

Genesis

The Seed Book of The Bible



Bible Study Lessons
by
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Genesis Study

Genesis is the seed book of the Bible, the beginning of all created things. The rest of the Bible blossoms out of the seed truths found in Genesis. Genesis means **birth** or **beginning**. Some beginnings in Genesis are:

- The beginning of the universe, Gen. 1:1
- The beginning of man, Gen. 1:27
- The beginning of the Sabbath, Gen. 2:2-3
- The beginning of marriage, Gen. 2:22-24
- The beginning of sin, Gen. 2:16-17
- The beginning of sacrifice, Gen. 3:21
- The beginning of prophecy, Gen. 3:15
- The beginning of human government, Gen. 9:1-6
- The beginning of nations, Gen. 11
- The beginning of Israel, a chosen nation, Gen. 12:1-3

There are seven great subjects in Genesis:

- (1) **THE CREATION**, showing the power and wisdom of God;
- (2) **THE FALL OF MAN**, displays the love and mercy of God;
- (3) **THE FLOOD**, brings out the justice and holiness of God;
- (4) **THE NATIONS**, emphasizes the sovereignty of God;
- (5) **ABRAHAM**, proves God's faithfulness;
- (6) **JACOB**, depends upon God's grace;
- (7) **JOSEPH**, pictures the providence of God.

The book of Genesis is the first of five books, called the Pentateuch, which is referred to as "the law", "the book of the law", "the book of Moses", and many other titles which indicate that Moses is the human author of Genesis as well as the other four books of the Pentateuch, which the Jews call the Torah. God is the primary source for all our scripture. Look up 2 Timothy 3:16 and 2 Peter 1:21

Some of the Old Testament references which attribute the writing of the law to Moses, are: Josh. 8:31; 1 Kings 2:3; 2 Kings 14:6; Ezra 3:2; Dan. 9:11; and Mal. 4:4. Jesus considered Moses to be

the author of the first five books of the Bible. Look up Luke 24:44.

In interpreting Genesis, I reject the symbolic interpretation which some scholars use in order to accommodate evolution and other theories. If the first Adam was only symbolic, then by logic, so is the second Adam. If the fall of man was only symbolic, then he didn't really fall and therefore needs no savior. I accept and teach the Historical interpretation which means the words written in the book of Genesis mean what they say: God really did create the world in six days; Adam was a real man and his wife was Eve; Noah and his family survived a world wide flood in the ark. I believe the events of Genesis are factual history. Jesus and the inspired New Testament writers all treated Genesis as literal, factual, and historical.

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. Genesis 1:1. The very first sentence in our sacred scripture is quite marvelously simple and yet is very profound. Volumes have been written trying to explain how our world came into being, but our God explained it in one sentence that even a child can understand. If you will believe Genesis 1:1, you will have no difficulty with the rest of the Bible.

All other religions start with something and then explain how things began interacting to bring about the world we now have. **God started with nothing.** God existed before time, space, or matter. Only God pre-existed. The word we read as "created" is the Hebrew word "bara" which means to call into existence out of nothing. Bara is used in verses 1, 21, & 27. Three creative acts are: Heaven and earth; animal life; and man. Three other words are used to describe God making things. They are: "Asah", used in verses 16, 25, & 26 describes the making of something from available materials; "Yatsar" used in chapter 2, verses 7 & 19 means to shape or fashion something much as a potter shapes the

wet clay he is working with; "Banah" in 2:22 means to build or erect something. Genesis 1:1 simply says that God called into existence that which had no existence. It is the beginning of the universe, time, space, and matter.

Read verse 2. The earth is without form, and void. Some people see a gap between verse 1 and verse 2. As a matter of fact, I used to believe in the Gap Theory myself. It seemed to allow for the various geological ages, prehistoric fossils, etc.. The Gap Theory translates the fourth word of verse 2 as "became" instead of "was". They think that judgement came upon the first creation and this caused the earth to become without form and void, and beginning in verse 2, we have a re-creation of the earth. This may be, and we won't know until we get to heaven. I no longer believe and teach the Gap Theory. The Bible says that death came into the world because of the actions of one man. There was no death in the world until God killed an animal as a substitute for the death of Adam, and used the skin to cover him. In verse 2, we see the mass of material that make up this earth, but they are not in their final form and the whole mass is contained in and covered over with water. There is only darkness.

Verse 3, And God said, **Let there be light:** and there was light. This is not the light from the sun, because God does not make the sun until day 4. God is able to furnish light. In the New Jerusalem, John the revelator says we will have no need for the sun because the glory of God lights it and the Lamb is the lamp thereof. (Rev. 21:23)

In verses 4 & 5 **God divides the light from the dark,** He calls the light Day and the darkness Night. God starts the earth rotating with the light source on one side of the earth and we have the first day. Darkness was first, so the order is the evening and the morning of day 1.

Genesis Study

Read verses 6-8: On the second day, God put a space between the waters, He causes some of the water to rise above the other water and He calls this space "heaven". For simplicity, let's just call this heaven, "sky". God put some waters above the sky and some waters below the sky. The earth was surrounded with a water vapor canopy which was probably above the atmosphere and diffused the sunlight so that the temperature over all the earth was mild and uniform. No rain, no deserts, no polar caps, lush vegetation world wide. The vapor canopy filtered out the cosmic radiation and ultra-violet light. The long lives of the first generations is probably due to the conditions brought about by the closed system made by the vapor canopy. We will study the collapse of it when the flood comes upon the earth.

Read verses 9-13: God forms the seas, the dry land, and causes plants to grow. God called for the waters under the sky to be gathered together in one place and for the dry land to appear. It could be that at this time all the land was in one mass. I believe that the whole surface of the earth was changed at the time of the flood and that no land that existed before the flood was recognizable after the flood.

→ apparent age
God created the plants full grown, bearing fruits and seed, and each plant was to bear seed of its own kind. There can be varieties of kind, but you can't produce one "kind" from a different "kind". All plant life was made on this day 3.

The fourth day, verses 14-19, God fills the heavens with "light givers". On the first day, God called for "light", but on the fourth day, he called for light givers. The chief purpose in both instances is to divide the day from the night. The light coming to the earth during the first three days was essentially the same. The light was coming during the day just as if it were coming from the sun, and during the night as though from the moon and stars, and they haven't even been made yet. It is no problem for God to create

the light rays before making the light generators. Four functions of the light givers as stated in verse 14b: For signs, for seasons, for days, and years.

Note in verse 16b, "he made the stars also." Just like it was no big deal. Millions and millions of stars, and God made them all. Science teaches that some of the stars are billions of light years from the earth. But God created the light trail from the stars three days before he created the stars! I can't explain it, but I believe it.

When science says they see something happening to a star that happened millions of years ago and the light is just now appearing on earth. I say, "praise the Lord for His power and His might. He is able to create phenomenon which is beyond our understanding." He puzzles the experts.

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Day Five: vv20-23. Animal life of the sea and air are created, Life did not occur because of the right combination of chemicals. Life required the second act of creation from God. Verse 21 uses the word bara. This word was not used for making plant life on the third day. Plants do not have self consciousness. They are life only in that they grow and reproduce. Animal life was created with self consciousness and never evolved. A fish reproduces fish, birds reproduce birds, dogs-dogs, cats-cats. It takes more faith to believe in evolution than it does to believe in the creation by God.

The popular theory is that the universe is more than four billion years old. They believe things always happened at the same rate it is happening now. Using this method, scientist believed there would be fifty-three feet of cosmic dust on the moon. They found only two to six inches of accumulated dust on the moon. This indicates that the moon is very young. On earth, the rate of accumulation of coral reefs and the peat bogs point to a very young earth. Many other scientific measurements, such as the deterioration of the earth's magnetic field and the growth of the coral reefs indicate an age of less than ten thousand years.

Lesson 2: Life on Earth

Bible reference: Genesis 1:24-2:24

Read Genesis 1:24-25. On the **sixth day** of creation, God created the animal life that lives on the land, and the jewel of His creation, Man. Notice, on the fifth day, He created the animals of the sea and the birds of the air. From last week's study of the fifth day, and verses 24 & 25 of today's lesson, what is the true order of the appearance of animal life? According to the bible, the true order is: On the fifth day He made Sea animals and birds; On the sixth day, He made Land animals, Reptiles, and Man. *NOT AS THE EVOLUTIONYST HAVE IT*

Read verses 26-28: The creation of Man. "Let us" clearly points to the trinity of God. The verb used is "asah" which means to make something with materials already available. Man is to have dominion over all the animal life of both land and sea. In verse 27, the verb is "bara" which means to create out of nothing. This is the spiritual part of man that is created in the likeness of God. On this sixth day, God created both male and female. In chapter 2 we will study the progression more thoroughly. Verse 28 shows that multiplying the human race was God's plan. The act of procreation is not the result of sin, it only becomes sin when used wrongfully. God expresses His will which is to be fruitful, multiply, subdue the earth, and have dominion over all animal life.

Read verses 29-30, God makes provision for food for His creation. Plant life is meant for food for both animals and man.

Meat is not permitted until Genesis 9:3. It is important to remember that even the lion did not eat meat before the flood

IN THE MILLENIUM THE LION WILL EAT STRAW LIKE

Read verse 31, The six days of creation are completed and God says it is very good. *PRECIOUS, LOVELY, PERFECT. ANOX.*

Read Genesis 2:1-3. God rested on the seventh day. God did not

D. of God Need Rest?

need to rest, but this marks a cessation of creation and God blesses this as a special day and sets it aside for special service to Him. The rest of God on the seventh day is a model for mankind to follow. A time when we should meditate upon all the wonders of the other six days of God's work. That God rested one day gives support to the fact that the six days of creation are twenty-four hour days. If each day represented an age, this would mean that God rested for a similar period.

Read verses 4-7. The rest of chapter 2 is a retelling of the creation of man and details it in a different way. It does not conflict with chapter 1, it compliments it. In verse 7, the verb is "yatsar" which *God does* means to form or mold, such as a potter molds his clay. *3 things* God formed man from the ground, created his spirit, and breathed life into his soul. *JO* Man was created as a trinity: spirit, soul, & body. *CREATE MAN* With his spirit, man has **God consciousness**. The spirit of man is that part which is able to communicate with God. With his soul (mind), man has **self consciousness**, an active will, desires, and emotions. With his body, man has **world consciousness** through the five senses. Plant life has a body and is able to reproduce. Animal life has self consciousness with desires and emotions. But only man has spiritual life.

A home prepared (The Garden of Eden) Read Gen. 2:8-14.

God prepared a special place for man, a beautiful garden called "Eden", meaning "delight". Eden contained everything man would need. God provided plants for beauty and plants for food.

Among the plants was the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Many people attempt to locate the geographical location of Eden from descriptions given in verses 10-14. However, the description of the area and the rivers named do not fit any area of our world today. This is to be expected since the ancient world was completely destroyed in the flood and to speculate about the location of Eden is useless. The water cycle of the Edenic world was completely different from what we know today.

There was no rain (2:5-6), but a mist went up from the earth to water the ground and the garden was irrigated with a river that flowed through the garden. After leaving the garden, the river parted into four rivers. In our world today, rivers come together, they don't part into other rivers.

Verses 15-17 Man is put in the garden with an assignment to dress the garden and keep it. Man was not meant to be idle and this is not a hard and tedious task, but was really an enjoyable, easy job. Man was created with the power of choice, therefore some test must be given to prove whether man will choose to obey or disobey. God gave permission to eat freely, except from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God sets the penalty for disobedience. The penalty is death. God had also given permission to eat of the tree of life which was in the middle of the garden. The tree of life will be in the New Jerusalem after the Millennium.

Verses 18-25, God said, "it is not good that the man should be alone;" A companion is needed to give him company and to help him. But before God makes a helper and companion for man, He causes all the animals to pass before Adam to see what he will call them. And whatever Adam called them, that was their name. So, Adam was extremely **intelligent** and had the ability to **converse** in a spoken language. None of the animals which God had formed from the ground were suitable for a helper to Adam. So God made a woman from one of Adam's rib. The verb used in verse 22 is "banah" which means to build or erect. God built the first woman from a rib out of Adam's side. God performs the first marriage and the first home is established. Both man and woman were completely **innocent** at this time. Neither knew the difference between good and evil. They did understand God's will for them and that He expected them to obey Him.

Next Week: The Fall of Man, Genesis 3:1-24.

Lesson 3: The Fall of Man

Scripture reference: Genesis, chapters 3 & 4.

THE TEMPTATION, Gen. 3:1-5

In last week's lesson, God placed man in the garden of Eden to take care of it and the garden was to provide food for the man's nourishment. God did have one prohibition given in 2:16 & 17. What was that prohibition and what was the consequence of not obeying? _____

THE TEMPTER, verse 1. The serpent was the craftiest of all the creatures God had made. Before being cursed, of God, the serpent was evidently a beautiful beast of the field, and being a beast of the field, had legs with which to walk about. Whether any of the Edenic animals had the ability to converse with man, we do not know, but we cannot rule it out because things were much different in Eden before the curse. Or, it may be that Eve, being innocent, did not know that the animals were incapable of speaking, and therefore, was not alarmed when the serpent spoke to her. We now know that the serpent was used by an evil spirit which is later identified as Satan, the devil. Where did Satan come from? He was created by God, not as the evil devil that now is, but he was created as Lucifer, the anointed Cherub that covereth, he was perfect from the day he was created until iniquity was found in him. Because of his beauty and brightness, his pride overwhelmed him and he led a revolt in heaven which resulted in one third of the angels joining with him to oppose God's plan for mankind. (Ezk. 28:11-19, Isa. 14:12-15, Rev. 12:4 & 9)

Lucifer evidently was created sometime during the creation week, for God was alone when He began the creation. He was not

created after the first week because God finished all His creation work on the sixth day. Lucifer maintained his perfect created state at least until the end of the sixth day, for God declared that all He had created was very good. (Gen. 1:31). Therefore, sometime between the seventh day and Genesis 3:1, Lucifer wanted to exalt himself to be like God, and at that time became Satan, the devil. The time frame here could be anywhere from a few days to several years, the Bible just doesn't tell us.

Satan began the temptation by asking a question that seemed to **cast doubt on God's word**. Temptation and sin are not the same. You can be tempted without sinning. Jesus was tempted in every way more than we can ever be tempted, yet He remained sin free. Temptation introduces doubt and denial of God's word. Temptation gives a person the choice to obey God or disobey. God did not tempt Adam and Eve to disobey. They were free to eat of every tree, except one. They had the power of free choice just as we also, when we are tempted, must choose either to obey God or yield to the temptation that is before us. God always provides an avenue of escape from temptation if we will just look for it. Jesus used the word of God to combat the temptations of the devil. We need to correctly know the word of God in order to resist the devil. Eve misquoted God and allowed the devil to cast more doubt in her mind.

Verse 6 contains the pathway of every sin: The lust of the **ap-petite**; the lust of the **eyes**; and the **pride** of life. Every temptation comes through these avenues. Be careful of your fleshly appetite (desires of the flesh), be aware that the eye gate is the entrance way for much lust (seeing and continuing to gaze at something can cause sinful desire), and remember the old saying "pride goeth before a fall" is very true (God hates pride). The primary tactic of Satan is lying. John 8:44 says there is **no truth in him, he is a liar and the father of lies**. He came to Eve in the form of a beautiful and wise beast planting **doubt** in her mind and **raising**

questions about God's word. Eve yielded to sin because she either didn't rightly know the word of God, or she just wasn't bold enough to quote it as she knew it should be. Many, of us today, stumble because we are not bold enough in our witness for God. Misery loves company,-and that's true of sin. Eve gave to her husband and he ate. Adam was not tricked or deceived, **he chose to disobey God.** (1Timothy 2:14).

Verse 7. Immediately they realized something was wrong with them and that they were no longer innocent. They now knew the difference between good and evil. Disobedience brought a **consciousness of sin**, a feeling of **condemnation and separation from God.** Their nature became evil and unfriendly toward God. (Romans 8:7-8). They try to cover themselves, but man's efforts to cover his own sins are never adequate.

Verses 8-21. The result of disobedience is **judgment:** the serpent is cursed; the woman is cursed; the man is cursed; even the earth is cursed. Adam and Eve are expelled from paradise. Even in punishing man, God reveals his redemptive purpose and provides exceeding mercy and grace. Verse 15 is a promise of the redeemer who will destroy the works of the devil, and in verse 21 God provides a **substitute** to die so that their sins might be covered. This is the **first death** in the Bible and from this point forward, there is no remission of sin without the shedding of blood. (Heb. 9:22) The Old Testament teaches that for every sin, someone must die, either the sinner or a substitute. In Old Testament times, the atonement made with a substitute was only temporary. In New Testament times, our substitute is Jesus who made the atonement one time, with his own body and blood. The atonement Jesus makes is for all the sins of all the world, and for all time.

Verses 22-24. God cannot allow imperfect man to eat of the tree of life. With the influence of sin in the world, it would not be good for man to be unable to die. So God put man out of the gar-

den and placed Cherubim with flaming swords at the entrance to keep mankind from returning to the garden and eating of the tree of life. It's just speculation, but I believe the garden of Eden remained on earth until the great flood and that the people were familiar with its location and knew why the Cherubim were guarding it.

Chapter 4 , This is the story of **Cain and Abel**. Cain, the older son, was a farmer and grew crops for food and seed. Abel was a shepherd. Remember, meat was not to be eaten, so the reason that Abel raised animals must have been for the purpose of having animals to perform the sacrifice of blood which God had demonstrated to Adam and Eve when He made coverings for them. I believe God instructed them, at that time, how to make a proper sacrifice for the remission of their sins.

Abel was one of the first business men. He evidently traded his animals for the fruit of the ground. Cain knew he needed an animal for his offering, but he wanted to do it **his way**. He couldn't understand why the fruit of his labor was unacceptable. But that is not God's way. God's revealed will requires a blood sacrifice. Cain's offering was bloodless, the work of his own hands, and the product of the cursed ground. Cain was very upset that God refused the product of his labor. Even if we don't have the proper gift,- God will provide. Look at **verse 7**, this is the first time the word "sin" is used in the bible. The correct word is "sin offering". In other words, God was telling Cain that if he had offered the proper sacrifice, it would have been accepted and if not,- God would provide a lamb. Evidently, there was a lamb lying at the door of Cain's tent when he went in upset. God told him the lamb would yield to him and he would have power over the lamb. Remember how God provided a ram for Abraham to use in place of his son Isaac? Cain went out to talk with Abel, but evidently they got into an argument and he murdered Abel. God put a curse on Cain that removes his ability to support himself as a farmer and he

is to be a fugitive and a vagabond for the rest of his life. To keep someone from killing Cain, God put a mark on him and declares that anyone who murders Cain will be punished sevenfold. Notice the similarity of the names of Cain's descendants in verses 17-19 and the descendants of Seth in chapter 5, verses 7-28. There is Enoch and Enos; Mhujael and Mahalaleel; Methusael and Methuselah; Lamech and Lamech. Cain's descendants become Godless and more evil. Lamech (on Cain's line) kills a man and brags that anyone who harms him will be avenged 77 times.

Adam and Eve have another son, Seth, who starts the line of Godly men. (Verse 26 - *then began men to call upon the name of the Lord.*)

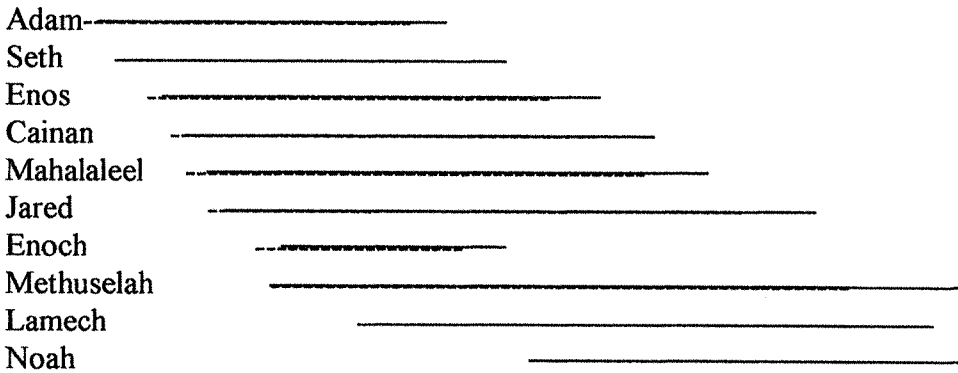
Next week: Genesis 5 & 6, NOAH IN A CORRUPT WORLD. Trace the generations of Adam, make a line graph of the life span of Adam's descendants all the way to Noah. Notice which ones lived during Adam's lifetime(all except Noah), and the ones who lived during Noah's lifetime (All except Adam). So its very possible that all those listed before Noah could very well have had personal conversations with Adam. See if you can determine the time of Methuselah's death. It will be an interesting study, pray for the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Person	Born	Lived	Died in the Year
Adam	0	930 years	930
Seth	130	912 years	1042
Enos	235	905 years	1140
Cainan	325	910 years	1235
Mahalaleel	395	895 years	1290
Jared	460	962 years	1422
Enoch	622	365 years	987
Methuselah	687	969 years	1656
Lamech	874	777 years	1651
Noah	1056	965 years	2021

Lesson 4: Noah in a Corrupt World

Scripture reference: Genesis, chapters 5 & 6

We have already learned of two sons of Adam, Abel the shepherd who was slain by his brother Cain who fled from the Lord and became father of a line of wicked men. Now, our attention is drawn to the Godly line which comes from Seth. In chapter 5 are the names of nine descendants of Adam. Make a graph of the lifespan of these nine men plus the lifetime of Adam.



The lines on the above graph represent the life span of the named patriarch. Starting with Adam living from year 0 to the year 930, fill in the year of the birth and death of each man. Seth will be 130 1042, etc.. These lines are not to scale, but do allow you to see which men were contemporaries by comparing vertically the beginning and ending of each line.

Adam was alive during part of the lifetime of all of the others, except Noah. Lamech was alive during part of the lifetime of all the above. Noah was alive during part of the life of each of his ancestors, except Adam, Seth, and Enoch. It is possible that all of the above, except Noah, may have had conversations with Adam and learned of his experience in Eden. After the flood, the average life span begins to decline until it reaches the biblical three-score and

ten years. The water vapor canopy filtered out the dangerous cosmic radiation and allowed people to live longer lives. These were solar years just as we count them. Moses was educated by the Egyptians who counted time in solar years, therefore if Moses intended another method of counting years, he would have indicated it.

Enoch, the seventh in line from Adam, is very interesting. What happened in Gen. 5:24 ?

What does Jude 14-15 say about him? _____

What does Hebrews 11:5 say? _____

Methuselah the son of Enoch, lived longer than any other Bible character. Jude 14 says that Enoch prophesied about judgment and the second coming of the Lord. Enoch made another prophecy of judgment when he named his son Methuselah. The name Methuselah means "When he dies, judgment will come". His name takes special meaning when we realize that Methuselah died in the same year as the flood. I don't think he died in the flood, but I do believe he died a few weeks before the flood.

Chapter 6 describes the world of Noah's time. What does God say about the people in verse 5?

~~Write in what verse 11 says about the~~ _____
times. _____

These descriptions become more important to us when we read Matt.24:37-39.

What is the reason for such world-wide wickedness? Demonic in-

fluence is one answer. Each human being must make a choice for good or evil. Satan was hard at work trying to corrupt the whole human race and was doing a good job of it. Verse 2 tells us that the sons of God married the daughters of men. This could mean that the Godly descendants of Seth married the wicked descendants of Cain. But let's consider another viewpoint: The phrase "sons of God" is used only three times in the Old Testament. (Job 1:6, 2:1, & 38:7). In each case it clearly refers to angels. Early translators of the Bible and the early Christian writers understood this as a reference to fallen angels which we now call demons. These fallen angels apparently possessed the bodies of wicked men and married wicked women. Their offspring may have had unusual abilities and size. Mankind was degenerating fast and had God allowed it to continue, future generations would have little opportunity to fellowship with the Father due to the continuous influence of evil. Read verses 6 & 7 then write in verse

8

1 Peter 3:20 speaks of the long suffering of God, 2 Peter 3:9 tells us why God waited to bring judgment. Write in the reason.

God pronounces His judgment upon all flesh in Gen. 6:13. What is that judgment?

Salvation provided, verses 14-22. God said "make an ark". An ark is a box that floats. The size is approximately 450 feet long, 150 feet wide, 45 feet high, proportioned almost like a shoe-box., but containing over one and a half million cubit feet of cargo space. Engineers tell us that the shape and dimensions of the ark would make it able to right itself even after a tilt of almost 90 degrees. It would automatically turn parallel to the larger waves and be exceedingly stable.

The ark is a beautiful picture of our salvation:

Designed by God, not man.

God gives the invitation through His grace.

Noah accepted the invitation through faith.

Only one door. Jesus is the only door of salvation.

God sealed them in. We are sealed by the Holy Spirit.

Covered with pitch, the same word for "atonement".

Next week: THE GREAT FLOOD. Study Gen. 7:1--9:19. Be prepared to answer the following:

How many people were saved from the flood?

What was the date of the flood?

How deep were the waters?

How long was the earth completely covered with water?

How long were Noah and his family aboard the ark?

Lesson 5: The Great Flood

Lesson reference: Gen. 7:1 thru 9:19.

Chapter 7 opens with the first invitation in the Bible. The Lord said "Come". He did not say "go", for the Lord was present in the ark and would be the protector, comforter, and sustainer while Noah and his family were aboard the ark. God also closes the Bible with an invitation, Rev. 22:17, "and the Spirit and the bride say, Come."

After over one hundred years of warning, God is ready to begin loading the ark. He gives instructions to Noah to take _____ of each of the clean animals, _____ of each of the unclean animals, and _____ of each of the birds. Until now, the Bible has not designated any animals as "*clean or unclean*". God had probably revealed earlier which animals were suitable for offerings and sacrifices. Or, this may be a new revelation to Noah. Later, in Lev. 11, God does list the clean animals for Israel. Such distinctions do not apply to Christians (Acts 10:9-15, and 1 Timothy 4:4).

Noah did not have to go out and "round up" the animals, they came on their own accord (verse 15) and according to "*kind*"(verse 14), not variety. God did not need two of each variety, but two of each species. For example, only two dogs entered the ark, but they carried the genetic pool for developing all the varieties of dogs we now have. Since the clean beast came in an uneven number, three pair and one extra, the extra must have been for the purpose of making sacrifice and offerings to God. Even though Noah did not have to go out and capture the animals, he did have to gather the food that would be required (Gen. 6:21) and he did have to get the materials to build the ark, which illustrates that **we must work because of our faith**. Noah

believed what God had told him, and acting on his faith in the word of God, Noah did the work that **showed his faith**, building the ark and preaching righteousness (2 Peter 2:5).

Genesis 7:11 gives the date of the beginning of the flood as the _____ year of Noah's life, the _____ month, the _____ day. Refer back to the graph in Lesson 5: If Noah was born 1056 years after Adam's creation, this would make the flood have happened _____ years after Adam's creation. Methuselah died in what year? _____. How many people went into the ark? _____ (Genesis 7:13 & 1 Peter 3:20). Notice that **God shut the door** (v 16). The invitation was given, but when the door of opportunity was shut, there was no second chance. God is not willing that any should perish, but he also said his spirit will not always strive with man. (Gen. 6:3). Unbelievers of today feel the Holy Spirit striving to draw them to the Father, but there can come a time when they have rejected the Holy Spirit so many times that God says, "leave him alone Spirit, he is joined to his idols." At that time, the door of invitation is closed and the Holy Spirit never again seeks to draw that person to place their faith in the atoning blood of Christ.

Go back to verse 11 to find from where the waters came. Until now, it had never rained upon the earth. People did not even know what rain was. What happened should not really be classified as rain. Verse 11 says that all the fountains of the deep were broken up and the windows of heaven were opened. Suddenly, water from underneath the surface of the earth came to the surface in large geysers, creating great passageways which we see today as caverns. The water canopy which was above the earth collapsed sending down a waterfall all over the earth. This was not like any rain that we have ever seen, it was more

like being underneath Niagara Falls. Just image Niagara Falls falling all over the earth and at the same time, an equal amount of water is coming from underneath the surface. All this water came with high-pressure and with great violence. No one had any chance of escaping, the whole earth was being changed by the actions of the waters. Evidence of this violent flood abounds all over the world.

How long did it rain? (vv 12 & 17) _____

Scientists say that if all the moisture in our atmosphere were to rain on the earth at the same time, it would last only a few days and would cover the earth to an average depth of a few inches, and this would be if all the earth were at the same elevation. So, with the present system, a world-wide totally destructive flood would be impossible, which supports the water vapor canopy theory. Verses 18 & 19 describe how the waters prevailed exceedingly and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered. How high did the waters go? We can't really know because the topography must have been vastly different than it was after the flood. But, we do know that the ark came to rest on Mount Ararat, which means that Mount Ararat was covered. Today, the elevation of Mount Ararat is 17,000 feet, which is over three miles above sea level. So, even if the great tall mountains were formed during the flood, they were all covered. Even if the mountains have gained altitude since the flood, the difference would only be in feet, not miles. It would be safe to say that the flood waters covered the earth at a depth of more than two miles.

How long was the earth completely covered with water?
_____ . By carefully following verses 1-19 of
chapter 8, you will find these facts:

40 days of rain.

110 days adrift after the rain was over.

74 days grounded before the tops of the mountains could
be seen.

40 days later, raven and dove released.

7 days later, dove returns with leaf.

7 days later, dove stays away.

36 days later, face of dry ground appears.

57 days later, they leave the ark.

This makes a total of 371 days that Noah and his family
were aboard the ark. Verse 20 confirms that the extra
clean animals were for worship and offerings to God, and
God makes a promise to never again destroy the earth in
this manner.

Many geologist claim that canyons like the Grand Canyon
were slowly eroded by the action of the flowing water and
that it took millions of years to cut through the rock. Scien-
tist have now decided that the Grand Canyon was actually
cut during flood times and the cutting action came about
when huge amounts of debris are washed down the river.
If they will just acknowledge the world-wide flood of Noah's
day, they will be getting closer to the truth. When archae-
ologist find dinosaur bones, the bones are all in a pile just
as if they had been washed into that place by a strong cur-
rent. If you will just observe the various geological forma-
tions, it should be obvious that canyons and caverns were
formed from the tremendous force of water during the time
of the flood and the time of the receding water. A good
case could be made for fresh-water seas before the flood,
but we won't go into that. Just imagine all the violent action
going on with the water, and the destruction it wrought, and

how it changed the whole earth and you will be closer to understanding the theory of a relative young earth.

A **new order** for life on this earth is established in chapter 9. First, God instructs Noah's family to fill the earth; Second, animals will now have the fear of man; Third, eating meat is now permitted, but not the blood; Fourth, capital punishment becomes the penalty for the act of murder; And Fifth, God makes a covenant to never again destroy the earth with water. He gives the rainbow as a token of His covenant.

Next week: **STARTING OVER**, Gen. 9:20--11:22

Lesson 6: Starting Over

Scripture reference: Genesis 9:20 -11:22

Verses 20-29, Noah's drunkenness and Canaan cursed:

The earth had been cleansed of all wicked and rebellious people. Before the flood, Satan had been unable to corrupt the family of Noah and he now seizes the opportunity.

Pure, healthful grapejuice can ferment through a process of decay and corruption. Drinking this product of decay can also cause moral and physical decay. We cannot know if Noah knew about the dangers of fermented grapes, but we do know that after a long lifetime of faithful obedience to God, Noah stumbles in a significant way. He becomes drunk and lay asleep naked in his tent. Ham's sin was not that he accidentally discovered his father naked, but that he did not allow his father's shameful act to be private, and rushed to "*tell with delight*" what he saw. Ham's action indicates an attitude of rebellion toward the spiritual nature and authority of his father. Shem and Japheth reacted quite differently to the news of Noah's sin. Instead of shaming and embarrassing him, they took a garment and walked backwards into the tent to cover their father.

When Noah awoke, he knew that his sinful condition had been discovered because he was now covered with another garment which was not his own. He speaks prophetically concerning the future of his sons and their descendants. Noah does not have the power to cause these things to happen but merely proclaims that they will happen. A curse is pronounced upon Ham's youngest son, Canaan. His descendants will be a servant people. We often misinterpret this to mean slavery, which is wrong. The nations which spring from Ham will serve the nations of Shem and Japheth, but they are not cursed into slavery.

Noah is prophesying that they will follow other gods of their own devising. Noah's prophecy is that through the family of Shem will come God's greatest blessing for mankind, the promised seed of woman. Noah says that Japheth will be enlarged and dwell in the tents of Shem. To be enlarged means mentally open, and applies to intellectual pursuits. To dwell in the tents of Shem means that Japheth will have fellowship with Shem. By fellowshipping together, the nations stemming from Japheth will share the spiritual blessings of the nations of Shem. In this prophecy, Semites will be spiritual; Japhethites will be intellectual, and Hamites will be more interested in physical things. This prophecy probably occurred several years after the flood since Canaan, the youngest of Ham's four sons, must have been mature enough for Noah to know his character.

Before going into the next chapter, let's make some comparisons between Adam and Noah: Both were instructed to **Fill the earth**; both committed sin. Adam with the **fruit of the tree** and Noah with the **fruit of the vine**. Both were **Naked**, Adam was **covered by God**, Noah was **covered by Shem and Japheth**. Discovery of their sin became an **occasion for prophecy** which included a curse and a promise of delivery.

Chapter 10 is a list of the descendants of the sons of Noah. There are seven sons of Japheth listed: Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras. Also listed are seven grandsons of Japheth. We can trace most of these as ancestors of the Indo-European peoples. This would be Western Russia and all the European countries. The four sons of Ham and their families are listed and they eventually inhabited most of Africa, parts of Arabia, and much of what we now call The Holy Land. Shem and his family are the ancestors of all the Semitic people which are the Arabs

and the Jews.

Now, as we go into chapter 11, we begin where chapter 9 ended. Chapter 10 is inserted to list the generations of the sons of Noah and does not mean that all these people were born before chapter 11. In fact, chapter 11 begins with the fact that the whole earth was of one language and one dialect, and even though chapter 9 ends with Noah's death, I believe Noah was still alive even after the confusion of tongues at Babel. If you add all the ages of Abram's ancestors from Arphaxad to Terah, it looks like Abram was around 50 years old when Noah died. Now let's read the first 9 verses of chapter 11.

As the population increased, the people would have to move out to new territories. Remember, God had told Noah's family to multiply and fill the earth, but nearly all were staying close together and began to follow Nimrod, a grandson of Ham. Nimrod set up a kingdom at Babel which was in the land of Shinar. After several generations, these people became quite proficient at building, agriculture, weaving, trading, and metalwork. They began to be proud of their accomplishments and decided to build a great city and a tower. They said, Let _____ make brick; let _____ build a city and a tower; let _____ make a name." They were interested in their own will, not God's. They intended to build a vast central complex to preserve their unity. They knew God's will, but they wanted to circumvent his command to fill the earth. They did not want to be scattered.

God's judgment came not because He was afraid they would reach into heaven, but because they were in direct disobedience to His command. So,

God gave each family a separate language. Even today, when we don't understand another person's language, we want to separate ourselves from them. That is exactly what happened. The various families which could understand each other grouped together and began putting distance between them and the ones they couldn't understand.

The Babel society had become highly skilled and quite advanced and the families leaving took with them knowledge and skills they had learned there. When they would settle in a new area, they were not able to immediately put into use the skills of Babel. They would have to establish temporary housing and use crude tools until such time as they could find suitable clays for brick and pottery. Also, it may be some time before they would find suitable ore veins to produce their bronze, copper, and iron. So each new community would go through their own "*stone age, iron age, etc.*" These various ages actually occurred over a span of a few generations, not over thousands of years.

The rest of our lesson, verses 10-22 traces the line of Shem that produces the patriarch Abram (Abraham). Some of these men are interesting to study. Eber is identified as the father of all Hebrews. Moses identified YAHWEH as the God of the Hebrews, so Eber must have been a true worshiper of God even before the confusion of tongues at the Tower of Babel. His son was Peleg of whom it is stated that during his lifetime, the earth was divided. Most scholars think that this means the confusion of the tongues and the scattering of the tribes happened during his life. However, there are some scholars who teach that this was the time that the earth was divided into continents. I prefer to believe that the continents shifted during the great flood. Following the line on down less than two hundred years, we are in the lifetime of Abraham which we will begin

studying next week.

Abraham is one of the most important characters of the Old Testament, the next thirteen chapters of Genesis are devoted to him. Up to this time, human history has spanned approximately 2,000 years. God has tested mankind under innocence, conscience, and human government. In each case mankind has failed to follow the direction which God had set for him. Now God will single out one man to make a nation that will be the steward of God's plan for the world. Our scripture for next week will be Genesis chapters 12 through 17. Study it carefully and prayerfully.

Lesson 7: Abraham Steps Out in Faith

Scripture reference: Genesis 10:27 through 17:27

In our previous lessons, we did not discuss who compiled all the information that is contained in the book of Genesis. We did acknowledge that Moses was the human author because the Bible calls Genesis part of the Book of Moses. We believe that the Bible is completely inspired by God, and that God dealt with Moses in a very personal way which would account for Moses knowing all the history that went before him. However, there is a school of opinion which allows various patriarchs to keep a book of their generations and pass it down to later generations. Genesis 5:1 says; "*This is the book of the generations of Adam*". Seth continues the genealogy all the way to Noah. Seth lived until Noah was about ninety years old, so he could have passed the book on to him. Chapter 10 opens with the generations of the sons of Noah, which was evidently kept by Shem who list his own descendants to the fifth generation, but Ham's family is listed to the third generation and Japheth's to only the second. He was able to keep up with the total family until the time of the Babel dispersion at which time the families were separated not only geographically, but separated by language differences as well. Shem must have passed the records on to Terah, (Genesis 11:27). Shem lived until after Terah's death and even Noah lived until Terah was 128 years old. All the descendants of Eber (Gen. 11:16) spoke the same language after the confusion of tongues. Eber is called the father of the Hebrews, so the language they spoke was Hebrew. Eber's son, Peleg was born approximately 100 years after the flood and the Bible says that the earth was divided during his lifetime. Terah was born approximately 100 years after Peleg. Terah must have started as a true believer and wor-

shiper of the One True and Almighty God since he had been entrusted with the sacred records and he probably received a call from God to take his family into the land of Canaan. They had been living in Ur which is south of Babel, and they journeyed to Haran which is North of Babel. Terah died in Haran at the age of 205 years. In Acts 7:4, Stephen says that Abram waited until his father was dead before he left Haran. This has led to much confusion as to the time Abram left Haran. If Terah was 70 years old when Abram was born, then Terah was 145 years old when Abram left. In order for Abram to leave Haran after his father's death would require that Terah was 130 plus years old when Abram was born and that would have required a miracle. One possible solution is that Terah had become comfortable in Haran and no longer planned to carry out the mission God had given him, so as far as God's purpose for his life, -he was dead. God renews his call, but this time only to Abram.

Chapter 12 is the beginning of a great life of walking by faith. God calls Abram to get away from that country, get away from his father's house, get away from his kinfolds. Often times we have to separate ourselves from family and friends in order to be completely in the will of God. I often think of how our missionaries forsake family and friends here, to go out to a strange country to work for the Lord. God makes a great promise to bless Abram, to make him a great nation, to make his name great, and to make him a blessing. According to verse 4, how old was Abram when he left Haran? _____. Who did he take with him? _____, _____, all their substance and the souls they had gotten in Haran. Evidently Abram was already a wealthy man, having cattle and servants which he took with him.

In verse 7, the Lord appears to Abram after he arrived in the land of Canaan. This is the first time an appearance of God is mentioned in the Scripture. He may have appeared to Adam, Enoch, or Noah, but the Scripture does not say so. This was an actual visible manifestation and many scholars understand this as a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ. In this appearance, the Lord promises the land to Abram's seed. Abram builds an altar and worships the Lord at a place which is called Bethel.

Hebrews 11:8 points out how Abram went out **by faith** to an unknown land. God has rewarded his faith with a great promise which becomes known as the **Abrahamic covenant**, which we will look at more closely later. But like most of us, Abram has his mountain top experiences and times in the valley. Satan is not unaware that God has chosen Abram to be the father of the messianic line and he is determined to corrupt this family and make them unsuitable. Most Christians have been tempted the most, right after having a mountain top spiritual experience. That is the way Satan works. Verse 10 tells us a severe famine developed in the land. At this point in Abram's life, he was not strong enough, or wise enough, to withstand the test. God had told him to go to Canaan, but now the land will not support him so he makes the decision to move to Egypt. Egypt always represents worldly things (sin). The Bible says "Abram went **down** into Egypt". The Egyptians were polytheistic and immoral. They immediately saw Sarai as a beautiful and desirous woman. Abram decided to tell the Egyptians that she was his sister instead of his wife, thinking this would save his life and perhaps hers also. At any rate, Abram was now out of the will of God and the Pharaoh of Egypt took Sarai into his household. He evidently did not defile her, but was preparing to take her for his wife when the Lord brings great plagues upon Pharaoh

and his house. Pharaoh understood that Sarai was the cause of the plagues and returned her to Abram and ordered them out of the country. Abram leaves Egypt much richer than when he arrived which illustrates another Bible truth that God can bring good out of bad situations. Abram returns to Bethel where he had first built an altar to worship the Lord.

Genesis 13:5-13 is the story of Lot separating from Abram. Abram gives Lot the choice of the land and Lot picks the fertile and lush plain of Jordan which is just above the Dead Sea, leaving the mountains for Abram. The land that Lot picked was close to the city of Sodom which was a very wicked city. Complete verse 13: *"But the men of Sodom were _____ and _____ before the Lord _____"*.

In verses 14-18 God again renews His promise to Abram. He tells him He will give his seed all the land he can see, He will make his seed as the dust of the earth, and He will give him all the land which he walks through. Abram settles in Hebron which becomes his home.

In Chapter 14 the cities of Sodom and Gomorah are taken captive and Lot is carried away with them. When Abram learns of it, he trains an army of his own household and goes to rescue Lot. In returning, Abram is met by Melchizedek, King of Salem, a priest of the most high God. Abram recognized him as a priest and gave him tithes of all. Who was Melchizedek? Study the whole chapter of Hebrews 7 and answer the following: Who were Melchizedek's parents? _____

_____. Give his life span

What is the tribe of the Priesthood? _____

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What is the tribe of Jesus?_____. Jesus was a priest after the order of _____.

Many scholars teach that Melchizedek was not only a **type** of Christ, but was actually Christ himself, in one of his pre-incarnate appearances. Abram must have recognized him as deity for he considered him his superior.

Next, the King of Sodom wanted Abram to take the spoils of the war and return only the people, but Abram has grown in his faith and gives God the credit for the victory and refuses to be enriched from such sources. Abram has now passed the test of faith, courage, generosity, and love and this sets the stage for the next event which is a vision of the Lord and the great **covenant** which God gives to Abram in Chapter 15.

Genesis 15:1 is a very significant scripture for it is the first time the word "**word**" appears in the Bible. It refers not to the words of men, but to the Word of the Lord. Also, this is the first use of the word "**vision**". This was not a dream, Abram was awake and the vision continued all day and into the night. Abram is concerned because he has no seed and God renews his promise. Verse 6 is an often quoted verse which contains another first mention which is the word "**believed**". Abram believed in the Lord; and He counted it to him for righteousness. We do not attain perfect righteousness by works, but by faith because we believe in the **word of God**. This verse is quoted in three of the New Testament epistles (Rom. 4:3; Gal. 3:6; James 2:23).

Chapter 16 shows how Sarai decides that she is not going to be able to bear the promised heir and wants to help God fulfill His promise, so she has her husband take Hagar, her servant, as his wife. Every time we are unwilling to wait for

God and decide He needs our help, we only bring trouble and disaster upon ourselves. Instead of solving the problem, it makes it worse and Sarai forces Hagar to flee. But God brings her back and she has a son, Ishmael, who God said would be a wild man, he would be against every man and every man will be against him.

Chapter 17: Again, God confirms His covenant with Abram. He establishes a sign for His covenant and that sign is circumcision. God changes Abram's name to Abraham and Sarai's name to Sarah. Isaac is promised and Ishmael will become a great nation.

Our study has not permitted us to go into great detail, but the student is expected to study at home and use other resources. This lesson is just a general guide. Next week we will study Genesis chapters 18 through 23, a continuation of the **FAITHFULNESS OF ABRAHAM**.

Lesson 8: The Faithfulness of Abraham

Scripture reference: Genesis chapters 18 -23.

Chapter 18: As we have seen, Abraham is a Man of faith. **He believed God**, and his faith has made him a **friend of God** (James 2:23). In this chapter we see that he is not only mighty in faith, but also mighty in prayer.

Abraham has three visitors which appear as men, but turn out to be Heavenly messengers with one possibly being Christ in another pre-incarnate appearance. The message to Abraham is that Sarah will give birth to a son. Sarah overheard the conversation and laughed to herself. The Lord knows she laughed about it even though she made no noise, but He again promises to give her a son "according to the time of life". I'm not certain what this phrase means, but I take it to mean that she will become pregnant very soon and will carry the baby full term, so in about nine months, Isaac will be born. This is a rewarding and joyful message, but the messengers also have another task to perform, which involves the city of Sodom.

Abraham accompanies the men on their way to Sodom, not knowing their purpose. Write in what the Lord said in verse 17 _____

_____. Abraham and the Lord stay behind while the two men continue toward Sodom. Verses 23-32 is a lesson in how God can use the sincere prayers of a Christian when they call on God with the right motives. Abraham knows that God will deal justly with all people and he begins to intercede for the people of Sodom. God is long suffering and doesn't want any one to perish. He says "yes" to every one of Abrahams request, even that He will

not destroy the city if only ten righteous people are found in the city. Once Abraham had saved Lot by the use of force, now he saves Lot through intercession.

Chapter 19 is all about Lot. The two angels (notice that the Bible now calls them angels instead of men), find Lot sitting in the gate of the city which means he was totally involved in the daily affairs of the city. Lot knew the evil dangers and invited the angels to his home for the night. At first they refused, but after Lot's insistence, they entered his house. The men of Sodom reacted just as Lot knew they would. They surrounded his house and demanded that Lot turn the men over to them so they could have sexual knowledge of them. After smiting the mob with blindness, the angels reveal to Lot the thing the Lord is going to do.

Lot witnesses to his two sons-in-law, but they only mock him because he has never shown this kind of concern before. Christians who live as worldly people often find that their testimony is not received because their life-style has never shown that they are part of God's family. Lot is so typical of many modern Christians, when the time comes to flee the wicked city, he lingers and the angels have to forcefully take him, his wife, and two daughters outside the city. Lot did not want to separate himself from the ways of the city. He pleads with the angels to let him go to a "**little one**". Just as we want to hold on to a little sin, he wanted to live in a little city. God wanted him to escape to the mountain where he would be separated from evil, but he wanted to keep just a little one.

We cannot accurately picture the destruction that rained upon the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, but it must have been horrible. Lot's wife looks back and is turned into salt. Verses 30-38 tells the shameful story of Lot's two daugh-

ters who seduce their father. Lot becomes the father of the Ammonites and the Moabites, nations that become bitter enemies of Israelites. Lot himself was saved, but his influence hindered the advancement of God's people. On the other hand, Abraham's influence has been a blessing to all people and even after 4,000 years his name is great among Jews, Christians, and Mohammedans. Christ came through the family of Abraham and Christians call themselves the **spiritual seed** of Abraham. Truly, all the families of the earth have been blessed because of the **faithfulness of Abraham**.

Chapter 20 is the story of Abraham and Abimelech. Once again Abraham represents Sarah as his sister instead of his wife. She is, in truth, his half-sister, but Abraham hid the fact that she was also his wife. King Abimelech took Sarah for his wife. That night God came to him in a dream, telling him he would die for she is a man's wife. Abimelech had not yet touched Sarah and he pleaded with God for his life. God is merciful and allows him to restore Sarah to Abraham. Abimelech gave great gifts of wealth to Abraham and he prayed to God to heal Abimelech and all his house which had been cursed because of Abraham's wife.

Chapter 21 begins with the fulfillment of God's promise of a son to Abraham and Sarah. Abraham was 100 years old and there is great rejoicing because of the miracle of two over-age people giving birth to a son. As happens in many families, jealousy arises in Ishmael who is now thirteen years old and is reduced to a minor role in the family. Sarah calls for Abraham to get rid of Hagar and her son because she does not want Ismael to be heir with Isaac. God agrees with this plan because "in Isaac shall thy seed be called". God provides for Hagar and promises great things for her son. The rest of the chapter concerns a

covenant between Abraham and Abimelech concerning the well which Abraham had dug at Beersheba. Nothing else is told about the childhood years of Isaac until chapter 22 where God puts Abraham to the ultimate test.

We don't understand it, and we are not suppose to. God orders Abraham to make a burnt offering of Isaac, the long promised son and heir. God calls for him to sacrifice "*thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest*". Abraham moves by faith and begins the journey to the place God specifies. Notice in verse 5 that Abraham tells his men that he and Isaac will go and worship, and return to them. Abraham obeyed God, knowing that God would fulfil His promise even if he had to raise Isaac from the dead, which, in a figure, he did. Read Heb. 11:17-19 and write in verse 19, in your own words _____

In Genesis 22:8, Abraham said **God will provide himself a lamb** which God not only did at that time, but two thousand years later, God provided **Himself as a lamb without spot or blemish**. Isaac was to be offered up on Mount Moriah, the mountain that later would be known as Calvary! Coincidence? I think not. Verses 15-19 is another renewal of the Abrahamic Covenant. Fill in the promises that God makes: In blessing, I will _____ thee, and in multiplying I will Multiply thy _____ as the _____ of heaven, and the _____ which is upon the seashore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; and in thy seed shall all the _____ of the earth be _____.

Chapter 23 concerns the death and burial of Sarah who died at the age of 127. Abraham insist on buying the burial place which is the cave of Machpelah. Ephron wants to

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give the cave to the grieving Abraham, but God has promised to give the land to Abraham and therefore he is not willing to take even a small plot of ground as a gift from the inhabitants. Abraham has learned that God will provide and he refuses to be enriched in any way that people can say that they enriched him. He wants God to have all the credit and glory. Sarah is buried in a cave that is a permanent possession of Abraham, both because he purchased it and God gave it to him.

Abraham was saved because of his faith. He was **faithful** because he was saved. Next week: ISAAC AND FAMILY. Study Gen. 24-27.

Lesson 9: Isaac and Family

Scripture reference: Genesis, chapters 24 -27

Gen. 24:1-9. Abraham is now an old man. He knows that God intends to continue his covenant with Isaac, but Isaac does not have a wife, and Abraham has learned that God wants this family to stay in the land and not marry people of this country. Abraham carefully instructs his servant to go to Mesopotamia and select a wife for Isaac from kinsmen of Abraham. Abraham requires the servant to make a solemn oath to not take a wife of the Canaanites (v 3) and not to take Isaac out of the land (v 8). Abraham tells the servant that God will send His angel with him to assure success and the will of God.

vv 10 - 27 Abraham's servant was dedicated and was a man of prayer who worshiped the God of Abraham at every opportunity. (v 12, 26, 27, 48, 49, 52, and 56) He prays that God will lead him to the appointed young lady and that she will respond favorably. Everything happens just as he had prayed it would, and when he inquires about her family, he learns that the Lord had lead him to the family of Abraham's brother.

vv 28-49 Notice how the servant never speaks for himself, but always as a representative of his master. He never claims credit for finding the family, but gives all the credit to The Lord. He was dedicated to the point that he would not even eat until he had told his mission (v 33).

vv 50-61 Rebekah refused the advice of her brother and mother who wanted her to remain a few days before going to Isaac. She made a decision of faith. She trusted the message the servant had given concerning his master.

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She placed her life in his hands and trusted him to fulfill all that he had promised her.

vv 62-67 Isaac was out meditating when the caravan returned with Rebekah. It must have been love at first sight. Truly, a marriage "made in heaven".

This story, chapter 24, is a picture of a future event. When the Heavenly Father chooses a bride for His Son, He sends the Holy Spirit as His emissary, bringing people to the Son, but never drawing attention to Himself. Rebekah is the bride who by faith decided to be joined to the Son. Abraham is a type of the Father. Isaac is a type of the Son. The servant is a type of the Holy Spirit, and Rebekah a type of the Church, all pictured this early in the Old Testament!

Chapter 25 begins with the information that Abraham took another wife, Keturah, who bore him six additional sons. Verse 5 tells us that Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac, only giving gifts to the other sons, and he sent them away from the area of Isaac. Abraham dies at the age of 175 years. Isaac and Ishmael get together to bury him in the cave of Machpelah where Sarah, his wife is already buried. This tomb will eventually contain the bodies of six ancestors of Jesus: Abraham and Sarah; Isaac and Rebekah; Jacob and Leah. It is believed that the Mosque of Hebron stands on this site today, and is guarded by the Mohammedans.

Before listing the generations of Isaac, and the birth of Esau and Jacob, the writer gives the generations of Ishmael. Just as God promised, Ishmael fathers twelve nations through twelve sons. Ishmael dies at the age of 137 years.

25:19-28 tells the birth of Esau and Jacob. Isaac was how old when he married Rebekah? _____. She was barren until God answered the prayers of her husband, Isaac. When she did conceive, she was carrying twins and was having a hard time of it because the twins struggled among themselves. Upon her enquiry of the Lord, God told her she was carrying two nations in her womb and that the elder would serve the younger. Esau was born first, but Jacob had a hold on his heel. Esau was a hunter and Jacob was "mommy's boy". Isaac was how old when the twins were born? _____. If Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born, was Abraham still alive when the twins were born? _____. Notice verse 28. Isaac loved _____, Rebekah loved _____. We are not told of their childhood, only that they grew.

Verses 29-34 tells how Esau was a man who preferred to gratify his present desires at the cost of future blessings, so he sells his birthright for food and drink. Either he did not value God's promises, or he does not believe God's promises. Jacob, on the other hand, valued and believed the promises of God and wanted to be accepted of Him. Isn't this true of our society today? There are only two kinds of people, those who believe God's promises and want to serve Him, and those who don't count the promises of God worthy of their respect. Our gift to God should be to rely on His promises and to be obedient to His commands.

Chapter 26 is almost a repeat of chapter 20, except this is Isaac instead of Abraham. Because of famine, Isaac seeks to go down into Egypt, but God appeared to him and told him to not go down into Egypt, but stay here and God will bless him, give him all these countries and will perform the covenant which He made with Abraham. So Isaac stayed

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in Gerar and told the men of that place that Rebekah was his sister. Abimelech is still the king there and learns that Rebekah is really Isaac's wife and instructs his people to protect both Isaac and Rebekah. Through his experience with Abraham, Abimelech learned to fear and respect the God of the Hebrews. Isaac prospers while in Gerar and the Lord appears to him again to re-affirm the covenant. The last two verses of this chapter makes a footnote that when Esau was 40 years old he took wives of the Hittites, which caused much grief to Isaac and Rebekah.

The Bible always shows people as they really are, and in Chapter 27 we see that the family of Isaac were not good examples for us to follow. Even though God had already declared that Jacob was the son to carry the line of the promised seed and heir of the covenant, none of the family seemed to accept God's decision as final or trusted Him to make it happen. Let's look at this family:

Isaac; intended to bypass God's choice by giving Esau the blessing.

Rebekah; decided she would have to help God bring about His expressed purpose, but only caused sorrow by not waiting on God.

Jacob; knowing that God's blessing would come to him, lied and deceived his father. Sadly, he used God to strengthen his lie (v.20).

Esau; knew that his younger brother was chosen by God, yet he wanted the blessing and when cheated out of it, he vows to kill his brother.

Each member of this family sought to bring about their own will and the result was pain and sorrow. Isaac, who had once voluntarily laid down on the altar of sacrifice, is now about to die and his family is shattered by his lack of spiritual leadership. Rebekah gained what God would have

given, but her methods cost her both of her sons; Esau's heart was turned from her, and she never again saw Jacob in this life.

Next week: JACOB. Study chapters 28 - 35

Lesson 10: Jacob

Scripture reference: Genesis chapters 28 -35.

In the closing verses of chapter 27, Esau was planning to kill Jacob and Rebekah instructs Jacob to flee to her brother Laban in Haran. Esau had already taken wives of the Hittites which caused sadness to Isaac and Rebekah, so Rebekah ask her husband to send Jacob away because she is afraid he will marry one of the natives of the land. So, as chapter 28 opens, Isaac instructs Jacob to not take a Canaanite wife, but return to Haran and seek a wife from the family of Laban, Rebekah's brother. Isaac pronounces God's blessing upon Jacob and sends him away. When Esau saw that his father blessed Jacob and that Jacob was being obedient, Esau decided to show dis-obedience by taking a wife from the tribe of Ishmael.

Beginning in verse 10, Jacob flees Beersheba going toward Haran in Padan-aram (Mesopotamia). On the first night, he dreams of a ladder reaching from earth to heaven with angels ascending and descending. The Lord is standing above the ladder and speaks to confirm the covenant which He had made with Abraham and Isaac. Notice verse 15, the promises God makes. Fill in the blanks to complete the promises. I am with _____, and will _____ thee in all places whither thou goest, and I will bring thee again _____; for I will not leave thee, until I _____ that which I have spoken to thee of.

Verses 16-22: When Jacob awakes, he says this is the **house of God, the gate of heaven**. He worships and calls this place **Bethel**. This place was not called Bethel until this time. Remember when Abraham first came into the country, the first place that he built an alter was on a moun-

tain east of Bethel (Gen. 12:8). The writer uses the name Bethel so that the reader will know the location, but at the time Abraham came into the country, there was no Bethel. After God maps out a marvellous future, piled with spiritual and material promises, Jacob makes a vow to God but about all he can think of is enough to eat, clothes to wear, and return home in peace. Really, this is not what you would expect of the father of all Israelites, but Jacob has not matured in his spiritual life, he is still the "schemer" and it will be twenty more years before he fully surrenders his life to God and becomes **Israel**, instead of Jacob.

Chapter 29. Jacob meets Rachel, Laban's daughter, falls in love with her and wants her for his wife. He agrees to work for Laban seven years in order to have Rachel for his wife. After the seven years are fulfilled, Laban deals deceitfully with Jacob and switches the bride, so that Jacob actually marries Leah, Rachel's older sister! Jacob agrees to work an additional seven years for Rachel. Turn to Gen. 31:41. How many years did Jacob work for Laban? 20. How many years for the two daughters? 14. How many years for the cattle? 6. Remember when Abraham's servant came to find a wife for Isaac? He only stayed a few days. Why do you think it took Jacob so many years and it only took a few days for the servant of Abraham?

In fourteen years Jacob fathers eleven sons and one daughter. First, he has four sons by Leah. Rachel becomes jealous and has her handmaid become a mother of two of Jacob's children. Next, Leah gives her handmaid to Jacob and she bears him two sons. After this, Leah once again begins to bear children and produces two more sons

and later one daughter. Finally, God gives Rachel a son, Joseph. How did all this happen in the order given, in fourteen years? Many people think that Jacob worked fourteen years before getting Rachel for his wife. Evidently this is not the case. It must be that after marrying Leah and spending one week, not seven years, with her that Laban allowed Jacob to marry Rachel. Jacob is yet to have another son by his beloved wife, Rachel. This makes twelve sons, which become the twelve tribes of Israel.

Look at Gen. 30:25. After Joseph is born, Jacob seeks permission to return to his own country. But Laban has learned that he has been blessed by the Lord for the simple reason that Jacob was working for him, so he doesn't want him to go. He wants to give Jacob something worthy of his service, but Jacob does not want any gifts from him. He makes a deal that Laban can't refuse. Jacob offers to take the spotted and speckled among the animals. These were considered inferior and fewer than the pure colored animals, so Laban jumped at the chance to agree to these wages. God is with Jacob and soon Jacob has more and stronger animals than Laban.

Chapter 31. The Lord tells Jacob to return to his home, but like his mother, and so many of us, he was not willing to wait for God to send him away honorably. While Laban is away, Jacob leaves silently with all his possessions. Rachel took Laban's gods with her. Three days later, Laban learns that Jacob had fled with all his riches and pursues after him for seven days after which God warns him in a dream to not speak harshly to Jacob. Laban overtakes Jacob's party and searches all his property without finding his gods. Jacob and Laban part company after making a covenant between them, not as friends but as two schemers who can't trust each other.

Chapter 32. Jacob's return home was not an easy thing for him. He had not communicated with his brother, and as far as he knew Esau was still intending to kill him for stealing the blessing. So, with fear and much emotion, Jacob had several encounters on his way home: First, he met

_____ whom he called God's army. This must have given him confidence to approach Esau for he sends messengers to tell Esau he is coming with much property. The messengers return saying Esau is coming to meet Jacob and he has four hundred men with him. Jacob's faith wavers and verses 9 - 12 might be what we call a **fox-hole prayer** where he says "*get me out of this mess, and I'll serve you*". Jacob's second encounter is with the Lord Himself. Jacob is alone. When a man is alone with God, things happen. All night long, God is wrestling with Jacob to break down his "self-strength" which He did at day break by causing a weakness in Jacob's thigh. Now, Jacob wrestles with God by refusing to let go until He blesses him. In essence this is Jacob's prayer, to hold tight on to God until He gives him His blessing. When the Lord asked him "*What is thy name*", he had to confess his true character which is revealed in his name which means "*Supplanter-schemer*". Upon this confession, God gives him a new name, **Israel**, which means a prince of God, "*one who strives with and prevails*". Jacob becomes a prince not in his own strength, but in his weakness. It is when his strength is broken that he humbly confesses his true character and depends on God for the birthright he had tried to buy and for the blessing which he had stolen. Jacob's life is changed, and he is never the same man again. He names the place **Peniel** which means **the face of God**. For the rest of his life, Jacob had a weakness in his thigh.

Chapter 33. God smoothed the way before Jacob. It turns

out that Esau no longer held evil thoughts toward Jacob, but was coming with gifts and a warm welcome. Jacob buys property in Shechem and settles there.

Chapter 34 tells the disgraceful story of how Jacob's family deals dishonestly with the men of Shechem. They did have great provocation, but their dealings were through deceit and trickery, not open warfare. God had not intended for Jacob to settle down in Shechem

Chapter 35. **Back to Bethel.** God tells Jacob to go back to the place where He had first appeared to him when he was fleeing from his brother Esau. God calls for him to *"Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments:"* Every Christian should return to *"Bethel"* often to seek the Lord's will and leadership. We need to make ourselves clean, and change our garments. Put off all the old, dirty, ragged habits and ideas and come to the place where we first met God and re-new our devotion to Him. God, once again, appears to Jacob at Bethel and re-confirms the covenant which He made with Abraham and Isaac. The Lord told Jacob to dwell at Bethel, but Jacob had other plans, probably anxious to see the old home place and his father.

Journeying south from Bethel, Rachel dies giving birth to her second son, which she names Benjamin. Jacob goes to visit his father, Isaac, before he dies at the age of 180 years. Esau and Jacob bury him

Read chapter 36, the generations of Esau. We will not study this chapter, but you should be familiar with the names and places listed here.

Next week, we will study the life of Joseph, *"The favored son"*. The rest of the book of Genesis has to do with the

life of Joseph, who is in many ways, a type of Jesus. Next week we will study chapters 37-42. And then our final lesson in Genesis will be chapters 43-50. This has been a wonderful study, but it is not over yet. There are many truths to be gleaned from the life of Joseph and I pray that you will earnestly pray for the proper leadership of the Holy Spirit to guide your teacher.

Extra Information about Jacob's Service to Laban.

In Genesis 30:25, after Joseph is born to Rachel, Jacob asked Laban to let him go to his own country. Jacob does not get to leave at this time, but they strike an agreement concerning the ownership of the new animals that will be born into the flock. According to Gen. 31:41, Jacob served 14 years for Leah and Rachel and served six years under the agreement concerning the animals. This means that Joseph was born sometime around the 14th year of Jacob's service to Laban.

The Bible does not tell us when the various sons were born, but it does give the order in which they were born. I know we cannot put dates to any Bible events, but I would like to just muse over the possibilities:

Counting the marriage to Leah as zero

0

Allow 10 months for Reuben to be born to Leah
+10

Allow 20 months to wean Reuben and Simeon to be born to Leah
+20

Allow 20 months to wean Simeon and Levi to be born to Leah
+20

Allow 20 months to wean Levi and Judah to be born to Leah
+20

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This is 70 months, which is almost 6 years. Assuming Rachel married Jacob during the first year, she has been barren for more than five years, becomes jealous of her sister's fertility so she sends her handmaid Bilhah in to her husband, to have children for her. I think we could assume this happened during the time that Leah was pregnant with Judah, so we could count Bilhah pregnant before Judah is born. Let's just say that Dan is born 75 months after the start of our time count. Bilhah gives birth to Dan in month 75

Allow 20 months and Bilhah gives birth to Naphtali
+20

Its now been 25 months since Leah has been pregnant, so assume she gives her handmaid to her husband at this point and allow the handmaid, Zilpah 10 months to give birth to Gad
+10

Allow 20 months for Zilpah to give birth to Asher
+20

Now, Leah becomes pregnant again, allow 10 months for Issachar
+10

Allow another 20 months to wean Issachar and give birth to Zebulun
+20

At this point Rachel finally becomes pregnant and produces Joseph
+10

This is a total of 165 months which is three months short of 14 years. This is not the way it happened, but is merely how it could have happened in the time span given in the Bible.

Lesson 11: Joseph: The Favored Son

Scripture reference: Genesis 37-42.

Beginning with Genesis chapter 12, we began studying the Patriarchs: Abraham-God's Faithfulness; Jacob-God's Grace; and now we study Joseph who portrays God's Providence. Joseph is one of the most beautiful characters in the Old Testament and we study his life to observe how he typifies Christ, and to learn to imitate his virtues which are: 1) true to his God; 2) true to himself; 3) true to his employers; 4) a dutiful obedient son; 5) a kind and forgiving brother; 6) a sympathetic and helpful friend; and 6) a strong, wise business man.

Chapter 37. Read verses 1-4 and answer the following questions. How old was Joseph at this time? 17

Why was Joseph the favored son? 19:20-21

What special thing did Israel make for Joseph? a coat of many colors

What did his brothers think of him? hated him

Why? because he was the father's favorite

Read verses 5-11. Joseph dreams two dreams. The first dream indicated that one day his brothers would bow down to him. The second dream seemed to mean that even his father and mother along with the brothers would bow down before him. What was the reaction of his brothers in verse 5 and 11? They hated him more, because of the dream

What was his father's reaction in verse 11? he hated him

Read verses 12-25, The plot against Joseph. From the second verse, we see that Joseph is a "tattletale" and reports to his father the evil things his brothers do. Again, in verse 14, Joseph is sent out to report on his brothers. They are not where they are suppose to be, but Joseph

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finds them in Dothan. When they saw him coming, they recognized him from a distance by his coat of many colors and they made plans to kill him (vv 18-20). Because of the objection of Reuben, they did not kill him, but put him in a pit. While they were eating, a caravan of Ishmaelites came by, going down into Egypt. At Judah's suggestion, they sold Joseph for twenty pieces of silver. Verses 26-36 tells the story of how they reported to their father the death of Joseph and how he was eventually sold as a slave to Potiphar, a captain of the guard in Egypt.

Chapter 38 is primarily about Judah, the fourth son of Israel, the family through which Christ will eventually be born. Judah was a part of the conspiracy to kill Joseph, and it was Judah who suggested they sell their brother into slavery. So, in chapter 38, we find that he sells himself as a slave to sin by his conduct with his daughter-in-law, Tamar. God uses imperfect people and both Judah and Tamar are listed in the lineage of Christ. (Matt. 1:3)

Chapter 39, Joseph finds grace in the sight of his master, Potiphar, because he sees that the Lord blesses everything that Joseph does. Potiphar put all that he had in Joseph's hand and depended upon him to take care of all his business. Even though Joseph could be trusted, Potiphar's wife could not. She desired and lusted after Joseph, but Joseph knew how to rule himself and one day God would have him to rule over others. Joseph's faithfulness cost him his position and everything he had. He was put into prison, and unless released by Pharaoh he will remain there until he dies. Even in prison, Joseph's way of life caused the keeper of the prison to look favorably to Joseph. Write in verse 21

Chapter 40, The Butler and the Baker. While Joseph was in charge of all the prisoners, the chief butler and the chief baker of Pharaoh's palace were put into prison. While in prison, each had a dream which puzzled them, but Joseph interpreted the dreams for them. Write in the meaning of each dream:

The Butler's dream; _____

The Baker's dream; _____

To whom did Joseph give credit for the interpretation?

What is the request Joseph makes to the Butler?

Both dreams come true exactly according to the interpretation of Joseph. Write in what happened in verse 23.

Chapter 41, Out of prison, into the palace. The butler forgot Joseph, but God did not. We cannot depend on others. We can depend on God. See how easily He brings about Joseph's release. He simply sends a dream to the king. Notice how Joseph never loses an opportunity to point people away from himself and straight to God (vv 15-16).

Pharaoh tells Joseph about two dreams he had. Joseph tells Pharaoh, "God was telling you what He is going to do here in the land of Egypt." God is going to bring seven years of great prosperity followed by seven years of great and terrible famine. Joseph suggest that Pharaoh seek out

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the **wisest man** in Egypt and put him in charge of administering a nation-wide farm management program. Pharaoh sees that Joseph is a man filled with the Spirit of God and appoints him to be in charge of the whole program. Joseph is made "second-in-command" of all Egypt. Joseph was **thirty years old** when he began ruling in Egypt. He was given a wife who produced two sons before the years of famine began. The famine was throughout all that part of the world and Joseph sold grain to the Egyptians and to those from other lands who came to Egypt to buy grain.

Lesson 12: Joseph, God's Leader

Bible Reference: Genesis 43 - 50

The famine continues and when Israel runs out of grain, he tells his sons to once again go into Egypt to buy food, but his sons fear to return without Benjamin because they feared the lord of Egypt who had spoke roughly with them and warned them to not come back without their younger brother. Judah promises to be a surety for Benjamin. Israel gives his blessing to the mission and instructs his sons to take a present and double money to repay the money they found in their sacks.

Joseph orders a noon meal prepared for his brothers, they present themselves to him for the purpose of giving him the present they had brought. Joseph ask about his father and gets a good look at his younger brother. He is unable to control his emotions and has to flee to his chamber to weep. He is not weeping for sadness, but tears of joy and excitement over what he knows is about to happen. The dining room was set up with three separate tables. Joseph sat at one table by himself; the Egyptians sat at another table by themselves; and the visiting Israelites sat by themselves. Joseph's brothers must have wondered why they were each seated according to their age and Benjamin received five times the amount of food given to the others.

Chapter 44 Joseph commands the steward to fill each sack with as much food as possible and once again put each man's money in his sack's mouth. Also, he has the steward put Joseph's silver cup in the sack of Benjamin. The men leave for home at first light the next morning. While they were still near the city, Joseph sends his men to intercept them and say, "Wherefore have ye rewarded evil

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for good?" The brothers could not understand why the lord would think they had stolen from him, did they not bring back the money taken by mistake last time? They agree to a search, and if the cup is found, the owner of that sack will be a slave to the lord of Egypt. The cup was found in Benjamin's sack. All the brothers return to Joseph where Judah makes a plea to take Benjamin's place. Judah wants to protect his father from grief which could very possibly cause him to die from sorrow.

Chapter 45 Seeing this new attitude, in his brothers, Joseph is overcome with emotion and once again weeps. He sends away all the Egyptians and then reveals his true identity to his brothers. He explained that he is neither angry nor seeking vengeance, for God sent him ahead to preserve life. Write in verse 8:

He tells them there are five more years of famine to come, and in order to survive, the whole family should come to Egypt. When Pharaoh hears about Joseph's brothers, he offers them the good of the land and they shall eat the fat of the land. Write in verse 20:

Notice all the good-sounding things in this invitation: v 9, "*come down unto me,*"; v 11, "*I will nourish thee*"; v 18, "*the good of the land of Egypt, and ye shall eat the fat of the land.*"; and v 19, "*for the good of all the land of Egypt is yours.*" When things look very appealing, beware!

I am among those who teach and believe that Egypt, in the Bible, always represents secular things. It stands for the world, it stands for sin and being out of God's will. Joseph

said that God sent him ahead for the saving of his brothers, but actually it was Joseph's evil brothers who sent him to Egypt. God used this as an occasion of good, but I don't believe God ever wants his children out of his will. His will for Israel is to occupy the land of Canaan. He never wanted Abraham to leave, He didn't want Jacob to leave. Anytime, in the Bible, that you see God's people going down into Egypt, look for the reason why. You say, "Christ went into Egypt as a baby". Correct. God did order his parents to take him to Egypt, but this just strengthens my belief when you consider that Christ came into a worldly system filled with sin and to give the picture of this, the child Jesus was taken into Egypt, which represents the world.

When told that Joseph is alive, Jacob's heart fainted, and he didn't believe them at first, but all the gifts and provisions proved it and Israel agreed to go to see Joseph before he dies.

Chapter 46 Before leaving Canaan, Israel makes sacrifices to God and God speaks to him. God says He will go with him, bless him, and bring him back. Because of the famine, God's permissive will allows Israel to go into Egypt and there God will make a great nation. Verse 26 says that all the souls that came with Jacob (which were of his blood) totaled sixty-six. Add Joseph and his two sons making sixty-nine and then count Jacob which makes seventy. Acts 7:14 says all the kindred adds up to seventy-five which is adding the five grandsons of Joseph. Exodus 1:5 puts the number at seventy. There is no disagreement, it is just how you count them. Seventy is a complete number and is also the number that came into Egypt. Joseph has a joyous reunion with his father Israel, in the land of Goshen where they will watch over their flocks. Shepherds are

prophecy concerning each of them. One of the prophecies is that "The scepter shall not depart from Judah-----" which is indicating that Christ will come from the tribe of Judah. At this time, Jacob charges all his sons to bury him in the cave of Machpelah where Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, and Leah are buried. Even though Rachel was his favorite wife, he wants to be buried with Leah. Why do you think this is his wish?

As soon as he was finished blessing his sons and giving them the charge of where to bury him, he dies.

Chapter 50. The physicians of Egypt embalm Jacob and after the mourning period, Joseph and a great company go up into the land of Canaan to bury Jacob in the cave of Machpelah where now six ancestors of Jesus are now buried. Joseph's brothers are afraid that now that their father is dead, Joseph will take vengeance upon them for the evil they did to him. Joseph's answer is in verses 19, 20, and 21. In summary, what did he say?

Joseph continued to live in Egypt and died at the age of one-hundred and ten years old. He made his children promise to carry his bones out of Egypt. The last five words of Genesis are a commentary on how man has responded to the things that God has offered him. In the beginning, God created man, -put him in a lovely garden that contained everything he would ever need. God wanted to have fellowship with man and He expected obedience from him. God gave man a simple test to see if he would obey. He failed the test. Again, God tested man by letting him live by his conscience. This ended with man becoming more evil and the whole world becoming corrupt before God. Man failed the test and only Noah was saved. Man

looked down on by Egyptians, so they are kept apart, much like we used to do during the "Jim Crow" era.

Chapter 47. Joseph presents his father and some of his brothers to Pharaoh who gives his blessing to them and gives some of them responsibility over the cattle of Pharaoh. Jacob has conversation with Pharaoh and blesses him. How old was Jacob when he went down into Egypt? _____

As the famine grows worse, the people of Egypt come to Joseph for bread. He buys the cattle, and when the money fails, he trades grain for their cattle. The famine continues and Joseph gives them food for their land and the people of Egypt become servants of Pharaoh agreeing to work the land for four-fifths of the crop. The people of Israel begin to grow and prosper in the land of Goshen. How old is Jacob in verse 28? _____. Jacob knows his life is almost over and he has Joseph promise to not bury him in Egypt, but to bury him in the family burial place which is _____. Joseph promises to carry out his father's wishes.

Chapter 48 Jacob blesses Joseph's two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. Jacob gives a double blessing by treating Joseph's two sons as his own, giving them an equal place in his family and numbering them among the twelve tribes of Israel. When they come into the land, instead of a tribe of Joseph, they have a half-tribe of Manasseh and a half-tribe of Ephraim. Jacob gives the right hand blessing to Ephraim who was the second born. Joseph tried to correct him, but Jacob reminds him that God has chosen to set Ephraim before Manasseh.

In chapter 49, Jacob calls all his sons together and gives a

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then failed the test of governing himself by building a tower to reach to God instead of doing what God wanted. God then selects one man to make a family which will obey Him. That family is the family of Abraham to whom God gave His covenant which promises the land and a great blessing to all people. And how does the family of Abraham score on God's test? Genesis ends, **"in a coffin in Egypt"** You don't put a person in a coffin unless they are dead, so the word coffin is a symbol of death. Earlier, we discussed Egypt being a symbol of worldliness or sin. So, the book of Genesis might be said to end with the words **"dead in sin"** which is the condition that everyone is in before they accept Christ as their savior. Like Adam, we all begin life in purity and innocence, but soon we begin to put our way in the place of God's way and at that point we become **dead in sin** and the only way to change that is to **repent**, (which means to change the direction), put our faith and trust in Jesus Christ to save us and to depend upon Him for our daily bread. When we look to Jesus to save us and sustain us, we then become "dead to sin" instead of "dead in sin", meaning that sin no longer has power over us. If you have never trusted Jesus with your life, would you do it now? Read and write in Romans 10:9-10

This concludes our study of Genesis, the seed book of the Bible. I pray that you have learned some things that will benefit you in your Christian life and will help you as you explain God's word to others.

Charles D. Harris, Oklahoma City, OK
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