

Genesis	1
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THE
FIRST BOOK OF MOSES
CALLED
GENESIS

The beginning

IN THE BEGINNING WHEN GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH, 1
and while the earth was still unformed and chaotic, 2
with darkness on the surface of the deep,
and the spirit of God brooding over the waters,
God said, "Let there be light," and there was light, 3
and God saw that the light was good. 4
Then he separated the light from the darkness.
And he called the light Day and the darkness Night. 5
And there was an evening and a morning, making the
first day.

Then God said, "Let there be a dome between the waters, 6
and let it separate the waters from the waters."
So God made the dome to separate the waters below 7
from the waters which were above it.
And it was done.
And God called the dome the Sky. 8
And there was an evening and a morning, making the
second day.

- 9 Then God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered
 together,
 and let the dry land appear."
 And it was done.
- 10 And God called the dry land Earth
 and he called the gathered waters Seas.
 And God saw that it was good.
- 11 And God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation:
 Plants on the earth which yield their own kind of seed,
 and trees that bear fruits in which are their own seed."
 And it was done.
- 12 And the earth brought forth vegetation:
 Seed-bearing plants,,
 and trees with seed-bearing fruit.
 And God saw that it was good.
- 13 And there was an evening and a morning, making the
 third day.
- 14 Then God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky
 to separate the night from the day.
 Let them be signs to mark the seasons, the days, and
 the years.
- 15 Let them be lights in the dome of the sky to light
 the earth."
 And it was done.
- 16 So God made the two great lights:
 The greater to rule the day and the lesser to rule
 the night.
- 17 God made the stars also and placed them in the dome of the sky
 to shed light upon the earth,
18 to rule over the day and over the night,
 and to separate light from darkness.
 And God saw that it was good.
- 19 And there was an evening and a morning, making the
 fourth day.
- 20 Then God said, "Let the waters teem with living creatures,

- and let birds fly over the earth in the open dome of
the sky.”
- And God created the great sea monsters, 21
all kinds of living, moving creatures with which the
waters teem,
and all kinds of winged birds.
And God saw that it was good.
And he blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful, 22
increase, and fill the waters in the seas,
and let the birds multiply on the earth.”
And there was an evening and a morning, making the 23
fifth day.
- Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth all kinds 24
of living creatures:
Cattle and reptiles and wild beasts.”
And it was done.
So God made all the different kinds of wild beasts, 25
and the cattle, and everything that crawls upon the ground.
And God saw that it was good.
- Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, 26
and let them rule over the fish of the sea,
the birds of the heavens, the cattle, the wild beasts,
and all the reptiles that crawl upon the ground.”
So God created humans like himself, like God he created 27
them.
He created them male and female.
- Then God blessed them, and said to them: 28
“Be fruitful, grow in number,
fill the earth and govern it;
rule over the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens,
and over every living thing that crawls on the ground,”
- And God said, “See, to you I give every seed-bearing plant 29
on the face of all the earth,
and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit.”
It will be food for you,

30 and to every wild beast and to every bird of the heavens,
 and to everything that crawls on the earth, in which
 there is life,
 I give every green plant for food.”
 And it was done.

31 And when God saw all that he had made,
 he perceived that it was very good.
 And there was an evening and a morning, making the
 sixth day.

2 So the heavens and the earth were finished, and everything
 in them.

2 When on the seventh day God finished the work which
 he had done,
 he rested on the seventh day from all his work;
 3 and God blessed the seventh day and set it apart,
 for in it he rested from all the creative work which
 he had done.

4 This is the story of the heavens and earth when they were created.

The garden

5 At the time when the LORD God made earth and heaven, there were
 not yet any plants on the earth, and no vegetation had sprung up;
 for the LORD God had not sent rain upon the earth, and there
 6 was no one to till the soil. A mist used to rise from the earth and
 water all the surface of the ground.

7 Then the LORD God moulded man out of dust taken from the
 ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man be-
 8 came a living being. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden,
 9 far in the East; and placed the man he had formed there. From the
 soil the LORD God made grow all kinds of trees that are pleasant to
 look at and good for food, with the tree of life also in the middle of
 the garden and the tree that gives the knowledge of good and evil.

10 A river flowed out of Eden and watered the garden; and from
 11 there branched into four. The name of the first is Pishon; which
 flows round the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. The
 12 gold of that land is pure; and there is aromatic gum and the onyx

stone. The name of the second river is Gihon; which flows around 13
the whole land of Cush, and the name of the third river is the Tigris; 14
which heads toward the east of Asshur. The fourth river is the
Euphrates.

Then the LORD God took the man and placed him in the garden 15
of Eden to till it and to care for it. The LORD God also gave the man 16
this command: "You may freely eat from every tree of the garden,
except from the tree that gives the knowledge of good and evil; 17
from this you must not eat, for on the day that you eat from it you
will surely die."

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; 18
I will make a helper suited to him." So out of the ground the LORD 19
God formed all the wild beasts and birds, and made them come to
the man to see what he would call them; and whatever he called
each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to 20
all cattle and all the wild birds and beasts; but for the man himself
there was found no helper suited to him.

Then the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep, 21
and while he slept, he took one of his ribs and closed up its place
with flesh. With the rib which he had taken from the man, the LORD 22
built up a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, 23
"This now is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh. She will be
called Woman, for from man she was taken." For this reason a man 24
leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and the two
become one.

The man and his wife were both naked, yet felt no shame. 25

Now the serpent was craftier than any other wild beast that the 3
LORD God had made, and it said to the woman, "Has God really
commanded, 'You must not eat from any tree of the garden?'" The
woman answered, "We are allowed to eat the fruit of all the trees 2
of the garden; only regarding the fruit of the tree which is in the
middle of the garden, God has said, 'You must not eat from it, nor 3
should you touch it, for if you do, you will die.'" Then the serpent 4
said to the woman, "You will not surely die; for God knows that on 5
the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like
gods, knowing what is good and what is evil."

When the woman saw that the tree was good for food and 6
attractive to look at and desirable for acquiring wisdom, she took
some of its fruit and ate. Then she gave some to her husband who
was with her, and he ate.

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew 7

8 that they were naked; so they sewed fig-leaves together to cover themselves. But when they heard the sound of the footsteps of the LORD God, as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, the man and his wife hid from him among the trees of the garden.

9 When the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" He replied, "I heard the sound of your footsteps in the garden and I was afraid, because I was naked; so I hid myself." The

11 LORD God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree from which I forbade you to eat?" The man answered, "The woman who you placed beside me, she gave me fruit from the tree and I ate." The LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman replied, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

14 Then the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, you will be more accursed than all cattle and all the wild beasts. You will crawl on your belly and eat dust all your life. I will establish enmity between you and the woman and between your descendants and her descendants. They will bruise your head, and you will wound them on the heel."

16 To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your anguish and pain during your pregnancy; with pain will you bear children. You will desire your husband, but he will rule over you."

17 To the man he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree from which I forbade you to eat, the ground will be cursed because of you; as long as you live, you will earn a living only by painful toil. The ground will always bring forth thorns and thistles, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat bread, until you return to the ground, for from it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return!"

20 The man, Adam, named his wife Eve; because she was the mother of all living beings, and the LORD God made garments of skins for Adam and his wife to clothe them.

22 But the LORD God said: "The man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not reach out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever." So the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he had been taken. He drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden the cherubim, and the flaming sword which turned every way, to bar the way to the tree of life.

Cain and Abel

ADAM LAY WITH HIS WIFE EVE AND SHE GAVE BIRTH TO CAIN, and she 4
 said, "I have created a man with the help of the LORD !" She also 2
 gave birth to his brother Abel. Abel was a shepherd, but Cain was
 a farmer.

In the course of time Cain brought some of the produce of the 3
 ground as an offering to the LORD . Abel too brought some of the 4
 choicest animals of his flock and sacrificed their fat pieces. And the
 LORD looked with approval on Abel and his offering; but he could 5
 not receive Cain and his offering with approval.

Therefore Cain was very angry and his face fell. So the LORD 6
 said to Cain, "Why are you angry and why do you scowl? If you 7
 do what is right and good, will not your offering be accepted? But
 if you do wrong, sin crouches at the door and the inclination to sin
 will overcome you, but you should master it."

Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let us go into the field." And 8
 while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother and killed
 him.

Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" He 9
 answered, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" The LORD 10
 said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood is crying
 to me from the ground. Even now you are cursed by the very 11
 ground that has opened to receive your brother's blood from your
 hand. Whenever you till the ground, it will no longer yield to you 12
 its strength; you will be a vagabond and a wanderer on the earth."

Then Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is more than I can 13
 bear. See, you have driven me out today from this land, and I will 14
 no longer be able to worship you; I shall become a vagabond and a
 wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me."

But the LORD said to him, "If any one kills you, the crime shall 15
 be avenged sevenfold." So the LORD placed a tribal mark on Cain,
 to keep any one who found him from killing him. And Cain depart- 16
 ed from the LORD 's presence and lived east of Eden in the land of
 Wandering.

Genealogy

17 AND CAIN LAY WITH HIS WIFE; and she conceived, and bore Enoch. Cain
18 built a city, and named the city after his son Enoch. And to Enoch
 was born Irad; and Irad fathered Mehujael; and Mehujael fathered
 Methushael; and Methushael fathered Lamech.

Lamech's vengeance

19 LAMECH TOOK TWO WIVES; the name of one was Adah, and the name
20 of the other Zillah. And Adah fathered Jabal; he was the father
21 of the people who live in tents and have cattle. And his brother's
22 name was Jubal; he was the father of the people who play the harp
 and pipe. And Zillah also bore Tubal-cain, who was the father of
 all those who forge copper and iron. The sister of Tubal-cain was
23 Naamah. And Lamech said to his wives:

Adah and Zillah, hear my voice;
 wives of Lamech, listen to my speech;
 because I have slain a man for wounding me,
 and a young man for bruising me.
24 If Cain is to be avenged sevenfold,
 Lamech will be seventy and sevenfold.

Genealogy

25 AND ADAM LAY WITH HIS WIFE AGAIN; and she bore a son, and named
26 him Seth: "because God gave me another son for Abel, who was
 killed by Cain." And Seth too had a son; he named him Enosh. That
 was when people began using the name of LORD in worship.

5 This is the list of the descendants of Adam. On the day that God
2 created human beings, he made them in his own image. He created
 them male and female created, and blessed them, and called their
 name Adam.

3 Adam lived for a hundred and thirty years, and had a son in his
4 own likeness, after his image; and named him Seth. Adam lived
 for eight hundred years after he had Seth; and he had sons and
5 daughters. In total, Adam lived for nine hundred and thirty years;
 and then he died.

Seth lived for a hundred and five years, and fathered Enosh. 6
 Seth lived a further eight hundred and seven years after he had 7
 Enosh, and had sons and daughters. In total, Seth lived for nine 8
 hundred and twelve years; and then he died.

Enosh lived for ninety years, and fathered Kenan. Enosh lived 9
 a further eight hundred and fifteen years after he had Kenan, and 10
 had sons and daughters. In total, Enosh lived for nine hundred and 11
 five years; and then he died.

Kenan lived for seventy years, and fathered Mahalalel. Kenan 12
 lived for eight hundred and forty years after he had Mahalalel, and 13
 had sons and daughters. In total, Kenan lived for nine hundred and 14
 ten years; and then he died.

Mahalalel lived for sixty and five years, and fathered Jared. Ma- 15
 halalel lived for eight hundred and thirty years after he had Jared, 16
 and had sons and daughters. In total, Mahalalel lived for eight hun- 17
 dred ninety and five years; and then he died.

Jared lived for a hundred sixty and two years, and fathered 18
 Enoch. Jared lived for eight hundred years after he had Enoch, and 19
 had sons and daughters. In total, Jared lived for nine hundred sixty 20
 and two years; and then he died.

Enoch lived for sixty and five years, and fathered Methuselah. 21
 Enoch walked with God for three hundred years after he had 22
 Methuselah, and had sons and daughters. In total, Enoch lived for 23
 three hundred sixty and five years. Enoch walked with God, and 24
 then he was gone; because God took him.

Methuselah lived for a hundred eighty and seven years, and 25
 fathered Lamech. Methuselah lived for seven hundred eighty and 26
 two years after he had Lamech, and had sons and daughters. In 27
 total, Methuselah lived for nine hundred sixty and nine years; and
 then he died.

Lamech lived for a hundred eighty and two years, and had a 28
 son. He named him Noah, saying: "He will bring us relief from 29
 our work and the toil of our hands which comes from the ground
 the LORD cursed." Lamech lived for five hundred ninety and five 30
 years after he had Noah, and had sons and daughters. In total, 31
 Lamech lived for seven hundred seventy and seven years; and then
 he died.

When Noah was five hundred years old, he fathered Shem, 32
 Ham, and Japheth.

The divine beings and the beautiful daughters

6 WHEN PEOPLE BEGAN TO MULTIPLY ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH, and daughters
2 were born to them, some of the heavenly beings saw that the
3 daughters of humans were beautiful; and they took them as wives,
4 whoever they chose. But the LORD said: "My spirit shall not abide
in people forever, because they are flesh; therefore they will live for
only a hundred and twenty years." The Nephilim were on the earth
in those days (and later too) when the heavenly beings lay with the
human daughters who had their children. These were the mighty
heroes of old, men of renown.

The flood

5 When the LORD saw that people's wickedness was increasing in the
6 world, and that the trend of their thoughts was at all times toward
7 evil, he was greatly grieved and regretted that he had made people
8 on the earth. Therefore the LORD said, "I will destroy all living
beings from off the ground – people, animals, creeping things, and
birds – because I regret that I have made them." But Noah had won
the LORD's favor.

9 This is the story of Noah. Among the people of his time, Noah
10 was righteous and wholehearted; Noah walked with God. Noah
11 had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. God saw that the earth
12 was corrupt and full of violence. God looked at the earth and
saw that it was corrupt; all living things on the earth had become
corrupt in their ways.

13 So God said to Noah, "I have determined to put an end to all liv-
14 ing beings, for the earth is filled with their acts of injustice; I am go-
ing to destroy them from the earth. Make yourself an ark of cypress
wood. Construct rooms in the ark, and coat it within and without
15 with pitch. This is how you shall build it: the length of the ark shall
be five hundred feet, its breadth eighty feet, and its height fifty feet.
16 Make a roof for it and place the door on the side. Construct it with
17 lower, second, and third storeys. For I am about to bring floods of
water upon the earth to destroy from under heaven every living
thing in which is the breath of life; every thing that is on the earth
shall die.

18 "But I will make a solemn agreement with you. Go into the ark

with your sons, your wife and their wives, and take with you into the ark two of every kind living thing, a male and a female, birds, animals and creeping things, so that they might be kept alive. Take and store food for them and you.”

Noah did all this. He did everything that God told him to.

Then the LORD said to Noah, “Enter with all your household into the ark; for I see that in this age you are living before me an upright life. Take seven of all the beasts that are fit for food and sacrifice, the male and the female; but of the beasts that are not fit for food and sacrifice take only two, the male and the female; and of the wild birds that are fit for food and sacrifice take seven, to keep the species alive on the earth. After seven days I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights; and I will destroy from the surface of the ground every living thing that I have made.”

Then Noah did all that the LORD commanded him. He was six hundred years old, and when the waters of the flood came upon the earth he, his sons, his wife, and his sons’ wives, entered the ark because of the waters of the flood together with the beasts that were fit for food and sacrifice and the beasts that were not fit, and the birds, and everything that creeps upon the ground. Two by two, male and female, they entered the ark as God had commanded Noah.

And after seven days, the flood waters came. In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that very day, all the fountains of the great deep burst open, and the windows of heaven were opened – and it rained for forty days and forty nights. That was the day that Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah’s wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, went into the ark, and every type of animal, and cattle, and creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and bird went with Noah into the ark, two by two of every kind of living thing. They went in, male and female, as God had commanded Noah; and the LORD shut Noah in the ark.

The flood continued for forty days, and the waters increased and raised up the ark, and it was lifted high above the earth. It floated on the surface as the waters rose higher over the land. Higher the waters rose over the land – until the highest mountains were covered by more than twenty feet.

All creatures on the land, bird and cattle and animals, every creature that swarms on the ground, every person, everything on dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life, died. The LORD destroyed everything that existed upon the face of the ground, both

man and cattle, and creeping things, and the birds of the heavens, and Noah only was left and they who were with him in the ark.

24 The waters did not start to go down for a hundred and fifty days.

8 Then God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the animals that were with him in the ark; and God caused a wind to
2 blow over the earth, and the flood subsided, the fountains of the
3 deed were stopped and the windows of heaven closed, and the rain
4 from heaven ceased, and the waters withdrew more and more from
5 the land for a hundred and fifty days. On the seventeenth day of
6 the seventh month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat.
7 The waters continued to go down until, on the first day of the tenth
8 month, the tops of the mountains could be seen.

9 After forty days Noah opened the window of the ark, and sent
10 out a raven; and it kept going to and fro until the waters were dried
11 up from the earth. He also sent out a dove to see if the waters had
12 subsided from the surface of the ground; but the dove found no rest
13 for her foot, and so returned to him to the ark, for the waters covered
14 the surface of the whole earth. So he reached out his hand and took
15 her and brought her back into the ark.

16 Then he waited seven days longer and again sent out the dove
17 from the ark. And the dove came in to him at dusk; and in her
18 mouth was a freshly plucked olive-leaf. So Noah knew that the wa-
19 ters had subsided from the earth. And he waited seven days more
20 and sent out the dove; but it did not return to him again.

21 So it was that in the first day of the first month of Noah's six
22 hundred and first year, the waters had dried up. Noah removed
23 the covering of the ark and looked, and saw that the surface of
24 the ground was dry. It was the twenty-seventh day of the sec-
25 ond month.

26 God said to Noah, "Leave the ark with your wife and sons and
27 their wives. Bring out every living creature, every bird, cattle, and
28 creeping thing that creeps on the earth, so that they can spread over
29 the earth, and be fruitful and multiply." So Noah left the ark with
30 his sons and his wife and his son's wives, and every living creature,
31 every creeping thing, every bird came out one kind after another.
32 And Noah built an altar to the LORD and took one of every beast and
33 bird that was fit for sacrifice and offered burnt-offerings on the altar.
34 And when the LORD smelled the pleasing odour, he said to himself,
35 "I will never again curse the ground because of people because the
36 inclination of their heart is evil from their youth, nor will I again

destroy every living thing, as I have done. While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.” 22

Then God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them, “Bear children and multiply and repopulate the earth. And every wild beast and bird and everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea shall fear and dread you; into your hand they are given. Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you; as I gave the green herbs, I give them all to you. Only you shall not eat flesh while the life is in it, that is, the blood. 9 2 3 4

“Moreover, your own life-blood will I require for a person’s life; from every beast will I require it, and from everyone who takes another’s life. Whoever sheds a person’s blood, by people shall their blood be shed; for God made people in his own image. But you are to bear children and repopulate the whole earth and subdue it.” 5 6 7

God also said to Noah and to his sons with him, “Now I make this solemn agreement with you and with your descendants and with every living creature that is with you, with the birds, the cattle, and every wild animal that is with you of all that have gone out of the ark, even with every beast of the earth. This is my solemn agreement: No living thing will ever again be cut off by the waters of the flood, and there will never again be a flood to destroy the earth.” 8 9 10 11

And God said, “This is the symbol of the solemn agreement that I make for all time between me and you and every living creature that is with you: I have placed my bow in the cloud and it shall be the symbol of the solemn agreement between me and the inhabitants of the earth. Whenever I bring a cloud over the earth and the bow is seen in the cloud, I will remember the agreement which is between me and you and every living creature; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all living things. Whenever the bow is seen in the cloud, I will see it and remember the everlasting agreement between God and every living creature on earth,” God said to Noah, “it is the sign of the solemn agreement which I have made with everything that lives on earth.” 12 13 14 15 16 17

Genealogy

THE SONS OF NOAH, who left the ark, were Shem, and Ham, and Japheth; and Ham was the father of Canaan. The descendants of these three sons of Noah spread over the whole earth. 18 19

Noah and the first vineyard

20 Now Noah, the farmer, was the first to plant a vineyard. And when
 21 he drank the wine he became drunk, and lay uncovered in his tent.
 22 Then Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father
 23 and told his two brothers about it. But Shem and Japheth took a
 garment and laid it upon both their shoulders and went backward
 to cover the nakedness of their father, their faces being turned
 24 away so that they did not see their father's nakedness. When Noah
 awoke from his wine and learned what his youngest son had done
 25 to him, he said,

Cursed be Canaan;
 may he be a slave of slaves to his brothers.

26 Also he said:

Blessed of the LORD be Shem;
 and let Canaan be a slave to him.
 27 God enlarge Japheth
 and let him live in the tents of Shem.
 Let Canaan be a slave to him as well.

Genealogy

28 And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years. And
 29 all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years; and he
 10 died. Now these are the descendants of the sons of Noah: Shem,
 Ham, and Japheth; and to them were sons born after the flood. The
 2 sons of Japheth: Gomer, and Magog, and Madai, and Javan, and
 3 Tubal, and Meshech, and Tiras. And the sons of Gomer: Ashke-
 4 naz, and Riphath, and Togarmah. And the sons of Javan: Elishah,
 5 and Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim. From the descendants of these
 were the peoples of the coasts and islands divided in their lands,
 every one after his tongue, after their families, in their nations. And
 6 the sons of Ham: Cush, and Mizraim, and Put, and Canaan. And
 7 the sons of Cush: Seba, and Havilah, and Sabtah, and Raamah,
 and Sabteca; and the sons of Raamah: Sheba, and Dedan. And
 8 Cush fathered Nimrod; he began to be known as a mighty one in
 9 the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; which is why

people say: "Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the LORD ." And 10
 the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and 11
 Calneh, in the land of Shinar. Out of that land went forth Asshur, 12
 and builded Nineveh, and Rehoboth-ir, and Calah, and Resen be- 13
 tween Nineveh and Calah – which is the great city. And Mizraim 14
 fathered Ludim, and Anamim, and Lehabim, and Naphtuhim, and 15
 Pathrusim, and Casluhim – from whom went forth the Philistines 16
 – and Caphtorim. And Canaan fathered Zidon his firstborn, and 17
 Heth; and the Jebusite, and the Amorite, and the Girgashite; and 18
 the Hivite, and the Arkite, and the Sinite; and the Arvadite, and 19
 the Zemarite, and the Hamathite; and afterward were the families 20
 of the Canaanite spread abroad. And the border of the Canaanite 21
 was from Zidon, as you go toward Gerar, to Gaza; as you go toward 22
 Sodom and Gomorrah and Admah and Zeboiim, to Lasha. These 23
 are the sons of Ham, after their families, after their tongues, in 24
 their lands, in their nations. And to Shem, the father of all the chil- 25
 dren of Eber, the elder brother of Japheth, to him also were children 26
 born. The sons of Shem: Elam, and Asshur, and Arpachshad, and 27
 Lud, and Aram. And the sons of Aram: Uz, and Hul, and Gether, 28
 and Mash. And Arpachshad fathered Shelah; and Shelah fathered 29
 Eber. And to Eber were born two sons; the name of the one was 30
 Peleg; for in his days was the earth divided; and his brother's name 31
 was Joktan. And Joktan fathered Almodad, and Sheleph, and Haz- 32
 armaveth, and Jerah; and Hadoram, and Uzal, and Diklah; and 33
 Obal, and Abimael, and Sheba; and Ophir, and Havilah, and Jobab; 34
 all these were the sons of Joktan. And their settlements were from 35
 Mesha, as you go toward Sephar, to the mountain of the east. These 36
 are the sons of Shem, after their families, after their tongues, in 37
 their lands, after their nations. These are the families of the sons of 38
 Noah, after their generations, in their nations; and of these were the 39
 nations divided in the earth after the flood.

Babel

All the inhabitants of the earth had one language and vocabulary; 11
 and as they travelled westward, they found a broad valley in the 2
 land of Shinar, and made their home there.

Then they said one to another, "Come, let us make bricks and 3
 thoroughly bake them." So they had bricks for stone and asphalt for 4
 mortar. And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a

tower whose top will touch the heavens. We will make a landmark, so that we are not scattered over all the earth."

5 But when the LORD came down to see the city and tower that
6 people had built, he said, "See, they are one people and all have one
7 language. This is the beginning of their activity, and now nothing
which they propose to do will seem too difficult for them. Come,
let us go down there and confuse their language, so that they do not
understand each other's speech."

8 So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth; and
9 they ceased building the city. That is why they named it Babel Con-
fusion, for there the LORD confused the language of all the inhabi-
tants of earth and scattered them over the whole world.

Genealogy

10 THESE ARE THE DESCENDANTS OF SHEM. Shem was a hundred years old,
11 and fathered Arpachshad two years after the flood. Shem lived for
five hundred years after he fathered Arpachshad, and fathered sons
and daughters.

12 Arpachshad lived for five and thirty years, and fathered She-
13 lah. Arpachshad lived for four hundred and three years after he
fathered Shelah, and fathered sons and daughters.

14 Shelah lived for thirty years, and fathered Eber. Shelah lived for
15 four hundred and three years after he fathered Eber, and fathered
sons and daughters.

16 Eber lived for four and thirty years, and fathered Peleg. Eber
17 lived for four hundred and thirty years after he fathered Peleg, and
fathered sons and daughters.

18 Peleg lived for thirty years, and fathered Reu. Peleg lived for
19 two hundred and nine years after he fathered Reu, and fathered
sons and daughters.

20 Reu lived for two and thirty years, and fathered Serug. Reu
21 lived for two hundred and seven years after he fathered Serug,
22 and fathered sons and daughters. Serug lived for thirty years, and
fathered Nahor.

23 Serug lived for two hundred years after he fathered Nahor, and
fathered sons and daughters.

24 Nahor lived for nine and twenty years, and fathered Terah.
25 Nahor lived for a hundred and nineteen years after he fathered

Terah, and fathered sons and daughters.

Terah lived for seventy years, and fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran. 26

Now these are the descendants of Terah. Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran fathered Lot. Haran died in the presence of his father Terah in the land of his birth, in Ur of the Chaldees. Abram and Nahor took wives: the name of Abram's wife was Sarai; and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah, and the father of Iscah. Sarai was barren; she had no child. Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran, his son's son, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram's wife; and they went from Ur of the Chaldees, to go to the land of Canaan; and they nt to Haran, and dwelt there. In total, Terah lived for two hundred and five years; and died in Haran. 32

Abram's Journey

The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country, your relatives and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation; and I will surely bless you and make your name famous, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse those who curse you, and all the families of the earth shall ask for themselves a blessing like your own." 12

So Abram set out, as the LORD had commanded him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran. He took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother's son and all the slaves that they had acquired in Haran, and started for the land of Canaan. 4

Abram passed through the land to a place called Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites lived there. The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." There Abram built an altar to the LORD who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill at the east of Bethel and pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east, and there too he built an altar to the LORD and prayed to him. 6

Abram moved on, going from place to place toward the Nagreb. T here was a famine in the land, so Abram went down to Egypt to live there; because the famine was severe in the land. As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to Sarai his wife, "You are a beauti- 9

12 ful woman; so that when the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'She
 13 is his wife'; and they will kill me, but let you live. Say you are my
 14 sister, so that everything may go well for me because of you and
 15 my life will be spared." When Abram arrived in Egypt, the Egyp-
 16 tians saw that Sarai was very beautiful. The officials of Pharaoh,
 17 when they saw her, praised her to Pharaoh, and she was taken into
 18 Pharaoh's household. He treated Abram well for her sake. He had
 19 sheep, and oxen and donkeys, and male and female slaves, and she-
 20 donkeys, and camels. But the LORD sent great plagues to Pharaoh
 and his household because of Sarai, Abram's wife. Pharaoh called
 Abram and said, "What is this that you have done to me? Why did
 you not tell me that she was your wife? Why did you say, 'She is my
 sister,' so that I took her to be my wife? Here she is, take her and go."
 And Pharaoh gave his men orders to send him on his way with his
 wife and all his possessions.

13 So Abram and his wife and all his possessions left Egypt and
 2 went to the Negreb and Lot went with him. Abram was now
 3 very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold. He journeyed on from the
 4 Negreb in stages towards Bethel, to the place where he had earlier
 pitched his tent between Bethel and Ai and had set up the altar to
 worship the LORD.

5 Lot, who went with Abram, also had so many flocks and herds
 6 and tents that the land was not fertile enough to support them both.
 7 They had too many animals to live in the same place. At that time,
 the Canaanites and Perizzites were living in the land. So when there
 was a quarrel between Lot's herdsmen and Abram's herdsmen,
 8 Abram said to Lot, "There should be no quarrels between me and
 you, or between my herdsmen and yours, because we are relatives.
 9 Is not the whole land before you? Let's separate. If you go to the left,
 then I will go to the right; or if you go to the right, then I will go to
 the left."

10 Then Lot looked about and saw that all the plain of the Jordan,
 as far as Zoar, was well watered everywhere, like a garden of the
 LORD. (This was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.)
 11 So Lot chose for himself all the valley of the Jordan and went on to
 12 the east; and they separated from one another. Abram lived in the
 land of Canaan and Lot lived in the cities of the plain and moved
 13 his tent as far as Sodom. (But the men of Sodom were very wicked
 and sinned against the LORD.)

14 The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had gone away from him,
 "Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are north-

ward, southward, eastward and westward, for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your descendants forever. I will make your descendants as many as the dust of the earth, so that if someone could count the dust of the earth, then your descendants could also be counted. Rise, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I will give it to you."

Then Abraham moved his tent and lived in the oak grove of Mamre, which is in Hebron, and built there an altar to the LORD .

Victory over the Four Eastern Kings

IN THE DAYS OF AMRAPHEL KING OF SHINAR, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim, they went to war with Bera king of Sodom, and with Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, and Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar). All these joined forces together in the valley of Siddim (that is, the Dead Sea).

For twelve years they had been subject to Chedorlaonier, but in the thirteenth year they had rebelled. So in the fourteenth year Chedorlaonier, and the kings that were with him, came and defeated the Rephaim in Ashteroth-Karnaim, the Zuzim in Ham, the Emim in Shaveh-Kiriathaim, and the Horites in their hill country of Seir, to El-Paran, which is on the edge of the wilderness. Then they returned and came to En-Mishpat (that is, Kadesh), and laid waste all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites, who lived in Hazazon-Tamar.

So the king of Sodom went out together with the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar); and they set themselves in battle array against them in the valley of Siddim; against Chedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of Goiim, Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar; four kings against the five. Now the valley of Siddim is full of bitumen pits; so when the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, they fell into them, but those who remained fled to the mountain. Then they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their provisions and went their way. They also took Lot, Abram's brother's son, who was living in Sodom, and his goods and departed.

But one who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew. Now he was living by the oaks of Mamre the Amorite, brother of

Eshcol, and brother of Aner, and these were supporters of Abram.
 14 When Abram heard that his kinsman had been taken captive, he
 led forth his trained men, born in his house, three hundred and
 15 eighteen, and pursued as far as Dan. Then, dividing his band in
 order to attack the kings by night, he with his servants attacked
 them, and pursued them to Hobah, which is north of Damascus. So
 16 he brought back all the goods, and also his kinsman Lot, with his
 goods, as well as the women and the people.

17 Then the king of Sodom went out to meet him, after his return
 from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him,
 18 at the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Vale). Melchizedek king
 of Salem also brought out bread and wine; and he was priest of God
 19 Most High. He blessed him saying:

Blessed be Abram before God Most High,
 possessor of heaven and earth.
 20 And blessed be God Most High,
 who has delivered your foes into your power.

Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.
 21 The king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me my people, and
 22 take the goods for yourself." But Abram said to the king of Sodom,
 "I have lifted up my hand to the LORD, God Most High, Possessor of
 23 heaven and earth, that I would not take a thread nor a sandal-thong
 nor anything that is yours, so that you could not say, 'I have made
 24 Abram rich.' By no means! Only that which the servants have
 eaten, and the portion of the men who went with me, Aner, Eshcol,
 and Mamre – let them take their portion."

Abram's vision

15 AFTER THESE THINGS GOD SPOKE TO ABRAM IN A VISION SAYING, "Do not be
 afraid, Abram, I am your shield. Your reward will be exceedingly
 2 great." But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what can you give me? I am
 childless, and the person who will be possessor of my house is
 3 Eliezer of Damascus, to me you have given no offspring, and, so a
 4 slave born in my house is my heir." The word of the LORD came to
 him, "This man will not be your heir, but a child of your own will
 be your heir."

5 Then God brought him outside and said, "Look now toward

heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them! So will your descendants be." And Abram believed in the LORD ; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness, and said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give to you this land to inherit it."

Abram said, "Lord GOD, how will I know that I will inherit it?"

And the LORD said to him, "Bring me a heifer of three years old, and a she-goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtle dove, and a young pigeon." And Abram brought him all these, and divided them in the middle, and laid each half over against the other; but the birds he did not divide. And the birds of prey came down upon the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.

And, when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a horror of great darkness fell on him. The LORD said to Abram, "Know certainly that your descendants will be foreigners in a land that is not theirs, and will be slaves there; and they will be held there for four hundred years. But I will judge that nation, whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many goods. But you will go to your fathers in peace; you will be buried in a good old age. And in the fourth generation they return here again; for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet full."

When the sun had set and it was dark, there appeared a smoking furnace, and a flaming torch that passed between the pieces of the animals.

At that time the LORD made a solemn agreement with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates." (This includes the lands of the Kenite, the Kenizzite, the Kadmonite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Rephaim, the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Girgashite, and Jebusite).

Hagar and Ishmael

NOW SARAI, Abram's wife, had borne him no children, but she had an Egyptian slave-girl whose name was Hagar. Sarai said to Abram, "the LORD has denied me children; Take my slave-girl; maybe I will obtain children by her." Then Abram listened to her so she took Hagar the Egyptian, her slave-girl, after Abram had lived for ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to Abram her hus-

4 band to be his wife and Abram lay with Hagar, and she conceived.
And when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress.

5 Sarai complained to Abram, "May the wrong I suffer be on you!
I myself gave my slave-girl to you; and now that she sees that she
6 has conceived, I am despised by her; may the LORD judge between
me and you." But Abram said to Sarai, "Your maid-servant is in
your power, do to her whatever seems right to you." Then Sarai
ill-treated her so that she fled from her presence.

7 The messenger of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the
8 wilderness, by the spring in the way to Shur. And he said, "Hagar,
Sarai's slave-girl, where have you come from? And where are you
going?" And she said, "I am fleeing from the presence of mistress
9 Sarai." Then the messenger of the LORD said to her, "Return to your
10 mistress and submit yourself to her authority." Moreover the messenger
of the LORD said to her, "I will make your descendants so
many that they can not be numbered because they are so numerous."
11 The messenger of the LORD also said to her, "You are pregnant,
and will have a son; you must call him Ishmael God hears, because the
LORD has heard of your ill-treatment."

12 He shall be like a wild donkey,
his hand against every man,
and every man's hand against him;
and he will live at odds with all his relatives.

13 Then she called the name of the LORD, who had spoken to her, El-
roi (You are a God who sees me); for she said, "Have I seen God
14 and am I still alive after I have looked upon him?" Therefore the
well is called Beer-lahai-roi, (it is between Kadesh and Bered) And
15 Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram named his son, whom Hagar
16 bore, Ishmael. Abram was eighty-six years old, when Hagar bore
Ishmael.

Abram becomes Abraham

17 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD revealed himself
to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty, walk before me and
2 be blameless and I will make my solemn agreement between me
and you and will make your descendants exceedingly numerous."

Then Abram fell on his face; and God talked with him, saying "I 3
 make this solemn promise to you: you will be the father of a mul- 4
 titude of nations. Neither will your name any longer be Abram, 5
 but your name will be Abraham; for I will make you the father of a 6
 multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and will 7
 make nations of you, and kings shall spring from you. And I will 7
 establish my solemn agreement between me and you and your de-
 scendants after you throughout their generations, an everlasting
 covenant, to be a God to you and to your descendants after you. 8
 And I will give to you, and to your descendants after you, the land 8
 where you are now foreigners, all the land of Canaan, for an ever-
 lasting possession, and I will be their God."

Circumcision

GOD ALSO SAID TO ABRAHAM, "And as for you, you must keep the re- 9
 quirements of my solemn agreement, you, and your descendants af- 10
 ter you throughout their generations. This is my solemn agreement, 10
 which you must keep, between me and you and your descendants
 after you: every male among you must be circumcised. Whenev- 11
 er you are circumcised, the flesh of your foreskin shall be a sign of 12
 a solemn agreement between me and you. And every male when 12
 he is eight days old, must be circumcised throughout your genera-
 tions, whether he is born in the house, or bought with money from 13
 any foreigner who is not of your offspring. The slave who is born 13
 in your house and the one who is bought with your money must be
 circumcised. The sign of my solemn agreement will be in your flesh 14
 – an everlasting agreement. As for the uncircumcised male, who is 14
 not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that one will be cut off
 from his people; he has broken my solemn agreement."

Sarai becomes Sarah

THEN GOD SAID TO ABRAHAM, "As for Sarai your wife, do not call her 15
 name Sarai, but Sarah. And I will bless her, and will give you a son 16
 from her: I will bless her, and she will become the mother of nations;
 kings of peoples will descend from her."

Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself. 17

18 "Will a child be born to one who is an hundred years old? And will Sarah who is ninety years old bear children?" And Abraham said to God, "If only Ishmael might live with your blessing!"

19 But God said, "No. But Sarah your wife is about to bear your a son; call him Isaac. And I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him. However

20 I have heard you regarding Ishmael: I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful and his descendants exceedingly many. Twelve

21 princes he will father, and I will make him a great nation. But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you

22 at this appointed time next year." When he had finished talking with him, God left Abraham.

Abraham and Isaac's circumcision

23 THEN ABRAHAM TOOK ISHMAEL HIS SON, and all who were born in his house, and all who were bought with his money, every male among

24 the men of Abraham's house, and circumcised the flesh of their foreskin that very same day, as God had said to him. Now Abraham

25 was ninety-nine years old, when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old, when he

26 was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. On this very same day was Abraham circumcised, with Ishmael his son. And all the men

27 of his house, those born in the house and those bought with money from foreigners, were circumcised with him.

The guests at the oaks of Mamre

18 The LORD also appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he

2 was sitting at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day; and, as he looked up, three men stood there before him. As soon as he saw them, he ran from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed

3 to the ground and said, "Sirs, if you are willing to do me a favor, do not, I beg of you, pass by your servant. Since you have come to

4 your servant, let a little water be brought, that you may wash your feet, and lie down under the tree. And let me bring some food, that

5 you may refresh yourselves; afterward you may go on your way." They replied, "Do as you have said."

So Abraham hastened to Sarah's tent and said, "Make ready quickly four measures of fine meal, knead it, and make cakes." Abraham also ran to the herd, and took a calf that was tender and good, and gave it to the servant, and he prepared it quickly. Then Abraham took curd and milk, with the calf which he had prepared, and served them; and he waited on them under the tree, while they ate.

Then they said to him, "Where is your wife?" He said, "There, within the tent." One of them said, "I will surely return to you about nine months from now, and then, Sarah your wife shall have a son." But Sarah was listening behind the door of the tent. Now Sarah and Abraham were advanced in years; so she laughed to herself, saying, "After I and my husband are so old will I have pleasure?" But the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Will I, indeed, even when I am old give birth to a child?' Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the appointed time about nine months from now, I will return to you and Sarah shall have a son." Sarah was frightened and denied that she had laughed, but he said "Yes, you laughed."

Then the men started from there and looked off in the direction of Sodom; and Abraham went along with them to start them on their way. And the LORD said, "Should I conceal from Abraham that which I am about to do, since Abraham will become a great and mighty nation and all the nations of the earth will want a blessing like his for themselves? For I have chosen him in order that he may teach his sons and his household after him, and that they may keep the way of the LORD, by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring on Abraham that which he has promised concerning him."

Sodom and Gomorrah

The LORD said, "The complaint has come that the people of Sodom and Gomorrah have committed great and terrible sins. I will go down and see whether they have done exactly as the complaint comes to me; and if they have not, I will know."

As the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, Abraham remained standing before the LORD. Abraham drew near to the LORD and said, "Will you sweep away the righteous with the

24 wicked? Suppose there are within the city fifty people who are right-
25 teous. Will you sweep away and not forgive the place for the fifty
righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do this: to slay the
righteous with the wicked! And that the righteous should be treat-
26 ed as the wicked, far be it from you! Should not the Judge of all the
earth do what is just?" The LORD said, "If I find in the city of Sodom
fifty who are righteous, I will spare the whole place for their sake."
27 Abraham answered, "I have dared to speak to the LORD, even
28 though I am but dust and ashes. Suppose there be five lacking of the
fifty righteous. Will you sweep away all the city for lack of five?"
The LORD said, "I will not sweep it away, if I find forty-five there."

29 Then Abraham spoke to him again, and said, "Suppose forty
are found there?" He replied, "For the sake of forty I will not do
30 it." Then Abraham said, "Oh, let not the LORD be angry, but let me
speak. Suppose thirty are found there?" He answered, "I will not do
31 it, if I find thirty there." Then Abraham said, "You see that I have
dared to speak to the LORD. Suppose twenty are found there?" He
32 replied, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." Then Abra-
ham said, "Oh, let not the LORD be angry, but let me speak just once
more. Suppose ten are found there?" And he said, "For the sake of
33 the ten I will not destroy it." Then the LORD went his way, and Abra-
ham returned home.

19 Two messengers came to Sodom in the evening, as Lot was
sitting at the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose up to meet
2 them, and he bowed with his face to the earth and said, "Sirs, turn
aside, I beg of you, into your servant's house and spend the night
and wash your feet; then you can rise up early and go on your way."
3 They said, "No, we will spend the night in the street." But he urged
them so strongly that they went with him and entered his house.
And he made a feast for them and baked bread made without yeast,
and they ate.

4 But before they had lain down, the people of Sodom, both
young and old, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the
5 house. And they called out to Lot, "Where are the men who came
in to you tonight? Bring them out to us so we can rape them."

6 Then Lot went out to them at the entrance of his house, but he
7 shut the door after him. And he said, "I beg of you, my friends, do
8 not do what is wrong. See, I have two unmarried daughters; let
me bring them out to you, and do to them as you desire; only do
nothing to these men, for they have come under the shadow of my
9 roof." But they replied, "Stand back!" And they added, "This one

came in as a foreigner to live here, but now he would set himself up as a judge! We will treat you worse than them." And they pressed hard against Lot and advanced to break the door. But the men reached out and drew Lot to them into the house and shut the door. Then they struck the men who were at the door of the house, both small and great, with blindness, so that they grew tired of searching for the door.

Then the men said to Lot, "Have you any one else here? Bring your sons-in-law, your sons, and daughters, and whoever you have in the city out of this place, for we are about to destroy it, because great complaint concerning the people has come to the LORD and he has sent us to destroy it." So Lot went out and said to his sons-in-law, "Up, go out of this place, for the LORD will destroy the city." But his sons-in-law thought he was only jesting.

When the dawn appeared, the messengers urged Lot, saying, "Get up, take your wife and your two daughters that you may not be swept away in the punishment of the city." When he hesitated, the men grabbed him by the hand and led him and his wife and his two daughters outside the city, for the LORD was merciful to him.

When they had brought them outside, they said, "Run for your life; do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the heights, that you may not be swept away!" But Lot said to them, "Oh, sirs, not so! See, your servant has found favor with you, and you have shown great mercy to me in saving my life. I cannot escape to the heights, lest some evil overtake me, and I die. See now, this village is near enough to run to, and it is small. Oh, let me escape there, and my life will be saved." He answered, "I have also granted you this favor, in that I will not destroy the village of which you have spoken. Make haste, escape to it, for I can do nothing until you arrive there." Therefore the village was called Zoar.

The sun had risen when Lot came to Zoar. Then the LORD caused brimstone and fire from heaven to rain upon Sodom and Gomorrah, and he destroyed those cities and all the plain, with all the people who lived in it and all that grew on the ground. But Lot's wife, who was following him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

Early in the morning Abraham rose and went to the place where he had stood before the LORD; and as he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah and all the plain, he saw the smoke of the land going up as the smoke of a smelting-furnace. God had remembered Abraham when he destroyed the cities of the plain and rescued Lot

from the destruction.

Lot and his daughters

30 THEN LOT WENT UP FROM ZOAR WITH HIS TWO DAUGHTERS AND LIVED IN a
 31 cave on the heights, for he was afraid to stay in Zoar. And the old-
 er daughter said to the younger, "Our father is old, and there is no
 32 one on the earth to come in to us after the manner of all the world.
 33 Come let us make our father drink wine and we will lie with him, so
 that we can preserve our family through our father." So they made
 their father drink wine that night; and the older daughter went in
 34 and lay with her father. He, however, did not know when she lay
 down, nor when she arose. Then in the morning the older daughter
 said to the younger, "Last night I lay with my father. Let us make
 35 him drink wine again tonight; and you go in and lie with him, so
 that we can preserve our family through our father." So they made
 their father drink wine that night as well. And the younger arose
 36 and lay with him. He, however, did not know when she lay down
 nor when she arose. In this way both the daughters of Lot became
 37 pregnant by their father. Then Lot went up from Zoar with his two
 daughters and lived in a cave on the heights, for he was afraid to
 stay in Zoar. His oldest daughter bore a son, and named him Moab.
 38 He is the father of the present Moabites. The younger also bore a
 son and named him Ben-ammi. That one is the father of the present
 Ammonites.

Abraham in Gerar

20 ABRAHAM JOURNEYED FROM THERE TOWARD THE LAND OF THE NEGREB,
 settling between Kadesh and Shur, and staying for a while in Gerar,
 2 where he said that his wife Sarah was his sister. So King Abimelech
 3 of Gerar had Sarah brought to him. But God came to Abimelech in
 a dream in the night and said to him, "You will die, because of the
 4 woman you have taken, for she is married. But Abimelech had not
 come near her; so he said, Lord, will you slay an innocent people?
 5 Did Abraham not himself say to me, 'She is my sister?' And even
 she herself said, 'He is my brother.' I acted innocently and in good
 6 faith." Then God said to him in the dream, "I know that you acted

innocently and in good faith, and I also prevented you from sinning against me, since I did not allow you to touch her. Now you must restore the man's wife – for he is a prophet and he can intercede for you, and you will live. But if you do not restore her at once, you will die, together with all your people.” And Abimelech rose early in the morning, and summoned all his court, and when he had told all these things in their hearing, they were greatly afraid.

Then Abimelech called Abraham and asked him, “What have you done to us? What harm have I done you, that you would have brought on me and my kingdom a great sin? You have done to me something that ought not to be done.” Abimelech said to Abraham, “What was your purpose in doing this thing?” Abraham answered, “Because I thought, ‘Surely the fear of God is not in this place and they will slay me for my wife's sake.’ Moreover, she really is my sister, the daughter of my father, though not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife. So when God caused me to wander from my father's house, I said to her, ‘This is how you can show your loyalty to me: at every place to which we come, say that you are my brother.’”

Abimelech then took sheep and oxen, and male and female slaves and gave them to Abraham, and restored Sarah his wife to him. Also Abimelech said, “My land lies before you; live wherever you please.” And to Sarah he said, “I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver as compensation for all that has befallen you; and in every respect you are vindicated.” Then Abraham prayed to God and God healed Abimelech, and his wife, and his slave-girls, so that they could have children (for the LORD had made every woman in Abimelech's household barren, because of Sarah, Abraham's wife).

Isaac

The LORD remembered what he had told Sarah, and he did as he had promised. So Sarah had Abraham's son in his old age at the fixed time of which God had told him. And Abraham named him Isaac and when he was eight days old he circumcised him as God had told him to. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born. And Sarah said, “God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.” She added, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have

born him a son in his old age."

8 When the child grew up, Abraham made a great feast on the
 9 day that he was weaned. But Sarah saw the son whom Hagar the
 10 Egyptian had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. S he
 11 said to Abraham, "Drive out this slave-girl and her son, for the son
 12 of this slave-girl shall not be heir with my son Isaac" This request
 13 was very displeasing to Abraham because the boy was his son. But
 14 the LORD said to Abraham, "Do not be displeased because of the
 15 boy and because of your slave-girl. Listen to all that Sarah says to
 16 you, for only through the line of Isaac will your name be perpetuat-
 17 ed. But I will also make of the son of the slave-girl a great nation,
 18 because he is your son."

19 Then Abraham got up early in the morning and took bread and
 20 a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, and he put the boy upon her
 21 shoulder and sent her away. So she departed and wandered in the
 22 wilderness of Beersheba. When the water in the skin was gone,
 23 she left the child under one of the desert shrubs and went a short
 24 distance away and sat down and said, "Let me not see the death of
 25 the child." So she sat there and wept.

26 Then the LORD heard the cry of the boy, and the messenger of
 27 the LORD called to Hagar from heaven and said, "What troubles
 28 you, Hagar? Don't be afraid, for the LORD has heard the boy's cry.
 29 Rise, lift him up, and hold him fast by the hand, for I will make him
 30 a great nation." And the LORD opened her eyes and she saw a well
 31 of water. Then she went and filled the skin with water and gave the
 32 boy a drink.

33 And the LORD was with the boy, and he grew up, and lived in
 34 the wilderness of Paran, and became a bowman. And his mother
 35 secured a wife for him from Egypt.

The pact with Abimelech

36 IT HAPPENED AT THAT TIME THAT ABIMELECH AND PHICOL THE CAPTAIN of
 37 his army spoke to Abraham, saying, "God is with you in all you do.
 38 Now therefore take an oath to me here by God that you will not be
 39 false to me, nor to my son nor to my descendants; but that you will
 40 treat me and the land you have stayed in according to the kindness
 41 which I have shown you." And Abraham said, "I swear it."

42 Now as often as Abraham complained to Abimelech because of

the well of water which Abimelech's servants had seized, Abimelech said, "I do not know who has done this thing, neither have you told me nor have I heard of it until today." So Abraham took sheep and oxen and gave them to Abimelech, and made an agreement with each other. But when Abraham set seven ewe lambs of the flock by themselves, Abimelech said to Abraham, "What is the meaning of these seven ewe lambs which you have set by themselves?" Abraham answered, "Accept these seven ewe lambs from my hand so that you may be my witness that I dug this well." The place was called Beer-sheba, because it was there they swore their oath. So they made a solemn agreement at Beer-sheba, and Abimelech arose with Phicol the captain of his army, and they returned to the land of the Philistines. Abraham, however, planted a tamarisk tree in Beer-sheba, and called there on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God. And Abraham stayed in the land of the Philistines many days.

The test of Abraham

Later the LORD tested Abraham, saying to him, "Abraham"; and he answered, "Here I am." The LORD said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt-offering on one of the mountains which I will show you."

So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey and took two of his servants with him, and his son Isaac. When he had split the wood for the burnt-offering, he set out for the place of which God had told him. On the third day, when Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance, he said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey, while I and the boy go over there. When we have worshipped, we will come back to you."

Then Abraham took the wood for the burnt-offering and laid it on Isaac, his son. And he took the fire and the knife, and they both went on together. And Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" and Abraham answered, "Yes, my son." Isaac said, "Here is the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt-offering?" Abraham answered, "My son, God will himself provide a lamb for a burnt-offering." So the two went on together.

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abra-

ham built the altar there and laid the wood on it and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar upon the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand, and took the knife to kill his son. But the messenger of the LORD called to him from heaven, saying, "Abraham, Abraham!" and he answered, "Here am I." And he said, "Do not put your hand upon the boy, nor do anything to him, for now I know that you love God, for you have not refused to give your son, your only son, to me."

Then Abraham looked up, and he saw a ram caught in the thicket by his horns. So Abraham took the ram and offered him up as a burnt-offering instead of his son. And he named the place "The LORD will provide" – and even today people say, "The LORD will provide on his mountain."

The messenger of the LORD again called to Abraham and said, "The LORD declares, 'Because you have done this thing and have not kept back your son, your only son, I will surely bless you. I will make your children as many as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore, so that they will conquer their enemies. All the nations of the earth will ask for themselves a blessing like theirs, because you have obeyed my command.'"

So Abraham returned to his servants, and they arose and went together to Beer-sheba.

Genealogy

Abraham was living in Beer-sheba. After these things, Abraham was told, "Milcah has also borne children to your brother Nahor, Uz his first born, Buz his brother, Kemuel the father of Aram, Chesed, Hazo and Pildash, Jidlaph and Bethuel." (And Bethuel fathered Rebekah). These eight Mileah bore to Nahor, Abraham's brother. And his concubine whose name was Reumah, also bore Tebah, Gaham, Tahash, and Maeeah.

Sarah's death and the cave of Machpelah

23 Sarah lived to be a hundred and twenty-seven years old. And when she died in Kiriath-arba (that is Hebron), in the land of Canaan, Abraham went to mourn for Sarah, and to weep for her.

When Abraham rose up from the presence of his dead, he said to the Hittites, "I am a stranger and a foreigner living among you; give me possession of a burying-place with you, so that I may bury my dead out of my sight." And the Hittites answered Abraham, "Hear us, my lord; you are a mighty prince among us; bury your dead in the best of our burial places. None of us will withhold from you his burial place, so that you may bury your dead."

Abraham rose up and bowed before the people of the land, the Hittites, and said to them, "If it is your intention that I should bury my dead out of my sight, hear me, and speak for me to Ephron the son of Zohar, to give me the cave of Machpelah, which he has, which is at the end of his field. Let him give to me for the full price in your presence, so that I can own it as a burying-place." Now Ephron was sitting with the other Hittites, and, in the presence of all the Hittites, all who went in and out at the gate of his city he answered Abraham, "No, my lord, hear me. I give the field to you and the cave that is in it I give to you; in the presence of the children of my people I give it to you; bury your dead."

Then Abraham bowed before the people of the land, and spoke to Ephron in the hearing of the people of the land, saying, "Please, hear me – I will give the price of the field; accept it from me so that I may bury my dead there."

And Ephron answered Abraham by saying to him, "My lord, listen to me; a piece of land worth four hundred shekels of silver, what is that between me and you? Bury your dead." Then Abraham accepted Ephron's terms and Abraham weighed to Ephron the silver, which he had named in the hearing of the Hittites, four hundred shekels of silver, on the standard weights used by merchants.

So the field of Ephron which was in Machpelah which was to the east of Mamre, the field, and the cave which was in it, with all the trees that were in the field, that were in all the border of it round about, were transferred to Abraham's possession in the presence of the Hittites, before all that went in at the gate of his city.

And after this Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah to the east of Mamre (that is Hebron), in the land of Canaan. In this way the field and the cave that is in it were transferred by the Hittites to Abraham that he might possess a burying-place.

Rebekah

24 When Abraham was very old and the LORD had blessed him in
2 every way, Abraham said to the eldest of his household servants,
3 who had charge of all his affairs, "Put your hand under my thigh,
4 while I make you promise by the LORD, the God of heaven and
5 earth, that you will not let my son marry one of the daughters of
6 the Canaanites, among whom I live, but that you will go to my own
7 country and to my relatives and there get a wife for my son Isaac."
8 The servant said to him, "Perhaps the woman will not be willing to
9 follow me to this land. Must I then take your son back to the land
10 from which you came?" Abraham said to him, "See to it that you
11 do not take my son back there. The LORD, the God of heaven, who
12 took me from my father's house and from my native land and who
13 solemnly promised me, 'To your children I will give this land,' will
14 send his messenger before you and there you will get a wife for my
15 son. But if the woman is not willing to come with you, then you
16 will be free from this promise to me; only never take my son back
17 there." So the servant put his hand under Abraham's thigh and
18 made the promise.

10 Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and set out with
precious gifts from his master. So he went to the town of Aram-na-
11 haraim, where Nahor lived. And he made the camels kneel down
12 outside the town by the well in the evening, at the time when wom-
13 en go out to draw water. Then he said, "LORD, God of my master
14 Abraham, give me, I pray, success today, and show kindness to my
15 master Abraham. Here I am standing by the spring of water, and
16 the daughters of the men of the town are coming out to draw water.
17 May that young woman to whom I shall say, 'Please let down your
18 water-jar that I may drink'; and who answers, 'Drink and I will also
water your camels,' may she be the one you have chosen for thy serv-
ant Isaac. By this I shall know that you have shown kindness to my
master."

15 Then even before he was through speaking, Rebekah, who was
the daughter of Bethuel son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abra-
ham's brother, came out with her water-jar upon her shoulder. She
16 was very beautiful and unmarried, a virgin. She went down to the
17 spring, filled her jar, and came up. Then the servant ran to meet her
18 and said, "Please let me drink a little water from your jar." She an-
swered, "Drink, sir," and quickly let down her water-jar from her

shoulder upon her hand and gave him a drink.

When she had finished giving him a drink she said, "I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking." So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough and ran again to the well to draw water, and drew for all his camels. Meanwhile the man was silently gazing at her in order to find out whether the LORD had made his journey successful or not.

As soon as the camels had finished drinking, the man took a gold ring, half a shekel in weight, and put it in her nose, and put on her arms two golden bracelets weighing ten shekels, and said, "Whose daughter are you? Tell me, I beg of you. Is there room in your father's house for us to spend the night?" She answered, "I am the daughter of Bethuel son of of Milcah and Nahor. We have plenty of straw and feed, and there is a place for you to spend the night."

Then the man bowed his head and worshipped the LORD, saying, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has continued to show his mercy and his faithfulness toward my master. As for me, the LORD has led me on the way to the house of my master's relatives."

Then the young woman ran and told these things to her mother's family. Now Rebekah had a brother named Laban; and Laban ran out to the man at the spring. And when he saw the bracelets on his sister's hands and the ring, and when he heard Rebekah say, "This is what the man said to me," he went to the man, who was still standing by the camels at the spring, and said, "Come in, you who are blessed by the LORD! Why do you stand outside? For I have cleared the house and have room for the camels." So he brought the man into the house and took the packs off the camels and furnished straw and feed for them, and water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him.

But when food was set before him to eat, he said, "I will not eat until I have made known my errand." They answered, "Speak." He said, "I am Abraham's servant; and the LORD has blessed my master greatly, so that he has become very rich. He has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, servants, and camels and donkeys. Now Sarah, my master's wife, had a son when she was old, and my master has given him all that he has. My master also made me promise, saying, 'Do not let my son marry one of the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live, but go to my father's home and to my relatives and there find a wife for my son.'

39 "When I said to my master, 'What if the woman will not follow
40 me?' he said to me, 'The LORD, whom I love and serve, will send
41 his messenger with you and make you successful, and you will find
42-43 for my son a wife from among my relatives and my father's family.
44 Then you will be free from your promise to me. But if you go to my
45 family and they do not give her to you, you shall also be free from
46 your promise to me.' So I came today to the spring and said, 'LORD,
47 God of my master Abraham, see, I am standing by the spring of
48 water. If you will make the errand on which I am going successful,
49 then let the young woman who comes to draw, to whom I say,
50 'Please give me a little water from your jar to drink', and who shall
51 say to me, 'Drink, and I will also draw for your camels', let that one
52 be the woman whom the LORD has chosen for my master's son.'

53 "Even before I was through speaking, Rebekah came out with
54 her water-jar on her shoulder and went down to the spring and
55 drew water. And when I said to her, 'Please let me drink,' she quick-
56 ly let down her water-jar from her shoulder and answered, 'Drink,
57 and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered
58 the camels. Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' And she
59 said, 'The daughter of Bethuel son of Nahor and Milcah.' So I put
60 the ring in her nose and the bracelets on her arms. And I bowed
61 my head and worshipped and blessed the LORD God of my master
62 Abraham who had led me on the right way to find the daughter of
63 my master's brother for his son. Tell me whether or not you will
64 deal kindly and truly with my master, so that I shall know what
65 to do!"

66 Then Laban and his family answered, "The matter is in the
67 hands of the LORD. We cannot say either 'yes' or 'no.' See, Rebekah
68 is before you; take her and go and let her be the wife of your mas-
69 ter's son, as the LORD has said."

70 When Abraham's servant heard their words, he bowed to the
71 ground before the LORD. Then he brought out gold and silver
72 ornaments and clothing and gave them to Rebekah. He also gave
73 costly gifts to her brother and to her mother. And he and the men
74 who were with him ate and drank and spent the night there.

75 When they rose in the morning, the servant said, "Send me
76 away to my master." But Rebekah's brother and mother answered,
77 "Let the young woman stay with us a month or at least ten days;
78 after that she may go." But he said to them, "Do not delay me, for
79 the LORD has given me success. Send me away that I may go to
80 my master."

Then they said, "We will call the young woman and ask her." So 57
they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" 58
She answered, "I will go." So they sent away their sister Rebekah 59
and her nurse with Abraham's servant and his men.

They also blessed Rebekah, saying to her, "Our sister! May your 60
children and their children become thousands and thousands, may 61
your sons conquer the cities of their enemies!" Then Rebekah set 61
out with her maids and, riding upon the camels, they followed the
man. So the servant took Rebekah and went away.

Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the 62
Negeb. In the evening, when Isaac had gone out for a walk in the 63
field, he looked up and saw camels coming. Rebekah too looked up, 64
and when she saw Isaac, she quickly alighted from the camel and
said to the servant, "Who is this man walking in the field to meet 65
us?" When the servant said, "It is my master," she took her veil and
covered her face. Then the servant told Isaac all that he had done. 66
And Isaac brought Rebekah to the tent of Sarah his mother, and she 67
became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his
mother's death.

Genealogy, Abraham's death

Abraham had taken another wife, whose name was Keturah. And 25
she gave him sons: Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and 2
Shuah. And Jokshan fathered Sheba, and Dedan. T he sons of 3
Dedan were Asshurim, Letushim, and Leummim; and the sons of 4
Midian were Ephah, Ephher, Hanoch, Abida, and Eldaah. All these
were descendants of Keturah.

Abraham had left all that he had to Isaac. But to the sons of 5
his concubines, Abraham had given gifts while he was still alive, 6
and had sent them away from Isaac his son, eastward, to the east
country.

Abraham had lived for one hundred and seventy-five years, 7
when he breathed his last, dying in a good old age, old and satisfied 8
with living, and was gathered to his forefathers.

Then Isaac and Ishmael his sons buried him in the cave of Mach- 9
pelah, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite, which is 10
east of Mamre, the field which Abraham purchased from the Hit-
tites. There Abraham was buried with Sarah his wife.

After the death of Abraham, God blessed Isaac his son, who 11

settled at Beer-lahai-roi.

12 This is a list of descedents of Ishmael, Abraham's son whom
 13 Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's maid-servant gave to Abraham.
 14 These then are the names of the sons of Ishmael, named accord-
 15 ing to their order of birth: the first-born of Ishmael, Nebaioth; then
 16 Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam, Mishma, Dumah, Massa, Hadad, Tema,
 17 Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah. These are the sons of Ishmael, and
 18 these are their names, by their villages, and by their encampments,
 19 twelve princes according to their peoples.

17 Ishmael lived for one hundred and thirty-seven years; and he
 18 breathed his last, and was gathered to his people. And they settled
 19 from Havilah to Shur that is east of Egypt, as far as Assyria; he
 20 settled down alongside all his people.

19 And these are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son. Abra-
 20 ham fathered Isaac. Isaac was forty years old, when he married Re-
 21 bekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, the
 22 sister of Laban the Aramean.

Esau and Jacob

21 Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she had no children;
 22 and the LORD heard his prayer, and Rebekah became pregnant with
 23 twins. The children struggled against each other in her womb, and
 24 she said, "Why is this happening to me? What does it mean?" She
 25 went to ask the LORD, who said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb,
 two peoples divided from birth,
 One will be stronger than the other,
 the elder will serve the younger."

24 When the time came for her to give birth, she became the mother of
 25 twin boys. The first was from birth red, all over like a hairy mantle;
 26 so they named him Esau. Afterwards his brother came holding
 27 Esau's heel with his hand; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty
 28 years old when they were born.

27 As they grew up, Esau became a skilful hunter, a man who lived
 28 out in the fields; but Jacob was a quiet man who stayed about the
 tents. Isaac loved Esau, for he had a taste for venison; but Rebekah
 loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was preparing a stew, Esau came in from the fields, and he was very hungry; so he said to Jacob, "Let me swallow some of that red stew, for I am very hungry." (This is why he was called Edom.) But Jacob said, "Sell me first of all your right as the eldest." Esau replied, "See, I am nearly dead now! So of what use is this birthright to me?" Jacob said, "First solemnly promise to give it to me." So Esau solemnly promised and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and stewed lentils, and when he had finished eating and drinking, he got up and went away. In this way Esau gave away his birthright.

Famine again

NOW WHEN A FAMINE CAME IN THE LAND, (not the first famine that was in the days of Abraham), Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines at Gerar.

And the LORD appeared to him and said, "Go not down into Egypt; settle in the land of which I will tell you, stay in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you; for to you, and to your descendants, I will give all these lands, and will establish the oath which I swore to Abraham your father: I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven, and give to your descendants all these lands; and all the nations of the earth will invoke for themselves a blessing like that of your descendants, because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws." So Isaac settled in Gerar.

The men of the place asked him about his wife; and he said, "She is my sister"; for he was afraid to say "my wife"; lest the men of the place kill him for Rebekah; because she was beautiful to look at. But after he had been there a long time, Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out of the window, and saw Isaac just as he was caressing Rebekah his wife.

Then Abimelech called to Isaac, and said, "Surely she is your wife; why did you say 'She is my sister?'" Isaac answered him, "I said it, so that I might not die because of her." And Abimelech said, "What is this you have done to us? One of the people might have lain with your wife and so you would have brought guilt upon us." And Abimelech warned all the people, saying, "The person who touches this man or his wife will be put to death."

12 Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year
13 an increase of a hundredfold, for the LORD blessed him. And the
 man became rich, and grew richer and richer until he became very
 wealthy; for he had many flocks, and many herds, and a great
 household; so that the Philistines envied him.

14 Now all the wells which Isaac's father's servants had dug in
 the days of Abraham his father, the Philistines had stopped, and
15 filled with earth. But Isaac dug again the wells of water, which they
 had dug in the days of Abraham his father – for the Philistines had
 stopped them after the death of Abraham and he gave them the
 same names as his father had given them.

16 Abimelech said to Isaac, "Go from us; for you are much mightier
17 than we are." So Isaac departed, and encamped in the valley of Ger-
18 ar, and settled there. Isaac reopened the wells which had been dug
 in the days of his father Abraham and stopped by the Philistines
 after his death. He called them by the names his father had given
19 them. And when Isaac's slaves dug in the valley, they found there a
20 well of spring water. The herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with Isaac's
 herdsmen, saying, "The water is ours." So he called the name of the
21 well Esek, because they contended with him. And when they dug
 another well, they quarreled over that also. So he called the name of
22 it Sitnah. He moved on from these and dug another well; and over
 that one there was no dispute. So he called it Rehoboth, and said,
 "For now the LORD has made room for us and we shall be fruitful
 in the land."

23 Isaac went up from there to Beer-sheba. The LORD appeared
24 to him the same night and said, "I am the God of Abraham your
 father, do not be afraid, because I am with you, and will bless you
 and make your descendants numerous for the sake of my servant
25 Abraham." Isaac built an altar there, and called upon the name of
 the LORD, and pitched his tent there. There also Isaac's slaves dug
 a well.

26 Then Abimelech came to him from Gerar with Ahuzzath his
27 friend, and Phicol the captain of his army. Isaac said to them, "Why
 have you come to me, since you hated me and have driven me away
28 from you?" And they said, "We saw plainly that the LORD was with
 you, so we said, 'Let there now be a sworn treaty between us – let
29 us make a solemn agreement with you – so that you will do us
 no harm, as we have not touched you, and as we have done to you
 nothing but good, and have sent you away in peace.' You are now
30 blessed of the LORD." And he made them a feast and they ate and

drank. Then in the morning they arose early and took oaths with each other; and Isaac sent them away, and they departed from him in peace. That same day, Isaac's slaves came and told him about a well which they had dug, and said to him, "We have found water." And he called it Shebna, therefore the name of the city is Beer-sheba to this day.

Esau and Jacob

WHEN ESAU WAS FORTY YEARS OLD HE MARRIED JUDITH THE DAUGHTER OF Beeri the Hittite, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite, and they were a source of grief to Isaac and to Rebekah.

When Isaac was so old and so nearly blind that he could not see, he called Esau his oldest son and said to him, "My son." Esau answered, "Here I am." Isaac said, "See, I am old and do not know how soon I may die. Take your quiver and your bow and go out into the fields and hunt venison for me and prepare for me savory food, such as I love, and bring it to me that I may eat and that I may bless you before I die."

Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to his son Esau. So when Esau went into the fields to hunt venison, Rebekah said to her son Jacob, "I just now heard your father say to your brother Esau, 'Bring me venison and prepare for me savory food that I may eat it and bless you before I die.' Now, my son, do as I tell you: Go to the flock and bring me from there two good young goats, and I will make of them savory food for your father, such as he loves. Then take it to him, that he may eat, so that he may bless you before he dies." But Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, "You know that my brother Esau is a hairy man, while I am smooth. Perhaps my father will touch me; then I will appear to him to be a deceiver, and I will bring blame upon me and not a blessing." But his mother said to him, "Let the curse be on me, my son; only obey me and go, bring the goats to me." So he went and brought them to his mother, and his mother made savory food such as his father loved.

Rebekah also took the fine clothes of her older son Esau, which she had with her in the tent, and put them on her younger son Jacob. Then she put the skins of the goats upon his hands and upon the smooth part of his neck, and she placed the savory food and the bread which she had prepared in his hand, and he went to his father

19 and said, "My father." Isaac answered, "Here I am; who are you, my son?" Jacob said, "I am Esau your oldest son. I have done as you
20 commanded me. Sit up and eat some of my venison, so that you may bless me." Isaac said to his son, "How very quickly you have found it, my son." He answered, "Yes, because the LORD your God gave me success."

21 Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Come here, my son, that I may touch you to find out whether you are really my son Esau or not." So
22 Jacob went near to Isaac his father, and he felt him and said, "The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau. Are
23-24 you really my son Esau?" Jacob answered, "I am." And Isaac did not recognize him, for his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's.
25 So he blessed him. Then Isaac said, "Bring the food to me, that I may eat some of my son's venison and bless you." So he brought it to him, and he ate. Jacob also brought him wine, and he drank.

26 Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come near now and kiss me,
27 my son." As he came near and kissed him, he smelled the smell of his garment, and blessed him:

See, the smell of my son
is as that of fields blessed by the LORD.
28 May God give you dew from heaven,
a share in the earth's fertile places,
and plenty of corn and wine.
29 May peoples be subject to you,
and nations bow down to you.
Be master over your brothers.
Let your mother's sons bow down before you,
Cursed be all who curse you.
and blessed be all who bless you.

30 As soon as Isaac had given Jacob his blessing, and Jacob was about to leave his father, Esau his brother came in from his hunting. He
31 also had made savory food and was bringing it to his father. So he said to him, "Father, rise and eat of your son's venison, that you
32 may bless me." But Isaac his father said to him, "Who are you?" He answered, "I am your son, your oldest, Esau." Then Isaac trembled
33 and said, "Who then is he that has hunted venison and brought it to me, so that I ate plentifully before you came, and blessed him? His blessing cannot be undone!"

34 When Esau heard the words of his father, he uttered a loud and

bitter cry and said to his father, "Father, bless me also!"

But Isaac said, "Your brother came with deceit and has taken away your blessing." Esau said, "He was correctly named Jacob. He has supplanted me these two times: he took my birthright, and now he has taken my blessing!" Then he said, "Have you kept a blessing for me?" Isaac answered Esau, "I have made him your master and I have given to him all his relatives as slaves and grain and wine as his food. What then can I do for you, my son?" Esau said to his father, "Is that the only blessing you have, my father? Father, bless me too!" and Esau began to weep aloud. Then Isaac his father answered him:

"You shall live far from earth's fertile places,
and away from the dew of heaven.
By your sword you will live,
and your brother you will serve.
But whenever you will break loose,
you will break off his yoke from your neck."

Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing which his father had given him. And Esau said to himself, "My father will soon die; then I will kill Jacob, my brother."

When the words of her older son Esau were told to Rebekah, she sent for her younger son Jacob and said to him, "Your brother, Esau, is going to kill you. Now, my son, listen to me: run away to my brother Laban at Haran and stay with him for a time until your brother is no longer angry – until he is no longer angry and he forgets what you have done to him. Then I will send and bring you back. Why should I lose both of you in one day?"

Wives for Jacob and Esau

REBEKAH SAID TO ISAAC, "I am disgusted with life because of the Hittite women; if Jacob marries a Hittite woman, such as these, the women of the land, I might as well die."

Then Isaac called Jacob, and blessed him, and instructed him, "You must not marry any of the daughters of Canaan. Arise, go to Paddan-aram, to the house of Bethuel your mother's father; and marry one of the daughters of Laban, your mother's brother. And may God Almighty bless you, and make you fruitful and numer-

4 ous, so that you may become a great people, and may he give the
blessing of Abraham to you and to your descendants with you so
that you may inherit the land you have settled in, which God gave
to Abraham.”

5 So Isaac sent away Jacob, and he went to Paddan-aram to Laban,
the son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, Jacob and
6 Esau’s mother. Now when Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob
and send him away to Paddan-aram, to find a wife there, and that,
as he blessed him, he instructed him: “You must not take a wife of
7 the daughters of Canaan”, and that Jacob had obeyed his father and
mother, and had gone to Paddan-aram, and when Esau also saw
8 that the daughters of Canaan did not please Isaac his father, then
9 Esau went to Ishmael, and in addition to the wives that he had,
married Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham’s son, the
sister of Nebaioth.

Jacob and the ladder

10 Then Jacob set out from Beersheba and went toward Haran. And
11 when he arrived at a certain holy place, he passed the night there,
because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones from its place
12 and put it under his head and lay down to sleep. Then he dreamed
and saw a ladder set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven;
and the messengers of God were going up and down on it.

13 The LORD also stood beside him and said, “I am the LORD, God
of Abraham and God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will
14 give to you and to your children. And your descendants will be as
countless as the dust of the earth and you will spread abroad to the
west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south, and all the
families of the earth will wish for a blessing like yours and that of
15 your descendants. See, I am with you, and will keep you wherever
you go and will bring you again to this land; for I will not leave you
until I have done what I have promised you.”

16 When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he said, “Surely the LORD
17 is in this place, and I did not know it.” And he was filled with
awe and said, “This place is the house of God, and this is the gate
of heaven.”

18 So Jacob rose early in the morning and took the stone that he had
put under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil upon the
19 top of it. And he named that place Bethel. (The earlier name of the

town was Luz.) Jacob also made this promise, "If God will be with me and protect me on this journey which I am making and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, and if I return safe and sound to my father's house, then the LORD shall be my God, and this stone which I have set up as a pillar will be a house of God. And of all that you give me I will surely give a tenth to you."

Leah and Rachel

JACOB CONTINUED ON HIS JOURNEY AND ARRIVED AT THE LAND OF THE people of the East. And he looked and saw a well in the field, and there were three flocks of sheep lying down by it; for from that well they watered the flocks; but there was a large stone over the well. When all the flocks were gathered there, the shepherds used to roll away the stone and water the sheep and then put the stone back in its place over the well.

Jacob said to the men, "My friends, from where do you come?" They said, "We are from Haran." Then he said to them, "Do you know Laban the son of Nahor?" And they said, "We know him." He said to them, "Is all well with him?" And they said, "All is well; indeed, this is Rachel his daughter coming with the sheep." He said, "See, the sun is still high! It is not time for the cattle to be gathered together. Water the sheep and feed them." But they said, "We cannot until all the flocks are gathered together, and they roll away the stone from the well; then we will water the sheep."

While he was still speaking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep; for she was a shepherdess. When Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban, his mother's brother, and Laban's sheep, he went up and rolled the stone from the well and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother. Then Jacob kissed Rachel and wept aloud. When Jacob told Rachel that he was a relative of her father and that he was Rebekah's son, she ran and told her father.

As soon as Laban heard about Jacob, his sister's son, he ran to meet him, put his arms around him, kissed him many times, and brought him to his home. When Jacob told Laban all that had happened, Laban said to him, "Surely you are my bone and my flesh." So he remained with him a whole month.

Then Laban said to Jacob, "Should you serve me for nothing simply because you are related to me? Tell me what shall be your

16 wages?" Now Laban had two daughters: the name of the older was
17 Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were
18 dull, but Rachel was beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel, and so he said,
19 "I will serve you seven years for Rachel your younger daughter."
20 And Laban said, "It is better for me to give her to you than to give
her to any other man. Stay with me." So Jacob served seven years
for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days, because he loved
her so.

21 Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife, for my time is up,
22 and let me marry her." So Laban gathered all the men of the place
23 and made a feast. In the evening he took Leah his daughter and
24 brought her to Jacob, and Jacob received her as his wife. At the same
time Laban gave his slave-girl Zilpah to his daughter Leah.

25 When in the morning Jacob found it was Leah, he said to Laban,
26 "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve you for Rachel?
27 Why then have you deceived me?" Laban said, "It is not the custom
among us to give the younger in marriage before the older. Remain
28 with this one during the marriage week, then we will give you the
other also for the service which you will give me during seven more
29 years." Jacob did so: he remained with Leah during the marriage
30 week. Then Laban gave him Rachel his daughter to be his wife, and
his slave-girl Bilhah to serve Rachel. Jacob slept with Rachel as well,
and loved Rachel more than Leah. So he had to serve Laban seven
years more.

31 When the LORD saw that Leah was spurned, he gave her the gift
32 of motherhood; Rachel, however, was barren. So Leah gave birth
33 to a son whom she named Reuben; for she said, "The LORD has
seen my affliction; now my husband will love me." And she gave
birth to another son; and said, "Because the LORD has heard that
34 I am spurned, he has given me this one also"; and she called his
name Simeon. And she gave birth to another son and said, "Now
this time my husband will become attached to me because I have
borne him three sons"; therefore his name was called Levi. And
35 she gave birth to another son and said, "This time I will praise the
LORD"; therefore she called his name Judah then she stopped having
children.

30 And when Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, she was
jealous of her sister and said to Jacob, "Give me children or else
2 I will die." But Jacob's anger was aroused against Rachel, and
he said, "Am I in God's place? Who has withheld offspring from
3 you?" She said, "Here is my slave-girl Bilhah, go to her, so that she

may bear sons who can be laid on my knees and I also may obtain children though her." And so she gave him Bilhah her slave-girl for a wife, and Jacob slept with her. And when Bilhah conceived and bore Jacob a son, Rachel said, "God has judged me and has also heard my voice and has given me a son." So she called his name Dan.

And Bilhah, Rachel's slave-girl conceived again, and bore Jacob a second son. And Rachel said, "With superhuman wrestlings have I wrestled with my sister, and have prevailed"; so she called his name Naphtali.

When Leah saw that she had stopped having children, she took Zilpah her slave-girl, and gave her to Jacob as a wife. And Zilpah, Leah's slave-girl bore Jacob a son. Leah said, "Fortunate!" and she called his name Gad. Zilpah bore Jacob a second son, and Leah said, "Happy am I! Now women will call me happy", and she called his name Asher.

One time, during the wheat harvest, Reuben went and found mandrakes in the field and brought them to his mother Leah. Rachel asked Leah, "Please give me some of your son's mandrakes." But Leah said to her, "Is it a small matter that you have taken away my husband, that you would also take away my son's mandrakes?" Rachel said, "In exchange for your son's mandrakes, Jacob can sleep with you tonight." So when Jacob came from the field in the evening, Leah went out to meet him, and said, "You sleep with me tonight, for I have hired you with my son's mandrakes." So he slept with her that night.

And God heard Leah's prayer, and she conceived and bore Jacob a fifth son. Leah said, "God has given me my reward, because I gave my slave-girl to my husband"; so she called his name Issachar. And Leah conceived again, and bore a sixth son to Jacob. She said, "God has endowed me with a good dowry; now my husband will honor me, because I have borne him six sons"; and she called him Zebulun. And afterwards she had a daughter and named her Dinah.

Then God remembered Rachel and heard her prayer and gave her a child. She conceived and gave birth to a son and said, "God has taken away my disgrace." And she called his name Joseph, saying, "The LORD will add to me another son."

When Rachel had given birth to Joseph, Jacob said to Laban, "Send me away, so that I may go to my own place, and to my country. Give me my wives and my children for whom I have served you, so that I may go; for you know the service which I have ren-

27 dered you." But Laban said to him, "If now I have found favor in
 28 your eyes – I have divined that the LORD has blessed me for your
 29 sake. State exactly to me your wages and I will pay them."

30 Jacob answered him, "You know how I have served you and
 what your cattle have become under my care; for it was little which
 you had before I came, but now it has greatly increased, since the
 LORD has blessed you wherever I went. But now, when am I to
 31 provide for my own house as well?" Laban said, "What should I
 give you?"

And Jacob said, "You do not need to give me anything. If you
 will do this thing for me, I will again feed your flock; I will again
 32 keep it. If I can go through all your flock today, and remove from
 it every black one among the lambs and the spotted and speckled
 33 among the goats; these will be my wages. So my honesty will testi-
 fy for me later, when you come to inspect my wages: every one that
 is not speckled and spotted among the goats and black among the
 34 lambs has been stolen by me." Laban said, "Good, let it be as you
 35 say." But he removed that day the he-goats that were striped and
 spotted, and all the she-goats that were striped and spotted, every
 one that had white on it, and all the black ones among the lambs,
 36 and gave them into the hands of his sons. Then he put the distance
 of a three days' journey between himself and Jacob; and Jacob fed
 the rest of Laban's flocks.

37 Jacob, however, took fresh rods of white poplar, and of the al-
 mond and of the plane tree, and peeled white streaks in them, ex-
 38 posing the white which was in the rods. And he set the rods which
 he had peeled before the flocks in the watering-troughs where the
 flocks came to drink (and they conceived when they came to drink)
 39 so that the flocks conceived before the rods. Therefore the flocks
 brought forth striped, speckled and spotted offspring. Jacob sepa-
 40 rated the lambs, and he set the faces of the flocks toward the striped
 and the black animals in the flock of Laban and he put his own
 droves apart and did not put them near Laban's flock.

41 And whenever the stronger animals of the flock conceived,
 Jacob laid the rods in the troughs before the eyes of the flock, so
 42 that they might conceive among the rods. But when the animals
 were weakly, he did not put them in. In this way the more weakly
 became Laban's, and the stronger Jacobs's.

43 So the man increased in wealth exceedingly, and had large
 flocks, and male and female slaves, and camels and donkeys.

31 Now Jacob heard Laban's sons say, "Jacob has taken all that was

our father's, and from that which was our father's he has acquired all these riches." Now Jacob observed that Laban was not so favorably inclined to him as formerly. The LORD said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your ancestors, and to your relatives, and I will be with you." Then Jacob sent for Rachel and Leah to come to the field where his flocks were, and said to them, "I see that your father is not so favorably inclined toward me as formerly; but the God of my father has been with me. You know that I have served your father with all my strength. Your father, however, has deceived me and changed my wages ten times; but God has not allowed him to do me harm. If your father said, 'The speckled will be your wages,' then all the flock bore speckled offspring, but if he said: 'The striped will be your wages,' then all the flock have striped offspring. God has taken away the possessions of your father and given them to me. At the time when the flock breed, I looked up, and saw in a dream, that the he-goats which were mating were striped, speckled, and piebald. And the messenger of God said to me in a dream, 'Jacob!' and I said, 'Here I am.' And he said, 'Look! All the he-goats which are mating are striped, speckled, and piebald: for I have seen all that Laban has been doing to you. I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar of stone, where you made a vow to me. Now arise, leave this land, and return to the land where you were born.'"

Then Rachel and Leah answered him, "There is no longer any inheritance for us in our father's house. Are we not considered as foreigners by him? For he has sold us and goes on to consume the money paid for us. Since all the riches which God has taken away from our father is ours and our children's, do whatever God has told you to do."

Then Jacob rose up and put his sons and his wives on camels, and drove away all his cattle and all the cattle which he had acquired in Paddan-aram, in order to go to Isaac his father, to the land of Canaan. And while Laban was gone to shear his sheep, Rachel stole the household gods that were her father's. So Jacob deceived Laban the Aramean – he did not tell him that he was going to flee. So he fled with all he had; crossing the river Euphrates heading towards the hill-country of Gilead.

When it was reported to Laban on the third day that Jacob had fled, he took his tribesmen with him, and pursued him for seven days, and overtook him in the hill country of Gilead. But God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream at night, and said to him, "Take care that you do not speak to Jacob either good or bad." When

25 Laban caught up with Jacob, Jacob had pitched his tent in the hill country; and Laban with his relatives encamped in same hill country of Gilead.

26 Laban said to Jacob, "What have you done? You have deceived
27 me and carried away my daughters like captives of war! Why
28 did you flee secretly, stealing away from me without telling me? I
29 would have sent you away with mirth and with songs, with tambourine and with harp – but you did not allow me to kiss my sons
30 and daughters. You have acted foolishly. It was in my power to do
31 you harm, but the God of your father spoke to me last night saying, 'Take care that you do not speak to Jacob, neither good nor bad.' But
32 now, since you are surely going because you long so earnestly for your father's house, why have you stolen my gods?"

33 Jacob answered Laban, "I was afraid, for I thought you would
34 take your daughters from me by force. The one with whom you
35 find your gods will be put to death; in the presence of our kinsmen
36 investigate for yourself what is with me and take it." Jacob did not
37 know that Rachel had stolen Laban's gods. So Laban went into Jacob's tent and into Leah's, and into the tent of the two slave-girls,
38 but he did not find his gods. Then he went out of Leah's tent, and
39 entered Rachel's. Now Rachel had taken the household gods and
40 put them in the camel's saddle and was sitting on them, so that
41 when Laban had searched all about the tent, he did not find them.
42 She said to her father, "Do not be angry that I cannot rise before
43 you, my lord, for it is that time of the month that women have."
44 And though he searched thoroughly, he did not find the household gods.

45 Then Jacob became angry and challenged Laban. "What is my
46 crime?" he said, "What is my offense, that you have pursued hotly
47 after me? Although you have gone through all through my things,
48 what have you found of all your household possessions? Declare it
49 here before my kinsmen and yours, so that they may decide which
50 of us two is in the right. In all these twenty years that have I been
51 with you, your ewes and she-goats have not miscarried their young,
52 neither did I eat the rams of your flocks. I did not bring to you the
53 animals which were killed by wild beasts; I bore the loss of it myself; from my hand you required compensation, whether stolen by
54 day or stolen by night. This was how I was: in the day the heat consumed me, and by night the frost, and sleep deserted me. These
55 twenty years I have been in your house; I served you fourteen years
56 for your two daughters, and six years for your flock, and you have

changed my wages ten times. Unless the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had been with me, surely by now you would have sent me away empty. But God has seen my affliction and the labor of my hands, and he rebuked you last night.” 42

Then Laban answered Jacob, “The daughters are my daughters, and the children are my grandchildren, and the flocks are my flocks, and all that you see is mine, but what can I do today for these my daughters, or for their children whom they have borne? Come, let us make a solemn agreement, I and you, and let there be a witness between me and you.” 43 44

So Jacob took a stone, and set it up as a pillar, and said to the members of his family, “Gather stones.” And when they had taken stones and made a heap, they ate there by the heap. Laban called it Jegar-sahaduthap; but Jacob called it Galeed. “This heap”, Laban said, “is witness between me and you today.” This is why it was called Galeed, and Mizpah, for Laban said, “May the LORD watch between me and you when we are absent one from another, so that you may not maltreat my daughters nor take other wives besides my daughters. No one is with us; but beware: God is witness between me and you.” 45 46 47 48 49 50

Moreover, Laban said to Jacob, “See this heap, and the pillar which I have set up between me and you. This heap is a witness and the pillar is a witness that I should not pass beyond this heap to you and that you must not pass beyond this heap and this pillar to me, with hostile intent. The God of Abraham and the God of Nahor” (the God of their ancestors) “judge between us.” And Jacob swore by the Fear of his father Isaac. 51 52 53

Then Jacob offered a sacrifice there on the mountain and called his kinsmen to eat bread, and they ate bread and spent the night on the mountain. 54

Then early in the morning Laban arose, and, when he had kissed his grandchildren and his daughters and blessed them, he departed and returned to his home. 55

And Jacob went on his way and the messengers of God met him. When he saw them, Jacob said, “This is God’s camp;” so he named the place “Mahanaim.” 32 2

Jacob prepares to meet Esau

3 JACOB SENT MESSENGERS BEFORE HIM TO HIS BROTHER ESAU, to the land
4 of Seir, which is the territory of the Edomites. And he gave them
5 this command, "Say to my lord Esau: 'Your servant Jacob declares,
6 I have lived with Laban and have stayed until now. I have oxen
7 and donkeys, flocks and male and female slaves, and I have sent to
8 tell my lord, in order that I may win your favor.'" The messengers
9 returned to Jacob with the report, "We came to your brother Esau,
10 even as he was coming to meet you with four hundred men."

11 Then Jacob was greatly alarmed and worried. So he divided
12 the people that were with him and the flocks and the herds and
13 the camels into two parts and said, "If Esau comes to the one and
14 attacks and destroys it, then the other which is left can escape."

15 Jacob also prayed, "God of my father Abraham and God of my
16 father Isaac, LORD who said to me, 'Return to your country, and
17 to your relatives, and I will do well by you,' I am not worthy of
18 the least of all the mercies and all the faithfulness which you have
19 shown to me, your servant. I passed over the Jordan river with
20 only my staff, and now I have these two groups, deliver me, I pray,
21 from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau, for I fear that
he will come and attack me and kill the mothers and the children.
Remember your promise to make me prosper and my descendants
as many as the sand of the seashore, uncountable."

12 After spending the night there, Jacob took from his livestock
13 as a present for his brother Esau, two hundred female goats and
14 twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams, thirty
15 milch camels and their young, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty
16 female donkeys and ten young donkeys. These he put, each drove
by itself, in the care of his servants and said to them, "Go on before
me and leave a space between the droves."

17 He gave those in front this command: "When my brother Esau
18 meets you and asks you, 'To whom do you belong? And where are
19 you going? And whose are these before you?' then you shall say,
20 'To your servant Jacob; it is a present sent by him to my lord Esau;
21 and Jacob himself is just behind us.'" Jacob also commanded the
second, and the third, and all that followed the droves, to make the
same answer, and to say, "Jacob himself is just behind us." For he
said to himself, "I will please him with the present that goes before
me, and then, when I meet him, perhaps he will welcome me." So

he sent the present over before him; but he himself spent that night in the camp.

Later that night he rose up and took his two wives, his two slave-girls, and his eleven children, and sent them over the river Jabbok. 22

Jacob wrestles

After he had sent them accross with all his belongings, Jacob was left alone, and someone wrestled with him until daybreak. When he saw that he did not win against Jacob, he struck the socket of his hip, and the socket of Jacob's hip was dislocated, as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" He answered, "Jacob." Then he said, "Your name shall be no longer Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with mortals and have won." And Jacob asked him, "Tell me, I pray, your name." And he said, "Why do you ask my name?" So he blessed him there. Jacob called the place Penuel, for he said, "I have seen God face to face, and my life has been saved." 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

The sun rose as soon as he had passed beyond Penuel, and he limped because of his hip. This is why to this day the Israelites do not eat the thigh muscle, which is at the socket of the hip, because he touched the socket of Jacob's hip on the thigh muscle. 31 32

Reconciliation

WHEN JACOB LOOKED UP, he saw Esau coming with four hundred men. So he divided the children between Leah and Rachel and the two slave-girls. He put the slave-girls and their children in front, Leah and her children next, and Rachel and her son Joseph in the rear. Then Jacob himself went in front of them, and he bowed down to the ground seven times, as he drew near to his brother. Esau ran to meet him, threw his arms about his neck, and kissed him, and they wept. 33 2 3 4

When Esau looked up and saw the women and the children, he said, "Who are these with you?" Jacob answered, "The children whom God has so kindly given me." Then the slave-girls with their 5 6

7 children came up and bowed down to the ground. Leah and her children also came and bowed down, and afterward Joseph and Rachel came up and bowed down before Esau.

8 Esau asked, "What do you mean by all this company which I met?" Jacob answered, "To win your friendship, my lord." Esau said, "I have enough, my brother; keep what you have." But Jacob replied, "No, if now I have won your favor, receive this present from me, because seeing your face when you welcomed me was like seeing the face of God. Take, I beg of you, the gift that I bring to you, for God has been generous to me and I have enough." So he urged Esau until he took it.

12 Then Esau said, "Let us set out on our way, and let me travel with you." But Jacob replied, "My lord knows that the children are delicate, and I have flocks and herds with their young; if they are overdriven one day, all the flocks will die. Let my lord, I beg of you, go on ahead of me, and I will proceed leisurely by stages according to the pace of the cattle which I am driving and of the children, until I come to my lord at Seir." Then Esau said, "Let me at least leave with you some of the people who are with me." But Jacob replied, "What need is there? Let me only enjoy the favor of my lord." So Esau turned back that day on his way to Seir.

17 But Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built there a house for himself, and made huts for his cattle; therefore the name of the place is called Succoth.

Dinah and Shechem

18 NOW JACOB CAME IN PEACE TO THE CITY OF SHECHEM IN THE LAND OF Canaan, when he came from Paddan-Aram, and encamped before the city. And he bought the piece of ground where he pitched his tent from the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem, for four hundred shekels; and he erected there an altar and called it El, God of Israel.

34 And Dinah the daughter of Leah and Jacob, went out to visit the women of the region. When Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, the prince of the region, saw her, he took her and lay with her and violated her, but his heart was drawn to Dinah the daughter of Jacob—he loved her and spoke indearingly to her. Therefore Shechem said to his father Hamor, "Get me this girl for my wife."

5 When Jacob heard that Shechem had defiled Dinah his daughter, his sons were with his cattle in the field, so Jacob said nothing until

they came home. Meanwhile Hamor the father of Shechem went out to Jacob to speak with him and with his sons. 6

The sons of Jacob came in from the field, and when they heard the news, the men were indignant and became very angry, because Shechem had committed a shameful crime in raping Jacob's daughter: such a thing ought never to be done. Hamor said to them, "My son Shechem has set his heart on your daughter. I beg you: give her to him as a wife and intermarry with us. Give your daughters to us and take our daughters for yourselves. Then you can settle with us, and the land will be open before you. Remain, go about, and settle down in it." 7 8 9 10

And Shechem said to Dinah's father and to her brothers, "Let me find favor in your sight, and I will give you what you ask of me. Demand of me an exceedingly large gift for yourselves and a dowry for the bride, and I shall give all you ask of me; only give me the girl for my wife." 11 12

Then the sons of Jacob answered Shechem and Hamor his father deceitfully, declaring, (because he had defiled their sister Dinah), "We cannot do this. We cannot give our sister to someone who is uncircumcised, for that would be a disgrace to us. Only on this condition will we make an alliance with you: if you will be as we are, in that every male of you be circumcised. Then will we give our daughters to you and take your daughters to us and will live with you and we will become one people. But if you will not listen to us and allow yourselves to be circumcised, then we will take Dinah and be gone." 13 14 15 16 17

Their proposal pleased Hamor and his son Shechem. The young man (who was honored above all the house of his father) did not hesitate to do the thing demanded, because he was smitten with Jacob's daughter. Hamor and his son Shechem came to the gate of their city, and conversed with the men of their city, saying, "These men are peaceably disposed toward us, let them remain in the land and go about in it; the land is broad enough for them on every side and in every direction; let us take their daughters to us for wives, and let us give them our daughters. Only on this condition will these men consent to settle with us to become one people, namely, that every male among us be circumcised, as they are circumcised. Shouldn't their cattle and their goods and all their beasts be ours? Let us make an alliance with them so that they will live with us." Then all who went in and out of the gate of his city agreed with Hamor and Shechem. And every male was circumcised, all who 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

went out of the gate of his city.

25 On the third day when they were still in pain, two of the sons of
 26 Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers, took swords and came
 upon the city unawares, and put Hamor and his son Shechem to
 27 the sword, and took Dinah out of Shechem's house and went away.
 28 The other sons of Jacob came on the slain, and plundered the city,
 because they had defiled their sister. They took their flocks and
 29 their herds and their donkeys and all that which was in the city and
 all that which was in the field. And all their wealth, and all their
 30 children and their wives, they took captive, and made all that was
 in the houses their prey. Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, "You
 have brought me into trouble, in that you have made me odious
 to the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Per-
 31 izzites. Since I have only a few people, if they gather themselves to-
 gether against me they will attack me – and I and my house will be
 destroyed." But they replied, "Should he have treated our sister like
 a whore?"

Jacob goes to Bethel

35 THEN GOD SAID TO JACOB, "Arise, go up to Bethel, and live there. Make
 an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you fled from
 2 your brother Esau." So Jacob said to his household, and to everyone
 who was with him, "Put away the foreign gods that are among you,
 3 and purify yourselves, and change your garments. Let us arise and
 go up to Bethel. I will make there an altar to God, who answered me
 in the day of my distress, and was with me on the journey which I
 4 was making." So they gave to Jacob all the foreign gods which were
 in their possession, and the rings which were in their ears, and Ja-
 5 cob hid them under the oak which was by Shechem. They set out
 on their journey, and a terror of God was upon the cities that were
 round about them, and they did not pursue after the sons of Jacob.
 6 Then Jacob came to Luz, which is in the land of Canaan (that is,
 Bethel). He and all the people that were with him came to Bethel. He
 7 built there an altar, and named the place El-Bethel; because there
 God revealed himself to him, when he fled from the presence of
 8 his brother. Then Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died, and was buried
 below Bethel under the oak. Therefore its name was called Allon-
 bacuth.

And God appeared again to Jacob when he came from Padda- 9
 naram, and blessed him. And God said to him, "Now your name 10
 is Jacob: but your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel." So he
 called his name Israel. And God said to him, "I am God Almighty; 11
 be fruitful and become numerous; a nation and a multitude of na- 12
 tions will come from you, and kings will descend from you; and the 12
 land which I gave to Abraham and Isaac, I will give to you, and to 13
 your descendants after you." And God went up from him at that 13
 place where he spoke with him. Jacob set up at the place where God 14
 had spoken with him, a pillar of stone, and poured a drink-offering 14
 and oil on it. Jacob called the name of the place where God spoke 15
 with him, Bethel. 15

Then they set out from Bethel, and when they were still some 16
 distance from Ephrath, Rachel went into a hard and painful labor. 16
 At the hardest, the midwife said to her, "Do not be afraid; for now 17
 you will have another son." And, as her life was departing (for she 18
 was dying), she called his name Ben-oni; but his father called him 18
 Benjamin. So Rachel died, and was buried on the way to Ephrath 19
 (that is, Bethlehem), and Jacob set up a pillar on her grave: that is 20
 the Pillar of Rachel's Grave, which stands until this day. 20

Then Israel journeyed, and pitched his tent beyond Migdal- 21
 Eder. And while Israel was living in that land, Reuben went and 22
 lay with his father's concubine Bilhah and Israel heard of it. 22

Now the sons of Jacob were twelve: The sons of Leah: Reuben, 23
 Jacob's firstborn, and Simeon, and Levi, and Judah, and Issachar, 23
 and Zebulun; the sons of Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin; and the 24
 sons of Bilhah, Rachel's slave-girl: Dan and Naphtali; and the sons 25
 of Zilpah, Leah's slave-girl: Gad and Asher (these are the sons of 26
 Jacob, that were born to him in Paddan-aram). 26

Then Jacob came to Isaac his father, to Mamre, near Kiriath-arba 27
 (that is, Hebron), where Abraham and Isaac had stayed. And the 28
 length of Isaac's life was a one hundred and eighty years. And 28
 Isaac beathed his last, and was gathered to his father's kin, old and 29
 satisfied with life; and Esau and Jacob his sons buried him. 29

Genealogy

Now these are the descendants of Esau (that is, Edom). Esau took 36
 his wives from the Canaanites: Adah the daughter of Elon the Hit- 2

3 tite, and Oholibamah the daughter of Anah, the daughter of Zibeon
 4 the Hivite, and Basemath Ishmael's daughter, sister of Nebaio-
 5 th. Adah bore Eliphaz to Esau; and Basemath bore Reuel; and
 Oholibamah bore Jeush, and Jalam, and Korah. These were the sons
 of Esau that were born to him in the land of Canaan.

6 And Esau took his wives, and his sons, and his daughters, and
 all the members of his household and his cattle and all his beasts
 and all his possessionse which he had gathered in the land of
 7 Canaan and went into a land away from his brother Jacob. For their
 possessions were too many for them to live together; and the land
 where they sojourned could not support them because of their cat-
 8 tle. So Esau dwelt in Mount Seir (Esau is Edom).

9 These are the descendants of Esau the father of the Edomites
 10 in Mount Seir: these are the names of Esau's sons: Eliphaz the son
 of Esau's wife Adah, Reuel the son of Esau's wife Basemath. The
 11 sons of Eliphaz were Teman, Omar, Zepho, and Gatam, and Ke-
 12 naz. Timna was the concubine of Esau's son Eliphaz; and she bore
 13 Amalek to him. These are the sons of Esau's wife Adah. These are
 the sons of Reuel: Nahath, and Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah. These
 14 were the sons of Basemath, Esau's wife. And these were the sons
 of Oholibamah the daughter of Anah, the daughter of Esau's wife
 Zibeon She bore Jeush to Esau, and Jalam, and Korah.

15 These are the chiefs descended from Esau. The sons of Eliphaz
 the firstborn of Esau: chief Teman, chief Omar, chief Zepho, chief
 16 Kenaz, chief Korah, chief Gatam, chief Amalek. These are the chiefs
 descended from Eliphaz in the land of Edom. These are the sons of
 17 Adah. And these are the sons of Reuel, Esau's son: chief Nahath,
 chief Zerah, chief Shammah, chief Mizzah. These are the chiefs de-
 scended from Reuel in the land of Edom. These are the sons of Base-
 18 math, Esau's wife. And these are the sons of Oholibamah, Esau's
 wife: chief Jeush, chief Jalam, chief Korah. These are the chiefs that
 19 came of Oholibamah the daughter of Anah, Esau's wife. These are
 the sons of Esau (that is, Edom), and these are their chiefs.

20 These are the sons of Seir the Horite, the original inhabitants of
 21 the land: Lotan and Shobal and Zibeon and Anah, and Dishon and
 Ezer and Dishan. These are the chiefs that came of the Horites, the
 22 children of Seir in the land of Edom. And the sons of Lotan were
 23 Hori and Heman. And Lotan's sister was Timna. And these are the
 sons of Shobal: Alvan and Manahath and Ebal, Shepho and Onam.
 24 And these are the sons of Zibeon: Aiah and Anah; this is Anah
 who found the hot springs in the wilderness, as he fed the donkeys

of his father Zibeon. These are the children of Anah: Dishon and 25
 Oholibamah the daughter of Anah. These are the children of Dis- 26
 hon: Hemdan and Eshban and Ithran and Cheran. These are the 27
 children of Ezer: Bilhan and Zaavan and Akan. These are the chil- 28
 dren of Dishan: Uz and Aran. These are the chiefs descended from 29
 the Horites: chief Lotan, chief Shobal, chief Zibeon, chief Anah,
 chief Dishon, chief Ezer, chief Dishan. These are the chiefs that came 30
 of the Horites, according to their chiefs in the land of Seir.

These are the kings that reigned in the land of Edom, before 31
 there reigned any king over the Israelites. Bela the son of Beor 32
 reigned in Edom; and the name of his city was Dinhabah. Bela died, 33
 and Jobab the son of Zerah of Bozrah reigned in his stead. And 34
 Jobab died, and Husham of the land of the Temanites reigned in his
 stead. Husham died, and Hadad the son of Bedad, who defeated 35
 Midian in the field of Moab, reigned in his stead. The name of his
 city was Avith. Hadad died, and Samlah of Masrekah reigned in his 36
 stead. Samlah died, and Shaul of Rehoboth by the River reigned in 37
 his stead. Shaul died, and Baal-hanan the son of Achbor reigned in 38
 his stead. Baal-hanan the son of Achbor died, and Hadar reigned in 39
 his stead: and the name of his city was Pau; and his wife's name was
 Mehetabel, the daughter of Matred, the daughter of Me-zahab.

These are the names of the chiefs descended from Esau, according 40
 to their families, after their places, by their names: chief Timna, chief 41
 Alvah, chief Jetheth, chief Oholibamah, chief Elah, chief Pinon,
 chief Kenaz, chief Teman, chief Mibzar, chief Magdiel, chief Iram. 42
 These are the chiefs of Edom, according to their settlements in the 43
 land they possessed. This was Esau, the father of the Edomites.

Joseph sold into slavery

JACOB MADE HIS HOME IN THE LAND OF CANAAN, where his father had 37
 lived as a resident foreigner. Joseph at the age of seventeen was a 2
 shepherd with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zil-
 pah, his father's slave wives. He brought a bad report about them to 3
 their father. Now Jacob loved his son Joseph, who was born in his
 old age; and he made him a long robe with sleeves. When his broth- 4
 ers saw that their father loved Joseph more than all his other sons,
 they hated him and could not speak to him in a friendly manner.

Joseph also had a dream and told it to his brothers, and they 5

6 hated him still more. This is what he said to them, "Hear, if you will,
7 this dream which I have had; for as we were binding sheaves in the
8 field, my sheaf rose up and remained standing, while your sheaves
came around and bowed down to my sheaf." His brothers said to
him, "Do you think you will be king over us? And rule us?" So they
hated him still more because of his dreams and his words.

9 Then he had another dream and told it to his brothers, saying,
"I have had another dream, and it seemed to me that the sun and
10 the moon and eleven stars bowed down to me." But when he told
it to his father and his brothers, his father reprovved him and said,
"What is this dream that you have dreamed? Am I and your mother
and your brothers supposed to bow down to the earth before you?"
11 Therefore his brothers envied him; but his father kept the matter
in mind.

12 When his brothers went to pasture his father's flocks in
13 Shechem, Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing
the flocks in Shechem? Come now, I will send you to them." Joseph
14 replied, "I am ready." So his father said to him, "Go, see whether all
goes well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring me back
word." So he sent him out from the valley of Hebron, and he came
15 to Shechem. There a man found him, as he was wandering in the
16 field, and the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" He said, "I
am looking for my brothers; tell me, please, where they are pastur-
17 ing the flock." The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard
them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers
and found them in Dothan.

18 When they saw him in the distance, before he came to them,
19 they conspired against him to kill him. They said one to another,
20 "See, here comes that master-dreamer. Come on, let us kill him,
and throw him into one of the pits, and then we will say, 'A fierce
beast has devoured him'; and we shall see what will become of
21 his dreams!" Reuben, however, when he heard it, saved him from
22 their hands by saying, "Let us not take his life." Reuben also said
to them, "Do not shed blood; throw him into this pit, that is in the
wilderness; but do not harm him," He planned to save him from
23 their hands in order to restore him to his father. Nevertheless, when
Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his long robe, the
24 robe with sleeves; and they took him and threw him into the pit.
But the pit was empty, there being no water in it.

25 Then they sat down to eat bread, and when they looked up they
saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, and their camels

were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh on their way to carry it
down to Egypt. Judah said to his brothers, "What do we gain if we
kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the
Ishmaelites, and let us do him no violence, for he is our brother, our
own flesh and blood." So his brothers listened to him; and when the
Midianite merchants passed by, pulled Joseph up from the pit and
sold him for twenty pieces of silver to the Ishmaelites, who brought
him to Egypt.

When Reuben returned to the pit and found Joseph gone, he tore
his clothes in sorrow. He went back to his brothers and said, "The
boy is gone! What am I going to do?"

Then his brothers took Joseph's robe, killed a he-goat, dipped
the long-sleeved robe in the blood, tore it and sent it to their father,
saying, "We found this; see whether it is your son's robe or not."
He recognized it and said, "It is my son's robe! A wild beast has
devoured him! Joseph without doubt is torn in pieces." Then Jacob
tore his clothes, put sackcloth about his waist, and mourned for his
son many days. All his sons and his daughters tried to comfort him,
but he refused to be comforted, saying, "I shall go down to the grave
mourning for my son." So Joseph's father wept for him.

Meanwhile, the Midianites had sold Joseph in Egypt to one of
Pharaoh's court officials, Potiphar, the captain of the guard.

Judah and Tamar

ABOUT THAT TIME JUDAH LEFT HIS KINSMEN, and settled near a certain
Adullamite, whose name was Hirah. And Judah saw there a daugh-
ter of a Canaanite whose name was Shua, and he married her. He
lay with her, and she conceived, and bore a son, and he named him
Er. Then she conceived again, and bore a son and named him Onan.
And she bore still another son, and named him Shelah: and it was
at Chezib that she bore him.

Now Judah found a wife for Er his eldest son, and her name was
Tamar. But Er, Judah's eldest son, was wicked in the sight of the
LORD, and the LORD took his life. Then Judah said to Onan, "Go and
lie with your brother's wife, and perform the duty of a husband's
brother to her, and raise up offspring for your brother." But Onan
knew that the child would not be his; so whenever he lay with his
brother's wife, he spilled his semen on the ground, in order not to

10 raise up offspring for his brother. And what he did was evil in the
sight of the LORD : therefore he took his life also.

11 Then said Judah to Tamar his daughter-in-law, "Remain a
widow in your father's house, until Shelah my son is grown up";
for he said to himself, "I will not let him marry her, he must not die
like his brothers." So Tamar went and lived in her father's house.

12 After many days had passed, Shua's daughter, the wife of Ju-
dah, died. And when Judah had finished mourning, he went up to
see about his sheep-shearers at Timnah, with his friend Hirah the
13 Adullamite. Someone told Tamar, saying, "Behold, your father-in-
14 law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep." And she took off the
garments of her widowhood, and covered herself with her veil. She
sat, veiled, in the gate of Enaim, which is by the way to Timnah;
for she saw that Shelah had grown up without her being given to
15 him as wife. When Judah saw her, he thought her to be a prostitute;
16 because she had veiled her face. So he turned aside to her by the
roadside, and said, "Permit me, I pray you, to lie with you." For
he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. And she said,
17 "What will you give me to lie with me?" And he said, "I will send
you a young goat from the flock." And she said, "Will you give me a
18 pledge, until you send it?" And he said, "What pledge should I give
you?" And she said, "Your seal-ring and your chain and your staff
that is in your hand." So he gave them to her, and lay with her, and
19 she became pregnant. And she got up, and went away, and took off
her veil, and put on the garments of her widowhood.

20 Now when Judah sent the young goat by the hand of his friend
the Adullamite, to receive the pledge from the woman's hand, he
21 could not find her. He asked the men of her place, saying, "Where is
the sacred prostitute, who was at Enaim by the wayside?" And they
22 said, "There has been no sacred prostitute here." So he returned to
Judah, and said, "I have not found her; and the men of the place
23 said, 'There has been no sacred prostitute here.'" And Judah said,
"Let her keep the pledge, otherwise we will be put to shame. I have
sent this goat, and you have not found her."

24 Now after about three months, Judah was told, "Tamar your
daughter-in-law has been acting like a whore and is pregnant."
25 And Judah said, "Bring her forth and let her be burnt." But when
she was brought forth, she sent to her father-in-law, saying, "By the
man to whom these things belong, I am with child." She also said,
26 "Look at them and see if you know whose these are, the seal-ring
and the chain and the staff." When Judah recognized them, he said,

"She is more in the right than I, because I did not give her to Shelah my son." But he did not lie with her again.

When her time came to give birth, it was found that twins were 27
in her womb. And while she was in labor, one put out a hand and 28
the midwife took and bound on his hand a bright red thread, say-
ing, "This one came out first." But he drew back his hand, and his 29
brother came out, and she said, "What a breach you have made for
yourself!" Therefore he was named Perez. And afterward his brother 30
came out, who had the bright red thread on his hand; therefore
he was named Zerah.

Joseph in Egypt

JOSEPH WAS TAKEN DOWN TO EGYPT, and Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's 39
officers, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the
Ishmaelites who had taken him there.

Now the LORD was with Joseph, so that he prospered; and he 2
remained in the house of his master the Egyptian. When his mas- 3
ter saw that the LORD was with him and made everything that he
undertook prosper, Joseph won his confidence and became his personal 4
attendant. He also made him overseer of his household and
placed all that he had in his care. From the time that he made him 5
overseer in his house and over all that he had, the LORD blessed
the Egyptian's household for Joseph's sake, and the blessing of the 6
LORD was upon all that he had in the house and in the field. Leaving
all that he had in Joseph's charge, he knew nothing about his affairs
except about the food which he ate. Also Joseph was handsome and
attractive.

After these honors had come to Joseph, his master's wife direct- 7
ed her glances toward him and tried to tempt him. But he refused, 8
saying to her, "See, my master knows nothing about what I do in
the house, and he has put all that he has in my charge. No one has 9
greater authority in this house than I, and he has kept back nothing
from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do
this great wrong and sin against God?" Day after day she tempted 10
Joseph, but he did not listen to her nor accept her advances. One
day, however, when he went into the house to do his work and 11
when none of the men of the household were at home, she caught 12
hold of his garment and tried to seduce him; but he left his garment
in her hand and fled out of the house.

13 When she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had
 14 fled, she called to her household servants and said to them, "See,
 15 the master has brought a Hebrew in to insult us. He came to me to
 16 rape me, and I screamed loudly; and when he heard me scream,
 17 he left his garment with me and ran out of the house." And she
 18 kept his garment by her until his master came home; then she told
 19 him the same story, saying, "The Hebrew slave whom you have
 20 brought to us came to me to insult me; and when I screamed he left
 21 his garment with me and fled."

22 When Joseph's master heard the statements which his wife
 23 made to him, his anger was aroused; and he took Joseph and put
 24 him into the prison, in the place where the king's prisoners were
 25 confined. So he was left there in prison. But the LORD was with
 26 Joseph and showed kindness to him and enabled him to win the fa-
 27 vor of the keeper of the prison, so that he placed all the prisoners
 28 in Joseph's charge and made him responsible for whatever they did
 29 there. The keeper did not have to concern himself about anything
 30 Joseph was responsible for, because the LORD was with him and
 31 gave him success in everything he did.

The Two Dreams

40 SOME TIME AFTER THESE THINGS THE CUPBEARER OF THE KING OF EGYPT and
 41 his baker offended their master the king of Egypt, so that Pharaoh
 42 was angry with these two officers and imprisoned them in the
 43 house of the captain of the guard, in the same prison where Joseph
 44 was confined. And the captain of the guard assigned Joseph to
 45 them, and he waited on them; and they remained in confinement
 46 for some time.

47 Meanwhile the king of Egypt's cupbearer and baker, who were
 48 confined in the prison, both had dreams the same night, each with
 49 a particular meaning. When Joseph came in to them in the morning,
 50 he saw plainly that they were sad. So he asked Pharaoh's officers,
 51 "Why do you look so sad today?" They answered. "We have had
 52 a dream and there is no one who can interpret it." Then Joseph said
 53 to them, "Do not the interpretations of dreams belong to God? Tell
 54 them to me."

55 Then the chief cupbearer told his dream to Joseph and said to
 56 him, "In my dream I saw a vine before me, and on the vine were
 57 three branches, and as if budding it put out blossoms and its clus-

ters brought forth ripe grapes. Pharaoh's cup was in my hand, and I took the grapes and pressed them into his cup and gave the cup to Pharaoh." 11

Then Joseph said to him, "This is its interpretation: the three branches are three days; within three days Pharaoh will release you from prison and restore you to your office, and you will give Pharaoh's cup into his hand as you used to do when you were his cupbearer. But when all goes well with you, remember me, show kindness to me and speak in my behalf to Pharaoh and bring me out of this house; for I was unjustly stolen from the land of the Hebrews, and here also I have done nothing that they should put me in the dungeon." 12 13 14 15

When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was favorable, he said to Joseph, "I also saw something in my dream: there were three baskets of white bread on my head, and in the uppermost basket there were all kinds of baked food for Pharaoh, and the birds were eating them out of the basket on my head." Joseph answered, "This is its interpretation: the three baskets are three days; within three days Pharaoh will take off your head and hang you on a tree, and the birds shall eat your flesh." 16 17 18 19

Now on the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, he made a feast for all his officials. Then he released the chief cupbearer and the chief baker. He restored the chief butler to his office, so that he again gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand, but the chief baker he hanged, as Joseph had interpreted to them. Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him. 20 21 22 23

Pharaoh's Dream

Two years later Pharaoh had a dream: as he stood by the Nile, he saw coming up from the Nile seven cows, good-looking and fat, and they had been feeding in the river grass. Then seven other cows came up after them out of the Nile, bad-looking and lean, and they stood by the other cows on the bank of the Nile. The bad-looking cows ate up the seven good-looking, fat cows. Then Pharaoh awoke. 41 2 3 4

Afterward he slept and had a second dream and saw seven ears, plump and good, growing up on one stalk. Also seven ears, thin and blasted by the east wind, sprang up after them. The thin ears swallowed up the seven plump, full ears. Then Pharaoh awoke, and 5 6 7

realized that it was a dream.

8 In the morning Pharaoh's mind was disturbed; so he sent and called all the magicians and wise men of Egypt and told them his dreams, but no one could interpret them to him.

9 Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, "I now must remind
10 you of my offenses: Pharaoh was very angry with his servants and imprisoned me and the chief baker in the house of the captain of the guard. We both had dreams the same night, each with a
11 special meaning. There was also with us a young Hebrew, a slave of the captain of the guard; and we told him and he interpreted our
12 dreams to us, to each of us according to his dream. And our dreams came true exactly as he interpreted them to us: I was restored to my
13 office, but the other man was hanged."

14 Then Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon; and he shaved his face and changed his clothes and came to Pharaoh. And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. Now I have heard
15 it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it."
16 Joseph answered Pharaoh, "Not I; God only can give Pharaoh a satisfactory answer."

17 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "In my dream as I stood on the
18 bank of the Nile, I saw seven cows, fat and good-looking, which had been feeding in the river grass. And there came up after them
19 seven more cows, thin, and bad-looking and lean, worse than I ever saw in all the land of Egypt; and the lean and bad-looking cows
20 ate up the first seven fat cows; and when they had eaten them up, one could not tell that they had eaten them, for they were still as
21 bad-looking as at the beginning. Then I awoke. Again I dreamed and saw seven ears, plump and good, grow up on one stalk; then
22 seven ears, withered, thin, blasted with the east wind, sprang up after them; and the thin ears swallowed up the seven good ears. I
23 have told the dream to the magicians, but there is no one who can interpret it to me."
24

25 Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "Pharaoh's two dreams signify the same thing; God has made known to Pharaoh what he is about to
26 do. The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good ears are seven years. It is one dream. The seven lean and ugly cows that
27 came up after them are also seven years, and the seven empty ears blasted with the east wind represent seven years of famine. That is
28 why I said to Pharaoh, 'God has shown to Pharaoh what he is about to do.' Seven years of great plenty throughout the land of Egypt
29

are coming, and they will be followed by seven years of famine, so that all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt. The famine will consume all that the land produces; and plenty will not be known in the land because of that famine which follows, for it will be very severe.

"The dream came twice to Pharaoh to indicate that its fulfilment is assured and that God will soon make it come true. Now therefore let Pharaoh select a man who is discreet and wise and place him in control of the land of Egypt. Pharaoh should take action and appoint overseers over the land and collect one-fifth of all the produce of Egypt in the seven plentiful years. Let them gather all the food of these good years that come and store the grain under the authority of Pharaoh, and let them hold it for food in the cities. The food will furnish a supply for the land during the seven years of famine which will be in the land of Egypt, so that the people of the land will not perish because of the famine."

The plan pleased Pharaoh and all his officials; and Pharaoh said to his officials, "Can we find one like this, a man in whom is the spirit of God?" So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this, there is no one so discreet and wise as you. You will be at the head of my dominion, and all my people shall be ruled as you command, only on the throne I will be superior to you."

So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have appointed you over all the land of Egypt." And Pharaoh took off his signet ring from his finger and put it upon Joseph's finger and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a golden collar about his neck. He also made him ride in the second-best chariot which he had; and they cried before him, "Attention!" So he placed him over all the land of Egypt.

Pharaoh also said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, but without your consent no one may lift up hand or foot in all the land of Egypt." Pharaoh named Joseph Zaphenath-paneah and gave him as a wife Asenath the daughter of Potiphera, priest of On. Joseph's authority was over all Egypt, and so at the age of thirty Joseph was commissioned by Pharaoh, king of Egypt and went out as the head of the land of Egypt.

In the seven plentiful years there were bountiful harvests, and Joseph gathered up all the food of the seven plentiful years, which were in the land of Egypt, and stored the food in the cities, putting in each city the products of the fields about it. And Joseph stored up grain as the sand of the sea, in great quantities, until he ceased to keep account, because it could not be measured.

50 Two sons were born to Joseph and Asenath before the year of
 51 famine came. And Joseph named the eldest Manasseh; for he said,
 52 "God has made me forget all my toil and all my father's house-
 hold." He named the second son Ephraim; for he said, "God has
 made me fruitful in the land of my affliction."

53 When the seven years of plenty which had been in the land of
 54 Egypt were over, the seven years of famine began, as Joseph had
 said; and there was famine in all lands, but throughout the land of
 55 Egypt there was food, for when all the land of Egypt was famished,
 the people cried to Pharaoh for bread, and Pharaoh said to all the
 56 Egyptians, "Go to Joseph and do what he tells you." So when the
 famine was universal throughout the earth, Joseph opened all the
 storehouses and sold food to the Egyptians: but the famine was
 57 severe in the land of Egypt. And the peoples of all lands came to
 Joseph in Egypt to buy grain, for the famine was severe throughout
 the world.

Joseph's brothers come to Egypt

42 JACOB LEARNED THAT THERE WAS GRAIN FOR SALE IN EGYPT, and he said to
 2 his sons, "Why do you stand looking at each other? I have heard
 that there is grain for sale in Egypt; go down there and buy for us, so
 3 that we may live and not die." So Joseph's ten brothers went down
 4 to buy grain from Egypt. But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph's
 own brother, with his brothers; for he feared that some harm might
 5 come to him. So the sons of Jacob went among others to buy grain,
 for the famine was in the land of Canaan.

6 Now Joseph was the governor over the land; it was he who sold
 to all the people of the land. Therefore Joseph's brothers came and
 7 bowed before him with their faces to the earth. When Joseph saw
 his brothers he knew them, but he acted as a stranger toward them
 and spoke harshly to them and said, "Where do you come from?"
 8 They said, "From the land of Canaan to buy food." So Joseph
 recognized his brothers, but they did not know him.

9 Joseph also remembered the dreams which he had dreamed
 about them and said to them, "You spies! You have come to find out
 10 the weaknesses of the land." But they said to him, "No my lord;
 11 your servants have come to buy food. We are all sons of one man;
 12 we are honest men; your servants are not spies." But he said to

them, "No, you have come to see the weaknesses of the land." They replied, "We, your servants, are twelve brothers, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan; the youngest is today with our father, and one is no more." Joseph said to them, "It is just as I said to you, you are spies. By this you shall be tested: as sure as Pharaoh lives you shall not go away unless your youngest brother comes here. Send one of you, and let him bring your brother, while you remain in prison, that it may be proved whether you are telling the truth or not. Or else, as sure as Pharaoh lives, you are indeed spies." So he put them all into prison for three days.

Then Joseph said to them on the third day, "Do this, and live, for I fear God: if you are honest men, let one of your brothers remain in prison, but you go, carry grain to supply the needs of your households and bring your youngest brother to me. So shall your words be verified, and you shall not die."

They did as Joseph commanded, but they said to one another, "We are indeed guilty because of the way we treated our brother, for when we saw his distress and when he pleaded with us, we would not listen; therefore this trouble has come upon us." Reuben added, "Did I not say to you, 'Do not sin against the boy,' but you would not listen? Therefore now his very blood is required." They did not know, however, that Joseph understood them, for he had spoken to them through an interpreter. But he turned away from them and wept; then he turned back and spoke to them, and, taking Simeon from among them, bound him before their eyes. Then Joseph gave orders to fill their vessels with grain and to restore each man's money to his sack and to give them provision for the journey; and it was done to them.

So they loaded their donkeys with their grain, and departed. When they stopped for the night, one of them opened his sack to get feed for his donkey, and he saw the silver at the top of the sack. He said to his brothers, "My silver has been returned; here it is in my pack." They were dismayed and fearful, and said to one another, "What has God done to us?"

When they came to Jacob their father in the land of Canaan, they told him all that had happened, saying, "The man who is master in that land spoke harshly to us and imprisoned us as spies. We said to him, 'We are honest men; we are not spies; we are twelve brothers, sons of the same father; one is no longer living, and the youngest is today with our father in the land of Canaan.' But the man who is master in that land said to us, 'This is how I will discover if you are

34 honest men: leave one of your brothers with me and take the grain to supply the needs of your households and depart. Bring your youngest brother to me; then I will know that you are not spies, but that you are honest men; and I will restore your brother to you and you shall be free to go about in the land.”

35 As they were emptying their sacks, they found that each man’s purse of money was in his sack; and when they and their father saw their purses filled with money, they were afraid. Jacob their father said to them, “You have robbed me of my children: Joseph is no longer living and Simeon is no longer here, and you would take Benjamin also. All this misfortune has overtaken me!” But Reuben said to his father, “You may put my two sons to death, if I do not return him to you. Put him in my charge and I will bring him back to you.” But Jacob said, “My son must not go down with you, for his brother is dead and he only is left. If harm should come to him on the way by which you go, then you will bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave.”

43 The famine was severe in the land; and when Joseph’s brothers had eaten all the grain which they had brought from Egypt, their father said to them, “Go again, and buy us some more grain.” But Judah replied, “The man warned us: ‘You will not be able to see me unless your brother is with you.’ If you will let our brother go with us, we will go down and buy you food, but if you will not let him, we will not go down; for the man said to us, ‘You will not be able to see me unless your brother is with you.’” Jacob said, “Why did you treat me so badly by telling the man you had another brother?” They replied, “The man asked particularly about us and our relatives, saying, ‘Is your father still alive? Have you another brother?’ So we answered his questions as he asked them. How were we to know that he would say, ‘Bring your brother down?’”

8 Then Judah said to Israel his father, “Send the boy with me, and we will go at once, so that both we and you and our little ones may live and not die. I will be surety for him, you can hold me responsible for him. If I do not bring him to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame forever; for if we had not lingered, surely we would now have returned the second time.” Therefore their father said to them, “If it must be so, then do this: take some of the products of the land in your jars and carry down a present to the man, a little balm, a little honey, spices, myrrh, pistachio nuts, and almonds. Take twice as much money with you, carrying back the money that was returned in your sacks; perhaps there was a mis-

take. Take also your brother and go again to the man, and may God
Almighty grant that the man may be merciful to you and release
Benjamin and your other brother. But if I am robbed of my sons,
I am bereaved indeed!" So the men took the present and twice as
much money and Benjamin, and went down to Egypt and stood
before Joseph.

When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the steward of
his house, "Bring the men into the house, kill animals, and prepare
the meal, for these men will eat with me at noon." And he did as
Joseph directed, and brought the men into Joseph's house. But
the brothers were afraid, because they were brought into Joseph's
house, and they said, "We are being brought in on account of the
money that was returned in our grain-sacks at our first visit, so that
he can overpower and arrest us and take us as slaves, together with
our donkeys."

So when they came near to Joseph's steward, they spoke to him
at the door of the house and said, "Oh, my lord, we came down the
first time only to buy food; and when we reached home, we opened
our sacks and discovered every man's money was in the mouth of
his sack, our money in its full weight; and we have brought it back
with us. We have also brought down with us other money with
which to buy food; we do not know who put our money into our
sacks." He replied, "Be calm, don't be afraid; your God and the God
of your father has given you the treasure in your sacks; I received
your full payment."

Then he brought Simeon out to them. The steward also conduct-
ed the men to Joseph's house and gave them water with which to
wash their feet, and he gave their donkeys fodder. Then they made
ready the present in anticipation of Joseph's coming at noon, for
they had heard that they were to eat there.

When Joseph came into the house, they gave him the present
which they had brought and bowed down low before him. He
asked them regarding their welfare and said, "Is your father well,
the old man of whom you spoke? Is he still living?" They replied,
"Your servant, our father, is well; he is still alive." Then they bowed
their heads and made obeisance.

When Joseph looked up and saw Benjamin his brother, his own
mother's son, he said. "Is this your youngest brother of whom you
spoke to me?" And he added, "God be gracious to you, my son."
Then because he was overcome with emotion for his brother he
sought a place to weep; and he went into his room and wept there.

31 Then he bathed his face and came out and controlling himself he
32 said, "Bring on the food." So they brought food for him by himself
and for them by themselves and for the Egyptians who ate with him
by themselves, because the Egyptians could not eat with the He-
33 brews, for to do so is abhorrent to the Egyptians. Joseph's brothers
were seated before him, the eldest according to his right as the old-
est and the youngest according to his youth; and the men looked
34 at each other in astonishment. Then Joseph had portions served
to them from the food before him; but Benjamin's portions were
five times as much as any of theirs. So they drank and were merry
with him.

44 Then he gave this command to the steward of his household:
"Fill the men's grain-sacks with food, as much as they can carry,
2 and put my cup, the silver cup, in the mouth of the sack of the
youngest and the money too that he paid for his grain." And he did
as Joseph commanded.

3 As soon as the morning light appeared, the men were sent away,
4 together with their donkeys. When they had gone out of the city,
but were not yet far away, Joseph commanded his steward, "Follow
after the men; and when you overtake them, say to them, 'Why
5 have you returned evil for good? Why have you stolen my silver
cup, that from which my master drinks and by which he divines the
future? You have done wrong in so doing!'"

6 So the steward overtook them and said these words to them.
7 They said to him, "Why does my lord speak such words as this? Far
be it from your servants that they should do such a thing! Remem-
8 ber that we brought back to you from the hind of Canaan the mon-
ey which we found in our sacks. Why then should we steal silver
9 or gold from your master's house? If one of us is found with the
goblet then let him die, and we will be my lord's slaves." He said,
10 "Let it now be as you have said: he with whom it is found will be my
slave; but the rest may go free." Then each one hastily took down
11 his sack to the ground and opened it; and the steward searched, be-
ginning with the oldest and ending with the youngest; and the cup
12 was found in Benjamin's sack. Then they tore their clothes in sor-
row, and every man loaded his donkey and returned to the city.

14 When Judah and his brothers came back to Joseph's house,
he was still there; and they threw themselves before him on the
15 ground. Joseph said to them, "What deed is this that you have
done? Do you not know that a man like me can divine secrets?"
16 Judah replied, "What can we say, my lord? What can we plead or

how can we clear ourselves? God has found out the iniquity of your servants. See, both we and he also in whose possession the cup was found are my lord's slaves." But Joseph said, "Far be it from me that I should do such a thing! The man in whose possession the cup was found must be my slave; but you yourselves go up in peace to your father." 17

Then Judah came close to him and said, "My lord, let your servant, I beg of you, speak a word in my lord's ears, and let not your anger be kindled against your servant; for you are as great as Pharaoh. My lord, you asked us, 'Have you a father or a brother?' And we said to you, 'We have a father, an old man, and a child of his old age, a little one. Since his brother is dead, he is the only son of his mother who is left; and his father loves him.' You said to us, 'Bring him down to me, so that I can see him.' But we said to you, my lord, 'The boy cannot leave his father. If he should leave his father, his father would die.' Then you said to us, 'Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you will not be able to see me again.' When we went up to your servant, my father, we told him your words, my lord; and our father said, 'Go again, buy us a little food.' But we said, 'We cannot go down. If our youngest brother is with us, then we will go; for we cannot see the man unless our youngest brother is with us.' And your servant, my father, said to us, 'You know that my wife bore me two sons; and one went missing, and I said that surely he was torn in pieces; and I have not seen him since. If you take this one also from me, and harm befall him, you will bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave.' Now if I return to your servant, my father, and the boy with whose life his heart is bound up is not with us, then when he sees that there is no boy, he will die, and we, your servants will bring down the gray hairs of your servant our father with sorrow to the grave. Indeed, my lord, I personally became surety for the boy to my father, when I said, 'If I do not bring him to you, then I will bear the blame in my father's eyes forever.' Now therefore let me, I beg of you, remain instead of the boy as your slave, my lord, but let the boy go up with his brothers. For how can I go up to my father, if the boy is not with me, and see the pain and sorrow that would come upon my father." 18
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Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who were standing by him; so he cried out, "Let everyone leave me." So nobody stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers. But he wept so loudly that the Egyptians and Pharaoh's court heard. 45
2

3 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still
4 alive?" But his brothers could not answer him for they were fright-
5 ened in his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near
6 to me, I beg of you." So they came near. And he said, "I am Joseph
7 your brother whom you sold into Egypt. Do not be troubled nor an-
8 gry with yourselves that you sold me here, for God sent me before
9 you to preserve life. For the famine has already been two years in
10 the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither
11 ploughing nor harvest. God sent me before you to keep you alive
12 through a great deliverance and give you descendants on the earth.
13 So now it clear that it was not you who sent me here, but God. And
14 he has made me like a father to Pharaoh and master of all his house-
15 hold and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

16 "Go up quickly to my father and say to him, 'Your son Joseph
17 says: God has made me master of all Egypt, come down to me with-
18 out delay. You will live in the land of Goshen, and you will be near
19 me with your children and children's children, with your flocks
20 and your herds and all that you have, and there I will provide for
21 you. Otherwise you, together with your household and all that you
22 have, will starve; for there will be five more years of famine.' Now
23 you and my brother Benjamin see that it is really me, Joseph, who
24 is speaking to you. Tell my father all about my honor in Egypt and
25 what you have seen, and you must quickly bring him down here."

26 Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and
27 Benjamin wept upon his neck. He also kissed all his brothers and
28 wept with them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

29 The report that Joseph's brothers had arrived spread in
30 Pharaoh's palace, and it pleased Pharaoh and his servants greatly.
31 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Say to your brothers, 'Do this: load your
32 beasts, go to the land of Canaan, and take your father and your
33 households and come to me, and I will give you the best of the land
34 of Egypt, and you shall eat the best that the land affords. Now you
35 are commanded to do this: take wagons out of the land of Egypt
36 for your little ones and for your wives and bring your father and
37 come. Also pay no attention to your household goods, for the best
38 of all the land of Egypt is yours.'" And the sons of Jacob did as com-
39 manded.

40 So Joseph gave them wagons according to Pharaoh's orders
41 and provisions for the journey. To each of them he gave a change
42 of clothing, but to Benjamin he gave three hundred pieces of silver
43 and five changes of clothing. And to his father he sent the following

gifts: ten donkeys loaded with the best products of Egypt and ten donkeys loaded with grain and bread and provisions for his father on the journey.

So he sent his brothers away, and as they departed, he said to them, "See that you do not quarrel on the journey!" So they went up out of Egypt and came into the land of Canaan to Jacob their father. And they told him, "Joseph is yet alive, and he is ruler over all the land of Egypt!" Then Jacob's heart stood still, for he could not believe them. But when they told him all that Joseph had said to them and when he saw the wagons which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of Jacob their father revived, and he, Israel, said, "It is enough; Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die."

The promise to Israel

THEN ISRAEL SET OUT ON HIS JOURNEY WITH ALL THAT HE HAD. And he went to Beersheba and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. God spoke to Israel in a vision by night and said, "Jacob, Jacob." He answered, "Here I am." Then God said, "I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down into Egypt, for there I will make of you a great nation. I myself will go down with you into Egypt; and I will surely bring you up again; and Joseph will be the one who closes your dying eyes."

When Jacob left Beersheba, his sons carried him and their little ones and their wives in the wagons that Pharaoh had sent to carry him. They took their herds and the possessions they had acquired in Canaan and went to Egypt, Jacob and all his family; his sons and grandsons, his daughters and his granddaughters, he brought all his family to Egypt.

Genealogy

NOW THESE ARE THE NAMES OF THE ISRAELITES, Jacob and his family, who came to Egypt. Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, and the sons of Reuben: Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi. The sons of Simeon: Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jachin, Zohar, and Shaul, the son of a Canaanite woman. The sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. The sons of Judah: Er, Onan, Shelah, Perez, and Zerah (but Er and Onan died

13 in the land of Canaan). Perez's sons were Hezron and Hamul. The
 14 sons of Issachar: Tola, Puvah, Jashub, and Shimron. The sons of Ze-
 15 bulun: Sered, Elon, and Jahleel. These are the sons of Leah, whom
 16 she bore to Jacob in Paddan-aram, together with his daughter Di-
 17 nah. He had thirty-three descendants by Leah in total. The sons
 18 of Gad: Ziphion, Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon, Eri, Arodi, and Areli. The
 19 sons of Asher: Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi, Beriah, and Serah, their sis-
 20 ter. The sons of Beriah: Heber and Malchiel. These are the children
 21 of Zilpah, the slave-girl whom Laban gave to his daughter Leah.
 22 She bore sixteen children to Jacob. The children of Jacob's wife
 23 Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin. Joseph in the land of Egypt fathered
 24 Manasseh and Ephraim, whose mother was Asenath daughter of
 25 Potiphara, priest of On. The sons of Benjamin: Bela, Becher, Ash-
 26 bel, Gera, Naaman, Ehi, Rosh, Muppim, Huppim, and Ard. These
 27 fourteen were Rachel and Jacobs's descendants. The sons of Dan:
 Hashum. The sons of Naphtali: Jahzeel, Guni, Jezer, and Shillem.
 These seven are the sons of Bilhah, the slave-girl whom Laban gave
 to his daughter Rachel. She bore seven children to Jacob.

All the people belonging to Jacob who came into Egypt, who
 were his own offspring, not including the wives of his sons, were
 sixty-six in total. Two sons were born to Joseph in Egypt; all the
 people of the house of Jacob who came into Egypt were seventy.

Israel in Egypt

28 JACOB SENT JUDAH BEFORE HIM TO JOSEPH, so that he might show him the
 29 way to Goshen. When they came into the land of Goshen, Joseph
 made ready his chariot, and went up to Goshen to meet Jacob his
 father, and when he presented himself to him Jacob fell on his neck
 and wept there a long time.

30 Then Jacob said to Joseph, "Now let me die, since I have seen
 31 your face and know that you are still alive." But Joseph said to
 his brothers and to his father's household, "I will go up and tell
 Pharaoh and will say to him, 'My brothers and my father's house-
 32 hold who were in the land of Canaan have come to me. Now the
 men are shepherds, for they have been keepers of cattle; and they
 have brought their flocks and cattle and all that they have.' When
 33 Pharaoh calls you and asks, 'What is your occupation?' you must
 34 say, 'We, your servants have been keepers of cattle all our lives,

both we and our fathers,' so that you might be alloed to live in the province of Goshen, for shepherds are looked down upon by the Egyptians."

Then Joseph went in and told Pharaoh, "My father and my brothers with their sheep and cattle and all that they possess have come from the land of Canaan; and now they are in the province of Goshen." And he took five of his brothers and presented them to Pharaoh. Pharaoh said to them, "What is your occupation?" And they said to Pharaoh, "We are shepherds, both we and our fathers." They also said to Pharaoh, "We have come to live in the land, because there is no pasture for our flocks, for the famine is severe in the land of Canaan. We beg of you, to let us stay in the province of Goshen." Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since your father and your brothers have come to you, the land of Egypt is at your disposal. Settle them in the best part of it. Let them stay in the province of Goshen; and if you know any capable men among them, put them in charge of my cattle."

Joseph also brought in Jacob his father and presented him to Pharaoh; and Jacob blessed Pharaoh. Then Pharaoh said to Jacob, "How many years have you lived?" Jacob answered, "I have lived a hundred and thirty years; few and hard have been the years of my life, and they have not been as many as those that my ancestors lived on earth." After Jacob had blessed Pharaoh, he went out from Pharaoh's presence. So Joseph gave his father and his brothers a place to live in and a home in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, near Rameses, as Pharaoh had commanded.

Joseph also provided food for his father and his brothers and all his father's household according to the number of their little children.

And there was no bread in all the land; since the famine was very severe, so that the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan languished because of the famine. And Joseph gathered in all the money that was found in the land of Egypt, and in the land of Canaan, for the grain which they bought: and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house.

And when the money was all spent in the land of Egypt, and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came to Joseph, and said, "Give us bread: for why should we die before your eyes because our money fails?" Then Joseph said, "Give your cattle; and I will give you for your cattle, if money has failed." So they brought their cattle to Joseph, and Joseph gave them bread in exchange for the hors-

es, the flocks of sheep, and herds of cattle, and the donkeys. That year he sustained them with bread in exchange for all their cattle.

18 And when that year was ended, they came to him the second year, and said to him, "We will not hide from you, my lord, now that our money is all spent; and the herds of cattle are yours; there
19 is nothing left in the your sight, but our bodies and our lands. Why should we perish before your eyes, both we and our land? Take possession of us and our land in return for bread, and we and our land will become personal possessions of Pharaoh; and give us seed, so that we will live, and not die, so that the land does not become desolate."

20 So Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh; because every Egyptian sold his field, because the famine was severe upon
21 them. So the land became Pharaoh's. And as for the people, he reduced them to slavery from one end of Egypt to the other. Only the
22 land of the priests he did not buy, because the priests had a definite allowance from Pharaoh, and ate their portion which Pharaoh gave them. Hence they did not sell their land.

23 Then Joseph said to the people, "I have bought you and you land today for Pharaoh. Here is seed for you, and you must sow the
24 land. And at the ingatherings, you must give a fifth to Pharaoh, and four parts will be your own, for seed for the field, and for your food, and for those of your households, and for food for your little ones."
25 And they said, "You have saved our lives; let us find favor in your sight, lord, and we will be Pharaoh's slaves." So Joseph made it a
26 law, still in force today, that Pharaoh should have a fifth; only the land of the priests did not come into the possession of Pharaoh.

27 And the Israelites lived in Egypt, in the land of Goshen, and they acquired possessions in it and had many children and became
28 exceedingly numerous. Jacob lived for seventeen years in Egypt and died at the age of one hundred and twenty-seven.

Deaths of Jacob and Joseph

29 WHEN THE TIME DREW NEAR FOR JACOB TO DIE, he called his son Joseph and said to him, "If now you will do me a favor, put your hand under my thigh and swear that you will act kindly and faithfully
30 with me. Do not bury me, I beg of you, in Egypt; but when I lie down to sleep with my ancestors, carry, me out of Egypt and bury

me in their burying-place." Joseph replied, "I will do as you have requested." Jacob said, "Give me your oath"; so Joseph gave him his oath; and Israel bowed toward the head of the bed. 31

Now after these things, Joseph was told, "Your father is sick." 48
 So he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. When Jacob was told, "Your son Joseph has come to you." Jacob rallied his strength and sat up on the bed. Then Jacob said to Joseph, "God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and blessed me, and said to me, 'I will make you fruitful, and numerous, and I will make of you a company of peoples, and will give this land to your descendants after you for an everlasting possession.' And now your two sons, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you into Egypt will be mine just as Reuben and Simeon are mine. But your offspring, which you father after them, will be yours. Their inheritance will come from their older brothers. And as for me, when I came from Paddan, Rachel died to my sorrow in the land of Canaan on the way, some distance from Ephrath: and I buried her there in the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem)."

And when Israel saw Joseph's sons, he said, "Who are these?" 8
 And Joseph said to his father, "They are my sons, whom God has given me here." And Israel said, Bring them, I pray you, to me, and I will bless them. Now the eyes of Israel were dim for age, so that he could not see. So Joseph brought them near to him; and he kissed them, and embraced them. And Israel said to Joseph, "I had not thought to see your face; and now God has let me see your offspring as well." And Joseph took them from his father's lap, and bowed with his face to the earth. 12

So Joseph took them both – Ephraim with his right hand toward Israel's left hand and Manasseh with his left hand toward Israel's right hand – and brought them near to him. Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it upon the head of Ephraim who was the younger and his left hand upon the head of Manasseh, crossing his hands intentionally, for Manasseh was the eldest. 14

He then blessed Joseph, saying, "The God whom my forefathers Abraham and Isaac revered and served, the God who has been my shepherd all my life long unto this day, the messenger who has delivered me from all evil, bless the boys; and let them be known as descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and let them grow into a multitude on the earth." 16

But when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand upon the head of Ephraim, it displeased him, and he seized his father's 17

18 hand to remove it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's. And Joseph
19 said to his father, "Not so, my father; this one is the eldest; put your
right hand upon his head." But his father refused and said, "I know,
my son, I know, he also will become a people, and he will shall
20 be great, but his younger brother will be greater than he, and his
descendants shall become a populous nation." So he blessed them
that day and said, "The Israelites will invoke a blessing like your
own, saying, 'God make you like Ephraim and like Manasseh.'" So
he put Ephraim before Manasseh.

21 And Jacob said to Joseph, "See, I am about to die; but God will
22 be with you, and bring you back to the land of your fathers. As well
I give you a mountain-slope which I took out of the power of the
Amorites with my sword and bow."

49 Jacob summoned his sons and said, "Come near, so I can tell you
what will happen to you in days to come."

2 Assemble, sons of Jacob,
and listen to Israel your father.

3 Reuben you are my first-born,
my strength and the first-fruit of my manhood.
First in dignity and strength.
4 Boiling over like water, you will not be first,
For you climbed into my concubine's the bed,
you defiled your father's couch.

5 Simeon and Levi are akin,
weapons of violence are their swords.
I will not enter into their council,
6 My heart will not join in their assembly,
for men in their anger they slew.
and oxen in their wantonness they hamstring.
7 Accursed is their anger that it is so fierce,
and their wrath because it is so cruel;
I will divide them in Jacob
and scatter them in Israel.

8 Judah, your brothers praise you!
Your hand is on the neck of your enemies.
Before you your father's sons bow down.

Judah is a whelp of a lion.	9
From the kill, my son, you have returned; He has crouched, he has lain down as a lion, as an old lion, who will disturb him?	
The sceptre will not pass from Judah, nor the royal staff from between his feet, and to him is due the obedience of the people.	10
Binding his donkey to the vine, and his colt to the choice vine, he hath washed his garments in wine.	11
And his clothing in the blood of grapes; His eyes are red with wine, and his teeth are white with milk.	12
 Zebulun, he lives by the seashore; he is by a shore that is lined with ships, and his border extends to Sidon.	13
 Issachar, he is a strong-limbed donkey, crouching down between the sheepfolds, and when he saw the resting place was good, that the land also was pleasant, he bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a slave under a taskmaster.	14 15
 Dan, he judges his own people as one of the tribes of Israel.	16
Dan is a serpent by the way, a horned-adder beside the path that bites the horse's heel so that his rider is thrown off.	17
I have waited for your deliverance LORD !	18
 Gad, robber-bands press upon him, but he also will press upon their heel.	19
 Asher, his food is rich, and he provides royal dainties.	20

- 21 Naphtali, he is a flourishing terebinth,
 that sends forth beautiful branches.
- 22 Joseph, he is a fruitful branch,
 a fruitful branch by a spring,
 his tendrils run over the wall.
- 23 They bitterly attack, they shoot at him.
 The archers hatefully assail him,
- 24 But his bow remains ever bent,
 his forearms tireless,
 through the power of the Mighty One of Jacob,
 In the name of the Shepherd of Israel,
- 25 the God of your fathers, who will help you,
 and God Almighty, who blesses you,
 with blessings of heaven above,
 and of the great deep that lies beneath.
 With blessings of the breast and womb,
- 26 with blessings of your father,
 with blessings of the everlasting mountains,
 with the gifts of the ancient hills!
 They will be on the head of Joseph,
 on the head of the consecrated among his brothers.
- 27 Benjamin is a ravening wolf.
 In the morning he devours prey.
 and at evening divides the spoil.
- 28 These are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father
29 said to them and blessed them; each according to his blessing he
30 blessed them. And he instructed them, "I am to be gathered to my
31 people. Bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of
32 Ephron the Hittite, in the cave that is in the field of Machpelah,
33 which is before Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham
 bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite for the purpose of
 holding it as a burying-place. There they buried Abraham and
 Sarah his wife; there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife; and
 there I buried Leah. The field and the cave that is in it which was
 purchased from the children of Heth." And when Jacob had finished giving these instructions to his sons, he gathered up his feet into the bed, breathed his last and was gathered to his ancestors.

And Joseph fell upon his father's face and wept over him and
kissed him. 50

Then Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm
his father. So the physicians embalmed Jacob; and forty days were
devoted to it, for this is the full period for embalming. The Egyp-
tians also mourned for him seventy days. 2 3 4

When the days of mourning for him were past, Joseph spoke
to the members of Pharaoh's court, saying, "If now you wish to
do me a favor, speak to Pharaoh and say, Joseph's father made him
take an oath, saying, 'See, I am dying; bury me in my grave which
I prepared for myself in the land of Canaan.' Ask Pharaoh, 'Let me
go up, I beg of you, and bury my father; after that I will return.'"
Pharaoh said, "Go up and bury your father, as he made you take
an oath." 5 6

So Joseph went up to bury his father; and with him went all
the officials of Pharaoh, the elders of his household, all the elders
of the land of Egypt, all the household of Joseph, his brothers, and
his father's household. Only their little ones, their sheep, and their
cattle they left in the land of Goshen. And there went up with him
both chariots and horsemen, so that it was a very great company. 7 8 9

When they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond
Jordan, they held there a great and impressive lamentation; and
Joseph appointed a period of mourning for his father which lasted
seven days. When the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land, saw
the mourning at the threshing floor of Atad, they said, "This is an
impressive mourning among the Egyptians." That is why that place
across the Jordan is called, Ebel-Mizraim. 10 11

Then Jacob's sons did for him what he had commanded them:
they carried him to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave
in the field of Machpelah near Mamre which Abraham bought with
the field from Ephron the Hittite to hold as a place of burial. After
he had buried his father, Joseph and his brothers and all who had
gone up with him to bury his father returned to Egypt. 12 13 14

When Joseph's brothers realized that their father was dead, they
said, "It may be that Joseph will now hate us and fully punish us
for all the evil which we did to him!" And they sent this message to
him: "Your father commanded before he died, 'Tell Joseph: Forgive,
I beg of you, the wrongdoing and sin of your brothers, for they
treated you basely.' So now we beg of you forgive the wrongdoing
of the servants of your father's God." 15 16 17

While they were speaking to him, Joseph began to weep, his 18

19 brothers also went and fell down before him and said, "See, we are
20 your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid; for am I in
21 the place of God? You plotted mischief against me, but God intend-
ed it for good, in order to accomplish what is now being done, the
saving of the lives of many people. Now therefore do not be afraid;
I will provide for you and your little ones." He said this kindly, com-
forting them..

22 Joseph remained in Egypt with his father's family. He lived a
23 hundred and ten years, and he saw Ephraim's great-grandchildren;
the children also of Machir the son of Manasseh were borne upon
Joseph's knees.

24 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die, but God
will surely remember you and bring you up from this land to the
land which he promised by an oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."
25 Joseph required an oath of the children of Israel, saying, "When
God remembers you, as he surely will, then you must carry up my
26 bones from here." So Joseph died, being a hundred and ten years
old; and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

