

Study No.3

Israel's Patriarchs

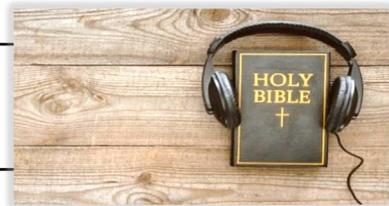
Timeframe of events:

c.1800 B.C. to c.1600 B.C.



Summary: In this section of Bible readings, we study the beginnings of the nation of Israel, commencing with the calling of Abram (Abraham) into the land of Canaan. These passages speak of his faith in God, and introduce us to some of his descendants, including Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. From Jacob and his 12 sons would come the nation of Israel who, by the end of the book of Genesis, find themselves in the land of Egypt.

Main Reading / Listening



Read and/or listen to the following passages at least once. Twice is better for taking it all in!

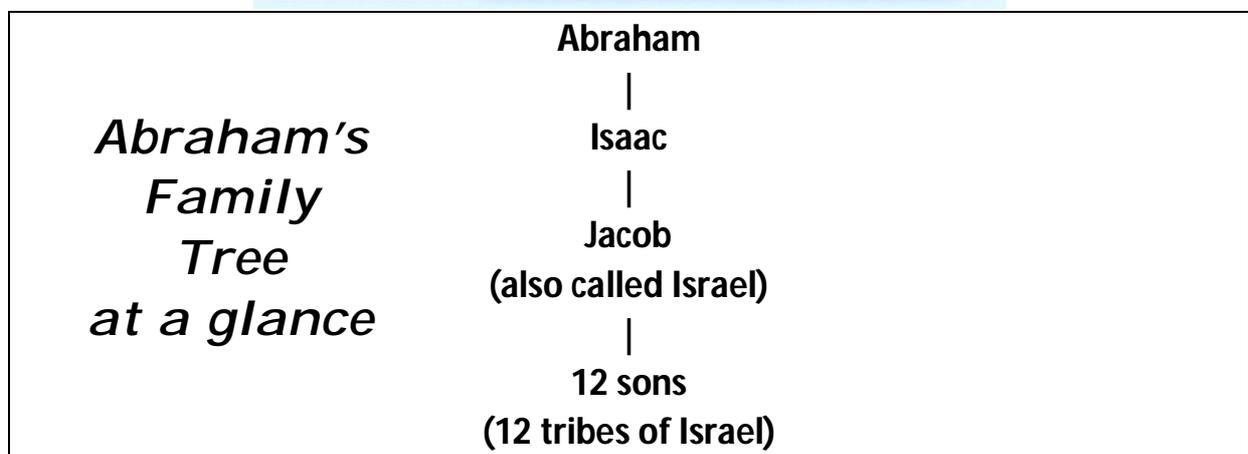
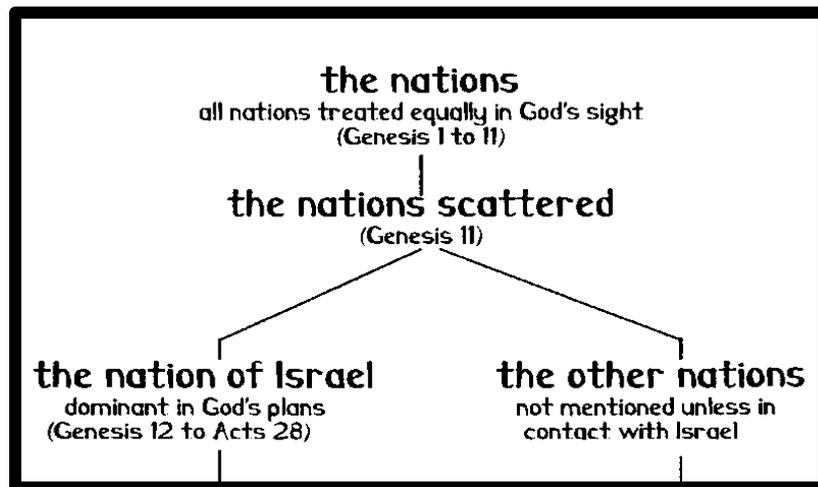
As a minimum, please read or listen to:

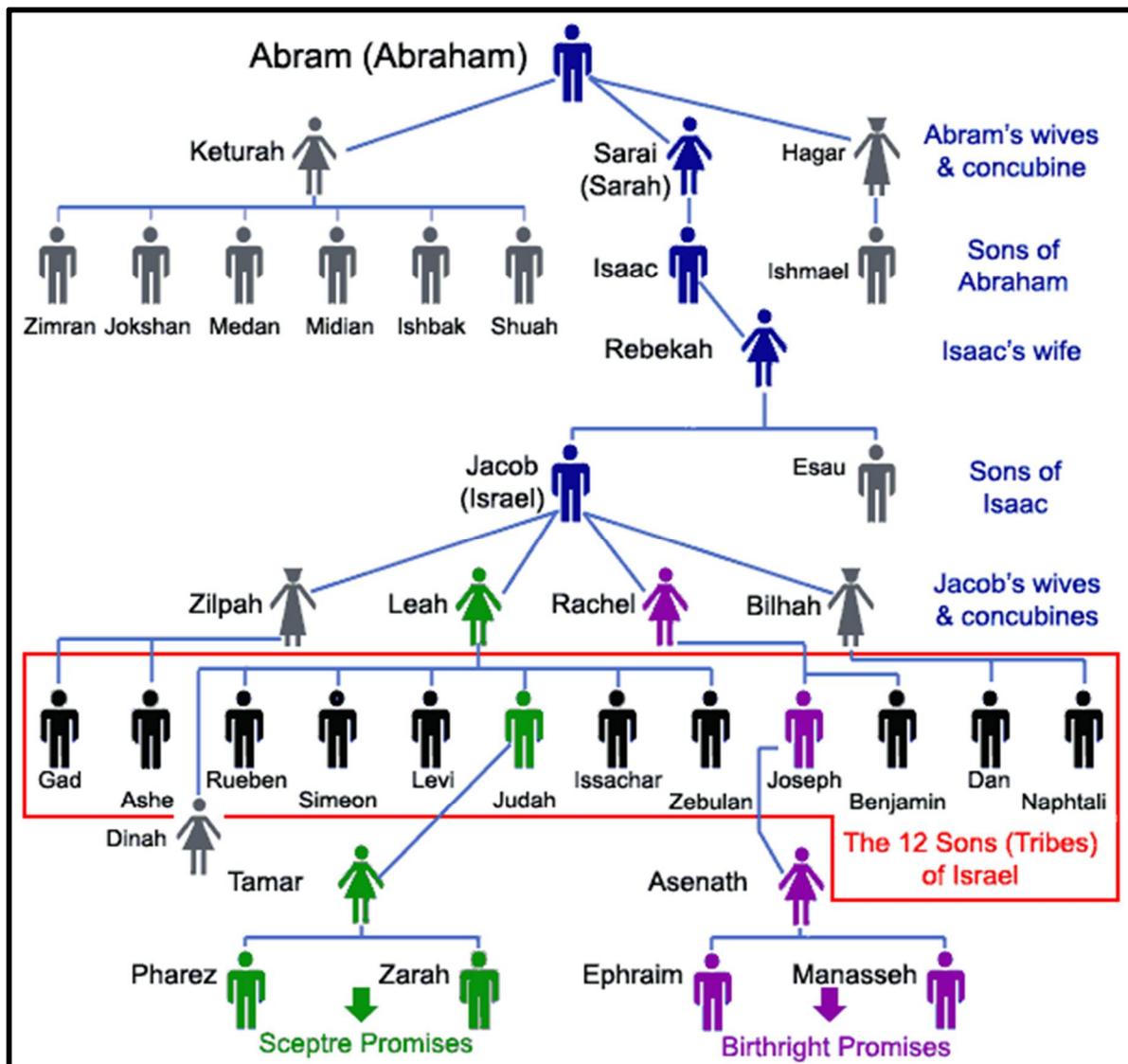
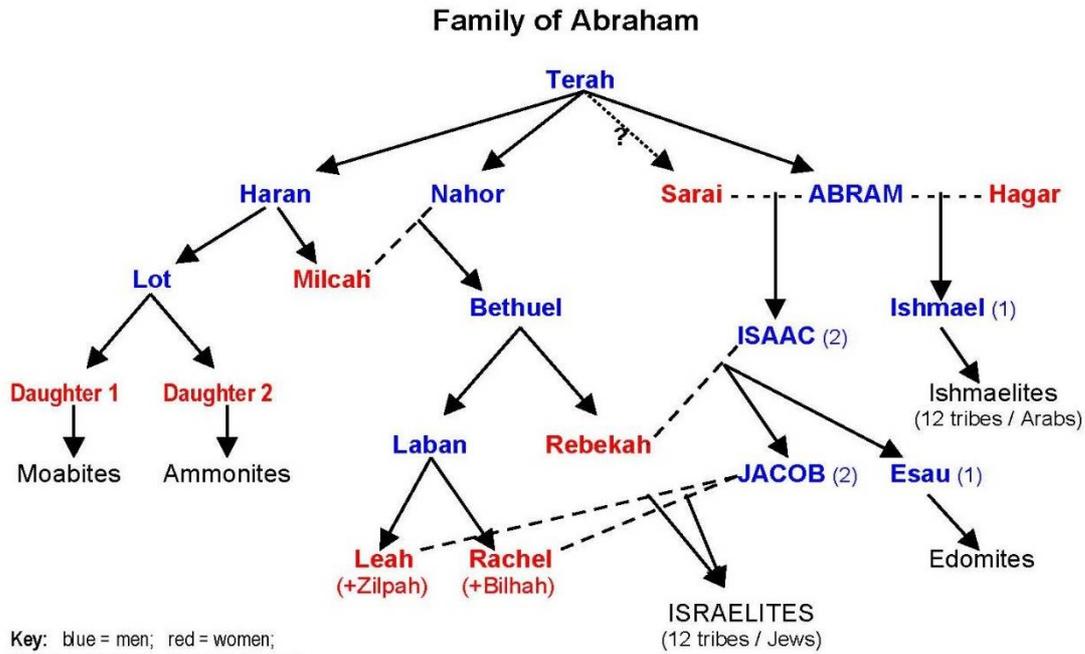
Genesis 12:1-3; 15:1-6; 50:24-26.

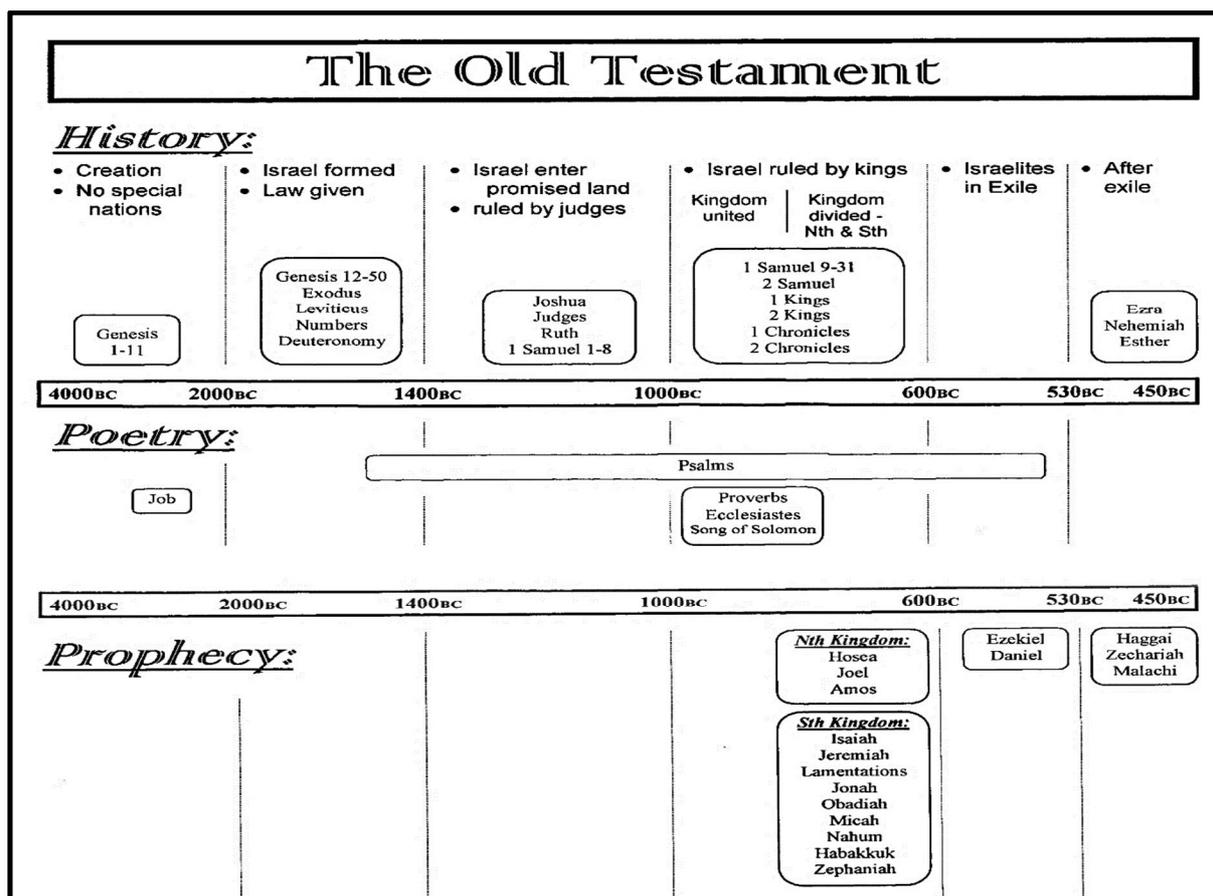
To read the entire Bible systematically, this week's readings are:

Genesis 11:24-32;
Genesis ch. 12 to 50
1 Chronicles 1:17 to 2:2
Psalm 105

Relevant Charts:







For further study:

Attempt one or more of the following tasks to enhance your understanding and appreciation of the main subjects covered in the readings above.

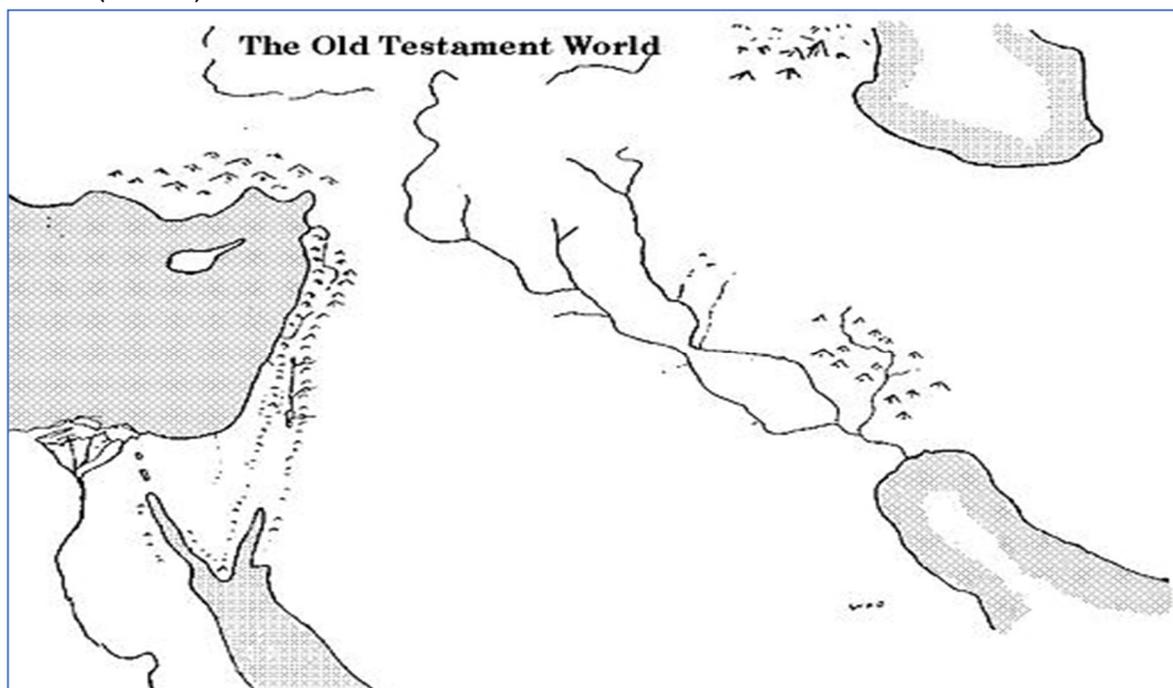


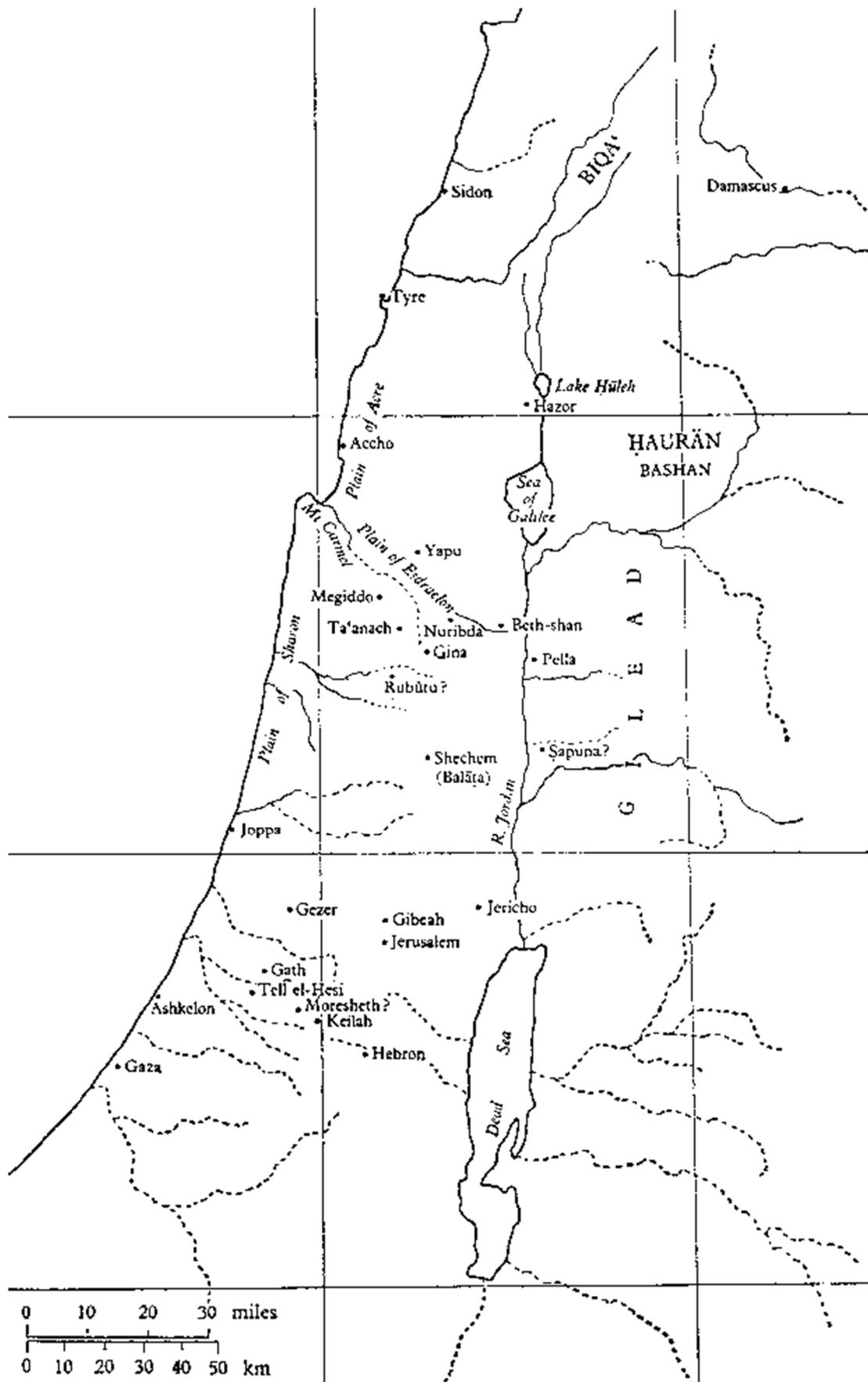
- Jot down any questions arising from this study's readings. Ask someone else for help, or conduct your own research to try and answer these questions.

- Note any passages, verses, themes or lessons that have stood out to you from this study's readings. Write down or verbalise your reasons.

- Read these other Bible passages that relate to the content of this week's readings:
 - Exodus 1:1-5
 - Exodus 13:17-19
 - Joshua 24:32
 - Psalms 72:8
 - Isaiah 51:1,2
 - Nehemiah 9:7,8
 - Luke 17:22-32
 - Acts 7:2-16
 - Romans 4
 - Hebrews 11:8-22
 - 2 Peter 2:4-11
- Locate the approximate sites of the following places on the two maps on the following pages (not all of these sites have been labelled). Refer to the maps as you study the Bible readings.

Ur (Genesis 11:29), Haran (11:31), Canaan (11:31), Shechem (12:6), Bethel (12:8), Ai (12:8), Egypt (12:10; 39:1; 42:3), the Negev or "the South" (13:1), plain of Jordan (13:10), Sodom (13:12), Hebron (13:18), Salt Sea or Dead Sea (14:3), Hobah (14:15), Damascus (14:15), the Wadi of Egypt (15:18), the Euphrates River (15:18), Zoar (19:22), Gomorrah (19:24), Gerar (20:1), Beersheba (21:14), Wilderness of Paran (21:21); Moriah (22:2), Beer Lahoi Roy (24:62), Padan-Aram (28:2), Gilead (31:22), Mizpah (31:49), Mahanaim (32:2), the ford of Jabbok (32:22), Peniel (32:30), Ephrath or Bethlehem (35:16, 19), Edom (36:8), Seir (36:8), Midian (37:28), Chezib (38:5), Timnah (38:14), Goshen (46:28), Jordan River (50:11).





For much deeper study:



- Read or refer to the following books, articles, etc. Some are available on www.systematicbiblestudy.com, and most are available in hard copy or electronic formats, online and offline:
 - Companion Bible Appendices:
 - 29. The Generations of Terah, Isaac and Jacob
 - "By Faith Abraham ..." by W. M. Henry
 - "Abraham's Progress in the Covenants of God" by Glen Burch
- Listen to these audio messages:
 - Charles Welch W74 - Survey of Genesis (esp. chs. 12 to 50)
 - Stuart Allen: A313 to 319, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph.

Consider and discuss the following questions:



- (1) What promises were given to Abram / Abraham?
- (2) Did Abram, Isaac and Jacob actually see God (Genesis 12 :7; 26:2; 32:30)? Explain your answer. If so, how is this compatible with statements made in Exodus 33:20 and 1 John 4:12?
- (3) Who was Melchizedek (Genesis 14:18-20)? What does it mean that he was spoken of as "the priest of God"? See Hebrews 6:19-7:28 & Psalm 110:4.
- (4) In Genesis 15:6, we are told that Abram "believed in the LORD and he accounted it to him for righteousness" . Romans 4 makes reference to this verse, and then comments at length on it. (a) What further light is shed upon Genesis 15 by the Romans 4 passage? (b) What is the difference between "belief" and "faith"?
- (5) Why did God change Abram's name to Abraham? (Genesis 17:5)?

(6) Why did circumcision play such an important role in God's dealings with Israel Chapter 17?

(7) Why weren't the females of Abraham's family required to undergo some kind of equivalent ceremony?

(8) Abram /Abraham was given promises about land in Genesis 12:7, 13:14-17; 15:18-21; & 17:8. What differences, if any, are there between these promises?

(9) Genesis 19:24 tells us, "Then the LORD rained down brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens." Where exactly was God when this event took place?

(10) In what way was Abraham a prophet (Genesis 20:7)? Did he prophesy or preach a message on behalf of God to anyone? If so, provide examples.

(11) In what way was Isaac a type of Christ?

(12) What was a concubine? (Genesis 25:6)

(13) The genealogical lists of 1 Chronicles 1:24-37 give details of the families of Abraham, Ishmael and Isaac. 1 Chronicles 1:38-54 then lists the kings of Edom and the sons of Seir (Seir is not mentioned before this reference). (a) Why are these included? (b) What connection did they have to Abraham's family?

(14) Read Hebrews 11:20. How was Isaac considered to be "faithful" in his blessing of Jacob and Esau (Genesis 27:1-35)? Didn't Isaac simply fall victim to a deceptive scheme?

(15) Jacob was deceitful about a matter that was to greatly shape the history of God's people Israel (Genesis 27:18, 19). Why do you think this incident was allowed to take place, given the enormous effect it had on the nation's future?

(16) Four lengthy chapters are dedicated to the story of Jacob finding his wives and having children by them (Genesis 28 to 31); yet less than one and a half chapters tell the story of the creation of mankind and the universe (Genesis 1:1-2:7). Why do you think this might be?

(17) Jacob had children by two wives and children by two handmaidens (Genesis 32:22). (a) Was this family, evolving from such relationships, approved of by God? (b) Are polygamous relationships acceptable to God today? Give reasons for your answer.

(18) In Genesis 32:22-32, Jacob wrestled with God and prevailed. (a) What does this mean? (b) How could this be? (c) Why did God do this?

(19) What is the significance of Jacob's name being changed to Israel (Genesis 32:28 cp. 25:26)?

(20) Abraham, Isaac and Jacob all deceived various people (Genesis 12:12,13; 20:2; 26:7; 27:18,19). (a) Do you think God was pleased with their behaviour in these instances? (b) Are there instances where Christians could use deception to achieve God's purposes today?

(21) What was the significance of Joseph's colourful tunic or robe (37:3; 31-33)?

(22) In Genesis, following several accounts of Abraham Isaac Jacob and Joseph, the narrative takes an unexpected detour for one single chapter (ch.38) and recounts an event concerning Judah and his family. What is the purpose of including this account? Refer to Matthew 1:1-3 for a possible reason.

(23) Do the events of chapter 38 illustrate that there are different moral expectations for men and women? Give reasons for your answer.

(24) Did God deliberately lead his chosen family into Egypt, or were these simply the circumstances in which Joseph and his relatives found themselves? (Gen 37:36; 39:1; 42:1-3). Give reasons for your answer.

(25) In Genesis 39:11-20, Joseph was entrapped, falsely accused of an act he did not commit, and thrown into prison for it. What has been your reaction if/when falsely accused of something?

(26) In reference to Genesis 42 to 45, was Joseph right to not immediately reveal himself to his brothers? Did he not cause them unnecessary angst?

(27) In what ways was Joseph a type of Christ?

(28) In Genesis 49:1, Jacob prophesied what would become of his 12 sons "in the last days" (NKJV), or "in days to come" (NIV). When, if at all, were these prophecies fulfilled?

(29) Why did Joseph want his bones taken back to Canaan? Refer to Genesis 50:24-26; Joshua 24:32; Hebrews 11:22.