

Bible Studies

The Torah: Genesis



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Class Structure and Responsibilities

Who is this class for? This series is directed at believers. While unbelievers are always welcome to study God's Word with us, there will be many doctrines we encounter that we will just assume and not set out to prove such as:

- The full deity and humanity of the Messiah
- The inspiration and inerrancy of the 66 books of Scripture as our closed canon
- A literal 6-day creation
- Original sin and its genetic characteristics
- God's transcendence outside His creation, and God's immanence within His creation through special revelation, supernatural means, and the shaping of history to ultimately achieve the redemption of the world resulting in glory to himself alone.

Note: All are encouraged, in their own time, to pursue these wonderful doctrines.

Requirements

- A Bible that can be easily understood. Word-for-word translations are best such as the KJV, NKJV, ESV or NASB. I want everyone to feel right at home with the reading they will be required to do for this class.
- Your notebook and pencil. Notetaking is essential for any serious student. I also challenge everyone to underline difficult areas in their Bible and to make any other notes as needed.

Reading Assignments

- Students will be required to read 5-8 chapters of the Bible each week. I am striving to cover each book of the Torah in 8-10 weeks, and we cannot spend class time reading through whole books. So I am counting on everyone to be committed students of God's Word, and to have the reading finished by class time each Wed evening.
- The reading should not be done to check a box, but should be a holy time between you and the Lord. Try to adopt the following habits when reading the Bible:
 - First, read and try to understand what the author was saying to his audience in their time and in their cultural setting (note: we are not the intended audience of the Bible).
 - Second, only after a proper interpretation is acquired, consider how the reading applies to yourself right where you are at in life at this time...make it personal, and allow the Holy Spirit to teach and change you through His Living Word.

Discussion

- There will be a time for directed discussion at the beginning of every class.
- The joy of a group Bible study comes from the fellowship with the Spirit in His Word that we share together. Because of that, I would ask that only those who have accomplished their weekly reading be allowed to participate in any discussion. If you know you haven't finished the entire reading for that week, please respect the fellowship of those that have, yet please continue to attend class for your own learning and get back into the race with us for the following week.

Torah: Genesis Syllabus

Remember to finish the assignments and always bring your Bible and notebook to class. Classes will be recorded and posted to the church's website for listening online or through podcast at: <http://faithpb.com/sermons>

Week 1 (Wed 6/22/16): Introduction to the Torah (Part 1)

Homework: Read Deuteronomy 6. Note: v 4-9 is known as the Shema Yisrael.

Pay attention to the following words as you read:

- Fear (Heb: *yir'eh*): This has a broad positive meaning of honor, respect, reverence and worshipful awe. The “fear of the Lord” is a reverence for God that allows us to grow in intimate knowledge of him. It also allows us to respect his laws keeping us from sin that would destroy our relationship with him. Fearing the Lord is what transforms us (Prov 14:26-27)
- Hear (Heb: *shema*): In Hebrew culture this is not just a mental process regarding the ear and the brain. It means to hear with a resulting action of obedience.
- Teach diligently (Heb: *shenan*): This word has to do with sharpening swords or arrows. It means to ensure your child is “sharp” with the instruction, and it also conveys repetition, or re-sharpening, to make sure they don't forget.
- Forget (Heb: *shekah*): Again, this is not just a mental lapse of memory. It means to ignore God's commandments with the result being to disobey, or to directly challenge God with our actions.
- “The Lord our God is one,” where “one (Heb. *Echad*)” means unique or the only one. **Zechariah 14:9** Refers to the future rule of Christ where He will be the only one worshipped, and “one” means “only one”.

And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one.

Later, David would expound upon who this one God is.

Psalm 110:1

The LORD (YHWH) said unto my (King David) Lord (Adonai), sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

See Jesus' argument in Mk 12:25-37.

Week 2 (Wed 6/29/16): Introduction to the Torah (Part 2)

Homework: Read Genesis 1-5 (5 chapters)

Take notes of items you have learned for the first time, and write down how God applies any Scripture to your life.

- Pay attention to the *Toledoths* (“this is the account of”, “these are the generations of”, etc.)
- This assignment covers approx. 1556 yrs. from the “Beginning” to Noah.
- Question everything you read and then look for the answers.
- How do the events in these chapters apply to you?

Week 3 (Wed 7/6/16): State of the World 1 – The Beginnings

Homework: Read Genesis 6-11 (6 chapters)

Take notes of items you have learned for the first time, and write down how God applies any Scripture to your life.

- Pay attention to the phrase “sons of God”
 - This assignment covers Noah and the flood to the tower of Babel.
 - Question everything you read and then look for the answers.
- How do the events in these chapters apply to you?

Week 4 (Wed 7/13/16): State of the World 2 – World Destruction & Counterfeit Religion
Homework: Read Genesis 12-17 (6 chapters)

Week 5 (Wed 7/20/16): A Plan Manifested – A Particular Means for a Universal Goal
Homework: Read Genesis 18-23 (6 chapters)

Week 6 (Wed 7/27/16): The Patriarchs – Abraham
Homework: Read Genesis 24-30 (7 chapters)

Week 7 (Wed 8/3/16): The Patriarchs – Isaac and Jacob
Homework: Read Genesis 31-36 (6 chapters)

Week 8 (Wed 8/10/16): A Promise Kept – Jacob Returns to the Land of His Fathers
Homework: Read Genesis 37-44 (8 chapters)

Week 9 (Wed 8/17/16): Jacob in Canaan – Tamar’s Persistence & Joseph’s Faithfulness
Homework: Read Genesis 45-50 (6 chapters)

Week 10 (Wed 8/24/16): A Family Secured – Obscurity with the Hope of Glory
Class celebration will be held at the Copeland’s home. Date is TBD.

State of the World 1: The Beginnings (Gen 1-5)

God introduces himself (Gen 1:1)

- He is transcendent
 - He is eternal (He transcends time)
 - He is limitless (He transcends space)
 - He is self-sustaining (He transcends needs)
- He is Elohim means he is the one true God.
- He is all powerful and created both time and space and everything in it

Image and Likeness of God (Gen 1:26; 5:1)

- “Image” and “likeness” are 2 terms denoting 1 object (*hendiadys* means two into one)
- The terms are not defined by man’s role to have dominion; rather the terms relate to the very essence and substance of man. Man’s role to have dominion stem from his substance as being in the “image and likeness of God”.
- All people who have ever existed have the image of God
 - Before the fall, the image of God was perfect.
 - Man was fully human and could fulfill human destiny to the glory of God
 - After the fall, the image of God became extremely distorted
 - Man was no longer fully human and could no longer fulfill human destiny
 - After salvation, the image of God becomes the image of Christ
 - Sghgh
 - After the resurrection the image of God becomes perfect again
- Give unto Caesar (Matthew 22:15-22)

The 1st Commandment from God to Man (Gen 1:16)

Institution of Marriage (Gen 1:21-24)

- Designed for oneness
- Designed for intimacy
- Designed to make the spouse #1
- Designed to be monogamous
- Designed to be a perfect covenant (unlike a contract, a covenant entails doing something regardless of what the other does).

The Fall (Gen 3)

- Satan knows and distorts God’s Word (Gen 3:4-5)
- Eve was deceived but ultimately Adam was the responsible party (1 Tim 2:14)
- God went to the man because the man is the spiritual head of the family (Gen 3:9)
- When we fail, God lovingly seeks us out (Gen 3:9)

- Sin not only broke man's intimacy with God, but also broke the intimacy between Adam and Eve. Sin is the cause of destruction in marriages (Gen 3:12; Matt 19:8-9)
- Adam's sin is genetic (Rom 3:23)
 - Failure is not final
 - Forgiveness is available
 - You can have a new start
 - God can take a mess and make a miracle
- One of the curses produced the very crown of thorns upon Jesus' head at his crucifixion (Gen 3:18; Isa 53:3; Matt 27:29)
- The penalty for sin was death (Gen 3:21)

Cain, Abel and Seth (Gen 4)

- What was Cain's sin: his sacrifice, his heart, or both?
 - We are not sure exactly what kind of sacrifice this was (sin offering or fellowship offering)
 - We do know that Cain's heart was wicked and unrepentant (Gen 4:5)
 - We also know that God abhors the sacrifice of the wicked (Prov 21:27)
 - I wonder if Jesus was remembering this very situation with Cain when he tells the crowd on the Mount of Olives that if you have ought with your brother, then leave your sacrifice at the altar, go and reconcile with your brother, and then offer the sacrifice to God.

Lineage of Adam, through Seth, to Noah and his sons (Gen 5)

- The generational list of Adam is introduced exactly the same as the generational list for Jesus in Matthew 1.
 - In Gen 5:2 God referred to Adam and Eve as Adam...not the Adamses!
 - There are only two men that have ever lived, and all the others have come through them and are a part of them. The 1st Adam and the 2nd Adam.

State of the World 2: World Destruction & Counterfeit Religion (Gen 6-11)

When men began to increase in number (Gen 6:1)

- This would be about 1500 years after the time of Adam
- People in this period are living about 900 yrs old
- Some have calculated the population of the world at this time to be about the same or more than our world population of 7 billion people right now.

The “sons of God”

- This Hebrew phrase always means heavenly beings created by God (the angels and Adam)
 - This could be angels of God (Job 38:7; Ps 89:6)
 - Or they could be fallen angels (Job 1:6; 2:1)
- Angels could take on the form of men (remember the two angels and the lord that visited Abraham?)
- The Septuagint (LXX) and other ancient Jewish literature all interpret this passage to be referring to fallen angels.
- See 2 Pet 2:4-5 and Jude 6 seem to be referring to these very angels.

2 Peter 2:4-5

⁴ For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

⁵ And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

Jude 6

⁶ And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

God gave the people 120 yrs to repent (Gen 6:3)

Nephilim are also seen in Canaan in Num 13:33 and Goliath in 1 Sam 17.

Noah’s righteousness was given by God because Noah believed.

Heb 11:7

⁷ By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

The Edenic world comes to an end in Gen 7 and a new world begins in Gen 8 Look at the promise God makes with the world...and notice his patience and long-suffering:
Gen 8:21-22

The Noahic Covenant (Gen 9): The 1st covenant by God

- Why does God make covenants?

Gen 8:21

“...for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth...”

- This is the fundamental truth God wants to impress upon man
- Man was made in the image of God to share in his glory, but his image became perverted and its evil principles enslaves the mind, will and emotions of men.
 - God established human life so that this fact could be recognized
 - It is the single fact which man resists the most
 - Without this fact, there is no need for a redeemer and Savior.
- It is this state of man that is the foundation for God's love and redemption we see all throughout Scriptures.
- At the end of the covenant, we see that only God can save man.
- In this covenant
 - God makes nature stable and dependable, so man cannot blame his evil on nature
 - God made the animals to fear man (Gen 9:1-2). The love and obedient subjection animals once had towards man has now been replaced with the fear of man. This impresses upon us how the image of God is distorted and love is now replaced with fear.
 - Every meal we eat, that has meat, should remind us that our lives are sustained by the death of another creature (Gen 9:3) Compare this to Jn 6:53-54.
- Covenants by God are not made by bargaining with man. He makes them and man is to obey and live by them.
- No covenant can ever be broken...they can only be illustrated (if someone jumps off of the empire state building, he has not broken the law of gravity, he has only illustrated it.)
- The institution of Government (Gen 9)
 - This is not to be a deterrent to murder
 - This is a punishment to show that human life is off limits to both animals and man. Only God has the right to take a life, and God has administered this right of justice through human government (Romans 13:4 “(it) does not bear the sword in vain”)

Romans 13:1-4

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

² Whosoever therefore resists the power, resists the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

³ For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

⁴ For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he bears not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

The curse of Canaan, Ham's son (Gen 9:24-25)

- It was fulfilled when the Israelites entered the promised land and drove the Canaanites out.
Nimrod (Gen 10:8-12)

Tower of Babel (Gen 11)

Peleg "Division" lived during the time of Nimrod
This tower was built in the area of Nimrod's cities.

The chapter ends with the line of Shem until Abraham

Shemites

Eber (Gen 11:16): Hebrews

A Plan Manifested – A Particular Means for a Universal Goal (Gen 12-17)

The massive transition from Gen 11 to Gen 12

- Table of nations vs the election of one man, Abram
- Gen 1-11 (20%) covers 2000 yrs. Gen 12-50 only focus on 4 generations.
- Gen 1-11 covers single families as well
 - Adam and Eve: But the Bible quickly points out the failure of civilization (Flood)
 - Noah: But the Bible quickly points out the failure of civilization (Tower of Babel)
- Gen 12 begins again with Abram.
 - God selects Abram for his program of reversal
 - The development of God’s program of redemption begins to take shape through Abraham.
 - God intends the entire world to be in proper relationship with himself, but by a selection of one rather than a selection of everyone.
 - Gen 12 begins the story of reversal.

Historical Covenants

- God employed covenants, which were common practices of everyday life.
- Through this common cultural practice, God revealed:
 - How seriously God takes his covenant invitations (Many times there is a blood sacrifice involved along-side the giving of the covenant)
 - How seriously God expects his people to take the covenant (The moment of invitation is a crisis point for anyone. Abram took it serious enough to devote his entire life to it)
 - The extent of God’s blessings to his covenant people
 - His faithfulness towards his covenant promises

The Abrahamic Covenant (Gen 12:2-3; 13:14-17; 15:1-7; 17:1-18)

Gen 12:2-3

² And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

³ And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curses thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

- Seven Promises by God
 - The promise of a great nation through Abraham
 - Personal blessings to Abraham
 - The name/reputation of Abraham shall be great
 - Abraham will be a blessing to others
 - Blessings will be bestowed on all who bless Abraham
 - Curses will be bestowed on all who curse Abraham
 - All the people-groups of the earth will be blessed through Abraham
- Four categories of Promises (a “promise” is different than a “prophecy”)
 - Promise of a “Nation of Israel”
 - Promise to bless Abraham
 - Promise of blessings or curses to others depending on their attitude towards Abraham and his seed

- Promise of a universal blessing through Abraham, fulfilled by Messiah
- Covenant characteristics
 - Unconditional: The covenant exists regardless of the behavior of the recipient. Only the enjoyment of benefits is conditioned on the obedience of the recipient.
 - Unilateral: The ultimate fulfillment of the covenant rests on God's character.
- The covenant lived out in greater detail throughout Abraham's life of obedience
 - Response to the Giving of the Covenant (Gen 12:4-9):
 - After the initial giving of the covenant Abraham responded in faith by leaving Haran (in Modern day Syria) and going all the way down to Shechem, where he built an altar to YHWH. **God tells him his offspring will have this land.**
 - He continues to Bethel and Builds another altar to YHWH
 - He then goes to the Negev and Egypt, where he runs into a bit of trouble concerning his wife and Pharaoh; yet the Lord blesses his faithfulness with sheep, cattle, donkeys, camels, silver, gold, and servants!
 - Abraham and Lot (Gen 13)
 - After much nomadic living, Abraham goes back to Bethel, where he had camped before.
 - Abraham and Lot separate under very gracious terms by Abraham.
 - After Lot departs, YHWH, gives more details of the covenant concerning the land of a future nation (Gen 13:14-18). Abraham responds with sacrifice.
 - Abraham Rescues Lot (Gen 14-15): 1st recorded war in history
 - Abraham took his role of redeeming seriously
 - Abraham had 318 trained men
 - Abraham stood upon the faith of God's covenant
 - He had courage from God
 - He was prepared
 - Abraham chased the kings all the way to Damascus, Syria!
 - Abraham is blessed by Melchizedek (king of righteousness), king of Salem (peace) in Gen 14:19. Abraham continues to be recognized by God and by others.
 - YHWH provides more covenant details
 - To give a son to Abraham in his old age
 - That Abraham's descendants will be strangers in a country and be enslaved for 400 yrs.
 - The offending nation would be punished
 - His descendants would come out of that nation with great wealth and return in Canaan after the 4th generation
 - Abraham will die in peace at an old age (175 yrs old).
 - Hagar and Ishmael (Gen 16)
 - Covenant of Circumcision (Gen 17)
 - El Shaddai (Gen 17:1)
 - Abram and Sarai have their names changed
 - Abraham circumcised at 99 yrs old. Was Abraham considered righteous before or after his circumcision? Abraham was accounted righteousness before circumcision in Gen 15. See Rom 4.

The Patriarchs – Abraham (Gen 18-23)

Abraham's reaction to the 3 visitors and their identities (Gen 18)

- “Ran to meet them” – Abraham presented his unsophistication and excitement of seeing them.
- “Bowed towards the ground” - Common gesture towards those of higher rank.
- Abraham would also refer to one of them as “My Lord” while referring to himself as “Thy servant.”
- This was a *theophany* (or appearance of God). You will see the Son of God manifested as man, and other forms, being identified in various OT passages as the Angel of the Lord.
- Did Abraham know one of them was God the Son yet? Maybe or maybe not, but he definitely does by the end of verse 15. Where the angel doing most of the talking is written as the Lord. – This is the covenant giver from Gen 12 and the protector of the covenant in Gen 17 (*El Shaddai*).
- We should all be willing as Abraham to wisely entertain strangers (Heb 13:1-2).
- These 2 angels (Gen 19:1) and the Lord (vs. 33) were on a mission of fellowship with Abraham to:
 - Bring news of Sarah's bearing Isaac
 - To deliver Lot
 - Judge and destroy Sodom and Gomorrah

The “quick” work requested by Abraham from Sarah and the servant (Gen 18:6-8)

- 3 measures = 3 seah's = approx. 5 gal (some might say wow!! That is an ungodly amount of flour! This is not an “ungodly” amount of flour, but rather a “godly” one!!!)
 - Gideon made this much for the “Angel of the Lord” (Jdgs 6:18-19)
 - Hannah offered this exact amount to the Temple when she delivered Samuel there (1 Sam 1:24)
 - This is the amount Ezekiel mentions in the sacrifice (Ezk 45:24)
 - Jesus also mentions this exact amount in the kingdom parables (Matt 13)
 - It was to be the absolute best flour... “Fine flour”.
- Abraham's servant was able to butcher (dress) and cook this calf quickly
- Abraham did sit down and get served with the three, but rather he served them and stood by them ready to attend to any need they may have.
 - It may be easy to overlook this, but his standing near the them and not sitting with them was significant enough to make it into the eternal Word of God.
 - God does not overlook our seemingly insignificant acts of serving Him.
- Abraham served non-kosher food to the Lord!
 - When Moses wrote this account of Abraham he would have realized that what Abraham did was not contrary to the Law God gave to Moses at Mt. Sinai (Exo 23:19; 34:26; Deut 14:21)
 - There may have been pagan origins to cooking a goat in its mother's milk (see Ras Shamra's Ugaritic tablets: <http://www.apologeticspress.org/rr/reprints/Ras-Shamra.pdf>)
 - It could have been just a respect and sensitivity to life

Lot and Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen 19)

- In chapter 19, we find Lot sitting at the gate. This meant he was a VIP in the city of Sodom. What happened?! Of course Lot numbered with the righteous that Abraham bartered with the Lord for in Gen 19:29.

2 Peter 2:7-8

⁷ And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:

⁸ (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)

- Abraham saw by faith; whereas Lot saw by sight (2 Cor 4:18):
Abraham

Upward Progression:

1. SAW (What God promised) Genesis 13:14
2. CHOSE (What God promised) Genesis 12:4
3. SEPARATED (From carnal Lot) Genesis 13:14
4. DWELLED (Where God wanted him) Genesis 13:12
5. PITCHED HIS TENT TOWARD CANAAN (Set direction toward God) Genesis 13:18
6. MOVED TO CANAAN (Closer to God) Genesis 12:7
7. BECAME A LEADER IN CANAAN (An influence for God) Genesis 14:17
8. RECEIVED BY GOD'S PROMISES (Great rewards from God) Genesis 15:1

Lot

Downward Progression:

1. SAW (What was beautiful to his eyes) Genesis 13:10
 2. CHOSE (To have what pleased his eyes) Genesis 13:11
 3. SEPARATED (From spiritual Abraham) Genesis 13:11
 4. DWELLED (Closer to what pleased his eyes) Genesis 13:12
 5. PITCHED HIS TENT TOWARD SODOM (Set direction away from God) Genesis 13:12
 6. MOVED TO SODOM (Further from God) Genesis 14:1
 7. BECAME LEADER IN SODOM (An influence upon others) Genesis 19:1
 8. LOSS OF EARTHLY TREASURES (Treasures burned up) Genesis 19:24
- Through incest Lot bore 2 sons, Moab (father of the Moabites) and Ben-Ammi (father of the Ammonites)
 - God can turn bad into good. Ruth would come through the lineage of Moab, and by the power of *El-Shaddai*, the covenant Messiah would come from her womb.

Abraham enters Canaan and Isaac is born (Gen 20-21)

- Abraham's plan with Abimelech, King of Gerar, is the same as that in Egypt (Gen 20:11-13).
- Isaac is born when Abraham is 100 yrs old.
 - YHWH was gracious to Sarah and fulfilled his promise
 - Isaac was weaned and Ishmael was removed
 - This would have been 30 yrs after Abraham left Haran to go into Canaan
 - This would be exactly 400 yrs until the time of the Exodus of Israel out of Egypt.
 - We see that Abraham's offspring would be reckoned through Isaac and not Ishmael.

Abraham Tested (Gen 22)

- Does God tempt man into sin?

James 1:13

¹³ Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither does he tempt any man.

- What occasioned this test of Abraham?

- Abraham, as believers today, was a man of faith in God's covenant. He obeyed God's call. He was taught by God to believe in just the words of the Lord without laughing. He was commanded to walk in holiness and circumcised as a picture of the inner circumcision of his heart.
- He was looking more and more like God Himself. In other words, his image brought glory to God. He fulfilled the role of redeemer and prophet.
- And now, his image of God had reached a pinnacle as he became the parent of a child of promise of whom he had great paternal affection...much like God the Father had for His Own Son. While not perfect, Abraham was truly in the image and likeness of God.
- Now in a state of resembling the God that he worships, Abraham is ready to be tested in a way that would refine his likeness of God in the ultimate way that God himself would also submit to and fulfill once and for all.

- Here is the test:

Gen 22:2

² And he said, take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou love, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

- "Only son" can refer to two types of relationship in this verse:
 - As a single child: Isaac was the only Son born of Sarah and therefore precious to Abraham as a single child. Note: Elohim did not say "Sarah's only son" but referred to Abraham's "only son". Yet this was not Abraham's only son. There was also Ishmael, his son with Hagar.
 - As a unique offspring of Abraham having no peer: While Isaac was not Abraham's only son, he was the only son of promise.

Genesis 21:12

...it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.

In this sense, it is true to say that Isaac was the only begotten son of Abraham.

The author of Hebrews came to this same interpretation as well when he wrote:

Hebrews 11:17

¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son...

"Only begotten" then has the exact same sense of uniqueness as it is used in the Johannine texts.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son...

1 John 4:9

⁹ In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

- It is the identity of Isaac as “only begotten” that lies at the heart of this sacrifice foreshadowing the sacrifice of Jesus.
 - Abraham tremendous faith in God’s covenant which counted Isaac as the heir to God’s promises,
 - Abraham just knew that if he sacrificed his only begotten son, then God would have to resurrect Isaac from the dead...Sound familiar?!
- Hebrews 11:19**
¹⁹ Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.
- It is the identity of Isaac as “only begotten” that also shows why God would not allow Isaac to be slain.
 - Only the “Only begotten” Son of God could rightfully be slain and mediate life and salvation from sin as promised in the bottom line of the Abrahamic covenant.
 - Instead, God would provide himself a lamb (Gen 22:8). God provided a substitute for Isaac by giving them the ram to sacrifice instead. On that same mountain where Isaac was bound, where David purchased the threshing floor, where Solomon built the temple, Jesus would later become the final sacrifice for all.
- Hebrews says that in “figure” Isaac was raised from the dead. This prefigures the resurrection of Jesus.
- Abraham was then described as returning to his servants...yet we don’t see Isaac after this point until we see him receiving his bride. After the resurrection of Jesus, He ascended back into heaven where on day the church will be presented before him as His pure bride.
- God reaffirms the bottom line of the Abrahamic covenant while providing additional details.

The Patriarchs – Isaac and Jacob (Gen 24-30)

Blessed in all things (Gen 24:1)

- Did this impact anyone?

Put your hand under my thigh (Gen 24:2-3)

- This seems rather radical since we just swear by putting our hand on the Bible or over our hearts.
- Abraham’s servant swore by the covenant maker, YHWH, by putting his hand on the circumcision
 - Interestingly in English, to swear as a witness is called to testify. The word “testify” comes from the word “testis” where we get our word for “testicle”. Our English language reflects such ancient traditions of oath swearing. (*testis*, www.etymonline.com)
 - The servant was also circumcised, but in humility, he would be acknowledging his faithful servitude of his master, Abraham, and acknowledging Abraham as the man of God’s covenants.
 - The servant was so committed to the family, the covenant (which he participated in since he was circumcised), and to God, that he held in his hands the very sign of the covenant and swore to play a part in fulfilling the seed of Abraham (because the line would have died with Isaac if he never married).
 - When was the last time you did something radical in order to play a part in the redemption of the world?

The Faithful Servant (Gen 24)

- The servant was humble. He never referred to God as his God but as “the God of my master Abraham”.
- The servant was faithful. He did not seek the favor of God for himself but for his master (Gen 24:14). He was also true to his Master’s commands (Gen 24:34-50)
 - Do we seek favor for our Master, Jesus, from the Father, or do we seek favor for ourselves?
- The servant was watchful. He quietly watched the situation to allow God to order his steps (Gen 24:21). Upon seeing his path he worshipped the YHWH (Gen 24:48).
- The servant was wise. He put the fear of YHWH and his oath over the fear of man (Gen 24:54), and the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom (Ps 111:10; Prov 9:10).

The Strong Faith of Rebekah (Gen 24:58)

- Without even seeing Isaac, she believed the covenant promises as laid out by the servant.
- The servant was salt and light to the covenant promises because of his faithfulness.

Abraham Marries Keturah (Gen 25)

- Abraham married a young bride in his later years and had 6 more children. Abraham would have been approximately 140 years old, and at the most, Keturah would have been about 50 – 60 years old.
- Abraham fathered many following nations through Hagar, Sarah and Keturah. Note that Hagar and Keturah were also considered concubines (1 Chron 1:32).

Jacob and Esau are Born (Gen 25)

Esau Sells Birthright to Jacob (Gen 25)

God Reaffirms Abrahamic Covenant (Gen 26)

- Isaac obeys God and stays in Canaan (in Gerar).
 - Personal blessings
 - Land
 - Descendants as numerous as the stars
 - Through his seed all nations will be blessed
- Isaac follows same wrong game plan as his father with regards to referring to his wife as his sister.
- Isaac is faithful to stay even through turmoil with the Philistines
 - God reassures him with a vision.
 - Isaac is very quick to forgive and allow restoration of relationship
- Esau marries two Canaanite women

Isaac Gives Blessing to Isaac and a Prophecy to Esau (Gen 27)

- By sending Esau on a hunt and to make a dish so that he could receive the blessing, Isaac still isn't getting the prophecy given before Esau and Jacob were born (Gen 25:23), where God said the older will serve the younger.
- Rebekah does get the prophecy and takes matters in her own hands rather than allowing God to take care of it.
- Isaac is tricked into giving the covenant blessing given by YHWH to Abraham, to Isaac, and now to Jacob (v. 28-29).
- Esau's descendants, the Edomite's and later known as the Idumeans, would remain alive by means of warfare (the sword).
- They would be subject to Jacob's descendants
- More here

Isaac Gives Blessing to Isaac Before Jacob Flees to Haran (Gen 28:3-5)

- Rebekah and Isaac send Jacob off to Laban.
- It is obvious that Isaac finally understands the real destiny of Jacob.
- Isaac invokes El Shaddai's protection and blessing over Jacob

- Jacob flees to Haran when he was 77 years old, and Isaac is about 137 years old.
- Isaac would continue to live in his feeble and blind condition for another 43 years until he was 180 years old.
- Isaac gives Esau the anti-blessing
 - Esau is bitter against Isaac and Jacob, with murder in his heart.
 - Esau rebels against, rather than honors, God's covenant, and his parents by marrying Ishmael's daughter.

Jacobs Ladder (Gen 28:10-22)

- Jacob's obedience leads to God's covenant affirmation.
- Jacob is poor materially as he uses a rock for a pillow.
- Jacob is also poor spiritually as we shall soon see at the end of chapter 28.
- The covenant God, YHWH, visits Jacob in a dream
- YHWH introduces himself as the God of "your father, Abraham" not "your father, Isaac". For Abraham was Jacob's covenant father.
- YHWH renews promise of land and seed, and the blessing to mankind for that seed.
- The dream
 - Earth had been separated from God because of sin.
 - The ladder is the means of mediating a relationship between heaven and earth by which messengers (angels) go back and forth on missions of mercy.
 - This ladder would be Son of Man

John 1:50-51

⁵⁰ Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, thou believest? thou shalt see greater things than these.

⁵¹ And he said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man

Jacob the Deceiver (Gen 28)

- Whereas God tested Abraham, here we see Jacob tests God and imposes conditions upon him before Jacob vows to benefit YHWH.
- This is what we would expect from Jacob's ways at this point. Spiritually immature people do not worship God correctly, and they tend to impose their own ways above God's ways.
- Jacob was about to meet another trickster like himself...Laban.
- Through his great patience, God would wear off some of this 77 yr old man's energy by working Jacob very hard over the next 20 yrs...both in the field and in the home, while teaching him many great lessons along the way.

Jacob Arrives in Haran in Padam Aram (Gen 29)

Jacob marries Leah and Rachael and works 14 years (Gen 30)

- God is sovereign over the womb (Sarah, Rebekah, Leah, Rachael, Hannah, and Mary)

- God open's Leah's womb, and BAM! Leah leads Rachael 4-0 in children
- Rachael whose womb is closed, uses a jealous run-around play and gives her handmaid, Bilhah, to be Jacob's wife. Bilhah births 2 children for Rachael.
- Rachael is coming back strong, and its 4-2 Leah, but that comeback was good enough to remain at Jacob's center of attention, and she declares victory. Leah has to respond!
- But wait...There's new development...Leah's womb is now closed! She shuffle passes off to Zilpah to be Jacob's wife who scores not one but 2 more sons for Leah.
- 6-2 Leah.
- It looks like Rachel may be giving up...and trades mandrakes for further opportunities for Leah. Leah seizes the opportunity and converts it to 2 more sons and a daughter.
- 9-2 Leah!
- This race ends with God showing love for Rachel and giving her a son, Joseph.
- 9-3 Leah.

Jacob's Flocks Increase (Gen 30:37-40)

- We do see a word play between Laban's name and the exposed white of the poplar branches. This is to inject humor at the thought of Laban's undoing by Jacob's cunning.
- We see Jacob following a folk custom, and relying on his own cunning...and yet God blessed Jacob through it. God was fulfilling his promise of provision for Jacob as we shall see more of in Gen 31.

A Promise Kept – Jacob Returns to the Land of His Fathers (Gen 31-36)

Jacob and Laban’s Relationship (Gen 31)

- Jacob worked hard, and Laban decreased Jacob’s wages 10x. God agrees with this assessment.
- It was not cunning that produces the speckled flocks, and Jacob testifies to this in Gen 31:8-13. In a vision, the “God of Bethel” shows Jacob that it is he who is blessing Jacob.
- God also reminds Jacob of the vow he made to God, and tells Jacob to go back to his native land.

Jacob, His Family, and possessions all leave for Canaan, and Laban catches up with him 7 days later. (Gen 31)

Esau sets out with 400 men to meet Jacob. (Gen 32)

- Jacob responds by seeking God for the night
- Humbling himself (v. 10)
- He prays upon the promises of God
- Uses common wisdom to defuse the situation

Jacob Wrestles with God (Gen 32)

- Jacob has at this point had always relied on himself to various degrees
- Jacob was now going to learn to be completely reliant upon God.
- Jacob wrestles vigorously against the “man” and is winning
- The man shows that with 1 touch, he can take all of Jacobs strength to fight.
- The end result is that Jacob is renamed to Israel “struggles with God”

Jacob Meets Esau (Gen 33)

Dinah and the Shechemites (Gen 34)

Jacob Returns to Bethel (Gen 35)

- El Shaddai speaks to Jacob after his obedience...showing that he has truly protected Jacob from the moment he fled Esau until his return to the very same spot.

Rachel dies giving birth to Benjamin (Gen 35)

- Jacob renames son from “son of my troubles” to “son of my right hand”

Esau’s descendents (Gen 36)

- Esau was the father of the Edomite’s and the Idumeans
- Petra is also located in Seir
- Esau’s grandson, Amelek, was the father of the Amelekites

Jacob in Canaan: Tamar's Persistence & Joseph's Faithfulness (Gen 37-44)

The account of Esau was just given in Gen 36

The account of Jacob (Gen 37-50)

- Jacob's account is summarized by God continuing to keep his covenant promises in the face impossible odds
 - His future covenant lineage of the seed are secured through Tamar's actions
 - The children of Israel are brought into a foreign nation through the faithfulness of Joseph

Joseph as a Type of Christ (See handout)

Jacob's favoritism Towards Joseph (Gen 37:3-4)

Jacob tattles on his brothers (Gen 37:2)

Jacob has 2 visions (Gen 37:5-11)

- Brother's sheaves of grain bowed down to Joseph's sheaf of grain
- Sun, moon and 11 stars bowed down to Joseph
- While the brothers were jealous, Jacob kept the matter in mind.

Jacob sold to the Midianites or the Ishmaelites (Gen 37:25 vs Gen 37:28 and 37:36 vs 39:1)

See also Judges 8:22 vs 8:24 where Ishmaelites and Midianites are used interchangeably.

Tamar saves the seed (Gen 38)

- Judah failed to even look out for his future offspring
- Judah's middle child, Onan, probably wanted the firstborn rights passed on to his own son's, so he benefitted himself with the perks of a redeeming brother, but refused to take on the responsibilities demanded of that role.
- Tamar was a bit like Jacob when it came to being motivated in securing the firstborn benefits
 - Instead of petitioning God she took matters into her own hands
 - She portrayed herself to be a temple prostitute, not a private one
- How could Judah react so violently upon hearing word that Tamar got pregnant by prostituting herself...considering his own sin of sleeping with a prostitute?
 - The wife played a critical role in perpetuating the family line...especially of the firstborn.
 - Because of this, it was important that any son of the woman belong only to her husband and not from another man. Otherwise the other man's child could usurp the family line and firstborn status altogether.
 - Wives caught in adultery were therefore commonly executed. This was Tamar's situation.
 - A prostitute, on the other hand, did not belong to a family. Therefore, a man could sleep with them and not adulterate any family lines.
 - Along this cultural concept, Judah was fine with sleeping with a prostitute...and very willing to pay her for her services.
 - It was Tamar and not Judah who put forth action to provide Judah with legal heirs. This family line would include king David and eventually Jesus.

What was Israel's Sin in Demanding a King? (1 Sam 8)

- We know that Jacob prophesies that the kingly scepter will not depart out of Judah's hand (Gen 49)
- Therefore, God must have had plans to give Israel a king someday.
- Israel wanted their own way to rule over themselves

1 Sam 8:19-20

¹⁹ Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us;

²⁰ That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.

- The sin was that they would not wait upon the Lord to guide them and turned instead to the idols in their own hearts...if they had just waited for God's perfect timing...

1 Sam 8:6-9

⁶ But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the Lord.

⁷ And the Lord said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.

⁸ According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee.

⁹ Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and shew them the manner of the king that shall reign over them.

- God had a king already selected, but due to the Judah's sin with Tamar, this selection would take until the 10th generation before a king would be ready
- For almost 330 years – through Exo, Lev, Num, Deut, and Josh...we don't see any leaders or judges out of the line of Judah.

Deut 23:2

² A bastard shall not enter into the congregation of the Lord; even to his tenth generation shall he not enter into the congregation of the Lord.

- Most scholars interpret the entering "into the congregation of the Lord" as holding public office in the State of Israel.
- So let's count the generations:

Ruth 4:18-22

¹⁸ Now these are the generations of Pharez: Pharez begat Hezron,

¹⁹ And Hezron begat Ram, and Ram begat Amminadab,

²⁰ And Amminadab begat Nahshon, and Nahshon begat Salmon,

²¹ And Salmon begat Boaz, and Boaz begat Obed,

²² And Obed begat Jesse, and Jesse begat David

In the meantime, Joseph becomes 2nd over all of Potiphar's household, is falsely accused by Potiphar's wife and goes to jail...where he becomes 2nd to the warden over all the prison (Gen 39)

Joseph is faithful to God by fleeing from temptation, honoring God with his diligence to his role as slave and prisoner, and even claiming that it is God's ability to interpret dreams not his own power (Gen 39-40)

God responds by blessing Joseph tremendously in wisdom and authority.

God also continues to keep his covenant promise to "bless those that bless thee". This included Potiphar, the prison warden, Pharaoh and Egypt. (Gen 39-50)

Joseph Flees Potiphar's wife (Gen 39)

- We must always keep in mind that it is not enough just to flee from wrongdoing.
 - Where is the motivation in that?
 - Our flesh wants its desires, and all we can do is try to flee from what we already want?
- When we flee, it is because we are not just running from something, but we are running to something as well
 - Our motivation comes from our Spirit who desires the righteous things of God
 - We are fleeing to our Lord whom we love and desire to have relationship with
- It is not enough just to try to stop a sin that we are mired down in; we have to replace it with something good and righteous as well.

1 Tim 6:11

¹¹ But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

Joseph interprets the dreams of the cupbearer and the baker (Gen 40)

...and the cupbearer forgot to tell Pharaoh about Joseph!?!?

Note: Isaac would have died during Joseph's last year in prison.

Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dreams (Gen 41)

- When looking and listening to Joseph, Pharaoh sees the Spirit of God (Gen 41:38)
- Pharaoh puts Joseph as 2nd in command over all Egypt to prepare for the years of plenty and famine.
- On the 3rd year, Joseph is raised from the pit, just as Jesus is resurrected out of the ground on the 3rd day.

Joseph's 1st dream comes true (Gen 42:6)

- Israel sends all of his sons, except Benjamin, to Egypt to get food.

Jacob sends all of his sons back to Egypt and invokes El Shaddai for protection (Gen 43)

Notice the change in heart of Judah! (Gen 43-44:16-34)

A Family Secured – Obscurity with the Hope of Glory (Gen 45-50)

Then... (Gen 45:1)

Joseph had just heard the self-sacrifice of Judah. Judah, who had him sold to the Ishmaelites, seems to be a completely different person...and it moved Joseph.

God turned evil into Good (Gen 45; 50:19)

- Joseph sees God at work and is able to cope and thrive under the actions against him
- God guides: Joseph claims it was God who sent him there and not his brothers (Gen 45:8)
- God sustains: God used evil to save lives during the famine (Gen 45:7)
- God blesses beyond measure: All of Egypt would belong to Jacob's household (Gen 45:20)
Note that Israel would go into Egypt the same way they would come out.

Gen 45:20

²⁰ Also regard not your stuff; for the good of all the land of Egypt is your's.

Cf. **Exo 12:35-36**

³⁵ And the children of Israel did according to the word of Moses; and they borrowed of the Egyptians jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment:

³⁶ And the Lord gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them such things as they required. And they spoiled the Egyptians.

Joseph knows his brothers (Gen 45:24)

²⁴ So he sent his brethren away, and they departed: and he said unto them, See that ye fall not out by the way.

“Fall out” means to quarrel on the way!

Jacob realizes that Joseph, the firstborn of Rachael, is still alive (Gen 45:25-28)

Accounting issues between Moses' account and Luke's account? (Gen 46)

Gen 46:26-27

²⁶ All the souls that came with Jacob into Egypt, which came out of his loins, besides Jacob's sons' wives, all the souls were threescore and six;

²⁷ And the sons of Joseph, which were born him in Egypt, were two souls: all the souls of the house of Jacob, which came into Egypt, were threescore and ten.

In the Genesis account, only 66 people went to Egypt. Adding Jacob, Joseph, and his two sons, the total becomes 70 people.

Acts 7:14

¹⁴ Then sent Joseph, and called his father Jacob to him, and all his kindred, threescore and fifteen souls.

Luke records Stephen as saying the total was 75 people, but Stephen's record includes the 5 sons of Ephraim and Manasseh spoken of in 1 Chron 7:14-20.

Jacob's family settles in Goshen (Gen 46:28-34)

- Even today, the area of Goshen is known to be one of the best watered plains in Egypt.
- This area was about 900 sq miles.
- This area would also provide some isolation from Egyptian society

Shepherds are detestable to the Egyptians (Gen 46:34)

...for every shepherd is an abomination unto the Egyptians.

- It is believed that during this time, the Hyksos, of shepherd kings, had mastered upper part of the Egyptian kingdom.
 - Many nomadic people of that time and still some today are very reverent for the light that governs the night, since this would allow longer travel time, and the ability to keep their herds safe.
 - One can see how this could lead to deifying the moon...the moon God is central to the origins of Islam and was the god worshipped by the family clan of which Muhammed belonged.
 - The Hyksos were foreign powers known for barbarities against the Egyptians.
- Of course Egypt, by in large, was not a shepherding or nomadic class of people. They depended largely upon their crops.
 - The Egyptians relied more heavily on the sun to provide the needed energy for their crops...this would unfortunately lead to deifying the Sun.
 - Of course the Sun god was the primary god of all of Egypt
- Note that Jacob refers to God as the Shepherd.

Pharaoh takes ownership of everyone's silver, cattle, and land (Gen 47:13-26)

Jacob gives the covenant blessing to Menasseh and Ephraim (Gen 48)

- Jacob remembers the vision given by YHWH (Gen 28:13,19) and now equates him as El Shaddai.
- Jacob adopts Joseph's 2 children thus giving Joseph a double portion (remember that the birthright involves a double portion of inheritance above any other son).

1 Chron 5:1-2

Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel, (for he was the firstborn; but forasmuch as he defiled his father's bed, his birthright was given unto the sons of Joseph the son of Israel: and the genealogy is not to be reckoned after the birthright.

²For Judah prevailed above his brethren, and of him came the chief ruler; but the birthright was Joseph's:)

Jacob blesses his sons (Gen 49:8-12)

- Scepter not depart from Judah (kingly line)
- Shiloh = Until he comes to whom it belongs ← The Messiah

With Israel secure in Goshen, Joseph reassures his brothers (Gen 50:24-26)

²⁴ And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he sware to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

²⁵ And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence.

²⁶ So Joseph died, being a hundred and ten years old: and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.