

# **The first stories about God and his people (The book in the Holy Bible called Genesis) About these stories**

This is the 1st book in the Holy Bible, called *Genesis*. That word *Genesis* means *start*. It is the book that tells us how God started everything that is here today.

Genesis was in God's book that the Jewish people had before Jesus came to this earth. That book is now the first part of the Holy Bible, called the *Old Testament*.

Genesis is a very old book. The Jewish people say that Moses wrote it about 3,400 years ago. He was their leader at that time.

Genesis is a very important book for us today. It tells us that God made everything. He made the world and everything in it, and he made people. Genesis tells us that people went wrong, but God was still good to them. God picked a man called Abraham, and God promised to use Abraham's family to do good things for all the people in the world. This book has lots of stories about the people in Abraham's family.

Genesis shows us that God is really good and really powerful. He will always look after the people that trust him and do what he says.

*God made everything*

<sup>1</sup> First of all, a long time ago, God made everything. He made the sky, and he made the earth. He made all the things that are everywhere.

<sup>2</sup> The earth didn't have any shape. It didn't have anything. It was covered with deep water. Everything was dark. It was dark all over the water, but God's spirit moved around on the top of the water.

### *Day number 1*

<sup>3</sup> God said, "I want light." Straight away, light was shining everywhere.\*

<sup>4</sup> God looked at it, and he saw that it was good. So God split up the light and the dark.

<sup>5</sup> He called the light *day time*, and he called the dark *night time*.

After that all happened, there was night time and there was morning time. That was day number 1.

### *Day number 2*

<sup>6</sup> Then God said, "I want something to split the water in half."\*

<sup>7</sup> So God made the sky to split the water in half. God left some of the water up high, and he left some of it on the ground, and he put the sky in the middle.

<sup>8</sup> And when God made it, he called it *sky*.

After that all happened, there was night time and there was morning time. That was day number 2.

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\* [1:3 2 Corinthians 4:6](#) \* [1:6 2 Peter 3:5](#)

### *Day number 3*

<sup>9</sup> Then God said, “I want all the water that is on the ground to come together to one place, and I want dry ground to come up.” Then the water moved to the places where God wanted it, and the dry ground came up.

<sup>10</sup> God called the dry ground *land*, and he called that water *sea*. God looked at the land and the sea, and he saw that everything was good.

<sup>11</sup> Then God said, “I want the land to grow all sorts of plants on the earth. I want plants with seeds, and trees with fruit that have seeds inside.” And God made it happen.

<sup>12</sup> So all sorts of plants grew on the land, plants with seeds, and trees with fruit that have seeds inside. God looked at all those plants, and he saw that everything was good.

<sup>13</sup> After that all happened, there was night time and there was morning time. That was day number 3.

### *Day number 4*

<sup>14</sup> Then God said, “I want some lights in the sky. I want the lights to split up the day time from the night time. They will show the time. They will show the season, and the time of the year, and the time of day.

<sup>15</sup> I will put these lights in the sky to shine on the earth.” So God did that.

<sup>16</sup> He made 2 big lights. He made one light brighter than the other light. That bright light shines in the day time. We call it the *sun*. The other light shines in the night time. We call it the *moon*. And God made the stars too.

<sup>17</sup> God put all those lights in the sky to shine on the earth.

<sup>18</sup> One light shines during the day, and another light shines at night. Those lights split the day time from the night time. God looked at those lights, and he saw that everything was good.

<sup>19</sup> After that all happened, there was night time and there was morning time. That was day number 4.

### *Day number 5*

<sup>20</sup> Then God said, "I want the water to be full of fish and all sorts of living things. And I want birds that fly around in the sky, above the earth."

<sup>21</sup> So God made all the different sorts of things that live and move in the sea. He made the great big sea animals and a lot of other things that live in the sea. And God made all the different sorts of birds too. God looked at all those things, and he saw that everything was good.

<sup>22</sup> God was good to them, and he said to them, "All of you living things will have lots of young ones, so that the sea will be full of fish, and lots of birds will fly around everywhere."

<sup>23</sup> After that all happened, there was night time and there was morning time. That was day number 5.

### *Day number 6*

<sup>24</sup> Then God said, "I want the land to be full of all different sorts of animals. I want animals that are wild, and animals that are not wild. I want lizards, and insects, and other things that crawl around on the ground." And God made it happen just like that.

<sup>25</sup> God made all the different sorts of animals, the animals that are wild and the animals that are not wild. And he made all the different sorts of lizards, and insects, and other things that crawl around on the ground. God looked at all those things, and he saw that everything was good.

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "We are going to make people. They will be like us. They will be boss over the fish and everything that lives in the sea, and they will be boss over the birds that fly in the sky, and they will be boss over all the animals that are on the land, the animals that are wild, and the animals that are not wild, and all the lizards, and insects, and other things that crawl around on the ground. People will be boss over all of them."\*

<sup>27</sup> So God made people to be like himself. He made them man and woman.\*

<sup>28</sup> God was good to them, and he said to them, "You will have lots of kids, and the earth will be full of people. You people will be boss over all the earth. You will be boss over the fish in the sea, and you will be boss over the birds in the sky, and you will be boss over all the animals that live on the land."\*

<sup>29</sup> Then God said to them, "Look, I made lots of food plants for you. I made plants that have seeds in them, and trees with fruit on them too. You can eat the seeds from those plants and the fruit from those trees. That bush tucker will be your food.

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\* **1:26** 1 Corinthians 11:7

\* **1:27** Matthew 19:4; Mark 10:6

\* **1:28** Genesis 5:1-2

<sup>30</sup> And I made green plants too, for all the animals of the earth to eat, and for all the birds of the sky to eat, and for all the lizards, and insects, and other things that crawl around on the ground to eat too. Everything that breathes air can eat those green plants.”

<sup>31</sup> God looked at everything he made, and he saw that all of it was very good.

After that all happened, there was night time and there was morning time. That was day number 6.

## 2

### *Day number 7*

<sup>1</sup> God finished making everything. He finished making the sky, and the earth, and everything that is on the earth too.

<sup>2</sup> After God finished all that, it was day number 7, and God rested on that day.\*

<sup>3</sup> So God made day number 7 a good and special day. He said, “I’ve finished making everything now, and I’m resting on day number 7. So day number 7 is a special day.”\*

### *At first everything was different*

<sup>4</sup> This story is about the time when God made the earth and the sky.

<sup>5</sup> At first, God didn’t send any rain on the earth, and there were no people to make the ground right for the plants. So nothing was growing on the earth at that time.

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\* **2:2** Hebrews 4:4, 10      \* **2:3** Exodus 20:11

<sup>6</sup> Water used to come up from under the ground and wet the top of all the ground.

### *God made the first man*

<sup>7</sup> God took some dirt, and he made a man out of it. Then God breathed into the man's nose, and God's breath gave him life. So that man became a living person.\*

### *The garden in Eden*

<sup>8</sup> Then God made a garden in a place called Eden. It was in the east part of the land. And God put the man in that garden.

<sup>9</sup> And God made some trees grow there in that garden. They were pretty, and they had fruit that was good to eat. And God put 2 special trees in the middle of the garden. If people eat the fruit of one of those trees, they will stay alive. And if they eat the fruit from the other tree, they will know if the things they do are good, or if they are bad.\*

<sup>10</sup> A river started in Eden, and it watered the garden. Then that river flowed out and split up into 4 rivers.

<sup>11</sup> The 1st river was called Pishon. It flowed around the land called Havilah. In that country there was lots of gold.

<sup>12</sup> It was really good gold. And there were pretty stones and good perfumes there too.

<sup>13</sup> The 2nd river was called Gihon. It flowed all around the country called Cush.

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\* **2:7** 1 Corinthians 15:45      \* **2:9** Revelation 2:7; 22:2, 14

<sup>14</sup> The 3rd river was called Tigris. It flowed east of the country called Ashur.

The 4th river was called Euphrates.

<sup>15</sup> God put the man into the garden in Eden and gave him some work to do. He had to look after the garden and make sure all the plants grew strong and healthy.

### *The special tree*

<sup>16</sup> And God told the man, "You can eat fruit from the trees in this garden.

<sup>17</sup> There is only one tree that you can't eat its fruit. You can't eat the fruit from that tree that lets you know if the things you do are good, or if they are bad. I'm telling you, if you eat any fruit from that tree, you will die, for sure."

### *God made the first woman*

<sup>18</sup> And God said, "It is not good for this man to be by himself. I'm going to make somebody else to be a mate for the man, somebody that will be good for him."

<sup>19</sup> And God made all the animals and birds out of dirt from the ground, and he brought them to the man. God wanted the man to give all the animals and birds their names. The man could say any name he wanted for each one, and those names stayed with them.

<sup>20</sup> So the man gave each animal a name. He named all the wild animals, and all the animals that are not wild, and all the birds. That man's own name was *Adam*. (That name means *man*.) There were lots of animals and birds, but none of



them were the right sort of mate that was good for Adam.

<sup>21</sup> So God made the man go to sleep. It was a really strong deep sleep. And while he was asleep, God took out one of his rib bones. Then God closed up the place where that rib was.

<sup>22</sup> Then God used the man's rib bone and made a woman from it. After the man woke up, God took the woman over to the man.

<sup>23</sup> The man looked at that woman, and he said, "This is really good. Now I have a mate. God took out a part of my body, and he made it into a mate for me. Yes, he used my rib bone to make her. God made her out of a man's body, so I'm going to call her *woman*."

<sup>24</sup> That's how God made a woman, he made her out of a man's body. That is the reason why a man will leave his mother and father and marry a woman. The man and his wife will join with each other, and their bodies will be like one body.\*

<sup>25</sup> The man and his wife didn't have any clothes on. They were both naked, but they didn't feel any shame.

### 3

#### *The snake tricked the woman*

<sup>1</sup> You know, God made lots of animals, but the snake was more smart than all the other animals. He was really smart and tricky. One day, the snake went to the woman and said to her, "Did

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\* **2:24** Matthew 19:5; Mark 10:7-8; 1 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 5:31

God say, 'You can't eat fruit from any of the trees in the garden'? Is that true?"\*

<sup>2</sup> The woman said, "No, that's not true. We can eat fruit from those trees there in the garden.

<sup>3</sup> God said that there is only one tree that we can't eat from. We can't eat any fruit that comes from one of the trees that is in the middle of the garden. God will not even let us touch that tree. He said that if we eat fruit from that tree, we will die."

<sup>4</sup> The snake said to the woman, "You will not die.

<sup>5</sup> God knows what will happen if you eat fruit from that tree. He knows that if you eat fruit from that tree, you will know more things, like God himself. You will know if the things you do are good, or if they are bad."

*The man and the woman did the wrong thing*

<sup>6</sup> The woman looked at that tree. It was pretty, and the fruit on that tree looked really good to eat, and she reckoned that if she eats some of that fruit, she will think properly. So the woman got some of that fruit, and she ate it, and she gave some of it to her husband, and he ate that fruit too. <sup>7</sup> Straight away, the man and the woman knew more things. They knew that they were naked, and they felt shame. They wanted to make clothes to cover up their naked bodies, so they picked some big leaves from a tree and sewed the leaves together to make some clothes.

*The man and the woman tried to hide from God*

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\* **3:1** Revelation 12:9; 20:2

<sup>8</sup> Later on, in the cool part of the day, the man and the woman heard God walking in the garden. So they got behind some trees in the garden to hide from God.

<sup>9</sup> God called out to the man, "Where are you?"

<sup>10</sup> The man said, "I heard you walking in the garden, and I was frightened, because I'm naked. So I hid from you."

<sup>11</sup> God asked the man, "How do you know that you are naked? Did you eat some of that fruit from the tree that I told you not to eat from?"

<sup>12</sup> The man said, "Yes, but it was the woman that you put here with me, she gave me fruit from that tree, so I ate it."

<sup>13</sup> Then God said to the woman, "Why did you do that bad thing?"\*

The woman said, "That snake tricked me. That's the reason why I ate that fruit."

### *God judged the snake*

<sup>14</sup> Then God said, "Snake, you did the wrong thing, so I will curse you. I will not curse the other animals, but I will curse all you snakes. From now on, you are going to crawl around on your bellies. You will always be down on the ground in the dirt.

<sup>15</sup> The woman's kids will hate you, and so will all their kids, and all the people that will be born later on. People will always be your enemies. And Snake, your kids will hate the woman's kids, and so will all the snake mob that will be born later on. You snake mob will always be the

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\* **3:13** 2 Corinthians 11:3; 1 Timothy 2:14

people's enemies. They will hit your heads, and you will bite their feet.”\*

### *God judged the woman*

<sup>16</sup> Then God said to the woman, “I’m going to give you a lot of trouble. You are going to have a lot of pain whenever you have a baby. It will hurt you a lot. But you will really want to have a husband, and your husband will be your boss.”

### *God judged the man*

<sup>17-18</sup> Then God said to the man, “I told you not to eat any fruit from one of the trees in the middle of the garden, but you listened to your wife, and you ate that fruit. So I will curse the ground and make it bad for you. It will never be easy for you to get your food from the plants in the ground any more. The ground will have lots of rubbish plants and prickles in it.”\*

<sup>19</sup> You will work very hard to get your food, so you will get hot, and you will sweat a lot. And later on, you will die. I made you from the dirt, and after you die, your body will turn back into dirt.”

### *God hunted Adam and Eve out of Eden*

<sup>20</sup> Adam’s wife was the first woman, and all the people in the world came from her. So Adam gave her the name *Eve*. That name means *somebody that gives life*.

<sup>21</sup> God made some clothes from animal skins for Adam and his wife.

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\* **3:15** Revelation 12:17      \* **3:17-18** Hebrews 6:8

<sup>22</sup> After that, God said, “These people are like us now. They know what things are good, and what things are bad. We have to stop them, so they will not eat fruit from the other tree in the middle of the garden, the tree that makes people stay alive. If they eat that fruit, they will live for ever.”\*

<sup>23</sup> So God hunted them out of the garden. To get food, they had to dig the ground and grow plants. You know, God made that man out of the ground, and after they left the garden, that man had to dig that same ground.

<sup>24</sup> After God hunted them out of the garden, he made sure that they couldn’t get back. He put some of his angel workers as guards just outside the east side of the garden in Eden. And he put a long knife there with them. That knife kept on moving around all the time, and it looked like it was on fire. Those angel workers and that long knife, they kept everyone away from that tree that makes people stay alive.

## 4

### *Cain and Abel gave things to God*

<sup>1</sup> Adam and Eve slept together, like a man does with his wife, and then Eve had a baby boy. Eve said, “God has helped me make another human.” So she gave him the name *Cain*. That name means *make*.

<sup>2</sup> After that, they had another son, and she gave him the name *Abel*.

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\* **3:22** Revelation 22:14

Abel grew up, and he looked after sheep and goats all the time. Cain grew up, and he became a gardener. He dug the ground and grew plants for people to eat.

<sup>3</sup> One day, Cain brought a gift to give to God. He brought some food from his garden.

<sup>4</sup> And Abel brought a gift to give to God too. He gave God some of his young sheep and goats. They were the first ones born to their mothers. Abel brought the best bits of meat from those sheep and goats. And God was happy with Abel, and with his gift.\*

<sup>5</sup> But God was not happy with Cain, or with his gift. Then Cain got very angry. His face changed, and he looked very sad.

<sup>6</sup> God said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why do you look sad?"

<sup>7</sup> If you do the right thing, I will be happy with you. But, if you don't do the right thing, look out, you will always want to do more bad things. But you have to control yourself and stop doing bad things."

<sup>8</sup> After that, Cain went to his brother Abel, and Cain said, "Let's go for a walk." So Cain and Abel went out bush together. While they were there, Cain hit his brother, and killed him dead.\*

<sup>9</sup> Later, God said to Cain, "Where is your brother, Abel?"

Cain said, "I don't know where my brother is. It's not my job to look after him."

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\* **4:4** Hebrews 11:4      \* **4:8** Matthew 23:35; Luke 11:51; 1 John 3:12

<sup>10</sup> God said to Cain, “You did a really bad thing. Your brother’s blood is on the ground. It’s like his blood is calling out to me. It is telling me you killed him.\*

<sup>11</sup> So now I’m going to curse you. You killed your brother, and his blood is on the ground. So I will make the ground bad for you.

<sup>12</sup> If you try to grow plants in the ground, nothing will grow for you. You will go away from me. And you will walk around in lots of places, but you will not have a home.”

<sup>13</sup> Cain said to God, “God, you are too hard on me.

<sup>14</sup> If you make me leave this land where I grow my food, and if you make me go away from you, then I will have to walk around everywhere, and I will not have a home. Then somebody will find me and finish me.”

<sup>15</sup> God said, “I will not let that happen. I’ll tell everybody that if they kill you, then I will punish them properly. I will do 7 times as much payback to them.” So God put a mark on Cain’s head, so that everybody will know that they can’t kill him.

### *The people born into Cain’s family*

<sup>16</sup> After that, Cain went away from God and went to live in a place called Nod. That country was on the east side of Eden.

<sup>17</sup> Cain slept with his wife, like married people do together, and then she had a baby boy, called Enok. Cain built a town, and he also called it Enok, after his son.

<sup>18</sup> Enok grew up, and he had a son, called Irad.

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\* **4:10** Hebrews 12:24

Irak grew up, and he had a son, called Mehu-jayel.

Mehujayel grew up, and he had a son, called Methushayel.

Methushayel grew up, and he had a son, called Lamek.

<sup>19</sup> Lamek grew up, and he married 2 women. One wife's name was Adah, and the other wife's name was Zillah.

<sup>20</sup> Lamek's wife Adah had a baby boy, called Jabal. Jabal grew up, and he looked after animals. He took those animals around and camped in different places. He was the first person to do that.

<sup>21</sup> Adah had another son, called Jubal. Jubal grew up and was the first person to play musical instruments. He played a harp and a flute.

<sup>22</sup> Lamek's other wife, Zillah, had a son called Tubal Cain. Tubal Cain grew up and made tools from iron and from a brown metal called bronze. Zillah also had a daughter, called Namah.

<sup>23</sup> One day, Lamek said to his 2 wives, "Adah and Zillah, listen to me properly. A young man hit me and hurt me, so I killed him dead.

<sup>24</sup> God said that if anyone killed Cain, he will punish that person properly. He will do 7 times as much payback to them. I reckon I'm more important than Cain. So if somebody kills me for killing that young man, I reckon God will do 77 times as much payback to that person."\*

*Adam and Eve had another son*

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\* **4:24** Matthew 18:22



<sup>25</sup> Adam and Eve slept together again, like a man does with his wife, and they had another son, and they gave him the name *Seth*. That name means *gave*. Eve said, “God gave me another son to take the place of Abel, our son that Cain killed.”

<sup>26</sup> Seth grew up, and he had a son too, and he gave him the name Enosh. At that time people started to call God by his special name *Yahweh* when they showed respect to him.

## 5

### *The people born into Adam’s family*

<sup>1</sup> This is the story about Adam’s family. You see, when God made people, he made them to be like himself.

<sup>2</sup> And he made them men and women, and he called them *human beings*, and he was good to them.\*

<sup>3</sup> Adam lived a long time. He was 130 years old when he had his son called Seth. He was a human being, just like Adam, his father.

<sup>4</sup> After Seth was born, Adam lived for another 800 years, and he had more sons and daughters.

<sup>5</sup> He died when he was 930 years old.

<sup>6</sup> Seth lived a long time too. He was 105 years old when he had a son called Enosh.

<sup>7</sup> Then Seth lived for another 807 years, and he had more sons and daughters.

<sup>8</sup> He died when he was 912 years old.

<sup>9</sup> Enosh lived a long time too. He was 90 years old when he had a son called Kenan.

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\* **5:2** Genesis 1:27-28; Matthew 19:4; Mark 10:6

<sup>10</sup> Then Enosh lived for another 815 years, and he had more sons and daughters.

<sup>11</sup> He died when he was 905 years old.

<sup>12</sup> Kenan lived a long time too. He was 70 years old when he had a son called Mahalalel.

<sup>13</sup> Then Kenan lived for another 840 years, and he had more sons and daughters.

<sup>14</sup> He died when he was 910 years old.

<sup>15</sup> Mahalalel lived a long time too. He was 65 years old when he had a son called Jared.

<sup>16</sup> Then Mahalalel lived for another 830 years, and he had more sons and daughters.

<sup>17</sup> He died when he was 895 years old.

<sup>18</sup> Jared lived a long time too. He was 162 years old when he had a son called Enok.

<sup>19</sup> Then Jared lived for another 800 years, and he had more sons and daughters.

<sup>20</sup> He died when he was 962 years old.

<sup>21</sup> Enok lived a long time too. He was 65 years old when he had a son called Methuselah.

<sup>22-24</sup> Then Enok lived for another 300 years after Methuselah was born, and he had more sons and daughters.

Enok was always God's friend, and he spent a lot of time with God. One day, when he was 365 years old, he wasn't here on the earth any more. Nobody could find him anywhere. You see, he didn't die, but God took him straight up to heaven.\*

<sup>25</sup> Methuselah lived a long time too. He was 187 years old when he had a son called Lamek.

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\* **5:22-24** Hebrews 11:5; Jude 1:14

<sup>26</sup> Then Methuselah lived for another 782 years, and he had more sons and daughters.

<sup>27</sup> He died when he was 969 years old.

<sup>28</sup> Lamek lived a long time too. He was 182 years old when he had a son.

<sup>29</sup> He named his son *Noah*. That name means *help people be happy*. Lamek said, "God cursed the ground, so we have to work really hard to dig the ground, but Noah will help us be happy, even though we have to work really hard."

<sup>30</sup> Then Lamek lived for another 595 years, and he had more sons and daughters.

<sup>31</sup> He died when he was 777 years old.

<sup>32</sup> Noah lived a long time too. After he was 500 years old, he had 3 sons. They were called Shem, and Ham, and Jafeth.

## 6

### *There were big, strong fighting men*

<sup>1</sup> The people on the earth kept on having lots of kids, and those kids grew up and kept on having more kids, so after some time there were lots of people on the earth. And some people had very pretty daughters.

<sup>2</sup> There were some men that everyone called the *Sons of God*. They looked at the pretty young women, then they picked out the women they wanted, and they married them.

<sup>3</sup> God looked at everything that was happening. He said, "I gave people their breath, but I will not let it stay in them for ever. They are just people. They will live for only 120 years."

<sup>4</sup> Those men that were called the Sons of God, they slept with the pretty women, like men usually sleep with their wives, and then those women had kids called Nefalim. Those Nefalim kids grew up to be big, strong fighting men. They were the great fighters in the stories from a long time ago.\*

*People kept on doing bad things*

<sup>5</sup> God looked at the people on the earth, and he saw them doing lots of bad things. He knew the way they were thinking. They were thinking bad things all the time. God saw that the people were very bad.

<sup>6</sup> So God was feeling sad. He really felt no good inside. He thought to himself, "I should not have made all these people."

<sup>7</sup> And God said, "These people keep on doing bad things, and that makes me really sad. I'm sorry that I made them. I'm sorry I made everything on the earth. I want to finish up everything. I want to kill all the people I made, and I want to kill all the animals on earth, the big animals, and the little animals, and even the animals that crawl around on the ground, and I want to kill all the birds that fly in the sky."

<sup>8</sup> But God looked at the man called Noah, and Noah made God happy.

*The story about Noah*

<sup>9</sup> This is the story about Noah and his family. Noah was a good man. He didn't do anything

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\* 6:4 Numbers 13:33

wrong. He was God's friend, and he spent a lot of time with God.\*

<sup>10</sup> He had 3 sons. Their names were Shem, Ham, and Jafeth.

<sup>11-12</sup> Everyone on the earth kept on doing bad things. They were doing wrong to each other, and fighting and hurting each other. God looked down and saw all the bad things that were going on. The people were always doing things that were really bad.

<sup>13</sup> So God said to Noah, "Look, everyone is doing bad things and hurting each other. I'm going to kill everyone, and I will finish up everything on the earth."

### *God told Noah to build a big boat*

<sup>14</sup> Then God said to Noah, "Make a really big boat for yourself. Make it out of that strong wood called cypress. Make some rooms in the boat. And get some tar, and paint the inside of the boat, and paint the outside too. That will keep the water out of the boat.

<sup>15</sup> Listen, this is how big I want you to make the boat. It has to be 140 metres long, and 23 metres wide, and 13½ metres high.

<sup>16</sup> I want you to make a roof for that boat, but leave ½ a metre between the top of the walls and the roof, all around the top of the boat. And put a door in the side of the boat. And make 3 floors in the boat, one floor on the bottom and the other 2 floors upstairs.

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\* 6:9 2 Peter 2:5

17 You see, soon I will bring a lot of flood water, and it will cover the earth, and everything that is on the earth will die. Everything that breathes air will die, wherever they live.

18 But don't worry. I'm making a strong promise to you, that I will look after you. I will look after you, and your wife, and all your kids, and their wives too. You all have to go into that boat.\*

19 And you have to bring lots of animals into that boat too. Every sort of animal that is on the earth has to go into that boat, so that they will stay alive in the big flood. Get one male and one female of each sort of those animals, and take them into the boat with you. You see, you have to keep those animals alive.

20 And you have to do the same thing for all those different sorts of birds. Get one male and one female of all of those birds. And you have to do the same thing for all those animals that crawl around on the ground. You have to get one male and one female of all those animals too. I will get 2 of every sort of animal to come to you, so you can keep them alive.

21 And you have to gather up lots of food, all the sorts of food that people eat, and all the things that animals eat too. You have to put it all in the boat, so that you will all have enough food."

22 Then Noah did all of that. He did everything that God told him to do.\*

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\* 6:18 1 Peter 3:20      \* 6:22 Hebrews 11:7

# 7

## *God told Noah to get ready for a flood*

<sup>1</sup> After that, God said to Noah, “You are the only man that lives the right way. Get your family and take them into the big boat.

<sup>2</sup> You have to take every sort of animal with you into that big boat. You know the sorts of animals that are right for you to give to me? Well, get 7 males and 7 females from each of those sorts of animals. And get all the other animals too, the animals that are not right to give to me. Get one male and one female from each of those sorts of animals. They all have to go on to the big boat.

<sup>3</sup> And the birds too. They have to go on to the big boat. Get 7 males and 7 females from each sort of bird. That’s how you can keep those birds and animals alive, so that there will always be birds and animals on the earth.

<sup>4</sup> You see, I’m going to send a big rain. That rain will come in 7 days time. Then it will keep on raining all the time for 40 days. The flood water will come up and wash away all the things that I have made.”

<sup>5</sup> So Noah did everything just the way God told him to.

## *The flood water came*

<sup>6-7</sup> Noah was 600 years old at the time that he went into the big boat to be safe from the flood. Noah, and his wife, and his 3 sons, and their wives too, they all went into the big boat.

<sup>8-9</sup> And a big mob of animals came to Noah, and he took them into the boat too, just like God told him to. There were all sorts of animals. There were animals that were the right sort to give to God, and animals that were not the right sort to give to God. And there were birds and even animals that crawl around on the ground. And there were males and females of each sort of animal, and they went in 2 at a time. They all came together on that big boat, just like God wanted them to.

<sup>10</sup> Then, 7 days later, the flood water came, just like God said.

<sup>11-16</sup> Noah was 600 years old at the time that the flood water came. It came on the 17th day of the 2nd month of that year.

Noah, and his wife, and his sons, and their wives too, they all went into the big boat. The names of Noah's sons were Shem, and Ham, and Jafeth, and they each had a wife. They all went into the boat with all the animals. There were wild animals, and animals that are not wild, and animals that crawl around on the ground. And all the birds were there too. There were males and females of every bird and animal on that big boat. All of the different sorts of animals went into that big boat with Noah. They went in 2 at a time, just like God told Noah. And after the last animal went into the boat with Noah and his family, God shut the door.

Then, on that same day, the rain came out of the sky. It rained really hard all the time. It was like God opened up a big window in the sky, and rain poured down. And water came up from



springs, and from everywhere under the ground too. It kept on raining all the time for 40 days.

<sup>17</sup> The flood water kept on getting higher and higher for all those 40 days, and the big boat started to float on the water.

<sup>18</sup> The water got deeper and deeper, but that boat was all right, it floated on top of the water, high above the ground.

<sup>19</sup> The water got so deep that it covered all the big mountains everywhere.

<sup>20</sup> It covered the tops of those mountains with about 7 metres of water.

<sup>21</sup> All the people and animals that lived on the earth died. Only the people and animals on that big boat didn't die. The flood water killed all the birds, and it killed all the animals, the wild animals and the animals that are not wild, and it killed all the animals that crawl around on the ground, and all the people.\*

<sup>22</sup> They all died, everything that breathed air and lived on the ground.

<sup>23</sup> There were no people or animals left on the earth. There were no birds, and no animals that crawl around on the ground, and no other animals, and no people. God killed them all and washed them away. The only ones that stayed alive were the animals and birds on the big boat with Noah and his family.

<sup>24</sup> And that flood went on for a long time. The water covered the earth for 5 months.

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\* **7:21** Matthew 24:37-39; Luke 17:26-27; 2 Peter 3:6

## 8

### *The flood water went down*

<sup>1</sup> And then God thought about Noah and the animals with him in that big boat. And he made a strong wind blow on the flood water to help it to go down.

<sup>2</sup> And God stopped the water from coming up from under the ground, and he stopped the rain falling from the sky.

<sup>3</sup> The flood water went down slowly, and after 5 months it was a lot lower.

<sup>4</sup> So 5 months after the start of the flood, the big boat got stuck in the mountains called the Ararat mountains.

<sup>5</sup> The flood water kept going down for the next 2½ months, and then they saw the tops of the mountains, sticking up out of the water.

### *Noah let some birds go out of the boat to fly around*

<sup>6</sup> Then, 40 days later, Noah opened a window in the big boat. He wanted to find out if the water went down, and if a bird could find some dry ground.

<sup>7</sup> So he let a crow go out of the window. The crow didn't come back to the big boat. It just kept on flying around until the flood waters dried up.

<sup>8-9</sup> So Noah let a pigeon go out of the window. But the flood water still covered the ground, and the pigeon couldn't find a place to stop and rest, so it went back to the big boat. Noah held out his hand for the bird, and he helped it back into the boat.

<sup>10</sup> Noah waited for 7 more days, and then he let the pigeon go out of the boat again.

<sup>11</sup> This time the pigeon came back just before night time. It had a fresh leaf from an olive tree in its mouth. Then Noah knew the flood water was getting lower, and the trees were growing again. <sup>12</sup> Noah waited 7 more days, then he sent the pigeon out again. This time the pigeon didn't come back to the big boat.

*Everyone left the boat*

<sup>13</sup> Noah was 601 years old at that time.

The water was still going down, and on the 1st day of the new year, Noah took off some of the roof from the big boat and looked around. He could see that the ground was getting dry.

<sup>14</sup> After another 2 months, the earth was dry.

<sup>15</sup> Then God said to Noah,

<sup>16</sup> "You can go out of the big boat now. You can all go out, you, and your wife, and your sons, and their wives too.

<sup>17</sup> And bring all the animals out of the big boat. Bring out all the animals, and the birds, and the animals that crawl around on the ground. They can all come out, so they can live on the earth and have lots of young ones, so that they will go everywhere on the earth."

<sup>18-19</sup> So Noah, and his wife, and his sons, and their wives, they all came out of the big boat. And all the animals and all the birds came out of the big boat too. They came out in groups. Each sort of animal was in its family group.

*Noah said thank you to God*

<sup>20</sup> Then Noah piled up stones to make a special table with a flat top, and he got one of each sort of animal and bird that are the right sorts to give to God, and he killed them, and he put them on that special table, and he burned them there. He did that to give them to God, to say *thank you* to God.

<sup>21-22</sup> God smelled the meat cooking on that stone table, and he was happy. Then God said to himself, “People always just want to do bad things. They do that all their lives, from when they are little kids, right up until the time they die. But I will never again punish them the same way that I did this time. I will never again finish up everything that breathes air, and I will never again curse the earth. While the earth is still here, the seasons will stay the same. There will always be day and night, and every year there will be a hot time and a cold time, a wet season and a dry season. There will always be a right time to plant seeds for food, and a right time to get the food from those plants.”

## 9

*God promised not to cover the earth with water again*

<sup>1</sup> God was good to Noah and his sons. God said to them, “I want you to have lots of kids, and fill the earth with people.\*

<sup>2</sup> I’m making you boss over everything that lives on the ground, all the animals and all the

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\* **9:1** Genesis 1:28

birds, and I'm making you boss over the fish and everything in the sea too. They will be frightened of you.

<sup>3</sup> I gave you bush tucker to eat, and now I'm giving you meat to eat too. You can eat anything that moves.

<sup>4</sup> But I'm telling you this about blood. Blood is important. It keeps a body alive. So don't eat any blood. You have to drain the blood out of the animal before you eat it. Don't eat any meat that still has the blood in it.\*

<sup>5</sup> And I will punish anyone and anything that kills a person dead. If an animal kills somebody, it has to die. And it is the same for a person that kills another person, that murderer has to die.

<sup>6</sup> You see, I made people to be like myself, so they are important. So if somebody kills another person dead, you have to kill that murderer dead.\*

<sup>7</sup> But I want you mob to have lots of kids, so that there will be lots of people everywhere on the earth.\*\*

<sup>8</sup> Then God told Noah and his sons,

<sup>9</sup> "I promise this to you and to your kids, and to all the people that will be born later on.

<sup>10</sup> And I promise this to all the animals that live on the earth too, all the birds, and all the wild animals, and all the animals that are not wild. I promise this to all of the animals that came out of the big boat with you.

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\* **9:4** Leviticus 7:26-27; 17:10-14; 19:26; Deuteronomy 12:16, 23;

15:23 \* **9:6** Genesis 1:26; Exodus 20:13; 21:12 \* **9:7** Genesis 1:28

<sup>11</sup> I promise that there will never again be a real big flood of water that will finish up everything on the earth. There will never again be a big flood that kills all the people and animals.”

*God sent a rainbow to help people remember what he promised*

<sup>12</sup> And God said, “I will give you something to help you remember what I promised to you, and to all of the animals living on the earth, and to your kids, and to all the people that will be born later on.

<sup>13</sup> It is my rainbow, up there in the sky. I’m putting it there to help you remember what I promised to you, and to everything that lives on the earth. I promised that I will never again send a real big flood to finish up everything on the earth.

<sup>14</sup> Sometimes I will send rain clouds into the sky, and there will be a rainbow in the clouds too.

<sup>15</sup> Then I will remember what I promised to you, and to all the living animals. And there will never again be a flood that will kill all of the animals on the earth.

<sup>16</sup> Every time I look at the rainbow in the clouds, I will remember what I promised to you, and to all the animals on the earth. I will never break that promise. It will last for ever.”

<sup>17</sup> And God said to Noah, “This is very important. That rainbow will help you remember that I myself promised that for every living thing.”

*Noah got drunk*

18-19 Noah had 3 sons. Their names were Shem, and Ham, and Jafeth. They were on the boat with Noah, and after they got off the boat, they had their own sons and daughters. One of Ham's sons was called Canaan, and there were lots of other sons and daughters too. And later, all those kids had more kids, and it kept going like that. All the people in the world are from Noah's family.

20 Soon after Noah came out of the big boat, he started growing a garden. He planted some grape vines, and they grew some grapes. Then he made some wine from those grapes.

21 Noah drank some of that wine and got drunk. He took his clothes off and went to sleep in his tent.

22 Ham (Canaan's father) went into the tent and saw his naked father. Ham didn't respect his father, so he went outside and told his brothers what happened.

23 Shem and Jafeth got a coat. They held it over their shoulders and walked backwards into the tent. They put the coat on their father to cover his naked body. They didn't turn around and look at their naked father.

24 After Noah woke up, he found out what Ham, his youngest son, did to him.

25 Then Noah said, "I'm going to curse Canaan, Ham's son. He will have to work hard for his relatives, without pay.

26 God is good. I'm going to ask God to look after Shem, but Canaan will work hard for him with no pay.

27 I'm going to ask God to give Jafeth a big country. Jafeth and Shem will share that

country, and Canaan will work hard for them with no pay.”

<sup>28</sup> Noah lived for another 350 years after the flood.

<sup>29</sup> He died when he was 950 years old.

## 10

### *The story about Noah's sons and their families*

<sup>1</sup> This is the story about Noah's sons and their families. His sons were Shem, and Ham, and Jafeth, and after that big flood, they had kids too.

### *The tribes from Jafeth's family*

<sup>2-5</sup> A long time later, the people that were born into Jafeth's family split up into different tribes and nations. Each tribe had their own language, and their own country. Jafeth's sons were Gomer, and Magog, and Madayi, and Javan, and Tubal, and Meshek, and Tiras.

The tribes that were from Jafeth's son Gomer and his family were the Ashkenaz mob, and the Rifath mob, and the Togarmah mob.

The tribes that were from Jafeth's son Javan and his family were the Elishah mob, and the Tarshish mob, and the Kit mob, and the Rodan mob.

Javan's people lived near the sea.

### *The tribes from Ham's family*

<sup>6</sup> The people that were born into Ham's family split up into different tribes too, and each tribe had their own language, and their own country. Ham's sons were Cush, and Egypt, and Put, and Canaan.



<sup>7</sup> The tribes that were from Ham's son Cush and his family were the Seba mob, and the Havilah mob, and the Sabtah mob, and the Ramah mob, and the Sabteca mob. And the tribes that were from Ramah and his family were the Sheba mob, and the Dedan mob.

<sup>8</sup> One of the men that was born into Cush's family was called Nimrod. After he grew up, he became a strong fighter.

<sup>9</sup> He was the best hunter in the world too. Whenever people talked about good hunters, they said things like this, "That man is a really good hunter. He is just like Nimrod, the best hunter in the world."

<sup>10</sup> Nimrod controlled the country called Babylonia, and he was the boss over the cities called Babel, and Erech, and Akad.

<sup>11</sup> After that, Nimrod got the country called Ashur, and he built the towns called Nineveh, and Rehoboth-Ir, and Calah.

<sup>12</sup> Then he built a big town called Resen. It was between Nineveh and Calah.

<sup>13</sup> The tribes that were from Ham's son Egypt and his family were the Lud mob, and the Anam mob, and the Lehab mob, and the Naftuh mob,

<sup>14</sup> and the Pathrus mob, and the Casluh mob, and the Caftor mob. (Later the Philistia nation were from the Caftor mob.)

<sup>15</sup> Ham's youngest son was called Canaan. Canaan had 2 sons. His 1st son was called Sidon, and his other son was called Heth.

<sup>16</sup> The tribes that were from Canaan and his family were the Jebus mob, and the Amor mob, and the Girgash mob,

<sup>17</sup> and the Hiv mob, and the Arek mob, and the Sin mob,

<sup>18-19</sup> and the Arvad mob, and the Zemar mob, and the Hamath mob. All those tribes were from Canaan, and they went as far north as the town called Sidon, and as far south as the town called Gaza, and as far east as the towns called Sodom, and Gomorrah, and Admah, and Zeboyim, near Lasha.

<sup>20</sup> They were all the tribes and nations that were from Ham and his family. Each tribe had their own country, and their own language.

### *The tribes from Shem's family*

<sup>21</sup> Shem was Jafeth's older brother. The Eber mob are from Shem's family.

<sup>22</sup> Shem's sons were Elam, and Ashur, and Arfaxad, and Lud, and Aram.

<sup>23</sup> The tribes that were from Shem's son Aram and his family were the Uz mob, and the Hul mob, and the Gether mob, and the Mash mob.

<sup>24</sup> Shem's son Arfaxad had a son called Shelah, and he had a son called Eber.

<sup>25</sup> Eber had 2 sons. The 1st son was called Peleg, and his younger brother was called Joktan. That name *Peleg* means *split up*. He got that name because all the people split up into different tribes after he was born.

<sup>26</sup> The tribes that were from Eber's son Joktan's family were the Almodad mob, and the Shelef mob, and the Hazarmaveth mob, and the Jerah mob,

<sup>27</sup> and the Hadoram mob, and the Uzal mob, and the Diklah mob,

<sup>28</sup> and the Obal mob, and the Abimayel mob, and the Sheba mob,

<sup>29</sup> and the Ofir mob, and the Havilah mob, and the Jobab mob.

<sup>30</sup> All of those people were born into Joktan's family. Their country was in the mountains in the east, the country you see if you go from Mesha all the way to Sefar.

<sup>31</sup> They were all the tribes and nations that were from Shem's family. Each tribe had their own country, and their own language.

<sup>32</sup> That is the big list of all the families and tribes that were born into Noah's family. They split up into their own nations, and they went everywhere after the big flood.

## 11

### *People tried to build a tall building*

<sup>1</sup> You know, at first everyone talked the same language.

<sup>2</sup> And as people moved from place to place in the east, they got to some flat country in Babylonia, and they stayed there.

<sup>3-4</sup> Then they said to each other, "Look, we can make bricks here. So come on, let's do that. We will bake them properly so that they are good strong bricks, and we will use them to build a city here. So come on, let's build a big tall building in that city. It will be so tall that it will go right up into the sky." You see, they had bricks and tar instead of stones and cement. And they said, "If we do that, everyone will think we are smart.

Then we will not go and live all over the earth, but we will stay together right here.”

*God made people talk in different languages*

<sup>5</sup> So the people started to build a city and a really tall building, and God came down to look at those things.

<sup>6</sup> He said, “These people can all talk to each other in the same language, so they can do anything they want. If they keep on going this way, nothing will stop them from doing anything.

<sup>7</sup> Come on, let’s go down to these people, and we will make them talk in different languages. Then they will not understand each other, and they will be all mixed up. They will not work things out with each other, so they will not keep on building this city.”

<sup>8</sup> So God made all the people talk in different languages. None of them could understand anything the other people were saying. So they stopped building their big city.

<sup>9</sup> They all left that city and went to live in lots of different places, all over the world. That’s how God got people to be in different tribes all over the world. And they called that city *Babel*. That means *mixed up*. They gave it that name because God mixed up their languages at that time.

*The story of Shem’s family*

<sup>10</sup> This is the story about Shem’s family.\*

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\* **11:10** Genesis 10:21; Luke 3:35-36

Shem was 100 years old when he had a son called Arfaxad. That was 2 years after the big flood.

<sup>11</sup> Shem lived for 500 years after he had Arfaxad, and he had more sons and daughters.

<sup>12</sup> Arfaxad was 35 years old when he had a son called Shelah.

<sup>13</sup> Arfaxad lived for 403 years after he had Shelah, and he had more sons and daughters.

<sup>14</sup> Shelah was 30 years old when he had a son called Eber.

<sup>15</sup> Shelah lived for 403 years after he had Eber, and he had more sons and daughters.

<sup>16</sup> Eber was 34 years old when he had a son called Peleg.

<sup>17</sup> Eber lived for 430 years after he had Peleg, and he had more sons and daughters.

<sup>18</sup> Peleg was 30 years old when he had a son called Reyu.

<sup>19</sup> Peleg lived for 209 years after he had Reyu, and he had more sons and daughters.

<sup>20</sup> Reyu was 32 years old when he had a son called Serug.

<sup>21</sup> Reyu lived for 207 years after he had Serug, and he had more sons and daughters.

<sup>22</sup> Serug was 30 years old when he had a son called Nahor.

<sup>23</sup> Serug lived for 200 years after he had Nahor, and he had more sons and daughters.

<sup>24</sup> Nahor was 29 years old when he had a son called Terah.

<sup>25</sup> Nahor lived for 119 years after he had Terah, and he had more sons and daughters.

<sup>26</sup> Terah had 3 sons after he was 70 years old. Their names were Abram, Nahor and Haran.

### *The story of Terah's family*

<sup>27</sup> This is the story about Terah's family. Terah had 3 sons, called Abram, and Nahor, and Haran.

Haran had a son called Lot.

<sup>28-29</sup> And he also had 2 daughters called Milcah and Iscah. After that, Haran died, while his father Terah was still alive. He died in the town called Ur, in Chaldia country, the place where he was born.

Nahor, Haran's brother, married Milcah. And Abram married a woman called Sarai,

<sup>30</sup> but Abram and Sarai didn't have any kids. Sarai just couldn't have a baby.

<sup>31</sup> Then Terah went away from Ur, in Chaldia country, and he took some of his family with him. They were his son Abram, and Abram's wife Sarai, and his grand-son Lot. They all left Ur, and they started to go to the country called Canaan. But they stopped half-way, at a town called Haran, and they stayed there.

<sup>32</sup> Terah lived until he was 205 years old. Then he died there in Haran.

## 12

### *God picked Abram*

<sup>1</sup> This story about Abram started when God said to him, "Abram, I want you to leave your country, your father's family and all your

relatives, and go to the country that I will show you.\*

<sup>2</sup> And I will give you a big family, and they will become a great nation, and I will do good things for you and your family, and I will make your mob strong. Then everyone will know about you and your family, and everyone will respect you. And you and your family will do good things for other people.

<sup>3</sup> If anyone does good things for you and your family, I will do good things for them. But, if anyone does bad things to you, and if they make trouble for you and your family, I will curse them and make trouble for them. I will use your family to do good things for all the families in the world.”\*

*Abram and his family went to Canaan country*

<sup>4-5</sup> Abram was 75 years old when he left the town called Haran and went to the country called Canaan. That was the country that God told him to go to. He took his wife Sarai, and his nephew Lot with him. He also took all the things and all the workers that they got in Haran, and they all went to the new country called Canaan.

<sup>6</sup> Abram and everyone with him walked through that new country, and they went to a town called Shekem, and they camped there, near a big tree at a place called Moreh. The people that lived in that country were called the Canaan mob, and they didn't know God. <sup>7</sup> God

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\* <sup>12:1</sup> Acts 7:2-4; Hebrews 11:8      \* <sup>12:3</sup> Galatians 3:8

showed himself to Abram there, and God said to him, "I will give this country to your son, and to all the people that will be born into his family later on." So Abram piled up stones to make a table with a flat top. It was a special place for him to burn animals to show right respect to God.\*

<sup>8</sup> Later on, Abram and his mob left Shekem, and they went south to the hill country that was on the east side of a town called Bethel, and they camped between Bethel and another town called Ayi. Bethel was to the west of his camp and Ayi was to the east. Then Abram piled up stones there to make another special table, and he burned animals on it to show respect to God. He prayed to God, and he called God by his special name *Yahweh*.

<sup>9</sup> After that, Abram and his mob kept going south to the dry desert country.

*Abram and his family went to Egypt country*

<sup>10</sup> At that time, there was no rain and no food plants growing in that country. Nobody had enough food, so Abram and everyone with him went south to live in another country, called Egypt.

<sup>11</sup> Just before they got to Egypt, Abram said to his wife Sarai, "You are a really beautiful woman.

<sup>12</sup> I reckon the men in Egypt will see you, and they will say, 'That beautiful woman is Abram's wife. Let's kill Abram, so that we can have her

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\* **12:7** Acts 7:5; Galatians 3:16



for ourselves.’ Then they will kill me, but they will let you live.

<sup>13</sup> So listen. You have to tell everyone that you are my sister. Then they will be good to me, and they will not kill me.”\*

<sup>14</sup> And that’s what happened. They got to Egypt, and the people there looked at Sarai, and they saw that she was really beautiful.

<sup>15</sup> Some of them worked for the big boss of Egypt, and they told him, “Sarai is really beautiful.” So that big boss took her to live in his house.

<sup>16</sup> That boss was very good to Abram, because he thought that Abram was Sarai’s brother. He gave Abram sheep, and goats, and cows, and bulls, and donkeys, and camels, as well as men and women that had to work for Abram.

<sup>17</sup> God was not happy, because Sarai was living with the big boss of Egypt, so God made him really sick, and God made everyone that lived in his house really sick too.

<sup>18-19</sup> Then that big boss found out that Sarai was already Abram’s wife, and he got really wild. He sent somebody to get Abram, and he said to Abram, “You did a really bad thing to me. You tricked me. You didn’t tell me that Sarai is your wife. You said, ‘She is my sister,’ and you let me marry her. Now, here is your wife. Take her back, and then get out of my country.”

<sup>20</sup> Then the big boss told his soldiers, “Get Abram, and Sarai, and everything they own, and all their workers, and send them out of Egypt.

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\* **12:13** Genesis 20:2; 26:7

Send them away, and do it right now.” So his soldiers did that. They sent Abram and his mob away from Egypt.

## 13

### *Abram and his nephew Lot split up*

<sup>1</sup> So Abram, Sarai, and Lot left Egypt and went back to the dry desert country. They took everything they owned, and all their workers.

<sup>2</sup> Abram was a very rich man. He had a lot of silver and gold, and a big mob of animals.

<sup>3</sup> They were in that dry desert country for a while, then they went north from place to place until they got back to the town called Bethel. They camped in the same place that they camped at before. It was between Bethel and the town called Ayi.

<sup>4</sup> That was the place where Abram built a special stone table to burn animals, to show respect to God. After Abram got back there, he prayed to God, and he called God by his special name *Yahweh*.

<sup>5</sup> Abram and his nephew Lot were still together. And Lot also had a big mob of sheep, and goats, and cows, and bulls. And he had a lot of tents for all his workers too.

<sup>6-7</sup> But there was a problem. There were other people already living in that country. They were called the Canaan mob, and the Periz mob. And they had animals too, and all those animals needed grass and water, as well as Abram’s animals, and Lot’s animals too. But there wasn’t enough grass and water in that place for all those

animals. So Abram's work-men and Lot's work-men started to argue and fight with each other about whose animals got the grass and water.

<sup>8</sup> Then Abram said to Lot, "I don't like this trouble. You and me, we are family, and I don't want trouble between us. And I don't want our work-men to argue and fight with each other.

<sup>9</sup> Look, there is a lot of country here. Just look around, and you will see that there's plenty of country for both of us. So I reckon we have to split up. I want you to pick the part of the country you want, and then I will go somewhere else. If you pick the country to the east, then I will go to the country to the west, but if you pick the west country, then I will go to the east country."

<sup>10</sup> Lot looked to the east, towards a town called Zoar, in the flat country around the Jordan River. He saw that the flat country had plenty of grass and water. It looked just like God's garden, and like the country in Egypt. (That was before God burned up the towns in the flat country called Sodom and Gomorrah.\*)

<sup>11-12</sup> So Lot picked the flat country around the Jordan River, to the east.

Then Abram did what he promised, and he went to the country called Canaan.

In that way, Lot's mob and Abram's mob went to different places, and there was no more trouble between their work-men.

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\* **13:10** Genesis 19:24

Lot went to the flat country around the Jordan River. There were some towns there, and Lot camped near the town called Sodom.

<sup>13</sup> The people that lived in Sodom were very bad. They were always going against God, and they did bad things all the time.

### *God made a promise to Abram*

<sup>14</sup> Then, after Lot left, God said to Abram, "Look at all the country around you. Look to the north, and to the south, and to the east, and to the west.

<sup>15</sup> I will give you all the country that you can see. Later on, you will have a son, and lots of people will be born into his family, and they will own all this country, for ever.\*

<sup>16</sup> Look at the ground you are standing on, it has lots of little bits of dirt. Nobody can count all those little bits of dirt on the ground, and just like that, nobody will be able to count all the people that will be in your family later on.

<sup>17</sup> All right, Abram, I want you to get up and walk all around the country that I'm giving you, and look at it all properly."

<sup>18</sup> So Abram went to the big trees that belonged to a man called Mamreh, near a town called Hebron, and he camped there. He piled up stones there and made another special table with a flat top, so that he could burn animals to show respect to God.

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\* **13:15** Acts 7:5

# 14

*Soldiers grabbed Lot and his family and took them away*

<sup>1-9</sup> This story is about the people in the flat country, and it started before Lot went to live near the town called Sodom. There were 5 tribes in that flat country at that time, and each tribe had a leader. These were the 5 tribes and their leaders,

- A tribe called Sodom, and their leader was called Bera.
- A tribe called Gomorrah, and their leader was called Birsha.
- A tribe called Admah, and their leader was Shinab.
- A tribe called the Zebo mob, and their leader was Shemeber.
- A tribe called Zoar. They are also called Bela.

There were another 4 tribes in the country to the east. These were those 4 tribes and their leaders,

- A tribe called Elam, and their leader was Kedorlayomer.
- A tribe called Babylonia, and their leader was called Amrafel.
- A tribe called Ellasar, and their leader was called Ariok.
- A tribe called the Goy mob, and their leader was Tidal.

And Kedorlayomer was the boss over those 4 tribes in the east. Those 4 tribes sent their soldiers to fight the other 5 tribes, and the 4 tribes from the east won. So Kedorlayomer became the boss over the other 5 tribes too.

Those 5 tribes let him be their boss for 12 years. Then the next year, their leaders told Kedorlayomer that they didn't want him to be their boss any more. Kedorlayomer got really angry, and the next year, he got soldiers from the 4 tribes in the east, and they went to fight those 5 tribes.

On the way to that fight, Kedorlayomer's soldiers had other fights with some other tribes, and they won all those fights. They beat the Refa tribe at a place called Ashteroth-Karnayim, and they beat the Zuz tribe at a place called Ham, and they beat the Em tribe at a place called Shaveh-Kiriathayim, and they beat the Hor tribe in the hill country called Edom. They chased the Hor soldiers all the way to a place called El-Paran, near the desert. Then Kedorlayomer and the soldiers from the east, they all went back to a place called En-Mishpat. Another name for that place is Kadesh. Then Kedorlayomer and his mob fought the Amalek tribe and beat them, and took control of their country. Then they fought the Amor tribe in Hazazon-Tamar country, and beat them too.

While Kedorlayomer and his mob were fighting those other people, the 5 tribes that didn't want Kedorlayomer to be their boss, they went to the valley called Sidim. (Today there is salt water in that valley, and we call it the *Dead Sea*.) The soldiers of those 5 tribes got ready there to fight against Kedorlayomer and his 4 tribes from the east.

So when Kedorlayomer and his mob got to that

Sidim valley there was a big fight.

<sup>10</sup> Kedorlayomer and his mob won that fight. They beat those 5 tribes, and their soldiers all ran away. In that flat country there were lots of holes in the ground that were full of sticky black stuff, called *tar*. So when the soldiers from the 5 tribes ran away, some of them fell into those holes. But the rest of them ran up into the hills.

<sup>11</sup> So Kedorlayomer and his soldiers went to Sodom and Gomorrah, and they grabbed all the people that lived there. And they took everything the people owned, even their food, and then they started to go back to their own country.

<sup>12</sup> At that time, Abram's nephew Lot lived in Sodom, so the soldiers grabbed Lot too, and his family, and all their things. Those soldiers took all of Lot's mob away with them.

### *Abram saved Lot and his family*

<sup>13-14</sup> A man got away from Kedorlayomer and his mob, and he went and told Abram that they got Lot. At that time, Abram was living near the big trees that belonged to a man called Mamreh. Abram was a good friend of Mamreh, and also of Mamreh's 2 brothers. Their names were Eskol and Aner. Mamreh and his brothers belonged to the Amor tribe, and Abram belonged to the Hebrew tribe, but they all looked after each other.

Abram had 318 men that knew how to fight. They worked for Abram all their lives, and Abram really trusted them. So Abram got those men, and Mamreh, Eskol and Aner got

their fighting men, and they all went to fight Kedorlayomer and his soldiers. They followed them, and they found them at a place to the north, called Dan.

<sup>15</sup> Then, in the night time, Abram split up all the fighting men into groups, and they attacked Kedorlayomer and his soldiers. Abram and his men won that fight, and they chased those other soldiers all the way to a town called Hobah, north of Damascus town.

<sup>16</sup> That's how Abram's mob saved Lot, and all the women, and the other people from the towns called Sodom and Gomorrah, and they got all their things too. Then they all started to go back south.

### *Abram met Melkizedek*

<sup>17</sup> After Abram's mob beat Kedorlayomer and his mob, and while they were going back south on their way home, the leader of Sodom went out to meet Abram in the valley called *Shaveh*. Another name for that place is *the valley that belongs to the leader*.

<sup>18</sup> There was a town in that country called Salem, and the boss over that town was called Melkizedek. He was also a leader of God's ceremonies. He worked for God, the one that is more powerful than any other god. Well, Melkizedek also went out to meet Abram and his men, and he gave them some bread and some wine.

<sup>19</sup> Then Melkizedek prayed for Abram. He said, "God, you are more powerful than any other god. You are the one that made heaven and earth. I'm asking you to be really good to Abram."



<sup>20</sup> I want everyone to say that you are great, and more powerful than any other god.

You are the one that helped Abram fight with his enemies and win.”

Then Abram got all the things he got after the fight, the things that used to belong to the Sodom and Gomorrah mob, and he split those things up into 10 groups. And he gave one of those groups of things to Melkizedek.\*

<sup>21</sup> Then the leader of Sodom said to Abram, “I only want my people back. You can keep those other things.”

<sup>22</sup> But Abram said, “I made a strong promise to my God. His name is Yahweh. He is more powerful than any other god, and he made heaven and earth.

<sup>23</sup> I promised that I will not take anything that belongs to you. I will not even take a bit of string, or anything that belongs to you. You see, I don’t want you to tell everyone that you gave me a lot of things and made me rich.

<sup>24</sup> No. The only thing that I will keep is the food that I ate and the food that my fighting men ate. And these men, Mamreh, and Aner, and Eskol, and their fighting men, they helped me save your people and your things too, so you can give them some of those things.”

## 15

*God promised to give Abram a son*

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\* **14:20** Hebrews 7:1-10

<sup>1</sup> Later on, after Abram saved Lot, Abram had a dream, and God talked to him in that dream. God said, "Abram, don't be frightened, I will always keep you safe, so that nobody can ever hurt you, and I am going to give you lots of good things."

<sup>2-3</sup> Then Abram talked to God, and he called God by his special name Yahweh. He said, "Yahweh, you are very powerful. But look, I've got no son, so it doesn't matter what you give me. You haven't given me the one thing I really want. You haven't given me any kids. So when I die, one of my work-men will get all my things. His name is Eliyezer. He is from Damascus."

<sup>4</sup> Then Abram heard God talk to him again. God said, "I tell you, that work-man will not get all your things after you die. I am going to give you a son, and he will get all your things after you die."

<sup>5</sup> Then God took Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky and try to count all those stars. There are a lot of stars. You can't count them all. Well, you will have a son, and later on lots of people will be born into his family, and later on they will be a real big family. And just like nobody can count the stars, nobody will be able to count all your family."\*

<sup>6</sup> And Abram believed what God said, so God was really happy with him, and told him, "You believe me, so now I'm saying you are properly good, like you never did anything wrong."\*

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\* **15:5** Romans 4:18; Hebrews 11:12      \* **15:6** Romans 4:3, 9, 22; Galatians 3:6; Hebrews 11:11; James 2:23

*God did a ceremony to make Abram sure about his promises*

<sup>7</sup> Then God said to Abram, "I am God, and my name is Yahweh. I am the one that brought you out of your home country, from the town called Ur, in Chaldia country. And I am going to give you this country here. It will be yours. You will own all this country."

<sup>8</sup> Abram said to God, "Yahweh, I know you are very powerful, but how can I be really sure that I will get all this country?"

<sup>9</sup> So God said to Abram, "Bring me a cow that hasn't had a baby, and a female goat, and a male sheep. All those animals have to be 3 years old. And I want you to bring me 2 different sorts of pigeons too."

<sup>10</sup> Then Abram did what God told him. He killed those animals and birds, and he cut the animals in half. He put the halves of each animal on the ground in 2 lines facing each other. But he didn't cut the birds in half.

<sup>11</sup> Then some hawks flew down and tried to eat the animals, but Abram chased them away.

<sup>12</sup> While the sun was going down, Abram went to sleep. It was a strong deep sleep. Then Abram had something like a dream. It was really dark for him, and he felt really frightened.\*

<sup>13-15</sup> God said to Abram, "I want you to know for sure what will happen after you get really old. You don't have to worry about anything. You see, you will live to be a very old man, and then, when you are dying, you will feel good inside,

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\* 15:12 Job 4:13-14

and your family will bury you right here, in this country. But I have to tell you something. After you die, your family will leave this country and move to another country that belongs to other people. Your family will live in that country, and later on, the other people in that country will make your family like prisoners, and your family will have to work very hard for them. Those people will do really bad things to your family for 400 years. After that, I will save your family from that hard time, and I will punish those people for doing bad things to your family. Then your family will leave that country, and they will take a lot of animals and things with them. They will be really rich.\*

<sup>16</sup> And I will bring your family back here to this country. You see, the Amor tribe that are here in this country now, they do really bad things, and they are getting worse and worse. But I will not punish them yet. I will punish them later, after your grand-kids grow up and have grand-kids. Then I will do payback to the mob in this country for the bad things that they do. I will take their country from them, and I will give it to your family.” That’s what God told Abram.

<sup>17</sup> After the sun went down and it was dark, Abram saw a bucket full of fire, with smoke coming out of it, and he saw a burning stick with it. That bucket and stick moved along between the halves of those animals that Abram killed.  
<sup>18-21</sup> That’s how God showed Abram that he was really going to do everything that he promised.

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\* 15:13-15 Exodus 1:1-14; Acts 7:6

God said, "I am going to give all this country to the people that will be born into your family. From the river in Egypt in the south, right up to the big river called Euphrates in the north.

These are the tribes in this country now,

- the Ken tribe,
- the Keniz tribe,
- the Kadmon tribe,
- the Heth tribe,
- the Periz tribe,
- the Refa tribe,
- the Amor tribe,
- the Canaan tribe,
- the Girgash tribe,
- the Jebus tribe.

I will take this country away from all those tribes, and I will give it to your family." God promised that to Abram.\*

## 16

### *The story about Hagar and Ishmael*

<sup>1-3</sup> Abram and Sarai lived in that Canaan country, and after they were there for 10 years, they still had no kids. Sarai had a woman from Egypt working for her, called Hagar. She was Sarai's slave. That means Sarai owned Hagar, and Hagar had to do everything that Sarai told her to do.

Sarai was sad because she had no kids, but she got an idea about how to get a baby for herself. So she said to Abram, "God has stopped me from having my own kids. But listen. I want you to

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\* **15:18-21** Acts 7:5

sleep with Hagar, like she is your wife. You see, she belongs to me, so if she has a baby, that baby will really belong to me.” So Abram did that, just like Sarai said.

<sup>4</sup> He slept with Hagar like she was his wife.

Then Hagar found out that she was going to have a baby, so she started rubbishing Sarai all the time, because Sarai didn’t have any kids.

<sup>5</sup> So Sarai said to Abram, “I blame you for this trouble. I gave Hagar to you, and now she is going to have a baby, and she is rubbishing me all the time. I reckon God knows that I am right, and you are wrong.”

<sup>6</sup> But Abram said to Sarai, “Hagar belongs to you. You are her boss, so do whatever you want with her.” Then Sarai started to treat Hagar in a really bad way. So Hagar left Abram and Sarai’s camp and ran away.

<sup>7</sup> Hagar started walking through the desert, along the road that went to a town called Shur, near Egypt. She sat down next to a water-hole there in the desert. God’s angel messenger went to her there.

<sup>8</sup> He said, “Hagar, you belong to Sarai, so why are you sitting out here in the desert? Where are you going?”

Hagar said, “I’m running away from my boss Sarai. She is too hard on me.”

<sup>9</sup> God’s angel messenger said to her, “Don’t do that. Go back to your boss, and do what she says.”

<sup>10</sup> And the angel also said, “God is going to give you a really big family. You will have a son, and

later on lots of people will be born into his family, and they will be a real big family, so that nobody will be able to count all those people.”

<sup>11</sup> The angel said, “You are going to have a baby boy, and you will name him *Ishmael*, because that name means *God listens*. You see, God listened to you. He heard about your trouble, and he will help you.

<sup>12</sup> And Ishmael, your son, he will live like a wild donkey. He will go anywhere he wants to, and he will fight against everybody, and everybody will fight against him. He will not live close to his relatives.”

<sup>13</sup> Then Hagar said to herself, “I have seen the God that sees me, and he looks after me.” So she gave God a name, she called him *the God that sees me*.

<sup>14</sup> So that’s why people call that water-hole *the water-hole that belongs to the one that is alive and sees me*. That water-hole is between a place called Kadesh and a place called Bered.

<sup>15</sup> Soon after that, Hagar had a baby boy, and Abram named him *Ishmael*.\*

<sup>16</sup> Abram was 86 years old at the time when Ishmael was born.

## 17

### *God made an agreement with Abram*

<sup>1</sup> Later on, when Abram was 99 years old, God showed himself to Abram and said, “I am God. I have power over everything. I want you to live my way and always do the right thing.

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\* **16:15** Galatians 4:22

<sup>2</sup> If you do that, I will make an agreement with you, and I will give you a really big family. You see, you will have a son, and later on lots of people will be born into his family, and they will be a real big family.”

<sup>3</sup> Abram got down on his knees and put his face near the ground, to show respect to God, and God said to him,

<sup>4</sup> “I promise that I will do this for you. I will give you a big family. Lots of people will be born into your family, so that you will be the father of lots of nations.

<sup>5</sup> So I am changing your name from *Abram* to *Abraham*.” (That name *Abram* means *father that people respect*, and that name *Abraham* means *father of lots of people*.) And God said, “Yes, I will make you the father of lots of nations.\*

<sup>6</sup> I will give you a real big family later on, and they will split up into lots of nations. And some of your people will be the big bosses of those nations.

<sup>7</sup> I am making this agreement with you, and with the people that will be born into your family later on. This agreement will last for ever. It will never end. I promise that I will be your God for ever.\*

<sup>8</sup> You see, you are now living in this country called Canaan, but it doesn’t belong to you. But later on, I will give all this country to the people that will be born into your family. They will have

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\* 17:5 Romans 4:17      \* 17:7 Luke 1:55



this country for themselves for ever, and I will be their God.”\*

<sup>9</sup> Then God said to Abraham, “You have to agree to this. You and everyone that will be born into your family later on, you mob have to always respect me and let me be your God.

<sup>10-11</sup> This is what you have to do to show that we made this agreement together. You and every man in your camp has to have the young man operation. And all the men born into your family later on will have to have it too.\*

<sup>12-13</sup> From now on, every baby boy in your camp has to have that young man operation 8 days after he is born. Every man in your family has to have that operation. And if you buy a man to work for you, he has to have that operation too. Every male person has to have that mark on his body. It will show that we made this agreement, you and me, and that this agreement will last for ever.

<sup>14</sup> Any man that doesn’t have that operation will be breaking our agreement, and I will take him away from your family.”

### *God promised a son to Abraham and Sarah*

<sup>15</sup> Then God said to Abraham, “I am changing your wife’s name too. Don’t call her *Sarai* any more. Call her *Sarah*.” (Both of those names mean *important woman*.)

<sup>16</sup> And God said, “I will do a good thing for her too. She will have a son, and you will be his father. Yes, I will do that good thing for her. Lots

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\* <sup>17:8</sup> Acts 7:5      \* <sup>17:10-11</sup> Acts 7:8; Romans 4:11

of people will be born into her son's family, and they will split up into lots of nations. And some of those people will be the big bosses of those nations."

<sup>17</sup> Abraham got down on his knees again and put his face near the ground, and he laughed. He thought, "I am nearly 100 years old, and Sarah is nearly 90. We can't have a baby. We are too old."

<sup>18</sup> So then Abraham said to God, "Look, I already have a son, Ishmael. I want you to be good to him, so that he will be that son you are talking about."

<sup>19</sup> God said, "No, not Ishmael. Listen, your wife Sarah will have a baby boy. He will be your son, and you will call him *Isaac*." (That name *Isaac* means *laugh*.) And God said, "He will be the son I'm talking about. I will keep this agreement going with him. It will be the same for him, and for all the people that will be born into his family later on. This agreement will go on for ever."

<sup>20</sup> And you asked me to do good things for Ishmael. Well, I listened to you, and I will be good to him too. He will have a big family, and later on, 12 big bosses will be in his family. I will make his mob into a great nation.

<sup>21</sup> But my agreement will not be with Ishmael. You see, about this time next year, your wife Sarah will have a baby boy. He will be your son, and you will call him *Isaac*, and I will make the same agreement with him that I just made with you."

<sup>22</sup> After God said all that, he left Abraham.

<sup>23-27</sup> Then, on that same day, Abraham did a young man operation on every man and every boy in his camp. All Abraham's work-men had that operation. They were the work-men that Abraham bought, and the work-men that were born in his camp. And Abraham and his son Ishmael had that operation too. They all had that operation on the same day. Ishmael was 13 years old, and Abraham was 99 years old, when they had that young man operation.

## 18

*God promised again to give Abraham and Sarah a son*

<sup>1</sup> Abraham camped for some time near the big trees that belonged to a man called Mamreh. One day, God came to Abraham there. It happened like this. Abraham was sitting in the doorway of his tent, at the hottest part of the day,

<sup>2</sup> and he looked up and saw 3 men standing nearby. He got up quickly, and he ran to meet them, and he got down on his knees and put his face near the ground to show them respect.\*

<sup>3</sup> Abraham said, "Sirs, please come and sit at my place for a while. Let me look after you.

<sup>4</sup> I will get a work-man to bring water so that you can wash your feet, and then you can rest in the shade of this tree.

<sup>5</sup> And I will get some food for you, so that you will be strong enough to keep walking to the

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\* **18:2** Hebrews 13:2

place where you are going. I really want to do that for you.”

The 3 men said, “All right. We will rest here while you do that.”

<sup>6</sup> Then Abraham went quickly into the tent to tell Sarah, and he said, “Quick, get a big bag of really good flour and make some damper for our visitors.”

<sup>7</sup> Then he ran to his mob of cows and picked out a really good young cow. He gave it to one of his work-men and said, “Quick, kill this young cow, and cook it for our visitors.”

<sup>8</sup> Then Abraham gave the men that cooked meat, and some cheese and milk. And Abraham stood near them in the shade of that tree, and he looked after them while they ate that food.

<sup>9</sup> Then they said to Abraham, “Where is your wife, Sarah?”

Abraham said, “She is right here, in our tent.”

<sup>10</sup> You know, one of those men was God, but he made himself to be like a man when he talked to Abraham. He said, “I will come back to you at this time next year, and Sarah will have a baby boy.”\*

Sarah was at the doorway of the tent, and she listened to them talking.

<sup>11</sup> Abraham and Sarah were both very old. She knew she was too old to have a baby,

<sup>12</sup> so when she heard him say that, she laughed quietly and said to herself, “I am too old and worn out to have a baby, and my good boss, my

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\* **18:10** Romans 9:9

husband, he is old too. If I had a baby, I would be really happy. But I'm too old for that now.”\*

<sup>13</sup> God said, “Why did Sarah laugh? Why did she say to herself, ‘I can’t have a baby now, I am too old’?”

<sup>14</sup> I’m telling you, nothing is too hard for me. I am God, and my name is Yahweh. Just like I said, at this time next year, I will come back, and Sarah will have a baby boy.”\*

<sup>15</sup> Sarah was frightened, and so she lied and said, “I didn’t laugh.”

But God said, “That’s not true. You did laugh.”

### *God talked to Abraham about the town called Sodom*

<sup>16</sup> Then the 3 men got up to leave, and Abraham went with them for a little while to say goodbye. They went to a hill where they looked down at the town called Sodom.

<sup>17</sup> God said, “Maybe I will tell Abraham what I am going to do.

<sup>18</sup> You know, Abraham’s family will be a big and powerful nation one day, and I will use his family to do good things for all the nations in the world.\*

<sup>19</sup> I have picked him out so that he can teach his family to live my way, and do what is good and right. Then I will keep my promise to him.”

<sup>20</sup> So God said, “Abraham, I heard about all the really bad things that people do in those 2 towns down there, called Sodom and Gomorrah.

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\* **18:12** 1 Peter 3:6      \* **18:14** Luke 1:37      \* **18:18** Galatians 3:8

A lot of people are telling me that those people are always doing bad things.

<sup>21</sup> I will go down and find out if they are really doing those bad things that I heard about.” That’s what the man said, the one that was God.

<sup>22</sup> Then the other 2 men turned and walked towards Sodom. They left Abraham standing in front of God.

<sup>23</sup> Abraham went up close to God and asked him, “Are you going to kill all the good people, as well as the bad people?”

<sup>24</sup> There might be 50 good people that live the right way down there in that town. Will you still finish up that town? Or will you save that town to save those 50 good people?

<sup>25</sup> I don’t think you will kill 50 good people. I know that you are the judge of everybody in the world, and you always do what is right. I don’t think you will kill the good people with the bad people.”

<sup>26</sup> God said, “If I find 50 good people in Sodom, I will not finish up that town. I will save that town so that I can save those 50 good people.”

<sup>27</sup> Then Abraham said, “Look, I know that I am just a man and you are God, but I’m being brave and I’m talking to you. I want to ask you another question.

<sup>28</sup> What if you find only 45 good people in that town, will you still finish up that town?”

God said, “If I find 45 good people there, I will not finish up that town.”

<sup>29</sup> Then Abraham asked God again, he said, “What if you find only 40 good people there?”

God said, "If I find 40 good people there, I will not finish up that town."

<sup>30</sup> Then Abraham said, "God, please don't get angry with me, but I will say a little bit more. What if you find only 30 good people in that town?"

God said, "If I find 30 good people there, I will not finish up that town."

<sup>31</sup> Then Abraham said, "I know that I am being brave to talk to God like this, but what if you find only 20 good people in that town?"

God said, "If I find 20 good people there, I will not finish up that town."

<sup>32</sup> Then Abraham said, "God, please don't get angry with me, but I will ask one more question. What if you find only 10 good people in that town?"

God said, "If I find 10 good people there, I will not finish up that town."

<sup>33</sup> Then they finished talking, and God left Abraham, and Abraham went back to his camp.

## 19

### *The men in Sodom were really bad*

<sup>1</sup> Later that day, while the sun was going down, those other 2 men walked into the town called Sodom. They were God's 2 angel messengers.

Abraham's nephew, the man that was called Lot, he was sitting near the town gate, and he saw those men come into the town. So he got up to meet them, and he got down on his knees and put his face near the ground, to show them respect. <sup>2</sup> He said, "Sirs, come and stay in my

house. You can wash your feet and sleep here tonight, then you can go on your way tomorrow morning.”

The men said, “No, it’s all right. We will sleep outside in the park.”

<sup>3</sup> But Lot kept on asking them strongly to stay with him, so they agreed, and they went with him to his house. Then Lot cooked some flat damper and other food for them, and the men ate it.

<sup>4</sup> Before they went to bed, all the men that lived in Sodom, both the young men and the old men, they came and stood around Lot’s house,

<sup>5</sup> and they all yelled out to Lot. They said, “Where are the 2 men that came to your house today? Bring them out here so that we can sleep with them like a man sleeps with his wife.”

<sup>6</sup> Lot went out to talk to them and shut the door behind him.

<sup>7</sup> He said, “My friends, please don’t do that really bad thing.

<sup>8</sup> Look, I’ve got 2 daughters. They have never been married. They have never slept with any man. Let me bring them out here for you, and you can do whatever you want to do with them. But please don’t do anything bad to these men. They are staying in my house, so I have to keep them safe.”\*

<sup>9</sup> But the men of Sodom said to each other, “This man came from another town to live here, and he wants to tell us what to do. He can’t do that.” And they said to Lot, “Get out of our way,

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\* **19:8** Judges 19:22-24



or we will do even worse things to you than we will do to those men.” And they pushed hard against Lot so they could get to the door, to break it down and grab the men that were inside.

<sup>10</sup> But those 2 men were really God’s angel messengers, and they quickly opened the door and pulled Lot inside with them, then they quickly shut the door.

<sup>11</sup> Then they used their power to make all the men outside the house go blind, the young men as well as the old men, so that they couldn’t find the door to get in.\*

### *The angels told Lot to leave Sodom*

<sup>12-13</sup> Then the 2 men said to Lot, “God heard about all the bad things that the people in this town do, so he sent us to finish it up. You and your family have to get out of this town real soon. Maybe you have sons, or more daughters, or sons-in-law, or other family here. You all have to leave this town before we finish it up.”

<sup>14</sup> So Lot went and found the men that his 2 daughters were promised to. He said to them, “God is going to finish up this town, so we have to get out now. Come on, let’s go.” But those 2 men thought that Lot was joking, so they didn’t go with him.

<sup>15</sup> Very early the next morning, the 2 angels tried to get Lot to leave Sodom quickly. They said, “Hurry up Lot. Get your wife, and your 2 daughters, and get out of this town. If you don’t get out quick, you will die, like everyone else.”

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\* <sup>19:11</sup> 2 Kings 6:18

<sup>16</sup> But Lot didn't hurry, so the angels grabbed Lot's hand, and his wife, and his 2 daughters, and they quickly pulled them out of the town. You see, God was good to Lot and wanted to save him and his family.\*

<sup>17</sup> As soon as the angels took Lot and his family out of the town, one of the angels told them, "Run away quickly to save your life. Don't look back, and don't stop anywhere in the flat country, but keep going until you get to the hill country. If you don't do that, you will die, like all the people in Sodom are going to die."

<sup>18</sup> But Lot said to them, "Please sirs, no."

<sup>19</sup> That's too far. You have been very good to me and saved my life, but I can't run fast enough to get to the hill country in time. If I try to do that, the trouble will come before I get there, and I will die too.

<sup>20</sup> Look, there is a town over there. It's not too far for me. And it is only a little town, with only a few people. Let us go there, and then don't finish up that little town. Then we will be safe."

<sup>21</sup> The angel said, "All right, I will do that for you. I will let you go to that little town, and I will not finish it up. You will be safe there."

<sup>22</sup> But go quickly, because I have to wait until you get there before I finish up Sodom."

Later, that little town was called *Zoar*. That name means *little*.

### *God burned up Sodom and Gomorrah*

<sup>23</sup> Just after the sun came up, Lot got to Zoar.

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\* **19:16** 2 Peter 2:7

<sup>24</sup> Then God sent fire down from the sky on to Sodom and Gomorrah, and he sent down burning rock, called sulphur, with that fire.

<sup>25</sup> God burned up those towns, and he burned up the flat country around them too. Everybody that lived in those towns died, and all the plants in that country died too.\*

<sup>26</sup> But Lot's wife turned around and looked back at what was happening to Sodom, and straight away her body turned into a block of salt.\*

<sup>27</sup> Early in the morning, Abraham went to the hill where he talked with God before.

<sup>28</sup> He looked down at Sodom and Gomorrah and all the flat country around them, and he saw a lot of smoke, like a really big bush fire.

<sup>29</sup> That's how God finished up those towns in the flat country, but he remembered everything he said to Abraham, and he saved Abraham's nephew Lot. Yes, God took Lot out of Sodom, where Lot lived, before he finished up that town.

*Lot's daughters did a bad thing*

<sup>30</sup> Lot was frightened to stay in Zoar, so him and his daughters, they went and lived up in the hill country, in a big hole in the rock, called a cave.

<sup>31</sup> One day the oldest daughter said to her sister, "Our father is old, and we haven't got any kids, and there are no men around here for us to marry.

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\* **19:25** Matthew 10:15; 11:23-24; Luke 10:12; 17:29; 2 Peter 2:6; Jude 1:7      \* **19:26** Luke 17:32

<sup>32</sup> So let's get our father drunk, and then we can pretend to be his wives, and sleep with him. Then we can have babies, so that we will always have a family."

<sup>33</sup> So that night, they got their father drunk, and the oldest daughter pretended to be his wife, and she slept with him. Lot was so drunk that he didn't know what was happening.

<sup>34</sup> The next day, the oldest daughter said to her sister, "Last night I slept with our father like I was his wife. Let's get him drunk again tonight, then you go and pretend to be his wife. Then we will both have babies, and we will always have a family."

<sup>35</sup> So that night, they got their father drunk again, and the youngest daughter pretended to be his wife, and she slept with him. And again, Lot was so drunk that he didn't know what was happening.

<sup>36</sup> So both of Lot's daughters had babies, and Lot was the father of those babies.

<sup>37</sup> Lot's oldest daughter had a son, and she called him *Moab*. That name means *from our father*. His mob are called the Moab tribe, and they are still living today.

<sup>38</sup> Lot's youngest daughter also had a son, and she called him *Ben-Ammi*. That name means *son of my relative*. Ben-Ammi's mob are called the Ammon tribe, and they are still living today.

## 20

*Abraham tried to trick a big boss called Abimelek*

<sup>1</sup> At one time, Abraham moved his camp south to the Negev desert, and he lived between the 2 towns called Kadesh and Shur. Then later, he moved his camp to a town called Gerar.

<sup>2</sup> While Abraham and Sarah were in Gerar, Abraham told everyone that his wife Sarah was his sister, not his wife. The big boss of Gerar was called Abimelek. He believed Abraham, so he sent somebody to get Sarah so that he could marry her.\*

<sup>3</sup> God was not happy that Abimelek was going to marry Sarah, so one night he gave Abimelek a dream, and in that dream, God told him, "You are going to die. You took Sarah to be your wife, but she is already married to Abraham."

<sup>4</sup> Abimelek said, "But God, I haven't married Sarah yet. I have not slept with her, like a man sleeps with his wife. Me and my people, we haven't done anything wrong. Will you kill us for nothing?"

<sup>5</sup> Abraham told me himself that Sarah was his sister. And she said that Abraham was her brother. I didn't know that she was already married to him. I didn't want to do anything wrong."

<sup>6</sup> God kept talking to him in that dream. He said, "Yes, I know that you didn't want to do anything wrong. You didn't know that Sarah was a married woman. That's why I did not let you touch her. I stopped you from doing a bad thing."

<sup>7</sup> So now, give Sarah back to Abraham. He is my special man, and he will pray for you, so that

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\* 20:2 Genesis 12:13; 26:7

you will not die. But I'm telling you, if you don't give her back to Abraham, I will kill you, and I will kill everyone that lives with you."

<sup>8</sup> So early in the morning, Abimelek called a meeting for all his important workers. He told them everything that God said, and they were all very frightened.

<sup>9</sup> Then Abimelek sent somebody to get Abraham, and Abraham came to that meeting. Abimelek said to Abraham, "Look, you have made trouble for me and my people. What did I do to you, so that you paid me back with this trouble? You have done a bad thing to us.

<sup>10</sup> Why did you do that? Why did you tell us that Sarah is your sister?"

<sup>11</sup> Abraham said, "I'm sorry. I thought that nobody here respected God, so I was frightened of you mob. I reckoned that you would kill me so that you can marry Sarah.

<sup>12</sup> But anyway, Sarah really is my sister. We have the same father, but different mothers." You see, in Abraham's culture, men could marry their half-sisters.

<sup>13</sup> Then Abraham said, "God told me to leave my father's country, so we moved around from place to place, and I was frightened of the people. So I told Sarah, 'Be good to me and tell everyone that you are my sister. Then I will be safe.' "

<sup>14</sup> Then Abimelek did what God told him to do. He gave Sarah back to Abraham, and he also gave him some sheep, and some goats, and some cows, and some bulls, and some workers, both men and women.

<sup>15</sup> And Abimelek said to Abraham, "Friend, look around at all my country. You can live anywhere you like in this country."

<sup>16</sup> Then Abimelek said to Sarah, "I'm giving Abraham, your brother, a lot of money, to pay for the trouble I gave you. I'm giving him 1,000 pieces of silver money to show your mob, and everyone else, that you did nothing wrong."

<sup>17-18</sup> Then Abraham prayed to God and asked him to make Abimelek and his mob better. You see, before, at the time when Abimelek got Sarah so that he could marry her, God made Abimelek sick and stopped all the women in Abimelek's house from having babies. But then God talked to Abimelek, and Abimelek gave Sarah back to Abraham. So then Abraham prayed to God, and God made Abimelek better, and he made Abimelek's wife better, and he made all the women that lived in Abimelek's house better too, so that they had babies again.

## 21

### *Abraham and Sarah had a son, Isaac*

<sup>1</sup> God was good to Sarah, and he kept his promise to her,

<sup>2</sup> and a baby started to grow inside her. Then that baby boy was born at the time that God said he would be born. Abraham was an old man, and that baby was a son for Abraham.\*

<sup>3</sup> Abraham called his son *Isaac*. That name means *laugh*.

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\* **21:2** Hebrews 11:11

<sup>4</sup> And when Isaac was 8 days old, Abraham did the young man operation on him, just like God told him to do, to show that Isaac belonged to God.\*

<sup>5</sup> Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born.

<sup>6</sup> Sarah said, “God is giving me something to laugh about now, and everyone that hears this story will be happy with me, and they will laugh too.”

<sup>7</sup> She also said, “Nobody reckoned that I can ever have a kid. But look, now Abraham is old, and I had a son for him.”

*Abraham sent Hagar and Ishmael away from his camp*

<sup>8</sup> When Isaac was about 3 years old, he stopped drinking Sarah’s milk, and Abraham gave him a big party.

<sup>9</sup> Then Sarah saw Ishmael laughing at Isaac. Ishmael was the son of Abraham and Hagar. Hagar was Sarah’s worker, and she was from Egypt country.

<sup>10</sup> Then Sarah said to Abraham, “When you die, my son Isaac has to get all your things. I don’t want Ishmael to get anything, he is just the son of a worker woman. So you have to tell that woman and her son to get out of our camp. Send them right away from here.”\*

<sup>11</sup> Abraham was really upset by what Sarah said. Ishmael was his son, so Abraham reckoned it was wrong to send him away.

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\* **21:4** Genesis 17:12; Acts 7:8      \* **21:10** Galatians 4:29-30



<sup>12</sup> But God said to Abraham, “Don’t worry about Ishmael or his mother. You see, the family that I promised you will come from Isaac, not from Ishmael. So listen to Sarah, and do what she says.\*

<sup>13</sup> Don’t worry, I will give Ishmael a big family too. Later on, his family will grow into a big nation. I will do that for him, because he is your son too.”

<sup>14</sup> So early the next morning, Abraham got some food, and a leather water bag. He put them on Hagar’s shoulder, and he sent her and Ishmael out of his camp. They walked around in the desert country near Beersheba.

<sup>15</sup> They kept going until there was no water left in the water bag. Then they stopped, and Hagar left Ishmael in the shade of a little tree.

<sup>16</sup> And then she went and sat by herself a little way from him, because she thought, “I don’t want to watch him die.” And she started to cry out loud.

<sup>17</sup> Ishmael was crying too, and God heard him, and he sent an angel messenger from heaven to talk to Hagar. The angel said, “Why are you upset? Don’t worry. God has heard Ishmael crying, under that tree.

<sup>18</sup> Go and take care of him. Listen, I will give him a big family, and they will become a great nation.”

<sup>19</sup> Then God showed her a water-hole. So she got up and filled her water bag, and she gave Ishmael a drink.

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\* **21:12** Romans 9:7; Hebrews 11:18

20-21 God kept Ishmael safe as he grew up in the desert called Paran. He learned how to use a bow and arrows properly, so he became a good hunter. And later on, Hagar got a wife for him from Egypt country.

*Abraham and Abimelek made strong promises to each other*

22-23 One day, Abimelek went to talk to Abraham. Abimelek was the big boss of the country where Abraham lived. And Ficol, the leader of Abimelek's army, went with him. Abimelek said to Abraham, "You know, you are not one of my people. You came from another place to live here in my country. But I have been good to you, and to all your people. So I want you to promise me that you will never try to trick me, or my kids, or anyone that is born into my family. I want you to promise that you will be good to them. We know that God is very good to you, and he helps you with everything you do. So I want you to make that promise to me while God is listening. I want you to tell God to punish you if you break that promise."\*

24 So Abraham made that promise to Abimelek. He said those words in the way that Abimelek wanted.

25 But then Abraham also complained to Abimelek. He said, "I've got a problem. Some of your workers took one of my water-holes, and then they stopped my workers from getting any water there."

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\* 21:22-23 Genesis 26:26

<sup>26</sup> Abimelek said, "I'm sorry, Abraham. I don't know who did that. I never heard about it, and you didn't tell me about it until now."

<sup>27</sup> At that time, Abraham gave Abimelek some of his sheep, and goats, and cows, and the 2 men made strong promises to each other.

<sup>28</sup> Then Abraham also picked out 7 young female sheep from his animals, and he put them to one side.

<sup>29</sup> Abimelek asked him, "Why did you put these 7 sheep to one side? What do you mean by that?"

<sup>30</sup> Abraham said, "I want to give you these sheep as a special present. Take them. That's how you can show people that you agree with me, that I dug that water-hole and that I own it."

<sup>31</sup> From that time on, that place was called *Beersheba*. That name means *water-hole where they made a promise*. It was where Abraham and Abimelek made strong promises to each other.

<sup>32</sup> After they made those promises, Abimelek and Ficol went back to their home, in Philistia country.

<sup>33</sup> Then Abraham showed respect to God there in Beersheba. He called God by his special name *Yahweh*, and he planted a special tree to remember that place. *Yahweh* is the true God that lives for ever.

<sup>34</sup> Abraham and all his people lived for a long time in the country that belonged to the Philistia mob.

## 22

*Abraham showed that he really trusted God*

<sup>1</sup> A long time later, God tested Abraham. God wanted to see if Abraham trusted him properly, and if Abraham would do anything God told him to do.

God called out, "Abraham."

And Abraham said, "Yes, God, I am listening to you."

<sup>2</sup> Then God said, "I know that you love your son Isaac, and he is your only son, but I want you to take him to the country called Moriah, to one of the mountains that I will show you. I want you to kill Isaac for me, and burn his body on a table made of stones, to show me that you respect me."\*

<sup>3</sup> Abraham listened to God, so the next morning, Abraham chopped up some wood for the fire and tied the wood on to his donkey. Then, he got Isaac and 2 of his work-men, and they all started to go to the place God told him about.

<sup>4</sup> They walked for nearly 3 days, then Abraham looked up and saw the place God told him about. It was still a long way ahead of them.

<sup>5</sup> Abraham said to his work-men, "I want you to stay here with the donkey. And me and Isaac, we will go over there to show respect to God. After we do that, we will come back to you."

<sup>6</sup> Abraham put the wood on to Isaac's back for him to carry, and Abraham carried some fire and his knife.

As they walked along,

<sup>7</sup> Isaac said, "Dad."

Abraham said, "Yes, son?"

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\* 22:2 2 Chronicles 3:1

And Isaac said, "We've got the wood, and the fire, but where is the sheep that we are going to burn to show respect to God?"

<sup>8</sup> Abraham said, "Son, God will give us the sheep, so that we can show him respect." And they kept on walking together.

<sup>9</sup> Then they got to the place that God told Abraham about, and Abraham piled up some stones to make a table with a flat top, and he put the wood on top of it. Then he tied Isaac's hands and feet together, and he put him on top of the wood.\*

<sup>10</sup> Then Abraham picked up his sharp knife, and he was just about to kill Isaac, <sup>11</sup> but God's angel messenger called out to him from heaven. He said, "Abraham, Abraham."

Abraham stopped, and he said, "Yes?"

<sup>12</sup> The angel said, "Don't kill that boy. Don't hurt him in any way. Now I know that you respect God so much that you will do anything he tells you to do. You will even kill your only son for God."

<sup>13</sup> Then Abraham looked behind him, and he saw a male sheep with its head stuck in a little tree. He quickly took Isaac off the wood and untied the ropes from him. Then Abraham grabbed that sheep, and he killed it instead of his son, and he burned it on that stone table, to show respect to God.

<sup>14</sup> And Abraham called that place, *God will give you what you need*. Even today, people say,

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\* <sup>22:9</sup> Hebrews 11:17-19; James 2:21

“On God’s mountain, he will give you what you need.”

<sup>15</sup> Then God’s angel messenger called out again from heaven to Abraham.

<sup>16</sup> He said, “This is what God wants to tell you, Abraham. God says, ‘I am making this really strong promise to you. You can know that I will keep this promise, because I am God. My name is Yahweh. You listened to me, and you were ready to give me your only son.

<sup>17</sup> So I will do really good things for you. And I will give you a really big family. You see, lots of people will be born into your son’s family later on, and they will become a really big mob of people. There will be lots and lots of them, just like there are lots of stars in the sky, and lots of little bits of sand at the beaches beside the sea. And when other nations get up to fight against them, your family will win, and they will take the towns from those other nations.\*

<sup>18</sup> And I will use your family to do good things for all the nations in the world. I will do all this because you listened to me, and you did what I told you to do.’ ”\*

<sup>19</sup> Then Abraham and Isaac walked back to the place where Abraham’s work-men were waiting with the donkey, then they all went back to their camp at Beersheba.

Abraham and all his people camped there for a long time.

*Abraham heard that his brother Nahor had sons*

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\* <sup>22:17</sup> Hebrews 11:12      \* <sup>22:18</sup> Acts 3:25

<sup>20</sup> Later on, somebody said to Abraham, “Your brother’s wife Milcah, she had kids too. They are sons for your brother Nahor.

<sup>21</sup> The oldest son is called Uz. The next son is called Buz. The next son is called Kemuel, and he has a son called Aram.

<sup>22</sup> Milcah’s other sons are called Kesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaf, and Bethuel.”

<sup>23</sup> They were the 8 sons of Milcah, and Abraham’s brother Nahor was their father.

After Nahor’s son Bethuel grew up, he had a daughter called Rebekah.

<sup>24</sup> And Nahor had another wife, and she had sons too. That other wife’s name was Rumah, and her sons were Tebar, Gaham, Tahash, and Macah.

## 23

*Sarah died and Abraham bought some land to bury her body*

<sup>1</sup> Sarah lived a long time. She lived until she was 127 years old.

<sup>2</sup> Then she died in the town called Hebron, in the country called Canaan. Another name for that town is Kiriath Arba. Abraham was very sad, and he sat next to Sarah’s body and cried.

<sup>3</sup> After that, Abraham got up and left the place where Sarah’s body was, and he went to the town gate to talk to the people that owned that country. They were from the Heth tribe.

<sup>4</sup> Abraham said to them, “This is your land, and I am just camping here. I need to bury my wife’s

body. Can I buy some of your land to use for a grave?”\*

<sup>5</sup> The Heth people said to Abraham,

<sup>6</sup> “Sir, we know that you are a great leader for your people, and we respect you a lot. We want you to use one of our best graves to bury your wife. Yes, you can pick any grave you want, and we will let you use it to bury your wife.”

<sup>7</sup> Then Abraham got down on his knees in front of the Heth people, to show them respect.

<sup>8-9</sup> He said to them, “Thank you for saying that you will help me bury my wife. There is a cave in your country that I want to use for a grave. You know the man called Efron, the son of Zohar. He’s one of you Heth people. He has some land in the place called Makpelah, and there’s a cave in the rock at one end of that land. I want to put my wife’s body in that cave. Can you ask Efron if I can buy that cave? I want to pay him the full price for it. And you can all watch me buy that cave from him. Then it will belong to me, and I can put my wife’s body there.”

<sup>10</sup> Efron was sitting there with the other Heth people at the town gate. He talked to Abraham so that everyone could hear him.

<sup>11</sup> He said, “Sir, I will give you that cave, and I will give you the land around it too. I’m telling you straight in front of all my people, I will give you that cave and that land, so that you can bury your wife.”

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\* [23:4](#) [Hebrews 11:9, 13](#); [Acts 7:16](#)



<sup>12</sup> Then Abraham got down on his knees again in front of the Heth people, to show them respect.

<sup>13</sup> He talked to Efron so that everyone could hear him. He said, "Thank you. All right, I will buy that cave and that land from you. Tell me the right price for it, and I will pay you. Then that land will belong to me, and I can bury my wife there. Do you agree?"

<sup>14</sup> Then Efron said to Abraham,

<sup>15</sup> "Sir, the right price for that land is just 4 kilograms of silver money, but let's not talk about money all day. The most important thing is that you can bury your wife."

<sup>16</sup> And all the Heth people heard Efron say that price.

So Abraham agreed, and he got out his silver money. He weighed that money properly, and he gave 4 kilograms of it to Efron.

<sup>17-18</sup> Then that land, and the cave, and all the trees on that land, they belonged to Abraham. That land was in the place called Makpelah, to the east of the place called Mamreh. All the Heth people that were at the town gate, they saw Abraham buy Efron's land, so they knew that it belonged to Abraham.

<sup>19</sup> After that, Abraham put Sarah's body in the cave in that land. It was in the place called Makpelah, to the east of the place called Mamreh, in the country called Canaan. Another name for Mamreh is Hebron.

<sup>20</sup> That is how Abraham bought some land and a cave from the Heth people, to use for a grave.

## 24

*Abraham sent his worker to find a wife for his son Isaac*

<sup>1</sup> Abraham was very old, and God was very good to him in every way.

<sup>2</sup> Abraham had workers that looked after everything he owned. One of those workers was older than all the other workers, and he was in charge of all the other workers too. One day, Abraham talked to that oldest worker. He said, “I want you to make me a strong promise. So come here and put your hand under my leg.” You see, in Abraham’s culture, people sometimes made promises to each other that way. The person that made the promise, they put their hand under the other person’s leg, and that showed that they had to keep their promise.

<sup>3</sup> Abraham said to the worker, “I want you to make this promise with God listening. His name is Yahweh, and he is the boss of heaven and earth. Promise me that you will not get a wife for my son Isaac from this country that we are living in. Don’t get him a wife from the Canaan people that live here.

<sup>4</sup> No, I want you to go back to my home country and get a wife for Isaac from my relatives.”

<sup>5</sup> Then Abraham’s worker said, “Yes, I will do that. But think about this. Maybe I will pick a woman to be Isaac’s wife, and that woman will not want to leave her home country and come with me here, to Canaan country. Then what do you want me to do? Maybe I can come back here

and get Isaac, and then I can take him to your home country to get married?"

<sup>6</sup> Abraham said, "No way. Make sure that you never take Isaac back to my home country. He has to stay here in Canaan country.

<sup>7</sup> You know that Yahweh my God is the boss in heaven. He took me away from my father's family and my home country, and he brought me here to Canaan country. And God made me a strong promise. He said, 'I am going to give this country to all the people that will be born into your family later on.' "

Then Abraham said, "I know that God will help you find a wife for my son. Yes, God will send an angel worker to my home country to get things ready for you. When you get there, you will find a woman for my son Isaac to marry.

<sup>8</sup> But if that woman doesn't want to leave her home country and come back here with you, then don't worry. You will not have to keep that promise any more. But I tell you again, you can never take my son Isaac back to my home country."

<sup>9</sup> So Abraham's worker put his hand under Abraham's leg, and he made that strong promise, just like Abraham told him to. He said, "I promise that I will not get a wife for your son Isaac from the Canaan people that live here in this country. I promise that I will go back to your home country and get a wife for Isaac from your relatives."

<sup>10</sup> Abraham wanted to give lots of really good presents to his relatives, so the worker got those

presents ready, and he got 10 of Abraham's camels to carry everything, and he got some of Abraham's other workers to go with him. They all left that place, and they went north, all the way to Abraham's home country. That country was called Aram Naharayim. When they got to that country, they went towards the town where Abraham's brother Nahor lived.

*Abraham's worker met Rebekah*

<sup>11</sup> Abraham's worker stopped near that town, next to a water-hole, and he let the camels lie down there to rest. It was nearly night time, and the young women that lived in that town, they were going to the water-hole to get water. They used to do that at the same time every day.

<sup>12</sup> Abraham's worker saw those young women, and he prayed to God. He said, "Yahweh, you are the God of my boss Abraham. Please be very good to Abraham, just like you promised him. Please let me find a wife for Abraham's son Isaac today.

<sup>13</sup> Look, I am standing next to this water-hole, and the young women that live in the town are coming out to get water.

<sup>14</sup> Please show me which woman you picked to be Isaac's wife."

Then Abraham's worker said to God, "I will talk to one of those women, and I will say, 'Please give me a drink from your jar of water.' Maybe that woman will say to me, 'Yes, I will give you a drink, and I'll give your camels some water too.' If she says that, then I will know that she is the woman you picked to be Isaac's wife. And I will

know that you have been very good to my boss Abraham, just like you promised him.”

<sup>15</sup> While Abraham’s worker was still praying, a young woman walked out of the town with a jar on her shoulder. That woman’s name was Rebekah, and her father’s name was Bethuel. Bethuel’s mother was Milcah, and Bethuel’s father was Nahor. And Nahor was Abraham’s brother.

<sup>16</sup> Rebekah was a very beautiful young woman, and she wasn’t married. She never slept with a man, like a woman sleeps with her husband.

Rebekah got to the water-hole, and she went down to the water and filled up her jar, and then she came back up.

<sup>17</sup> Then Abraham’s worker ran to meet Rebekah. He said to her, “Please let me drink a little bit of water from your jar.”

<sup>18</sup> Rebekah said, “Yes, please have a drink, sir.” Straight away, she took the jar off her shoulder. Then she held the jar in her hands and gave Abraham’s worker a drink.

<sup>19</sup> After Rebekah finished giving him a drink, she said, “Now I will get water for your camels too, until they have enough to drink.”

<sup>20</sup> Then she quickly poured the rest of the water from her jug for the camels to drink. Then she ran back to the water-hole to get more water. She kept on doing that until all the camels had enough to drink.

<sup>21</sup> While Rebekah was getting the water, Abraham’s worker kept on looking at her, but he

didn't say anything. He waited to see if she was the woman that God picked to be Isaac's wife.

<sup>22</sup> After the camels finished drinking, Abraham's worker got some of Abraham's presents out, and he gave Rebekah some jewellery. He gave her a gold nose ring and 2 heavy gold bracelets for her arms. That nose ring was made out of 6 grams of gold, and those bracelets were made out of 120 grams of gold each.

<sup>23</sup> Then the worker said to Rebekah, "Please tell me, who is your father?" Then he said, "Me and my men, we want to stay here in this town tonight. Is there enough room for us to stay at your father's house?"

<sup>24</sup> Rebekah said to the worker, "My father's name is Bethuel. His mother's name is Milcah, and his father's name is Nahor."

<sup>25</sup> Then Rebekah said, "We have plenty of food for your camels, and we have plenty of dry grass for them to sleep on. And we have plenty of room for you and your men to stay with us tonight."

<sup>26</sup> Then Abraham's worker knew that Rebekah was Abraham's relative, and he knew that God picked her to be Isaac's wife. So he got down on his knees and put his face near the ground, to thank God and show him respect.

<sup>27</sup> He said, "Yahweh, you are really great. You are the God of my boss Abraham. You keep on being very good to him, just like you promised him. We can always trust you. You brought me straight to Abraham's relatives, so that I can get a wife for Isaac."

*Abraham's worker talked to Rebekah's family*

<sup>28</sup> Rebekah ran home and told her family what happened.

<sup>29-30</sup> She told them everything that Abraham's worker said to her at the water-hole, and she showed them the gold nose ring and the gold bracelets that Abraham's worker gave her. Rebekah's brother Laban was there, and straight away he ran to the water-hole to find Abraham's worker, and he found him standing there next to his camels.

<sup>31</sup> Then Laban said to Abraham's worker, "Sir, I can see that God is good to you. Please, don't keep on standing here at the water-hole. Come home with me. I have a room ready for you, and I have a place for your camels to stay too."

<sup>32</sup> So Abraham's worker, and the other men that were with him, they went to the house with Laban. Then they took the bags off the camels, and Laban got food for the camels to eat and dry grass for them to sleep on. He also got water so that Abraham's worker and his men could wash their feet.

<sup>33</sup> After that, he got Abraham's worker and his men some food. But Abraham's worker said, "I will not eat yet. First I have to tell you why I came here."

Laban said to him, "Yes, tell us."

<sup>34</sup> So Abraham's worker talked to Laban and the other people in Rebekah's family. He said, "I work for Abraham.

<sup>35</sup> His God Yahweh is really good to him, and now Abraham is very rich. Yes, God gave him a lot of sheep, and cows, and camels, and donkeys,

and a lot of silver and gold. God also gave him a lot of men and women to work for him.

<sup>36</sup> And Abraham has a son too. Yes, Abraham's wife Sarah had a baby boy when she was very old. That boy is a man now, and later, when Abraham dies, he will get everything that belonged to Abraham."

<sup>37</sup> Then Abraham's worker said, "My boss Abraham got me to make him a strong promise. He said, 'Promise me that you will not get a wife for my son from this country that we are living in. Don't get him a wife from the Canaan people that live here.

<sup>38</sup> No, you have to go to my father's family and my other relatives, and get a wife for my son.'

<sup>39</sup> Then I said to my boss Abraham, 'Maybe I will pick a woman, and that woman will not want to leave her home country and come with me here, to Canaan country. Then what do you want me to do?'

<sup>40</sup> Then my boss Abraham said, 'Listen, I trust Yahweh my God, and I always live his way. I know that he will send an angel worker to go with you and help you, so that you will find a wife for my son from my father's family.

<sup>41</sup> But if you pick a woman to be my son's wife, and her relatives will not let her go with you, then don't worry. You will not have to keep that promise any more.' "

<sup>42</sup> Then Abraham's worker said, "Today, I came to the water-hole that is near your town. Then I prayed to God. I said, 'Yahweh, you are the God



of my boss Abraham. Please let me find a wife for Abraham's son today.

<sup>43-44</sup> Look, I am standing next to this water-hole, and the young women that live in the town, they are coming out to get water. Please show me which one you picked for Abraham's son. I will talk to one of those women, and I will say, "Please let me drink a little bit of water from your jar." Maybe that woman will say to me, "Yes, I will give you a drink, and I'll give your camels some water too." If she says that, then I will know that she is the woman you picked for Abraham's son.'

<sup>45</sup> While I was still praying quietly to God, Rebekah walked out of the town with a jar on her shoulder. She went down to the water-hole and got some water. Then I said to Rebekah, 'Please let me have a drink.'

<sup>46</sup> Straight away, she took the jar off her shoulder and she said, 'Yes, have a drink. And I will get water for your camels too.' So I had a drink, and then she got water for my camels.

<sup>47</sup> Then I said, 'Who is your father?' And she said, 'My father's name is Bethuel. His father's name is Nahor, and his mother's name is Milcah.' Then I knew that Rebekah is from Abraham's family, and I knew that God picked her to marry Abraham's son. So I gave Rebekah a gold nose ring and 2 gold bracelets for her arms.

<sup>48</sup> Then I got down on my knees and put my face near the ground, to thank God and show him respect. I said, 'Yahweh, you are really great. You are the God of my boss Abraham. You

brought me straight here to Abraham's relatives, so that I can get a wife for Abraham's son.' "

<sup>49</sup> Abraham's worker kept on talking to Rebekah's family. He said, "Now I'm asking you to be very good and fair to my boss Abraham. Will you let me take Rebekah to Canaan country, so that she can marry Abraham's son? Please tell me if you will say *yes* or *no*. Then I will know what I have to do after this."

<sup>50</sup> Then Rebekah's brother Laban, and her father Bethuel, they talked to Abraham's worker. They said, "Those things that you told us, we know that God made them happen. So we can't argue with you."

<sup>51</sup> Look, here is Rebekah. Take her with you to Canaan country, so that she can marry Abraham's son. That is what God wants."

<sup>52</sup> Then Abraham's worker got down on his knees and put his face near the ground, to thank God and show him respect.

<sup>53</sup> After that, the worker gave Rebekah and her family some presents from Abraham. He gave Rebekah some clothes, and some pretty things made out of silver and gold. And he also gave presents that cost a lot of money to Rebekah's brother Laban, and to her mother.

*Rebekah left her family and went to Canaan country*

<sup>54</sup> Abraham's worker and his men ate some food, and then they stayed the night with Rebekah's family. The next morning, they got up, and Abraham's worker talked to Rebekah's

family. He said, "Let me take Rebekah and go back to my boss Abraham."

<sup>55</sup> But Rebekah's brother and mother said, "Let Rebekah stay here a bit longer, maybe 10 more days, and after that she can go with you."

<sup>56</sup> Abraham's worker said, "Please don't make me wait any longer. You know that God picked Rebekah to marry Abraham's son, and he helped me find her. So please let her come with me now, so that we can go back to my boss Abraham."

<sup>57</sup> Then Rebekah's brother and mother said, "All right, we will get Rebekah and ask her what she wants to do."

<sup>58</sup> So they got Rebekah, and they said to her, "Do you want to go with this man to Canaan country now, so that you can marry Abraham's son?"

Rebekah said, "Yes, I will go now."

<sup>59</sup> So Rebekah's family said to Abraham's worker, "All right, Rebekah can go with you and your men to Canaan country now. And she can take some women that work for our family. They can live in Canaan country with her and work for her there." One of those women used to look after Rebekah when she was a little girl.

<sup>60</sup> Then Rebekah's family asked God to be good to Rebekah. They said to her,

"We are asking God to give you lots of kids and grand-kids,  
so that your family will become a really big mob of people.

And we are asking God to make them strong,

so that when other people fight against your mob, your mob will win, and then your mob will take the towns that belonged to those other people.”

<sup>61</sup> Then Rebekah and her working women, they got on camels, and they went with Abraham’s worker and his men, to go all the way to Canaan country.

*Isaac met Rebekah and married her*

<sup>62</sup> Abraham’s son Isaac was living in Canaan country. You see, before this time, Isaac went south, away from Abraham’s camp, and he made his camp in the south part of the country called the Negev, near a water-hole. That water-hole was called *the water-hole that belongs to God, he is alive and sees me*. Then when Abraham’s worker was away in Haran, Isaac came back home.

<sup>63</sup> Then one afternoon, when it was nearly night time, Isaac went out to the grass lands to think about things. Then he looked up and saw camels coming, so he walked out to meet them.

<sup>64</sup> Rebekah was riding on one of those camels, and she looked up and saw Isaac coming towards them. Straight away, she got off her camel.

<sup>65</sup> Then she said to Abraham’s worker, “I can see a man walking towards us. Who is he?”

The worker said, “He is my boss Isaac.”

Rebekah didn’t want Isaac to see her face, so she got a scarf and put it over her head. You see, in that culture, that is what a woman did when she met the man that she was going to marry.

<sup>66</sup> Then Abraham's worker talked to Isaac, and he told Isaac everything that happened.

<sup>67</sup> There was a tent there that used to belong to Isaac's mother Sarah. Isaac took Rebekah into that tent, and Rebekah became Isaac's wife. Isaac loved Rebekah.

Some time before this, Isaac's mother Sarah died, so Isaac was sad. But after he married Rebekah, he was happy again.

## 25

### *Abraham had other sons*

<sup>1</sup> Abraham married another woman too. Her name was Keturah.

<sup>2</sup> Abraham and Keturah had 6 sons together. Their names were Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuwah.

<sup>3</sup> After Jokshan grew up, he had 2 sons. Their names were Sheba and Dedan. The tribes that were from Dedan and his family were the Ashur mob, the Letush mob, and the Leyum mob.

<sup>4</sup> After Midian grew up, he had 5 sons. Their names were Efah, Efer, Hanok, Abida, and Eldah.

All of those men were Keturah's sons and grand-sons.

<sup>5</sup> One day Abraham said, "After I die, I want my son Isaac to have everything that I own. He is the son of my 1st wife Sarah."

<sup>6</sup> But Abraham wanted to be good to his other sons too, those sons that he had with his other wives. So Abraham gave presents to those other sons. Then he sent them to go and live in a country to the east, a long way away from his son Isaac.

### *Abraham died*

<sup>7-8</sup> Abraham lived a long time, until he was a very old man. He lived until he was 175 years old. He had a good long life, then he breathed for the last time, and he died.

<sup>9-10</sup> Then Abraham's 2 oldest sons, Isaac and Ishmael, they took Abraham's body to the cave at the place called Makpelah, to the east of the place called Mamreh. You see, a long time before that, Abraham bought that cave and the land around it from a man called Efron. Efron's father was called Zohar, and they were from the Heth tribe. And Abraham put his wife Sarah's body in that cave. So after Abraham died, Isaac and Ishmael put his body in that cave, next to Sarah's body.\*

<sup>11</sup> After that, Abraham's son Isaac went to live near the water-hole called *the water-hole that belongs to God, he is alive and sees me*. And God kept on being good to Isaac.\*

### *The story of Ishmael's family*

<sup>12</sup> This is the story about Ishmael's family. Ishmael was Abraham's oldest son, and his mother's name was Hagar. Hagar was from Egypt country, and she worked for Abraham's wife Sarah.

<sup>13</sup> Ishmael had 12 sons. His oldest son was called Nebayoth, and his next son was called Kedar, then Adbeel, Mibsam,

<sup>14</sup> Mishma, Dumah, Massa,

<sup>15</sup> Hadad, Tema, Jetur, Nafish, and Kedemah.

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\* <sup>25:9-10</sup> Genesis 23:3-16      \* <sup>25:11</sup> Genesis 16:14

<sup>16</sup> Later on, those 12 sons of Ishmael became the bosses of 12 tribes, and all those tribes lived in their own camps.

<sup>17</sup> Ishmael lived until he was 137 years old. Then he breathed for the last time, and he died.

<sup>18</sup> Ishmael's sons and their tribes, they went and lived far away from their other relatives. They went and lived between the place called Havilah and the place called Shur, near Egypt country. Shur is also near the place called Ashur.

*Isaac and Rebekah had 2 sons*

<sup>19</sup> This is the story about Abraham's son Isaac and his family.

<sup>20</sup> When Isaac was 40 years old, he married Rebekah. Her family was from the Aram tribe, and they lived in Paddan Aram country. Her father's name was Bethuel, and her brother's name was Laban.

<sup>21</sup> At first, after Isaac and Rebekah got married, they didn't have any kids. Rebekah just couldn't have a baby. So Isaac prayed strongly to God. He said, "Please let Rebekah have a baby." God listened to Isaac, and God made 2 baby boys start growing inside Rebekah.

<sup>22</sup> But while those babies were still inside her, they started to fight with each other. Rebekah felt them moving inside her, and she was worried about it. So she said to God, "Why is this happening to me?"

<sup>23</sup> God said to Rebekah,  
"There are 2 babies inside you. They will grow up and have kids, and their kids will become 2 nations."

Right from the start, those 2 nations will fight against each other.

One of those nations will be stronger than the other nation.

Yes, the younger son's nation will be stronger, and his nation will be boss over the older son's nation.”\*

<sup>24</sup> Later on, the time came for Rebekah to have her babies, and 2 boys were born.

<sup>25</sup> The 1st baby that was born, his skin colour was a bit red. He also had hair all over his body, like an animal skin. Isaac and Rebekah named that baby *Esau*.

<sup>26</sup> Straight away, the 2nd baby was born. And when that baby came out, he was holding the back of Esau's foot. So Isaac and Rebekah named that baby *Jacob*. That name means *he holds the back of the foot*.

Isaac was 60 years old when Rebekah had those 2 babies.

*Esau let Jacob be the next leader for their family*

<sup>27</sup> Isaac and Rebekah's sons grew up and became men. Their son Esau became a good hunter. He liked to go out bush and catch wild animals to eat. But their son Jacob was a quiet man, and he liked to stay at their camp.

<sup>28</sup> Isaac loved to eat the wild animals that Esau caught. So Isaac loved Esau more than Jacob. But Rebekah loved Jacob more than Esau.

<sup>29</sup> One day, while Esau was out bush, Jacob cooked some soup with red beans in it. While

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\* **25:23** Romans 9:12



Jacob was cooking that soup, Esau came back home, and he was really tired and hungry.

<sup>30-34</sup> So Esau said to Jacob, “Please let me eat some of that red soup right now. I’m really tired and hungry.”\*

Jacob said to Esau, “First, I want you to do something for me. You are the oldest son in our family. That means you are the most important son, and you will be the next leader for our family. But I want to be the most important son, instead of you. I want to be the next leader for our family. So you have to promise that you will let me be the most important son now, instead of you. Then you can eat some soup.”

Esau said, “Look, I’m so tired and hungry that I’m going to die. So it doesn’t matter if I stop being the next leader for our family. I just need some food right now.”

But Jacob said, “First, you have to make me that strong promise.” So Esau did what Jacob asked. He said to Jacob, “I promise that you can be the most important son in our family, instead of me, and you can be the next leader for our family.” Then Jacob gave Esau some of that soup with red beans in it, and some bread. Esau ate that red soup and bread, and then he got up and left.

That’s the story about how Esau let Jacob be the most important son. So Esau wasn’t the most important son any more, but he didn’t care.

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\* **25:30-34** Hebrews 12:16

Later on, people sometimes called Esau a different name. They called him *Edom*. That name means *red*, like that red soup.

## 26

*God made the same promise to Isaac that he made to Abraham*

<sup>1</sup> At another time, there was no rain and no food plants growing in the country where Isaac and Rebekah lived. It was like the time when there was no rain a long time before, while Abraham was still alive.

So Isaac and his family left that country, and they went to the town called Gerar, in Philistia country. The big boss of the Philistia people was called Abimelek, and he lived in that town.

<sup>2</sup> God showed himself to Isaac in that place, and God said, “Don’t go to Egypt country to try to get food. I’m going to tell you where you have to live.

<sup>3-4</sup> I’m telling you to camp here, in this country. You don’t need to worry. I will be with you, to take care of you. I will keep on being good to you. Remember that strong promise that I made to your father Abraham. Now I’m making the same promise to you. I will give you a really big family. You see, lots of kids and grand-kids will be born into your family later on, and they will become a really big mob of people. There will be lots and lots of them, just like there are lots of stars in the sky. And I will give them all of this

country, and I will use them to do good things for all the nations in the world.\*

<sup>5</sup> You know, your father Abraham listened to me and did what I told him to do. That's why I'm making that same promise to you that I made to him."

<sup>6</sup> So Isaac set up his camp in Gerar, just like God told him to.

*Isaac tried to trick the men in Gerar*

<sup>7</sup> The men in Gerar saw Isaac's wife Rebekah, and they asked Isaac, "Who is that woman?"\*

You know, Rebekah was very beautiful. So Isaac got worried about those men. He thought, "Maybe those men want to marry Rebekah. If I tell them that she is my wife, maybe they will kill me to get her."

So Isaac lied and said, "She is my sister."

<sup>8</sup> After that, Isaac and Rebekah lived in Gerar for a long time. But one day Abimelek, the big boss of the Philistia people, he looked out of his window, and he saw Isaac hugging Rebekah. Then Abimelek knew that Rebekah was Isaac's wife.

<sup>9</sup> So Abimelek sent somebody to get Isaac. Then Abimelek said to Isaac, "Now I know that Rebekah is your wife. Why did you say, 'She is my sister'?"

Isaac said, "I was too frightened to say, 'She is my wife.' I thought that the men in Gerar will kill me and take Rebekah for themselves. So I said, 'She is my sister.' "

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\* **26:3-4** Genesis 12:2-3, 7; 15:5; 22:16-18; Acts 3:25  
Genesis 12:13; 20:2

\* **26:7**

<sup>10</sup> Then Abimelek was angry. He said to Isaac, "That was a bad thing that you did to us. You didn't tell us that Rebekah is your wife. We thought that she is not married. What if one of my men slept with her, like men sleep with their wives? Think about that. Then me and all my people, we would be guilty of that bad thing."

<sup>11</sup> After that, Abimelek talked strongly to all the people in Gerar. He said, "If any one of you hurts Isaac or Rebekah, I will kill you."

### *God was good to Isaac*

<sup>12</sup> While Isaac lived in Gerar, he planted seeds in the ground. And God was really good to Isaac. That same year, those seeds grew into really good food plants, so Isaac had lots and lots of food.

<sup>13</sup> And Isaac got more and more money and good things, and he became very rich.

<sup>14</sup> He had lots of sheep and cows, and lots of people that worked for him.

The Philistia people that lived in Gerar, they saw that Isaac was very rich, and they got jealous of him.

<sup>15</sup> So they got dirt and filled up the water-holes that Isaac was using. A long time before that, Isaac's father Abraham got his workers to dig those water-holes.

### *Isaac dug some water-holes*

<sup>16</sup> Then Abimelek, the big boss of the Philistia people, he said to Isaac, "Listen, you and your mob are a lot stronger than us now, so I don't want you to keep on living here. You have to leave this place."

<sup>17</sup> So Isaac and his family left Gerar, and they moved their camp to a place called the Valley of Gerar, and they lived in that place for a long time.

<sup>18</sup> A long time before this, when Isaac's father Abraham was alive, Abraham and his workers dug lots of water-holes in that place, and Abraham gave all those water-holes names. But then, after Abraham died, the Philistia people filled up all those water-holes with dirt, so nobody could get water from them. Now, when Isaac moved there, he got his workers to take the dirt out of those water-holes, so that everybody could get water again. And Isaac gave those water-holes the same names that Abraham gave them a long time before.

<sup>19</sup> One day, Isaac's workers dug a new water-hole in the valley, and they found fresh running water in that hole.

<sup>20</sup> But there were some men there from Gerar, looking after their animals, and those men came and argued with the men that looked after Isaac's animals. The men from Gerar said, "That water belongs to us." So Isaac called that water-hole *Esek*. That name means *they argue*.

<sup>21</sup> After that, Isaac's workers dug another water-hole, but the men from Gerar came and argued with them about that water-hole too. So Isaac called that water-hole *Sitnah*. That name means *they are enemies*.

<sup>22</sup> Then Isaac moved his camp to a new place, and his workers dug a water-hole in that place. This time, nobody argued with them about the water-hole. So Isaac called that water-hole *Rehoboth*. That name means *big place*. And Isaac

said, "God has given us a big place to live. Our family will grow here, and our life will be good."

*God talked to Isaac at Beersheba*

<sup>23</sup> Later on, Isaac moved his camp to the place called Beersheba.

<sup>24</sup> When Isaac got to Beersheba, that same night, God showed himself to Isaac. God said, "I am God. I am the one that looked after your father Abraham. Don't be frightened. I am here with you, to take care of you. I will be good to you, and I will give you a really big family, just like I promised to your father Abraham."

<sup>25</sup> Then Isaac wanted to show respect to God, so he piled up stones to make a table with a flat top. It was a special place for him to burn animals to show right respect to God. Then Isaac prayed to God, and he called God by his special name *Yahweh*.

After that, Isaac set up his camp, and he sent his workers to go and dig a water-hole.

*Isaac and Abimelek made an agreement*

<sup>26</sup> Abimelek, the big boss of the Philistia mob, he wanted to talk to Isaac again. So he left his home in Gerar, and he went to Isaac's camp in Beersheba. He took 2 other men with him. One of those men was called Ahuzath, and he was Abimelek's helper. The other man was called Ficol, and he was the leader of Abimelek's army.

<sup>27</sup> When Isaac saw Abimelek and the 2 other men, he was shocked, and he said, "You told me to leave your country, so I know you hate me. So why did you come here to talk to me?"

<sup>28</sup> Then they said to Isaac, “We know that Yahweh your God is with you, and he helps you with everything you do. So we want you to make an agreement with us.

<sup>29</sup> We want you to promise that you will never hurt us or our people. Remember that time when you lived in our country. We never hurt you, and we always did good things for you. Even when we told you to leave our country, we didn’t make trouble for you. After that, your God kept on being good to you. That’s why we are asking you to promise that you will never hurt us.”

<sup>30</sup> Then Isaac agreed to make that promise, and he got lots of good food ready for Abimelek and the other 2 men. They all ate that food together, and then they stayed the night in that place.

<sup>31</sup> Early the next morning, they got up, and Isaac and Abimelek made strong promises to each other. They said, “I promise that I will never hurt you or your people.” So Isaac and Abimelek both felt happy and quiet inside themselves. Then Isaac said *goodbye* to Abimelek and the other 2 men, and they left to go back to their home country.

<sup>32</sup> Later that day, Isaac’s workers came to him, and they said, “We dug a water-hole, just like you said, and we found water.”

<sup>33</sup> Then Isaac called that water-hole *Sheba*. That name means *promise*. So people kept on calling the town near there *Beersheba*. That name means *water-hole where they made a promise*. They still use that town’s name today.

*Esau married 2 women*

<sup>34</sup> Isaac and Rebekah's oldest son was called Esau. When Esau was 40 years old, he married 2 women. One of those women was called Judith. Her father was called Beerli, and he was from the Heth tribe. The other woman was called Basemath. Her father was called Elon, and he was from the Heth tribe too.

<sup>35</sup> Those 2 women gave Isaac and Rebekah a lot of trouble, and that made them very sad.

## 27

*Rebekah and Jacob tricked Isaac*

<sup>1</sup> A long time later, when Isaac was old, his eyes got really weak and he couldn't see. One day, Isaac sent somebody to get his oldest son Esau. Then Esau came to him, and Isaac said, "My son."

And Esau said, "Yes, Father?"

<sup>2</sup> And Isaac said, "Listen, I am very old. Maybe I will die soon.

<sup>3-4</sup> You are my oldest son, so you will be the next leader for our family. I have to do a ceremony with you, to show that you will be the next leader. First, I want you to get your bow and arrows. Go out bush and kill a wild animal, then cook it and make some good food for me, just the way I like it. Then bring me that food, and I will eat it. Then I will do that ceremony with you, to show that you are the next leader for our family. I will ask God to be good to you as the next leader for our family. I have to do that ceremony before I die."



<sup>5</sup> Isaac's wife Rebekah was nearby, and she heard Isaac say those things to Esau. But Isaac didn't know that she heard him.

After that, Esau did what Isaac told him to do. He got his bow and arrows, and he went out bush to look for a wild animal to kill.

<sup>6</sup> Straight away, Rebekah talked to her son Jacob. She said, "I heard your father talk to your brother Esau.

<sup>7</sup> Your father said, 'Go and kill a wild animal and make some good food for me. I will eat that food, and then I will do a ceremony with you. I will ask God to be good to you as the next leader for our family, and I know that God will listen. I have to do that ceremony before I die.' "

<sup>8</sup> Then Rebekah said to Jacob, "My son, I want you to be the next leader for our family, not your brother Esau. So listen to me and do what I say.

<sup>9</sup> Go to the place where we keep our goats. Get 2 really good young goats and bring them back here. I will cook those goats and make some good food for your father, just the way he likes it.

<sup>10</sup> Then I will give you that food to take to your father. He can't see, so he will think that you are Esau, and he will do that ceremony with you before he dies. He will ask God to be good to you as the next leader for our family."

<sup>11</sup> But Jacob said to Rebekah, "You know that my brother Esau has hair all over his skin. But I have smooth skin, I don't have any hair on my skin.

<sup>12</sup> Maybe my father will touch my smooth skin, and then he will know that I am Jacob, not Esau.

And he will know that I am tricking him. Then my father will not ask God to be good to me. No, he will ask God to curse me, and God will make trouble for me.”

<sup>13</sup> But Rebekah said, “Don’t worry. If God wants to curse you, I will ask him to curse me instead. Just do what I say. Go and get those 2 young goats for me.”

<sup>14</sup> So Jacob went and got 2 young goats, and he took them to his mother Rebekah. She cooked those goats, and she made some good food, just the way Jacob’s father liked it.

<sup>15</sup> Rebekah’s older son Esau, his best clothes were in Rebekah’s tent, so Rebekah got those clothes and gave them to her younger son Jacob, and she told him to put them on.

<sup>16</sup> Then she took some bits of hairy skin from the 2 goats, and she tied those bits of skin around Jacob’s arms and neck.

<sup>17</sup> Then Rebekah gave Jacob the good food that she made, and some bread.

<sup>18</sup> Jacob took that food, and he went to his father Isaac’s room. Jacob said, “Father.” And Isaac said, “Yes, son. Who are you? Are you Esau, or are you Jacob?”

<sup>19</sup> Then Jacob lied and said, “I am Esau, your older son. I killed a wild animal and I made some good food for you, just like you said. Sit up and eat it. Then you can ask God to be good to me as the next leader for our family.”

<sup>20</sup> But Isaac said, “My son, how did you get that wild animal so quickly?”

Jacob lied again and said, "God, the one that looks after you, he let me find that wild animal really quickly."

<sup>21</sup> Then Isaac said, "My son, come close to me, so that I can touch your arms. If your arms are hairy, then I will know that you really are my son Esau."

<sup>22</sup> So Jacob went close to his father Isaac, and Isaac touched Jacob's arms. Then Isaac said, "Your voice is like Jacob's voice, but your arms are like Esau's arms. They are really hairy." You see, when Isaac touched Jacob's arms, he touched those bits of hairy goat skin that Rebekah tied around Jacob's arms. That's the reason why Isaac said, "Your arms are like Esau's arms."

<sup>23</sup> So Isaac didn't know that Jacob tricked him. He thought, "Now I know that this is Esau, because his arms are really hairy. I will eat that food that he made, and then I will ask God to be good to him as the next leader for our family."

<sup>24</sup> Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Are you really my son Esau?"

And Jacob lied and said, "Yes, I am."

<sup>25</sup> So Isaac said, "My son, bring me that food that you made. I will eat that food, and then I will ask God to be good to you as the next leader for our family." Then Jacob gave Isaac that food, and Isaac ate it. Jacob also gave Isaac some wine, and Isaac drank it.

<sup>26</sup> Then Isaac said to Jacob, "My son, come close to me and kiss me on the cheek."

<sup>27</sup> So Jacob went close to Isaac and kissed him, and Isaac smelled the clothes that Jacob was

wearing, those clothes that belonged to Esau. Then Isaac thought again, "Yes, I know that this is Esau."\*

Then Isaac asked God to be good to his son and to the people born into his son's family later on. He said,

"My son smells like land where God makes lots of good things grow.

28 I'm asking God to send water to make your land wet,  
so that your land will grow really good food plants,  
and so that you will have lots of food and wine.

29 I'm asking God to make you boss over other nations,\*  
so that those other nations will work for you and show you respect.

I'm asking God to make you boss over your relatives,  
so that they will show you respect.

If anyone makes trouble for you, I'm asking God to curse them,

but if anyone is good to you, I'm asking God to be good to them."

30 After Isaac finished saying those things, Jacob left Isaac's room.

*Esau found out that Jacob cheated him*

Straight away after that, Esau came home. He had a wild animal that he killed out bush. 31 Esau cooked that wild animal and made some good

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\* 27:27 Hebrews 11:20      \* 27:29 Genesis 12:3

food, just like Rebekah did. Then Esau took that food to his father Isaac. Esau said, "My father, I killed a wild animal and cooked it for you. Please sit up and eat this good food. Then you can ask God to be good to me as the next leader for our family."

<sup>32</sup> Then Isaac said to him, "Who are you?"

And Esau said, "I am your son Esau, your older son."

<sup>33</sup> Isaac got a big shock, and his body started to shake. Isaac said, "But another man already killed a wild animal and made food for me. He gave that food to me, and I ate it. I want to know, who was that man? I asked God to be good to him, as the next leader for our family, and I know for sure that God will do that."

<sup>34</sup> Then Esau got really upset, and he yelled out. Then he said, "My father, please ask God to be good to me too."

<sup>35</sup> But Isaac said, "No, I can't do that. Your brother Jacob tricked me. He pretended to be you, and he got me to do that ceremony with him, instead of you. I asked God to be good to him, and he will be the next leader for our family."

<sup>36</sup> Then Esau got angry, and he said, "My brother is called Jacob, and that is the right name for him. That name can mean *he cheats*. Yes, Jacob cheated me 2 times. First, he made me promise that I will let him be the most important son, instead of me.\* And look, now he got our father to do that ceremony with him, and he will be the next leader for our family."

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\* **27:36** Genesis 25:29-34

Then Esau talked to Isaac again. He said, "Is there something else that you can ask God to do for me? Please ask God to do something good for me too."

<sup>37</sup> But Isaac said, "No, I can't do that. I made your brother Jacob boss over you, and I made him boss over all his other relatives too, so that they will have to work for him. And I asked God to keep giving Jacob plenty of good food and wine. So there's nothing I can ask God to do for you, my son."

<sup>38</sup> Then Esau kept on talking to Isaac. He said, "Please, my father, ask God to do just one good thing for me. Please ask God to be good to me too." Then Esau started to cry really loud.\*

<sup>39</sup> Then his father Isaac said to him, "I'm telling you that you and the people born into your family later on, you will live in a place where the ground is dry. God won't send any water to wet that land, and there won't be any good food plants growing there.\*"

<sup>40</sup> Your tribe will always fight and steal from other people to get their food. Your brother's tribe will be boss over your tribe. But one day, your tribe will fight back, and then your brother's tribe will not be boss over your tribe any more."\*

### *Esau wanted to kill Jacob*

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\* **27:38** Hebrews 12:17  
Genesis 36:8; 2 Kings 8:20

\* **27:39** Hebrews 11:20

\* **27:40**

<sup>41</sup> Esau was really angry, because Jacob tricked their father, and their father made Jacob the next leader for their family. So Esau hated Jacob. And Esau said to himself, “My father is going to die soon. When he dies, we will all cry for a time, and then I will kill my brother Jacob.”

<sup>42</sup> But somebody told Rebekah that her older son Esau said those things. So Rebekah sent somebody to get her younger son Jacob. Then she said to Jacob, “Listen. Your brother Esau wants to do payback to you. He is planning to kill you.

<sup>43</sup> So, my son, do what I say. Leave this place straight away, and go quickly to the town called Haran, in Paddan Aram country. My brother Laban lives in that place.

<sup>44</sup> Stay with Laban for a little while, until your brother Esau stops being angry.

<sup>45</sup> One day, Esau will forget about what you did, and he will not be angry with you any more. Then I will send somebody to Haran to get you, and you can come back here. But if you stay here now, Esau will kill you, and then somebody else will do payback to Esau and kill him. I don’t want both of you to die on the same day. So you have to go away from this place.”

*Rebekah talked to Isaac about a wife for Jacob*

<sup>46</sup> Then Rebekah went and talked to her husband Isaac. She wanted Isaac to send Jacob away, so that Jacob will be safe from his brother Esau. But she didn’t tell Isaac what she said to Jacob. She said, “You know those 2 women

that our son Esau married. They are from the Heth tribe, and their people live here in Canaan country. Those women make my life rubbish. If our son Jacob keeps on living here in Canaan country, maybe he will marry a woman from the Heth tribe too. Then my life will be so rubbish, I will want to die.”

## 28

### *Jacob left home*

<sup>1</sup> Isaac sent somebody to get Jacob, and Jacob came to Isaac’s room. Then Isaac talked strongly to Jacob. Isaac said, “My son, don’t marry any women that live here in Canaan country.

<sup>2</sup> I want you to marry somebody from our family. So leave this place straight away, and go to Paddan Aram country. Your mother’s father Bethuel, he lives in that place. And your mother’s brother Laban, he lives there too. I want you to pick one of Laban’s daughters and marry her.”

<sup>3</sup> Then Isaac said, “God has power over everything. So I’m asking God to be good to you. I’m asking him to give you lots of kids and grand-kids, so that your family will grow into lots of different tribes.

<sup>4</sup> And I’m asking him to give all this country to you and the people that will be born into your family later on. Right now, this country doesn’t belong to you. You are just camping here. But one day, your family will take this country



for themselves, just like God promised to your grand-father Abraham.”\*

<sup>5</sup> Then Isaac sent Jacob away, and Jacob left to go to his uncle Laban in Paddan Aram country. Laban was the brother of Rebekah, she was Jacob and Esau’s mother. Laban and Rebekah’s father was Bethuel, and he was from the Aram tribe.

*Esau married another woman*

<sup>6</sup> Esau found out that Isaac asked God to be good to Jacob, and that Isaac said to Jacob, “Don’t marry any of the women that live here in Canaan country.” And he found out that Isaac sent Jacob to Paddan Aram country, to find a wife there.

<sup>7</sup> And Esau knew that Jacob left to go to Paddan Aram country, just like his father and mother told Jacob to.

<sup>8</sup> Then Esau knew that his father Isaac didn’t like the women from Canaan country.

<sup>9</sup> Esau already had 2 wives, and they were both from Canaan country. So he thought, “I have to marry a woman from our own family, so that my father will be happy with me again.”

So Esau went to the place where his uncle Ishmael lived. Ishmael was Abraham’s son. And Esau married Ishmael’s daughter Mahalath. Her oldest brother was called Nebayoth.

Then Esau had 3 wives.

*Jacob saw God in a dream*

<sup>10</sup> This is the story about what happened to Jacob next, after his father Isaac sent him away to find a wife.

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\* **28:4** Genesis 17:4-8

Jacob left his home in Beersheba, and he started to go towards the town called Haran, in Paddan Aram country.

<sup>11</sup> He kept on walking until the sun started to go down. Then he stopped for the night. There were lots of stones in that place, and Jacob got one of those stones, and he put it on the ground at his head. Then he lay down and went to sleep.

<sup>12</sup> While Jacob was asleep, he had a dream. In that dream, he saw lots of steps going up from the earth, and those steps went all the way up into the sky. And Jacob saw lots of God's angel messengers on those steps. Some of those angel messengers were going up the steps towards the sky, and some of them were going down the steps towards the earth.\*

<sup>13</sup> Then Jacob saw God standing near him. And God talked to Jacob. He said, "I am God, my name is Yahweh. I am the one that looked after your grand-father Abraham and your father Isaac. I'm making you a promise about this country where you are sleeping right now. I will give all this country to you and to the people that will be born into your family later on.\*

<sup>14</sup> Lots of people will be born into your family, and they will become a really big mob of people. There will be lots and lots of them, just like there are lots of little bits of dirt on the ground. And those people in your family, they will spread out a long way, and they will live in lots of different places. Some of them will go west, some of them

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\* **28:12** John 1:51      \* **28:13** Genesis 13:14-15

will go east, some of them will go north, and some of them will go south. And I will use your family to do good things for all the families in the world.\*

<sup>15</sup> You can be sure that I will be with you wherever you go. I will look after you and I will keep you safe. Right now, you are going to another country. But one day, I will bring you back to this country again. Yes, I will stay with you, and I will keep all these promises that I'm making to you."

<sup>16</sup> Then Jacob woke up, and he said, "Now I know that God is in this place. I didn't know that before, but now I do." <sup>17</sup> So Jacob got frightened. He said, "This place frightens me. I know for sure that God lives here. This place joins up with heaven."

<sup>18</sup> Early the next morning, Jacob picked up the stone that was at his head, and he stood it up and poured olive oil on top of it. Jacob did those things to show that God was in that place, and that place was special.

<sup>19</sup> And Jacob named that place *Bethel*. That name means *God's house*. At that time, the town nearby was called Luz. But later, people called that town Bethel.

<sup>20-22</sup> Jacob prayed to God. He said, "God, you know that I'm walking a long way to Haran. Please stay with me and look after me while I'm away. Please give me food to eat and clothes to wear. And please keep me safe, so that one day I can go back home to my family."

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\* **28:14** Genesis 12:3; 22:18

Then Jacob made promises to God. He said, "God, if you will do all those things that I asked, then I will respect you properly, and you Yahweh will be my God. And this special stone that I put here, it will show people that you are here in this place, and people can come here to show you respect. And I promise that whenever you give me good things, I will always split them up into 10 parts and give one part back to you."

## 29

### *Jacob went to Haran*

<sup>1</sup> Then Jacob left that place, and he kept on walking towards the east, until he got to Paddan Aram country.

<sup>2-3</sup> Then Jacob looked at the land that was in front of him, and he saw a water-hole with a really big flat stone over the top, like a lid. And he saw 3 mobs of sheep lying next to that water-hole. There were some work-men there that looked after those sheep. Every day, those work-men used to meet together at that water-hole with their sheep, and then they worked together to move that big stone that was on top of the water-hole, and they got water for their sheep to drink. Then every day they put that big stone on top of the water-hole again.

<sup>4</sup> Jacob went and talked to those work-men. He said, "Hello. Where do you mob come from?"

The work-men said, "We are from Haran."

<sup>5</sup> Then Jacob said, "Do you know Laban? His grand-father's name is Nahor."

The work-men said, "Yes, we know him."

<sup>6</sup> Jacob said, "How is he?"

The work-men said, "He is good." Then they said, "Look over there. Laban's daughter Rachel is coming here with some sheep."

<sup>7</sup> Then Jacob talked to the work-men again. He said, "Why are you mob waiting here, next to the water-hole? It's only the middle of the day. It's too early to bring your animals together to take them home. You should get water from the water-hole for your sheep to drink, and then take your sheep away and find grass for them to eat."

<sup>8</sup> But the work-men said, "No, we can't do that yet. We always wait until all the other work-men come here with their sheep. After that, we will move that big stone that is on top of the water-hole, and then we will get water for our sheep to drink."

<sup>9</sup> While Jacob and the work-men were still talking to each other, Laban's daughter Rachel came to the water-hole with some sheep. Those sheep belonged to Rachel's father Laban, and Rachel looked after those sheep for her father.

<sup>10</sup> As soon as Jacob saw Rachel and those sheep, he felt really happy, because Rachel was his relative. Her father Laban was the brother of Jacob's mother. So Jacob quickly went to the water-hole, and he moved that big stone that was on top of the water-hole, and he got water for Laban's sheep to drink.

<sup>11</sup> Then he kissed Rachel on the cheek, and he started to cry out loud because he was so happy.

<sup>12</sup> Jacob said to Rachel, "I am your father's relative. My mother's name is Rebekah, and she is your father's sister."

Then Rachel ran home and told her father Laban what happened.

<sup>13</sup> As soon as Laban heard that his sister's son Jacob came to Haran, he ran to meet Jacob. Then Laban hugged Jacob and kissed him on the cheek, and he took Jacob to his house. And Jacob told Laban about the things that happened to him.

<sup>14</sup> Then Laban talked to Jacob, and he said, "You and me, we are both from the same family." After that, Jacob stayed at Laban's house for one month, and he worked for Laban.

### *Jacob married Leah and Rachel*

<sup>15-18</sup> Jacob's uncle Laban had 2 daughters. His older daughter was called Leah, and his younger daughter was called Rachel. Leah had pretty eyes, but Rachel was really beautiful. So Jacob loved Rachel, and he wanted to marry her.

After one month, Laban talked to Jacob. Laban said, "You are working for me, but I am not paying you anything, because you are my relative. Is that fair? No way. I want to start paying you for the work that you do for me. Tell me, how much do you want me to pay you?"

Jacob said, "You don't have to pay me anything. I just want to marry Rachel, your younger daughter. If I work for you for 7 years, will you give her to me to marry?"

<sup>19</sup> Then Laban said, "All right. You are our relative, so it's best for Rachel to marry you, not

another man. Stay here and work for me for 7 years, and then I will give her to you to marry.”

<sup>20</sup> So Jacob worked for Laban for 7 years, so that he could marry Rachel. Jacob really loved Rachel, and he felt really happy that he was going to marry her. He was so happy that those 7 years only felt like a few days.

<sup>21</sup> At the end of those 7 years, Jacob said to Laban, “I worked for you for 7 years, just like you said. So now, let me marry your daughter Rachel.”

<sup>22</sup> Then Laban made a wedding party. He got all the people that lived in that place to come to that wedding party, and he gave them lots of good food.

<sup>23</sup> But then, that night, Laban tricked Jacob. Laban took his daughter Leah to Jacob’s room, instead of his daughter Rachel. Then Jacob slept with Leah, like a man sleeps with his wife. But Jacob didn’t know that he slept with Leah. He thought that he slept with Rachel.

<sup>24-30</sup> The next morning, Jacob saw that Leah was in his room, instead of Rachel. So Jacob was angry, and he went and talked to Laban. Jacob said, “You told me that I have to work for you for 7 years, and then I can marry Rachel. So I worked those 7 years, just like you said, but then you tricked me. You gave me Leah to be my wife, instead of Rachel. Why did you do that bad thing to me?”

Laban said, “Leah is my older daughter, and Rachel is my younger daughter. In our culture, the older daughter always gets married first.

That's the reason why I gave you Leah to be your wife, instead of Rachel."

Then Laban said, "Listen, your wedding party will finish in one week. So spend this week with Leah, and after that, I will give you Rachel to marry as well. But after you marry Rachel, you have to work for me for 7 more years."

Jacob agreed to do what Laban said. After one week, Jacob and Leah's wedding party finished. Then Laban gave his daughter Rachel to Jacob, and Jacob married Rachel as well. And Jacob slept with Rachel, like a man sleeps with his wife. So then Jacob had 2 wives, but he loved Rachel more than Leah.

Laban had some women that worked for him. And Laban gave one of those women to his daughter Leah, to work for her, and he gave another of those women to his daughter Rachel, to work for her. The woman that worked for Leah was called Zilpah, and the woman that worked for Rachel was called Bilhah.

Then Jacob worked for Laban for 7 more years.

### *Leah had 4 sons*

<sup>31</sup> Jacob didn't love his wife Leah. He only loved his wife Rachel. And God saw that Jacob didn't love Leah. So God felt sorry for Leah, and he let her have kids. But Rachel couldn't have any kids.

<sup>32</sup> This is the story about Leah and her kids.

A baby started to grow inside Leah, and she had a baby boy. Leah named that baby *Reuben*. That name means *this is my son*. And Leah said,



“God saw that I was sad, so he gave me a son. Now I reckon my husband will love me.”

<sup>33</sup> Later on, Leah had another baby boy. And Leah said, “God heard that my husband doesn’t love me, so he gave me another son.” And Leah named that baby *Simeon*. That name means *he heard*.

<sup>34</sup> Later on, Leah had another baby boy. And Leah said, “Now I reckon my husband will love me and stay close to me, because I gave him 3 sons.” And Leah named that baby *Levi*. That name means *stay close*.

<sup>35</sup> Later on, Leah had another baby boy. And Leah said, “Now I will say *thank you* to God, and I will tell everybody that God is really great.” And Leah named that baby *Judah*. That name means *thank you*.

After that, Leah stopped having babies for a while.

## 30

### *Rachel's working woman had 2 sons*

<sup>1</sup> Leah already had 4 kids with Jacob, but her sister Rachel didn’t have any kids. So Rachel got jealous of Leah. Then Rachel said to Jacob, “Give me kids. If you don’t, I will be so sad that I will die.”

<sup>2</sup> Then Jacob got angry with Rachel. Jacob said, “God is the one that stopped you from having kids. I can’t change that. I’m not God.”

<sup>3</sup> So Rachel said, “All right, this is what you can do. Look, here is Bilhah, the woman that works for me. I want you to sleep with her, so that she

will have babies. Bilhah belongs to me, so if she has babies, those babies will belong to me too. They will be just like my own kids.”

<sup>4</sup> Then Rachel gave Bilhah to Jacob, and Bilhah became Jacob’s wife. And Jacob slept with Bilhah, like a man sleeps with his wife.

<sup>5</sup> Then Bilhah had a baby boy. He was another son for Jacob.

<sup>6</sup> Then Rachel said, “God has been very good and fair to me. He heard me ask for kids, and he gave me a son.” And Rachel named that baby *Dan*. That name means *he was fair*.

<sup>7</sup> Later on, Jacob and Bilhah slept together again, like married people do. Then Bilhah had another baby boy. He was the 2nd son that she had for Jacob.

<sup>8</sup> Then Rachel said, “I used to be jealous of my sister Leah, because she had kids and I didn’t. But now I have 2 sons. It’s like I had a big fight with Leah, and I won.” And Rachel named that baby *Naphtali*. That name means *my big fight*.

### *Leah’s working woman had 2 sons*

<sup>9</sup> Leah wanted to have more kids, but no babies grew inside her. So she thought, “I will get Jacob to marry my working woman Zilpah, so that she will have babies. Zilpah belongs to me, so if she has babies, those babies will belong to me too. They will be just like my own kids.” So Leah gave Zilpah to Jacob, and she became Jacob’s wife.

<sup>10</sup> Jacob slept with Zilpah, like a man sleeps with his wife, and she had a baby boy. He was another son for Jacob.

<sup>11</sup> Then Leah said, "I'm really lucky." And Leah named that baby *Gad*. That name means *lucky*.

<sup>12</sup> Later on, Zilpah had another baby boy. He was another son for Jacob.

<sup>13</sup> Then Leah said, "I'm so happy. I reckon other women will say, 'Leah is happy now.'" And Leah named that baby *Asher*. That name means *happy*.

### *Leah had 2 more sons and a daughter*

<sup>14</sup> One day, Leah's oldest son Reuben went to the place where the wheat plants grow. At that time, some work-men were cutting down those wheat plants, to get the food from them. And Reuben found some special plants, called *mandrakes*, in that place. So Reuben took those mandrakes, and he gave them to his mother Leah. But Leah's sister Rachel, she saw those mandrakes, and she wanted to have them. Rachel thought, "If I eat a mandrake, maybe I will have a baby." You see, mandrakes were like bush medicine. People thought that if a woman eats a mandrake, it will help her have a baby.

So Rachel said to Leah, "Please give me some of those mandrakes that your son found."

<sup>15</sup> Then Leah got angry with Rachel. She said, "Listen, I married Jacob first, but he loved you and married you. It's like you took my husband away from me. That's really bad. And now, you want to take my son's mandrakes too. No, you can't have them."

But Rachel still wanted those mandrakes. So she said to Leah, "All right, if you give me

your son's mandrakes, you can sleep with Jacob tonight." And Leah agreed.

<sup>16</sup> Later on, while the sun was going down, Jacob finished working outside, and he came back home. Leah went out to meet Jacob, and she said, "You have to sleep with me tonight. You see, my son found some mandrakes, but I gave those mandrakes to Rachel, so that I can sleep with you. It's like I paid for you with those mandrakes." So that night, Jacob slept with Leah, like a man sleeps with his wife.

<sup>17</sup> God was good to Leah. He knew that Leah wanted to have more kids. So after Jacob slept with Leah, God made a baby start growing inside her. Later on, Leah had that baby, and it was a boy. He was another son for Jacob, and he was son number 5 for Leah.

<sup>18</sup> Then Leah said, "I reckon God is happy with me, because I let Jacob sleep with my working woman Zilpah. And now, God let me have another baby. It's like God is paying me for that good thing I did." And Leah named that baby *Issachar*. That name means *pay*.

<sup>19</sup> Later on, Leah had another baby boy, so Jacob had another son. He was son number 6 for Leah.

<sup>20</sup> Then Leah said, "God gave me lots of sons. They are like a really special present from God. Now I reckon my husband Jacob will respect me, because I gave him 6 sons." And Leah named that baby *Zebulun*. That name means *respect*.

<sup>21</sup> Later on, Leah had a baby girl, and Leah named that baby *Dinah*.

*Rachel had a son*

<sup>22-23</sup> But Leah's sister Rachel still wanted to have her own kids. And God was good to Rachel, and he gave her what she wanted. Before this time, Rachel didn't have any kids, but then God let a baby start growing inside her. Rachel had a baby boy. Then Rachel said, "I used to feel shame, because I didn't have any kids. But now, God gave me a son, so I don't feel shame any more."

<sup>24</sup> And Rachel named that baby *Joseph*. That name means *he will give more*. And Rachel said, "I'm asking God to give me another son."

*Jacob got lots of sheep and goats*

<sup>25</sup> After Rachel had that baby, Jacob talked to his uncle Laban. Jacob said, "Let me go back to my home country."

<sup>26</sup> And let me take my wives and my kids. You know, I worked really hard for you so that I could marry your daughters. So now, let me take them back to my home country."

<sup>27</sup> But Laban said, "Please listen to me. I'm asking you to stay here with me. You see, Yahweh your God is only good to me when you are here. I learned that by magic."

<sup>28</sup> If you stay here, I will pay you to work for me. Just tell me how much you want, and I will pay you."

<sup>29-30</sup> Jacob said to Laban, "Look, you know that I worked really hard for you. When I came here, you only had a few animals. I looked after those animals for you, and they kept on having lots of babies, so now you have lots and lots of animals."

Yes, Yahweh my God was good to you all the time that I worked for you. But I don't have any animals myself. So now it's time for me to look after myself and my own family."

<sup>31</sup> Then Laban said, "All right, how much do you want me to pay you?"

But Jacob said, "I don't want you to pay me. I will keep on looking after your animals, if you will do this one thing for me.

<sup>32</sup> Today, let me go to the place where you keep your sheep and goats, and let me take some of those sheep and goats for myself. You know, most of your sheep have white wool, and most of your goats have black wool. I will not take any of those white sheep or any of those black goats. But you have some funny coloured sheep and goats too. You have some spotty goats and some black sheep. I will take those funny coloured sheep and goats, and they will belong to me. They will be my pay.

<sup>33</sup> Later on, those sheep and goats will have babies, and those babies will have funny coloured wool too. So they will belong to me. I promise I will never steal any white sheep or any black goats from you. Whenever you come and look at my sheep and goats, you will see that I only have spotty goats and black sheep. Then you will know that I kept my promise."

<sup>34</sup> Then Laban said, "All right, I agree. You can take all the funny coloured sheep and goats, and they will belong to you."

<sup>35</sup> But that same day, Laban cheated Jacob. Laban went to the place where he kept his sheep and goats, and he took all the funny coloured ones away. He took the stripy goats and the spotty goats, any that had white bits on their wool, and he took all the black sheep.

Then Laban gave those sheep and goats to his sons, to take them far away. <sup>36</sup> So his sons walked with those sheep and goats for 3 days, and then they stopped and camped. But Jacob stayed at Laban's camp, and he looked after Laban's other sheep and goats. All those sheep were white, and all those goats were black, and they belonged to Laban, just like he agreed with Jacob. So Jacob didn't have any sheep or goats for himself.

<sup>37</sup> Then Jacob cut off some young green branches from 3 sorts of trees that were in that place. Those trees were called poplar trees, almond trees, and plane trees. Then Jacob pulled off some of the bark that was on the outside of those branches, so that he could see white bits under the bark. He did that so that those branches looked like they had spots on them.

<sup>38</sup> Then Jacob put those spotty branches in the place where the sheep and goats came to drink water. And whenever the sheep and goats came to that place to drink water, the males and females joined together to make babies.

<sup>39</sup> So whenever the males and females did that, those spotty branches were there in front of them. Later on, when their baby animals were born, they had spots and stripes on their wool.

<sup>40</sup> Jacob did another thing with Laban's animals too. He took the white sheep, and he got those sheep to look at the stripy animals and the black animals.

After the babies were born, Jacob split up the animals. He took all the funny coloured animals for himself, just like he agreed with Laban. But all the white sheep and black goats belonged to Laban. And Jacob didn't mix them together.

<sup>41</sup> Jacob wanted his sheep and goats to be stronger than Laban's, so he wanted the strong babies to be born with funny coloured wool. So whenever the strong sheep and strong goats came to drink water, Jacob put the spotty branches there, and the strong males and strong females joined together to make babies in front of those branches. Later on, when those babies were born, they were strong too, and they had funny coloured wool, so they belonged to Jacob.

<sup>42</sup> But when the weak sheep and weak goats came to that place, Jacob didn't put those branches in front of them. Then the weak sheep had white babies, and the weak goats had black babies, so they belonged to Laban. But the strong baby sheep and goats, they had funny coloured wool, so they belonged to Jacob.

<sup>43</sup> In that way, Jacob got lots and lots of sheep and goats, and he became very rich. He also owned lots of men and women that worked for him, and lots of camels and donkeys.

## 31

*Jacob ran away from Laban*



<sup>1</sup> Laban's sons talked to each other about Jacob. They said, "Jacob took everything that our father owned, and now it all belongs to Jacob, and he is rich." And Jacob heard that Laban's sons said those things.

<sup>2</sup> Jacob also saw that Laban wasn't friendly to him any more.

<sup>3</sup> Then God talked to Jacob. God said, "Leave this place, and go back to your home country, and to your relatives. I will go with you, to take care of you."

<sup>4</sup> Jacob wanted to talk about that with his wives, Rachel and Leah. So he sent somebody to get them, and he met them in the place where he kept his sheep and goats.

<sup>5</sup> Jacob said to them, "I can see that your father isn't friendly to me any more. But God is still with me. He is the one that looked after my father Isaac, and he is with me.

<sup>6</sup> You both know that I worked really hard for your father.

<sup>7</sup> But your father kept cheating me. He promised to give me things for working for him, but then he kept changing his mind. He did that lots and lots of times. He wanted to give me trouble, but God didn't let him. Yes, God looked after me.

<sup>8</sup> Sometimes your father promised to give me all the spotty sheep and goats, and then all the sheep and goats had babies with spots on their wool. And sometimes he promised to give me all the stripy sheep and goats, and then all the sheep and goats had babies with stripes on their wool.

<sup>9</sup> You know, God was the one that made those things happen. It's like God took away your father's animals and gave them to me."

<sup>10</sup> Then Jacob said, "One time, I had a dream. It was the month when the male and female animals join together to make babies. In that dream, I saw male and female goats joining together, and all the male goats had black and white spots and stripes on their wool.

<sup>11</sup> Then in that dream there was an angel messenger from God, and he said, 'Jacob.' And I said, 'Yes, I am listening.'

<sup>12</sup> And he said, 'God says, "Look at the male goats that are joining together with the female goats. You can see that all those male goats have black and white spots on their wool. That shows that I am helping you to get sheep and goats for yourself, because I know that Laban is cheating you.

<sup>13</sup> I am God. A long time ago, I came to you at the place called Bethel. That's the place where you poured olive oil on top of a stone to show that it was a special place, and you made promises to me. Now leave this country straight away, and go back to your home country." ' '\*

<sup>14</sup> Then Rachel and Leah said to Jacob, "We will go with you. We don't want to live here with our father any more. He will never give us anything.

<sup>15</sup> He treats us like we are not part of his family. First, he got you to work for him so that you could marry us. It's like he sold us to you. Then you worked really hard for our father, so that he

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\* **31:13** Genesis 28:18-22

got very rich. But our father still didn't give us anything, even though we are his daughters. He cheated us, and he kept everything for himself.

<sup>16</sup> But God took away some of our father's animals and gave them to you, and you got rich. So now all those animals and good things, they belong to us and our kids."

Then Rachel and Leah said to Jacob, "Do whatever God told you to do."

<sup>17-19</sup> So Jacob and his family got ready to leave. Laban wasn't there at that time. He was cutting the wool off his sheep out in the grass lands, a long way away. So Laban didn't know that Jacob was getting ready to leave. And while Jacob was getting ready, Rachel went into Laban's tent, and she stole some little statues that belonged to Laban. Sometimes, Laban and his family used to pray to those statues and ask them for help. They thought that those statues were gods that had power.

Jacob went and got all his animals, and all the other things that he owned. You know, a long time before this, when Jacob came to Laban's home, he didn't own anything. But now he owned lots and lots of things. So Jacob took all those things that he owned, and he put them on camels. Then he helped his kids and his wives to get on camels, and he got his other animals to walk in front of him, and they all left quickly to go to Canaan country. That's the country where Jacob's father Isaac lived.

<sup>20</sup> But Jacob tricked Laban, he didn't tell Laban that he left.

Laban belonged to the Aram tribe, and his country was called Paddan Aram.

<sup>21</sup> So Jacob left Paddan Aram country with his wives, his kids, his animals, and everything that he owned. They crossed over the Euphrates River, and then they started to go south, towards the hill country called Gilead.

### *Laban found Jacob*

<sup>22</sup> 2 days later, somebody told Laban, “Jacob ran away.”

<sup>23</sup> As soon as Laban heard that, he took some of his relatives with him, and they started to go after Jacob. 7 days later, they almost caught up to Jacob in the hill country called Gilead.

<sup>24</sup> But that night, Laban had a dream, and he heard God talk to him in that dream. God said, “Be careful about the way you talk to Jacob. Don’t make trouble for him.”

<sup>25</sup> The next day, Laban and his relatives caught up to Jacob. Jacob and his mob were in that hill country. That’s where they set up their tents. So Laban and his relatives, they set up their tents in that place too.

<sup>26</sup> Then Laban went and talked to Jacob. Laban said, “You did a bad thing to me. You tricked me, and you took my daughters away. It’s like I’m your enemy and you came and stole my daughters from me.

<sup>27-28</sup> Why didn’t you tell me that you wanted to leave? You tricked me, and you ran away. That was a stupid thing to do. I didn’t get to say *goodbye* to you properly. I wanted to have

a party for you, with people singing and playing music on drums and harps. You didn't even let me kiss my daughters and my grand-kids and say *goodbye* to them."

<sup>29</sup> Then Laban said to Jacob, "You know, I can hurt you and your family. But I will not do that. You see, last night, your father's God talked to me. He said, 'Be careful about how you talk to Jacob. Don't make trouble for him.' "

<sup>30</sup> Laban kept on talking to Jacob. He said, "Look, I know that you want to see your father again, and that's the reason why you left. But why did you steal my little statues from my tent?"

You see, Laban didn't know that his daughter Rachel stole those statues. He thought that Jacob stole them.

<sup>31</sup> Then Jacob talked to Laban. First, he told Laban why he ran away. He said, "I ran away because I was frightened of you. I thought that if I say, 'I want to leave,' then you will fight me and take your daughters away from me."

<sup>32</sup> After that, Jacob talked about those little statues that belonged to Laban. Jacob didn't know that his wife Rachel stole those statues, so he said to Laban, "We didn't take your little statues. You can look in our tents, and you can look at all our things. If you find those statues, then you can kill the person that stole them. And if you find anything else that belongs to you, then tell me, and show our relatives here, and you can have it back."

<sup>33</sup> So Laban went into Jacob's tent, and he looked all around. But he didn't find those

statues. Then he went into Leah's tent and he looked all around there too. And then he went into the tent that belonged to those 2 women that worked for Rachel and Leah. Laban looked all around that tent too, but he didn't find those statues. After that, Laban went into Rachel's tent.

<sup>34</sup> He looked through everything in her tent, but he didn't find those statues. You see, Rachel already hid those statues. She put them inside a soft seat, called a saddle, that she used to sit on when she rode her camel. Then she put that saddle on the ground, and she sat on it.

<sup>35</sup> When Rachel's father Laban came into the tent, Rachel said to him, "Sir, I'm sorry, I can't stand up to show you respect, because I am bleeding, like a woman does every month. Please don't be angry with me." So Laban looked all around Rachel's tent, but he didn't find those statues.

<sup>36</sup> Then Jacob got very angry, and he talked strongly to Laban. Jacob said, "Listen, I didn't do anything wrong to you. I didn't do any bad thing. You came after me for no reason.

<sup>37</sup> And you looked through all my things. If you found anything that belongs to you, then you can put those things here, in front of all our relatives. And they can say which one of us is right and which one is wrong. Did you find anything that belongs to you? No you didn't. I didn't take any of your things."

<sup>38</sup> Then Jacob said to Laban, "I worked hard for you for 20 years, and I looked after your sheep and goats really well. They had lots of babies,

and none of those babies died. And I never took any of your sheep for my food, not even your male sheep.

<sup>39</sup> And whenever a wild animal killed one of your sheep or goats, I always paid for it. I never showed you that dead sheep or goat, I never asked you to pay for it. You made me pay for every sheep or goat that somebody stole, even if that happened at night time. That's not fair.

<sup>40</sup> And I had a really hard time when I worked for you. In the day time, it was really hot. And in the night time, it was really cold. It was so cold that I couldn't sleep.

<sup>41</sup> I worked for you like that for 20 years. First, I worked for you for 14 years so that I could marry your 2 daughters. Then I worked for you for 6 years, so that you would give me some of your sheep and goats. You kept promising to give me things for working for you, but then you kept changing your mind. That's not fair."

<sup>42</sup> Then Jacob said to Laban, "I know that you wanted to send me away with nothing. But God was with me, and he helped me. He is the one that looked after my grand-father Abraham. And my father Isaac respected him properly too. Yes, God helped me. He saw that I worked very hard for you, and he saw that you gave me trouble. So last night, he talked strongly to you, and he showed you that you did the wrong thing."

*Jacob and Laban agreed to be good to each other*

<sup>43</sup> Then Laban said, "Your wives are my daughters. Your kids are my grand-kids. All these

animals here, they belong to me, and everything else here belongs to me too. But I can't get my daughters and my grand-kids back now. I know that they will go with you to your home country, and I will go back to my home country.

<sup>44</sup> So before I go, let's agree that we will be good to each other. And let's put some stones in this place to show that we made that agreement."

<sup>45</sup> So Jacob got a big stone, and he stood it up.

<sup>46</sup> Then Jacob said to his relatives, "Pick up some more stones." So they picked up some more stones, and they piled those stones on top of each other. Then Jacob, and Laban, and all their relatives, they sat down beside that pile of stones, and they ate some food.

<sup>47</sup> Laban named that pile of stones *Jegar Sahadutha*. That name comes from Laban's language. And Jacob named that pile of stones *Gal-Ed*. That name comes from Jacob's language. Both those names mean *a pile that shows we agreed with each other*.

<sup>48</sup> And Laban said, "This pile of stones shows that we agreed with each other today." So that place is called Gal-Ed.

<sup>49-50</sup> Then Laban said to Jacob, "Tomorrow, you will go to your home country, and I will go back to my home country, and we will not see each other any more. So I'm asking Yahweh your God to always watch both of us. If you treat my daughters badly, or if you marry any other women, remember that God will see you do those things. Even if nobody else sees you, God will see you."



So that place is also called *Mizpah*. That name means *place where he watches*.

<sup>51</sup> Then Laban said to Jacob, “Look at this pile of stones, and this other big stone. We have put them here, between my country and your country.

<sup>52</sup> This pile of stones, and this other big stone, they show that we agreed to be good to each other. I will not go past these stones into your country, to hurt you. And you will not go past these stones into my country, to hurt me.

<sup>53</sup> I’m asking the gods of our grand-fathers to watch us and judge us. I’m asking the God of your grand-father Abraham, and the god of my grand-father Nahor and their father Terah. Those gods will keep on watching us, and they will know if one of us does the wrong thing.”

Then Jacob made a strong promise to Laban. He said, “I promise that I will not go past these stones into your country, to hurt you. I’m making this promise with God listening. He is the one that my father Isaac respected.”

<sup>54</sup> Then Jacob killed an animal and burned it, to show respect to God. He did that right there, in the hill country. Then Jacob said to his relatives, “Come and eat food with me.” So they all ate food, and then they spent the night in that place.

<sup>55</sup> Early the next morning, Laban got up. He kissed his grand-kids and his daughters, and he said *goodbye* to them. Then Laban and his relatives left that place, and they went back to their home country.

## 32

### *Angel messengers met with Jacob*

<sup>1</sup> Jacob and his relatives left that place, and they kept on going towards Jacob's home country. On the way, some angel messengers from God came to meet Jacob.

<sup>2</sup> Jacob saw those angel messengers, and he said, "This place is God's camp." So Jacob called that place *Mahanayim*. That name means 2 camps.

### *Jacob got frightened of Esau*

<sup>3</sup> Jacob's brother Esau lived in the place called Seir, in Edom country. Jacob thought, "Maybe my brother still wants to kill me." So when Jacob got near to Seir, he said to some of his men, "Go and talk to my brother Esau.

<sup>4</sup> I want him to know that I respect him, just like a work-man respects his boss. Tell Esau that I said, 'I went and stayed with our uncle Laban for a long time, and now I'm coming back.

<sup>5</sup> I have cows, and bulls, and donkeys, and sheep, and goats, and I have men and women that work for me. I sent some men to say these things to you, and I hope that you will be happy with me.' " So those men went and told Esau those things.

<sup>6</sup> Then those men came back, and they said to Jacob, "We went and talked to your brother Esau, and now he is coming here to meet you. He has 400 men with him."

<sup>7</sup> Jacob thought, "Maybe Esau and his men are coming to attack my camp." Jacob was really

frightened and worried. So he split up all the people that were with him into 2 camps. And he split up all his sheep and goats, and his cows, and his bulls, and his camels. He split up all those animals into 2 groups, and he put one group in one camp and the other group in the other camp.

<sup>8</sup> Jacob thought, "If Esau attacks one of those camps, maybe the people and the animals in the other camp will get away."

<sup>9</sup> Then Jacob prayed to God, and he called God by his special name *Yahweh*. He said, "Yahweh, you are the God of my grand-father Abraham and the God of my father Isaac. You said to me, 'Go back to your home country and your relatives, and I will be good to you.'

<sup>10</sup> God, you are my boss. You have been very good to me, just like you promised. I can always trust you. You did lots of good things for me, even though I'm not an important person. When I left my home country and I crossed over the Jordan River, I only had a walking stick with me. Now I'm going back to my home country, and I have lots and lots of people and animals with me. Yes, I have enough people and animals to make 2 camps."

<sup>11</sup> Then Jacob said to God, "I'm frightened of my brother Esau. Maybe he will come and attack me and kill me, and even kill my wives and my kids. God, please save us from my brother.

<sup>12</sup> Remember that promise you made to me. You said, 'I promise that I will be good to you, and I will give you a really big family. Lots of kids and grand-kids will be born into your family

later on, and they will become a really big mob of people. Nobody will be able to count them, just like nobody can count all those little bits of sand that are at the beaches by the sea.' Please be good to me and my family, God, just like you promised. Please don't let my brother kill us."\*

<sup>13</sup> Jacob stayed in that place that night. He wanted to give his brother Esau a present, so he picked some of his animals to give to Esau.

<sup>14</sup> He picked 200 female goats, 20 male goats, 200 female sheep, 20 male sheep,

<sup>15</sup> 30 female camels with their babies, 40 cows, 10 bulls, 20 female donkeys, and 10 male donkeys.

<sup>16</sup> Jacob split up all those animals into groups, and he gave each group to one of his work-men to look after. He said to those work-men, "Take these groups of animals, and go ahead of me to meet my brother Esau. But don't all go at the same time. I want one group to go first. A bit later, I want the 2nd group to go. Then a bit later, I want the 3rd group to go. Keep on doing that until all the groups go."

<sup>17</sup> Then Jacob talked to the work-man that was in charge of that 1st group of animals. He said, "You are going to meet my brother Esau first. I reckon he will say to you, 'Who is your boss? Where are you going? And who do these animals belong to?'

<sup>18</sup> Then I want you to say to him, 'These animals belong to Jacob. He respects you, just

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\* **32:12** Genesis 22:17

like a work-man respects his boss. He sent these animals as a present for you. And he is coming to meet you too.’ ”

<sup>19</sup> Then Jacob talked to the work-men that were in charge of the other groups of animals. He said, “You will each meet my brother Esau, and I want you to say those same things to him.

<sup>20</sup> And make sure you say, ‘Jacob is coming to meet you. He respects you.’ ”

Jacob thought, “Maybe my brother will stop being angry with me, because I’m sending my work-men to give him presents. They will give him those presents, and then I will go and meet him. Maybe he will be friendly to me.”

<sup>21</sup> So Jacob sent his work-men to give those animals to his brother Esau. But Jacob stayed in the camp.

### *A man wrestled with Jacob*

<sup>22-23</sup> That same night, Jacob got his 2 wives, and his 2 working women, and his 11 sons, and all the other men and women in his camp, and all the animals, and everything that he owned, and they left the camp, and they crossed over the Jabbok River. They all crossed over at a place where the river wasn’t deep.

<sup>24</sup> But Jacob didn’t go with them. He stayed next to the river, and he was all alone.

Then a man came and grabbed Jacob, and that man wrestled with Jacob. They kept on wrestling all night, until it was nearly time for the sun to come up.\* <sup>25</sup> That other man saw that he couldn’t

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\* **32:24** Hosea 12:3-4

win, so he touched the joint at the top of Jacob's leg, and Jacob's leg bone came out of the joint while they were wrestling.

<sup>26</sup> Then that man said to Jacob, "Let me go. It's nearly time for the sun to come up."

But Jacob said, "No. First, I want you to promise that you will make things go well for me. Then I will let you go."

<sup>27</sup> The man said, "What is your name?"

And Jacob said, "My name is Jacob."

<sup>28</sup> Then the man said, "Now I'm giving you a new name. Your name will not be Jacob any more. You tried to fight with God and with people, and you won. So I'm giving you the name *Israel*."\*

That name *Israel* means *fight with God*.

<sup>29</sup> Then Jacob said to the man, "Please tell me your name."\*

But the man said, "You don't need to ask my name." Then he said to Jacob, "Things will go well for you." And he left.

<sup>30</sup> Jacob knew that God talked to him through that man, so he said, "I met God, and I'm still alive." Then Jacob named that place *Penuel*. That name means *God's face*.

<sup>31</sup> Then the sun came up, and Jacob left Penuel and started walking towards his family. Jacob couldn't walk very well, because that man made his leg bone come out of the joint.

<sup>32</sup> Later on, the Israel mob made a special law about their food. They said, "God touched the

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\* <sup>32:28</sup> Genesis 35:10      \* <sup>32:29</sup> Judges 13:17-18

joint at the top of Jacob's leg bone. So when we kill an animal and eat it, we will not eat the stringy bits that are on the top of that animal's leg bone." And the Israel mob still keep that law today.

## 33

### *Jacob met Esau again*

<sup>1</sup> Jacob and his family kept on walking towards the place where Jacob's brother Esau was. Then Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming towards him with 400 men. So Jacob stopped walking, and he split up his family into groups. He put his wife Leah with her kids, and he put his wife Rachel with her son Joseph, and he put his 2 working women with their kids.

<sup>2-3</sup> Then they all started walking towards Esau again. Jacob walked in front, then the 2 working women and their kids, then Leah and her kids, then Rachel and her son Joseph. And Jacob got down on his knees and put his face near the ground, to show respect to his brother Esau. He did that 7 times, until he got near to Esau.

<sup>4</sup> But Esau ran to meet Jacob. Then he put his arms around Jacob, and he hugged him and kissed him on the cheek. And Esau and Jacob both cried.

<sup>5</sup> Then Esau looked up, and he saw the women and their kids. Esau said, "Who are these people with you?"

Jacob said, "These are my kids. God was very good to me, and he gave me these kids."

<sup>6</sup> Then Jacob's 2 working women and their kids, they came over to Esau, and they got down on their knees to show him respect.

<sup>7</sup> Then Leah and her kids, they did the same thing. They came over to Esau, and they got down on their knees. Then Rachel and her son Joseph, they came over and got down on their knees too.

<sup>8</sup> Then Esau said to Jacob, "I met your workmen walking along this road, and they gave me lots of animals, and they said, 'These animals are a present from Jacob.' Why did you send those animals to me?"

Jacob said, "I respect you, just like a work-man respects his boss, and I want you to be happy with me. That's the reason why I sent those animals to you."

<sup>9</sup> But Esau said, "My brother, I already have lots of animals, and I don't need any more. Those animals that you sent to me, they belong to you. Keep them for yourself."

<sup>10</sup> Then Jacob said to Esau, "No, I want you to have them. Please take them as a present from me. Then I will know for sure that you are happy with me. You know, when I saw you again, you were so friendly to me, it was like I saw God's face.

<sup>11</sup> So please take the present that I sent to you. God has given me lots of good things, and I already have everything that I need."

Jacob kept on talking like that, so Esau took those animals as a present from Jacob.



<sup>12</sup> Then Esau said, "Let's go now. Let's go to Seir, to the place where I live. We will go there together."

<sup>13</sup> But Jacob said to Esau, "Sir, as you can see, my kids are young, and they can't walk very fast. And some of my animals have baby animals with them, and I have to look after those animals. If I make them walk fast, they will die after one day.

<sup>14</sup> So please, sir, you go ahead. I will walk slowly with my kids and animals. Later on, we will see you there in Seir."

<sup>15</sup> So Esau said, "All right. But I will leave some of my men with you, to help you."

But Jacob said, "Sir, you don't need to do that. You saw me, and you were friendly to me, so now I am happy. I don't need anything else."

<sup>16</sup> So that same day, Esau left that place, and he went south to go back home to Seir.

<sup>17</sup> But Jacob and his family, they went west. They stopped in the land there, and Jacob built a house, and he made shelters for his animals. Jacob called that place *Succoth*. That name means *shelters*.

### *Jacob went back to Canaan country*

<sup>18</sup> Jacob was born in Canaan country, and he grew up there. But then he went to Paddan Aram country for a long time. Now he finally got back to his home country again. When he got there, he set up his camp on some land outside the town called Shekem.

<sup>19</sup> That land where Jacob put his tent, it belonged to a man called Shekem and his brothers.

Their father was called Hamor. And Jacob bought that land from Shekem and his brothers. He paid them 100 pieces of silver money for that land.\*

<sup>20</sup> Then Jacob piled up stones there to make a special table with a flat top, so that he could burn animals to show respect to God. And Jacob called it *The God of Israel is God*.

## 34

### *Shekem's mob tried to make an agreement with Jacob's mob*

<sup>1-2</sup> This story is about what happened to Jacob's family in the town called Shekem, in Canaan country. The big boss of that town was called Hamor, and he was from the Hiv tribe. And Hamor had a son called Shekem.

Jacob and Leah's daughter was called Dinah, and she was a young woman. One day, she went out to visit some other women that lived in that place. But that man Shekem, he saw Dinah, and he wanted to have her for himself. So he grabbed Dinah and he made her sleep with him, like a woman sleeps with her husband. Shekem really shamed Dinah.

<sup>3</sup> Shekem fell in love with Dinah, and he thought that she was wonderful. So he talked to her and tried to get her to love him too.

<sup>4</sup> Then Shekem talked to his father Hamor and said, "I want to marry that woman. Ask her father to give her to me, so that she can be my wife."

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\* **33:19** Joshua 24:32; John 4:5

<sup>5</sup> At that time, Jacob was in his camp, and Jacob's sons were out in the grass lands looking after Jacob's animals. Then somebody went and told Jacob that Shekem did that bad thing to his daughter Dinah. But Jacob didn't say anything, because he wanted to wait for his sons to come home.

<sup>6-7</sup> Then somebody went and told Jacob's sons that Shekem did that bad thing to Dinah. So Jacob's sons got really upset and angry. They said, "Shekem slept with our sister. That was a properly wrong thing that he did. He made our family shamed." And Jacob's sons left the grass lands, and they quickly went back to Jacob's camp.

Hamor, Shekem's father, he went to Jacob's camp to talk to Jacob, and Shekem went with him.

<sup>8</sup> And Hamor talked to Jacob and his sons. Hamor said, "My son Shekem, he loves your daughter Dinah, and he really wants to marry her. Please give her to him, so that she can be his wife.

<sup>9</sup> And let's make an agreement between our families. Let's agree that the men in my family can marry the women in your family, and the men in your family can marry the women in my family.

<sup>10</sup> You mob can live in our land, and you can do whatever you want here. You can buy things and sell things here, and you can even buy some of the land for yourself."

<sup>11</sup> Then Shekem talked to Dinah's father Jacob

and her brothers. He said, "Please be good to me and do what I ask, and I will give you whatever you want."

<sup>12</sup> In that culture, when a man married a woman, he used to pay money to that woman's family and give them presents. So Shekem talked to Dinah's father and brothers about that. He said, "Tell me how much money you want, and I will give it to you. Even if you want lots and lots of money and presents, I will give them to you. Please just let me marry that young woman Dinah."

<sup>13</sup> But Jacob's sons were still thinking about that bad thing that Shekem did to their sister Dinah. So they pretended to make an agreement with Shekem and Hamor, but really, they were tricking them.

<sup>14</sup> Jacob's sons said, "You know, all of us men and boys in our mob, we had a young man operation. But you mob don't do that operation on your boys. We can't let our sister marry a man that didn't have that operation. That will make our family shamed.

<sup>15</sup> So listen, we will make an agreement with you mob. You and all the men and boys in your mob, you have to have that young man operation. Then you will be like us.

<sup>16</sup> If you agree to do that, then we will let our sister marry Shekem. We will let our women marry your men, and our men will marry your women. We will live with you, and our mob will join together with your mob, and we will become one tribe.

<sup>17</sup> But if you will not agree to do what we say, if you will not do that young man operation on your boys and your men, then we will take our sister and we will leave this place.”

<sup>18</sup> Hamor and his son Shekem, they liked that idea, and they agreed to do what Jacob’s sons said.

<sup>19</sup> Shekem really loved Dinah, and he really wanted to marry her soon, so he went quickly to do those things. Shekem was the most important person in his father’s family.

<sup>20</sup> Hamor and his son Shekem, they went to the town gate, and they had a meeting with the other men that lived in that town. Hamor and Shekem said to those men,

<sup>21</sup> “You know, that man Jacob and his sons, they are friendly to us. So let them live here in our land, and let them buy things and sell things here. Our land is big, and there is plenty of room for them. Our men can marry their women, and their men can marry our women.

<sup>22</sup> But first, there is one thing that we have to do. All of us men and boys in our mob, we have to have a young man operation, just like Jacob and his family. If we do that, then Jacob and his sons will agree to live with us, and their mob will join together with our mob, and we will become one tribe.

<sup>23</sup> Then all their animals will belong to us, and everything else that they own, it will belong to us too. We just have to agree to do what they say. We have to have that young man operation. Then they will live here with us.”

<sup>24</sup> The men that lived in that town, they listened to Hamor and his son Shekem, and they agreed to do what Hamor and Shekem said. So all the boys and all the men that lived in that town, they had a young man operation.

*Jacob's sons finished up Shekem's mob*

<sup>25</sup> That young man operation hurt a lot. And 3 days later, all the men in Shekem's mob still felt really weak. Then 2 of Jacob's sons, they got some long knives, and they went to attack Shekem's mob. Those 2 sons were Simeon and Levi, and they were Dinah's brothers. Nobody in Shekem's mob knew that Dinah's brothers wanted to attack them, so they were not ready to fight. Simeon and Levi went into the town, and they killed all the boys and men there.

<sup>26</sup> They also killed Hamor and his son Shekem with those long knives.

At that time, Dinah was in Shekem's house. So Simeon and Levi got Dinah from Shekem's house, and they left the town.

<sup>27</sup> Then Jacob's other sons went into the town, and they saw all the dead bodies of Shekem's mob. So Jacob's sons took everything that they wanted in that town. They thought, "Shekem did that bad thing to our sister, so we will take everything that belonged to his mob."

<sup>28</sup> They took all the sheep, and cows, and donkeys. They took everything that was in the town, and everything that was in the grass lands.

<sup>29</sup> They took everything that was in the houses. And they got all the women and all the young

kids, and they took them away, like they were prisoners.

<sup>30</sup> Then Jacob talked strongly to his sons Simeon and Levi. He said, "You made big trouble for me. You know about the other tribes that live in this land, the Canaan tribe and the Periz tribe. Well, now those tribes will hate us, because you finished up Shekem's mob. And maybe those tribes will join together and attack us. My mob is small, so we will not be able to fight those big tribes, and then they will finish us up, me and my family."

<sup>31</sup> But Simeon and Levi said, "That man did a bad thing to our sister. He made her sleep with him, like a woman sleeps with her husband, and then he tried to pay us money for her. Somebody had to do payback to his mob."

## 35

### *Jacob went back to Bethel*

<sup>1</sup> Then God said to Jacob, "Leave this place, and go to that special place called Bethel. Remember, a long time ago, you ran away from your brother Esau, and you went to that place, and I came to you there. Now I want you to go and live in that place, and I want you to pile up stones there, to make a special table. Then I want you to burn animals on that special table, to show respect to me, because I am God."

<sup>2-3</sup> So Jacob talked to his family, and to all the other people that were in his camp. He said, "We are going to leave this place and go to the place called Bethel. I'm going to make a special table

there, so that I can burn animals to show respect to God. You know, God is the one that helped me every time I got trouble, and he stayed with me wherever I went.”

Jacob kept on talking to his mob. He said, “Some of you mob have little statues with you, that came from other countries. Some people think that those statues are gods that have power. You mob have to get rid of those statues. Then you all have to wash your bodies and put on clean clothes, because we are going to a special place to show respect to God.”

<sup>4</sup> So Jacob’s family, and everybody else in Jacob’s camp, they went and got all their little statues, and they gave them to Jacob. They also took out the rings that were in their ears, and they gave those rings to Jacob too. And Jacob buried those statues and those rings under a big tree in the place called Shekem.

<sup>5</sup> Then Jacob and his mob left Shekem, and they started to go towards Bethel. Jacob thought that the people in the towns nearby might attack them. But God looked after Jacob’s mob. God made the people in those towns really frightened, so none of them attacked Jacob’s mob.

<sup>6</sup> Later on, Jacob and his mob got to the place called Bethel, in Canaan country. That place used to be called Luz.

<sup>7</sup> Then Jacob piled up stones to make a table with a flat top, so that he could burn animals to show respect to God. And Jacob gave that place a new name. He called it *El Bethel*. That name means *God is in Bethel*. A long time before this,



when Jacob ran away from his brother Esau, God came and talked to Jacob in that place. That's the reason why Jacob gave it that name.

<sup>8</sup> At that time, there was a woman called Deborah in Jacob's camp. She used to look after Jacob's mother Rebekah, at the time when Rebekah was a little girl. Now Deborah was very old, and she died. So Jacob's mob buried Deborah's body under a big tree, near Bethel. And they called it *Allon Bakuth*. That name means *big tree where they cried*.

### *God talked to Jacob again*

<sup>9</sup> This is the story about how God talked to Jacob after he got back from Paddan Aram country.

God came to Jacob, and he promised to be good to him.

<sup>10</sup> God said, "Before this, your name was Jacob, but your name will not be Jacob any more. I'm giving you another name. That name is *Israel*."\*

In that way, God gave Jacob the name *Israel*.

<sup>11</sup> And God said to Jacob, "I am God. I have power over everything. Your mob will have lots of kids, so that your family will get really big. Later on, your family will be so big that they will become a nation, and that nation will split up into lots of nations, and some of your people will be the big bosses of those nations."

<sup>12</sup> Then God said, "A long time ago, I made promises to your grand-father Abraham and your father Isaac. I promised to give all this

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\* **35:10** Genesis 32:28

country to the people that will be born into their family. Well, now I'm making that same promise to you. I will give all this country to you and to the people that will be born into your family later on."<sup>\*</sup>

<sup>13</sup> God said all those things to Jacob, and then God left that place.

<sup>14</sup> Jacob knew that God talked to him there, and he wanted to show that it was a special place. So he got a stone, and he stood it up. He poured out some wine on top of that stone, and he poured some olive oil on it too.

<sup>15</sup> And Jacob gave a name to that place where God talked to him. He called that place *Bethel*. That name means *God's house*.

### *Jacob's wife Rachel died*

<sup>16-17</sup> Jacob and his family left Bethel, and they started going towards the town called Efrath. At that time, Jacob's wife Rachel had a baby growing inside her. And while they were still a long way from Efrath, the time came for Rachel to have her baby. A woman came to help Rachel have her baby, but Rachel had a lot of pain, and she had trouble having that baby.

Then Rachel had her baby, but that pain was really bad. That woman said to her, "Don't be frightened. You have another son."

<sup>18</sup> But Rachel was dying. She said, "I want to name my son *Ben-Oni*." That name means *the son that I had when I was sad*. Then Rachel died.

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<sup>\*</sup> **35:12** Genesis 12:7; 26:3

But Jacob gave that baby a different name. He named him *Benjamin*. That name means *the son that is like my strong right hand*.

<sup>19</sup> That's how Rachel died. Then Jacob's mob buried her near the road that goes to the town called Efrath. Another name for Efrath is Bethlehem.

<sup>20</sup> And Jacob stood up a big stone at that place, so that people will know that Rachel was buried there. That stone is still there today.

### *Jacob's son Reuben did a bad thing*

<sup>21</sup> Then Jacob's mob left that place. They went past a place called Migdal-Eder, and then they set up their camp.

<sup>22</sup> While they were living there, Jacob's son Reuben went to the woman called Bilhah. Bilhah worked for Jacob's family, and she was like another wife for Jacob. And Reuben slept with Bilhah, like a man sleeps with his wife. Then somebody told Jacob that Reuben did that bad thing.\*

### *The names of Jacob's sons*

These are the names of Jacob's 12 sons.

<sup>23</sup> Jacob's wife Leah had 6 sons,

- Reuben. He was Jacob's oldest son.
- Simeon
- Levi
- Judah
- Issachar
- Zebulun

<sup>24</sup> Jacob's wife Rachel had 2 sons,

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\* 35:22 Genesis 49:4

- Joseph
- Benjamin

<sup>25</sup> Rachel's working woman Bilhah, she had 2 sons,

- Dan
- Naphtali

<sup>26</sup> Leah's working woman Zilpah, she had 2 sons,

- Gad
- Asher

All those men were Jacob's sons. Jacob's sons were born at the time when Jacob lived in Paddan Aram country. Jacob's other name was Israel.

### *Jacob's father Isaac died*

<sup>27</sup> Jacob went back home, to the place where his father Isaac lived. That place was called Mamreh, and it was near the town called Kiriath Arba. Another name for that town is Hebron. A long time before this, Jacob's grand-father Abraham lived in Mamreh too.\*

<sup>28</sup> Isaac lived until he was 180 years old.

<sup>29</sup> Isaac had a good long life, and then he breathed for the last time, and he died. Then his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.

## 36

### *The story about Esau's family*

<sup>1</sup> This is the story about Jacob's brother Esau and his family. Sometimes people called Esau a different name. They called him *Edom*.

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\* <sup>35:27</sup> Genesis 13:18

<sup>2</sup> Esau married some women from Canaan country. These are the names of those women,\*

– Adah. Her father's name was Elon, and he was from the Heth tribe.

– Oholibamah. Her father's name was Anah. Her grand-father's name was Zibeyon, and he was from the Hiv tribe.

<sup>3</sup> – Basemath. Her father's name was Ishmael, and her brother's name was Nebayoth.\*

<sup>4</sup> All of those women had sons with Esau. Adah had a son called Elifaz, Basemath had a son called Rewel,

<sup>5</sup> and Oholibamah had 3 sons called Jeyush, Jalam, and Korah.

That's all the sons that Esau had, and they were all born in Canaan country.

<sup>6-8</sup> Esau and his brother Jacob, they both lived in Canaan country. And Esau and Jacob both had lots and lots of animals. But there was a problem. There wasn't enough grass and water in that country for all of Esau's animals and all of Jacob's animals.

So Esau took his wives, his sons, his daughters, and everyone else that lived in his camp, and he took all his animals and everything else that he owned, and he left Canaan country. He went to the hill country called Seir, and he set up his camp there. That place was a long way away from Jacob.

And you know, sometimes people called Esau a different name. They called him *Edom*.

### *The names of Esau's sons and grand-sons*

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\* **36:2** Genesis 26:34      \* **36:3** Genesis 28:9

<sup>9</sup> Esau's family was called the Edom tribe, and they lived in the hill country called Seir. These are the names of Esau's sons and grand-sons.

<sup>10</sup> Esau's 2 oldest sons were,

- Elifaz. His mother's name was Adah, and she was one of Esau's wives.
- Rewel. His mother's name was Basemath, and she was another one of Esau's wives.

<sup>11</sup> These are the names of Elifaz's sons,

- Teman
- Omar
- Zefo
- Gatam
- Kenaz

<sup>12</sup> Esau's son Elifaz had another son too. His name was Amalek, and his mother's name was Timna. That woman Timna, she was like another wife for Elifaz.

All those men were Elifaz's sons. They were the grand-sons of Esau and his wife Adah.

<sup>13</sup> Esau's son Rewel had sons too. These are the names of Rewel's sons,

- Nahath
- Zerah
- Shammah
- Mizzah

They were the grand-sons of Esau and his wife Basemath.

<sup>14</sup> Esau had another wife, and her name was Oholibamah. Her father's name was Anah, and her grand-father's name was Zibeyon. Oholibamah and Esau had 3 sons together. These are their names,

- Jeyush
- Jalam
- Korah

*The names of clan leaders in Esau's tribe*

<sup>15</sup> Esau's tribe split up into clans, and all those clans had leaders. These are the names of those leaders.

Esau's oldest son Elifaz, he had these sons,

– Teman

– Omar

– Zefo

– Kenaz

<sup>16</sup> – Korah

– Gatam

– Amalek

All those men were Elifaz's sons, and they were the leaders for their clans in Edom country. Their grand-mother was Esau's wife Adah.

<sup>17</sup> These are the sons of Esau's son Rewel,

– Nahath

– Zerah

– Shammah

– Mizzah

Those men were Rewel's sons, and they were the leaders for their clans in Edom country. Their grand-mother was Esau's wife Basemath.

<sup>18</sup> These are the sons of Esau's wife Oholibamah,

– Jeyush

– Jalam

– Korah

Those men were Oholibamah's sons, and they were the leaders for their clans. Oholibamah's father was called Anah.

<sup>19</sup> All those sons of Esau, they were the leaders for their clans.

And you know, sometimes people called Esau a different name. They called him *Edom*.

*The names of clan leaders in the Hor tribe*

<sup>20</sup> There was another tribe living in that country too. They lived there before Esau's family came there. That tribe was called the Hor tribe. The people in that tribe were the kids and grand-kids of a man called Seir.

These are the names of Seir's sons,

- Lotan
- Shobal
- Zibeyon

- Anah

<sup>21</sup> - Dishon

- Ezer

- Dishan

All those men were Seir's sons, and they were the leaders for their clans in Edom country.

<sup>22</sup> Seir's son Lotan had these sons,

- Hori
- Hemam

Lotan also had a sister called Timna.

<sup>23</sup> Seir's son Shobal had these sons,

- Alvan
- Manahath
- Ebal
- Shefo
- Onam

<sup>24</sup> Seir's son Zibeyon had these sons,

- Ayah
- Anah. (Anah is the man that found springs in the desert. One day, he was out in the desert, and he was looking after some donkeys that belonged to his father Zibeyon. And he found some springs with hot water in them.)

<sup>25</sup> Seir's son Anah had these kids,

- Dishon
- Oholibamah. She was Anah's daughter.



26 Seir's son Dishon had these sons,

- Hemdan
- Eshban
- Ithran
- Keran

27 Seir's son Ezer had these sons,

- Bilhan
- Zavan
- Akan

28 Seir's son Dishan had these sons,

- Uz
- Aran

29 These are the names of the leaders in the Hor tribe,

- Lotan
- Shobal
- Zibeyon
- Anah

30 - Dishon

- Ezer
- Dishan

All those men were in the Hor tribe, and they were the leaders for their clans in the country called Seir.

### *The names of the big bosses in Edom country*

31 At first, the Israel mob didn't have big bosses over them. A long time later, they started having a big boss over them. But before that, the Edom mob had big bosses in their country. These are the names of those big bosses in Edom.

32 The 1st big boss in Edom country, his name was Bela. He lived in a town called Dinhabah, and his father's name was Beor.

33 Bela died, and then a man called Jobab became the big boss. He was from a town called Bozrah, and his father's name was Zerah.

<sup>34</sup> Jobab died, and then a man called Husham became the big boss. He was from the land of the Teman clan.

<sup>35</sup> Husham died, and then a man called Hadad became the big boss. He was from a town called Avith, and his father's name was Bedad. Hadad fought the Midian people in Moab country, and he won.

<sup>36</sup> Hadad died, and then a man called Samlah became the big boss. He was from the town called Masrekah.

<sup>37</sup> Samlah died, and then a man called Shawl became the big boss. He was from the town called Rehoboth, next to the river.

<sup>38</sup> Shawl died, and then a man called Baal-Hanan became the big boss. His father's name was Akbor.

<sup>39</sup> Baal-Hanan died, and then a man called Hadad became the big boss. He lived in a town called Pau, and his wife's name was Mehetabel. She was the daughter of Matred and the granddaughter of Mezahab.

*The names of clan leaders in Esau's tribe*

<sup>40</sup> Some people in Esau's tribe were leaders for their clans. And all those clans lived in different places. These are the names of those clan leaders,

– Timna

– Alvah

– Jetheth

<sup>41</sup> – Oholibamah

– Elah

– Pinon

<sup>42</sup> – Kenaz

– Teman

- Mibzar
- <sup>43</sup> - Magdiel
- Iram

Those people were the leaders for their clans in the Edom tribe. All those clans lived in different places.

All the people in the Edom tribe were the kids and grand-kids of Esau.

## 37

### *Jacob's son Joseph had dreams*

<sup>1</sup> Jacob lived in Canaan country. That's the country where his father Isaac used to have his camp.

<sup>2</sup> This is the story about what happened to Jacob's family.

Jacob's son Joseph was 17 years old. And Joseph and his brothers looked after the sheep that belonged to their father Jacob. Joseph used to help 4 of his brothers to look after those sheep. 2 of those brothers were Bilhah's sons, and the other 2 were Zilpah's sons. Bilhah and Zilpah were Jacob's wives.

And Joseph told his father that those 4 brothers were doing bad things.

<sup>3</sup> Jacob loved Joseph more than his other sons, because Joseph was born when Jacob was an old man. So Jacob gave Joseph a special coat.

<sup>4</sup> Joseph's brothers saw that their father loved Joseph more than them. So they hated Joseph, and they couldn't talk in a friendly way to him.

<sup>5</sup> One night, Joseph had a dream. The next day, he told his brothers about his dream, and they hated him even more.

<sup>6</sup> This is what Joseph told his brothers. He said, "Listen to this dream that I had.

<sup>7</sup> In my dream, you mob and me, we were out in the place where the wheat plants grow. We were cutting down those wheat plants to get the seeds from them for food. We cut down those wheat plants, and we put them in piles on the ground. Then we tied up those piles. Suddenly, the pile of wheat that I tied up, it got up from the ground, and it stood up straight, like a person. Then those piles of wheat that you mob tied up, they got up too. They went near to my wheat, and they bent down in front of it, to show it respect."

<sup>8</sup> Then Joseph's brothers thought, "That dream that Joseph had, it shows that he wants to be boss over us." So they said to him, "Do you think that you are going to be a big boss over us? Do you think that you are going to tell us what to do? No way."

Joseph's brothers were really angry about Joseph's dream, and they were angry about those things that he said to them. So then they hated him even more.

<sup>9</sup> Later on, Joseph had another dream, and the next day, he told his brothers about his dream. He said to them, "Listen, I had another dream. In my dream, the sun, the moon, and 11 stars, they all bent down in front of me, to show me respect."

<sup>10</sup> Joseph told his father about that dream too. Then Joseph's father talked strongly to Joseph. He said, "That is a stupid dream. Do you really think that me and your mother and your brothers, we will all come and bend down in front of you, to show you respect? That will not happen."

<sup>11</sup> Joseph's brothers were really angry with him about those dreams, and they hated him even more.\* But Joseph's father kept on thinking about those things that Joseph said.

*Joseph's brothers sold him to the Midian mob*

<sup>12</sup> Jacob and his sons lived in a place called the Valley of Hebron. One day, Joseph's brothers took their father's sheep to the place called Shekem, so that the sheep had grass to eat. That place was a long way from Jacob's camp. All of Joseph's brothers went there, but Joseph stayed at home with his father Jacob.

<sup>13</sup> Then Jacob said to Joseph, "Your brothers are looking after my sheep in Shekem. I want you to go there and see how they are going."

And Joseph said, "Yes, I will go."

<sup>14</sup> So Jacob said to him, "Go and find out if everything is good with your brothers, and if everything is good with the sheep. Then come back here and tell me."

So Joseph left the Valley of Hebron, and he went to Shekem.

<sup>15</sup> When he got to Shekem, he walked around in the grass lands and looked for his brothers. A

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\* **37:11** Acts 7:9

man saw him and said, "What are you looking for?"

<sup>16</sup> Joseph said, "I'm looking for my brothers. They came to this place with my father's sheep. Please, can you tell me where they are?"

<sup>17</sup> The man said, "Your brothers left this place. I heard them say, 'Let's go to the place called Dothan.' "

So Joseph left Shekem, and he went to Dothan. He saw his brothers there, and he started to go towards them.

<sup>18</sup> But Joseph was still a long way away, and his brothers saw him coming. So they talked quickly to each other and made a plan to kill him.

<sup>19</sup> They said to each other, "Look, there is the young man that has stupid dreams.

<sup>20</sup> Let's kill him, and let's throw his body into one of those big holes in the ground. Then we will tell our father, 'A wild animal ate Joseph.' "

Then they said, "If we kill Joseph, that will show that his dreams are rubbish, and that he will never be boss over us."

<sup>21</sup> But Joseph's oldest brother Reuben, he heard his brothers say those things, and he wanted to save Joseph. So Reuben said, "No. We can't kill him."

<sup>22</sup> Then Reuben said to his brothers, "Don't murder Joseph. Just chuck him into one of those big holes in the ground, here in the desert. Don't hurt him yourselves, just leave him there to die."

You see, Reuben wanted to save Joseph from his brothers. He thought, "Later on, I will pull Joseph out of that hole, and I will take him home to our father."

<sup>23</sup> Then Joseph got to his brothers. He was wearing that special coat that his father gave him. So Joseph's brothers pulled that special coat off him.

<sup>24</sup> And they grabbed him, and they chucked him into a big hole in the ground. That hole was empty, there wasn't any water in it.

<sup>25</sup> Then Joseph's brothers sat down to eat some food. While they were eating, they looked up, and they saw some men coming towards them with camels. Those men were from the Midian tribe. Their camels were carrying bags on their backs, and those bags had lots of bush medicine and perfumes. Those men were taking those things from Gilead country to Egypt country, to sell them there.

<sup>26</sup> One of Joseph's brothers was called Judah. He talked to the rest of his brothers, and he said, "We talked about killing Joseph and tricking our father. But if we kill Joseph, that will be a really bad thing, and we will not get anything for ourselves.

<sup>27</sup> So let's not kill him. Let's sell him to this Midian mob. You know, Joseph is our brother, and we are all in the same family, so we shouldn't hurt him."

The rest of Joseph's brothers agreed to do what Judah said.

<sup>28</sup> So when that Midian mob got near to them, Joseph's brothers pulled Joseph out of that hole, and they sold him to the Midian mob for 20 pieces of silver money. Then the Midian mob took Joseph to Egypt country.\*

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\* **37:28** Acts 7:9

<sup>29</sup> Joseph's brother Reuben was somewhere else, so he didn't see his brothers sell Joseph to that Midian mob. He thought that Joseph was still in that hole in the ground. And Reuben wanted to save Joseph, so he went to that hole to get him out. But he saw that Joseph wasn't in that hole any more, and he got really upset. He was so upset that he tore his clothes.

<sup>30</sup> Then he went back to his brothers, and he said to them, "Our young brother isn't in that hole any more. I'm his oldest brother, but now there is nothing I can do to help him."

*Joseph's brothers tricked their father Jacob*

<sup>31</sup> Joseph's brothers wanted their father to think that an animal killed Joseph. So they killed a goat, and they got some of that goat's blood, and they put the blood on that special coat that belonged to Joseph.

<sup>32</sup> Then they went back home, and they took Joseph's special coat, and they showed it to their father Jacob. They said to their father, "Look, we found this coat. Does it belong to your son?"

<sup>33</sup> Jacob looked at the coat, and he knew that it belonged to Joseph. So he said, "Yes, that is my son's coat." And Jacob saw the blood on that coat, so he said, "I know what happened. A wild animal ate Joseph. Yes, that animal tore him into little bits."

<sup>34</sup> So Jacob was really sad, because he thought that Joseph was dead. He was so sad that he tore his clothes. Then he put on some clothes made out of a rough cloth, called sack-cloth, and he



cried. You see, in that culture, people sometimes tore their clothes and wore sack-cloth to show that they were sad.

Jacob cried like that for lots of days.

<sup>35</sup> All of Jacob's sons and daughters, they talked to Jacob, and they tried to help him feel happy again. But Jacob said, "No, I can't be happy again. I will keep on crying for my son, until I die and go to join him." And Jacob cried a lot for Joseph.

<sup>36</sup> But Joseph wasn't really dead. That Midian mob, they took Joseph to Egypt country, and they sold him to a man called Potifar. That man Potifar, he worked for the big boss of Egypt, called Pharaoh. Potifar was in charge of all the soldiers that guarded Pharaoh's house.

## 38

### *The story about Judah's sons*

<sup>1</sup> This story is about something that Jacob's son Judah did.

Judah left his brothers, and he went to stay with a man from the town called Adullam. That man's name was Hirah.

<sup>2</sup> While Judah was staying in that place, he saw a young woman. That woman's father was called Shua, and he was from the Canaan tribe. Judah married that young woman, and he slept with her.

<sup>3</sup> Then that woman had a baby boy, and Judah named him *Er*.

<sup>4</sup> Later, that woman had another baby boy, and she named him *Onan*.

<sup>5</sup> And later, she had another baby boy too. She named that baby *Shelah*. At that time, Judah was staying in the town called Kezib.

<sup>6</sup> Judah's oldest son Er, he grew up and became a man. And Judah found a woman for Er to marry. That woman's name was Tamar.

<sup>7</sup> But Judah's oldest son Er, he did really bad things, and God was angry with him. So God finished up Er, and he died.

<sup>8</sup> Then Judah talked to his 2nd son Onan. Judah said, "Your brother Er is dead, and he didn't have any kids. So now, you have to marry Er's wife and sleep with her, so that she will have kids. That's the rule in our culture. And after those kids grow up, they will get everything that belonged to Er. It will be like they are his kids."

<sup>9</sup> So Onan married Er's wife. But Onan didn't want to have kids with her, because he knew that those kids will not belong to him. So Onan did a bad thing. Every time they slept together, like married people do, he didn't sleep with her properly. He always stopped early, so she didn't get any babies growing inside her.

<sup>10</sup> But God was angry with Onan for doing that bad thing, so God finished up Onan too.

<sup>11</sup> Then Judah thought, "My sons Er and Onan, they are both dead, and they didn't have any kids with that woman. So now, my other son Shelah has to marry that woman and have kids with her. That's the rule in our culture. But if Shelah marries that woman, he might die too, just like Er and Onan." So Judah got worried,

and he didn't want his son Shelah to marry that woman Tamar.

So Judah talked to Tamar, and he tried to trick her. He said to her, "My son Shelah is too young to marry you now. So go back to your father's house, and live there. Don't get married to anyone else. Later on, Shelah will grow up, and then you can marry him." So Tamar went back to her father's house, and she lived there.

Judah's son Shelah grew up and became a man. But Judah didn't keep that promise he made to Tamar. He didn't let her marry his son Shelah.

### *Tamar tricked Judah*

<sup>12</sup> Some time later, Judah's wife died. Her father's name was Shua. Judah missed his wife, so he felt very sad for a while. But later on, he felt all right again.

Judah's work-men were in the place called Timnah. They were cutting the wool off Judah's sheep. Judah wanted to visit his work-men, so he started to go towards Timnah, and his friend Hirah went with him. That man Hirah, he was from the town called Adullam.

<sup>13</sup> Then somebody told that woman Tamar, "Your dead husband's father is going to Timnah to visit his work-men. They are cutting the wool off his sheep there."

<sup>14</sup> Tamar thought about Judah's son Shelah. She knew that he was grown up now, but Judah still didn't let her marry him. So Tamar thought, "I will trick Judah and get him to sleep with me, like a man sleeps with his wife, so that I can have

kids. Then those kids will belong to my dead husband Er.”

At that time, Tamar was wearing the sort of clothes that widows wear. But then, Tamar changed those clothes, and she put on some pretty clothes, and she put a scarf over her head, to cover her face. Then she went and sat outside the town called Enayim. That town is on the road that goes to Timnah.

<sup>15-16</sup> Later, Judah walked along that road, and he saw Tamar sitting there. She had that scarf over her head, and Judah couldn’t see her face. So Judah didn’t know that she was Tamar, his dead son’s wife. He thought she was a woman that sleeps with men for pay. So Judah went to her, and he said, “I want to sleep with you, like a man sleeps with his wife.”

Tamar said, “If I sleep with you, then you have to give me something to pay me. What will you give me?”

<sup>17</sup> Judah said, “After you sleep with me, I will send you one of my young goats.”

Tamar said, “All right. But first, you have to give me something that belongs to you, to show that you promised to send me a young goat.”

<sup>18</sup> Judah said, “All right, I will give you something to show that I made that promise. What do you want me to give you?”

Tamar said, “Give me that necklace with your special stamp on it, and your walking stick.” (Judah used that special stamp like a signature.)

So Judah gave those things to Tamar. Then he slept with Tamar, like a man sleeps with his wife,

and a baby started to grow inside her. <sup>19</sup> Then Tamar left that place, and she went home. She took off the scarf that was over her head, and she took off those pretty clothes, and she put on her widow's clothes again.

<sup>20</sup> Judah talked to his friend Hirah, and he said, "Take one of my young goats, and give it to that woman that I slept with. Then tell her to give back my necklace with my special stamp on it, and my walking stick."

So Hirah took that young goat, and he went to look for that woman, but he didn't find her.

<sup>21</sup> So he talked to the men that lived in that place, and he said, "Where is that woman that sleeps with men for pay? She was sitting next to the road, near the place called Enayim."

But those men said, "There isn't any woman here that sleeps with men for pay."

<sup>22</sup> So Hirah went back to Judah, and he said, "I didn't find that woman. And the men that live in that place, they said to me, 'There isn't any woman here that sleeps with men for pay.' "

<sup>23</sup> Then Judah said to Hirah, "All right, that woman can keep the necklace with my stamp on it, and my walking stick. I tried to keep my promise to that woman. Yes, I gave you a young goat to take to her. But you didn't find her. If you go and look for her again, everybody will laugh at us. So she can just keep my things."

*Judah found out that Tamar tricked him*

<sup>24</sup> 3 months later, somebody said to Judah, "Your dead son's wife Tamar, she did a bad thing.

She slept with a man that isn't her husband. And now there is a baby growing inside her."

Judah wanted to punish Tamar for doing that. So he said, "Go and get her. Put her on a fire, and burn her until she dies."

<sup>25</sup> So some people went to Tamar's house, and they started to take her to the place to burn her. But she said to them, "Take this necklace with a special stamp on it, and this walking stick, and show them to Judah, my dead husband's father. Say to him, 'The man that owns these things, he is the one that slept with me and made this baby grow inside me. So please look at this necklace with the special stamp on it, and this walking stick, and say who they belong to.' "

<sup>26</sup> So they took those things to Judah, and they told him what Tamar said. And Judah looked at those things, and he knew that they belonged to him. Then Judah knew that Tamar tricked him, and he felt shame. He said, "You know, I did the wrong thing. I didn't let Tamar marry my son Shelah. But Tamar is better than me. She wanted to have kids that will belong to her dead husband, just like our culture says. That's the reason why she got me to sleep with her."

So Judah didn't punish Tamar, and he never slept with her again.

### *Tamar had 2 sons*

<sup>27</sup> Later on, the time came for Tamar to have her baby. At that time, Tamar found out that she had 2 babies inside her.

28 There was a working woman there with Tamar, and that woman helped Tamar while she had her babies.

The 1st baby started to be born. His arm came out. And that working woman, she tied a bit of red string around that baby's arm, and she said, "This baby is first."

29 But then, that baby pulled his arm back in, and the 2nd baby came out. Then that working woman was shocked, because that 2nd baby came out before his brother. She talked to that 2nd baby, and she said, "You pushed really hard, and you came out first. It's like you broke out through a wall." So they named that baby *Perez*. That name means *break out*.

30 Then the other baby came out, with that bit of red string tied around his arm. And they named that baby *Zerah*.

## 39

### *Joseph lived in Egypt country*

1 This is the story about what happened to Joseph, after that time when his brothers sold him to the Midian mob. That Midian mob took Joseph to Egypt country. Then they sold Joseph to a man called Potifar. That man Potifar, he worked for the big boss of Egypt country, called Pharaoh. Potifar was in charge of all the soldiers that guarded Pharaoh's house.

2 God was with Joseph, and God helped him. So everything that Joseph did, it all went well.

Joseph worked for Potifar, and he lived in Potifar's house.\*

<sup>3</sup> Potifar saw that Joseph did everything really well, and he knew that God was helping him.

<sup>4</sup> So Potifar liked Joseph a lot, and he got Joseph to be his special worker. He put Joseph in charge of all the other workers in his house, and he got Joseph to look after everything that he owned.

<sup>5</sup> As soon as Potifar put Joseph in charge, God started to be really good to Potifar. God made everything go well in Potifar's house, and he made lots of food plants grow on his land.

<sup>6</sup> So Potifar really trusted Joseph, and he let Joseph look after everything that belonged to him. Potifar didn't worry about anything, because Joseph was in charge. Potifar just got to think about easy things, like the food he wanted to eat. Joseph looked after everything else.

### *Potifar's wife made trouble for Joseph*

Joseph was a really good-looking man, with a strong body.

<sup>7</sup> So after a while, Potifar's wife started to look at Joseph a lot, and she wanted to sleep with him, like a woman sleeps with her husband. She said to Joseph, "Come and sleep with me."

<sup>8</sup> But Joseph said, "No, I will not sleep with you. You know, I work for your husband, and he trusts me. He got me to look after everything that belongs to him. He doesn't worry about anything, because I am in charge.

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\* 39:2 Acts 7:9



<sup>9</sup> He made me the most important person in his house. He made me the boss of everything here. There's only one thing he will not let me touch. He will not let me touch you, because you are his wife. So I will not sleep with you. I will not go against God and do that wrong thing. No way."

<sup>10</sup> But Potifar's wife did not stop. Every day, she kept on asking Joseph to sleep with her. But Joseph didn't listen to her. He didn't sleep with her, and he tried to be far away from her.

<sup>11</sup> One day, Joseph went into Potifar's house to do his work, just like he always did. On that day, there weren't any other work-men in the house.

<sup>12</sup> Then Potifar's wife came to Joseph. She grabbed him, and she held on to his coat, and she said, "Come and sleep with me." So Joseph quickly ran out of the house. But Potifar's wife still had Joseph's coat in her hand.

<sup>13</sup> Potifar's wife saw that Joseph ran out of the house, and she saw that she still had his coat in her hand. So she thought, "I will make trouble for Joseph."

<sup>14</sup> Straight away, she shouted to the other work-men, and she said, "Come and see this." Then those work-men came to her, and she lied to them and said, "You know, my husband brought a man here from the Hebrew tribe. That man doesn't respect us mob. He wants to make fun of us. He came to me, and he tried to make me sleep with him, like a man sleeps with his wife. But I yelled out really loud.

<sup>15</sup> And as soon as he heard me yell out, he left his coat next to me, and he ran out of the house.”

<sup>16</sup> After that, Potifar’s wife put down Joseph’s coat next to her, and she waited for Potifar to come home. Potifar was Joseph’s boss.

<sup>17</sup> Later on, Potifar came home, and his wife said the same things to him that she said to those work-men. She lied and said, “That work-man from the Hebrew tribe, the one that you brought here, he came to me, and he tried to sleep with me and make me shamed.

<sup>18</sup> But I yelled out really loud, and straight away, he ran out of the house, and he left his coat next to me.”

### *Potifar put Joseph in jail*

<sup>19</sup> Potifar heard his wife say that Joseph did those bad things to her. And Potifar got really angry.

<sup>20</sup> Potifar was Joseph’s boss, so he sent his men to grab Joseph, and they put him in jail. That jail belonged to Pharaoh, the big boss of Egypt country. There were other prisoners in that jail too. And Joseph stayed there in the jail.

<sup>21</sup> But God was with Joseph, and God kept on being very good to him.\* God got the boss of that jail to think in a good way about Joseph. So that jail boss liked Joseph a lot,

<sup>22</sup> and he put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners in that jail. Whenever those prisoners had work to do, Joseph was their leader, and he made sure that they did their work properly.

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\* **39:21** Acts 7:9

<sup>23</sup> Joseph did everything well, so that jail boss didn't worry about anything. He trusted Joseph to look after the prisoners and get all the work done. You see, God was with Joseph, and God made everything go well for him.

## 40

### *Joseph understood 2 men's dreams*

<sup>1-2</sup> Some time later, Joseph was still in jail in Egypt country. The big boss of Egypt country was called Pharaoh, and he had lots of men that worked for him. This story is about 2 of those men.

The 1st man was Pharaoh's wine-boss. He used to make wine and other special drinks for Pharaoh. The 2nd man was Pharaoh's bread-boss. He used to cook bread and cakes for Pharaoh to eat. Both of those men were important workers in Pharaoh's house.

One day, that wine-boss and that bread-boss, they both did something that made Pharaoh really angry.

<sup>3</sup> So Pharaoh put those 2 men in jail. That jail was the same one that Joseph was in. The soldier that guarded that jail, he was in charge of all the soldiers that looked after Pharaoh's house.

<sup>4</sup> That soldier said to Joseph, "You have to look after these 2 men." So Joseph looked after that wine-boss and that bread-boss. And those 2 men stayed in jail for a long time.

<sup>5</sup> One night, that wine-boss and that bread-boss, they were both sleeping in the jail, and they both had dreams. Both those dreams showed things that will happen later on. But those 2 men

didn't understand what those dreams meant. So they felt sad and worried.

<sup>6</sup> The next morning, Joseph went to those 2 men, like he always did. He looked at their faces, and he saw that they were sad and worried.

<sup>7</sup> So he said to them, "Why are you so sad and worried today?"

<sup>8</sup> Then those 2 men said to Joseph, "We both had dreams last night, but we don't understand what those dreams mean, and there is nobody here that can tell us what they mean."

Joseph said, "Only God can tell people what dreams mean. Please tell me about your dreams. God will show me what they mean."

<sup>9</sup> So the wine-boss told Joseph about his dream. He said, "In my dream, I saw a grape vine.

<sup>10</sup> That grape vine had 3 branches. Little flowers started to grow on those branches, then straight away, those flowers got big, and grapes grew from them, then those grapes got big.

<sup>11</sup> I had Pharaoh's cup in my hand. So I took those grapes, and I squeezed the juice into Pharaoh's cup. Then I gave that cup of juice to Pharaoh."

<sup>12</sup> Then Joseph said to the wine-boss, "All right, I will tell you what that dream means. Those 3 branches that you saw, they are like a picture of 3 days.

<sup>13</sup> In 3 days time, Pharaoh will take you out of this jail, and he will get you to work for him again. You will make wine and other special drinks, just like you did before, and you will take those drinks and give them to Pharaoh."

14 Then Joseph said to the wine-boss, "Now you know that everything will go well for you. So please be good to me, and don't forget about me. Please talk to Pharaoh, and say good things about me. Then maybe Pharaoh will take me out of this jail, and he will let me go free.

15 You know, I am from the Hebrew tribe, and I used to live with my people, in my home country. But then some men grabbed me, and they took me away from my home country, and they brought me here to Egypt country. And now I'm in jail, even though I didn't do anything wrong."

16 The wine-boss listened to all those things that Joseph said, and the bread-boss listened too. That bread-boss thought, "That other man's dream meant something good, so maybe my dream means something good too."

So the bread-boss talked to Joseph, and he said, "I had a dream too. In my dream, there were 3 baskets of special bread on my head.

17 The basket that was on top, it had all sorts of bread and cakes in it, and they were for Pharaoh to eat. But some birds were there, and they ate the bread and cakes that were in that basket."

18 Then Joseph said, "I will tell you what that dream means. Those 3 baskets that you saw, they are like a picture of 3 days.

19 In 3 days time, Pharaoh will take you out of this jail, and his soldiers will cut off your head. Then they will hang your body on a pole, and birds will come and eat bits of your body."

<sup>20</sup> 3 days later, it was Pharaoh's birthday. So Pharaoh had a big party, with lots of good food, and he got all his important workers to come to that party. And Pharaoh got his soldiers to go and get that wine-boss and that bread-boss out of the jail.

<sup>21</sup> Then Pharaoh got that wine-boss to work for him again. He made wine and other special drinks, just like he did before, and he took those drinks and gave them to Pharaoh.

<sup>22</sup> But Pharaoh got his soldiers to kill that bread-boss, and they hung his body on a pole. All those things happened just the way Joseph said.

<sup>23</sup> But that wine-boss forgot about Joseph, and he didn't talk to Pharaoh about him.

## 41

### *Pharaoh had 2 dreams*

<sup>1</sup> 2 years later, Pharaoh, the big boss of Egypt, he had a dream. In his dream, he stood next to the Nile River,

<sup>2</sup> and he saw 7 cows coming up from the river. Those 7 cows were good-looking and fat, and they started to eat the long grass that was beside the river.

<sup>3</sup> After that, another 7 cows came up from the river. Those other 7 cows were ugly and skinny, and they stood beside the river next to the 7 fat cows. <sup>4</sup> Then those 7 ugly, skinny cows, they ate the 7 good-looking, fat cows. That was the end of Pharaoh's dream, and he woke up.

<sup>5</sup> Then Pharaoh went to sleep again, and he had another dream. In his dream, he saw a plant that grows seeds for food, called wheat. That wheat plant had 1 stick part, and on top were 7 groups of wheat seeds growing on it. Each group had lots of good big seeds.

<sup>6</sup> After that, another 7 groups of seeds started to grow. But they were small and dry, because a hot dry wind blew on them.

<sup>7</sup> Then those 7 groups of small dry seeds, they ate the 7 groups of good big seeds, like a person eats food. That was the end of Pharaoh's dream, and he thought it was real. Then he woke up, and he knew that it was a dream.

<sup>8</sup> The next morning, Pharaoh felt very worried, because he didn't know what those 2 dreams meant. So he said to some of his workers, "You know, there are some men here in Egypt country that can do magic, and there are some other men that are really wise. Go and get all those men, and bring them here. I want somebody to tell me what my dreams mean."\*

So Pharaoh's workers went and got all those men, and they brought them to Pharaoh. Then Pharaoh told them about those 2 dreams that he had. But none of those men understood what the dreams meant.

<sup>9</sup> Pharaoh's wine-boss was there, and he remembered that time when he had a dream in the jail, and he remembered that Joseph told him what his dream meant. So that wine-boss said to Pharaoh, "Sir, now I remember a time that I did the wrong thing.

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\* **41:8** Daniel 2:2

<sup>10</sup> You know, some time ago, you got really angry with me and your bread-boss. You put us in jail, and your most important soldier guarded us.

<sup>11</sup> Then one night, me and that bread-boss, we both had dreams. We knew that those dreams showed things that will happen later on, but we didn't know what they meant.

<sup>12</sup> But there was a young man with us in the jail. He was from the Hebrew tribe, and he worked for that important soldier, the one that guarded us. We told that young man about our dreams, and he told us what they meant. He said to me, 'Your dream shows that Pharaoh will get you to work for him again.' And he said to the bread-boss, 'Your dream shows that Pharaoh will get his soldiers to kill you.'

<sup>13</sup> And everything happened just like that young man said. Soon after that, you got me to work for you again. But you got your soldiers to kill the bread-boss and hang his body on a pole."

### *Joseph told Pharaoh what his dreams meant*

<sup>14</sup> Then Pharaoh sent some of his workers to go and get Joseph. Those workers quickly went and took Joseph out of the jail. Then Joseph got ready to go and see Pharaoh. He cut his hair, and he shaved his beard, and he put on clean clothes. Then he went and stood in front of Pharaoh.

<sup>15</sup> Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream, and nobody can tell me what it means. But somebody told me that you can understand dreams. They said that if somebody tells you about their dream, you can say what it means."



<sup>16</sup> Joseph said to Pharaoh, "Sir, I can't do that by myself. God is the one that lets me understand people's dreams. He will show me what your dream means, and it will be good for you to hear it."

<sup>17</sup> So Pharaoh told Joseph about his dream. He said, "In my dream, I stood next to the Nile River.

<sup>18</sup> Then 7 cows came up from the river. Those 7 cows were good-looking and fat, and they started to eat the long grass that was beside the river.

<sup>19</sup> After that, another 7 cows came up from the river. Those other cows looked really weak and sick, and they were very ugly and skinny. They were more ugly and skinny than any cows I saw in Egypt country.

<sup>20</sup> Then those 7 ugly, skinny cows, they ate those 7 good-looking, fat cows, those ones that came up first from the river.

<sup>21</sup> But after that, those ugly, skinny cows looked just the same as before. They were still very ugly and skinny, even though they ate those fat cows. That was the end of my dream, and I woke up."

<sup>22</sup> Then Pharaoh said, "I went to sleep again, and I had another dream. In my dream, I saw a wheat plant. That wheat plant had 1 stick part with 7 groups of wheat seeds growing on top, and they had lots of good big seeds.

<sup>23</sup> After that, another 7 groups of seeds started to grow. They were small and dry, because a hot dry wind blew on them.

<sup>24</sup> Then those 7 groups of small dry seeds, they ate the 7 groups of good big seeds, like a person eats food. That was the end of my dream."

Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I talked to the men that can do magic, and I told them about those dreams that I had. But they don't know what my dreams mean."

<sup>25</sup> Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "Sir, both those dreams mean the same thing. God gave you those dreams to show you what he is going to do next."

<sup>26</sup> Then Joseph told Pharaoh what those dreams meant. First Joseph said, "Those 7 good-looking, fat cows that you saw in your dream, they are like a picture of 7 good years. And those 7 groups of good big seeds on the wheat plant, they are like a picture of 7 good years too. Both those dreams mean the same thing."

<sup>27</sup> Then Joseph said, "And you know those 7 ugly, skinny cows, those ones that came up from the river later on, they are like a picture of 7 dry years with no rain and no food plants growing. And you know those 7 small groups of seeds on the wheat plant. They were dry, because a hot dry wind blew on them. Well, they are like a picture of those 7 dry years too."

<sup>28</sup> Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "Sir, God gave you those dreams to show you what he is going to do next, just like I said."

<sup>29</sup> For 7 years, there will be lots and lots of food everywhere in Egypt country.

<sup>30</sup> But after that, there will be 7 dry years. There will be no rain and no food plants growing anywhere in Egypt. Those dry years will be bad for the whole country. All the people in Egypt,

they will forget about that time when there was lots and lots of food.

<sup>31</sup> Those dry years will be so bad, it will be just like those 7 good years never happened.

<sup>32</sup> Sir, God is going to make those things happen, for sure. And he's going to make them happen soon. That's the reason why he gave you 2 dreams about them."

<sup>33</sup> Then Joseph said, "Sir, now I will tell you what you have to do. You have to pick a man that is really wise and thinks properly. And you have to put that man in charge of Egypt country.

<sup>34-35</sup> Then you have to pick some other men to work for him. And those men have to go all over Egypt country, and they have to gather up food from all the farms. Every time the farmers have food plants with seeds that are ready to make flour, those workers have to say to the farmers, 'This is what Pharaoh says you have to do. Split up that food into 5 piles, and give one pile to us.' Then those workers have to put that food in big sheds in the towns, and they have to look after it. They have to keep on doing that for 7 years, while there is lots and lots of food in Egypt country.

<sup>36</sup> At the end of those 7 good years, there will be 7 dry years. There will be no rain, and no food plants will grow in Egypt country. But all the people in Egypt country, they can eat the food that is in those sheds, and they can keep on doing that for those 7 dry years, so that they will not die."

*Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of Egypt country*

<sup>37</sup> Pharaoh and all his workers listened to Joseph, and they all liked Joseph's idea.

<sup>38</sup> And Pharaoh said to his workers, "Now I know that this man has God's spirit in him. There isn't anybody else like him."

<sup>39</sup> Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "God showed you what is going to happen, and he told you what to do. So I know that you are more wise than everybody else. You really know how to think properly.

<sup>40</sup> So now I will make you my most important worker, and all the people in Egypt will have to do what you say. I will be the only one that is more important than you, because I am the big boss."\*

<sup>41</sup> After Pharaoh said those things, he said to Joseph, "Now I'm putting you in charge of all of Egypt country."

<sup>42</sup> Pharaoh was wearing a ring with a special mark on it. That ring showed that Pharaoh was the big boss. So Pharaoh took off that special ring, and he put it on Joseph's finger, to show that Joseph was in charge. And Pharaoh gave Joseph some new clothes to wear. Those clothes were made out of a really good cloth, called linen. And Pharaoh put a gold necklace around Joseph's neck.\*

<sup>43</sup> Then Pharaoh got a special trailer with horses pulling it, and he got Joseph to ride in that special trailer to show that he was the 2nd boss over Egypt country. Pharaoh's soldiers went

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\* **41:40** Acts 7:10      \* **41:42** Daniel 5:29

with Joseph, and they shouted out to all the people, "Joseph is coming. Show him respect."

In that way, Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of all of Egypt country.

<sup>44</sup> Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am the big boss, and you are my most important worker. If anybody in Egypt country wants to do something, they have to ask you first, and you can say yes or no."

<sup>45-46</sup> Then Pharaoh gave Joseph a name in the Egypt language. That name was *Zafenath-Pania*. Pharaoh also gave Joseph a woman to marry. That woman's name was Asenath, and her father's name was Potifera. He was a ceremony leader for the Egypt people, at the town called Onn.

That's the story about how Joseph became Pharaoh's most important worker, and he started to be in charge of Egypt country. At that time, Joseph was 30 years old. Then Joseph left Pharaoh's house, and he went all around Egypt country.

### *Joseph got the Egypt people to put food in sheds*

<sup>47</sup> The next 7 years were really good years in Egypt country, because lots and lots of food grew on the land.

<sup>48</sup> So for those 7 years, Joseph told the Egypt people to get food from the farms and take it into the towns. And the people did what Joseph said. Everywhere in Egypt country, the people got food from the farms, and they took that food into the towns that were near the farms. Then they put that food into big sheds, to keep it safe.

<sup>49</sup> There was so much food in those sheds that nobody could count it, just like nobody can count all those little bits of sand that are at the beaches by the sea.

*Joseph had 2 sons*

<sup>50</sup> Joseph's wife was called Asenath, and her father's name was Potifera. He was a ceremony leader for the Egypt people, at the town called Onn.

Joseph and Asenath had 2 sons. Both those sons were born at the time when there was still lots of food growing in Egypt country.

<sup>51</sup> Joseph named his 1st son *Manasseh*. That name means *he let me forget*. Joseph said, "You see, God was good to me. He let me forget about all that trouble I had, and he even let me forget that I miss my family."

<sup>52</sup> Joseph named his 2nd son *Ephraim*. That name means *he let me have kids*. Joseph said, "You see, God was good to me. He let me have kids in this country, even though I had lots of trouble here."

*There was no rain and no food plants*

<sup>53</sup> For those 7 years, lots and lots of food plants grew in Egypt country. But at the end of those 7 good years, the rain stopped coming.

<sup>54</sup> Then the 7 dry years started. There was no rain, and the food plants stopped growing. It happened just like Joseph said.\*

The same thing happened in all the other countries around Egypt too. There was no rain

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\* **41:54** Acts 7:11

and no food plants growing in those countries, so the people in those countries didn't have enough food. But there was still lots of food in those big sheds in Egypt.

<sup>55-56</sup> This is what happened in Egypt country at the time when the rain stopped coming. It got dry all over Egypt country, and the food plants everywhere stopped growing. It got really bad, and all the Egypt people started to get hungry. So they went to Pharaoh, and they said to him, "Please, please give us food."

Then Pharaoh said to all the Egypt people, "Go to Joseph, and do whatever he tells you."\*

So they went to Joseph, and they asked him for food. Then Joseph got his workers to go to all the towns in Egypt country and open those big sheds. There was lots of food in those sheds from the 7 good years. So Joseph's workers started to sell that food to the Egypt people.

<sup>57</sup> And there was no rain in other countries too. It was really bad everywhere. So the people that lived in those other countries, they went to Egypt, and they bought food from Joseph's workers too.

## 42

### *Joseph's brothers went to Egypt country*

<sup>1</sup> Joseph's father Jacob, he lived in Canaan country with his other sons. At that time, there was no rain and no food plants growing in Canaan country. Then somebody said to Jacob, "There is lots of food in Egypt country."

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\* <sup>41:55-56</sup> John 2:5

So Jacob talked to his sons, and he said to them, "Don't just stand around doing nothing.

<sup>2</sup> Somebody told me that there is lots of food in Egypt country. Go there and buy food for all of us. If you don't go and buy food for us, we will die."\*

<sup>3</sup> So 10 of Jacob's sons left Canaan country, and they went to Egypt country to buy food there. Those 10 men were Joseph's half-brothers. They had the same father as Joseph, but different mothers.

<sup>4</sup> You know, Joseph had one other brother too. His name was Benjamin. Joseph and Benjamin had the same father and mother. Their father Jacob really loved Benjamin. So Jacob didn't want Benjamin to go to Egypt with his brothers. He thought, "Benjamin might get hurt, or he might die." So Benjamin stayed at home with his father.

<sup>5</sup> In Egypt country, Jacob's sons went to buy food, and there were lots of other people from Canaan country there too. You see, there was no rain and no food plants growing anywhere in Canaan, so the Canaan people had to go to Egypt to buy food.

*Joseph pretended that he didn't know his brothers*

<sup>6</sup> At that time, Joseph was in charge of Egypt country, and he was the one that sold food to everybody. So Joseph's brothers came to him, and they got down on their knees and put their

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\* **42:2** Acts 7:12



faces near the ground, to show him respect.\*  
7-8 But they didn't know that he was their brother Joseph. They thought that he was one of the Egypt people.

Joseph looked at those men, and he saw that they were his brothers. But Joseph pretended that he didn't know them. He talked to them in the Egypt language, and somebody else talked to Joseph's brothers in their own language and told them the things Joseph said. And Joseph talked in a rough way to them. He said, "Where do you mob come from?"

His brothers said, "We come from Canaan country. We want to buy food here in Egypt."

9 Then Joseph remembered those dreams that he had a long time before. Those dreams showed that one day, Joseph's brothers will all bend down in front of him, to show him respect.\*

Joseph kept on pretending that he didn't know them. He said to his brothers, "I reckon you mob are lying to me. I reckon you are my enemies. You came here to find out about our country, so that your people can attack us."

10 But they said to him, "No, sir, that's not true. We respect you. We came here to buy food."

11 You know, we are all brothers, with the same father. We are good men, and we don't tell lies. We are not your enemies."

12 Joseph said, "I don't believe you. I reckon you came here to find out about our country, so that your people can attack us."

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\* 42:6 Genesis 37:7      \* 42:9 Genesis 37:5-10

<sup>13</sup> They said, “No, sir. Those things that we told you, they are true. We are from a family of 12 brothers. We all have the same father, and he lives in Canaan country. Our youngest brother stayed at home with our father, and our other brother isn’t with us any more.”

<sup>14</sup> But Joseph said, “Stop talking, you mob. I know for sure that you are my enemies.

<sup>15</sup> So I’m going to test you mob, to see if you are lying. You said, ‘Our youngest brother is with our father in Canaan country.’ All right, I want your youngest brother to come here, so that I can see him. I’m telling you strongly, if your brother doesn’t come here, I will not let you leave this place. Pharaoh, the big boss of this country, he is the one that gives me the power to promise that.”

<sup>16</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, “This is how I am going to test you mob. One of you has to go back to your home country and get your youngest brother, then bring him back here. The rest of you mob have to stay here, and I will put you in jail. If your youngest brother comes here, then I will know that you told me the true story, and I will let you go free. But if he doesn’t come, then I will know that you are my enemies. I will be really sure, just like I’m really sure that Pharaoh is alive.”

<sup>17</sup> Then Joseph put his brothers in jail, and they stayed there for 3 days.

<sup>18</sup> At the end of those 3 days, Joseph talked to his brothers again. He said to them, “You know,

I respect God and I want to do the right thing. So if you do what I say, I will not kill you.”

<sup>19</sup> Then Joseph said to them, “You told me that you are good men, and you don’t tell lies. So listen, this is what you have to do. Pick one man from your mob, and I will keep that man here in jail. The rest of you mob, you can go back to your home country. You can take food with you, and you can give that food to your families, because they are really hungry.

<sup>20</sup> Then get your youngest brother, and bring him here to me. Then I will know that you told me the true story, and I will not kill you.”

So Joseph’s brothers agreed to do what he said. But they still didn’t know that he was their brother Joseph. They still thought he was an Egypt man.

<sup>21</sup> Then Joseph’s brothers talked to each other in their own language. They said, “You know, a long time ago, we made bad trouble for our brother Joseph. We chucked him into a big hole in the ground, and then we sold him to some men from the Midian tribe. At that time, we saw that he was really frightened, and he asked us strongly to be good to him, but we didn’t listen. That’s the reason why we’ve got this bad trouble now. God is punishing us for those things that we did to Joseph.”

<sup>22</sup> Then Joseph’s oldest brother Reuben, he said to the others, “You know, I told you mob not to hurt Joseph, but you didn’t listen to me. And

look, now God is doing payback to us.”\*

<sup>23</sup> Joseph listened to his brothers, and he understood what they said, because he knew their language. But Joseph’s brothers didn’t know that he understood them. You see, Joseph always talked to his brothers in the Egypt language, then somebody else talked to them in their own language and told them what Joseph said. So they thought he only talked the Egypt language.

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph heard his brothers say those things, he wanted to cry. So he went to a place where they couldn’t see him, and he cried.

After a while, Joseph stopped crying. Then he went back to his brothers, and he talked to them in the Egypt language again. And Joseph picked his brother Simeon to stay in Egypt country. He told his men to tie up Simeon, and they tied him up in front of his brothers.

*Joseph’s brothers went back to Canaan country*

<sup>25</sup> Then Joseph got ready to send his brothers back to Canaan country. He said to his workers, “Fill up these men’s bags with food, so that they can take it home to their families. And give them some food to eat on the way home too.” And those workers did what Joseph said.

Joseph’s brothers already paid for that food, but Joseph talked secretly to his workers, and he said, “Get the money that those men paid us, and hide it in their food bags.” So those workers did what Joseph said. Then they gave those food bags to Joseph’s brothers, with the money inside. But

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\* **42:22** Genesis 37:21-22

Joseph's brothers didn't know that their money was in those bags.

<sup>26</sup> Then Joseph's brothers put their food bags on their donkeys, and they left that place and started to go back towards Canaan country.

<sup>27</sup> Later that day, they stopped in another place, to camp there that night. One of Joseph's brothers wanted food for his donkey, so he opened his food bag. Then he saw his money in there on top of the food, and he got a shock.

<sup>28</sup> He said to his brothers, "Somebody gave my money back. They hid it in my bag. Look, here it is, on top of the food."

Then Joseph's brothers got really worried. They thought, "Those Egypt people will think that we stole this money." They were really frightened, and their bodies started to shake. They said to each other, "This thing that happened to us, it's really bad. God is punishing us."

<sup>29</sup> The next day, they kept going towards Canaan country, and they kept on camping along the way. When they got to Canaan country, they went to their father Jacob, and they told him about the things that happened to them in Egypt country.

<sup>30</sup> They said, "The man that is in charge of Egypt country, he talked in a rough way to us. He thought we were his enemies, and he said to us, 'I reckon you came here to find out about our country, so that your people can attack us.'"

<sup>31</sup> But we said to him, 'We are good men, and we don't tell lies. We are not your enemies.'

<sup>32</sup> We are from a family of 12 brothers, and we all have the same father. One brother isn't with us any more, and our youngest brother is with our father in Canaan country.'

<sup>33</sup> Then that man, the one that is in charge in Egypt, he said to us, 'I'm going to test you mob, to see if those things you said are true. This is what you have to do. You have to pick one of your brothers to stay here with me. The rest of you mob can go back to your home country. You can take food with you, and give it to your families, because they are really hungry.

<sup>34</sup> After that, you have to get your youngest brother, and you have to bring him here to me. Then I will know that you are not my enemies. Yes, I will know that you are good men, and you didn't lie to me. Then I will give your other brother back to you, the one that stayed here in Egypt country. And then I will let you buy and sell things in my country.' "

<sup>35</sup> After Joseph's brothers told their father those things, they all opened their bags, and they started to take out the food. Then all of them saw their money in those bags. And their father Jacob saw that money too. They all got a shock, and they were frightened.

*Jacob didn't let his sons take Benjamin to Egypt country*

<sup>36</sup> Jacob's sons wanted to take their brother Benjamin back to Egypt country, just like Joseph told them to. That made Jacob sad. So Jacob said to his sons, "I don't want to lose any more of my kids. My son Joseph isn't here any more, and

my son Simeon isn't here any more. And now you want to take my son Benjamin away from me too. All those things are really sad for me."

<sup>37</sup> Then Reuben, Jacob's oldest son, he talked to his father Jacob. Reuben said, "Let me take Benjamin to Egypt country. I will look after him, and I promise that I will bring him back to you. If I don't bring him back to you, then you can kill my 2 sons."

<sup>38</sup> But Jacob said, "No. I will not let Benjamin go with you mob to Egypt country. You know that I really loved Benjamin's mother Rachel. We had 2 sons together, Joseph and Benjamin. Now Joseph is dead, and Benjamin is the only one left. If I let him go with you, he might get hurt, or he might die. You know, I am an old man. If you mob take Benjamin to Egypt country, and something bad happens to him, I will be so sad that I will die."

## 43

*Jacob told his sons to go to Egypt country again*

<sup>1</sup> Some time later, there was still no rain and no food plants growing in Canaan country, and everybody was really hungry.

<sup>2</sup> Jacob's family finished eating all that food that they got in Egypt country, and they didn't have any more food. So Jacob said to his sons, "Go back to Egypt country, and buy a bit more food for us."

<sup>3</sup> But Jacob's son Judah said, "You know that we can't go back to Egypt country without our youngest brother Benjamin. That man that is in

charge of Egypt, he will not let us do that. Last time we went to Egypt, that man talked strongly to us, and he said, 'You can only come back here if you bring your youngest brother with you.' "

<sup>4</sup> Then Judah said to Jacob, "If you will let our brother Benjamin go with us to Egypt country, then we will go and buy food for you there.

<sup>5</sup> But if you will not let Benjamin go with us, then we will not go to Egypt country, because that man said to us, 'You can only come back here if you bring your youngest brother with you.' "

<sup>6</sup> Then Jacob said, "I don't want you mob to take Benjamin to Egypt country. Why did you make this problem for me? Why did you tell that man that you have another brother?"

<sup>7</sup> Jacob's sons said, "That man asked us lots of questions about ourselves and our family. He said, 'Is your father still alive? And have you got another brother?' We just answered his questions. We didn't know that he was going to say, 'Bring your brother here.' "

<sup>8</sup> Then Judah talked to his father Jacob again. He said, "I will look after that young man Benjamin. Let him go with me to Egypt country. We will go there straight away, with the rest of our brothers, so that we can buy food. If we don't go and buy food, our mob will get so hungry that we will all die. That's true for us, and you, and our kids. We all need that food, so that we can stay alive."

<sup>9</sup> Then Judah said to his father, "I promise that I will look after Benjamin, and I will keep him safe until we come back. I'm telling you straight,



if I don't bring Benjamin back here to you, then you can blame me and say that I am guilty, and you can keep doing that all my life.

<sup>10</sup> But listen, we really need to go to Egypt country now. We already waited too long. We had enough time to go to Egypt and come back, and then go again and come back. But we didn't do that. We just stayed here in Canaan country."

<sup>11</sup> Then their father Jacob said, "All right. I can see that you men have to take Benjamin to Egypt country. But first, I want you to get some of the best things from our country, so that you can take them as presents for that man, the one that is in charge of Egypt. Get some honey, and some nuts. And get some perfume, and some bush medicine called myrrh. Put all those things into your bags, and take them to Egypt, and give them to that man that is in charge."

<sup>12</sup> Then Jacob kept on talking to his sons. He said, "Remember, the last time you men went to Egypt, you paid money for food. Then later on, you found that money in your food bags. I don't know why somebody put that money into your food bags. Maybe that person wasn't thinking right. So you have to take that money back to Egypt country, and you have to give it to that man that is in charge. And take some other money with you as well, to pay for the food that you will buy this time."

<sup>13</sup> Then Jacob said to his sons, "Now get your brother Benjamin, and leave this place straight away. Go back to Egypt country, and go to that man that is in charge.

<sup>14</sup> You know, God is the one that has power over everything. So I'm asking God to make that man feel sorry for you mob. If he feels sorry for you, then he will let your brother Simeon go free, and he will let Simeon and Benjamin come back here with you. But if those things don't happen, and if my sons die, then I can't change that."

*Joseph's brothers went to Egypt country again*

<sup>15</sup> Straight away, Jacob's sons did everything that Jacob said. They got those presents ready, and they got that money that they found in their food bags, and some other money. Then they got their brother Benjamin, and they went to Egypt country. After they got there, they went and stood in front of Joseph.

<sup>16</sup> Joseph looked at those men, and he saw that his brother Benjamin was with them. So Joseph talked to his worker, the one that was in charge of all the other workers in his house. Joseph said to that worker, "I want these men to eat lunch with me at 12 o'clock. So take them to my house, and then go and get one of my animals and kill it. Cook the meat from that animal, and get it ready for us to eat."

<sup>17</sup> So that worker started to take those men to Joseph's house, just like Joseph told him to do.

<sup>18</sup> Then those men got frightened. They talked to each other, and they said, "You know, the last time we came here to Egypt country, we brought money with us, to buy food. But somebody put that money in our food bags, and then we took those food bags back home with us. We didn't

know that our money was in those bags. Now that man is going to say to us, 'You mob stole that money.' That's the reason why he wants us at his house. Him and his men, they are going to attack us, and we will not be able to fight back, because they will be too strong for us. Then they will make us like prisoners, and we will have to work very hard for them. And they will take our donkeys too."

<sup>19</sup> So when those men got near to Joseph's house, they stopped outside the door of the house, and they talked to Joseph's worker.

<sup>20</sup> They said, "Please, sir, we want to tell you something. Some time ago, we came here to Egypt country, to buy food. We got lots of food, and we paid money for that food.

<sup>21-22</sup> Then on the way home, we stopped at a place to camp for the night. Then we opened our food bags, and we saw that all our money was in those bags, on top of the food. We don't know who put that money in our bags. So now, we brought that money here, to give it back. And we brought some other money with us too, so that we can buy more food."

<sup>23</sup> Then Joseph's worker said to them, "It's all right. Don't be frightened. I got the money that you paid for that food last time. The God that you and your father respect, he is the one that put that money in your food bags. It's like he gave you a special present."

Then that worker went and got Joseph's brother Simeon, that one that stayed in Egypt

country last time. That worker took Simeon to his brothers,

<sup>24</sup> and then he took all those men into Joseph's house. He got water for them to wash their feet, and he got food for their donkeys to eat.

<sup>25</sup> And he said to those men, "You are going to eat lunch with my boss at 12 o'clock." So they washed their feet, and they got those presents ready for Joseph, the ones that they brought from Canaan country.

### *Joseph's brothers had lunch with him*

<sup>26</sup> Joseph came home for lunch, and his brothers gave him those presents that they brought from Canaan country. They still didn't know that he was their brother. They thought that he was one of the Egypt people. So they got down on their knees and put their faces near the ground, to show him respect.

<sup>27</sup> Joseph said to them, "How are you mob?" And he said, "The last time you came here, you told me about your father. So tell me, how is that old man? Is he still alive?"

<sup>28</sup> They said, "Yes, our father is still alive, and he is good. He respects you." Then they all got down on their knees again, and they put their faces near the ground, to show respect to Joseph.

<sup>29</sup> Joseph looked around, and he saw his brother Benjamin. You know, Joseph and Benjamin had the same mother and father. So Joseph said to those men, "You told me that you have another younger brother. Is this him?"

Then Joseph said to Benjamin, “Young man, I’m asking God to be very good to you.”

<sup>30</sup> Joseph was really happy to see Benjamin, because he loved him very much. He was so happy that he wanted to cry. But Joseph didn’t want his brothers to see him crying, so he quickly went out of that room to find a place to cry. He went to his own room, and he cried.

<sup>31</sup> After a while, Joseph stopped crying. Then he washed his face, and he went back to his brothers. And Joseph tried to be strong, so that he did not cry again. He said to his workers, “Bring the food that you made, so that we can eat it.”

<sup>32</sup> In that room there was Joseph, and Joseph’s brothers, and some Egypt people. Joseph’s workers went and got food for them all. Those Egypt people didn’t want to sit with Joseph’s brothers, because Joseph’s brothers were from the Hebrew tribe, and the Egypt people reckoned it was wrong to eat food with Hebrew people. That’s what their culture said. So those Egypt people sat by themselves, and Joseph had a special place for himself.

<sup>33</sup> And Joseph got his brothers to sit together. He got his oldest brother to sit down first, and he got his 2nd oldest brother to sit down next, and then he kept on doing that with all his brothers, and he got his youngest brother to sit down last. So all his brothers were sitting down in order of their age, from the oldest to the youngest. Joseph’s brothers were shocked. They thought,

“That man knows how old we all are. How does he know that?”

<sup>34</sup> Then Joseph’s workers got food from Joseph’s table, and they gave that food to Joseph’s brothers. But they gave Benjamin more food than all the others. They gave Benjamin 5 lunches just for him. And all of Joseph’s brothers, they drank a lot of wine with Joseph, and they felt very happy.

## 44

### *Joseph pretended that Benjamin stole a cup*

<sup>1</sup> Joseph talked to his worker, the one that was in charge of all the other workers in his house. Joseph said to that worker, “Fill up those men’s bags with food. Put lots of food in them, so that they are really full. Then get the money that they paid for that food, and hide that money in their bags, on top of the food. Do that for every one of those men.”

<sup>2</sup> Joseph also said, “Get my special cup, the one that is made of silver. Hide that cup in the youngest man’s bag, on top of the food, with the money he paid for that food.” And Joseph’s worker did all those things that Joseph said.

<sup>3</sup> The next morning, as soon as the sun came up, Joseph’s workers helped those men get ready to go home. Those men got their food bags, and they put those bags on their donkeys, and then they started to go home.

<sup>4</sup> When those men were just a little bit away from Joseph’s town, Joseph said to his worker, “Quick, chase those men until you catch up with

them. Then say to them, 'My boss was very good to you, but you mob did a bad thing to him. You stole his silver cup.

<sup>5</sup> That cup is really special. My boss drinks from that cup, and he uses it to find out things that will happen later on. But you mob stole that cup. That was a really wrong thing to do.' "

<sup>6</sup> So Joseph's worker chased those men until he caught up with them. Then he talked to those men, and he said those things that Joseph told him to say.

<sup>7</sup> But those men said to him, "Sir, we don't know why you said those things. We didn't steal your boss's cup. We respect you and your boss, and we don't want to do bad things to you. No way."

<sup>8</sup> Those men kept on talking to Joseph's worker. They said, "Sir, think about that other time when we came to your country to buy food. On the way home to Canaan country, we found money in our food bags, on top of the food. But we didn't try to keep that money. No, we wanted to give it back to you. So the next time we came to your country, we brought that money with us, to give it to you. That shows that we are good men. So you can be sure that we didn't steal anything made of silver or gold from your boss's house."

<sup>9</sup> Then those men said to Joseph's worker, "Sir, you can look in all our bags. And if you find that silver cup, then you can kill the man that has the cup in his bag. Then the rest of us mob, we will become your work-men, and we will work for you for no pay."

<sup>10</sup> Joseph's worker said, "All right, I will look in all your bags. And the man that has the cup in his bag, he has to become my work-man. Then I will let the rest of you mob go free."

<sup>11</sup> So those men quickly took their bags off their donkeys, and they all opened their bags.

<sup>12</sup> And Joseph's worker started to look in all those bags. He looked in the oldest man's bag first, but the cup wasn't there. Then he went to the next oldest man, and he looked in that man's bag, but the cup wasn't there. And he kept on doing that with all the men. He looked in all of their bags until he got to the youngest man. That young man's name was Benjamin. Joseph's worker looked in Benjamin's bag, and he found that silver cup. <sup>13</sup> Then all those men got a big shock, and they thought, "Now Benjamin will have to stay in Egypt country and work for that man." So they got really upset. They were so upset that they tore their clothes. Then they put their bags back on their donkeys, and they went back to the town where Joseph lived.

### *Judah tried to save Benjamin*

<sup>14</sup> Joseph was in his house, and he was waiting for those men to come back. Then those men got to the house. The one called Judah, he went inside the house, and his brothers went inside too. You know, all those men were Joseph's brothers, but they still didn't know that he was Joseph. So they quickly got down on their knees and put their faces near the ground, to show him respect.



<sup>15</sup> Joseph still wanted to trick them, so he said to them, "You know, I'm a very powerful man. I can do magic to find out things that nobody else knows. So I know that you mob stole my silver cup. Why did you do that bad thing?"

<sup>16</sup> Judah said to Joseph, "Sir, we don't know what to say to you. We really don't know what to say. We didn't steal your cup. That's the true story, but we don't have any way to show you that it's true."

Then Judah said to Joseph, "Sir, a long time ago, we did bad things, and God knows that. Now God is showing you that we are guilty men. So listen, we will all become your work-men. Yes, that man that had your cup in his bag, he will become your work-man, and the rest of us mob, we will become your work-men too. And we will work for you for no pay."

<sup>17</sup> But Joseph said, "No way. I don't want to punish all of you like that. The man that had my cup in his bag, he is the only one that has to become my work-man. The rest of you mob, you can go home to your father, and I will not make any trouble for you."

<sup>18</sup> Then Judah went more close to Joseph, and Judah said, "Sir, please let me say something to you, even though I am not an important person. I know that you are very important, just like Pharaoh, the big boss of Egypt country. So please don't be angry with me for saying this.

<sup>19</sup> You know, sir, the last time we came here, you asked us, 'Is your father still alive? And do you have another brother?'

<sup>20</sup> Then we said to you, 'Yes, sir. Our father is alive, and he is an old man. And we have a young brother too. He was born when our father was already old. We had one more brother, but he died. That brother that died, and our young brother, they had the same mother. So now our young brother is the only kid left from his mother. And our father really loves him.'

<sup>21</sup> Then you said to us, 'Go and get that young man, and bring him here to Egypt country, so that I can see him.'

<sup>22</sup> But we said, 'Sir, we can't take that young man away from his father. If we do that, his father will be so sad that he will die.'

<sup>23</sup> Then you said to us, 'You mob can only come back here if you bring your youngest brother with you.' "

<sup>24</sup> Judah kept on talking to Joseph. He said, "Sir, we went back home to our father, and we told him those things that you said.

<sup>25</sup> Then, some time later, our father said to us, 'Go back to Egypt, and buy a bit more food for us mob.'

<sup>26</sup> But we said to him, 'That man that is in charge of Egypt, he said to us, "You mob can only come back here if you bring your youngest brother with you." ' So we said to our father, 'If you will let our youngest brother go with us to Egypt, then we will go. But if you don't let him go with us, then we can't go.'

<sup>27</sup> Then my father said to us, 'Listen, you know that I really loved my wife Rachel, and we only had 2 sons together.

28 One of those sons went away, and he never came back. So I said, "I know what happened. A wild animal tore my son into little bits." And I never saw him again.

29 So now your youngest brother, he is the only one of Rachel's sons that I have left. If you take him away from me, he might get hurt, or he might die. You know, I am an old man. If something bad happens to my son, I will be so sad that I will die.' "

30-31 Judah kept on talking to Joseph. He said, "Sir, our father really loves that young man. He loves him more than anything else. And you know, our father is very old. I'm telling you, if I go back home to my father, and if that young man is not with us, then my father will be so sad that he will die. Yes, as soon as he sees that the young man is not with us, he will die straight away. We don't want to do that to our father.

32 Sir, I promised my father that I will look after that young man, and keep him safe. I said to my father, 'If I don't bring that young man back here to you, then you can blame me and say that I am guilty, and you can do that all my life.'

33 So please, sir, let me stay here and become your work-man, instead of that young man. And let that young man go back home with his brothers.

34 If that young man is not with me, I can't go back to my father. I don't want to see my father get real sad and die. No way."

## 45

### *Joseph told his brothers the true story*

<sup>1</sup> After Judah said all those things, Joseph really wanted to cry, and he wanted to tell those men that he was their brother. But lots of Joseph's workers were there in that room, so Joseph said to them, "All of you workers, go out of this room." Then all of Joseph's workers went out, and Joseph stayed there with his brothers.

<sup>2</sup> Then Joseph started to cry really loud. He cried so loud that some of the Egypt people heard him, and those Egypt people went and told the people in Pharaoh's house.

<sup>3</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am your brother Joseph. You said that my father is still alive. Is that true?"\*

Joseph's brothers got a big shock. You see, before this, they thought that he was one of the Egypt people, but now they knew that he was their brother Joseph. They were really shocked and frightened, so they didn't say anything.

<sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Please, come and stand more close to me." So they went more close to him.

And Joseph said, "I am your brother Joseph. Remember, a long time ago, you sold me as a work-man to that Midian mob, and they brought me here to Egypt country.

<sup>5</sup> Listen, I can see that you are upset and angry with yourselves, because you sold me as a work-man. But don't be upset or angry. You know,

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\* 45:3 Acts 7:13

God was the one that made those things happen. Yes, God sent me here to Egypt, so that I can help people stay alive in these dry years with no food plants growing. And later on, he got you mob to come here to get food.

<sup>6</sup> You know, we already had 2 dry years with no rain, and there will be 5 more dry years. Yes, for 5 more years, nobody will be able to grow any food.

<sup>7</sup> But God wants to save you mob, so he did a great thing for you. He sent me here to Egypt, to get things ready for you. Now God is going to use me to make sure that you and your families stay alive.

<sup>8</sup> So I'm telling you, it wasn't you mob that sent me here to Egypt. No, it was God that sent me here. He made me Pharaoh's most important helper, and he made me boss over all of Pharaoh's workers, and he put me in charge of all of Egypt."

<sup>9</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Now you mob have to go quickly to my father. Say to him, 'This is a message from your son Joseph. He says, "God put me in charge of all of Egypt country. Come and live in this country with me straight away.\*

<sup>10</sup> Bring your kids and your grand-kids, your sheep and cows, and everything that you own. You can live near me, in the place called Goshen.

<sup>11</sup> You know, there will be 5 more years of no rain and no food plants growing. But I will give

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\* 45:9 Acts 7:14

food to you and your family and your animals for those 5 years. I will do that for you, so that you will not become really poor, and you and your animals will not die.” ’ ’ ”

<sup>12</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Now you mob know that I really am Joseph. And my brother Benjamin, he knows that too.

<sup>13</sup> So you mob have to go and tell my father that I am very important in Egypt country. And tell him about everything else that you saw here. Go quickly, and then bring my father here.”

<sup>14</sup> Then Joseph put his arms around his brother Benjamin, and he hugged him. And Joseph cried, because he was so happy to see Benjamin again. And Benjamin hugged Joseph, and he cried too.

<sup>15</sup> Then Joseph kissed all his brothers on the cheek, and he kept on crying while he did that. Then Joseph’s brothers were not frightened any more, and they talked to Joseph.

### *Pharaoh was good to Joseph’s brothers*

<sup>16</sup> Somebody went to Pharaoh’s house, and they said to Pharaoh and his workers, “Joseph’s brothers are here in Egypt country.” And Pharaoh and his workers were happy that Joseph’s brothers came.

<sup>17</sup> Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Tell your brothers, ‘This is what you have to do. Put your bags of food on your donkeys, and go back to Canaan country.

<sup>18</sup> Then get your father and your families, and bring them back here to Egypt. I will give you the best land in Egypt, and you can live on that

land. And you can eat the best food that is in this country.' "

<sup>19</sup> Pharaoh kept on talking to Joseph. He said, "I want you to say to your brothers, 'This is what you have to do. Get some of our cows and trailers that are here in Egypt country, and get those cows to pull those trailers back to your home country. Then get your little kids and your wives to sit in those trailers, and then those cows can bring them back here to Egypt. And bring your father too.

<sup>20</sup> You don't need to bring all the things that you own, because I am going to give you the best things that are here in Egypt.' "

<sup>21</sup> Then Jacob's sons did those things that Pharaoh said. Joseph gave them some cows and trailers, just like Pharaoh told him to do, and he gave them some food to eat on the way home.

<sup>22</sup> And he gave them all some new clothes. But he gave Benjamin more clothes than all the others. Yes, he gave Benjamin 5 sets of clothes. He also gave Benjamin 300 pieces of silver money.

<sup>23</sup> Joseph wanted to send some presents to his father too. So he got 10 male donkeys, and he got some really good things from Egypt country, and he put those good things into bags, and he put those bags on the donkeys to send them to his father. Joseph also got 10 female donkeys to send to his father, and he got wheat seeds, and bread, and lots of other food, and he put all that food into bags, and he put those bags on those 10 female donkeys. Joseph wanted to send that

food to his father, so that his father could eat it on the way back to Egypt.

<sup>24</sup> After everything was ready, Joseph told his brothers to leave Egypt and go back to their home country. And he said to them, “Don’t argue on the way home.” So they left Egypt country to go home.

*Joseph’s brothers told their father that Joseph was alive*

<sup>25</sup> Joseph’s brothers went back to their father Jacob, in Canaan country.

<sup>26</sup> They said to Jacob, “Joseph is not dead. No, he is still alive, and he is in charge of all of Egypt country.”

Jacob got a big shock, and he didn’t believe those things that his sons said. You see, he thought that Joseph was dead.

<sup>27</sup> So Jacob’s sons told him everything that Joseph said to them, and they showed him those cows and trailers that Joseph sent. They said, “Joseph sent these cows and trailers so that we can take you and our families to Egypt country.”

Then Jacob felt better.

<sup>28</sup> He said, “Now I know that those things that you said, they are true. My son Joseph really is alive. I have to go and see him before I die.”

## 46

*God talked to Jacob*

<sup>1</sup> So Jacob left his home in Canaan country, and he started to go to Egypt country. He took his family with him, and everything that he owned.



They got to the place called Beersheba, then Jacob killed some animals and burned them. He did that to show respect to God. God is the one that looked after his father Isaac.

<sup>2</sup> That night, God talked to Jacob. God said, "Jacob, Jacob."

Jacob said, "Yes, I am listening."

<sup>3</sup> And God said, "I am God, I am the one that looked after your father. Don't be frightened to go to Egypt. I will make your family into a great nation there."

<sup>4</sup> Then God said to Jacob, "I will go with you to Egypt, and I will take care of you. One day, you will die in Egypt, and your son Joseph will be with you when you die. And I promise that later on, I will take your family back to Canaan country again."

### *Jacob and his family went to Egypt country*

<sup>5</sup> Then Jacob and his family left Beersheba. Jacob's sons got their father to ride in one of those trailers that Pharaoh sent. And they got their little kids and their wives to ride in those trailers too. And the cows from Pharaoh, they pulled those trailers.

<sup>6</sup> Jacob's family took all their animals with them, and everything else that they owned. They took all the things that they got while they lived in Canaan country. And they all went to Egypt country.\*

That's how Jacob's whole family went to Egypt country.

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\* [46:6](#) [Acts 7:15](#)

<sup>7</sup> Jacob took all his sons and daughters to Egypt, and all his grand-sons and grand-daughters.

*The names of Jacob's kids and grand-kids*

<sup>8</sup> These are the names of Jacob's kids and grand-kids. All this mob went to Egypt country with Jacob.

*The kids and grand-kids that Jacob had with Leah*

Jacob and Leah's oldest son was Reuben.

<sup>9</sup> Reuben's sons were,

- Hanok
- Pallu
- Hezron
- Carmi

<sup>10</sup> Jacob and Leah's next son was Simeon.

Simeon's sons were,

- Jemuel
- Jamin
- Ohad
- Jakin
- Zohar
- Shawl. His mother was from Canaan country.

<sup>11</sup> Jacob and Leah's next son was Levi.

Levi's sons were,

- Gershon
- Kohath
- Merari

<sup>12</sup> Jacob and Leah's next son was Judah.

Judah's sons were,

- Er
- Onan
- Shelah
- Perez
- Zerah

But Er and Onan already died in Canaan country.

Perez's sons were,

- Hezron
- Hamul

<sup>13</sup> Jacob and Leah's next son was Issachar.

Issachar's sons were,

- Tola
- Puvah
- Yashub
- Shimron

<sup>14</sup> Jacob and Leah's youngest son was Zebulun.

Zebulun's sons were,

- Sered
- Elon
- Jaleel

<sup>15</sup> Those were the sons and grand-sons that Jacob had with his wife Leah. There were 33 of them, and they were all born in Paddan Aram country. Jacob and Leah also had a daughter called Dinah.

*The kids and grand-kids that Jacob had with Zilpah*

<sup>16</sup> Jacob and Zilpah's older son was Gad.

Gad's sons were,

- Zefon
- Haggi
- Shuni
- Ezbon
- Eri
- Arodi
- Areli

<sup>17</sup> Jacob and Zilpah's younger son was Asher.

Asher's sons were,

- Imnah
- Ishvah
- Ishvi

– Beriah

Asher also had a daughter called Serah.

Beriah's sons were,

– Heber

– Malkiel

<sup>18</sup> Those were the kids and grand-kids that Jacob had with Zilpah. There were 16 of them. That woman Zilpah, she used to work for Leah's father Laban. Then, at the time when Jacob and Leah got married, Laban gave Zilpah to Leah, to work for her.

*The kids and grand-kids that Jacob had with Rachel*

<sup>19</sup> Jacob and his wife Rachel had 2 sons,

– Joseph

– Benjamin

<sup>20</sup> Joseph had 2 sons in Egypt country. Their names were Manasseh and Ephraim. Their mother was Joseph's wife Asenath. Her father's name was Potifera, and he was a ceremony leader for the Egypt people, at the town called Onn.\*

<sup>21</sup> Benjamin's sons were,

– Bela

– Beker

– Ashbel

– Gera

– Nayman

– Ehi

– Rosh

– Muphim

– Huphim

– Ard

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\* **46:20** Genesis 41:50-52

<sup>22</sup> All those were the sons and grand-sons that Jacob had with his wife Rachel. There were 14 of them.

*The kids and grand-kids that Jacob had with Bilhah*

<sup>23</sup> Jacob and Bilhah's older son was Dan.

Dan's son was,

– Hushim

<sup>24</sup> Jacob and Bilhah's younger son was Naphtali.

Naphtali's sons were,

– Jahzeel

– Guni

– Jezer

– Shillem

<sup>25</sup> Those were the sons and grand-sons that Jacob had with Bilhah. There were 7 of them. That woman Bilhah, she used to work for Rachel's father Laban. Then, at the time when Jacob and Rachel got married, Laban gave Bilhah to Rachel, to work for her.

<sup>26</sup> All those kids and grand-kids of Jacob went to Egypt country with him. There were 66 of them. And Jacob's sons took their wives to Egypt too.

<sup>27</sup> Jacob's son Joseph was already in Egypt, and Joseph's 2 sons were in Egypt too, because they were born there.

At that time, there were 70 people in Jacob's family, and they all went to live in Egypt country.\*

*Jacob and Joseph saw each other again*

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\* **46:27** Acts 7:14

28 Jacob and his family got near to Egypt country. Then Jacob said to his son Judah, "Go to Joseph, and say to him, 'Please tell us how to get to the place called Goshen.' " And Judah did what Jacob said. Then Jacob and his family went to Goshen.

29 Joseph told his workers to get his special trailer ready, with horses to pull it. Then Joseph got into that trailer, and he went to Goshen, so that he could meet his father Jacob. As soon as Joseph saw his father, he went to him, and he put his arms around him and hugged him. Joseph held on to his father for a long time, and he cried a lot, because he was so happy to see him again.

30 Then Jacob said to his son Joseph, "Now I have seen you again, and I know that you are still alive. That's the only thing I wanted. So I'm ready to die now."

31 Then Joseph talked to his brothers, and to the rest of his father's family. He said, "Now I have to go and tell Pharaoh that you mob are here. I will say to Pharaoh, 'My brothers, and the rest of my father's family, they left their home in Canaan country, and they came here to Egypt country, so that they can live near me.

32 All the men in my father's family, they look after animals. They brought all their sheep here, and all their cows, and everything else that they own.' "

33 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "After I say those things to Pharaoh, he will say to me, 'Tell those men to come and see me.' And when you

go to see him, he will say to you, 'What sort of work did you do in Canaan country?'

<sup>34</sup> Then you have to say to him, 'Sir, ever since we were young men, we looked after animals. And our father and our grand-fathers, they used to look after animals too.' "

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "You know, the Egypt people hate men that look after animals. So they will not want you mob to live in their towns. But this place called Goshen, it's a long way from the other towns in Egypt country, so Pharaoh will let you live here."

## 47

*Pharaoh let Jacob and his family live in Egypt country*

<sup>1</sup> Joseph left Goshen, and he went to Pharaoh's house. Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "My father and my brothers came here from Canaan country. They brought all their sheep and cows with them, and everything else that they own. They are staying in the place called Goshen."

<sup>2</sup> Joseph took 5 of his brothers to Pharaoh.

<sup>3</sup> Then Pharaoh said to Joseph's brothers, "What sort of work do you do?"

Joseph's brothers said to Pharaoh, "Sir, we look after animals, just like our father and our grand-fathers used to."

<sup>4</sup> Then they said, "Sir, it is a really hard time in Canaan country. There is no rain, so there are no food plants growing, and there isn't any grass there for our animals to eat. That's the reason why we came here to Egypt country. We want to

live here for a while. Please, sir, let us stay in the place called Goshen.”

<sup>5</sup> Then Pharaoh talked to Joseph. He said, “It is good that your father and your brothers have come here to be with you.

<sup>6</sup> There is lots of land here in Egypt country. Your father and brothers can live in the best part of the land. Let them live in Goshen, the land is good there.”

Pharaoh also said to Joseph, “Maybe some of the men in your family are really good at looking after animals. You can tell those men to look after my animals for me.”

<sup>7</sup> Then Joseph got his father Jacob, and he took Jacob to meet Pharaoh. Then Jacob said good things to Pharaoh, and he showed him respect.

<sup>8</sup> Pharaoh said to Jacob, “How old are you?”

<sup>9</sup> And Jacob said to Pharaoh, “I am 130 years old. All my life, I’ve lived on country that belongs to other people. I never had my own land, just like my grand-fathers never had their own land. You know, my grand-fathers lived for a long time, and they died when they were very old. But my life has been short, and I had a lot of trouble in my life.”

<sup>10</sup> Then Jacob said *good-bye* to Pharaoh, and he went out of Pharaoh’s house.

<sup>11</sup> After that, Joseph gave his father and his brothers the best land in Egypt country, just like Pharaoh said, and they lived on that land. That land was in the place called Goshen, but later on, people called that place Rameses.



<sup>12</sup> And Joseph gave food to his father, and his brothers, and the rest of his father's family. He made sure that each brother always had enough food for their whole family.

*Joseph gave the Egypt people food*

<sup>13</sup> There was no rain in all of Egypt and Canaan country, and no food plants grew. It was really hard for everyone. The people did not have enough food, so they got really hungry and weak.

<sup>14</sup> At first, all the people in Egypt and Canaan country, they paid money to Joseph, and he gave them food. And Joseph took all that money into Pharaoh's house.

<sup>15</sup> But after a while, the people in Egypt and Canaan country had no more money left. So all the Egypt people went to Joseph, and they said to him, "We've got no more money to buy food. You have to help us. Give us food, or we will die."

<sup>16</sup> Joseph said to them, "All right. You don't have any money, so you can give me your animals instead of money, and then I will give you food."

<sup>17</sup> So the people brought their animals to Joseph. They brought horses, and sheep, and cows, and donkeys. Every time somebody gave an animal to Joseph, he gave them some food, so they had enough food to eat. They kept on doing that for one year. Then after that, they had no more animals left.

<sup>18</sup> The next year, the people went to Joseph again, and they said, "Sir, you know that we've got no money, and we gave you all our animals.

The only things we have left are our own bodies and our land. There's nothing else we can give you.

<sup>19</sup> We need food, and we need seeds to plant in the ground. We know we can plant seeds now, and those food plants will grow, but we don't have any seeds to plant. You have to help us, or we will die, and our land will be useless."

Then the people said, "This is what we want to do. We will give you our land and ourselves. Then all the land that belongs to us will belong to Pharaoh. And we will belong to Pharaoh too, we will become his workers. Then you give us food to eat and seeds to plant, so that we can grow food plants on the land again. It will be like we are paying for that food and those seeds with ourselves and our land. That way, we will have food to eat, and we will stay alive. But if you don't do that, we will die, and our land will be useless."

<sup>20</sup> So Joseph did what the people asked. You see, there was no rain and no food plants growing in Egypt country. It was really bad, and the people needed food. So everyone in Egypt country gave all their land to Joseph, and he gave their land to Pharaoh. Then that land didn't belong to the people any more, it belonged to Pharaoh.

<sup>21</sup> And Joseph got all the Egypt people to work for Pharaoh.

<sup>22-26</sup> And Joseph said to the people, "Listen. Today I gave you food to Pharaoh, to work for him. And I gave him your land as well. Now I will give you seeds to plant in the ground, so that

you can grow food plants. Every time you take food from those plants, you have to split up that food into 5 piles, and give one pile to Pharaoh. You can keep the rest of that food for yourselves. Then you and your families and your little kids, and all the people that live in your homes, you will all have food to eat. And you can take some of the seeds from those food plants, and you can plant those seeds in the ground, so that you can keep growing more food plants.”

Then the Egypt people said to Joseph, “Sir, you saved our lives. Thank you for being good to us. We will be Pharaoh’s workers, just like you said.”

So Joseph made a new law for Egypt country. That law said that every time the Egypt people got food from their food plants, they had to split up that food into 5 piles, and give one pile to Pharaoh. And you know, that law is still there in Egypt country.

After that time, Pharaoh owned all the land in Egypt country. Only the ceremony men still owned their own land. You see, Pharaoh always paid those ceremony men, so they didn’t need to sell him their land to get food. So their land still belonged to them, it didn’t belong to Pharaoh.

*Jacob told Joseph to bury his body in Canaan country*

<sup>27</sup> At that time, Jacob and his family started to live in Egypt country, in the place called Goshen. They got their own land in that place, and lots more kids were born into their family, so that they became a really big mob of people.

<sup>28</sup> Jacob lived in Egypt country for 17 years. He lived until he was 147 years old.

<sup>29</sup> This story is about some things that happened before Jacob died.

Jacob knew that he was going to die soon, so he sent somebody to get his son Joseph. Then Jacob said to Joseph, "I am going to ask you to put your hand under my leg, and make me a strong promise." You see, in that culture, people sometimes made promises to each other that way. The person that made the promise, they put their hand under the other person's leg, and that showed that they had to keep their promise.

Then Jacob said to Joseph, "I know that you love me, so I want you to promise that you will be good to me, and do the right thing. When I die, don't bury my body here in Egypt country.

<sup>30</sup> You have to take my body out of Egypt country, and go back to Canaan country, and bury me in the same grave as my father and grand-father."\*

And Joseph said, "I will do those things that you said."

<sup>31</sup> Jacob said, "Make me that strong promise." So Joseph put his hand under Jacob's leg, and he made him that strong promise. Then Jacob put his face down towards his bed, to thank God.\*

## 48

### *Jacob was good to Joseph's sons*

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\* **47:30** Genesis 49:29-32; 50:6

\* **47:31** Hebrews 11:21

<sup>1</sup> One day, not long after that, somebody said to Joseph, "Your father is really sick. He might die soon."

So Joseph went to see his father Jacob. And Joseph took his 2 sons with him. Their names were Manasseh and Ephraim.

<sup>2</sup> Joseph and his sons got to Jacob's house, and somebody went and told Jacob, "Your son Joseph has come here to see you."

Then Joseph and his sons went inside to talk to Jacob. Jacob was lying on his bed. He was really weak, so it was hard for him to move. But he really wanted to talk to Joseph, so he slowly sat up on his bed.

<sup>3</sup> Then Jacob said to Joseph, "You know, a long time ago, I saw God. He is the one that has power over everything. He came to me at the place called Luz, in Canaan country. And he promised me that he will be good to me.\*

<sup>4</sup> He said to me, 'I will give you lots of kids and grand-kids, so that your family will grow into lots of different tribes. And I will give them all of this country, called Canaan. They will have this country for ever.' "

<sup>5</sup> Then Jacob kept talking to Joseph. He said, "At that time, there will be one tribe for each of my sons, and each tribe will get part of the land. And your 2 sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, they will get part of that land too. It's like I'm adopting your 2 sons. There will be a tribe for Ephraim, and there will be a tribe for Manasseh, just like there will be a tribe for my son Reuben,

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\* **48:3** Genesis 28:13-14

and a tribe for my son Simeon, and for all my other sons. Your 2 sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, they were born here in Egypt country before I came to live here.

<sup>6</sup> But if you have any other sons, they will not have their own tribes. No, their kids and grand-kids will belong to Ephraim's tribe and Manasseh's tribe. And their families will have some land in the land of Ephraim or Manasseh in Canaan country."

<sup>7</sup> Jacob also said to Joseph, "I want your 2 sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, to have their own tribes and their own land, because your mother Rachel only gave me 2 sons. She had you and your brother Benjamin. And then she died, and I was really sad. At that time, we were going from Paddan Aram country to Canaan country. Your mother died in Canaan country, on the way to the town called Efrath. And I buried her body near the road that goes to Efrath." Another name for that town is Bethlehem.\*

*Jacob made Ephraim more important than Manasseh*

<sup>8-10</sup> Jacob was very old, and his eyes were weak, so he couldn't see very well. He looked at Joseph's 2 sons, and he said to Joseph, "Who are these 2 boys?"

Joseph said, "They are my sons, the ones that God gave me here in this country."

Then Jacob said, "Bring them near to me. I will put my hands on them, and I will ask God to be good to them."

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\* **48:7** Genesis 35:16-19

So Joseph took his 2 sons near to Jacob. And Jacob hugged those 2 boys, and he kissed them on their cheeks.

<sup>11</sup> Then Jacob said to Joseph, “You know, for a really long time, I thought you were dead. But a long time later, God let me see you again. And now, he let me see your kids too.”

<sup>12</sup> Then Joseph got his 2 sons to move away from Jacob. And Joseph got down on his knees and put his face near the ground, to show respect to his father Jacob.

<sup>13</sup> Then Joseph stood up. He put his son Ephraim on his right side, and he put his son Manasseh on his left side, and he went near to Jacob with his 2 sons, so that Jacob can ask God to be good to them. Then Joseph put his younger son Ephraim in front of Jacob’s left hand, and he put his older son Manasseh in front of Jacob’s right hand. You see, in that culture, people thought that their right hand was more important than their left hand. So Joseph wanted Jacob to put his right hand on Manasseh, because he was the older son. And he wanted Jacob to put his left hand on Ephraim, because he was the younger son.

<sup>14</sup> But Jacob didn’t do that. No, he put his right hand on Ephraim’s head, even though Ephraim was the younger son. And then he crossed his left arm over his right arm, and he put his left hand on Manasseh’s head, even though Manasseh was the older son.

<sup>15</sup> Then Jacob asked God to be good to Joseph and his sons. Jacob said,

“God, my grand-father Abraham always lived your way, and so did my father Isaac.

God, you took care of me all my life, and you still take care of me today.

<sup>16</sup> You are the one that saved me and set me free from all the bad things that happened to me.

So now, I’m asking you to be good to these 2 boys, Ephraim and Manasseh.

Let them be just like my own sons, and give them those good things that you promised to me, and to my grand-father Abraham, and to my father Isaac.

Let them have lots of kids and grand-kids, so that their families will become a really big mob here on earth.”

<sup>17</sup> While Jacob said all those things, he had his right hand on Ephraim’s head, and he had his left hand on Manasseh’s head. But Joseph wanted Jacob to put his right hand on Manasseh, because he was the older son. So Joseph got upset, and he tried to move Jacob’s right hand from Ephraim’s head to Manasseh’s head.

<sup>18</sup> And Joseph said to Jacob, “Father, don’t put your right hand on my younger son’s head. Look, here is my older son. Put your right hand on his head.”

<sup>19</sup> But Jacob didn’t move his hand. He said, “No, my son. I know for sure that I’m doing the right thing. Listen, your older son will have a big family, and they will become an important tribe. But your younger son will be more important than your older son. He will have a really big



family, and later on, his tribe will be really big and really important.”\*

<sup>20</sup> That’s the story about the way that Jacob made Ephraim more important than Manasseh.

Then Jacob said another good thing about Ephraim and Manasseh. Jacob said to them,

“Later on, the Israel mob will always remember that God was very good to both of you.

And sometimes they will say to each other, ‘I’m asking God to be good to you, just like he was good to Ephraim and Manasseh.’ ”

<sup>21</sup> Then Jacob said to Joseph, “Listen, I am going to die very soon. But God will be with you and your family. Later on, he will take your family back to that country where your father and grand-fathers lived, and he will give you land there.”

<sup>22</sup> Jacob also said to Joseph, “You know, a long time ago, I fought the Amor tribe with my long knife, and with my bow and arrows. And I took a bit of their land from them. Well, I’m giving you that bit of land too. I’m not giving it to your brothers, I’m only giving it to you.”

## 49

*Jacob told his sons about things that will happen later on*

<sup>1</sup> Then Jacob sent somebody to bring all his sons to him. And Jacob said to his sons, “Come to me, all of you, and I will tell you about the things

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\* **48:19** Hebrews 11:21

that will happen to you and your families. These things will happen later on.

<sup>2</sup> Come near to me, my sons. I am your father Jacob, and my other name is Israel. Listen to me.”

*Jacob talked to Reuben*

<sup>3</sup> Then Jacob said,  
“Reuben, you are my oldest son.

You were born first. You were born at that time when I was a strong young man.

You were the most important and the most powerful of all my sons.

<sup>4</sup> But then you went and did whatever you wanted, just like the wild water in the sea. You took one of my wives, and you slept with her, like a man sleeps with his wife. That was a wrong and dirty thing you did. You made me really shamed. So you will not be my most important son any more.”

*Jacob talked about Simeon and Levi*

<sup>5</sup> Then Jacob said,  
“Simeon and Levi are just like each other. They both like to fight, and they use long knives to hurt people and kill them.

<sup>6</sup> They got really angry, so they killed a big mob of men. They are like people that caught a lot of cows and cut their legs, for no reason. They make secret plans, but I will not do that with them. I will not go with them to do bad things.

<sup>7</sup> I'm asking God to curse Simeon and Levi,  
because they are really angry men, and  
they properly hurt people.

So God will split up their tribes, and he will send  
their people all over the land.

He will mix them up with all the other tribes  
of the Israel nation."

*Jacob talked to Judah*

<sup>8</sup> Then Jacob said,

"Judah, your tribe will fight against their ene-  
mies, and your tribe will win.

Then the tribes of all your brothers, they will  
say that your tribe is really great,  
and they will bend down in front of your  
tribe, to show them respect."

<sup>9</sup> Jacob also said,

"My son Judah is like a strong young lion,  
like a lion that fought another animal and  
won,  
like a lion that killed an animal and ate it.  
He is like a lion that lies down to sleep,  
and nobody is brave enough to wake it up.\*

<sup>10</sup> Judah's tribe will always be important and  
powerful.

Leaders and big bosses will come from his  
tribe.

People from other countries will bring them gifts.

And people from different nations will re-  
spect them and do what they say.

<sup>11</sup> Judah's land will be full of good grape vines.

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\* **49:9** Numbers 24:9; Revelation 5:5

His tribe will even tie their donkeys to those grape vines, so that the donkeys can eat the grapes.

They will make lots of grape juice and wine.

They will have even more grape juice and wine than water.

<sup>12</sup> There will be enough wine for everybody in Judah's land, and they will all have lots of milk to drink."

*Jacob talked about Zebulun*

<sup>13</sup> Then Jacob said, "Zebulun's tribe will set up their camp next to the sea, and it will be a safe place for ships. The north bit of Zebulun's land will be near the town called Sidon, in Fonisha country."

*Jacob talked about Issachar*

<sup>14</sup> Then Jacob said, "Issachar is like a strong donkey, like a donkey with bags on its back, that lies down to rest.  
<sup>15</sup> His tribe will see a country where the land is really good, and they will want to live in that land. So they will agree to work for the people that own that country, and those people will make them work really hard."

*Jacob talked about Dan*

<sup>16</sup> Then Jacob said, "Dan's tribe will have their own bosses, just like all the other tribes of the Israel nation.

Those bosses from Dan's tribe, they will be good and fair to the people.

17 Dan's tribe will be smart, just like a clever snake.

They will wait for their enemies, like a snake hiding beside the road.

They will attack their enemies, and they will win against those enemies,

like a snake that bites a horse's leg, so that the man on the horse will fall down."

*Jacob talked to God*

18 Then Jacob said, "God, I am waiting for you to save us."

*Jacob talked about Gad*

19 Then Jacob said,

"Bad men will attack Gad's tribe, and those bad men will try to steal Gad's things,

but Gad's tribe will fight back and attack those men, and those men will run away."

*Jacob talked about Asher*

20 Then Jacob said,

"Asher's land will grow really good food.

That food will be so good, rich bosses will pay a lot of money to eat it."

*Jacob talked about Naphtali*

21 Then Jacob said,

"Naphtali is like a wild animal called a *deer*, that is free to run wherever it wants,

and has really pretty babies."

*Jacob talked about Joseph*

22 Then Jacob said,

“Lots of people will be born into Joseph’s family.  
Yes, Joseph’s family will grow big, just like  
a grape vine that grows near a spring of  
water,  
and has lots of fruit.  
Its branches are so long, they grow over a  
big wall.

<sup>23</sup> Joseph’s enemies hated him,  
they attacked him and made trouble for him.

<sup>24</sup> But he didn’t give up,  
God helped him to stand strong.

Yes, God, my God, he is the one that has all the  
power.

God looks after his people properly, just like  
a man looks after his sheep properly.

God is like solid rock, he keeps his people  
safe.”

<sup>25</sup> Jacob kept on talking to Joseph. He said,  
“My God will help you.

God has power over everything, and he will  
be good to you.

He will make rain come down from the sky,  
and he will make water come up from  
springs under the ground,

so that your land will grow really good food.

You will have lots of kids and grand-kids,  
and your animals will have lots of babies.

<sup>26</sup> I know that God will give you all those good  
things,  
and they will be better than anything the old  
mountains can give you,  
better than anything else on the earth.”

Then Jacob said,

“Joseph, you are more special than all your brothers,  
so I’m asking God to give you all those good things.”

*Jacob talked about Benjamin*

<sup>27</sup> Then Jacob said,

“Benjamin’s tribe will be like a wild dog that is really hungry.

In the morning, they will kill their enemies  
and grab all their good things,  
and in the night time, they will share those  
good things with each other.”

<sup>28</sup> In that way, Jacob talked to his 12 sons, and he told them about things that will happen to them and their families later on. He said different things to each of his sons, and those things that he said were right for each one of them.

You know, later on, Jacob’s 12 sons became the grand-fathers of the 12 tribes in the Israel mob.

*Jacob told his sons to bury his body in a cave*

<sup>29-30</sup> Then Jacob said to his sons, “I am going to die very soon. After I die, I want you mob to bury my body in that cave in Canaan country. My father’s body and my grand-father’s body are already in that cave. That cave is on some land in the place called Makpelah, to the east of Mamreh, in Canaan country. That land used to belong to a

man from the Heth tribe, called Efron. My grandfather Abraham, he bought that land from Efron, to use as a grave.\*

<sup>31</sup> And Abraham buried his wife Sarah there. Some time later, Abraham died, and they buried him in that same place. My father Isaac and his wife Rebekah, they are buried there too. And I also buried my wife Leah there.\*

<sup>32</sup> That land and that cave, they used to belong to the Heth people, but now that place belongs to our family.”

<sup>33</sup> Jacob finished saying all those things to his sons, and he lay down on his bed. Then he breathed for the last time, and he died.\*

## 50

### *Joseph had a big funeral for his father*

<sup>1</sup> Then Joseph bent down and hugged his father’s body. He cried, and he kissed his father’s face.

<sup>2</sup> Then Joseph talked to some of his workers. Joseph said to them, “My father Jacob died. Now I want you to get his body ready for the funeral. I want you to look after his body in that special way that you do for important people.”

So those men worked on Jacob’s body to get it ready, then they put special oils and perfumes on his body, so that it will not rot away. Then they wrapped his body in long bits of cloth, and they

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\* **49:29-30** Genesis 23:3-20

\* **49:31** Genesis 25:9-10; 35:29

\* **49:33** Acts 7:15



put it in a special coffin. <sup>3</sup> It took them 40 days to finish doing all those things.

The Egypt people cried for Jacob for 70 days.

<sup>4</sup> At the end of those 70 days, Joseph talked to Pharaoh's important workers. Joseph said to them, "I want you to do something for me. Please be good to me, and do this thing that I ask. Please go to Pharaoh, and tell him that I said,

<sup>5</sup> 'My father talked to me before he died. He said, "I am going to die very soon. After I die, I want you to take my body to Canaan country, and put it in that grave that I got ready for myself." And my father got me to promise that I will do that.\* So now, please let me go to Canaan country, so that I can bury my father there, just like he said. Then I will come back here.' "

<sup>6</sup> So Pharaoh's workers went to Pharaoh, and they said everything Joseph asked them to say. And Pharaoh told them to say to Joseph, "Yes, you can go to Canaan country, and you can bury your father there, just like you promised him."

<sup>7</sup> So Joseph left Egypt, and he started to go towards Canaan country. He took his father's coffin with him, so that he could bury him in Canaan country. And lots of people went with Joseph. All of Pharaoh's important workers went with him, and all the boss men from Egypt country went with him.

<sup>8</sup> And Joseph's brothers, and the rest of his family, and his father's relatives, they all went with Joseph too. Only the little kids and the

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\* **50:5** Genesis 47:29-31

animals stayed in Egypt country, that was all. They stayed there in the place where they were living, called Goshen. Everybody else went with Joseph to Canaan country.

<sup>9</sup> And some of Pharaoh's soldiers went with Joseph too. Some of those soldiers rode on horses, and some of them rode in trailers with horses pulling them. All of that mob went with Joseph to Canaan country. It was a really big mob of people.

<sup>10</sup> After a while, Joseph and his mob got to the place called Atad, near the Jordan River. There was a place there with flat ground, where farmers sometimes sorted their plants. Joseph and his mob stopped there, and they cried loudly for Joseph's father. Joseph and his mob cried for 7 days, and they did other things to show that they were very sad.

<sup>11</sup> The Canaan people lived in that land. They saw Joseph and his mob crying at the place called Atad, near the Jordan River. And they said to each other, "Look at that mob that came here from Egypt country. They are really sad." So the Canaan people gave that place a new name. They called it *Abel-Mizrayim*. That name means *the Egypt people are sad*.

<sup>12-13</sup> Then Joseph and his brothers took their father's coffin to the place in Canaan country that their father told them about. They put his coffin in the cave there, just like he told them to. Jacob's family owned that cave and the land around it. You see, a long time before this, Abraham bought that land and that cave from

a man from the Heth tribe. That man's name was Efron. Abraham bought that cave to use it as a grave. It was at a place called Makpelah, to the east of Mamreh.\*

<sup>14</sup> That's the story about how Joseph buried his father. After that, Joseph went back to Egypt country with his brothers, and with everybody else that came to Canaan country with him.

*Joseph did not do payback to his brothers*

<sup>15</sup> After Jacob died, Joseph's brothers started to worry, and they said to each other, "When our father was alive, Joseph was good to us. But maybe Joseph is still angry about all those bad things that we did to him. Now our father is dead, maybe Joseph will do payback to us."

<sup>16</sup> So Joseph's brothers sent a message to Joseph. This is what they said in that message, "Joseph, our father talked to us before he died.

<sup>17</sup> He told us to say to you, 'I know that your brothers did really bad things to you. They went wrong, and they hurt you. Please let go of all those bad things that your brothers did, and don't do payback to them.' "

Joseph's brothers also said this in their message, "Please let go of all those bad things that we did, and don't do payback to us. We respect God, just like our father did."

Joseph listened to that message from his brothers, and he started to cry.

<sup>18</sup> Then his brothers came to him, and they quickly got down on their knees and put their

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\* **50:12-13** Acts 7:16

faces near the ground, to show respect to Joseph. And they said to Joseph, "You are our boss, and we are your work-men."

<sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to his brothers, "Don't be frightened. God is the only true judge. I'm not God, so I will not judge you mob."

<sup>20</sup> Then Joseph said, "You know, a long time ago, you mob made a plan to hurt me. But God had a plan too. His plan was good, and it was more powerful than your plan. You did bad things, but God used them to make good things happen. Yes, he brought me here to Egypt country, so that I helped lots of people stay alive when the food plants didn't grow. And those people are still alive today.

<sup>21</sup> So don't be frightened. I will not do payback to you mob. No, I will keep on looking after you and your little kids, and I will make sure that you always have enough food to eat."

In that way, Joseph talked in a friendly way to his brothers, and he helped them feel happy again.

### *Joseph got old and died*

<sup>22</sup> After that, Joseph kept on living in Egypt, and all his father's family lived there too. And Joseph lived until he was 110 years old.

<sup>23</sup> While Joseph was still alive, his sons Ephraim and Manasseh had kids, and some of those kids had kids too. So Joseph got to see his great grand-kids. One of Manasseh's sons was called Makir, and later on, Makir had his own

kids. Then Joseph adopted Makir's kids into his family, and they became like his own kids.

<sup>24</sup> Then one day, Joseph said to his brothers, "I am going to die very soon. But don't worry. God is going to help you mob in a powerful way. Yes, one day, God will take all our mob out of this country, and he will give our mob all the land in Canaan country, just like he promised to our great grand-father Abraham, and our grand-father Isaac, and our father Jacob."

<sup>25</sup> Then Joseph got his brothers to make a strong promise. He said, "You have to promise that you will not leave my body here in Egypt country. When God takes our mob back to Canaan country, they have to take my body with them."\*

<sup>26</sup> Then Joseph died. He was 110 years old. The Egypt people put special oils and perfumes on Joseph's body, so that it will not rot away. Then they wrapped his body in long bits of cloth, and they put it in a coffin in Egypt country.

(We have not yet translated the books called Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, and Ruth. Some of the stories in those books tell us these things.

- Jacob's family lived in Egypt for about 400 years, and became the nation called Israel. The families that came from his 12 sons became the 12 tribes in the Israel nation.

- Then God got an Israel man, called Moses, to take the Israel nation out of Egypt, into desert

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\* **50:25** Exodus 13:19; Joshua 24:32; Hebrews 11:22

country, and God gave Moses his law for those people.

– After that, God gave them the country called Canaan. Today we call that country Israel. Sometimes we call the Israel people the *Jewish* people, or just the *Jews*.)

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