Genesis

1 When God began to create* the sky† and the
earth—
2 the earth was formless and void, and
darkness was over the surface of the deep, and a
wind from God‡ was hovering over the surface
of the waters—
3 God said, “Let there be light,” and there was
light.
4 And God saw that the light was good, and he
separated the light from the darkness.
5 God called the light “day,” and the darkness
he called “night.”

And there was evening, and there was
morning—the first day.§

6 And God said, “Let there be an expanse*
between the waters, to separate the waters from
the waters.”
7 So God made the expanse and separated the
waters beneath it from the waters above. And it
was so.
8 God called the expanse “sky.”

And there was evening, and there was
morning—the second day.

---

* **1:1 1:1** Or *In the beginning God created*; Hebrew *bereshit bara elohim*, read as a temporal clause leading to verse 3 † **1:1 1:1** Or *the heavens*; Hebrew *shamayim*, as in verse 8 ‡ **1:2 1:2** Or *the spirit of God* § **1:5 1:5** Literally *day one* * **1:6 1:6** Or *a canopy* or *a firmament* or *a vault*; also in verses 7, 8, 14, 15, 17, and 20

9 And God said, “Let the waters under the sky
be gathered into one place, so that the dry land
may appear.” And it was so.
10 God called the dry land “earth,” and the
gathering of waters he called “seas.” And God
saw that it was good.
11 Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth
vegetation: seed-bearing plants and fruit trees,
each bearing fruit with seed according to its
kind on the earth.” And it was so.
12 The earth produced vegetation:
seed-bearing plants according to their kinds and
trees bearing fruit with seed according to their
kinds. And God saw that it was good.
13 And there was evening, and there was
morning—the third day.
14 And God said, “Let there be lights in the
expanse of the sky to distinguish between the
day and the night, and let them be signs to mark
the seasons and days and years.
15 And let them serve as lights in the expanse
of the sky to shine upon the earth.” And it was
so.
16 God made two great lights: the greater light
to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the
night. And he made the stars as well.
17 God set these lights in the expanse of the sky
to shine upon the earth,
18 to preside over the day and the night, and to
separate the light from the darkness. And God
saw that it was good.
19 And there was evening, and there was
morning—the fourth day.

20 And God said, “Let the waters teem with
living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth
in the open expanse of the sky.”
21 So God created the great sea creatures and
every living thing that moves, with which the
waters teemed according to their kinds, and
every winged bird after its kind. And God saw
that it was good.
22 Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful
and multiply and fill the waters of the seas, and
let birds multiply on the earth.”
23 And there was evening, and there was
morning—the fifth day.
24 And God said, “Let the earth bring forth
living creatures according to their kinds:
livestock, land crawlers, and beasts of the earth
according to their kinds.” And it was so.
25 God made the beasts of the earth according
to their kinds, the livestock according to their
kinds, and everything that crawls upon the
earth according to its kind. And God saw that it
was good.
26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our
image, after our likeness, to rule over the fish of
the sea and the birds of the air, over the
livestock, and over all the earth itself† and every
creature that crawls upon it.”

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

† **1:26 1:26** Syriac *and over all the beasts of the earth*

28 God blessed them and said to them, “Be
fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and
subdue it; rule over the fish of the sea and the
birds of the air and every creature that crawls
upon the earth.”
29 Then God said, “Behold, I have given you
every seed-bearing plant on the face of all the
earth, and every tree whose fruit contains seed.
They will be yours for food.
30 And to every beast of the earth and every
bird of the air and every creature that crawls
upon the earth—everything that has the breath
of life in it—I have given every green plant for
food.” And it was so.
31 And God looked upon all that he had made,
and indeed, it was very good.

And there was evening, and there was
morning—the sixth day.

2

1 Thus the sky and the earth were completed
in all their vast array.
2 And by the seventh day God had finished the
work he had been doing; so on that day he
rested from all his work.
3 Then God blessed the seventh day and
sanctified it, because on that day he rested from
all the work of creation that he had
accomplished.
4 This is the account of the sky and the earth
when they were created, in the day that the
LORD God made the earth and the sky.

5 Now no shrub of the field had yet appeared
on the earth, nor had any plant of the field
sprouted, for the LORD God had not yet sent
rain upon the earth, and there was no man to
cultivate the ground.
6 But springs* welled up from the earth and
watered the whole surface of the ground.
7 Then the LORD God formed man from the
dust of the ground and breathed the breath of
life into his nostrils, and the man became a
living being.†
8 And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden,
in the east, where he placed the man he had
formed.
9 Out of the ground the LORD God gave growth
to every tree that is pleasing to the eye and good
for food. And in the middle of the garden were
the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of
good and evil.
10 Now a river flowed out of Eden to water the
garden, and from there it branched into four
headwaters:

11 The name of the first river is the Pishon; it
winds through the whole land of Havilah,
where there is gold.
12 And the gold of that land is pure, and
bdellium and onyx are found there.
13 The name of the second river is the Gihon; it
winds through the whole land of Cush.
14 The name of the third river is the Tigris; it
runs along the east side of Assyria.

---

* **2:6 2:6** Or *mist* † **2:7 2:7** Or *a living soul*

And the fourth river is the Euphrates.
15 Then the LORD God took the man and
placed him in the Garden of Eden to cultivate
and keep it.
16 And the LORD God commanded him, “You
may eat freely from every tree of the garden,
17 but you must not eat from the tree of the
knowledge of good and evil; for in the day that
you eat of it, you will surely die.”
18 The LORD God also said, “It is not good for
the man to be alone. I will make for him a
suitable helper.”
19 And out of the ground the LORD God formed
every beast of the field and every bird of the air,
and he brought them to the man to see what he
would name each one. And whatever the man
called each living creature, that was its name.
20 The man gave names to all the livestock, to
the birds of the air, and to every beast of the
field. But for Adam‡ no suitable helper was
found.
21 So the LORD God caused the man to fall into
a deep sleep, and while he slept, he took one of
the man's ribs§ and closed up the area with
flesh.
22 And from the rib that the LORD God had
taken from the man, he made a woman and
brought her to him.
23 And the man said:

“This is now bone of my bones

---

‡ **2:20 2:20** Or *the man*, as in verses 19 and 21 § **2:21 2:21** Or *took part of the man's side*; similarly in verse 22

and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called ‘woman,’
for out of man she was taken.”
24 For this reason a man will leave his father
and mother and be united to his wife, and they
will become one flesh.*
25 And the man and his wife were both naked,
and they were not ashamed.

3

1 Now the snake was more crafty than any
beast of the field that the LORD God had made.
And he said to the woman, “Did God really say,
‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’ ”
2 The woman answered the snake, “We may
eat the fruit of the trees of the garden,
3 but about the fruit of the tree in the middle
of the garden, God has said, ‘You must not eat of
it or touch it, or you will die.’ ”
4 “You will not surely die,” the snake told the
woman.
5 “For God knows that in the day you eat of it,
your eyes will be opened and you will be like
gods,* knowing good and evil.”
6 When the woman saw that the tree was good
for food and pleasing to the eyes, and that it was
desirable for obtaining wisdom, she took the
fruit and ate it. She also gave some to her
husband who was with her, and he ate it.
7 And the eyes of both of them were opened,
and they knew that they were naked; so they

* **2:24 2:24** LXX *and the two will become one flesh*
* **3:5 3:5** Or *like God*

sewed together fig leaves and made coverings
for themselves.
8 Then the man and his wife heard the voice of
the LORD God walking in the garden at the
breezy time† of the day, and they hid themselves
from the presence of the LORD God among the
trees of the garden.
9 But the LORD God called out to the man,
"Where are you?"
10 "I heard your voice in the garden," he
replied, "and I was afraid because I was naked;
so I hid myself."
11 "Who told you that you were naked?" asked
the LORD God. "Have you eaten from the tree of
which I commanded you not to eat?"
12 And the man answered, "The woman whom
you gave me, she gave me fruit from the tree,
and I ate it."
13 Then the LORD God said to the woman,
"What is this you have done?"
"The snake deceived me," she replied, "and I
ate."
14 So the LORD God said to the snake:

"Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and every beast of the field!
On your belly will you go,
and dust you will eat,
all the days of your life.
15 And I will put enmity between you and the
woman,

† **3:8 3:8** Or *in the breeze*; Hebrew *unto the Ruach*

and between your seed and her seed.
They will strike at your head,
and you will strike at their heel.‡”
16 To the woman he said:

“I will sharply increase your pain in childbirth;
in pain you will bring forth children.
Your desire will be for your husband,§
and he will rule over you.”
17 And to Adam he said:

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and have eaten from the tree
of which I commanded you not to eat,
cursed is the ground because of you;
through toil you will eat of it
all the days of your life.
18 Both thorns and thistles it will yield for you,
and you will eat the plants of the field.
19 By the sweat of your brow
you will eat your bread,
until you return to the ground—
because out of it were you taken.
For dust you are,
and to dust you shall return.”
20 And Adam named his wife Eve,* because she would be the mother of all the living.

‡ **3:15 3:15** Hebrew *he* and *his*, referring to *seed* (offspring) as a collective; or *he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.* The same Hebrew root is used for both actions. § **3:16 3:16** Or *you will desire to control your husband* * **3:20 3:20** *Eve* sounds like the Hebrew for *giving life* or *living*.

21 And the LORD God made garments of skin
for Adam and his wife, and he 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 Therefore the LORD God banished him from
the Garden of Eden to work the ground from
which he had been taken.
24 So he drove out the man and stationed
cherubim on the east side of the Garden of Eden,
along with a whirling sword of flame to guard
the way to the tree of life.

4

1 And Adam had relations with his wife Eve,
and she conceived and gave birth to Cain.*
“With the help of the LORD I have brought
forth a man,” she said.
2 Later she gave birth to Cain’s brother Abel.
Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, while Cain
was a tiller of the soil.
3 So in the course of time, Cain brought some
of the fruit of the soil as an offering to the LORD,
4 while Abel brought the best portions of the
firstborn of his flock.
And the LORD looked with favor on Abel and
his offering,
5 but he had no regard for Cain and his
offering. So Cain became very angry, and his
countenance fell.

---

* **4:1** **4:1** *Cain* sounds like the Hebrew for *acquired* or *brought forth.*

6 “Why are you angry,” said the LORD to Cain,
“and why has your countenance fallen?
7 If you do what is right, will you not be
accepted? But if you refuse to do what is right,
sin is crouching at your door; it desires you,† but
you must master it.”

8 Then Cain spoke to his brother Abel.‡ And
while they were in the field, Cain rose up against
his brother Abel and killed him.

9 And the LORD said to Cain, “Where is your
brother Abel?”

“I do not know!” he answered. “Am I my
brother’s keeper?”

10 “What have you done?” replied the LORD.
“The voice of your brother’s blood cries out to
me from the ground.
11 Now you are cursed and banished from the
ground, which has opened its mouth to receive
your brother’s blood from your hand.
12 When you till the ground, it will no longer
yield its produce to you. You will be a fugitive
and a wanderer on the earth.”

13 But Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment§
is greater than I can bear.
14 Behold, this day you have driven me from
the face of the earth, and from your face I will
be hidden; I will be a fugitive and a wanderer
on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.”

---

† **4:7 4:7** Or *it desires to control you* ‡ **4:8 4:8** SP, LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate *Then Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let us go out to the field.”* § **4:13 4:13** Or *guilt* or *sin*

15 “Very well!”* replied the LORD. “If anyone
slays Cain, then Cain will be avenged sevenfold.”
And the LORD placed a mark on Cain, so that no
one who found him would kill him.
16 So Cain went out from the presence of the
LORD and settled in the land of Nod,† east of
Eden.
17 And Cain had relations with his wife, and
she conceived and gave birth to Enoch. Then
Cain built a city and named it after his son
Enoch.
18 Now to Enoch was born Irad, and Irad was
the father of Mehujael, and Mehujael was the
father of Methusael, and Methusael was the
father of Lamech.
19 And Lamech married two women, one
named Adah and the other Zillah.
20 Adah gave birth to Jabal; he was the father
of those who dwell in tents and raise livestock.
21 And his brother’s name was Jubal; he was
the father of all who play the harp and flute.
22 And Zillah gave birth to Tubal-cain, a forger
of every implement of bronze and iron. And the
sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah.
23 Then Lamech said to his wives:

“Adah and Zillah, hear my voice;
wives of Lamech, listen to my speech.
For I have slain a man for wounding me,
a young man for striking me.
24 If Cain is avenged sevenfold,

---

* **4:15 4:15** Or *“Therefore:”*; LXX, Vulgate, and Syriac *“Not so!”*
† **4:16 4:16** *Nod* means *wandering.*

then Lamech seventy-sevenfold."‡

25 And Adam again had relations with his wife,
and she gave birth to a son and named him
Seth,§ saying, "God has granted me another seed
in place of Abel, since Cain killed him."

26 And to Seth also a son was born, and he
called him Enosh.

At that time men began to call upon* the
name of the LORD.

5

1 This is the book of the generations of Adam.
In the day that God created man, he made him
in his own likeness.

2 Male and female he created them, and he
blessed them. And in the day they were created,
he called them "man."*

3 When Adam was 130 years old, he had a son
in his own likeness, after his own image; and he
named him Seth.

4 And after he had become the father of Seth,
Adam lived 800 years and had other sons and
daughters.

5 So Adam lived a total of 930 years, and then
he died.

6 When Seth was 105 years old, he became the
father of Enosh.

---

‡ **4:24 4:24** LXX can be translated as either *seventy times seven* or *seventy-sevenfold* § **4:25 4:25** *Seth* probably means *granted* or *appointed.* * **4:26 4:26** Or *to proclaim*; some translators *to invoke* or *to call themselves by* or *to profane* * **5:2 5:2** Hebrew *Adam*

7 And after he had become the father of Enosh,
Seth lived 807 years and had other sons and
daughters.
8 So Seth lived a total of 912 years, and then he
died.
9 When Enosh was 90 years old, he became the
father of Kenan.
10 And after he had become the father of
Kenan, Enosh lived 815 years and had other
sons and daughters.
11 So Enosh lived a total of 905 years, and then
he died.
12 When Kenan was 70 years old, he became
the father of Mahalalel.
13 And after he had become the father of
Mahalalel, Kenan lived 840 years and had other
sons and daughters.
14 So Kenan lived a total of 910 years, and then
he died.
15 When Mahalalel was 65 years old, he
became the father of Jared.
16 And after he had become the father of
Jared, Mahalalel lived 830 years and had other
sons and daughters.
17 So Mahalalel lived a total of 895 years, and
then he died.
18 When Jared was 162 years old, he became
the father of Enoch.
19 And after he had become the father of
Enoch, Jared lived 800 years and had other sons
and daughters.
20 So Jared lived a total of 962 years, and then
he died.
21 When Enoch was 65 years old, he became
the father of Methuselah.

22 And after he had become the father of
Methuselah, Enoch walked with God† 300 years
and had other sons and daughters.
23 So Enoch lived a total of 365 years.
24 Enoch walked with God, and then he was no
more, because God had taken him away.‡
25 When Methuselah was 187 years old, he
became the father of Lamech.
26 And after he had become the father of
Lamech, Methuselah lived 782 years and had
other sons and daughters.
27 So Methuselah lived a total of 969 years, and
then he died.
28 When Lamech was 182 years old, he had a
son.
29 And he named him Noah,§ saying, “May this
one comfort us in the labor and toil of our hands
caused by the ground that the LORD has cursed.”
30 And after he had become the father of
Noah, Lamech lived 595 years and had other
sons and daughters.
31 So Lamech lived a total of 777 years, and
then he died.
32 After Noah was 500 years old, he became
the father of Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

6

1 Now when men began to multiply on the face
of the earth and daughters were born to them,

† **5:22 5:22** LXX *pleased God*; also in verse 24 ‡ **5:24 5:24** LXX *and he was not found, because God had taken him away* § **5:29 5:29** *Noah* sounds like the Hebrew for *rest* or *comfort*.

2 the sons of God saw that the daughters of
men were beautiful, and they took as wives
whomever they chose.
3 So the LORD said, “My spirit will not contend
with man forever,* for he is mortal; his days
shall be 120 years.”
4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those
days—and afterward as well—when the sons of
God had relations with the daughters of men.
And they bore them children who became the
mighty men of old, men of renown.
5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of
man was great upon the earth, and that every
inclination of the thoughts of his heart was
altogether evil all the time.
6 And 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 blot out man, whom
I have created, from the face of the earth—every
man and beast and crawling creature and bird
of the air—for I am grieved that I have made
them.”
8 Noah, however, found favor in the eyes of
the LORD.
9 This is the account of Noah. Noah was a
righteous man, blameless in his generation;
Noah walked with God.
10 And Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham, and
Japheth.
11 Now the earth was corrupt in the sight of
God, and full of violence.

---

* **6:3 6:3** LXX and Syriac *my spirit will not remain in man forever*

12 And God looked upon the earth and saw
that it was corrupt; for all living creatures† on
the earth had corrupted their ways.
13 Then God said to Noah, “The end of all living
creatures has come before me, because through
them the earth is full of violence. Now behold, I
will destroy both them and the earth.
14 Make for yourself an ark of gopher wood;‡
make rooms in the ark and coat it with pitch
inside and out.
15 And this is how you are to build it: The ark
is to be 300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide, and 30
cubits high.§
16 You are to make a skylight* for the ark,
finish its walls a cubit from the top,† place a
door in the side of the ark, and build lower,
middle, and upper decks.
17 And behold, I will bring floodwaters upon
the earth to destroy every creature under the
heavens that has the breath of life. Everything
on the earth will perish.
18 But I will establish my covenant with you,
and you will enter the ark—you and your sons
and your wife and your sons’ wives with you.
19 And you are to bring two of every living
creature into the ark—male and female—to

† **6:12 6:12** Literally *all flesh*; similarly in verses 13, 17, and 19
‡ **6:14 6:14** *Gopher* is an unknown kind of tree; possibly *cypress* or *cedar*. § **6:15 6:15** The ark was approximately 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high (137.2 meters long, 22.9 meters wide, and 13.7 meters high). * **6:16 6:16** Or *roof* or *window* † **6:16 6:16** *A cubit* is approximately 18 inches or 45.7 centimeters.

keep them alive with you.
20 Two of every kind of bird and animal and
crawling creature will come to you to be kept
alive.
21 You are also to take for yourself every kind
of food that is eaten and gather it as food for
yourselves and for the animals."
22 So Noah did everything precisely as God
had commanded him.

7

1 Then the LORD said to Noah, "Go into the
ark, you and all your family, because I have
found you righteous in this generation.
2 You are to take with you seven pairs of*
every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate;
a pair of every kind of unclean animal, a male
and its mate;
3 and seven pairs of every kind of bird of the
air, male and female, to preserve their offspring
on the face of all the earth.
4 For seven days from now I will send rain on
the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I
will wipe from the face of the earth every living
thing I have made."
5 And Noah did all that the LORD had
commanded him.
6 Now Noah was 600 years old when the
floodwaters came upon the earth.
7 And Noah and his wife, with his sons and
their wives, entered the ark to escape the waters
of the flood.

---

* **7:2 7:2** Or *by sevens*; also in verse 3

8 The clean and unclean animals, the birds,
and everything that crawls along the ground
9 came to Noah to enter the ark, two by two,
male and female, as God had commanded Noah.
10 And after seven days the floodwaters came
upon the earth.
11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on
the seventeenth day of the second month, all the
fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the
floodgates of the heavens were opened.
12 And the rain fell upon the earth for forty
days and forty nights.
13 On that very day Noah entered the ark,
along with his sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth,
and his wife, and the three wives of his sons—
14 they and every kind of wild animal,
livestock, crawling creature, bird, and winged
creature.
15 They came to Noah to enter the ark, two by
two of every creature† with the breath of life.
16 And they entered, the male and female of
every living thing, as God had commanded
Noah. Then the LORD shut him in.
17 For forty days the flood kept coming on the
earth, and the waters rose and lifted the ark
high above the earth.
18 So the waters continued to surge and rise
greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the
surface of the waters.
19 Finally, the waters completely prevailed
upon the earth, so that all the high mountains
under all the heavens were covered.

† **7:15 7:15** Literally *of all flesh*; similarly in verses 16 and 21

20 The waters rose and covered the
mountaintops to a depth of fifteen cubits.‡
21 And every living thing that moved upon the
earth perished—birds, livestock, animals, every
creature that swarms upon the earth, and all
mankind.
22 Of all that was on dry land, everything that
had the breath of life in its nostrils died.
23 And every living thing on the face of the
earth was destroyed—man and livestock,
crawling creatures and birds of the air; they
were blotted out from the earth, and only Noah
and those with him in the ark remained.
24 And the waters prevailed upon the earth for
150 days.

8

1 But God remembered Noah and all the
animals and livestock that were with him in the
ark. And God sent a wind over the earth, and
the waters began to subside.
2 The springs of the deep and the floodgates of
the heavens were closed, and the rain from the
sky was restrained.
3 The waters receded steadily from the earth,
and after 150 days the waters had gone down.
4 On the seventeenth day of the seventh
month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of
Ararat.
5 And the waters continued to recede until the
tenth month, and on the first day of the tenth
month the tops of the mountains became visible.

---

‡ **7:20 7:20** *15 cubits* is approximately 22.5 feet or 6.9 meters.

6 After forty days Noah opened the window he
had made in the ark
7 and sent out a raven. It kept flying back and
forth until the waters had dried up from the
earth.
8 Then Noah sent out* a dove to see if the
waters had receded from the surface of the
ground.
9 But the dove found no place to rest her foot,
and she returned to him in the ark, because the
waters were still covering the surface of all the
earth. So he reached out his hand and brought
her back inside the ark.
10 Noah waited seven more days and again
sent out the dove from the ark.
11 And behold, the dove returned to him in the
evening with a freshly plucked olive leaf in her
beak. So Noah knew that the waters had
receded from the earth.
12 And Noah waited seven more days and sent
out the dove again, but this time she did not
return to him.
13 In Noah's six hundred and first year, on the
first day of the first month, the waters had dried
up from the earth. So Noah removed the
covering from the ark and saw that the surface
of the ground was dry.
14 By the twenty-seventh day of the second
month, the earth was fully dry.
15 Then God said to Noah,
16 "Come out of the ark, you and your wife,
along with your sons and their wives.

---

* **8:8 8:8** Literally *sent out from him* or *sent out from it*

17 Bring out all the living creatures that are
with you—birds, livestock, and everything that
crawls upon the ground—so that they can
spread out over the earth and be fruitful and
multiply upon it."
18 So Noah came out, along with his sons and
his wife and his sons' wives.
19 Every living creature, every creeping thing,
and every bird—everything that moves upon
the earth—came out of the ark, kind by kind.
20 Then Noah built an altar to the LORD. And
taking from every kind of clean animal and
clean bird, he offered burnt offerings on the
altar.
21 When the LORD smelled the pleasing
aroma, he said in his heart, "Never again will I
curse the ground because of man, even though
every inclination of his heart is evil from his
youth. And never again will I destroy all living
creatures as I have done.

22 As long as the earth endures,
seedtime and harvest,
cold and heat,
summer and winter,
day and night
shall never cease."

9

1 And God blessed Noah and his sons and said
to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the
earth.
2 The fear and dread of you will fall on every
living creature on the earth, every bird of the

air, every creature that crawls on the ground,
and all the fish of the sea. They are delivered
into your hand.
3 Everything that lives and moves will be food
for you; just as I gave you the green plants, I
now give you all things.
4 But you must not eat meat with its lifeblood
still in it.
5 And surely I will require the life of any man
or beast by whose hand your lifeblood is shed. I
will demand an accounting from anyone who
takes the life of his fellow man:

6 Whoever sheds the blood of man,
by man his blood will be shed;
for in his own image
God has made mankind.
7 But as for you,
be fruitful and multiply;
spread out across the earth
and multiply upon it."

8 Then God said to Noah and his sons with him,
9 "Behold, I now establish my covenant with
you and your descendants after you,
10 and with every living creature that was
with you—the birds, the livestock, and every
beast of the earth—every living thing that came
out of the ark.
11 And I establish my covenant with you:
Never again will all life be cut off by the waters
of a flood; never again will there be a flood to
destroy the earth."

12 And God said, “This is the sign of the
covenant I am making between me and you and
every living creature with you, a covenant for
all generations to come:
13 I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it
will be a sign of the covenant between me and
the earth.
14 Whenever I form clouds over the earth and
the rainbow appears in the clouds,
15 I will remember my covenant between me
and you and every living creature of every kind.
Never again will the waters become a flood to
destroy all life.
16 And whenever the rainbow appears in the
clouds, I will see it and remember the
everlasting covenant between God and every
living creature of every kind that is on the
earth.”
17 So God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the
covenant that I have established between me
and every creature on the earth.”

18 The sons of Noah who came out of the ark
were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And Ham was
the father of Canaan.
19 These three were the sons of Noah, and
from them the whole earth was populated.

20 Now Noah, a man of the soil, was the first*
to plant a vineyard.
21 But when he drank some of its wine, he
became drunk and uncovered himself inside his
tent.

---

* **9:20 9:20** Or *proceeded*

22 And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his
father's nakedness and told his two brothers
outside.
23 Then Shem and Japheth took a garment and
placed it across their shoulders, and walking
backward, they covered their father's
nakedness. Their faces were turned away so
that 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
shall he be to his brothers."
26 He also declared:

"Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem!
May Canaan be the slave of Shem.
27 May God expand the territory of Japheth;†
may he dwell in the tents of Shem,
and may Canaan be his slave."
28 After the flood, Noah lived 350 years.
29 So Noah lived a total of 950 years, and then
he died.

10

1 This is the account of Noah's sons Shem,
Ham, and Japheth, who also had sons after the
flood.
2 The sons of Japheth:

† **9:27 9:27** *Japheth* sounds like the Hebrew for *expand.*

Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech,
and Tiras.
3 The sons of Gomer:
Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah.
4 And the sons of Javan:
Elishah, Tarshish, the Kittites, and the
Dodanites.*
5 From these, the maritime peoples separated
into their territories, according to their
languages, by clans within their nations.
6 The sons of Ham:
Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan.
7 The sons of Cush:
Seba, Havilah, Sabtah,† Raamah, and Sabteca.
And the sons of Raamah:
Sheba and Dedan.
8 Cush was the father of Nimrod, who began to
be a mighty one‡ on the earth.
9 He was a mighty hunter before§ the LORD;
so it is said, "Like Nimrod, a mighty hunter
before the LORD."
10 His kingdom began in Babylon, Erech,
Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.*
11 From that land he went forth into Assyria,
where he built Nineveh, Rehoboth-Ir, Calah,
12 and Resen, which is between Nineveh and
the great city of Calah.

---

* **10:4 10:4** Leningrad Codex and most MT manuscripts; SP and some MT manuscripts (see also LXX and 1 Chronicles 1:7) *Rodanites* † **10:7 10:7** *Sabtah* is a variant of *Sabta*; see 1 Chronicles 1:9. ‡ **10:8 10:8** Or *who established himself as a mighty warrior* or *who became the first fearless leader* § **10:9 10:9** Or *in defiance of*; twice in this verse * **10:10 10:10** That is, Babylonia

13 Mizraim was the father of the Ludites, the
Anamites, the Lehabites, the Naphtuhites,
14 the Pathrusites, the Casluhites (from whom
the Philistines came), and the Caphtorites.†
15 And Canaan was the father of Sidon his
firstborn,‡ and of the Hittites,
16 the Jebusites, the Amorites, the Girgashites,
17 the Hivites, the Arkites, the Sinites,
18 the Arvadites, the Zemarites, and the
Hamathites.
Later the Canaanite clans were scattered,
19 and the borders of Canaan extended from
Sidon toward Gerar as far as Gaza, and then
toward Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim,
as far as Lasha.
20 These are the sons of Ham according to
their clans, languages, lands, and nations.
21 And sons were also born to Shem, the older
brother of Japheth;§ Shem was the forefather of
all the sons of Eber.
22 The sons of Shem:
Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, and Aram.
23 The sons of Aram:
Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash.*
24 Arpachshad was the father of Shelah,† and
Shelah was the father of Eber.

---

† **10:14 10:14** Some translators adjust the Hebrew word order to *the Casluhites, and the Caphtorites (from whom the Philistines came)*; see also Jeremiah 47:4 and Amos 9:7. ‡ **10:15 10:15** Or *of the Sidonians, the foremost* § **10:21 10:21** Or *Shem, whose older brother was Japheth* * **10:23 10:23** LXX and 1 Chronicles 1:17 *Meshech* † **10:24 10:24** LXX *And Arpachshad was the father of Cainan, and Cainan was the father of Shelah,*

25 Two sons were born to Eber: One was
named Peleg,‡ because in his days the earth was
divided, and his brother was named Joktan.
26 And Joktan was the father of Almodad,
Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah,
27 Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah,
28 Obal, Abimael, Sheba,
29 Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. All these were
sons of Joktan.
30 Their territory extended from Mesha to
Sephar, in the eastern hill country.
31 These are the sons of Shem, according to
their clans, languages, lands, and nations.
32 All these are the clans of Noah's sons,
according to their generations and nations.
From these the nations of the earth spread out
after the flood.

11

1 Now the whole world had one language and
a common form of speech.
2 And as people journeyed from the east,* they
found a plain in the land of Shinar† and settled
there.
3 And they said to one another, "Come, let us
make bricks and bake them thoroughly." So they
used brick instead of stone, and tar instead of
mortar.
4 "Come," they said, "let us build for ourselves a
city with a tower that reaches to the heavens,

---

‡ **10:25 10:25** *Peleg* means *division.* * **11:2 11:2** Or *eastward* or *in the east* † **11:2 11:2** That is, Babylonia

that we may make a name for ourselves and not
be scattered over the face of all the earth."

5 Then the LORD came down to see the city
and the tower that the sons of men were
building.
6 And the LORD said, "If they have begun to do
this as one people speaking the same language,
then nothing they devise will be beyond them.
7 Come, let us go down and confuse their
language, so that they will not understand one
another's speech."

8 So the LORD scattered them from there over
the face of all the earth, and they stopped
building the city.
9 That is why it is called Babel,‡ for there the
LORD confused the language of the whole world,
and from that place the LORD scattered them
over the face of all the earth.

10 This is the account of Shem. Two years after
the flood, when Shem was 100 years old, he
became the father of Arpachshad.
11 And after he had become the father of
Arpachshad, Shem lived 500 years and had
other sons and daughters.

12 When Arpachshad was 35 years old, he
became the father of Shelah.
13 And after he had become the father of
Shelah, Arpachshad lived 403 years and had

‡ **11:9 11:9** Or *Babylon*; the Hebrew word for *Babel* sounds like the Hebrew for *confused*.

other sons and daughters.§
14 When Shelah was 30 years old, he became
the father of Eber.
15 And after he had become the father of Eber,
Shelah lived 403 years and had other sons and
daughters.
16 When Eber was 34 years old, he became the
father of Peleg.
17 And after he had become the father of Peleg,
Eber lived 430 years and had other sons and
daughters.
18 When Peleg was 30 years old, he became the
father of Reu.
19 And after he had become the father of Reu,
Peleg lived 209 years and had other sons and
daughters.
20 When Reu was 32 years old, he became the
father of Serug.
21 And after he had become the father of
Serug, Reu lived 207 years and had other sons
and daughters.
22 When Serug was 30 years old, he became
the father of Nahor.
23 And after he had become the father of
Nahor, Serug lived 200 years and had other sons
and daughters.

---

§ **11:13 11:13** LXX *(12) When Arpachshad was 135 years old, he became the father of Cainan. (13) And after he had become the father of Cainan, Arpachshad lived 430 years and had other sons and daughters, and then he died. When Cainan had lived 130 years, he became the father of Shelah. And after he had become the father of Shelah, Cainan lived 330 years and had other sons and daughters.* LXX also adds 100 years to the ages of Shelah, Eber, Peleg, Reu, Serug, and Nahor in this genealogy.

24 When Nahor was 29 years old, he became
the father of Terah.
25 And after he had become the father of
Terah, Nahor lived 119 years and had other sons
and daughters.
26 When Terah was 70 years old, he became
the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran.
27 This is the account of Terah. Terah became
the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran. And
Haran became the father of Lot.
28 During his father Terah's lifetime, Haran
died in his native land, in Ur of the Chaldeans.
29 And Abram and Nahor took wives for
themselves. Abram's wife was named Sarai, and
Nahor's wife was named Milcah; she was the
daughter of Haran, who was the father of both
Milcah and Iscah.
30 But Sarai was barren; she had no children.
31 And Terah took his son Abram, his grandson
Lot son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai
the wife of Abram, and they set out from Ur of
the Chaldeans for the land of Canaan. But when
they arrived in Haran, they settled there.
32 Terah lived 205 years, and he died in Haran.

12

1 Then the LORD said to Abram, "Leave your
country, your kindred, and your father's
household, and go to the land I will show you.

2 I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
so that you will be a blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you
and curse those who curse you;
and all the families of the earth
will bless themselves by you.*”
4 So Abram departed, as the LORD had
directed him, and Lot went with him. Abram
was seventy-five years old when he left Haran.
5 And Abram took his wife Sarai, his nephew
Lot, and all the possessions and people they had
acquired in Haran, and set out for the land of
Canaan.
When they came to the land of Canaan,
6 Abram traveled through the land as far as
the site of the Terebinth† of Moreh at Shechem.
And at that time the Canaanites were in the land.
7 Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said,
“I will give this land to your offspring.” So
Abram built an altar there to the LORD, who had
appeared to him.
8 From there Abram moved on 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 he called on the
name of the LORD.
9 And Abram journeyed on toward the Negev.
10 Now there was a famine in the land. So
Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a
while because the famine was severe.
11 As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to
his wife Sarai, “Look, I know that you are a
beautiful woman,

---

* **12:3 12:3** Or *will be blessed through you* † **12:6 12:6** Or *Oak* or *Great Tree*

12 and when the Egyptians see you, they will
say, ‘This is his wife.’ Then they will kill me but
will let you live.
13 Please say you are my sister, so that I will be
treated well for your sake, and on account of
you my life will be spared.”
14 So when Abram entered Egypt, the
Egyptians saw that the woman was very
beautiful.
15 When Pharaoh’s officials saw Sarai, they
commended her to him, and she was taken into
the palace of Pharaoh.
16 He treated Abram well on her account, and
Abram acquired sheep and cattle, male and
female donkeys, male and female slaves, and
camels.
17 The LORD, however, afflicted Pharaoh and
his household with severe plagues because of
Abram’s wife Sarai.
18 So Pharaoh summoned Abram and asked,
“What have you done to me? Why didn’t you tell
me she was your wife?
19 Why did you say, ‘She is my sister,’ so that I
took her as my wife? Now then, here is your
wife. Take her and go!”
20 Then Pharaoh gave his men orders
concerning Abram, and they sent him away with
his wife and all his possessions.

13

1 So Abram went up out of Egypt into the
Negev—he and his wife and all his
possessions—and Lot was with him.

2 And Abram had become extremely wealthy
in livestock and silver and gold.
3 From the Negev he journeyed from place to
place toward Bethel, until he came to the place
between Bethel and Ai where his tent had
formerly been pitched,
4 to the site where he had built the altar. And
there Abram called on the name of the LORD.
5 Now Lot, who was traveling with Abram,
also had flocks and herds and tents.
6 But the land was unable to support both of
them while they stayed together, for they had so
many possessions that they were unable to
coexist.
7 And there was discord between the
herdsmen of Abram and the herdsmen of Lot. At
that time the Canaanites and the Perizzites were
also living in the land.
8 So Abram said to Lot, “Please let there be no
contention between you and me, or between
your herdsmen and my herdsmen. After all, we
are kinsmen.
9 Is not the whole land before you? Now
separate yourself from me. If you go to the left, I
will go to the right; if you go to the right, I will
go to the left.”
10 And Lot looked out and saw that the whole
plain of the Jordan, all the way to 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 the whole plain of the Jordan
for himself and set out toward the east. And
Abram and Lot parted company.

12 Abram lived in the land of Canaan, but Lot
settled in the cities of the plain and pitched his
tent toward Sodom.
13 But the men of Sodom were wicked, sinning
greatly against the LORD.
14 After Lot had departed, the LORD said to
Abram, “Now lift up your eyes from the place
where you are, and look to the north and south
and east and west,
15 for all the land that you see, I will give to
you and your offspring forever.
16 I will make your offspring like the dust of
the earth, so that if one could count the dust of
the earth, then your offspring could be counted.
17 Get up and walk around the land, through
its length and breadth, for I will give it to you.”
18 So Abram moved his tent and went to live
near the Terebinths* of Mamre at Hebron,
where he built an altar to the LORD.

14

1 In those days Amraphel king of Shinar,*
Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of
Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim
2 went to 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 The latter five came as allies to the Valley of
Siddim (that is, the Salt Sea†).

---

* **13:18 13:18** Or *Oaks* or *Great Trees* * **14:1 14:1** That is, Babylonia; also in verse 9 † **14:3 14:3** That is, the Dead Sea

4 For twelve years they had been subject to
Chedorlaomer, but in the thirteenth year they
rebelled.
5 In the fourteenth year, Chedorlaomer and
the kings allied with him went out and defeated
the Rephaites in Ashteroth-karnaim, the Zuzites
in Ham, the Emites in Shaveh-kiriathaim,
6 and the Horites in the area of Mount Seir, as
far as El-paran, which is near the desert.
7 Then they turned back to invade En-mishpat
(that is, Kadesh), and they conquered the whole
territory of the Amalekites, as well as 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)
marched out and arrayed themselves for battle
in the Valley of Siddim‡
9 against Chedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal
king of Goiim, Amraphel king of Shinar, and
Arioch king of Ellasar—four kings against five.
10 Now the Valley of Siddim was full of tar pits,
and as the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled,
some men fell into the pits, but the survivors
fled to the hill country.
11 The four kings seized all the goods of Sodom
and Gomorrah and all their food, and they went
on their way.
12 They also carried off Abram's nephew Lot
and his possessions, since Lot was living in
Sodom.

‡ **14:8 14:8** That is, the Valley of the Dead Sea

13 Then an escapee came and reported this to
Abram the Hebrew. Now Abram was living near
the Terebinths§ of Mamre the Amorite, a
brother of Eshcol and Aner, all of whom were
bound by treaty* to Abram.
14 And when Abram heard that his relative
had been captured, he mobilized the 318 trained
men born in his household, and they set out in
pursuit as far as Dan.
15 During the night, Abram divided his forces
and routed Chedorlaomer's army, pursuing
them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus.
16 He retrieved all the goods, as well as his
relative Lot and his possessions, together with
the women and the rest of the people.
17 After Abram returned from defeating
Chedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the
king of Sodom went out to meet him in the
Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).
18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought
out bread and wine—since he was priest of God
Most High†—
19 and 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."

§ **14:13 14:13** Or *Oaks* or *Great Trees* * **14:13 14:13** Forms of the Hebrew *berit* are translated in most passages as *covenant*.
† **14:18 14:18** Hebrew *El-Elyon*; also in verses 19, 20, and 22

Then Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of
everything.
21 The king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give me
the people, but take the goods for yourself.”
22 But Abram replied 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 accept even a thread, or a
strap of a sandal, or anything that belongs to
you, lest you should say, ‘I have made Abram
rich.’
24 I will accept nothing but what my men have
eaten and the share for the men who went with
me—Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre. They may take
their portion.”

15

1 After these events, the word of the LORD
came to Abram in a vision:

“Do not be afraid, Abram.
I am your shield,
your very great reward.”
2 But Abram replied, “O Lord GOD, what can
you give me, since I remain childless, and the
heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”
3 Abram continued, “Behold, you have given
me no offspring, so a servant in my household
will be my heir.”
4 Then the word of the LORD came to Abram,
saying, “This one will not be your heir, but one
who comes from your own body will be your
heir.”

5 And the LORD took him outside and said,
“Now look to the heavens and count the stars, if
you are able.” Then he told him, “So shall your
offspring be.”
6 Abram believed the LORD, and it was
credited to him as righteousness.*
7 The LORD also told him, “I am the LORD, who
brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give
you this land to possess.”
8 But Abram replied, “Lord GOD, how can I
know that I will possess it?”
9 And the LORD said to him, “Bring me a heifer,
a goat, and a ram, each three years old, along
with a turtledove and a young pigeon.”
10 So Abram brought all these to him, split
each of them down the middle, and laid the
halves opposite each other. The birds, however,
he did not cut in half.
11 And the birds of prey descended on the
carcasses, but Abram drove them away.
12 As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a
deep sleep, and suddenly great terror and
darkness overwhelmed him.
13 Then the LORD said to Abram, “Know for
certain that your descendants will be strangers
in a land that is not their own, and they will be
enslaved and mistreated four hundred years.
14 But I will judge the nation they serve as
slaves, and afterward they will depart with
many possessions.

---

* **15:6 15:6** Hebrew *and he reckoned it to him as righteousness*: either the LORD credited it to Abram, or Abram counted it to the LORD as righteousness.

15 You, however, will go to your fathers in
peace and be buried at a ripe old age.
16 In the fourth generation your descendants
will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites
is not yet complete."

17 When the sun had set and darkness had
fallen, behold, a smoking firepot and a flaming
torch appeared and passed between the halves
of the carcasses.
18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with
Abram, saying, "To your descendants I have
given this land—from the river of Egypt to the
great River Euphrates—
19 the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites,
Kadmonites,
20 Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites,
21 Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites, and
Jebusites."

16

1 Now Abram's wife Sarai had borne him no
children, but she had an Egyptian slave woman
named Hagar.
2 So Sarai said to Abram, "Look now, the LORD
has prevented me from bearing children. Please
go to my slave woman; perhaps I can build a
family by her."

And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.
3 So after he had lived in Canaan for ten years,
his wife Sarai took her Egyptian slave woman
Hagar and gave her to her husband Abram to be
his wife.

4 And he slept with Hagar, and she conceived.
But when Hagar realized that she was pregnant,
her mistress became despised in her sight.*
5 Then Sarai said to Abram, “May the wrong
done to me be upon you! I delivered my slave
woman into your arms, and ever since she saw
that she was pregnant, she has treated me with
contempt. May the LORD judge between you
and me.”
6 “Here,” said Abram, “your slave woman is in
your hands. Do whatever you want with her.”
Then Sarai treated Hagar so harshly that she
fled from her.
7 Now the angel of the LORD found Hagar by a
spring of water in the desert—the spring along
the road to Shur.
8 “Hagar, slave of Sarai,” he said, “where have
you come from, and where are you going?”
“I am running away from my mistress Sarai,”
she replied.
9 So the angel of the LORD told her, “Return to
your mistress and submit to her authority.”
10 Then the angel added, “I will greatly
multiply your offspring so that they will be too
numerous to count.”
11 The angel of the LORD proceeded:

“Behold, you have conceived and will bear a son.
And you shall name him Ishmael,†
for the LORD has heard your cry of
affliction.

* **16:4 16:4** Or *she began to despise her mistress* † **16:11 16:11** *Ishmael* means *God hears.*

12 He will be a wild donkey of a man,
and his hand will be against everyone,
and everyone's hand against him;
he will live in hostility
toward all his brothers."
13 So Hagar gave this name to the LORD who had spoken to her: "You are the God who sees me,‡" for she said, "Here I have seen the One who sees me!"
14 Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi.§ It is located between Kadesh and Bered.
15 And Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram gave the name Ishmael to the son she had borne.
16 Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to him.

17

1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "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 Then Abram fell facedown, and God said to him,
4 "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations.
5 No longer will you be called Abram,† but your name will be Abraham,‡ for I have made you a father of many nations.

---

‡ **16:13 16:13** Hebrew *El-Roi* § **16:14 16:14** *Beer-lahai-roi* means *well of the Living One who sees me.* * **17:1 17:1** Hebrew *El-Shaddai* † **17:5 17:5** *Abram* means *exalted father.* ‡ **17:5 17:5** *Abraham* means *father of many.*

6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful; I will
make nations of you, and kings will descend
from you.
7 I will establish my covenant as an
everlasting covenant between me and you and
your descendants after you, to be your God and
the God of your descendants after you.
8 And to you and your descendants I will give
the land where you are residing—all the land of
Canaan—as an eternal possession; and I will be
their God."
9 God also said to Abraham, "You must keep
my covenant—you and your descendants in the
generations after you.
10 This is my covenant with you and your
descendants after you, which you are to keep:
Every male among you must be circumcised.
11 You are to circumcise the flesh of your
foreskin, and this will be a sign of the covenant
between me and you.
12 Generation after generation, every male
must be circumcised when he is eight days old,
including those born in your household and
those purchased from a foreigner—even those
who are not your offspring.
13 Whether they are born in your household
or purchased, they must be circumcised. My
covenant in your flesh will be an everlasting
covenant.
14 But any uncircumcised male who is not
circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin will be
cut off from his people; he has broken my
covenant."

15 Then God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai
your wife, do not call her Sarai, for her name is
to be Sarah.§
16 And I will bless her and will surely give you
a son by her. I will bless her, and she will be the
mother of nations; kings of peoples will descend
from her.”
17 Abraham fell facedown. Then he laughed
and said to himself, “Can a child be born to a
man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah
give birth at the age of ninety?”
18 And Abraham said to God, “O that Ishmael
might live under your blessing!”
19 But God replied, “Your wife Sarah will
indeed bear you a son, and you are to name him
Isaac.* I will establish my covenant with him as
an everlasting covenant for his descendants
after him.
20 As for Ishmael, I have heard you, and I will
surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and
multiply him greatly. He will become the father
of twelve rulers, and I will make him into a
great nation.
21 But I will establish my covenant with Isaac,
whom Sarah will bear to you at this time next
year.”
22 When he had finished speaking with
Abraham, God went up from him.
23 On that very day Abraham took his son
Ishmael and all those born in his household or

§ **17:15 17:15** Both *Sarai* and *Sarah* mean *princess*; the change in spelling may reflect the difference in dialect between Ur and Canaan. * **17:19 17:19** *Isaac* means *he laughs*.

purchased with his money—every male among
the members of Abraham's household—and he
circumcised them, just as God had told him.
24 So Abraham was ninety-nine years old
when he was circumcised,
25 and his son Ishmael was thirteen years old
when he was circumcised in the flesh of his
foreskin;
26 Abraham and his son Ishmael were
circumcised on the same day.
27 And all the men of Abraham's
household—both servants born in his household
and those purchased from foreigners—were
circumcised with him.

18

1 Then the LORD appeared to Abraham by the
Terebinths* of Mamre in the heat of the day,
while he was sitting at the entrance of his tent.
2 And Abraham looked up and saw three men
standing nearby. When he saw them, he ran
from the entrance of his tent to meet them and
bowed low to the ground.
3 "My lord," said Abraham, "if I have found
favor in your sight, please do not pass your
servant by.
4 Let a little water be brought, that you may
wash your feet and rest yourselves under the
tree.
5 And I will bring a bit of bread so that you
may refresh yourselves. This is why you have
passed your servant's way. After that, you may
continue on your way."

* **18:1 18:1** Or *Oaks* or *Great Trees*

"Yes," they replied, "you may do as you have said."
6 So Abraham hurried into the tent and said to Sarah, "Quick! Prepare three seahs of fine flour,† knead it, and bake some bread."
7 Meanwhile, Abraham ran to the herd, selected a tender and choice calf, and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it.
8 Then Abraham brought curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and he set them before the men and stood by them under the tree as they ate.
9 "Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked.
"There, in the tent," he replied.
10 Then the LORD said, "I will surely return to you at this time next year, and your wife Sarah will have a son!"
Now Sarah was behind him, listening at the entrance to the tent.
11 And Abraham and Sarah were already old and well along in years; Sarah had passed the age of childbearing.
12 So she laughed to herself, saying, "After I am worn out and my master is old, will I now have this pleasure?"
13 And the LORD asked Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Can I really bear a child when I am old?'
14 Is anything too difficult for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you—in about a year—and Sarah will have a son."

† **18:6 18:6** *3 seahs* is approximately 19.8 dry quarts or 21.9 liters (probably about 24.5 pounds or 11.1 kilograms of flour).

15 But Sarah was afraid, so she denied it and
said, “I did not laugh.”
“No,” replied the LORD, “but you did laugh.”
16 When the men got up to leave, they looked
out over Sodom, and Abraham walked along
with them to see them off.
17 And the LORD said, “Shall I hide from
Abraham what I am about to do?
18 Abraham will surely become a great and
powerful nation, and all the nations of the earth
will bless themselves by him.‡
19 For I have chosen him, so that he will
command his children and his household after
him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what
is right and just, in order that the LORD may
bring upon Abraham what he has promised.”
20 Then the LORD said, “The outcry against
Sodom and Gomorrah is great. Because their sin
is so grievous,
21 I will go down to see if their actions fully
justify the outcry that has reached me. If not, I
will find out.”
22 And the men turned away and went toward
Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before
the LORD.
23 Abraham stepped forward and said, “Will
you really sweep away the righteous with the
wicked?
24 What if there are fifty righteous ones in the
city? Will you really sweep it away and not
spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous
ones who are there?

‡ **18:18 18:18** Or *and through him all the nations of the earth will be blessed*

25 Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill
the righteous with the wicked, so that the
righteous and the wicked are treated alike. Far
be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the
earth do what is right?"
26 So the LORD replied, "If I find fifty righteous
ones within the city of Sodom, on their account I
will spare the whole place."
27 Then Abraham answered, "Now that I have
ventured to speak to the Lord—though I am but
dust and ashes—
28 suppose the fifty righteous ones lack five.
Will you destroy the whole city for the lack of
five?"
He replied, "If I find forty-five there, I will not
destroy it."
29 Once again Abraham spoke to the LORD,
"Suppose forty are found there?"
He answered, "On account of the forty, I will
not do it."
30 Then Abraham said, "May the Lord not be
angry, but let me speak further. Suppose thirty
are found there?"
He replied, "If I find thirty there, I will not do
it."
31 And Abraham said, "Now that I have
ventured to speak to the Lord, suppose twenty
are found there?"
He answered, "On account of the twenty, I will
not destroy it."
32 Finally, Abraham said, "May the Lord not be
angry, but let me speak once more. Suppose ten
are found there?"

And he answered, “On account of the ten, I will not destroy it.”

33 When the LORD had finished speaking with Abraham, he departed, and Abraham returned home.

19

1 Now the two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city. When Lot saw them, he got up to meet them, bowed facedown,

2 and said, “My lords, please turn aside into the house of your servant; wash your feet and spend the night. Then you can rise early and go on your way.”

“No,” they answered, “we will spend the night in the square.”

3 But Lot insisted so strongly that they followed him into his house. He prepared a feast for them and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.

4 Before they had gone to bed, all the men of the city of Sodom, both young and old, surrounded the house.

5 They called out to Lot, saying, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Send them out to us so we can have relations with them!”

6 Lot went outside to meet them, shutting the door behind him.

7 “Please, my brothers,” he pleaded, “don’t do such a wicked thing!

8 Look, I have two daughters who have never slept with a man. Let me bring them to you, and you can do to them as you please. But do not do

anything to these men, for they have come
under the protection of my roof."
9 "Get out of the way!" they replied. And they
declared, "This one came here as a foreigner, and
he is already acting like a judge! Now we will
treat you worse than them." And they pressed in
on Lot and moved in to break down the door.
10 But the men inside reached out, pulled Lot
into the house with them, and shut the door.
11 And they struck the men at the entrance,
young and old, with blindness, so that they
wearied themselves trying to find the door.
12 Then the men said to Lot, "Do you have
anyone else here—a son-in-law, your sons or
daughters, or anyone else in the city who
belongs to you? Get them out of here,
13 because we are about to destroy this place.
For the outcry to the LORD against its people is
so great that he has sent us to destroy it."
14 So Lot went out and spoke to the sons-in-law
who were pledged in marriage to his daughters.
"Get up," he said. "Get out of this place, for the
LORD is about to destroy the city!" But his
sons-in-law thought he was joking.
15 At daybreak the angels hurried Lot along,
saying, "Get up! Take your wife and your two
daughters who are here, or you will be swept
away in the punishment of the city."
16 But when Lot hesitated, the men grabbed
his hand and the hands of his wife and his two
daughters. And they led them safely out of the
city, because of the LORD's compassion for them.

17 As soon as the men had brought them out,
one of them said, “Run for your lives! Do not
look back, and do not stop anywhere on the
plain! Flee to the mountains, or you will be
swept away!”
18 But Lot replied, “No, my lords, please!
19 Your servant has indeed found favor in your
sight, and you have shown me great kindness by
sparing my life. But I cannot run to the
mountains; the disaster will overtake me, and I
will die.
20 Look, there is a town nearby where I can
flee, and it is a small place. Please let me flee
there—is it not a small place? Then my life will
be saved.”
21 “Very well,” he answered, “I will grant this
request as well, and will not demolish the town
you indicate.
22 Hurry! Run there quickly, for I cannot do
anything until you reach it.” That is why the
town was called Zoar.*
23 And by the time the sun had risen over the
land, Lot had reached Zoar.
24 Then the LORD rained down sulfur and fire
on Sodom and Gomorrah—from the LORD out of
the heavens.
25 Thus he destroyed these cities and the
entire plain, including all the inhabitants of the
cities and everything that grew on the ground.
26 But Lot’s wife looked back, and she became
a pillar of salt.

---

* **19:22 19:22** *Zoar* means *small.*

27 Early the next morning, Abraham got up
and returned to the place where he had stood
before the LORD.
28 He looked down toward Sodom and
Gomorrah and all the land of the plain, and he
saw the smoke rising from the land like smoke
from a furnace.
29 So when God destroyed the cities of the
plain, he remembered Abraham, and he brought
Lot out of the catastrophe that destroyed the
cities where he had lived.
30 Lot and his two daughters left Zoar and
settled in the mountains—for he was afraid to
stay in Zoar—where they lived in a cave.
31 One day the older daughter said to the
younger, “Our father is old, and there is no man
in the land to sleep with us, as is the custom
over all the earth.
32 Come, let us get our father drunk with wine
so we can sleep with him and preserve his line.”
33 So that night they got their father drunk
with wine, and the firstborn went in and slept
with her father; he was not aware when she lay
down or when she got up.
34 The next day the older daughter said to the
younger, “Look, I slept with my father last night.
Let us get him drunk with wine again tonight so
you can go in and sleep with him and we can
preserve our father's line.”
35 So again that night they got their father
drunk with wine, and the younger daughter
went in and slept with him; he was not aware
when she lay down or when she got up.

36 Thus both of Lot's daughters became
pregnant by their father.
37 The older daughter gave birth to a son and
named him Moab.† He is the father of the
Moabites of today.
38 The younger daughter also gave birth to a
son, and she named him Ben-ammi.‡ He is the
father of the Ammonites of today.

20

1 Now Abraham journeyed from there to the
region of the Negev and settled between Kadesh
and Shur. While he was staying in Gerar,
2 Abraham said of his wife Sarah, "She is my
sister." So Abimelech king of Gerar had Sarah
brought to him.
3 One night, however, God came to Abimelech
in a dream and told him, "You are as good as
dead because of the woman you have taken, for
she is a married woman."
4 Now Abimelech had not gone near her, so he
replied, "Lord, would you destroy a nation even
though it is innocent?
5 Didn't Abraham tell me, 'She is my sister'?
And she herself said, 'He is my brother.' I have
done this in the integrity of my heart and the
innocence of my hands."
6 Then God said to Abimelech in the dream,
"Yes, I know that you did this with a clear
conscience, and so I have kept you from sinning

† **19:37 19:37** *Moab* sounds like the Hebrew for *from my father*.
‡ **19:38 19:38** *Ben-ammi* means *son of my people*.

against me. That is why I did not let you touch
her.
7 Now return the man's wife, for he is a
prophet; he will pray for you and you will live.
But if you do not restore her, be aware that you
will surely die—you and all who belong to you."
8 Early the next morning Abimelech got up
and summoned all his servants; and when he
described to them all that had happened, the
men were terrified.
9 Then Abimelech called Abraham and asked,
"What have you done to us? How have I sinned
against you, that you have brought such
tremendous guilt upon me and my kingdom?
You have done things to me that should not be
done."
10 Abimelech also asked Abraham, "What
prompted you to do such a thing?"
11 Abraham replied, "I thought to myself,
'Surely there is no fear of God in this place. They
will kill me on account of my wife.'
12 Besides, she really is my sister, the daughter
of my father—though not the daughter of my
mother—and she became my wife.
13 So when God had me journey from my
father's house, I said to Sarah, 'This is how you
can show your loyalty to me: Wherever we go,
say of me, "He is my brother." ' "
14 So Abimelech brought sheep and cattle,
male and female slaves, and he gave them to
Abraham and restored his wife Sarah to him.
15 And Abimelech said, "Look, my land is
before you. Settle wherever you please."

16 And he said to Sarah, “See, I am giving your
brother a thousand pieces of silver.* It is your
vindication before all who are with you; you are
completely cleared.”
17 Then Abraham prayed to God, and God
healed Abimelech and his wife and his female
slaves, so that they could again bear children—
18 for on account of Abraham’s wife Sarah, the
LORD had completely closed all the wombs in
Abimelech’s household.

21

1 Now the LORD attended to Sarah as he had
said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had
promised.
2 So Sarah conceived and bore a son to
Abraham in his old age, at the very time God
had promised.
3 And Abraham gave the name Isaac* to the
son Sarah bore to him.
4 When his son Isaac was eight days old,
Abraham circumcised him, as God had
commanded him.
5 Abraham was a hundred years old when his
son Isaac was born to him.
6 Then Sarah said, “God has made me laugh,
and everyone who hears of this will laugh with
me.”
7 She added, “Who would have told Abraham
that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have
borne him a son in his old age.”

---

* **20:16** **20:16** Or *a thousand shekels of silver*; that is, approximately 25.1 pounds or 11.4 kilograms of silver * **21:3** **21:3** *Isaac* means *he laughs.*

8 So the child grew and was weaned, and
Abraham held a great feast on the day Isaac was
weaned.
9 But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the
Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking,†
10 and she said to Abraham, “Expel the slave
woman and her son, for the slave woman’s son
will never share in the inheritance with my son
Isaac!”
11 Now this matter distressed Abraham greatly
because it concerned his son Ishmael.
12 But God said to Abraham, “Do not be
distressed about the boy and your slave woman.
Listen to everything that Sarah tells you, for
through Isaac your offspring will be reckoned.
13 But I will also make a nation of the slave
woman’s son, because he is your offspring.”
14 Early in the morning, Abraham got up, took
bread and a skin of water, put them on Hagar’s
shoulders, and sent her away with the boy. She
left and wandered in the Wilderness of
Beersheba.
15 When the water in the skin was gone, she
left the boy under one of the bushes.
16 Then she went off and sat down nearby,
about a bowshot away, for she said, “I cannot
bear to watch the boy die!” And as she sat
nearby, she lifted up her voice and wept.‡
17 Then God heard the voice of the boy, and
the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven,
“What is wrong, Hagar? Do not be afraid, for
God has heard the voice of the boy where he lies.

† **21:9 21:9** LXX and Vulgate add *her son* ‡ **21:16 21:16** LXX *the child lifted up his voice and wept*

18 Get up, lift up the boy, and take him by the
hand, for I will make him into a great nation."
19 Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a
well of water. So she went and filled the skin
with water and gave the boy a drink.
20 And God was with the boy, and he grew up
and settled in the wilderness and became a
great archer.
21 And while he was dwelling in the
Wilderness of Paran, his mother got 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 all that you do.
23 Now, therefore, swear to me here before
God that you will not deal falsely with me or my
children or descendants. Show to me and to the
country in which you reside the same kindness
that I have shown to you."
24 And Abraham replied, "I swear it."
25 But when Abraham complained to
Abimelech about a well that Abimelech's
servants had seized,
26 Abimelech replied, "I do not know who has
done this. You did not tell me, so I have not
heard about it until today."
27 So Abraham brought sheep and cattle and
gave them to Abimelech, and the two men made
a covenant.
28 Abraham separated seven ewe lambs from
the flock,
29 and Abimelech asked him, "Why have you
set apart these seven ewe lambs?"

30 He replied, “You are to accept the seven ewe
lambs from my hand as my witness that I dug
this well.”
31 So that place was called Beersheba,§
because it was there that the two of them swore
an oath.
32 After they had made the covenant at
Beersheba, Abimelech and Phicol the
commander of his army got up and returned to
the land of the Philistines.
33 And Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in
Beersheba, and there he called upon the name
of the LORD, the Eternal God.*
34 And Abraham resided in the land of the
Philistines for a long time.

22

1 Some time later God tested Abraham and
said to him, “Abraham!”
“Here I am,” he answered.
2 “Take your son,” God said, “your only son
Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of
Moriah. Offer him there as a burnt offering on
one of the mountains, which I will show you.”
3 So Abraham got up early the next morning,
saddled his donkey, and took along two of his
servants and his son Isaac. He split the wood for
a burnt offering and set out for the place God
had designated.
4 On the third day Abraham looked up and
saw the place in the distance.

---

§ **21:31 21:31** *Beersheba* means *well of seven* or *well of the oath.*

* **21:33 21:33** Hebrew *El-Olam*

5 “Stay here with the donkey,” Abraham told
his servants. “The boy and I will go over there to
worship, and then we will return to you.”
6 Abraham took the wood for the burnt
offering and placed it on his son Isaac. He
himself carried the fire and the sacrificial knife,
and the two of them walked on together.
7 Then Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My
father!”
“Here I am, my son,” he replied.
“The fire and the wood are here,” said Isaac,
“but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”
8 Abraham answered, “God himself will
provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.”
And the two walked on together.
9 When they arrived at the place God had
designated, Abraham built the altar there and
arranged the wood. He bound his son Isaac and
placed him on the altar, atop the wood.
10 Then Abraham reached out his hand and
took the knife to slaughter his son.
11 Just then the angel of the LORD called out to
him from heaven, “Abraham, Abraham!”
“Here I am,” he replied.
12 “Do not lay a hand on the boy or do
anything to him,” said the angel, “for now I know
that you fear God, since you have not withheld
your only son from me.*”
13 Then Abraham looked up and saw behind
him a ram† in a thicket, caught by its horns. So

* **22:12 22:12** Or *from me* † **22:13 22:13** Most MT manuscripts; other Hebrew manuscripts, SP, LXX, and Syriac *saw one ram*

he went and took the ram and offered it as a
burnt offering in place of his son.
14 And Abraham called that place The LORD
Will Provide.‡ So to this day it is said, “On the
mountain of the LORD it will be provided.”
15 And the angel of the LORD called to
Abraham from heaven a second time,
16 saying, “By myself I have sworn, declares
the LORD, that because you have done this and
have not withheld your only son,
17 I will surely bless you, and I will multiply
your descendants like the stars in the sky and
the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will
possess the gates of their enemies.
18 And all nations of the earth will bless
themselves by your offspring,§ because you
have obeyed my voice.”
19 Abraham went back to his servants, and
they got up and set out together for Beersheba.
And Abraham settled in Beersheba.
20 Some time later, Abraham was told, “Milcah
has also borne sons to your brother Nahor:
21 Uz the firstborn, his brother Buz, Kemuel
(the father of Aram),
22 Chesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph, and Bethuel.”
23 And Bethuel became the father of Rebekah.
Milcah bore these eight sons to Abraham’s
brother Nahor.
24 Moreover, Nahor’s concubine, whose name
was Reumah, bore Tebah, Gaham, Tahash, and
Maacah.

---

‡ **22:14** **22:14** Hebrew *YHWH Yireh* § **22:18** **22:18** Or *And through your offspring all nations of the earth will be blessed*

23

1 Now Sarah lived to be 127 years old.
2 She died in Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in
the land of Canaan, and Abraham went out to
mourn and to weep for her.

3 Then Abraham got up from beside his dead
wife and said to the Hittites,*
4 "I am a foreigner and an outsider among you.
Give me a burial site among you so that I can
bury my dead."

5 The Hittites replied to Abraham,
6 "Listen to us, sir. You are God's chosen one
among us. Bury your dead in the finest of our
tombs. None of us will withhold his tomb for
burying your dead."

7 Then Abraham rose and bowed down before
the people of the land, the Hittites.
8 "If you are willing for me to bury my dead,"
he said to them, "listen to me, and approach
Ephron son of Zohar on my behalf
9 to sell me the cave of Machpelah that belongs
to him; it is at the end of his field. Let him sell it
to me in your presence for full price, so that I
may have a burial site."

10 Now Ephron was sitting among the sons of
Heth. So in the presence of all the Hittites who
had come to the gate of his city, Ephron the
Hittite answered Abraham,
11 "No, my lord. Listen to me. I give you the
field, and I give you the cave that is in it. I give it

* **23:3 23:3** Or *sons of Heth*; also in verses 5, 7, 10, 16, 18, and 20

to you in the presence of my people. Bury your
dead."
12 Again Abraham bowed down before the
people of the land
13 and said to Ephron in their presence, "If you
will please listen to me, I will pay you the price
of the field. Accept it from me, so that I may
bury my dead there."
14 Ephron answered Abraham,
15 "Listen to me, my lord. The land is worth
four hundred shekels of silver,† but what is that
between you and me? Bury your dead."
16 Abraham agreed to Ephron's terms and
weighed out for him the price he had named in
the hearing of the Hittites: four hundred shekels
of silver, according to the standard of the
merchants.
17 So Ephron's field at Machpelah near Mamre,
the cave that was in it, and all the trees within
the boundaries of the field were deeded over
18 to Abraham's possession in the presence of
all the Hittites who had come to the gate of his
city.
19 After this, Abraham buried his wife Sarah in
the cave of the field at Machpelah near Mamre
(that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan.
20 So the field and its cave were deeded by the
Hittites to Abraham as a burial site.

24

1 By now Abraham was old and well along in

† **23:15 23:15** *400 shekels* is approximately 10.1 pounds or 4.6 kilograms of silver; also in verse 16.

years, and the LORD had blessed him in every
way.
2 So Abraham instructed the chief servant of
his household, who managed all he owned,
“Place your hand under my thigh,
3 and I will have 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 am
dwelling,
4 but will go to my country and my kindred to
take a wife for my son Isaac.”

5 The servant asked him, “What if the woman
is unwilling to follow me to this land? Shall I
then take your son back to the land from which
you came?”

6 Abraham replied, “Make sure that you do not
take my son back there.
7 The LORD, the God of heaven, who brought
me from my father’s house and my native land,
who spoke to me and promised me on oath,
saying, ‘To your offspring I will give this
land’—he will send his angel before you so that
you can take a wife for my son from there.
8 And if the woman is unwilling to follow you,
then you are released from this oath of mine.
Only do not take my son back there.”

9 So the servant placed his hand under the
thigh of his master Abraham and swore an oath
to him concerning this matter.

10 Then the servant took ten of his master’s
camels and departed with all manner of good

things from his master in hand. And he set out
for Nahor's hometown in Aram-naharaim.*
11 As evening approached, he made the camels
kneel down near the well outside the town at the
time when the women went out to draw water.
12 "O LORD, God of my master Abraham," he
prayed, "please grant me success today, and
show kindness to my master Abraham.
13 Here I am, standing beside the spring, and
the daughters of the townspeople are coming
out to draw water.
14 Now may it happen that the girl to whom I
say, 'Please let down your jar that I may drink,'
and who responds, 'Drink, and I will water your
camels as well'—let her be the one you have
appointed for your servant Isaac. By this I will
know that you have shown kindness to my
master."
15 Before the servant had finished praying,
Rebekah came out with her jar on her shoulder.
She was the daughter of Bethuel son of Milcah,
the wife of Abraham's brother Nahor.
16 Now the girl was very beautiful, a virgin
who had not had relations with any man. She
went down to the spring, filled her jar, and came
up again.
17 So the servant ran to meet her and said,
"Please let me have a little water from your jar."
18 "Drink, my lord," she replied, and she
quickly lowered her jar to her hands and gave

* **24:10 24:10** That is, Mesopotamia; *Aram-naharaim* means *Aram of the two rivers*, likely the region between the Euphrates and Balih Rivers in northwestern Mesopotamia.

him a drink.
19 After she had given him a drink, she said, “I
will also draw water for your camels, until they
have had enough to drink.”
20 And she quickly emptied her jar into the
trough and ran back to the well to draw water,
until she had drawn water for all his camels.
21 Meanwhile, the man watched her silently to
see whether or not the LORD had made his
journey a success.
22 And after the camels had finished drinking,
he took out a gold ring weighing a beka,† and
two gold bracelets for her wrists weighing ten
shekels.‡
23 “Whose daughter are you?” he asked.
“Please tell me, is there room in your father’s
house for us to spend the night?”
24 She replied, “I am the daughter of Bethuel,
the son that Milcah bore to Nahor.”
25 Then she added, “We have plenty of straw
and feed, as well as a place for you to spend the
night.”
26 Then the man bowed down and worshiped
the LORD,
27 saying, “Blessed be the LORD, the God of my
master Abraham, who has not withheld his
kindness and faithfulness from my master. As
for me, the LORD has led me on the journey to
the house of my master’s relatives.”
28 The girl ran and told her mother’s
household about these things.

† **24:22 24:22** *A beka* is half a shekel, or approximately 0.2 ounces or 5.7 grams. ‡ **24:22 24:22** *10 shekels* is approximately 4 ounces or 114 grams.

29 Now Rebekah had a brother named Laban,
and he rushed out to the man at the spring.
30 As soon as he saw the ring, and the
bracelets on his sister's wrists, and heard
Rebekah's words, "The man said this to me," he
went and found the man standing by the camels
near the spring.
31 "Come, you who are blessed by the LORD,"
said Laban. "Why are you standing out here? I
have prepared the house and a place for the
camels."
32 So the man came to the house, and the
camels were unloaded. Straw and feed were
brought to the camels, and water to wash his
feet and the feet of his companions.
33 Then a meal was set before the man, but he
said, "I will not eat until I have told you what I
came to say."
So Laban said, "Please speak."
34 "I am Abraham's servant," he replied.
35 "The LORD has greatly blessed my master,
and he has become rich. He has given him sheep
and cattle, silver and gold, male and female
slaves, camels and donkeys.
36 My master's wife Sarah has borne him a son
in her old age, and my master has given him
everything he owns.
37 My master made me swear an oath and
said, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from
the daughters of the Canaanites in whose land I
dwell,
38 but you shall go to my father's house and to
my kindred to take a wife for my son.'

39 Then I asked my master, ‘What if the woman
will not come back with me?’
40 And he told me, ‘The LORD, before whom I
have walked, will send his angel with you and
make your journey a success, so that you may
take a wife for my son from my kindred and
from my father’s house.
41 And when you go to my kindred, if they
refuse to give her to you, then you will be
released from my oath.’

42 So when I came to the spring today, I
prayed: O LORD, God of my master Abraham, if
only you would make my journey a success!
43 Here I am, standing beside this spring. Now
if a maiden comes out to draw water and I say to
her, ‘Please let me drink a little water from your
jar,’
44 and she replies, ‘Drink, and I will draw
water for your camels as well,’ may she be the
woman the LORD has appointed for my master’s
son.

45 And before I had finished praying in my
heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her
jar on her shoulder, and she went down to the
spring and drew water. So I said to her, ‘Please
give me a drink.’

46 She quickly lowered her jar from her
shoulder and said, ‘Drink, and I will water your
camels as well.’ So I drank, and she also watered
the camels.

47 Then I asked her, ‘Whose daughter are you?’

She replied, 'The daughter of Bethuel son of
Nahor, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the
ring on her nose and the bracelets on her wrists.
48 Then I bowed down and worshiped the
LORD; and I blessed the LORD, the God of my
master Abraham, who led me on the right road
to take the granddaughter of my master's
brother for his son.
49 Now if you will show kindness and
faithfulness to my master, tell me; but if not, let
me know, so that I may go elsewhere."

50 Laban and Bethuel answered, "This is from
the LORD; we have no choice in the matter.
51 Rebekah is here before you. Take her and
go, and let her become the wife of your master's
son, just as the LORD has decreed."

52 When Abraham's servant heard their words,
he bowed down to the ground before the LORD.
53 Then he brought out jewels of silver and
gold, and articles of clothing, and he gave them
to Rebekah. He also gave precious gifts to her
brother and her mother.
54 Then he and the men with him ate and
drank and spent the night there.

When they got up the next morning, he said,
"Send me on my way to my master."

55 But her brother and mother said, "Let the
girl remain with us ten days or so. After that,
she may go."

56 But he replied, "Do not delay me, since the
LORD has made my journey a success. Send me
on my way so that I may go to my master."

57 So they said, “We will call the girl and ask
her opinion.”
58 They called Rebekah and asked her, “Will
you go with this man?”
“I will go,” she replied.
59 So they sent their sister Rebekah on her
way, along with her nurse and Abraham’s
servant and his men.
60 And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

“Our sister, may you become the mother
of thousands upon thousands.
May your offspring possess
the gates of their enemies.”
61 Then Rebekah and her servant girls got
ready, mounted the camels, and followed the
man. So the servant took Rebekah and left.
62 Now Isaac had just returned from
Beer-lahai-roi, for he was living in the Negev.
63 Early in the evening, Isaac went out to the
field to meditate, and looking up, he saw the
camels approaching.
64 And when Rebekah looked up and saw
Isaac, she got down from her camel
65 and asked the servant, “Who is that man in
the field coming to meet us?”
“It is my master,” the servant answered. So she
took her veil and covered herself.
66 Then the servant told Isaac all that he had
done.
67 And Isaac brought her into the tent of his
mother Sarah and took Rebekah as his wife. And
Isaac loved her and was comforted after his
mother’s death.

25

1 Now Abraham had taken another wife,
named Keturah,
2 and she bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan,
Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah.
3 Jokshan was the father of Sheba and Dedan.
And the sons of Dedan were the Asshurites, the
Letushites, and the Leummites.
4 The sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher,
Hanoch, Abida, and Eldaah.
All these were descendants of Keturah.
5 Abraham left everything he owned to Isaac.
6 But while he was still alive, Abraham gave
gifts to the sons of his concubines and sent them
away from his son Isaac to the land of the east.
7 Abraham lived a total of 175 years.
8 And at a ripe old age he breathed his last and
died, old and contented, and was gathered to his
people.
9 His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the
cave of Machpelah near Mamre, in the field of
Ephron son of Zohar the Hittite.
10 This was the field that Abraham had bought
from the Hittites. Abraham was buried there
with his wife Sarah.
11 After Abraham's death, God blessed his son
Isaac, who lived near Beer-lahai-roi.
12 This is the account of Abraham's son
Ishmael, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's
slave woman, bore to Abraham.
13 These are the names of the sons of Ishmael
in the order of their birth: Nebaioth the
firstborn of Ishmael, then Kedar, Adbeel,
Mibsam,

14 Mishma, Dumah, Massa,
15 Hadad, Tema, Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah.
16 These were the sons of Ishmael, and these
were their names by their villages and
encampments—twelve princes of their tribes.
17 Ishmael lived a total of 137 years. Then he
breathed his last and died, and was gathered to
his people.
18 Ishmael's descendants settled from Havilah
to Shur, which is near the border of Egypt as you
go toward Asshur.* And they lived in hostility
toward all their brothers.
19 This is the account of Abraham's son Isaac.
Abraham became the father of Isaac,
20 and Isaac was forty years old when he
married Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the
Aramean from Paddan-aram† and the sister of
Laban the Aramean.
21 Later, Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of
his wife, because she was barren. And the LORD
heard his prayer, and his wife Rebekah
conceived.
22 But the children inside her struggled with
each other, and she said, "Why is this happening
to me?" So Rebekah went to inquire of the LORD,
23 and he declared to her:

"Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples from within you will be
separated;
one people will be stronger than the other,
and the older will serve the younger."

* **25:18 25:18** Or *Assyria* † **25:20 25:20** That is, northwest Mesopotamia

24 When her time came to give birth, there
were indeed twins in her womb.
25 The first one came out red, covered with
hair like a fur coat; so they named him Esau.‡
26 After this, his brother came out with his
hand grasping Esau's heel; so he was named
Jacob.§ And Isaac was sixty years old when the
twins were born.
27 When the boys grew up, Esau became a
skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob
was a quiet man who stayed at home.
28 Because Isaac had a taste for wild game, he
loved Esau; but Rebekah loved Jacob.
29 One day, while Jacob was cooking some
stew, Esau came in from the field and was
famished.
30 He said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that
red stew, for I am famished." (That is why he
was also called Edom.*)
31 "First sell me your birthright," Jacob replied.
32 "Look," said Esau, "I am about to die, so what
good is a birthright to me?"
33 "Swear to me first," Jacob said.
So Esau swore to Jacob and sold him the
birthright.
34 Then Jacob gave some bread and lentil stew
to Esau, who ate and drank and then got up and
went away. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

---

‡ **25:25 25:25** *Esau* sounds like a Hebrew term that means *hairy*.
§ **25:26 25:26** *Jacob* means *he grasps the heel* or *he deceives*.
* **25:30 25:30** *Edom* means *red*.

26

1 Now there was another famine in the land,
subsequent to the one that had occurred in
Abraham's time. And Isaac went to Abimelech
king of the Philistines at Gerar.
2 The LORD appeared to Isaac and said, "Do
not go down to Egypt. Settle in the land where I
tell you.
3 Stay in this land as a foreigner, and I will be
with you and bless you. For I will give all these
lands to you and your offspring, and I will
confirm the oath that I swore to your father
Abraham.
4 I will make your descendants as numerous
as the stars in the sky, and I will give them all
these lands, and all nations of the earth will
bless themselves by your offspring,*
5 because Abraham listened to my voice and
kept my charge, my commandments, my
statutes, and my laws."
6 So Isaac settled in Gerar.
7 But when the men of that place asked about
his wife, he said, "She is my sister." For he was
afraid to say, "She is my wife," since he thought
to himself, "The men of this place will kill me on
account of Rebekah, because she is so beautiful."
8 When Isaac had been there a long time,
Abimelech king of the Philistines looked down
from the window and was surprised to see Isaac
caressing his wife Rebekah.

---

* **26:4 26:4** Or *and through your offspring all nations of the earth will be blessed*

9 Abimelech sent for Isaac and said, “So she is
really your wife! How could you say, ‘She is my
sister’?”

Isaac replied, “Because I thought I might die
on account of her.”

10 “What is this you have done to us?” asked
Abimelech. “One of the people could easily have
slept with your wife, and you would have
brought guilt upon us.”
11 So Abimelech warned all the people, saying,
“Whoever harms this man or his wife will surely
be put to death.”

12 Now Isaac sowed seed in the land, and that
very year he reaped a hundredfold. And the
LORD blessed him,
13 and he became richer and richer, until he
was exceedingly wealthy.
14 He owned so many flocks and herds and
servants that the Philistines envied him.
15 So the Philistines took dirt and stopped up
all the wells that his father’s servants had dug in
the days of his father Abraham.

16 Then Abimelech said to Isaac, “Depart from
us, for you are much too powerful for us.”

17 So Isaac left that place and encamped in the
Valley of Gerar and settled there.
18 Isaac reopened the wells that had been dug
in the days of his father Abraham, which the
Philistines had stopped up after Abraham died.
And he gave these wells the same names his
father had given them.

19 Then Isaac's servants dug in the valley and
found a well of flowing water† there.
20 But the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with
Isaac's herdsmen and said, "The water is ours!"
So he named the well Esek,‡ because they
contended with him.
21 Then they dug another well and quarreled
over that one also; 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, "At last the LORD has
made room for us, and we will be fruitful in the
land."
23 From there Isaac went up to Beersheba,
24 and that night the LORD appeared to him
and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham.
Do not be afraid, for I am with you. I will bless
you and multiply your descendants for the sake
of my servant Abraham."
25 So Isaac built an altar there and called on
the name of the LORD, and he pitched his tent
there. His servants also dug a well there.
26 Later, Abimelech came to Isaac from Gerar,
with Ahuzzath his adviser and Phicol the
commander of his army.
27 "Why have you come to me?" Isaac asked
them. "You hated me and sent me away."
28 "We can plainly see that the LORD has been
with you," they replied. "We recommend that

† **26:19** **26:19** Or *fresh water* or *living water* ‡ **26:20** **26:20** *Esek* means *contention.* § **26:21** **26:21** *Sitnah* means *enmity* or *hostility.* * **26:22** **26:22** *Rehoboth* means *broad places* or *open spaces.*

there should now be an oath between us and
you. Let us make a covenant with you
29 that you will not harm us, just as we have
not harmed you but have done only good to you,
sending you on your way in peace. And now you
are blessed by the LORD."

30 So Isaac prepared a feast for them, and they
ate and drank.
31 And they got up early the next morning and
swore an oath to each other. Then Isaac sent
them on their way, and they left him in peace.

32 On that same day, Isaac's servants came and
told him about the well they had dug. "We have
found water!" they told him.
33 So he called it Shibah,† and to this day the
name of the city is Beersheba.‡

34 When Esau was forty years old, he took as
his wives Judith daughter of Beeri the Hittite
and Basemath daughter of Elon the Hittite.
35 And they brought grief to Isaac and
Rebekah.

27

1 When Isaac was old and his eyes were so
weak that he could no longer see, he called his
older son Esau and said to him, "My son."

"Here I am," Esau replied.

2 "Look," said Isaac, "I am now old, and I do not
know the day of my death.

---

† **26:33 26:33** *Shibah* can mean *oath* or *seven.* ‡ **26:33 26:33** *Beersheba* means *well of seven* or *well of the oath.*

3 Take your weapons—your quiver and
bow—and go out into the field to hunt some
game for me.
4 Then prepare a tasty dish that I love and
bring it to me to eat, so that I may bless you
before I die."
5 Now Rebekah was listening to what Isaac
told his son Esau. So when Esau went into the
field to hunt game and bring it back,
6 Rebekah said to her son Jacob, "Behold, I
overheard your father saying to your brother
Esau,
7 'Bring me some game and prepare me a tasty
dish to eat, so that I may bless you in the
presence of the LORD before I die.'
8 Now, my son, listen to my voice and do
exactly as I tell you.
9 Go out to the flock and bring me two choice
young goats, so that I can make them into a tasty
dish for your father—the kind he loves.
10 Then take it to your father to eat, so that he
may bless you before he dies."
11 Jacob answered his mother Rebekah, "Look,
my brother Esau is a hairy man, but I am
smooth-skinned.
12 What if my father touches me? Then I
would be revealed to him as a deceiver, and I
would bring upon myself a curse rather than a
blessing."
13 His mother replied, "Your curse be on me,
my son. Just obey my voice and go get them for
me."

14 So Jacob went and got two goats and
brought them to his mother, who made the tasty
food his father loved.
15 And Rebekah took the finest clothes in the
house that belonged to her older son Esau, and
she put them on her younger son Jacob.
16 She also put the skins of the young goats on
his hands and on the smooth part of his neck.
17 Then she handed her son Jacob the tasty
food and bread she had made.
18 So Jacob went to his father and said, “My
father.”
“Here I am!” he answered. “Which one are
you, my son?”
19 Jacob said to his father, “I am Esau, your
firstborn. I have done as you told me. Please sit
up and eat some of my game, so that you may
bless me.”
20 But Isaac asked his son, “How did you ever
find it so quickly, my son?”
“Because the LORD your God brought it to me,”
he replied.
21 Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Please come closer
so I can touch you, my son. Are you really my
son Esau, or not?”
22 So Jacob came close to his father Isaac, who
touched him and said, “The voice is the voice of
Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau.”
23 Isaac did not recognize him, because his
hands were hairy like those of his brother Esau;
so he blessed him.
24 Again he asked, “Are you really my son
Esau?”
And he replied, “I am.”

25 “Serve me,” said Isaac, “and let me eat some
of my son’s game, so that I may bless you.”
Jacob brought it to him, and he ate; then he
brought him wine, and he drank.
26 Then his father Isaac said to him, “Please
come near and kiss me, my son.”
27 So he came near and kissed him. When
Isaac smelled his clothing, he blessed him and
said:

“Ah, the smell of my son
is like the smell of a field
that the LORD has blessed.
28 May God give to you the dew of heaven
and the richness of the earth—
an abundance of grain and new wine.
29 May peoples serve you
and nations bow down to you.
May you be the master of your brothers,
and may the sons of your mother bow down
to you.
May those who curse you be cursed,
and those who bless you be blessed.”
30 As soon as Isaac had finished blessing him
and Jacob had left his father’s presence, his
brother Esau returned from the hunt.
31 He too made some tasty food, brought it to
his father, and said to him, “My father, sit up and
eat of your son’s game, so that you may bless
me.”
32 But his father Isaac replied, “Who are you?”
“I am Esau, your firstborn son,” he answered.
33 Isaac began to tremble violently and said,
“Who was it, then, who hunted the game and

brought it to me? Before you came in, I ate it all
and blessed him—and indeed, he will be
blessed!"
34 When Esau heard his father's words, he let
out a loud and bitter cry and said to his father,
"Bless me too, O my father!"
35 But Isaac replied, "Your brother came
deceitfully and took your blessing."
36 So Esau declared, "Is he not rightly named
Jacob?* For he has cheated me twice. He took
my birthright, and now he has taken my
blessing." Then he asked, "Haven't you saved a
blessing for me?"
37 But Isaac answered Esau: "Look, I have
made him your master and given him all his
relatives as servants; I have sustained him with
grain and new wine. What is left that I can do
for you, my son?"
38 Esau said to his father, "Do you have only
one blessing, my father? Bless me too, O my
father!" Then Esau wept aloud.
39 His father Isaac answered him:

"Behold, your dwelling place shall be
away from the richness of the land,
away from the dew of heaven above.
40 You shall live by the sword
and serve your brother.
But when you rebel,
you will tear his yoke from your neck."

* **27:36 27:36** *Jacob* means *he grasps the heel* or *he deceives.*

41 Esau held a grudge against Jacob because of
the blessing his father had given him. And Esau
said in his heart, “The days of mourning for my
father are at hand; then I will kill my brother
Jacob.”
42 When the words of her older son Esau were
relayed to Rebekah, she sent for her younger
son Jacob and told him, “Look, your brother
Esau is consoling himself by plotting to kill you.
43 So now, my son, obey my voice and flee at
once to my brother Laban in Haran.
44 Stay with him for a while, until your
brother’s fury subsides—
45 until your brother’s rage against you wanes
and he forgets what you have done to him. Then
I will send for you and bring you back from
there. Why should I lose both of you in one day?”
46 Then Rebekah said to Isaac, “I am weary of
my life because of these Hittite women.† If Jacob
takes a Hittite wife from among them, what
good is my life?”

28

1 So Isaac called for Jacob and blessed him.
“Do not take a wife from the Canaanite women,”
he commanded.
2 “Go at once to Paddan-aram,* to the house of
your mother’s father Bethuel, and take a wife
from among the daughters of Laban, your
mother’s brother.

† **27:46** **27:46** Or *daughters of Heth* * **28:2** **28:2** That is, northwest Mesopotamia; also in verses 5, 6, and 7

3 May God Almighty† bless you and make you
fruitful and multiply you, so that you may
become a company of peoples.
4 And may he give the blessing of Abraham to
you and your descendants, so that you may
possess the land where you dwell as a foreigner,
the land God gave to Abraham."
5 So Isaac sent Jacob to Paddan-aram, to Laban
son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of
Rebekah, who was the mother of Jacob and Esau.
6 Now Esau learned that Isaac had blessed
Jacob and sent him to Paddan-aram to take a
wife there, commanding him, "Do not marry a
Canaanite woman,"
7 and that Jacob had obeyed his father and
mother and gone to Paddan-aram.
8 And seeing that his father Isaac disapproved
of the Canaanite women,
9 Esau went to Ishmael and married Mahalath,
the sister of Nebaioth and daughter of
Abraham's son Ishmael, in addition to the wives
he already had.
10 Meanwhile Jacob left Beersheba and set out
for Haran.
11 On reaching a certain place, he spent the
night there because the sun had set. And taking
one of the stones from that place, he put it under
his head and lay down to sleep.
12 And Jacob had a dream about a ladder that
rested on the earth with its top reaching up to
heaven, and God's angels were going up and
down the ladder.

† **28:3 28:3** Hebrew *El-Shaddai*

13 And there beside him‡ the LORD was
standing and saying, “I am the LORD, the God of
your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will
give you and your descendants the land on
which you now lie.
14 Your descendants will be like the dust of the
earth, and you will spread out to the west and
east and north and south. All the families of the
earth will bless themselves by you and your
offspring.§
15 Look, I am with you, and I will watch over
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 When Jacob woke up, he said, “Surely the
LORD is in this place, and I was unaware of it.”
17 And he was afraid and said, “How awesome
is this place! This is none other than the house
of God; this is the gate of heaven!”
18 Early the next morning, Jacob took the stone
that he had placed under his head, and he set it
up as a pillar. He poured oil on top of it,
19 and he called that place Bethel,* though
previously the city had been named Luz.
20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will
be with me and watch over me on this journey,
and if he will provide me with food to eat and
clothes to wear,
21 so that I may return safely to my father’s
house, then the LORD will be my God.

---

‡ **28:13 28:13** Or *there at the top through you and your offspring*

§ **28:14 28:14** Or *will be blessed house of God.*

* **28:19 28:19** *Bethel* means

22 And 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 you a tenth."

29

1 Jacob resumed his journey and came to the
land of the people of the east.
2 He looked and saw a well in the field, and
near it lay three flocks of sheep, because the
sheep were watered from this well. And a large
stone covered the mouth of the well.
3 When all the flocks had been gathered there,
the shepherds would roll away the stone from
the mouth of the well and water the sheep. Then
they would return the stone to its place over the
mouth of the well.
4 "My brothers," Jacob asked the shepherds,
"where are you from?"

"We are from Haran," they answered.

5 "Do you know Laban the grandson of
Nahor?" Jacob asked.

"We know him," they replied.

6 "Is he well?" Jacob inquired.

"Yes," they answered, "and here comes his
daughter Rachel with his sheep."

7 "Look," said Jacob, "it is still broad daylight; it
is not yet time to gather the livestock. Water the
sheep and take them back to pasture."

8 But they replied, "We cannot, until all the
flocks have been gathered and the stone has
been rolled away from the mouth of the well.
Then we will water the sheep."

9 While he was still speaking with them,
Rachel arrived with her father's sheep, for she
was a shepherdess.
10 As soon as Jacob saw Rachel, the daughter of
his mother's brother Laban, with Laban's sheep,
he went up and rolled the stone away from the
mouth of the well and watered his uncle's sheep.
11 Then Jacob kissed Rachel and wept aloud.
12 He told Rachel that he was Rebekah's son, a
relative of her father, and she ran and told her
father.
13 When Laban heard the news about his
sister's son Jacob, he ran out to meet him. He
embraced him and kissed him and brought him
to his home, where Jacob told him all that had
happened.
14 Then Laban declared, "You are indeed my
own flesh and blood."
After Jacob had stayed with him a month,
15 Laban said to him, "Just because you are my
relative, should you work for nothing? Tell me
what your wages should be."
16 Now Laban had two daughters; the older
was named Leah, and the younger was named
Rachel.
17 Leah had weak eyes,* but Rachel was
shapely and beautiful.
18 Since Jacob loved Rachel, he answered, "I
will serve you seven years for your younger
daughter Rachel."
19 Laban replied, "Better that I give her to you
than to another. Stay here with me."

---

* **29:17 29:17** Or *had delicate eyes*

20 So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, yet
it seemed but a few days because of his love for
her.
21 Finally Jacob said to Laban, “Grant me my
wife, for my time is complete, and I want to
sleep with her.”
22 So Laban invited all the men of that place
and prepared a feast.
23 But when evening came, Laban took his
daughter Leah and gave her to Jacob, and he
slept with her.
24 And Laban gave his slave woman Zilpah to
his daughter Leah as her slave.
25 When morning came, there was Leah!
“What have you done to me?” Jacob said to
Laban. “Wasn’t it for Rachel that I served you?
Why have you deceived me?”
26 Laban replied, “It is not our custom here to
give the younger daughter in marriage before
the older.
27 Finish this week’s celebration, and we will
give you the younger one in return for another
seven years of work.”
28 And Jacob did just that. He finished the
week’s celebration, and Laban gave him his
daughter Rachel as his wife.
29 Laban also gave his slave woman Bilhah to
his daughter Rachel as her slave.
30 Jacob slept with Rachel as well, and indeed,
he loved Rachel more than Leah. So he worked
for Laban another seven years.
31 When the LORD saw that Leah was unloved,
he opened her womb; but Rachel was barren.

32 And Leah conceived and gave birth to a son,
and she named him Reuben,† for she said, “The
LORD has seen my affliction. Surely my husband
will love me now.”
33 Again she conceived and gave birth to a son,
and she said, “Because the LORD has heard that I
am unloved, he has given me this son as well.”
So she named him Simeon.‡
34 Once again Leah conceived and gave birth
to a son, and she said, “Now at last my husband
will become attached to me, because I have
borne him three sons.” So he was named Levi.§
35 And once more she conceived and gave
birth to a son and said, “This time I will praise
the LORD.” So she named him Judah.* Then
Leah stopped having children.

30

1 When Rachel saw that she was not bearing
any children for Jacob, she envied her sister.
“Give me children, or I will die!” she said to
Jacob.
2 Jacob became angry with Rachel and said,
“Am I in the place of God, who has withheld
children from you?”
3 Then she said, “Here is my maidslave woman
Bilhah. Sleep with her, that she may bear

† **29:32 29:32** *Reuben* means *Look, a son* and also sounds like the Hebrew for *he has seen my misery*. ‡ **29:33 29:33** *Simeon* probably means *one who hears*. § **29:34 29:34** *Levi* sounds like the Hebrew for *being attached to* or *feeling affection for*. * **29:35 29:35** *Judah* sounds like the Hebrew for *praise*.

children for me,* so that through her I too can
build a family."
4 So Rachel gave Jacob her slave woman
Bilhah as a wife, and he slept with her,
5 and Bilhah conceived and bore him a son.
6 Then Rachel said, "God has vindicated me; he
has heard my plea and given me a son." So she
named him Dan.†
7 And Rachel's slave woman Bilhah conceived
again and bore Jacob a second son.
8 Then Rachel said, "In my great struggles, I
have wrestled with my sister and won." So she
named him Naphtali.‡
9 When Leah saw that she had stopped having
children, she gave her slave woman Zilpah to
Jacob as a wife.
10 And Leah's slave woman Zilpah bore Jacob
a son.
11 Then Leah said, "How fortunate!"§ So she
named him Gad.*
12 When Leah's slave woman Zilpah bore
Jacob a second son,
13 Leah said, "How happy I am! For the women
call me happy." So she named him Asher.†
14 Now during the wheat harvest, Reuben
went out and found some mandrakes in the
field. When he brought them to his mother,

---

* **30:3 30:3** Literally *bear children on my knees* † **30:6 30:6** *Dan* means *he has judged* or *he has vindicated.* ‡ **30:8 30:8** *Naphtali* sounds like the Hebrew for *wrestling.* § **30:11 30:11** Ketiv (see also LXX); Qere *"A troop is coming!"* * **30:11 30:11** *Gad* sounds like the Hebrew for *good fortune*, or alternately for *band of raiders.*
† **30:13 30:13** *Asher* means *happy.*

Rachel begged Leah, “Please give me some of
your son’s mandrakes.”
15 But Leah replied, “Is it not enough that you
have taken away my husband? Now you want to
take my son’s mandrakes as well?”
“Very well,” said Rachel, “he may sleep with
you tonight in exchange for your son’s
mandrakes.”
16 When Jacob came in from the field that
evening, Leah went out to meet him and said,
“You must come with me, for I have hired you
with my son’s mandrakes.” So he slept with her
that night.
17 And God listened to Leah, and she
conceived and bore a fifth son to Jacob.
18 Then Leah said, “God has rewarded me for
giving my slave woman to my husband.” So she
named him Issachar.‡
19 Again Leah conceived and bore a sixth son
to Jacob.
20 “God has given me a good gift,” she said.
“This time my husband will honor me, because I
have borne him six sons.” And she named him
Zebulun.§
21 After that, Leah gave birth to a daughter
and named her Dinah.
22 Then God remembered Rachel. He listened
to her and opened her womb,
23 and she conceived and gave birth to a son.
“God has taken away my shame,” she said.

---

‡ **30:18 30:18** *Issachar* sounds like the Hebrew for *wages* or *reward.* § **30:20 30:20** *Zebulun* sounds like the Hebrew for *honor.*

24 She named him Joseph,* and said, “May the
LORD add to me another son.”
25 Now after Rachel had given birth to Joseph,
Jacob said to Laban, “Send me on my way so I
can return to my homeland.
26 Give me my wives and children for whom I
have served you, that I may go on my way. You
know how hard I have worked for you.”
27 But Laban replied, “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 And he added, “Name your wages, and I will
pay them.”
29 Then Jacob answered, “You know how I
have served you and how your livestock have
thrived under my care.
30 Indeed, you had very little before my
arrival, but now your wealth has increased
many times over. The LORD has blessed you
wherever I set foot. But now, when may I also
provide for my own household?”
31 “What can I give you?” Laban asked.
“You do not need to give me anything,” Jacob
replied. “If you do this one thing for me, I will
keep on shepherding and keeping your flocks.
32 Let me go through all your flocks today and
remove from them every speckled or spotted
sheep, every dark-colored lamb, and every
spotted or speckled goat. These will be my
wages.

---

* **30:24 30:24** *Joseph* means *may he add.*

33 So my honesty will testify for me when you
come to check on my wages in the future. If I
have any goats that are not speckled or spotted,
or any lambs that are not dark-colored, they will
be considered stolen."
34 "Agreed," said Laban. "Let it be as you have
said."
35 That very day Laban removed all the
streaked or spotted male goats and every
speckled or spotted female goat—every one that
had any white on it—and every dark-colored
lamb, and he placed them under the care of his
sons.
36 Then he put a three-day journey between
himself and Jacob, while Jacob was shepherding
the rest of Laban's flocks.
37 Jacob, however, took fresh branches of
poplar, almond, and plane trees, and peeled the
bark, exposing the white inner wood of the
branches.
38 Then he set the peeled branches in the
watering troughs in front of the flocks coming in
to drink. So when the flocks were in heat and
came to drink,
39 they mated in front of the branches. And
they bore young that were streaked or speckled
or spotted.
40 Jacob set apart the young, but made the rest
face the streaked dark-colored sheep in Laban's
flocks. Then he set his own stock apart and did
not put them with Laban's animals.
41 Whenever the stronger females of the flock
were in heat, Jacob would place the branches in

the troughs, in full view of the animals, so that they would breed in front of the branches.
42 But if the animals were weak, he did not set out the branches. So the weaker animals went to Laban and the stronger ones to Jacob.
43 Thus Jacob became exceedingly prosperous. He owned large flocks, female and male slaves, and camels and donkeys.

31

1 Now Jacob heard that Laban's sons were saying, "Jacob has taken away all that belonged to our father and built all this wealth at our father's expense."
2 And Jacob saw from the countenance of Laban that his attitude toward him had changed.
3 Then the LORD said to Jacob, "Go back to the land of your fathers and to your kindred, and I will be with you."
4 So Jacob sent word and called Rachel and Leah to the field where his flocks were,
5 and he told them, "I can see from your father's countenance that his attitude toward me has changed; but the God of my father has been with me.
6 You know that I have served your father with all my strength.
7 And although he has cheated me and changed my wages ten times, God has not allowed him to harm me.
8 If he said, 'The speckled will be your wages,' then the whole flock bore speckled offspring. If he said, 'The streaked will be your wages,' then the whole flock bore streaked offspring.

9 Thus God has taken away your father's
livestock and given them to me.

10 When the flocks were breeding, I saw in a
dream that the streaked, spotted, and speckled
males were mating with the females.
11 In that dream the angel of God said to me,
'Jacob!'

And I replied, 'Here I am.'

12 'Look up,' he said, 'and see that all the males
that are mating with the flock are streaked,
spotted, or speckled; for I have seen all that
Laban has done to you.
13 I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed
the pillar and made a solemn vow to me. Now
get up, leave this land at once, and return to
your native land.' "

14 And Rachel and Leah replied, "Do we have
any portion or inheritance left in our father's
house?
15 Are we not regarded by him as outsiders?
Not only has he sold us, but he has certainly
squandered what was paid for us.
16 Surely all the wealth that God has taken
away from our father belongs to us and to our
children. So do whatever God has told you."

17 Then Jacob got up and put his children and
his wives on camels,
18 and he drove all his livestock before him,
along with all the possessions he had acquired,
including the livestock he had obtained in

Paddan-aram,* to go to his father Isaac in the land in Canaan.
19 Now while Laban was out shearing his sheep, Rachel stole her father's household idols.
20 Moreover, Jacob deceived† Laban the Aramean by not telling him that he was running away.
21 So he fled with all his possessions, crossed the Euphrates,‡ and headed for the hill country of Gilead.
22 On the third day Laban was informed that Jacob had fled.
23 So he took his relatives with him, pursued Jacob for seven days, and overtook him in the hill country of Gilead.
24 But that night God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream and warned him, "Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad."
25 Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the hill country of Gilead when Laban overtook him, and Laban and his relatives camped there as well.
26 Then Laban said to Jacob, "What have you done? You have deceived me and carried off my daughters like captives of war!
27 Why did you run away secretly and deceive me, without even telling me? I would have sent you away with joy and singing, with tambourines and harps.

---

* **31:18 31:18** That is, northwest Mesopotamia † **31:20 31:20** Or *stole the heart of*; also in verses 26 and 27 ‡ **31:21 31:21** Hebrew *the River*

28 But you did not even let me kiss my
grandchildren and my daughters goodbye. Now
you have done a foolish thing.
29 I have power to do you great harm, but last
night the God of your father said to me, 'Be
careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good
or bad.'
30 Now you have gone off because you long for
your father's house. But why have you stolen
my gods?"
31 "I was afraid," Jacob answered, "for I
thought you would take your daughters from me
by force.
32 If you find your gods with anyone here, he
shall not live! In the presence of our relatives,
see for yourself if anything is yours, and take it
back." For Jacob did not know that Rachel had
stolen the idols.
33 So Laban went into Jacob's tent, then Leah's
tent, and then the tents of the two slave women,
but he found nothing. Then he left Leah's tent
and entered Rachel's tent.
34 Now Rachel had taken Laban's household
idols, put them in the saddlebag of her camel,
and was sitting on them. And Laban searched
everything in the tent but found nothing.
35 Rachel said to her father, "Sir, do not be
angry that I cannot stand up before you; for I
am having my period." So Laban searched but
could not find the household idols.
36 Then Jacob became incensed and challenged
Laban. "What is my crime?" he said. "For what
sin of mine have you so hotly pursued me?

37 You have searched all my goods! Have you
found anything that belongs to you? Put it here
before my brothers and yours, that they may
judge between the two of us.

38 I have been with you for twenty years now.
Your sheep and goats have not miscarried, nor
have I eaten the rams of your flock.
39 I did not bring you anything torn by wild
beasts; I bore the loss myself. And you
demanded payment from me for what was
stolen by day or night.
40 As it was, the heat consumed me by day and
the frost by night, and sleep fled from my eyes.

41 Thus for twenty years I have served in your
household—fourteen years for your two
daughters and six years for your flocks—and
you have changed my wages ten times!
42 If the God of my father, the God of Abraham
and the Fear of Isaac, had not been with me,
surely by now you would have sent me away
empty-handed. But God has seen my affliction
and the toil of my hands, and last night he
rendered judgment."

43 But Laban answered Jacob, "These
daughters are my daughters, these sons are my
sons, and these flocks are my flocks! Everything
you see is mine! Yet what can I do today about
these daughters of mine or the children they
have borne?
44 Come now, let us make a covenant, you and
I, and let it serve as a witness between you and
me."

45 So Jacob picked out a stone and set it up as a
pillar,
46 and he said to his relatives, “Gather some
stones.” So they took stones and made a mound,
and there by the mound they ate.
47 Laban called it Jegar-sahadutha, and Jacob
called it Galeed.§
48 Then Laban declared, “This mound is a
witness between you and me this day.”
Therefore the place was called Galeed.
49 It was also called Mizpah,* because Laban
said, “May the LORD keep watch between you
and me when we are absent from each other.
50 If you mistreat my daughters or take other
wives, although no one is with us, remember
that God is a witness between you and me.”
51 Laban also said to Jacob, “Here is the
mound, and here is the pillar I have set up
between you and me.
52 This mound is a witness, and this pillar is a
witness, that I will not go past this mound to
harm you, and you will not go past this mound
and pillar to harm me.
53 May the God of Abraham and the God of
Nahor, the God of their father, judge between us.”
So Jacob swore by the Fear of his father Isaac.
54 Then Jacob offered a sacrifice on the
mountain and invited his relatives to eat a meal.
And after they had eaten, they spent the night
on the mountain.

§ **31:47 31:47** The Aramaic *Jegar-sahadutha* and the Hebrew *Galeed* both mean *heap of witnesses.* * **31:49 31:49** *Mizpah* means *watchtower.*

32

1 Early the next morning, Laban got up and
kissed his grandchildren and daughters and
blessed them. Then he left to return home.
2 Jacob also went on his way, and the angels of
God met him.
3 When Jacob saw them, he said, “This is the
camp of God.” So he named that place
Mahanaim.*
4 Jacob sent messengers ahead of him to his
brother Esau in the land of Seir, the country of
Edom.
5 He instructed them, “You are to say to my
master Esau, ‘Your servant Jacob says: I have
been staying with Laban and have remained
there until now.
6 I have oxen, donkeys, flocks, male slaves,
and female slaves. I have sent this message to
inform my master, so that I may find favor in
your sight.’ ”
7 When the messengers returned to Jacob,
they said, “We went to your brother Esau, and
now he is coming to meet you—he and four
hundred men with him.”
8 In great fear and distress, Jacob divided his
people into two camps, as well as the flocks and
herds and camels.
9 He thought, “If Esau comes and attacks one
camp, then the other camp can escape.”
10 Then Jacob declared, “O God of my father
Abraham, God of my father Isaac, the LORD who

* **32:3 32:3** *Mahanaim* means *two camps.*

told me, ‘Go back to your country and to your kindred, and I will make you prosper,’
11 I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness you have shown your servant. Indeed, with only my staff I came across the Jordan, but now I have become two camps.
12 Please deliver me from the hand of my brother Esau, for I am afraid that he may come and attack me and the mothers and children with me.
13 But you have said, ‘I will surely make you prosper, and I will make your offspring like the sand of the sea, too numerous to count.’ ”
14 Jacob spent the night there, and from what he had brought with him, he selected a gift for his brother Esau:
15 200 female goats, 20 male goats, 200 ewes, 20 rams,
16 30 milk camels with their young, 40 cows, 10 bulls, 20 female donkeys, and 10 male donkeys.
17 He entrusted them to his servants in separate herds and told them, “Go on ahead of me, and keep some distance between the herds.”
18 He instructed the one in the lead, “When my brother Esau meets you and asks, ‘To whom do you belong, where are you going, and whose animals are these before you?’
19 then you are to say, ‘They belong to your servant Jacob. They are a gift, sent to my lord Esau. And behold, Jacob is behind us.’ ”
20 He also instructed the second, the third, and all those following behind the herds: “When you meet Esau, you are to say the same thing to him.

21 You are also to say, ‘Look, your servant
Jacob is right behind us.’ ” For he thought, “I will
appease Esau† with the gift that is going before
me. After that I can face him, and perhaps he
will accept me.‡”
22 So Jacob’s gifts went on before him, while
he spent the night in the camp.
23 During the night Jacob got up and took his
two wives, his two slave women, and his eleven
sons, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok.
24 He took them and sent them across the
stream, along with all his possessions.
25 So Jacob was left all alone, and there a man§
wrestled with him until daybreak.
26 When the man saw that he could not
overpower Jacob, he struck the socket of Jacob’s
hip and dislocated it as they wrestled.
27 Then the man said, “Let me go, for it is
daybreak.”
But Jacob replied, “I will not let you go unless
you bless me.”
28 “What is your name?” the man asked.
“Jacob,” he replied.
29 Then the man said, “Your name will no
longer be Jacob,* but Israel,† because you have
struggled with God and with men, and you have
prevailed.”

---

† **32:21 32:21** Or *I will appease his face* ‡ **32:21 32:21** Literally *perhaps he will lift up my face* § **32:25 32:25** Or *Man*; here and in verses 26–29; corresponding pronouns may also be capitalized
* **32:29 32:29** *Jacob* means *he grasps the heel* or *he deceives.*
† **32:29 32:29** *Israel* means *he struggles with God.*

30 And Jacob requested, “Please tell me your
name.”
But he replied, “Why do you ask my name?”
Then he blessed Jacob there.
31 So Jacob named the place Peniel,‡ saying,
“Indeed, I have seen God face to face, and yet my
life was spared.”
32 The sun rose above him as he passed by
Penuel,§ and he was limping because of his hip.
33 Therefore to this day the Israelites do not
eat the tendon attached to the socket of the hip,
because the socket of Jacob’s hip was struck
near that tendon.

33

1 Now Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming
toward him with four hundred men. So he
divided the children among Leah, Rachel, and
the two slave women.
2 He put the slave women and their children
in front, Leah and her children next, and Rachel
and Joseph at the rear.
3 But Jacob himself went on ahead and bowed
to the ground seven times as he approached his
brother.
4 Esau, however, ran to him and embraced
him, threw his arms around his neck, and kissed
him. And they both wept.
5 When Esau looked up and saw the women
and children, he asked, “Who are these with
you?”

---

‡ **32:31 32:31** *Peniel* means *the face of God.* § **32:32 32:32** *Penuel* is a variant of *Peniel*; see verse 31.

Jacob answered, “These are the children God
has graciously given your servant.”
6 Then the slave women and their children
approached and bowed down.
7 Leah and her children also approached and
bowed down, and then Joseph and Rachel
approached and bowed down.
8 “What do you mean by sending this whole
company to meet me?” asked Esau.
“To find favor in your sight, my lord,” Jacob
answered.
9 “I already have plenty, my brother,” Esau
replied. “Keep what belongs to you.”
10 But Jacob insisted, “No, please! If I have
found favor in your sight, then receive this gift
from my hand. For indeed, I have seen your
face, and it is like seeing the face of God, since
you have received me favorably.
11 Please accept my gift* that was brought to
you, because God has been gracious to me and I
have all I need.” So Jacob pressed him until he
accepted.
12 Then Esau said, “Let us be on our way, and I
will go ahead of you.”
13 But Jacob replied, “My lord knows that the
children are frail, and I must care for sheep and
cattle that are nursing their young. If they are
driven hard for even a day, all the animals will
die.
14 Please let my lord go ahead of his servant. I
will continue on slowly, at a comfortable pace

* **33:11 33:11** Or *blessing* or *treaty of peace*

for the livestock and children, until I come to my
lord at Seir."
15 "Let me leave some of my people with you,"
Esau said.
But Jacob replied, "Why do that? Let me find
favor in the sight of my lord."
16 So that day Esau started on his way back to
Seir,
17 but Jacob went on to Succoth,† where he
built a house for himself and shelters for his
livestock; that is why the place was called
Succoth.
18 After Jacob had come from Paddan-aram,‡
he arrived safely at the city of Shechem in the
land of Canaan, and he camped just outside the
city.
19 And the plot of ground where he pitched his
tent, he purchased from the sons of Hamor,
Shechem's father, for a hundred pieces of silver.§
20 There he set up an altar and called it
El-Elohe-Israel.*

34

1 Now Dinah, the daughter Leah had borne to
Jacob, went out to visit the daughters of the land.
2 When Shechem son of Hamor the Hivite, the
prince of the region, saw her, he took her and
lay with her by force.

---

† **33:17 33:17** *Succoth* means *booths* or *shelters* or *tabernacles*; twice in this verse. ‡ **33:18 33:18** That is, northwest Mesopotamia § **33:19 33:19** Hebrew *a hundred kesitahs*; the value or weight of the kesitah is no longer known * **33:20 33:20** *El-Elohe-Israel* means *God is the God of Israel* or *mighty is the God of Israel.*

3 And his soul was drawn to Dinah, the
daughter of Jacob. He loved the young girl and
spoke to her tenderly.
4 So Shechem told his father Hamor, “Get me
this girl as a wife.”
5 Jacob heard that Shechem had defiled his
daughter Dinah, but since his sons were with his
livestock in the field, he remained silent about it
until they returned.
6 Meanwhile, Shechem’s father Hamor came
to speak with Jacob.
7 When Jacob’s sons heard what had
happened, they returned from the field. They
were filled with grief and fury, because
Shechem had committed an outrage in Israel*
by lying with Jacob’s daughter—a thing that
should not be done.
8 But Hamor said to them, “My son Shechem
longs for your daughter. Please give her to him
as his wife.
9 Intermarry with us; give us your daughters
and take our daughters for yourselves.
10 You may settle among us, and the land will
be open to you. Live here, move about freely,
and acquire your own property.”
11 Then Shechem said to Dinah’s father and
brothers, “Grant me this favor, and I will give
you whatever you ask.
12 Demand a high dowry and an expensive
gift, and I will give you whatever you ask. Only
give me the girl as my wife!”

---

* **34:7 34:7** Or *against Israel*

13 But because Shechem had defiled their
sister Dinah, Jacob's sons answered him and his
father Hamor deceitfully.
14 "We cannot do such a thing," they said. "To
give our sister to an uncircumcised man would
be a disgrace to us.
15 We will consent to this on one condition,
that you become circumcised like us—every one
of your males.
16 Then we will give you our daughters and
take your daughters for ourselves. We will dwell
among you and become one people.
17 But if you will not agree to be circumcised,
then we will take our daughter and go."
18 Their offer seemed good to Hamor and his
son Shechem.
19 The young man, who was the most
respected of all his father's household, did not
hesitate to fulfill this request, because he was
delighted with Jacob's daughter.
20 So Hamor and his son Shechem went to the
gate of their city and addressed the men of their
city:
21 "These men are at peace with us. Let them
live and trade in our land; indeed, it is large
enough for them. Let us take their daughters in
marriage and give our daughters to them.
22 But only on this condition will the men
agree to dwell with us and be one people: if all
our men are circumcised as they are.
23 Will not their livestock, their possessions,
and all their animals become ours? Only let us
consent to them, and they will dwell among us."

24 All the men who went out of the city gate
listened to Hamor and his son Shechem, and
every male of the city was circumcised.
25 Three days later, while they were still in
pain, two of Jacob's sons (Dinah's brothers
Simeon and Levi) took their swords, went into
the unsuspecting city, and slaughtered every
male.
26 They killed Hamor and his son Shechem
with their swords, took Dinah out of Shechem's
house, and went away.
27 Jacob's other sons came upon the slaughter
and looted the city, because their sister had been
defiled.
28 They took their flocks and herds and
donkeys, and everything else in the city or in the
field.
29 They carried off all their possessions and
women and children, and they plundered
everything in their houses.
30 Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, "You
have brought trouble upon me by making me a
stench to the Canaanites and Perizzites, the
people of this land. We are few in number; if
they unite against me and attack me, I and my
household will be destroyed."
31 But they replied, "Should he have treated
our sister like a prostitute?"

35

1 Then God said to Jacob, "Arise, go up to
Bethel, and settle there. Build an altar there to
the God who appeared to you when you fled
from your brother Esau."

2 So Jacob told his household and all who were
with him, “Get rid of the foreign gods that are
among you. Purify yourselves and change your
garments.
3 Then let us arise and go to Bethel. I will build
an altar there to God, who answered me in my
day of distress. He has been with me wherever I
have gone.”
4 So they gave Jacob all their foreign gods and
all their earrings, and Jacob buried them under
the terebinth* near Shechem.
5 As they set out, a terror from God fell over
the surrounding cities, so that they did not
pursue Jacob’s sons.
6 So Jacob and everyone with him arrived in
Luz (that is, Bethel) in the land of Canaan.
7 There Jacob built an altar, and he called that
place El-bethel,† because it was there that God
had revealed himself to Jacob as he fled from his
brother.
8 Now Deborah, Rebekah’s nurse, died and
was buried under the oak‡ below Bethel. So
Jacob named it Allon-bacuth.§
9 After Jacob had returned from
Paddan-aram,* God appeared to him again and
blessed him.
10 And God said to him, “Though your name is
Jacob,† you will no longer be called Jacob.

---

* **35:4 35:4** Or *oak* or *great tree* † **35:7 35:7** *El-bethel* means *God of Bethel.* ‡ **35:8 35:8** Or *great tree* § **35:8 35:8** *Allon-bacuth* means *oak of weeping.* * **35:9 35:9** That is, northwest Mesopotamia; also in verse 26 † **35:10 35:10** *Jacob* means *he grasps the heel* or *he deceives.*

Instead, your name will be Israel.‡" So God
named him Israel.
11 And God told him, "I am God Almighty.§ Be
fruitful and multiply. A nation—even a company
of nations—shall come from you, and kings shall
descend from you.
12 The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I
will give to you, and I will give this land to your
descendants after you."
13 Then God went up from the place where he
had spoken with him.
14 So Jacob set up a pillar in the place where
God had spoken with him—a stone
marker—and he poured out a drink offering on
it and anointed it with oil.
15 Jacob called the place where God had
spoken with him Bethel.*
16 Later, they set out from Bethel, and while
they were still some distance from Ephrath,
Rachel began to give birth, and her labor was
difficult.
17 During her severe labor, the midwife said to
her, "Do not be afraid, for you are having
another son."
18 And with her last breath—for she was
dying—she named him Ben-oni.† But his father
called him Benjamin.‡
19 So Rachel died and was buried on the way
to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem).

---

‡ **35:10 35:10** *Israel* means *he struggles with God.* § **35:11 35:11** Hebrew *El-Shaddai* * **35:15 35:15** *Bethel* means *house of God.* † **35:18 35:18** *Ben-oni* could mean *son of my sorrow* or *son of my strength.* ‡ **35:18 35:18** *Benjamin* means *son of my right hand.*

20 Jacob set up a pillar on her grave; it marks
Rachel's tomb to this day.
21 Israel again set out and pitched his tent
beyond the Tower of Eder.
22 While Israel was living in that region,
Reuben went in and slept with his father's
concubine Bilhah, and Israel heard about it.
Jacob had twelve sons:

23 The sons of Leah were Reuben the firstborn
of Jacob, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and
Zebulun.
24 The sons of Rachel were Joseph and
Benjamin.
25 The sons of Rachel's maidslave woman
Bilhah were Dan and Naphtali.
26 And the sons of Leah's maidslave woman
Zilpah were Gad and Asher.

These are the sons of Jacob, who were born to
him in Paddan-aram.
27 Jacob returned to his father Isaac at Mamre,
near Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron), where
Abraham and Isaac had stayed.
28 And Isaac lived 180 years.
29 Then he breathed his last and died and was
gathered to his people, old and full of years. And
his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.

36

1 This is the account of Esau (that is, Edom).
2 Esau took his wives from the daughters of
Canaan: Adah daughter of Elon the Hittite,
Oholibamah daughter of Anah and
granddaughter of Zibeon the Hivite,

3 and Basemath daughter of Ishmael and sister
of Nebaioth.
4 And Adah bore Eliphaz to Esau, Basemath
gave birth to Reuel,
5 and Oholibamah gave birth to Jeush, Jalam,
and Korah. These were the sons of Esau, who
were born to him in the land of Canaan.
6 Later, Esau took his wives and sons and
daughters and all the people of his household,
along with his livestock, all his other animals,
and all the property he had acquired in Canaan,
and he moved to a land far away from his
brother Jacob.
7 For their possessions were too great for them
to dwell together; the land where they stayed
could not support them because of their
livestock.
8 So Esau (that is, Edom) settled in the area of
Mount Seir.
9 This is the account of Esau, the father of the
Edomites, in the area of Mount Seir.
10 These are the names of Esau's sons: Eliphaz
son of Esau's wife Adah, and Reuel son of Esau's
wife Basemath.
11 The sons of Eliphaz were Teman, Omar,
Zepho, Gatam, and Kenaz.
12 Additionally, Timna, a concubine of Esau's
son Eliphaz, gave birth to Amalek. These are the
grandsons of Esau's wife Adah.
13 These are the sons of Reuel: Nahath, Zerah,
Shammah, and Mizzah. They are the grandsons
of Esau's wife Basemath.
14 These are the sons of Esau's wife
Oholibamah (daughter of Anah and

granddaughter of Zibeon) whom she bore to
Esau: Jeush, Jalam, and Korah.
15 These are the chiefs among the sons of Esau.
The sons of Eliphaz the firstborn of Esau: Chiefs
Teman, Omar, Zepho, Kenaz,
16 Korah,* Gatam, and Amalek. They are the
chiefs of Eliphaz in the land of Edom, and they
are the grandsons of Adah.
17 These are the sons of Esau's son Reuel:
Chiefs Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah.
They are the chiefs descended from Reuel in the
land of Edom, and they are the grandsons of
Esau's wife Basemath.
18 These are the sons of Esau's wife
Oholibamah: Chiefs Jeush, Jalam, and Korah.
They are the chiefs descended from Esau's wife
Oholibamah, the daughter of Anah.
19 All these are the sons of Esau (that is,
Edom), and they were their chiefs.
20 These are the sons of Seir the Horite, who
were living in the land: Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon,
Anah,
21 Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan. They are the
chiefs of the Horites, the descendants of Seir in
the land of Edom.
22 The sons of Lotan were Hori and Hemam.†
Timna was Lotan's sister.
23 These are the sons of Shobal: Alvan,
Manahath, Ebal, Shepho, and Onam.
24 These are the sons of Zibeon: Aiah and
Anah. (This is the Anah who found the hot

* **36:16 36:16** SP (also in verse 11 and 1 Chronicles 1:36) does not include *Korah*. † **36:22 36:22** *Hemam* is a variant of *Homam*; see 1 Chronicles 1:39.

springs in the wilderness as he was pasturing
the donkeys of his father Zibeon.)
25 These are the children of Anah: Dishon and
Oholibamah daughter of Anah.
26 These are the sons of Dishan:‡ Hemdan,
Eshban, Ithran, and Cheran.
27 These are the sons of Ezer: Bilhan, Zaavan,
and Akan.
28 These are the sons of Dishan: Uz and Aran.
29 These are the chiefs of the Horites: Chiefs
Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah,
30 Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan. They are the
chiefs of the Horites, according to their divisions
in the land of Seir.
31 These are the kings who reigned in the land
of Edom before any king reigned over the
Israelites:§

32 Bela son of Beor reigned in Edom; the name
of his city was Dinhabah.

33 When Bela died, Jobab son of Zerah from
Bozrah reigned in his place.

34 When Jobab died, Husham from the land of
the Temanites reigned in his place.

35 When Husham died, Hadad son of Bedad,
who defeated Midian in the country of
Moab, reigned in his place. And the name of
his city was Avith.

---

‡ **36:26 36:26** Compare verse 25 and 1 Chronicles 1:41, *Dishon*

§ **36:31 36:31** Or *before an Israelite king reigned over them:*

36 When Hadad died, Samlah from Masrekah
reigned in his place.

37 When Samlah died, Shaul from Rehoboth on
the Euphrates* reigned in his place.

38 When Shaul died, Baal-hanan son of Achbor
reigned in his place.

39 When Baal-hanan son of Achbor died,
Hadar† reigned in his place. His city was
named Pau, and his wife's name was
Mehetabel daughter of Matred, the daughter
of Me-zahab.
40 These are the names of Esau's chiefs,
according to their families and regions, by their
names: Chiefs Timna, Alvah, Jetheth,
41 Oholibamah, Elah, Pinon,
42 Kenaz, Teman, Mibzar,
43 Magdiel, and Iram. These were the chiefs of
Edom, according to their settlements in the land
they possessed. Esau was the father of the
Edomites.

37

1 Now Jacob lived in the land where his father
had resided, the land of Canaan.
2 This is the account of Jacob. When Joseph
was seventeen years old, he was tending the
flock with his brothers. He was still a youth,

---

* **36:37 36:37** Hebrew *the River* † **36:39 36:39** Leningrad Codex and other MT manuscripts; some MT manuscripts, SP, and Syriac (see also 1 Chronicles 1:50) *Hadad*

working with the sons of his father's wives
Bilhah and Zilpah, and he brought their father a
bad report about them.
3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than his other
sons, because Joseph had been born to him in his
old age; so he made him a robe of many colors.*
4 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father
loved him more than any of them, they hated
him and could not speak a kind word to him.
5 Then Joseph had a dream, and when he told
it to his brothers, they hated him even more.
6 He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had:
7 We were binding sheaves of grain in the
field, and suddenly my sheaf rose and stood
upright, while your sheaves gathered around
and bowed down to mine."
8 "Do you intend to reign over us?" his
brothers asked. "Will you actually rule us?" So
they hated him even more because of his dream
and his statements.
9 Then Joseph had another dream and told it
to his brothers. "Look," he said, "I had another
dream, and this time the sun and moon and
eleven stars were bowing down to me."
10 He told his father and brothers, but his
father rebuked him and said, "What is this
dream that you have had? Will your mother and
brothers and I actually come and bow down to
the ground before you?"
11 And his brothers were jealous of him, but
his father kept in mind what he had said.

---

* **37:3 37:3** Possibly *a robe with long sleeves*; also in verses 23 and 32

12 Some time later, Joseph's brothers had gone
to pasture their father's flocks near Shechem.
13 Israel said to him, "Are not your brothers
pasturing the flocks at Shechem? Get ready; I
am sending you to them."
"I am ready," Joseph replied.
14 Then Israel told him, "Go now and see how
your brothers and the flocks are faring, and
bring word back to me."
So he sent him off from the Valley of Hebron.
And when Joseph arrived in Shechem,
15 a man found him wandering in the field and
asked, "What are you looking for?"
16 "I am looking for my brothers," Joseph
replied. "Can you please tell me where they are
pasturing their flocks?"
17 "They have moved on from here," the man
answered. "I heard them say, 'Let us go to
Dothan.' " So Joseph set out after his brothers
and found them at Dothan.
18 Now Joseph's brothers saw him in the
distance, and before he arrived, they plotted to
kill him.
19 "Here comes that dreamer!" they said to one
another.
20 "Come now, let us kill him and throw him
into one of the pits. We can say that a vicious
animal has devoured him. Then we shall see
what becomes of his dreams!"
21 When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue
Joseph from their hands. "Let us not take his
life," he said.
22 "Do not shed his blood. Throw him into this
pit in the wilderness, but do not lay a hand on

him." Reuben said this so that he could rescue
Joseph from their hands and return him to his
father.
23 So when Joseph came to his brothers, they
stripped him of his robe—the robe of many
colors he was wearing—
24 and they took him and threw him into the
pit. Now the pit was empty, with no water in it.
25 And as they sat down to eat a meal, they
looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites
coming from Gilead. Their camels were carrying
spices, balm, and myrrh on their way down to
Egypt.
26 Then Judah said to his brothers, "What
profit will we gain if we kill our brother and
cover up his blood?
27 Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites and
not lay a hand on him; for he is our brother, our
own flesh." And they agreed.
28 So when the Midianite traders passed by, his
brothers pulled Joseph out of the pit and sold
him for twenty shekels of silver† to the
Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.
29 When Reuben returned to the pit and saw
that Joseph was not there, he tore his clothes,
30 returned to his brothers, and said, "The boy
is gone! What am I going to do?"
31 Then they took Joseph's robe, slaughtered a
young goat, and dipped the robe in its blood.

† **37:28 37:28** *20 shekels* is approximately 8 ounces or 228 grams of silver.

32 They sent the robe of many colors to their
father and said, “We found this. Examine it to
see whether it is your son’s robe or not.”
33 His father recognized it and said, “It is my
son’s robe! A vicious animal has devoured him.
Joseph has surely been torn to pieces!”
34 Then Jacob tore his clothes, put sackcloth
around his waist, and mourned for his son
many days.
35 All his sons and daughters tried to comfort
him, but he refused to be comforted. “No,” he
said. “I will go down to Sheol mourning for my
son.” So his father wept for him.
36 Meanwhile, the Medanites‡ sold Joseph in
Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and
captain of the guard.

38

1 About that time, Judah left his brothers and
settled near a man named Hirah, an Adullamite.
2 There Judah saw the daughter of a Canaanite
man named Shua, and he took her as a wife and
slept with her.
3 So she conceived and gave birth to a son, and
Judah named him Er.
4 Again she conceived and gave birth to a son,
and she named him Onan.
5 Then she gave birth to another son and
named him Shelah; it was at Chezib that she
gave birth to him.

‡ **37:36 37:36** Samaritan Pentateuch, LXX, Vulgate, and Syriac *the Midianites*; compare verse 28

6 Now Judah acquired a wife for Er, his
firstborn, and her name was Tamar.
7 But Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the
sight of the LORD; so the LORD put him to death.
8 Then Judah said to Onan, "Sleep with your
brother's wife. Perform your duty as her
brother-in-law and raise up offspring for your
brother."
9 But Onan knew that the offspring would not
belong to him; so whenever he would sleep with
his brother's wife, he would spill his seed on the
ground so that he would not produce offspring
for his brother.
10 What he did was wicked in the sight of the
LORD, so he put Onan to death as well.
11 Then Judah said to his daughter-in-law
Tamar, "Live as a widow in your father's house
until my son Shelah grows up." For he thought,
"He may die too, like his brothers." So Tamar
went to live in her father's house.
12 After a long time Judah's wife, the daughter
of Shua, died. When Judah had finished
mourning, he and his friend Hirah the
Adullamite went up to his sheepshearers at
Timnah.
13 When Tamar was told, "Your father-in-law is
going up to Timnah to shear his sheep,"
14 she removed her widow's garments,
covered her face with a veil to disguise herself,
and sat at the entrance to Enaim, which is on the
way to Timnah. For she saw that although
Shelah had grown up, 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 Not realizing that she was his
daughter-in-law, he went over to her by the
roadside and said, “Come now, let me sleep with
you.”

“What will you give me for sleeping with you?”
she inquired.

17 “I will send you a young goat from my flock,”
Judah answered.

But she replied, “Only if you leave me
something as a pledge until you send it.”

18 “What pledge should I give you?” he asked.

She answered, “Your seal and your cord, and
the staff in your hand.” So he gave them to her
and slept with her, and she became pregnant by
him.
19 Then Tamar got up and departed. And she
removed her veil and put on her widow’s
garments again.

20 Now when Judah sent his friend Hirah the
Adullamite with the young goat to collect the
items he had left with the woman, he could not
find her.
21 He asked the men of that place, “Where is
the shrine prostitute who was beside the road at
Enaim?”

“No shrine prostitute has been here,” they
answered.

22 So Hirah returned to Judah and said, “I could
not find her, and furthermore, the men of that
place said, ‘No shrine prostitute has been here.’ ”

23 “Let her keep the items,” Judah replied.
“Otherwise we will become a laughingstock.*
After all, I did send her this young goat, but you
could not find her.”
24 About three months later, Judah was told,
“Your daughter-in-law Tamar has prostituted
herself, and now she is pregnant.”
“Bring her out!” Judah replied. “Let her be
burned to death!”
25 As she was being brought out, Tamar sent a
message to her father-in-law: “I am pregnant by
the man to whom these items belong.” And she
added, “Please examine them. Whose seal and
cord and staff are these?”
26 Judah recognized the items and said, “She is
more righteous than I, since I did not give her to
my son Shelah.” And he did not have relations
with her again.
27 When the time came for Tamar to give
birth, there were twins in her womb.
28 And as she was giving birth, one of them put
out his hand; so the midwife took a scarlet
thread and tied it around his wrist. “This one
came out first,” she announced.
29 But when he pulled his hand back and his
brother came out, she said, “You have broken
out first!” So he was named Perez.†
30 Then his brother came out with the scarlet
thread around his wrist, and he was named
Zerah.‡

---

* **38:23 38:23** Or *we will become despised* † **38:29 38:29** *Perez* means *breaking out.* ‡ **38:30 38:30** *Zerah* can mean *scarlet* or *brightness.*

39

1 Meanwhile, Joseph had been taken down to
Egypt, where an Egyptian named Potiphar, an
officer of Pharaoh and captain of the guard,
bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken
him there.
2 And the LORD was with Joseph, and he
became a successful man, serving in the
household of his Egyptian master.

3 When his master saw that the LORD was
with him and made him prosper in all he did,
4 Joseph found favor in his sight and became
his personal attendant.

Potiphar put him in charge of his household
and entrusted him with everything he owned.
5 From the time that he put Joseph in charge of
his household and all he owned, the LORD
blessed the Egyptian's household on account of
him. The LORD's blessing was on everything he
owned, both in his house and in his field.
6 So Potiphar left all that he owned in Joseph's
care; he did not concern himself with anything
except the food he ate.

Now Joseph was well-built and handsome,
7 and after some time his master's wife cast
her eyes upon Joseph and said, "Sleep with me."

8 But he refused. "Look," he said to his master's
wife, "with me here, my master does not
concern himself with anything in his house, and
he has entrusted everything he owns to my care.
9 No one in this house is greater than I am. He
has withheld nothing from me except you,

because you are his wife. So how could I do such
a great evil and sin against God?"
10 Although Potiphar's wife spoke to Joseph
day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or
even be near her.
11 One day, however, Joseph went into the
house to attend to his work, and not a single
household servant was inside.
12 She grabbed Joseph by his cloak and said,
"Sleep with me!" But leaving his cloak in her
hand, he escaped and ran outside.
13 When she saw that he had left his cloak in
her hand and had run out of the house,
14 she called her household servants. "Look,"
she said, "this Hebrew has been brought to us to
make sport of us. He came to me so he could
sleep with me, but I screamed as loud as I could.
15 When he heard me scream for help, he left
his cloak beside me and ran out of the house."
16 So Potiphar's wife kept Joseph's cloak beside
her until his master came home.
17 Then she told him the same story: "The
Hebrew slave you brought us came to me to
make sport of me,
18 but when I screamed for help, he left his
cloak beside me and ran out of the house."
19 When his master heard the story his wife
told him, saying, "This is what your slave did to
me," he burned with anger.
20 So Joseph's master took him and had him
thrown into the prison where the king's
prisoners were confined.
While Joseph was there in the prison,

21 the LORD was with him and extended
kindness to him, granting him favor in the eyes
of the prison warden.
22 And the warden put all the prisoners under
Joseph's care, so that he was responsible for all
that was done in the prison.
23 The warden did not concern himself with
anything under Joseph's care, because the LORD
was with Joseph and gave him success in
whatever he did.

40

1 Some time later, the king's cupbearer and
baker offended their master, the king of Egypt.
2 Pharaoh was angry with his two officers, the
chief cupbearer and the chief baker,
3 and imprisoned them in the house of the
captain of the guard, the same prison where
Joseph was confined.
4 The captain of the guard assigned them to
Joseph, and he became their personal attendant.
After they had been in custody for some time,
5 both of these men—the Egyptian king's
cupbearer and baker, who were being held in
the prison—had a dream on the same night, and
each dream had its own meaning.
6 When Joseph came to them in the morning,
he saw that they were distraught.
7 So he asked the officials of Pharaoh who
were in custody with him in his master's house,
"Why are your faces so downcast today?"
8 "We both had dreams," they replied, "but
there is no one to interpret them."

Then Joseph said to them, “Don’t
interpretations belong to God? Tell me your
dreams.”
9 So the chief cupbearer told Joseph his dream:
“In my dream there was a vine before me,
10 and on the vine were three branches. As it
budded, its blossoms opened and its clusters
ripened into grapes.
11 Pharaoh’s cup was in my hand, and I took
the grapes, squeezed them into his cup, and
placed the cup in his hand.”
12 Joseph replied, “This is the interpretation:
The three branches are three days.
13 Within three days Pharaoh will lift up your
head and restore your position. You will put
Pharaoh’s cup in his hand, just as you did when
you were his cupbearer.
14 But when it goes well for you, please
remember me and show me kindness by
mentioning me to Pharaoh, that he might bring
me out of this prison.
15 For I was kidnapped from the land of the
Hebrews, and even here I have done nothing for
which they should have 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 sorts of baked
goods for Pharaoh, but the birds were eating
them out of the basket on my head.”
18 Joseph replied, “This is the interpretation:
The three baskets are three days.

19 Within three days Pharaoh will lift off your
head and impale you on a pole.* Then the birds
will eat the flesh of your body."
20 On the third day, which was Pharaoh's
birthday, he held a feast for all his officials, and
in their presence he lifted up the heads of the
chief cupbearer and the chief baker.
21 Pharaoh restored the chief cupbearer to his
position, so that he once again placed the cup in
Pharaoh's hand.
22 But Pharaoh impaled the chief baker, just as
Joseph had described to them in his
interpretation.†
23 The chief cupbearer, however, did not
remember Joseph; he forgot all about him.

41

1 After two full years had passed, Pharaoh had
a dream: He was standing beside the Nile,
2 when seven cows, sleek and well-fed, came
up from the river and began to graze among the
reeds.
3 After them, seven other cows, sickly and
thin, came up from the Nile and stood beside the
well-fed cows on the bank of the river.
4 And the cows that were sickly and thin
devoured the seven sleek, well-fed cows.
Then Pharaoh woke up,
5 but he fell back asleep and dreamed a
second time: Seven heads of grain, plump and
ripe, came up on one stalk.

---

* **40:19 40:19** Or *and hang you on a tree*; similarly in verse 22
† **40:22 40:22** Literally *had interpreted to them*

6 After them, seven other heads of grain
sprouted, thin and scorched by the east wind.
7 And the thin heads of grain swallowed up
the seven plump, ripe ones. Then Pharaoh
awoke and realized it was a dream.
8 In the morning his spirit was troubled, so he
summoned all the magicians and wise men of
Egypt. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no
one could interpret them for him.
9 Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh,
"Today I recall my failures.
10 Pharaoh was once angry with his servants,
and he put me and the chief baker in the
custody of the captain of the guard.
11 One night both the chief baker and I had
dreams, and each dream had its own meaning.
12 Now 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
individually.
13 And it happened to us just as he had
interpreted: I was restored to my position, and
the other man was hanged."
14 So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, who was
quickly brought out of the dungeon. After he
had shaved and changed his clothes, he went in
before Pharaoh.
15 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream, and
no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said
of you that when you hear a dream you can
interpret it."
16 "I myself cannot do it," Joseph replied, "but
God will give Pharaoh a sound answer."

17 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph: “In my dream
I was standing on the bank of the Nile,
18 when seven cows, well-fed and sleek, came
up from the river and began to graze among the
reeds.
19 After them, seven other cows—sickly, ugly,
and thin—came up. I have never seen such ugly
cows in all the land of Egypt!
20 Then the thin, ugly cows devoured the
seven well-fed cows that were there first.
21 When they had devoured them, however, no
one could tell that they had done so; their
appearance was as ugly as it had been before.
Then I awoke.
22 In my dream I also saw seven heads of
grain, plump and ripe, growing on a single stalk.
23 After them, seven other heads of grain
sprouted—withered, thin, and scorched by the
east wind.
24 And the thin heads of grain swallowed the
seven plump ones.

I told this dream to the magicians, but no one
could explain it to me.”

25 At this, Joseph said to Pharaoh, “The dreams
of Pharaoh are one and the same. God has
revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do.
26 The seven good cows are seven years, and
the seven ripe heads of grain are seven years.
The dreams have the same meaning.
27 Moreover, the seven thin, ugly cows that
came up after them are seven years, and so are
the seven worthless heads of grain scorched by
the east wind—they are seven years of famine.

28 It is just as I said to Pharaoh: God has
shown Pharaoh what he is about to do.
29 Behold, seven years of great abundance are
coming throughout the land of Egypt,
30 but seven years of famine will follow them.
Then all the abundance in the land of Egypt will
be forgotten, and the famine will devastate the
land.
31 The abundance in the land will not be
remembered, since the famine that follows it
will be so severe.
32 Moreover, because the dream was given to
Pharaoh in two versions, the matter has been
decreed by God, and he will carry it out shortly.
33 Now, therefore, Pharaoh should look for a
discerning and wise man and set him over the
land of Egypt.
34 Let Pharaoh take action and appoint
commissioners over the land to take a fifth from
the land* of Egypt during the seven years of
abundance.
35 Under the authority of Pharaoh, let them
collect all the excess food from these good years,
that they may come and lay up the grain to be
preserved as food in the cities.
36 This food will be a reserve for the land
during the seven years of famine to come upon
the land of Egypt. Then the country will not
perish in the famine."
37 This proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his
officials.

---

* **41:34 41:34** See LXX *a fifth of the harvest*

38 So Pharaoh asked them, “Can we find
anyone like this man, in whom the spirit of God†
abides?”
39 Then 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 shall be in charge of my house, and all
my people are to obey your commands. Only
with regard to the throne will I be greater than
you.”
41 Pharaoh also told Joseph, “I hereby place
you over all the land of Egypt.”
42 Then Pharaoh removed the signet ring from
his finger, put it on Joseph’s finger, clothed him
in garments of fine linen, and placed a gold
chain around his neck.
43 He had Joseph ride in his second chariot,
with men calling out before him, “Bow the
knee!”‡ So he placed him over all the land of
Egypt.
44 And Pharaoh declared to Joseph, “I am
Pharaoh, but without your permission, no one in
all the land of Egypt shall lift his hand or foot.”
45 Pharaoh gave Joseph the name
Zaphenath-paneah,§ and he gave him Asenath
daughter of Potiphera, priest of On,* to be his
wife. And Joseph took charge of all the land of
Egypt.

---

† **41:38 41:38** Or *the spirit of the gods* ‡ **41:43 41:43** That is, *“Abrek,”* probably an Egyptian word that sounds similar to the Hebrew for *kneel* § **41:45 41:45** *Zaphenath-paneah* probably means *Revealer of Mysteries* or *God speaks and lives.* * **41:45 41:45** That is, Heliopolis, as in LXX; also in verse 50

46 Now Joseph was thirty years old when he
entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt.
And Joseph left Pharaoh's presence and traveled
throughout the land of Egypt.
47 During the seven years of abundance, the
land brought forth bountifully.
48 During those seven years, Joseph collected
all the excess food in the land of Egypt and
stored it in the cities. In every city he laid up the
food from the fields around it.
49 So Joseph stored up grain in such
abundance, like the sand of the sea, that he
stopped keeping track of it; for it was beyond
measure.
50 Before the years of famine arrived, two sons
were born to Joseph by Asenath daughter of
Potiphera, priest of On.
51 Joseph named the firstborn Manasseh,†
saying, "God has made me forget all my
hardship and all my father's household."
52 And the second son he named Ephraim,‡
saying, "God has made me fruitful in the land of
my affliction."
53 When the seven years of abundance in the
land of Egypt came to an end,
54 the seven years of famine began, just as
Joseph had said. And although there was famine
in every country, there was food throughout the
land of Egypt.

† **41:51 41:51** *Manasseh* sounds like the Hebrew for *making to forget.* ‡ **41:52 41:52** *Ephraim* sounds like the Hebrew for *making fruitful* or *twice fruitful.*

55 When extreme hunger came to all the land
of Egypt and the people cried out to Pharaoh for
food, he told all the Egyptians, “Go to Joseph and
do whatever he tells you.”
56 When the famine had spread over all the
land, Joseph opened up all the storehouses and
sold grain to the Egyptians; for the famine was
severe in the land of Egypt.
57 And every nation came to Joseph in Egypt to
buy grain, because the famine was severe over
all the earth.

42

1 When Jacob learned that there was grain in
Egypt, he said to his sons, “Why are you staring
at one another?”
2 “Look,” he added, “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 So ten of Joseph’s brothers went down to buy
grain from Egypt.
4 But Jacob did not send Joseph’s brother
Benjamin with his brothers, for he said, “I am
afraid that harm might befall him.”
5 So the sons of Israel were among those who
came to buy grain, since the famine had also
spread to the land of Canaan.
6 Now Joseph was the ruler of the land; he was
the one who sold grain to all its people. So when
his brothers arrived, they bowed down before
him with their faces to the ground.
7 And when Joseph saw his brothers, he
recognized them, but he treated them as

strangers and spoke harshly to them. “Where
have you come from?” he asked.
“From the land of Canaan,” they replied. “We
are here to buy food.”
8 Although Joseph recognized his brothers,
they did not recognize him.
9 Joseph remembered his dreams about them
and said, “You are spies! You have come to see if
our land is vulnerable.”
10 “Not so, my lord,” they replied. “Your
servants have come to buy food.
11 We are all sons of one man. Your servants
are honest men, not spies.”
12 “No,” he told them. “You have come to see if
our land is vulnerable.”
13 But they answered, “Your servants are
twelve brothers, the sons of one man in the land
of Canaan. The youngest is now with our father,
and one is no more.”
14 Then Joseph declared, “Just as I said, you are
spies!
15 And this is how you will be tested: As surely
as Pharaoh lives, you shall not leave this place
unless your youngest brother comes here.
16 Send one of your number to get your
brother; the rest of you will be confined so that
the truth of your words may be tested. If they
are untrue, then as surely as Pharaoh lives, you
are spies!”
17 So Joseph imprisoned them for three days,
18 and on the third day he said to them, “I fear
God. So do this and you will live:

19 If you are honest, leave one of your brothers
in custody while the rest of you go and take back
grain to relieve the hunger of your households.
20 Then bring your youngest brother to me so
that your words can be verified, that you may
not die."
And to this they consented.
21 Then they said to one another, "Surely we
are being punished because of our brother. We
saw his anguish when he pleaded with us, but
we would not listen. That is why this distress
has come upon us."
22 And Reuben responded, "Didn't I tell you not
to sin against the boy? But you would not listen.
Now we must account for his blood!"
23 They did not realize that Joseph understood
them, since there was an interpreter between
them.
24 And he turned away from them and wept.
When he turned back and spoke to them, he
took Simeon from them and had him bound
before their eyes.
25 Then Joseph gave orders to fill their bags
with grain, to return each man's silver* to his
sack, and to give them provisions for their
journey. This order was carried out,
26 and they loaded the grain on their donkeys
and departed.
27 At the place where they lodged for the night,
one of them opened his sack to get feed for his

* **42:25 42:25** Or *money*; here and throughout chapters 42–44

donkey, and he saw his silver in the mouth of the sack.
28 “My silver has been returned!” he said to his brothers. “It is here in my sack.”
Their hearts sank, and trembling, they turned to one another and said, “What is this that God has done to us?”
29 When they reached their father Jacob in the land of Canaan, they described to him all that had happened to them:
30 “The man who is lord of the land spoke harshly to us and accused us of spying on the country.
31 But we told him, ‘We are honest men, not spies.
32 We are twelve brothers, sons of one father. One is no more, and the youngest is now with our father in the land of Canaan.’
33 Then the man who is lord of the land said to us, ‘This is how I will know whether you are honest: Leave one brother with me, take food to relieve the hunger of your households, and go.
34 But bring your youngest brother back to me so I will know that you are not spies but honest men. Then I will give your brother back to you, and you can trade in the land.’ ”
35 As they began emptying their sacks, there in each man’s sack was his bag of silver! And when they and their father saw the bags of silver, they were dismayed.
36 Their father Jacob said to them, “You have deprived me of my sons. Joseph is gone and Simeon is no more. Now you want to take Benjamin. Everything is going against me!”

37 Then Reuben said to his father, “You may kill
my two sons if I fail to bring him back to you.
Put him in my care, and I will return him.”
38 But Jacob replied, “My son will not go down
there with you, for his brother is dead, and he
alone is left. If any harm comes to him on your
journey, you will bring my gray hair down to
Sheol in sorrow.”

43

1 Now the famine was still severe in the land.
2 So when Jacob’s sons had eaten all the grain
they had brought from Egypt, their father said
to them, “Go back and buy us a little more food.”
3 But Judah replied, “The man solemnly
warned us, ‘You will not see my face again
unless your brother is with you.’
4 If you will send our brother with us, we will
go down and buy food for you.
5 But if you will not send him, we will not go;
for the man told us, ‘You will not see my face
again unless your brother is with you.’ ”
6 “Why did you bring this trouble upon me?”
Israel asked. “Why did you tell the man you had
another brother?”
7 They replied, “The man questioned us in
detail about ourselves and our family: ‘Is your
father still alive? Do you have another brother?’
And we answered him accordingly. How could
we possibly know that he would say, ‘Bring your
brother here’?”
8 And Judah said to his father Israel, “Send the
boy with me, and we will go at once, so that we

may live and not die—neither we, nor you, nor
our children.
9 I will guarantee his safety. You may hold me
personally responsible. If I do not bring him
back and set him before you, then may I bear
the guilt before you all my life.
10 If we had not delayed, we could have come
and gone twice by now."
11 Then their father Israel said to them, "If it
must be so, then do this: Put some of the best
products of the land in your packs and carry
them down as a gift for the man—a little balm
and a little honey, spices and myrrh, pistachios
and almonds.
12 Take double the silver with you so that you
may return the silver that was put back into the
mouths of your sacks. Perhaps it was a mistake.
13 Take your brother as well, and return to the
man at once.
14 May God Almighty* grant you mercy before
the man, that he may release your other brother
along with Benjamin. As for me, if I am
bereaved, I am bereaved."
15 So the men took these gifts, along with
double the amount of silver, and Benjamin as
well. Then they hurried down to Egypt and
stood before Joseph.
16 When Joseph saw Benjamin with his
brothers, he said to the steward of his house,
"Take these men to my house. Slaughter an
animal and prepare it, for they shall dine with
me at noon."

---

* **43:14 43:14** Hebrew *El-Shaddai*

17 The man did as Joseph had commanded and
took the brothers to Joseph's house.

18 But the brothers were frightened that they
had been taken to Joseph's house. "We have
been brought here because of the silver that was
returned in our bags the first time," they said.
"They intend to overpower us and take us as
slaves, along with our donkeys."

19 So they approached Joseph's steward and
spoke to him at the entrance to the house.
20 "Please, sir," they said, "we really did come
down here the first time to buy food.
21 But when we came to the place we lodged
for the night, we opened our sacks and, behold,
each of us found his silver in the mouth of his
sack! It was the full amount of our silver, and
we have brought it back with us.
22 We have brought additional silver with us
to buy food. We do not know who put our silver
in our sacks."

23 "It is fine," said the steward. "Do not be
afraid. Your God, the God of your father, gave
you the treasure that was in your sacks. I
received your silver." Then he brought Simeon
out to them.
24 And the steward took the men into Joseph's
house, gave them water to wash their feet, and
provided food for their donkeys.

25 Since the brothers had been told that they
were going to eat a meal there, they prepared
their gift for Joseph's arrival at noon.

26 When Joseph came home, they presented
him with the gifts they had brought, and they
bowed to the ground before him.

27 He asked if they were well, and then he
asked, “How is your elderly father you told me
about? Is he still alive?”

28 “Your servant our father is well,” they
answered. “He is still alive.” And they bowed
down to honor him.

29 When Joseph looked up and saw his brother
Benjamin, his own mother’s son, he asked, “Is
this your youngest brother, the one you told me
about?” Then he declared, “May God be gracious
to you, my son.”

30 Joseph hurried out because he was moved
to tears for his brother, and he went to a private
room to weep.
31 Then he washed his face and came back out.
Regaining his composure, he said, “Serve the
meal.”

32 They separately served Joseph, his brothers,
and the Egyptians. They ate separately because
the Egyptians would not eat with the Hebrews,
since that was detestable to them.
33 They were seated before Joseph in order by
age, from the firstborn to the youngest, and the
men looked at one another in astonishment.
34 When the portions were served to them
from Joseph’s table, Benjamin’s portion was five
times larger than any of the others. So they
feasted and drank freely with Joseph.

44

1 Then Joseph instructed his steward: “Fill the
men’s sacks with as much food as they can
carry, and put each one’s silver in the mouth of
his sack.
2 Put my cup, the silver one, in the mouth of
the youngest one’s sack, along with the silver for
his grain.”
So the steward did as Joseph had instructed.
3 At daybreak, the men were sent on their way
with their donkeys.
4 They had not gone far from the city when
Joseph told his steward, “Pursue the men at
once, and when you overtake them, ask, ‘Why
have you repaid good with evil?*
5 Is this not the cup† my master drinks from
and uses for divination? What you have done is
wicked!’ ”
6 When the steward overtook them, he relayed
these words to them.
7 “Why does my lord say these things?” they
asked. “Your servants could not possibly do such
a thing.
8 We even brought back to you from the land
of Canaan the silver we found in the mouths of
our sacks. Why would we steal silver or gold
from your master’s house?
9 If any of your servants is found to have it, he
must die, and the rest will become slaves of my
lord.”

---

* **44:4 44:4** LXX includes *Why have you stolen my silver cup?*
† **44:5 44:5** Hebrew *Is it not this which*

10 “As you say,” replied the steward. “But only
the one who is found with the cup will be my
slave, and the rest of you shall be free of blame.”
11 So each one quickly lowered his sack to the
ground and opened it.
12 The steward searched, beginning with the
oldest and ending with the youngest—and the
cup was found in Benjamin’s sack.
13 Then they all tore their clothes, loaded their
donkeys, and returned to the city.
14 When Judah and his brothers arrived at
Joseph’s house, he was still there, and they fell to
the ground before him.
15 “What is this deed you have done?” Joseph
declared. “Do you not know that a man like me
can surely divine the truth?”
16 “What can we say to my lord?” Judah
replied. “How can we plead? How can we justify
ourselves? God has exposed the iniquity of your
servants. We are now my lord’s slaves—both we
and the one who was found with the cup.”
17 But Joseph replied, “Far be it from me to do
this. The man who was found with the cup will
be my slave. The rest of you may return to your
father in peace.”
18 Then Judah approached Joseph and said,
“Sir, please let your servant speak personally to
my lord. Do not be angry with your servant, for
you are equal to Pharaoh himself.
19 My lord asked his servants, ‘Do you have a
father or a brother?’
20 And we answered, ‘We have an elderly
father and a younger brother, the child of his old

age. The boy's brother is dead. He is the only
one of his mother's sons left, and his father loves
him.'
21 Then you told your servants, 'Bring him
down to me so that I can see him for myself.'
22 So we said to my lord, 'The boy cannot leave
his father. If he were to leave, his father would
die.'
23 But you said to your servants, 'Unless your
younger brother comes down with you, you will
not see my face again.'
24 Now when we returned to your servant my
father, we relayed your words to him.
25 Then our father said, 'Go back and buy us
some food.'
26 But we answered, 'We cannot go down there
unless our younger brother goes with us. So if
our younger brother is not with us, we cannot
see the man.'
27 And your servant my father said to us, 'You
know that my wife bore me two sons.
28 When one of them was gone, I said: "Surely
he has been torn to pieces." And I have not seen
him since.
29 Now if you also take this one from me and
harm comes to him, you will bring my gray hair
down to Sheol in sorrow.'
30 So if the boy is not with us when I return to
your servant, and if my father, whose life is
wrapped up in the boy's life,
31 sees that the boy is not with us, he will die.
Then your servants will have brought the gray
hair of your servant our father down to Sheol in
sorrow.

32 Indeed, your servant guaranteed the boy's
safety to my father, saying, 'If I do not return
him to you, I will bear the guilt before you, my
father, all my life.'
33 Now please let your servant stay here as my
lord's slave in place of the boy. Let him return
with his brothers.
34 For how can I go back to my father without
the boy? I could not bear to see the misery that
would overwhelm him."

45

1 Then Joseph could no longer control himself
before all his attendants, and he cried out, "Send
everyone away from me!"
So none of them were with Joseph when he
made himself known to his brothers.
2 But he wept so loudly that the Egyptians
heard him, and Pharaoh's household soon heard
of it.
3 Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is
my father still alive?"
But they were unable to answer him, because
they were terrified in his presence.
4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Please
come near me." And they did so.
"I am Joseph, your brother," he said, "the one
you sold into Egypt!
5 And now, do not be distressed or angry with
yourselves that you sold me into this place,
because it was to save lives that God sent me
before you.

6 For the famine has covered the land these
two years, and there will be five more years
without plowing or harvesting.
7 God sent me before you to preserve you as a
remnant on the earth and to save your lives by a
great deliverance.*
8 Therefore it was not you who sent me here,
but God, who has made me a father to
Pharaoh—lord of all his household and ruler
over all the land of Egypt.
9 Now return quickly 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
without delay.
10 You shall settle in the land of Goshen and be
near me—you and your children and
grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and
everything you own.
11 And there I will provide for you, because
there will be five more years of famine.
Otherwise, you and your household and
everything you own will come to destitution.'
12 Behold! You and my brother Benjamin can
see that I, Joseph, am the one speaking with you.
13 Tell my father about all my splendor in
Egypt and everything you have seen. And bring
my father down here quickly."
14 Then Joseph threw his arms around his
brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin wept
as they embraced.

---

* **45:7 45:7** Or *and to keep you alive as a great band of survivors*

15 Joseph kissed each of his brothers as he
wept over them. And afterward his brothers
talked with him.
16 When the news reached Pharaoh's house
that Joseph's brothers had come, Pharaoh and
his servants were pleased.
17 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Tell your brothers,
'Do as follows: Load your animals and return to
the land of Canaan.
18 Then bring your father and your families
and return to me. I will give you the best of the
land of Egypt, and you shall eat from the fat of
the land.'
19 You are also directed to tell them: 'Take
wagons from the land of Egypt for your young
children and your wives, and bring your father
and come back.
20 But pay no regard to your belongings, for
the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.' "
21 So the sons of Israel did as they were told.
Joseph gave them wagons as Pharaoh had
instructed, and he also gave them provisions for
their journey.
22 He gave new garments to each of them, but
to Benjamin he gave three hundred shekels of
silver† and five sets of clothes.
23 And he sent to his father the following: ten
donkeys loaded with the best of Egypt, and ten
female donkeys loaded with grain and bread
and provisions for his father's journey.

† **45:22** **45:22** *300 shekels* is approximately 7.5 pounds or 3.4 kilograms of silver.

24 Then Joseph sent his brothers on their way,
and as they were leaving, he said to them, “Do
not quarrel on the way!”
25 So the brothers went up out of Egypt and
came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan.
26 “Joseph is still alive,” they said, “and he is
ruler over all the land of Egypt!”
But Jacob was stunned, for he did not believe
them.
27 However, when they relayed all that Joseph
had told them, and when he saw the wagons
that Joseph had sent to carry him back, the spirit
of their father Jacob was revived.
28 “Enough!” declared Israel. “My son Joseph is
still alive! I will go to see him before I die.”

46

1 So Israel set out with all that he had, and
when he came to Beersheba, he offered
sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.
2 And that night God spoke to Israel in a
vision: “Jacob, Jacob!” He said.
“Here I am,” replied Jacob.
3 “I am God,” he said, “the God of your father.
Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will
make you into a great nation there.
4 I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will
surely bring you back. And Joseph’s own hands
will close your eyes.”
5 Then Jacob departed from Beersheba, and
the sons of Israel took their father Jacob in the
wagons Pharaoh had sent to carry him, along
with their children and wives.

6 They also took the livestock and possessions
they had acquired in the land of Canaan, and
Jacob and all his offspring went to Egypt.
7 Jacob took with him to Egypt his sons and
grandsons, and his daughters and
granddaughters—all his offspring.
8 Now these are the names of the sons of Israel
(Jacob and his descendants) who went to
Egypt: Reuben, Jacob's firstborn.
9 The sons of Reuben: Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron,
and Carmi.
10 The sons of Simeon: Jemuel,* Jamin, Ohad,
Jachin, Zohar,† and Shaul the son of a
Canaanite woman.
11 The sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and
Merari.
12 The sons of Judah: Er, Onan, Shelah, Perez,
and Zerah; but Er and Onan died in the land
of Canaan.
The sons of Perez: Hezron and Hamul.
13 The sons of Issachar: Tola, Puvah,‡ Job,§ and
Shimron.
14 The sons of Zebulun: Sered, Elon, and
Jahleel.
15 These are the sons of Leah born to Jacob in
Paddan-aram,* in addition to his daughter
Dinah. The total number of sons and
daughters was thirty-three.

---

* **46:10 46:10** *Jemuel* is another name for *Nemuel*; see Numbers 26:12. † **46:10 46:10** *Zohar* is a variant of *Zerah*; see Numbers 26:13 and 1 Chronicles 4:24. ‡ **46:13 46:13** SP and Syriac *Puah*; see 1 Chronicles 7:1. § **46:13 46:13** SP and some LXX manuscripts *Jashub*; see Numbers 26:24 and 1 Chronicles 7:1.
* **46:15 46:15** That is, northwest Mesopotamia

16 The sons of Gad: Ziphion,† Haggi, Shuni,
Ezbon, Eri, Arodi,‡ and Areli.
17 The children of Asher: Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi,
Beriah, and their sister Serah.
The sons of Beriah: Heber and Malchiel.
18 These are the sons of Jacob born to
Zilpah—whom Laban gave to his daughter
Leah—sixteen in all.
19 The sons of Jacob's wife Rachel: Joseph and
Benjamin.
20 Manasseh and Ephraim were born to Joseph
in the land of Egypt by Asenath daughter of
Potiphera, priest of On.§
21 The sons of Benjamin: Bela, Becher, Ashbel,
Gera, Naaman, Ehi, Rosh, Muppim, Huppim,
and Ard.
22 These are the sons of Rachel born to
Jacob—fourteen in all.
23 The son of Dan: Hushim.
24 The sons of Naphtali: Jahzeel, Guni, Jezer,
and Shillem.
25 These are the sons of Jacob born to Bilhah,
whom Laban gave to his daughter
Rachel—seven in all.
26 All those belonging to Jacob who came to
Egypt—his direct descendants, besides the wives
of Jacob's sons—numbered sixty-six persons.
27 And with the two sons* who had been born
to Joseph in Egypt, the members of Jacob's

† **46:16 46:16** SP and LXX *Zephon*; see also Numbers 26:15.
‡ **46:16 46:16** *Arodi* is a variant of *Arod*; see Numbers 26:17.
§ **46:20 46:20** That is, Heliopolis, as in LXX * **46:27 46:27** LXX *the nine sons*, probably including Joseph's grandsons through Ephraim and Manasseh; see 1 Chronicles 7:14–29.

family who went to Egypt were seventy† in all.

28 Now Jacob had sent Judah ahead of him to
Joseph to get directions to Goshen. When Jacob's
family arrived in the land of Goshen,
29 Joseph prepared his chariot and went to
Goshen to meet his father Israel. Joseph
presented himself to him, embraced him, and
wept profusely.
30 Then Israel said to Joseph, "Finally I can die,
now that I have seen your face and know that
you are still alive!"
31 Joseph said to his brothers and to his
father's household, "I will go up and inform
Pharaoh: 'My brothers and my father's
household from the land of Canaan have come
to me.
32 The men are shepherds; they raise livestock,
and they have brought their flocks and herds
and all that they own.'
33 When Pharaoh summons you and asks,
'What is your occupation?'
34 you are to say, 'Your servants have raised
livestock ever since our youth—both we and our
fathers.' Then you will be allowed to settle in the
land of Goshen, since all shepherds are
detestable to the Egyptians."

47

1 So Joseph went and told Pharaoh: "My father
and my brothers, with their flocks and herds

† **46:27 46:27** Hebrew (see also Exodus 1:5); LXX *seventy-five*

and all they own, have come from the land of
Canaan and are now in Goshen."
2 And he chose five of his brothers and
presented them before Pharaoh.
3 "What is your occupation?" Pharaoh asked
Joseph's brothers.
"Your servants are shepherds," they replied,
"both we and our fathers."
4 Then they said to Pharaoh, "We have come to
live in the land for a time, because there is no
pasture for the flocks of your servants, since the
famine in the land of Canaan has been severe.
So now, please allow your servants to settle in
the land of Goshen."
5 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Now that your
father and brothers have come to you,
6 the land of Egypt is before you; settle your
father and brothers in the best part of the land.
They may dwell in the land of Goshen. And if
you know of any talented men among them, put
them in charge of my own livestock."
7 Then Joseph brought in his father Jacob and
presented him before Pharaoh, and Jacob
blessed Pharaoh.
8 "How many years have you lived?" Pharaoh
asked.
9 "My travels* have lasted 130 years," Jacob
replied. "My years have been few and hard, and
they have not matched the years of the travels of
my fathers."
10 Then Jacob blessed Pharaoh and departed
from his presence.

---

* **47:9 47:9** Hebrew *sojourns*; twice in this verse

11 So Joseph settled his father and brothers in
the land of Egypt and gave them property in the
best part of the land, the district of Rameses, as
Pharaoh had commanded.
12 Joseph also provided his father and
brothers and all his father's household with food
for their families.
13 There was no food, however, in all that
region, because the famine was so severe; the
lands of Egypt and Canaan had been exhausted
by the famine.
14 Joseph collected all the money to be found
in the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan in
exchange for the grain they were buying, and he
brought it into Pharaoh's palace.
15 When the money from the lands of Egypt
and Canaan was gone, all the Egyptians came to
Joseph and said, "Give us food. Why should we
die before your eyes? For our funds have run
out!"
16 "Then bring me your livestock," said Joseph.
"Since the money is gone, I will sell you food in
exchange for your livestock."
17 So they brought their livestock to Joseph,
and he gave them food in exchange for their
horses, their flocks and herds, and their
donkeys. Throughout that year he provided
them with food in exchange for all their
livestock.
18 When that year was over, they came to him
the second year and said, "We cannot hide from
our lord that our money is gone and all our
livestock belongs to you. There is nothing left
for our lord except our bodies and our land.

19 Why should we perish before your
eyes—we and our land as well? Purchase us and
our land in exchange for food. Then we, along
with our land, will be slaves to Pharaoh. Give us
seed that we may live and not die, and that the
land may not become desolate."

20 So Joseph acquired for Pharaoh all the land
in Egypt; the Egyptians, one and all, sold their
fields because the famine was so severe upon
them. The land became Pharaoh's,
21 and Joseph removed the people to the cities†
from one end of Egypt to the other.
22 However, he did not acquire the priests'
portion of the land, for it had been given to
them by Pharaoh. They ate the rations that
Pharaoh supplied; so they did not sell their land.

23 Then Joseph said to the people, "Now that I
have acquired you and your land for Pharaoh
this day, here is seed for you to sow in the land.
24 At harvest time, you are to give a fifth of it
to Pharaoh, and four-fifths will be yours as seed
for the field and food for yourselves and your
households and children."

25 "You have saved our lives," they said. "We
have found favor in our lord's eyes, and we will
be Pharaoh's slaves."
26 So Joseph established a law that a fifth of
the produce belongs to Pharaoh, and it is in
effect in the land of Egypt to this day. Only the
priests' land does not belong to Pharaoh.

† **47:21 47:21** SP, LXX, Vulgate *reduced the people to servitude*

27 Now the Israelites settled in the land of
Egypt, in the region of Goshen. They acquired
property there and became fruitful and
increased greatly in number.
28 And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt
seventeen years, and the length of his life was
147 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, put your hand
under my thigh and promise to show me
kindness and faithfulness. Do not bury me in
Egypt,
30 but when I lie down with my fathers, carry
me out of Egypt and bury me with them."
Joseph answered, "I will do as you have
requested."
31 "Swear to me," Jacob said.
So Joseph swore to him, and Israel bowed in
worship at the head of his bed.‡

48

1 Some time later Joseph was told, "Your father
is ill." So he set out with his two sons, Manasseh
and Ephraim.
2 When Jacob was told, "Your son Joseph has
come to you," Israel rallied his strength and sat
up in bed.
3 Jacob said to Joseph, "God Almighty*
appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan,
and there he blessed me

‡ **47:31 47:31** LXX *Israel worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff* * **48:3 48:3** Hebrew *El-Shaddai*

4 and told me, ‘Behold, I will make you fruitful
and multiply you; I will make you a multitude of
peoples, and will give this land to your
descendants after you as an everlasting
possession.’
5 And now your two sons born to you in Egypt
before I came to you here shall be reckoned as
mine; Ephraim and Manasseh shall be mine, just
as Reuben and Simeon are mine.
6 Any children born to you after them shall be
yours, and they shall be called by the names of
their brothers in the territory they inherit.
7 Now as for me, when I was returning from
Paddan,† to my sorrow Rachel died along the
way in the land of Canaan, some distance from
Ephrath. So I buried her there beside the road to
Ephrath” (that is, Bethlehem).
8 When Israel saw the sons of Joseph, he
asked, “Who are these?”
9 Joseph said to his father, “They are the sons
God has given me in this place.”
So Jacob said, “Please bring them to me, that I
may bless them.”
10 Now Israel’s eyesight was poor because of
old age; he could hardly see. Joseph brought his
sons to him, and his father kissed them and
embraced them.
11 “I never expected to see your face again,”
Israel said to Joseph, “but now God has let me
see your children as well.”
12 Then Joseph removed his sons from his
father’s knees and bowed facedown.

† **48:7 48:7** That is, northwest Mesopotamia

13 And Joseph took both of them—with
Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel's left
hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward
Israel's right hand—and brought them close to
him.
14 But Israel stretched out his right hand and
put it on the head of Ephraim, the younger; and
crossing his hands, he put his left on Manasseh's
head, although Manasseh was the firstborn.
15 Then he blessed Joseph and said:

"May the God before whom my fathers Abraham
and Isaac walked,
the God who has been my shepherd all my
life to this day,
16 the angel who has redeemed me from all
harm—
may he bless these boys.
And may they be called by my name
and the names of my fathers Abraham and
Isaac,
and may they grow into a multitude upon
the earth."
17 When Joseph saw that his father had placed
his right hand on Ephraim's head, he was
displeased and took his father's hand to move it
from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's.
18 "Not so, my father!" Joseph said. "This one is
the firstborn; put your right hand on his head."
19 But his father refused. "I know, my son, I
know!" he said. "He too shall become a people,
and he too shall be great; nevertheless, his
younger brother shall be greater than he, and

his offspring shall become a multitude of
nations.”
20 So that day Jacob blessed them and said:

“By you shall Israel pronounce this blessing:
‘May God make you like Ephraim and
Manasseh.’ ”
So he put Ephraim before Manasseh.
21 Then Israel said to Joseph, “Look, I am about
to die, but God will be with you and bring you
back to the land of your fathers.
22 And to you, as one who is above your
brothers, I give one portion of the land‡ that I
took from the Amorites with my sword and
bow.”

49

1 Then Jacob called for his sons and said,
“Gather around so that I can tell you what will
happen to you in the days to come:

2 Come together and listen, O sons of Jacob;
listen to your father Israel.

3 Reuben, you are my firstborn, my might,
and the beginning of my strength,
excelling in honor,
excelling in power.
4 Uncontrolled as the waters,
you will no longer excel,
because you went up to your father’s bed,

‡ **48:22 48:22** Or *the ridge of land*; Hebrew *shekem*, which sounds like the town and district called *Shechem*

onto my couch, and defiled it.

5 Simeon and Levi are brothers;
their swords* are weapons of violence.
6 May I never enter their council;
may I never join their assembly.
For they kill men in their anger,
and hamstring oxen on a whim.
7 Cursed be their anger, for it is strong,
and their wrath, for it is cruel!
I will disperse them in Jacob
and scatter them in Israel.

8 Judah,† your brothers shall praise you.
Your hand shall be on the necks of your enemies;
your father's sons shall bow down to you.
9 Judah is a young lion—
my son, you return from the prey.
Like a lion he crouches and lies down;
like a lioness, who dares to rouse him?
10 The scepter will not depart from Judah,
nor the staff from between his feet,‡
until Shiloh comes§
and the allegiance of the nations is his.
11 He ties his donkey to the vine,
his colt to the choicest branch.
He washes his garments in wine,
his robes in the blood of grapes.
12 His eyes are darker than wine,

* **49:5 49:5** Or *dwelling places* † **49:8 49:8** *Judah* sounds like the Hebrew for *praise.* ‡ **49:10 49:10** Or *from his descendants*
§ **49:10 49:10** Or *until the one to whom tribute belongs comes*

and his teeth are whiter than milk.

13 Zebulun shall dwell by the seashore
and become a harbor for ships;
his border shall extend to Sidon.

14 Issachar is a strong donkey,
lying down between the sheepfolds.*
15 He saw that his resting place was good
and that his land was pleasant,
so he bent his shoulder to the burden
and submitted to labor as a servant.

16 Dan shall judge his people†
as one of the tribes of Israel.
17 He will be a snake by the road,
a viper in the path
that bites the horse's heels
so that its rider tumbles backward.

18 I await your deliverance, O LORD.

19 Gad‡ will be attacked by raiders,
but he will attack their heels.

20 Asher's food will be rich;
he shall provide royal delicacies.

21 Naphtali is a doe set free

* **49:14 49:14** Or *saddlebags* or *hearths* † **49:16 49:16** Or *Dan shall provide justice for his people*; *Dan* means *he has judged* or *he has vindicated.* ‡ **49:19 49:19** *Gad* sounds like the Hebrew for *raid* and also for *band of raiders*.

that bears beautiful fawns.§

22 Joseph is a wild donkey,
a wild donkey by a spring,
with his wild colts beside the wall.*
23 The archers attacked him with bitterness;
they aimed at him in hostility.
24 Yet he steadied his bow,
and his strong arms were tempered
by the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob—
from there comes the Shepherd,†
the Rock of Israel,
25 by the God of your father who helps you,
and by the Almighty‡ who blesses you,
with blessings of the heavens above,
with blessings of the depths below,
with blessings of the breasts and womb.
26 The blessings of your father have surpassed
the blessings of my ancestors§
and the bounty of the everlasting hills.
May they rest on the head of Joseph,
on the brow of the prince of his brothers.

27 Benjamin is a ravenous wolf;
in the morning he devours the prey,
in the evening he divides the plunder."
28 These are the tribes of Israel, twelve in all,
and this was what their father said to them. He

§ **49:21 49:21** Or *gives beautiful words* or *bears fawns of the fold*
* **49:22 49:22** Or *Joseph is a fruitful vine—a fruitful vine by a spring, whose branches scale the wall* † **49:24 49:24** Syriac and Targum *in the name of the Shepherd* ‡ **49:25 49:25** Hebrew *Shaddai* § **49:26 49:26** Or *of the ancient mountains*

blessed them, and he blessed each one with a suitable blessing.
29 Then Jacob instructed 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 The cave is in the field of Machpelah near Mamre, in the land of Canaan. This is the field Abraham purchased from Ephron the Hittite as a burial site.
31 There Abraham and his wife Sarah are buried, there Isaac and his wife Rebekah are buried, and there I buried Leah.
32 The field and the cave that is in it were purchased from the Hittites.”
33 When Jacob had finished instructing his sons, he pulled his feet into the bed and breathed his last, and he was gathered to his people.

50

1 Then Joseph fell upon his father’s face, wept over him, and kissed him.
2 And Joseph directed the physicians in his service to embalm his father Israel. So they embalmed him,
3 taking the forty days required to complete the embalming. And the Egyptians mourned for him seventy days.
4 When the days of mourning had passed, Joseph said to Pharaoh’s court, “If I have found favor in your eyes, please tell Pharaoh that
5 my father made me swear an oath when he said, ‘I am about to die. You must bury me in the

tomb that I dug for myself in the land of
Canaan.' Now let me go and bury my father, and
then return."
6 Pharaoh replied, "Go up and bury your
father, as he made you swear to do."
7 Then Joseph went to bury his father, and all
the servants of Pharaoh accompanied him—the
elders of Pharaoh's household and all the elders
of the land of Egypt—
8 along with all of Joseph's household, and his
brothers, and his father's household. Only their
children and flocks and herds were left in
Goshen.
9 Chariots and horsemen alike went up with
him, and it was an exceedingly large procession.
10 When they reached the threshing floor of
Atad, which is across the Jordan, they lamented
and wailed loudly, and Joseph mourned for his
father seven days.
11 When the Canaanites of the land saw the
mourning at the threshing floor of Atad, they
said, "This is a solemn ceremony of mourning by
the Egyptians." Thus the place across the Jordan
is called Abel-mizraim.*
12 So Jacob's sons did as he had charged them.
13 They carried him to the land of Canaan and
buried him in the cave at Machpelah in the field
near Mamre, which Abraham had purchased
from Ephron the Hittite as a burial site.
14 After Joseph had buried his father, he
returned to Egypt with his brothers and all who
had gone with him to bury his father.

---

* **50:11 50:11** *Abel-mizraim* means *mourning of the Egyptians*.

15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their
father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph bears
a grudge? Then he will surely repay us for all
the evil that we did to him."
16 So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Before
he died, your father commanded,
17 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I beg
you, please forgive the transgression and sin of
your brothers, for they did you wrong.' So now,
Joseph, please forgive the transgression of the
servants of the God of your father."
When their message came to him, Joseph
wept.
18 His brothers also came to him, bowed down
before him, and said, "We are your slaves!"
19 But Joseph replied, "Do not be afraid. Am I
in the place of God?
20 As for you, what you intended against me
for evil, God intended for good, in order to
accomplish a day like this—to preserve the lives
of many people.
21 Therefore do not be afraid. I will provide for
you and your little ones." So Joseph reassured
his brothers and spoke kindly to them.
22 Now Joseph and his father's household
remained in Egypt, and Joseph lived to the age
of 110.
23 He saw Ephraim's sons to the third
generation, and indeed the sons of Machir son of
Manasseh were born† on Joseph's knees.
24 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am
about to die, but God will surely visit you and

† **50:23 50:23** Or *brought up* or *placed at birth*

bring you up from this land to the land he
promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."
25 And Joseph made the sons of Israel take an
oath and said, "God will surely attend to you,
and then you must carry my bones up from this
place."
26 So Joseph died at the age of 110. And they
embalmed his body and placed it in a coffin in
Egypt.

Masoretic English Tanakh

The Tanakh (Law, Prophets, and Writings) of the Holy Bible in English, conformed to the Masoretic Text.

Public Domain

Language: English

Dialect: American

Extracted from the Berean Standard Bible 2026 and conformed to the Masoretic Text, as represented by the Westminster Leningrad Codex by David Kaye. Dedicated by David Kaye to the Public Domain 13 October 2026. The base Berean Standard Version was dedicated to the Public Domain by their translation team.

2026-11-06

PDF generated using Haiola and XeLaTeX on 6 Nov 2026 from source files dated 6 Nov 2026
57a43e4f-c98f-5585-a058-a31edbd6ec60