

THE PATRIARCHS

1) Gen 12 – 25: Abraham

- a) Abraham is called by God out of the Ur of the Chaldeans at 75 years old (Gen 12:4)
 - i) Abraham is given 3 promises: Land, Nation, & Seed (Messianic promise) – **Gen 12:1-3**
 - ii) Abraham was not a perfect man
 - (1) He lies to Pharaoh about Sarah not being his wife, fearing for his life (Gen 12:10-20)
 - (2) He lies to Abimelech about Sarah not being his wife, fearing for his life (Gen 20)
 - (3) Gave in to Sarah’s demands to bear a child through her handmaiden Hagar (Gen 16)
- b) Despite his flaws, Abraham displays incredible faith throughout his life
 - i) Believed God would provide him a son despite his and Sarah’s old age (Gen 15:6)
 - ii) Allowed his nephew Lot to take the best of the land, though it belonged to him (Gen 13:2-12)
 - iii) Obeyed God’s command to be circumcised at 99 years old (Gen 17:23-27)
 - iv) Pled for Lot when it was revealed Sodom and Gomorrah would be destroyed (Gen 18:22-32)
 - v) Obeyed God to offer his one and only son Isaac as a burnt offering (Gen 22)
 - (1) God stops him at the last minute and confirms His promises as a result of Abraham’s faith
- c) Abraham made preparations for Isaac to inherit the promises
 - i) Abraham sends his servant to his homeland of Mesopotamia to find a wife for Isaac (Gen 24:1-9)
 - ii) Abraham’s servant acquires his cousin Rebekah as a wife for Isaac (Gen 24:62-67)

2) Gen 26 – Isaac

- a) When Abraham dies at 175 yrs old, Isaac becomes the inheritor of the promises – **Gen 26:3-5**
 - i) Isaac was faithful just like his father, though he shared his same weakness (Gen 26:7-11)
 - ii) Rebekah conceives twins who struggled in the womb, a sign of things to come (Gen 25:21-23)
 - (1) Esau (red and hairy) is the firstborn (Gen 25:24-25)
 - (2) Jacob (supplanter) is born immediately afterwards grabbing on to the heel of Esau (Gen 25:26)
 - iii) Esau would later despise his birthright, selling it to Jacob for a bowl of soup (Gen 25:27-34)

3) Gen 27 – 36 – Jacob

- a) Unlike Abraham and Isaac, Jacob was truly a “supplanter”, a man who strived with men
 - i) Jacob then deceived his father into giving him the blessing of the first born (Gen 27:1-29)
 - ii) When Esau finds out, he wants to kill Jacob (Gen 27:30-41)
 - iii) Isaac sends Jacob away to Rebekah’s brother Laban’s house (Gen 27:41-45)
 - iv) Jacob becomes the inheritor of the promise given to Abraham and Isaac – **Gen 28:13-15**
- b) Jacob meets his match in Laban
 - i) Jacob agrees to work 7 years for Laban’s daughter Rachel (Gen 29:15-20)
 - ii) Laban tricks Jacob into marrying her older sister Leah for another 7 years labor (Gen 29:21-27)
 - iii) Jacob works for Laban 6 more years, seeing his flocks increase more than Laban (Gen 30:25-43)
 - iv) Fearing Laban, Jacob takes his family and departs for home (Gen 31)
 - v) Jacob’s family includes 12 sons, which would eventually become 12 patriarchs (see chart)
- c) Fearing Esau, Jacob sends word to him to learn whether there is still a grudge (Gen 32:3-5)
 - i) When Esau heads Jacob’s way w/400 men, Jacob is afraid and seeks God in prayer (Gen 32:6-12)
 - ii) God contends with Jacob that same night while Jacob contends with God (Gen 32:24-25)
 - iii) Having learned to rely on God, He renames him “Israel”, meaning “strives w/God” (Gen 32:26-28)
 - iv) The meeting w/Esau goes well, each embracing and then going their separate ways (Gen 33)

4) Gen 37 – 50 – Joseph

- a) 17 years old, father’s favorite, dreamer, and godly – his brothers hated him (Gen 37:1-11)
 - i) While Joseph is away checking on his brothers, they throw him in a pit (Gen 37:18-24)
 - ii) The brothers eventually sell Joseph as a slave where he then ends up in Egypt (Gen 37:25-28, 36)
- b) Joseph’s faith endured through many trials in Egypt
 - i) Potiphar’s wife falsely accuses Joseph of rape, landing him in prison (Gen 39)
 - ii) After accurately interpreting his dream, the cupbearer forgets about Joseph (Gen 40)
- c) Joseph interprets Pharaoh’s dreams at age 30 (Gen 41:46)
 - i) Egypt will have 7 years of plenty followed by 7 years of famine (Gen 41:25-32)
 - ii) Joseph gives God the glory for his ability to interpret (Gen 41:15,16,25,28,32,39,51,52)
 - iii) Joseph becomes 2nd in command over Egypt, storing food during the 7 yrs of plenty (Gen 41:37-49)
 - iv) Joseph marries and has two sons: Manasseh and Ephraim (Gen 41:50-52)
- d) 7 years of famine follow and Jacob sends his sons to Egypt for food (Gen 42:1-5)
 - i) Joseph sees and recognizes them, but they do not recognize Joseph (Gen 42:6-8)
 - ii) Joseph decides to test their character, accusing them of being spies (Gen 42:9-13)
 - iii) Joseph demands they bring the youngest brother Benjamin as proof of their integrity (Gen 42:14-17)
 - iv) Simeon is held in prison as collateral to assure they return (Gen 42:24)
 - v) Jacob refuses to send Benjamin but relents when they run out of food (Gen 43:1-15)
 - vi) Upon seeing Benjamin, Joseph feeds them dinner, arranging their seating by age (Gen 43:16-34)
 - vii) As a final test, Joseph places his silver cup in Benjamin’s bag upon their departure (Gen 44:1-13)
 - viii) The brothers contend for Benjamin’s life, proving they have changed (Gen 44:14-34)
- e) Joseph reveals himself to the brothers (Gen 45:1-3)
 - i) The brothers are sent home to retrieve Jacob and to come live in Egypt (Gen 45:4-15)
 - ii) Pharaoh allows Jacob’ family to live in Goshen, separated from the Egyptians (Gen 47:1-6)
 - iii) Jacob blesses Pharaoh (Gen 47:7-10)
- f) Nearing death, Jacob blesses his sons (Gen 48 & 49)
 - i) Joseph given the birthright, the double blessing typically given to the older son (Gen 48:22)
 - ii) Ephraim and Manasseh would become a tribe in place of Joseph (Gen 48:8-20)
 - iii) All of the other sons of Israel are blessed but Judah’s is most important (Gen 49)
 - (1) Messianic prophecy – **Gen 49:10**
 - iv) When Jacob dies, he is mourned by all of Egypt and buried w/Abraham and Isaac (Gen 50:13-14)
 - v) Joseph comforts his brothers concerns about vengeance (Gen 50:19-21)
- g) The death of Joseph
 - i) Assures his brothers that God will fulfill His promises (Gen 50:24)
 - ii) Joseph asks that they carry up his bones from Egypt when that time comes (Gen 50:25)

Israel had 12 Sons by 4 Wives

