

GLORIOUS BEGINNINGS!

בראשית

enjoying a journey that unveils Jesus in

GENESIS

written by Jon Cardwell

June 8, 2003

Rev.1— May 12, 2009



ABRAHAM OFFERING UP ISAAC --- GEN 22

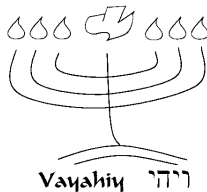
Table of Contents...

The Beginning & the Fall	4
Water Over All	8
The Blessed Call	11
A Prince's Shawl	19

Scripture references, unless otherwise specified, are from the King James, or Authorized Version, of the Holy Bible. The King James Version is in the Public Domain.

Scripture quotations marked “NKJV™” are taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Cover illustration in the Public Domain, courtesy of
TheBibleRevival.com



This survey, written by Pastor Jon Cardwell, was originally created for the Sunday Evening Bible Study at King Cove Bible Chapel in King Cove, Alaska. It is currently available through www.vayahiy.com. Our materials are purposely not copyrighted so you may reproduce this booklet, or any portion thereof, for God's glory.

The Beginning & the Fall

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made” (John 1:1-3).

“For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist” (Colossians 1:16, 17).

Genesis 1 ~ בראשית א

We’ve all heard it time and time again that if you don’t have trouble with the first verse of the Bible, *“In the beginning God...”* you won’t have trouble with the rest of it. It takes a hardened heart not to believe in God, and an even harder heart to deny His Son, Jesus Christ.

The psalmist declares, *“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth forth His handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge”* (Psalm 19:1, 2). God speaks to every person everyday in the workaday world that surrounds us; day and night God presents Himself. The theological term for that is “general revelation.” The promise of Christ, however, is revealed only by the Word of God. God spoke to and through prophets and these prophets wrote down what they had seen or heard or experienced from the Divine Creator. What they wrote revealed God in His Son, Jesus Christ. The theological term for that is “special revelation.”

Gen 1:1~

בראשית ברא אלהים את השמים ואת הארץ
Bareshiyt Bara Elohiym Et HaShamiym V’Et HaAretz.

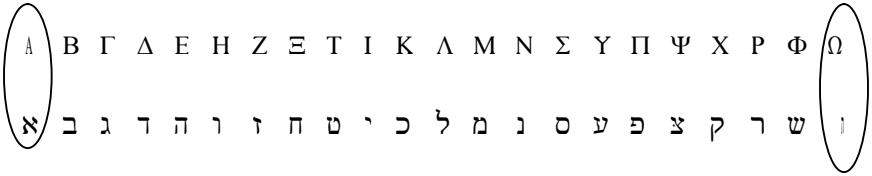
בראשית	<i>Bareshiyt</i> meaning, “In the beginning”
ברא	<i>Bara</i> meaning, “created (out of nothing)” ¹
אלהים	<i>Elohiym</i> meaning, “God” (Trinity: Father, Son, Holy Spirit)
השמים	<i>HaShama’iym</i> meaning, “the heavens”
הארץ	<i>HaAretz</i> meaning, “the earth” or “land”
אֵת	<i>Et</i> (and <i>V’Et</i>) grammatical form-word indicating a direct object...

Jesus Christ, the Alpha and Omega (Α Ω)...

“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last”
(Revelation 22:13).

¹ In contrast to עשה *Asah*, meaning, “make, fashion, fabricate of” or צר *Yatzar*, meaning, “to form”; see Isaiah 43:7 where all three words, *Bara*, *Asah*, and *Yatzar* are used.

Greek & Hebrew Alphabets



Therefore Jesus is also the *Ahlef* and the *Tahv* (ת א).

“And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn” (Zechariah 12:10).

...they shall look upon Me

(א ה) *whom they have pierced...*

והביטו אלי את אשר דקרו

א modern Hebrew *Ahlef*... from א ancient Hebrew *Ahloof*. It's the ox's head, meaning “strength”, “power”, “leader.” The letter a by itself is silent yet gives voice to the following vowel.

ה modern Hebrew *Tahv*... from ה ancient Hebrew *Tau*, two crossed sticks, meaning “sign”, “mark”, “signature.”

Messiah Y'shua, Jesus Christ... the א ה ... א ה, the ΑΩ... could it be?

...that the sign of His strength was in His silence at the Cross!

Et and V'Et (א ה and ו אה)...

...God (the א ה) created the heavens and (God, the א ה created) the earth.

בראשית ברא אלהים את השמים ואת הארץ

The book of Genesis anticipates every false philosophy of man...

World Philosophy

Atheism
Pantheism
Polytheism
Materialism
Humanism
Evolutionism
Uniformitarianism

What Genesis Says

Created by God...
God is transcendent & distinguishable...
One God...
Matter had a beginning...
God, not man, is the ultimate reality...
God created...
God intervenes...

Day One (*Yom Echad*, יום אֶחָד): God said, “Light be, and light is...” (Gen 1:3-5, literal translation).

“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness...” (John 8:12).

2nd Day: God stretched out the universe and earth’s atmosphere (Gen 1:6-8).
“Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain...” (Psalm 104:2).

Jesus told us: *“In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you”*(John 14:2).

3rd Day: God brings forth the land and vegetation (Gen 1:9-13).

Jesus taught: *“For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh”* (Luke 6:43-45). And, *“I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing”* (John 15:5)

4th Day: God sets the sun, moon, and stars in heaven for signs and seasons [appointed times] (Gen 1:14-19).

“And they asked Him, saying, Master, but when shall these things be? and what sign will there be when these things shall come to pass? ...And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring...” (Luke 21:7, 25).

5th Day: God created the sea creatures and the flying animals of the air (Gen 1:20-23).

“For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth” (Matthew 12:40).

6th Day: God created the land animals as well as man and woman (Gen 1:24-31).

“And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit...The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second Man is the Lord from heaven” (1 Corinthians 15:45, 47).

Genesis 2 ~ בראשית ב

7th Day: God rested from His creative work (Gen 2:1-3).

“But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work” (John 5:17). *“Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest”* (Matthew 11:28).

Gen 2:4-20~ This is a recapitulation of the creation of man and woman on the 6th day. God breathed life into Adam’s nostrils and then planted a garden and placed man in it. One tree in the middle of the garden would be the setting by which Adam’s faith would be tested and God’s love would be demonstrated. God told Adam that he could eat from any tree in the garden except from the one in the middle. God created more birds and land animals right in front of Adam; and Adam named them.

Gen 2:18-25~ *“And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made He a woman, and brought her unto the man”* (v22).

“The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son...” (Matthew 22:2).

Genesis 3 ~ בראשית ג

Along comes a fallen angel, Satan. He deceived Adam with a lie, telling him that he could be just like God if he eats from that tree. Adam believed the lie and the moment he ate the fruit of the tree, he realized that he had become independent of God. His intimate relationship with the almighty Creator of the universe was broken, for that’s what sin is— deliberate and emphatic independence from God. Because of this, all of Adam’s descendents, that is, every human being that ever lived, would be born with sin, the corruption of being independent of God. The penalty for independence from God is eternal death. *“Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many”* (Matthew 20:28).

Gen 3:15~ But Adam’s sin didn’t catch God by surprise. God is omniscient (all-knowing). God had a plan from the beginning, knowing that He, Himself, would come down to earth, being called the “Seed” of the woman. God would pay the penalty for man’s sin and in so doing, would bruise His Son’s own heel in crushing the head (authority) of Satan. *“Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him...”* (Isaiah 53:10).

Water Over All

“And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually”
(Genesis 6:5).

“But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be”
(Matthew 24:37).

Genesis 4 ~ בראשית ד

The question often arises: “Who did Cain marry?” That’s a minor question when considering why chapter 4 is even inserted in the first place. If the Bible is interested in following the line of the Messiah, why this story???

Eve had a son and named him Cain because she said, *“I have gotten a man from the LORD”* (v1). Eve was predicting the coming of the Messiah and predicted wrong. Cain, Hebrew קַיִן (*Qayin*), has an interesting interpretation in the Ancient alphabet. ק , ancient Hebrew א, represented the sun on the horizon and meant “circle, condense, time.” ך , ancient Hebrew י, represented an arm and closed hand and signified “work, throw, worship.” ם , ancient Hebrew ך, represented a seed and meant “continue, heir, son.” Eve remembered God’s promise: *“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her Seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel”* (Gen 3:15). Eve figured that it was “time” (ק) to “worship” (ך) the Son (ך), and that Cain was it. It’s interesting that the mother of this man-child thought that he was the prophesied Messiah, yet he turned out to be a false Messiah (see Daniel 9:26, 27; John 5:43; Revelation 12).

There are several prophetic picture models in the story of Cain and Abel; we’ll just take a look at one. Cain offers a sacrifice from the work of his hands without faith whereas Abel offers his sacrifice from a firstling of the flocks in faith (see Hebrews 11:4). Righteous Abel was murdered by his father’s son and the murderer was set free, escaping a death sentence because God had ordained such, that He would escape judgment. This foreshadowed the death of another Son... Matthew 27:15-26 and Luke 23:13-25 record the 6th trial of the Lord before He went to the Cross. There was a man accused of murder and sedition in prison during that Passover. His name was Barabbas, a Greek rendering of an Aramaic name that means “son of the father.” The notorious murder was set free and the Righteous Son’s blood was upon the hands of the people (Matthew 27:25) just as Abel’s blood was upon the hand of Cain (Gen 4:11).

Genesis 5 ~ בראשית ה

The Redemptive Plan in the Ancient Genealogy?

<u>Name from Genesis 5</u>	<u>Hebrew</u>	<u>English Meaning</u>
Adam	אָדָם	Man (Earth)

Seth	שה	Appointed
Enosh	אנוש	Mortal
Kenan (Cainan)	קנין	Sorrow;
Mahalalel	מהללאל	The Blessed God
Yared (Jared)	ירד	Shall come down
Enoch	חנוך	Teaching
Methuselah	מהושלה	His death shall bring
Lamech	למך	Despairing
Noah	נח	Comfort; Rest

“Man (is) appointed mortal sorrow; (but) the Blessed God shall come down teaching (that) His death shall bring (the) despairing comfort (or rest).”

Genesis 6-10 ~ בראשית ו-י

Since “every imagination of the thoughts of” the heart of man was only evil continually, God prepared to destroy the world with a flood. This judgment upon the sin of mankind was an act of love and mercy. It had gotten so bad upon the earth that the only way that it could be salvaged was it needed to be cleaned up first.

When Did the Flood End?

*“And the ark rested in the **seventh month**, on the **seventeenth day** of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat” (Gen 8:4).*

Lunar Months	Equivalent Solar	Old (Noah)	New (Moses)
Tishri (Ethanim)	Sep-Oct	1	7
Cheshvan (Bul)	Oct-Nov	2	8
Chisleu	Nov-Dec	3	9
Tevet	Dec-Jan	4	10
Sh'vat	Jan-Feb	5	11
Adar	Feb-Mar	6	12
Nisan (Aviv)	Mar-Apr	7	1
Ilyar (Zif)	Apr-May	8	2
Sivan	May-Jun	9	3
Tammuz	Jun-Jul	10	4
Av	Jul-Aug	11	5
Elul	Aug-Sep	12	6

Jesus was...

Crucified on the 14th of Nisan
In the grave: 3 days
Resurrected on the: 17th of Nisan (“seventh month” for Noah)
cf. Leviticus 23:6-14

God’s “new beginning” on the Planet Earth was on the anniversary— in anticipation— of our “new beginning” in Christ!

Consider this: Noah knew ahead of time that the flood was coming (Gen 6:13-22). God, from inside the ark, called Noah and his family to Himself (Gen 7:1). Noah was in the ark for seven days before the floodwaters came (Gen 7:10); noting further that Lamech, Noah’s father, lived 777 years, dying five years before the flood.

Gen 9~ Animals now fear and dread man (v2); Man can now eat meat without blood (v3); Capital punishment is established for murder (vv4-6); God sets His bow in the sky as a token of His covenant with Noah (vv9-17).

Gen 10~ Shem, Ham and Japheth’s descendents.

Genesis 11 ~ בראשית יא

Like Genesis 2, chapter 11 is a more detailed recap of the generations described in chapter 10, particularly with regard to Shem’s son, Arphaxad.

The Tower of Babel probably provides the reasons that Japheth’s sons went northward and Ham’s sons went west and south. They were defiant to God’s command in Gen 9:1, 7.

The Tower in Babel was not a primitive attempt to get higher in the sky. It was a ziggurat, used in divining through astrological methods.

The Blessed Call

“And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed My voice” (Genesis 22:18).

“Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day: and he saw it, and was glad” (John 8:56).

Genesis 12-21 ~ בראשית יב - כא

Gen 12:1~ Abram, a 75 year old Semite from Ur, was told by God to *“Get out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee.”* Jesus teaches us, *“If any man come to Me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple”* (Luke 14:26).

Provisions of the Abrahamic Covenant²

- A great nation would come from Abraham, namely Israel (Gen 12:2; 13:6; 15:5; 17:1-2, 7; 22:17);
- Abraham was promised a specific piece of property with defined boundaries, namely Canaan (Gen 12:1, 7; 13:14-15, 17; 15:17-21; 17:8);
- Abraham himself would be greatly blessed (Gen 12:2; 15:6; 22:15-17);
- Abraham’s name would be great (Gen 12:2);
- Abraham would be a blessing to others (Gen 12:2);
- Those blessing Abraham would be blessed (Gen 12:3);
- Those cursing [abhorring] Abraham would be cursed [have their sinful ways illuminated] (Gen 12:3);
- All, including Gentiles ultimately, would be blessed in and through Abraham (Gen 12:3; 22:18);
- The promised covenant son would come to Abraham through his wife, Sarah (Gen 15:1-4; 17:16-21);
- Abraham’s descendents would go into Egyptian bondage (Gen 15:13-14);
- Abraham would bring forth other nations as well as Israel (Gen 17:3-4, 6);
- God changed his name from Abram [exalted father] to Abraham [father of multitudes] (Gen 17:5);
- God changed Abraham’s wife’s name from Sarai to Sarah (Gen 17:15);
- The token of this covenant was circumcision (Gen 17:9-14).

Gen 13~ Abram and his nephew, Lot, separate. Lot chose the eye-pleasing plains toward Sodom and Abram stayed in the land of Canaan. *“But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly”* (v13).

Jesus tells us, *“And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be*

² My paraphrase of “The Provisions of the Covenant”: Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum, *Israeology: The Missing Link in Systematic Theology*, Ariel Ministries; ©1989, 1994, 2001; pp. 574-575

brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee" (Matthew 11:23-24).

Gen 14~ Chedorlaomer, king of Elam, ruled over his kingdom and 8 other kings for 12 years: Amraphel, king of Shinar; Arioch, king of Ellasar; Tidal, king of nations; Bera king of Sodom; Birsha, king of Gomorrah; Shinab, king of Admah; Shemeber, king of Zeboim; & the king of Bela. Lot was taken captive and Abram rescues his nephew and the people of Sodom with an army of 318 trained servants, and with his friends, Aner, Eschol and Mamre (and possibly their servants). After Abram's victory Melchizedek, the king of Salem, brought forth bread and wine because he was the priest of the LORD. Abram gave tithes of the spoil to Melchizedek but refused to keep any of it himself. The author of Hebrews writes, "*Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec*" (Hebrews 6:20).

Gen 15~ God reaffirms His commitment to Abram in a vision and it is difficult for Abram to grasp. God promises progeny but Abram's eldest servant is Eliezer of Damascus. The LORD tells Abram to prepare a sacrifice. Abram does and keeps the vultures from getting to it. God places Abram into a deep sleep and passes in the midst of the altar by Himself as a "*smoking furnace and a burning lamp,*" thus making the covenant unconditional. "*Fear not Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward*" (v1). Jesus said, "*Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom*" (Luke 12:32).

Gen 16~ Having a lapse of faith, Abram and Sarai plan to have a son through Sarai's handmaid, Hagar. Hagar conceived and Sarai realized the folly of her decision to have a child through Hagar. Sarai treated her harshly and Hagar ran away. The "*angel of the LORD*" appeared to Hagar. This was a Christophany³ because only Deity could "*multiply thy seed exceedingly...*" The pre-incarnate Jesus appears to Hagar at Beer-la-ha-roi: "*The well of the One Who Lives and Sees Me.*" Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram when he was 86 years old. Jesus tells the Samaritan woman at the well, "*But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into eternal life*" (John 4:14).

Gen 17~ God changed Abram's name from אַבְרָם ("exalted father") to אַבְרָהָם (Abraham, "father of multitudes"). "*And when Jesus beheld him, He said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone*" (John 1:42). As God the Father changed Abraham's name, God the Son changed Simon's name to the Aramaic word for "little stone." As the heavenly Father would be glorified through Abraham's seed, the only begotten Son would be glorified through Simon's speech: "*Thou art the Christ, the Son of living God*" (Matthew 16:16). God also changed Sarai's name from שָׂרַי ("my song") to שָׂרָה (Sarah, "noblewoman" or "princess").

³ A term in Theology meaning, "an appearance of Christ before His incarnation." The word "angel" in Hebrew is מַלְאָךְ (*malach*), which means, "Messenger." Jesus Christ is "*The Good Messenger.*"

God reconfirmed His promise with Abraham through the covenant of circumcision (v10). The practice in the flesh was symbolic of the cutting away of the flesh through the Cross of Christ. The apostle Paul explains, *“For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh”* (Philippians 3:3). Jesus tells Nicodemus the difference when He teaches, *“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit”* (John 3:6).

Gen 18~ *“Three men”* came to visit Abraham. This was another appearance of Christ, with two angels: *“And **the LORD appeared** unto [Abraham] in the plains of Mamre...”* (v1). God, again, reconfirmed His promise to Abraham by telling him that Sarah would have a child by this time the following year. Sarah laughed to herself because she was 89 years old but the omniscient God knows every heart and said, *“Wherefore did Sarah laugh...? Is anything too hard for the LORD?”* (vv13-14). As the Father asked Abraham if anything was too difficult for Him, the Son told Abraham’s children: *“With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible”* (Mark 10:27).

As the LORD and the two angels depart toward Sodom and Gomorrah, Abraham intercedes on behalf of the cities and God was pleased to hear of Abraham’s compassion for human life, however wicked it may be; *“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance”* (2 Peter 3:9). When Jesus commissioned His disciples to preach the gospel He said, *“And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city”* (Matthew 10:14-15).

Gen 19~ The two angels rescue Abraham’s nephew, Lot, and his two daughters. The angels cannot destroy the wickedness of the cities until the righteous are out of harm’s way (v22). Jesus tells us, *“So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just...”* (Matthew 13:49).

Why did Lot’s wife turn into a pillar of salt (v26)? Perhaps it is because she lost her savor. Jesus said, *“Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men”* (Matthew 5:13). When Lot’s wife looked back, she looked back longingly at the pleasure she had known in the midst of the wickedness of the city. When we are salty for saltiness’ sake, rather than being seasoned with God’s righteousness, we become an acme of irony, as Lot’s wife did. She became צַיִן (a pillar, “a statue” or “erected military post”) of מֶלַח (salt, “an easily pulverized and dissolved powder”). She was the ultimate oxymoron. *“And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God”* (Luke 9:62).

Gen 20~ Abraham has a lapse of faith, not trusting that God would keep him from harm until God accomplished all that He said; for Isaac was not yet born. Yet, Abraham was still blessed for he was a prophet of God. Abimelech was “cursed” when he took Sarah for himself but he was “blessed” when he blessed

Abraham. “And he said, Hear ye now, O house of David; Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will ye weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:13-14). This was fulfilled some 700 years later: “And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.... Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?...” (Luke 1: 31, 34).

Gen 21~ Sarah gives birth to the promised child. She is 90 years old and Abraham is 100. They named the child יִצְחָק (Isaac), which means “laughter.” “Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh” (Luke 6:21). 14 year-old Ishmael was cast out with his mother Hagar because of his extreme misconduct with the young Isaac. Jesus said, “And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever” (John 8:35).

Genesis 22-25 ~ בְּרֵאשִׁית כַּב - כה

The Jews know Genesis 22 as the *Yaqidah* (or *Akedah*).⁴ God told Abraham to offer his only son, Isaac in the land of Moriah.⁵ Abraham traveled with Isaac and two servants (witnesses?) for three days until they arrived at the place. Abraham tied the wood onto Isaac and told the two servants to wait while they went to worship. Isaac asked Abraham where the sacrifice was and Abraham replied, “God will provide Himself a lamb” (not “provide for Himself, a lamb” but “provide Himself” as a lamb). Abraham bound Isaac to the altar and raised the knife when the Messenger of the LORD⁶ appeared and stopped Abraham. A ram, caught in the thicket, was sacrificed in place of Isaac. Abraham knew that He was acting out prophecy because he named the place “*Jehovah-Jireh*” saying, “*In the mount of the LORD is shall be seen*” (Gen 22:14). Nearly 2000 years later, another Father would offer His only begotten Son on that same hill: “*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life*” (John 3:16).

“*So Abraham returned to his young men, and they rose up and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beersheba*” (Gen 22:14). Isaac is not mentioned as having returned with his father. He is not mentioned for the rest of chapter 22 nor at all in chapter 23. Though his name is mentioned in Genesis 24:4, Isaac is noticeably absent from the text until an unnamed servant fetches a bride for Isaac and delivers her to him at the well Lahairoi (The Well of the One Who Lives and Sees Me).

Gen 22~ “*By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that*

⁴ יַעֲקִידָה (*Yaqiyda*), meaning “bound” from the Hebrew root עֲקַד (aqad) from Genesis 22:9: “*And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood.*” It’s the term used when binding a sheep for shearing.

⁵ Even the name of the land, הַמְּרִיָּה (*HaMoriyah*) is prophetic as it means “Seen of Yah (God)”

⁶ A Christophany; because the “Angel” said to Abraham, “*thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from Me.*” See footnote #3 on page 12.

had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure” (Hebrews 11:17-19).

Gen 23~ Sarah dies and Abraham buys land from Ephron in Canaan to bury her. He pays 400 shekels of silver for Ephron’s field in Machpelah. In purchasing the land, “Abraham bowed down himself before the people of the land” (v12); in purchasing our souls Jesus said, “*It is finished!*” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit” (John 19:30, NKJV).

Gen 24~ Abraham sends his eldest servant, Eliezer of Damascus⁷, to fetch a bride for his son, Isaac (vv2-4). It is interesting that the name Eliezer means “God is help.”⁸

*“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another **Helper**, that He may abide with you forever— But the **Helper**, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.... But when the **Helper** comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.... Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the **Helper** will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you....”* (John 14:16, 26; 15:26, NKJV).

Eliezer is also instructed not to take Abraham’s son into the land where his bride would be found (vv4-7). *“Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you”* (John 16:7, NKJV).

Abraham also tells his eldest servant that if the woman is not willing to come with him, then he is released from his oath (v8). Only those willing to receive the prompting of the Holy Spirit will be brought to the Son: *“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His”* (Romans 8:9).

God’s chosen bride for Isaac refreshes the servant and all his camels (vv17-21). *“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption”* (Ephesians 4:30).

Abraham’s servant lavishes gifts upon the bride (v22). Jesus said, *“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth”* (Acts 1:8). *“How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?”* (Hebrews 2:3-4, NKJV). The Holy Spirit *“gave gifts unto me.... For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the*

⁷ Genesis 15:2

⁸ Or “God is comfort”

edifying of the body of Christ..." (Ephesians 4:8, 12).

The servant will not eat until he tells of his master's errand (v33). Jesus said, *"Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will shew you things to come. He shall glorify Me: for He shall receive of Mine, and shall shew it unto you"* (John 16:13-14).

Rebekah's mother and brother wanted her to abide with them for a little while after Abraham's servant had called her (v5). In the same way, the world wants us to abide with it even after the Holy Spirit has called us. Jesus said, *"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in Me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned"* (John 15:5-6).

Abraham's servant presents Rebekah to Isaac at the "Well of the One Who Lives and Sees Me" (vv62-65). The Holy Spirit, speaking through the apostle Paul says, *"For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one Husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ"* (2 Corinthians 11:2).

Abraham's servant tells Isaac all that He had done (v66). *"Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God"* (1 Corinthians 4:5); *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad"* (2 Corinthians 5:10).

Isaac takes Rebekah into his tent as his wife (v67). *"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints"* (Revelation 19:7-8).

Gen 25~ After Sarah's death, Abraham takes another wife, named Keturah (v1). From Keturah, Abraham has six other sons: Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah (v2). But the inheritance went to the son of promise, Isaac (v5). Abraham dies at 175 years of age (v7). Ishmael dies at 137 years of age (v17).

Isaac and Rebekah have twin boys, Esau, who was born first, and Jacob, who came out grasping on to Esau's heel (vv21-26). The boys became men. Esau became a skillful hunter but Jacob grew to become a plain or "complete"⁹ man (v27). One day, after Esau had been out hunting, he was weary and hungry. Jacob was cooking some soup and Esau wanted some. Jacob made Esau sell his birthright to him (vv29-34). For a moment's laziness to satisfy the flesh, Esau willingly gave up what God had given him by birth, the position of firstborn. Jesus said, *"Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which*

⁹ תם (*tam*) means plain, gentle, complete, morally perfect, having integrity.

endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed” (John 6:27).

Genesis 26-36 ~ בראשית כו - לו

Gen 26~ Isaac commits the same deceitful sin his father committed by telling Abimelech of Gerar that Rebekah was his sister.¹⁰ Esau displeased his parents by marrying the idolatrous wives of other tribes (vv34-35). *“Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright” (Hebrews 12:16).*

Gen 27~ Isaac loved Esau because he loved to eat Esau’s venison (Gen 26:28). But Rebekah loved Jacob (Gen 26:8). Some Rabbis suggest that Rebekah loved Jacob because God told her that “the elder shall serve the younger” (Gen 26:22-23). Nevertheless, when Isaac was old and nearly blind, he prepared to bless his son Esau because he was the eldest and because he loved that venison (vv1-4). But Rebekah overheard Isaac so she planned to harness that blessing for Jacob (vv5-10). This was prophetic of the blindness of Israel when the “plain” man, Jesus Christ came. As Isaac desired to bless and be blessed by the mighty hunter, Israel desired to bless and be blessed by the mighty warrior who could throw off the Roman yoke of oppression. Jesus said to Israel, *“If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes” (Luke 19:42).* Edom (Esau)¹¹ desired personal power from God’s blessing, just as Adam did when he ate from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Jacob was a type of Christ who would receive the blessing to be a blessing for a multitude of people. *“The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second Man is the Lord from heaven” (1 Corinthians 15:47).*

Gen 28~ Isaac tells Jacob not to take a wife of the daughters of Canaan. So Jacob went toward Padan-Aram (the field of Aram) and he met with God, whereas God reconfirmed his promise to Abraham and Isaac. Jacob said, *“So that I come again to my father’s house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God” (v21).* As Jacob had the promise of God to return to his father’s house in peace, so do we have God’s promise that He will return again for us and bring us to His Father’s house: *“In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know” (John 14:2-4).*

Gen 29-30~ Jacob finds Laban’s daughters. He desires Rachel, the younger and works 7 years for her. He is tricked by Laban to marry the elder daughter, Leah. He completes the week of marriage custom and receives Rachel but is obligated to work another 7 years for her. God blesses Jacob’s hand by multiplying livestock and wealth to him while he works for Laban another 6 years. During that time, Jacob has 11 sons through Leah, Rachel, Bilhah (Rachel’s handmaiden), and Zilpah (Leah’s handmaiden).

¹⁰ Genesis 20:1-18

¹¹ Genesis 25:30; אדום (*Edowm*) means “red,” as in the red clay of the ground, coming from the same root word wherein we have Adam’s name, אדם

Jacob's Sons

לאה *of Leah...*
Reuben, Simeon, Levi,
Judah, Issachar, Zebulun
בלהה *of Bilhah...*
Dan, Naphtali
זלפה *of Zilpah...*
Gad, Asher
רחל *of Rachel...*
Joseph, Benjamin

Jacob's
Sons
in order
of age

1. Reuben
2. Simeon
3. Levi
4. Judah
5. Dan
6. Naphtali
7. Gad
8. Asher
9. Issachar
10. Zebulun
11. Joseph
12. Benjamin

Gen 31~ Jacob is growing so wealthy that disputes begin to arise between his servants and Laban's servants. It becomes too unbearable for both clans to occupy the land. So Jacob leaves to return to the land of Canaan.

Gen 32~ Jacob, realizing that his brother, Esau, hated him and wanted to kill him before he left (Gen 27:41), Jacob divided up his family and sent servants with gifts ahead of him to Esau. Before Jacob went over the Jordan to meet Esau, God appeared to Jacob in a Christophany (vv24-32). He wrestled with the LORD and God placed his hip out of joint, crippling Jacob. Jacob came to the end of himself. He was, at this point, a broken man. No longer could he find strength in his own wits, but could find strength to prevail in God alone, as the prophet Hosea writes: *"Yea, he had power over the Angel, and prevailed: he wept, and made supplication unto Him: He found him in Bethel, and there He spake with us; Even the LORD God of hosts; the LORD is His memorial"* (Hosea 12:4-5). Jesus said that we must not come to God in the confidence of our flesh but as spiritually destitute, spiritual beggars: *"Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven"* (Matthew 5:3). And because Jacob prevailed in tears and poorness of spirit, God named him ישראל (Israel), which means "prince of God."

Gen 33-35~ God blessed Jacob with favor before his brother Esau. Esau was not angry with Jacob. Nevertheless, Jacob parted company with Esau. Esau went toward Seir in Edom, southeast of the Dead Sea. Jacob dwelt in Shalem, a city of Shechem in Canaan.

Shechem the Hivite raped Dinah, Jacob and Leah's daughter. But Shechem was in love with her and wanted to marry her. Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers, told Shechem that he couldn't have her unless he and all his men became circumcised like the sons of Jacob. Shechem agreed. While of the Hivites were recovering, Simeon and Levi took up swords and killed Shechem and all the men of the Hivites. God told Jacob to go to Bethel, build an altar unto God, and destroy all the idols that his family had. God appeared to Jacob there and Jacob called the place El-Bethel ("God of the House of God"). Rachel dies giving birth to Jacob's 12th son, Benjamin. Jacob buried Rachel near Bethlehem ("House of Bread"). Isaac dies at 140 years of age.

Gen 36~ Esau's generations are chronicled.

A Prince's Shawl

"Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours" (Genesis 37:3).

"...and also His coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout..." (John 19:23).

בראשית לו - לה ~ Genesis 37-38

Jacob gave Joseph a special garment, long and flowing. Because of this special gift, Joseph's older brothers were very jealous of him. Joseph dreamed some dreams that showed that his brothers and his father and mother would honor him... 1st Dream: sheaves in the field. 2nd Dream: sun, moon, and stars. These dreams made his brothers despise him even more.

One day Joseph's ten older brothers were leading the flocks to green pastures toward Shechem. Because it was Shechem, and the blood spilled by Simeon and Levi still cried out from the ground, Israel sent Joseph out to check on their welfare. Joseph found them in Dothan after getting directions from "a certain man" (vv15-17).

As Joseph approached, the brothers were already plotting evil against him. But Reuben didn't want him harmed. When Joseph came to them, they stripped off the coat that Israel gave to him and they cast him in an empty pit. When all of the brothers, except for Reuben, sat down to eat, they saw the Ishmaelites pass by. Judah tells them that they should sell Joseph as a slave. By the time the brothers were in agreement, another group of their cousins, the Midianites, were passing by on their way to Egypt. Joseph was sold to the Midianites for 20 pieces of silver. The Midianites sold Joseph to Potiphar, a captain of the guard and an officer to Pharaoh in Egypt. Reuben returned and saw that Joseph was gone: "What happened! Where is he!" he exclaimed. So the brothers dipped the coat in goat's blood and told Israel that a wild animal got him.

Gen 38~ This chapter is a parenthesis concerning Israel's 4th son, Judah. Judah took a Canaanite wife and had three sons: Er, Onan, and Shelah. Judah arranged for Er to marry a woman named Tamar. The LORD slew Er for his evil so Judah gave Tamar to Onan. But Onan's heart was wicked and he was displeasing to God so the LORD slew him. Finally, Judah told Tamar that Shelah would be her husband but she needed to wait because he was too young. When Shelah was old enough, Judah conveniently forgot his promise to Tamar. So Tamar disguised herself as a harlot and veiled her face. She propositioned Judah and Judah gave her his ring, bracelet, and staff as payment until he could give her a goat. When Judah returned, the harlot was not there. Tamar got pregnant from their union and Judah was going to have her killed but Tamar showed Judah his ring, bracelet, and staff. Judah repented because he realized that he did not keep his promise to Tamar. Tamar gave birth to Judah's twin sons, Pharez and Zarah.

בראשית לט - נ ~ Genesis 39-50

Gen 39-40 ~ God blessed Joseph in Potiphar's house. Soon Joseph was in charge of all of Potiphar's household affairs. Joseph was a righteous young man and revered God. But he was also handsome and Potiphar's wife would try to entice him to lay with her. Joseph always refused her advances. One day Joseph entered the house and none of the other male servants were there. Potiphar's wife catches Joseph by the garment. "Lie with me," she says, and Joseph runs away, leaving his garment in her hand. When Potiphar returns, his wife lies about Joseph and Joseph is cast into prison.

While in prison, the LORD blesses Joseph and gives him favor with the prison keeper. Soon Joseph was overseer for the prison, subordinate to the prison keeper.

It came to pass that the Pharaoh was angry with his chief baker and his chief wine steward so he had them thrown into prison. The captain of the guard placed them under Joseph's care. While in prison, the baker and the wine steward had dreams that seemed significant but they were sad because they didn't have an interpretation. Joseph told them to tell him the dreams: the wine steward dreamt of a vine with 3 branches and ripe clusters of grapes; he pressed the grapes into Pharaoh's cup and handed the wine to Pharaoh.

"And Joseph said unto him, This is the interpretation of it: The three branches are three days: Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thine head, and restore thee unto thy place: and thou shalt deliver Pharaoh's cup into his hand, after the former manner when thou wast his butler. But think on me when it shall be well with thee, and shew kindness, I pray thee, unto me, and make mention of me unto Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house" (Gen 40:12-14).

Pharaoh's baker heard this and thought, "Alright, I can't wait to hear mine!" The baker dreamt of three white baskets upon his head; the uppermost basket had all kinds of pastries for Pharaoh but the birds ate from the basket.

"And Joseph answered and said, This is the interpretation thereof: The three baskets are three days: Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thy head from off thee, and shall hang thee on a tree; and the birds shall eat thy flesh from off thee" (Gen 40:18-19).

Three days later was Pharaoh's birthday. Pharaoh pardoned the wine steward but hanged the baker. The wine steward forgot about Joseph, however.

Gen 41 ~ Two full years after the wine steward was released from prison, Pharaoh had a dream: he stood by a river and from the river emerged seven strong and healthy cows and they fed in the meadow. Then seven sickly cows immediately emerged from the river and ate the healthy cows and Pharaoh awoke. The next night Pharaoh dreamt of seven plump heads of wheat. Then seven withered plants sprung up and devoured the plump heads. This troubled Pharaoh and his magicians couldn't interpret it. The wine steward remembered about Joseph and told Pharaoh of the prisoner that could interpret dreams.

"And Joseph said unto Pharaoh, The dream of Pharaoh is one: God hath shewed Pharaoh what he is about to do. The seven good kine are seven years; and the

seven good ears are seven years: the dream is one. And the seven thin and ill favoured kine that came up after them are seven years; and the seven empty ears blasted with the east wind shall be seven years of famine. This is the thing which I have spoken unto Pharaoh: What God is about to do he sheweth unto Pharaoh. Behold, there come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt: And there shall arise after them seven years of famine; and all the plenty shall be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine shall consume the land; And the plenty shall not be known in the land by reason of that famine following; for it shall be very grievous. And for that the dream was doubled unto Pharaoh twice; it is because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass” (Gen 41:25-32).

Joseph told Pharaoh that he ought to find someone who is wise and understanding to appoint officers to the land to take up 20% of the produce during the seven years of plenty to be stored in reserve for the seven years of famine. Pharaoh said, “That’s a good idea! You be the guy!” So Joseph was made the #2 ruler in Egypt, under Pharaoh.

Joseph had been in Potiphar’s house and prison for 13 years for he was sold into bondage at 17 (Gen 37:2) and he faced Pharaoh at 30 years of age (v46). God prospered Joseph greatly. He married Asenath, the daughter of Potipherah, and had two sons: Manasseh and Ephraim.

Gen 42-45~ The seven years of plenty had come and gone and Jacob heard that there was food in Egypt. So he sent his ten sons to go buy grain, keeping Benjamin, the youngest, at home.

When Joseph’s brothers arrived in Egypt, he recognized them but they didn’t recognize him. Joseph used an interpreter and accused them of being spies so he could find out about his father and younger brother. Joseph had their bags filled but he had their money returned to them without them knowing about it. Joseph told them that to prove they were not spies, he would keep Simeon in prison until they brought Benjamin with them. When they returned to Jacob in Canaan without Simeon, they discovered their money.

After the food ran out, the brothers took double the money and Benjamin, as well as gifts of fruits, nuts, honey, and spices. When the brothers stood before Joseph, Joseph had Simeon released and set all the sons of Israel at his table. The brothers were all surprised that their places were arranged around the table from the eldest to the youngest. Benjamin received five times more food than all the others. Joseph wanted to tell them but he may have thought they still hated him. He went into his chamber and wept bitterly. How could he be sure of their honor? He prepared one more test. He had his own cup placed in with the grain in Benjamin’s sack.

When Joseph’s servants overtook the sons of Israel, they searched for Joseph’s cup. When it was found in Benjamin’s sack, they wept. Judah intercedes on behalf of his brother and desires to take the penalty himself. Joseph couldn’t contain himself and wept and fell upon his brothers’ shoulders. “It’s me!” he told them in the Hebrew tongue, “its Joseph, your brother!”

“And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt. Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life” (Gen 45:4-5).

Gen 46-47~ Jacob and his entire family move down to Egypt and settle in the land of Goshen, 70 members in all.

Gen 48-49~ Israel adopts Ephraim and Manasseh and blesses them. Israel also blesses his sons with distinct prophecies.

Gen 50~ Israel dies and is buried in the cave at Machpelah. Joseph dies.

Some Prophetic Parallels

One of the Jewish names for the Christ was משיח בן דוד (*Mashiach Ben David*) meaning, “Messiah, Son of David.” Another name for the Christ was משיח בן יוסף (*Mashiach Ben Yosef*) meaning, “Messiah, Son of Joseph.” In other words, the Messiah would be a reigning King but He would also be a suffering Servant. How could these be reconciled? The gospel of Jesus Christ explains that the Messiah would come twice. Additionally, Joseph’s story recognizes this....

Joseph	Jesus
Coat of many colors (Gen 37:3)	Seamless garment (John 19:23)
Initial rejection by brothers (Gen 37:20)	Initial rejection by brothers (John 1:11; 7:5)
Betrayed by Judah (Gen 37:26-27)	Betrayed by Judah (Matthew 27:3)
Sold for 20 silver pieces (Gen 37:28)	Sold for 30 silver pieces (Matthew 27:9)
Reuben finds an empty pit (Gen 37:30)	Peter finds an empty tomb (John 20:4-8)
Coat dipped in blood (Gen 37:31)	Vesture dipped in blood (Revelation 19:3)
Goodly & well favored (Gen 39:6)	Grew in wisdom & favor (Luke 2:52)
Began ruling at 30 (Gen 41:46)	Began ministry at 30 (Luke 3:23)
Marries an Egyptian (Gen 41:45)	Marries a gentile bride (Ruth 4; 2 Cor 11:12)
All buy grain from him (Gen 41:57)	“Buy of Me gold tried...” (Revelation 3:18)
Not recognized by brothers (Gen 42:8)	Not recognized by disciples (Luke 24:16)
Later honored by brothers (Gen 42:6)	Later honored by brothers (Acts 1:14)
Is a fruitful bough (Gen 49:22)	Is the Abiding Vine (John 15:1-6)
Mission misunderstood (Gen 50:15-20)	Mission misunderstood (Acts 1:6-8)
Saved a nation (Gen 50:20)	Saved the world (John 3:16)

