

## **2.The Patriarchs**

*Four Key People of Genesis 12-50*

Introduction

I. Abraham (Ch. 12-25)

A. Journey to the Promised Land (12:1-9)

1. The call: Gen. 12:1 “Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father’s house, To the land which I will show you;”
2. The Journey: Haran  
Shechem  
Bethel  
Egypt  
Negev  
Bethel

B. The Covenant with Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3)

1. The nature of the Covenant
  - a. Covenant described:
    - Introduced (12:1-3)
    - actually made (15:18-21)
    - reaffirmed (17:1-21)
    - renewed with Isaac (26:2-5)
    - renewed with Jacob (28:10-17)
  - b. Contains 4 elements:
    - seed
    - land
    - nation
    - divine blessing & protection
  - c. Its terms
    - *Unconditional:* as to its ultimate fulfillment of a kingdom and salvation for Israel
    - *Conditional:* as to the immediate fulfillment of its near term benefits

C. The Incident with Hagar (Ch. 16)

1. Sarah gives Abraham her handmaid Hagar to bear a son to him
2. She bears a son named Ishmael (Abraham is 86).
  - a. Rejected by Sarah but protected and blessed by God

Gen. 16:7 Now the angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur. 8 And he said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid, where have you come from and where are you going?" And she said, "I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai." 9 Then the angel of the LORD said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit yourself to her authority." 10 Moreover, the angel of the LORD said to her, "I will greatly multiply your descendants so that they shall be too many to count." 11 The angel of the LORD said to her further, "Behold, you are with child, And you shall bear a son; And you shall call his name Ishmael, Because the LORD has given heed to your affliction. 12 "And he will be a wild donkey of a man, His hand will be against everyone, And everyone's hand will be against him; And he will live to the east of all his brothers." 13 Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, "Thou art a God who sees"; for she said, "Have I even remained alive here after seeing Him?" 14 Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; behold, it is between Kadesh and Bered.

D. The Promise of Isaac (Ch. 18)

1. The appearance of the 3 men (1 man is the Lord: a "theophany")
2. The Lord promises a son to Abraham and Sarah
  - "Sarah "laughs to herself" (18:12)
  - The Lord said, "is there anything too difficult for the Lord?" (18:14)

E. The Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (18:22-19:38)

1. The 3 men proceed to Sodom and Abraham intercedes for the "righteous in Sodom and Gomorrah:
  - Abraham confessed, "shall not the Judge of all the Earth do justly?"(18:25)
  - the Lord promises, "I will not destroy it on account of the ten" (18:32)
2. Two of the angels approach Sodom and Lot provides protection.
  - The men of the city attempt homosexual rape
  - The angels command Lot and his family to "escape for your life!"
  - Lot's wife looks back
  - Lot's daughters sleep with him (Moab-ites and Ben-Ammon-ites)

F. Isaac vs Ishmael (Ch. 21)

1. The birth of Isaac

- “and the Lord did for as Sarah as He had promised” (21:1)
- institution of circumcision (21:4)
- rejection of Ishmael (found mocking ??)
- Sarah gets Abraham (though he is grieved) to drive out Hagar and Ishmael
- The Lord says to do so because “through Isaac shall your descendants be numbered” (21:12)

2. The Lord provides for Hagar and Ishmael in the wilderness (21:9-21)

Gen 21:17 “And God heard the lad crying; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, “What is the matter with you, Hagar? Do not fear, for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is. 18 “Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him by the hand; for I will make a great nation of him.” 19 Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water; and she went and filled the skin with water, and gave the lad a drink. 20 And God was with the lad, and he grew; and he lived in the wilderness, and became an archer. 21 And he lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother took a wife for him from the land of Egypt.”

G. The Offering of Isaac (Gen. 22)

1. The command from God

Gen. 22:1 “Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” 2 And He said, “Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah; and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you.”

2. Preparation for the sacrifice

- 22:3 So Abraham rose . . .”
- 7 And Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” And he said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” 8 And Abraham said, “God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” So the two of them walked on together.
- Gen. 22:9 Then they came to the place of which God had told him; and Abraham built the altar there, and arranged the wood, and bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. 10 And Abraham stretched out his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. 11 But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” 12 And he said, “Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.” 13 Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son. 14 And Abraham called the name of that place The LORD Will Provide, as it is said to this day, “In the mount of the LORD it will be provided.”

## II. Isaac (Ch. 24-26)

### A. Isaac and Rebekah have twins (Jacob and Esau)

1. Isaac favors Esau and Rebekah favors Jacob
2. Esau (the fleshly one) sells his birthright to Jacob (25:27-34)

### B. Isaac is the “son of the promise”

1. Contrast with Ishmael: “son of the flesh”
2. A man of faith who recognized God’s intent to bless the descendants of Abraham
  - cf. The blessing of Jacob over Esau (Gen. 27:27-29)
  - cf. Also Hebrews 11:20
    - Heb. 11:20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau, even regarding things to come.”

### C. God confirms the Covenant to Isaac (Gen. 26:1-5)

Gen. 26:1 Now there was a famine in the land, besides the previous famine that had occurred in the days of Abraham. So Isaac went to Gerar, to Abimelech king of the Philistines. 2 And the LORD appeared to him and said, “Do not go down to Egypt; stay in the land of which I shall tell you. 3 “Sojourn in this land and I will be with you and bless you, for to you and to your descendants I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath which I swore to your father Abraham. 4 “And I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven, and will give your descendants all these lands; and by your descendants all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; 5 because Abraham obeyed Me and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes and My laws.”

## III. Jacob (Ch.27-36)

### A. Is blessed by God in a foreign land (Gen. 27:41-32:32)

### B. The Sons of Jacob (the 12 Tribes of Israel)

1. by Leah (Reuben, Simeon, Issachar, Zebulun, Levi, Judah)
2. by Rachael (Joseph, Benjamin)
3. by Zilpah (Gad, Asher)
4. by Bilhah (Dan, Naphtali)

#### IV. Joseph (Ch. 37-50)

##### A. Favored son of Jacob

1. Jacob makes a many-colored coat for Joseph (distinctive mark of a tribal chief)
2. Joseph is given two dreams by God
  - a. The First dream
    - binding sheaves in the field and his sheave stood erect
    - his brothers' sheaves bowed down to Joseph's sheave
    - "are you actually going to reign over us?"
  - b. The Second dream
    - "the sun, moon, and stars were bowing down to me"
    - Response of his father and brothers

37:10 And he related it to his father and to his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have had? Shall I and your mother and your brothers actually come to bow ourselves down before you to the ground?" 11 And his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind.

3. Resented by his brothers

##### B. Sold into slavery by his brothers

1. Providentially rescued by Mideonite traders
2. Providentially rescued by Potiphar (captain of Pharaoh's bodyguard)

##### C. Blessed by God in Potiphar's house

39:2 And the **LORD was with Joseph**, so he became a successful man. And he was in the house of his master, the Egyptian. 3 Now **his master saw that the LORD was with him and how the LORD caused all that he did to prosper in his hand.** 4 So Joseph found favor in his sight, and became his personal servant; and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he owned he put in his charge. 5 And it came about that from the time he made him overseer in his house, and over all that he owned, **the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house on account of Joseph; thus the LORD's blessing was upon all that he owned**, in the house and in the field. 6 So he left everything he owned in Joseph's charge;

D. Difficult times in Prison

1. Wrongly accused by Potiphar's wife
2. Thrown into prison
3. Joseph prospers in prison

39:21 But the **LORD was with Joseph and extended kindness to him, and gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer.** 22 And the chief jailer committed to Joseph's charge all the prisoners who were in the jail; so that whatever was done there, he was responsible for it. 23 The chief jailer did not supervise anything under Joseph's charge because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made to prosper.

4. Joseph interprets dreams in prison
  - chief cupbearer (good news)
  - chief baker (bad news)

F. Prosperity in Pharaoh's Court

1. Interprets Pharaoh's dream
  - seven fat cows come up to the Nile River
  - seven poor, ugly, and gaunt cows come up to the Nile River
  - seven prosperous years in Egypt to be followed by seven years of famine
2. Joseph is elevated to a ruler in pharaoh's court

G. Joseph provides blessing for his family in Egypt

1. Famine in Canaan caused Jacob's family to seek food in Egypt
2. Joseph shows mercy and compassion to his family

45:5 "And now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. 6 "For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. 7 "And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth, and to keep you alive by a great deliverance. 8 "Now, therefore, it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his household and ruler over all the land of Egypt.