

Read the Bible in A Year: Chronological

Readings for January 10-18



So the boys (Jacob and Esau) grew. Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a calm man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Now Jacob cooked a stew; and Esau came in from the field and he was famished. So Esau said to Jacob, "Please feed me some of that red stew, for I am famished." Therefore his name was called Edom. Then Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." Esau said, "Look, I am about to die; of what use is the birthright to me?" Then Jacob said, "Swear to me this day." So he swore to him, and he sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew. Then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.



There was a famine in the land, in addition to the first famine that was during the days of Abraham. Isaac went to Abimelek king of the Philistines in Gerar. The LORD appeared to him and said, "Do not go down to Egypt. Live in the land of which I will tell you. Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you; for I will give to you and all your descendants all these lands, and I will fulfill the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of the heavens and will give your descendants all these lands. By your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed, because Abraham obeyed Me and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws." So Isaac lived in Gerar.

The men of the place asked him about his wife. And he said, "She is my sister," for he was afraid to say, "She is my wife," thinking, "The men of the place might kill me on account of Rebekah, because she is beautiful in appearance." When he had been there a long time, Abimelek the king of the Philistines looked out of a window and saw Isaac caressing Rebekah his wife. Abimelek summoned Isaac and said, "She is surely your wife, so how is it you said, 'She is my sister'?" Then Isaac said to him, "Because I said, 'I might die on account of her.'" Abimelek said, "What is this you have done to us? One of the people might have easily lain with your wife, and you might have brought guilt upon us!" Abimelek charged all his people, saying, "He who touches this man or his wife will surely be put to death."

Then Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; the LORD blessed him. The man became rich and continued to prosper until he became very wealthy. For he had possessions of flocks and herds and a great number of servants so that the Philistines envied him. For the Philistines had stopped up all the wells which his father's servants had dug in the days of Abraham his father by filling them with dirt.

Abimelek said to Isaac, "Go away from us, for you are much more powerful than we are." So Isaac departed from there and pitched his tent in the Valley of Gerar and settled there. Isaac dug again the wells of water, which they had dug in the days of Abraham his father, for the Philistines had stopped them up after the death of Abraham. He called their names after the names his father had called them.

But when Isaac's servants dug in the valley and found a well of running water there, the herdsmen of Gerar contended with Isaac's herdsmen, saying, "The water is ours." So he called the name of the well

Esek, because they contended with him. They dug another well and quarreled over that also. So he called the name of it Sitnah. Then he moved away from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it. So he called the name of it Rehoboth, for he said, "For now the LORD has made room for us, and we will be fruitful in the land."

He went up from there to Beersheba. The LORD appeared to him that same night and said, "I am the God of Abraham your father. Do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for the sake of My servant Abraham." He built an altar there, called on the name of the LORD, and pitched his tent there. And there Isaac's servants dug a well.

Then Abimelek went to him from Gerar, along with Ahuzzath, one of his friends, and Phicol the commander of his army. Isaac said to them, "Why have you come to me, since you hate me and have sent me away from you?" And they said, "We saw plainly that the LORD was with you. So we said, 'Let there now be an oath between us, between you and us, and let us make a covenant with you, so that you will do us no harm, just as we have not touched you, and have done you nothing but good and have sent you away in peace. You are now the blessed of the LORD.' "

Then he made them a feast, and they ate and drank. They rose up early in the morning and swore an oath with one another. Isaac sent them away, and they departed from him in peace. That same day Isaac's servants came and told him about the well that they had dug and said to him, "We have found water." And he called it Shibah. Therefore, the name of the city is Beersheba to this day.



Esau was forty years old when he took as wives Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite, and they brought grief to Isaac and to Rebekah. When Isaac was old and his eyes were so weak that he could not see, he called Esau his oldest son and said to him, "My son." And he answered him, "Here I am." He said, "I am old. I do not know the day of my death. Therefore, please take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me. And prepare for me savory food, such as I love, and bring it to me that I may eat, so that my soul may bless you before I die."

Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to Esau his son. So when Esau went to the field to hunt for wild game and bring it back, Rebekah said to her son Jacob, "I heard your father speak to your brother Esau, saying, 'Bring me wild game, and prepare for me savory food, that I may eat and bless you in the presence of the LORD before my death.' Now therefore, my son, listen to me as I command you. Go now to the flock, and get me two choice young goats, so that I may prepare from them savory food for your father, such as he loves. Then you will take it to your father, so that he may eat and so that he may bless you before his death."

But Jacob said to his mother Rebekah, "Look, my brother Esau is a hairy man, and I am a man of smooth *skin*. Perhaps my father will feel me, and I will seem to him as a deceiver, and I will bring a curse on myself and not a blessing." His mother said to him, "Let your curse be upon me, my son. Only listen to me and go get them for me." He went and got them and brought them to his mother. Then his mother prepared savory food such as his father loved. Then Rebekah took the best clothes belonging to her older son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son. Then she put the skins of the young goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. She put the savory food and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hands of her son Jacob.

He came to his father and said, "My father." And he said, "Here I am. Who are you, my son?" And Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn. I have done just as you asked me. Please arise, sit and eat of my wild game, so that your soul may bless me." Isaac said to his son, "How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?" And he said, "Because the LORD your God brought it to me." Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come near, so that I may feel you, my son, whether you are really my son Esau or not."

Jacob went near to his father Isaac, and he felt him and said, "The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau." He did not recognize him because his hands were hairy, just like his brother Esau's hands; so he blessed him. He asked, "Are you really my son Esau?" And he said, "I am." He said, "Bring it near to me, and I will eat of my son's wild game, so that my soul may bless you." And he brought it near to him, and he ate. He also brought him wine, and he drank. His father Isaac said to him, "Come near now and kiss me, my son." He came near and kissed him; and he smelled the smell of his clothing and blessed him and said, "See, the smell of my son is like the smell of the field which the LORD has blessed. Therefore, may God give you of the dew of heaven and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of grain and new wine. Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be master over your brothers, and let your mother's sons bow down to you.

Cursed be everyone who curses you, and blessed be those who bless you!"

As soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, and Jacob had barely gone out from the presence of his father Isaac, Esau his brother came in from his hunting. He also had prepared savory food and brought it to his father, and said to his father, "Let my father arise and eat of his son's wild game, so that your soul may bless me."

Isaac his father said to him, "Who are you?" And he said, "I am your son, your firstborn, Esau." Then Isaac trembled violently, and said, "Who? Where then is he who hunted game and brought it to me? I ate all of it before you came, and I have blessed him. Yes, and he shall be blessed." When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with a great and exceedingly bitter cry, and said to his father, "Bless me, even me also, O my father!"

He said, "Your brother came deceitfully and has taken away your blessing." Esau said, "Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright, and now he has taken away my blessing." And he said, "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?" Then Isaac answered and said to Esau, "I have made him your lord, and I have given to him all his brothers as servants; and I have sustained him with grain and new wine. What can I now do for you, my son?" And Esau said to his father, "Do you have only one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, O my father!" Then Esau lifted up his voice and wept.

Isaac his father answered and said to him, "Your dwelling shall be away from the fatness of the earth and away from the dew of heaven from above. You will live by your sword and will serve your brother. When you become restless, you will break his yoke from your neck."

So Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him. And Esau said in his heart, "The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then I will kill my brother Jacob."

These words of Esau her older son were told to Rebekah; and she sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said to him, "Your brother Esau consoles himself regarding you by planning to kill you. Now therefore, my son, listen to me and get up and flee to Laban, my brother in Harran. Stay with him a few days until your brother's fury subsides, until your brother's anger against you turns away, and he forgets what you have done to him. Then I will send and get you from there. Why should I lose both of you in one day?"

Then Rebekah said to Isaac, "I am tired of my life because of the daughters of Heth. If Jacob takes a wife from the daughters of Heth, such as these who are of the daughters of the land, what good will my life be to me?" Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him. Then he charged him and said to him, "You must not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan. Arise, go to Paddan Aram to the house of Bethuel your mother's father, and take for yourself a wife from there, from the daughters of Laban your mother's brother. May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, so that you may become a multitude of people. May He give you the blessing of Abraham, to you and your descendants with you, that you may inherit the land where you are a stranger, which God gave to Abraham." Then Isaac sent Jacob away, and he went to Paddan Aram to Laban, the son of Bethuel the Syrian, the brother of Rebekah, Jacob's and Esau's mother.

Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Paddan Aram to take for himself a wife from there, and that as he blessed him he gave him a charge, saying, "You must not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan," and that Jacob obeyed his father and his mother and had gone to Paddan Aram. Esau saw that the daughters of Canaan did not please Isaac his father. So Esau went to Ishmael and took as his wife Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son, the sister of Nebaioth, in addition to the wives he had.



Then Jacob went out from Beersheba and went toward Harran. He came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. He took one of the stones of that place and put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep. He dreamed and saw a ladder set up on the earth with the top of it reaching to heaven. The angels of God were ascending and descending on it. The LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie, to you will I give it and to your descendants. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and in your descendants all the families of the earth will be blessed. Remember, I am with you, and I will protect you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I promised you."

Jacob awoke out of his sleep, and he said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it." He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." So Jacob rose up early in the morning and took the stone that he had put under his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it. He called the name of that place Bethel, but previously the name of the city was called Luz. Jacob vowed a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will protect me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, so that I return to my father's house in peace, then the LORD will be my God. Then this stone, which I have set for a pillar, will be the house of God, and from all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You."



Then Jacob went on his journey and came into the land of the people of the east. As he looked, he saw a well in the field and three flocks of sheep lying by it, for out of that well the flocks were watered. A large stone was on the well's opening. When all the flocks were gathered there, the shepherds rolled the stone from the well's opening, watered the sheep, then put the stone back on the well's opening in its place. Jacob said to them, "My brothers, where are you from?"

And they said, "We are from Harran." Then he said to them, "Do you know Laban the son of Nahor?" And they said, "We know him." He said to them, "Is he well?" And they said, "He is well, and here is Rachel his daughter coming with the sheep."

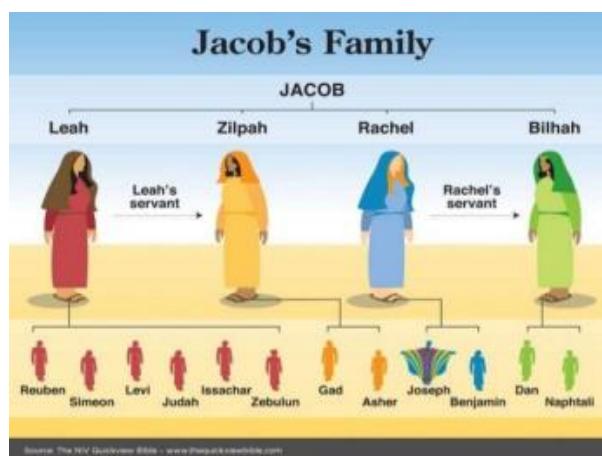
He said, "Since it is yet midday, it is not the time that the livestock should be gathered together. Water the sheep, and go and feed them." They said, "We cannot until all the flocks are gathered together and the stone is rolled from the well's opening. Then we may water the sheep. While he was still speaking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she kept them. When Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, Jacob went near and rolled the stone from the well's opening and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother. Jacob kissed Rachel and wept aloud. Jacob told Rachel that he was her father's relative and that he was Rebekah's son. Then she ran and told her father.

When Laban heard the news of Jacob his sister's son, he ran to meet him and embraced him and kissed him and brought him to his house. Then Jacob told Laban all these things. Laban said to him, "Surely you are my bone and my flesh." And he stayed with him for a month.

Laban said to Jacob, "Since you are my relative, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" Now Laban had two daughters. The name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were tender, but Rachel was beautiful in form and appearance. Jacob loved Rachel, so he said, "I will serve you seven years for Rachel your younger daughter." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to another man. Stay with me." So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, so that I may have relations with her." Laban gathered together all the men of the place and prepared a feast. But in the evening he took Leah his daughter and brought her to Jacob, and Jacob had relations with her. Laban gave Zilpah his maid to his daughter Leah for a maid servant. In the morning Jacob discovered it was Leah, and he said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve you for Rachel? Why then have you tricked me?" Then Laban said, "It is not the custom in our country to marry off the younger before the firstborn. Fulfill the period of seven days for this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years."

Jacob did so and completed her week. Then Laban gave him Rachel his daughter as his wife also. Laban gave Bilhah his maid servant to Rachel his daughter to be her maid. So Jacob also had relations with Rachel, and he loved Rachel more than Leah and served Laban another seven years.



When the LORD saw that Leah was unloved, He opened her womb, but Rachel was barren. Leah conceived and gave birth to a son, and she called his name **Reuben**, for she said, "Surely the LORD has looked upon my affliction. Now therefore my husband will love me." She conceived again and gave birth to a son and said, "Because the LORD has heard that I was unloved, He has therefore given me this son also." Then she called his name **Simeon**. She conceived again and gave birth to a son and said, "Now this time my husband will be joined to me, because I have borne him three sons." Therefore his name was called **Levi**.

She conceived again and gave birth to a son, and she said, "Now I will praise the LORD!" Therefore she called his name **Judah**. Then Leah stopped giving birth.

When Rachel saw that she could not give Jacob children, she became jealous of her sister. She said to Jacob, "Give me children, or I will die." Jacob became angry with Rachel and said, "Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?" Then she said, "Here is my maid Bilhah. Have relations with her so that she may bear *a child* on my knees, so that I may also have children through her." So she gave him Bilhah her maid servant as a wife, and Jacob had relations with her. Bilhah conceived and gave Jacob a son. Rachel said, "God has vindicated me, and He has also heard my voice and has given me a son." Therefore she called his name **Dan**. Bilhah, Rachel's maid, conceived again and gave Jacob a second son. Then Rachel said, "With great wrestling have I wrestled with my sister, and I have prevailed." So she called his name **Naphtali**.

When Leah saw that she had stopped having children, she took Zilpah her maid and gave her to Jacob as a wife. Zilpah, Leah's maid, gave Jacob a son. Then Leah said, "How fortunate!" So she called his name **Gad**. Zilpah, Leah's maid, gave Jacob a second son. Then Leah said, "Happy am I, for women will call me happy." So she called his name **Asher**.

At the time of the wheat harvest, Reuben went and found mandrakes in the field and brought them to his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, "Please give me some of your son's mandrakes." Leah said to her, "Is it a small matter that you have taken my husband? Would you take away my son's mandrakes also?" So Rachel said, "All right, he may lie with you tonight in exchange for your son's mandrakes." When Jacob came out of the field in the evening, Leah went out to meet him and said, "You must sleep with me, because I have paid for you with my son's mandrakes." And he slept with her that night.

God listened to Leah, and she conceived and gave Jacob a fifth son. Leah said, "God has given me my reward because I have given my maid to my husband." So she called his name **Issachar**. Leah conceived again and gave Jacob a sixth son. Leah said, "God has given me a good gift. Now my husband will dwell with me, because I have given him six sons." So she called his name **Zebulun**. Afterwards she gave birth to a daughter and called her name **Dinah**.

Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb. She conceived and gave birth to a son and said, "God has taken away my reproach." And she called his name **Joseph**, saying, "The LORD will add to me another son."



When Rachel had given birth to Joseph, Jacob said to Laban, "Send me away, so that I may go to my own place, to my country. Give me my wives and my children, for whom I have served you, and let me go. For you know the service that I have given you." Laban said to him, "If I have found favor in your eyes, please stay. For I have learned by divination that the LORD has blessed me on account of you." He said, "Name me your wages, and I will give it." Jacob said to him, "You know how I have served you, and how your livestock have fared with me. For you had little before I came, and it is now increased to a multitude. The LORD has blessed you since I came, and now when may I also provide for my own house?" Laban said, "What may I give you?" And Jacob said, "You may not give me anything, but if you will do this *one* thing for me, I will continue to feed and keep your flock. I will pass through all your flock today, removing from it all the speckled and spotted sheep, and every brown sheep from among the lambs, and the spotted and speckled among the goats. These shall be my wages. So my integrity will

answer for me in time to come. When you come to examine my wages, every one that is not speckled and spotted among the goats, and brown among the sheep that are with me will be considered stolen." Laban said, "Agreed. Let it be according to your word." He removed that day the male goats that were striped and spotted and all the female goats that were speckled and spotted, every one that had some white in it, and all the brown ones among the sheep, and gave them into the care of his sons. He put three days' journey between himself and Jacob, and Jacob fed the rest of Laban's flocks.

Then Jacob took rods of fresh-cut poplar, almond, and plane trees, and peeled white streaks in them, exposing the white which was in the rods. He set the rods which he had peeled before the flocks in the troughs, that is, the watering places, where the flocks came to drink, so that they would mate when they came to drink. The flocks mated before the rods and gave birth to *young* that were striped, speckled, and spotted. Jacob separated the lambs and made the flocks face toward the striped and all the brown in the flock of Laban. He put his own flocks by themselves and did not put them with Laban's sheep. Whenever the stronger sheep mated, Jacob laid the rods before the eyes of the sheep in the troughs, so that they might mate among the rods. But when the livestock were feeble, he did not put them in. So the weaker were Laban's and the stronger Jacob's. The man became exceedingly prosperous and had many sheep and female servants and male servants and camels and donkeys.

Now *Jacob* heard the words of Laban's sons, saying, "Jacob has taken away all that was our father's, and he has gotten all his wealth from what was our father's." Jacob saw the look of Laban and saw he was not congenial toward him as before. Then the LORD said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your fathers, to your family, and I will be with you." So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to the field where his flock was, and said to them, "I see your father's demeanor, that it is not congenial toward me as before; but the God of my father has been with me. You know that with all my strength I have served your father. Your father has deceived me and changed my wages ten times, but God did not allow him to hurt me. If he said, 'The speckled will be your wages,' then all the flock produced speckled. If he said, 'The striped will be your pay,' then all the flock produced striped. In this way God has taken away your father's flock and given them to me. "When the livestock conceived, I lifted up my eyes and saw in a dream that the male goats mating with the flock were striped, speckled, and spotted. The angel of God spoke to me in a dream, saying, 'Jacob.' And I said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Now lift up your eyes and see all the male goats which mate with the flock are striped, speckled, and spotted, for I have seen all that Laban has done to you. I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed the pillar, where you vowed a vow to Me. Now arise, and get out of this land, and return to the land of your family.'"

Rachel and Leah answered him, "Is there any portion or inheritance left for us in our father's house? Are we not seen by him as foreigners? For he has sold us and has completely spent our money also. For all the riches which God has taken from our father are ours and our children's. Now then, whatever God has said to you, do it." Then Jacob rose up and set his sons and his wives on camels. Then he carried away all his livestock and all his goods which he had obtained, his acquired livestock which he had gotten in Paddan Aram, in order to go to Isaac his father in the land of Canaan. When Laban went to shear his sheep, Rachel stole the household idols that were her father's. Jacob also deceived Laban the Syrian by not telling him that he was fleeing. So Jacob fled with all that he had, and he rose up and passed over the river and headed toward the mountains of Gilead.



Laban was told on the third day that Jacob had fled. He took his kinsmen with him and pursued him for seven days until he caught up with him in the mountains of Gilead. But God came to Laban the Syrian in a dream by night and said to him, “Take care that you speak to Jacob neither good nor bad.” Then Laban overtook Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent on the mountain, and Laban with his kinsmen pitched in the mountains of Gilead. Laban said to Jacob, “What have you done that you have stolen

away without my knowing and carried away my daughters like captives taken with the sword? Why did you flee away secretly and sneak away from me and not tell me? I would have sent you away with joy and with songs, with the tambourine and harp. And why did you not permit me to kiss my sons and my daughters farewell? You have acted foolishly in so doing. It is in my power to do you harm, but the God of your father spoke to me last night, saying, ‘Take care that you not speak to Jacob either good or bad.’ Now you surely have gone away because you longed desperately after your father’s house, yet why have you stolen my gods?”

Then Jacob answered and said to Laban, “Because I was afraid, for I thought that you would take your daughters from me by force. But anyone with whom you find your gods, let him not live. In the presence of our kinsmen, point out what I have that is yours and take it.” For Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them.

So Laban went into Jacob’s tent and into Leah’s tent and into the two female servants’ tents, but he did not find them. Then he went out of Leah’s tent and entered into Rachel’s tent. Now Rachel had taken the household idols and put them in the camel’s saddle and sat on them. Laban searched the entire tent but could not find them. She said to her father, “Let not my lord be displeased that I cannot rise before you, for the manner of women is on me.” So he searched, but he did not find the household idols.

Then Jacob became angry and berated Laban. And Jacob asked Laban, “What is my offense? What is my sin that you have so hotly pursued after me? You have searched all my things, and yet what have you found of all your household things? Set it here before my kinsmen and your kinsmen, so that they may judge between us both.

“This twenty years I have been with you. Your ewes and your female goats have not miscarried their young, and the male goats of your flock I have not eaten. That which was torn by beasts I did not bring to you. I bore the loss of it. You required it from my hand *whether it was stolen by day or stolen by night*. It was like this with me: In the day the heat consumed me and the frost by night, and my sleep fled from my eyes. I have been twenty years in your house. I served you fourteen years for your two daughters and six years for your flock, and you have changed my wages ten times. If the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had not been with me, surely you would have sent me away empty now. God has seen my affliction and the labor of my hands and rebuked you last night.”

Laban answered and said to Jacob, “These daughters are my daughters, and these children are my children, and the flocks are my flocks, and all that you see is mine. But what can I do this day to my daughters or to their children whom they have borne? Now therefore come, let us make a covenant, you and I, and let it be as a witness between you and me.” So Jacob took a stone and set it up for a pillar. Jacob said to his kinsmen, “Gather stones.” So they took stones and made a pile, and they ate there on the pile. And Laban called it Jegar Sahadutha, but Jacob called it Galeed. Laban said, “This pile is a witness between me and you this day.” Therefore its name was called Galeed, and Mizpah, for he said, “May the LORD watch between you and me, when we are apart from one another. If you mistreat my daughters,

or if you take other wives beside my daughters, although no one else is with us, remember that God is witness between you and me."

Then Laban said to Jacob, "See this pile and see this pillar which I have thrown between you and me. This heap is a witness, and this pillar is a witness, so that I will not cross over this pile to you and so that you will not pass over this pile and this pillar to me for harm. The God of Abraham, the God of Nahor, and the God of their father, judge between us."

Then Jacob vowed by the Fear of his father Isaac. Then Jacob offered a sacrifice on the mountain and called his kinsmen to eat bread. And they ate bread and stayed all night on the mountain. Early in the morning Laban rose up, kissed his grandchildren and his daughters, and blessed them. Then Laban departed and returned to his place.



Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him. When Jacob saw them, he said, "This is God's camp." So he called the name of that place Mahanaim. Jacob sent messengers before him to his brother Esau in the land of Seir, the country of Edom. He commanded them, saying, "This is what you must say to my lord Esau: This is what your servant Jacob says, 'I have sojourned with Laban and stayed there until now. I have oxen and donkeys, flocks, and male servants and

female servants, and I am sending *this message* to tell my lord, so that I may find favor in your sight.'" The messengers returned to Jacob, saying, "We went to your brother Esau. He is coming to meet you, and what is more, four hundred men are with him." Then Jacob was very afraid and distressed, and he divided the people that were with him, along with the flocks and herds and the camels, into two groups. He said, "If Esau comes to the one camp and attacks it, then the other camp which is left may escape."

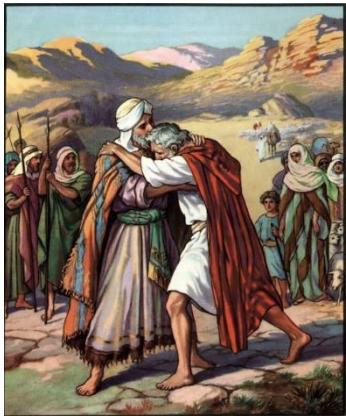
And Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, the LORD who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your relatives, and I will prosper you,' I am not worthy of all the lovingkindness and of all the faithfulness which You have shown to Your servant. For with my staff I crossed over this Jordan, and now I have become two encampments. Deliver me, I pray, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau. For I fear him, that he will come and attack me and the mothers with the children. You said, 'I will surely prosper you and make your descendants as the sand of the sea, which is too many to be counted.'"

So he spent the night there. Then he selected from what he had with him a gift for his brother Esau: two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams, thirty female camels with their colts, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten male donkeys. He gave them to his servants, every drove by itself, and said to his servants, "Pass over before me, and keep a distance between each drove." He commanded the one leading, saying, "When my brother Esau meets you and asks you, saying, 'To whom do you belong, and where are you going, and to whom do these *animals* belong?' then you are to say, 'They belong to your servant Jacob. They are a gift sent to my lord Esau, and he is also behind us.'" Likewise he commanded the second and the third and all that followed the droves, saying, "This is what you are to say to Esau when you find him. Moreover, say, 'Your servant Jacob is behind us.'" For he said, "I will appease him with the gift that goes before me, and then I will see his face. Perhaps he will accept me." So the gift went before him, but he lodged that night in the encampment.

The same night he arose and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven sons, and crossed over the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream along with all that he

had. Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him there until daybreak. When the man saw that He did not prevail against Jacob, He touched the socket of his thigh, so the socket of Jacob's thigh was dislocated, as he wrestled with Him. ²⁶Then He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks."

But Jacob said, "I will not let You go, unless You bless me." So He said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "Your name will no more be called Jacob, but Israel. For you have fought with God and with men and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked Him, "Tell me, I pray You, Your name." But He said, "Why do you ask Me My name?" Then He blessed him there. Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "I have seen God face to face, and my life has been preserved." As he crossed over Peniel, the sun rose over him, and he was limping on his thigh. Therefore to this day the children of Israel do not eat the sinew which is attached to the socket of the thigh, because He touched the socket of Jacob's thigh in the sinew of the hip.



Then Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming and four hundred men with him. So he divided the children among Leah, Rachel, and the two female servants. He put the female servants and their children in front, then Leah and her children next, and then Rachel and Joseph last. He went on before them, bowing himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother. But Esau ran to meet him and embraced him and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. ⁵When Esau looked up and saw the women and the children, he said, "Who are those with you?" Jacob said, "The children whom God has graciously given your servant."

Then the female servants came near, they and their children, and they bowed down. Leah also with her children came near and bowed themselves. Afterward Joseph and Rachel came near, and they bowed themselves. Esau said, "What do you mean by all this company that I met?" Jacob answered, "These are to find favor in the sight of my lord." Esau said, "I have enough, my brother. Keep what you have for yourself." Jacob said, "No, I pray you, if I have now found favor in your sight, then receive my gift from my hand. For I have seen your face, and it is as though I have seen the face of God, with you having received me favorably. Please take my blessing that has been brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me and because I have plenty." So he urged him, and he took it.

Then Esau said, "Let us journey on our way, and I will go ahead of you." But Jacob said to him, "My lord knows that the children are weak, and the flocks and herds with young are with me. If they are driven too hard one day, all the flock will die. Please let my lord pass over before his servant, and I will lead on slowly, according to the pace of the livestock that goes before me and the pace the children will be able to endure, until I come to my lord at Seir." So Esau said, "Let me leave some of the people that are with me with you. But Jacob said, "What need is there? Let me find favor in the sight of my lord."

So Esau returned that day making his way back to Seir. But Jacob journeyed to Sukkoth and built himself a house and made booths for his livestock. Therefore the name of the place is called Sukkoth. Jacob came peacefully to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, on his way from Paddan Aram, and camped before the city. He bought a parcel of a field, where he had pitched his tent, from the children of Hamor, Shechem's father, for a hundred pieces of silver. He erected an altar there and called it El Elohe Israel.



Now Dinah, the daughter of Leah, whom she bore to Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land. When Shechem, the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the land, saw her, he took her and lay with her and defiled her. He was very smitten by Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the girl and spoke kindly to her. Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, "Get me this girl for my wife."

Now Jacob heard that Shechem had violated his daughter Dinah, but his sons were with his livestock in the field, so Jacob held his peace until they came. Hamor the father of Shechem went out to Jacob to commune with him. The sons of Jacob came out of the field when they heard it, and the men were grieved and were very disturbed, because Shechem had disgraced Israel by lying with Jacob's daughter, a thing that should not be done.

Hamor spoke with them, saying, "The soul of my son Shechem longs for your daughter. I pray that you will give her to him to marry. Make marriages with us, and give your daughters to us, and take our daughters for yourselves. You may dwell with us, and the land will be before you. Dwell and trade in it and get possessions in it." Shechem said to her father and to her brothers, "Let me find favor in your eyes, and whatever you say to me I will give. You can make the dowry and gift I must bring high, and I will give according to what you say to me. Just give me the girl to marry."

The sons of Jacob answered Shechem and Hamor his father deceitfully, because he had defiled Dinah their sister. They said to them, "We cannot do this. To give our sister to one who is uncircumcised would be a disgrace to us. But we will consent to you in this: If you will become as we are, that is, every one of your males be circumcised, then we will give our daughters to you, and we will take your daughters to us, and we will dwell with you, and we will become one people. But if you will not listen to us and be circumcised, then we will take our daughter, and we will leave."

Their words pleased Hamor and Shechem, Hamor's son. The young man did not delay to do the thing, because he wanted Jacob's daughter. Now he was more respected than all the household of his father. So Hamor and Shechem his son came to the gate of their city, and they spoke with the men of their city, saying, "These men are at peace with us. Therefore let them dwell in the land and trade in it. For the land is large enough for them. Let us take their daughters as our wives, and let us give them our daughters. Only on this condition will the men consent to dwell with us and be one people: if every male among us will be circumcised as they are circumcised. Will not their livestock and their possessions and every animal of theirs be ours? Only, let us agree with them, and they will dwell with us." All who went out of the gate of his city listened to Hamor and Shechem his son, and every male was circumcised, all who went out of the gate of his city.

On the third day, when they were in pain, two of Jacob's sons, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers, took their swords and went to the unsuspecting city and killed all the males. They killed Hamor and Shechem his son with the edge of the sword and took Dinah out of the house of Shechem and departed. The sons of Jacob came upon the slain and looted the city, because they had defiled their sister. They took their flocks and their herds, their donkeys and whatever was in the city and in the fields. They took captive and looted all their wealth, all their little ones, and their wives, even all that was in each house.

Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, "You have brought trouble on me by making me revolting among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites. Our being few in number, they will gather themselves together against me and slay me, and I will be destroyed, both I and my household." But they said, "Should he treat our sister like a prostitute?"



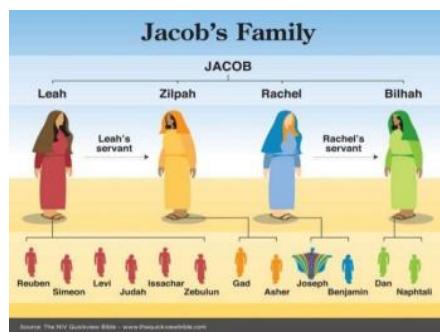
Then God said to Jacob, "Arise, go up to Bethel, dwell there, and there make an altar to God, who appeared to you when you fled from the face of Esau your brother." So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Put away the foreign gods that are among you. Purify yourselves and change your clothes. Let us arise and go up to Bethel, and there I will make an altar to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone." So they gave Jacob

all the foreign gods which were in their possession and all their earrings which were in their ears, and Jacob hid them under the oak which was near Shechem. As they traveled, the terror of God was on the cities that were around them, and they did not pursue the sons of Jacob.

So Jacob came to Luz (that is, Bethel), which is in the land of Canaan, he and all the people who were with him. There he built an altar and called the place El Bethel, because God had appeared to him there when he fled from his brother. Now Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died and was buried beneath Bethel under the oak. So it was called Allon Bakuth.

God appeared to Jacob again when he came out of Paddan Aram and blessed him.¹⁰ God said to him, "Your name is Jacob. Your name shall not be called Jacob any more, but Israel shall be your name." So He called his name Israel. God said to him, "I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply. A nation and a company of nations will come from you, and kings shall come forth from you. The land that I gave Abraham and Isaac, I will give to you, and to your descendants after you I will give the land." Then God went up from him in the place where He had spoken with him.

Jacob set up a pillar in the place where He had spoken with him, a pillar of stone, and he poured out a drink offering on it, and he poured oil on it too. So Jacob called the name of the place where God had spoken with him Bethel.



They journeyed from Bethel, and when they were still some distance from Ephrath, Rachel went into labor, and she had a difficult labor. When she was in hard labor, the midwife said to her, "Do not fear. You will have this son also." As her soul was departing (for she died), she called his name Ben-Oni, but his father called him **Benjamin**. Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem. Jacob set a pillar on her grave. It is the pillar of Rachel's grave to this day. Israel journeyed and pitched his tent beyond the tower of Eder. When Israel lived in that land, Reuben went and lay with Bilhah, his father's concubine, and Israel heard about it. Now the sons of Jacob were twelve:

- The sons of Leah were Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, and Simeon and Levi and Judah and Issachar and Zebulun.
- The sons of Rachel were Joseph and Benjamin.
- And the sons of Bilhah, Rachel's maid-servant, were Dan and Naphtali.
- And the sons of Zilpah, Leah's maid-servant, were Gad and Asher.

These are the sons of Jacob, which were born to him in Paddan Aram. Jacob came back to Isaac his father in Mamre of Kiriath Arba (which is Hebron), where Abraham and Isaac had sojourned. Now the days of

Isaac were one hundred and eighty years. And Isaac breathed his last and died and was gathered to his people, being old and full of days, and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.



Now these are the generations of Esau, who is Edom. Esau took his wives from the daughters of Canaan: Adah the daughter of Elon the Hittite, and Oholibamah the daughter of Anah the daughter of Zibeon the Hivite, and Basemath, Ishmael's daughter, sister of Nebaioth. Adah bore to Esau Eliphaz, and Basemath bore Reuel, and Oholibamah bore Jeush, Jalam, and Korah. These are the sons of Esau, who were born to him in the land of Canaan.

Then Esau took his wives, his sons, his daughters, and all the people of his house, his livestock, all his animals, and all his property that he had acquired in the land of Canaan, and he moved to a land some distance from his brother Jacob. For their possessions were too great for them to dwell together, and the land where they were foreigners could not sustain them because of their livestock. So Esau settled in the hill country of Seir. Esau is Edom.

These are the generations of Esau the father of the Edomites in the hill country of Seir. These are the names of Esau's sons: Eliphaz the son of Adah the wife of Esau, and Reuel the son of Basemath the wife of Esau.

- The sons of Eliphaz were Teman, Omar, Zepho, Gatam, and Kenaz. Timna was a concubine to Eliphaz, Esau's son, and she bore to Eliphaz Amalek. These were the sons of Adah, Esau's wife.
- These are the sons of Reuel: Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah. These were the sons of Basemath, Esau's wife.
- These were the sons of Oholibamah, the daughter of Anah the daughter of Zibeon, Esau's wife: she bore to Esau Jeush, Jalam, and Korah.

These were chiefs of the sons of Esau. The sons of Eliphaz the firstborn son of Esau were: Chief Teman, Chief Omar, Chief Zepho, Chief Kenaz, Chief Korah, Chief Gatam, and Chief Amalek. These are the chiefs who came from Eliphaz in the land of Edom. These were the sons of Adah. These were the sons of Reuel Esau's son: Chief Nahath, Chief Zerah, Chief Shammah, and Chief Mizzah. These are the chiefs who came from Reuel in the land of Edom. These were the sons of Basemath, Esau's wife. These were the sons of Oholibamah, Esau's wife: Chief Jeush, Chief Jalam, and Chief Korah. These were the chiefs who came from Oholibamah, the daughter of Anah, Esau's wife. These were the sons of Esau, who is Edom, and these were their chiefs.

The sons of Esau were Eliphaz, Reuel, Jeush, Jalam, and Korah. The sons of Eliphaz were Teman, Omar, Zepho, Gatam, Kenaz, Timna, and Amalek. The sons of Reuel were Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah.

These were the sons of Seir the Horite, who inhabited the land: Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah, Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan. These were the chiefs of the Horites, the children of Seir in the land of Edom.

- The children of Lotan were Hori and Homam, and Lotan's sister was Timna.
- The children of Shobal were these: Alvan, Manahath, Ebal, Shepho, and Onam.

- These were the children of Zibeon: Aiah and Anah. This was the Anah who found the water in the wilderness as he fed the donkeys of Zibeon, his father.
- The children of Anah were these: Dishon and Oholibamah, the daughter of Anah.
- These are the children of Dishon: Hemdan, Eshban, Ithran, and Keran.
- The children of Ezer were these: Bilhan, Zaavan, and Akan.
- The children of Dishan were these: Uz and Aran.

These were the chiefs that came from the Horites: Chief Lotan, Chief Shobal, Chief Zibeon, Chief Anah, Chief Dishon, Chief Ezer, and Chief Dishan. These are the chiefs who came from Hori, among their chiefs in the land of Seir.

The sons of Seir were Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah, Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan. The sons of Lotan were Hori and Homam; the sister of Lotan was Timna. The sons of Shobal were Alian, Manahath, Ebal, Shepho, and Onam. The sons of Zibeon were Aiah and Anah. The son of Anah was Dishon. The sons of Dishon were Hamran, Eshban, Ithran, and Keran. The sons of Ezer were Bilhan, Zaavan, and Jaakan. The sons of Dishan were Uz and Aran.

These were the kings who reigned in the land of Edom before there reigned any king over the children of Israel. Bela the son of Beor reigned in Edom, and the name of his city was Dinhabah. Bela died, and Jobab the son of Zerah of Bozrah reigned in his stead. Jobab died, and Husham of the land of Temani reigned in his stead. Husham died, and Hadad the son of Bedad, who defeated Midian in the field of Moab, reigned in his stead, and the name of his city was Avith. Hadad died, and Samlah of Masrekah reigned in his stead. Samlah died, and Shaul of Rehoboth by the river reigned in his stead. Shaul died, and Baal-Hanan the son of Akbor reigned in his stead. Baal-Hanan the son of Akbor died, and Hadad reigned in his stead, and the name of his city was Pau. His wife's name was Mehetabel, the daughter of Matred, the daughter of Me-Zahab.

These are the names of the chiefs who came from Esau, according to their families, according to their places, by their names: Chief Timnah, Chief Alvah, Chief Jetheth, ⁴Chief Oholibamah, Chief Elah, Chief Pinon, Chief Kenaz, Chief Teman, Chief Mibzar, Chief Magdiel, and Chief Iram. These were the chiefs of Edom, according to their settlements in the land of their possession.

Esau was the father of the Edomites.

These are the kings who reigned in the land of Edom before any king reigned over the children of Israel:

Bela the son of Beor (the name of his city was Dinhabah). When Bela died, Jobab the son of Zerah from Bozrah reigned in his place. When Jobab died, Husham from the land of the Temanites reigned in his place. When Husham died, Hadad the son of Bedad, the one who struck Midian in the open field of Moab, reigned in his place (the name of his city was Avith). When Hadad died, Samlah from Masrekah reigned in his place. When Samlah died, Shaul from Rehoboth on the River reigned in his place. When Shaul died, Baal-Hanan the son of Akbor reigned in his place. When Baal-Hanan died, Hadad reigned in his place (the name of his city was Pai, and the name of his wife was Mehetabel, the daughter of Matred, the daughter of Me-Zahab). Then Hadad died.

The tribal chiefs of Edom were Chief Timnah, Chief Alvah, Chief Jetheth, Chief Oholibamah, Chief Elah, Chief Pinon, Chief Kenaz, Chief Teman, Chief Mibzar, Chief Magdiel, and Chief Iram. These were the chiefs of Edom.

These are the sons of Israel: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Dan, Joseph, Benjamin, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher.

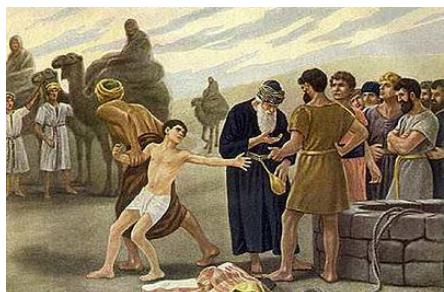


Now Jacob lived in the land where his father was a foreigner, in the land of Canaan. These are the generations of Jacob.

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brothers, and the boy was with the sons of Bilhah and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives. Joseph brought back a bad report about them to their father. Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his sons, because he was the son of his old age, and he made him a coat of many colors. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him

more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.

Now Joseph dreamed a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. He said to them, "Please listen to this dream which I have dreamed. We were binding sheaves in the field. All of a sudden my sheaf rose up and stood upright, and your sheaves stood around it and bowed down to my sheaf." His brothers said to him, "Will you really reign over us, or will you really have dominion over us?" So they hated him even more because of his dreams and his words. Then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and said, "I have dreamed another dream. The sun and the moon and eleven stars were bowing to me." But when he told it to his father and his brothers, his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Will I and your mother and your brothers really come to bow down ourselves to you to the ground?" So his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter *in mind*.



Now his brothers went to feed their father's flock in Shechem. Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers feeding the flock in Shechem? Come, and I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." Israel said to him, "Please go and see if it is well with your brothers and well with the flocks, and bring back word to me." So he sent him out of the Valley of Hebron, and he came to Shechem. A certain man found him wandering in the field. The man asked him, "What are you looking for?" And he said, "I am looking for my brothers. Please tell me where they are feeding their flocks." The

man said, "They have departed from here. I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers and found them in Dothan.

When they saw him some distance away, before he came near to them, they conspired against him to kill him. They said one to another, "The master of dreams comes! ²⁰Come now, let us kill him and throw him into some pit, and we will say, 'Some evil beast has devoured him.' Then we will see what will become of his dreams." But when Reuben heard it, he rescued him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not kill him." Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood, but throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him," so that he might rescue him out of their hands and deliver him to his father again. When

Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped Joseph of his coat—his coat of many colors that he had on. And they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty, and there was no water in it. Then they sat down to eat. And looking up, they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing spices, balm, and myrrh, carrying it down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is it if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let us not lay our hand on him, for he is our brother and our own flesh.” So his brothers agreed. Then when the Midianite merchants passed by, they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit and sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. They took Joseph to Egypt.

When Reuben returned to the pit and saw that Joseph was not in the pit, he tore his clothes. ³⁰ He returned to his brothers, and said, “The boy is not *there*, and I, where can I go?” They took Joseph’s coat and killed a young goat and dipped the coat in the blood. Then they took the coat of many colors and brought it to their father and said, “This we have found. Do you know whether it is your son’s robe or not?” He knew it and said, “It is my son’s coat. A wild beast has devoured him. Joseph has without a doubt been torn into pieces.” Jacob tore his clothes and put sackcloth on his waist and mourned for his son many days. All his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. And he said, “For I will go down into the grave mourning for my son.” So his father wept for him. Meanwhile the Midianites sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and captain of the guard.



At that time Judah left his brothers and visited a certain Adullamite, whose name was Hirah. There Judah saw the daughter of a certain Canaanite, whose name was Shua, and he took her and had relations with her. She conceived and bore a son, and he called his name Er. She conceived again and bore a son, and she called his name Onan. She again conceived and bore a son and called his name Shelah. He was at Kezib when she bore him.

Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, whose name was Tamar. But Er, Judah’s firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the LORD, so the LORD killed him. Then Judah said to Onan, “Go have relations with your brother’s wife, and marry her, and raise up descendants for your brother.” But Onan knew that the descendant would not be his, so when he had relations with his brother’s wife, he let his semen go on the ground, so that he would not give a descendant to his brother. What he did displeased the LORD; therefore He killed him also.

Then Judah said to Tamar, his daughter-in-law, “Remain a widow at your father’s house until Shelah my son grows up.” For he thought, “He may die also, just as his brothers did.” So Tamar went and lived in her father’s house. As time went on, the daughter of Shua, Judah’s wife, died. After Judah was consoled, he went up to his sheepshearers in Timnah, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite.

It was told to Tamar, “Your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep.” She took off her widow’s clothing, covered herself with a veil, wrapped herself up, and sat in an open place, which is by the road to Timnah. For she saw that Shelah was grown, and she was not given to him as *his* wife.

When Judah saw her, he thought she was a prostitute, because she had covered her face. He turned to her by the road and said, “Come now, let me have relations with you” (for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law). And she said, “What will you give me, so that you may have relations with me?” And he said, “I will send you a young goat from the flock.” And she said, “Will you give me a pledge, until you send it?” And he said, “What pledge should I give you?” And she said, “Your signet, your bracelets, and your

staff that is in your hand.” So he gave them to her and had relations with her, and she conceived by him. She arose and went away, and taking off her veil, she put on her widow’s clothing.

Judah sent the young goat by his friend the Adullamite to receive his pledge from the woman’s hand, but he could not find her. Then he asked the men of the place, “Where is the cult prostitute who was at Enaim by the road?” And they said, “There was no prostitute in this place.” So he returned to Judah and said, “I cannot find her. Also, the men of the place said there was no cult prostitute in this place.” Judah replied, “Let her keep them for herself, or we shall be laughed at. I sent this young goat, and you did not find her.”

After about three months, it was told Judah, “Tamar your daughter-in-law has turned to prostitution, and what is more, as a result of prostitution she is pregnant.” Then Judah said, “Bring her forth, and let her be burned!” When she was brought forth, she sent word to her father-in-law, saying, “By the man to whom these belong am I with child.” And she said, “Please identify whose these are—the signet and bracelet and staff.” Judah recognized them and said, “She has been more righteous than I, because I did not give her to Shelah my son.” He did not have relations with her again.

When it was time for her to give birth, there were twins in her womb. While she was giving birth, one put out his hand, and the midwife took and tied on his hand a scarlet thread, saying, “This one came out first.” But as he drew back his hand, his brother came out. Then she said, “How have you made a breach for yourself?” Therefore his name was called Perez. Afterward his brother came out, the one that had the scarlet thread on his hand, and his name was called Zerah.

The sons of Judah were Er, Onan, and Shelah: These three were born to him by the daughter of Shua the Canaanitess. Now Er, the firstborn of Judah, was evil in the sight of the LORD, and He put him to death. Then Tamar his daughter-in-law bore Perez and Zerah for him. In all, Judah had five sons. The sons of Perez were Hezron and Hamul. The sons of Zerah were Zimri, Ethan, Heman, Kalkol, and Dara, five of them in all. The sons of Karmi were Achar, the troubler of Israel, who acted unfaithfully in regard to the ban. The son of Ethan was Azariah.



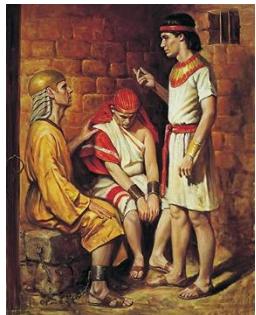
Now Joseph was brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. The LORD was with Joseph, so that he became a prosperous man. He was in the house of his master, the Egyptian. His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper. Joseph found favor in his sight and served him. So he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put

under his charge. From the time that he had made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the LORD blessed the Egyptian’s house on account of Joseph. So the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had in the house and in the field. So he left all that he had in Joseph’s charge, and he had no concerns regarding anything except the food he ate.

Now Joseph was handsome and well-built. After a time, his master’s wife took notice of Joseph and said, “Lie with me.” But he refused and said to his master’s wife, “My master does not concern himself with *anything* concerning me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my charge. There is none greater in this house than I. He has kept nothing back from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?” She spoke to Joseph every day, but he did not listen to her about lying with her or being with her. But it happened one day that Joseph went into the

house to do his work, and none of the men of the house was there. She caught him by his clothing, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his clothing in her hand and fled and got outside. When she saw that he had left his clothing in her hand and had fled outside, she called to the men of her house and spoke to them, saying, "See, he has brought in a Hebrew among us to humiliate us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice. When he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried out, he left his clothing with me, fled, and got outside." She laid up his clothing next to her until his master came home. She spoke to him using these words, saying, "The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought to us, came in to me to mock me. When I lifted up my voice and cried out, he left his clothing with me and fled outside."

When his master heard the words of his wife, which she spoke to him, saying, "This is what your servant did to me," he became enraged. Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were confined. So he was there in the prison. But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. The keeper of the prison committed all the prisoners that were in the prison to the charge of Joseph. So whatever they did there, he was the one responsible for it. The keeper of the prison did not concern himself with anything that was under Joseph's charge because the LORD was with him. And whatever he did, the LORD made it to prosper.



Sometime after this, the cupbearer of the king of Egypt and his baker offended their lord, the king of Egypt. Pharaoh was angry with his two officials, with the chief of the cupbearers and with the chief of the bakers. So he put them in confinement in the house of the captain of the guard, in the prison, the place where Joseph was confined. The captain of the guard charged Joseph with them, and he attended to them. They continued to be in confinement for some time. Then the cupbearer and the baker for the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison, both had a dream the same night, each man with his own dream and each dream with its own interpretation.

Joseph came in to them in the morning and looked at them and realized they were sad. So he asked Pharaoh's officials who were with him in the care of his lord's house, saying, "Why do you look so sad today?" And they said to him, "We have dreamed a dream, and there is no interpreter for it." Then Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Please tell them to me."

The chief cupbearer told his dream to Joseph and said to him, "In my dream, a vine was in front of me. And in the vine there were three branches. As it budded, its blossoms shot forth and its clusters brought forth ripe grapes. Pharaoh's cup was in my hand, and I took the grapes, and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup, and I put the cup into Pharaoh's hand." Joseph said to him, "This is the interpretation of it. The three branches are three days. Within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your place, and you will deliver Pharaoh's cup into his hand in the same way you did before when you were his cupbearer. But remember me when it is well with you, and show kindness, I pray you, to me, and make mention of me to Pharaoh, and get me out of this house. For I was indeed kidnapped out of the land of the Hebrews, and I have done nothing that they should put me in the dungeon."

When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was good, he said to Joseph, "I also was in my dream, and I had three white baskets on my head. In the uppermost basket there was all manner of baked goods for Pharaoh, and the birds ate them out of the basket on my head." Joseph answered and said, "This is the interpretation: The three baskets are three days. Within three days Pharaoh will lift your head from off you and will hang you on a tree, and the birds will eat your flesh from you." It happened on the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, that he made a feast for all his servants. He lifted up the heads of the chief

cupbearer and the chief baker among his servants. He restored the chief cupbearer to his position again, and he put the cup into Pharaoh's hand. However, he hanged the chief baker, just as Joseph had interpreted to them. Yet, the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.



After two whole years, Pharaoh had a dream that he was standing by the Nile. Seven fine-looking and fattened cows suddenly came up out of the river, and they grazed in the meadow. Then seven other cows came up after them out of the river, ugly and gaunt, and stood by the other cows on the riverbank. The ugly and gaunt cows ate up the seven fine-looking and fattened cows. Then Pharaoh awoke. He slept and dreamed a second time. Seven ears of grain suddenly came up on one stalk, plump and good. Then seven thin ears, scorched by the east wind, sprang up after them. The seven thin ears devoured the seven plump and full ears. Then Pharaoh awoke and realized it was a dream. In the morning his spirit was troubled, and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was no one who could interpret them to Pharaoh.

Then the chief cupbearer spoke to Pharaoh, saying, "Today I remember my offenses. Pharaoh was angry with his servants and put me in confinement in the captain of the guard's house, both me and the chief baker. And we had a dream in the same night, he and I. We, each of us, dreamed according to the interpretation of his *own* dream. A young Hebrew man was with us there, a servant to the captain of the guard. We told him and he interpreted our dreams for us. To each man he interpreted according to his *own* dream. It happened just as he interpreted. He restored me to my position, and the baker was hanged." So Pharaoh sent and called for Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon. He shaved himself, changed his clothes, and came to Pharaoh.

Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have dreamed a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. I have heard it said of you that you can understand a dream to interpret it." Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, "It is not in me. God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer." Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "In my dream, I stood on the bank of the Nile. And suddenly there came up out of the river seven cows, fattened and fine-looking, and they grazed in the reeds. Then seven other cows came up after them, poor and very ugly and gaunt. I have never seen such ugliness in all the land of Egypt. And the gaunt and ugly cows ate up the first seven fat cows. And when they had eaten them up, no one would have known that they had eaten them, for they were still as ugly as before. Then I awoke. "I also saw in my dreams seven ears of *grain*, full and good, suddenly come up on one stalk. Then seven ears, thin and scorched by the east wind, sprang up after them. And the thin ears swallowed the seven good ears. So I told this to the magicians, but there was no one who could explain it to me."

Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "The dreams of Pharaoh are *one and the same*. God has shown Pharaoh what He is about to do. The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good ears are seven years. The dreams are one. The seven gaunt and ugly cows that came up after them are seven years, and the seven empty ears scorched by the east wind will be seven years of famine. "It is as I have spoken to Pharaoh. God has shown Pharaoh what He is about to do. Seven years of great abundance will come throughout all the land of Egypt. However, there will arise after them seven years of famine. All the abundance will be forgotten in the land of Egypt, and the famine will consume the land. The abundance will be unknown in the land because of the famine following, for it will be very severe. The reason the dream was repeated to Pharaoh twice is because the matter is established by God, and God will soon bring it to pass. "Now, therefore, let Pharaoh seek out a man *who is* discerning and wise and set him over the land of Egypt. Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint officials over the land and collect the fifth part of

the produce of the land of Egypt in the seven abundant years. Let them gather all the food from those good years that come and lay up grain under the authority of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities. This food will be for a reserve for the land for the seven years of famine which will be in the land of Egypt, so that the land does not perish during the famine."

The counsel seemed good to Pharaoh and to all of his servants. Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find anyone like this man, in whom is the Spirit of God?" And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you. You will be over my house, and according to your word all my people will be ruled. Only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you." Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt." Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand and put it on Joseph's hand and arrayed him in clothes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. Then he had him ride in the second chariot which was his, and they cried out before him, "Bow the knee!" So he set him over all the land of Egypt.

Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, and without your consent no man will lift up his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt." Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphenath-Paneah, and he gave him a wife, Asenath the daughter of Potiphera priest of On. And Joseph went out over all the land of Egypt. Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh and went throughout all the land of Egypt. In the seven abundant years the earth brought forth plentifully. So he gathered up all the food of the seven years which was in the land of Egypt and laid up the food in the cities. He put in every city the food of the fields which surrounded the city. Joseph gathered great quantities of grain as the sand of the sea until he stopped measuring it, for it was beyond measure.

Before the years of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph, whom Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On, bore to him. Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh, "For God," he said, "has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's house." The name of the second he called Ephraim, *saying*, "For God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction." The seven years of abundance that were in the land of Egypt ended. The seven years of famine began to come, just as Joseph had said. The famine was in all lands, but there was food in all the land of Egypt. When all the land of Egypt was hungry, the people cried to Pharaoh for food, and Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, Go to Joseph. Do whatever he says to you." The famine was over all the face of the earth, so Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold to the Egyptians, and the famine was severe throughout the land of Egypt. Moreover, all countries came to Egypt to Joseph to buy grain, because the famine was so severe in all the lands.



Now when Jacob saw that there was grain in Egypt, Jacob said to his sons, "Why do you look at one another?" And he said, "I have heard that there is grain in Egypt. Go down there and buy *some* for us, so that we may live and not die." Joseph's ten brothers went down to buy grain in Egypt. But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph's brother, with his brothers for he said, "Perhaps some harm might happen to him." Thus the sons of Israel came to buy grain among those who came, for the famine was in the land of Canaan.

Now Joseph was the governor over the land, and it was he who sold to all the people of the land. So Joseph's brothers came and bowed themselves down before him with their faces to the ground. Joseph saw his brothers, and he

recognized them, but he pretended to be a stranger to them and spoke harshly to them. He said to them, "From where do you come?" And they said, "From the land of Canaan to buy food."

Joseph knew his brothers, but they did not know him. Joseph also remembered the dreams that he had dreamed of them. He said to them, "You are spies! You came to see the nakedness of the land!" They said to him, "No, my lord, your servants have come only to buy food. We are all one man's sons. We are honest men. Your servants are not spies." But he said to them, "No, you have come to see the nakedness of the land!" They said, "Your servants are twelve brothers, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan. The youngest is with our father today, and one is no longer living."

Joseph said to them, "It is as I said to you, 'You are spies!' Here is how you will be tested. By the life of Pharaoh, you will not leave here unless your youngest brother comes here. Send one of you, and let him get your brother, and you will be kept in prison, so that your words may be tested, whether there be any truth in you. Or else, by the life of Pharaoh, you are surely spies." He put them all together in custody for three days.

Joseph said to them the third day, "Do this and live, for I fear God. If you are honest men, let one of your brothers be confined in your prison house. The rest of you go and carry grain for the famine of your households. Nevertheless, bring your youngest brother to me so that your words may be verified and you shall not die." And they did so. Then they said one to another, "We are guilty concerning our brother, because we saw the anguish of his soul when he pleaded with us, but we would not listen. Therefore, this distress has come upon us." Reuben answered them, saying, "Did I not speak to you, saying, 'Do not sin against the boy'; and you would not listen? Therefore, his blood is now required of us." They did not know that Joseph understood them, for he spoke to them through an interpreter. He turned himself away from them and wept, but then turned back to them again and spoke with them. Then he took Simeon from them and bound him before their eyes. Joseph then gave the command to fill their sacks with grain and to restore every man's money to his sack and to give them provisions for the way. And it was done for them.

They loaded their donkeys with the grain and departed from there. As one of them opened his sack to give his donkey feed in the lodging place, he saw his money. It was in the mouth of his sack. And he said to his brothers, "My money has been returned. Here it is in my sack!" Then their hearts sank, and they were afraid, saying to one another, "What is this that God has done to us?" They came to Jacob their father in the land of Canaan and told him all that had happened to them, saying, "The man, the lord of the land, spoke harshly to us and took us for spies of the country. And we said to him, 'We are honest men. We are not spies. We are twelve brothers, *all* sons of our father. One is no longer living, and the youngest is with our father today in the land of Canaan.' The man, the lord of the country, said to us, 'Here is how I may know that you are honest men. Leave one of your brothers here with me, take food for the famine of your households, and be gone. But bring your youngest brother back to me. Then I will know that you are not spies, but that you are honest men. Then I will deliver your brother to you, and you may trade in the land.'" As they emptied their sacks, every man's bundle of money was in his sack. When both they and their father saw the bundles of money, they were afraid. Then Jacob their father said to them, "You have bereaved me of my children! Joseph is no more, Simeon is no more, and you will take Benjamin away. All these things are against me." Reuben spoke to his father, saying, "Kill my two sons if I fail to bring him to you. Put him in my hands, and I will bring him back to you. But Jacob said, "My son must not go down with you, for his brother is dead, and he alone is left. If harm should happen to him on the journey you are to make, then you will bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave."

Now the famine was severe in the land. When they had eaten up the grain which they had brought out of Egypt, their father said to them, "Go back and buy us a little food." Judah spoke to him, saying, "The man solemnly warned us, saying, 'You will not see my face unless your brother is with you.' If you will send our brother with us, we will go down and buy food for you. But if you will not send him, we will not go down. For the man said to us, 'You will not see my face unless your brother is with you.'" Israel said, "Why did you treat me so badly as to tell the man that you had *another* brother?" And they said, "The man asked us directly about ourselves and our family, saying, 'Is your father still alive? Do you have another brother?' So we answered his questions. How could we even know that he would say, 'Bring your brother down'?"

And Judah said to Israel his father, "Send the boy with me, and we will arise and go, so that we may live and not die, both we and you, and also our little ones. I will be a surety for him. You may hold me personally responsible for him. If I fail to bring him back to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame forever. For if we had not delayed, we could have returned twice." Their father Israel said to them, "If it must be so, do this. Take some of the best fruits in the land in your bags and carry down a present for the man: a little balm and a little honey, spices, and myrrh, pistachio nuts and almonds. Take double the money with you, along with the money that was brought back in the mouths of your sacks. Carry it with you again. Perhaps it was a mistake. Also, take your brother and arise, return to the man. And may God Almighty give you mercy before the man, so that he may send away your other brother, along with Benjamin. As for me, if I am bereaved, I am bereaved."

The men took the gift, and they took double the money with them, along with Benjamin. Then they went on their way down to Egypt and stood before Joseph. When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the house steward, "Bring these men home, slaughter an animal and prepare it, for these men will dine with me at noon." The man did as Joseph ordered, so the man brought the men into Joseph's house. The men were afraid because they were brought into Joseph's house. They said, "We have been brought in because of the money that was returned in our sacks the first time, so that he may seek occasion against us and fall upon us and take us for slaves with our donkeys."

They approached the steward of Joseph's house, and they spoke with him at the entrance of the house. They said, "My lord, we indeed came down the first time to buy food. When we came to the lodging place, we opened our sacks and realized every man's money was in the mouth of his sack, our money in full weight. So we have brought it again with us. We have also brought additional money with us to buy food. We cannot tell who put our money in our sacks."

He said, "Be at peace; do not be afraid. Your God and the God of your father has given you treasure in your sacks. I had your money." Then he brought Simeon out to them. The man brought the men into Joseph's house and gave them water to wash their feet and gave feed to their donkeys. Then they made ready the gift for Joseph's coming at noon, for they heard that they would be eating a meal there. When Joseph came home, they brought into the house to him the present that they had with them and bowed themselves to him to the ground. He asked them about their well-being and said, "Is your father well, the old man of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?" And they answered, "Your servant our father is in good health. He is still alive." And they bowed down their heads and prostrated themselves. He lifted up his eyes and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, and said, "Is this your younger brother of whom you spoke to me?" And he said, "God be gracious to you, my son."

Joseph hurried *out*, for he was deeply moved over his brother and sought a place to weep. So he entered into his chamber and wept there. Then he washed his face and came out. Controlling himself, he said, "Serve the food." They served him by himself and them by themselves and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves, because the Egyptians could not eat a meal with the Hebrews, for that is an abomination to the Egyptians. They sat before him, the firstborn according to his birthright and the youngest according to

his youth, and the men looked at one another in astonishment. He gave them portions from his own table, but Benjamin's serving was five times more than any of theirs. So they drank and feasted with him.

Then he commanded the steward of his house, saying, "Fill the men's sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put every man's money in the mouth of his sack. Put my cup, the silver cup, in the mouth of the sack of the youngest, along with his grain money." And he did according to what Joseph had spoken. As soon as the morning was light, the men were sent away, they and their donkeys. When they were gone out of the city, but not yet far off, Joseph said to his steward, "Get up, follow after the men. When you overtake them, say to them, 'Why have you rewarded evil for good? Is this not the one from which my lord drinks and uses as he practices divination? You have done evil in doing this.'"

So he overtook them, and he spoke to them these same words. They said to him, "Why does my lord say these words? Far be it from your servants that they should do such a thing. Look, we brought back to you from the land of Canaan the money that we found in the top of our sacks. Why then would we steal silver or gold from your lord's house? Whichever of your servants is found with it shall die, and the rest of us will become my lord's slaves." He said, "Now let it also be according to your words. He with whom it is found shall be my slave, and you will be blameless." Then every man hurriedly took down his sack to the ground, and every man opened his sack. He searched, beginning with the oldest and ending with the youngest. The cup was found in Benjamin's sack. Then they tore their clothes, and every man loaded his donkey and returned to the city.

When Judah and his brothers came to Joseph's house, he was still there; and they fell to the ground before him. Joseph said to them, "What deed is this that you have done? Did you not know that such a man as I can certainly practice divination?" And Judah said, "What shall we say to my lord? What shall we speak? Or how shall we clear ourselves? God has found out the iniquity of your servants. Here we are, my lord's servants, both we and he also in whose possession the cup was found." But he said, "Far be it from me that I should do so. The man in whose possession the cup was found shall be my slave; but as for you, go up in peace to your father."

Then Judah approached him and said, "O my lord, please let your servant speak a word in my lord's ears, and do not be angry with your servant, for you are equal to Pharaoh. My lord asked his servants, saying, 'Have you a father or a brother?' And we said to my lord, 'We have a father, an old man, and a young brother, the child of his old age. His brother is dead, and he alone is left of his mother, and his father loves him.'

"You said to your servants, 'Bring him down to me, so that I may set my eyes on him.' ²² We said to my lord, 'The boy cannot leave his father, for if he should leave his father, his father would die.' You said to your servants, 'Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you will not see my face again.' When we went back to your servant, my father, we told him the words of my lord.

"Our father said, 'Go again and buy us a little food.' We said, 'We cannot go down. If our youngest brother is with us, then we will go down, for we may not see the man's face, unless our youngest brother is with us.' Your servant, my father, said to us, 'You know that my wife bore me two sons. ²⁸ And the one went out from me, and I said, "Surely he was torn in pieces," and I have not seen him since. And if you take this one also from me and he is harmed, you will bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave. Now therefore when I come to your servant, my father, and the boy is not with us, as his life is bound up in the boy's life, ³¹ when he sees that the boy is not with us, he will die, and your servants will bring down the gray hairs of your servant, our father, with sorrow to the grave. For your servant became surety for the boy to my father, saying, 'If I fail to bring him to you, then I shall bear the blame to my father forever.' Now therefore, please let your servant stay as a slave to my lord instead of the boy, and let the boy go up with

his brothers. For how can I go up to my father if the boy is not with me, lest perhaps I see the evil that would find my father?"



Then Joseph could not restrain himself before all who stood by him, and he cried out, "Make every man go out from me." So no man stood with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. He wept so loudly that the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard about it.

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence. Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me," and they came near.

Then he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. Now do not be upset or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. God sent me ahead of you to preserve you as a remnant on the earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of his entire household and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says, "God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not delay. And you will dwell in the land of Goshen, and you will be near me, you and your children and your children's children, along with your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there, for there are still five years of famine to come, lest you and your household, and all that you have, come to poverty.'" Your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my mouth that is speaking to you. You must tell my father of all my glory in Egypt and of all that you have seen, and you must hurry and bring my father down here.' Then he fell on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck. Moreover he kissed all his brothers and wept on them. After that his brothers talked with him.

When the news reached Pharaoh's palace that Joseph's brothers had come, it pleased Pharaoh and his servants. Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Say to your brothers, 'Do this. Load your animals and go to the land of Canaan. Get your father and your households and come to me, and I will give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you shall eat the fat of the land.' You are also commanded to say, 'Do this: Take your wagons out of the land of Egypt for your little ones and for your wives, and get your father and come. Also do not concern yourself with your goods, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.'"

So the sons of Israel did so, and Joseph gave them wagons, according to the commandment of Pharaoh, and gave them provisions for the journey. To each of them he gave a change of clothes, but he gave to Benjamin three hundred shekels of silver and five changes of clothes. To his father he sent the following: ten donkeys loaded with the best things of Egypt and ten female donkeys loaded with grain and bread and provisions for his father on the journey. So he sent his brothers away, and they departed. He said to them, "Do not quarrel on the way." They went up out of Egypt and came to the land of Canaan to Jacob their father. They told him, "Joseph is still alive, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt." And Jacob's heart stood still because he could not believe them. They told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said to them, and when he saw the wagons that Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of their father Jacob revived. Then Israel said, "Enough! Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die."

So Israel set out with all that he had and came to Beersheba and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, "Jacob, Jacob." And he said, "Here I am." Then

He said, "I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there. I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you back again. And Joseph's own hand shall close your eyes."

Jacob arose from Beersheba, and the sons of Israel carried Jacob their father and their little ones and their wives in the wagons that Pharaoh had sent to carry him. They took their livestock and their possessions that they had acquired in the land of Canaan, and came to Egypt, Jacob and all his descendants with him. He brought with him to Egypt his sons and his sons' sons, his daughters and his sons' daughters, and all his descendants.



These were the names of the sons of Israel, Jacob and his sons, who came to Egypt:

- **Reuben**, Jacob's firstborn. The sons of Reuben were Hanok, Pallu, Hezron, and Karmi.
- The sons of **Simeon** were Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jakin, Zohar, and Shaul the son of a Canaanite woman.
- The sons of **Levi** were Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.
- The sons of **Judah** were Er, Onan, Shelah, Perez, and Zerah (but Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan). The sons of Perez were Hezron and Hamul.
- The sons of **Issachar** were Tola, Puah, Job, and Shimron.
- The sons of **Zebulun** were Sered, Elon, and Jahleel.

These were the sons of **Leah**, whom she bore to Jacob in Paddan Aram, with his daughter Dinah. All his sons and his daughters *numbered* thirty-three.

- And the sons of **Gad** were Zephon, Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon, Eri, Arodi, and Areli.
- The sons of **Asher** were Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi, Beriah, and Serah their sister. The sons of Beriah: Heber and Malkiel.

These were the sons of **Zilpah**, whom Laban gave to Leah his daughter; and these she bore to Jacob, sixteen in all.

The sons of **Rachel**, Jacob's wife, were **Joseph** and **Benjamin**.

- To **Joseph** in the land of Egypt were born Manasseh and Ephraim, whom Asenath the daughter of Potiphera, the priest of On, bore to him.
- The sons of **Benjamin** were Bela, Beker, Ashbel, Gera, Naaman, Ehi, Rosh, Muppim, Huppim, and Ard.

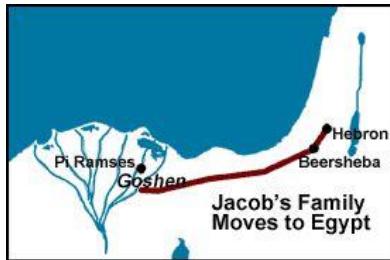
These were the sons of **Rachel** who were born to Jacob, fourteen in all.

- The son of **Dan** was Hushim.

- The sons of **Naphtali**: Jahziel, Guni, Jezer, and Shillem.

These were the sons of **Bilhah**, whom Laban gave to Rachel his daughter, and she bore these to Jacob, seven in all.

All those who came with Jacob to Egypt, who were direct descendants, besides the wives of Jacob's sons, were sixty-six in all. And the sons of Joseph, who were born to him in Egypt, were two. All those of the house of Jacob who came to Egypt were seventy.



Now Jacob sent Judah ahead of him to Joseph to get directions to Goshen. And they came into the land of Goshen. Joseph readied his chariot and went up to Goshen to meet Israel his father. As soon as he appeared to him, he fell on his neck and wept on his neck a long time. Israel said to Joseph, "Now let me die, since I have seen your face, because you are still alive." Joseph said to his brothers and to his father's household, "I will go up and tell Pharaoh and say to him, 'My brothers and my father's household, who were in the land of Canaan,

have come to me. The men are shepherds; their work has been to feed livestock, and they have brought their flocks and their herds and all that they have.' When Pharaoh calls you and asks, 'What is your occupation?' you shall say, 'Your servants have been keepers of livestock from our youth even until now, both we and our fathers,' so that you may dwell in the land of Goshen, because every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians." Then Joseph went and told Pharaoh, "My father and my brothers and their flocks and their herds and all that they possess have come from the land of Canaan and are *now* in the land of Goshen." He took five men from among his brothers and presented them before Pharaoh. Pharaoh asked his brothers, "What is your occupation?" And they said to Pharaoh, "Your servants are shepherds, both we and also our fathers." They said to Pharaoh, "We have come to sojourn in the land, for your servants have no pasture for their flocks, because the famine is severe in the land of Canaan. Now therefore, please allow your servants to dwell in the land of Goshen."

Pharaoh spoke to Joseph, saying, "Your father and your brothers have come to you. The land of Egypt is before you. Have your father and your brothers dwell in the best of the land. Have them dwell in the land of Goshen, and if you know any capable men among them, then put them in charge over my livestock." Then Joseph brought in Jacob his father and presented him to Pharaoh, and Jacob blessed Pharaoh. Pharaoh said to Jacob, "How old are you?" And Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The days of the years of my pilgrimage are one hundred and thirty years. My days of the years of my life have been few and evil, and they have not attained to the days of the years of the lives of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage." And Jacob blessed Pharaoh and went out from his presence. So Joseph settled his father and his brothers and gave them a possession in the land of Egypt, in the best *part* of the land, in the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had commanded. Joseph provided food for his father, his brothers, and his father's entire household, according to the number of *their* children.



There was no food in all the land, for the famine was very severe, so that the land of Egypt and all the land of Canaan languished because of the famine. Joseph gathered up all the money that was found in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan for the grain that they bought, and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house. When the money was all spent in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came to Joseph and said, "Give us food, for why should we die in your presence? For our money is gone." Joseph said, "Give your livestock, and I will give you *food* for your livestock, if *your* money is gone." They brought their livestock to Joseph, and Joseph gave them food in exchange for the horses, the flocks, the herds, and the donkeys; and he fed them with food in exchange for all their livestock for that year.

When that year was ended, they came to him the second year and said to him, "We will not hide it from our lord, that our money is all spent. Our lord also has our herds of livestock. There is nothing left in the sight of my lord but our bodies and our lands. Why should we die before your eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land for food, and we and our land will be slaves to Pharaoh. Also give us seed, so that we may live and not die, so that the land will not be desolate." So Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh, for every Egyptian man sold his field because the famine was severe on them. So the land became Pharaoh's. As for the people, he removed them to cities from one end of the borders of Egypt to the other end. Only the land of the priests he did not buy; for the priests had an allotment from Pharaoh, and they lived off their allotment that Pharaoh gave them. Therefore they did not sell their lands. Then Joseph said to the people, "I have bought you and your land today for Pharaoh; here is seed for you so you may sow the land. At the harvest, you must give a fifth part to Pharaoh and four parts will be your own, as seed for the field and for your food and for those of your households and for food for your little ones." They said, "You have saved our lives. Let us find grace in the sight of my lord, and we will be Pharaoh's slaves." So Joseph made it a law over the land of Egypt to this day, that Pharaoh should have the fifth part, except from the land of the priests, which did not become Pharaoh's.



Israel lived in the land of Egypt, in the land of Goshen, and they had possessions there and grew and became very numerous. And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years, so the years of Jacob's life were one hundred and forty-seven years. When the time drew near when Israel would die, he called his son Joseph and said to him, "If now I have found grace in your sight, please put your hand under my thigh and deal kindly and truly with me. Please do not bury me in Egypt, but let me lie with my fathers. Carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their burial place." And he said, "I will do as you have said." And he said, "Swear to me," and he swore to him. Then Israel bowed himself at the head of his bed. After these things, Joseph was told, "Your father is sick." So he took his two sons Manasseh and Ephraim with him. When Jacob was told, "Your son Joseph is coming to you," Israel strengthened himself and sat up in the bed.

Jacob said to Joseph, "God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and blessed me. And He said to me, 'I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make you into a multitude of people and will give this land to your descendants after you for an everlasting possession. Now your two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine. Any children you have after them will be yours and will be called by the names of their brothers in their inheritance. As for me, when I came from Paddan, Rachel

died beside me in the land of Canaan on the way, when there was still some distance to get to Ephrath, and I buried her there on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem)."

Then Israel saw Joseph's sons and said, "Whose are these?" And Joseph said to his father, "They are my sons, whom God has given me in this place." And he said, "Please bring them to me, and I will bless them. Now the eyes of Israel were dim with age, so that he could not see. So Joseph brought them near to him, and he kissed them and embraced them. Israel said to Joseph, "I never thought I would see your face, but here God has also shown me your children." So Joseph took them from beside his knees, and he bowed down with his face to the ground. Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near him. Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh's head, crossing his hands, for Manasseh was the firstborn.

Jacob blessed Joseph and said, "God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who fed me all my life long to this day, the angel who redeemed me from all evil, bless the boys; let them be called by my name, and the name of my fathers, Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth."

When Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him, and he took hold of his father's hand to remove it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head. Joseph said to his father, "Not so, my father, for this one is the firstborn. Put your right hand on his head." His father refused and said, "I know it, my son, I know it. He will also become a people, and he will also be great, but truly his younger brother will be greater than he, and his descendants will become a multitude of nations." He blessed them that day, saying, "By you Israel will bless, saying, 'May God make you like Ephraim and Manasseh.'" So he set Ephraim before Manasseh. Israel said to Joseph, "I am about to die, but God will be with you and return you again to the land of your fathers. Moreover, I have given to you one portion more than your brothers, which I took out of the hand of the Amorites with my sword and my bow."



Jacob called to his sons and said, "Gather yourselves together, so that I may tell you what will befall you in the last days. Gather yourselves together and hear, sons of Jacob, and listen to your father Israel.

Reuben, you are my firstborn, my might and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power. Unstable as water, you shall not excel, because you went up to your father's bed; then you defiled it—he went up to my couch.

Simeon and Levi are brothers; weapons of violence are their swords. Let my soul not enter into their council; let my glory not be united with their assembly; for in their anger they killed men and in their self-will they hamstrung oxen. Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce; and their wrath, for it is cruel! I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel.

Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons will bow down before you. Judah is a lion's cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He crouches and lies down like a lion; and as a lion, who dares rouse him? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to him will be the obedience of the people. He tethers his foal to the vine, and his colt to the choicest vine; he

washes his garments in wine, his clothes in the blood of grapes. His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth whiter than milk.

Zebulun shall dwell at the haven of the sea; and he shall be a haven of ships. His border shall be at Sidon.

Issachar is a strong donkey, lying down between two burdens; he saw that a resting place was good, and that the land was pleasant, so he bowed his shoulder to bear the burden and became a slave to forced labor.

Dan shall judge his people as one of the tribes of Israel. Dan shall be a serpent by the road, a viper on the path, that bites the horse's heel so that its rider will fall backward. I wait for Your salvation, O LORD!

Gad shall be attacked by raiding bands, but he shall raid at their heels.

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

Naphtali is a doe set loose; he gives beautiful words.

Joseph is a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a spring, whose branches run over the wall. The archers bitterly attacked him, they shot at him and hated him. But his bow remained firm. His arms were agile because of the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob, because of the Shepherd, the Rock of Israel, because of the God of your father who will help you, and by the Almighty who will bless you with blessings from heaven above, blessings from the deep that lies beneath, the blessings of the breasts and the womb. The blessings of your father have surpassed the blessings of my fathers, up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills. They will be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him who was set apart from his brothers.

Benjamin is a ravenous wolf; in the morning he devours the prey, and at night he divides the spoil."



These are all the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father said to them when he blessed them. He blessed them, each with the blessing appropriate to him.

Then Jacob charged his sons and said to them, "I am about to be gathered to my people. Bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite, in the cave that is in the field of Machpelah, which is before Mamre in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought along with the field from Ephron the Hittite as a burial place. They buried Abraham and Sarah his wife there. They buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife there, and I buried Leah there. The field and the cave that is there were purchased from the children of Heth." When Jacob finished instructing his sons, he drew his feet into the bed, breathed his last, and was gathered to his people.

Then Joseph fell on his father's face and wept over him and kissed him. Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel. Forty days were required for him, for such is the time required for those who are embalmed. Then the Egyptians mourned for him seventy days. When the days of his mourning were past, Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh, saying, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, speak to Pharaoh, saying, 'My father made me swear, saying, 'I am about to die. Bury me in my tomb which I dug for myself in the land of Canaan.' Now therefore please let me go

up and bury my father, and then I will return.’ Pharaoh said, “Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear to do.”

Joseph went up to bury his father, and all the servants of Pharaoh went up with him too, the elders of his household and all the elders of the land of Egypt, all the house of Joseph and his brothers and his father’s household. They left only their little ones and their flocks and their herds in the land of Goshen. Both the chariots and horsemen also went up with him. It was a very great company.

When they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, they mourned with a great and very sorrowful lamentation. He observed seven days of mourning for his father. When the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the mourning at the threshing floor of Atad, they said, “This is a grievous mourning for the Egyptians.” Therefore the place was called Abel Mizraim, which is beyond the Jordan.

So his sons did with him just as he had commanded them. For his sons carried him into the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah, near Mamre, which Abraham bought with the field as a burial site from Ephron the Hittite. After he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, he and his brothers and all who went up with him to bury his father.

When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “Perhaps Joseph will hate us and will certainly pay us back for all the wrong we did to him.” So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this command before he died: ‘Say to Joseph, “I beg you, forgive the transgressions of your brothers and their sin. For they did evil to you.”’ Now, please forgive the transgressions of the servants of the God of your father.” And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face and said, “We are your servants.” Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? But as for you, you intended to harm me, but God intended it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many lives. So now, do not fear. I will provide for you and your little ones.” So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Joseph stayed in Egypt, he and his father’s household, and Joseph lived one hundred and ten years. Joseph saw Ephraim’s children to the third generation. Also, the children of Makir, the son of Manasseh, were brought up on Joseph’s knees. Joseph said to his brothers, “I am about to die. God will surely come to you and bring you out of this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.” Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, “God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here.” So Joseph died at the age of one hundred and ten years old, and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

Congratulations! You have now read all of the book of Genesis, plus a little more of 1 Chronicles.

You are off to a great start!