

THE BOOK OF
GENESIS

(The Origin)

CLIFF NOTES BY:
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This is just a study guide and quick reference booklet. It is not intended in any way to be a replacement for your own Bible. The Bible is the living Word of God.

I would like to thank John Bair and Dwight Cartmel for their advice and assistance on this ongoing project.

Thank you to my daughter Savannah for her hours of proof reading.

Feel free to contact me at chandlgd@live.com for feedback or even criticism. The hope for this paper is for it to become a useful study helper. If the Lord is willing I plan to complete several more books from the Bible in this same manner. If you are interested in receiving additional copies please contact me by e-mail.

Thank you,

May the Lord bless you in your studies.

3rd Revision

Welcome to the Cliff Notes version of Genesis by Gregory Chandler. This is a condensed version of the King James Bible. When reading, the textual summary can be distinguished from added commentary based on the formatting: (Anything written in blue smaller letters are the author's commentary.)

Chapter 1

Genesis began with the creation of everything in the universe. This included the sun, moon, and stars which are to be used as signs for days, seasons, and years. In six days, God (The word God here is "Elohiym" which is plural) called into existence all things that ever were or ever will be. (Genesis 1, John 1:1 God has always existed. He had no beginning and will have no end. Psalms 90:2, 1 Chronicles 16:36.) In verse 26 God said, "let us make man in our image." (Notice this is plural "our" as in more than one.)

Chapter 2

God rested on the seventh day, He blessed and sanctified this day and no other day of the week. This day was to be called "Sabbath". (Sabbath means seventh repeating as a memorial the seventh day of creation Hebrews 4:8-16. Here we see that the Sabbath was given on the 7th day of creation long before it was put on stone as part of the 10 Commandments. The Sabbath is to be a sign between God and man. Exodus 31:13, Ezekiel 20:12, 20. God created the Sabbath to be a gift to all mankind not just a particular group of people. Isaiah 66:23, Mark 2:27. Jesus announced he was Lord of the Sabbath. Matthew 12:8, Mark 2:27-28, Luke 6:5 Thus the Sabbath is the Lord's Day.) God used mist to water the earth, it had not yet rained. (Genesis 2:5-6) He formed man of the dust of the ground. He then caused a deep sleep to come upon man and from his rib in the womb of man, God created Adam's wife, a woman. (Genesis 2:22-24) Together, they were placed in the Garden of Eden as its keepers. Inside the garden, God placed two special trees.

One was called, "The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil" and the other "The Tree of Life." Adam then stated, "woman is bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh. Man shall leave his mother and father and cleave unto his wife as one flesh." They were both naked and unashamed.

Chapter 3

The serpent was known for being more subtle than any other creature and he questioned the "woman" about what they could and could not eat in the Garden. The "woman" told the serpent that everything was good to eat, EXCEPT for the "Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil," eating from it would surely bring death upon them. The serpent told her that she would not die but become as gods, knowing the difference between good and evil. (Here it is important to realize that knowing means to: distinguish, perceive or experience.) The "woman" saw it was pleasant to the eye and she ate of it and then gave it to her husband; he also ate of it. (Important point here is to see that they didn't actually physically die immediately. The death God was referring to was the separation from God, for he is the giver of all life. This separation was caused by sin. Sin is the transgression of the Law. 1 John 3:4 The penalty for sin however is death. Romans 6:23 Satan deceived the woman by telling a half truth. Indeed they did not die immediately after eating it, two things happen. First, their physical existence was determined to cease in the future. Second, their ultimate existence was in jeopardy and without intervention of a Savior they were destined to not exist forever.) Upon eating it, their eyes were opened and they felt ashamed of their nakedness. (Here the word opened means: to be made aware.) When God came to walk in the garden, they hid for they were

afraid. God questioned them saying, "Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?" Adam blamed God by stating, "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat." The "woman" said the serpent beguiled (Deceived, tricked) her. God cursed the serpent above all cattle and beasts of the field; (Genesis 3:14 Not only did they do as God told them not to do, they then refused to take responsibility for their actions and blamed others for what they themselves had done.)

He then put enmity (hatred) between the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent saying, "it shall bruise thy head, and thou shall bruise his heel." (Here the seed of the woman is Jesus and the seed of the serpent is Satan and his demons. The part of bruising his head refers to Jesus concurring Satan and death and casting them away forever. The part about bruising his heel refers to the crucifixion but Jesus overcame that and was resurrected after three days and three nights.)

God told the "woman" that He would multiply her sorrow during birth and her desire would be to her husband who would also rule over her. God cursed the ground with thistles, condemning Adam to work the ground by the sweat of his face. God informed them that they were formed from the dust and to the dust they would return. Adam then named the "woman" Eve, mother of all living things. God made them coats of skin and clothed them. (Genesis 3:21 Notice: God makes the first sacrifice: an animal to cover man's sin.) He then stated that, "Behold man is become as one of us, to know good and evil." (Here again, we see a plural us. Genesis 1:26) God sent them from the Garden of Eden so they would not be able to eat of the "Tree of Life" and have the

privilege of living forever; He placed Cherubims and a flaming sword to guard the gate. (Romans 3:20 and Romans 7:7 To have knowledge of evil you must know the Law. So was the Law given to them upon eating of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil? And yet the command to not eat of the tree was a Law with cause and effect)

Chapter 4

Adam and Eve had two sons Cain the first, then Abel. Abel was a sheep keeper; Cain was a tiller of the ground.

They made sacrifices unto God. Cain's was of the fruit of the ground. (While grain offerings are acceptable, Cain's offering was not a first fruit or the best. Later Israel is condemned for bringing blind offerings. Malachi 1:8) Abel's was of the firstlings of his flock. God respected Abel's sacrifice but rejected Cain's. (How did they know to make sacrifices if they had not known they had sinned? Sin can only be known through the Law. Romans 3:20 and Romans 5:13 Again we see that the Law must have already been given to them.)

Cain was angry. God told him of the reward prepared for him if he obeyed God and of the sin waiting at the door with failure. (Verse 7: Here sin is mentioned for the first time. See previous notes) Cain killed Abel, God searched for Abel and asked Cain where he was? Cain replied, "am I my brother's keeper?" God cursed Cain and all he did. Cain became a fugitive and a vagabond. Cain pleaded to God; he believed the burden placed on him was too much to bear. God placed a mark on Cain so that all who found him would know he was cursed. Anyone that killed him would

receive vengeance seven fold. Cain went to dwell in the land of Nod with his sister, the woman whom he took as his wife. They bore a son called Enoch.

Adam and Eve had another son called Seth. Seth had a son named Enos. Man began to call upon the name of the Lord.

Chapter 5

Adam lived to be 930 years old, he was 130 years old when Seth was born; he had many sons and daughters. Seth had Enos at 105 years, he lived to be 912 years old. Enos had Cainan at 90 years and lived to the age of 905 years. Cainan had Mahalaleel at 70 years, he lived to be 910 years. Mahalaleel had Jared at 65 years and lived to be 895 years old. Jared had Enoch at 162 years and lived to 962 years. Enoch had Methuselah at 65 years of age and lived to be 365 years. Enoch had, "the testimony that he walked with God. (Genesis. 5:22) and he was not; for God took him." (We later find out in Hebrews 11:13-15 that he did die, not taken to heaven as some believe. John 3:13) Methuselah had Lamech at 187 years of age and lived to be 969 years. Lamech had Noah at 182 years old and lived to be 777 years old. Noah, at 500 years old had Shem, Ham, and Japeth.

Chapter 6

Man began to multiply on the earth. At that time, God limited man to 120 years of life. "God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." God repented that he made man and it grieved his heart; because of this, He chose to destroy man, beast, creeping thing, and fowl of the air. Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord for he was a just man and walked with God.

The earth was so filled with violence that God told Noah to build an ark out of gopher wood and cover it in pitch, (pitch was used as a coating for water proofing) He provided the dimensions and instructions on how to build the ark. God stated, "Behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh...and everything that is in the earth shall die." God established a covenant with Noah that he, his wife, 3 sons, and their wives could enter into the ark for protection. Noah was to take two of everything male and female into the ark to preserve their species; Noah did as God commanded him.

Chapter 7

God called Noah righteous and gave him instructions on which animals were to be put in the ark. He was to take all clean beasts by sevens, male and female. Unclean beasts were to be taken by twos, male and female. (This shows that the concept of clean and unclean animals is understood long before the instructions are given to Israel. Leviticus 20:25, Leviticus 11, Deuteronomy 14)

God told Noah that He was going to break open the fountains of the deep and cause rain to fall upon the earth for 40 days and 40 nights. (We see here that it will rain. Rain had never fallen on the earth until the rains came for the flood. Genesis Ch2:5-6) He would destroy every living thing He had created. Noah did as God commanded; the flood came when Noah was 600yrs old. (The time from Adam until the flood is about 1656 years.)

In the 600th year of Noah's life, on the 2nd month, 17th day, the fountains of the earth opened and the rains came. The water covered the mountains by 15 cubits; all flesh upon the earth perished. (15 cubits =22.5 ft.) The water prevailed upon the earth for 150days.

Chapter 8

God remembered Noah and everything on the ark. The water began to recede and on the 17th day of the 7th month, the ark came to rest upon Mount Ararat. On the 1st day of the 10th month, the tops of the mountains could be seen. Noah opened his only window and sent

forth a raven and then a dove to see if the waters were abated off the ground. The dove found no rest and returned; seven days later he sent the dove out again. The dove returned with a fresh olive leaf. Seven days later, Noah sent the dove out again and it did not return. When Noah was 601 years old, on the 1st day of the 1st month, the waters were dried up and Noah removed the ark's covering. On the 27th day of the 2nd month, God told Noah that he, all the creatures, and his family were to leave the ark, and to be fruitful and multiply. (Noah going into the ark until God commanded them to leave was 1yr and 10days. Genesis 7:11)

Noah took of every clean beast and fowl and offered a burnt sacrifice on the altar he had built. (This is another confirmation of pre-Sinai understanding about clean and unclean animals and the broader implication of an understanding of the law. We also see some of the purpose to take 7 pairs of clean animals.) God smelled the offering and said in his heart, "I will not again curse the ground anymore for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth." (Proverbs 6:14, Romans 3:12) He then said, "While the earth remaineth seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

Chapter 9

God blessed Noah and his sons. He told them, "be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth." God informed Noah that, "But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood therefore, shall ye not eat." God would require the life of any man that did not keep that law. For, "Whoso sheddeth man's blood by man shall his blood be shed, for in the image of God man he made". (Thou shall not kill is reiterated to Noah's family.) God established a covenant with Noah, his sons, and every living beast that he would not destroy the earth again. God set His "bow" (Rainbow) in the clouds as a reminder of that everlasting covenant.

Noah's son Ham had a son called Canaan. From the 3 sons of Noah, today's world would be populated. Noah planted a vineyard and drank of the wine and he became drunk. While Noah was lying in his tent, naked, Ham walked in and saw his father. He told his 2 brothers, Shem and Japeth, of their father's nakedness; the two sons, Shem and Japeth, put a blanket on their shoulders and walked backwards into their father's tent to cover him. When Noah awoke, he was aware that Ham, his youngest son, had told his brothers of his nakedness. Canaan was cursed because of his father, Ham's, actions; he was to become a servant of servants. Noah blessed Shem and Japeth. Canaan was to be their servant. Noah

lived 350 years after the flood; he was 950 years old when he died.

Chapter 10

Japeth had sons named Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Mescech, and Tiras. (The land of Magog plays a role later in Ezekiel 38&39.) Ham had multiple sons one was named Cush. Cush was Nimrod's father. Nimrod was great upon the earth and became a mighty hunter before the Lord.

Nimrod's kingdom was Babel. (This will be a place that will be referred to many times in later scriptures.)

The Canaanites people came from Ham's son, Canaan. This is also where the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were located.

Shem had several sons. (This is the blood line that will bring us Jesus.) Noah's three sons were divided and bore their own nations after the great flood.

Chapter 11

The earth was one language. In the land of Shinar, where Nimrod was king, they decided to erect a city with a tower that stretched unto the heavens. The Lord ("Lord or Jehovah" means the existing one. It is the proper name of the one true God.) came to see what they were building and was troubled. The Lord said, they all have one language and now nothing they imagine to do will be restrained. Let us go and confuse their language and scattered them across the face of the earth. (Notice the word "us" is used again) The tower was not finished and the city was called Babel. (Babel means: confusion)

Shem was 98 years old when the flood came; he lived to be 600 years old. The blood line that came from Shem extended several generations until Terah was born. Terah had Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Haran had a son named Lot but Haran died in Ur. Abram took a wife named Sarai. (Abram's half-sister Genesis 20:12) Terah, Abram, Sarai, and Lot (Terah's grandson, Abram's nephew) journeyed to Canaan where Terah died at 205 years old.

Chapter 12

God told Abram to leave that land and go to a land that He would show him. God told Abram: "I will make you a great nation; bless those that blessed his seed and curse those that cursed them." Abram was 75 years old when he took Sarai and Lot and left Haran. God appeared to Abram and promised that land to Abram's children; he built an altar to the Lord and prayed to him.

A famine forced Abram and the others to leave for Egypt. Sarai was so beautiful that Abram told everyone she was his sister so they would not kill him. Pharaoh took Sarai into his house and gave Abram sheep, oxen, asses, menservants, she asses, maidservants, and camels for her. This angered the Lord and He plagued Pharaoh and his house. Pharaoh discovered that she was Abrams wife and commanded them all to go away.

Chapter 13

Abram went back to Bethel, (House of God) where he made the last altar and he dwelled there and called on the name of the Lord (Jehovah). Lot's and Abram's herd were too numerous for the land to handle. This caused arguments; Abram offered Lot his pick of land in any direction. Lot surveyed the land and took the land of Jordan towards Sodom and Gomorrah. The men of

Sodom were wicked sinners before the Lord. (Here again: where there is no Law there is no sin; so the Law must have been known. Romans 3:20 and Romans 5:13) God showed Abram the land in all directions and gave it to his seed forever. Abram's seed was to be as the dust of the earth, innumerable. Abram went to Hebron; upon his arrival, he built an altar to the Lord.

Chapter 14

Time passed and 5 kings of Sodom, Gomorrah, and surrounding areas rose up against the 4 kings that ruled them. The king of Sodom and his allies were defeated and Lot was taken into captivity. Some of those that escaped fled to Abram where they told of Lot being captured. In preparation for an attack, Abram took 318 of his well-trained menservants and divided them up; he rescued Lot. "Melchizedek, king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God." (Here we see Melchizedek mentioned: he is Jesus, the Christ himself. Psalms 110, Hebrews 7) Abram paid tithes to Melchizedek. (This is another example of already knowing the Law long before it is given: by Abram paying tithes. Leviticus 27:30-32) He refused to keep any of the stolen items as they did not belong to him.

Chapter 15

Abram had a vision from the Lord and questioned him about being childless. (Genesis 11:30) God answered. He told him his seed would be as numerous as all of the stars even though Sarah was barren. Abram, "believed in the Lord; and He counted it to him for righteousness." (It took believing or having faith in the Lord for it to count as righteousness.)

Abram asked the Lord, "whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?" God told Abram to prepare several animals for a sacrifice. However, as the sun was going down, a deep sleep came upon him and a horrible vision appeared to him. God told him that his seed would be slaves for 400 years. However, they would be freed with great riches and those that enslaved them would be judged by God. (Exodus 12:35-41) God told Abram that his years would be immense; He made a covenant with Abram.

Chapter 16

Sarai and Abram were impatient as they had not yet bore any children. Instead of waiting upon the Lord and his promise, Sarai sent her hand maid, Hagar, to Abram. After being in Canaan for 10 years, Abram took Hagar as his wife and she conceived. This caused conflict between Hagar and Sarai. Sarai was vicious towards Hagar and sent her away. Hagar fled; the Lord found her by a

fountain of water and told her to return and that He would multiply her seed so that it could not be numbered. He then instructed her to name her son Ishmael. He warned her that he would be a wild man and have conflict with everyone. Abram was 86years old when Ishmael was born.

Chapter 17

The Lord appeared to Abram when he was 99years old. The Lord told him to walk before him and be perfect; Abram fell on his face and God talked with him. God told him that he would be a father of many nations and from that point on, he was to be called Abraham. God told him that kings would come from his seed; God gave him all the land of Canaan as an everlasting possession. (From this line we will eventually get David and Jesus, who is King of kings and Lord of lords. 1 Timothy 6:15, Revelations 17:14, Revelations 19:16)

God instructed Abraham that every man child be circumcised at 8 days old. This was to include purchased slaves and strangers. God told him; "if any man is not circumcised, that soul will be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant." He told Abraham to change Sarai's name to Sarah, "she shall be a mother of many nations; kings of people shall be of her". God told Abraham that he would have a child with Sarah; Abraham fell on his face and laughed. He said in his heart, how could a man who is 100years old and a

woman who is 90 years old have a child? God told him that they would have a son who was to be called Isaac, that Ishmael would be blessed and that 12 princes would come from him; he would become a great nation. *(Ishmael is considered the father of the Arabs and considered a prophet in the Islamic faith because he was Abraham's true first born. However, the promise was to Abraham and his wife Sarah not Hagar. The impatience of Sarah and Abraham has caused this conflict that still continues today.)* As God commanded, Abraham was 99 years old and Ishmael was 13 years old when they were circumcised.

Chapter 18

In the land of Mamre the Lord and two others appeared to Abraham; (Here we can know that this was Jesus who appeared to Abraham. Exodus 33:20, John 1:18, John 5:37, John 6:46, 1 Timothy 6:15-16) he bowed down and asked them to stay for water, food, and to wash their feet. He fixed an excellent meal and served his guests. They asked; "where is Sarah thy wife?" At the time appointed by God, she would give birth to a son. Sarah overheard this and began to laugh because they were both old. The Lord questioned Abraham. Why is Sarah laughing? He then asked, "is anything too hard for the Lord?" (Now we have learned that both of them have laughed at God's plan.) Sarah denied laughing when confronted but the Lord stated: "but though didst laugh".

As they arose and looked towards Sodom, the Lord informed Abraham of his plan to destroy the city. The

Lord knew that because Abraham was to become a mighty nation, he would command his children and his household to do justice and show mercy; this was the way of the Lord.

The Lord was going to Sodom and Gomorrah because of their vast sins. He wanted to assess the pleas which had come to Him from the people. Abraham blocked the Lord's way and asked him to spare the city if 50 righteous people could be found. He then challenged the Lord by saying, "shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" With great humility, Abraham negotiated with the Lord to spare the city if 10 righteous people could be found; the Lord agreed. (We see here that the Lord listens to our request. He is willing to grant our request if they are made properly and for the right reasons. James 4:3, Matthew 6:25-34, Luke 12:22-34, John 14:14. There must be an additional note added to this; first it must be asked with the right attitude and not for selfish reasons; second it must be in the Lord's will. John 15:5-8, Matthew 7:7-8)

Chapter 19

The Lord departed from the angels and the two angels continued to Sodom. Lot was setting in the gate and saw them coming, he bowed to them and begged them to come to his house for food, to clean their feet, and to stay the night; he made them unleavened bread and they ate. (Here is the first mention of unleavened bread in scripture. Leavening will be used as a representation of sin: the leavening spreads through the bread the way sin spreads through everything. 1 Corinthians 5:9-13 Galatians 5:9)

As night approached, the men of Sodom went to Lot's house. They asked that the angels be brought out, that they might know them. (The word "know" here means: to know intimately as a man and a woman, to have sex.) Lot went outside and begged the men not to do wickedly unto the angels; he even offered his two virgin daughters in their place. They refused. The angels pulled Lot inside, closed the door and caused blindness to come upon the men both small and great. The angels told Lot to gather his family because they were going to destroy the city. Lot went to gather his son-in-laws but they refused and mocked him. When the morning came, the angels grabbed Lot, his wife, and his two daughters and set them outside the city. They told them, "escape to the mountains." Lot begged with them to let them go to Zoar instead. The angels granted him that favor and told them to hurry because they could not destroy the cities until they were safe. The angels gave them instructions not to look back, lest they be consumed. As the sun rose, fire and brimstone came from the Lord out of heaven. It destroyed the cities, all the people, and all that grew on the ground. Lot's wife looked back and became a pillar of salt. (The words, "look back" does not only mean to turn and look at, it also means to show regards for, remember fondly, to think on Luke 17:31-32. The New Testament has a reference to this: Luke 9:57-62. She was saved from the destruction that came on Sodom and yet her heart longed to be back there. Proverbs 26:11)

Abraham awoke the next morning and looked toward Sodom and saw the smoke as if it were a furnace,

the city and plains were destroyed. Lot feared for his safety in Zoar so he headed to the mountains. (This is where the Lord told him to go to start with, but he begged to go to the city. Genesis 19:17)

While in the caves, his two daughters got Lot drunk and went in to him at night. They did this so that they might preserve the seed of their father. The oldest one had a son named Moab and the youngest had a son and named him Benammi.

Chapter 20

Abraham traveled through Gerar and came into contact with Abimelech, the king. Again, Abraham told Sarah to say she was his sister. Abimelech took Sarah but before he had gone near her, God told him in a dream that if he touched her, he would die, for she was Abraham's wife. (This is the second time Abraham has done this; the first time was to Pharaoh. This time God intervenes and spares Abimelech the curses he put on Pharaoh. Genesis 12:17) When Abimelech woke up, he told his servants and they became afraid. They called Abraham and asked why he had done such a thing. They informed him that he could have brought a great sin on the king and his kingdom; he told them that he was afraid for his life. (The word sin is used again here. Remember you can have no sin where there is no Law. Romans 3:20 and Romans 5:13) Abimelech gave him sheep, oxen, men and women servants as restitution followed by 1,000 pieces of silver and permission to dwell where they chose. Abraham prayed to God and He removed the

curse from Abimelech and his kingdom. Because of Sarah, the Lord had closed the wombs of the house of Abimelech.

Chapter 21

When the appointed time had come, Sarah conceived a son named Isaac. *(The name Isaac means "He Laughs" Remember: they laughed when God told them they would have an heir.)* Isaac was circumcised at 8 days old; Abraham was 100 years old at this time. Once Isaac was weaned, Abraham prepared a great feast. *(Weaning usually occurs when the child is 3 years old.)* Sarah saw Ishmael mocking him and told Abraham to cast out Hagar and Ishmael; she did not want the son of a bond woman to be heir with her son. God comforted Abraham and told him that Ishmael would become a great nation. Once cast out, Hagar and Ishmael took food and water to wander in the wilderness of Beersheba. They wandered around until the water was gone; then she abandoned him beside a tree because she could not stand to watch her son die. Hagar cried out to God, He heard her and told her of the plans He had for her son. A water well appeared; they drank.

As promised, Ishmael grew up to become an archer and dwelled in the wilderness of Paran and he took an Egyptian woman to be his wife. Abimelech and Abraham each swore that they would be truthful to each other;

Abimelech saw how God blessed Abraham. Abraham mentioned a well that he had dug which was taken from him by force. Abimelech said he knew nothing about this until now. Abraham then gave him seven ewe lambs as a witness that the well belonged to him. They made a covenant with each other; Abraham planted a grove and dwelt there many days.

Chapter 22

God decided to give Abraham a test of his obedience, He told him to travel three days to Moriah and offer Isaac as a burnt sacrifice. On the next morning, Abraham arose early and set off to Moriah. They took the wood, fire and a knife to the top of the hill and Isaac asked where the sacrificial lamb was. Abraham told him that God would provide a lamb; he built an altar. Isaac was then bound and placed on the wood; Abraham grabbed the knife to slay him but the angel of the Lord appeared and said, "lay not thy hand upon the lad, neither do anything to him!" The angel of the Lord told Abraham that he knew he feared God because he was willing to sacrifice his only son as God had commanded. (Very important to understand that the word fear in this verse means: to reverence, to humble yourself, to be faithful towards, to show a worshipful respect, to fear God is to do his will. Psalms119:120) A ram appeared for them to use as a burnt offering. Abraham called that place Jehovah-jireh. (This means: "Jehovah Will Provide". This is believed to be located at what we now call The Temple Mount. The Muslim Dome of the Rock now sits there.) The angel of the Lord

told him, "By myself have I sworn, sayeth the Lord, for because thou has done this thing, and has not withheld thy only son, thine only son: that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and the sand which is upon the seashore; and thy seed shall possess the gates of his enemies." Abraham's brother Nahor had many sons, one was called Bethuel. Bethuel had a daughter named Rebekah.

Chapter 23

Sarah died at 127years old in the land of Canaan. Abraham mourned and wept for her; he asked the sons of Heth to sell him a place to bury his wife. They refused to sell him a place but instead offered to give him a place of his choosing. Abraham refused; he offered Ephron 400 pieces of silver. Ephron agreed to be paid for the land and Sarah was buried in the land of Canaan.

Chapter 24

When Abraham was very old, he asked his oldest servant to find Isaac a wife. He made his servant swear that she would be from his kin and not a Canaanite woman. He went to Nahor and waited by a well where the women came to gather water. He began to ask God to send him the right woman for Isaac. He asked that the damsel, "to whom I say, let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, drink and I will give thee camels to drink also: let the same be the one that thou hast appointed." Before he could even finish asking, Rebekah, Abraham's great niece, appeared. She was fair to look upon and a virgin. She offered him and the camels' water, just as he had asked. She was given an earring and two bracelets. He asked if there was room at their home for him to lodge; she said they had plenty of room. He bowed his head and worshiped the Lord. Her brother Laban ran out to greet him and was informed that he was Abraham's servant and was sent to find a wife for Isaac. He asked Laban and Bethuel if Rebekah could return with him to be Isaac's wife. When they agreed he fell on his face and worshipped the Lord. He gave jewels of silver and gold to Rebekah and precious things to her mother and brother.

Rebekah and her nurse left the next morning with the servant of Abraham. While Isaac was meditating in

the field, he saw the camels approaching. As they approached, she fell off her camel and covered her face with a veil. Isaac took her to his mother's tent. He loved her and she became his wife. She was there to comfort him when his mother died.

Chapter 25

After Sarah died, Abraham took Keturah to be his wife. She gave him several sons but he loved Isaac more and gave him all that he had. He gave the sons of Keturah gifts and sent them away from Isaac. Abraham died at 175 years old and was buried by Isaac and Ishmael in the land he had purchased to bury Sarah. As promised, Ishmael had twelve princes and lived to be 137 years old.
(Genesis 17:20)

Isaac was 40 years old when he married Rebekah; she was barren but Isaac prayed to the Lord. He heard him and Rebekah conceived twins. The two struggled together inside of her and she talked to the Lord about it. He replied to her that there were two nations inside of her; one would be stronger than the other but the youngest would rule the oldest. When it became time to deliver, the first one was called Esau; he had red hair all over him. When he was being delivered, the other one, Jacob, grabbed his heel. Isaac was 60 when they were born. Esau became a cunning hunter and outdoorsman while Jacob was a plain man who lived in tents. Isaac

loved Esau but Rebekah loved Jacob. When Esau came in hungry from the field, Jacob offered to sell him some stew in exchange for Esau's birthright. (Birthright: the rights that come with being the first born.) After swearing to sell it to him, Jacob gave him stew, bread, and lentils. When he was finished eating, he began to despise his birthright.

Chapter 26

A second famine came to the land and Isaac went to the land where Abimelech was king. The Lord appeared to Isaac warning him not go to Egypt. Instead, he was to go to the land that was sworn to be Abrahams. God told him of the oath that He had made with Abraham and that his seed would be as numerous as the stars of heaven and that all nations would be blessed because of his father. The Lord said, "Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws." (This quote from Genesis 26:5 leaves no room for doubt that man was aware of God's Law long before Mt. Sinai. If you look at Deuteronomy 11:1 it is similarly worded as this passage which was given after Mt. Sinai. Jeremiah 31:33 says that the Lord will put the Law in man's heart. The Law, as given by the Lord, is meant for all mankind not just the Jewish people. The Jewish people are not yet in existence.)

While dwelling in the land of Gerar, Isaac told them that Rebekah was his sister not his wife. He was afraid for his life because she was beautiful. (This is the same thing his father had done to Pharaoh and Abimelech. Genesis 12:13 and 20:2)

Abimelech questioned them on their true relationship

after watching them play together. He told them that they could have brought guiltiness on them if someone had decided to be with her; he then decreed that if anyone touched her, they would be put to death. (This is his second time going through this. Abraham had done the same thing to him earlier.)

Isaac's fields were blessed with a great bounty; his flocks, herds, and menservants grew in number. The Philistines envied the blessing that he received from the Lord and they filled in all the wells that were dug by Abraham's servants. Abimelech asked Isaac to leave because they were mightier than the Philistines. Isaac left that area and had to travel through Gerar. After digging several wells that he had to fight over, he found a place that was far enough away that he could have both water and peace. The Lord appeared to him and told him that his seed would be blessed for his father's sake. He built an altar, pitched his tent and called upon the name of the Lord. Beersheba is currently the name of that place. Abimelech went to make a covenant with Isaac, he wanted to make sure they did no harm to each other. Principally, because Abimelech could see that Isaac was blessed of the Lord.

Esau took Judith the "Hittite" to be his wife at age 40; Isaac and Rebekah were sorrowed by his choice.

Chapter 27

As he grew old, Isaac became blind. He wanted to bless Esau before his death so he sent him out to kill venison. Rebekah wanted Jacob to be the one that was blessed so she sent him out to get goat meat so she could make Isaac's favorite meal. Because Esau was hairy and smelled of the outdoors, they plotted to dress Jacob up in Esau's clothes then cover his hands and neck with goat skin. Jacob brought the food to Isaac. He was confused as to how Esau could have returned so quickly from the hunt. He also questioned him on his voice. Isaac requested that Jacob come near to him so that he could touch him. He touched his hand and felt the hair but was still confused. He specifically asked him if he was Esau; Jacob lied and said he was. Isaac, still confused, asked him to come closer for a kiss. Isaac then smelled Esau's clothes and became sure that he was blessing Esau. He blessed Jacob with an increase of his crops; people and nations, his brother included, were to bow down to him. Those that cursed him would be cursed. Blessings would come to those that blessed him. Jacob had just left when Esau returned with the venison his father had asked for. When Isaac realized that he was deceived, he told Esau about his brother's deceit.

Esau screamed! His brother Jacob now had his birthright and the blessings from their father. He asked his father if

he had any blessings left to give him; Isaac told him that he would live by the sword and dwell in the fatness of the land. He concluded by telling him that someday he would be able to break the dominion his brother now had over him. Esau planned to kill Jacob after the mourning period for their father was over. Rebekah sent Jacob to her brother Laban after finding out about Esau's plan.

Chapter 28

Isaac told Jacob to choose a wife from Laban's daughters and not from the land of Canaan. Isaac blessed him with the land that was promised to Abraham.

When he stopped to rest for the night, he made a pillow out of stones. In a dream, he saw angels on a ladder that reached into heaven and the Lord stood above it and told him of the promise He made to Abraham. The Lord then told Jacob that the land he was on was to be his, that his seed would be as numerous as the dust of the earth and that He would be with him where ever he went. Jacob was afraid when he woke up. He thought that place was the house of God and the gate of heaven. He set up a pillar using the stones that were his pillow; he poured oil on it calling that place Bethel. Jacob knew that God was with him and would give him food to eat and clothes wear. (1Timothy 6:8, Read all of Luke 12 and Matthew 6 they give a great message concerning things of this world.) Jacob then said, "then shall

the Lord be my God: and this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee". (The word "tithe" actually means tenth. We find Leviticus 27:32 talks about giving back to God. Proverbs3:9-10 is a promise of what will happen if we do follow tithing. Malachi 3:7-12 is a warning and a test about whether to tithe or not. Will you tithe to God his part and test him for yourself?)

Chapter 29

Jacob continued on until he came to a well where flocks of sheep were being watered, he asked the Sheppards where he was and if they knew Laban. They told him they knew he and Rachel, his daughter, were coming to water their sheep. He removed the cover off the well and kissed Rachel and he revealed that he was Rebekah's son. Rachel ran off to tell her father that his nephew had arrived.

Laban had two daughters. Leah was the oldest and she had gentle eyes but Rachel was beautiful and well favored. Jacob fell in love with Rachel. He offered to work for Laban for seven years for the right to marry her. When the seven years had passed, Laban threw a big party. Jacob got drunk then Laban sent Leah instead of Rachel. It was not until morning that Jacob was aware that he had been deceived; he confronted Laban about their deal. He told him in their land, it was wrong for a younger sister to be married before the older. They agreed that Jacob would serve seven more years for

Rachel. She later became his wife; he loved Rachel more than Leah. When God saw this, he opened Leah's womb but Rachel was barren. Reuben was born to Leah, now she was sure that Jacob would love her. Over the course of time, she would have Simeon, Levi, and Judah.

Chapter 30

Rachel was jealous of Leah so she gave her handmaid Bilhah to Jacob as a wife. Bilhah had Dan then Naphtali. Leah also gave Zilpah her handmaid to be his wife and she had Gad then Asher. Leah gave Rachel mandrakes that Reuben had gathered so she could be with Jacob. She also bore Issachar and Zebulun; later, she would have a daughter named Dinah. Rachel then had another son named Joseph.

When it became time for them to leave Laban and find their own place to live, Jacob and Laban agreed to separate the sheep and cattle. Jacob would take the animals with a blemish then give those that had no blemish to Laban. Jacob took poplar, hazel, and chestnut branches and peeled them so the bark was removed, he then placed the branches in front of the watering trough where the strong animals came to drink and breed. This was so that they would conceive strong animals that had blemishes on them. Those would be considered part of Jacob's flock. When the sickly ones came to breed he

removed the branches and they had unblemished offspring. This allowed Jacob's herd to be strong and vigorous while Laban's herds reared unblemished but sickly young. Jacob received the blessings of the Lord.

Chapter 31

As Jacob's flocks increased, Laban's decreased. God told Jacob to head to the land that was given to his father. Laban noticed that he was not being blessed the same way that Jacob was and animosity began to take root in Laban's sons. Rachel and Leah were both considered strangers by their father, they too agreed that it was best to get out of that land as God had told Jacob in a dream.

Jacob's family left without telling Laban they were going. As Rachel packed, she stole her father's idols. It took three days for Laban to find out they packed and moved away but it took seven days for Laban to overtake them. In a dream, God told him not to speak good or bad to Jacob. Laban asked Jacob why he took off without telling him first. He answered, "Because I was afraid: for I said, Peradventure thou wouldest take by force thy daughters from me." Laban asked him why he stole his idols but Jacob refuted his claim that they took them. Jacob pronounced that whosoever was found with them in their possession would be killed. Laban began searching everyone's tent. Rachel's tent was the last to

be searched. She had hidden the idols with the camel's furniture. When her father came in to search, she was setting on the furniture; she informed him that she was not able to get up because she was on her period. When he did not find them, Jacob was very angry with him over his accusations.

He began to tell him how he had served him for 20years: 14years for his daughters, and 6years for his cattle. During that time, his pay had been changed ten times and any loss of sheep or cattle from Laban's flock was taken from Jacob's flock. Jacob told him that if it were not for the God of his fathers who rebuked you last night, you would have sent me away with nothing. Laban told him that he could not harm them because they were all his family, a covenant was made between the two of them. Jacob took stones and built another pillar that was to be a witness of their covenant. He called that place Galeed. In keeping this covenant, they were not to pass over this place to do the other harm. Jacob made a sacrifice on the pillar and celebrated with Laban, then returned home the next morning.

Chapter 32

As Jacob travelled, he was met by the angels of God. He called that meeting place Mahanalim. As they approached the land of Esau, Jacob began to be afraid. He remembered what he had done to his brother so he sent messengers ahead of him to meet his brother. They told him that Esau was on his way with 400 men. Jacob became very afraid. He divided his family into two different groups because if one was attacked, the other might be able to escape. He pleaded with God to save his family and reminded God of his promise to give him land and increase his seed.

That night, he told his servants to gather animals from each of his flocks and send them in front of his family to serve as an offering to Esau. With the animals separated in their own flocks, Esau received several gifts spread out over time.

Jacob sent his family to the other side of a stream as an added precaution. After returning, he wrestled with a "man" until dawn. When that "man" realized he could not prevail against Jacob, he touched Jacob's thigh and it popped out of joint. The "man" asked to be let go but Jacob refused to until he received a blessing. The "man" asked Jacob his name. Upon replying, the "man" told him he was to be called Israel. (Israel means "God prevails" when mentioned in the Bible it refers to the person or the nation that will come from his

decendants.) Israel then called that place Peniel, "for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved." After the sun had risen, Israel noticed that the tendon in his thigh had shrunk. Due to the infirmity (handicap) God had placed in the hollow of Israel's hip, the children of Israel no longer eat food from the hollow of the beast's hip. (The "man" Jacob wrestled with was the same one that appeared to Abraham before sending the angels to Sodom. This "man" was Immanuel which means "God with Us" Matthew 1:23 or Jesus which is pronounced "Yeshua". 2 Corinthians 12:9.)

Chapter 33

As Esau approached with his 400 men, Israel put the hand maids and their children in front, Leah and her children were next but Rachel and Joseph were put in the back as he had hoped to keep them safe. As Esau came closer, Israel bowed seven times to his brother. Esau embraced Israel and they wept together. When questioned on the flocks sent to Esau, Israel told him that they were gifts to appease him. Israel built a house and barns in a place he called Succoth; (booth, the same word for Feast of Booths, Tabernacles) he then went to Shalem to build an altar on a piece of land he purchased for 100 pieces of money. He called that place El-elohe-Israel. (God, Mighty of Israel).

Chapter 34

When Leah's daughter Dinah went out to visit the other girls in the area she was defiled by Shechem. He was leader of Shalem, where Israel had built his third altar. Shechem fell in love with her and asked Hamor, his father, to arrange it so they could get married. (Was he aware of the law on defiling a non betrothed virgin? Deuteronomy 22:28-29) Hamor went to Israel to see if an arrangement could be made but Israel's sons were very offended at what his son had done. Hamor offered anything Israel wanted as a dowry but he also wanted both tribes to intermingle and marry each other. (These people were Canaanites. The same people Isaac and Rebekah did not want Jacob to marry to begin with. Genesis 28:8) Angrily, Israel's sons told him she could not marry him because he was not circumcised. They would agree to intermarry, only, if all the men agreed to be circumcised. Hamor went back to discuss the proposition with all the men in the city. Three days after being circumcised, they were too sore to defend themselves and were killed by Dinah's brothers, Simeon and Levi. The brothers took all their possessions, including women and children. Israel chastised them for bringing trouble on them from other tribes in the land. They justified their behavior by saying, "Should he deal with our sister as with an harlot".

Chapter 35

God sent Israel to Bethel to build an altar just like his first one. Israel told his family to get rid of all their idols. He collected them along with their earrings then buried them under an oak tree near Shechem. No one pursued them for fear of Israel's God. (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were anointed prophets of Yehovah)

Israel built the altar then poured a drink offering and oil over it as God commanded. He called that place Elbethel. God appeared to Israel telling him once again of the land he would receive and of the blessings of kings and nations that would come from his seed. Rachel went into labor during their journey to Ephrath; she died while giving birth to Benjamin and was buried near Ephrath, in a place called Bethlehem. He placed a pillar on her grave that is still standing.

Leah's oldest son Reuben slept with Israel's concubine Bilhah. (She was Rachel's hand maid. This would be his half-brothers mom which was considered to be incest since his father had slept with her. Leviticus 18:8) Benjamin's birth gave Israel twelve sons. (Their genealogy can be found in Genesis 35: 23-26.) Esau and Israel reunited to bury their father when he was 180 years old.

Chapter 36

The blessings of Esau and Israel had become too great for the land to accommodate them both. Esau trekked to mount Seir with all of his possessions. Esau became known as Edom, the father of the Edomites. (Genesis 36:1-43 deal with the family of Esau and list them through many generations.)

Chapter 37

Israel continued to dwell in the land of Canaan. Joseph was Israel's favorite and showed this by making him a coat of many colors. His brothers hated him as he would tell on them when they did something wrong or picked on him.

He had two dreams: the first depicted his brothers as sheaves being obedient to him and the second revealed the sun, moon, and eleven stars bowing to him. This caused his brothers to hate Joseph even more. Israel asked Joseph if he thought his father and mother should bow to him.

His brothers left for Shechem to tend the flocks. Israel sent Joseph afterwards to help them but as he approached, they decided to kill him, throw him in a pit and tell their father that an animal had killed him. Reuben, the oldest brother, persuaded them to just throw him in a pit. He wanted to be able to take him back

to their father, not shed his brother's blood. When Joseph arrived, they threw him in the pit without his coat. Ishmaelites from Gilead approached on their way to Egypt to trade. The brothers decided to sell Joseph to them for twenty pieces of silver. Reuben was not with the other brothers when this was decided. Upon his return, he saw the pit was empty and he was very upset at them for what they had done. They took Joseph's coat then dipped it in blood so they could tell their father that he was killed by an animal. When they returned home, they showed Israel the coat. Believing his beloved son had been devoured, he tore his clothes and mourned for several days. He planned to mourn until his own death because he could not be consoled. Meanwhile, Joseph was sold to Potiphar who was Pharaoh's captain of the guard.

Chapter 38

Judah left his father and married a Canaanite named Shuah. She gave Judah three sons: Er, Onan, and Shelah. Judah's firstborn, Er, took Tamar as his wife. God killed him because of his wickedness. Israel told Onan to take Tamar as his wife to raise children up to his brother. Onan didn't want to raise children up to be his brothers so he spilled his seed on the floor to prevent her from becoming pregnant. Because He was displeased, God

killed him. Tamar went to live with her father until Shelah was old enough to marry her.

After Shuah's death, Judah left for Timnath with Hirah. Judah's daughter-in-law, Tamar, covered herself in a veil and went to Timnath to spy on him. Shelah had not come to take her for a wife as Judah had promised. Judah could not see her face and approached her thinking she was a harlot. She asked him what he would give her as payment for her services and they agreed on a kid from his flock but he did not have one to give her at that time so he let her hold on to his signet, staff, and bracelets as a pledge. Once she received the kid from his flock, she was to return those things to him. He went in to her and she conceived. When his friend brought the kid as payment, he could not find any harlot in the area.

Three months later, news that Tamar was pregnant got back to Judah. He was unaware that she was pregnant by him and he was going to have her burnt. When she arrived to face his judgment, she showed him the pledges he had given to her. He acknowledged his deed and felt remorse because he lied about sending his son to marry her. He never knew her again. (The word "knew" here means: to know intimately as a man and a woman, to have sex.) When the time had come for her to deliver, she gave birth to twins. When twins were born, the one that was seen first was considered the first born and a ribbon was placed on him

to signify which one had been the first born. However, after the ribbon was put on an arm, it was drawn back in. The first baby to actually be born did not have the ribbon on its arm. Pharez was the name of the first baby delivered but his brother Zarah had the ribbon on his arm.

Chapter 39

The Lord was with Joseph while he was living in Potiphar's house and Potiphar noticed the blessings that were bestowed upon everything that Joseph had accomplished. Potiphar showed him grace by making him head over his entire house and his wealth grew so immense that he could not grasp the thought of what he had obtained. While Potiphar was away, his wife asked Joseph to sleep with her; He refused because it would have been a sin against God. (The word "sin" is used again but this time it was referred to as sinning against God. God's Law would be broken if he did that wickedness violating the 7th and 10th commandments. We are still several hundred years before the Law will be given. We know this because Abraham's descendants have not yet been taken into bondage where they will be for 400 years.)

On a day when no one else was around, she grabbed at his garment but he pulled away and left the garment with her. She screamed that he tried to rape her and showed everyone, including her husband, the garment he left behind. In his anger, he had Joseph thrown into prison. The Lord remained with him while he was in prison.

(Hebrews 13:5) Joseph was made head over all the prisoners because everything he set out to do was prosperous.

Chapter 40

Pharaoh was offended by two of his servants so he had their chiefs thrown in prison under Joseph's control. One night, they each had a dream that saddened them. Joseph questioned them about their sadness and they told him that they had no one to interpret their dreams. Joseph replied, "Do not interpretations belong to God? tell me them, I pray you."

The chief butler told him about a vine with three branches. The vine produced grapes; he took those grapes and made Pharaoh a drink. Joseph told him that the branches meant that he would be reinstated in three days to his old position. Joseph told him to remember him and see if he could do anything to get him released from prison.

The chief baker was excited to hear about the butler's dream and told Jacob of his dream. He dreamt he was carrying three baskets of baked goods on his head to Pharaoh but birds came and ate the goods out of his basket. Joseph said that the baskets represented three days. However, after those days passed, he would be beheaded and hung from a tree to be food for birds.

On Pharaoh's birthday, he restored the butler to his position and the baker was beheaded as Joseph had interpreted. The butler did not remember Joseph after being restored to his position.

Chapter 41

Joseph was still in prison two years later when Pharaoh had a dream. He dreamt that seven fat cows came out of the river and fed in the meadows and then seven scrawny cows came out of the river and stood by the fat ones. The scrawny ones then devoured the fat ones. After he awoke from that dream, he fell back to sleep and another dream came to him. In this dream, seven fat ears of corn grew on one good stalk but seven thin ears of corn came up after them and devoured the fat ones. He was very troubled when he woke up so he asked all of the magicians and wise men to interpret his dreams. When no one could, the chief butler remembered that Joseph had interpreted his dream. He told Pharaoh of what had transpired concerning his dream and the dream of the baker. Pharaoh summoned Joseph from prison to interpret his dream. Joseph told him that he could not interpret it but that God would give the interpretation of the dream. Pharaoh then described both dreams to him. When Joseph heard both dreams, he told him that it was two dreams describing the same thing. Joseph told him that God was showing him events that were about to

emerge. The seven fat cows and the seven good ears of corn both described seven years of plenty in the land of Egypt while seven sickly cows and seven skinny ears of corn represent seven years of famine. Those years would be so bad that the good years would be forgotten. He told him God had shown him that so that he could appoint officers over the land to take a fifth part of the bounty from the seven good years. This would be to keep the people from starving during the famine that was to come after.

Pharaoh decided that since Joseph was wise and God had showed him the interpretation of the dreams, he would appoint Joseph over all of Egypt, only answering to Pharaoh himself. He then gave him his ring, fine linen and a gold chain for his neck. Joseph would ride in the second chariot and the people were to bow to him. Pharaoh changed Joseph's name to Zaphnathpaaneah. He gave him Asenath, the daughter of Potipherah, to be his wife. Joseph was thirty when all of this happened.

Joseph began gathering the enormous bounty of corn that came from the seven good years. Everything was laid up in the city to be distributed during the famine years that were to come. Joseph had two sons two years before the famine began. He named them Manasseh and Ephraim.

The famine was so great that it encompassed all of Egypt but during this time, the people had bread to eat because they saved it during the time of plenty as God warned them to do. (God always tells his people before he brings punishment on them. This can be seen through all the warnings that will come from the prophets God will send.) Joseph was in charge of distribution as people and nations from all over had come to Egypt to buy corn.

Chapter 42

Joseph's father, Israel, heard about the abundance of corn in Egypt. He sent Joseph's brothers, with the exception of Benjamin, to Egypt. They were going buy corn because the famine had reached the land of Canaan.

When the sons of Israel came into Egypt, they had to see the governor of the land to purchase corn. They were unaware it was their brother Joseph. When they came to buy corn, Joseph recognized them and they bowed before the governor because they did not recognize their brother. Joseph remembered the dreams he had before he was sold into slavery. He accused them of being spies and surveying the weakness that had befallen Egypt. They denied that accusation and told him they were brothers, twelve in all: one at home and one dead. (Here they just assumed that by this time Joseph was dead, at least that is what they told their father when they showed him the blood covered coat. Genesis 37:31-33) Joseph arrested his brothers under suspicion of being spies and put them in jail for three days. He then

released all but ordered them to bring Benjamin back to Egypt to prove they had another brother. They talked among themselves saying that this was their penalty for what they had done to Joseph. Joseph had been talking to them through an interpreter so they were not aware that he could understand them. Joseph, not wanting them to know how glad he was to see them, turned away and wept. He then arrested Simeon and sent the rest to fetch Benjamin.

While this was taking place, Joseph had their sacks filled with corn and returned their money. When they stopped to give their asses food, they noticed the money was returned to them. They became very afraid because they would be accused of stealing the corn. They asked one another, "What is this that God hath done unto us?" When they made it home, they told their father what the governor of the land had said and done to them. They would now need to return with Benjamin. When they dumped out the corn and Israel saw they still had the money, he was afraid. Reuben told him that he would take Benjamin to Egypt and get Simeon out of jail. He pledged that if he did not return with both of them, Israel could kill his two sons. Israel refused to let Benjamin go because if something were to happen to him, it would cause his hair to become gray along with great sorrow until he died.

Chapter 43

As the famine continued they, consumed all the corn they had brought back on their first trip. Israel told them to go back to Egypt and purchase more corn. They refused, unless, he would let them take Benjamin because they were told not to come back unless their brother was with them. Judah then offered his own life if he did not return with Benjamin. Israel consented to let him go, however, he wanted them to take gifts with them. They were to take the best fruits, balm, honey, spices, nuts, almonds, and myrrh along with double the money because they never paid for the first bags of corn they received.

*All of them, including Benjamin, set off for Egypt to see Joseph. When He saw them, he had a meal prepared at his own house for everyone. They were afraid because they thought he was going to make them his slaves. When Joseph's steward came to the door, they met him and told him how they returned home the last time with the money still in the sacks. They told him they brought that money back along with money to purchase additional corn. The steward told them that it was he who put their money in the sacks. He also brought Simeon in to dine with them. Upon their arrival, they bowed down and presented Joseph with their gifts. *(This was fulfilling part of Joseph's dream that they would bow to him. Genesis 37:5-10)* He asked about the well-being of their father and if that was*

Benjamin their youngest brother. After he heard the good about his father and having seen his brother, he returned to his chamber and wept.

He had a separate table set for them to eat because it was an abomination for Egyptians to eat with Hebrews. Joseph had their food sent to them but Benjamin's was five times greater than the others'.

Chapter 44

Joseph ordered that their sacks be filled with corn and that their money be returned to them. He then had his silver cup placed inside Benjamin's sack. The next morning, after they had started home, he sent his steward after them to ask them why they had stolen his master's cup. They denied stealing anything and told him that if you find it whoever had it could be killed and the rest of them would be his slaves. The steward told them that whoever had the cup would be taken as a servant and the rest would be free to go. When they opened Benjamin's sack, the cup was laying on top. The rest of the brothers tore their clothes in mourning and returned back to Joseph's house. Upon arrival, Judah offered himself to stay and be his servant as long as Benjamin would be set free. They began to tell him of how their father had two sons in his old age and one was torn into pieces but Benjamin was the youngest. They told him

that if they did not return with him that it would kill their father. Judah begged him to free Benjamin and take him as the servant because he could not stand to watch his father die if they returned without their youngest brother.

Chapter 45

While they were still pleading to Joseph, he could not hold the truth in any longer. He began to weep and told them that he was Joseph their brother whom they sold into slavery. He told them not to be angry with themselves because God used the evil they did to him to preserve their life. He continued telling them that there would still be five more years of famine left in the land. He told them to get their father and all they had and to return. He would give them land in Goshen so that they could be close. They then began to weep and talk together. When Pharaoh heard this, he ordered Joseph to give them wagons to help carry back their children.

Joseph gave each brother new clothes, except Benjamin, who received five changes plus three hundred pieces of silver. He also sent his father gifts of Egypt. When they returned back to Israel, their father he did not believe that Joseph was alive. They showed him all the wagons and fine things Joseph sent to him. Israel's spirit picked up and set off to see his son before he died.

Chapter 46

On their way, they stopped at Beersheba to offer sacrifices to the God of his father, Isaac. God called out to Israel and he answered, "Here am I." He told him not to fear going to Egypt because God would lead them back out as a great nation. They continued into Egypt with sixty six people and all their possessions. (The genealogies of Israel's descendants are listed in Genesis 46:8-27.) All of Israel family, including Joseph's family, totaled seventy. As they approached, Joseph rode out to greet his father and they wept together for a very long time. Joseph told them when Pharaoh asked what their profession was to tell him they were cattle men because in Egypt, shepherds were considered an abomination.

Chapter 47

Joseph brought five of his brothers to meet Pharaoh. He put all the able bodies over his cattle. Israel went in to see Pharaoh and blessed him. Israel was 130 years old when this occurred. They dwelt in the best land of Rameses.

The famine continued and the people could not buy corn because they had run out of money. When Joseph heard their pleas for food, he offered to pay them bread for all their live stock. The next year, when they had no

livestock left to sell, Joseph bought the people and their land in exchange for corn. Only the priests were able to keep their belongings during the famine. Joseph told the people since all they had belonged to Pharaoh, they were to give a fifth of their harvest back to Pharaoh. They were grateful to Joseph for saving their lives. He made it a law that Pharaoh would receive a fifth of everything except for what the priest obtained. Israel lived another seventeen years in Egypt and he made Joseph swear that he would not be buried in Egypt but in the land of his fathers. He died when he was 147 years old.

Chapter 48

When he became very, sick Joseph went with Manasseh and Ephraim, his sons, to visit Israel. He told Joseph that his sons would be considered as his sons now, (The sons of Israel then became 13 (Ephraim and Manasseh replace Joseph)) the same way Reuben and Simeon were his sons. When Joseph's sons approached, Israel could not tell who they were because he was blind. Israel was grateful to God for not only giving Joseph back to him but two grandsons as well. Joseph took Ephraim in his right hand and set him in front of Israel's left hand while Manasseh was placed at Israel's right hand. Israel reached out and crossed his hands; placing his right hand on the youngest son, not the oldest, as Joseph had placed them. He blessed them saying' "God, before whom my fathers Abraham and

Isaac did walk, the God which fed me all my life long unto this day. The angel which redeemed me from evil, bless the lads: and let my name be named on them, 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 his father had his hands on the wrong sons, he tried to correct him. Israel told him he knew what he was doing and that both of them would become great nations but the youngest one would be even greater than his older brother. Israel told Joseph that he was dying but God would bring him back to his father’s land. He also informed him that since he had blessed both of his sons, Joseph had received an additional portion over what his brothers received.

Chapter 49

Before his death, Israel called all of his sons together to inform them what would become of them.

His first born, Reuben, was to be as unstable as the water because he slept with his half-brother’s mother. He would not excel because he defiled his fathers bed.

Simeon and Levi would be instruments of violence. He did not want to be part of their assembly because they killed men in anger and they maimed oxen just for fun. He told them they would be scattered throughout all the

land of Israel because of their anger and cruelty. (These were the brothers that killed the newly circumcised males when Dinah was defiled. Chapter 34)

Judah would be praised by his brothers. He was told, "The septre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver, from between his feet, until Shiloh come: and unto him shall the gathering of the people be." (The word septre means "mark of authority, branch, or tribe". Shiloh means "the one to whom it belongs". In this case the blood line of Judah will bring the Messiah. From the tribe of Judah we get the Jewish people. Revelations 5:5)

Zebulun would dwell by the sea and become a haven for ships.

Issachar would be like a donkey and submit himself to hard labor.

Dan would judge his people but be like a serpent biting at the heel of a horse, causing the rider to fall backwards.

Gad would be attacked by raiders but he would be victorious in the end.

Asher would produce food fit for kings.

Naphtali would be like a deer that was set loose and spoke beautiful words.

Joseph would be like a fruitful field beside a well even though he would be harassed by archers. The God of Israel would strengthen him and make him agile. He was to be greatly blessed and a prince among his brothers.

Benjamin would be like a ravenous wolf devouring his prey during the day and counting his bounty at night.

When he was done blessing them, he told them he wanted to be buried on the same ground Abraham bought. He wished to be buried alongside Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, and Leah. When he was finished giving his wishes, Israel died.

Chapter 50

Joseph wept. He then commanded that Israel be embalmed. They mourned for him for forty days then took him to the land of Canaan as he wished. When Joseph had reached the land where he was to bury his father, he began to mourn for seven more days.

Upon returning back to Egypt, his brothers were afraid of Joseph now that their father was dead. (Did they have good reason to fear because they already knew the law? Exodus 21:16-17)

When he heard that they were afraid, he told them not to worry because what they meant for evil, God had turned to good. They dwelt together happily until Joseph's death at 110 years old. He had lived long enough to hold his great grand children on his knees. He told them that when God brings you out of Egypt to go back to the land of Abraham. They were to carry his bones with them. Joseph was embalmed and buried in Egypt.

