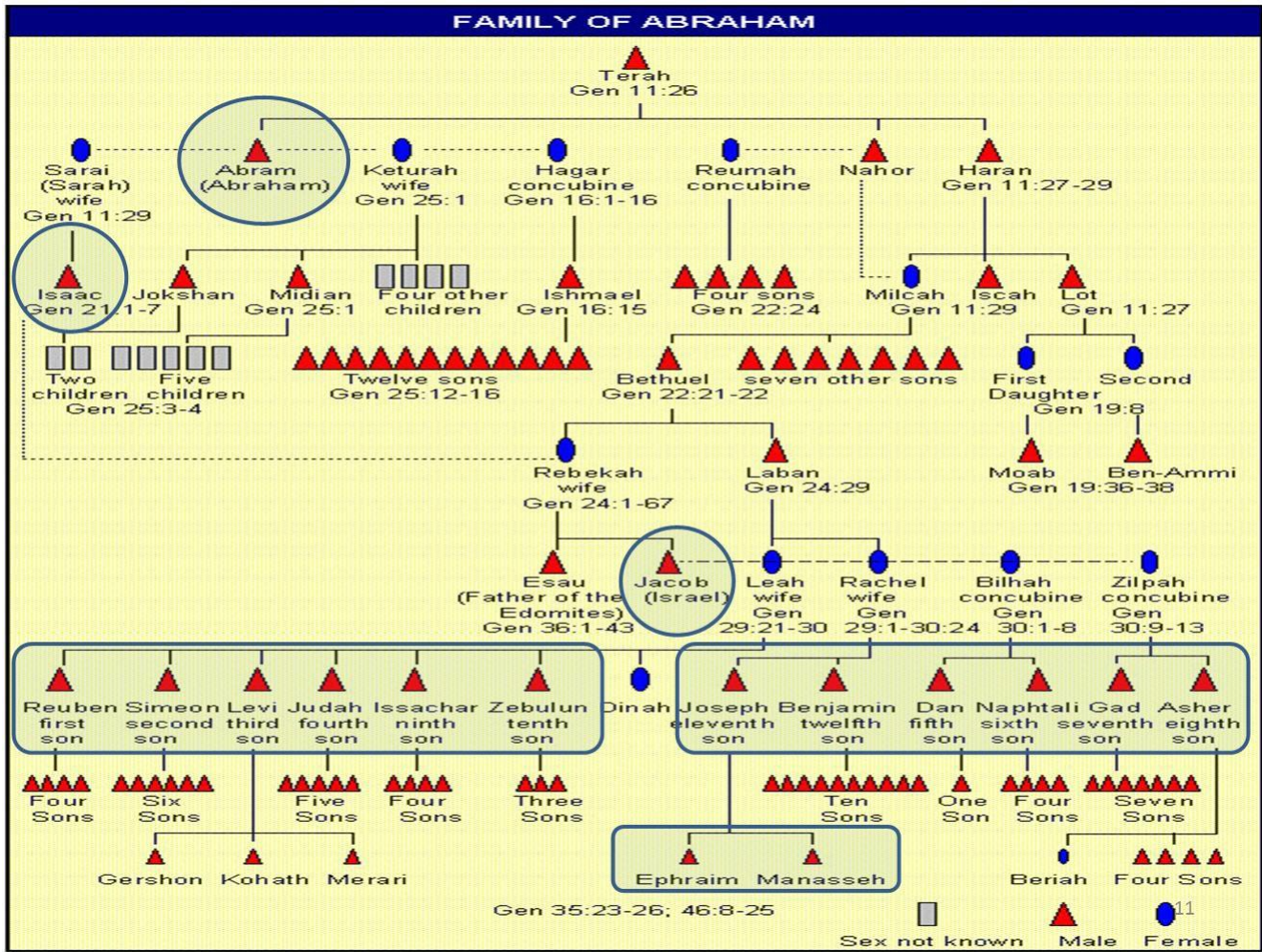


Patriarchs Travel – Lesson 5

The term, patriarchs, refers to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and the sons of Jacob (Israel) called the Twelve Tribes. Abraham was called out of Ur of the Chaldees and became a worshiper of the One True God. Abraham was originally called Abram, but God changed his name. Abram means blessed father, and Abraham means father of a multitude. Both names are used interchangeably. Sarai's name was changed to Sarah. God seems to change people's names when he changes their mission and purpose.

Refer to the chart below. Terah was the father of Abram, Nahor, Haran, and Sarai. Abram and Sarai had different mothers. Haran died in Ur of the Chaldees. Haran was the father of Lot, Milcah, and Iscah. Abram and Sarai were married, as were Nahor and Milcah. Terah, Abram, Sarai, and Lot journeyed from Ur to Haran. Abram was 75 years old when Terah died in Haran. Then they left for Canaan.

Abram had a son, Ishmael, by the handmaid, Hagar, an Egyptian. This was a custom when the wife was barren. Abram and Sarai had a son 14 years later named Isaac. Isaac married Rebekah who was the daughter of Be-thuel and sister to Laban from the city of Haran. Isaac and Rebekah had sons, Esau and Jacob. Jacob married Rachael and Leah who were daughters of Laban. He also had children of their handmaids, Bilhah and Zilpah. In the diagram below the dotted line (---) represents marriage, the -- siblings and | children:



The following table is a summary of Abraham's life from Genesis chapters 12-25. The Bible refers to Abraham in many other places, particularly the New Testament.

Chapter	Summary of life of Abraham
12	Called, travels, father dies, builds altars, famine leads him to Egypt, tells Pharaoh that Sarai is his sister
13	Abram and Lot separate. Lot chooses Sodom
14	Abram rescues Lot from attack. Melchizedek blesses Abram
15	God promises land and a son to Abraham
16	Sarai gives Hagar to Abram to wife. At 86, Ishmael born.
17	God's covenant - land and thy seed multiplied. At 99 becomes Abram becomes Abraham. Circumcision given as token of the Abrahamic covenant .
18	Sarah laughs at the promise. God tells Abraham about Sodom. Abraham intercedes.
19	Sodom destroyed. Lot rescued. Lot's daughters commit incest with Lot.
20	Abraham to Abimelech, "Sarah is my sister." Abimelech was a title used for Philistine Kings Consider this: Sarah may be pregnant at this time.
21	Isaac born. Hagar and Ishmael cast out. Abraham covenants with Abimelech.
22	Abraham's big test. Offer Isaac for a burnt offering
23	Sarah dies separated from Abraham. He buys a burial ground in Canaan.
24	Servant sent to find a wife for Isaac in Haran.
25	Abraham marries Keturah. Abraham's descendants through Keturah listed. The death and burial of Abraham at age 175.

Abram lied about Sarai his wife to protect himself for her sake (Gen 12:13). He told Pharaoh that she was his sister. It turns out to be half true since she was the daughter of his father but not his mother. He lied again in the same way to Abimelech in Gen 20:2. It must be a family problem because his son, Isaac, did the same thing to Abimelech regarding Rebekah, his wife. See Gen 26:7-9.

The Abrahamic Covenant

God promised Abram a land and descendants that would be as the stars of heaven and sand of the sea. Gal 3:16 tells us that the promised seed refers also to Jesus Christ who would come out of the line of Abraham. This promise was given to Abraham when he was about 75 years of age. After waiting 11 years, Sarah became

impatient and told Abraham to have a child with her handmaid, Hagar, the Egyptian. Isaac, the promised son, was born when Abraham was 99. The name, Isaac, means laughter because Sarah laughed in disbelief that at 90 she would have a child. Nothing is impossible with God.

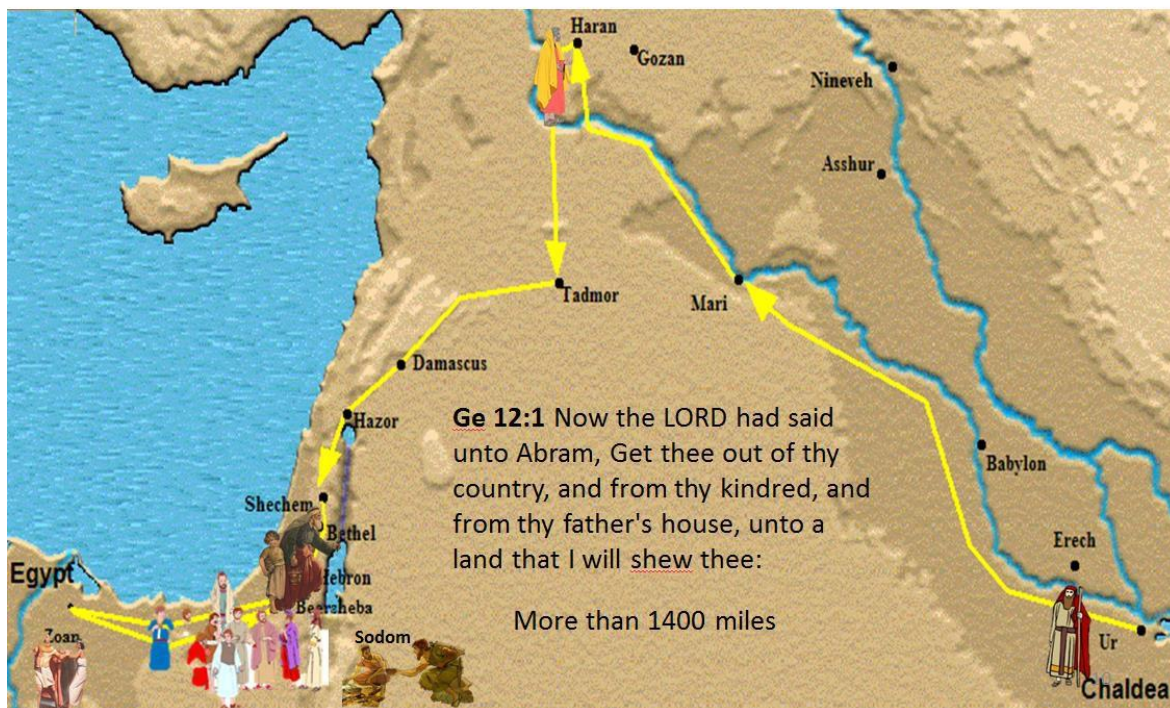
Abraham was a man of faith. In fact Romans 4:3 says, *For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.* All those who believe God regarding his Son, Jesus Christ are counted as the children of Abraham by faith.

The two sons of Abraham allegorically represent two covenants – one of faith and one of bondage. The two are at enmity with each other. See Gal 4:22-31. The enmity is also seen in their descendants even today in the Middle East conflict between Israel and the Arabs.

As Abraham and Lot journeyed, they found they had too many cattle to dwell together. Abraham gave Lot his choice of land, and Lot chose Sodom. He saw the well-watered plain, etc. It turned out to be a bad choice because the sin of Sodom brought destruction from the Lord. Lot and his two daughters escaped, but that only led to more trouble. Both daughters became pregnant by their father. Their descendants, Ammon and Moab, are enemies with Israel to this day. God's grace is seen in Ruth, a descendant of Moab. She is in the genealogy of Jesus Christ and was the great grandmother of David.

Journeys of Abraham

Where Did Patriarchs Travel?



Abraham journeyed approximately 1400 miles from Ur to Egypt and back to Canaan.

Abraham's Relationship with God – Man of Faith, Friend of God, Father of Many Nations

Abraham was called by God for a purpose. See Gen 12:1 and Act 7:2. He believed God regarding his promise. The Bible talks of Abraham building altars and worshiping God. He was known as the friend of God (Isa 41:8; James 2:23). God confided in him regarding his plans to destroy Sodom. Abraham was not afraid to reason (Isa 1:18) with God about the destruction of Sodom. Incidentally, Moses also was considered God's friend (Ex 33:11) because he had the privilege of seeing God. David too, was a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22). Obedient Christians are called "my friends" by Jesus Christ (John 15:14-15).

Abraham Tested Ten Times

- (1) Exile from his family and homeland
- (2) Famine in Canaan forces flight to Egypt
- (3) Abduction of Sarah in Egypt
- (4) War with the four kings
- (5) Marriage to Hagar
- (6) Commandment of circumcision
- (7) Abimelech's abduction of Sarah
- (8) Having to drive Hagar away
- (9) Having to drive Ishmael away
- (10) The binding of Isaac on the altar

Did Abraham See Jesus?

John 8:56,58 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad... Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. I AM is a code word for the self-existent one (JEHOVAH) in the Old Testament. God said to Moses, tell them that I AM THAT I AM hath sent you. The Jews knew exactly what Jesus meant because they took up stones to stone him for blasphemy.

Abraham met Melchisedec returning from the rescue of his nephew, Lot. Melchisedec may have been a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ in a priestly and kingly role (See Heb 7.3). He was the priest of the most high God and King of Salem (Peace). Abraham gave tithes unto him of the spoil. See Gen 14.

God appeared to Abraham to announce the birth of Isaac in Gen 17. Abraham saw the Lord while sitting in his tent door. See Gen 18. Three "men" stopped for a visit. One was the Lord, and the other two were angels going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah.

Abraham's Bosom

This is a name given to the place where the souls of Old Testament believers waited for resurrection and judgment. See Luke 16:19-31. It was moved to heaven when Jesus rose from the dead. Souls of New Testament believers go directly to heaven after death. Paul said in *2 Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.* Jesus told the thief on the cross ... *Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise (Luke 23:43).* Paradise was moved. *Rev 2:7 To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.* The tree of life is in New Jerusalem which comes down from heaven after the Tribulation (Rev 22:2).

Isaac

Isaac is best known for being offered on an altar. He was the promised seed that God gave to Abraham in his old age. Everything depended on Isaac, but God told Abraham to offer him as a burnt offering. Imagine. It was out of character for God to require a human sacrifice. Abraham must have been conflicted, wondering if God was really asking such a thing.

But Abraham believed the promise of God. *Heb 11.19 Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.* At the last moment, God stopped Abraham and provided a substitute sacrifice in the form of a ram stuck in the thicket. On the way to the sacrifice, Abraham told Isaac in *Genesis 22:8 ... My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they*

went both of them together. This foreshadowed the Lamb of God in *John 1:29. The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.* Jesus was God manifest in the flesh. Truly, God did provide Himself as the Lamb.

The covenant that God made with Abraham was reiterated to Isaac. Isaac married his cousin, Rebekah, and they had children, Jacob and Esau. Esau was the first born, and the inheritance was rightfully his. However, he sold this birthright to Jacob for a bowl of vegetable soup when he was hungry. Later, when Isaac was about to die, Jacob and Rebekah conspired to obtain the blessing of the firstborn from Isaac in addition to the birthright which Esau sold to Jacob. Being furious, Esau planned to kill his brother after Isaac died. Rebekah knew about it and sent Jacob away to relatives in Haran. The Abrahamic covenant was consequently confirmed with Jacob. The promised seed would come from Jacob, and the Promised Land was given to his twelve sons, the twelve tribes of Israel.

While Jacob was in Haran, he fell in love with Rachel, his cousin. He worked for Laban seven years in order to marry her. On the wedding night Laban substituted Leah for Rachel. What a surprise he had in the morning. Jacob's name means deceiver, and true to his name, he deceived his father and his brother. The law of sowing and reaping came back to haunt him in this situation. He agreed to work seven more years for Rachel. Laban gave Rachel to Jacob after Leah's week was fulfilled. After the second seven years Jacob continued working six more years to obtain cattle for his family.

Finally, he returned back to Canaan where he and Esau seemingly reconciled. However, the conflict with Esau's descendants continues even to this day. Esau married the daughters of Ishmael, and the resulting Arab nations still hate Israel. Islam teaches that Ishmael, not Isaac, was the one offered on an altar by Abraham.

Jacob

Jacob had children by Leah and Rachel and their handmaids. See the previous diagram showing the descendants of Abraham.

When Jacob left Haran, God met him in the way. Like Abraham, God changed Jacob's name to Israel – from “deceiver” to “a prince that prevails with God”. Jacob wrestled with the angel of the Lord and would not let Him go until he blessed him. The angel of the Lord was a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus Christ, called a theophany. See Gen 32:24+

Jacob's life was troubled: His daughter, Dinah was raped by Shechem. His sons, Simeon and Levi, took revenge and killed all the men of the city of Shechem. Rachel died in childbirth for her second son, Benjamin. Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, violated his father's concubine. Joseph, Rachel's firstborn, was loved by Jacob, and hated by his half-brothers due to jealousy and Joseph's pride and arrogance. He dreamed dreams and interpreted them telling that they would all bow down to him. When the opportunity presented itself, they sold him as a slave into Egypt, and allowed Jacob to conclude that he had been killed. When famine came to the land of Canaan, God used Joseph's captivity to save his family from starvation. In Gen 49, Jacob prophetically blesses his sons. At this point it becomes clear that the promised Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah. See Gen 49:8-11.

Review Questions on Patriarchs Travel

1. Abraham was called a man of F _____, F _____ of God and the F _____ of many nations
2. He was a man of Faith because God said _____ and he obeyed
3. He _____ God and it was counted to him for righteousness
4. Abraham _____ not at the promise of a son when he was old
5. He believed that God would _____ Isaac if he offered him on the altar
6. God told him a son will be born and that _____ would be destroyed.
7. God also told him of _____ bondage and the Exodus
8. God promised Abraham a _____ and _____ in an unconditional covenant
9. In Abraham all the nations of the earth would be _____
10. The _____ was preached to Abraham
11. His name changed from Abram the "blessed father" to Abraham "father of a _____"
12. Isaac was a _____ of Christ because he was offered by his father
13. Like Jesus, Isaac's _____ was foretold
14. Abraham told Isaac that God will provide _____ a Lamb
15. Isaac marries his cousin called _____ from Haran
16. Isaac's children were _____ and _____
17. Jacob by deception obtained both the _____ and _____ from Esau
18. Jacob fled to Haran and met _____ on the way
19. Jacob used a _____ for a pillow and dreamed about a _____ to heaven.
20. He was deceived by Laban and served _____ years for _____, _____ and _____ years for cattle.
21. What was Jacob's favorite sport _____
22. Jacob's name was changed to _____ meaning "as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed"
23. Jacob's sons were called the _____ of _____
24. Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulon, and Dinah were born to _____
25. Gad, Asher were born to _____
26. Of Bilhah were born Dan and _____
27. To Rachel were _____ and Benjamin