Genesis

1 In the beginning God created the heavens
and the earth.
2 The earth was without form and void, and
darkness was over the surface of the deep. And
the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface
of the waters.
3 Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there
was light.
4 God saw that the light was good, and God
separated the light from the darkness.
5 God called the light Day, and the darkness he
called Night. There was evening, and there was
morning: one day.

6 Then God said, “Let there be an expanse in
the midst of the waters, and let it separate the
waters from the waters.”
7 God made the expanse and separated the
waters below the expanse from the waters
above the expanse. And it was so.
8 God called the expanse Sky. There was
evening, and there was morning: the second
day.

9 Then God said, “Let the waters under the sky
be gathered into one place, and let dry land
appear.” And it was so.
10 God called the dry land Earth, and the
gathered waters he called Seas. And God saw
that it was good.

11 Then God said, “Let the earth sprout
vegetation: plants bearing seed and fruit trees
bearing fruit according to their kinds, with seed
in the fruit, on the earth.” And it was so.
12 The earth brought forth vegetation: plants
bearing seed according to their kinds, and trees
bearing fruit with seed in it according to their
kinds. And God saw that it was good.
13 There was evening, and there was morning:
the third day.

14 Then God said, “Let there be lights in the
expanse of the sky to separate the day from the
night. Let them serve as signs and mark
appointed times, days, and years,
15 and let them be lights in the expanse of the
sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so.
16 God made the two great lights: the greater
light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule
the night. He also made the stars.
17 God set them in the expanse of the sky to
give light on the earth,
18 to rule the day and the night, and to
separate the light from the darkness. And God
saw that it was good.
19 There was evening, and there was morning:
the fourth day.

20 Then God said, “Let the waters swarm with
living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth
across the expanse of the sky.”
21 So God created the great sea creatures and
every living creature that moves, with which the
waters swarm, according to their kinds, and

every winged bird according to its kind. And
God saw that it was good.
22 God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and
multiply, and fill the waters in the seas; and let
birds multiply on the earth.”
23 There was evening, and there was morning:
the fifth day.

24 Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth
living creatures according to their kinds:
livestock, creatures that move along the ground,
and wild animals according to their kinds.” And
it was so.
25 God made the wild animals according to
their kinds, the livestock according to their
kinds, and every creature that moves along the
ground according to its kind. And God saw that
it was good.
26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our
image, according to our likeness. Let them rule
over the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the
livestock, all the earth, and every creature that
moves along the ground.”

27 So God created man in his own image;
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be
fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and subdue
it. Rule over the fish of the sea, the birds of the
sky, and every living thing that moves on the
earth.”
29 Then God said, “Look, I have given you
every plant bearing seed on the surface of all

the earth and every tree with seed-bearing fruit.
They will be yours for food.
30 And to every wild animal, every bird of the
sky, and everything that moves on the earth and
has life in it, I have given every green plant for
food." And it was so.
31 God saw all that he had made, and behold, it
was very good. There was evening, and there
was morning: the sixth day.

2

1 Thus the heavens and the earth were
completed, and all their host.
2 On the seventh day God finished the work he
had done, and on the seventh day he rested
from all the work he had done.
3 God blessed the seventh day and made it
holy, because on it he rested from all the work
God had done in creating.

4 This is the account of the heavens and the
earth when they were created, when the LORD
God made the earth and the heavens.
5 No shrub of the field was yet on the earth,
and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for
the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth,
and there was no man to work the ground.
6 But a mist would rise from the earth and
water the whole surface of the ground.
7 Then the LORD God formed the man from
dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils
the breath of life, and the man became a living
being.

8 The LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in
the east, and there he placed the man he had
formed.
9 The LORD God made every tree that was
pleasing to the sight and good for food grow out
of the ground. The tree of life was in the midst
of the garden, and so was the tree of the
knowledge of good and evil.
10 A river flowed out of Eden to water the
garden, and from there it divided into four
branches.
11 The name of the first is Pishon. It encircles
the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold.
12 The gold of that land is good; bdellium and
onyx are also found there.
13 The name of the second river is Gihon. It
encircles the whole land of Cush.
14 The name of the third river is the Tigris. It
flows east of Assyria. The fourth river is the
Euphrates.
15 The LORD God took the man and placed him
in the garden of Eden to work it and care for it.
16 The LORD God commanded the man, saying,
“You may freely eat from every tree in the
garden,
17 but you must not eat from the tree of the
knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you
eat from it you will surely die.”
18 Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for
the man to be alone. I will make a helper
suitable for him.”
19 The LORD God formed out of the ground
every animal of the field and every bird of the
sky, and brought them to the man to see what he

would call them. Whatever the man called each
living creature, that was its name.
20 The man gave names to all the livestock, the
birds of the sky, and every animal of the field,
but for the man no suitable helper was found.
21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall
on the man, and he slept. God took one of his
ribs and closed up the flesh in its place.
22 The LORD God fashioned the rib he had
taken from the man into a woman and brought
her to the man.
23 Then the man said, “At last, this is bone of
my bones and flesh of my flesh. She will be
called Woman, because she was taken out of
Man.”
24 Therefore a man will leave his father and
his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they
will become one flesh.
25 The man and his wife were both naked, and
they were not ashamed.

3

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any
animal of the field that the LORD God had made.
He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You
must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”
2 The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat
fruit from the trees of the garden,
3 but God said about the fruit of the tree in the
midst of the garden, ‘You must not eat from it or
touch it, so that you do not die.’ ”
4 The serpent said to the woman, “You
certainly will not die,

5 for God knows that on the day you eat from
it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like
God, knowing good and evil."
6 When the woman saw that the tree was good
for food, a delight to the eyes, and desirable for
gaining wisdom, she took some of its fruit and
ate. She also gave some to her husband, who
was with her, and he ate.
7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened,
and they knew that they were naked. They
sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths
for themselves.
8 They heard the sound of the LORD God
walking in the garden in the breeze of the day,
and the man and his wife hid from the presence
of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.
9 The LORD God called to the man and said to
him, "Where are you?"
10 He replied, "I heard you in the garden, and I
was afraid because I was naked, so I hid."
11 God said, "Who told you that you were
naked? Have you eaten from the tree I
commanded you not to eat from?"
12 The man said, "The woman you gave to be
with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, and I
ate."
13 Then the LORD God said to the woman,
"What is this you have done?" The woman said,
"The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

14 The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this, you are cursed
above all livestock and every animal of
the field.

On your belly you will go, and dust you will
eat all the days of your life.
15 I will put enmity between you and the
woman, and between your offspring and
her offspring.
He will strike your head, and you will strike
his heel."

16 To the woman he said,
"I will greatly increase your pain in pregnancy;
in pain you will bear children.
Your desire will be for your husband, and
he will rule over you."

17 To Adam he said,
"Because you listened to the voice of your wife
and ate from the tree about which I
commanded you, 'You must not eat from
it,' the ground is cursed because of you.
Through painful toil you will eat from it all
the days of your life.
18 It will bring forth thorns and thistles for you,
and you will eat the plants of the field.
19 By the sweat of your face you will eat bread
until you return to the ground, because
from it you were taken.
For you are dust, and to dust you will
return."
20 The man named his wife Eve, because she
was the mother of all the living.
21 The LORD God made garments of skin for
Adam and his wife and clothed them.
22 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man
has become like one of us, knowing good and

evil. And now, lest he reach out his hand and
take also from the tree of life, and eat and live
forever—”
23 So the LORD God sent him out of the garden
of Eden to work the ground from which he had
been taken.
24 He drove the man out, and east of the
garden of Eden he stationed the cherubim and a
flaming sword that turned every way, to guard
the way to the tree of life.

4

1 Adam had relations with his wife Eve, and
she conceived and gave birth to Cain. She said, “I
have gained a man with the LORD’s help.”
2 She gave birth again, to his brother Abel.
Abel became a keeper of flocks, while Cain
worked the ground.
3 In the course of time Cain brought an
offering to the LORD from the fruit of the
ground.
4 Abel also brought an offering from the
firstborn of his flock and from their fat portions.
The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his
offering,
5 but he did not look with favor on Cain and
his offering. Cain became very angry, and his
face fell.
6 The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry,
and why has your face fallen?
7 If you do what is right, will you not be
accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin
is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but
you must rule over it.”

8 Cain spoke to his brother Abel. While they
were in the field, Cain rose up against his
brother Abel and killed him.
9 Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is your
brother Abel?” He said, “I do not know. Am I my
brother's keeper?”
10 The LORD said, “What have you done? The
voice of your brother's blood is crying out to me
from the ground.
11 Now you are cursed and driven from the
ground, which has opened its mouth to receive
your brother's blood from your hand.
12 When you work the ground, it will no
longer yield its strength to you. You will be a
fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.”
13 Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is
greater than I can bear.
14 Look, you have driven me today from the
surface of the ground, and I will be hidden from
your presence. I will be a fugitive and a
wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me
will kill me.”
15 The LORD said to him, “Therefore, whoever
kills Cain will suffer vengeance sevenfold.” Then
the LORD put a mark on Cain so that no one who
found him would kill him.
16 Cain went out from the presence of the
LORD and settled in the land of Nod, east of
Eden.
17 Cain had relations with his wife, and she
conceived and gave birth to Enoch. Cain was
building a city, and he named the city after his
son Enoch.
18 To Enoch was born Irad. Irad fathered

Mehujael, Mehujael fathered Methushael, and
Methushael fathered Lamech.
19 Lamech took two wives. The name of one
was Adah, and the name of the other was Zillah.
20 Adah gave birth to Jabal. He was the father
of those who live in tents and raise livestock.
21 His brother's name was Jubal. He was the
father of all who play the lyre and the pipe.
22 Zillah also gave birth to Tubal-cain, who
forged every kind of bronze and iron tool.
Tubal-cain's sister was Naamah.
23 Lamech said to his wives,
"Adah and Zillah, hear my voice;
wives of Lamech, listen to my words.
For I have killed a man for wounding me, a
young man for striking me.
24 If Cain is avenged sevenfold, then Lamech
seventy-sevenfold."
25 Adam had relations with his wife again, and
she gave birth to a son and named him Seth,
saying, "God has appointed me another child in
place of Abel, because Cain killed him."
26 To Seth also a son was born, and he named
him Enosh. At that time people began to call on
the name of the LORD.

5

1 This is the book of the generations of Adam.
When God created man, he made him in the
likeness of God.
2 He created them male and female and
blessed them, and called them mankind on the
day they were created.

3 When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered
a son in his own likeness, according to his
image, and named him Seth.
4 After fathering Seth, Adam lived 800 years
and fathered sons and daughters.
5 All the days of Adam's life were 930 years,
and he died.
6 When Seth had lived 105 years, he fathered
Enosh.
7 After fathering Enosh, Seth lived 807 years
and fathered sons and daughters.
8 All the days of Seth were 912 years, and he
died.
9 When Enosh had lived 90 years, he fathered
Kenan.
10 After fathering Kenan, Enosh lived 815
years and fathered sons and daughters.
11 All the days of Enosh were 905 years, and he
died.
12 When Kenan had lived 70 years, he fathered
Mahalalel.
13 After fathering Mahalalel, Kenan lived 840
years and fathered sons and daughters.
14 All the days of Kenan were 910 years, and
he died.
15 When Mahalalel had lived 65 years, he
fathered Jared.
16 After fathering Jared, Mahalalel lived 830
years and fathered sons and daughters.
17 All the days of Mahalalel were 895 years,
and he died.
18 When Jared had lived 162 years, he fathered
Enoch.

19 After fathering Enoch, Jared lived 800 years
and fathered sons and daughters.
20 All the days of Jared were 962 years, and he
died.
21 When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered
Methuselah.
22 After fathering Methuselah, Enoch walked
with God for 300 years and fathered sons and
daughters.
23 All the days of Enoch were 365 years.
24 Enoch walked with God, and he was no
more, because God took him.
25 When Methuselah had lived 187 years, he
fathered Lamech.
26 After fathering Lamech, Methuselah lived
782 years and fathered sons and daughters.
27 All the days of Methuselah were 969 years,
and he died.
28 When Lamech had lived 182 years, he
fathered a son.
29 He named him Noah, saying, “This one will
bring us comfort in our work and in the painful
toil of our hands, because of the ground the
LORD has cursed.”
30 After fathering Noah, Lamech lived 595
years and fathered sons and daughters.
31 All the days of Lamech were 777 years, and
he died.
32 Noah was 500 years old, and Noah fathered
Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

6

1 When people began to multiply on the
surface of the ground and daughters were born

to them,
2 the sons of God saw that the daughters of
men were beautiful, and they took as wives any
they chose.
3 Then the LORD said, “My Spirit will not
contend with man forever, for he too is flesh.
His days will be 120 years.”
4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those
days, and also afterward, when the sons of God
had relations with the daughters of men and the
women bore them children. These were the
mighty men of old, men of renown.
5 The LORD saw that the wickedness of man
was great on the earth, and that every
inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only
evil all the time.
6 The LORD regretted that he had made man
on the earth, and he was grieved in his heart.
7 So the LORD said, “I will wipe man, whom I
have created, from the surface of the
ground—man and livestock, creatures that
move along the ground, and birds of the
sky—for I regret that I have made them.”
8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the
LORD.
9 This is the account of Noah. Noah was a
righteous man, blameless among his
contemporaries. Noah walked with God.
10 Noah fathered three sons: Shem, Ham, and
Japheth.
11 Now the earth was corrupt before God, and
the earth was filled with violence.
12 God looked at the earth, and behold, it was
corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted its way on

the earth.

13 God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has
come before me, for the earth is filled with
violence because of them. Behold, I am about to
destroy them along with the earth.
14 Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make
compartments in the ark, and coat it inside and
out with pitch.
15 This is how you are to make it: about 450
feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high.
16 Make an opening for the ark, and finish it to
within about 18 inches of the top. Put the door
of the ark in its side, and make it with lower,
second, and third decks.
17 I myself am bringing a flood of waters on
the earth to destroy all flesh in which there is
the breath of life under heaven. Everything on
the earth will perish.
18 But I will establish my covenant with you.
You will enter the ark—you and your sons and
your wife and your sons’ wives with you.
19 Of all living creatures, of all flesh, bring two
of each into the ark to keep them alive with you.
They must be male and female.
20 From the birds according to their kinds,
from the livestock according to their kinds, and
from every creature that moves along the
ground according to its kind, two of each will
come to you to be kept alive.
21 As for you, take some of every kind of food
that is eaten and gather it to yourself. It will be
food for you and for them.”

22 Noah did this. He did everything God
commanded him.

7

1 The LORD said to Noah, “Enter the ark, you
and all your household, for I have seen that you
are righteous before me in this generation.
2 Take with you seven pairs of every clean
animal, each male with its mate, and two of
every animal that is not clean, a male and its
mate.
3 Also take seven pairs of the birds of the sky,
male and female, to keep their offspring alive on
the surface of all the earth.
4 For in seven days I will send rain on the
earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will
wipe every living thing I have made from the
surface of the ground.”
5 Noah did everything the LORD commanded
him.
6 Noah was 600 years old when the flood of
waters came on the earth.
7 Noah entered the ark with his sons, his wife,
and his sons' wives because of the waters of the
flood.
8 From the clean animals, from the animals
that were not clean, from the birds, and from
everything that moves along the ground,
9 they came to Noah into the ark two by two,
male and female, as God had commanded Noah.
10 After the seven days, the waters of the flood
came on the earth.
11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on
the seventeenth day of the second month, on
that very day all the fountains of the great deep

burst open, and the windows of heaven were opened.
12 Rain fell on the earth for forty days and
forty nights.
13 On that very day Noah entered the ark with
his sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth, Noah's wife,
and the three wives of his sons.
14 They entered with every wild animal
according to its kind, all the livestock according
to their kinds, every creature that moves along
the ground according to its kind, and every bird
according to its kind—every bird, every winged
thing.
15 They came to Noah into the ark two by two,
from all flesh in which there was the breath of
life.
16 Those that entered were male and female of
all flesh, as God had commanded him. And the
LORD shut him in.
17 The flood continued on the earth for forty
days. The waters increased and lifted the ark,
and it rose above the earth.
18 The waters prevailed and increased greatly
on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface
of the waters.
19 The waters prevailed exceedingly over the
earth, and all the high mountains under the
whole sky were covered.
20 The waters rose more than 22 feet above
them, and the mountains were covered.
21 All flesh that moved on the earth perished:
birds, livestock, wild animals, every creature
that swarms on the earth, and all mankind.
22 Everything on dry land that had the breath

of life in its nostrils died.
23 God wiped out every living thing on the
surface of the ground—man and livestock,
creatures that move along the ground, and birds
of the sky. They were wiped from the earth.
Only Noah remained, and those with him in the
ark.
24 The waters prevailed on the earth for 150
days.

8

1 God remembered Noah and all the wild
animals and all the livestock that were with him
in the ark. God caused a wind to pass over the
earth, and the waters subsided.
2 The fountains of the deep and the windows
of heaven were closed, and the rain from
heaven was restrained.
3 The waters receded steadily from the earth,
and at the end of 150 days the waters had
diminished.
4 On the seventeenth day of the seventh
month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of
Ararat.
5 The waters continued to diminish until the
tenth month. In the tenth month, on the first
day of the month, the tops of the mountains
appeared.
6 At the end of forty days, Noah opened the
window he had made in the ark
7 and sent out a raven. It flew back and forth
until the waters had dried up from the earth.
8 He also sent out a dove to see whether the
waters had receded from the surface of the
ground.

9 But the dove found no resting place for the
sole of its foot, so it returned to him in the ark,
because water covered the surface of the whole
earth. Noah reached out his hand, took it, and
brought it in to himself in the ark.
10 He waited another seven days and again
sent the dove out of the ark.
11 The dove came back to him in the evening,
and behold, in its beak was a freshly plucked
olive leaf. Then Noah knew that the waters had
receded from the earth.
12 He waited another seven days and sent out
the dove, and it did not return to him again.
13 In the six hundred and first year, on the first
day of the first month, the waters had dried up
from the earth. Noah removed the covering of
the ark and looked, and behold, the surface of
the ground was dry.
14 On the twenty-seventh day of the second
month, the earth was dry.
15 Then God spoke to Noah, saying,
16 “Come out of the ark, you and your wife and
your sons and your sons’ wives with you.
17 Bring out with you every living creature
that is with you, of all flesh: birds, livestock, and
every creature that moves along the ground. Let
them swarm over the earth and be fruitful and
multiply on the earth.”
18 So Noah went out with his sons, his wife,
and his sons’ wives.
19 Every animal, every creature that moves
along the ground, and every bird—everything
that moves on the earth—went out of the ark
according to their families.

20 Noah built an altar to the LORD. He took
some of every kind of clean animal and every
kind of clean bird and offered burnt offerings on
the altar.
21 The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, and
the LORD said in his heart, “I will never again
curse the ground because of man, for the
inclination of man’s heart is evil from his youth.
Nor will I ever again strike down every living
thing as I have done.
22 While the earth remains, seedtime and
harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day
and night will not cease.”

9

1 God blessed Noah and his sons and said to
them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.
2 The fear of you and the dread of you will be
on every animal of the earth, every bird of the
sky, everything that moves along the ground,
and all the fish of the sea. They are delivered
into your hands.
3 Every moving thing that lives will be food for
you. As I gave you the green plants, I now give
you everything.
4 But you must not eat flesh with its life, that
is, its blood.
5 I will surely require an accounting for your
lifeblood. From every animal I will require it,
and from man; from each man I will require an
accounting for his brother’s life.

6 Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man will
his blood be shed, for God made man in
his own image.
7 As for you, be fruitful and multiply; abound
on the earth and multiply on it."
8 Then God spoke to Noah and his sons with
him, saying,
9 "As for me, behold, I establish my covenant
with you and with your offspring after you,
10 and with every living creature that is with
you: the birds, the livestock, and every animal
of the earth with you—all that came out of the
ark, every animal of the earth.
11 I establish my covenant with you: never
again will all flesh be cut off by the waters of a
flood, and never again will there be a flood to
destroy the earth."
12 God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I
am giving between me and you and every living
creature with you, for all future generations:
13 I have set my bow in the clouds, and it will
be a sign of the covenant between me and the
earth.
14 When I bring clouds over the earth and the
bow appears in the clouds,
15 I will remember my covenant between me
and you and every living creature of all flesh.
Never again will the waters become a flood to
destroy all flesh.
16 When the bow is in the clouds, I will look at
it to remember the everlasting covenant
between God and every living creature of all
flesh on the earth."

17 God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the
covenant I have established between me and all
flesh on the earth.”
18 The sons of Noah who came out of the ark
were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Ham was the
father of Canaan.
19 These three were Noah’s sons, and from
them the whole earth was populated.
20 Noah began to work the ground, and he
planted a vineyard.
21 He drank some of the wine and became
drunk, and he was uncovered inside his tent.
22 Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father’s
nakedness and told his two brothers outside.
23 Then Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid
it across both their shoulders, and walked
backward and covered their father’s nakedness.
Their faces were turned away, and they did not
see their father’s nakedness.
24 When Noah awoke from his drunkenness
and learned what his youngest son had done to
him,
25 he said,
“Cursed be Canaan!
A slave of slaves he will be to his brothers.”
26 He also said,
“Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem, and let
Canaan be their slave.
27 May God enlarge Japheth, and may he dwell
in the tents of Shem;
and let Canaan be their slave.”
28 After the flood Noah lived 350 years.
29 All the days of Noah were 950 years, and he
died.

10

1 These are the generations of the sons of
Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Sons were born
to them after the flood.
2 The sons of Japheth were Gomer, Magog,
Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.
3 The sons of Gomer were Ashkenaz, Riphath,
and Togarmah.
4 The sons of Javan were Elishah, Tarshish,
Kittim, and Dodanim.
5 From these the coastland peoples spread out
into their lands, each with its own language,
according to their families and their nations.
6 The sons of Ham were Cush, Mizraim, Put,
and Canaan.
7 The sons of Cush were Seba, Havilah, Sabtah,
Raamah, and Sabteca. The sons of Raamah were
Sheba and Dedan.
8 Cush fathered Nimrod. He began to be a
mighty man on the earth.
9 He was a mighty hunter before the LORD.
That is why it is said, “Like Nimrod, a mighty
hunter before the LORD.”
10 The beginning of his kingdom was Babel,
Erech, Akkad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.
11 From that land he went into Assyria and
built Nineveh, Rehoboth-ir, and Calah,
12 and Resen between Nineveh and Calah. This
is the great city.
13 Mizraim fathered the Ludim, the Anamim,
the Lehabim, and the Naphtuhim,
14 the Pathrusim, the Casluhim—from whom
the Philistines came—and the Caphtorim.

15 Canaan fathered Sidon his firstborn, and
Heth,
16 and the Jebusites, the Amorites, and the
Girgashites,
17 the Hivites, the Arkites, and the Sinites,
18 the Arvadites, the Zemarites, and the
Hamathites. Afterward the families of the
Canaanites spread out.
19 The territory of the Canaanites extended
from Sidon toward Gerar as far as Gaza, and
toward Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim
as far as Lasha.
20 These were the sons of Ham, according to
their families and their languages, in their lands
and their nations.

21 Children were also born to Shem, the father
of all the descendants of Eber and the elder
brother of Japheth.
22 The sons of Shem were Elam, Asshur,
Arphaxad, Lud, and Aram.
23 The sons of Aram were Uz, Hul, Gether, and
Mash.
24 Arphaxad fathered Shelah, and Shelah
fathered Eber.
25 Two sons were born to Eber. The name of
one was Peleg, because in his days the earth was
divided; his brother's name was Joktan.
26 Joktan fathered Almodad, Sheleph,
Hazarmaveth, and Jerah,
27 Hadoram, Uzal, and Diklah,
28 Obal, Abimael, and Sheba,
29 Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. All these were
the sons of Joktan.

30 Their dwelling place extended from Mesha
toward Sephar, the hill country of the east.
31 These were the sons of Shem, according to
their families and their languages, in their lands
and according to their nations.
32 These were the families of the sons of Noah,
according to their generations, in their nations.
From these the nations spread out over the
earth after the flood.

11

1 The whole earth had one language and the
same words.
2 As they journeyed from the east, they found
a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there.
3 They said to one another, “Come, let us make
bricks and fire them thoroughly.” They used
brick instead of stone, and bitumen for mortar.
4 Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves
a city and a tower with its top in the heavens,
and let us make a name for ourselves, so that we
will not be scattered over the surface of the
whole earth.”
5 The LORD came down to see the city and the
tower that the children of men had built.
6 The LORD said, “Look, they are one people,
and they all have one language. This is what
they have begun to do, and now nothing they
plan to do will be beyond them.
7 Come, let us go down and confuse their
language there, so that they will not understand
one another’s language.”

8 So the LORD scattered them from there over
the surface of the whole earth, and they stopped
building the city.
9 That is why it was called Babel, because
there the LORD confused the language of the
whole earth. From there the LORD scattered
them over the surface of the whole earth.
10 These are the generations of Shem. Shem
was 100 years old when he fathered Arphaxad,
two years after the flood.
11 After fathering Arphaxad, Shem lived 500
years and fathered sons and daughters.
12 When Arphaxad had lived 35 years, he
fathered Shelah.
13 After fathering Shelah, Arphaxad lived 403
years and fathered sons and daughters.
14 When Shelah had lived 30 years, he
fathered Eber.
15 After fathering Eber, Shelah lived 403 years
and fathered sons and daughters.
16 When Eber had lived 34 years, he fathered
Peleg.
17 After fathering Peleg, Eber lived 430 years
and fathered sons and daughters.
18 When Peleg had lived 30 years, he fathered
Reu.
19 After fathering Reu, Peleg lived 209 years
and fathered sons and daughters.
20 When Reu had lived 32 years, he fathered
Serug.
21 After fathering Serug, Reu lived 207 years
and fathered sons and daughters.

22 When Serug had lived 30 years, he fathered
Nahor.
23 After fathering Nahor, Serug lived 200 years
and fathered sons and daughters.
24 When Nahor had lived 29 years, he fathered
Terah.
25 After fathering Terah, Nahor lived 119 years
and fathered sons and daughters.
26 Terah was 70 years old, and he fathered
Abram, Nahor, and Haran.
27 These are the generations of Terah. Terah
fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran, and Haran
fathered Lot.
28 Haran died while his father Terah was still
alive, in the land of his birth, in Ur of the
Chaldeans.
29 Abram and Nahor took wives. The name of
Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of
Nahor's wife was Milcah, the daughter of Haran,
the father of Milcah and the father of Iscah.
30 Sarai was barren; she had no child.
31 Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot,
the son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai,
the wife of his son Abram. They set out together
from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of
Canaan. When they reached Haran, they settled
there.
32 Terah lived 205 years, and Terah died in
Haran.

12

1 The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your
country, from your relatives, and from your
father's house to the land I will show you.

2 I will make of you a great nation, and I will
bless you and make your name great. Be a
blessing.
3 I will bless those who bless you, and
whoever dishonors you I will curse; and in you
all the families of the earth will be blessed."
4 So Abram went as the LORD had told him,
and Lot went with him. Abram was 75 years old
when he left Haran.
5 Abram took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot,
all the possessions they had accumulated, and
the people they had acquired in Haran. They set
out to go to the land of Canaan, and they arrived
in the land of Canaan.
6 Abram passed through the land to the place
of Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time
the Canaanites were in the land.
7 The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To
your offspring I will give this land." So he built
an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to
him.
8 From there he moved to the hill country east
of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel to the
west and Ai to the east. There he built an altar to
the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.
9 Then Abram journeyed on by stages toward
the Negev.

10 There was a famine in the land, and Abram
went down to Egypt to stay there, because the
famine was severe in the land.
11 As he drew near to enter Egypt, he said to
his wife Sarai, "Look, I know that you are a
beautiful woman.
12 When the Egyptians see you, they will say,

‘This is his wife,’ and they will kill me but let you
live.
13 Please say you are my sister, so that it may
go well with me because of you and my life may
be spared because of you.”
14 When Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians
saw that the woman was very beautiful.
15 Pharaoh’s officials saw her and praised her
before Pharaoh, and the woman was taken into
Pharaoh’s house.
16 Pharaoh treated Abram well for her sake,
and Abram had flocks, cattle, male donkeys,
male slaves, female slaves, female donkeys, and
camels.
17 But the LORD struck Pharaoh and his
household with great plagues because of Sarai,
Abram’s wife.
18 Pharaoh called Abram and said, “What have
you done to me? Why did you not tell me that
she was your wife?
19 Why did you say, ‘She is my sister,’ so that I
took her as my wife? Now, here is your wife.
Take her and go.”
20 Pharaoh gave his men orders concerning
Abram, and they sent him away with his wife
and all that he had.

13

1 Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev
with his wife and all that he had, and Lot went
with him.
2 Abram was very rich in livestock, silver, and
gold.

3 He journeyed by stages from the Negev to
Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at
first, between Bethel and Ai,
4 to the place of the altar he had made there at
the beginning. There Abram called on the name
of the LORD.
5 Lot, who traveled with Abram, also had
flocks, herds, and tents.
6 The land could not support them living
together, for their possessions were so great that
they could not live together.
7 A dispute arose between the herdsmen of
Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's
livestock. At that time the Canaanites and the
Perizzites were living in the land.
8 Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no
quarrel between me and you or between my
herdsmen and your herdsmen, for we are
relatives.
9 Is not the whole land before you? Please
separate from me. If you go to the left, I will go
to the right; and if you go to the right, I will go to
the left."
10 Lot looked up and saw that the whole plain
of the Jordan toward Zoar was well watered,
like the garden of the LORD, like the land of
Egypt. This was before the LORD destroyed
Sodom and Gomorrah.
11 So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of
the Jordan and journeyed east. Thus they
separated from one another.
12 Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while
Lot settled among the cities of the plain and
pitched his tents as far as Sodom.

13 Now the men of Sodom were wicked and
sinned greatly against the LORD.
14 The LORD said to Abram after Lot had
separated from him, “Lift up your eyes and look
from the place where you are, north and south,
east and west,
15 for all the land you see I will give to you and
to your offspring forever.
16 I will make your offspring like the dust of
the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust
of the earth, then your offspring could also be
counted.
17 Arise, walk through the length and breadth
of the land, for I will give it to you.”
18 So Abram moved his tent and came to live
by the oaks of Mamre at Hebron. There he built
an altar to the LORD.

14

1 In the days of Amraphel king of Shinar,
Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of
Elam, and Tidal king of nations,
2 these kings made war against Bera king of
Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of
Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king
of Bela (that is, Zoar).
3 All these joined forces in the Valley of
Siddim, which is the Salt Sea.
4 For twelve years they had served
Chedorlaomer, but in the thirteenth year they
rebelled.
5 In the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer and the
kings with him came and defeated the Rephaim

in Ashteroth-karnaim, the Zuzim in Ham, and
the Emim in Shaveh-kiriathaim,
6 and the Horites in their hill country of Seir,
as far as El-paran at the edge of the wilderness.
7 They turned back and came to En-mishpat
(that is, Kadesh), and conquered all the territory
of the Amalekites and the Amorites who lived in
Hazazon-tamar.
8 Then the king of Sodom, the king of
Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of
Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) went
out and drew up for battle in the Valley of
Siddim
9 against Chedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal
king of nations, Amraphel king of Shinar, and
Arioch king of Ellasar—four kings against five.
10 Now the Valley of Siddim was full of
bitumen pits. The kings of Sodom and Gomorrah
fled and fell there, while the rest fled to the hills.
11 The invaders took all the goods of Sodom
and Gomorrah and all their food, and went
away.
12 They also took Lot, Abram's nephew, and his
goods, and went away; Lot was living in Sodom.
13 One who had escaped came and told Abram
the Hebrew. Abram was living by the oaks of
Mamre the Amorite, the brother of Eshcol and
the brother of Aner. They were bound to Abram
by covenant.
14 When Abram heard that his relative had
been taken captive, he mustered his trained
men, born in his household, 318 of them, and
pursued them as far as Dan.
15 By night he and his servants divided into

groups against them, defeated them, and
pursued them as far as Hobah, north of
Damascus.
16 He brought back all the goods, and also
brought back his relative Lot and his goods, as
well as the women and the people.
17 After Abram returned from defeating
Chedorlaomer and the kings with him, the king
of Sodom went out to meet him in the Valley of
Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).
18 Melchizedek king of Salem brought out
bread and wine. He was a priest of God Most
High.

19 He blessed Abram and said,

"Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of
heaven and earth,

20 and blessed be God Most High, who has
delivered your enemies into your hand."
And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

21 The king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me
the people, and take the goods for yourself."
22 Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have
raised my hand to the LORD, God Most High,
Creator of heaven and earth,
23 that I will not take so much as a thread or a
sandal strap or anything that belongs to you, so
that you will not say, 'I have made Abram rich.'
24 Nothing for me, except what the young men
have eaten and the share of the men who went
with me—Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre. Let them
take their share."

15

1 After these things the word of the LORD
came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Do not fear,
Abram. I am your shield; your reward will be
very great.”
2 Abram said, “Lord GOD, what will you give
me, since I remain childless, and the heir of my
household is Eliezer of Damascus?”
3 Abram said, “Look, you have given me no
offspring, and a member of my household will
be my heir.”
4 Then the word of the LORD came to him,
saying, “This man will not be your heir, but one
who comes from your own body will be your
heir.”
5 He took him outside and said, “Look toward
heaven and count the stars, if you can count
them.” Then he said to him, “So will your
offspring be.”
6 Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD
counted it to him as righteousness.
7 He said to him, “I am the LORD, who brought
you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this
land to possess.”
8 Abram said, “Lord GOD, how will I know that
I will possess it?”
9 The LORD said to him, “Bring me a
three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female
goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a
young pigeon.”
10 Abram brought him all these, cut them in
half, and laid each half opposite the other, but
he did not cut the birds in half.

11 Birds of prey came down on the carcasses,
and Abram drove them away.
12 As the sun was about to set, a deep sleep fell
upon Abram, and behold, terror and great
darkness fell upon him.
13 The LORD said to Abram, “Know for certain
that your offspring will be foreigners in a land
not their own. They will serve its people, who
will oppress them for 400 years.
14 But I will judge the nation they serve, and
afterward they will come out with great wealth.
15 As for you, you will go to your fathers in
peace; you will be buried at a good old age.
16 In the fourth generation they will return
here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet
full.”
17 When the sun had set and darkness had
fallen, behold, there was a smoking furnace and
a flaming torch that passed between these
pieces.
18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with
Abram, saying, “To your offspring I have given
this land, from the river of Egypt to the great
river, the River Euphrates:
19 the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, and
the Kadmonites,
20 the Hittites, the Perizzites, and the Rephaim,
21 the Amorites, the Canaanites, the
Girgashites, and the Jebusites.”

16

1 Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had borne him no
children. She had an Egyptian slave woman

named Hagar.
2 Sarai said to Abram, “Look, the LORD has
kept me from bearing children. Please have
relations with my slave woman; perhaps I can
build a family through her.” And Abram listened
to the voice of Sarai.
3 After Abram had lived ten years in the land
of Canaan, Sarai, Abram’s wife, took Hagar her
Egyptian slave woman and gave her to her
husband Abram as a wife.
4 Abram had relations with Hagar, and she
conceived. When she saw that she was
pregnant, she looked down on her mistress.
5 Then Sarai said to Abram, “May the wrong
done to me be upon you! I placed my slave
woman in your arms, and when she saw that
she was pregnant, she looked down on me. May
the LORD judge between me and you.”
6 Abram said to Sarai, “Look, your slave
woman is in your hands. Do to her what seems
good to you.” Then Sarai mistreated her, and
Hagar fled from her.
7 The angel of the LORD found her by a spring
of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the
way to Shur.
8 He said, “Hagar, Sarai’s slave woman, where
have you come from, and where are you going?”
She said, “I am fleeing from my mistress Sarai.”
9 The angel of the LORD said to her, “Return to
your mistress and submit to her authority.”
10 The angel of the LORD said to her, “I will
greatly multiply your offspring, and they will be
too numerous to count.”

11 The angel of the LORD said to her,
"Look, you are pregnant and will bear a son.
You are to name him Ishmael, because the
LORD has heard your affliction.
12 He will be a wild donkey of a man;
his hand will be against everyone, and
everyone's hand against him;
he will dwell opposite all his brothers."
13 She gave this name to the LORD who had spoken to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "Have I even here gazed after the one who sees me?"
14 Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi. It is between Kadesh and Bered.
15 Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram named the son Hagar had borne him Ishmael.
16 Abram was 86 years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.

17

1 When Abram was 99 years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty. Walk before me and be blameless.
2 I will establish my covenant between me and you, and I will multiply you exceedingly."
3 Abram fell on his face, and God spoke with him, saying,
4 "As for me, behold, my covenant is with you, and you will be the father of many nations.
5 No longer will your name be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you the father of many nations.

6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I
will make nations of you, and kings will come
from you.
7 I will establish my covenant between me and
you and your offspring after you throughout
their generations, as an everlasting covenant, to
be God to you and to your offspring after you.
8 I will give to you and to your offspring after
you the land where you live as a foreigner, all
the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession.
And I will be their God."
9 God said to Abraham, "As for you, you must
keep my covenant, you and your offspring after
you throughout their generations.
10 This is my covenant, which you must keep,
between me and you and your offspring after
you: every male among you must be
circumcised.
11 You must circumcise the flesh of your
foreskins, and it will be a sign of the covenant
between me and you.
12 Throughout your generations, every male
among you must be circumcised when he is
eight days old, whether born in the household
or bought with money from among foreigners
who are not your offspring.
13 The one born in your household and the
one bought with your money must be
circumcised. My covenant will be in your flesh
as an everlasting covenant.
14 Any uncircumcised male who has not been
circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin—that
person will be cut off from his people; he has

broken my covenant."
15 God said to Abraham, "As for your wife
Sarai, you must no longer call her Sarai; her
name will be Sarah.
16 I will bless her, and I will also give you a son
by her. I will bless her, and she will be the
mother of nations; kings of peoples will come
from her."
17 Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and
said in his heart, "Will a child be born to a man
who is 100 years old? Will Sarah give birth at
90?"
18 Abraham said to God, "Oh, that Ishmael
might live before you!"
19 God said, "Indeed, your wife Sarah will bear
you a son, and you are to name him Isaac. I will
establish my covenant with him as an
everlasting covenant for his offspring after him.
20 As for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I
have blessed him, and I will make him fruitful
and multiply him exceedingly. He will father
twelve princes, and I will make him a great
nation.
21 But I will establish my covenant with Isaac,
whom Sarah will bear to you at this appointed
time next year."
22 God finished speaking with Abraham and
went up from him.
23 Abraham took his son Ishmael and all those
born in his household and all those bought with
his money, every male among the men of
Abraham's household, and circumcised the flesh
of their foreskins on that very day, as God had
told him.

24 Abraham was 99 years old when the flesh of
his foreskin was circumcised.
25 His son Ishmael was 13 years old when the
flesh of his foreskin was circumcised.
26 On that very day Abraham and his son
Ishmael were circumcised.
27 All the men of his household, those born in
the household and those bought with money
from foreigners, were circumcised with him.

18

1 The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks
of Mamre as he was sitting at the entrance of his
tent in the heat of the day.
2 He looked up and saw three men standing
near him. When he saw them, he ran from the
entrance of the tent to meet them and bowed to
the ground.
3 He said, “My Lord, if I have found favor in
your eyes, please do not pass by your servant.
4 Let a little water be brought, and wash your
feet and rest under the tree.
5 Let me bring a piece of bread to refresh you,
and afterward you may go on, since you have
come to your servant.” They said, “Do as you
have said.”
6 Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and
said, “Hurry! Take about half a bushel of fine
flour, knead it, and make flatbreads.”
7 Abraham ran to the herd, took a tender, good
calf, and gave it to a young man, who hurried to
prepare it.

8 He took curds and milk and the calf he had
prepared and set them before them. He stood
beside them under the tree while they ate.
9 They said to him, “Where is your wife
Sarah?” He said, “There, in the tent.”
10 He said, “I will surely return to you at this
time next year, and your wife Sarah will have a
son.” Sarah was listening at the entrance of the
tent, which was behind him.
11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old,
advanced in years, and Sarah had stopped
menstruating.
12 Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “Now that I
am worn out and my lord is old, will I have
pleasure?”
13 The LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah
laugh and say, ‘Will I really bear a child, now
that I am old?’
14 Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the
appointed time I will return to you, at this time
next year, and Sarah will have a son.”
15 Sarah denied it, saying, “I did not laugh,”
because she was afraid. But he said, “No, you did
laugh.”
16 The men rose from there and looked toward
Sodom, and Abraham went with them to see
them on their way.
17 The LORD said, “Shall I hide from Abraham
what I am about to do,
18 seeing that Abraham will surely become a
great and mighty nation, and all the nations of
the earth will be blessed in him?
19 For I have chosen him, so that he may
command his children and his household after

him to keep the way of the LORD by doing
righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may
bring upon Abraham what he has spoken
concerning him."
20 The LORD said, "The outcry against Sodom
and Gomorrah is great, and their sin is very
grave.
21 I will go down and see whether their deeds
fully match the outcry that has come to me. If
not, I will know."
22 The men turned from there and went
toward Sodom, but Abraham was still standing
before the LORD.
23 Abraham drew near and said, "Will you
indeed sweep away the righteous with the
wicked?
24 Perhaps there are fifty righteous people in
the city. Will you indeed sweep it away and not
spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous
people within it?
25 Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put
the righteous to death with the wicked, so that
the righteous are treated like the wicked. Far be
it from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth
do right?"
26 The LORD said, "If I find in Sodom fifty
righteous people within the city, I will spare the
whole place for their sake."
27 Abraham answered, "Behold, I have taken it
upon myself to speak to the Lord, though I am
dust and ashes.
28 Perhaps there are five fewer than fifty
righteous people. Will you destroy the whole

city for lack of five?" He replied, "I will not
destroy it if I find forty-five there."
29 Abraham spoke to him again and said,
"Perhaps forty will be found there." He replied,
"I will not do it for the sake of the forty."
30 Then Abraham said, "Please, Lord, do not be
angry, and let me speak. Perhaps thirty will be
found there." He replied, "I will not do it if I find
thirty there."
31 Abraham said, "Behold, I have taken it upon
myself to speak to the Lord. Perhaps twenty will
be found there." He replied, "I will not destroy it
for the sake of the twenty."
32 Then Abraham said, "Please, Lord, do not be
angry, and let me speak just once more. Perhaps
ten will be found there." He replied, "I will not
destroy it for the sake of the ten."
33 When he had finished speaking to Abraham,
the LORD went away, and Abraham returned to
his place.

19

1 The two angels came to Sodom in the
evening, while Lot was sitting in the gate of
Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet
them and bowed with his face to the ground.
2 He said, "My lords, please turn aside to your
servant's house, spend the night, and wash your
feet. Then you may rise early and go on your
way." They said, "No, we will spend the night in
the square."
3 But he urged them strongly, so they turned
aside with him and entered his house. He

prepared a feast for them and baked
unleavened bread, and they ate.
4 Before they lay down, the men of the city, the
men of Sodom, surrounded the house, young
and old, all the people from every quarter.
5 They called to Lot and said to him, “Where
are the men who came to you tonight? Bring
them out to us so that we may have sexual
relations with them!”
6 Lot went out to them at the entrance and
closed the door behind him.
7 He said, “Please, my brothers, do not act
wickedly.
8 Look, I have two daughters who have not had
sexual relations with a man. Please let me bring
them out to you, and do to them what seems
good to you. Only do nothing to these men, for
they have come under the shadow of my roof.”
9 They said, “Stand back!” And they said, “This
man came to live here as a foreigner, and now
he insists on acting as judge! Now we will treat
you worse than them!” They pressed hard
against the man Lot and moved forward to
break down the door.
10 But the men reached out their hands, pulled
Lot into the house with them, and shut the door.
11 They struck the men at the entrance of the
house with blindness, young and old, so that
they wore themselves out trying to find the
entrance.
12 Then the men said to Lot, “Do you have
anyone else here—a son-in-law, sons, daughters,
or anyone who belongs to you in the city? Bring
them out of this place,

13 for we are about to destroy this place. The
outcry against its people has grown great before
the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy
it."
14 Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law,
who were to marry his daughters, and said, "Get
up! Get out of this place, for the LORD is about
to destroy the city!" But to his sons-in-law he
seemed to be joking.
15 As dawn rose, the angels urged Lot, saying,
"Get up! Take your wife and your two daughters
who are here, so that you will not be swept
away in the punishment of the city."
16 But he lingered. So the men took hold of his
hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two
daughters, because the LORD had compassion
on him. They brought him out and set him
outside the city.
17 When they had brought them outside, one
of them said, "Escape for your life! Do not look
back or stop anywhere in the plain. Escape to
the hills, so that you will not be swept away."
18 Lot said to them, "No, please, my Lord!
19 Look, your servant has found favor in your
eyes, and you have shown me great kindness by
preserving my life. But I cannot escape to the
hills, for fear the disaster will overtake me and I
will die.
20 Look, this city is near enough to flee to, and
it is a little one. Please let me escape there—is it
not a little one?—and my life will be spared."
21 He said to him, "I grant you this also: I will
not overthrow the city you have spoken of.

22 Hurry, escape there, for I cannot do
anything until you arrive there." Therefore the
city was called Zoar.
23 The sun had risen over the earth when Lot
entered Zoar.
24 Then the LORD rained sulfur and fire on
Sodom and Gomorrah from the LORD out of
heaven.
25 He overthrew those cities and all the plain,
all the inhabitants of the cities, and the
vegetation of the ground.
26 But Lot's wife looked back from behind him,
and she became a pillar of salt.
27 Abraham rose early in the morning and
went to the place where he had stood before the
LORD.
28 He looked out toward Sodom and Gomorrah
and all the land of the plain, and saw the smoke
of the land rising like the smoke of a furnace.
29 Thus, when God destroyed the cities of the
plain, God remembered Abraham and sent Lot
out from the midst of the overthrow when he
overthrew the cities where Lot had lived.
30 Lot went up from Zoar and settled in the
hills with his two daughters, because he was
afraid to live in Zoar. He lived in a cave, he and
his two daughters.
31 The older daughter said to the younger, "Our
father is old, and there is no man in the land to
have relations with us, as is the way of all the
earth.
32 Come, let us give our father wine to drink
and lie with him, so that we may preserve
offspring through our father."

33 So they gave their father wine to drink that
night, and the older daughter went in and lay
with her father. He did not know when she lay
down or when she got up.
34 The next day the older daughter said to the
younger, “Look, last night I lay with my father.
Let us give him wine to drink tonight also, and
you go in and lie with him, so that we may
preserve offspring through our father.”
35 So they gave their father wine to drink that
night also, and the younger daughter got up and
lay with him. He did not know when she lay
down or when she got up.
36 Thus both daughters of Lot became
pregnant by their father.
37 The older daughter bore a son and named
him Moab. He is the father of the Moabites to
this day.
38 The younger daughter also bore a son and
named him Ben-ammi. He is the father of the
Ammonites to this day.

20

1 Abraham journeyed from there toward the
land of the Negev and settled between Kadesh
and Shur. He lived as a foreigner in Gerar.
2 Abraham said of his wife Sarah, “She is my
sister.” So Abimelech king of Gerar sent for
Sarah and took her.
3 But God came to Abimelech in a dream at
night and said to him, “You are a dead man
because of the woman you have taken, for she is
a married woman.”

4 Now Abimelech had not gone near her. He
said, “Lord, will you kill even a righteous nation?
5 Did he not say to me, ‘She is my sister’? And
she herself said, ‘He is my brother.’ I have done
this with integrity of heart and innocence of
hands.”
6 God said to him in the dream, “I also know
that you did this with integrity of heart, and I
myself kept you from sinning against me. That is
why I did not let you touch her.
7 Now return the man’s wife, for he is a
prophet, and he will pray for you, and you will
live. But if you do not return her, know that you
will surely die, you and all who belong to you.”
8 Abimelech rose early in the morning, called
all his servants, and told them all these things.
The men were very afraid.
9 Then Abimelech called Abraham and said to
him, “What have you done to us? How have I
sinned against you, that you have brought such
a great sin upon me and my kingdom? You have
done to me things that ought not to be done.”
10 Abimelech said to Abraham, “What
prompted you to do this?”
11 Abraham said, “Because I thought, ‘Surely
there is no fear of God in this place, and they
will kill me because of my wife.’
12 Besides, she really is my sister, the daughter
of my father but not the daughter of my mother,
and she became my wife.
13 When God caused me to wander from my
father’s house, I said to her, ‘This is the kindness
you will show me: wherever we go, say of me

that I am your brother.' "
14 Abimelech took flocks, cattle, male slaves,
and female slaves and gave them to Abraham,
and he returned Abraham's wife Sarah to him.
15 Abimelech said, "Look, my land is before
you. Settle wherever seems good to you."
16 To Sarah he said, "Look, I have given your
brother a thousand pieces of silver, weighing
about 25 pounds. This is to clear you in the eyes
of all who are with you; before everyone you
are vindicated."
17 Abraham prayed to God, and God healed
Abimelech, his wife, and his slave women, and
they had children.
18 For the LORD had completely closed every
womb in Abimelech's household because of
Sarah, Abraham's wife.

21

1 The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and
the LORD did for Sarah as he had spoken.
2 Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in
his old age, at the appointed time God had told
him about.
3 Abraham named his son who was born to
him, whom Sarah had borne to him, Isaac.
4 Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he
was eight days old, as God had commanded him.
5 Abraham was 100 years old when his son
Isaac was born to him.
6 Sarah said, "God has made me laugh;
everyone who hears will laugh with me."
7 She also said, "Who would have said to
Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I
have borne him a son in his old age."

8 The child grew and was weaned, and
Abraham held a great feast on the day Isaac was
weaned.
9 Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian,
whom she had borne to Abraham, mocking.
10 So she said to Abraham, “Drive out this slave
woman and her son, for the son of this slave
woman will not share the inheritance with my
son, with Isaac.”
11 The matter was very distressing to Abraham
because of his son.
12 But God said to Abraham, “Do not be
distressed over the boy or your slave woman.
Listen to Sarah’s voice in all that she says to you,
for through Isaac your offspring will be named.
13 I will also make the son of the slave woman
a nation, because he is your offspring.”
14 Abraham rose early in the morning, took
bread and a skin of water, and gave them to
Hagar, placing them on her shoulder. He also
gave her the boy and sent her away. She went off
and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba.
15 When the water in the skin was used up,
she put the boy down under one of the shrubs.
16 She went and sat opposite him about a
hundred yards away, for she said, “Let me not
watch the boy die.” She sat opposite him and
lifted up her voice and wept.
17 God heard the boy’s voice, and the angel of
God called to Hagar from heaven and said to
her, “What troubles you, Hagar? Do not fear, for
God has heard the boy’s voice where he is.
18 Get up, lift up the boy, and support him with

your hand, for I will make him a great nation."
19 God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of
water. She went and filled the skin with water
and gave the boy a drink.
20 God was with the boy, and he grew. He lived
in the wilderness and became an archer.
21 He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his
mother took a wife for him from the land of
Egypt.
22 At that time Abimelech and Phicol, the
commander of his army, said to Abraham, "God
is with you in everything you do.
23 Now swear to me here by God that you will
not deal falsely with me or my offspring or my
descendants. Show me and the land where you
have lived as a foreigner the same kindness I
have shown you."
24 Abraham said, "I will swear."
25 Abraham confronted Abimelech about a
well of water that Abimelech's servants had
seized.
26 Abimelech said, "I do not know who did this.
You did not tell me, and I had not heard of it
until today."
27 Abraham took flocks and cattle and gave
them to Abimelech, and the two of them made a
covenant.
28 Abraham set seven ewe lambs from the
flock apart by themselves.
29 Abimelech said to Abraham, "What do these
seven ewe lambs you have set apart mean?"
30 He said, "You are to accept these seven ewe
lambs from my hand as a witness for me that I
dug this well."

31 That is why he called the place Beersheba,
because there the two of them swore an oath.
32 They made a covenant at Beersheba. Then
Abimelech and Phicol, the commander of his
army, rose and returned to the land of the
Philistines.
33 Abraham planted a tamarisk tree at
Beersheba and called there on the name of the
LORD, the Everlasting God.
34 Abraham lived as a foreigner in the land of
the Philistines for many days.

22

1 After these things God tested Abraham and
said to him, “Abraham!” He said, “Here I am.”
2 He said, “Take your son, your only son,
whom you love—Isaac—and go to the land of
Moriah. Offer him there as a burnt offering on
one of the mountains I will tell you about.”
3 Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled
his donkey, and took two of his young men and
his son Isaac with him. He split the wood for the
burnt offering, then rose and went to the place
God had told him about.
4 On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes
and saw the place from a distance.
5 Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here
with the donkey. The boy and I will go over
there and worship, and we will return to you.”
6 Abraham took the wood for the burnt
offering and laid it on his son Isaac. He took the
fire and the knife in his hand, and the two of
them went on together.

7 Isaac spoke to his father Abraham and said,
“My father!”
Abraham replied, “Here I am, my
son.”
Isaac said, “Here are the fire and the wood,
but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?”
8 Abraham said, “God will provide for himself
the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.”
And the
two of them went on together.
9 They came to the place God had told him
about, and Abraham built the altar there and
arranged the wood. He bound his son Isaac and
laid him on the altar on top of the wood.
10 Abraham reached out his hand and took the
knife to slaughter his son.
11 But the angel of the LORD called to him
from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!”
He
said, “Here I am.”
12 He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or
do anything to him, for now I know that you
fear God, since you have not withheld your son,
your only son, from me.”
13 Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw a ram
behind him, caught in a thicket by its horns.
Abraham went and took the ram and offered it
as a burnt offering in place of his son.
14 Abraham called that place “The LORD Will
Provide.”
That is why it is said to this day, “On
the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.”
15 The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a
second time from heaven
16 and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares
the LORD, because you have done this and have
not withheld your son, your only son,
17 I will surely bless you and greatly multiply

your offspring like the stars of heaven and like
the sand on the seashore. Your offspring will
possess the gate of their enemies.
18 In your offspring all the nations of the earth
will invoke blessings for themselves, because
you have obeyed my voice."
19 Abraham returned to his young men, and
they rose and went together to Beersheba, and
Abraham lived at Beersheba.
20 After these things Abraham was told,
"Milcah too has borne sons to your brother
Nahor:
21 Uz his firstborn, Buz his brother, and
Kemuel the father of Aram,
22 Chesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph, and Bethuel."
23 Bethuel fathered Rebekah. These eight
Milcah bore to Nahor, Abraham's brother.
24 His concubine, whose name was Reumah,
also bore Tebah, Gaham, Tahash, and Maacah.

23

1 Sarah lived a hundred and twenty-seven
years. These were the years of Sarah's life.
2 Sarah died at Kiriath-arba, that is, Hebron, in
the land of Canaan. Abraham came to mourn
for Sarah and to weep for her.
3 Abraham rose from beside his dead wife and
spoke to the sons of Heth:
4 "I am a resident foreigner among you. Give
me property for a burial place among you, so
that I may bury my dead out of my sight."
5 The sons of Heth answered Abraham,
6 "Listen to us, my lord. You are a prince of
God among us. Bury your dead in the choicest of

our tombs. None of us will refuse you his tomb
for burying your dead."
7 Abraham rose and bowed to the people of
the land, the sons of Heth.
8 He said to them, "If you agree that I should
bury my dead out of my sight, listen to me and
appeal to Ephron son of Zohar on my behalf,
9 so that he will give me the cave of Machpelah
that belongs to him, at the end of his field. Let
him give it to me for the full price in silver, in
your presence, as property for a burial place."
10 Now Ephron was sitting among the sons of
Heth. Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in
the hearing of the sons of Heth, before all who
entered the gate of his city:
11 "No, my lord, listen to me. I give you the
field, and I give you the cave in it. In the sight of
the sons of my people I give it to you. Bury your
dead."
12 Abraham bowed before the people of the
land
13 and spoke to Ephron in the hearing of the
people of the land: "But please, listen to me. I
will give you the price of the field in silver.
Accept it from me, and I will bury my dead
there."
14 Ephron answered Abraham,
15 "My lord, listen to me. A piece of land worth
four hundred shekels of silver, about ten
pounds—what is that between you and me?
Bury your dead."
16 Abraham agreed with Ephron and weighed
out for him the silver he had named in the

hearing of the sons of Heth: four hundred
shekels of silver, about ten pounds, at the weight
accepted by merchants.
17 So Ephron's field at Machpelah, facing
Mamre—the field, the cave in it, and all the trees
throughout its boundaries—
18 became Abraham's purchased possession in
the sight of the sons of Heth, before all who
entered the gate of Ephron's city.
19 After this Abraham buried his wife Sarah in
the cave of the field of Machpelah, facing
Mamre, that is, Hebron, in the land of Canaan.
20 The field and the cave in it passed from the
sons of Heth to Abraham as property for a
burial place.

24

1 Abraham was old, advanced in years, and
the LORD had blessed Abraham in everything.
2 Abraham said to the senior servant of his
household, who was in charge of all he had,
"Please put your hand under my thigh,
3 and I will make you swear by the LORD, the
God of heaven and the God of earth, that you
will not take a wife for my son from the
daughters of the Canaanites among whom I live.
4 Instead, you must go to my country and to
my relatives and take a wife for my son Isaac."
5 The servant said to him, "Perhaps the woman
will not be willing to follow me to this land.
Should I then take your son back to the land you
came from?"

6 Abraham said to him, “Be careful not to take
my son back there.
7 The LORD, the God of heaven, who took me
from my father’s house and from the land of my
birth, who spoke to me and swore to me, saying,
‘To your offspring I will give this land,’ will send
his angel before you, and you will take a wife for
my son from there.
8 If the woman is not willing to follow you, you
will be free from this oath of mine. Only do not
take my son back there.”
9 So the servant put his hand under the thigh
of Abraham his master and swore to him
concerning this matter.
10 The servant took ten of his master’s camels
and set out, taking all kinds of his master’s good
things with him. He rose and went to
Aram-naharaim, to the city of Nahor.
11 He made the camels kneel outside the city
beside the well of water at evening, the time
when the women came out to draw water.
12 He said, “LORD, God of my master Abraham,
please grant me success today and show
kindness to my master Abraham.
13 Here I am, standing beside the spring of
water, and the daughters of the men of the city
are coming out to draw water.
14 Let the young woman to whom I say, ‘Please
lower your jar so that I may drink,’ and who
says, ‘Drink, and I will also water your camels,’
be the one you have appointed for your servant
Isaac. By her I will know that you have shown
kindness to my master.”

15 Before he had finished speaking, Rebekah
came out with her jar on her shoulder. She was
the daughter of Bethuel, the son of Milcah, the
wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother.
16 The young woman was very beautiful, a
virgin who had never had sexual relations with
a man. She went down to the spring, filled her
jar, and came up.
17 The servant ran to meet her and said,
"Please let me drink a little water from your jar."
18 She said, "Drink, my lord," and quickly
lowered her jar to her hand and gave him a
drink.
19 When she had finished giving him a drink,
she said, "I will draw water for your camels too,
until they have finished drinking."
20 She quickly emptied her jar into the trough,
ran back to the well to draw water, and drew
water for all his camels.
21 The man watched her in silence to find out
whether the LORD had made his journey
successful or not.
22 When the camels had finished drinking, the
man took a gold nose ring weighing half a
shekel, about 0.2 ounces, and two gold bracelets
for her wrists weighing ten shekels, about four
ounces, in all.
23 He said, "Whose daughter are you? Please
tell me. Is there room in your father's house for
us to spend the night?"
24 She said to him, "I am the daughter of
Bethuel, the son Milcah bore to Nahor."
25 She also said to him, "We have plenty of

straw and feed, and room to spend the night."
26 The man bowed his head and worshiped the
LORD.
27 He said, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of
my master Abraham, who has not abandoned
his kindness and faithfulness toward my master.
As for me, the LORD has guided me on the way
to the house of my master's relatives."
28 The young woman ran and told her
mother's household about these things.
29 Rebekah had a brother named Laban.
Laban ran out to the man at the spring.
30 When he saw the nose ring and the
bracelets on his sister's wrists, and when he
heard his sister Rebekah say, "This is what the
man said to me," he went to the man, who was
standing beside the camels at the spring.
31 He said, "Come in, you who are blessed by
the LORD. Why are you standing outside? I have
prepared the house and a place for the camels."
32 The man went into the house. The camels
were unharnessed and given straw and feed,
and water was provided to wash his feet and the
feet of the men with him.
33 Food was set before him to eat, but he said,
"I will not eat until I have told you what I have
to say." He was told, "Speak."
34 He said, "I am Abraham's servant.
35 The LORD has greatly blessed my master,
and he has become great. He has given him
flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and
female servants, camels and donkeys.
36 Sarah, my master's wife, bore my master a

son in her old age, and he has given him all he has.
37 My master made me swear, saying, ‘You must not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live.
38 Instead, you must go to my father’s house and to my family and take a wife for my son.’
39 I said to my master, ‘Perhaps the woman will not follow me.’
40 He said to me, ‘The LORD, before whom I have walked, will send his angel with you and make your journey successful. You will take a wife for my son from my family and from my father’s house.
41 Then you will be free from my oath when you reach my family. If they will not give her to you, you will be free from my oath.’
42 Today I came to the spring and said, ‘LORD, God of my master Abraham, if you are willing to make the journey I am taking successful,
43 here I am, standing beside the spring of water. Let the young woman who comes out to draw water, to whom I say, “Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,”
44 and who says to me, “Drink, and I will also draw water for your camels,” be the woman the LORD has appointed for my master’s son.’
45 Before I had finished speaking in my heart, Rebekah came out with her jar on her shoulder. She went down to the spring and drew water, and I said to her, ‘Please give me a drink.’
46 She quickly lowered her jar from her

shoulder and said, ‘Drink, and I will also water
your camels.’ So I drank, and she watered the
camels too.
47 I asked her, ‘Whose daughter are you?’ She
said, ‘The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor’s son,
whom Milcah bore to him.’ Then I put the ring
on her nose and the bracelets on her wrists.
48 I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD
and blessed the LORD, the God of my master
Abraham, who had guided me on the right way
to take a descendant of my master’s brother as a
wife for his son.
49 Now, if you will show kindness and
faithfulness to my master, tell me. If not, tell me,
so that I may turn to the right or to the left.”
50 Laban and Bethuel answered, “This matter
comes from the LORD. We can say nothing to
you, bad or good.
51 Here is Rebekah before you. Take her and
go, and let her be the wife of your master’s son,
as the LORD has spoken.”
52 When Abraham’s servant heard their
words, he bowed to the ground before the LORD.
53 The servant brought out silver and gold
jewelry and clothing and gave them to Rebekah.
He also gave precious gifts to her brother and
her mother.
54 He and the men with him ate and drank and
spent the night. When they rose in the morning,
he said, “Send me back to my master.”
55 Her brother and her mother said, “Let the
young woman stay with us a few days, perhaps
ten. After that she may go.”
56 He said to them, “Do not delay me, since the

LORD has made my journey successful. Send me
on my way so that I may go to my master."
57 They said, "Let us call the young woman and
ask her."
58 They called Rebekah and said to her, "Will
you go with this man?" She said, "I will go."
59 So they sent away their sister Rebekah and
her nurse, along with Abraham's servant and
his men.
60 They blessed Rebekah and said to her,
"Our sister, may you become the mother of
thousands of ten thousands, and may
your offspring possess the gate of those
who hate them."
61 Rebekah and her young women rose,
mounted the camels, and followed the man. So
the servant took Rebekah and went on his way.
62 Now Isaac had come from the direction of
Beer-lahai-roi. He was living in the Negev.
63 Isaac went out to meditate in the field
toward evening. He lifted up his eyes and saw
camels coming.
64 Rebekah lifted up her eyes and saw Isaac,
and she got down from the camel.
65 She said to the servant, "Who is that man
walking in the field to meet us?" The servant
said, "He is my master." Then she took her veil
and covered herself.
66 The servant told Isaac all the things he had
done.
67 Isaac brought her into the tent of his mother
Sarah. He took Rebekah, and she became his
wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted
after his mother's death.

25

1 Abraham took another wife, whose name
was Keturah.
2 She bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan,
Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah.
3 Jokshan fathered Sheba and Dedan. The sons
of Dedan were the Asshurites, Letushites, and
Leummites.
4 The sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher,
Hanoch, Abida, and Eldaah. All these were
descendants of Keturah.
5 Abraham gave all he had to Isaac.
6 But Abraham gave gifts to the sons of his
concubines, and while he was still alive, he sent
them away from his son Isaac, eastward to the
land of the east.
7 These were the years of Abraham's life: a
hundred and seventy-five years.
8 Abraham breathed his last and died at a
good old age, old and satisfied with life, and he
was gathered to his people.
9 His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the
cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron son of
Zohar the Hittite, facing Mamre,
10 the field Abraham had purchased from the
sons of Heth. There Abraham was buried, along
with his wife Sarah.
11 After Abraham's death God blessed his son
Isaac, and Isaac lived beside Beer-lahai-roi.
12 These are the generations of Ishmael,
Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian,
Sarah's female servant, bore to Abraham.
13 These are the names of Ishmael's sons, by
their names according to their generations:

Nebaioth, Ishmael's firstborn, then Kedar,
Adbeel, Mibsam,
14 Mishma, Dumah, Massa,
15 Hadad, Tema, Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah.
16 These were Ishmael's sons, and these were
their names, according to their villages and
encampments: twelve princes according to their
tribes.
17 These were the years of Ishmael's life: a
hundred and thirty-seven years. He breathed his
last and died, and was gathered to his people.
18 They lived from Havilah to Shur, which
faces Egypt in the direction of Assyria. He
settled across from all his brothers.
19 These are the generations of Isaac,
Abraham's son. Abraham fathered Isaac.
20 Isaac was forty years old when he took
Rebekah as his wife, the daughter of Bethuel the
Aramean from Paddan-aram, and the sister of
Laban the Aramean.
21 Isaac pleaded with the LORD for his wife,
because she was barren. The LORD answered
his plea, and his wife Rebekah conceived.
22 The children struggled together within her,
and she said, "If this is so, why is this happening
to me?" So she went to inquire of the LORD.
23 The LORD said to her,
"Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples
will be separated from within you.
One people will be stronger than the other,
and the older will serve the younger."
24 When her time to give birth was complete,
there were twins in her womb.

25 The first came out red, all over like a hairy
cloak, and they named him Esau.
26 Afterward his brother came out, with his
hand grasping Esau's heel, and he was named
Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah
bore them.
27 The boys grew up. Esau became a skilled
hunter, a man of the field, but Jacob was a quiet
man who lived in tents.
28 Isaac loved Esau because he ate his game,
but Rebekah loved Jacob.
29 Jacob was cooking stew when Esau came in
from the field, exhausted.
30 Esau said to Jacob, "Please feed me some of
that red stuff, that red stuff, for I am exhausted."
That is why he was called Edom.
31 Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright today."
32 Esau said, "Look, I am about to die. What
use is a birthright to me?"
33 Jacob said, "Swear to me today." So he swore
to him and sold his birthright to Jacob.
34 Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew. He
ate and drank, rose and went away. So Esau
despised his birthright.

26

1 There was a famine in the land, besides the
earlier famine in Abraham's days. Isaac went to
Abimelech king of the Philistines at Gerar.
2 The LORD appeared to him and said, "Do not
go down to Egypt. Live in the land I will tell you
about.

3 Stay in this land as a foreigner, and I will be
with you and bless you, for to you and your
offspring I will give all these lands. I will fulfill
the oath I swore to your father Abraham.
4 I will multiply your offspring like the stars of
heaven and give all these lands to your
offspring. In your offspring all the nations of the
earth will invoke blessings for themselves,
5 because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept
my charge, my commandments, my statutes,
and my instructions."
6 So Isaac lived in Gerar.
7 When the men of the place asked him about
his wife, he said, "She is my sister." He was
afraid to say, "She is my wife," thinking, "The
men of the place might kill me on account of
Rebekah," because she was beautiful.
8 When he had been there a long time,
Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out
through a window and saw Isaac caressing his
wife Rebekah.
9 Abimelech called Isaac and said, "Surely she
is your wife! How could you say, 'She is my
sister'?" Isaac said to him, "Because I thought I
might die on account of her."
10 Abimelech said, "What have you done to us?
One of the people might easily have slept with
your wife, and you would have brought guilt
upon us."
11 So Abimelech commanded all the people,
"Anyone who touches this man or his wife will
surely be put to death."
12 Isaac sowed in that land and reaped a

hundredfold that year. The LORD blessed him,
13 and the man grew rich and kept growing
richer until he became very wealthy.
14 He had flocks and herds and many servants,
and the Philistines envied him.
15 The Philistines had stopped up and filled
with earth all the wells his father's servants had
dug in the days of his father Abraham.
16 Abimelech said to Isaac, "Go away from us,
for you have become much more powerful than
we are."
17 So Isaac went away from there, camped in
the valley of Gerar, and lived there.
18 Isaac dug again the wells of water that had
been dug in the days of his father Abraham and
that the Philistines had stopped up after
Abraham's death. He gave them the same names
his father had given them.
19 Isaac's servants dug in the valley and found
a well of spring water there.
20 The herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with
Isaac's herdsmen, saying, "The water is ours." He
named the well Esek because they quarreled
with him.
21 They dug another well, and they quarreled
over it too, so he named it Sitnah.
22 He moved on from there and dug another
well, and they did not quarrel over it. He named
it Rehoboth and said, "Now the LORD has made
room for us, and we will be fruitful in the land."
23 From there he went up to Beersheba.
24 The LORD appeared to him that night and
said, "I am the God of your father Abraham. Do

not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you and
multiply your offspring for the sake of my
servant Abraham."
25 He built an altar there and called on the
name of the LORD. He pitched his tent there,
and there Isaac's servants dug a well.
26 Abimelech came to him from Gerar, along
with Ahuzzath his friend and Phicol the
commander of his army.
27 Isaac said to them, "Why have you come to
me, since you hated me and sent me away from
you?"
28 They said, "We have clearly seen that the
LORD has been with you, so we said, 'Let there
be an oath between us, between us and you,'
and let us make a covenant with you,
29 that you will do us no harm, just as we have
not touched you and have done you only good
and sent you away in peace. Now you are
blessed by the LORD."
30 So he prepared a feast for them, and they
ate and drank.
31 They rose early in the morning and swore
an oath to one another. Isaac sent them away,
and they departed from him in peace.
32 That same day Isaac's servants came and
told him about the well they had dug. They said
to him, "We have found water."
33 He named it Shibah. That is why the city is
called Beersheba to this day.

34 When Esau was forty years old, he took as
wives Judith daughter of Beeri the Hittite and
Basemath daughter of Elon the Hittite.

35 They were a source of bitterness to Isaac
and Rebekah.

27

1 When Isaac was old and his eyes had grown
too dim to see, he called his older son Esau and
said to him, “My son!” He said to him, “Here I
am.”
2 He said, “Look, I am old, and I do not know
the day of my death.
3 Now please take your weapons, your quiver
and your bow, go out into the field, and hunt
some game for me.
4 Prepare a savory meal for me, the kind I
love, and bring it to me to eat, so that my soul
may bless you before I die.”
5 Rebekah was listening as Isaac spoke to his
son Esau. So Esau went out into the field to hunt
game and bring it back.
6 Rebekah said to her son Jacob, “I heard your
father speaking to your brother Esau, saying,
7 ‘Bring me game and prepare a savory meal
for me to eat, so that I may bless you before the
LORD before I die.’
8 Now, my son, obey my voice in what I
command you.
9 Go to the flock and bring me two good young
goats from there, and I will prepare a savory
meal for your father, the kind he loves.
10 You will bring it to your father to eat, so that
he may bless you before he dies.”

11 Jacob said to his mother Rebekah, “My
brother Esau is a hairy man, but I have smooth
skin.
12 Perhaps my father will feel me and think I
am mocking him. Then I will bring a curse upon
myself instead of a blessing.”
13 His mother said to him, “Let your curse be
on me, my son. Only obey my voice, and go and
bring them to me.”
14 So he went, took them, and brought them to
his mother, and his mother prepared a savory
meal, the kind his father loved.
15 Rebekah took the best clothes of her older
son Esau, which she had with her in the house,
and put them on her younger son Jacob.
16 She put the skins of the young goats on his
hands and on the smooth part of his neck.
17 She placed the savory meal and the bread
she had prepared into the hand of her son Jacob.
18 He came to his father and said, “My father!”
He said, “Here I am. Who are you, my son?”
19 Jacob said to his father, “I am Esau your
firstborn. I have done as you told me. Please
rise and sit down to eat some of my game, so
that your soul may bless me.”
20 Isaac said to his son, “How have you found it
so quickly, my son?” He said, “Because the LORD
your God brought it before me.”
21 Isaac said to Jacob, “Please come near so
that I may feel you, my son, to know whether
you are really my son Esau or not.”
22 Jacob came near to his father Isaac, and he
felt him and said, “The voice is Jacob’s voice, but

the hands are Esau's hands."
23 He did not recognize him because his hands
were hairy like the hands of his brother Esau, so
he blessed him.
24 He said, "Are you really my son Esau?" He
said, "I am."
25 He said, "Bring it near to me, so that I may
eat some of my son's game and my soul may
bless you." He brought it to him, and he ate. He
also brought him wine, and he drank.
26 His father Isaac said to him, "Please come
near and kiss me, my son."
27 He came near and kissed him. Isaac smelled
the scent of his clothes and blessed him, saying,
"See, the scent of my son is like the scent of a
field the LORD has blessed.
28 May God give you of the dew of heaven and of
the richness of the earth, and an
abundance of grain and new wine.
29 May peoples serve you and nations bow down
to you.
Be lord over your brothers, and may your
mother's sons bow down to you.
Cursed be those who curse you, and blessed
be those who bless you."
30 Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, and Jacob
had barely gone out from the presence of his
father Isaac when his brother Esau came in
from hunting.
31 He too prepared a savory meal and brought
it to his father. He said to his father, "Let my
father rise and eat some of his son's game, so
that your soul may bless me."

32 His father Isaac said to him, “Who are you?”
He said, “I am your son, your firstborn, Esau.”
33 Isaac trembled violently and said, “Who was
it then who hunted game and brought it to me? I
ate some of everything before you came and
blessed him. Yes, he will be blessed!”
34 When Esau heard his father’s words, he let
out a very loud and bitter cry and said to his
father, “Bless me too, my father!”
35 He said, “Your brother came with deceit and
took your blessing.”
36 Esau said, “Isn’t he rightly named Jacob? He
has cheated me twice now. He took my
birthright, and now he has taken my blessing.”
He said, “Have you not reserved a blessing for
me?”
37 Isaac answered Esau, “Look, I have made
him lord over you and given him all his brothers
as servants. I have sustained him with grain and
new wine. What then can I do for you, my son?”
38 Esau said to his father, “Do you have only
one blessing, my father? Bless me too, my
father!” Then Esau lifted up his voice and wept.
39 His father Isaac answered him,
“Look, your dwelling will be away from the
richness of the earth and away from the
dew of heaven above.
40 By your sword you will live, and you will
serve your brother.
But when you grow restless, you will break
his yoke off your neck.”
41 Esau bore a grudge against Jacob because of
the blessing his father had given him. Esau said

in his heart, “The days of mourning for my father
are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob.”
42 The words of her older son Esau were
reported to Rebekah. She sent for her younger
son Jacob and said to him, “Your brother Esau is
consoling himself with the thought of killing
you.
43 Now, my son, obey my voice. Rise and flee
to my brother Laban at Haran.
44 Stay with him a few days, until your
brother’s fury turns away,
45 until your brother’s anger turns away from
you and he forgets what you have done to him.
Then I will send and bring you back from there.
Why should I lose both of you in one day?”
46 Rebekah said to Isaac, “I am weary of my
life because of the daughters of Heth. If Jacob
takes a wife from the daughters of Heth like
these, from the daughters of the land, what use
will my life be to me?”

28

1 Isaac called Jacob and blessed him and
commanded him, “You must not take a wife
from the daughters of Canaan.
2 Rise and go to Paddan-aram, to the house of
Bethuel, your mother’s father, and take a wife
from there, from the daughters of Laban, your
mother’s brother.
3 May God Almighty bless you and make you
fruitful and multiply you, so that you become a
community of peoples.

4 May he give you the blessing of Abraham, to
you and your offspring with you, so that you
may possess the land where you have lived as a
foreigner, which God gave to Abraham."
5 Isaac sent Jacob away, and he went to
Paddan-aram, to Laban, the son of Bethuel the
Aramean and the brother of Rebekah, the
mother of Jacob and Esau.
6 Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and
sent him to Paddan-aram to take a wife from
there. When he blessed him, he had
commanded him, "You must not take a wife
from the daughters of Canaan."
7 Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother
and had gone to Paddan-aram.
8 Esau saw that the daughters of Canaan
displeased his father Isaac.
9 So Esau went to Ishmael and took Mahalath,
the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son, and the
sister of Nebaioth, as a wife in addition to the
wives he already had.

10 Jacob left Beersheba and went toward
Haran.
11 He came to a certain place and spent the
night there because the sun had set. He took one
of the stones of that place and put it at his head
and lay down in that place.
12 He dreamed, and there was a ladder set up
on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven.
The angels of God were ascending and
descending on it.
13 The LORD stood above it and said, "I am the
LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the

God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will
give to you and your offspring.
14 Your offspring will be like the dust of the
earth, and you will spread out to the west, east,
north, and south. In you and in your offspring
all the families of the earth will be blessed.
15 Look, I am with you and will keep you
wherever you go, and I will bring you back to
this land, for I will not leave you until I have
done what I have promised you."
16 Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely
the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it."
17 He was afraid and said, "How awesome this
place is! This is none other than the house of
God, and this is the gate of heaven."
18 Jacob rose early in the morning and took
the stone he had placed at his head and set it up
as a pillar. He poured oil on its top.
19 He named that place Bethel, though the
city's name had formerly been Luz.
20 Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be
with me and keep me on this journey I am
taking, and give me bread to eat and clothing to
wear,
21 and I return in peace to my father's house,
then the LORD will be my God.
22 This stone I have set up as a pillar will be
God's house, and of all that you give me I will
surely give a tenth to you."

29

1 Jacob went on his journey and came to the
land of the people of the east.

2 He looked and saw a well in the field, with
three flocks of sheep lying beside it, for the
flocks were watered from that well. A large
stone covered the mouth of the well.
3 When all the flocks were gathered there, the
stone would be rolled away from the mouth of
the well and the sheep watered. Then the stone
would be put back in its place over the mouth of
the well.
4 Jacob said to them, “My brothers, where are
you from?” They said, “We are from Haran.”
5 He said to them, “Do you know Laban,
Nahor’s descendant?” They said, “We know him.”
6 He said to them, “Is he well?” They said, “He
is well. Look, his daughter Rachel is coming
with the sheep.”
7 He said, “Look, there is still much of the day
left. It is not yet time to gather the livestock.
Water the sheep and go and pasture them.”
8 They said, “We cannot until all the flocks are
gathered and the stone is rolled away from the
mouth of the well. Then we can water the
sheep.”
9 While he was still speaking with them,
Rachel came with her father’s sheep, for she was
a shepherdess.
10 When Jacob saw Rachel, the daughter of
Laban his mother’s brother, and the sheep of
Laban his mother’s brother, he went near and
rolled the stone away from the mouth of the
well and watered the sheep of Laban his
mother’s brother.
11 Jacob kissed Rachel and lifted up his voice

and wept.
12 Jacob told Rachel that he was her father's
relative and that he was Rebekah's son. She ran
and told her father.
13 When Laban heard the news of Jacob, his
sister's son, he ran to meet him, embraced him,
kissed him, and brought him into his house.
Jacob told Laban all these things.
14 Laban said to him, "Surely you are my bone
and my flesh." Jacob stayed with him for a
month.
15 Laban said to Jacob, "Should you serve me
for nothing just because you are my relative?
Tell me what your wages will be."
16 Laban had two daughters. The older was
named Leah, and the younger was named
Rachel.
17 Leah's eyes were delicate, but Rachel was
beautiful in form and appearance.
18 Jacob loved Rachel and said, "I will serve
you seven years for your younger daughter
Rachel."
19 Laban said, "It is better to give her to you
than to give her to another man. Stay with me."
20 So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and
they seemed to him like a few days because of
his love for her.
21 Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife, for
my time is complete, so that I may sleep with
her."
22 Laban gathered all the men of the place and
prepared a feast.
23 In the evening he took his daughter Leah
and brought her to Jacob, and Jacob slept with

her.
24 Laban gave his female servant Zilpah to his
daughter Leah as her servant.
25 In the morning, there was Leah! Jacob said
to Laban, “What have you done to me? Did I not
serve you for Rachel? Why have you deceived
me?”
26 Laban said, “It is not done that way in our
place, to give the younger before the firstborn.
27 Complete her wedding week, and we will
give you the other one too, for another seven
years of service with me.”
28 Jacob did so and completed her wedding
week. Then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel
as a wife.
29 Laban gave his female servant Bilhah to his
daughter Rachel as her servant.
30 Jacob slept with Rachel too, and he loved
Rachel more than Leah. He served Laban for
another seven years.
31 The LORD saw that Leah was hated, and he
opened her womb, but Rachel was barren.
32 Leah conceived and bore a son, and she
named him Reuben, for she said, “The LORD has
seen my affliction; now my husband will love
me.”
33 She conceived again and bore a son and
said, “Because the LORD has heard that I am
hated, he has given me this son too.” So she
named him Simeon.
34 She conceived again and bore a son and
said, “Now this time my husband will be joined
to me, because I have borne him three sons.”
That is why he was named Levi.

35 She conceived again and bore a son and
said, “This time I will praise the LORD.” That is
why she named him Judah. Then she stopped
bearing children.

30

1 When Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no
children, Rachel envied her sister and said to
Jacob, “Give me children, or I will die!”
2 Jacob’s anger burned against Rachel, and he
said, “Am I in the place of God, who has
withheld from you the fruit of the womb?”
3 She said, “Here is my female servant Bilhah.
Sleep with her, and she will bear children on my
knees, so that I too may have children through
her.”
4 She gave him her female servant Bilhah as a
wife, and Jacob slept with her.
5 Bilhah conceived and bore Jacob a son.
6 Rachel said, “God has vindicated me. He has
also heard my voice and given me a son.” That is
why she named him Dan.
7 Rachel’s female servant Bilhah conceived
again and bore Jacob a second son.
8 Rachel said, “With mighty struggles I have
wrestled with my sister, and I have prevailed.”
So she named him Naphtali.
9 When Leah saw that she had stopped
bearing children, she took her female servant
Zilpah and gave her to Jacob as a wife.
10 Leah’s female servant Zilpah bore Jacob a
son.

11 Leah said, “Good fortune has come!” So she
named him Gad.
12 Leah’s female servant Zilpah bore Jacob a
second son.
13 Leah said, “How happy I am! For women
call me happy.” So she named him Asher.
14 During the wheat harvest Reuben went out
and found mandrakes in the field and brought
them to his mother Leah. Rachel said to Leah,
“Please give me some of your son’s mandrakes.”
15 She said to her, “Is it a small thing that you
have taken my husband? Would you take my
son’s mandrakes too?” Rachel said, “Then he
may sleep with you tonight in exchange for your
son’s mandrakes.”
16 When Jacob came from the field in the
evening, Leah went out to meet him and said,
“You must come to me, for I have indeed hired
you with my son’s mandrakes.” So he slept with
her that night.
17 God listened to Leah, and she conceived and
bore Jacob a fifth son.
18 Leah said, “God has given me my wages
because I gave my female servant to my
husband.” So she named him Issachar.
19 Leah conceived again and bore Jacob a sixth
son.
20 Leah said, “God has given me a good gift.
This time my husband will honor me, because I
have borne him six sons.” So she named him
Zebulun.
21 Afterward she bore a daughter and named
her Dinah.
22 God remembered Rachel, and God listened
to her and opened her womb.

23 She conceived and bore a son and said, “God
has taken away my reproach.”
24 She named him Joseph, saying, “May the
LORD add another son to me.”
25 After Rachel had borne Joseph, Jacob said to
Laban, “Send me on my way so that I may go to
my own place and to my country.
26 Give me my wives and my children, for
whom I have served you, and let me go, for you
know the service I have rendered you.”
27 Laban said to him, “If I have found favor in
your eyes, please stay. I have learned by
divination that the LORD has blessed me
because of you.”
28 He said, “Name your wages, and I will pay
them.”
29 Jacob said to him, “You know how I have
served you and how your livestock has fared
under my care.
30 The little you had before I came has
increased greatly, and the LORD has blessed you
with my arrival. But now, when will I also
provide for my own household?”
31 He said, “What shall I give you?” Jacob said,
“You need not give me anything. If you will do
this one thing for me, I will again pasture and
keep your flock.
32 I will go through all your flock today,
removing from it every speckled and spotted
animal, every dark one among the sheep, and
the spotted and speckled among the goats. Such
animals will be my wages.
33 My honesty will testify for me in time to

come, when you come to inspect my wages. Every goat with me that is not speckled or spotted, and every sheep that is not dark, will be considered stolen."

34 Laban said, "Agreed. Let it be as you have said."

35 That day Laban removed the striped and spotted male goats, all the speckled and spotted female goats, all that had white in them, and all the dark sheep. He placed them in the care of his sons.

36 He put a distance of three days' journey between himself and Jacob, and Jacob pastured the rest of Laban's flock.

37 Jacob took fresh rods of poplar, almond, and plane trees and peeled white strips in them, exposing the white of the rods.

38 He set the rods he had peeled in front of the flocks in the channels, in the watering troughs where the flocks came to drink. They mated when they came to drink.

39 The flocks mated before the rods and gave birth to striped, speckled, and spotted young.

40 Jacob separated the lambs and turned the flock to face the striped animals and all the dark ones in Laban's flock. He set his own flocks apart and did not put them with Laban's flock.

41 Whenever the stronger females in the flock were mating, Jacob placed the rods before the eyes of the flock in the troughs, so that they would mate among the rods.

42 But when the animals were weak, he did not put them there. So the weak belonged to

Laban and the strong to Jacob.
43 The man grew immensely prosperous and
had large flocks, female and male servants,
camels and donkeys.

31

1 Jacob heard Laban's sons saying, "Jacob has
taken everything that belonged to our father.
From what belonged to our father he has gained
all this wealth."
2 Jacob saw from Laban's face that his attitude
toward him was not as before.
3 The LORD said to Jacob, "Return to the land
of your fathers and to your relatives, and I will
be with you."
4 Jacob sent for Rachel and Leah to come to
the field where his flock was.
5 He said to them, "I see from your father's
face that his attitude toward me is not as before,
but the God of my father has been with me.
6 You know that I have served your father
with all my strength.
7 Yet your father has deceived me and
changed my wages ten times, but God has not
allowed him to harm me.
8 If he said, 'The speckled ones will be your
wages,' all the flock bore speckled young. If he
said, 'The striped ones will be your wages,' all
the flock bore striped young.
9 So God has taken your father's livestock
away and given them to me.
10 At the time when the flock was mating, I
lifted up my eyes and saw in a dream that the

male goats mounting the flock were striped,
speckled, and mottled.
11 The angel of God said to me in the dream,
'Jacob!' I said, 'Here I am.'
12 He said, 'Lift up your eyes and see: all the
male goats mounting the flock are striped,
speckled, and mottled, for I have seen all that
Laban is doing to you.
13 I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed
a pillar and made a vow to me. Now rise, leave
this land, and return to the land of your birth.' "
14 Rachel and Leah answered him, "Do we still
have any share or inheritance in our father's
house?
15 Does he not regard us as foreigners? For he
has sold us and completely consumed our
money.
16 All the wealth God has taken away from our
father belongs to us and to our children. Now do
all that God has told you."
17 Jacob rose and put his children and his
wives on the camels.
18 He drove away all his livestock and all the
possessions he had acquired, the livestock he
had gained in Paddan-aram, to go to his father
Isaac in the land of Canaan.
19 Laban had gone to shear his sheep, and
Rachel stole her father's household idols.
20 Jacob deceived Laban the Aramean by not
telling him that he was fleeing.
21 He fled with all he had, crossed the river,
and set his face toward the hill country of
Gilead.

22 On the third day Laban was told that Jacob
had fled.
23 He took his relatives with him and pursued
him for seven days' journey, and he caught up
with him in the hill country of Gilead.
24 But God came to Laban the Aramean in a
dream at night and said to him, "Be careful not
to say anything to Jacob, good or bad."
25 Laban caught up with Jacob. Jacob had
pitched his tent in the hill country, and Laban
camped with his relatives in the hill country of
Gilead.
26 Laban said to Jacob, "What have you done?
You have deceived me and driven my daughters
away like captives taken by the sword.
27 Why did you flee secretly and deceive me
and not tell me? I would have sent you away
with joy and songs, with tambourine and lyre.
28 You did not even let me kiss my
grandchildren and my daughters. You have
acted foolishly.
29 I have the power to harm you, but the God
of your father said to me last night, 'Be careful
not to say anything to Jacob, good or bad.'
30 Now you have indeed gone, because you
longed so deeply for your father's house. But
why did you steal my gods?"
31 Jacob answered Laban, "Because I was
afraid, for I thought you might take your
daughters from me by force.
32 Whoever you find your gods with shall not
live. In the presence of our relatives, identify
whatever of yours is with me and take it." Jacob

did not know that Rachel had stolen them.
33 Laban went into Jacob's tent and Leah's tent
and the tent of the two female servants, but he
did not find them. He came out of Leah's tent
and went into Rachel's tent.
34 Rachel had taken the household idols and
put them in the camel's saddle and sat on them.
Laban felt through the whole tent but did not
find them.
35 She said to her father, "Let not my lord be
angry that I cannot rise before you, for I am
having my period." He searched but did not find
the household idols.
36 Jacob became angry and quarreled with
Laban. Jacob said to Laban, "What is my
offense? What is my sin, that you have pursued
me so fiercely?
37 You have felt through all my belongings.
What have you found of all the things from your
house? Put it here before my relatives and
yours, and let them judge between us two.
38 These twenty years I have been with you.
Your ewes and your female goats have not
miscarried, and I have not eaten the rams of
your flock.
39 I did not bring you what was torn by wild
beasts. I bore the loss myself. You demanded
payment from me, whether it was stolen by day
or stolen by night.
40 Such was my life: by day heat consumed me,
and frost by night, and sleep fled from my eyes.
41 These twenty years I have been in your
house. I served you fourteen years for your two
daughters and six years for your flock, and you

changed my wages ten times.
42 If the God of my father, the God of Abraham
and the Fear of Isaac, had not been on my side,
you would surely have sent me away
empty-handed. God saw my affliction and the
labor of my hands and rebuked you last night."
43 Laban answered Jacob, "The daughters are
my daughters, the children are my children, and
the flock is my flock. All that you see is mine.
But what can I do today to these daughters of
mine or to the children they have borne?
44 Now come, let us make a covenant, you and
I, and let it be a witness between me and you."
45 Jacob took a stone and set it up as a pillar.
46 Jacob said to his relatives, "Gather stones."
They took stones and made a heap, and they ate
there beside the heap.
47 Laban called it Jegar-sahadutha, but Jacob
called it Galeed.
48 Laban said, "This heap is a witness between
me and you today." That is why it was named
Galeed,
49 and Mizpah, because he said, "May the
LORD watch between me and you when we are
hidden from one another.
50 If you mistreat my daughters or take wives
besides my daughters, though no one is with us,
see, God is a witness between me and you."
51 Laban said to Jacob, "Here is this heap, and
here is the pillar I have set between me and you.
52 This heap is a witness, and this pillar is a
witness, that I will not pass beyond this heap to
you, and that you will not pass beyond this heap

and this pillar to me, for harm.
53 May the God of Abraham and the god of
Nahor, the gods of their father, judge between
us." Jacob swore by the Fear of his father Isaac.
54 Jacob offered a sacrifice in the hill country
and called his relatives to eat bread. They ate
bread and spent the night in the hill country.
55 Laban rose early in the morning, kissed his
grandchildren and his daughters, and blessed
them. Then Laban departed and returned to his
own place.

32

1 Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God
met him.
2 When Jacob saw them, he said, "This is God's
camp." So he named that place Mahanaim.

3 Jacob sent messengers ahead of him to his
brother Esau in the land of Seir, the country of
Edom.
4 He commanded them, "Say this to my lord
Esau: 'Your servant Jacob says: I have lived as a
foreigner with Laban and stayed until now.
5 I have cattle, donkeys, flocks, and male and
female servants. I have sent word to my lord so
that I may find favor in your eyes.' "
6 The messengers returned to Jacob, saying,
"We came to your brother Esau, and he is
coming to meet you, with four hundred men."
7 Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed. He
divided the people with him, along with the
flocks, cattle, and camels, into two camps.

8 He said, “If Esau comes to one camp and
attacks it, the remaining camp will escape.”
9 Jacob said, “God of my father Abraham and
God of my father Isaac, LORD, who said to me,
‘Return to your country and to your relatives,
and I will do you good,’
10 I am not worthy of all the acts of kindness
and all the faithfulness you have shown your
servant. For with my staff I crossed this Jordan,
and now I have become two camps.
11 Please deliver me from the hand of my
brother, from the hand of Esau, for I am afraid
of him, lest he come and strike me down,
mothers and children as well.
12 But you said, ‘I will surely do you good and
make your offspring like the sand of the sea, too
numerous to count.’ ”
13 He spent that night there and selected from
what he had a gift for his brother Esau:
14 two hundred female goats and twenty male
goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams,
15 thirty nursing camels with their young,
forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys
and ten young male donkeys.
16 He placed them in the care of his servants,
each herd by itself, and said to his servants, “Go
ahead of me and leave space between one herd
and the next.”
17 He commanded the first one, “When my
brother Esau meets you and asks, ‘To whom do
you belong? Where are you going? Whose are
these animals ahead of you?’
18 you shall say, ‘They belong to your servant

Jacob. They are a gift sent to my lord Esau, and
he himself is behind us.' "
19 He also commanded the second, the third,
and all who followed the herds, "Say these same
words to Esau when you meet him.
20 Also say, 'Your servant Jacob is behind us.' "
For he said, "I will appease him with the gift that
goes ahead of me. After that I will see his face;
perhaps he will receive me favorably."
21 So the gift went on ahead of him, while he
spent that night in the camp.
22 He rose that night and took his two wives,
his two female servants, and his eleven children,
and crossed the ford of the Jabbok.
23 He took them and sent them across the
stream, and he sent across all that he had.
24 Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled
with him until daybreak.
25 When the man saw that he could not prevail
against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and
Jacob's hip was dislocated as he wrestled with
him.
26 He said, "Let me go, for day is breaking."
Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless
me."
27 He said to him, "What is your name?" He
said, "Jacob."
28 He said, "Your name will no longer be called
Jacob, but Israel, for you have struggled with
God and with men and have prevailed."
29 Jacob asked, "Please tell me your name." He
said, "Why do you ask my name?" And he
blessed him there.

30 Jacob named the place Peniel, for he said, “I
have seen God face to face, and my life has been
preserved.”
31 The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel,
and he was limping because of his hip.
32 That is why to this day the people of Israel
do not eat the sinew of the thigh at the hip
socket, because he touched Jacob’s hip socket at
that sinew.

33

1 Jacob lifted up his eyes and saw Esau
coming, with four hundred men. He divided the
children among Leah, Rachel, and the two
female servants.
2 He put the female servants and their
children first, Leah and her children after them,
and Rachel and Joseph last.
3 He himself went ahead of them and bowed
to the ground seven times as he approached his
brother.
4 Esau ran to meet him, embraced him, fell on
his neck, and kissed him, and they wept.
5 He lifted up his eyes and saw the women and
the children and said, “Who are these with you?”
Jacob said, “The children God has graciously
given your servant.”
6 The female servants came near with their
children and bowed down.
7 Leah and her children also came near and
bowed down. Afterward Joseph and Rachel
came near and bowed down.

8 Esau said, “What do you mean by all this
company I met?” Jacob said, “To find favor in the
eyes of my lord.”
9 Esau said, “I have plenty, my brother. Keep
what belongs to you.”
10 Jacob said, “No, please. If I have found favor
in your eyes, accept my gift from my hand, for I
have seen your face as one sees the face of God,
and you have received me favorably.
11 Please accept my blessing that has been
brought to you, for God has been gracious to me,
and I have everything.” He urged him, and he
accepted it.
12 Esau said, “Let us set out and go, and I will
go ahead of you.”
13 Jacob said to him, “My lord knows that the
children are tender, and the flocks and herds
nursing their young are in my care. If they are
driven too hard for a single day, all the flock will
die.
14 Please let my lord go ahead of his servant. I
will lead on slowly, at the pace of the livestock
before me and at the pace of the children, until I
come to my lord in Seir.”
15 Esau said, “Please let me leave with you
some of the people who are with me.” Jacob
said, “Why should you? Let me find favor in the
eyes of my lord.”
16 So that day Esau returned on his way to Seir.
17 But Jacob journeyed to Succoth. He built a
house for himself and made shelters for his
livestock. That is why he named the place
Succoth.

18 Jacob arrived safely at the city of Shechem
in the land of Canaan, when he came from
Paddan-aram, and he camped in front of the city.
19 He bought the portion of the field where he
had pitched his tent from the sons of Hamor,
Shechem's father, for a hundred qesitahs.
20 He set up an altar there and called it
El-elohe-Israel.

34

1 Dinah, the daughter Leah had borne to
Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land.
2 Shechem son of Hamor the Hivite, the prince
of the land, saw her, seized her, and raped her.
3 His soul clung to Dinah, Jacob's daughter. He
loved the young woman and spoke tenderly to
her.
4 Shechem said to his father Hamor, "Get me
this girl as a wife."
5 Jacob heard that Shechem had defiled his
daughter Dinah. His sons were with his
livestock in the field, and Jacob kept silent until
they came.
6 Hamor, Shechem's father, went out to Jacob
to speak with him.
7 Jacob's sons came from the field when they
heard. The men were grieved and very angry,
because he had committed an outrage in Israel
by sleeping with Jacob's daughter, a thing that
must not be done.
8 Hamor spoke with them, saying, "My son
Shechem's soul longs for your daughter. Please
give her to him as a wife.

9 Intermarry with us. Give us your daughters
and take our daughters for yourselves.
10 Live with us, and the land will be open to
you. Settle and trade in it and acquire property
in it."
11 Shechem said to her father and her
brothers, "Let me find favor in your eyes, and I
will give whatever you tell me.
12 Ask me for as large a bride price and gift as
you wish. I will give what you tell me. Only give
me the young woman as a wife."
13 Jacob's sons answered Shechem and his
father Hamor deceitfully, because he had defiled
their sister Dinah.
14 They said to them, "We cannot do this thing,
to give our sister to an uncircumcised man, for
that would be a disgrace to us.
15 Only on this condition will we agree with
you: that you become like us, with every male
among you circumcised.
16 Then we will give you our daughters and
take your daughters for ourselves, and we will
live with you and become one people.
17 But if you will not listen to us and be
circumcised, we will take our daughter and go."
18 Their words pleased Hamor and Hamor's
son Shechem.
19 The young man did not delay in doing this,
because he delighted in Jacob's daughter. He was
the most honored in all his father's household.
20 Hamor and his son Shechem came to the
gate of their city and spoke to the men of their
city, saying,

21 “These men are at peace with us. Let them
live in the land and trade in it, for the land has
room enough for them. Let us take their
daughters as wives and give them our
daughters.
22 Only on this condition will the men agree to
live with us and become one people: that every
male among us be circumcised, as they are
circumcised.
23 Will not their livestock, their property, and
all their animals become ours? Only let us agree
with them, and they will live with us.”
24 All who went out through the gate of his city
listened to Hamor and his son Shechem. Every
male was circumcised, all who went out through
the gate of his city.
25 On the third day, while they were in pain,
two of Jacob’s sons, Simeon and Levi, Dinah’s
brothers, each took his sword and came upon
the unsuspecting city and killed every male.
26 They killed Hamor and his son Shechem
with the edge of the sword, took Dinah from
Shechem’s house, and went out.
27 Jacob’s sons came upon the slain and
plundered the city, because its people had
defiled their sister.
28 They took their flocks, their cattle, their
donkeys, and what was in the city and what was
in the field.
29 They carried off all their wealth and took all
their children and wives captive, plundering
everything in the house.
30 Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, “You have

brought trouble on me by making me a stench
among the inhabitants of the land, among the
Canaanites and the Perizzites. I have few men.
They will gather against me and attack me, and I
will be destroyed, I and my household."
31 They said, "Should he treat our sister like a
prostitute?"

35

1 God said to Jacob, "Rise, go up to Bethel and
live there. Make an altar there to the God who
appeared to you when you fled from your
brother Esau."
2 Jacob said to his household and all who were
with him, "Put away the foreign gods among
you, purify yourselves, and change your clothes.
3 Let us rise and go up to Bethel. I will make
an altar there to the God who answered me in
the day of my distress and has been with me on
the way I have traveled."
4 They gave Jacob all the foreign gods in their
possession and the rings in their ears. Jacob
buried them under the terebinth near Shechem.
5 As they journeyed, the terror of God fell
upon the surrounding cities, and they did not
pursue Jacob's sons.
6 Jacob and all the people with him came to
Luz, that is, Bethel, in the land of Canaan.
7 He built an altar there and called the place
El-bethel, because there God had revealed
himself to him when he fled from his brother.
8 Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died and was
buried below Bethel under the oak. It was
named Allon-bacuth.

9 God appeared to Jacob again when he came
from Paddan-aram, and he blessed him.
10 God said to him, “Your name is Jacob. Your
name will no longer be called Jacob, but Israel
will be your name.” So he named him Israel.
11 God said to him, “I am God Almighty. Be
fruitful and multiply. A nation and a community
of nations will come from you, and kings will
come from your loins.
12 The land I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will
give to you, and I will give the land to your
offspring after you.”
13 God went up from him at the place where
he had spoken with him.
14 Jacob set up a pillar at the place where God
had spoken with him, a pillar of stone. He
poured a drink offering on it and poured oil on
it.
15 Jacob named the place where God had
spoken with him Bethel.
16 They journeyed from Bethel. While there
was still some distance to go to Ephrath, Rachel
went into labor, and her labor was difficult.
17 When her labor was difficult, the midwife
said to her, “Do not fear, for you have another
son.”
18 As her soul was departing, for she was
dying, she named him Ben-oni, but his father
called him Benjamin.
19 Rachel died and was buried on the way to
Ephrath, that is, Bethlehem.
20 Jacob set up a pillar over her grave. That is
the pillar of Rachel’s grave to this day.

21 Israel journeyed on and pitched his tent
beyond Migdal-eder.
22 While Israel was living in that land, Reuben
went and slept with his father's concubine
Bilhah, and Israel heard of it. Now Jacob's sons
were twelve:
23 The sons of Leah were Reuben, Jacob's
firstborn, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and
Zebulun.
24 The sons of Rachel were Joseph and
Benjamin.
25 The sons of Bilhah, Rachel's female servant,
were Dan and Naphtali.
26 The sons of Zilpah, Leah's female servant,
were Gad and Asher. These are Jacob's sons who
were born to him in Paddan-aram.
27 Jacob came to his father Isaac at Mamre, at
Kiriath-arba, that is, Hebron, where Abraham
and Isaac had lived as foreigners.
28 The days of Isaac were a hundred and
eighty years.
29 Isaac breathed his last and died and was
gathered to his people, old and full of days. His
sons Esau and Jacob buried him.

36

1 These are the generations of Esau, that is,
Edom.
2 Esau took his wives from the daughters of
Canaan: Adah daughter of Elon the Hittite, and
Oholibamah daughter of Anah, granddaughter
of Zibeon the Hivite,
3 and Basemath daughter of Ishmael, the sister
of Nebaioth.

4 Adah bore Esau Eliphaz, and Basemath bore
Reuel.
5 Oholibamah bore Jeush, Jalam, and Korah.
These were Esau's sons who were born to him in
the land of Canaan.
6 Esau took his wives, his sons, his daughters,
and all the people of his household, his
livestock, all his animals, and all the possessions
he had acquired in the land of Canaan, and went
to another land, away from his brother Jacob.
7 For their possessions were too great for them
to live together, and the land where they lived as
foreigners could not support them because of
their livestock.
8 So Esau lived in the hill country of Seir. Esau
is Edom.
9 These are the generations of Esau, the father
of the Edomites, in the hill country of Seir.
10 These are the names of Esau's sons: Eliphaz
the son of Adah, Esau's wife, and Reuel the son
of Basemath, Esau's wife.
11 The sons of Eliphaz were Teman, Omar,
Zepho, Gatam, and Kenaz.
12 Timna was a concubine of Esau's son
Eliphaz, and she bore Eliphaz Amalek. These
were the descendants of Adah, Esau's wife.
13 These were Reuel's sons: Nahath, Zerah,
Shammah, and Mizzah. These were the
descendants of Basemath, Esau's wife.
14 These were the sons of Esau's wife
Oholibamah, daughter of Anah and
granddaughter of Zibeon: she bore Esau Jeush,
Jalam, and Korah.
15 These were the chiefs among Esau's

descendants. The sons of Eliphaz, Esau's
firstborn, were chief Teman, chief Omar, chief
Zepho, chief Kenaz,
16 chief Korah, chief Gatam, and chief Amalek.
These were the chiefs of Eliphaz in the land of
Edom. These were the descendants of Adah.
17 These were the sons of Esau's son Reuel:
chief Nahath, chief Zerah, chief Shammah, and
chief Mizzah. These were the chiefs of Reuel in
the land of Edom. These were the descendants
of Basemath, Esau's wife.
18 These were the sons of Esau's wife
Oholibamah: chief Jeush, chief Jalam, and chief
Korah. These were the chiefs of Esau's wife
Oholibamah, daughter of Anah.
19 These were Esau's sons, and these were
their chiefs. He is Edom.
20 These were the sons of Seir the Horite, the
inhabitants of the land: Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon,
Anah,
21 Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan. These were the
chiefs of the Horites, the sons of Seir, in the land
of Edom.
22 The sons of Lotan were Hori and Hemam.
Lotan's sister was Timna.
23 These were Shobal's sons: Alvan, Manahath,
Ebal, Shepho, and Onam.
24 These were Zibeon's sons: Aiah and Anah.
This was the Anah who found the hot springs in
the wilderness while pasturing the donkeys of
his father Zibeon.
25 These were Anah's children: Dishon and
Oholibamah, Anah's daughter.
26 These were Dishan's sons: Hemdan, Eshban,
Ithran, and Cheran.

27 These were Ezer's sons: Bilhan, Zaavan, and
Akan.
28 These were Dishan's sons: Uz and Aran.
29 These were the chiefs of the Horites: chief
Lotan, chief Shobal, chief Zibeon, chief Anah,
30 chief Dishon, chief Ezer, and chief Dishan.
These were the chiefs of the Horites according to
their chiefdoms in the land of Seir.
31 These were the kings who reigned in the
land of Edom before any king reigned over the
people of Israel.
32 Bela son of Beor reigned in Edom. His city
was named Dinhabah.
33 Bela died, and Jobab son of Zerah from
Bozrah reigned in his place.
34 Jobab died, and Husham from the land of
the Temanites reigned in his place.
35 Husham died, and Hadad son of Bedad, who
defeated Midian in the country of Moab, reigned
in his place. His city was named Avith.
36 Hadad died, and Samlah from Masrekah
reigned in his place.
37 Samlah died, and Shaul from Rehoboth by
the river reigned in his place.
38 Shaul died, and Baal-hanan son of Achbor
reigned in his place.
39 Baal-hanan son of Achbor died, and Hadar
reigned in his place. His city was named Pau.
His wife was named Mehetabel, daughter of
Matred, daughter of Me-zahab.
40 These were the names of Esau's chiefs,
according to their families, their places, and
their names: chief Timna, chief Alvah, chief
Jetheth,

41 chief Oholibamah, chief Elah, chief Pinon,
42 chief Kenaz, chief Teman, chief Mibzar,
43 chief Magdiel, and chief Iram. These were
the chiefs of Edom, according to their
settlements in the land they possessed. This is
Esau, the father of the Edomites.

37

1 Jacob lived in the land where his father had
lived as a foreigner, in the land of Canaan.
2 These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph
was seventeen years old and was pasturing the
flock with his brothers. He was a youth with the
sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his
father's wives. Joseph brought their father a bad
report about them.
3 Israel loved Joseph more than all his other
sons, because he was the son of his old age, and
he made him a robe with long sleeves.
4 His brothers saw that their father loved him
more than all his brothers, and they hated him
and could not speak peaceably to him.
5 Joseph dreamed a dream and told it to his
brothers, and they hated him even more.
6 He said to them, "Please listen to this dream I
have dreamed.
7 We were binding sheaves in the middle of
the field, and my sheaf rose and stood upright.
Your sheaves gathered around and bowed down
to my sheaf."
8 His brothers said to him, "Will you indeed
reign over us? Will you indeed rule over us?"

They hated him even more because of his
dreams and his words.
9 He dreamed another dream and told it to his
brothers. He said, “I have dreamed another
dream. The sun, the moon, and eleven stars
were bowing down to me.”
10 He told it to his father and his brothers, and
his father rebuked him and said to him, “What is
this dream you have dreamed? Shall I and your
mother and your brothers really come and bow
to the ground before you?”
11 His brothers were jealous of him, but his
father kept the matter in mind.
12 His brothers went to pasture their father's
flock at Shechem.
13 Israel said to Joseph, “Are not your brothers
pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, and I will
send you to them.” He said to him, “Here I am.”
14 He said to him, “Please go and see whether
your brothers are well and whether the flock is
well, and bring me word.” He sent him from the
valley of Hebron, and he came to Shechem.
15 A man found him wandering in the field.
The man asked him, “What are you looking for?”
16 He said, “I am looking for my brothers.
Please tell me where they are pasturing the
flock.”
17 The man said, “They have left here, for I
heard them say, ‘Let us go to Dothan.’ ” Joseph
went after his brothers and found them at
Dothan.
18 They saw him from a distance, and before
he came near them, they plotted against him to
kill him.

19 They said to one another, “Here comes this
dreamer!
20 Come now, let us kill him and throw him
into one of the pits. We will say, ‘A fierce animal
has devoured him.’ Then we will see what
becomes of his dreams.”
21 Reuben heard this and rescued him from
their hands. He said, “Let us not take his life.”
22 Reuben said to them, “Do not shed blood.
Throw him into this pit in the wilderness, but do
not lay a hand on him.” He said this to rescue
him from their hands and return him to his
father.
23 When Joseph came to his brothers, they
stripped Joseph of his robe, the robe with long
sleeves that he was wearing.
24 They took him and threw him into the pit.
The pit was empty; there was no water in it.
25 They sat down to eat bread. They lifted up
their eyes and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites
coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying
gum, balm, and aromatic resin, taking them
down to Egypt.
26 Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is
there if we kill our brother and conceal his
blood?
27 Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and
let us not lay a hand on him, for he is our
brother, our own flesh.” His brothers listened to
him.
28 Midianite merchants passed by, and they
drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit and
sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces
of silver, weighing about eight ounces. They

brought Joseph to Egypt.
29 Reuben returned to the pit, and Joseph was
not in the pit, so he tore his clothes.
30 He returned to his brothers and said, “The
boy is gone! And I, where shall I go?”
31 They took Joseph’s robe, slaughtered a male
goat, and dipped the robe in the blood.
32 They sent the robe with long sleeves and
brought it to their father and said, “We found
this. Please see whether you recognize it as your
son’s robe or not.”
33 He recognized it and said, “It is my son’s
robe! A fierce animal has devoured him. Joseph
has surely been torn to pieces!”
34 Jacob tore his clothes, put sackcloth around
his waist, and mourned for his son many days.
35 All his sons and all his daughters rose to
comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. He
said, “I will go down to my son in Sheol,
mourning.” So his father wept for him.
36 The Medanites sold him in Egypt to Potiphar,
an official of Pharaoh, captain of the guard.

38

1 At that time Judah went down away from his
brothers and turned aside to an Adullamite
named Hirah.
2 There Judah saw the daughter of a Canaanite
man named Shua. He took her as his wife and
slept with her.
3 She conceived and bore a son, and he named
him Er.
4 She conceived again and bore a son, and she
named him Onan.

5 She bore yet another son and named him
Shelah. Judah was at Kezib when she bore him.
6 Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, and
her name was Tamar.
7 But Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the
eyes of the LORD, and the LORD put him to
death.
8 Judah said to Onan, "Sleep with your
brother's wife, perform your duty to her as a
brother-in-law, and raise up offspring for your
brother."
9 Onan knew that the offspring would not be
his. So whenever he slept with his brother's
wife, he spilled his seed on the ground to avoid
giving offspring to his brother.
10 What he did was wicked in the eyes of the
LORD, and the LORD put him to death also.
11 Judah said to his daughter-in-law Tamar,
"Remain a widow in your father's house until
my son Shelah grows up." For he thought, "He
too might die like his brothers." So Tamar went
and lived in her father's house.
12 After many days Judah's wife, the daughter
of Shua, died. When Judah was comforted, he
and his friend Hirah the Adullamite went up to
his sheep shearers at Timnah.
13 Tamar was told, "Your father-in-law is going
up to Timnah to shear his sheep."
14 She took off her widow's clothes, covered
herself with a veil, wrapped herself up, and sat
at the entrance to Enaim, on the road to Timnah.
For she saw that Shelah had grown up, but she
had not been given to him as a wife.

15 When Judah saw her, he thought she was a
prostitute, because she had covered her face.
16 He turned aside to her by the road and said,
“Please let me sleep with you,” for he did not
know that she was his daughter-in-law. She said,
“What will you give me if you sleep with me?”
17 He said, “I will send you a young goat from
the flock.” She said, “Will you give me a pledge
until you send it?”
18 He said, “What pledge shall I give you?” She
said, “Your seal, your cord, and the staff in your
hand.” He gave them to her and slept with her,
and she conceived by him.
19 She rose and went away, took off her veil,
and put on her widow’s clothes.
20 Judah sent the young goat by his friend the
Adullamite to recover the pledge from the
woman, but he did not find her.
21 He asked the men of her place, “Where is
the prostitute who was at Enaim by the road?”
They said, “There has been no prostitute here.”
22 He returned to Judah and said, “I did not
find her. The men of the place also said, ‘There
has been no prostitute here.’ ”
23 Judah said, “Let her keep the things, lest we
become a laughingstock. I sent this young goat,
but you did not find her.”
24 About three months later Judah was told,
“Your daughter-in-law Tamar has prostituted
herself, and she is pregnant by prostitution.”
Judah said, “Bring her out and let her be
burned.”
25 As she was being brought out, she sent word

to her father-in-law, “I am pregnant by the man to whom these belong.” She said, “Please see if you recognize whose seal, cords, and staff these are.”
26 Judah recognized them and said, “She is more righteous than I, because I did not give her to my son Shelah.” He did not sleep with her again.
27 When the time came for her to give birth, there were twins in her womb.
28 As she was giving birth, one put out a hand. The midwife took it and tied a scarlet thread on his hand, saying, “This one came out first.”
29 But as he drew back his hand, his brother came out. She said, “What a breach you have made for yourself!” So he was named Perez.
30 Afterward his brother came out, with the scarlet thread on his hand, and he was named Zerah.

39

1 Joseph had been brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an official of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there.
2 The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man. He was in the house of his Egyptian master.
3 His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made everything he did succeed in his hands.
4 Joseph found favor in his eyes and served him. His master put him in charge of his house and placed all he had in Joseph’s hands.

5 From the time he put him in charge of his
house and all he had, the LORD blessed the
Egyptian's house because of Joseph. The LORD's
blessing was on all he had, in the house and in
the field.
6 He left all he had in Joseph's hands and
concerned himself with nothing except the
bread he ate. Joseph was handsome in form and
appearance.
7 After these things his master's wife lifted her
eyes toward Joseph and said, "Sleep with me."
8 But he refused and said to his master's wife,
"Look, with me in charge, my master does not
concern himself with anything in the house, and
he has placed all he has in my hands.
9 No one is greater in this house than I am,
and he has withheld nothing from me except
you, because you are his wife. How then could I
do this great wickedness and sin against God?"
10 Though she spoke to Joseph day after day,
he would not agree to lie beside her or to be
with her.
11 One day he came into the house to do his
work, and none of the men of the house were
there in the house.
12 She caught him by his garment and said,
"Sleep with me." But he left his garment in her
hand and fled and went outside.
13 When she saw that he had left his garment
in her hand and had fled outside,
14 she called the men of her house and said to
them, "Look, he has brought us a Hebrew man to
mock us. He came to me to sleep with me, but I
cried out in a loud voice.

15 When he heard me raise my voice and cry
out, he left his garment beside me and fled and
went outside."
16 She kept his garment beside her until his
master came home.
17 She told him these same things, saying, "The
Hebrew servant you brought us came to me to
mock me.
18 But when I raised my voice and cried out,
he left his garment beside me and fled outside."
19 When his master heard his wife's words, as
she said to him, "This is how your servant
treated me," his anger burned.
20 Joseph's master took him and put him in the
prison, the place where the king's prisoners
were confined. He remained there in the prison.
21 But the LORD was with Joseph and showed
him kindness and gave him favor in the eyes of
the prison warden.
22 The prison warden placed in Joseph's hands
all the prisoners who were in the prison. Joseph
was responsible for everything done there.
23 The prison warden did not check anything
in Joseph's charge, because the LORD was with
him, and the LORD made all that he did succeed.

40

1 After these things, the cupbearer of the king
of Egypt and the baker offended their master,
the king of Egypt.
2 Pharaoh was angry with his two officials, the
chief cupbearer and the chief baker.

3 He put them in custody in the house of the
captain of the guard, in the prison where Joseph
was confined.
4 The captain of the guard assigned Joseph to
them, and he served them. They remained in
custody for some time.
5 Both of them, the cupbearer and the baker of
the king of Egypt who were confined in the
prison, had a dream on the same night, each his
own dream, each with its own interpretation.
6 Joseph came to them in the morning and saw
that they were dejected.
7 He asked Pharaoh's officials who were with
him in custody in his master's house, "Why do
you look so sad today?"
8 They said to him, "We have had a dream, and
there is no one to interpret it." Joseph said to
them, "Do not interpretations belong to God?
Please tell me your dreams."
9 The chief cupbearer told Joseph his dream
and said to him, "In my dream there was a vine
before me.
10 On the vine were three branches. As it
budded, its blossoms came out, and its clusters
of grapes ripened.
11 Pharaoh's cup was in my hand. I took the
grapes, squeezed them into Pharaoh's cup, and
put the cup in Pharaoh's hand."
12 Joseph said to him, "This is its interpretation:
The three branches are three days.
13 In three days Pharaoh will lift up your head
and restore you to your position. You will put
Pharaoh's cup in his hand as you did before,

when you were his cupbearer.
14 But remember me when things go well with
you. Please show me kindness: mention me to
Pharaoh and bring me out of this house.
15 For I was indeed kidnapped from the land of
the Hebrews, and here too I have done nothing
for which they should put me in this dungeon."
16 When the chief baker saw that the
interpretation was favorable, he said to Joseph,
"I too had a dream. There were three baskets of
white bread on my head.
17 In the top basket were all kinds of baked
goods for Pharaoh, and the birds were eating
them out of the basket on my head."
18 Joseph answered, "This is its interpretation:
The three baskets are three days.
19 In three days Pharaoh will lift your head off
you and hang you on a tree, and the birds will
eat the flesh off you."
20 On the third day, which was Pharaoh's
birthday, he made a feast for all his servants. He
lifted up the head of the chief cupbearer and the
head of the chief baker among his servants.
21 He restored the chief cupbearer to his
position as cupbearer, and the cupbearer put the
cup in Pharaoh's hand.
22 But he hanged the chief baker, just as Joseph
had interpreted to them.
23 Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember
Joseph, but forgot him.

41

1 At the end of two full years, Pharaoh had a

dream. He was standing by the Nile.
2 Seven cows, beautiful in appearance and fat,
came up out of the Nile and grazed among the
reeds.
3 Then seven other cows, ugly in appearance
and thin, came up out of the Nile after them and
stood beside the cows on the bank of the Nile.
4 The ugly, thin cows ate the seven beautiful,
fat cows. Then Pharaoh awoke.
5 He fell asleep and dreamed a second time.
Seven heads of grain, plump and good, were
growing on one stalk.
6 Then seven thin heads, scorched by the east
wind, sprouted after them.
7 The thin heads swallowed up the seven
plump, full heads. Pharaoh awoke, and it was a
dream.
8 In the morning his spirit was troubled. He
sent for all the magicians of Egypt and all its
wise men. Pharaoh told them his dream, but no
one could interpret the dreams for Pharaoh.
9 Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh,
“Today I remember my offenses.
10 Pharaoh was angry with his servants and
put me in custody in the house of the captain of
the guard, both me and the chief baker.
11 He and I had a dream on the same night,
each dreaming a dream with its own
interpretation.
12 A young Hebrew was there with us, a
servant of the captain of the guard. We told him
our dreams, and he interpreted them for us,
interpreting for each according to his dream.

13 It happened just as he interpreted for us: I
was restored to my position, and the other man
was hanged."
14 Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and they hurried
him out of the dungeon. He shaved, changed his
clothes, and came to Pharaoh.
15 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream,
and there is no one to interpret it. But I have
heard it said of you that when you hear a
dream, you can interpret it."
16 Joseph answered Pharaoh, "It is not in me.
God will give Pharaoh an answer for his
well-being."
17 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "In my dream I was
standing on the bank of the Nile.
18 Seven cows, fat and beautiful in form, came
up out of the Nile and grazed among the reeds.
19 Then seven other cows came up after them,
scrawny, very ugly in form, and thin. I had
never seen any so ugly in all the land of Egypt.
20 The thin, ugly cows ate the first seven fat
cows.
21 But when they had eaten them, no one
could tell that they had eaten them. They looked
as ugly as at first. Then I awoke.
22 I also saw in my dream seven heads of
grain, full and good, growing on one stalk.
23 Then seven withered, thin heads, scorched
by the east wind, sprouted after them.
24 The thin heads swallowed up the seven
good heads. I told the magicians, but no one
could explain it to me."
25 Joseph said to Pharaoh, "Pharaoh's dream is

one. God has told Pharaoh what he is about to
do.
26 The seven good cows are seven years, and
the seven good heads are seven years. The
dream is one.
27 The seven thin, ugly cows that came up
after them are seven years, and the seven empty
heads scorched by the east wind will be seven
years of famine.
28 This is what I told Pharaoh: God has shown
Pharaoh what he is about to do.
29 Seven years of great abundance are coming
throughout all the land of Egypt.
30 After them will come seven years of famine.
All the abundance in the land of Egypt will be
forgotten, and the famine will consume the land.
31 The abundance in the land will not be
known because of the famine that follows, for it
will be very severe.
32 The dream was repeated twice to Pharaoh
because the matter is established by God, and
God will soon bring it about.
33 Now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and
wise man and put him over the land of Egypt.
34 Let Pharaoh act and appoint overseers over
the land, and take a fifth of the produce of the
land of Egypt during the seven years of
abundance.
35 Let them gather all the food of these good
years that are coming and store grain under
Pharaoh's authority as food in the cities, and
guard it.
36 The food will be a reserve for the land
during the seven years of famine that will be in

the land of Egypt, so that the land will not perish
in the famine."
37 The proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his
servants.
38 Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find a
man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?"
39 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has
made all this known to you, there is no one as
discerning and wise as you.
40 You will be in charge of my house, and all
my people will obey your commands. Only with
regard to the throne will I be greater than you."
41 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have put you
over all the land of Egypt."
42 Pharaoh took his ring off his hand and put it
on Joseph's hand. He dressed him in garments of
fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck.
43 He had him ride in his second chariot, and
they called out before him, "Kneel!" Thus he put
him over all the land of Egypt.
44 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, but
without your permission no one will lift a hand
or a foot in all the land of Egypt."
45 Pharaoh named Joseph Zaphenath-paneah
and gave him Asenath, daughter of Poti-phera,
priest of On, as his wife. Joseph went out over
the land of Egypt.
46 Joseph was thirty years old when he stood
before Pharaoh king of Egypt. Joseph went out
from Pharaoh's presence and traveled
throughout all the land of Egypt.
47 During the seven years of abundance, the
land produced by the handful.

48 He gathered all the food of the seven years
in the land of Egypt and stored it in the cities. In
each city he stored the food from the fields
around it.
49 Joseph stored up grain like the sand of the
sea, in such great quantities that he stopped
counting, for it could not be counted.
50 Before the year of famine came, two sons
were born to Joseph. Asenath, daughter of
Poti-phera, priest of On, bore them to him.
51 Joseph named the firstborn Manasseh, for
he said, “God has made me forget all my
hardship and all my father's house.”
52 He named the second Ephraim, for he said,
“God has made me fruitful in the land of my
affliction.”
53 The seven years of abundance in the land of
Egypt came to an end,
54 and the seven years of famine began to
come, just as Joseph had said. There was famine
in all the lands, but in all the land of Egypt there
was bread.
55 When all the land of Egypt was famished,
the people cried to Pharaoh for bread. Pharaoh
said to all the Egyptians, “Go to Joseph. Do
whatever he tells you.”
56 The famine was over all the face of the
earth. Joseph opened all the storehouses and
sold grain to the Egyptians, for the famine grew
severe in the land of Egypt.
57 People from all the earth came to Egypt to
buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was
severe in all the earth.

42

1 Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt,
and he said to his sons, “Why do you keep
looking at one another?”
2 He said, “I have heard that there is grain in
Egypt. Go down there and buy some for us, so
that we may live and not die.”
3 Joseph’s ten brothers went down to buy
grain from Egypt.
4 But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph’s
brother, with his brothers, for he thought, “Some
harm might happen to him.”
5 The sons of Israel came to buy grain among
the others who came, for there was famine in
the land of Canaan.
6 Joseph was the governor over the land; he
was the one who sold grain to all the people of
the land. Joseph’s brothers came and bowed
down to him with their faces to the ground.
7 When Joseph saw his brothers, he
recognized them, but he acted like a stranger to
them and spoke harshly to them. He asked
them, “Where have you come from?” They said,
“From the land of Canaan, to buy food.”
8 Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did
not recognize him.
9 Joseph remembered the dreams he had
dreamed about them and said to them, “You are
spies. You have come to see the exposed parts of
the land.”
10 They said to him, “No, my lord. Your
servants have come to buy food.

11 We are all sons of one man. We are honest
men; your servants have not been spies."
12 He said to them, "No, you have come to see
the exposed parts of the land."
13 They said, "Your servants are twelve
brothers, sons of one man in the land of Canaan.
The youngest is with our father today, and one is
gone."
14 Joseph said to them, "It is as I told you: you
are spies.
15 This is how you will be tested: as Pharaoh
lives, you will not leave this place unless your
youngest brother comes here.
16 Send one of you to get your brother, while
you remain confined. Your words will be tested
to see whether you are telling the truth. If not,
as Pharaoh lives, you are spies."
17 He put them all together in custody for
three days.
18 On the third day Joseph said to them, "Do
this and live, for I fear God.
19 If you are honest men, let one of your
brothers remain confined in the prison where
you are being held. The rest of you go and take
grain for your hungry households.
20 But bring your youngest brother to me, so
that your words may be confirmed and you will
not die." And they did so.
21 They said to one another, "We are indeed
guilty concerning our brother. We saw the
distress of his soul when he pleaded with us, but
we did not listen. That is why this distress has
come upon us."

22 Reuben answered them, “Did I not tell you,
‘Do not sin against the boy’? But you did not
listen. Now we are also being called to account
for his blood.”
23 They did not know that Joseph understood
them, for there was an interpreter between
them.
24 He turned away from them and wept. Then
he returned and spoke to them. He took Simeon
from among them and bound him before their
eyes.
25 Joseph gave orders for their containers to be
filled with grain, for each man’s money to be
returned to his sack, and for them to be given
provisions for the journey. He did this for them.
26 They loaded the grain they had bought onto
their donkeys and left.
27 At the lodging place, one of them opened his
sack to give his donkey feed. He saw his money
there in the mouth of his sack.
28 He said to his brothers, “My money has been
returned! Here it is in my sack!” Their hearts
sank, and they trembled, saying to one another,
“What is this that God has done to us?”
29 They came to their father Jacob in the land
of Canaan and told him all that had happened to
them:
30 “The man who is lord of the land spoke
harshly to us and treated us as spies of the land.
31 We said to him, ‘We are honest men; we
have not been spies.
32 We are twelve brothers, sons of our father.
One is gone, and the youngest is with our father
today in the land of Canaan.’

33 Then the man who is lord of the land said to
us, 'This is how I will know that you are honest
men: leave one of your brothers with me, take
food for your hungry households, and go.
34 Bring your youngest brother to me, and I
will know that you are not spies but honest men.
I will give your brother back to you, and you
may trade in the land.' "
35 As they emptied their sacks, each man's
bundle of money was there in his sack. When
they and their father saw their bundles of
money, they were afraid.
36 Their father Jacob said to them, "You have
deprived me of my children. Joseph is gone, and
Simeon is gone, and you would take Benjamin!
All these things are against me."
37 Reuben said to his father, "You may put my
two sons to death if I do not bring him back to
you. Put him in my hands, and I will bring him
back to you."
38 But he said, "My son will not go down with
you, for his brother is dead, and he alone is left.
If harm happens to him on the journey you are
taking, you will bring down my gray hair in
sorrow to Sheol."

43

1 The famine was severe in the land.
2 When they had finished eating the grain they
had brought from Egypt, their father said to
them, "Go back and buy us a little food."

3 But Judah said to him, “The man solemnly
warned us, ‘You will not see my face unless your
brother is with you.’
4 If you send our brother with us, we will go
down and buy you food.
5 But if you do not send him, we will not go
down, for the man said to us, ‘You will not see
my face unless your brother is with you.’ ”
6 Israel said, “Why did you treat me so badly
by telling the man you had another brother?”
7 They said, “The man questioned us closely
about ourselves and our family, saying, ‘Is your
father still alive? Do you have another brother?’
We answered his questions. How could we have
known that he would say, ‘Bring your brother
down’?”
8 Judah said to his father Israel, “Send the
young man with me, and we will get up and go,
so that we, you, and our little ones may live and
not die.
9 I will be his guarantor; you may hold me
responsible for him. If I do not bring him back
to you and set him before you, I will bear the
blame before you all my days.
10 If we had not delayed, we could have
returned twice by now.”
11 Their father Israel said to them, “If that is
how it must be, then do this: take some of the
best products of the land in your containers and
bring the man a gift: a little balm and a little
honey, gum and aromatic resin, pistachio nuts
and almonds.
12 Take twice as much money with you, and

take back the money that was returned in the
mouths of your sacks. Perhaps it was a mistake.
13 Take your brother too, and get up and
return to the man.
14 May God Almighty grant you mercy before
the man, so that he may release your other
brother and Benjamin to you. As for me, if I am
bereaved of my children, I am bereaved."
15 The men took this gift, twice as much
money, and Benjamin. They got up, went down
to Egypt, and stood before Joseph.
16 When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he
said to the man in charge of his house, "Bring the
men into the house, slaughter an animal, and
prepare it, for the men will eat with me at noon."
17 The man did as Joseph said and brought the
men into Joseph's house.
18 The men were afraid because they were
brought into Joseph's house. They said, "We are
being brought in because of the money returned
in our sacks the first time, so that he may find a
pretext against us, attack us, and take us as
slaves, along with our donkeys."
19 They approached the man in charge of
Joseph's house and spoke to him at the entrance
of the house.
20 They said, "Please, my lord, we did indeed
come down the first time to buy food.
21 When we came to the lodging place and
opened our sacks, each man's money was there
in the mouth of his sack, our money in full
weight. We have brought it back with us.
22 We have also brought down other money to

buy food. We do not know who put our money
in our sacks."
23 He said, "Peace to you. Do not be afraid.
Your God and the God of your father has given
you treasure in your sacks. I received your
money." Then he brought Simeon out to them.
24 The man brought the men into Joseph's
house and gave them water, and they washed
their feet. He also gave their donkeys feed.
25 They prepared the gift for Joseph's arrival at
noon, for they had heard that they would eat
bread there.
26 When Joseph came home, they brought him
the gift they had with them into the house and
bowed down to him to the ground.
27 He asked about their well-being and said, "Is
your father well, the old man you told me
about? Is he still alive?"
28 They said, "Your servant our father is well;
he is still alive." They bowed their heads and
bowed down.
29 He lifted his eyes and saw his brother
Benjamin, his mother's son. He said, "Is this your
youngest brother, whom you told me about?"
And he said, "God be gracious to you, my son."
30 Joseph hurried away, for his compassion for
his brother was stirred, and he sought a place to
weep. He went into a room and wept there.
31 Then he washed his face and came out. He
controlled himself and said, "Serve the bread."
32 They served him by himself, the brothers by
themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him
by themselves, for the Egyptians could not eat

bread with the Hebrews, because that was an abomination to the Egyptians.
33 They sat before him in order of birth, from the firstborn to the youngest. The men looked at one another in amazement.
34 He sent portions to them from the food before him, but Benjamin's portion was five times as large as any of theirs. They drank and became drunk with him.

44

1 He commanded the man in charge of his house, "Fill the men's sacks with as much food as they can carry, and put each man's money in the mouth of his sack.
2 Put my cup, the silver cup, in the mouth of the youngest man's sack, along with the money for his grain." He did as Joseph had said.
3 At dawn the men were sent on their way with their donkeys.
4 They had left the city but had not gone far when Joseph said to the man in charge of his house, "Get up and pursue the men. When you overtake them, say to them, 'Why have you repaid evil for good?
5 Is this not the cup my lord drinks from and indeed uses for divination? You have done evil in doing this.' "
6 He overtook them and spoke these words to them.
7 They said to him, "Why does my lord say such things? Far be it from your servants to do such a thing!

8 We brought back to you from the land of
Canaan the money we found in the mouths of
our sacks. How then could we steal silver or
gold from your master's house?
9 If it is found with any of your servants, let
him die, and the rest of us will also become my
lord's slaves."
10 He said, "Very well, let it be as you say. The
one with whom it is found will be my slave, and
you will be innocent."
11 They hurried, each lowering his sack to the
ground and opening it.
12 He searched, beginning with the oldest and
ending with the youngest, and the cup was
found in Benjamin's sack.
13 Then they tore their clothes, each loaded his
donkey, and they returned to the city.
14 Judah and his brothers came to Joseph's
house, where he still was, and fell to the ground
before him.
15 Joseph said to them, "What is this that you
have done? Did you not know that a man like
me can indeed practice divination?"
16 Judah said, "What can we say to my lord?
What can we speak? How can we clear
ourselves? God has found out the guilt of your
servants. Here we are, my lord's slaves, both we
and the one with whom the cup was found."
17 But he said, "Far be it from me to do this.
The man with whom the cup was found will be
my slave. As for you, go up in peace to your
father."
18 Then Judah approached him and said,

“Please, my lord, let your servant speak a word
in my lord’s ears. Do not let your anger burn
against your servant, for you are like Pharaoh
himself.
19 My lord asked his servants, ‘Do you have a
father or a brother?’
20 We said to my lord, ‘We have an elderly
father and a young son born to him in his old
age. His brother is dead, and he alone is left of
his mother, and his father loves him.’
21 Then you said to your servants, ‘Bring him
down to me, so that I may set my eyes on him.’
22 We said to my lord, ‘The young man cannot
leave his father, for if he leaves him, his father
will die.’
23 But you said to your servants, ‘Unless your
youngest brother comes down with you, you
will not see my face again.’
24 When we went up to your servant my
father, we told him my lord’s words.
25 Our father said, ‘Go back and buy us a little
food.’
26 We said, ‘We cannot go down. If our
youngest brother is with us, we will go down,
for we cannot see the man’s face unless our
youngest brother is with us.’
27 Your servant my father said to us, ‘You
know that my wife bore me two sons.
28 One went away from me, and I said, “Surely
he has been torn to pieces!” I have not seen him
since.
29 If you take this one too from me and harm
happens to him, you will bring down my gray
hair in misery to Sheol.’

30 Now if I come to your servant my father and
the young man is not with us, since my father's
life is bound up with the young man's life,
31 he will die when he sees that the young man
is not there. Your servants will bring down the
gray hair of your servant our father in sorrow to
Sheol.
32 For your servant became the young man's
guarantor before my father, saying, 'If I do not
bring him back to you, I will bear the blame
before my father all my days.'
33 Now, please let your servant remain in
place of the young man as my lord's slave, and
let the young man go up with his brothers.
34 For how can I go up to my father if the
young man is not with me? I could not bear to
see the misery that would come upon my father."

45

1 Joseph could no longer control himself
before all those standing around him. He cried
out, "Have everyone leave my presence!" No one
remained with him when Joseph made himself
known to his brothers.
2 He wept aloud, and the Egyptians heard it,
and Pharaoh's household heard it.
3 Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is
my father still alive?" His brothers could not
answer him, for they were terrified in his
presence.
4 Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come
near me." They came near, and he said, "I am
Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt.

5 Now do not be distressed or angry with
yourselves because you sold me here, for God
sent me ahead of you to preserve life.
6 The famine has been in the land for two
years, and there are still five years in which
there will be neither plowing nor harvest.
7 God sent me ahead of you to preserve for
you a remnant on the earth and to keep you
alive by a great deliverance.
8 So it was not you who sent me here, but God.
He has made me a father to Pharaoh, lord of all
his house, and ruler over all the land of Egypt.
9 Hurry and go up to my father and tell him,
'This is what your son Joseph says: God has
made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do
not delay.
10 You will live in the land of Goshen and be
near me, you and your children and your
children's children, your flocks and herds and
all you have.
11 I will provide for you there, for there are
still five years of famine, so that you and your
household and all you have do not fall into
poverty.'
12 Your eyes, and the eyes of my brother
Benjamin, see that it is my own mouth speaking
to you.
13 Tell my father about all my honor in Egypt
and all you have seen. Hurry and bring my
father down here."
14 He fell on the neck of his brother Benjamin
and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck.
15 He kissed all his brothers and wept over

them. After that his brothers spoke with him.
16 The news was heard in Pharaoh's house:
"Joseph's brothers have come." This pleased
Pharaoh and his servants.
17 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Tell your brothers,
'Do this: load your animals and go to the land of
Canaan.
18 Take your father and your households and
come to me. I will give you the best of the land
of Egypt, and you will eat the fat of the land.'
19 You are also commanded: 'Do this: take
wagons from the land of Egypt for your little
ones and your wives, bring your father, and
come.
20 Do not be concerned about your belongings,
for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.' "
21 The sons of Israel did so. Joseph gave them
wagons according to Pharaoh's command and
provisions for the journey.
22 To each of them he gave changes of clothing,
but to Benjamin he gave three hundred pieces of
silver, weighing about seven and a half pounds,
and five changes of clothing.
23 To his father he sent the following: ten male
donkeys carrying the good things of Egypt and
ten female donkeys carrying grain, bread, and
provisions for his father's journey.
24 He sent his brothers away, and they
departed. He said to them, "Do not quarrel on
the way."
25 They went up from Egypt and came to the
land of Canaan, to their father Jacob.
26 They told him, "Joseph is still alive, and he is

ruler over all the land of Egypt." His heart grew
numb, for he did not believe them.
27 But they told him all the words Joseph had
spoken to them. When he saw the wagons
Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of their
father Jacob revived.
28 Israel said, "It is enough! My son Joseph is
still alive. I will go and see him before I die."

46

1 Israel set out with all he had and came to
Beersheba, where he offered sacrifices to the
God of his father Isaac.
2 God spoke to Israel in visions of the night
and said, "Jacob, Jacob!" He said, "Here I am."
3 He said, "I am God, the God of your father. Do
not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will
make you a great nation there.
4 I myself will go down with you to Egypt, and
I will surely bring you up again. Joseph will put
his hand on your eyes."
5 Jacob set out from Beersheba. The sons of
Israel carried their father Jacob, their little ones,
and their wives in the wagons Pharaoh had sent
to carry him.
6 They took their livestock and the possessions
they had acquired in the land of Canaan and
came to Egypt, Jacob and all his offspring with
him.
7 He brought with him to Egypt his sons and
his sons' sons, his daughters and his sons'
daughters, all his offspring.

8 These are the names of the sons of Israel
who came to Egypt, Jacob and his sons: Reuben,
Jacob's firstborn.
9 The sons of Reuben were Hanoch, Pallu,
Hezron, and Carmi.
10 The sons of Simeon were Jemuel, Jamin,
Ohad, Jachin, Zohar, and Shaul, the son of a
Canaanite woman.
11 The sons of Levi were Gershon, Kohath, and
Merari.
12 The sons of Judah were Er, Onan, Shelah,
Perez, and Zerah. But Er and Onan died in the
land of Canaan. The sons of Perez were Hezron
and Hamul.
13 The sons of Issachar were Tola, Puvah, Job,
and Shimron.
14 The sons of Zebulun were Sered, Elon, and
Jahleel.
15 These were the sons Leah bore to Jacob in
Paddan-aram, along with his daughter Dinah.
His sons and daughters numbered thirty-three
persons in all.
16 The sons of Gad were Ziphion, Haggi, Shuni,
Ezbon, Eri, Arodi, and Areli.
17 The sons of Asher were Imnah, Ishvah,
Ishvi, and Beriah, and Serah their sister. The
sons of Beriah were Heber and Malchiel.
18 These were the sons of Zilpah, whom Laban
gave to his daughter Leah. She bore these to
Jacob, sixteen persons.
19 The sons of Rachel, Jacob's wife, were
Joseph and Benjamin.
20 To Joseph in the land of Egypt were born
Manasseh and Ephraim, whom Asenath,

daughter of Poti-phera, priest of On, bore to him.
21 The sons of Benjamin were Bela, Becher,
Ashbel, Gera, Naaman, Ehi, Rosh, Muppim,
Huppim, and Ard.
22 These were the sons of Rachel who were
born to Jacob, fourteen persons in all.
23 The sons of Dan: Hushim.
24 The sons of Naphtali were Jahzeel, Guni,
Jezer, and Shillem.
25 These were the sons of Bilhah, whom Laban
gave to his daughter Rachel. She bore these to
Jacob, seven persons in all.
26 All the persons who came with Jacob to
Egypt, who came from his loins, apart from the
wives of Jacob's sons, were sixty-six persons in
all.
27 The sons of Joseph who were born to him in
Egypt were two persons. All the persons of
Jacob's house who came to Egypt were seventy.
28 Jacob sent Judah ahead of him to Joseph to
point out the way to Goshen. They came to the
land of Goshen.
29 Joseph made ready his chariot and went up
to Goshen to meet his father Israel. He
presented himself to him, fell on his neck, and
wept on his neck for a long time.
30 Israel said to Joseph, "Now I can die, since I
have seen your face and you are still alive."
31 Joseph said to his brothers and his father's
household, "I will go up and tell Pharaoh, 'My
brothers and my father's household, who were
in the land of Canaan, have come to me.
32 The men are shepherds, for their work has

been raising livestock. They have brought their
flocks and herds and all they have.'
33 When Pharaoh calls you and asks, 'What is
your occupation?'
34 you shall say, 'Your servants have raised
livestock from our youth until now, both we and
our fathers,' so that you may live in the land of
Goshen, for every shepherd is an abomination
to the Egyptians."

47

1 Joseph came and told Pharaoh, "My father
and my brothers, with their flocks and herds
and all they have, have come from the land of
Canaan. They are now in the land of Goshen."
2 He took five men from among his brothers
and presented them before Pharaoh.
3 Pharaoh asked his brothers, "What is your
occupation?" They said to Pharaoh, "Your
servants are shepherds, both we and our
fathers."
4 They said to Pharaoh, "We have come to live
as foreigners in the land, for there is no pasture
for your servants' flocks, because the famine is
severe in the land of Canaan. Now, please let
your servants live in the land of Goshen."
5 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Your father and
your brothers have come to you.
6 The land of Egypt is before you. Settle your
father and your brothers in the best of the land.
Let them live in the land of Goshen. If you know
of capable men among them, put them in charge
of my livestock."

7 Joseph brought in his father Jacob and
presented him before Pharaoh, and Jacob
blessed Pharaoh.
8 Pharaoh asked Jacob, “How many years have
you lived?”
9 Jacob said to Pharaoh, “The days of my
sojourning are one hundred thirty years. Few
and hard have been the days of the years of my
life, and they have not reached the days of the
years my fathers lived in their sojourning.”
10 Jacob blessed Pharaoh and went out from
Pharaoh’s presence.
11 Joseph settled his father and his brothers
and gave them a possession in the land of Egypt,
in the best of the land, in the land of Rameses, as
Pharaoh had commanded.
12 Joseph provided his father, his brothers, and
all his father’s household with bread, according
to the needs of their little ones.
13 There was no bread in all the land, for the
famine was very severe. The land of Egypt and
the land of Canaan languished because of the
famine.
14 Joseph gathered all the money found in the
land of Egypt and the land of Canaan in
payment for the grain they were buying. Joseph
brought the money into Pharaoh’s house.
15 When the money in the land of Egypt and
the land of Canaan was exhausted, all the
Egyptians came to Joseph and said, “Give us
bread! Why should we die before you because
the money is gone?”
16 Joseph said, “Give me your livestock, and I

will give you food in exchange for your
livestock, if the money is gone."
17 They brought their livestock to Joseph, and
Joseph gave them bread in exchange for the
horses, flocks, herds, and donkeys. He sustained
them with bread in exchange for all their
livestock that year.
18 When that year ended, they came to him in
the second year and said, "We will not hide from
my lord that the money is spent and the
livestock belongs to my lord. Nothing remains
before my lord except our bodies and our land.
19 Why should we die before your eyes, both
we and our land? Buy us and our land for
bread, and we and our land will be Pharaoh's
slaves. Give us seed so that we may live and not
die, and the land may not become desolate."
20 Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for
Pharaoh, for every Egyptian sold his field,
because the famine pressed hard upon them. So
the land became Pharaoh's.
21 As for the people, he moved them to the
cities, from one end of Egypt's territory to the
other.
22 The only land he did not buy was the
priests' land, because the priests received an
allowance from Pharaoh and lived on the
allowance Pharaoh gave them. That is why they
did not sell their land.
23 Joseph said to the people, "See, today I have
bought you and your land for Pharaoh. Here is
seed for you. Sow the land.
24 When the harvest comes, you shall give a

fifth to Pharaoh. The four remaining shares will
be yours, for seed for the field and for food for
yourselves, those in your households, and your
little ones."
25 They said, "You have saved our lives. May
we find favor in my lord's eyes, and we will be
Pharaoh's slaves."
26 Joseph made this a statute over the land of
Egypt, to this day, that a fifth should belong to
Pharaoh. Only the priests' land did not become
Pharaoh's.
27 Israel lived in the land of Egypt, in the land
of Goshen. They acquired possessions there,
were fruitful, and multiplied greatly.
28 Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen
years. The days of Jacob, the years of his life,
were one hundred forty-seven years.
29 When the time drew near for Israel to die,
he called his son Joseph and said to him, "If I
have found favor in your eyes, please put your
hand under my thigh and deal with me in
kindness and faithfulness. Please do not bury
me in Egypt.
30 When I lie down with my fathers, carry me
out of Egypt and bury me in their burial place."
He said, "I will do as you have said."
31 He said, "Swear to me." He swore to him,
and Israel bowed down at the head of the bed.

48

1 After these things, someone told Joseph,
"Your father is ill." He took his two sons,
Manasseh and Ephraim, with him.

2 Someone told Jacob, “Your son Joseph is
coming to you.” Israel gathered his strength and
sat up on the bed.
3 Jacob said to Joseph, “God Almighty appeared
to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed
me.
4 He said to me, ‘I will make you fruitful and
multiply you, and I will make you a community
of peoples. I will give this land to your offspring
after you as an everlasting possession.’
5 Now your two sons, who were born to you in
the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt,
are mine. Ephraim and Manasseh shall be mine,
just as Reuben and Simeon are.
6 The offspring born to you after them shall be
yours. They shall be called by their brothers’
names in their inheritance.
7 As for me, when I came from Paddan, Rachel
died to my sorrow in the land of Canaan, along
the way, while there was still some distance to
go to Ephrath. I buried her there on the way to
Ephrath, that is, Bethlehem.”
8 When Israel saw Joseph’s sons, he asked,
“Who are these?”
9 Joseph said to his father, “They are my sons,
whom God has given me here.” He said, “Please
bring them to me, and I will bless them.”
10 Israel’s eyes had grown dim with age, and
he could not see. Joseph brought them near him,
and he kissed them and embraced them.
11 Israel said to Joseph, “I did not expect to see
your face, and now God has let me see your
offspring too.”

12 Joseph took them away from his father's
knees and bowed down with his face to the
ground.
13 Joseph took both of them, Ephraim in his
right hand toward Israel's left, and Manasseh in
his left hand toward Israel's right, and brought
them near him.
14 Israel stretched out his right hand and
placed it on the head of Ephraim, who was the
younger, and his left hand on Manasseh's head,
crossing his hands, though Manasseh was the
firstborn.
15 He blessed Joseph and said,
"May the God before whom my fathers Abraham
and Isaac walked, the God who has
shepherded me all my life to this day,
16 the angel who has redeemed me from all evil,
bless the young men.
May my name and the name of my fathers
Abraham and Isaac be called upon them,
and may they multiply greatly in the
midst of the earth."
17 When Joseph saw that his father placed his
right hand on Ephraim's head, it displeased him.
He took hold of his father's hand to move it from
Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head.
18 Joseph said to his father, "Not so, my father,
for this one is the firstborn. Put your right hand
on his head."
19 But his father refused and said, "I know, my
son, I know. He too shall become a people, and
he too shall be great. Yet his younger brother
shall be greater than he, and his offspring shall
become a multitude of nations."

20 He blessed them that day, saying, “By you
Israel will bless, saying, ‘May God make you like
Ephraim and Manasseh.’ ” Thus he put Ephraim
before Manasseh.
21 Israel said to Joseph, “I am about to die, but
God will be with you and bring you back to the
land of your fathers.
22 I have given you one portion more than
your brothers, which I took from the hand of the
Amorite with my sword and my bow.”

49

1 Jacob called his sons and said, “Gather
together, and I will tell you what will happen to
you in the days to come.
2 Gather together and listen, sons of Jacob;
listen to Israel your father.
3 Reuben, you are my firstborn, my might and
the first of my vigor, preeminent in
dignity and preeminent in power.
4 Uncontrolled as water, you shall not have
preeminence, because you went up to
your father’s bed;
then you defiled it.
He went up to my couch!

5 Simeon and Levi are brothers;
their weapons are instruments of violence.
6 Let my soul not enter their council;
let my honor not be joined to their assembly.
For in their anger they killed a man, and in
their willfulness they hamstrung an ox.

7 Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce, and their
wrath, for it is cruel.
I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them
in Israel.

8 Judah, your brothers shall praise you;
your hand shall be on the neck of your
enemies.
Your father's sons shall bow down to you.
9 Judah is a lion's cub.
From the prey you have gone up, my son.
He crouched, he lay down like a lion, like a
lioness;
who shall rouse him?
10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor
the ruler's staff from between his feet,
until Shiloh comes;
and to him shall be the obedience of the
peoples.
11 He binds his donkey's colt to the vine, the foal
of his female donkey to the choice vine.
He washes his garment in wine, his robe in
the blood of grapes.
12 His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth
whiter than milk.

13 Zebulun shall dwell at the shore of the seas;
he shall be a haven for ships, and his border
shall reach to Sidon.

14 Issachar is a sturdy donkey, lying down
between the two sheepfolds.
15 He saw that rest was good and that the land
was pleasant.

He bowed his shoulder to bear a load and
became a forced laborer.

16 Dan shall judge his people as one of the tribes
of Israel.
17 Dan shall be a serpent by the road, a viper by
the path, biting the horse's heels so that its
rider falls backward.
18 I wait for your salvation, O LORD.
19 Raiders shall raid Gad, but he shall raid at
their heels.

20 Asher's bread shall be rich, and he shall
provide royal delicacies.

21 Naphtali is a doe let loose;
he gives beautiful words.

22 Joseph is a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by
a spring;
its branches run over the wall.
23 The archers caused him bitter grief, shot at
him, and hated him.
24 But his bow remained firm, and his arms
were made agile by the hands of the
Mighty One of Jacob (from there comes
the shepherd, the stone of Israel),
25 by the God of your father, who will help you,
and by the Almighty, who will bless you
with blessings of heaven above, blessings
of the deep that lies below, blessings of
the breasts and of the womb.

26 Your father's blessings have surpassed the
blessings of my parents, reaching to the
bounty of the everlasting hills.
May they be on Joseph's head, on the crown
of the one set apart from his brothers.

27 Benjamin is a ravenous wolf;
in the morning he shall devour the prey, and
in the evening he shall divide the spoil."
28 All these are the twelve tribes of Israel. This
is what their father said to them as he blessed
them, blessing each with his own blessing.
29 He commanded them, "I am about to be
gathered to my people. Bury me with my fathers
in the cave in the field of Ephron the Hittite,
30 in the cave in the field of Machpelah, which
faces Mamre in the land of Canaan. Abraham
bought the field from Ephron the Hittite as a
possession for burial.
31 There they buried Abraham and his wife
Sarah; there they buried Isaac and his wife
Rebekah, and there I buried Leah.
32 The field and the cave in it were purchased
from the sons of Heth."
33 When Jacob had finished commanding his
sons, he drew his feet into the bed, breathed his
last, and was gathered to his people.

50

1 Joseph fell upon his father's face, wept over
him, and kissed him.
2 Joseph commanded his servants the
physicians to embalm his father, and the
physicians embalmed Israel.

3 Forty days were completed for him, for that
is the time required for embalming. The
Egyptians mourned for him seventy days.
4 When the days of mourning for him had
passed, Joseph said to Pharaoh's household, "If I
have found favor in your eyes, please speak in
Pharaoh's ears, saying,
5 'My father made me swear, saying, "I am
about to die. Bury me in the grave I dug for
myself in the land of Canaan." Now, please let
me go up and bury my father, and I will return.' "
6 Pharaoh said, "Go up and bury your father, as
he made you swear."
7 Joseph went up to bury his father. With him
went all Pharaoh's servants, the elders of his
house, and all the elders of the land of Egypt,
8 all Joseph's household, his brothers, and his
father's household. They left only their little
ones, their flocks, and their herds in the land of
Goshen.
9 Chariots and horsemen also went up with
him, and the company was very large.
10 They came to the threshing floor of Atad,
which is beyond the Jordan. There they
mourned with a great and very bitter
lamentation, and he observed seven days of
mourning for his father.
11 When the inhabitants of the land, the
Canaanites, saw the mourning at the threshing
floor of Atad, they said, "This is a grievous
mourning for the Egyptians." That is why the
place was called Abel-mizraim, which is beyond
the Jordan.

12 His sons did for him as he had commanded
them.
13 His sons carried him to the land of Canaan
and buried him in the cave in the field of
Machpelah, facing Mamre. Abraham had bought
the field from Ephron the Hittite as a possession
for burial.
14 After burying his father, Joseph returned to
Egypt, he and his brothers and all who had gone
up with him to bury his father.
15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their
father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph bears
a grudge against us and pays us back in full for
all the evil we did to him?"
16 They sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your
father commanded before his death, saying,
17 'This is what you shall say to Joseph: "Please
forgive your brothers' transgression and their
sin, for they did evil to you." ' Now, please
forgive the transgression of the servants of the
God of your father." Joseph wept when they
spoke to him.
18 His brothers also came and fell down before
him and said, "Here we are, your slaves."
19 Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for
am I in the place of God?
20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but
God meant it for good, to bring about what is
happening today: keeping many people alive.
21 Now do not be afraid. I will provide for you
and your little ones." He comforted them and
spoke to their hearts.
22 Joseph lived in Egypt, he and his father's
household. Joseph lived one hundred ten years.

23 Joseph saw Ephraim's children of the third
generation. The children of Machir son of
Manasseh were also born on Joseph's knees.
24 Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to
die, but God will surely visit you and bring you
up from this land to the land he swore to give to
Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."
25 Joseph made the sons of Israel swear,
saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall
carry my bones up from here."
26 Joseph died at the age of one hundred ten.
They embalmed him, and he was placed in a
coffin in Egypt.

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