



PRECEPT
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English Standard Version

Genesis

PART 4

WRESTLING
WITH GOD

A STUDY ON ISAAC,
JACOB, AND ESAU
(GENESIS 24–36)

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GENESIS
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WRESTLING WITH GOD
A STUDY ON ISAAC, JACOB, AND ESAU
(GENESIS 24–36)

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HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY; ARTHUR, DAVID; DE LACY, PETE

How to Study Your Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1994/2010

The New Inductive Study Bible—English Standard Version

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2013

Word Study Tools

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

WALVOORD, JOHN F., ZUCK, ROY B., EDS.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures

Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1983-c1985

KIDNER, DEREK

Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries: Genesis

Downers Grove, Illinois: Inter-Varsity Press, 1967.

RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

Logos Bible Software

Powerful search engines and up to 4,000 electronic Bible study resources (commentaries, lexicons, Bible dictionaries etc.) make it fast and easy to do simple and complex searches of multiple sources, then pull materials together for orderly presentation—excellent for word and topical studies based on English or original Hebrew and Greek. Available at www.logos.com



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PRECEPT
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Wrestling with God
Lesson 1, Genesis 24–25

LESSON ONE

Chapters 24 and 25:19-34

THIS LESSON The following located in the Appendix:
INCORPORATES Observation Worksheets of Genesis 24–25
 “Isaac’s Offspring”
 “From Ur to Canaan”
 “Abraham’s Sojournings”
 “Journal on God”
 “Genesis at a Glance”
 Cross-references

For your understanding, encouragement, and hope.

What a wonderful study awaits you! In the next four weeks you will build a solid foundation of understanding two nations that play a significant role in the history of mankind from the time of Isaac right through the very coming of Messiah as King of kings and Lord of lords!

In addition to all this you will gain practical, compelling lessons for life, “for whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope” (Romans 15:4).

Begin with prayer. Ask God to lead you and guide you into all truth. Tell Him you want truth, even if it means having to admit that maybe you misunderstood the meaning of a text. Such humility will lead you to greater depths of understanding and godliness. And that, beloved student, is what it is all about: knowing truth and being conformed to it!

**DAY
ONE**

1. Read Genesis 24–25 as printed out in the Appendix of this study.
 - a. Simply read it to familiarize yourself with the content.
 - b. Note the opening phrase of Genesis 25:19. Keeping this in mind, look up the following verses and record what each says that parallels Genesis



25:19. You might want to mark each of these phrases in the same way because they are textual landmarks in Genesis.

1) Genesis 2:4

2) Genesis 5:1

3) Genesis 6:9

4) Genesis 10:1

5) Genesis 11:10

6) Genesis 11:27

7) Genesis 25:12

8) Genesis 25:19

2. Read Genesis 24 again; mark geographical locations* and record the main events in the margin.
3. Now read Genesis 25:19-34 again and mark *Esau* and *Edom*, including pronouns, both in the same way. Continue to mark him throughout this study. You'll know what color to mark Edom when you read Genesis 25:25, 30.
Also mark *Jacob*. You could color Jacob blue.
4. Now read Genesis 25:19-34 a third time. This time mark the following, each in a distinctive way:
 - a. *prayer** (and any synonyms)
 - b. *birthright*
 - c. time references*
 - d. geographical locations*—Find locations on the maps in the Appendix.

You should continue to mark these words during this study. So cut out the Key Word Bookmark on the back cover of this workbook and list these words on the blank side, marking them the way you will throughout this study.

- *On the back cover of your workbook, you'll see suggested markings for some words used frequently in the Bible. In this workbook, we'll indicate those with an asterisk [*]
5. Finally, stop and think of the significance of these two sons born to Rebekah and Isaac. Note what they represent and their relationship to one another according to Genesis 25:23.

Look at the maps again. Note where Edom is and what nation presently occupies the land of Edom. Interesting, isn't it!

**DAY
TWO**

1. In the Appendix is a chart, "Isaac's Descendants." Study this chart and then add the descendants of Isaac. The younger twin goes on the left side of the chart.
2. Record below the age of Isaac when (1) he married Rebekah, and (2) when Rebekah gave birth to Isaac's twins.

3. It is good to get in the habit of marking references to prayer in the Word of God. Many people have no idea of the role of God's Word in prayer.
 - a. The Bible is a progressive revelation; therefore, truths that are introduced in Genesis are expanded on in other books of the Bible. It is always interesting to see where a concept is first introduced and to look at the circumstances surrounding its use or introduction. The first references to prayer are in Genesis 20:7, 17. Look up these verses in your Bible, mark the words *pray* and *prayed*, and record the circumstances connected with prayer and what you learn about it.
 - b. The second occurrence of *prayed* is in Genesis 25:21. What do you learn about prayer (inquiring of God) from Genesis 25:19–34? Look at “inquire” in verse 22 and note if this has anything to do with prayer. If so, include it in your comments.
 - c. What is your first response in the time of trouble, confusion, need? Where do you turn first? What does that show? Is there any lesson for life here for you, Beloved? Anything to be learned from the lives of these people who lived about four millennia ago? What? Write your answer below.

DAY
THREE
AND
DAY
FOUR

1. Read Genesis 25:19-34 using your Observation Worksheets. Note every place you marked *birthright*. List below what you observed.
2. Read Hebrews 12:14-16 and record below what you learn about Esau and about the birthright.
3. From what you have read in Genesis 25 and Hebrews 12: Who does the birthright belong to? How significant was the birthright? Who valued it? Who despised it? What did it mean “to despise” it? Watch how Moses, the writer of Genesis, draws a conclusion in Genesis 25:34. Take this into consideration as you answer these questions.
4. Look up the following verses, observe them carefully, and record what you learn about the firstborn and the birthright. Also note who the firstborn is if the text tells you. You might want to mark references to *firstborn* and to the *birthright*.

- a. Genesis 49:3–4—Genesis 35:22 tells when Reuben defiled his father's bed.
- b. 1 Chronicles 5:1–2
- c. Exodus 13:2, 11–15
- d. 2 Chronicles 21:1–3—Look at firstborn.
- e. Psalm 78:51
- f. Deuteronomy 21:15–17

g. Exodus 4:22-23

h. Hebrews 1:5-8

i. Colossians 1:15-18; Revelation 1:5

j. Romans 8:29

5. Summarize what you learned about the firstborn and birthright; it will help you remember what you observed. By the way, when you finish this, you may want to record it in your Bible. If you have a *New Inductive Study Bible*, there will be room in the margin next to Genesis 25:27-34.

Did you ever dream that there was so much in these few verses that give the account of the birth of Jacob and Esau? It really helps, doesn't it, beloved student, to slow down, observe the text, and give our Father an opportunity to speak to you by His Spirit. We're so thankful you have joined us for this study. We have purposely made it only four weeks long, so it will be totally doable—what you have begun, you can complete. The discipline will not go unchallenged, but you can "hangeth thou in there" for three more weeks. The benefit will far outweigh the cost! Press on.

DAY FIVE

In our final day of study this week, we want to stop and reflect on what we learn about God from our study of Genesis 25:19-34 by allowing Scripture to interpret Scripture. Whenever you study the Word of God, remember that the Bible is God's book about Himself, by Himself through the agency of men ordained to write for Him. It is the one and only true and reliable revelation by which you should measure everything you ever think, hear, or are taught about God. The Bible is God's plumb line on Himself and on truth!

1. Read Genesis 25:19-34 once more. This time mark in a distinctive way every reference to the *LORD*.

We learn so much about God in this study that we thought it would be good to keep a "Journal on God." In fact, you could continue this journal throughout your study of God's Word. You'll find pages for this journal in the Appendix. In the "Journal on God" record what you learned as a result of marking *LORD* in Genesis 25:19-34.

2. Now read Romans 9:1-16 which is printed on the next page.
 - a. Mark:
 - 1) *God*, including all pronouns that refer to Him
 - 2) *Jacob* and *Esau* as you did in Genesis. As you progress in this study, you will see that eventually God changes Jacob's name to Israel. Mark *Israel* the same way you mark *Jacob*.

- 3) *offspring*—If you did our Genesis study on Abraham, mark *offspring* the same way you did in that course; if not, then design a color-code for *offspring* because you will mark it the same way next week. Watch for the mention of Abraham and Isaac.
- 4) *election*

ROMANS 9:1-16

- 1 I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit—
- 2 that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart.
- 3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh.
- 4 They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises.
- 5 To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.
- 6 But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel,
- 7 and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.”
- 8 This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring.
- 9 For this is what the promise said: “About this time next year I will return, and Sarah shall have a son.”
- 10 And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac,
- 11 though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God’s purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls—

- 12 she was told, “The older will serve the younger.”
- 13 As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”
- 14 What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God’s part? By no means!
- 15 For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”
- 16 So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.

- b. Now note who makes the choice and the basis of the choice. Record it in the margin.
3. Record the main topics or events of Genesis 24–25 on the “*Genesis at a Glance*” chart, located in the Appendix.
4. Read what commentaries have to say about Genesis 25:19–34, but please don’t read any further than that. Inductive study should always precede commentary study; that way you have a plumb line by which you can evaluate the accuracy of what others say about the text. If there are any commentary notes that you wish to keep, record them.
5. Finally, take time to worship God, to bow before Him in humble submission and praise for what you have seen in your study this week.

We want to commend you and your leader, Beloved, for training yourselves for godliness. Remember, you are to be not only a hearer of His Word, but a doer also. Follow Isaac’s and Rebekah’s example and stay in communication with God. The New Testament refers to it as praying without ceasing; in other words, seeking Him in every situation about every matter and circumstance.

GENESIS 24
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

NOW Abraham was old, well advanced in years. And the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things.

- 2 And Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he had, “Put your hand under my thigh,
- 3 that I may make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell,
- 4 but will go to my country and to my kindred, and take a wife for my son Isaac.”
- 5 The servant said to him, “Perhaps the woman may not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I then take your son back to the land from which you came?”
- 6 Abraham said to him, “See to it that you do not take my son back there.
- 7 “The LORD, the God of heaven, who took me from my father’s house and from the land of my kindred, and who spoke to me and swore to me, ‘To your offspring I will give this land,’ he will send his angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there.
- 8 “But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be free from this oath of mine; only you must not take my son back there.”
- 9 So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master and swore to him concerning this matter.
- 10 Then the servant took ten of his master’s camels and departed, taking all sorts of choice gifts from his master; and he arose and went to Mesopotamia to the city of Nahor.
- 11 And he made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water at the time of evening, the time when women go out to draw water.

- 12 And he said, “O LORD, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show steadfast love to my master Abraham.
- 13 “Behold, I am standing by the spring of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water.
- 14 “Let the young woman to whom I shall say, ‘Please let down your jar that I may drink,’ and who shall say, ‘Drink, and I will water your camels’—let her be the one whom you have appointed for your servant Isaac. By this I shall know that you have shown steadfast love to my master.”
- 15 Before he had finished speaking, behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel the son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham’s brother, came out with her water jar on her shoulder.
- 16 The young woman was very attractive in appearance, a maiden whom no man had known. She went down to the spring and filled her jar and came up.
- 17 Then the servant ran to meet her and said, “Please give me a little water to drink from your jar.”
- 18 She said, “Drink, my lord.” And she quickly let down her jar upon her hand and gave him a drink.
- 19 When she had finished giving him a drink, she said, “I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking.”
- 20 So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough and ran again to the well to draw water, and she drew for all his camels.
- 21 The man gazed at her in silence to learn whether the LORD had prospered his journey or not.
- 22 When the camels had finished drinking, the man took a gold ring weighing a half shekel, and two bracelets for her arms weighing ten gold shekels,
- 23 and said, “Please tell me whose daughter you are. Is there room in your father’s house for us to spend the night?”
- 24 She said to him, “I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor.”

- 25 She added, “We have plenty of both straw and fodder, and room to spend the night.”
- 26 The man bowed his head and worshiped the LORD
- 27 and said, “Blessed be the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken his steadfast love and his faithfulness toward my master. As for me, the LORD has led me in the way to the house of my master’s kinsmen.”
- 28 Then the young woman ran and told her mother’s household about these things.
- 29 Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban. Laban ran out toward the man, to the spring.
- 30 As soon as he saw the ring and the bracelets on his sister’s arms, and heard the words of Rebekah his sister, “Thus the man spoke to me,” he went to the man. And behold, he was standing by the camels at the spring.
- 31 He said, “Come in, O blessed of the LORD. Why do you stand outside? For I have prepared the house and a place for the camels.”
- 32 So the man came to the house and unharnessed the camels, and gave straw and fodder to the camels, and there was water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him.
- 33 Then food was set before him to eat. But he said, “I will not eat until I have said what I have to say.” He said, “Speak on.”
- 34 So he said, “I am Abraham’s servant.
- 35 “The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become great. He has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male servants and female servants, camels and donkeys.
- 36 “And Sarah my master’s wife bore a son to my master when she was old, and to him he has given all that he has.
- 37 “My master made me swear, saying, ‘You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I dwell,
- 38 but you shall go to my father’s house and to my clan and take a wife for my son.’”

- 39 “I said to my master, ‘Perhaps the woman will not follow me.’
- 40 “But he said to me, ‘The LORD, before whom I have walked, will send his angel with you and prosper your way. You shall take a wife for my son from my clan and from my father’s house.
- 41 ‘Then you will be free from my oath, when you come to my clan. And if they will not give her to you, you will be free from my oath.’
- 42 “I came today to the spring and said, ‘O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you are prospering the way that I go,
- 43 behold, I am standing by the spring of water. Let the virgin who comes out to draw water, to whom I shall say, ‘Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,’
- 44 and who will say to me, ‘Drink, and I will draw for your camels also,’ let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master’s son.’
- 45 “Before I had finished speaking in my heart, behold, Rebekah came out with her water jar on her shoulder, and she went down to the spring and drew water. I said to her, ‘Please let me drink.’
- 46 “She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder and said, ‘Drink, and I will give your camels drink also.’ So I drank, and she gave the camels drink also.
- 47 “Then I asked her, ‘Whose daughter are you?’ She said, ‘The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor’s son, whom Milcah bore to him.’ So I put the ring on her nose and the bracelets on her arms.
- 48 “Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to take the daughter of my master’s kinsman for his son.
- 49 “Now then, if you are going to show steadfast love and faithfulness to my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, that I may turn to the right hand or to the left.”
- 50 Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, “The thing has come from the LORD; we cannot speak to you bad or good.

- 51 “Behold, Rebekah is before you; take her and go, and let her be the wife of your master’s son, as the LORD has spoken.”
- 52 When Abraham’s servant heard their words, he bowed himself to the earth before the LORD.
- 53 And the servant brought out jewelry of silver and of gold, and garments, and gave them to Rebekah. He also gave to her brother and to her mother costly ornaments.
- 54 And he and the men who were with him ate and drank, and they spent the night there. When they arose in the morning, he said, “Send me away to my master.”
- 55 Her brother and her mother said, “Let the young woman remain with us a while, at least ten days; after that she may go.”
- 56 But he said to them, “Do not delay me, since the LORD has prospered my way. Send me away that I may go to my master.”
- 57 They said, “Let us call the young woman and ask her.”
- 58 And they called Rebekah and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will go.”
- 59 So they sent away Rebekah their sister and her nurse, and Abraham’s servant and his men.
- 60 And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,
- “Our sister, may you become
thousands of ten thousands,
and may your offspring possess
the gate of those who hate him!”
- 61 Then Rebekah and her young women arose and rode on the camels and followed the man. Thus the servant took Rebekah and went his way.
- 62 Now Isaac had returned from Beer-lahai-roi and was dwelling in the Negeb.
- 63 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field toward evening. And he lifted up his eyes and saw, and behold, there were camels coming.

- 64 And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she dismounted from the camel
- 65 and said to the servant, “Who is that man, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself.
- 66 And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done.
- 67 Then Isaac brought her into the tent of Sarah his mother and took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

GENESIS 25

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

ABRAHAM took another wife, whose name was Keturah.

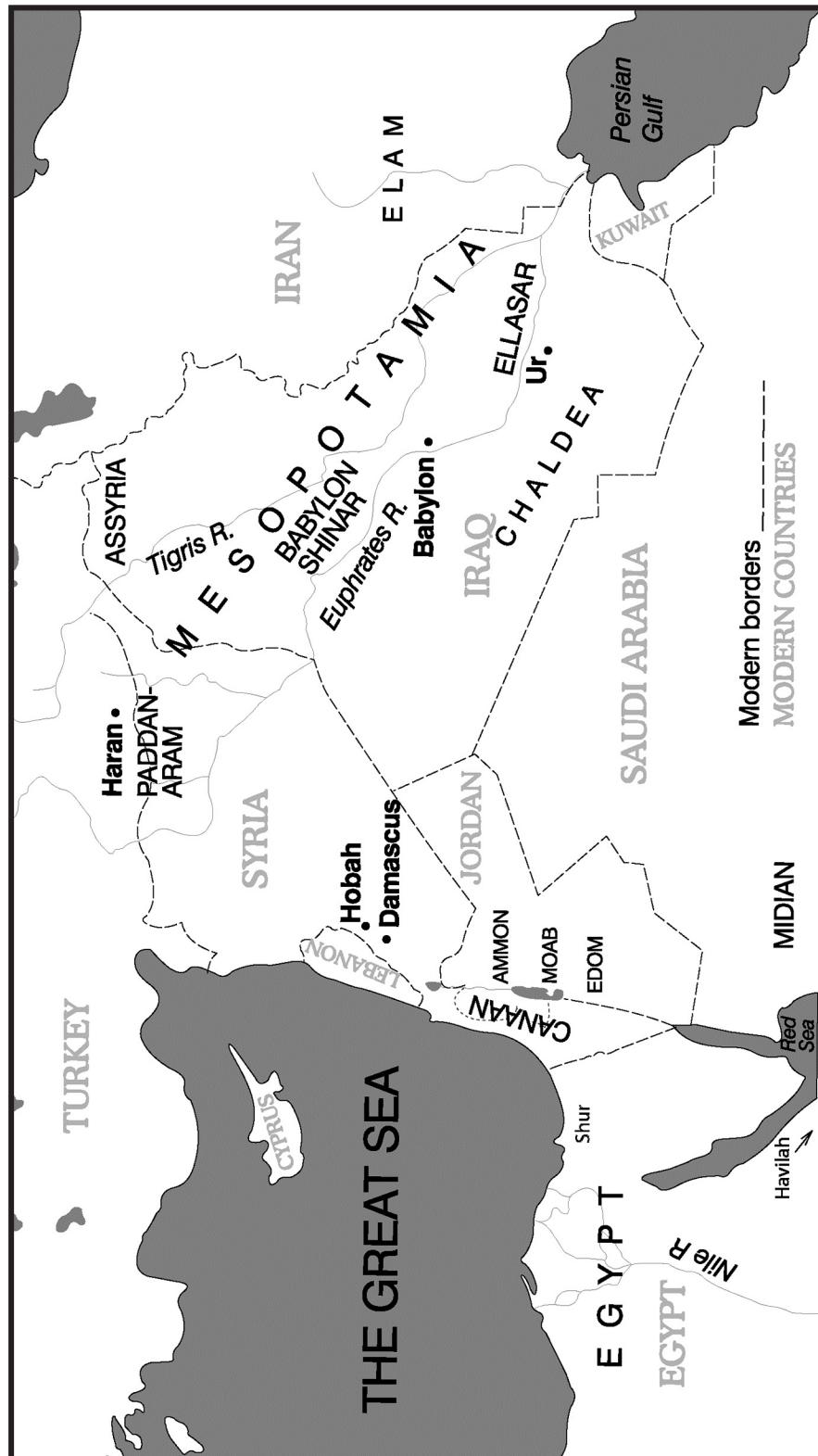
- 2 She bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah.
- 3 Jokshan fathered Sheba and Dedan. The sons of Dedan were Asshurim, Letushim, and Leummim.
- 4 The sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abida, and Eldaah. All these were the children of Keturah.
- 5 Abraham gave all he had to Isaac.
- 6 But to the sons of his concubines Abraham gave gifts, and while he was still living he sent them away from his son Isaac, eastward to the east country.
- 7 These are the days of the years of Abraham's life, 175 years.
- 8 Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people.
- 9 Isaac and Ishmael his sons buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite, east of Mamre,
- 10 the field that Abraham purchased from the Hittites. There Abraham was buried, with Sarah his wife.
- 11 After the death of Abraham, God blessed Isaac his son. And Isaac settled at Beer-lahai-roi.
- 12 These are the generations of Ishmael, Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's servant, bore to Abraham.
- 13 These are the names of the sons of Ishmael, named in the order of their birth: Nebaioth, the firstborn of Ishmael; and Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam,
- 14 Mishma, Dumah, Massa,
- 15 Hadad, Tema, Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah.
- 16 These are the sons of Ishmael and these are their names, by their villages and by their encampments, twelve princes according to their tribes.

- 17 (These are the years of the life of Ishmael: 137 years. He breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people.)
- 18 They settled from Havilah to Shur, which is opposite Egypt in the direction of Assyria. He settled over against all his kinsmen.
- 19 These are the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham fathered Isaac,
- 20 and Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, the sister of Laban the Aramean, to be his wife.
- 21 And Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren. And the LORD granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife conceived.
- 22 The children struggled together within her, and she said, “If it is thus, why is this happening to me?” So she went to inquire of the LORD.
- 23 And the LORD said to her,

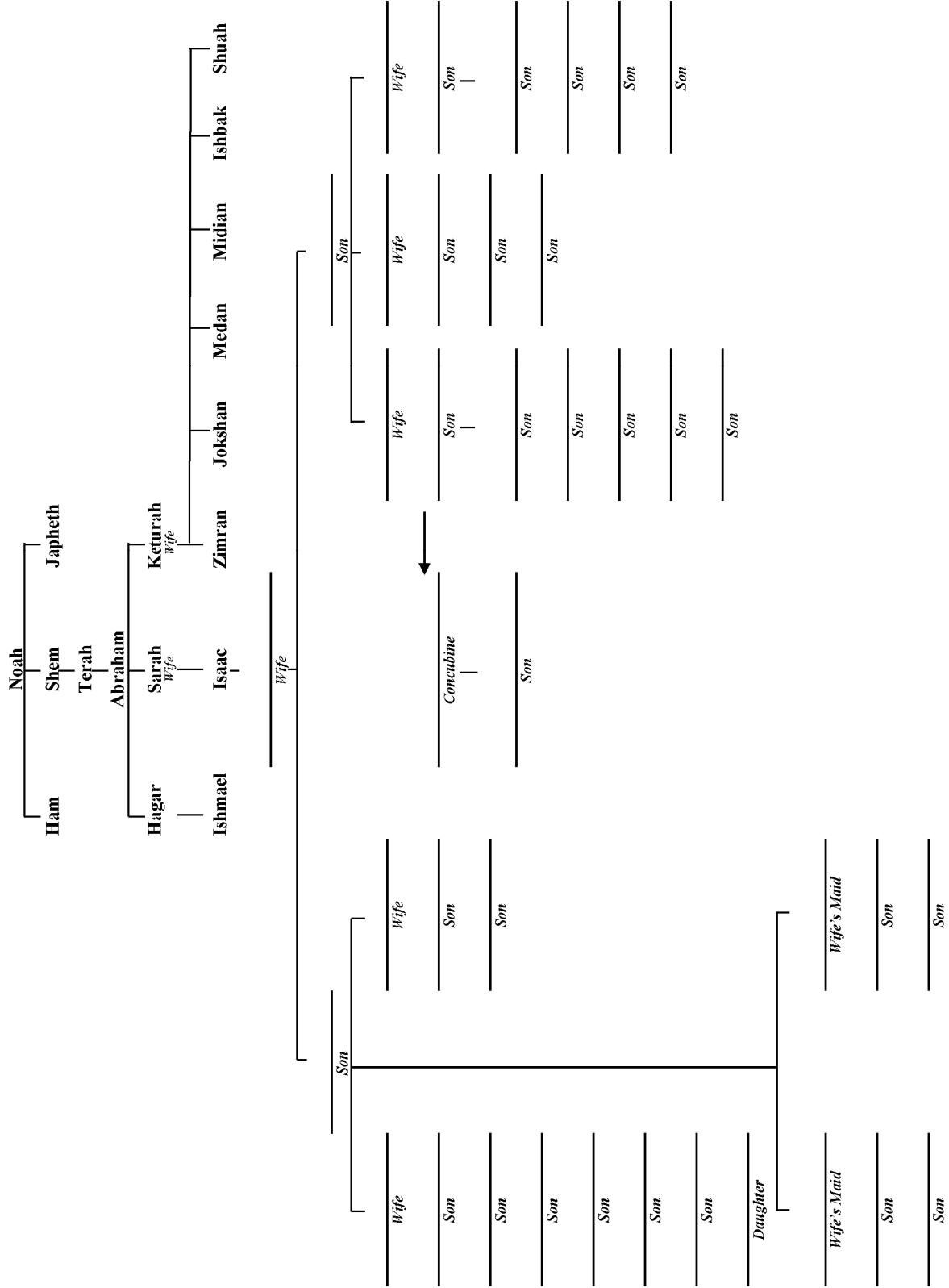
“Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples from within you shall be divided;
the one shall be stronger than the other,
the older shall serve the younger.”

- 24 When her days to give birth were completed, behold, there were twins in her womb.
- 25 The first came out red, all his body like a hairy cloak, so they called his name Esau.
- 26 Afterward his brother came out with his hand holding Esau's heel, so his name was called Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.
- 27 When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, dwelling in tents.
- 28 Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.
- 29 Once when Jacob was cooking stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was exhausted.

- 30 And Esau said to Jacob, “Let me eat some of that red stew, for I am exhausted!” (Therefore his name was called Edom.)
- 31 Jacob said, “Sell me your birthright now.”
- 32 Esau said, “I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?”
- 33 Jacob said, “Swear to me now.” So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob.
- 34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.





ISAAC'S OFFSPRING



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GENESIS AT A GLANCE

Theme of Genesis:

Chapter Themes

1	Creation in Six Days
2	Creation of Mankind
3	The Fall
4	Cain & Abel
5	Life under the Curse
6	Setting for the Flood Judgment
7	The Flood
8	The End of the Flood
9	God's Covenant with Noah
10	Nations Separated after the Flood
11	Babel/Terah and Family to Haran
12	God Calls Abram/Abram & Pharaoh
13	Abram and Lot Separate
14	Abram Rescues Lot/Melchizedek
15	God's Covenant with Abram
16	Hagar Bears Ishmael
17	Circumcision—Sign of the Covenant
18	Promise of Isaac/Abraham Intercedes for Sodom
19	Destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah
20	Abraham & Abimelech
21	Sarah Bears Isaac
22	Abraham Offers Isaac
23	Sarah Buried at Hebron



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