

Genesis

ESV (English Standard Version)

Making God's Word Important



Texas Bible Bowl April 2, 2022
www.texasbiblebowl.org

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Date: Texas Bible Bowl April 1st to April 3rd, 2022
Place: Bandina Christian Youth Camp in Bandera, Texas

The Texas Bible Bowl study for Fall 2021 to Spring 2022 is over the book of Genesis. The objective is to gain knowledge of the text. At the conclusion of the study all participants will travel to Bandera, Texas to take a test challenging our knowledge of the text. The test will be Saturday, April 2, in the morning.

Texas Bible Bowl Test

There are several rounds of testing that include the following:

- Power Round (Closed Bible). This is a difficult test where any type of question can be asked. Its intent is to create a point spread for scholarships. This test is a real challenge of knowledge and it is satisfying to answer some of the questions correctly.
- Find The Verse (Open Bible). This test consists of 40 verses or partial verses. The answer is the Chapter and Verse. There are approximately 15 seconds per verse. The key to answering all of these correctly is knowing the text. The key to knowing the text is reading every night.
- Fact Finder (Open Bible). This test focuses primarily on facts. Because the answers are provided, it is relatively easy to recall the facts from the text. This is the easier of the tests and will build confidence in our knowledge.
- Identification (Open Bible). This test focuses primarily on facts. Each question has three choices that are facts from the text. Each question has two choices that require additional thought. "None of These and All of These". When all or none of the answers can be correct, it makes this test a little more difficult.
- In What Chapter - Quotes (Closed Bible). This test consists of 40 verses or partial verses. The answer is the Chapter in which the verse is found. The key to this test is to know the topics and chapters. The study bibles that are used have the text broken into chapters and topics.
- In What Chapter – Events (Closed Bible). This test consists of 40 events/topics. The objective is to know the chapter. Knowing the topics in the text is an important part of the study. The facts are tied to topics and the topics are tied to chapters. Each participant will be able to list all topics from beginning to end.

Testing is a small part of Bible Bowl. Bible Bowl is hours of reading, hours of studying together and the confidence in our knowledge of God's word. Testing is merely a tool to challenge us. The testing is done quietly without bells and buzzers, which makes it a gauge of our knowledge of the book of the text. The competition will include individual scores and team scores. A team will be 4 participants. There are 4 categories of teams, Junior High Experienced and Inexperienced, and Senior High, Experienced and Inexperienced. The top ten teams and individuals will receive awards.

Adults and Elementary students test only as individuals and not as teams. There are usually several adults and elementary students testing from each congregation represented. Adult participation is encouraging to the young people and it also provides a good example.

Schedule and Plans

Study the text 20 minutes each night. Repetition in reading the assigned chapters will make this study a success. Meditate on the text.

Each Week

- Read the chapters assigned for the week each night.
- Know the topic headings through the assigned chapter.
- Mark your Bible/Notebook through the assigned chapter.
- Complete the outline of each topic.

Study Techniques

Mark Bibles

The power round is the most difficult part of the test and finding the verse is the second most difficult part of testing. Finding the verses. Finding the verse is a true gauge of how well you will do on the overall score. Verse find consists of any phrases pulled from the text. During testing, you will have an average of 15 seconds to find a phrase in the bible and record the chapter and verse. Mark your Bible to help you remember and find phrases and associate them with a topic. If you can match a phrase to a topic, it will be easy to locate during testing.

Text is provided with one-words, places and people highlighted. If you use the printed text that is already highlighted then there will be little to mark.

Printed Text Key:

- Names & Nationalities Blue
- Places Green
- Numbers **Bold**
- One Words **Underlined, Bold, and Red**
- Words spoken by Christ *Italic and Red*

If you choose to use a bible then marking your bible helps emphasize words and phrases that you want to remember. It will help you tie the phrase back to the topic heading. To remember phrases, it is important to know who said it, and to whom it was said. One (unique) words are helpful when tied to other words because they help us associate a phrase with a chapter or topic heading. The following convention* works well:

- Topic headings and verse numbers Yellow
- Names & Nationalities Blue
- Places Green
- Numbers Orange
- One Words Circle These
- Significant Phrases you want to remember Underline

*These are only suggestions since marking your bible is a matter of personal taste to facilitate studying and remembering phrases.

Topic Outlines

To maintain the chronological flow of the text you may want to outline each topic. A format for the outline of each topic is provided in the study guide. The outline of each topic will help because it will serve as a study guide. Each of us will be able to emphasize the things that are more difficult to remember. The outline will be as follows:

- People: List all of the people in the topic.
- Places: List all the places in the topic.
- Numbers: List all of the numbers in the topic.
- One Words: List all one time words in the topic.
- Thoughts: This is a place to list all the major thoughts in the topic. It is a good idea to make a note of the things that you find difficult associating with the topic.
- Lessons/Questions: What lessons can I learn from these events and teachings for my own life? Are there any questions about this topic?

*Happiness is studying Gods word. It reveals his will for you.
Let the joy of a Christian life be evident, smile often.*

Bible Bowl Topic Outline

CH _____ Topic _____

People

Places

Numbers

One Words

Key Thoughts

Lessons learned for MY life/Questions to Ask.

Please use the back of this page to continue Questions/Lessons learned.

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Genesis

The Creation of the World

1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and **void**, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was **hovering** over the face of the waters.

³And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the **first** day.

⁶And God said, "Let there be an expanse¹ in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." ⁷And God made² the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. ⁸And God called the expanse **Heaven**.³ And there was evening and there was morning, the **second** day.

⁹And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land **appear**." And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land **Earth**,⁴ and the waters that were gathered together he called **Seas**. And God saw that it was good.

¹¹And God said, "Let the earth **sprout** vegetation, plants⁵ yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the **third** day.

¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for **signs** and for **seasons**,⁶ and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶And God made the **two** great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the **lesser** light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the **fourth** day.

²⁰And God said, "Let the waters swarm with **swarms** of living creatures, and let birds⁷ **fly** above the earth across the expanse of the heavens." ²¹So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm,

¹ 1:6 *Or a canopy*; also verses 7, 8, 14, 15, 17, 20

² 1:7 *Or fashioned*; also verse 16

³ 1:8 *Or sky*; also verses 9, 14, 15, 17, 20, 26, 28, 30, 2:1

⁴ 1:10 *Or Land*; also verses 11, 12, 22, 24, 25, 26, 28, 30, 2:1

⁵ 1:11 *Or small plants*; also verses 12, 29

⁶ 1:14 *Or appointed times*

⁷ 1:20 *Or flying things*; See Leviticus 11:19-20

according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the **fifth** day.

²⁴And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. ²⁵And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make man⁸ in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

²⁷ So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

²⁸And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and **subdue** it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." ²⁹And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the **sixth** day.

The Seventh Day, God Rests

2 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the **host** of them. ²And on the **seventh** day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the **seventh** day from all his work that he had done. ³So God blessed the **seventh** day and made it **holy**, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in **creation**.

The Creation of Man and Woman

⁴ These are the generations
of the heavens and the earth when they were created,
in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

⁸ 1:26 The Hebrew word for *man* (*adam*) is the generic term for mankind and becomes the proper name *Adam*

⁵When no **bush** of the field⁹ was yet in the land¹⁰ and no small plant of the field had yet **sprung** up—for the **LORD God** had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, ⁶and a **mist**¹¹ was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground— ⁷then the **LORD God** formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. ⁸And the **LORD God** planted a garden in **Eden**, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹And out of the ground the **LORD God** made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰A river flowed out of **Eden** to water the garden, and there it divided and became **four rivers**. ¹¹The name of the **first** is the **Pishon**. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of **Havilah**, where there is gold. ¹²And the gold of that land is good; **bdellium** and **onyx** stone are there. ¹³The name of the **second** river is the **Gihon**. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of **Cush**. ¹⁴And the name of the **third** river is the **Tigris**, which **flows** east of **Assyria**. And the **fourth** river is the **Euphrates**.

¹⁵The **LORD God** took the man and put him in the **garden of Eden** to work it and keep it. ¹⁶And the **LORD God** commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat¹² of it you shall surely die."

¹⁸Then the **LORD God** said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for¹³ him." ¹⁹Now out of the ground the **LORD God** had formed¹⁴ every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for **Adam**¹⁵ there was not found a helper fit for him. ²¹So the **LORD God** caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he **slept** took one of his **ribs** and closed up its place with flesh. ²²And the **rib** that the **LORD God** had taken from the man he made¹⁶ into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called **Woman**,
because she was taken out of **Man**."¹⁷

⁹ 2:5 Or *open country*

¹⁰ 2:5 Or *earth*; also verse 6

¹¹ 2:6 Or *spring*

¹² 2:17 Or when you eat

¹³ 2:18 Or *corresponding to*; also verse 20

¹⁴ 2:19 Or *And out of the ground the LORD God formed*

¹⁵ 2:20 Or *the man*

¹⁶ 2:22 Hebrew *built*

¹⁷ 2:23 The Hebrew words for *woman (ishshah)* and *man (ish)* sound alike

²⁴Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become **one** flesh. ²⁵And the man and his wife were both naked and were not **ashamed**

The Fall

3 Now the **serpent** was more **crafty** than any other beast of the field that the **LORD God** had made.

He said to the **woman**, "Did **God actually** say, 'You¹⁸ shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" ²And the **woman** said to the **serpent**, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but **God** said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴But the **serpent** said to the **woman**, "You will not surely die. ⁵For **God** knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like **God**, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the **woman** saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a **delight** to the eyes, and that the tree was to be **desired** to make one wise,¹⁹ she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they **sewed fig leaves** together and made themselves **loincloths**.

⁸And they heard the sound of the **LORD God** walking in the garden in the **cool** ²⁰ of the day, and the **man** and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the **LORD God** among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the **LORD God** called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"²¹ ¹⁰And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The **man** said, "The **woman** whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the **LORD God** said to the **woman**, "What is this that you have done?" The **woman** said, "The **serpent** deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴The **LORD God** said to the **serpent**,

"Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your **belly** you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

¹⁵ I will put **enmity** between you and the woman,
and between your offspring²² and her offspring;

¹⁸ 3:1 In Hebrew *you* is plural in verses 1-5

¹⁹ 3:6 Or *to give insight*

²⁰ 3:8 Hebrew *wind*

²¹ 3:9 In Hebrew *you* is singular in verses 9 and 11

²² 3:15 Hebrew *seed*; so throughout Genesis

he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel."

¹⁶To the **woman** he said,

"I will surely multiply your pain in **childbearing**;
in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be for²³ your husband,
and he shall rule over you."

¹⁷And to **Adam** he said,

"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
'You shall not eat of it,'
cursed is the ground because of you;
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
¹⁸ **thorns** and **thistles** it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.
¹⁹ By the **sweat** of your face
you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return."

²⁰The **man** called his wife's name **Eve**, because she was the mother of all living.²⁴
²¹And the **LORD God** made for **Adam** and for his wife garments of skins and **clothed**
them.

²²Then the **LORD God** said, "Behold, the **man** has become like one of us in
knowing good and evil. Now, lest he **reach** out his hand and take also of the tree of life
and eat, and live forever—" ²³therefore the **LORD God** sent him out from the **garden of**
Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴He drove out the **man**, and at the
east of the **garden of Eden** he placed the **cherubim** and a flaming sword that turned
every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

Cain and Abel

4 Now **Adam** knew **Eve** his wife, and she conceived and bore **Cain**, saying, "I have
gotten²⁵ a man with the help of the **LORD**." ²And again, she bore his brother **Abel**.

²³ 3:16 Or *against*

²⁴ 3:20 *Eve* sounds like the Hebrew for *life-giver* and resembles the word for *living*

²⁵ 4:1 *Cain* sounds like the Hebrew for *gotten*

Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a **worker** of the ground. ³In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, ⁴and Abel also brought of the **firstborn** of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. ⁶The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face **fallen**? ⁷If you do well, will you not be accepted?²⁶ And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for²⁷ you, but you must rule over it."

⁸Cain spoke to Abel his brother.²⁸ And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. ⁹Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" ¹⁰And the LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is **crying** to me from the ground. ¹¹And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to **receive** your brother's blood from your hand. ¹²When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth."¹³ Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear."²⁹ ¹⁴Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be **hidden**. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever **finds** me will kill me."¹⁵ Then the LORD said to him, "Not so! If anyone **kills** Cain, **vengeance** shall be taken on him **sevenfold**." And the LORD put a **mark** on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him. ¹⁶Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of **Nod**,³⁰ east of Eden.

¹⁷Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. When he built a city, he called the name of the city after the name of his son, Enoch. ¹⁸To Enoch was born Irad, and Irad fathered Mehujael, and Mehujael fathered Methushael, and Methushael fathered Lamech. ¹⁹And Lamech took two wives. The name of the **one** was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah. ²⁰Adah bore **Jabal**; he was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. ²¹His brother's name was **Jubal**; he was the father of all those who **play** the lyre and **pipe**. ²²Zillah also bore Tubal-cain; he was the **forger** of all **instruments** of **bronze** and **iron**. The sister of Tubal-cain was **Naamah**.

²³Lamech said to his wives:

"Adah and Zillah, hear my voice;
you wives of Lamech, listen to what I say:
I have killed a man for **wounding** me,
a young man for **striking** me.
²⁴ If **Cain's** revenge is **sevenfold**,
then **Lamech's** is **seventy-sevenfold**."

²⁵And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, "God has appointed³¹ for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain

²⁶ 4:7 Hebrew *will there not be a lifting up* [of your face]?

²⁷ 4:7 Or *against*

²⁸ 4:8 Hebrew; Samaritan, Septuagint, Syriac, Vulgate add *Let us go out to the field*

²⁹ 4:13 Or *My guilt is too great to bear*

³⁰ 4:16 *Nod* means *wandering*

³¹ 4:25 *Seth* sounds like the Hebrew for *he appointed*

killed him." ²⁶To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time people began to call upon the name of the LORD.

Adam's Descendants to Noah

5 This is the **book** of the generations of Adam. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. ²Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man³² when they were created. ³When Adam had lived **130** years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth. ⁴The days of Adam after he fathered Seth were **800** years; and he had other sons and daughters. ⁵Thus all the days that Adam lived were **930** years, and he died.

⁶When Seth had lived **105** years, he fathered Enosh. ⁷Seth lived after he fathered Enosh **807** years and had other sons and daughters. ⁸Thus all the days of Seth were **912** years, and he died.

⁹When Enosh had lived **90** years, he fathered Kenan. ¹⁰Enosh lived after he fathered Kenan **815** years and had other sons and daughters. ¹¹Thus all the days of Enosh were **905** years, and he died.

¹²When Kenan had lived **70** years, he fathered Mahalalel. ¹³Kenan lived after he fathered Mahalalel **840** years and had other sons and daughters. ¹⁴Thus all the days of Kenan were **910** years, and he died.

¹⁵When Mahalalel had lived **65** years, he fathered Jared. ¹⁶Mahalalel lived after he fathered Jared **830** years and had other sons and daughters. ¹⁷Thus all the days of Mahalalel were **895** years, and he died.

¹⁸When Jared had lived **162** years he fathered Enoch. ¹⁹Jared lived after he fathered Enoch **800** years and had other sons and daughters. ²⁰Thus all the days of Jared were **962** years, and he died.

²¹When Enoch had lived **65** years, he fathered Methuselah. ²²Enoch walked with God³³ after he fathered Methuselah **300** years and had other sons and daughters. ²³Thus all the days of Enoch were **365** years. ²⁴Enoch walked with God, and he was not,³⁴ for God took him.

²⁵When Methuselah had lived **187** years, he fathered Lamech. ²⁶Methuselah lived after he fathered Lamech **782** years and had other sons and daughters. ²⁷Thus all the days of Methuselah were **969** years, and he died.

²⁸When Lamech had lived **182** years, he fathered a son ²⁹and called his name Noah, saying, "Out of the ground that the LORD has cursed this one shall bring us relief³⁵ from our work and from the painful toil of our hands." ³⁰Lamech lived after he fathered Noah **595** years and had other sons and daughters. ³¹Thus all the days of Lamech were **777** years, and he died.

³²After Noah was **500** years old, Noah fathered Shem, Ham, and Japheth

³² 5:2 Hebrew *adam*

³³ 5:22 Septuagint *pleased God*

³⁴ 5:24 Septuagint *was not found*

³⁵ 5:29 *Noah* sounds like the Hebrew for *rest*

Increasing Corruption on Earth

6 When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, ²the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. ³Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not **abide** in³⁶ man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be **120** years." ⁴The **Nephilim**³⁷ were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of **renown**.

⁵The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the **thoughts** of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶And the LORD was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it **grieved** him to his heart. ⁷So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them." ⁸But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

Noah and the Flood

⁹These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God. ¹⁰And Noah had **three** sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

¹¹Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹²And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had **corrupted** their way on the earth. ¹³And God said to Noah, "I have **determined** to make an end of all flesh,³⁸ for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. ¹⁴Make yourself an ark of **gopher** wood.³⁹ Make **rooms** in the ark, and **cover** it **inside** and out with **pitch**. ¹⁵This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark **300** cubits,⁴⁰ its breadth **50** cubits, and its **height 30** cubits. ¹⁶Make a roof⁴¹ for the ark, and **finish** it to a **cubit** above, and set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with **lower, second, and third decks**. ¹⁷For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die. ¹⁸But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁹And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring **two** of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female. ²⁰Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground, according to its kind, **two** of every sort shall come in to you to keep them alive. ²¹Also take with you every sort of food that is eaten, and store

³⁶ 6:3 Or *My Spirit shall not contend with*

³⁷ 6:4 Or *giants*

³⁸ 6:13 Hebrew *The end of all flesh has come before me*

³⁹ 6:14 An unknown kind of tree; transliterated from Hebrew

⁴⁰ 6:15 A *cubit* was about 18 inches or 45 centimeters

⁴¹ 6:16 Or *skylight*

it up. It shall serve as food for you and for them." ²²Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

7 Then the LORD said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before me in this generation. ²Take with you **seven** pairs of all clean animals,⁴² the male and his mate, and a **pair** of the animals that are not clean, the male and his mate,³ and **seven** pairs⁴³ of the birds of the heavens also, male and female, to keep their offspring alive on the face of all the earth. ⁴For in **seven** days I will send rain on the earth **forty** days and **forty** nights, and every living thing⁴⁴ that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground." ⁵And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him.

⁶Noah was **six hundred** years old when the flood of waters came upon the earth. ⁷And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him went into the ark to escape the waters of the flood. ⁸Of clean animals, and of animals that are not clean, and of birds, and of everything that creeps on the ground, ⁹**two** and **two**, male and female, went into the ark with Noah, as God had commanded Noah. ¹⁰And after **seven** days the waters of the flood came upon the earth.

¹¹In the **six hundredth** year of Noah's life, in the **second** month, on the **seventeenth** day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep **burst** forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. ¹²And rain fell upon the earth **forty** days and **forty** nights. ¹³On the very same day Noah and his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the **three wives of his sons** with them entered the ark, ¹⁴they and every beast, according to its kind, and all the livestock according to their kinds, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, according to its kind, and every bird, according to its kind, every winged creature. ¹⁵They went into the ark with Noah, **two** and **two** of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. ¹⁶And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him. And the LORD shut him in.

¹⁷The flood continued **forty** days on the earth. The waters increased and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. ¹⁸The waters prevailed and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark **floated** on the face of the waters. ¹⁹And the waters prevailed so **mightily** on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered. ²⁰The waters prevailed above the mountains, covering them **fifteen** cubits⁴⁵ deep. ²¹And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, livestock, beasts, all **swarming** creatures that swarm on the earth, and all **mankind**. ²²Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. ²³He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens. They were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark. ²⁴And the waters prevailed on the earth **150** days.

The Flood Subsides

8 But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with

⁴² 7:2 Or *seven of each kind of clean animal*

⁴³ 7:3 Or *seven of each kind*

⁴⁴ 7:4 Hebrew *all existence*; also verse 23

⁴⁵ 7:20 A *cubit* was about 18 inches or 45 centimeters

him in the ark. And God made a wind **blow** over the earth, and the waters subsided. ²The fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, the rain from the heavens was **restrained**, ³and the waters **receded** from the earth continually. At the end of **150** days the waters had **abated**, ⁴and in the **seventh** month, on the **seventeenth** day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of **Ararat**. ⁵And the waters continued to **abate** until the **tenth** month; in the **tenth** month, on the **first** day of the month, the **tops** of the mountains were seen.

⁶At the end of **forty** days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made ⁷and sent forth a **raven**. It went to and **fro** until the waters were dried up from the earth. ⁸Then he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground. ⁹But the dove found no place to set her **foot**, and she returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her and brought her into the ark with him. ¹⁰He waited another **seven** days, and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark. ¹¹And the dove came back to him in the evening, and behold, in her mouth was a **freshly plucked olive leaf**. So Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. ¹²Then he waited another **seven** days and sent forth the dove, and she did not return to him **anymore**.

¹³In the **six hundred and first** year, in the **first** month, the **first** day of the month, the waters were dried from off the earth. And Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and behold, the face of the ground was dry. ¹⁴In the **second** month, on the **twenty-seventh** day of the month, the earth had dried out. ¹⁵Then God said to Noah, ¹⁶"Go out from the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁷Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—that they may swarm on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth." ¹⁸So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him. ¹⁹Every beast, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out by families from the ark.

God's Covenant with Noah

²⁰Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt **offerings** on the altar. ²¹And when the LORD smelled the **pleasing aroma**, the LORD said in his heart, "I will never again curse⁴⁶ the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I **ever** again **strike** down every living creature as I have done. ²²While the earth **remains**, **seedtime** and harvest, cold and heat, **summer** and **winter**, day and night, shall not **cease**."

9 And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. ²The fear of you and the **dread** of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered. ³Every **moving** thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you

⁴⁶ 8:21 Or *dishonor*

everything. ⁴But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. ⁵And for your **lifeblood** I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man.

⁶ "Whoever **sheds** the blood of man,
by man shall his blood be shed,
for **God** made man in his own image.

⁷And you,⁴⁷ be fruitful and multiply, teem on the earth and multiply in it."

⁸Then **God** said to **Noah** and to his sons with him, ⁹"Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." ¹²And **God** said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all **future** generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the **cloud**, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between **God** and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." ¹⁷**God** said to **Noah**, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have **established** between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

Noah's Descendants

¹⁸The sons of **Noah** who went forth from the ark were **Shem**, **Ham**, and **Japheth**. (**Ham** was the father of **Canaan**.) ¹⁹These **three** were the sons of **Noah**, and from these the people of the whole earth were dispersed. ⁴⁸

²⁰**Noah** began to be a man of the **soil**, and he planted a **vineyard**.⁴⁹ ²¹He drank of the wine and became **drunk** and lay **uncovered** in his tent. ²²And **Ham**, the father of **Canaan**, saw the nakedness of his father and told his two brothers outside. ²³Then **Shem** and **Japheth** took a garment, laid it on both their **shoulders**, and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned backward, and they did not see their father's nakedness. ²⁴When **Noah** awoke from his wine and knew what his youngest son had done to him, ²⁵he said,

"Cursed be **Canaan**;
a servant of servants shall he be to his brothers."

⁴⁷ 9:7 In Hebrew *you* is plural

⁴⁸ 9:19 Or *from these the whole earth was populated*

⁴⁹ 9:20 Or *Noah, a man of the soil, was the first to plant a vineyard*

²⁶He also said,

"Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem;
and let Canaan be his servant.

²⁷ May God enlarge Japheth,⁵⁰
and let him dwell in the tents of Shem,
and let Canaan be his servant."

²⁸After the flood Noah lived 350 years. ²⁹All the days of Noah were 950 years,
and he died.

Nations Descended from Noah

10 These are the generations of the sons of Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Sons were born to them after the flood.

²The sons of Japheth: Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras. ³The sons of Gomer: Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah. ⁴The sons of Javan: Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim. ⁵From these the coastland peoples spread in their lands, each with his own language, by their clans, in their nations.

⁶The sons of Ham: Cush, Egypt, Put, and Canaan. ⁷The sons of Cush: Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabteca. The sons of Raamah: Sheba and Dedan. ⁸Cush fathered Nimrod; he was the first on earth to be a mighty man.⁵¹ ⁹He was a mighty hunter before the LORD. Therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the LORD." ¹⁰The beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. ¹¹From that land he went into Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth-Ir, Calah, and ¹²Resen between Nineveh and Calah; that is the great city. ¹³Egypt fathered Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim, ¹⁴Pathrusim, Casluhim (from whom⁵² the Philistines came), and Caphtorim.

¹⁵Canaan fathered Sidon his firstborn and Heth, ¹⁶and the Jebusites, the Amorites, the Girgashites, ¹⁷the Hivites, the Arkites, the Sinites, ¹⁸the Arvadites, the Zemarites, and the Hamathites. Afterward the clans of the Canaanites dispersed. ¹⁹And the territory of the Canaanites extended from Sidon in the direction of Gerar as far as Gaza, and in the direction of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, as far as Lasha. ²⁰These are the sons of Ham, by their clans, their languages, their lands, and their nations.

²¹To Shem also, the father of all the children of Eber, the elder brother of Japheth, children were born. ²²The sons of Shem: Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, and Aram. ²³The sons of Aram: Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash. ²⁴Arpachshad fathered Shelah; and Shelah fathered Eber. ²⁵To Eber were born two sons: the name of the one was Peleg,⁵³ for in his days the earth was divided, and his brother's name was Joktan. ²⁶Joktan fathered Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah, ²⁷Hadoram, Uzal,

⁵⁰ 9:27 Japheth sounds like the Hebrew for enlarge

⁵¹ 10:8 Or he began to be a mighty man on the earth

⁵² 10:14 Or from where

⁵³ 10:25 Peleg means division

Diklah,²⁸ **Obal**, **Abimael**, **Sheba**,²⁹ **Ophir**, **Havilah**, and **Jobab**; all these were the sons of **Joktan**.³⁰ The territory in which they lived extended from **Mesha** in the direction of **Sephar** to the hill country of the east.³¹ These are the sons of **Shem**, by their clans, their languages, their lands, and their nations.

³²These are the clans of the sons of **Noah**, according to their **genealogies**, in their nations, and from these the nations spread abroad on the earth after the flood.

The Tower of Babel

11 Now the whole earth had **one** language and the same words.² And as people **migrated** from the east, they found a **plain** in the land of **Shinar** and settled there.³ And they said to one another, "Come, let us make **bricks**, and burn them **thoroughly**." And they had **brick** for stone, and bitumen for **mortar**.⁴ Then they said, "Come, let us **build** ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth."⁵ And the **LORD** came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built.⁶ And the **LORD** said, "Behold, they are **one** people, and they have all **one** language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they **propose** to do will now be **impossible** for them.⁷ Come, let us go down and there **confuse** their language, so that they may not **understand** one another's **speech**."⁸ So the **LORD** dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off **building** the city.⁹ Therefore its name was called **Babel**, because there the **LORD** **confused**⁵⁴ the language of all the earth. And from there the **LORD** dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

Shem's Descendants

¹⁰These are the generations of **Shem**. When **Shem** was **100** years old, he fathered **Arpachshad** **two** years after the flood.¹¹ And **Shem** lived after he fathered **Arpachshad** **500** years and had other sons and daughters.

¹²When **Arpachshad** had lived **35** years, he fathered **Shelah**.¹³ And **Arpachshad** lived after he fathered **Shelah** **403** years and had other sons and daughters.

¹⁴When **Shelah** had lived **30** years, he fathered **Eber**.¹⁵ And **Shelah** lived after he fathered **Eber** **403** years and had other sons and daughters.

¹⁶When **Eber** had lived **34** years, he fathered **Peleg**.¹⁷ And **Eber** lived after he fathered **Peleg** **430** years and had other sons and daughters.

¹⁸When **Peleg** had lived **30** years, he fathered **Reu**.¹⁹ And **Peleg** lived after he fathered **Reu** **209** years and had other sons and daughters.

²⁰When **Reu** had lived **32** years, he fathered **Serug**.²¹ And **Reu** lived after he fathered **Serug** **207** years and had other sons and daughters.

²²When **Serug** had lived **30** years, he fathered **Nahor**.²³ And **Serug** lived after he fathered **Nahor** **200** years and had other sons and daughters.

⁵⁴ 11:9 *Babel* sounds like the Hebrew for *confused*

²⁴When Nahor had lived **29** years, he fathered Terah. ²⁵And Nahor lived after he fathered Terah **119** years and had other sons and daughters.

²⁶When Terah had lived **70** years, he fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran.

Terah's Descendants

²⁷Now these are the generations of Terah. Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran fathered Lot. ²⁸Haran died in the presence of his father Terah in the land of his kindred, in Ur of the Chaldeans. ²⁹And 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 Iscah. ³⁰Now Sarai was barren; she had no child.

³¹Terah took Abram his son and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram's wife, and they went forth together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan, but when they came to Haran, they settled there. ³²The days of Terah were **205** years, and Terah died in Haran.

The Call of Abram

12 Now the LORD said⁵⁵ to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."⁵⁶

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was **seventy-five** years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak⁵⁷ of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. ⁹And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

⁵⁵ 12:1 Or *had said*

⁵⁶ 12:3 Or *by you all the families of the earth shall bless themselves*

⁵⁷ 12:6 Or *terebinth*

Abram and Sarai in Egypt

¹⁰Now there was a famine in the land. So Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land. ¹¹When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to Sarai his wife, "I know that you are a woman beautiful in appearance, ¹²and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me, but they will let you live. ¹³Say you are my sister, that it may go well with me because of you, and that my life may be spared for your sake." ¹⁴When Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. ¹⁵And when the princes of Pharaoh saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house. ¹⁶And for her sake he dealt well with Abram; and he had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male servants, female servants, female donkeys, and camels.

¹⁷But the LORD afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife. ¹⁸So Pharaoh called Abram and said, "What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? ¹⁹Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her for my wife? Now then, here is your wife; take her, and go." ²⁰And Pharaoh gave men orders concerning him, and they sent him away with his wife and all that he had.

Abram and Lot Separate

13 So Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the Negeb.

²Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. ³And he journeyed on from the Negeb as far as Bethel to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, ⁴to the place where he had made an altar at the first. And there Abram called upon the name of the LORD. ⁵And Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents, ⁶so that the land could not support both of them dwelling together; for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together, ⁷and there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. At that time the Canaanites and the Perizzites were dwelling in the land.

⁸Then Abram said to Lot, "Let there be no strife between you and me, and between your herdsmen and my herdsmen, for we are kinsmen."⁵⁸ ⁹Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself from me. If you take the left hand, then I will go to the right, or if you take the right hand, then I will go to the left." ¹⁰And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered **everywhere** like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) ¹¹So Lot chose for himself all the Jordan Valley, and Lot journeyed east. Thus they separated from each other. ¹²Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom. ¹³Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great **sinners** against the LORD.

¹⁴The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, **northward** and **southward** and eastward and **westward**, ¹⁵for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. ¹⁶I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can **count** the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted. ¹⁷Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you." ¹⁸So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks⁵⁹ of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to the LORD.

Abram Rescues Lot

14 In the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim, ²these kings made **war** with Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar). ³And all these joined forces in the Valley of Siddim (that is, the Salt Sea). ⁴**Twelve** years they had served Chedorlaomer, but in the **thirteenth** year they **rebelled**. ⁵In the **fourteenth** year Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him came and defeated the Rephaim in **Ashteroth-karnaim**, the **Zuzim** in Ham, the **Emim** in **Shaveh-kiriathaim**, ⁶and the **Horites** in their hill country of Seir as far as **El-paran** on the border of the wilderness. ⁷Then they turned back and came to **En-mishpat** (that is, Kadesh) and defeated all the country of the **Amalekites**, and also

⁵⁸ 13:8 Hebrew *we are men, brothers*

⁵⁹ 13:18 Or *terebinths*

the Amorites who were dwelling in **Hazazon-tamar**.

⁸Then the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) went out, and they joined **battle** in the Valley of Siddim ⁹with Chedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of Goiim, Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar, **four** kings against **five**. ¹⁰Now the Valley of Siddim was full of bitumen pits, and as the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, some fell into them, and the rest fled to the hill country. ¹¹So the **enemy** took all the possessions of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their provisions, and went their way. ¹²They also took Lot, the son of Abram's brother, who was dwelling in Sodom, and his possessions, and went their way.

¹³Then **one** who had **escaped** came and told Abram the Hebrew, who was living by the oaks⁶⁰ of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and of Aner. These were **allies** of Abram. ¹⁴When Abram heard that his kinsman had been taken **captive**, he led forth his **trained** men, born in his house, **318** of them, and went in **pursuit** as far as Dan. ¹⁵And he divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and defeated them and pursued them to **Hobah**, north of Damascus. ¹⁶Then he brought back all the possessions, and also brought back his kinsman Lot with his possessions, and the women and the people.

Abram Blessed by Melchizedek

¹⁷After his return from the **defeat** of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of **Shaveh** (that is, the King's Valley). ¹⁸And **Melchizedek** king of **Salem** brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) ¹⁹And he blessed him and said,

"Blessed be Abram by God Most High,
Possessor⁶¹ of heaven and earth;
²⁰ and blessed be God Most High,
who has delivered your enemies into your hand!"

And Abram gave him a **tenth** of everything. ²¹And the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the persons, but take the goods for yourself." ²²But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have lifted my hand⁶² to the LORD, God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth, ²³that I would not take a thread or a **sandal strap** or anything that is yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich.' ²⁴I will take nothing but what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me. Let Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre take their share."

⁶⁰ 14:13 Or *terebinths*

⁶¹ 14:19 Or *Creator*, also verse 22

⁶² 14:22 Or *I have taken a solemn oath*

God's Covenant with Abram

15 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a **vision**: "Fear not, Abram, I am your **shield**; your **reward** shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I **continue**⁶³ **childless**, and the heir of my house is **Eliezer** of **Damascus**?" ³And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a **member** of my household will be my heir." ⁴And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son⁶⁴ shall be your heir." ⁵And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." ⁶And he **believed** the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

⁷And he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you out from **Ur of the Chaldeans** to give you this land to possess." ⁸But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹He said to him, "Bring me a **heifer three** years old, a female goat **three** years old, a ram **three** years old, a **turtledove**, and a young **pigeon**." ¹⁰And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. ¹¹And when birds of prey came down on the **carcasses**, Abram drove them away.

¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, **dreadful** and great darkness fell upon him. ¹³Then the LORD said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be **sojourners** in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for **four hundred** years. ¹⁴But I will bring **judgment** on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. ¹⁵As for yourself, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. ¹⁶And they shall come back here in the **fourth** generation, for the **iniquity** of the **Amorites** is not yet complete."

¹⁷When the sun had gone down and it was **dark**, behold, a **smoking** fire **pot** and a flaming **torch** passed between these pieces. ¹⁸On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give⁶⁵ this land, from the river of **Egypt** to the great river, the river **Euphrates**, ¹⁹the land of the **Kenites**, the **Kenizzites**, the **Kadmonites**, ²⁰the **Hittites**, the **Perizzites**, the **Rephaim**, ²¹the **Amorites**, the **Canaanites**, the **Girgashites** and the **Jebusites**."

Sarai and Hagar

16 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had a female **Egyptian** servant whose name was **Hagar**. ²And Sarai said to Abram, "Behold now, the LORD has **prevented** me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall **obtain** children⁶⁶ by her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. ³So, after Abram

⁶³ 15:2 Or *I shall die*

⁶⁴ 15:4 Hebrew *what will come out of your own loins*

⁶⁵ 15:18 Or *have given*

⁶⁶ 16:2 Hebrew *be built up*, which sounds like the Hebrew for *children*

had lived **ten** years in the land of **Canaan**, **Sarai**, **Abram's** wife, took **Hagar** the **Egyptian**, her servant, and gave her to **Abram** her husband as a wife. ⁴And he went in to **Hagar**, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress.⁶⁷ ⁵And **Sarai** said to **Abram**, "May the **wrong** done to me be on you! I gave my servant to your **embrace**, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the **LORD** judge between you and me!" ⁶But **Abram** said to **Sarai**, "Behold, your servant is in your power; do to her as you please." Then **Sarai** dealt **harshly** with her, and she fled from her.

⁷The **angel of the LORD** found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to **Shur**. ⁸And he said, "**Hagar**, servant of **Sarai**, where have you come from and where are you going?" She said, "I am **fleeing** from my mistress **Sarai**."⁹ The **angel of the LORD** said to her, "Return to your mistress and **submit** to her."¹⁰ The **angel of the LORD** also said to her, "I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude."¹¹ And the **angel of the LORD** said to her,

"Behold, you are pregnant
and shall bear a son.
You shall call his name **Ishmael**,⁶⁸
because the **LORD** has listened to your affliction.
¹² He shall be a wild donkey of a man,
his hand against everyone
and **everyone's** hand against him,
and he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen."

¹³So she called the name of the **LORD** who spoke to her, "You are a **God** of seeing,"⁶⁹ for she said, "Truly here I have seen him who **looks** after me."⁷⁰ ¹⁴Therefore the well was called **Beer-lahai-roi**;⁷¹ it **lies** between **Kadesh** and **Bered**.

¹⁵And **Hagar** bore **Abram** a son, and **Abram** called the name of his son, whom **Hagar** bore, **Ishmael**. ¹⁶**Abram** was **eighty-six** years old when **Hagar** bore **Ishmael** to **Abram**.

Abraham and the Covenant of Circumcision

17 When **Abram** was **ninety-nine** years old the **LORD** appeared to **Abram** and said to him, "I am **God Almighty**;⁷² walk before me, and be blameless, ²that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly." ³Then **Abram** fell on his face. And **God** said to him, ⁴"Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the

⁶⁷ 16:4 Hebrew *her mistress was dishonorable in her eyes*; similarly in verse 5

⁶⁸ 16:11 *Ishmael* means *God hears*

⁶⁹ 16:13 Or *You are a God who sees me*

⁷⁰ 16:13 Hebrew *Have I really seen him here who sees me?* or *Would I have looked here for the one who sees me?*

⁷¹ 16:14 *Beer-lahai-roi* means *the well of the Living One who sees me*

⁷² 17:1 Hebrew *El Shaddai*

father of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be called **Abram**,⁷³ but your name shall be **Abraham**,⁷⁴ for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. ⁷And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be **God** to you and to your offspring after you. ⁸And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of **Canaan**, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their **God**."

⁹And **God** said to **Abraham**, "As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. ¹⁰This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. ¹²He who is **eight** days old among you shall be circumcised. Every male throughout your generations, whether born in your house or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring, ¹³both he who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money, shall surely be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant. ¹⁴Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant."

Isaac's Birth Promised

¹⁵And **God** said to **Abraham**, "As for **Sarai** your wife, you shall not call her name **Sarai**, but **Sarah**⁷⁵ shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover, I will give⁷⁶ you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her." ¹⁷Then **Abraham** fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a **hundred** years old? Shall **Sarah**, who is **ninety** years old, bear a child?" ¹⁸And **Abraham** said to God, "Oh that **Ishmael** might live before you!" ¹⁹**God** said, "No, but **Sarah** your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name **Isaac**.⁷⁷ I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him. ²⁰As for **Ishmael**, I have heard you; behold, I have blessed him and will make him fruitful and multiply him greatly. He shall father **twelve** princes, and I will make him into a great nation. ²¹But I will establish my covenant with **Isaac**, whom **Sarah** shall bear to you at this time next year."

²²When he had finished **talking** with him, **God** went up from **Abraham**. ²³Then **Abraham** took **Ishmael** his son and all those born in his house or bought with his money, every male among the men of **Abraham's** house, and he circumcised the flesh of their foreskins that very day, as **God** had said to him. ²⁴**Abraham** was **ninety-nine** years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. ²⁵And **Ishmael** his son was **thirteen** years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. ²⁶That

⁷³ 17:5 *Abram* means *exalted father*

⁷⁴ 17:5 *Abraham* means *father of a multitude*

⁷⁵ 17:15 *Sarai* and *Sarah* mean *princess*

⁷⁶ 17:16 Hebrew *have given*

⁷⁷ 17:19 *Isaac* means *he laughs*

very day [Abraham](#) and his son [Ishmael](#) were circumcised. ²⁷And all the men of his house, those born in the house and those bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him.

18 And the LORD appeared to him by the oaks⁷⁸ of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. ²He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, **three** men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth ³and said, "O Lord,⁷⁹ if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. ⁴Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, ⁵while I bring a **morsel** of bread, that you may **refresh** yourselves, and after that you may pass on— since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." ⁶And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, "**Quick! Three seahs**⁸⁰ of **fine flour! Knead** it, and make **cakes**." ⁷And Abraham ran to the **herd** and took a calf, **tender** and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. ⁸Then he took **curds** and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹They said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "She is in the tent." ¹⁰The LORD said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. ¹¹Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah. ¹²So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I am **worn** out, and my lord is old, shall I have **pleasure**?" ¹³The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' ¹⁴Is anything too hard⁸¹ for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son." ¹⁵But Sarah **denied** it,⁸² saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid. He said, "No, but you did laugh."

¹⁶Then the men set out from there, and they looked down toward Sodom. And Abraham went with them to set them on their way. ¹⁷The LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, ¹⁸seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? ¹⁹For I have **chosen**⁸³ him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and **justice**, so that the LORD may bring to Abraham what he has promised him." ²⁰Then the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very **grave**, ²¹I will go down to see whether they have done altogether⁸⁴ according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know."

Abraham Intercedes for Sodom

²²So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. ²³Then Abraham drew near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away

⁷⁸ 18:1 Or *terebinths*

⁷⁹ 18:3 Or *My lord*

⁸⁰ 18:6 A *seah* was about 7 quarts or 7.3 liters

⁸¹ 18:14 Or *wonderful*

⁸² 18:15 Or *acted falsely*

⁸³ 18:19 Hebrew *known*

⁸⁴ 18:21 Or *they deserve destruction*; Hebrew *they have made a complete end*

the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴Suppose there are **fifty** righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the **fifty** righteous who are in it? ²⁵Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous **fare** as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶And the **LORD** said, "If I find at **Sodom** **fifty** righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake."

²⁷**Abraham** answered and said, "Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the **Lord**, I who am but dust and **ashes**. ²⁸Suppose **five** of the **fifty** righteous are **lacking**. Will you destroy the whole city for **lack** of **five**?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find **forty-five** there." ²⁹Again he spoke to him and said, "Suppose **forty** are found there." He answered, "For the sake of **forty** I will not do it." ³⁰Then he said, "Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak. Suppose **thirty** are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find **thirty** there." ³¹He said, "Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the **Lord**. Suppose **twenty** are found there." He answered, "For the sake of **twenty** I will not destroy it." ³²Then he said, "Oh let not the **Lord** be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose **ten** are found there." He answered, "For the sake of **ten** I will not destroy it." ³³And the **LORD** went his way, when he had finished speaking to **Abraham**, and **Abraham** returned to his place.

God Rescues Lot

19 The **two** angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them and bowed himself with his face to the earth ²and said, "My lords, please turn aside to your **servant's** house and spend the night and wash your feet. Then you may rise up early and go on your way." They said, "No; we will spend the night in the **town square**." ³But he pressed them **strongly**; so they turned aside to him and entered his house. And he made them a feast and baked **unleavened** bread, and they ate.

⁴But before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both young and old, all the people to the last man, **surrounded** the house. ⁵And they called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, that we may know them." ⁶Lot went out to the men at the entrance, shut the door after him, ⁷and said, "I **beg** you, my brothers, do not **act** so **wickedly**." ⁸Behold, I have **two** daughters who have not known any man. Let me bring them out to you, and do to them as you please. Only do nothing to these men, for they have come under the **shelter** of my roof." ⁹But they said, "Stand back!" And they said, "This fellow came to sojourn, and he has become the judge! Now we will deal **worse** with you than with them." Then they pressed hard against the man Lot, and drew near to break the door down. ¹⁰But the men reached out their hands and brought Lot into the house with them and shut the door. ¹¹And they **struck** with **blindness** the men who were at the entrance of the house, both small and great, so that they wore themselves out **groping** for the door.

¹²Then the men said to Lot, "Have you anyone else here? Sons-in-law, sons, daughters, or anyone you have in the city, bring them out of the place. ¹³For we are about to destroy this place, because the outcry against its people has become great before the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it." ¹⁴So Lot went out and said to his sons-in-law, who were to **marry** his daughters, "Up! Get out of this place, for the LORD is about to destroy the city." But he seemed to his sons-in-law to be **jesting**.

¹⁵As morning **dawned**, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Up! Take your wife and your **two** daughters who are here, lest you be swept away in the punishment of the city." ¹⁶But he **lingered**. So the men seized him and his wife and his **two** daughters by the hand, the LORD being **merciful** to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city. ¹⁷And as they brought them out, one said, "Escape for your life. Do not look back or **stop anywhere** in the valley. Escape to the hills, lest you be swept away." ¹⁸And Lot said to them, "Oh, no, my lords. ¹⁹Behold, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have shown me great kindness in **saving** my life. But I cannot escape to the hills, lest the **disaster** overtake me and I die. ²⁰Behold, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one. Let me escape there—is it not a little one?—and my life will be saved!" ²¹He said to him, "Behold, I grant you this favor also, that I will not overthrow the city of which you have spoken. ²²Escape there quickly, for I can do nothing till you **arrive** there." Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.⁸⁵

⁸⁵ 19:22 Zoar means *little*

God Destroys Sodom

²³The sun had **risen** on the earth when **Lot** came to **Zoar**. ²⁴Then the **LORD rained** on **Sodom** and **Gomorrah sulfur** and fire from the **LORD** out of heaven. ²⁵And he overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. ²⁶But **Lot's** wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

²⁷And **Abraham** went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the **LORD**. ²⁸And he looked down toward **Sodom** and **Gomorrah** and toward all the land of the valley, and he looked and, behold, the smoke of the land went up like the smoke of a **furnace**.

²⁹So it was that, when **God** destroyed the cities of the valley, **God** remembered **Abraham** and sent **Lot** out of the midst of the overthrow when he overthrew the cities in which **Lot** had lived.

Lot and His Daughters

³⁰Now **Lot** went up out of **Zoar** and lived in the hills with his **two** daughters, for he was afraid to live in **Zoar**. So he lived in a cave with his **two** daughters. ³¹And the firstborn said to the younger, "Our father is old, and there is not a man on earth to come in to us after the **manner** of all the earth. ³²Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve offspring from our father." ³³So they made their father drink wine that night. And the firstborn went in and lay with her father. He did not know when she lay down or when she arose.

³⁴The next day, the firstborn said to the younger, "Behold, I lay last night with my father. Let us make him drink wine tonight also. Then you go in and lie with him, that we may preserve offspring from our father." ³⁵So they made their father drink wine that night also. And the younger arose and lay with him, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose. ³⁶Thus both the daughters of **Lot** became pregnant by their father. ³⁷The firstborn bore a son and called his name **Moab**.⁸⁶ He is the father of the **Moabites** to this day. ³⁸The younger also bore a son and called his name **Ben-ammi**.⁸⁷ He is the father of the **Ammonites** to this day.

Abraham and Abimelech

20 From there **Abraham** journeyed toward the territory of the **Negeb** and lived between **Kadesh** and **Shur**; and he sojourned in **Gerar**. ²And **Abraham** said of **Sarah** his wife, "She is my sister." And **Abimelech** king of **Gerar** sent and took **Sarah**. ³But God

⁸⁶ 19:37 *Moab* sounds like the Hebrew for *from father*

⁸⁷ 19:38 *Ben-ammi* means *son of my people*

came to **Abimelech** in a dream by night and said to him, "Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man's wife." ⁴Now **Abimelech** had not **approached** her. So he said, "Lord, will you kill an innocent people? ⁵Did he not himself say to me, 'She is my sister'? And she herself said, 'He is my brother.' In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this." ⁶Then **God** said to him in the dream, "Yes, I know that you have done this in the integrity of your heart, and it was I who kept you from **sinning** against me. Therefore I did not let you touch her. ⁷Now then, return the man's wife, for he is a **prophet**, so that he will **pray** for you, and you shall live. But if you do not return her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours."

⁸So **Abimelech** rose early in the morning and called all his servants and told them all these things. And the men were very much afraid. ⁹Then **Abimelech** called **Abraham** and said to him, "What have you done to us? And how have I **sinned** against you, that you have brought on me and my kingdom a great sin? You have done to me things that **ought** not to be done." ¹⁰And **Abimelech** said to **Abraham**, "What did you see, that you did this thing?" ¹¹**Abraham** said, "I did it because I thought, There is no fear of **God** at all in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife. ¹²Besides, she is indeed my sister, the daughter of my father **though** not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife. ¹³And when **God** caused me to **wander** from my father's house, I said to her, 'This is the kindness you must do me: at every place to which we come, say of me, He is my brother.'"

¹⁴Then **Abimelech** took sheep and oxen, and male servants and female servants, and gave them to **Abraham**, and returned **Sarah** his wife to him. ¹⁵And **Abimelech** said, "Behold, my land is before you; dwell where it **pleases** you." ¹⁶To **Sarah** he said, "Behold, I have given your brother a **thousand** pieces of silver. It is a sign of your innocence in the eyes of all⁸⁸ who are with you, and before everyone you are **vindicated**." ¹⁷Then **Abraham** prayed to **God**, and **God** healed **Abimelech**, and also healed his wife and female **slaves** so that they bore children. ¹⁸For the **LORD** had closed all the **wombs** of the house of **Abimelech** because of **Sarah**, **Abraham's** wife

The Birth of Isaac

21 The **LORD** **visited** **Sarah** as he had said, and the **LORD** did to **Sarah** as he had promised. ²And **Sarah** conceived and bore **Abraham** a son in his old age at the time of which **God** had spoken to him. ³**Abraham** called the name of his son who was born to him, whom **Sarah** bore him, **Isaac**.⁸⁹ ⁴And **Abraham** circumcised his son **Isaac** when he was **eight** days old, as **God** had commanded him. ⁵**Abraham** was a **hundred** years old when his son **Isaac** was born to him. ⁶And **Sarah** said, "**God** has made **laughter** for me; everyone who **hears** will laugh over me." ⁷And she said, "Who would have said to **Abraham** that **Sarah** would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

⁸⁸ 20:16 Hebrew *It is a covering of eyes for all*

⁸⁹ 21:3 *Isaac* means *he laughs*

God Protects Hagar and Ishmael

⁸And the child grew and was weaned. And Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. ⁹But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, laughing.⁹⁰ ¹⁰So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not be heir with my son Isaac." ¹¹And the thing was very **displeasing** to Abraham on **account** of his son. ¹²But God said to Abraham, "Be not displeased because of the boy and because of your slave woman. Whatever Sarah says to you, do as she **tells** you, for through Isaac shall your offspring be named. ¹³And I will make a nation of the son of the slave woman also, because he is your offspring." ¹⁴So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, **putting** it on her shoulder, **along** with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and **wandered** in the wilderness of Beersheba.

¹⁵When the water in the skin was gone, she put the child under one of the **bushes**. ¹⁶Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a **bowshot**, for she said, "Let me not look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. ¹⁷And God heard the voice of the boy, and the **angel of God** called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What **troubles** you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. ¹⁸Up! Lift up the boy, and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make him into a great nation." ¹⁹Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. And she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink. ²⁰And God was with the boy, and he grew up. He lived in the wilderness and became an **expert** with the bow. ²¹He lived in the wilderness of **Paran**, and his mother took a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

A Treaty with Abimelech

²²At that time Abimelech and Phicol the commander of his army said to Abraham, "God is with you in all that you do. ²³Now therefore swear to me here by God that you will not deal **falsely** with me or with my descendants or with my **posterity**, but as I have dealt kindly with you, so you will deal with me and with the land where you have sojourned." ²⁴And Abraham said, "I will swear."

²⁵When Abraham **reproved** Abimelech about a well of water that **Abimelech's** servants had seized, ²⁶Abimelech said, "I do not know who has done this thing; you did not tell me, and I have not heard of it until today." ²⁷So Abraham took sheep and oxen and gave them to Abimelech, and the **two** men made a covenant. ²⁸Abraham set **seven** ewe lambs of the flock apart. ²⁹And Abimelech said to Abraham, "What is the

⁹⁰ 21:9 Possibly *laughing in mockery*

meaning of these **seven** ewe lambs that you have set apart?" ³⁰He said, "These **seven** ewe lambs you will take from my hand, that this⁹¹ may be a witness for me that I dug this well." ³¹Therefore that place was called **Beersheba**,⁹² because there both of them swore an oath. ³²So they made a covenant at **Beersheba**. Then **Abimelech** and **Phicol** the commander of his army rose up and returned to the land of the **Philistines**. ³³**Abraham** planted a **tamarisk** tree in **Beersheba** and called there on the name of the **LORD**, the **Everlasting God**. ³⁴And **Abraham** sojourned many days in the land of the **Philistines**.

The Sacrifice of Isaac

22 After these things **God** tested **Abraham** and said to him, "**Abraham!**" And he said, "Here am I." ²He 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 of which I shall tell you." ³So **Abraham** rose early in the morning, **saddled** his donkey, and took **two** of his young men with him, and his son **Isaac**. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which **God** had told him. ⁴On the **third** day **Abraham** lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵Then **Abraham** said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy⁹³ will go over there and **worship** and come again to you." ⁶And **Abraham** took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on **Isaac** his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. ⁷And **Isaac** said to his father **Abraham**, "My father!" And he said, "Here am I, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸**Abraham** said, "**God** will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

⁹When they came to the place of which **God** had told him, **Abraham** built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound **Isaac** his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰Then **Abraham** reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹But the **angel of the LORD** called to him from heaven and said, "**Abraham, Abraham!**" And he said, "Here am I." ¹²He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear **God**, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." ¹³And **Abraham** lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a **thicket** by his **horns**. And **Abraham** went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴So **Abraham** called the name of that place, "The **LORD** will provide";⁹⁴ as it is said to this day, "On the **mount** of the **LORD** it shall be provided."⁹⁵

¹⁵And the **angel of the LORD** called to **Abraham** a **second** time from heaven ¹⁶and said, "By myself I have sworn, **declares** the **LORD**, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the **seashore**."

⁹¹ 21:30 Or *you*

⁹² 21:31 *Beersheba* means *well of seven* or *well of the oath*

⁹³ 22:5 Or *young man*; also verse 12

⁹⁴ 22:14 Or *will see*

⁹⁵ 22:14 Or *he will be seen*

And your offspring shall possess the gate of his⁹⁶ enemies, ¹⁸and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice." ¹⁹So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived at Beersheba.

²⁰Now after these things it was told to Abraham, "Behold, Milcah also has borne children to your brother Nahor: ²¹Uz his firstborn, Buz his brother, Kemuel the father of Aram, ²²Chesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph, and Bethuel." ²³(Bethuel fathered Rebekah.) These eight Milcah bore to Nahor, Abraham's brother. ²⁴Moreover, his concubine, whose name was Reumah, bore Tebah, Gaham, Tahash, and Maacah.

Sarah's Death and Burial

23 Sarah lived **127** years; these were the years of the life of Sarah. ²And Sarah died at Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham went in to **mourn** for Sarah and to weep for her. ³And Abraham rose up from before his dead and said to the Hittites,⁹⁷ ⁴"I am a **sojourner** and foreigner among you; give me property among you for a burying place, that I may bury my dead out of my sight." ⁵The Hittites answered Abraham, ⁶"Hear us, my lord; you are a prince of God⁹⁸ among us. Bury your dead in the **choicest** of our **tombs**. None of us will **withhold** from you his tomb to **hinder** you from burying your dead." ⁷Abraham rose and bowed to the Hittites, the people of the land. ⁸And he said to them, "If you are willing that I should bury my dead out of my sight, hear me and **entreat** for me Ephron the son of Zohar, ⁹that he may give me the cave of Machpelah, which he **owns**; it is at the end of his field. For the full price let him give it to me in your presence as property for a burying place."

¹⁰Now Ephron was sitting among the Hittites, and Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the hearing of the Hittites, of all who went in at the gate of his city, ¹¹"No, my lord, hear me: I give you the field, and I give you the cave that is in it. In the sight of the sons of my people I give it to you. Bury your dead." ¹²Then Abraham bowed down before the people of the land. ¹³And he said to Ephron in the hearing of the people of the land, "But if you will, hear me: I give the price of the field. Accept it from me, that I may bury my dead there." ¹⁴Ephron answered Abraham, ¹⁵"My lord, listen to me: a piece of land **worth four hundred** shekels⁹⁹ of silver, what is that between you and me? Bury your dead." ¹⁶Abraham listened to Ephron, and Abraham **weighed** out for Ephron the silver that he had named in the hearing of the Hittites, **four hundred** shekels of silver, according to the weights **current** among the **merchants**.

¹⁷So the field of Ephron in Machpelah, which was to the east of Mamre, the field with the cave that was in it and all the trees that were in the field, throughout its whole **area**, was made over ¹⁸to Abraham as a possession in the presence of the Hittites, before all who went in at the gate of his city. ¹⁹After this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah east of Mamre (that is, Hebron) in the land of

⁹⁶ 22:17 Or *their*

⁹⁷ 23:3 Hebrew *sons of Heth*; also verses 5, 7, 10, 16, 18, 20

⁹⁸ 23:6 Or *a mighty prince*

⁹⁹ 23:15 A *shekel* was about 2/5 ounce or 11 grams

Canaan. ²⁰The field and the cave that is in it were made over to **Abraham** as property for a burying place by the **Hittites**.

Isaac and Rebekah

24 Now **Abraham** was old, well advanced in years. And the **LORD** had blessed **Abraham** in all things. ²And **Abraham** said to his servant, the **oldest** of his household, who had charge of all that he had, "Put your hand under my thigh, ³that I may make you swear by the **LORD**, the **God** of heaven and **God** of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the **Canaanites**, among whom I dwell, ⁴but will go to my country and to my kindred, and take a wife for my son **Isaac**." ⁵The servant said to him, "Perhaps the woman may not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I then take your son back to the land from which you came?" ⁶**Abraham** said to him, "See to it that you do not take my son back there. ⁷The **LORD**, the **God** of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my kindred, and who spoke to me and swore to me, 'To your offspring I will give this land,' he will send his angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there. ⁸But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be free from this oath of mine; only you must not take my son back there." ⁹So the servant put his hand under the thigh of **Abraham** his master and swore to him concerning this matter.

¹⁰Then the servant took **ten** of his master's camels and departed, taking all sorts of choice gifts from his master; and he arose and went to **Mesopotamia**¹⁰⁰ to the city of **Nahor**. ¹¹And he made the camels **kneel** down outside the city by the well of water at the time of evening, the time when women go out to draw water. ¹²And he said, "O **LORD**, **God** of my master **Abraham**, please grant me success today and show steadfast love to my master **Abraham**. ¹³Behold, I am standing by the spring of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water. ¹⁴Let the young woman to whom I shall say, 'Please let down your jar that I may drink,' and who shall say, 'Drink, and I will water your camels'—let her be the one whom you have appointed for your servant **Isaac**. By this¹⁰¹ I shall know that you have shown steadfast love to my master."

¹⁵Before he had finished speaking, behold, **Rebekah**, who was born to **Bethuel** the son of **Milcah**, the wife of **Nahor**, **Abraham's** brother, came out with her water jar on her shoulder. ¹⁶The young woman was very attractive in appearance, a **maiden**¹⁰² whom no man had known. She went down to the spring and filled her jar and came up. ¹⁷Then the servant ran to meet her and said, "Please give me a little water to drink from your jar." ¹⁸She said, "Drink, my lord." And she quickly let down her jar upon her hand and gave him a drink. ¹⁹When she had finished giving him a drink, she said, "I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking." ²⁰So she quickly emptied her jar into the **trough** and ran again to the well to draw water, and she drew for all his camels. ²¹The man **gazed** at her in **silence** to **learn** whether the **LORD** had

¹⁰⁰ 24:10 Hebrew *Aram-naharaim*

¹⁰¹ 24:14 Or *By her*

¹⁰² 24:16 Or *a woman of marriageable age*

prospered his journey or not.

²²When the camels had finished drinking, the man took a gold ring weighing a half **shekel**,¹⁰³ and **two** bracelets for her arms weighing **ten** gold shekels,²³ and said, "Please tell me whose daughter you are. Is there room in your father's house for us to spend the night?"²⁴ She said to him, "I am the daughter of **Bethuel** the son of **Milcah**, whom she bore to **Nahor**."²⁵ She **added**, "We have plenty of both straw and fodder, and room to spend the night."²⁶ The man bowed his head and worshiped the **LORD**²⁷ and said, "Blessed be the **LORD**, the **God** of my master **Abraham**, who has not **forsaken** his steadfast love and his faithfulness toward my master. As for me, the **LORD** has led me in the way to the house of my master's kinsmen."²⁸ Then the young woman ran and told her mother's household about these things.

²⁹**Rebekah** had a brother whose name was **Laban**. **Laban** ran out toward the man, to the spring.³⁰ As soon as he saw the ring and the bracelets on his sister's arms, and heard the words of **Rebekah** his sister, "Thus the man spoke to me," he went to the man. And behold, he was standing by the camels at the spring.³¹ He said, "Come in, O blessed of the **LORD**. Why do you stand outside? For I have prepared the house and a place for the camels."³² So the man came to the house and **unharnessed** the camels, and gave straw and fodder to the camels, and there was water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him.³³ Then food was set before him to eat. But he said, "I will not eat until I have said what I have to say." He said, "Speak on."

³⁴So he said, "I am **Abraham's** servant.³⁵ The **LORD** has greatly blessed my master, and he has become great. He has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male servants and female servants, camels and donkeys.³⁶ And **Sarah** my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old, and to him he has given all that he has.³⁷ My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the **Canaanites**, in whose land I dwell,³⁸ but you shall go to my father's house and to my clan and take a wife for my son.'³⁹ I said to my master, 'Perhaps the woman will not follow me.'⁴⁰ But he said to me, 'The **LORD**, before whom I have walked, will send his angel with you and **prosper** your way. You shall take a wife for my son from my clan and from my father's house.⁴¹ Then you will be free from my oath, when you come to my clan. And if they will not give her to you, you will be free from my oath.'

⁴²"I came today to the spring and said, 'O **LORD**, the **God** of my master **Abraham**, if now you are **prospering** the way that I go,⁴³ behold, I am standing by the spring of water. Let the **virgin** who comes out to draw water, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,"⁴⁴ and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also," let her be the woman whom the **LORD** has appointed for my master's son.'

⁴⁵"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, behold, **Rebekah** came out with her water jar on her shoulder, and she went down to the spring and drew water. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.'⁴⁶ She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder and said, 'Drink, and I will give your camels drink also.' So I drank, and she gave the camels drink also.⁴⁷ Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of **Bethuel**, **Nahor's** son, whom **Milcah** bore to him.' So I put the ring on her **nose** and the

¹⁰³ 24:22 A *shekel* was about 2/5 ounce or 11 grams

bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way¹⁰⁴ to take the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹Now then, if you are going to show steadfast love and faithfulness to my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, that I may turn to the right hand or to the left."

⁵⁰Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, "The thing has come from the LORD; we cannot speak to you bad or good. ⁵¹Behold, Rebekah is before you; take her and go, and let her be the wife of your master's son, as the LORD has spoken."

⁵²When Abraham's servant heard their words, he bowed himself to the earth before the LORD. ⁵³And the servant brought out jewelry of silver and of gold, and garments, and gave them to Rebekah. He also gave to her brother and to her mother costly ornaments. ⁵⁴And he and the men who were with him ate and drank, and they spent the night there. When they arose in the morning, he said, "Send me away to my master." ⁵⁵Her brother and her mother said, "Let the young woman remain with us a while, at least ten days; after that she may go." ⁵⁶But he said to them, "Do not delay me, since the LORD has prospered my way. Send me away that I may go to my master." ⁵⁷They said, "Let us call the young woman and ask her." ⁵⁸And they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will go." ⁵⁹So they sent away Rebekah their sister and her nurse, and Abraham's servant and his men.

⁶⁰And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

"Our sister, may you become
thousands of ten thousands,
and may your offspring possess
the gate of those who hate him!"¹⁰⁵

⁶¹Then Rebekah and her young women arose and rode on the camels and followed the man. Thus the servant took Rebekah and went his way.

⁶²Now Isaac had returned from Beer-lahai-roi and was dwelling in the Negeb. ⁶³And Isaac went out to meditate in the field toward evening. And he lifted up his eyes and saw, and behold, there were camels coming. ⁶⁴And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she dismounted from the camel ⁶⁵and said to the servant, "Who is that man, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷Then Isaac brought her into the tent of Sarah his mother and took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Abraham's Death and His Descendants

25 Abraham took another wife, whose name was Keturah. ²She bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah. ³Jokshan fathered Sheba and Dedan.

¹⁰⁴ 24:48 Or *faithfully*

¹⁰⁵ 24:60 Or *hate them*

The sons of **Dedan** were **Asshurim**, **Letushim**, and **Leummim**. ⁴The sons of **Midian** were **Ephah**, **Epher**, **Hanoch**, **Abida**, and **Eldaah**. All these were the children of **Keturah**. ⁵**Abraham** gave all he had to **Isaac**. ⁶But to the sons of his **concubines** **Abraham** gave gifts, and while he was still living he sent them away from his son **Isaac**, eastward to the east country.

⁷These are the days of the years of **Abraham's** life, **175** years. ⁸**Abraham** breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people. ⁹**Isaac** and **Ishmael** his sons buried him in the cave of **Machpelah**, in the field of **Ephron** the son of **Zohar** the **Hittite**, east of **Mamre**, ¹⁰the field that **Abraham** **purchased** from the **Hittites**. There **Abraham** was buried, with **Sarah** his wife. ¹¹After the death of **Abraham**, **God** blessed **Isaac** his son. And **Isaac** settled at **Beer-lahai-roi**.

¹²These are the generations of **Ishmael**, **Abraham's** son, whom **Hagar** the **Egyptian**, **Sarah's** servant, bore to **Abraham**. ¹³These are the names of the sons of **Ishmael**, named in the order of their birth: **Nebaioth**, the firstborn of **Ishmael**; and **Kedar**, **Adbeel**, **Mibsam**, ¹⁴**Mishma**, **Dumah**, **Massa**, ¹⁵**Hadad**, **Tema**, **Jetur**, **Naphish**, and **Kedemah**. ¹⁶These are the sons of **Ishmael** and these are their names, by their **villages** and by their **encampments**, **twelve** princes according to their tribes. ¹⁷(These are the years of the life of **Ishmael**: **137** years. He breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people.) ¹⁸They settled from **Havilah** to **Shur**, which is opposite **Egypt** in the direction of **Assyria**. He settled¹⁰⁶ over against all his kinsmen.

The Birth of Esau and Jacob

¹⁹These are the generations of **Isaac**, **Abraham's** son: **Abraham** fathered **Isaac**, ²⁰and **Isaac** was **forty** years old when he took **Rebekah**, the daughter of **Bethuel** the **Aramean** of **Paddan-aram**, the sister of **Laban** the **Aramean**, to be his wife. ²¹And **Isaac** prayed to the **LORD** for his wife, because she was barren. And the **LORD** granted his **prayer**, and **Rebekah** his wife conceived. ²²The children **struggled** together within her, and she said, "If it is thus, why is this **happening** to me?"¹⁰⁷ So she went to **inquire** of the **LORD**. ²³And the **LORD** said to her,

"**Two** nations are in your womb,
and **two** peoples from within you¹⁰⁸ shall be divided;
the **one** shall be stronger than the other,
the older shall serve the younger."

²⁴When her days to give birth were completed, behold, there were twins in her womb. ²⁵The first came out red, all his body like a hairy **cloak**, so they called his name **Esau**. ²⁶Afterward his brother came out with his hand **holding** **Esau's** heel, so his name was called **Jacob**.¹⁰⁹ **Isaac** was **sixty** years old when she bore them.

¹⁰⁶ 25:18 Hebrew *fell*

¹⁰⁷ 25:22 Or *why do I live?*

¹⁰⁸ 25:23 Or *from birth*

¹⁰⁹ 25:26 *Jacob* means *He takes by the heel, or He cheats*

²⁷When the boys grew up, **Esau** was a **skillful** hunter, a man of the field, while **Jacob** was a **quiet** man, dwelling in tents. ²⁸**Isaac** loved **Esau** because he ate of his game, but **Rebekah** loved **Jacob**.

Esau Sells His Birthright

²⁹Once when **Jacob** was **cooking** stew, **Esau** came in from the field, and he was exhausted. ³⁰And **Esau** said to **Jacob**, "Let me eat some of that red stew, for I am exhausted!" (Therefore his name was called **Edom**.¹¹⁰) ³¹**Jacob** said, "Sell me your birthright now." ³²**Esau** said, "I am about to die; of what **use** is a birthright to me?" ³³**Jacob** said, "Swear to me now." So he swore to him and sold his birthright to **Jacob**. ³⁴Then **Jacob** gave **Esau** bread and **lentil** stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus **Esau** **despised** his birthright.

God's Promise to Isaac

26 Now there was a famine in the land, besides the **former** famine that was in the days of **Abraham**. And **Isaac** went to **Gerar** to **Abimelech** king of the **Philistines**. ²And the **LORD** appeared to him and said, "Do not go down to **Egypt**; dwell in the land of which I shall tell you. ³Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I swore to **Abraham** your father. ⁴I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, ⁵because **Abraham** obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my **commandments**, my **statutes**, and my **laws**."

Isaac and Abimelech

⁶So **Isaac** settled in **Gerar**. ⁷When the men of the place asked him about his wife, he said, "She is my sister," for he feared to say, "My wife," thinking, "lest the men of the place should kill me because of **Rebekah**," because she was attractive in appearance. ⁸When he had been there a long time, **Abimelech** king of the **Philistines** looked out of a window and saw **Isaac** laughing with¹¹¹ **Rebekah** his wife. ⁹So **Abimelech** called **Isaac** and said, "Behold, she is your wife. How then could you say, 'She is my sister'?" **Isaac** said to him, "Because I thought, 'Lest I die because of her.'" ¹⁰**Abimelech** said, "What is this you have done to us? One of the people might **easily** have **lain** with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us." ¹¹So **Abimelech** warned all the people, saying, "Whoever **touches** this man or his wife shall surely be put to death."

¹²And **Isaac** **sowed** in that land and **reaped** in the same year a **hundredfold**. The **LORD** blessed him, ¹³and the man became rich, and gained more and more until he

¹¹⁰ 25:30 *Edom* sounds like the Hebrew for *red*

¹¹¹ 26:8 Hebrew may suggest an intimate relationship

became very **wealthy**.¹⁴ He had possessions of flocks and herds and many servants, so that the **Philistines** envied him.¹⁵ (Now the **Philistines** had stopped and filled with earth all the wells that his father's servants had dug in the days of **Abraham** his father.)¹⁶ And **Abimelech** said to **Isaac**, "Go away from us, for you are much **mightier** than we."

¹⁷So **Isaac** departed from there and **encamped** in the **Valley of Gerar** and settled there.¹⁸ And **Isaac** dug again the wells of water that had been dug in the days of **Abraham** his father, which the **Philistines** had stopped after the death of **Abraham**. And he gave them the names that his father had given them.¹⁹ But when **Isaac's** servants dug in the valley and found there a well of spring water,²⁰ the herdsmen of **Gerar** quarreled with **Isaac's** herdsmen, saying, "The water is ours." So he called the name of the well **Esek**,¹¹² because they **contended** with him.²¹ Then they dug another well, and they quarreled over that also, so he called its name **Sitnah**.¹¹³ ²²And he moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it. So he called its name **Rehoboth**,¹¹⁴ saying, "For now the **LORD** has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land."

²³From there he went up to **Beersheba**.²⁴ And the **LORD** appeared to him the same night and said, "I am the **God of Abraham** your father. Fear not, for I am with you and will bless you and multiply your offspring for my servant **Abraham's** sake."²⁵ So he built an altar there and called upon the name of the **LORD** and pitched his tent there. And there **Isaac's** servants dug a well.

²⁶When **Abimelech** went to him from **Gerar** with **Ahuzzath** his **adviser** and **Phicol** the commander of his army,²⁷ **Isaac** said to them, "Why have you come to me, seeing that you hate me and have sent me away from you?"²⁸ They said, "We see **plainly** that the **LORD** has been with you. So we said, let there be a sworn **pact** between us, between you and us, and let us make a covenant with you,²⁹ that you will do us no harm, just as we have not touched you and have done to you nothing but good and have sent you away in peace. You are now the blessed of the **LORD**."³⁰ So he made them a feast, and they ate and drank.³¹ In the morning they rose early and **exchanged oaths**. And **Isaac** sent them on their way, and they departed from him in peace.³² That same day **Isaac's** servants came and told him about the well that they had dug and said to him, "We have found water."³³ He called it **Shibah**;¹¹⁵ therefore the name of the city is **Beersheba** to this day.

³⁴When **Esau** was **forty** years old, he took **Judith** the daughter of **Beeri** the **Hittite** to be his wife, and **Basemath** the daughter of **Elon** the **Hittite**,³⁵ and they made life bitter¹¹⁶ for **Isaac** and **Rebekah**.

Isaac Blesses Jacob

27 When **Isaac** was old and his eyes were dim so that he could not see, he called

¹¹² 26:20 *Esek* means *contention*

¹¹³ 26:21 *Sitnah* means *enmity*

¹¹⁴ 26:22 *Rehoboth* means *broad places*, or *room*

¹¹⁵ 26:33 *Shibah* sounds like the Hebrew for *oath*

¹¹⁶ 26:35 Hebrew *they were bitterness of spirit*

Esau his older son and said to him, "My son"; and he answered, "Here I am." ²He said, "Behold, I am old; I do not know the day of my death. ³Now then, take your weapons, your **quiver** and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me, ⁴and prepare for me delicious food, such as I love, and bring it to me so that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die."

⁵Now **Rebekah** was listening when **Isaac** spoke to his son **Esau**. So when **Esau** went to the field to hunt for game and bring it, ⁶**Rebekah** said to her son **Jacob**, "I heard your father speak to your brother **Esau**, ⁷'Bring me game and prepare for me delicious food, that I may eat it and bless you before the **LORD** before I die.' ⁸Now therefore, my son, obey my voice as I command you. ⁹Go to the flock and bring me **two** good young goats, so that I may prepare from them delicious food for your father, such as he loves. ¹⁰And you shall bring it to your father to eat, so that he may bless you before he **dies**." ¹¹But **Jacob** said to **Rebekah** his mother, "Behold, my brother **Esau** is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man. ¹²Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall **seem** to be **mocking** him and bring a curse upon myself and not a blessing." ¹³His mother said to him, "Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, bring them to me."

¹⁴So he went and took them and brought them to his mother, and his mother prepared delicious food, such as his father loved. ¹⁵Then **Rebekah** took the best garments of **Esau** her older son, which were with her in the house, and put them on **Jacob** her younger son. ¹⁶And the skins of the young goats she put on his hands and on the smooth **part** of his neck. ¹⁷And she put the delicious food and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son **Jacob**.

¹⁸So he went in to his father and said, "My father." And he said, "Here I am. Who are you, my son?" ¹⁹**Jacob** said to his father, "I am **Esau** your firstborn. I have done as you told me; now **sit** up and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me." ²⁰But **Isaac** said to his son, "How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?" He answered, "Because the **LORD** your **God** granted me success." ²¹Then **Isaac** said to **Jacob**, "Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son **Esau** or not." ²²So **Jacob** went near to **Isaac** his father, who felt him and said, "The voice is **Jacob's** voice, but the hands are the hands of **Esau**." ²³And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother **Esau's** hands. So he blessed him. ²⁴He said, "Are you really my son **Esau**?" He answered, "I am." ²⁵Then he said, "Bring it near to me, that I may eat of my son's game and bless you." So he brought it near to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank.

²⁶Then his father **Isaac** said to him, "Come near and kiss me, my son." ²⁷So he came near and kissed him. And **Isaac** smelled the smell of his garments and blessed him and said,

"See, the smell of my son
is as the smell of a field that the **LORD** has blessed!
²⁸ May **God** give you of the dew of heaven
and of the fatness of the earth
and plenty of grain and wine.
²⁹ Let peoples serve you,
and nations bow down to you.

Be lord over your brothers,
and may your mother's sons bow down to you.
Cursed be everyone who **curses** you,
and blessed be everyone who **blesses** you!"

³⁰As soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, when Jacob had **scarcely** gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, Esau his brother came in from his **hunting**.
³¹He also prepared delicious food and brought it to his father. And he said to his father, "Let my father arise and eat of his son's game, that you may bless me." ³²His father Isaac said to him, "Who are you?" He answered, "I am your son, your firstborn, Esau."
³³Then Isaac **trembled** very **violently** and said, "Who was it then that **hunted** game and brought it to me, and I ate it all before you came, and I have blessed him? Yes, and he shall be blessed." ³⁴As soon as Esau heard the words of his father, he cried out with an exceedingly great and bitter **cry** and said to his father, "Bless me, even me also, O my father!" ³⁵But he said, "Your brother came deceitfully, and he has taken away your blessing." ³⁶Esau said, "Is he not **rightly** named Jacob?"¹¹⁷ For he has cheated me these **two** times. He took away my birthright, and behold, now he has taken away my blessing." Then he said, "Have you not **reserved** a blessing for me?"
³⁷Isaac answered and said to Esau, "Behold, I have made him lord over you, and all his brothers I have given to him for servants, and with grain and wine I have **sustained** him. What then can I do for you, my son?" ³⁸Esau said to his father, "Have you but one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, O my father." And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.

³⁹Then Isaac his father answered and said to him:

"Behold, away from¹¹⁸ the fatness of the earth shall your dwelling be,
and away from¹¹⁹ the dew of heaven on high.
⁴⁰ By your sword you shall live,
and you shall serve your brother;
but when you grow **restless**
you shall break his **yoke** from your neck."

⁴¹Now Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him, and Esau said to himself, "The days of mourning for my father are **approaching**; then I will kill my brother Jacob." ⁴²But the words of Esau her older son were told to Rebekah. So she sent and called Jacob her younger son and said to him, "Behold, your brother Esau **comforts** himself about you by **planning** to kill you. ⁴³Now therefore, my son, obey my voice. Arise, flee to Laban my brother in Haran⁴⁴ and stay with him a while, until your brother's **fury** turns away—⁴⁵until your brother's anger turns away from you, and he **forgets** what you have done to him. Then I will send and bring you from there. Why should I be **bereft** of you both in one day?"

¹¹⁷ 27:36 Jacob means *He takes by the heel, or He cheats*

¹¹⁸ 27:39 Or *Behold, of*

¹¹⁹ 27:39 Or *and of*

⁴⁶Then **Rebekah** said to **Isaac**, "I **loathe** my life because of the **Hittite** women.¹²⁰ If **Jacob marries** one of the **Hittite** women like these, one of the women of the land, what good will my life be to me?"

Jacob Sent to Laban

28 Then **Isaac** called **Jacob** and blessed him and directed him, "You must not take a wife from the **Canaanite** women. ²Arise, go to **Paddan-aram** to the house of **Bethuel** your mother's father, and take as your wife from there one of the daughters of **Laban** your mother's brother. ³**God Almighty**¹²¹ bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may become a company of peoples. ⁴May he give the blessing of **Abraham** to you and to your offspring with you, that you may take possession of the land of your sojournings that **God** gave to **Abraham**!" ⁵Thus **Isaac** sent **Jacob** away. And he went to **Paddan-aram**, to **Laban**, the son of **Bethuel** the **Aramean**, the brother of **Rebekah**, **Jacob's** and **Esau's** mother.

Esau Marries an Ishmaelite

⁶Now **Esau** saw that **Isaac** had blessed **Jacob** and sent him away to **Paddan-aram** to take a wife from there, and that as he blessed him he directed him, "You must not take a wife from the **Canaanite** women," ⁷and that **Jacob** had obeyed his father and his mother and gone to **Paddan-aram**. ⁸So when **Esau** saw that the **Canaanite** women did not please **Isaac** his father, ⁹**Esau** went to **Ishmael** and took as his wife, besides the wives he had, **Mahalath** the daughter of **Ishmael**, **Abraham's** son, the sister of **Nebaioth**.

Jacob's Dream

¹⁰**Jacob** left **Beersheba** and went toward **Haran**. ¹¹And he came to a certain place and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep. ¹²And he dreamed, and behold, there was a **ladder**¹²² set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the **angels of God** were **ascending** and **descending** on it! ¹³And behold, the **LORD** stood above it¹²³ and said, "I am the **LORD**, the **God** of **Abraham** your father and the **God** of **Isaac**. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. ¹⁴Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the **south**, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. ¹⁵Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave

¹²⁰ 27:46 Hebrew *daughters of Heth*

¹²¹ 28:3 Hebrew *El Shaddai*

¹²² 28:12 Or *a flight of steps*

¹²³ 28:13 Or *beside him*

you until I have done what I have promised you." ¹⁶Then **Jacob** awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the **LORD** is in this place, and I did not know it." ¹⁷And he was afraid and said, "How **awesome** is this place! This is none other than the house of **God**, and this is the gate of heaven."

¹⁸So early in the morning **Jacob** took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. ¹⁹He called the name of that place **Bethel**,¹²⁴ but the name of the city was **Luz** at the first. ²⁰Then **Jacob** made a vow, saying, "If **God** will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and **clothing** to **wear**,²¹ so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the **LORD** shall be my **God**,²² and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be **God's** house. And of all that you give me I will give a full **tenth** to you."

Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel

29 Then **Jacob** went on his journey and came to the land of the people of the east. ²As he looked, he saw a well in the field, and behold, **three** flocks of sheep lying beside it, for out of that well the flocks were watered. The stone on the well's mouth was large,³ and when all the flocks were gathered there, the shepherds would **roll** the stone from the mouth of the well and water the sheep, and put the stone back in its place over the mouth of the well.

⁴**Jacob** said to them, "My brothers, where do you come from?" They said, "We are from **Haran**." ⁵He said to them, "Do you know **Laban** the son of **Nahor**?" They said, "We know him." ⁶He said to them, "Is it well with him?" They said, "It is well; and see, **Rachel** his daughter is coming with the sheep!" ⁷He said, "Behold, it is still high day; it is not time for the livestock to be gathered together. Water the sheep and go, pasture them." ⁸But they said, "We cannot until all the flocks are gathered together and the stone is rolled from the mouth of the well; then we water the sheep."

⁹While he was still speaking with them, **Rachel** came with her father's sheep, for she was a **shepherdess**. ¹⁰Now as soon as **Jacob** saw **Rachel** the daughter of **Laban** his mother's brother, and the sheep of **Laban** his mother's brother, **Jacob** came near and rolled the stone from the well's mouth and watered the flock of **Laban** his mother's brother. ¹¹Then **Jacob** kissed **Rachel** and wept aloud. ¹²And **Jacob** told **Rachel** that he was her father's kinsman, and that he was **Rebekah's** son, and she ran and told her father.

¹³As soon as **Laban** heard the **news** about **Jacob**, his sister's son, he ran to meet him and embraced him and kissed him and brought him to his house. **Jacob** told **Laban** all these things,¹⁴ and **Laban** said to him, "Surely you are my bone and my flesh!" And he stayed with him a month.

¹⁵Then **Laban** said to **Jacob**, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" ¹⁶Now **Laban** had **two** daughters. The name of the older was **Leah**, and the name of the younger was **Rachel**. ¹⁷**Leah's** eyes were **weak**,¹²⁵ but **Rachel** was beautiful in form and appearance. ¹⁸**Jacob**

¹²⁴ 28:19 *Bethel* means *the house of God*

¹²⁵ 29:17 Or *soft*

loved Rachel. And he said, "I will serve you **seven** years for your younger daughter Rachel." ¹⁹Laban said, "It is **better** that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." ²⁰So Jacob served **seven** years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

²¹Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." ²²So Laban gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast. ²³But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her. ²⁴(Laban gave¹²⁶ his female servant Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her servant.) ²⁵And in the morning, behold, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" ²⁶Laban said, "It is not so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn. ²⁷Complete the week of this **one**, and we will give you the other also in return for **servicing** me another **seven** years." ²⁸Jacob did so, and completed her week. Then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife. ²⁹(Laban gave his female servant Bilhah to his daughter Rachel to be her servant.) ³⁰So Jacob went in to Rachel also, and he loved Rachel more than Leah, and served Laban for another **seven** years.

Jacob's Children

³¹When the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren. ³²And Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben,¹²⁷ for she said, "Because the LORD has looked upon my affliction; for now my husband will love me." ³³She conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Because the LORD has heard that I am hated, he has given me this son also." And she called his name Simeon.¹²⁸ ³⁴Again she conceived and bore a son, and said, "Now this time my husband will be **attached** to me, because I have borne him **three** sons." Therefore his name was called Levi.¹²⁹ ³⁵And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, "This time I will praise the LORD." Therefore she called his name Judah.¹³⁰ Then she ceased bearing.

30 When Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, she envied her sister. She said to Jacob, "Give me children, or I shall die!" ²Jacob's anger was kindled against Rachel, and he said, "Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?" ³Then she said, "Here is my servant Bilhah; go in to her, so that she may give birth on my **behalf**,¹³¹ that even I may have children¹³² through her." ⁴So she gave him her servant Bilhah as a wife, and Jacob went in to her. ⁵And Bilhah conceived and bore Jacob a son. ⁶Then Rachel said, "God has **judged** me, and has also heard my

¹²⁶ 29:24 Or *had given*; also verse 29

¹²⁷ 29:32 *Reuben* means *See, a son*

¹²⁸ 29:33 *Simeon* sounds like the Hebrew for *heard*

¹²⁹ 29:34 *Levi* sounds like the Hebrew for *attached*

¹³⁰ 29:35 *Judah* sounds like the Hebrew for *praise*

¹³¹ 30:3 Hebrew *on my knees*

¹³² 30:3 Hebrew *be built up*, which sounds like the Hebrew for *children*

voice and given me a son." Therefore she called his name **Dan**.¹³³ ⁷**Rachel's** servant **Bilhah** conceived again and bore **Jacob** a **second** son. ⁸Then **Rachel** said, "With mighty **wrestlings**¹³⁴ I have wrestled with my sister and have prevailed." So she called his name **Naphtali**.¹³⁵

⁹When **Leah** saw that she had ceased bearing children, she took her servant **Zilpah** and gave her to **Jacob** as a wife. ¹⁰Then **Leah's** servant **Zilpah** bore **Jacob** a son. ¹¹And **Leah** said, "Good **fortune** has come!" so she called his name **Gad**.¹³⁶ ¹²**Leah's** servant **Zilpah** bore **Jacob** a **second** son. ¹³And **Leah** said, "Happy am I! For women have called me happy." So she called his name **Asher**.¹³⁷

¹⁴In the days of **wheat** harvest **Reuben** went and found mandrakes in the field and brought them to his mother **Leah**. Then **Rachel** said to **Leah**, "Please give me some of your son's mandrakes." ¹⁵But she said to her, "Is it a small matter that you have taken away my husband? Would you take away my son's mandrakes also?" **Rachel** said, "Then he may lie with you tonight in exchange for your son's mandrakes." ¹⁶When **Jacob** came from the field in the evening, **Leah** went out to meet him and said, "You must come in to me, for I have **hired** you with my son's mandrakes." So he lay with her that night. ¹⁷And **God** listened to **Leah**, and she conceived and bore **Jacob** a **fifth** son. ¹⁸**Leah** said, "**God** has given me my wages because I gave my servant to my husband." So she called his name **Issachar**.¹³⁸

¹⁹And **Leah** conceived again, and she bore **Jacob** a **sixth** son. ²⁰Then **Leah** said, "**God** has **endowed** me with a good **endowment**; now my husband will honor me, because I have borne him **six** sons." So she called his name **Zebulun**.¹³⁹ ²¹Afterward she bore a daughter and called her name **Dinah**.

²²Then **God** remembered **Rachel**, and **God** listened to her and opened her womb. ²³She conceived and bore a son and said, "God has taken away my **reproach**." ²⁴And she called his name **Joseph**,¹⁴⁰ saying, "May the **LORD** **add** to me another son!"

Jacob's Prosperity

²⁵As soon as **Rachel** had borne **Joseph**, **Jacob** said to **Laban**, "Send me away, that I may go to my own home and country. ²⁶Give me my wives and my children for whom I have served you, that I may go, for you know the **service** that I have given you." ²⁷But **Laban** said to him, "If I have found favor in your sight, I have learned by divination that¹⁴¹ the **LORD** has blessed me because of you. ²⁸Name your wages, and I

¹³³ 30:6 *Dan* sounds like the Hebrew for *judged*

¹³⁴ 30:8 Hebrew *With wrestlings of God*

¹³⁵ 30:8 *Naphtali* sounds like the Hebrew for *wrestling*

¹³⁶ 30:11 *Gad* sounds like the Hebrew for *good fortune*

¹³⁷ 30:13 *Asher* sounds like the Hebrew for *happy*

¹³⁸ 30:18 *Issachar* sounds like the Hebrew for *wages*, or *hire*

¹³⁹ 30:20 *Zebulun* sounds like the Hebrew for *honor*

¹⁴⁰ 30:24 *Joseph* means *May he add*, and sounds like the Hebrew for *taken away*

¹⁴¹ 30:27 Or *have become rich and*

will give it." ²⁹Jacob said to him, "You yourself know how I have served you, and how your livestock has **fared** with me. ³⁰For you had little before I came, and it has increased **abundantly**, and the LORD has blessed you wherever I turned. But now when shall I provide for my own household also?" ³¹He said, "What shall I give you?" Jacob said, "You shall not give me anything. If you will do this for me, I will again pasture your flock and keep it: ³²let me pass through all your flock today, **removing** from it every speckled and spotted sheep and every black lamb, and the spotted and speckled among the goats, and they shall be my wages. ³³So my **honesty** will answer for me later, when you come to look into my wages with you. Every one that is not speckled and spotted among the goats and black among the lambs, if found with me, shall be counted stolen." ³⁴Laban said, "Good! Let it be as you have said." ³⁵But that day Laban removed the male goats that were striped and spotted, and all the female goats that were speckled and spotted, every one that had white on it, and every lamb that was black, and put them in the charge of his sons. ³⁶And he set a distance of **three days'** journey between himself and Jacob, and Jacob pastured the rest of Laban's flock.

³⁷Then Jacob took **fresh** sticks of **poplar** and **almond** and **plane** trees, and peeled white **streaks** in them, **exposing** the white of the sticks. ³⁸He set the sticks that he had peeled in front of the flocks in the troughs, that is, the watering places, where the flocks came to drink. And since they bred when they came to drink, ³⁹the flocks bred in front of the sticks and so the flocks brought forth striped, speckled, and spotted. ⁴⁰And Jacob separated the lambs and set the faces of the flocks toward the striped and all the black in the flock of Laban. He put his own droves apart and did not put them with Laban's flock. ⁴¹Whenever the stronger of the flock were breeding, Jacob would lay the sticks in the troughs before the eyes of the flock, that they might **breed** among the sticks, ⁴²but for the feebler of the flock he would not lay them there. So the feebler would be Laban's, and the stronger Jacob's. ⁴³Thus the man increased greatly and had large flocks, female servants and male servants, and camels and donkeys.

Jacob Flees from Laban

31 Now Jacob heard that the sons of Laban were saying, "Jacob has taken all that was our father's, and from what was our father's he has gained all this wealth." ²And Jacob saw that Laban did not regard him with favor as before. ³Then the LORD said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your fathers and to your kindred, and I will be with you."

⁴So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah into the field where his flock was ⁵and said to them, "I see that your father does not regard me with favor as he did before. But the God of my father has been with me. ⁶You know that I have served your father with all my strength, ⁷yet your father has cheated me and changed my wages **ten** times. But God did not permit him to harm me. ⁸If he said, 'The spotted shall be your wages,' then all the flock bore spotted; and if he said, 'The striped shall be your wages,' then all the flock bore striped. ⁹Thus God has taken away the livestock of your father and given them to me. ¹⁰In the breeding **season** of the flock I lifted up my eyes and saw in a dream that the goats that **mated** with the flock were striped, spotted, and mottled. ¹¹Then the **angel of God** said to me in the dream, 'Jacob,' and I said, 'Here I

am!"¹²And he said, 'Lift up your eyes and see, all the goats that mate with the flock are striped, spotted, and mottled, for I have seen all that **Laban** is doing to you. ¹³I am the **God** of **Bethel**, where you **anointed** a pillar and made a vow to me. Now arise, go out from this land and return to the land of your kindred.'" ¹⁴Then **Rachel** and **Leah** answered and said to him, "Is there any portion or inheritance left to us in our father's house? ¹⁵Are we not **regarded** by him as **foreigners**? For he has sold us, and he has indeed devoured our money. ¹⁶All the wealth that **God** has taken away from our father **belongs** to us and to our children. Now then, whatever **God** has said to you, do."

¹⁷So **Jacob** arose and set his sons and his wives on camels. ¹⁸He drove away all his livestock, all his property that he had gained, the livestock in his possession that he had acquired in **Paddan-aram**, to go to the land of **Canaan** to his father **Isaac**. ¹⁹**Laban** had gone to shear his sheep, and **Rachel** **stole** her father's household gods. ²⁰And **Jacob** tricked¹⁴² **Laban** the **Aramean**, by not **telling** him that he **intended** to flee. ²¹He fled with all that he had and arose and crossed the **Euphrates**, and set his face toward the hill country of **Gilead**.

²²When it was told **Laban** on the **third** day that **Jacob** had fled, ²³he took his kinsmen with him and pursued him for **seven** days and followed close after him into the hill country of **Gilead**. ²⁴But **God** came to **Laban** the **Aramean** in a dream by night and said to him, "Be careful not to say anything to **Jacob**, either good or bad."

²⁵And **Laban** overtook **Jacob**. Now **Jacob** had pitched his tent in the hill country, and **Laban** with his kinsmen pitched tents in the hill country of **Gilead**. ²⁶And **Laban** said to **Jacob**, "What have you done, that you have tricked me and driven away my daughters like **captives** of the sword? ²⁷Why did you flee **secretly** and **trick** me, and did not tell me, so that I might have sent you away with **mirth** and **songs**, with **tambourine** and lyre? ²⁸And why did you not permit me to kiss my sons and my daughters **farewell**? Now you have done **foolishly**. ²⁹It is in my power to do you harm. But the **God**¹⁴³ of your father spoke to me last night, saying, 'Be careful not to say anything to **Jacob**, either good or bad.'³⁰And now you have gone away because you **longed** greatly for your father's house, but why did you steal my gods?" ³¹**Jacob** answered and said to **Laban**, "Because I was afraid, for I thought that you would take your daughters from me by **force**. ³²Anyone with whom you find your gods shall not live. In the presence of our kinsmen **point** out what I have that is yours, and take it." Now **Jacob** did not know that **Rachel** had stolen them.

³³So **Laban** went into **Jacob's** tent and into **Leah's** tent and into the tent of the **two** female servants, but he did not find them. And he went out of **Leah's** tent and entered **Rachel's**. ³⁴Now **Rachel** had taken the household gods and put them in the **camel's saddle** and sat on them. **Laban** felt all about the tent, but did not find them. ³⁵And she said to her father, "Let not my lord be angry that I cannot rise before you, for the way of women is upon me." So he searched but did not find the household gods.

³⁶Then **Jacob** became angry and **berated** **Laban**. **Jacob** said to **Laban**, "What is my offense? What is my sin, that you have **hotly** pursued me? ³⁷For you have felt through all my goods; what have you found of all your household goods? Set it here before my kinsmen and your kinsmen, that they may **decide** between us **two**. ³⁸These

¹⁴² 31:20 Hebrew *stole the heart of*, also verses 26, 27

¹⁴³ 31:29 The Hebrew for *your* is plural here

twenty years I have been with you. Your ewes and your female goats have not **miscarried**, and I have not eaten the rams of your flocks. ³⁹What was torn by wild beasts I did not bring to you. I bore the **loss** of it myself. From my hand you required it, whether stolen by day or stolen by night. ⁴⁰There I was: by day the heat **consumed** me, and the cold by night, and my sleep fled from my eyes. ⁴¹These **twenty** years I have been in your house. I served you **fourteen** years for your **two** daughters, and **six** years for your flock, and you have changed my wages **ten** times. ⁴²If the **God** of my father, the **God** of **Abraham** and the Fear of **Isaac**, had not been on my side, surely now you would have sent me away **empty-handed**. **God** saw my affliction and the labor of my hands and rebuked you last night."

⁴³Then **Laban** answered and said to **Jacob**, "The daughters are my daughters, the children are my children, the flocks are my flocks, and all that you see is mine. But what can I do this day for these my daughters or for their children whom they have borne? ⁴⁴Come now, let us make a covenant, you and I. And let it be a witness between you and me." ⁴⁵So **Jacob** took a stone and set it up as a pillar. ⁴⁶And **Jacob** said to his kinsmen, "Gather stones." And they took stones and made a heap, and they ate there by the heap. ⁴⁷**Laban** called it **Jegar-sahadutha**,¹⁴⁴ but **Jacob** called it **Galeed**.¹⁴⁵ ⁴⁸**Laban** said, "This heap is a witness between you and me today." Therefore he named it **Galeed**,⁴⁹ and **Mizpah**,¹⁴⁶ for he said, "The **LORD watch** between you and me, when we are out of one another's sight. ⁵⁰If you **oppress** my daughters, or if you take wives besides my daughters, **although** no one is with us, see, God is witness between you and me."

⁵¹Then **Laban** said to **Jacob**, "See this heap and the pillar, which I have set between you and me. ⁵²This heap is a witness, and the pillar is a witness, that I will not pass over this heap to you, and you will not pass over this heap and this pillar to me, to do harm. ⁵³The **God** of **Abraham** and the **God** of **Nahor**, the **God** of their father, judge between us." So **Jacob** swore by the Fear of his father **Isaac**, ⁵⁴and **Jacob** offered a **sacrifice** in the hill country and called his kinsmen to eat bread. They ate bread and spent the night in the hill country.

⁵⁵ ¹⁴⁷Early in the morning **Laban** arose and kissed his **grandchildren** and his daughters and blessed them. Then **Laban** departed and returned home.

Jacob Fears Esau

32 **Jacob** went on his way, and the **angels of God** met him. ²And when **Jacob** saw them he said, "This is **God's** camp!" So he called the name of that place **Mahanaim**.¹⁴⁸

³And **Jacob** sent¹⁴⁹ messengers before him to **Esau** his brother in the land of **Seir**, the country of **Edom**, ⁴**instructing** them, "Thus you shall say to my lord **Esau**: Thus says your servant **Jacob**, 'I have sojourned with **Laban** and stayed until now. ⁵I have

¹⁴⁴ 31:47 Aramaic *the heap of witness*

¹⁴⁵ 31:47 Hebrew *the heap of witness*

¹⁴⁶ 31:49 *Mizpah* means *watchpost*

¹⁴⁷ 31:55 Ch 32:1 in Hebrew

¹⁴⁸ 32:2 *Mahanaim* means *two camps*

¹⁴⁹ 32:3 Or *had sent*

oxen, donkeys, flocks, male servants, and female servants. I have sent to tell my lord, in order that I may find favor in your sight."

⁶And the messengers returned to **Jacob**, saying, "We came to your brother **Esau**, and he is coming to meet you, and there are **four hundred** men with him." ⁷Then **Jacob** was greatly afraid and distressed. He divided the people who were with him, and the flocks and herds and camels, into **two** camps, ⁸thinking, "If **Esau** comes to the one camp and **attacks** it, then the camp that is left will escape."

⁹And **Jacob** said, "O **God** of my father **Abraham** and **God** of my father **Isaac**, O **LORD** who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your kindred, that I may do you good,' ¹⁰I am not **worthy** of the least of all the **deeds** of steadfast love and all the faithfulness that you have shown to your servant, for with only my staff I crossed this **Jordan**, and now I have become **two** camps. ¹¹Please deliver me from the hand of my brother, from the hand of **Esau**, for I fear him, that he may come and attack me, the **mothers** with the children. ¹²But you said, 'I will surely do you good, and make your offspring as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.'"

¹³So he stayed there that night, and from what he had with him he took a present for his brother **Esau**, ¹⁴**two hundred** female goats and twenty male goats, **two hundred** ewes and **twenty** rams, ¹⁵**thirty milking** camels and their **calves**, **forty** cows and **ten bulls**, **twenty** female donkeys and **ten** male donkeys. ¹⁶These he **handed** over to his servants, every drove by **itself**, and said to his servants, "Pass on ahead of me and put a **space** between drove and drove." ¹⁷He instructed the **first**, "When **Esau** my brother **meets** you and **asks** you, 'To whom do you belong? Where are you going? And whose are these ahead of you?' ¹⁸then you shall say, 'They belong to your servant **Jacob**. They are a present sent to my lord **Esau**. And moreover, he is behind us.'" ¹⁹He likewise instructed the **second** and the **third** and all who followed the droves, "You shall say the same thing to **Esau** when you find him, ²⁰and you shall say, 'Moreover, your servant **Jacob** is behind us.'" For he thought, "I may **appease** ¹⁵⁰ him with the present that goes ahead of me, and afterward I shall see his face. Perhaps he will accept me."¹⁵¹ ²¹So the present passed on ahead of him, and he himself stayed that night in the camp.

Jacob Wrestles with God

²²The same night he arose and took his **two** wives, his **two** female servants, and his **eleven** children,¹⁵² and crossed the **ford** of the **Jabbok**. ²³He took them and sent them across the **stream**, and everything else that he had. ²⁴And **Jacob** was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the **breaking** of the day. ²⁵When the man saw that he did not **prevail** against **Jacob**, he touched his hip socket, and **Jacob's** hip was put out of **joint** as he wrestled with him. ²⁶Then he said, "Let me go, for the day

¹⁵⁰ 32:20 Hebrew *appease his face*

¹⁵¹ 32:20 Hebrew *he will lift my face*

¹⁵² 32:22 Or *sons*

has broken." But **Jacob** said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." ²⁷And he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "**Jacob**." ²⁸Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called **Jacob**, but **Israel**,¹⁵³ for you have **striven** with **God** and with men, and have **prevailed**." ²⁹Then **Jacob** asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰So **Jacob** called the name of the place **Peniel**,¹⁵⁴ saying, "For I have seen **God** face to face, and yet my life has been delivered." ³¹The sun rose upon him as he passed **Penuel**, **limping** because of his hip. ³²Therefore to this day the people of **Israel** do not eat the sinew of the thigh that is on the hip socket, because he touched the socket of **Jacob's** hip on the sinew of the thigh.

Jacob Meets Esau

33 And **Jacob** lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, **Esau** was coming, and **four hundred** men with him. So he divided the children among **Leah** and **Rachel** and the **two** female servants. ²And he put the servants with their children in front, then **Leah** with her children, and **Rachel** and **Joseph** last of all. ³He himself went on before them, bowing himself to the ground **seven** times, until he came near to his brother.

⁴But **Esau** ran to meet him and embraced him and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. ⁵And when **Esau** lifted up his eyes and saw the women and children, he said, "Who are these with you?" **Jacob** said, "The children whom **God** has graciously given your servant." ⁶Then the servants drew near, they and their children, and bowed down. ⁷**Leah** likewise and her children drew near and bowed down. And last **Joseph** and **Rachel** drew near, and they bowed down. ⁸**Esau** said, "What do you **mean** by all this company¹⁵⁵ that I met?" **Jacob** answered, "To find favor in the sight of my lord." ⁹But **Esau** said, "I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself." ¹⁰**Jacob** said, "No, please, if I have found favor in your sight, then accept my present from my hand. For I have seen your face, which is like seeing the face of **God**, and you have accepted me. ¹¹Please accept my blessing that is brought to you, because **God** has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough." Thus he urged him, and he took it.

¹²Then **Esau** said, "Let us journey on our way, and I will go ahead of¹⁵⁶ you." ¹³But **Jacob** said to him, "My lord knows that the children are **frail**, and that the **nursing** flocks and herds are a **care** to me. If they are driven hard for one day, all the flocks will die. ¹⁴Let my lord pass on ahead of his servant, and I will **lead** on **slowly**, at the pace of the livestock that are ahead of me and at the pace of the children, until I come to my lord in **Seir**."

¹⁵So **Esau** said, "Let me leave with you some of the people who are with me." But he said, "What **need** is there? Let me find favor in the sight of my lord." ¹⁶So **Esau** returned that day on his way to **Seir**. ¹⁷But **Jacob** journeyed to **Succoth**, and built himself a house and made **booths** for his livestock. Therefore the name of the place is

¹⁵³ 32:28 *Israel* means *He strives with God, or God strives*

¹⁵⁴ 32:30 *Peniel* means *the face of God*

¹⁵⁵ 33:8 Hebrew *camp*

¹⁵⁶ 33:12 Or *along with*

called **Succoth**.¹⁵⁷

¹⁸And **Jacob** came **safely**¹⁵⁸ to the city of **Shechem**, which is in the land of **Canaan**, on his way from **Paddan-aram**, and he **camped** before the city. ¹⁹And from the sons of **Hamor**, **Shechem's** father, he bought for a **hundred** pieces of money¹⁵⁹ the piece of land on which he had pitched his tent. ²⁰There he **erected** an altar and called it **El-Elohe-Israel**.¹⁶⁰

The Defiling of Dinah

34 Now **Dinah** the daughter of **Leah**, whom she had borne to **Jacob**, went out to see the women of the land. ²And when **Shechem** the son of **Hamor** the **Hivite**, the prince of the land, saw her, he seized her and lay with her and **humiliated** her. ³And his soul was **drawn** to **Dinah** the daughter of **Jacob**. He loved the young woman and spoke **tenderly** to her. ⁴So **Shechem** spoke to his father **Hamor**, saying, "Get me this **girl** for my wife."

⁵Now **Jacob** heard that he had defiled his daughter **Dinah**. But his sons were with his livestock in the field, so **Jacob** **held** his peace until they came. ⁶And **Hamor** the father of **Shechem** went out to **Jacob** to speak with him. ⁷The sons of **Jacob** had come in from the field as soon as they heard of it, and the men were **indignant** and very angry, because he had done an **outrageous** thing in **Israel** by lying with **Jacob's** daughter, for such a thing must not be done.

⁸But **Hamor** spoke with them, saying, "The soul of my son **Shechem** **longs** for your¹⁶¹ daughter. Please give her to him to be his wife. ⁹Make **marriages** with us. Give your daughters to us, and take our daughters for yourselves. ¹⁰You shall dwell with us, and the land shall be **open** to you. Dwell and trade in it, and get property in it."

¹¹**Shechem** also said to her father and to her brothers, "Let me find favor in your eyes, and whatever you say to me I will give. ¹²Ask me for as great a **bride** price¹⁶² and **gift** as you will, and I will give whatever you say to me. Only give me the young woman to be my wife."

¹³The sons of **Jacob** answered **Shechem** and his father **Hamor** deceitfully, because he had defiled their sister **Dinah**. ¹⁴They said to them, "We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one who is uncircumcised, for that would be a **disgrace** to us. ¹⁵Only on this condition will we agree with you—that you will become as we are by every male among you being circumcised. ¹⁶Then we will give our daughters to you, and we will take your daughters to ourselves, and we will dwell with you and become one people. ¹⁷But if you will not listen to us and be circumcised, then we will take our daughter, and we will be gone."

¹⁸Their words pleased **Hamor** and **Hamor's** son **Shechem**. ¹⁹And the young man did not delay to do the thing, because he **delighted** in **Jacob's** daughter. Now he was

¹⁵⁷ 33:17 *Succoth* means *booths*

¹⁵⁸ 33:18 Or *peacefully*

¹⁵⁹ 33:19 Hebrew *a hundred qesitah*; a unit of money of unknown value

¹⁶⁰ 33:20 *El-Elohe-Israel* means *God, the God of Israel*

¹⁶¹ 34:8 The Hebrew for *your* is plural here

¹⁶² 34:12 Or *engagement present*

the most **honored** of all his father's house. ²⁰So **Hamor** and his son **Shechem** came to the gate of their city and spoke to the men of their city, saying, ²¹"These men are at peace with us; let them dwell in the land and trade in it, for behold, the land is large enough for them. Let us take their daughters as wives, and let us give them our daughters. ²²Only on this condition will the men agree to dwell with us to become one people—when every male among us is circumcised as they are circumcised. ²³Will not their livestock, their property and all their beasts be ours? Only let us agree with them, and they will dwell with us." ²⁴And all who went out of the gate of his city listened to **Hamor** and his son **Shechem**, and every male was circumcised, all who went out of the gate of his city.

²⁵On the **third** day, when they were **sore**, **two** of the sons of **Jacob**, **Simeon** and **Levi**, **Dinah's** brothers, took their swords and came against the city while it felt **secure** and killed all the **males**. ²⁶They killed **Hamor** and his son **Shechem** with the sword and took **Dinah** out of **Shechem's** house and went away. ²⁷The sons of **Jacob** came upon the **slain** and plundered the city, because they had defiled their sister. ²⁸They took their flocks and their herds, their donkeys, and whatever was in the city and in the field. ²⁹All their wealth, all their little ones and their wives, all that was in the **houses**, they **captured** and plundered.

³⁰Then **Jacob** said to **Simeon** and **Levi**, "You have brought **trouble** on me by **making** me **stink** to the inhabitants of the land, the **Canaanites** and the **Perizzites**. My **numbers** are few, and if they gather themselves against me and attack me, I shall be destroyed, both I and my household." ³¹But they said, "Should he treat our sister like a prostitute?"

God Blesses and Renames Jacob

35 God said to **Jacob**, "Arise, go up to **Bethel** and dwell there. Make an altar there to the **God** who appeared to you when you fled from your brother **Esau**." ²So **Jacob** said to his household and to all who were with him, "Put away the foreign gods that are among you and **purify** yourselves and change your garments. ³Then let us arise and go up to **Bethel**, so that I may make there an altar to the **God** who **answers** me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone." ⁴So they gave to **Jacob** all the foreign gods that they had, and the **rings** that were in their ears. **Jacob** hid them under the **terebinth** tree that was near **Shechem**.

⁵And as they journeyed, a **terror** from **God** fell upon the cities that were around them, so that they did not **pursue** the sons of **Jacob**. ⁶And **Jacob** came to **Luz** (that is, **Bethel**), which is in the land of **Canaan**, he and all the people who were with him, ⁷and there he built an altar and called the place **El-bethel**,¹⁶³ because there **God** had revealed himself to him when he fled from his brother. ⁸And **Deborah**, **Rebekah's** nurse, died, and she was buried under an oak **below** **Bethel**. So he called its name **Allon-bacuth**.¹⁶⁴

¹⁶³ 35:7 *El-bethel* means *God of Bethel*

¹⁶⁴ 35:8 *Allon-bacuth* means *oak of weeping*

⁹God appeared¹⁶⁵ to Jacob again, when he came from Paddan-aram, and blessed him. ¹⁰And God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; no longer shall your name be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name." So he called his name Israel. ¹¹And God said to him, "I am God Almighty:¹⁶⁶ be fruitful and multiply. A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come from your own body.¹⁶⁷ ¹²The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and I will give the land to your offspring after you." ¹³Then God went up from him in the place where he had spoken with him. ¹⁴And Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he had spoken with him, a pillar of stone. He poured out a drink offering on it and poured oil on it. ¹⁵So Jacob called the name of the place where God had spoken with him Bethel.

The Deaths of Rachel and Isaac

¹⁶Then they journeyed from Bethel. When they were still some distance¹⁶⁸ from Ephrath, Rachel went into labor, and she had hard labor. ¹⁷And when her labor was at its **hardest**, the midwife said to her, "Do not fear, for you have another son." ¹⁸And as her soul was **departing** (for she was **dying**), she called his name **Ben-oni**;¹⁶⁹ but his father called him Benjamin.¹⁷⁰ ¹⁹So Rachel died, and she was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem), ²⁰and Jacob set up a pillar over her tomb. It is the pillar of Rachel's tomb, which is there to this day. ²¹Israel journeyed on and pitched his tent beyond the tower of Eder.

²²While Israel lived in that land, Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine. And Israel heard of it.

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

²⁷And Jacob came to his father Isaac at Mamre, or Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron), where Abraham and Isaac had sojourned. ²⁸Now the days of Isaac were **180** years. ²⁹And Isaac breathed his last, and he died and was gathered to his people, old and full of days. And his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.

Esau's Descendants

36 These are the generations of Esau (that is, Edom). ²Esau took his wives from the Canaanites: Adah the daughter of Elon the Hittite, Oholibamah the daughter of Anah

¹⁶⁵ 35:9 Or *had appeared*

¹⁶⁶ 35:11 Hebrew *El Shaddai*

¹⁶⁷ 35:11 Hebrew *from your loins*

¹⁶⁸ 35:16 Or *about two hours' distance*

¹⁶⁹ 35:18 *Ben-oni* could mean *son of my sorrow*, or *son of my strength*

¹⁷⁰ 35:18 *Benjamin* means *son of the right hand*

the daughter¹⁷¹ of Zibeon the Hivite, ³and Basemath, **Ishmael's** daughter, the sister of Nebaioth. ⁴And Adah bore to Esau, Eliphaz; Basemath bore Reuel; ⁵and Oholibamah bore Jeush, Jalam, and Korah. These are the sons of Esau who were born to him in the land of Canaan.

⁶Then Esau took his wives, his sons, his daughters, and all the **members** of his household, his livestock, all his beasts, and all his property that he had acquired in the land of Canaan. He went into a land away from his brother Jacob. ⁷For their possessions were too great for them to dwell together. The land of their sojournings could not support them because of their livestock. ⁸So Esau settled in the hill country of Seir. (Esau is Edom.)

⁹These are the generations of Esau the father of the **Edomites** in the hill country of Seir. ¹⁰These are the names of Esau's sons: Eliphaz the son of Adah the wife of Esau, Reuel the son of Basemath the wife of Esau. ¹¹The sons of Eliphaz were Teman, Omar, Zepho, Gatam, and Kenaz. ¹²(Timna was a concubine of Eliphaz, Esau's son; she bore Amalek to Eliphaz.) These are the sons of Adah, Esau's wife. ¹³These are the sons of Reuel: Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah. These are the sons of Basemath, Esau's wife. ¹⁴These are the sons of Oholibamah the daughter of Anah the daughter of Zibeon, Esau's wife: she bore to Esau Jeush, Jalam, and Korah.

¹⁵These are the chiefs of the sons of Esau. The sons of Eliphaz the firstborn of Esau: the chiefs Teman, Omar, Zepho, Kenaz, ¹⁶Korah, Gatam, and Amalek; these are the chiefs of Eliphaz in the land of Edom; these are the sons of Adah. ¹⁷These are the sons of Reuel, Esau's son: the chiefs Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah; these are the chiefs of Reuel in the land of Edom; these are the sons of Basemath, Esau's wife. ¹⁸These are the sons of Oholibamah, Esau's wife: the chiefs Jeush, Jalam, and Korah; these are the chiefs born of Oholibamah the daughter of Anah, Esau's wife. ¹⁹These are the sons of Esau (that is, Edom), and these are their chiefs.

²⁰These are the sons of Seir the **Horite**, the inhabitants of the land: Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah, ²¹Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan; these are the chiefs of the Horites, the sons of Seir in the land of Edom. ²²The sons of Lotan were Hori and Hemam; and Lotan's sister was Timna. ²³These are the sons of Shobal: Alvan, Manahath, Ebal, Shepho, and Onam. ²⁴These are the sons of Zibeon: Aiah and Anah; he is the Anah who found the **hot springs** in the wilderness, as he pastured the donkeys of Zibeon his father. ²⁵These are the children of Anah: Dishon and Oholibamah the daughter of Anah. ²⁶These are the sons of Dishon: Hemdan, Eshban, Ithran, and Cheran. ²⁷These are the sons of Ezer: Bilhan, Zaavan, and Akan. ²⁸These are the sons of Dishan: Uz and Aran. ²⁹These are the chiefs of the Horites: the chiefs Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah, ³⁰Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan; these are the chiefs of the Horites, chief by chief in the land of Seir.

³¹These are the kings who reigned in the land of Edom, before any king reigned over the **Israelites**. ³²Bela the son of Beor reigned in Edom, the name of his city being Dinhabah. ³³Bela died, and Jobab the son of Zerah of Bozrah reigned in his place. ³⁴Jobab died, and Husham of the land of the **Temanites** reigned in his place. ³⁵Husham died, and Hadad the son of Bedad, who defeated Midian in the country of Moab, reigned in his place, the name of his city being Avith. ³⁶Hadad died, and Samlah of

¹⁷¹ 36:2 Hebrew; Samaritan, Septuagint, Syriac *son*; also verse 14

Masrekah reigned in his place. ³⁷**Samlah** died, and **Shaul** of **Rehoboth** on the **Euphrates**¹⁷² reigned in his place. ³⁸**Shaul** died, and **Baal-hanan** the son of **Achbor** reigned in his place. ³⁹**Baal-hanan** the son of **Achbor** died, and **Hadar** reigned in his place, the name of his city being **Pau**; his wife's name was **Mehetabel**, the daughter of **Matred**, daughter of **Mezahab**.

⁴⁰These are the names of the chiefs of **Esau**, according to their clans and their dwelling places, by their names: the chiefs **Timna**, **Alvah**, **Jetheth**, ⁴¹**Oholibamah**, **Elah**, **Pinon**, ⁴²**Kenaz**, **Teman**, **Mibzar**, ⁴³**Magdiel**, and **Iram**; these are the chiefs of **Edom** (that is, **Esau**, the father of **Edom**), according to their dwelling places in the land of their possession.

Joseph's Dreams

37 **Jacob** lived in the land of his father's sojournings, in the land of **Canaan**.

²These are the generations of **Jacob**.

Joseph, being **seventeen** years old, was pasturing the flock with his brothers. He was a boy with the sons of **Bilhah** and **Zilpah**, his father's wives. And **Joseph** brought a bad report of them to their father. ³Now **Israel** loved **Joseph** more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colors.¹⁷³ ⁴But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak **peacefully** to him.

⁵Now **Joseph** had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more. ⁶He said to them, "Hear this dream that I have dreamed: ⁷Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood **upright**. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf." ⁸His brothers said to him, "Are you indeed to **reign** over us? Or are you indeed to rule over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.

⁹Then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and said, "Behold, I have dreamed another dream. Behold, the sun, the **moon**, and **eleven** stars were bowing down to me." ¹⁰But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?" ¹¹And his brothers were **jealous** of him, but his father kept the saying in **mind**.

Joseph Sold by His Brothers

¹²Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near **Shechem**. ¹³And **Israel** said to **Joseph**, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at **Shechem**? Come, I will send you to them." And he said to him, "Here I am." ¹⁴So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring me word." So he sent him from the **Valley of Hebron**, and he came to **Shechem**. ¹⁵And a man found him

¹⁷² 36:37 Hebrew *the River*

¹⁷³ 37:3 See Septuagint, Vulgate; or (with Syriac) *a robe with long sleeves*. The meaning of the Hebrew is uncertain; also verses 23, 32

wandering in the fields. And the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" ¹⁶"I am seeking my brothers," he said. "Tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." ¹⁷And 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 at **Dothan**.

¹⁸They saw him from afar, and before he came near to them they **conspired** against him to kill him. ¹⁹They said to one another, "Here comes this **dreamer**." ²⁰Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits. ²¹Then we will say that a fierce animal has devoured him, and we will see what will become of his dreams." ²¹But when **Reuben** heard it, he **rescued** him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." ²²And **Reuben** said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but do not lay a hand on him"— that he might **rescue** him out of their hand to restore him to his father. ²³So when **Joseph** came to his brothers, they **stripped** him of his robe, the robe of many colors that he wore. ²⁴And they took him and **threw** him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

²⁵Then they sat down to eat. And **looking** up they saw a **caravan** of **Ishmaelites** coming from **Gilead**, with their camels bearing gum, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry it down to **Egypt**. ²⁶Then **Judah** said to his brothers, "What **profit** is it if we kill our brother and **conceal** his blood? ²⁷Come, let us sell him to the **Ishmaelites**, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers listened to him. ²⁸Then **Midianite traders** passed by. And they drew **Joseph** up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the **Ishmaelites** for **twenty** shekels¹⁷⁵ of silver. They took **Joseph** to **Egypt**.

²⁹When **Reuben** returned to the pit and saw that **Joseph** was not in the pit, he tore his clothes ³⁰and returned to his brothers and said, "The boy is gone, and I, where shall I go?" ³¹Then they took **Joseph's** robe and **slaughtered** a goat and **dipped** the robe in the blood. ³²And they sent the robe of many colors and brought it to their father and said, "This we have found; please identify whether it is your son's robe or not." ³³And he identified it and said, "It is my son's robe. A fierce animal has devoured him. **Joseph** is without **doubt** torn to pieces." ³⁴Then **Jacob** tore his garments and put **sackcloth** on his **loins** and **mourned** for his son many days. ³⁵All his sons and all his daughters rose up to **comfort** him, but he refused to be comforted and said, "No, I shall go down to **Sheol** to my son, mourning." Thus his father wept for him. ³⁶**Meanwhile** the **Midianites** had sold him in **Egypt** to **Potiphar**, an officer of **Pharaoh**, the captain of the guard.

Judah and Tamar

38 It happened at that time that **Judah** went down from his brothers and turned aside to a certain **Adullamite**, whose name was **Hirah**. ²There **Judah** saw the daughter of a certain **Canaanite** whose name was **Shua**. He took her and went in to her, ³and she conceived and bore a son, and he called his name **Er**. ⁴She conceived again and bore a son, and she called his name **Onan**. ⁵Yet again she bore a son, and she called his

¹⁷⁴ 37:20 Or *cisterns*; also verses 22, 24

¹⁷⁵ 37:28 A *shekel* was about 2/5 ounce or 11 grams

name Shelah. Judah¹⁷⁶ was in **Chezib** when she bore him.

⁶And Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, and her name was Tamar. ⁷But Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD put him to death. ⁸Then Judah said to Onan, "Go in to your brother's wife and **perform** the **duty** of a **brother-in-law** to her, and **raise** up offspring for your brother." ⁹But Onan knew that the offspring would not be his. So whenever he went in to his brother's wife he would **waste** the **semen** on the ground, so as not to give offspring to his brother. ¹⁰And what he did was wicked in the sight of the LORD, and he put him to death also. ¹¹Then Judah said to Tamar his daughter-in-law, "Remain a **widow** in your father's house, till Shelah my son **grows** up"—for he feared that he would die, like his brothers. So Tamar went and remained in her father's house.

¹²In the course of time the wife of Judah, Shua's daughter, died. When Judah was comforted, he went up to Timnah to his **sheepshearers**, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite. ¹³And when Tamar was told, "Your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep," ¹⁴she took off her **widow's** garments and covered herself with a veil, **wrapping** herself up, and sat at the entrance to Enaim, which is on the **road** to Timnah. For she saw that Shelah was **grown** up, and she had not been given to him in **marriage**. ¹⁵When Judah saw her, he thought she was a prostitute, for she had covered her face. ¹⁶He turned to her at the roadside and said, "Come, let me come in to you," for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. She said, "What will you give me, that you may come in to me?" ¹⁷He answered, "I will send you a young goat from the flock." And she said, "If you give me a pledge, until you send it—" ¹⁸He said, "What pledge shall I give you?" She replied, "Your signet and your cord and your staff that is in your hand." So he gave them to her and went in to her, and she conceived by him. ¹⁹Then she arose and went away, and taking off her veil she put on the garments of her **widowhood**.

²⁰When Judah sent the young goat by his friend the Adullamite to take back the pledge from the **woman's** hand, he did not find her. ²¹And he asked the men of the place, "Where is the cult prostitute¹⁷⁷ who was at Enaim at the roadside?" And they said, "No cult prostitute has been here." ²²So he returned to Judah and said, "I have not found her. Also, the men of the place said, 'No cult prostitute has been here.'" ²³And Judah replied, "Let her keep the things as her own, or we shall be laughed at. You see, I sent this young goat, and you did not find her."

²⁴About **three months** later Judah was told, "Tamar your daughter-in-law has been **immoral**."¹⁷⁸ Moreover, she is pregnant by **immorality**."¹⁷⁹ And Judah said, "Bring her out, and let her be **burned**." ²⁵As she was being brought out, she sent word to her father-in-law, "By the man to whom these belong, I am pregnant." And she said, "Please identify whose these are, the signet and the cord and the staff." ²⁶Then Judah identified them and said, "She is more righteous than I, since I did not give her to my son Shelah." And he did not know her again.

¹⁷⁶ 38:8 Hebrew *He*

¹⁷⁷ 38:21 Hebrew *sacred woman*; a woman who served a pagan deity by prostitution; also verse 22

¹⁷⁸ 38:24 Or *has committed prostitution*

¹⁷⁹ 38:24 Or *by prostitution*

²⁷When the time of her labor came, there were twins in her womb. ²⁸And when she was in labor, one put out a hand, and the midwife took and **tied** a scarlet thread on his hand, saying, "This one came out first." ²⁹But as he drew back his hand, behold, his brother came out. And she said, "What a **breach** you have made for yourself!" Therefore his name was called **Perez**.¹⁸⁰ ³⁰Afterward his brother came out with the scarlet thread on his hand, and his name was called **Zerah**.

Joseph and Potiphar's Wife

39 Now **Joseph** had been brought down to **Egypt**, and **Potiphar**, an officer of **Pharaoh**, the captain of the guard, an **Egyptian**, had bought him from the **Ishmaelites** who had brought him down there. ²The **LORD** was with **Joseph**, and he became a **successful** man, and he was in the house of his **Egyptian** master. ³His master saw that the **LORD** was with him and that the **LORD** caused all that he did to succeed in his hands. ⁴So **Joseph** found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. ⁵From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had the **LORD** blessed the **Egyptian's** house for **Joseph's** sake; the blessing of the **LORD** was on all that he had, in house and field. ⁶So he left all that he had in **Joseph's** charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate.

Now **Joseph** was **handsome** in form and appearance. ⁷And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on **Joseph** and said, "Lie with me." ⁸But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge. ⁹He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me **except** yourself, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against **God**?" ¹⁰And as she spoke to **Joseph** day after day, he would not listen to her, to lie beside her or to be with her.

¹¹But one day, when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house was there in the house, ¹²she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house. ¹³And as soon as she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled out of the house, ¹⁴she called to the men of her household and said to them, "See, he has brought among us a **Hebrew** to laugh at us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a **loud** voice. ¹⁵And as soon as he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried out, he left his garment beside me and fled and got out of the house." ¹⁶Then she laid up his garment by her until his master came home, ¹⁷and she told him the same **story**, saying, "The **Hebrew** servant, whom you have brought among us, came in to me to laugh at me. ¹⁸But as soon as I lifted up my voice and cried, he left his garment beside me and fled out of the house."

¹⁹As soon as his master heard the words that his wife spoke to him, "This is the way your servant treated me," his anger was kindled. ²⁰And **Joseph's** master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined, and he

¹⁸⁰ 38:29 *Perez* means a *breach*

was there in prison. ²¹But the LORD was with Joseph and **showed** him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. ²²And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. ²³The keeper of the prison **paid** no **attention** to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because the LORD was with him. And whatever he did, the LORD made it succeed.

Joseph Interprets Two Prisoners' Dreams

40 Some time after this, the cupbearer of the king of Egypt and his baker **committed** an offense against their lord the king of Egypt. ²And Pharaoh was angry with his **two** officers, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker, ³and he put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the prison where Joseph was confined. ⁴The captain of the guard appointed Joseph to be with them, and he attended them. They continued for some time in custody.

⁵And one night they both dreamed—the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison—each his own dream, and each dream with its own interpretation. ⁶When Joseph came to them in the morning, he saw that they were troubled. ⁷So he asked Pharaoh's officers who were with him in custody in his master's house, "Why are your faces **downcast** today?" ⁸They said to him, "We have had dreams, and there is no one to interpret them." And Joseph said to them, "Do not **interpretations** belong to God? Please tell them to me."

⁹So the chief cupbearer told his dream to Joseph and said to him, "In my dream there was a vine before me, ¹⁰and on the vine there were **three** branches. As soon as it **budded**, its **blossoms** shot forth, and the **clusters ripened** into grapes. ¹¹Pharaoh's cup was in my hand, and I took the grapes and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup and placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand." ¹²Then Joseph said to him, "This is its interpretation: the **three** branches are **three** days. ¹³In **three** days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your office, and you shall place Pharaoh's cup in his hand as **formerly**, when you were his cupbearer. ¹⁴Only remember me, when it is well with you, and please do me the kindness to **mention** me to Pharaoh, and so get me out of this house. ¹⁵For I was indeed stolen out of the land of the Hebrews, and here also I have done nothing that they should put me into the pit."

¹⁶When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was favorable, he said to Joseph, "I also had a dream: there were **three cake** baskets on my head, ¹⁷and in the **uppermost** basket there were all sorts of baked food for Pharaoh, but the birds were **eating** it out of the basket on my head." ¹⁸And Joseph answered and said, "This is its interpretation: the **three** baskets are **three** days. ¹⁹In **three** days Pharaoh will lift up your head—from you!—and **hang** you on a tree. And the birds will eat the flesh from you."

²⁰On the **third** day, which was Pharaoh's **birthday**, he made a feast for all his servants and lifted up the head of the chief cupbearer and the head of the chief baker among his servants. ²¹He restored the chief cupbearer to his **position**, and he placed

the cup in Pharaoh's hand. ²²But he hanged the chief baker, as Joseph had interpreted to them. ²³Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but **forgot** him.

Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dreams

41 After **two** whole years, Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing by the Nile, ²and behold, there came up out of the Nile **seven** cows attractive and plump, and they fed in the reed grass. ³And behold, **seven** other cows, ugly and thin, came up out of the Nile after them, and stood by the other cows on the **bank** of the Nile. ⁴And the ugly, thin cows ate up the **seven** attractive, plump cows. And Pharaoh awoke. ⁵And he fell **asleep** and dreamed a **second** time. And behold, **seven** ears of grain, plump and good, were growing on one stalk. ⁶And behold, after them sprouted **seven** ears, thin and blighted by the east wind. ⁷And the thin ears swallowed up the **seven** plump, full ears. And Pharaoh awoke, and behold, it was a dream. ⁸^{So} in the morning his spirit was troubled, and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was none who could interpret them to Pharaoh.

⁹Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, "I remember my **offenses** today. ¹⁰When Pharaoh was angry with his servants and put me and the chief baker in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, ¹¹we dreamed on the same night, he and I, each **having** a dream with its own interpretation. ¹²A young Hebrew was there with us, a servant of the captain of the guard. When we told him, he interpreted our dreams to us, giving an interpretation to each man according to his dream. ¹³And as he interpreted to us, so it came about. I was restored to my office, and the baker was hanged."

¹⁴Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they quickly brought him out of the pit. And when he had **shaved** himself and changed his clothes, he came in before Pharaoh. ¹⁵And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it." ¹⁶Joseph answered Pharaoh, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer."¹⁸¹ ¹⁷Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Behold, in my dream I was standing on the **banks** of the Nile. ¹⁸**Seven** cows, plump and attractive, came up out of the Nile and fed in the reed grass. ¹⁹**Seven** other cows came up after them, **poor** and very ugly and thin, such as I had never seen in all the land of Egypt. ²⁰And the thin, ugly cows ate up the first seven plump cows, ²¹but when they had eaten them no one

¹⁸¹ 41:16 Or (compare Samaritan, Septuagint) *Without God it is not possible to give Pharaoh an answer about his welfare*

would have known that they had eaten them, for they were still as ugly as at the beginning. Then I awoke. ²²I also saw in my dream **seven** ears growing on one stalk, full and good. ²³**Seven** ears, **withered**, thin, and blighted by the east wind, sprouted after them, ²⁴and the thin ears swallowed up the **seven** good ears. And I told it to the magicians, but there was no one who could **explain** it to me."

²⁵Then **Joseph** said to **Pharaoh**, "The dreams of **Pharaoh** are one; **God** has revealed to **Pharaoh** what he is about to do. ²⁶The **seven** good cows are **seven** years, and the **seven** good ears are **seven** years; the dreams are one. ²⁷The **seven lean** and ugly cows that came up after them are **seven** years, and the **seven** empty ears blighted by the east wind are also **seven** years of famine. ²⁸It is as I told **Pharaoh**; **God** has shown to **Pharaoh** what he is about to do. ²⁹There will come **seven** years of great plenty throughout all the land of **Egypt**, ³⁰but after them there will arise **seven** years of famine, and all the plenty will be **forgotten** in the land of **Egypt**. The famine will **consume** the land, ³¹and the plenty will be **unknown** in the land by reason of the famine that will follow, for it will be very severe. ³²And the **doubling** of **Pharaoh's** dream **means** that the thing is fixed by **God**, and **God** will **shortly** bring it about. ³³Now therefore let **Pharaoh** **select** a **discerning** and wise man, and set him over the land of **Egypt**. ³⁴Let **Pharaoh** **proceed** to **appoint overseers** over the land¹⁸² and take **one-fifth** of the **produce** of the land of **Egypt** **during** the **seven plentiful** years. ³⁵And let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming and store up grain under the **authority** of **Pharaoh** for food in the cities, and let them keep it. ³⁶That food shall be a **reserve** for the land against the **seven** years of famine that are to **occur** in the land of **Egypt**, so that the land may not **perish** through the famine."

Joseph Rises to Power

³⁷This proposal pleased **Pharaoh** and all his servants. ³⁸And **Pharaoh** said to his servants, "Can we find a man like this, in whom is the **Spirit of God**?"¹⁸³ ³⁹Then **Pharaoh** said to **Joseph**, "Since **God** has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are. ⁴⁰You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command.¹⁸⁴ Only as regards the throne will I be greater than you." ⁴¹And **Pharaoh** said to **Joseph**, "See, I have set you over all the land of **Egypt**." ⁴²Then **Pharaoh** took his signet ring from his hand and put it on **Joseph's** hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain about his neck. ⁴³And he made him ride in his **second** chariot. And they called out before him, "Bow the knee!"¹⁸⁵ Thus he set him over all the land of **Egypt**. ⁴⁴Moreover, **Pharaoh** said to **Joseph**, "I am **Pharaoh**, and without your consent no one shall lift up hand or foot in all the land of **Egypt**." ⁴⁵And **Pharaoh** called **Joseph's** name **Zaphenath-paneah**. And he gave him in marriage **Asenath**, the daughter of **Potiphera** priest of **On**. So **Joseph** went out over the land of **Egypt**.

⁴⁶**Joseph** was **thirty** years old when he entered the service of **Pharaoh** king of **Egypt**. And **Joseph** went out from the presence of **Pharaoh** and went through all the

¹⁸² 41:34 Or *over the land and organize the land*

¹⁸³ 41:38 Or *of the gods*

¹⁸⁴ 41:40 Hebrew *and according to your command all my people shall kiss the ground*

¹⁸⁵ 41:43 *Abrek*, probably an Egyptian word, similar in sound to the Hebrew word meaning *to kneel*

land of **Egypt**.⁴⁷ During the **seven** plentiful years the earth produced abundantly,⁴⁸ and he gathered up all the food of these **seven** years, which occurred in the land of **Egypt**, and put the food in the cities. He put in every city the food from the fields around it.⁴⁹ And **Joseph** stored up grain in great abundance, like the sand of the sea, until he ceased to measure it, for it could not be measured.

⁵⁰ Before the year of famine came, **two** sons were born to **Joseph**. **Asenath**, the daughter of **Potiphera** priest of **On**, bore them to him. ⁵¹ **Joseph** called the name of the firstborn **Manasseh**. "For," he said, "**God** has made me forget all my hardship and all my father's house."¹⁸⁶ ⁵² The name of the **second** he called **Ephraim**, "For **God** has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction."¹⁸⁷

⁵³ The **seven** years of plenty that occurred in the land of **Egypt** came to an end,⁵⁴ and the **seven** years of famine began to come, as **Joseph** had said. There was famine in all lands, but in all the land of **Egypt** there was bread. ⁵⁵ When all the land of **Egypt** was famished, the people cried to **Pharaoh** for bread. **Pharaoh** said to all the **Egyptians**, "Go to **Joseph**. What he says to you, do."

⁵⁶ So when the famine had spread over all the land, **Joseph** opened all the storehouses¹⁸⁸ and sold to the **Egyptians**, for the famine was severe in the land of **Egypt**. ⁵⁷ Moreover, all the earth came to **Egypt** to **Joseph** to buy grain, because the famine was severe over all the earth.

Joseph's Brothers Go to Egypt

42 When **Jacob** learned that there was grain for sale in **Egypt**, he said to his sons, "Why do you look at one another?"² And he said, "Behold, I have heard that there is grain for sale in **Egypt**. Go down and buy grain for us there, that we may live and not die."³ So **ten** of **Joseph's** brothers went down to buy grain in **Egypt**.⁴ But **Jacob** did not send **Benjamin**, **Joseph's** brother, with his brothers, for he feared that harm might happen to him. ⁵ Thus the sons of **Israel** came to buy among the **others** who came, for the famine was in the land of **Canaan**.

⁶ Now **Joseph** was **governor** over the land. He was the one who sold to all the people of the land. And **Joseph's** brothers came and bowed themselves before him with their faces to the ground. ⁷ **Joseph** saw his brothers and recognized them, but he treated them like **strangers** and spoke roughly to them. "Where do you come from?" he said. They said, "From the land of **Canaan**, to buy food."⁸ And **Joseph** recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him. ⁹ And **Joseph** remembered the dreams that he had dreamed of them. And he said to them, "You are spies; you have come to see the nakedness of the land."¹⁰ They said to him, "No, my lord, your servants have come to buy food. ¹¹ We are all sons of one man. We are honest men. Your servants have never been spies."

¹² He said to them, "No, it is the nakedness of the land that you have come to see."¹³ And they said, "We, your servants, are **twelve** brothers, the sons of one man in

¹⁸⁶ 41:51 *Manasseh* sounds like the Hebrew for *making to forget*

¹⁸⁷ 41:52 *Ephraim* sounds like the Hebrew for *making fruitful*

¹⁸⁸ 41:56 Hebrew *all that was in them*

the land of **Canaan**, and behold, the youngest is this day with our father, and one is no more." ¹⁴But **Joseph** said to them, "It is as I said to you. You are spies. ¹⁵By this you shall be tested: by the life of **Pharaoh**, you shall not go from this place unless your youngest brother comes here. ¹⁶Send one of you, and let him bring your brother, while you remain confined, that your words may be tested, whether there is truth in you. Or else, by the life of **Pharaoh**, surely you are spies." ¹⁷And he put them all together in custody for **three** days.

¹⁸On the **third** day **Joseph** said to them, "Do this and you will live, for I fear **God**: ¹⁹if you are honest men, let one of your brothers remain confined where you are in custody, and let the rest go and carry grain for the famine of your households, ²⁰and bring your youngest brother to me. So your words will be **verified**, and you shall not die." And they did so. ²¹Then they said to one another, "In truth we are **guilty** concerning our brother, in that we saw the distress of his soul, when he **begged** us and we did not listen. That is why this distress has come upon us." ²²And **Reuben** answered them, "Did I not tell you not to sin against the boy? But you did not listen. So now there comes a reckoning for his blood." ²³They did not know that **Joseph** **understood** them, for there was an **interpreter** between them. ²⁴Then he turned away from them and wept. And he returned to them and spoke to them. And he took **Simeon** from them and bound him before their eyes. ²⁵And **Joseph** gave orders to fill their bags with grain, and to **replace** every man's money in his sack, and to give them provisions for the journey. This was done for them.

²⁶Then they loaded their donkeys with their grain and departed. ²⁷And as one of them opened his sack to give his donkey fodder at the lodging place, he saw his money in the mouth of his sack. ²⁸He said to his brothers, "My money has been put back; here it is in the mouth of my sack!" At this their **hearts failed** them, and they turned **trembling** to one another, saying, "What is this that **God** has done to us?"

²⁹When they came to **Jacob** their father in the land of **Canaan**, they told him all that had happened to them, saying, ³⁰"The man, the lord of the land, spoke roughly to us and took us to be spies of the land. ³¹But we said to him, 'We are honest men; we have never been spies. ³²We are **twelve** brothers, sons of our father. One is no more, and the youngest is this day with our father in the land of **Canaan**.' ³³Then the man, the lord of the land, said to us, 'By this I shall know that you are honest men: leave one of your brothers with me, and take grain for the famine of your households, and go your way. ³⁴Bring your youngest brother to me. Then I shall know that you are not spies but honest men, and I will deliver your brother to you, and you shall trade in the land.'"

³⁵As they emptied their sacks, behold, every man's **bundle** of money was in his sack. And when they and their father saw their **bundles** of money, they were afraid. ³⁶And **Jacob** their father said to them, "You have bereaved me of my children: **Joseph** is no more, and **Simeon** is no more, and now you would take **Benjamin**. All this has come against me." ³⁷Then **Reuben** said to his father, "Kill my **two** sons if I do not bring him back to you. Put him in my hands, and I will bring him back to you." ³⁸But he said, "My son shall not go down with you, for his brother is dead, and he is the only one left. If harm should happen to him on the journey that you are to make, you would bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to **Sheol**."

Joseph's Brothers Return to Egypt

43 Now the famine was severe in the land. ²And when they had eaten the grain that they had brought from **Egypt**, their father said to them, "Go again, buy us a little food."
³But **Judah** said to him, "The man **solemnly** warned us, saying, 'You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.'
⁴If you will send our brother with us, we will go down and buy you food. ⁵But if you will not send him, we will not go down, for the man said to us, 'You shall not see my face, unless your brother is with you.'"
⁶**Israel** said, "Why did you treat me so **badly** as to tell the man that you had another brother?"
⁷They replied, "The man **questioned** us **carefully** about ourselves and our kindred, saying, 'Is your father still alive? Do you have another brother?' What we told him was in answer to these **questions**. Could we in any way know that he would say, 'Bring your brother down?'"
⁸And **Judah** said to **Israel** his father, "Send the boy with me, and we will arise and go, that we may live and not die, both we and you and also our little ones. ⁹I will be a pledge of his safety. From my hand you shall require him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame forever. ¹⁰If we had not **delayed**, we would now have returned **twice**."

¹¹Then their father **Israel** said to them, "If it must be so, then do this: take some of the choice **fruits** of the land in your bags, and carry a present down to the man, a little balm and a little **honey**, gum, myrrh, **pistachio nuts**, and **almonds**. ¹²Take double the money with you. Carry back with you the money that was returned in the mouth of your sacks. Perhaps it was an **oversight**. ¹³Take also your brother, and arise, go again to the man. ¹⁴May **God Almighty**¹⁸⁹ grant you **mercy** before the man, and may he send back your other brother and **Benjamin**. And as for me, if I am bereaved of my children, I am bereaved."

¹⁵So the men took this present, and they took double the money with them, and **Benjamin**. They arose and went down to **Egypt** and stood before **Joseph**.

¹⁶When **Joseph** saw **Benjamin** with them, he said to the steward of his house, "Bring the men into the house, and slaughter an animal and make **ready**, for the men are to **dine** with me at noon." ¹⁷The man did as **Joseph** told him and brought the men to **Joseph's** house. ¹⁸And the men were afraid because they were brought to **Joseph's** house, and they said, "It is because of the money, which was **replaced** in our sacks the **first** time, that we are brought in, so that he may **assault** us and fall upon us to make us servants and **seize** our donkeys." ¹⁹So they went up to the steward of **Joseph's** house and spoke with him at the door of the house, ²⁰and said, "Oh, my lord, we came down the **first** time to buy food. ²¹And when we came to the lodging place we opened our sacks, and there was each man's money in the mouth of his sack, our money in full **weight**. So we have brought it again with us, ²²and we have brought other money down with us to buy food. We do not know who put our money in our sacks." ²³He replied, "Peace to you, do not be afraid. Your **God** and the **God** of your father has put **treasure** in your sacks for you. I **received** your money." Then he brought **Simeon** out to them. ²⁴And when the man had brought the men into **Joseph's** house and given them water, and they had washed their feet, and when he had given

¹⁸⁹ 43:14 Hebrew *El Shaddai*

their donkeys fodder, ²⁵they prepared the present for Joseph's coming at noon, for they heard that they should eat bread there.

²⁶When Joseph came home, they brought into the house to him the present that they had with them and bowed down to him to the ground. ²⁷And he **inquired** about their **welfare** and said, "Is your father well, the old man of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?" ²⁸They said, "Your servant our father is well; he is still alive." And they bowed their **heads** and **prostrated** themselves. ²⁹And he lifted up his eyes and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, and said, "Is this your youngest brother, of whom you spoke to me? God be **gracious** to you, my son!" ³⁰Then Joseph **hurried** out, for his **compassion** grew **warm** for his brother, and he **sought** a place to weep. And he entered his **chamber** and wept there. ³¹Then he washed his face and came out. And **controlling** himself he said, "Serve the food." ³²They served him by himself, and them by themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves, because the Egyptians could not eat with the Hebrews, for that is an abomination to the Egyptians. ³³And they sat before him, the firstborn according to his birthright and the youngest according to his youth. And the men looked at one another in **amazement**. ³⁴Portions were taken to them from Joseph's **table**, but Benjamin's portion was **five** times as much as any of theirs. And they drank and were **merry**¹⁹⁰ with him.

Joseph Tests His Brothers

44 Then he commanded the steward of his house, "Fill the **men's** sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put each man's money in the mouth of his sack, ²and put my cup, the silver cup, in the mouth of the sack of the youngest, with his money for the grain." And he did as Joseph told him.

³As soon as the morning was light, the men were sent away with their donkeys. ⁴They had gone only a **short** distance from the city. Now Joseph said to his steward, "Up, follow after the men, and when you overtake them, say to them, 'Why have you **repaid** evil for good?'¹⁹¹ ⁵Is it not from this that my lord **drinks**, and by this that he **practices** divination? You have done evil in doing this.'"

⁶When he overtook them, he spoke to them these words. ⁷They said to him, "Why does my lord speak such words as these? Far be it from your servants to do such a thing! ⁸Behold, the money that we found in the **mouths** of our sacks we brought back to you from the land of Canaan. How then could we steal silver or gold from your lord's house? ⁹**Whichever** of your servants is found with it shall die, and we also will be my lord's servants." ¹⁰He said, "Let it be as you say: he who is found with it shall be my servant, and the rest of you shall be innocent." ¹¹Then each man quickly **lowered** his sack to the ground, and each man opened his sack. ¹²And he searched, beginning with the **eldest** and **ending** with the youngest. And the cup was found in Benjamin's sack. ¹³Then they tore their clothes, and every man loaded his donkey, and they returned to the city.

¹⁴When Judah and his brothers came to Joseph's house, he was still there. They

¹⁹⁰ 43:34 Hebrew *and became intoxicated*

¹⁹¹ 44:4 Septuagint (compare Vulgate) adds *Why have you stolen my silver cup?*

fell before him to the ground. ¹⁵Joseph said to them, "What **deed** is this that you have done? Do you not know that a man like me can indeed **practice** divination?" ¹⁶And Judah said, "What shall we say to my lord? What shall we speak? Or how can we **clear** ourselves? God has found out the guilt of your servants; behold, we are my lord's servants, both we and he also in whose hand the cup has been found." ¹⁷But he said, "Far be it from me that I should do so! Only the man in whose hand the cup was found shall be my servant. But as for you, go up in peace to your father."

¹⁸Then Judah went up to him and said, "Oh, my lord, please let your servant speak a word in my lord's ears, and let not your anger burn against your servant, for you are like Pharaoh himself. ¹⁹My lord asked his servants, saying, 'Have you a father, or a brother?' ²⁰And we said to my lord, 'We have a father, an old man, and a young brother, the child of his old age. His brother is dead, and he alone is left of his mother's children, and his father loves him.' ²¹Then you said to your servants, 'Bring him down to me, that I may set my eyes on him.' ²²We said to my lord, 'The boy cannot leave his father, for if he should leave his father, his father would die.' ²³Then you said to your servants, 'Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you shall not see my face again.'

²⁴"When we went back to your servant my father, we told him the words of my lord. ²⁵And when our father said, 'Go again, buy us a little food,' ²⁶we said, 'We cannot go down. If our youngest brother goes with us, then we will go down. For we cannot see the man's face unless our youngest brother is with us.' ²⁷Then your servant my father said to us, 'You know that my wife bore me **two** sons. ²⁸One left me, and I said, Surely he has been torn to pieces, and I have never seen him since. ²⁹If you take this one also from me, and harm **happens** to him, you will bring down my gray hairs in evil to Sheol.'

³⁰"Now therefore, as soon as I come to your servant my father, and the boy is not with us, then, as his life is bound up in the **boy's** life, ³¹as soon as he **sees** that the boy is not with us, he will die, and your servants will bring down the gray hairs of your servant our father with sorrow to Sheol. ³²For your servant became a pledge of safety for the boy to my father, saying, 'If I do not bring him back to you, then I shall bear the blame before my father all my life.' ³³Now therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the boy as a servant to my lord, and let the boy go back with his brothers. ³⁴For how can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? I fear to see the evil that would find my father."

Joseph Provides for His Brothers and Family

45 Then Joseph could not **control** himself before all those who stood by him. He cried, "Make everyone go out from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. ²And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. ³And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were **dismayed** at his presence.

⁴So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these **two** years, and there are yet **five** years in which there will be neither **plowing** nor harvest. ⁷And God sent me before you to preserve for you a **remnant** on earth, and to keep alive for you many **survivors**. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not **tarry**. ¹⁰You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your **children's** children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹There I will provide for you, for there are yet **five** years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to **poverty**.' ¹²And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that **speaks** to you. ¹³You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." ¹⁴Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers **talked** with him.

¹⁶When the report was heard in Pharaoh's house, "Joseph's brothers have come," it pleased Pharaoh and his servants. ¹⁷And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Say to your brothers, 'Do this: **load** your beasts and go back to the land of Canaan, ¹⁸and take your father and your households, and come to me, and I will give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you shall eat the fat of the land.' ¹⁹And you, Joseph, are commanded to say, 'Do this: take wagons from the land of Egypt for your little ones and for your wives, and bring your father, and come. ²⁰Have no concern for ¹⁹² your goods, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.'"

²¹The sons of Israel did so: and Joseph gave them wagons, according to the command of Pharaoh, and gave them provisions for the journey. ²²To each and all of them he gave a change of clothes, but to Benjamin he gave **three hundred** shekels¹⁹³ of silver and **five changes** of clothes. ²³To his father he sent as **follows**: **ten** donkeys loaded with the good things of Egypt, and **ten** female donkeys loaded with grain, bread, and **provision** for his father on the journey. ²⁴Then he sent his brothers away, and as they departed, he said to them, "Do not quarrel on the way."

¹⁹² 45:20 Hebrew *Let your eye not pity*

¹⁹³ 45:22 A *shekel* was about 2/5 ounce or 11 grams

²⁵So they went up out of **Egypt** and came to the land of **Canaan** to their father **Jacob**. ²⁶And they told him, "**Joseph** is still alive, and he is ruler over all the land of **Egypt**." And his heart became **numb**, for he did not **believe** them. ²⁷But when they told him all the words of **Joseph**, which he had said to them, and when he saw the wagons that **Joseph** had sent to carry him, the spirit of their father **Jacob** **revived**. ²⁸And **Israel** said, "It is enough; **Joseph** my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die."

Joseph Brings His Family to Egypt

46 So Israel took his journey with all that he had and came to Beersheba, and offered **sacrifices** to the God of his father Isaac. ²And God spoke to Israel in **visions** of the night and said, "Jacob, Jacob." And he said, "Here am I." ³Then he said, "I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make you into a great nation. ⁴I myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you up again, and Joseph's hand shall close your eyes."

⁵Then Jacob set out from Beersheba. The sons of Israel carried Jacob their father, their little ones, and their wives, in the wagons that Pharaoh had sent to carry him. ⁶They also took their livestock and their goods, which they had gained in the land of Canaan, and came into Egypt, Jacob and all his offspring with him, ⁷his sons, and his sons' sons with him, his daughters, and his sons' daughters. All his offspring he brought with him into Egypt.

⁸Now these are the names of the descendants of Israel, who came into Egypt, Jacob and his sons. Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, ⁹and the sons of Reuben: Hanoch, **Pallu**, Hezron, and **Carmi**. ¹⁰The sons of Simeon: **Jemuel**, **Jamin**, **Ohad**, **Jachin**, Zohar, and **Shaul**, the son of a Canaanite woman. ¹¹The sons of Levi: **Gershon**, **Kohath**, and **Merari**. ¹²The sons of Judah: **Er**, **Onan**, **Shelah**, **Perez**, and **Zerah** (but **Er** and **Onan** died in the land of Canaan); and the sons of **Perez** were **Hezron** and **Hamul**. ¹³The sons of **Issachar**: **Tola**, **Puvah**, **Yob**, and **Shimron**. ¹⁴The sons of **Zebulun**: **Sered**, **Elon**, and **Jahleel**. ¹⁵These are the sons of **Leah**, whom she bore to Jacob in **Paddan-aram**, together with his daughter **Dinah**; altogether his sons and his daughters numbered **thirty-three**.

¹⁶The sons of **Gad**: **Ziphion**, **Haggi**, **Shuni**, **Ezbon**, **Eri**, **Arodi**, and **Areli**. ¹⁷The sons of **Asher**: **Imnah**, **Ishvah**, **Ishvi**, **Beriah**, with **Serah** their sister. And the sons of **Beriah**: **Heber** and **Malchiel**. ¹⁸These are the sons of **Zilpah**, whom **Laban** gave to **Leah** his daughter; and these she bore to **Jacob**—**sixteen** persons.

¹⁹The sons of **Rachel**, **Jacob's** wife: **Joseph** and **Benjamin**. ²⁰And to **Joseph** in the land of **Egypt** were born **Manasseh** and **Ephraim**, whom **Asenath**, the daughter of **Potiphera** the priest of **On**, bore to him. ²¹And the sons of **Benjamin**: **Bela**, **Becher**, **Ashbel**, **Gera**, **Naaman**, **Ehi**, **Rosh**, **Muppim**, **Huppim**, and **Ard**. ²²These are the sons of **Rachel**, who were born to **Jacob**—**fourteen** persons in all.

²³The sons of **Dan**: **Hushim**. ²⁴The sons of **Naphtali**: **Jahzeel**, **Guni**, **Jezer**, and **Shillem**. ²⁵These are the sons of **Bilhah**, whom **Laban** gave to **Rachel** his daughter, and these she bore to **Jacob**—**seven** persons in all.

²⁶All the persons **belonging** to **Jacob** who came into **Egypt**, who were his own descendants, not **including** **Jacob's** sons' wives, were **sixty-six** persons in all. ²⁷And the sons of **Joseph**, who were born to him in **Egypt**, were **two**. All the persons of the house of **Jacob** who came into **Egypt** were **seventy**.

Jacob and Joseph Reunited

²⁸He had sent Judah ahead of him to Joseph to show the way before him in Goshen, and they came into the land of Goshen. ²⁹Then Joseph prepared his chariot and went up to meet Israel his father in Goshen. He presented himself to him and fell on his neck and wept on his neck a good while. ³⁰Israel said to Joseph, "Now let me die, since I have seen your face and know that you are still alive." ³¹Joseph 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 household, who were in the land of Canaan, have come to me. ³²And the men are shepherds, for they have been keepers of livestock, and they have brought their flocks and their herds and all that they have.' ³³When Pharaoh calls you and says, 'What is your occupation?' ³⁴you shall say, 'Your servants have been keepers of livestock from our youth even until now, both we and our fathers,' in order that you may dwell in the land of Goshen, for every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians."

Jacob's Family Settles in Goshen

47 So Joseph went in and told Pharaoh, "My father and my brothers, with their flocks and herds and all that they possess, have come from the land of Canaan. They are now in the land of Goshen." ²And from among his brothers he took **five** men and presented them to Pharaoh. ³Pharaoh said to his brothers, "What is your occupation?" And they said to Pharaoh, "Your servants are shepherds, as our fathers were." ⁴They said to Pharaoh, "We have come to sojourn in the land, for there is no pasture for your **servants'** flocks, for the famine is severe in the land of Canaan. And now, please let your servants dwell in the land of Goshen." ⁵Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Your father and your brothers have come to you. ⁶The land of Egypt is before you. Settle your father and your brothers in the best of the land. Let them settle in the land of Goshen, and if you know any able men among them, put them in charge of my livestock."

⁷Then Joseph brought in Jacob his father and stood him before Pharaoh, and Jacob blessed Pharaoh. ⁸And Pharaoh said to Jacob, "How many are the days of the years of your life?" ⁹And Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The days of the years of my sojourning are **130** years. Few and evil have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not **attained** to the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their sojourning." ¹⁰And Jacob blessed Pharaoh and went out from the presence of Pharaoh. ¹¹Then Joseph settled his father and his brothers and gave them a possession in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of **Rameses**, as Pharaoh had commanded. ¹²And Joseph provided his father, his brothers, and all his father's household with food, according to the number of their **dependents**.

Joseph and the Famine

¹³Now there was no food in all the land, for the famine was very severe, so that the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan **languished** by reason of the famine. ¹⁴And Joseph gathered up all the money that was found in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, in exchange for the grain that they bought. And Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house. ¹⁵And 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 food. Why should we die before your eyes? For our money is gone." ¹⁶And Joseph answered, "Give your livestock, and I will give you food in exchange for your livestock, if your money is gone." ¹⁷So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and Joseph gave them food in exchange for the **horses**, the flocks, the herds, and the donkeys. He **supplied** them with food in exchange for all their livestock that year. ¹⁸And when that year was **ended**, they came to him the **following** year and said to him, "We will not hide from my lord that our money is all spent. The herds of livestock are my lord's. There is nothing left in the sight of my lord but our **bodies** and our land. ¹⁹Why should we die before your eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land for food, and we with our land will be servants to Pharaoh. And give us seed that we may live and not die, and that the land may not be **desolate**."

²⁰So Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh, for all the Egyptians sold their fields, because the famine was severe on them. The land became Pharaoh's. ²¹As

for the people, he made servants of them¹⁹⁴ from one end of **Egypt** to the other. ²²Only the land of the priests he did not buy, for the priests had a fixed allowance from **Pharaoh** and lived on the allowance that **Pharaoh** gave them; therefore they did not sell their land.

²³Then **Joseph** said to the people, "Behold, I have this day bought you and your land for **Pharaoh**. Now here is seed for you, and you shall **sow** the land. ²⁴And at the **harvests** you shall give a **fifth** to **Pharaoh**, and **four fifths** shall be your own, as seed for the field and as food for yourselves and your households, and as food for your little ones." ²⁵And they said, "You have saved our lives; may it please my lord, we will be servants to **Pharaoh**." ²⁶So **Joseph** made it a **statute** concerning the land of **Egypt**, and it **stands** to this day, that **Pharaoh** should have the **fifth**; the land of the priests alone did not become **Pharaoh's**.

²⁷Thus **Israel** settled in the land of **Egypt**, in the land of **Goshen**. And they gained possessions in it, and were fruitful and **multiplied** greatly. ²⁸And **Jacob** lived in the land of **Egypt** **seventeen** years. So the days of **Jacob**, the years of his life, were **147** years.

²⁹And when the time drew near that **Israel** must die, he called his son **Joseph** and said to him, "If now I have found favor in your sight, put your hand under my thigh and **promise** to deal kindly and truly with me. Do not bury me in **Egypt**, ³⁰but let me lie with my fathers. Carry me out of **Egypt** and bury me in their burying place." He answered, "I will do as you have said." ³¹And he said, "Swear to me"; and he swore to him. Then **Israel** bowed himself upon the head of his bed.¹⁹⁵

Jacob Blesses Ephraim and Manasseh

48 After this, **Joseph** was told, "Behold, your father is **ill**." So he took with him his **two** sons, **Manasseh** and **Ephraim**. ²And it was told to **Jacob**, "Your son **Joseph** has come to you." Then **Israel** **summoned** his strength and sat up in bed. ³And **Jacob** said to **Joseph**, "**God Almighty**¹⁹⁶ appeared to me at **Luz** in the land of **Canaan** and blessed me, ⁴and said to me, 'Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a company of peoples and will give this land to your offspring after you for an everlasting possession.' ⁵And now your **two** sons, who were born to you in the land of **Egypt** before I came to you in **Egypt**, are mine; **Ephraim** and **Manasseh** shall be mine, as **Reuben** and **Simeon** are. ⁶And the children that you fathered after them shall be yours. They shall be called by the name of their brothers in their inheritance. ⁷As for me, when I came from **Paddan**, to my sorrow **Rachel** died in the land of **Canaan** on the way, when there was still some distance¹⁹⁷ to go to **Ephrath**, and I buried her there on the way to **Ephrath** (that is, **Bethlehem**)."

⁸When **Israel** saw **Joseph's** sons, he said, "Who are these?" ⁹**Joseph** said to his father, "They are my sons, whom **God** has given me here." And he said, "Bring them to me, please, that I may bless them." ¹⁰Now the eyes of **Israel** were dim with age, so that he could not see. So **Joseph** brought them near him, and he kissed them and embraced

¹⁹⁴ 47:21 Samaritan, Septuagint, Vulgate; Hebrew *he removed them to the cities*

¹⁹⁵ 47:31 Hebrew; Septuagint *staff*

¹⁹⁶ 48:3 Hebrew *El Shaddai*

¹⁹⁷ 48:7 Or *about two hours' distance*

them. ¹¹And Israel said to Joseph, "I never **expected** to see your face; and behold, God has let me see your offspring also." ¹²Then Joseph removed them from his **knees**, and he bowed himself with his face to the earth. ¹³And Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near him. ¹⁴And Israel **stretched** out his right hand and laid it on the head of Ephraim, who was the younger, and his left hand on the head of Manasseh, **crossing** his hands (for Manasseh was the firstborn). ¹⁵And he blessed Joseph and said,

16 "The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked,
the God who has been my shepherd all my life long to this day,
the angel who has **redeemed** me from all evil, bless the boys,
and in them let my name be carried on, and the name of my fathers
Abraham and Isaac,
and let them grow into a multitude¹⁹⁸ in the midst of the earth."

¹⁷When Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him, and he took his father's hand to **move** it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head. ¹⁸And Joseph said to his father, "Not this way, my father; since this one is the firstborn, put your right hand on his head." ¹⁹But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great. **Nevertheless**, his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his offspring shall become a multitude¹⁹⁹ of nations." ²⁰So he blessed them that day, saying,

"By you Israel will **pronounce** blessings, saying,
'God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh.'"
Thus he put Ephraim before Manasseh. ²¹Then Israel said to Joseph, "Behold, I am about to die, but God will be with you and will bring you again to the land of your fathers. ²²Moreover, I have given to you **rather** than to your brothers one **mountain slope**²⁰⁰ that I took from the hand of the Amorites with my sword and with my bow."

Jacob Blesses His Sons

49 Then Jacob called his sons and said, "Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you what shall happen to you in days to come.

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

3 "Reuben, you are my firstborn,

¹⁹⁸ 48:16 Or *let them be like fish for multitude*

¹⁹⁹ 48:19 Hebrew *fullness*

²⁰⁰ 48:22 Or *one portion of the land*; Hebrew *shekem*, which sounds like the town and district called *Shechem*

my might, and the **firstfruits** of my strength,
 preeminent in **dignity** and preeminent in power.
 4 **Unstable** as water, you shall not have **preeminence**,
 because you went up to your father's bed;
 then you defiled it—he went up to my **couch**!

5 "Simeon and Levi are brothers;
 weapons of violence are their swords.
 6 Let my soul come not into their **council**;
 O my **glory**, be not joined to their company.
 For in their anger they killed men,
 and in their **willfulness** they **hamstrung** oxen.
 7 Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce,
 and their **wrath**, for it is **cruel**!
 I will **divide** them in Jacob
 and **scatter** them in Israel.

8 "Judah, your brothers shall praise you;
 your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies;
 your father's sons shall bow down before you.
 9 Judah is a **lion's cub**;
 from the prey, my son, you have gone up.
 He **stooped** down; he **crouched** as a **lion**
 and as a **lioness**; who **dares rouse** him?
 10 The **scepter** shall not **depart** from Judah,
 nor the **ruler's** staff from between his feet,
 until **tribute** comes to him;²⁰¹
 and to him shall be the **obedience** of the peoples.
 11 Binding his **foal** to the vine
 and his **donkey's colt** to the choice vine,
 he has washed his garments in wine
 and his **vesture** in the blood of grapes.
 12 His eyes are **darker** than wine,
 and his **teeth whiter** than milk.

13 "Zebulun shall dwell at the **shore** of the sea;
 he shall become a **haven** for **ships**,
 and his border shall be at Sidon.

14 "Issachar is a **strong** donkey,
 crouching between the **sheepfolds**.²⁰²
 15 He saw that a **resting** place was good,

²⁰¹ 49:10 By a slight revocalization; a slight emendation yields (compare Septuagint, Syriac, Targum) *until he comes to whom it belongs*; Hebrew *until Shiloh comes*, or *until he comes to Shiloh*

²⁰² 49:14 Or *between its saddlebags*

and that the land was pleasant,
so he bowed his shoulder to bear,
and became a servant at **forced** labor.

16 "Dan shall judge his people
as one of the tribes of Israel.
17 Dan shall be a serpent in the way,
a **viper** by the **path**,
that **bites** the **horse's** heels
so that his **rider falls** backward.
18 I **wait** for your **salvation**, O LORD.

19 "**Raiders** shall raid Gad,²⁰³
but he shall raid at their heels.

20 "**Asher's** food shall be rich,
and he shall yield **royal delicacies**.

21 "Naphtali is a **doe** let **loose**
that **bears** beautiful **fawns**.²⁰⁴

22 "Joseph is a fruitful bough,
a fruitful bough by a spring;
his branches **run** over the **wall**.²⁰⁵
23 The **archers bitterly attacked** him,
shot at him, and **harassed** him **severely**,
24 yet his bow remained **unmoved**;
his arms²⁰⁶ were made **agile**
by the hands of the **Mighty One** of Jacob
(from there is the **Shepherd**,²⁰⁷ the **Stone of Israel**),
25 by the **God** of your father who will help you,
by the **Almighty**²⁰⁸ who will bless you
with blessings of heaven above,
blessings of the deep that **crouches beneath**,
blessings of the **breasts** and of the womb.
26 The blessings of your father
are mighty beyond the blessings of my **parents**,
up to the **bounties** of the everlasting hills.²⁰⁹

²⁰³ 49:19 *Gad* sounds like the Hebrew for *raiders* and *raid*

²⁰⁴ 49:21 Or *he gives beautiful words*, or *that bears fawns of the fold*

²⁰⁵ 49:22 Or *Joseph is a wild donkey, a wild donkey beside a spring, his wild colts beside the wall*

²⁰⁶ 49:24 Hebrew *the arms of his hands*

²⁰⁷ 49:24 Or *by the name of the Shepherd*

²⁰⁸ 49:25 Hebrew *Shaddai*

²⁰⁹ 49:26 A slight emendation yields (compare Septuagint) *the blessings of the eternal mountains, the bounties of the everlasting hills*

May they be on the head of **Joseph**,
and on the **brow** of him who was set apart from his brothers.

27 "Benjamin is a **ravenous wolf**,
in the morning **devouring** the prey
and at evening **dividing** the **spoil**."

Jacob's Death and Burial

²⁸All these are the **twelve** tribes of **Israel**. This is what their father said to them as he blessed them, blessing each with the blessing **suitable** to him. ²⁹Then he commanded them and said to them, "I am to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of **Ephron** the **Hittite**, ³⁰in the cave that is in the field at **Machpelah**, to the east of **Mamre**, in the land of **Canaan**, which **Abraham** bought with the field from **Ephron** the **Hittite** to possess as a burying place. ³¹There they buried **Abraham** and **Sarah** his wife. There they buried **Isaac** and **Rebekah** his wife, and there I buried **Leah**— ³²the field and the cave that is in it were bought from the **Hittites**." ³³When **Jacob** finished **commanding** his sons, he drew up his feet into the bed and breathed his last and was gathered to his people.

50 Then **Joseph** fell on his father's face and wept over him and kissed him. ²And **Joseph** commanded his servants the physicians to **embalm** his father. So the physicians embalmed **Israel**. ³**Forty** days were required for it, for that is how many are required for **embalming**. And the **Egyptians** wept for him **seventy** days.

⁴And when the days of **weeping** for him were **past**, **Joseph** spoke to the household of **Pharaoh**, saying, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, please speak in the ears of **Pharaoh**, saying, ⁵My father made me swear, saying, 'I am about to die: in my tomb that I **hewed** out for myself in the land of **Canaan**, there shall you bury me.' Now therefore, let me please go up and bury my father. Then I will return." ⁶And **Pharaoh** answered, "Go up, and bury your father, as he made you swear." ⁷So **Joseph** went up to bury his father. With him went up all the servants of **Pharaoh**, the elders of his household, and all the elders of the land of **Egypt**, ⁸as well as all the household of **Joseph**, his brothers, and his father's household. Only their children, their flocks, and their herds were left in the land of **Goshen**. ⁹And there went up with him both **chariots** and **horsemen**. It was a very great company. ¹⁰When they came to the threshing floor of **Atad**, which is beyond the **Jordan**, they **lamented** there with a very great and grievous **lamentation**, and he made a mourning for his father **seven** days. ¹¹When the inhabitants of the land, the **Canaanites**, saw the mourning on the threshing floor of **Atad**, they said, "This is a grievous mourning by the **Egyptians**." Therefore the place was named **Abel-mizraim**; ²¹⁰ it is beyond the **Jordan**. ¹²Thus his sons did for him as he had commanded them, ¹³for his sons carried him to the land of **Canaan** and buried him in the cave of the field at **Machpelah**, to the east of **Mamre**, which **Abraham** bought with the field from **Ephron** the **Hittite** to possess as a burying place. ¹⁴After he had

²¹⁰ 50:11 *Abel-mizraim* means *mourning* (or *meadow*) of *Egypt*

buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt with his brothers and all who had gone up with him to bury his father.

God's Good Purposes

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people²¹¹ should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

The Death of Joseph

²²So Joseph remained in Egypt, he and his father's house. Joseph lived **110** years. ²³And Joseph saw Ephraim's children of the **third** generation. The children also of Machir the son of Manasseh were counted as Joseph's own.²¹² ²⁴And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die, but God will visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob." ²⁵Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here." ²⁶So Joseph died, being **110** years old. They embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

²¹¹ 50:20 Or *a numerous people*

²¹² 50:23 Hebrew *were born on Joseph's knees*