

**Patriarch Period:  
From the Flood to Egypt *Genesis 12-50***

We now enter the period known as the Patriarchs of Israel. The characters in this section are many and the time frame vast. God will begin a new nation, Israel, with the calling of Abraham from the Land of Ur. Israel will become a great multitude in the land of Egypt during this session.

The characters of these chapters include a man who has a son in his old age. A man who has 12 sons that becomes the 12 tribes of Israel and a man who goes from the prison to the palace.

These chapters are the foundation of the rest of the Old Testament and sub sequential the New Testament. Until this time God has dealt with mankind in general. The Old Testament now will record God working through a nation to reveal Himself and to set the stage for the coming of the redeemer.

For the sake of this study we will divide these chapter into four divisions.

- I- Story of Abraham:**
- II- Story of Issac:**
- III- Story of Jacob:**
- IV- Story of Joseph:**

These are not the only important characters in these chapters but will give us a good framework to understand the period of time before us now.

**I- Story of Abraham:**

Abraham is one of the most important men in the history of mankind. He is the father of the nation of Israel and in fact several nations.

- a- The call of Abraham- **12:1ff**

Abram (Abraham's name before God changed it) lived in the city of Ur

(**Gen 1:31**). God called him to leave his family and home to follow Him. Abraham responded to the call of God on his life.

- b- His Nephew Lot- **13:1ff**

One of the series of events in the life of Abraham concerns his brother's son Lot. Lot and Abraham go different direction in Genesis 13. Lot chose the fertile land and ended up in Sodom. God destroyed Sodom for its wickedness.

- c- The Abrahamic Covenant- **15:18; 17:1-14.**

God makes a covenant with Abraham. This covenant is an unconditional covenant, which means it did not depend on what Abraham and the nation of Israel did but on what God was going to do for them. The Covenant is that God was going to give Abraham and his descendants the Promised Land. We see in **Genesis 17** that the sign of the covenant was circumcision of the males.

The thing that made this covenant remarkable was that Abraham was an old man and did not have any children. In Genesis 16 we see Abraham and Sarai, his wife, run ahead of God's timetable. The result was Ishmael.

- d- The promise reaffirmed- **18:1-15**

Genesis 18 records the visit from the Lord to Abraham to reaffirm the promise of the seed.

**II- Story of Isaac:**

This brings us to the point in Abraham's life when he was 100 years old and Sarah is 90. 10 years have passed since the reaffirmation of the promise of a seed and heir to be born.

**a- Birth of Isaac- 21:1-7**

Isaac's was a very miraculous birth because of the age of his parents. 100 and 90 respectively as we have said. This is the first of many things about Isaac that makes him a picture of Christ in the Old Testament.

**b- Sacrifice of Isaac- 22:1ff**

The testing of Abraham is recorded but in some ways it is a test of faith of Isaac as much as Abraham. Isaac is laid on the altar to be offered to God. The sacrifice is stopped and God provided a lamb for the sacrifice. God also gave a promise of the coming of Messiah.

**c- A Wife for Isaac- 24:1ff**

Abraham sends his servant to find a wife of his kinsmen for his son Isaac. The bride that God chose for Isaac was Rebekah.

**d- Birth of Esau and Jacob- 25:1ff**

To the union of Isaac and Rebekah is born 2 sons, Esau and Jacob.

**III- Story of Jacob:**

There is a rivalry between the two brothers. Esau is Jacob's favorite and Jacob is Rebekah's.

**a- Jacob the Deceiver- 27:1 ff**

Jacob and his mother conspire to steal the birthright of Esau the firstborn. The plan of God all along was for Jacob to be the one the promise passed through, but not by deception. Jacob is going to be a deceiver most of his life.

**b- The father of 12- 30:1-14**

Jacob will become the father of a total of 12 sons. From these 12 will become the patriarchs of the twelve tribes of Israel. His sons are, Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, and

Benjamin who will be born last. (See **Gen 49**) They were born to him by four different women, 2 wives and 2 handmaids of his wives.

**c- The favorite son- 37:1ff**

Like his father Jacob had a favorite son, Joseph who was born of his favorite wife Rachel. Jacob gave Joseph a coat of many colors for which his brothers despised him. Joseph was also called a dreamer because of dreams he had concerning what God was going to do.

**IV- Story of Joseph:**

This brings us to the story of Joseph. More of Genesis is devoted to the events that revolve around the life of Joseph than to any other individual.

**a- Sold into Egypt- 37:2ff**

Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery and tell Jacob that animals killed him. He is taken into Egypt.

**b- Potiphar's house- 39:1-19**

The first to buy Joseph in Egypt is Potiphar. The Lord blessed his house because of Joseph and soon he was over the entire house and Potiphar financial affairs as well.

**c- Prison house- 39:20-41:13**

Potiphar's wife had eyes for Joseph and when Joseph refused she framed Joseph for attempting to force himself upon her. He ends up in prison for this crime he did not commit. He remains in prison until such time that in God's providence he is called upon to interpret Pharaoh's dream.

**d- Pharaoh's house- 41:14ff**

God gave Joseph creditability with Pharaoh and soon he is the number two man in Egypt. The dream of Pharaoh was of seven fat cows and seven lean cows. This we know was seven years of plenty with seven lean

ones to follow. (41:15) God used Joseph to make sure that Egypt had gain for the famine years.

e- Famine in Israel- **42:1ff**

Joseph is in Egypt, his brothers and father are back in Israel. When famine strikes the land and Jacob sends his son to Egypt to buy grain. Joseph recognizes his brothers but they do not know him. He eventually worked the circumstances to reveal himself to them.

f- Israel into Egypt- **46:1ff**

Jacob's name is changed to Israel and he and his sons move to Egypt to live. **Gen 15:13** records that God had told Abraham that his seed would do this very thing and be there for 400 years. Only 70 or so descendants of Abraham went into Egypt.

g- Prophecy of Jacob concerning his sons- **49:1ff**

Jacob calls his sons together on his death bed and prophecies over them. Most notable is **49:10** where it is said concerning Judah that the, "**scepter shall not depart from Judah.**" Judah would be the line from which the Messiah would descend. Jacob made his sons promise his bones would be carried back to the Promise Land when their descendants left Egypt 400 years later.

h- The Purpose of God- **50:20**

In this verse is the total summation of the suffering and the victories we see in the life of Joseph and the purpose of God in it all. Joseph tells his brothers what they meant for evil in the selling of him into slavery was the hand of God in preserving the nation of Israel from which would come the promised Messiah.

**Application to Life's Steps:**

- 1- The most obvious thing we see applicable to our lives is the Sovereignty of God almighty who arranged all these event for His purpose.
- 2- God is also going to fulfill each of His covenants He made to man.
- 3- What is impossible with man is possible with God.
- 4- The story of Joseph teaches us to do what is right in the sight of the Lord and let him settle the final outcome.

**Retracing our Steps:**

- 1- Who is the Father of the Nation of Israel? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2- What 2 sons were born to Isaac and Rebekah? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3- Name the 12 sons of Jacob who would be the 12 tribes of Israel.
  - 1 \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2 \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3 \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4 \_\_\_\_\_
  - 5 \_\_\_\_\_
  - 6 \_\_\_\_\_
  - 7 \_\_\_\_\_
  - 8 \_\_\_\_\_
  - 9 \_\_\_\_\_
  - 10 \_\_\_\_\_
  - 11 \_\_\_\_\_
  - 12 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4- What seemed most important to you out of the life of Joseph? \_\_\_\_\_  
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