

The History of Salvation 4



The Patriarchs

God makes a covenant with Abraham & promises him a line of descendants that would last forever, a line through whom God would bestow blessings on all the families & nations of the world.

At the end of Genesis, Abraham's family tree is a large one, consisting of twelve tribes, each headed by a son of Jacob, son of Isaac. Through many twists & turns, the chosen people of the God, the children of Abraham, now identified as the children of Israel (the new name God gave to Jacob), find themselves in Egypt.

The family of God grows from a tribal network of patriarchs to a full-fledged nation under the leadership of Moses.

- **People stray and sin, but God remains faithful & reaches out to call them back, to form them as the people of God.**
- **God chooses whom He pleases.**
- **God can draw good out of evil.**

God Unfolds His Plan

Biblical Covenants: Form Kinship Bonds

1. Covenant Mediator (the person God makes the covenant with)
2. Covenant Role (who the mediator is representing)
3. Promises & Conditions of the covenant (blessings & curses)
4. "Sign" by which the covenant will be celebrated and remembered.
5. "Form" that God's family has as a result of the covenant with them.

The Covenant with Abraham

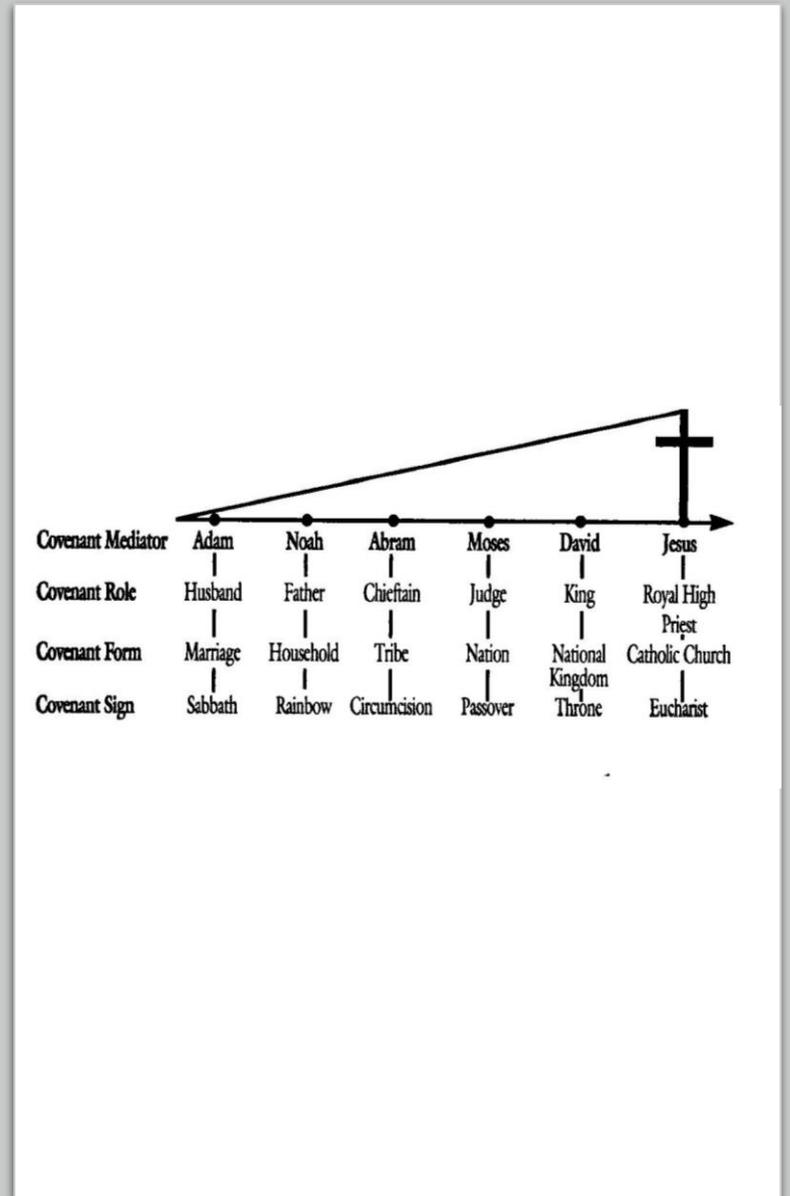
God swears to give Abraham a great land and to bless his descendants, who will become a great nation.

God makes the covenant with the mediator Abraham in his representative role as chieftain.

God promises the blessings of land and great nationhood for his descendants, and through them to bless all the nations of the earth.

The sign of the covenant is the mark of circumcision. Circumcision is also the condition that Abraham and his descendants must obey in order to keep the covenant.

By this covenant, God's family is takes a "tribal" form. (Gn 12:1-3; 17:1-14; 22:16-18)



The Promise of Isaac



God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her; I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall come from her." Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"

And Abraham said to God, "O that Ishmael might live in thy sight!" God said, "No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him. As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I will bless him and make him fruitful and multiply him exceedingly; he shall be the father of twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. But I will establish my covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this season next year." (Gn 17)

Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him. When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me." And she added, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age." (Gn 21)

- Isaac = 'he laughs' in Hebrew.

The Sacrifice of Isaac

God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."

Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."

Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.

When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring^l all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me". (Gn 22)



Jesus & Isaac

- Abraham's sacrifice is on Mt Moriah. The temple of Jerusalem was built on Moriah (2 Chrn 3:1). Calvary was a hill of Mt Moriah.
- Abraham offers his only Son. Jesus, the only Son of the Father, is offered at Calvary
- Isaac carries the wood for the sacrifice & is bound to it. Jesus carried the wood of his sacrifice & is bound to it.
- God will provide himself the lamb (Gen22:8); The Lord provided himself as the lamb.
- Isaac's self-offering (he could have resisted); Jesus gives Himself up.
- Both fathers receive their sons back on the third day

The words "father" and "son" are used often. Isaac is the only beloved Son of Abraham. God uses these same words - "my beloved Son" - to refer to Jesus at His Baptism and Transfiguration. This language is not coincidental, but the clue to what's going on in one of the most difficult stories to understand in the Bible. Without this clue, we're left to draw cruel conclusions: How could God require anybody to sacrifice his only son, or any son for that matter? What kind of God would demand such a test of loyalty?

This was written as a "figure," to teach us a lesson about the loving plan of God. This story was not about a cruel God who asks believers to do horrifying things to serve Him. They knew that in the story of the father Abraham and his son Isaac, God was revealing to us something of the mystery of His own divine fatherhood. (1 Cor 1:11; Rm 4:23-24) God praises Abraham's faith - "You did not withhold from me your own beloved son". St. Paul cites these words when He talks about the Crucifixion - "He who did not spare His own Son but handed Him over for us all..." (**Rm 8:32**). We also hear an echo in John: "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son..." (**Jn 3:16**).

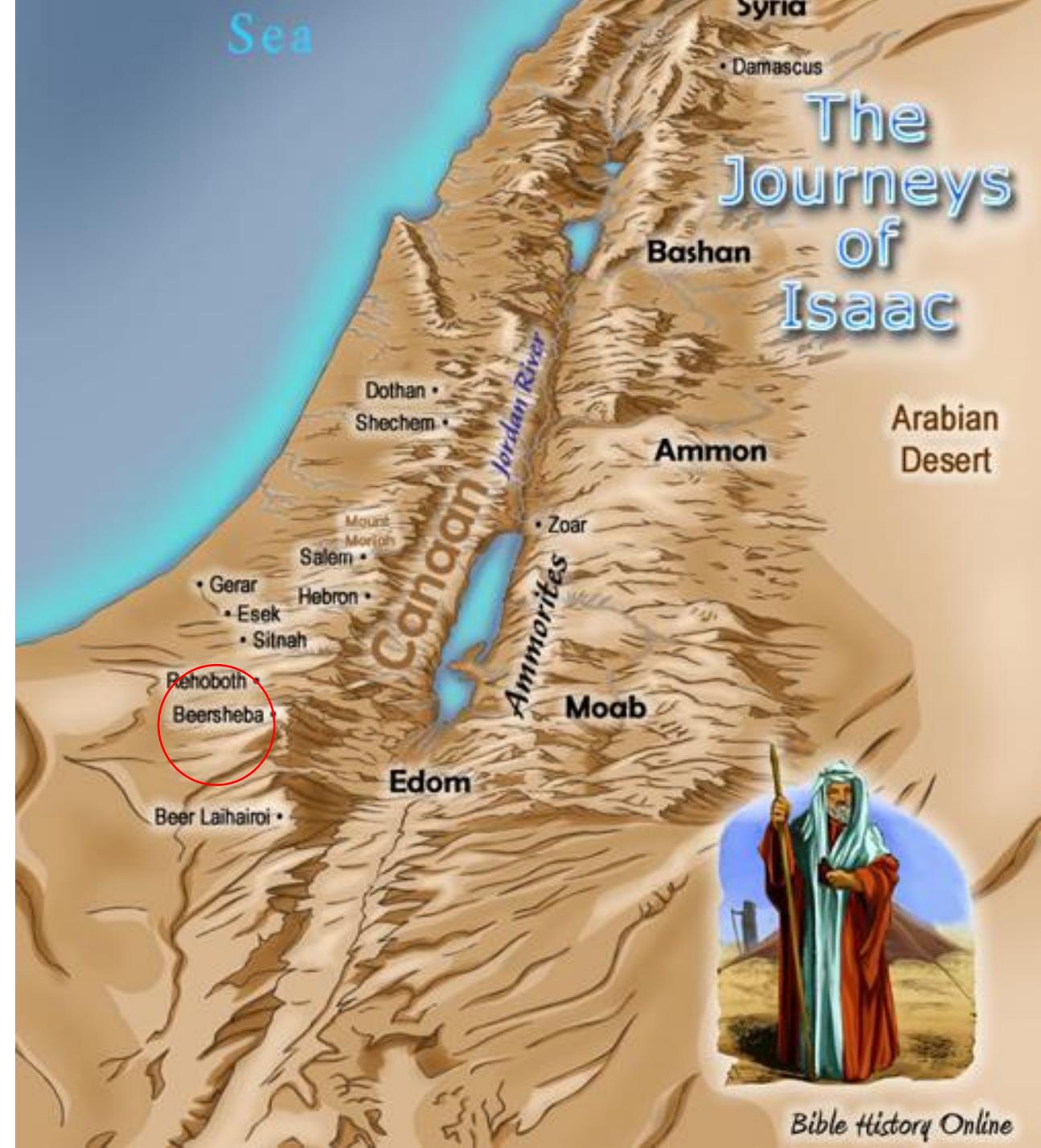
Further parallels: Mt Moriah, where God tells Abraham to sacrifice Isaac is in the same place that Melchizedek came from, Salem. In Jewish tradition Moriah is of Solomon's Temple (see **2 Chrn 3:1**), and that the name "Jerusalem" comes from attaching Abraham's word of faith - God "will provide" (Hebrew = yir'eh or jira) to the word Salem.

Jewish tradition believed that Isaac was an adult at the time of this event and that he willingly allowed himself to be bound and offered by Abraham, a parallel between Isaac and Jesus - both giving themselves up, freely accepting their own death as an offering to God.



Abraham & Isaac, Olivier, 1817.

Abraham Settles at Beersheba



The Death of Sarah

Sarah died at ... Hebron in the land of Canaan; & Abraham went in to mourn for Sarah ... Abraham ... said to the Hittites, "I am a stranger & a sojourner among you; give me property among you for a burying place, that I may bury my dead ..."

The Hittites answered Abraham, "Hear us, my lord; you are a mighty prince among us. Bury your dead in the choicest of our sepulchres; none of us will withhold from you his sepulchre, or hinder you from burying your dead."

Abraham ... said to them, "If you are willing that I should bury my dead, ... entreat for me Ephron the son of Zohar, that he may give me the cave of Machpelah, ... it is at the end of his field. For the full price let him give it to me in your presence as a possession for a burying place." ...

Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham... "No, my lord, hear me; I give you the field, & I give you the cave that is in it..."

Then Abraham bowed down before the people of the land. And he said to Ephron in the hearing of the people of the land, "But if you will, hear me; I will give the price of the field; accept it from me, that I may bury my dead there."

Ephron answered Abraham, "My lord, listen to me; a piece of land worth four hundred shekels of silver, what is that between you & me? Bury your dead."

Abraham agreed with Ephron; & Abraham weighed out for Ephron the silver which he had named in the hearing of the Hittites, four hundred shekels of silver... So the field of Ephron in Machpelah, ... the field with the cave ... was made over to Abraham as a possession in the presence of the Hittites... Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah east of Mamre (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan. The field & the cave that is in it were made over to Abraham as a possession for a burying place by the Hittites. (Gn 23)



Abraham Weeping for Sarah, Marc Chagall

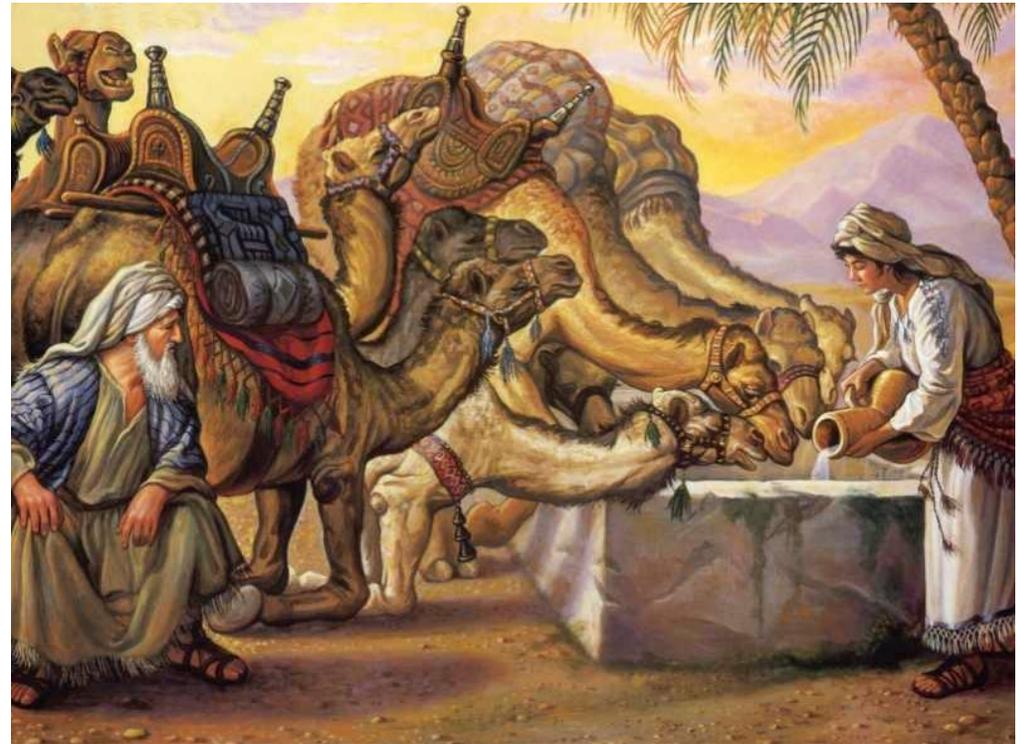


Mosque over the cave of Macpelah, Hebron

Marriage of Isaac & Rebekah

- Abraham sends his servant to find a wife for Isaac (not a local Canaanite). Isaac should remain in the land God has promised.
- The servant meets Rebekah (Abraham's great-niece).
- Rebekah returns with the servant
- Isaac loved Rebekah

'The man bowed his head and worshiped the LORD, and said, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken his steadfast love and his faithfulness toward my master. As for me, the LORD has led me in the way to the house of my master's kinsmen".' (Gn 24)



Abraham's Last Days

Abraham remarries and has 6 more children.

Abraham gave all he had to Isaac. But to the sons of his concubines Abraham gave gifts, and while he was still living he sent them away from his son Isaac. (Gn 25)

Abraham dies. Isaac & Ishmael bury him with Sarah.



Cenotaph of Abraham

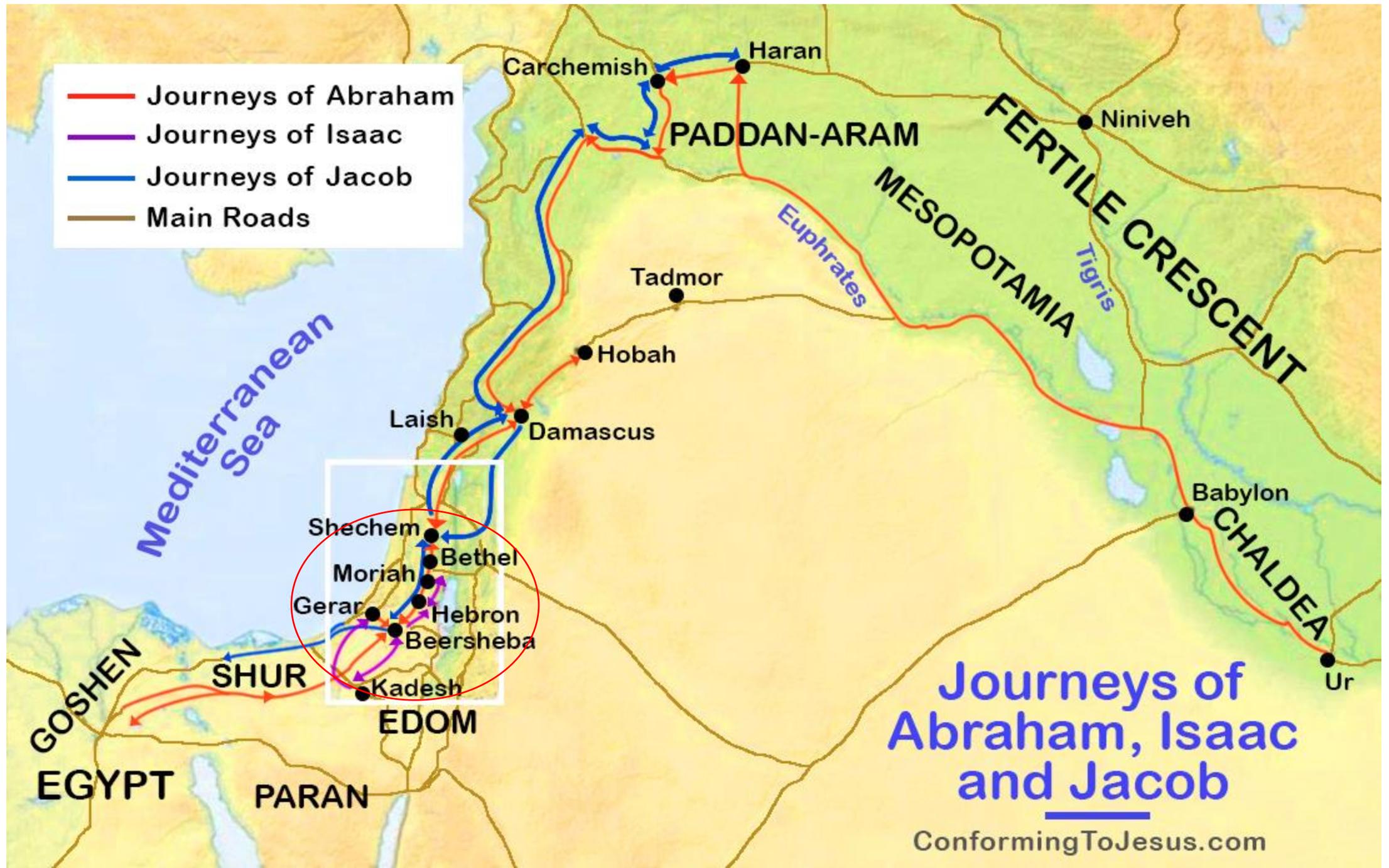




The Journeys of Isaac

What Happened to Isaac & Ishmael?







God Renews the Covenant with Isaac

Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you, and will bless you; for to you and to your descendants I will give all these lands, and I will fulfil the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven, and will give to your descendants all these lands; and by your descendants all the nations of the earth shall bless themselves: because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.” (Gn 26)

This is during a famine when he thought of going to Egypt.

He becomes very rich & settles in Beersheba.

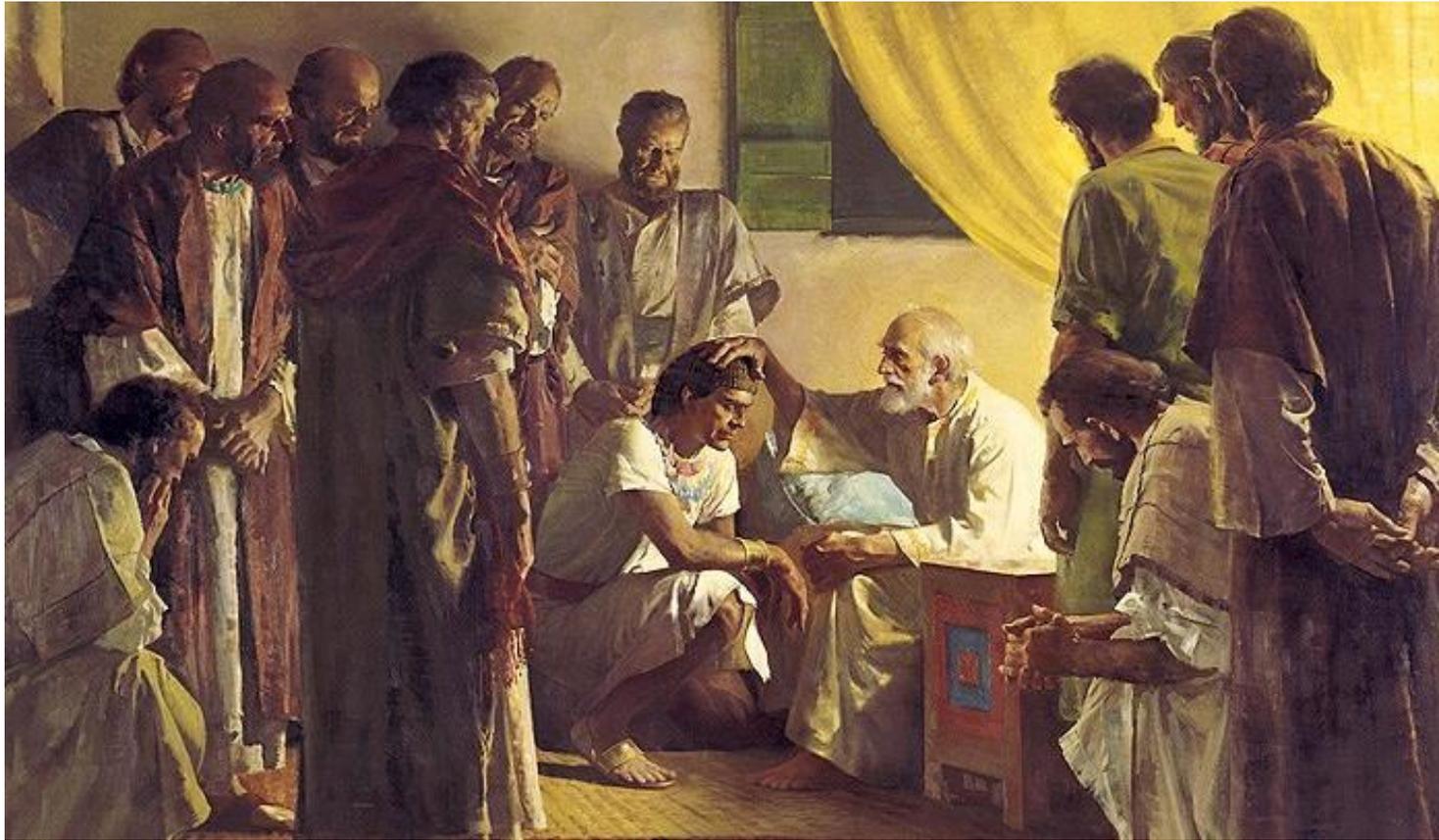




ISAAC'S SONS: ESAU & JACOB

The LORD said to [Rebekah], "Two nations are in your womb, & two peoples, born of you, shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger."

When the boys grew up, Esau was a skilful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, dwelling in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he ate of his game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.



Jacob Blesses His Twelve Sons, Harry Anderson.

The Younger Son

After the failure of His first-born in Eden, God seems to prefer the younger son:

- Abel's offering is preferred to Cain's.
- Isaac is chosen over Ishmael.
- Jacob's younger son, Joseph, becomes the hero.

Why does God do this?

St. Paul says that God chose Jacob over Esau in order that God's elective plan might continue, not by works but by His call.

When Rebecca had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad, in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of his call, she was told, "The elder will serve the younger." (Rm 9: 10-13)

So it depends not upon a person's will or exertion, but upon God. God chooses the young, the weak and the sinful to show that salvation history is governed by His free grace and His love.



Esau selling his Birthright to Jacob for a Pottage of Lentils, Nicolas Tournier, 17th c.

The Older Son

- **Esau's Wives**

When Esau was forty years old, he took to wife Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite; and they made life bitter for Isaac and Rebekah.

And later ...

When Esau saw that the Canaanite women did not please Isaac his father, Esau went to Ishmael and took to wife, besides the wives he had, Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael Abraham's son.

- **He loses his birthright to his younger brother.**
- **He and his descendants settle in Edom**

Esau sells his birthright



Once when Jacob was boiling pottage, Esau came in from the field, & he was famished. And Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red pottage, for I am famished!" (Therefore his name was called Edom. Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him & sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread & pottage of lentils, & he ate & drank, & rose & went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright. (Gn 25)

Isaac Blesses Jacob

When Isaac was old & ... could not see, he called Esau his older son, & said ... "I am old ... hunt game for me ... & bring it to me that I may eat; that I may bless you before I die."

Rebekah said to ... Jacob, "I heard your father speak to your brother Esau ... Fetch me two good kids, that I may prepare from them ... for your father,... you shall bring it to your father to eat, so that he may bless you before he dies." But Jacob said ... "My brother Esau is a hairy man, & I am a smooth man. Perhaps my father will feel me, & I shall ... bring a curse upon myself & not a blessing." ... His mother prepared savory food ... took the best garments of Esau her older son ... & put them on Jacob her younger son; & the skins of the kids she put upon his hands & upon the smooth part of his neck; & she gave the savory food ... into the hand of her son Jacob.

So he went in ... & said, "My father"; & he said, "Here I am; who are you, my son?" Jacob said ... "I am Esau your first-born. I have done as you told me; now sit up & eat ... that you may bless me." ... Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not." So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, who felt him & said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau." And he did not recognize him ... so he blessed him. He said, "Are you really my son Esau?" He answered, "I am." ... Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come near & kiss me, my son." So he came near & kissed him; & he smelled the smell of his garments, & blessed him, & said,

*"See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field which the LORD has blessed! May God give you of the dew of heaven, & of the fatness of the earth, & plenty of grain & wine. **Let peoples serve you, & nations bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers & may your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you, & blessed be every one who blesses you!"** (Gn 27)*

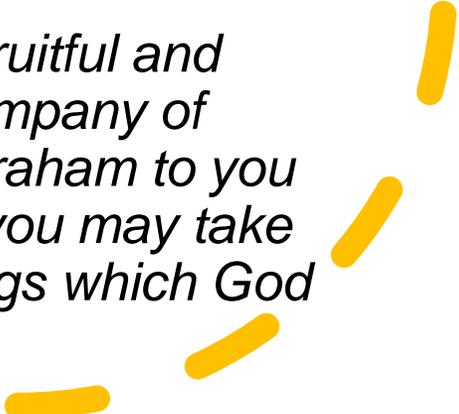


Jacob flees

- Esau plans to kill Jacob. Rebekah sends Jacob to her brother Laban in Haran.
- Isaac tells Jacob not to marry a local woman but to marry one of Laban's daughters.
- Isaac passes on the blessing of Abraham to Jacob.

You shall not marry one of the Canaanite women. Arise, go to ... the house of Bethuel your mother's father; & take as wife from there one of the daughters of Laban your mother's brother.

God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may become a company of peoples. May he give the blessing of Abraham to you and to your descendants with you, that you may take possession of the land of your sojournings which God gave to Abraham! (Gn 28)



Jacob's Ladder

He dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, & the top of it reached to heaven; & behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it!

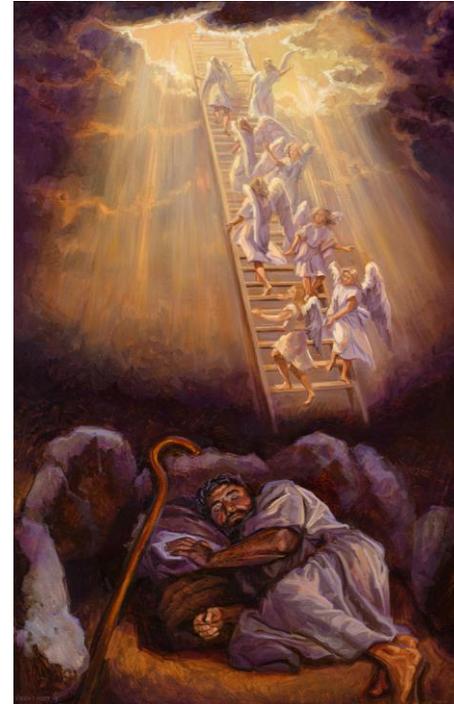
And behold, the LORD stood above it & said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father & the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you & to your descendants; & your descendants shall be like the dust of the earth, ... & by you & your descendants shall all the families of the earth bless themselves. Behold, I am with you & will keep you wherever you go, & will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done that of which I have spoken to you."

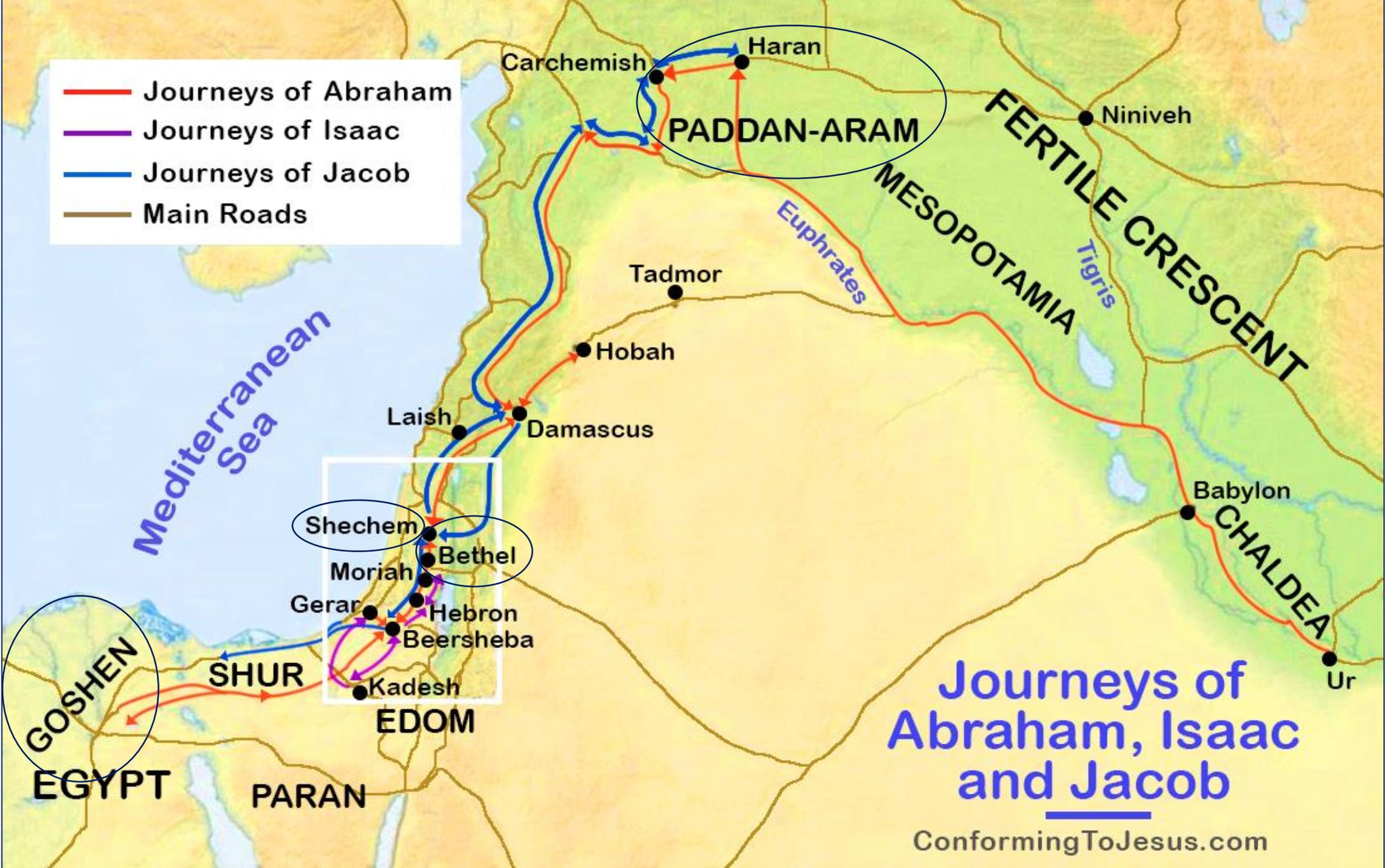
Then Jacob awoke from his sleep & said, "Surely the LORD is in this place; & I did not know it." And he was afraid, & said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, & this is the gate of heaven."

So Jacob rose early in the morning, & he took the stone which he had put under his head & set it up for a pillar & poured oil on the top of it. He called the name of that place Bethel ... Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, & will keep me in this way that I go, & will give me bread to eat & clothing to wear, so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God, & this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house; & of all that thou givest me I will give the tenth to thee." (Gn 28)

Jesus applies this dream to Himself, revealing that in Him heaven & earth touch, the human & the divine meet. He is what Jacob saw as "the gateway to heaven".

And he said to [Nathanael], "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man." (Jn 1: 51)





- Journeys of Abraham
- Journeys of Isaac
- Journeys of Jacob
- Main Roads

PADDAN-ARAM

FERTILE CRESCENT

MESOPOTAMIA

CHALDEA

EDOM

GOSHEN

EGYPT

PARAN

SHUR

Journeys of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

Jacob's Family

- Jacob visits his relative Laban.
- He works 7 years to marry Rachel.
- Laban tricks Jacob into marrying Leah instead.
- He works another 7 years for Rachel. (Gn 29)
- Despite Laban's actions, Jacob '*grew exceedingly rich, & had large flocks, maidservants & menservants, & camels & asses*'.
- Laban delays Jacob leaving. Jacob flees with his wives & goods.
- Rachel steals Laban's household gods. Laban catches up but is warned by God not to harm Jacob. Rachel sits on the idols.
- Covenant between Laban and Jacob.

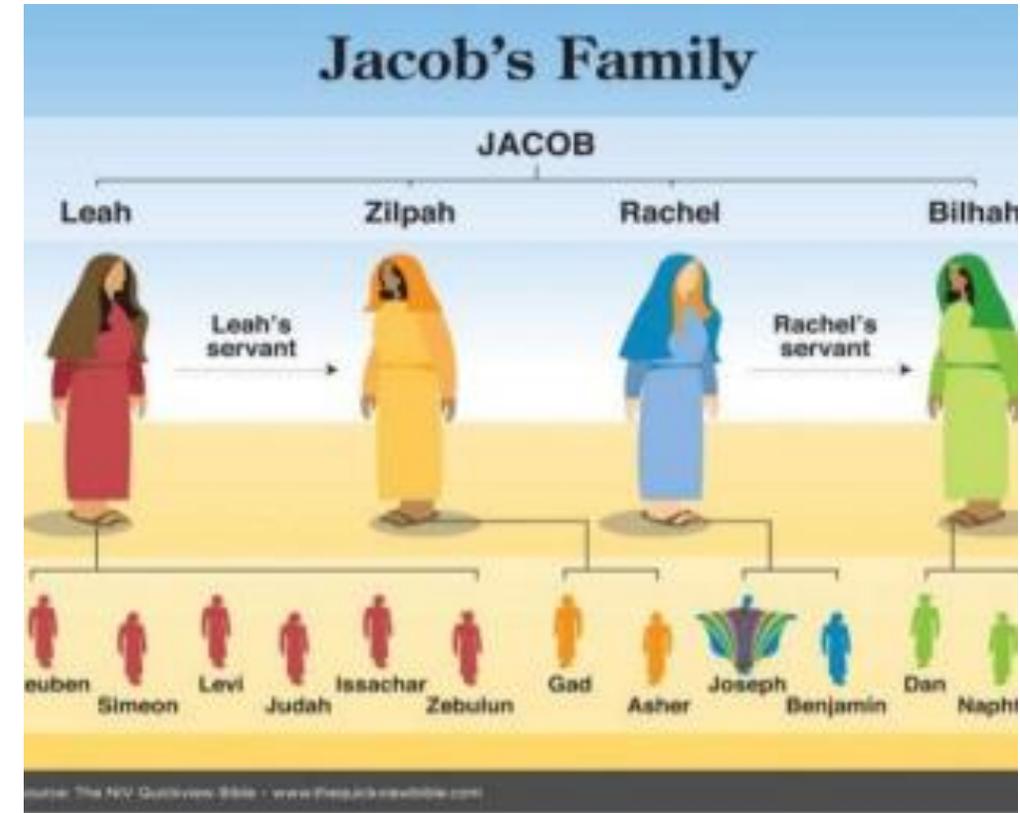
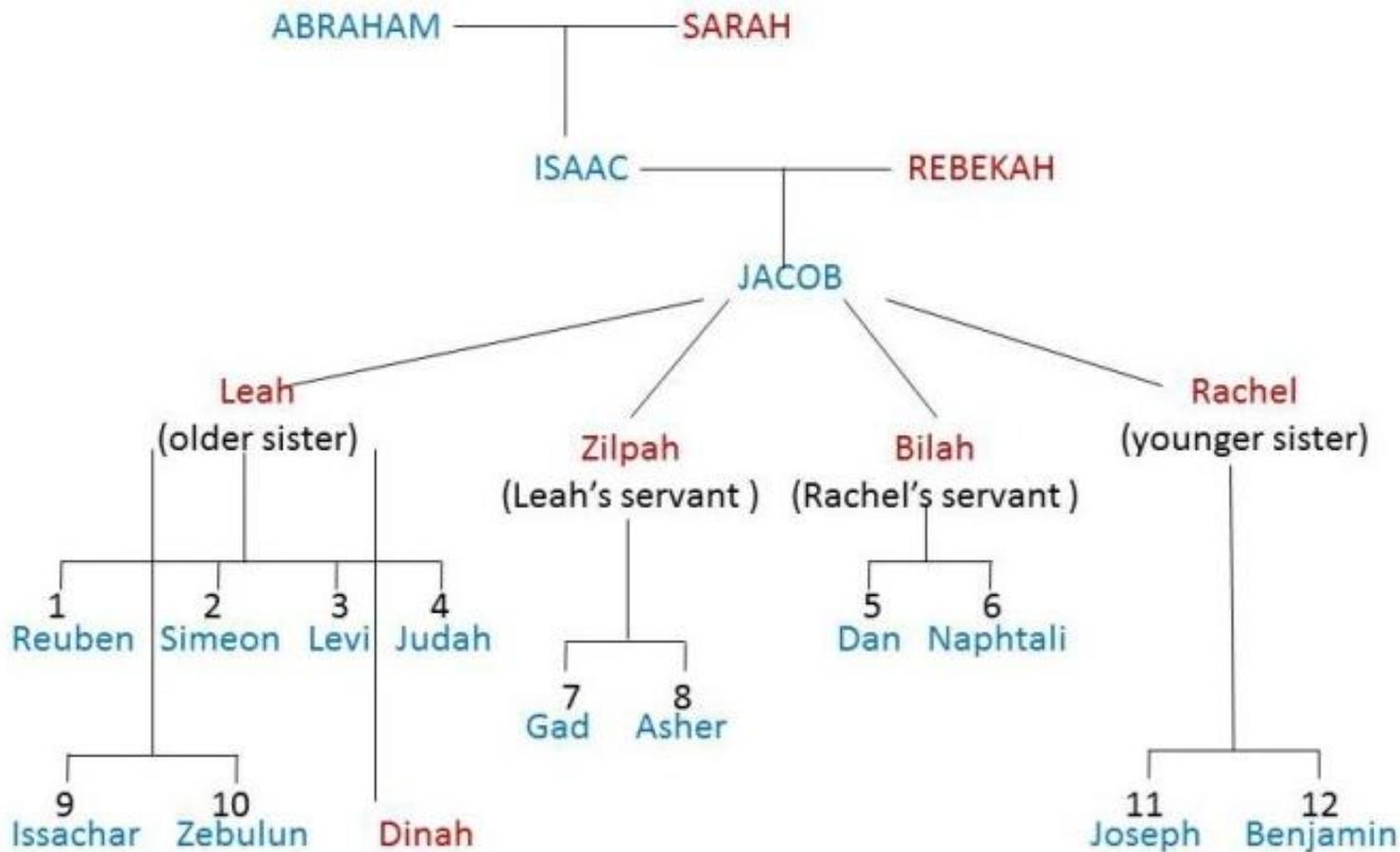




The Sons of Jacob

Gn 30 The Baby Stakes

12 Tribes of Israel



Coming Home

- Jacob prepares to meet Esau – sends gifts
- Jacob meets Esau; Esau's affection.
- Jacob goes to Shechem in Canaan. Buys land, builds an altar.
- Gn 32 & 33



Jacob Wrestles with an Angel

Jacob's struggles to:

- Hold on to God
- Discover his name
- Obtain his blessing.

God does bless him, but does not give his name. He remains shrouded in mystery

Jacob is renamed *Israel*.

'From this account, the spiritual tradition of the Church has retained the symbol of prayer as a battle of faith and as the triumph of perseverance.'

(CCC, 2573)



Jack Baumgartner, *Jacob Wrestling with God*, 2012.

The Return to Bethel

- God sends Jacob back to Bethel where God had revealed Himself (Jacob's Ladder)
Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there; and make there an altar to the God who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau.
- Before they leave, his people hand over all their foreign gods.
They gave to Jacob all the foreign gods that they had, and the rings that were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the oak which was near Shechem.
- God changes Jacob's name to Israel"
Your name is Jacob; no longer shall your name be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name." So his name was called Israel.
- God blesses Jacob,
Be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall spring from you. The land which I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and I will give the land to your descendants after you."
- Jacob erects a pillar.
- *Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he had spoken with him, a pillar of stone; and he poured out a drink offering on it, and poured oil on it. So Jacob called the name of the place where God had spoken with him, Bethel. (Gn 35)*
- Death of Rachel
- *Then they journeyed from Bethel. ... Rachel died, and she was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem), and Jacob set up a pillar upon her grave; it is the pillar of Rachel's tomb, which is there to this day. Israel journeyed on, and pitched his tent beyond the tower of Eder.*



The Death of Isaac

Jacob came to his father Isaac at Mamre, or ... Hebron, where Abraham and Isaac had sojourned.

Now the days of Isaac were a hundred and eighty years. And Isaac breathed his last; and he died and was gathered to his people, old and full of days; and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.



JOSEPH: A TYPE OF CHRIST

What happens to Joseph foreshadows not only what will happen to children of Israel, but also the sufferings and the salvation won for us by Jesus.

- Joseph is set apart from his brothers (no tribe is named directly after him).
- Joseph is the victim of jealousy and rejection by His brothers, who represent the whole of the tribes of Israel and therefore the entire people of Israel.
- Joseph is sold for the price of a slave; Jesus is sold for 30 pieces of silver, the price of a slave (Gn 37:28; Mt 26:14-15).
- Through their suffering both save their brethren from death.
- Both feed and save the people of Israel.
- Both Joseph & Jesus forgive their brothers.
- Pharaoh tells his Egyptian servants to do whatever Joseph tells them. Mary echoes these words, telling the servants at Cana to do whatever Jesus tells them to do (Gn 41:55; Jn 2:5).



God Turns Evil into an Instrument of Salvation

As Joseph explains to his brother, his story shows us that even what men plan as evil, God can use for the purposes of His saving plan.

'In time we can discover that God in his almighty providence can bring a good from the consequences of an evil, even a moral evil, caused by his creatures: "It was not you", said Joseph to his brothers, "who sent me here, but God. . . You meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive." From the greatest moral evil ever committed - the rejection and murder of God's only Son, caused by the sins of all men - God, by his grace that "abounded all the more", brought the greatest of goods: the glorification of Christ and our redemption. But for all that, evil never becomes a good.' (CCC, 312)

Joseph dreams about his brothers

“Hear this dream which I have dreamed: behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and lo, my sheaf arose and stood upright; and behold, your sheaves gathered round it, and bowed down to my sheaf.” His brothers said to him, “Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to have dominion over us?” So they hated him yet more for his dreams and for his words.”

Behold, I have dreamed another dream; and behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me.” But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him, and said to him, “What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?” And his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind. (Gn 37)





Joseph is Sold into Slavery (Gn 37)

Joseph in Egypt

- **Resists Temptation**
- **Marries an Egyptian woman**
- **Interprets Pharaoh's dream, warning him to prepare for famine.**

Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discreet and wise as you are; you shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command; only as regards the throne will I be greater than you." (Gn 41)

- **Rises to Power & Prepares Egypt for Famine**

The seven years of plenty that prevailed in the land of Egypt came to an end; and the seven years of famine began to come, as Joseph had said. There was famine in all lands; but in all the land of Egypt there was bread. When all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread; and Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph; what he says to you, do." So when the famine had spread over all the land, Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe in the land of Egypt. Moreover, all the earth came to Egypt to Joseph to buy grain, because the famine was severe over all the earth. (Gn 41)



Joseph & His Brothers

Joseph's brothers came & bowed themselves before him with their faces to the ground. Joseph saw his brothers, & knew them, but he treated them like strangers. ... Joseph remembered the dreams which he had dreamed of them. (Gn 42)

They return to home with food. Simeon remains a hostage in Egypt until they bring Benjamin. When the famine continues, they travel to Egypt again, taking Benjamin.

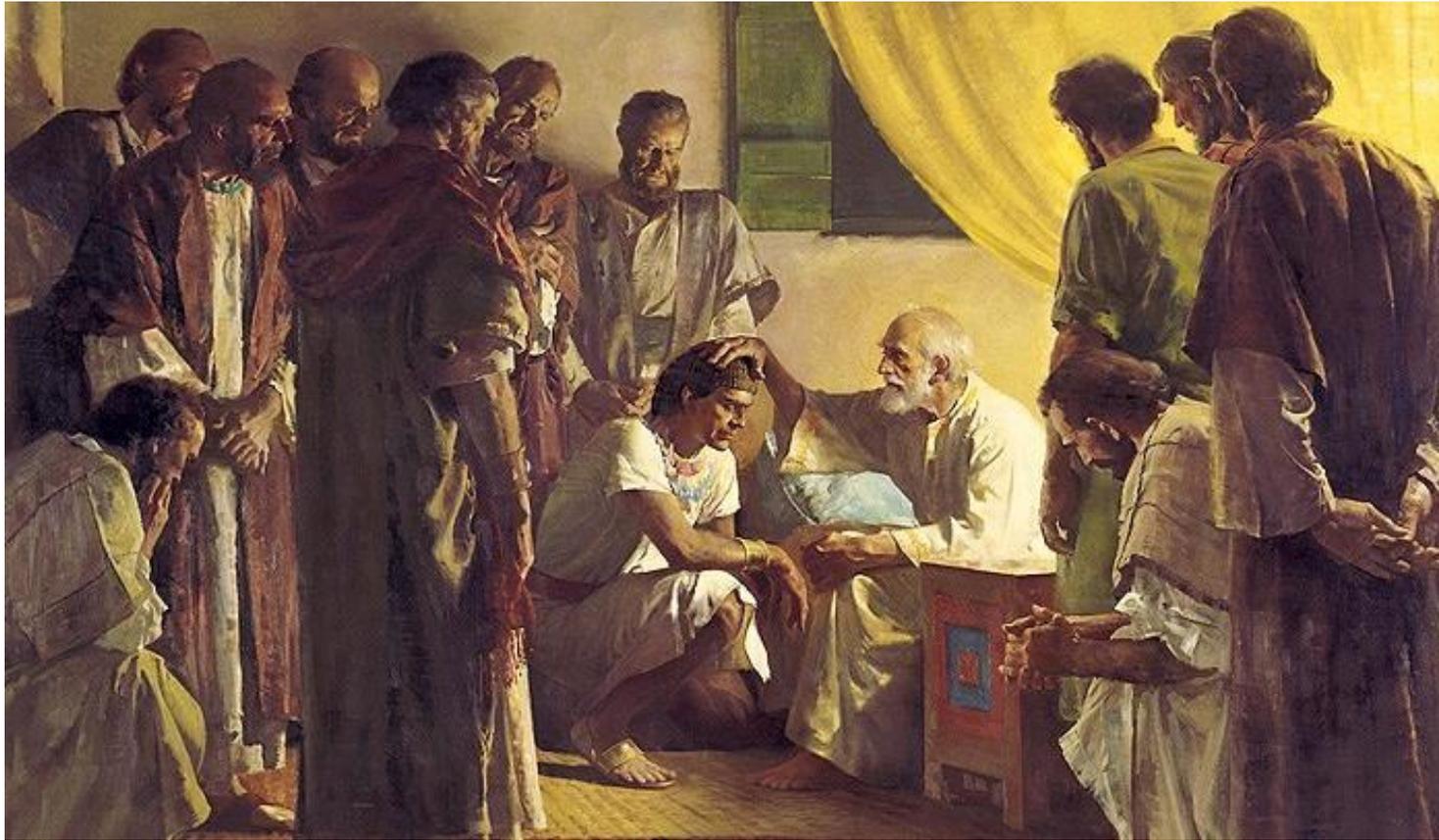
Joseph reveals his identity

"I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ... And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, & to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God ... Make haste & go up to my father & say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not tarry; you shall dwell in the land of Goshen, & you shall be near me, you & your children & your children's children, & your flocks, your herds, & all that you have; & there I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come; lest you and your household, & all that you have, come to poverty.' (Gn 45).





Jacob Takes His Family to Egypt



Jacob Blessing His Twelve Sons, Harry Anderson,

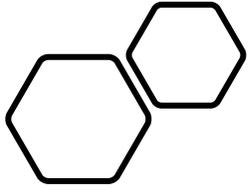
Jacob's Blessings

Genesis ends with Israel on his deathbed giving his blessing to his children. (Gn 49)

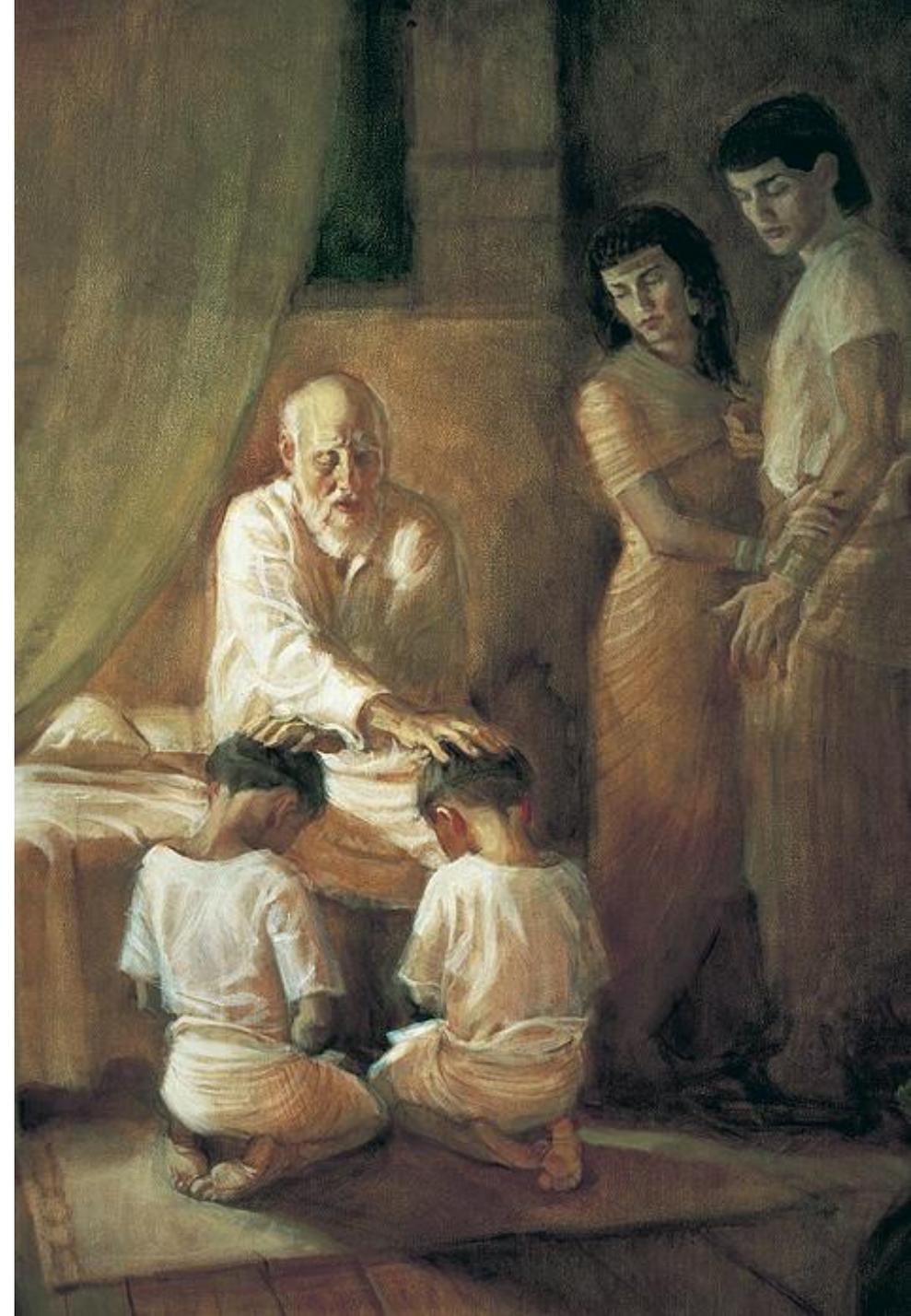
To Judah, he promises a royal dynasty that will be everlasting (Gn 49:9-12). He will rule over all peoples of the world. The Church interprets this as a promise of Jesus, the Messiah-King.

The line of Judah is the line of the kings David and Solomon.

Jesus is the royal son of David (Mt 1:1-16) and the Lion of Judah (Rev 5:5).



Jacob adopts & blesses Joseph's sons
Manasseh & Ephraim as his own, blessing the
younger over the older.



Jacob's Blessings

Jacob called his sons, & said, "Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in days to come. Assemble & hear, O sons of Jacob, & hearken to Israel your father.

1. Reuben, you are my first-born, my might, & the first fruits of my strength, pre-eminent in pride & pre-eminent in power ... you shall not have pre-eminence because you went up to your father's bed; then you defiled it - you went up to my couch!

2. & 3. Simeon and Levi ... O my spirit be not joined to their company; for in their anger they slay men ... Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce; & their wrath, for it is cruel! I will divide them in Jacob & scatter them in Israel.

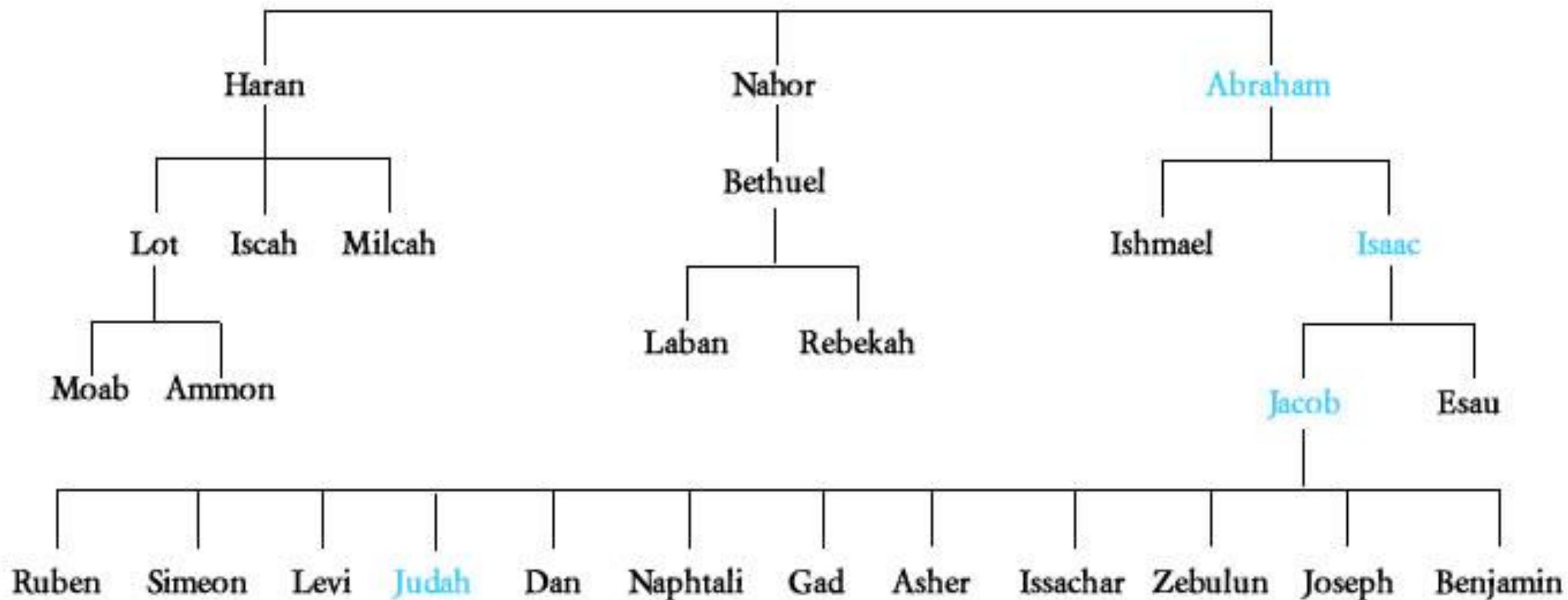
4. Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before you. Judah is a lion's whelp; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down, he couched as a lion, & as a lioness; who dares rouse him up? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs; & to him shall be the obedience of the peoples...

11. Joseph is a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a spring; his branches run over the wall. The archers fiercely attacked him, shot at him, & harassed him sorely; yet his bow remained unmoved, his arms were made agile by the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob (by the name of the Shepherd, the Rock of Israel), by the God of your father who will help you, by God Almighty who will bless you with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that couches beneath, blessings of the breasts & of the womb. The blessings of your father are mighty beyond the blessings of the eternal mountains, the bounties of the everlasting hills, may they be on the head of Joseph, & on the brow of him who was separate from his brothers.



The Chosen Line in Genesis

Terah



Judah, Ancestor of the Messiah

Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before you. Judah is a lion's whelp; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down, he couched as a lion, & as a lioness; who dares rouse him up? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs; & to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

Lion of Judah

Jesus as the Lion of Judah (Rev 5:5). The Lion of Judah is also the Lamb of God. (Rev 5: 8-10, 6: 12-17). Isaiah also refers to the lion & the lamb (Is 11:6-9).

"Weep not; lo, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals." (5:5)



Death of Jacob

Thus Israel dwelt in the land of Egypt, in the land of Goshen; and they gained possessions in it and were fruitful and multiplied exceedingly. And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years; so the days of Jacob, the years of his life, were a hundred and forty-seven years.

Do not bury me in Egypt, but let me lie with my fathers; carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their burying place.”

“Bury me with my fathers in the cave ... that is in the field at Machpelah, to the east of Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought ... from Ephron the Hittite to possess as a burying place. There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife; there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife; and there I buried Leah...” When Jacob finished charging his sons, he drew up his feet into the bed, and breathed his last, and was gathered to his people.

Thus his sons did for him as he had commanded them; for his sons carried him to the land of Canaan, and buried him in the cave of the field at Machpe’ah, to the east of Mamre, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite, to possess as a burying place. After he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt with his brothers and all who had gone up with him to bury his father.



The Cave of Macpelah, in Hebron. Burial site of the Patriarchs.



The Death of Joseph & the End of the Book of Genesis

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die; but God will visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land which he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob." Then Joseph took an oath of the sons of Israel, saying, "God will visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here." So Joseph died, being a hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

God will fulfill his promise to Abraham, restoring the Israelites to the land promised to their fathers"

The Land

This will be the distribution of Jacob's descendants when they finally return from Egypt. But this will be centuries later.

'The Land' in these early covenants "does not belong exclusively to the geography of this world," (John Paul II, 2003).

"Abraham, the believer who accepts God's invitation, is someone heading towards a promised land that is not of this world...In the faith of Abraham, almighty God truly made an eternal covenant with the human race, and its definitive fulfillment is Jesus Christ," Who by His Cross and Resurrection leads us "into the land of salvation that God, rich in mercy, had promised humanity from the very beginning."

