bury him like he had you swear."*

Gen 50:4-6

⁷⁻⁸So 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. ⁹A large company of chariots and cavalry also went up. ¹⁰When they came to Atad's threshing floor, not far from the Jordan, they mourned greatly. *Joseph* observed a week of mourning. ¹¹When the Canaanites saw the mourning, they said, *"This is extreme 'mourning' for 'Egyptians'";* so they named it Abel-mizraim. ¹²His sons did for him what he'd said. ¹³They 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. ¹⁴After he'd buried him, Joseph and the whole company went back to Egypt.

Gen 50:7-14

Joseph Reassures His Brothers

¹⁵When 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?"* ¹⁶They sent him a message, *"Before our father died, he charged us ¹⁷to tell you, 'Forgive your brothers' sin; they did wrong.' Forgive the servants of your father's God."* Joseph cried when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers came and prostrated themselves, *"We're your servants."* ¹⁹But Joseph said,

"I'm not God, am I? ²⁰You meant to harm me, but he turned it out for good to bring about saving lots of people. ²¹Don'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

²²Joseph and his father's family stayed in Egypt. ²³He saw three generations of Ephraim's descendants and claimed the sons of Machir son of Manasseh as his own. ²⁴He 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.” ²⁵He had the sons of Israel swear, “*Take my bones up from here.*” ²⁶Joseph died at 110; his body was embalmed and placed in a coffin in Egypt. **Gen 50:22-26**

Version by Virgil Warren: christir.org