

Genesis

Copy for community checking - not fully consultant checked (Gen 1-5, 6-9 and 11 are consultant checked and have audio files)

GOD DID/MADE EVERYTHING (1:1—2:3)

¹ At the first, long ago God made the sky and the ground.

² That ground was just staying purposeless. Water was obscuring everything, water was covering everything. In every direction it was dark. His spirit was going above the water.

³ God said, “Become light!” After that it became light at his word.

⁴ When he saw it he said, “Good”. He separated the light and the darkness.

⁵ He named the darkness, 'night-that', the light he named, 'day-that'. After that it became night, after that it became dawn. Another day appeared/arrived.

⁶ Then he said, “Sky become, in order to separate the water and the clouds!”

⁷ That happened. The clouds went upwards, they left the water underneath.

⁸ That sky he named, 'sky-that'. After that it became night, after that it became dawn. Another day appeared.

⁹ Then he said, “Water go down, become in one place, dry ground appear, become visible!”

That happened. The water went down, it left the ground visible.

¹⁰ That dry ground he named, 'country-that'. That big water he named, 'sea-that'. When he saw it he said "Good".

¹¹ After that he said, "Different kinds of trees appear and different kinds of green plants, with separate foods!" That happened.

¹² From the ground different kinds of trees appeared, some with foods, some without, and different kinds of green plants appeared also, some with foods, some without. When he saw it he said "Good."

¹³ After that it became night, after that it became dawn. Another day appeared.

¹⁴⁻¹⁵ Then he said, "Lights become above in the sky, in order to light the countryside. They should give light in the night and in the day. They should keep winter and summer straight." That happened.

¹⁶ He made two big ones, the sun and the moon. The big one should make it light truly from dawn right up to evening. The small one should make it light truly in the night. He made the stars also.

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ He put them in the sky to light the countryside and also to separate the darkness and the day. When he saw it he said "Good."

¹⁹ After that it became night, after that it became dawn. Another day appeared.

²⁰ Then he said, "Many different kinds of water dwellers become in the water-holes and in the sea. Birds become to go above. [Birds: lit. 'winged things' — includes insects]

²¹ Then he made very big animals in the sea. He also made big and little fish of different kinds. In the rivers and water-holes he made different kinds of fish. And he made all the other water dwellers in the water-holes and seas. He made different kinds of winged creatures also. When he saw it he said "Good."

²² He spoke well to them. He spoke to them all, "I will take care of you. You will truly become many, and many children you will have/care for truly."

²³ After that it became night, after that it became dawn. Another day appeared.

²⁴ Then he said, "Different kinds of animals become on the ground, to live in the countryside, to go about on the ground, plains-dwelling animals and hills-dwellers, big ones and small ones!" That happened.

²⁵ He made them all. When he looked at it he said "Good."

²⁶ After that he said, "We will make people like us. They will be boss for all the animals, and for all the fish and for all the winged creatures and for the ones that go on the ground."

²⁷ God made a man like him. He made a man and a woman.

²⁸ He spoke well to these two, "You will control/have/take care of many children truly. Truly people will be everywhere, you (pl.) will be boss for all the animals. You will be boss for the fish and winged creatures and all animals and for all those that go on the ground.

²⁹ I made different foods for you (all), all the foods from trees and green plants I am giving

you.

³⁰ For the animals and winged creatures and all the ones that go on the ground I made green plants with food. I left it for them.”

³¹ Truly he made the whole lot. When he had finished making them God looked at them all. He said, “Very good.”

Like that God made everything. He made everything in six days. After that it became night, after that it became dawn. Another day appeared.

2

¹⁻³ This next day he did not make another thing. He said about that day, “Already I have finished making everything. I was working, now I have left off working. This day truly I did not make another thing. Because of that this day is different, without work. I have left off work for today.” [Avoiding word for 'rest', which also means 'sleep'.]

GOD PUT A MAN AT A REALLY GOOD WATER-HOLE (2:7-25)

⁷ Like this God made a/the person. He got dust from the ground. He made a man from that dust. Then he breathed in the nose of the man, then wind/breath from God entered the man. For that reason the man became alive. The name of that man was Adam.

⁸ After that in the country, in Eden, there God put a big water-hole/permanent camp, a truly good one. He put the man he had made at that water-hole.

⁹ At that water-hole he put different kinds of good trees. There were different kinds having very good food there. In the middle of the trees God put one tree. He named that tree, 'One That Keeps People Alive'. After a person eats from that tree he will live for ever, he will stay without death. He put another tree in the middle of the others, that was a thing associated with making knowledgeable. He named that tree, 'One That Teaches People About Good And Bad'.

¹⁵ At the water-hole in Eden he put that (previously-referred to) person to dig the ground and to care for the water-hole.

¹⁶ He said to him, "You can eat food from all the trees at the water-hole.

¹⁷ (Fruit) from one tree leave, do not eat it, from the tree which makes knowledgeable. I named it, 'One That Teaches People About Good And Bad'. From that tree don't eat. If you eat from that tree truly you will die."

¹⁸ Then he said, "The man should not be alone. I will make a companion for him, he will be one with a companion."

¹⁹⁻²⁰ Already God had made all the animals and winged creatures from the ground. He brought them to the man to give them names. That man gave names to the animals and winged creatures and other creatures. They kept the names in accord with the man's word. Among them all there was not one like the man, a companion for him.

²¹ Then God put the man to sleep, he got a bone from the man's side, then he covered the hole

with flesh.

²² From the bone he made a woman, he took her to the man.

²³ Then the man said, "At last! This one is like me! He made her from my body. Her name is 'Woman'."

²⁴ Because of that God left us this track/pattern of behaviour. A/the man will leave mother and father and they will become one, he and his own wife. Truly those two will be one.

²⁵ At the water-hole Eden that couple, Adam and his wife, were staying naked, they stayed well, naked, those two, without shame.

3

THOSE TWO DID NOT LISTEN TO GOD (3:1-24)

¹ Among the other animals the snake was really clever. The snake asked the woman, "What did God say to you? 'You should not eat food from all the trees at the water-hole'? Like that did God say to you?"

² The woman said to him, "We (two) can eat from some/the rest of the trees from the water-hole/camp.

³ God said to us, 'From one tree only, in the middle of the camp in the thick trees, from that do not eat food, and do not touch that tree for fear of dying'."

⁴ The snake said to her, he lied, "You will not die.

⁵ If you eat (after eating) from that tree, you will become like God, knowing about good and about bad. God doesn't like that. To avoid that

he said to you, 'Don't eat from that tree'." With deceit the snake said to her, "Don't listen to God."

⁶ The woman was looking at the food, looking with interest, it was good. She was thinking, "That food will make me knowledgeable." The woman wanted to become knowledgeable, like God. Then she went to that tree, broke off food, ate it. She gave some to her husband. He also ate it.

⁷ They understood, they saw themselves that they were naked. Then they became ashamed. Because of that they made for themselves pubic covers from big leaves.

⁸ In the evening they heard the footsteps of God while he was walking at the water-hole. With fear they hid themselves among the trees on account of God.

⁹ God called to the man, "Where are you(sg)?"

¹⁰ He replied, "Yes, I heard you walking at the water-hole. I was naked. Because of that I was afraid, I hid from you.

¹¹ God asked him, "How did you learn you were naked? From that tree, the One that Teaches People About Good and Bad, did you eat food from that?"

¹² The man said to him, "You gave me this woman. She [emphasised] gave me (food) from that tree. I ate the food."

¹³ God asked the woman, "What did you do?" She said to him, "The snake deceived me. I ate because of his word."

¹⁴⁻¹⁵ God said to the snake, "You did very badly. In response I will truly do evil to you, not to the rest of the animals, only to you. On your

stomach [emphasised] you will go. You will eat dust always. I will make you dislike the woman. I will make the woman dislike you. Your children and those of the woman will look at each other in anger. The/A child of the woman will truly bruise your head. You truly will bruise his heel.”

¹⁶ To the woman he said, “I will give you a lot of pain when you have a child. Knowing about pain when you have a child, continually you will long for a/the man. He will be a boss for you truly.”

¹⁷⁻¹⁹ Then God said to the man, “I told you not to eat that food. You didn't listen to me. Because of your wife's word you ate food from that tree. In response I will make the country bad. Spinifex and prickles and those sorts of things will appear. You will search for food always. You will dig hard for food, Every day you will be exhausted, you will sweat hard getting food to eat. (Lit., “Every day you will break, truly sweat will eat you.”) After dying you will become dust. I made you from the ground. From the dust I made you. After dying you will become dust again.

²⁰ That man gave his wife the name Eve. She is the mother for us all.

²¹ Then God made clothes from animal skins for them, for Adam and his wife, God put them on them.

²² Then he said, “The man didn't listen to me, he already ate from the tree that makes knowledgeable. He is now like us, he knows/understands about good and bad. He might eat

from that other tree, from the one that keeps alive. After that he will live always, he will stay without death. I will prevent him lest he eat.”

²³ God sent those two from that water-hole in Eden. He sent them away to dig the ground, to put foods in the ground, to cause their foods to come up.

²⁴ After that God put an angel [English word phonemicised] east of that water-hole, and a big cutting thing, like a big knife. The point of that big cutting thing was going in every direction, and it was flashing. God told that angel, “You are to stop the man/people from entering close to that tree, to that tree that keeps alive.”

4

CAIN KILLED ABEL (4:1-17, 25)

¹ Adam and Eve went from that place Eden. After that Eve had a son. She said, “God has given me a son.” His name was Cain.

² After that she had another son. His name was Abel.

The two became big. They became men. Abel used to care for sheep. Cain used to dig the ground. He used to put foods in the ground, they used to come up, he used to gather them.

³ Once Cain took food, he gave it to God.

⁴ His younger brother took a sheep, he killed it, he gave good parts to God. Abel pleased God.

⁵ Cain did not please him. Because of that Cain was (habitually) angry. His face changed (became different).

⁶ God said to him, "Why are you angry with me? Why did your face change towards me? You should not be sullen.

⁷ If you did right you would have been happy. You were doing badly. You should straighten yourself up to do good. If you do that you will make me happy. If you don't you will keep doing evil." [Missed concept of need to resist temptation.]

⁸ Cain didn't listen to God. He kept on being sullen. Because of that he said to his younger brother, "Let's go somewhere a long way off." They went off. Then Cain killed his younger brother.

⁹ Because of that God asked him, "Where is your younger brother?" The eldest one lied, "I don't know. I don't take care of him."

¹⁰ God said to him, "You lied. You killed him. His blood is on the ground. You truly did badly.

¹¹ In response I will do evil to you because of him/it. The ground will stay bad for you.

¹² And foods will not come up for you. I will send you far off. With fear you will keep going to other places."

¹³ Cain said to him, "You have made it extremely hard for me.

¹⁴ I will go about to other places. Perhaps someone will kill me."

¹⁵ God said to him, "Whoever hits/kills you I will hit/kill him truly because of you."

¹⁶ Because of that Cain went far off. He stayed eastwards a long way from Eden. They call that far country, 'He just keeps wandering around'.

¹⁷ His wife had a child named Enoch. Cain built a town. He named that town for his child, he named that town Enoch also. [4:18-24 omitted.]

²⁵ After Abel died Eve had another child. She said, "Cain killed Abel. God in response has given me another child." She named him Seth.

6

GOD SENT A BIG FLOOD (6:1—9:19)

¹⁻⁷ After a long time there were many people. They scattered, they were everywhere. They all became really bad. They didn't listen to God. They kept on ignoring him. They kept talking to each other about how to do evil.

Because of that God said, "The people are all doing bad things. They are always thinking about how to do evil. When I made them they were good, now they have become very bad. Because of that I am broken-hearted (lit: 'my stomach is broken'). I will kill the evil doers, and the animals and birds also."

⁸⁻¹⁰ Just one man pleased God. His name was Noah, he used to listen to God. He used to do good. He didn't do evil. He had three children, three males, their names were Shem, Ham, Japheth.

¹¹⁻¹³ God said to Noah, "All the other people are living really badly. They ignore me, they don't listen to me. They are talking to each other all the time to do evil and they are hitting/killing each other. Because of that reason I will kill them all.

¹⁷ I will make a big flood for them. The big water will swallow them. You I will keep alive.

14-16 You make a really big boat for fear of the flood. The flood will carry it on top. Make it very big and long and wide. You will make it from wood.

18 You will enter it with your wife and your children and their wives. Gather animals and birds, cause them to enter the big boat. Collect them, animals, married-pair by married-pair, you will get different kinds pair by pair to make them enter the big boat. You will keep them alive from the flood.

21 And gather for them different foods. For yourselves also heap up food in the boat.”

22 Noah believed God. He made a very big boat, with wood he made it, long and wide. And he collected a large amount of different foods and put them in (the boat). Truly Noah did all in accordance with God's word.

7

1 After that God said to him, “Soon that big rain will fall. Hurry, get in the boat, you and yours. You (sg) alone are characterised by goodness, you alone have been listening to me. For that reason I will keep you and yours alive.

2-3 Take inside those (previously referred to) animals and birds. Put them in accordance with my word. Take birds, 7 pairs of one kind, 7 pairs of another kind, different kinds. And take tame animals the same way, 7 pairs. And of the remaining animals take pair by pair, different kinds.

⁴ I will send rain. It will really pour down, day after day. For 40 days truly. The big flood will kill those outside the boat.”

⁵ Noah entered the boat because of God's word. And he took his wife and children and their wives and the animals and birds. They all entered.

⁶ Then God shut the door.

¹⁰ After that a big rain fell.

¹¹ And from under the ground a flood came bubbling up also.

¹² Rain fell for 40 days. It was falling hard, it really poured, it kept on falling.

¹⁹⁻²⁰ There was a really big flood. The water lifted the boat like flotsam, it stayed on top of the water. The flood completely covered the hills and trees.

²¹⁻²³ The father and sons and their wives and the animals stayed alive in the boat. The flood killed the remaining animals and all the people, everything outside.

7:24—8:3 God was caring for those who were in the boat. He sent a wind. After that the flood abated. It was going down slowly for 4 months. They were staying in the boat a long time, they were waiting for the flood to go down.

8

⁴ After that the flood left the boat on top of the hills. It came to rest (lit: 'sat down') on top of the hills. The name of that hilly place was Ararat.

⁵ The flood was continuing to go down. After that, after 3 months, the heads of the hills

appeared after being hidden by the water. The water kept going down.

⁶⁻⁷ After that, after one month, Noah sent out a crow. The crow was searching for dry ground and trees. He went away for good, he didn't return.

⁸⁻⁹ After that, after 7 days, Noah sent another creature, a dove. It was searching in vain for dry ground. Soon it returned to the boat. Noah stretched out his arm, the dove landed on his arm, Noah put him inside the boat.

¹⁰ Noah waited seven days. After that again he sent out the dove.

¹¹ In the late afternoon it returned to the boat, it carried a leaf in its mouth. Noah said, "The water is really going down."

¹² After that, in seven days, Noah again tried out the dove. It went away for good, it did not return. It saw ground.

¹³ Noah waited one month.

After that he looked around.

¹⁴ Truly the ground was getting dry, the ground was hard.

¹⁵⁻¹⁷ Then God said to Noah, "You (pl) get down and make the animals and birds get down. They've got to scatter. They have to become many everywhere."

¹⁸⁻¹⁹ Then they got down from the boat, Noah and his wife and children and daughters-in-law and the different kinds of animals and birds.

²⁰ Noah heaped up stones. He got a few tame animals and tame birds to give to God. He killed them, on top of the stones he burned/cooked them, bones and all, completely dry, to ashes.

They used to do that in the beginning, in order to please God.

²¹ In return God said to Noah, "Previously I made it bad for the whole earth because of the evil that people did. I won't do like that again. I know about people. From childhood they are thinking only about how to do really bad (things). I will not again kill people and all creatures truly because of the evil that people have done. I did it once. I won't do it again.

²² Now summer and winter will follow each other. Heat and cold will follow each other. Day and night will follow each other. Just like that they will be."

9

¹ God spoke kindly to Noah and his children. "You will have many children. They will be everywhere.

² You will be boss for all the animals. They will be afraid of you.

³ Now I am giving them all to you to eat, the fish and animals and birds. Previously you only used to eat vegetable food. Now you can also eat meat.

⁴ You must not eat blood. When you eat meat, leave the blood without eating it.

⁵⁻⁷ You should not hit/kill a person. Be good to people. I made people like me. Because of that don't kill a person. If anyone hits/kills a person you(pl) will kill him in return."

⁸⁻¹⁰ God spoke another word to Noah and his children, "I am giving you (pl) this word, for

you and yours, and for all the animals and for everything on the ground.

¹¹ Because of this word of mine I will not again hit/kill people and animals and other things by means of a flood.

¹² It will stay like this from now on. I am giving you this word now.

¹³ I am putting that rainbow of mine in the clouds.

¹⁴⁻¹⁷ Whenever I send you clouds that have rain, I will put my rainbow in the clouds. Truly I will see that. When I see it, truly I will remember this word I am putting down for you today. That rainbow is a reminder for this word. This firm word of mine is for you (pl) and the animals, for everything on the ground. I will not kill everything with a flood. It will stay (the same) from now on.”

¹⁸⁻¹⁹ Those children of Noah, Shem, Ham and Japheth had children. From them all of us came. [NOTE: Chapter 10 has been omitted at this stage, because it would merely confuse and distract struggling readers.]

GOD CONFUSED THEIR TALK (9:28-29, 11:1-9)

²⁸ After the big flood Noah lived a long time, 350 years.

²⁹ He became 950 years old. After that he died.

11

¹ After that for a long time people were talking just that one language.

² They were going eastwards a bit at a time. They came to a big plain in the east. The name of that country was Shinar.

³⁻⁴ They ignored God's word. They said to one another, "Let's not spread out/scatter in all directions. Let's stay united. Let's stay right here, without roaming. Let's make a big camp, let's make a big hill-like (thing) also, extremely big upwards, right up to the sky. Everyone else will talk about us. They will say, 'Those people in Shinar are clever, they are truly smart'."

They got mud, they made bricks, they baked them in the fire to make them hard, they made very many. Joining them they glued them with bitumen. They built, they built. (i.e., they kept building for a long time.)

⁵⁻⁶ God knew about them. He said, "I told them to spread out. They did not listen to me. They stayed united to do evil. They are staying in one group, they talk one language. They will do more and more evil.

⁷ Lest they do that I will confuse their language. They will talk different languages. Then they will not understand each other."

⁸ God did that. He confused their talk. He made them spread out in every direction. They did not again make their big camp, and the really big hill-like (thing). They left it still unfinished. They left it forever.

⁹ The name of that camp was Babel. That word Babel says, 'They were forgetting the same language for each other.' They were puzzling

about each other's talk. [11:10-26 omitted. 11:27-32 are in next file (tho' title of that indicates only "12-24").]

YES. I WILL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT THAT LONG AGO MAN, ABRAM. (11:27-32)

²⁷⁻²⁸ A long time after that big flood a man appeared, his name was Abram. He was an inhabitant of that country Chaldea. He lived in the town named Ur. His father's name was Terah, his younger brothers were Nahor and Haran. (That Haran had children, a son named Lot, and two daughters named Milcah and Iscah.) While Terah was still alive Haran died in his country, in that town Ur.

²⁹ Nahor and Haran's daughter Milcah got married. Abram and Sarai got married, those two.

³⁰ Sarai could not have a child, she was staying without children.

³¹ After that Terah left that town. He took his son Abram, his daughter-in-law Sarai, his grandson Lot, just them. They were going westwards towards another country, Canaan. Partway they arrived at a town named Haran. They settled there for a long time.

³² While he was there Terah died in Haran. He was really old, he had many years, 205.

12

GOD TALKED TO ABRAM (12:1-3)

¹ While Abram's father was alive God spoke to Abram, "You(sg) will ['you are to'; this future form is often used as a mild imperative, which the hearer has the option of disobeying] leave

your country, you will leave your father's camp, you will leave the others. You will go to another country, later I will show you, after you arrive there I will tell you, 'This is that very country.'

² I will give you very many grandchildren's grandchildren and those who come after them. I will make you a big boss, I truly will do good to you.

³ Some will do good to you, I will do good to them. Others will do bad to you, I will do bad to them. As a result of your mob I will do good to all people, in other countries everywhere."

ABRAM WENT TO CANAAN (12:4-9)

⁴⁻⁵ After that Abram went in accordance with God's word. At that time he was old, he had 75 years. He took his wife Sarai, his younger brother's son Lot also, he took his animals and belongings. He took his men also, all his workers, he got them in that town Haran. They all went from Haran, they were going southwards, towards the country Canaan they were going. They were going for many days [lit. 'camps, camps they were going']. They arrived there, in Canaan.

⁶ They were going. Partway still in Canaan they rested near a big tree, they made a camp site at what's-its-name, near that tree named Moreh. That tree was near the town Shechem. (At that time Canaan's mob were still living in that country too.)

⁷ After that God appeared to Abram, he said to him, "This very country I will give to your grandchildren's grandchildren and those who

come after them.” Because of that Abram gathered stones there, he made a heap. There he worshipped God [lit. ‘from the stomach he praised him’].

⁸ After that they went southwards to the hilly country east of what's-that-place, Bethel. They made a camp east of Bethel and west of what's-that-place, Ai, there they put their tents. Again he gathered stones, he made a heap, there he worshipped God.

⁹ After that they were going southwards, camp after camp, they were going towards the desert.

ABRAM WENT TO EGYPT (12:10—13:1)

¹⁰ After that the country became dry, without water, without food. Abram and his animals were staying in a bad way. After that Abram and his mob left that country, they went westwards to that country, to Egypt, to make camp there.

¹¹ As they were going Abram said to his wife, “Your face is beautiful.

¹² Those men in Egypt will see you, they will desire you. Perhaps they will say to each other, ‘That is his wife. We might kill the man, we will keep the woman alive.’

¹³ To avoid that you tell them, ‘This is my older brother.’ You will do that, they will not kill me, they will do good to me.”

¹⁴ They arrived in the country, in Egypt. The inhabitants of the land saw Sarai. They were thinking, “That woman's face is beautiful.”

¹⁵ Some important ones were looking at her, they liked her, they told their big boss, “Wow!

That woman, Abram's younger sister, has a really beautiful face." The boss said to them, "Bring that woman to me." They took Sarai to him.

¹⁶ In return the boss gave Abram many sheep and cows and donkeys and camels and working people, men and women.

¹⁷ Sarai was stopping in the camp of the big boss. After that God made the boss and his mob sick. A very big sickness came on them.

¹⁸ After that the boss sent a message to Abram, "Come here." He growled at him, "You did the wrong thing to me. You lied to me about your wife.

¹⁹ Why did you say, 'She is a younger sister to me'? Because of your word I took her for a wife. She is your wife. Take her! You two go for good!"

²⁰ He told his men to send Abram right away.

13

¹ After that Abram left Egypt. He took his wife and his own younger brother's son Lot, he took all his belongings. Going they all returned to the dry country of Canaan.

ABRAM RETURNED TO BETHEL (13:2-7)

³ Camp by camp they were going, they came back to that camp close to Bethel.

⁴ Right there earlier Abram gathered stones, he was talking to God. After returning he again really worshipped God.

² At that time Abram had very many animals, sheep, goats, cattle, donkeys, camels, gold and money, anything.

⁵ Lot also was staying there, he had lots of animals and workers.

^{7b} (There were also some inhabitants of that land there, Canaan's mob and Periz's mob.)

⁶ There were no end of animals on that country. Abram's workers and Lot's workers were searching in vain for grass for the animals.

^{7a} Because of that the workers of those two were looking at each other with anger.

ABRAM AND LOT SEPARATED (13:8-18)

⁸ Abram said to Lot, "We two are relatives. We two should stay without anger. My men and yours should stay without anger.

⁹ This country is big. You choose your country. You will go to that country, I will go in another direction."

¹⁰ Lot looked around the country eastward, he saw a plain near the river, the name of that river was Jordan. That was good country, with plenty of water, in good condition all the way to Zoar, like the country Egypt. Two towns were in that plain, Sodom and Gomorrah.

¹¹ Lot chose that very country. He went east. In that way Abram and Lot separated.

¹² Abram stayed in Canaan country, Lot made camp on the plain, near the two towns, close to Sodom he made camp.

¹³ Those people in Sodom were disobeyers/ignorers of God. They were really bad.

¹⁴ After that God said to Abram, "From here look in every direction, northwards, southwards, eastwards and westwards.

¹⁵ All this country I will give you, for you and for your grandchildren's grandchildren and for those who come after them, forever.

¹⁶ I will look after them, they will become very many. (People) won't be able to name them.

¹⁷ I will give you all this country. You will go through this country, you will look at it." Like that he told Abram.

¹⁸ After that Abram left that camp, he went to another camp, he was staying at the trees in Mamre, near the town Hebron. Again he heaped up stones, he worshipped God.

14

ABRAM RESCUED LOT (14:1-12)

¹⁻⁴ Lot was staying in his camp on the plain, inside Sodom. After that people from the east, foreigners, gathered together, they came to hit the inhabitants near Sodom. One man from the east, named Kedorlaomer, was boss for his town, for Elam. That very one had earlier made himself boss for the people near Sodom. He forced them by fighting to give money. Those people near Sodom were giving him money for a long time, 12 years. At last they said to each other, "From now we won't give money to Kedorlaomer, we will withhold it. We will not listen to him."

⁵⁻⁷ For that reason Kedorlaomer, that Elam boss from the east, and other bosses gathered together, from a few towns they gathered eastwards. They gathered their fighting men together. After that they all went to fight against

the inhabitants near Sodom. They were going southwards, they avoided Sodom, that was west of them. They were going southwards, after that westwards, after that northwards, while going through the countries they were killing all the people. At last they came right to Sodom.

⁸⁻⁹ The bosses from those towns, from what's-their-names, Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim and Bela, those bosses gathered together their fighters, with weapons. They went to meet the ones from the east. In that valley, what's-its-name, Siddim, the people from around Sodom and the ones from the east were fighting.

¹⁰ In that valley there were many holes in the ground, with what's-its-name, with bitmumen. Those fighters from Sodom and Gomorrah ran away for fear of the fight. Some entered the holes, others ran to the hilly country.

¹¹ After that those easterners took for themselves all the food and belongings from Sodom and Gomorrah.

¹² They took Lot also, Abram's younger brother's son. They took Lot's belongings. They also took all the other people. They left to go to their own country.

ABRAM HIT THE EASTERNERS, HE GOT BACK LOT AND THE OTHERS (14:13-16)

¹³ At that time Abram was near Mamre's tree/s. Mamre and his two younger brothers, Eschol and Aner, were friends of Abram. One man ran from the fight, he came to Abram, he said to him, "Those fighters from the east took your brother's son, they took Lot with them."

¹⁴ Abram when he heard that word gathered his fighting men. Those 318 went with Abram. They followed those (people) from the east. Mamre and Eschol and Aner also went. From behind they were following the easterners, they went a long way northwards, all the way to that country, to Dan.

¹⁵ In the night Abram split up his men, he spread them out. At that very time they hit the easterners hard, they caused them to run away for good, they chased them northwards to another country, towards Homah beyond what's-that-place, beyond Damascus.

¹⁶ After that Abram's men got back all the possessions of the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot and his possessions, the women and all the other prisoners. After that they all returned southwards.

ABRAM GAVE ANIMALS AND BELONGINGS TO MELCHIZEDEK (14:17-24)

¹⁷ As Abram was returning to the camp that Sodom boss went to meet him in the valley, named Shaveh valley.

¹⁸ Another man, named Melchizedek, also came to him there, he brought bread and wine for Abram. That Melchizedek was boss for that town Salem. From earlier he was also a ceremonial leader for God, for that Boss who is above.

¹⁹⁻²⁰ This ceremonial leader Melchizedek said to Abram, "You know God. He is boss above. He is the one who made the sky and the ground and the sea and everything also. I am asking God that he will do good to you. Let us all praise God, the

Boss above. He rescued you, for you he hit the fighters from the east completely.”

After that Abram from the belongings he brought back gave (some) to him. From 10 cattle he gave one, from 10 sheep he gave one, from everything in that way he gave animals and belongings to Melchizedek.

²¹ That Sodom boss said to Abram, “The belongings which have been brought back you will keep for yourself. I only want my people.”

²²⁻²³ Abram replied, “I will not keep your belongings, not any. God is Boss for all, he is the one who made everything, the sky and the ground and the sea also. I have already told God I will not keep your belongings, not even a little cloth. You might say, 'I truly gave Abram all his belongings.'

²⁴ You might say like that. To avoid that I will not keep your belongings. Just food I will keep for my young men. These others I also took with me, Aner and Eschol and Mamre. Give belongings to those men.”

15

GOD APPEARED TO ABRAM (15:1-6)

¹ After that God appeared to Abram in a dream. He said to him, “Abram, don't be afraid. I am the one who will look after you for ever. Truly I will give you great possessions.”

² Abram answered him, “You are boss for everything. Why will you give me lots of possessions? Still I have no child. After I am

dead my worker, that Eliezer, he is the one who will get my possessions.

³ You have not given me a child. My worker will get all my possessions.”

⁴ In reply God said to him, “Not your worker, not Eliezer, he will not get your possessions. Your own child, he is the one who will get your possessions.”

⁵ After that God took Abram outside, he said to him, “Look up, look at those stars. They are very many. You cannot count them [lit. 'cannot put names on them'], they are many. Your own grandchildren's grandchildren and those who come after them also will become very many. You will not be able put names on them, they will be very many.” Like that God spoke to him.

⁶ Abram listened, truly he believed God. Because of that God became happy with him.

GOD SPOKE TO ABRAM (15:7-21)

⁷ Again God spoke to him. “I am the one who earlier told you in the country Chaldea to leave your camp. You came here in accord with my word. This very land I will give you, it will be yours forever.”

⁸ Abram said to him, “God, you are the boss for everything. How will I know about that word, it is true?”

⁹ God replied, “Bring me animals, one bullock, one goat, one ram. Also bring me one dove and one pigeon.”

¹⁰ Abram brought those animals in accord with God's word. He killed them all. After that the bullock and goat and ram he split down the

middle, he separated them. He did not split the birds down the middle.

¹¹ Eagles came, they landed on the meat. Abram frightened them, they went away.

¹² When the sun was setting Abram became deeply asleep. In a dream when he was asleep fear truly came on him.

¹⁵ God said to him, "Listen. You will become old, you will die in this country, they will put you in the ground in this country.

¹³ Later your grandchildren will go to another country. Not to their country, they will go to the country of foreigners. They will be right there for a long time, for 400 years. The inhabitants of that country will make them work hard, for no money, just for food. Truly they will keep your people for a long time in a very bad way.

¹⁴ After that in return I will hit those inhabitants. After that I will bring your people right back here, they will bring great possessions from that country.

¹⁶ They will stay in that country for 400 years, after that they will come back here. Not now I will give them this country. It is for later. Right now those people what's-their-name, Amu's mob, they are here. This is their country. Later they will become evil-doers, very bad. Right after that I will hit them, truly this country I will give to your people." Like that God spoke to him.

¹⁷ After the sun set, when it had become dark, Abram saw two somethings, a smoking fire thing and something with a light, they were going in the middle of the pieces of meat.

¹⁸ At that time God spoke to him seriously, “Truly I will give this country to your people. The country from here in every direction I will give them, westwards all the way to the river in Egypt, eastwards all the way to the river, to the Euphrates river.

¹⁹⁻²¹ At present the land belongs to many others. I will take it away from them, I will give it to your grandchildren's grandchildren and those who come after them.” [The list of the people groups has been summarised by 'many others'.]

16

SARAH TOLD ABRAM, “SLEEP WITH MY WORKING WOMAN.” (16:1-6)

¹ Abram was staying in that country, in Canaan, 10 years. He was still childless. That wife of his, Sarai, had not had a child. Sarai was keeping another woman from another country, from Egypt, a working woman for Sarai, her name was Hagar.

² At that time Sarai said to Abram, “Husband, I am childless. God has withheld children from me. Take my working woman, take her for a wife, you two sleep together. Maybe she will have a child for me.” He replied, “Yes.”

³ After that Sarai gave that woman Hagar to Abram for a wife.

⁴ They slept together, Hagar and Abram. After that Hagar became pregnant. Because of that she became proud towards her boss, Sarai. “She is just nobody”, said Hagar.

⁵ After that Sarai became angry with Abram. "I gave you my working woman to keep in the camp. Now after becoming pregnant she has become proud towards me. You are to blame. God will tell you, I am right."

⁶ Abram said to her, "She is your worker, you are boss for her. Whatever you want with her, do that to her."

After that Sarai was keeping Hagar in a bad way. Because of that Hagar ran away towards the desert.

GOD APPEARED TO HAGAR (16:7-16)

⁷ In that desert in dry country Hagar sat down near a spring. God appeared to her like an angel.

⁸ There he said to her, "Hagar, you are Sarai's working woman. Where have you come from? Where are you going?" Hagar replied, "I am running from my boss afraid."

⁹ He said to her, "Return to your mistress, obey her."

¹⁰ I will give you very many grandchildren's grandchildren and those who come after them, you won't be able to count [lit 'name'] them, they will be very many.

¹¹ You are pregnant, you will have a child, a boy. Yes, I heard you crying, for that reason you will name your son Ishmael.

¹² When he grows up he will be a fighter against all people, they all will be fighters against him. He will be a solitary dweller."

¹³ After that Hagar thought, "Truly it was God I saw, I am really alive, he did not kill me." She named God, 'The One Who Habitually Sees Me'.

¹⁴ Because of that she named that well, “The Living One Sees Me”.

¹⁵ After that Hagar returned to Sarai. After that she had a child for Abram, a boy.

¹⁶ Abram had 86 years. At that same time Hagar had the child. Abram named him Ishmael.

17

ABRAM WILL BE FATHER FOR MANY (17:1-27)

¹ Abram became old, having 99 years. After that God again appeared to him. He said to him, “I am the greatest [lit. 'I truly am another'], very strong. All others are weak alongside me. Listen to me, do the right thing always.

² I will give you many grandchildren's grandchildren and those who come after them. That really true word I give you.”

³ Abram knelt down with his forehead on the ground.

God said to him,

⁴ “I am putting this my word down for you, truly you will be grandfather for many people. Your grandchildren's grand-children and those who come after them will spread out in many countries.

⁵ Therefore now I am giving you another name. From now your name will be Abraham. That name says, 'Father For Many'.

⁶ Yes, I will give you many grandchildren's grandchildren and those who come after them. They will spread out to many countries far and

near. From them there will be some important bosses.

⁷ This word is for you and for the children who will come after you, it will be forever. I will be a father for all of you.

⁸ Yes, this country, they name it Canaan country, I will give to your grandchildren's grandchildren and those who come after them. Now you are staying in this country like a stranger. Later all this country will belong to your mob forever, I will be a father for them.

⁹⁻¹¹ You and your mob who will come after you must believe my word forever. From now on you must cut [euphemism for 'circumcise'] all your (pl) males. When you do like that all people will know about you, you are my people.

¹²⁻¹³ When the little ones have 8 days you (pl) must cut them all. Your workers also you must cut. Perhaps a working person's male children will be born in your camp. You must cut them. Perhaps you will get with money workers from foreign countries. Those also you must cut. Like that you must do.

¹⁴ You must believe this word of mine. Those who don't believe me will not be my people. They ignore my word. Therefore I will not be a father for them.

¹⁵ This other word I am telling you (sg). Your wife, Sarai, she will have another name. From now you will not name her Sarai. You will name her Sarah.

¹⁶ I will do good to her, I will give you two a child, Sarah will give birth to a child. Sarah's

descendants will become many. They will spread out in every direction, they will settle in different countries. Some from among them will become important bosses.”

¹⁷ Abraham knelt down, his forehead down on the ground. He laughed to himself, he said to himself, “I am very old, I have 100 years. How will I now become a father for my child? Sarah is old also, she has 90 years. How now will she give birth to a child?”

¹⁸ After that Abraham said to him, “God, perhaps you will do good to my child, Ishmael, to his descendants also you will do good.”

¹⁹ In reply God said to him, “Truly your wife Sarah, she will give birth to a child. You will name him Isaac. I will look after him, in accord with my word, him and his descendants. They will be my people forever.

²⁰ You asked me to do good to Ishmael. Yes, I heard you. I will do good to him also, I will give him many people. He will have 12 sons. They will become important bosses. Their descendants will become many.

²¹ That Isaac, he is the one who will be mine forever. I will be Father to him. Sarah will give birth to him about this time in one year.” In that way God spoke to Abraham.

²² After he finished talking to Abraham God went away.

²³⁻²⁷ There were very many working men in Abraham's camp. Some he had earlier got with money, others earlier had grown up from infancy in his camp. On that very day Abraham

gathered all the men in his camp, old ones and children. On that very day in accord with God's word Abraham cut all the men. Another person cut him also. At that time Abraham was an old man, he had 99 years. His son, Ishmael, had 13 years. Truly on that one day those two were cut, Abraham and his son, Ishmael.

18

GOD AND TWO ANGELS CAME TO ABRAHAM (18:1-15)

¹ Fairly soon after that God again appeared to Abraham. Abraham was staying near the big trees at Mamre. The sun was above. In the heat he was staying in his tent, at the doorway.

² He looked, he saw three men standing nearby.

Abraham stood up, he ran to them, he knelt down in front of them.

³ He said to them, "Do not go straight on.

⁴ Sit down here a while in the shade of the trees. I will get water for you, you can wash your feet.

⁵ Food also I will bring for you. After eating you will go." They said to him, "Yes. Good."

⁶ Abraham ran to the tent, he told Sarah, "Be quick! Get flour, cook damper for them."

⁷ After that he went outside, he got a bullock, a young one, in good condition. He said to a worker, "Be quick! Kill this animal, cook it."

⁸ After that was done Abraham took meat and milk and other things like that [no word for 'cheese'], he gave it to them. While the men were eating, Abraham was standing near the trees.

⁹ One of those men was really God. He spoke to Abraham, "Where is your wife, Sarah?" "She is in the tent."

¹⁰ God said to him, "Truly after a year I will return, Sarah will give birth to a child, she will have a boy."

Nearby, inside the tent, Sarah was listening.

¹¹⁻¹² She laughed to herself, she said to herself, "I am old, my husband also is old. I am very old, I cannot have a child."

¹³ God said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh? Why did she say to herself, 'I am very old, I cannot have a child.'?"

¹⁴ It is not a puzzle for me. Truly I will do in that way. I will return after a year, truly Sarah will give birth to a child." In that way God spoke to Abraham.

¹⁵ With fear Sarah lied to him, "I did not laugh." He replied, "Truly you laughed."

ABRAHAM ASKED GOD ABOUT SODOM AND GOMORRAH (18:16-33)

¹⁶ After that those three (previously mentioned) stood up, they went, they were looking towards Sodom. Abraham was going along with them.

¹⁷ As he was going God was thinking to himself, "Those men in those two towns, the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah, they are really bad. I might kill them dead forever. What shall I do, shall I tell Abraham I might do that? Yes I will tell him.

¹⁸⁻¹⁹ I chose Abraham, because of him I will do good to all people, in all countries. I will give him many grandchildren's grandchildren

and those who come after them, his mob will become very many, they will become important bosses. Because of that Abraham will tell his mob to listen to me for ever, they will do the proper thing for ever. After they do like that I will do good to them in accordance with my word.”

²⁰ After that he said to Abraham, “You know about those people in Sodom and Gomorrah. I have heard about them, they have continually been doing evil.

²¹ As a result of that word I will go, I will see. Perhaps that word I heard is true.”

²² After that those other two continued on towards Sodom. God and Abraham stood there.

²³ Abraham said to him, “Perhaps some in Sodom do good, they might go in the straight way. How will you act? Will you kill those also.

²⁴ Perhaps 50 inhabitants of Sodom are good. Will you kill all the inhabitants of Sodom?

²⁵ You should not kill the good ones, only the bad ones you should kill. You should do only good.”

²⁶ God replied, “For 50 who habitually do good I will not hit that town. I will just leave them all.”

²⁷ Abraham said to him, “I’m nothing, I should not ask.

²⁸ Perhaps there are only 45 habitually good ones in that town. How will you act? Will you kill everyone in the town?” “For 45 habitually good people I will not hit that town.”

²⁹ Again Abraham said to him, “Perhaps there are 40 good ones there.” “For 40 good ones I will not hit that town.”

³⁰ After that Abraham said to him, “Again I will ask you, please don't look at me with anger, perhaps there are only 30 good ones there.” “For 30 good ones I will not hit that town.”

³¹ Again Abraham was bold. “Perhaps there are only 20 good ones there.” “For 20 good ones I will not hit that town.”

³² After that Abraham said to him, “I will ask only once again. Please don't be angry with me. Perhaps there are 10 good ones there.” God replied, “Truly for 10 I will not hit that town.”

³³ After that, after talking to Abraham, God went, Abraham returned to the camp.

19

TWO ANGELS CAMPED WITH LOT IN SODOM (19:1-29)

¹ The other two continued on towards Sodom. God sent them, those two were angels. They arrived at the town at sundown.

At that time Lot, Abraham's younger brother's son, was sitting at the gate of the town. He saw those two, he went to meet them. He bowed to them with his face downwards.

² He said to them, “Please come to my camp. You will wash your feet, you will stay in my house. In the morning you can go wherever you want to go.” They replied, “Don't worry. We will stay right here on the level area for the night.”

³ Lot continued to ask them to stay in his house. Therefore they went to his camp. He brought to them flat damper and various good foods. Those two were eating.

⁴ While those two were sitting there, Sodom men came to the house. There were young men and old, all the Sodom men, they were standing outside.

⁵ They called out to Lot, "Where are those two men who came to your house? Bring them to us!" Those Sodom men were truly sex-mad, they wanted those two.

⁶ Lot went outside, he shut the door behind him.

⁷ He said to them, "Don't do that sort of thing. It is very bad.

⁸ Listen. I have two daughters, young girls. They have not slept with a man. Let me bring those two daughters to you. Do to them whatever you want. Those two men are strangers, leave them. They came to my camp. Truly I should look after them."

⁹ After hearing that word they became angry. "Go away! Go away! You came here from a long way off, now you will make yourself a boss for us. We will truly do bad to you." They pushed Lot in another direction, they tried in vain to break his door.

¹⁰ After that those two angels pulled Lot inside the house, they shut the door.

¹¹ After that they made those Sodom men blind, they could not see. In vain they were searching for the door.

¹² The two said to Lot, “Who from your family are in this town? Children? Sons-in-law? Tell them they must leave this town.

¹³ Soon we two will truly burn all this town. God knows about the people here, they are very bad. He sent us here to burn everything completely.”

¹⁴ Lot went to his two sons-in-law, the ones his daughters were promised to, he said to them, “Soon God will burn this town completely. Run quickly from here lest you die!” They ignored him, they were thinking it was like a game, that he was only tricking them.

¹⁵ When it became first light the angels said to Lot, “Take your wife and two daughters, all of you run outside this town lest you die!”

¹⁶ Lot was ignoring them, he did not hurry. After that those two angels took him by the hand, they went quickly outside the town. (God had pity on Lot, therefore they did that.)

¹⁷ After that those two said to them, “Run, run! Do not look behind! Do not settle down partway on the plain. Run straight on to the hills lest you die!”

¹⁸⁻¹⁹ Lot replied, “You two with pity have been kind to me, you saved me. Listen to me. The hills are really far away. I can’t run as far as there. I might die partway.

²⁰ Do you see that town, that little town over there? I will run as far as there. I will be safe there.”

²¹ One said to him, “Yes. You (pl) go there. I will not burn that small town.

²²⁻²³ I will wait a little while for you. As soon as you arrive there I will burn the remaining country. Therefore run!" When the sun had just risen Lot and his two daughters arrived at that town. The name of that small town is Zoar.

²⁴⁻²⁵ After that God sent from the sky things like stones with fire, like that they hit those two towns, Sodom and Gomorrah. All the inhabitants died. God also hit the plain, the country became bad, without grass, without trees.

²⁶ Lot's wife ignored the word from the two angels. She looked behind her towards Sodom, salt covered her. That woman died, salt covered her, it made her like a termite mound.

²⁷ In the morning Abraham returned to that (previously mentioned) place, to the place where he was talking to God.

²⁸ From the hills he looked toward the plain, towards Sodom and Gomorrah. Smoke was going up in that direction.

²⁹ In that way God burned completely the plain and the two towns. Only Lot and his two daughters he sent away from Sodom lest they be killed. God listened to Abraham, he saved Lot.

LOT'S DAUGHTERS DID VERY BADLY (19:30-38)

³⁰ Lot was afraid to stay in that small town, Zoar. He left there, he went to the hills. He and his daughters were staying in a cave.

³¹ One day the oldest one said to her younger sister, "Our father is old, we are without men. In this country there is truly not one man.

³² Let us give father wine to drink. After that, when he is drunk we will sleep with him. In that way we will have a child from our father.”

³³ In the night they gave him wine. After he was drunk the eldest one went to him, she slept with him. Lot did not know that she had come and she had gone away.

³⁴ On the next day the eldest one said to her young sister, “Last night I slept with father. Tonight we will again give him wine. After that you will sleep with him, you will have a child from him.

³⁵ That night they again gave wine to their father. After that the youngest one slept with him. Lot did not know she had come and she had gone away.

³⁶ In that way Lot's two daughters became pregnant by their own father.

³⁷ The oldest one gave birth to a child, a boy, she named him Moab. They called the ones who came after him Moab's mob.

³⁸ The youngest one also gave birth to a child, a boy. She named him Ben-Ammi. They called the ones who came after him Amu's mob.

20

[Chapter 20 omitted at this stage.]

21

SARAH GAVE BIRTH TO A CHILD (21:1-7)

¹⁻² After that God's word for Sarah came true for her. Earlier he said to Abraham, “Your wife Sarah will give birth to a child.” In accordance with God's word she had a child, a boy.

³ Abraham named his child Isaac. That name says, 'He Laughs'.

⁴ After 8 days Abraham cut him in accordance with God's word.

⁵ At that time he was very old, he had 100 years.

⁶ Sarah was very happy, she laughed, "God made me happy. Others when they hear will be happy, they also will laugh.

⁷ Everyone was saying I would remain forever without a child for Abraham. Now I have given birth to a child for him after he is old."

ABRAHAM SENT HAGAR AND ISHMAEL AWAY (21:8-21)

⁸ The child became big, he left the breast. After that Abraham told his workers to cook a lot of food for many people. After that they all came to Abraham's camp, they were eating that food, they were happy.

⁹ Ishmael, Hagar's son, in play was mocking Isaac. Sarah saw those two, she became upset.

¹⁰ She said to Abraham, "After you die my son, Isaac, he only will get your belongings. That other child, the working woman's child, he will not get your belongings. Send that working woman and her child right away."

¹¹ Sarah's word made Abraham upset. He did not want to send away his own child.

¹² God spoke to him, "Don't be upset about Ishmael and his mother. Listen to Sarah, do in accordance with her word. Earlier I said to you that I will give you many grandchildren's

grandchildren and those who come after them. From Isaac they will come.

¹³ Ishmael's grandchildren's grandchildren and those who come after them will be very many. He also is your child. Therefore I will do good to him also."

¹⁴ In the morning at daybreak Abraham gave Hagar food and water. He put a water container on Hagar's shoulder. After that he sent the two of them away.

They were going about in the desert near what's-that-place, near Beersheba.

¹⁵ Their water ran out. After that Hagar left her son near a tree.

¹⁶ She went a little way off, she sat down. She said to herself, "Truly my son will soon die. I don't want to see that." She was really crying for the child.

¹⁷ The lad was crying, God heard him. From the sky he called Hagar, "Hagar, do not be upset, do not be afraid. I heard the lad cry.

¹⁸ I will look after him. I will give him many grandchildren's grandchildren and those who come after them. Now go to him, take him by the hand, make him stand up." Like that God spoke to her.

¹⁹ After that Hagar looked, God showed her water. She went there, she filled the water container, she took it to the lad, she gave him water.

²⁰ Ishmael became big, God was caring for him. He became a hunter.

²¹ He was staying in the desert, in the country named Paran. His mother got a wife for him from Egypt. [21:22-34 omitted at this stage.]

22

GOD TESTED ABRAHAM (22:1-19)

¹ After a long time God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Yes?"

² He said to him, "Your own child, that Isaac, truly you love him. Take him, you two go to a far-off place, to the country Moriah. In the hills I will show you one hill/rock. Right there kill your own child, put his body on the fire, burn it to ashes. Do like that for me."

³ At daybreak Abraham got up from sleep. He got firewood, he put it on a donkey. After that Abraham and two workers and Isaac went to that country, to Moriah they were going.

⁴ After two camps he saw that hill from far away.

⁵ He said to his two workers, "Stay right here, the donkey also. We two, the child and I, will go there, we will give an animal/meat to God. After that we will return to you two."

⁶ Abraham put the firewood on Isaac's shoulder. Abraham carried the knife and the firestick. Then they went.

⁷ Isaac said to his father, "Father!" "Yes?" "We are taking firewood and a knife. Where is that sheep we will kill for God?"

⁸ Abraham said to him, "God himself will give us a sheep to burn." After that they were going.

⁹ They arrived there, earlier God told Abraham about that place. Abraham gathered stones, he put the firewood on top, he did not light it. He tied up his son, he put him on top of the wood.

¹⁰ After that he picked up the knife to kill the child.

¹¹ From the sky God called to him, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Yes?"

¹² "Stop! Do not kill your son! I was just testing you. Earlier I told you, you will kill your son, you will give him to me. You did not withhold him from me. From that I know about you, you continually do what I tell you." In that way God spoke to Abraham.

¹³ Abraham looked, he saw a ram close by, its horns were stuck in a tree, it could not pull itself out. He got that animal, he killed it for God. He did not kill his own child, he kept him alive in accordance with God's word.

¹⁴ After that Abraham named that hill "God Is A Giver". Therefore right up till now they say, "On God's hill God will give to us."

¹⁵ Again God called to Abraham from the sky.

¹⁶⁻¹⁸ "You listened to me, you did not withhold your own child from me. Therefore I will truly do good to you, I will give you many grandchildren's grandchildren and those who come after them. You know about the stars in the sky, they are very many. I am telling you now, I will also make your grandchildren's grandchildren and those who come after them very many. Some might dislike your mob, I will place your mob as bosses for those who

dislike them. I will make it very good for your mob. All other people everywhere will say to me, 'God, you truly did good to Abraham's mob. Like that please do good to us also.' You trusted me. Therefore like that I will do good to you. I am putting down my word for you, that word will truly be for you forever." In that way God spoke to Abraham.

¹⁹ After that Abraham and Isaac returned to the two workers. After that they went to Beersheba. Abraham was staying there. [22:20-24 omitted.]

23

SARAH DIED (23:1-20)

¹⁻² After that Abraham's wife, that Sarah, died. She was very old, having 127 years. She passed away there, at Hebron, in the country Canaan. Abraham cried for her.

³ After crying for her he went to the bosses of the town. (Those men were Hittites [lit. 'Yiti's-plural'].) Abraham talked to those people.

⁴ "You know me. I came from far away. This is not my country. I am like a stranger/foreigner. My wife has died. Please give me land, there I will put the dead one."

⁵⁻⁶ "Yes, you choose a cave. You are an important boss. Choose a good cave, there you will put your wife. We will not withhold land from you."

⁷ Abraham bowed down to them.

⁸ He said to them, "Please speak to the man, Zohar's son, Ephron.

⁹ You might ask him to give me a cave in what's-that-place, in Machpelah. That cave is on his land. I will give whatever money he wants for that. I will give the money here, you all will see. After that that cave will become mine."

¹⁰⁻¹¹ That man Ephron was sitting there among them. He told Abraham, while other men were listening, "Old man, I will give you that cave, that land close to the cave also. You will put your wife there. All the men here heard what I said."

¹² Again Abraham bowed down to the men of the land.

¹³ He said to Ephron, "No. I will give you money for that land. Take this money from me. After that that land will be mine, I will put the dead one there."

¹⁴⁻¹⁵ That Ephron said to him, "Old man, please listen to me. I might ask you to give me 400 (pieces of) money, but no. I will give the land to you, just take it for no money. You should put your dead one in the cave."

¹⁶ "No, I will truly give you the money." Right then Abraham gave Ephron 400 (pieces of) money, in accordance with Ephron's word.

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ Therefore that cave in Machpelah became Abraham's, that land near the cave and all the trees on that land also. Those important bosses were watching. They all knew, Abraham got that land with money.

¹⁹ After that Abraham put his dead wife in that cave, in the cave at Machpelah, east of Mamre, in the country Canaan.

²⁰ In that way that cave and land near the cave became Abraham's forever, for a grave.

24

A WIFE FOR ISAAC (24:1-67)

¹ At that time Abraham was very old. God was looking after him well, he gave him animals and belongings in abundance, truly he did good to him.

²⁻⁴ One day Abraham called a man, an important worker of his. He was boss for all Abraham's other workers. He said to him, "You will go to bring a wife for my son. Truly do not bring a woman who is an inhabitant of this country. Certainly not. Go to my own country. Bring a wife for him from my family. Put your hand between my thighs, give me your true word, you will do like that in accordance with my word. You know about God, he is the one who made the sky and the ground. He will hear your word. If you ignore me, he will know about you."

⁵ That worker replied. "That woman might not follow me. She might tell me 'Certainly not'. After that what shall I do? Should I take your son to your country?"

⁶ Abraham said to him, "Certainly not. You must not take my son there.

⁷ God, he is above, earlier he truly told me to leave my country. He gave me his true word, 'Truly I will give this country to your grandchildren's grandchildren and those who come after them.' He will send his angel ahead of you; he will show you a wife for my son.

⁸ That girl might say to you, 'I will not follow you, I will stay in my own country.' If she says that just leave her, return without her. Truly you must not take my son to that country to get a wife for him."

⁹ After that that worker put his hand between Abraham's thighs, he gave him his true word, he said to him, "Truly I will do like that."

¹⁰ After that that worker gathered possessions and gold and various things from Abraham's (belongings). If he should get a young girl, he would give (them) to that girl and her father and mother. After that he got 10 of Abraham's camels, he went towards that country, towards Mesopotamia. He was going camp by camp right to that town, to what's-that-place, Abraham's younger brother, Nahor, used to live there.

¹¹ One day, at evening, he arrived near a well, outside a town. Water used to spring up there. He made the camels kneel near the well. The women from the town were coming there in the evening to get water.

¹² He talked to God. "God, all the time my master Abraham obeys you. Truly you look after him, Please do good to him now. Show me a young woman for his son.

¹³ I am here near the water. Right now young women are coming here from the town for water.

¹⁴ I will ask one to give me a little water. She might tell me, 'Yes, here is water for you. I will bring water for your camels also.' The woman who says she should give water for the camels, she is the one who will be a wife for Isaac. Like

that will you show me that young girl. If you do that, I will know about you, you are taking care of Abraham.”

¹⁵⁻¹⁶ Just as he was talking to God, Rebekah came, she was carrying a water container on her shoulder. That young girl had a beautiful face. She had not slept with a man. She did not have a promised one. (Her father's name was Bethuel. Bethuel's mother's name was Milcah, his father's name was Nahor. That Nahor was Abraham's younger brother.) Rebekah came down to the well, she filled the water container, she climbed back up.

¹⁷ The old man went quickly to meet her, he said to her, “Please give me a little water from the container.”

¹⁸ “Yes, old man, here is water for you.” Straight away she put the water container from her shoulder on to her hand, she poured water for him. He drank it.

¹⁹ After that the young girl said to him, “I will get water for the camels also, they will drink until they are satisfied.”

²⁰ Straight away she poured water into the animals' drinking container. After that she hurried back to the well, she went down, again she scooped up water, she was bringing water for all the camels.

²¹ Quietly that old man was watching her, He was thinking to himself, “This young girl might be a wife for Isaac.”

²² The camels drank till satisfied. After that the old man gave the young girl a gold nose-thing, he put on her arms two gold arm-things also.

²³ He said to her, "Who is your father? Perhaps I and my workers can sleep one night in your father's camp?"

²⁴ She replied, "My father is Bethuel. He is Nahor's son, his mother is Milcah.

²⁵ You can all stay in our camp. Our camp is wide. We have grass for your camels."

²⁶ The old man bowed face down to God, he worshipped him, he said to him,

²⁷ "God, you are good. Thank you, you helped us. You gave your word to my master Abraham. Truly you kept that word. You brought me straight here, to my master's mob, to his own family."

²⁸ After that that young woman hurried to her mother's camp, she reported to them the old man's talk.

²⁹⁻³⁰ Rebekah's older brother, Laban by name, was there. He saw those two arm-things and the nose-thing. He heard his younger sister's talk. Then he hurried to the old man. He was standing near the well, close to the camels.

³¹ Laban said to him, "God is pleased with you. Do not stay here. Come, you will come to our camp. We have made ready for you and your workers. Your camels will rest there also."

³² They all went to Laban's house. There Laban loosed the riding gear from the camels, he gave them grass. After that he brought water for the old man and the workers for them to wash their feet.

³³ After that he brought food to the old man. The old man said to him, "Let me tell you why I

came. After that I will eat.” “Yes, you will tell us why you came.”

³⁴ The old man said to Laban and his father, “I am a worker of Abraham's.

³⁵ God has truly done good to my master. He made him an important boss. He gave him many animals, sheep and goats and cattle and camels and donkeys. He gave him gold money, working men and women also.

³⁶ Yes, when he was old his wife, Sarah, gave birth to a boy child for him. My master gave all his money and animals and belongings to that very son.

³⁷⁻³⁸ He said to me seriously, 'You will bring a wife for my son. Do not choose a young woman who is an inhabitant of this country, an inhabitant of Canaan. You will go to my father's country, you will go to my family's camp. From there you will get a wife for my son.' Like that my master told me.

³⁹ I said to him, 'Perhaps that young woman will not follow me.'

⁴⁰ He replied, 'God will send his angel ahead of you. That angel will show you a girl from my father's family.

⁴¹ They might say to you, “Certainly not. We will not give her as a wife for Abraham's son.” If they speak in that way just leave her, return without the young woman.' In that way Abraham spoke to me.

⁴² Today I arrived at the well near your town. I said to God, 'God, my master Abraham obeys

you, he is in your mob. Now please do good to me. Show me that wife for Isaac.

⁴³ I am here near the well. After the young women come for water I will ask one, "Give me a little water from your water container."

⁴⁴ Perhaps she will reply, "Yes, here is water for you. I will bring water for your camels also." If she talks in that way she will be the wife for Isaac. Show me that very same young woman.'

⁴⁵ While I was still talking to God, Rebekah came, she was carrying a water container on her shoulder. She got water. Then I asked her, 'Please give me water to drink.'

⁴⁶ Quickly she lowered the water container, she said to me, 'Yes, here is water for you. I will bring water for your camels also.' After that I drank, she gave water to the camels also.

⁴⁷ After that I asked her, 'Who is your father?' She said to me, 'My father is Bethuel. He is Nahor's son, his mother is Milcah.'

After that I put the nose-thing on the young woman, I put two arm-things on her arms.

⁴⁸ God showed me the wife for Isaac from my master's own relatives. Therefore I bowed face downwards, I worshipped God, I said to him, 'Thank you. You have helped me.'

⁴⁹ Yes, what will you say? Will you tell my master, 'Yes'? Will you give this young woman fo his son? If you don't I will do something different."

⁵⁰ Laban and Bethuel replied, "God has done this. This young woman will go. We won't prevent her going.

51 You will take Rebekah, you will all go. She will become the wife of your master's son in accordance with God's word."

52 When he heard their word that old man, Abraham's working man, knelt down, he said to God, "Thank you. You have helped me."

53 After that he gave Rebekah gold and good belongings. He gave Rebekah's brother and mother other good belongings also.

54 After that the old man and his workers ate food, they drank wine. They slept right there.

In the morning after getting up from sleep the old man said to them, "Today I will return to my master, I will take the young woman also."

55 Rebekah's brother and mother replied, "Please wait a while! That young woman should stay here a little while, maybe for 10 days she will stay. After that we two will send you all away, the young woman also."

56 He said to them, "God has done good to me. Now I should go soon to my master. Please don't prevent me."

57 "Please wait. We will ask the girl what she will say."

58 They called her. When she came they asked her, "Will you go with these people?" Rebekah answered, "Yes."

59 After that they sent Rebekah to go with the old man and his workers. There was an old woman there, she earlier looked after Rebekah and raised her. They sent her also.

60 They spoke kindly to Rebekah. "Truly we want God to do good to you. We want your

grandchildren's grandchildren and those who come after them to become very many. Some people might hate them, we want your mob to become bosses for those others who hate them.”

⁶¹ After that Rebekah and her working women climbed on camels, they followed the old man. In that way the old man transported Rebekah, he was returning to his master.

⁶² At that time Isaac was in the south of Canaan country, in the area of the water-hole, what's-its-name, Lahai-Roi.

⁶³ One evening he was just walking around, away from his camp, he saw the camels coming.

⁶⁴ From a long way off Rebekah saw Isaac, she got down from the camel.

⁶⁵ She asked the old man, “Who is that man coming towards us?” “He is my master, Isaac.” Rebekah got a cloth for her face, she covered her face.

⁶⁶ Then the old man reported everything to Isaac.

⁶⁷ After that Isaac took Rebekah to a tent. That tent earlier was his mother's. He was sad after his mother died. Now Rebekah became his wife. Isaac truly loved her. Right after that he became happy, he was not sad for his mother.

25

ABRAHAM'S OTHER CHILDREN (25:1-6)

¹ Abraham earlier took another wife. Her name was Keturah. [Earlier: Implied. Abraham was 137 when Sarah died. His fathering of children by Keturah must have been before 17:17, when Abraham was 99, and probably

before Hagar and Abraham produced Ishmael, when Abraham was 85.]

²⁻⁶ Those two had 6 sons, their children. In that place they grew up. Their father gave them belongings. After that he sent them to another country, eastwards. He sent them away from Isaac. After that he gave all the rest to Isaac, whatever belongings he had.

ABRAHAM DIED (25:7-11)

⁷⁻⁸ Abraham was very old, having 175 years. After that he died.

⁹⁻¹⁰ His two sons Isaac and Ishmael put their father in a cave at Machpelah. Earlier that same cave used to belong to another. Abraham got it with money, a lot of money he gave Ephron for that cave and land. When his wife Sarah died Abraham put her in that cave. In that same cave now his two sons also put him.

¹¹ After that God took care of Isaac. Isaac made his camp at the water-hole, what's that place, Lahoi-Roi. [25:12-20 omitted.]

REBEKAH GAVE BIRTH TO TWO CHILDREN (25:21-26)

²¹ Isaac and his wife were staying there a long time without children. Isaac asked God, "Will you give my wife a child." God listened to him, afterwards his wife became pregnant.

²² She had two children in her womb. They were wrestling. Rebekah was upset. She asked God, "Why?"

²³ God told her, "You will give birth to two males. The descendants of those two will argue with each other, they will separate from each

other. The descendants of the youngest one will be strong, they will be bosses for the others.”

²⁴ After that Rebekah gave birth to two children, males.

²⁵ The oldest one appeared red and hairy. Therefore they named him Esau.

²⁶ After that the younger one appeared. He was holding his older brother's heel. Therefore they named him Jacob. At that time Isaac was old, having 60 years.

ESAU ATE RED FOOD (25:27-34)

²⁷ Those two Esau and Jacob became big, they became men. Esau was a hunter, he used to go out for meat. Jacob used to stay in the camp, he used to work for his father.

²⁸ Esau used to bring meat for his father to eat. That is why Isaac used to like his eldest one. The mother used to like the youngest one.

²⁹ One day Jacob was cooking food, red food, the name for that is lentil. Esau returned after having gone hunting. He was hungry.

³⁰ He said to his younger brother, “I am hungry. Give me some of that red food.” (Because of that they gave him another name, Edom.)

³¹ Jacob replied, “Wait a bit! Tell me your true word. You are the eldest one. Later our father will die. After that you will be boss for us two. You will get the big lot of the belongings. I will get the small lot. Tell me I will be like the older brother. Tell me like that, after that I will give you food.”

³² Esau replied, “Without the food I might die. After that I will not get the belongings, I will not

be older brother for you. That is just true. Give me some of that food!”

³³ Jacob replied, “Give me a straight word. After that I will give you food.”

Esau thought to himself he should just stay not being boss for him, he was wanting to be without caring. He gave the word to him, “Yes, you can be like the older brother.”

³⁴ Therefore Jacob gave him damper and red food. After that Esau ate, he drank, he went away without caring.

[From 26:6-9 it is clear that at least part of 26:1-33 is a flashback which chronologically fits in between verses 20 and 21 of chapter 25, before Rebekah gave birth to the twins. We have bypassed it at this stage, but it is significant, in that it records God's passing on to Isaac of the promises made to Abraham, and of God's prospering Isaac for Abraham's sake.]

26

ESAU'S TWO WIVES (26:34-35)

³⁴ Esau was 40 years old, he got two wives. Those two women were local inhabitants, from Hiti's mob.

³⁵ Isaac and Rebekah were unhappy because of their daughters-in-law. The daughters-in-law made them really upset.

27

JACOB DECEIVED HIS FATHER (27:1-29)

1 When Isaac became old he became blind. One day he called for his oldest one, Esau, "Oldest one, come here!" "Yes, what?"

2 The father said to him, "Listen! I have become old. I might die anytime now.

3-4 While I am alive I will tell you a word, God will do this good thing for you. Listen to me, take your weapons for going hunting. Having killed, cook for me really tasty meat. When I have eaten it I will tell you the word in preparation for my death."

5 While he was talking to Esau, Rebekah was listening to him. Esau went from the camp to go hunting.

6 After that Rebekah said to the youngest one, "I heard your father telling your older brother,

7 'Go hunting, having killed and returned, cook for me really tasty meat. When I have eaten I will tell you my good word, in preparation for my death.' That is how he spoke to your older brother.

8 You listen to me, youngest one.

9 Go, choose two small goats. When you have killed them bring them to me. On your behalf I will cook really tasty meat for your father, his favourite.

10 You will take that meat to your father. Then it will be to you he will tell the good word in preparation for his dying."

11 Jacob said to her, "Listen to me. My older brother is hairy, I am smooth, without hair.

12 Father might touch me. After touching me he might realise I am the youngest one, he might

realise I lied. I might make trouble for myself!"

¹³ His mother said to him, "Don't be afraid! Let the trouble come to me instead of you. Do what I say. Bring me two goats."

¹⁴ Jacob listened to his mother. He killed two goats, he took them to his mother. She cooked really tasty meat for his father.

¹⁵ Then Rebekah got good clothes belonging to the eldest one, Esau's (clothes), she gave those garments to the youngest one. "Put these clothes on yourself."

¹⁶ After that she got a few bits of skin from the goats, she put them on his hands and neck.

¹⁷ She gave Jacob the cooked meat and damper. "Take this food to your father."

¹⁸ Then he took the food to his father, he said to him, "Father!" "Yes, who are you?"

¹⁹ Jacob lied, he said to him, "I am the eldest one, Esau. Having gone I have returned to you with meat, as you told me. Sit up now, eat this really tasty meat. After you have eaten tell me the word of how God will do good to me."

²⁰ Isaac said to him, "Wow! You got the meat quickly." Jacob lying said to him, "Your boss, God, showed me the meat quickly."

²¹ Isaac said to him, "You talk like someone else. Come here! After touching you I will know if you are telling the truth."

²²⁻²³ After that he came close to him. His father touched him. The goat skin deceived Isaac. "You talk like Jacob, your hand is like Esau's."

²⁴ Wanting to be sure, his father asked him, "Are you really Esau?" "Yes, I am Esau."

25 “Pass me that meat. After eating it I will tell you my word.” Jacob took the meat to him, he gave him something to drink also, red wine.

26 Then after eating Isaac said to him, “Come here to me, hug me.”

27 He came to him, he hugged him. Isaac smelled Esau's clothes. He said to Jacob, “My son, you smell like grass, you smell like grassy country, very pleasant. God has been looking after that country.

28 God will send rain for your country. Many foods will come up in all directions from the vegetation on your country. He will give you a lot of food and water to drink.

29 People from far away, from other countries will work for you, they will obey you. You will be boss for your younger brothers, your mother's children will kneel down at your feet. Some will hate you, they will ask God to do evil to you. In response God will do evil to them. Some will do good to you. In response God will do good to them.” In that way Isaac spoke to Jacob. Like that he said God would do good to him.

ESAU LEARNED ABOUT THE LIE (27:30-45)

30 After that Jacob went, he left his father there. Soon Esau returned from hunting.

31 He cooked tasty meat. After cooking it he took it to his father. “Father, sit up. Eat this meat from me. When you have eaten it you will tell me God's good word, God will do good for me.”

32 Isaac asked him, “Who are you?” “I am your eldest one, Esau.”

³³ As soon as he heard Esau's word he trembled with fear. "Who, after killing meat, gave it to me? I finished eating the meat, all the meat. I gave my good word for him. Yes, God will do good to him in accordance with my word."

³⁴ As soon as Esau heard that word he became upset. Truly he cried loudly there. He begged his father, "Give your good word to me also!"

³⁵ He said to him, "No, truly! I gave him my good word. Your younger brother deceived me for that word. I gave him my good word. I truly cannot give you that word."

³⁶ Esau said to him, "My younger brother is a deceiver of people. Jacob is a good name for him. Twice my younger brother has deceived me. He tricked me into saying he is like an older brother for me. He tricked you about God's word, you gave it to him, you did not give it to me. Will you give me also your good word. In that way God will do good to me also."

³⁷ Isaac said to him, "With what word can I talk to you, my son? I put your younger brother boss for you. His relatives will all obey him. I told him he will get much food and drink."

³⁸ Esau said to his father, "Give me a small good word! Tell me one good word!" He cried loudly.

³⁹ His father said to him, "You will stay in poor country. Insufficient rain will fall on your country.

⁴⁰ You will stay as a fighter there. Your younger brother will stay a boss for you. And later you will separate from him. After that he will not

force you to work. That is the word I am giving you, son.”

⁴¹ After that Esau was thinking about his father's good word from God, his father gave it to Jacob. Therefore Esau did not like his younger brother. He was thinking, “Later my father will die. We will cry for him. After that I will kill my younger brother.”

⁴² Someone learned about that word of Esau's and told their mother. Rebekah called to the younger one, she said to him, “Your older brother will kill you dead. In response they will kill him also. I will be without children.

⁴³ Listen to me, lest you die. Go from here. Go to another country, to what's-its-name, to Haran, to my older brother Laban.

⁴⁴ Stay there with him for a while.

⁴⁵ Later your older brother will forget about that lie of yours. After that he will feel good towards you without anger. Then I will send a message for you. I want you both to stay alive, not dying.” In that way Rebekah talked.

ISAAC SENT JACOB TO ANOTHER COUNTRY (27:46—28:5)

⁴⁶ After that Rebekah said to her husband, “I do not like those two wives of Esau's. Maybe Jacob will choose a wife from this country, from Hiti's mob. If he does that I will not want to stay alive, I will die.”

28

¹ Isaac called for Jacob, he talked kindly to him, “You choose a wife not from here, not from

Canaan.

² Go from here a long way to another country, to what's-the-place, to Mesopotamia. Go to the camp of what's-his-name, of Bethuel, your mother's father. Get for yourself a wife from right there, from your uncle Laban's family.

³ God will do good to you, he will give you many children, you (pl) will become very many.

⁴ God earlier made a promise to your grandfather Abraham, he told him, 'This country will be for your family for ever.' In accordance with that word he will give you this country. Now you are staying here like a stranger. Later God will give you this country forever."

⁵ After talking like that Isaac sent Jacob far away. After that Jacob was going towards Mesopotamia, he was searching for his uncle Laban, in what's-that-place, in the country Aram. That Laban was the son of Bethuel. He was the older brother of Rebekah, the mother of Esau and Jacob. [28:6-9 has been omitted.]

*GOD APPEARED TO JACOB IN A DREAM
(28:10-22)*

¹⁰ Jacob left that country Beersheba, he was going towards that town Haran.

¹¹ After the sun went down he made his camp partway. He was sleeping with his head on a stone.

¹² There in sleep he dreamed. He saw a what's-its-name, a thing for climbing. One end was on the ground, the other was in the sky. Some of God's angels were climbing, some were coming down.

¹³ There in the dream he saw God also, he was standing near the top of the thing for climbing. He said to Jacob, "I am God. I am the one who was looking after Abraham and Isaac, your grandfather and father. Those two also belong to me. This country where you are now sleeping I will give you, for you and your children.

¹⁴ You will get many grandchildren's grandchildren and those who come after them, very many indeed. They will spread out in all directions, west and east, north and south. As a result of your mob I will do good to all people in all countries.

¹⁵ I will be with you wherever you go. Later I will cause you to return to this country. I will not leave you, I will be with you. I will do for you what I said to you." In that way God spoke to Jacob.

¹⁶⁻¹⁷ After that Jacob woke up from sleep. He was afraid. "Wow! God is here, I did not know, I was just sleeping. This camp makes me afraid. Wow! Truly this is God's camp, the gate that leads to his camp in the sky is right here!"

¹⁸ At daybreak Jacob got up from sleep. Then he got that stone, the one his head had been lying on, he stood that up, he poured oil on that stone. He did that to remind him God talked to him there.

¹⁹ He named that camp Bethel. That name says, 'God's House'. (Close to that camp there was a town, earlier they named it Luz.)

²⁰ After that he said to God, "You told me you will be with me, you will care for me, you will

give me belongings and food,

²¹ you will look after me, I will return to my father's camp. If you do like that for me, in exchange I will obey you whatever you tell me.

²² I will talk to you at this rock I stood up. If you give me 10 possessions, I will give you one in return." Like that he talked to God.

29

JACOB AND LABAN (29:1-14)

¹ After that he went from Bethel on foot. At last he came to them in another country, in the east.

² After that he was looking around, truly he saw a well, a big stone covered it. There he saw a few groups of sheep, they were lying close to the water, they were waiting for water.

³ In the distance other people also were bringing their sheep, they were bringing them to the well. As soon as all had arrived at the water the people in charge of the sheep used to move that stone back. After giving water to the sheep they used to put that stone back to cover the well.

⁴ Jacob said to the people in charge (of the sheep), "Where is your camp?" They answered him, "We are from the town, from what's-its-name, from Haran."

⁵ He said to them, "Do you know Laban, Nahor's grandson?" "Yes, we know him."

⁶ "Is he well?" "Yes, he is well. Look, that is his daughter, she is coming now with sheep."

⁷ He said to them, "Listen. The sun is still above. Why are you bringing the sheep when

the sun is above? Quickly give them water, then quickly take them to the grass.”

⁸ They replied, “We shouldn't give water yet, we will wait for the rest of the sheep. Truly after that we will move back this stone, when we have done that we will give them water.”

⁹ While they were still talking, Rachel arrived with her father's sheep. She was the one who used to look after them.

¹⁰ As soon as he saw Rachel and his uncle's sheep Jacob went to the well, he moved back that big stone from on top, he gave water to his uncle's sheep.

¹¹ Then he hugged Rachel.

¹² He said to her, “Your father is older brother for my mother. My mother is Rebekah.” Rachel ran to tell that word to her father.

¹³ After hearing that word Laban went quickly to his nephew. He hugged him, he took him to his camp. Jacob told him how he came from far away, from another country, his own.

¹⁴ Laban said to him, “You are my own nephew. Stay here with me.” Jacob stayed there, he worked for his uncle for one month.

JACOB WAS WORKING FOR HIS UNCLE SO THAT HIS UNCLE WILL GIVE HIM A WIFE (29:15-30)

¹⁵ After that Laban said to him, “You are my own nephew. You were just working for me. Now after working what shall I give you?”

¹⁶ Laban had two daughters. One was Leah, the other Rachel.

¹⁷ Leah's eyes were a bit bad. Rachel was very attractive.

¹⁸ Jacob was liking Rachel, he was wanting her for his wife. Therefore he said to Laban, "I will work for you for 7 years. After that you will give me Rachel as a wife."

¹⁹ Laban said to him, "Yes. I will give this Rachel to you, not to others. Truly you will stay right here with me."

²⁰ After that he was working for his uncle for a long time, for 7 years. Truly he liked that girl. Therefore he was working, he was waiting 7 years, he was thinking it was like a few days he was working for that girl.

²¹ After that he said to his uncle, "I worked for you for 7 years. Quickly give me my promised one."

²² Laban sent word to the people nearby to come to his camp. "We will all eat food for these two when they are joined, they will be man and wife." Then his workers cooked a lot of food for them to eat.

²³⁻²⁵ After it became dark Laban brought Leah, Rachel's older sister, to Jacob, he said to him, "This one now is your promised one." (Laban gave one working woman to Leah, her name was Zilpah.) That night Jacob slept with Leah. As soon as he woke up, he saw it was another, Leah. Then he became angry, he said to his uncle, "Why did you deceive me? I worked for you for another woman, for Rachel. Why did you give me Leah?"

²⁶ Laban said to him, "This little one I will keep for you. The big one will be first. That is the way

we do it.

²⁷ Wait for just a little while. Let us complete 7 days for this one, after that I will give you her younger sister for a wife. After that you will work for me for 7 years for that little one.”

²⁸ Jacob listened to Laban. “Yes, I will again work for you.” Then he was staying with Leah for 7 days, after that Laban gave him another wife, Rachel.

²⁹ (Laban gave one working woman to Rachel, her name was Bilhah.)

³⁰ Jacob slept with Rachel also. He loved Rachel a lot, he didn't care about Leah. For that wife Rachel he was again working for his uncle for 7 years.

JACOB'S CHILDREN (29:31—30:24)

³¹ God knew about Jacob, he did not love Leah. God was sorry for Leah, he gave her children. Her younger sister was staying without children.

³² Leah became pregnant. Truly she got a male child. She thought about God, “God felt sorry for me. He gave me this boy. Truly my husband will love me, I got this child for him.” So she named that eldest child Reuben.

³³ After that she got another child, a male. “God knows about my husband, he does not love me, therefore God gave me another child.” So she named that child Simeon.

³⁴ After that she got another child, a male. Then she said, “I gave my husband three male children. Now truly he will love me.” So she named that one Levi.

³⁵ After that she got another child, a male. She said to God, "Thank you, God. I will praise you." So she named that child Judah. After that she did not have any more children for a long time.

30

¹ Rachel was staying without children. She was jealous of her older sister. She said to her husband, "Don't withhold children from me. Let us two get a child. If not I will die."

² Jacob after that became angry with his wife. "Don't look at me. Truly I am not like God. God is the one who has prevented you from having a child."

³ Rachel said to Jacob, "That woman now, my worker, Bilhah. You two sleep together. She will get a child for me. That child will be mine." Like that Rachel spoke to him.

⁴ After that Jacob slept with that working woman.

⁵ Bilhah became pregnant, she got a male child.

⁶ Rachel said, "I asked God if he would give a child for me. He listened to me, he gave me a male child." So she named that child Dan.

⁷ Again that working woman became pregnant, then she got another child, a male.

⁸ Rachel said, "My sister and I have been struggling with each other because of children, I truly got this child, my sister did not prevent me." So she named that child Naphtali.

⁹ Leah was thinking, "For a long time I did not give birth to a child. I will give my working

woman to my husband. She will get a child for me.”

¹⁰ Therefore Zilpah gave birth to a male child for Jacob.

¹¹ Leah said, “Very good.” So she named that child Gad.

¹² After that Zilpah got another child, a male.

¹³ Leah said, “I am happy. Women will call me 'Happy One'.” So she named that child Asher.

¹⁴ It became summer for them. People were getting that food, what's-its-name, wheat. At that time Reuben, Leah's eldest one, went from the camp a long way. He saw that medicine from the desert, what's-its-name, mandrakes. He got some, he took them to his mother. Rachel asked her older sister, “Give me some of those mandrakes belonging to your child.”

¹⁵ Then Leah became angry with her. “You took my husband, now you are begging for what my child got, that medicine to make (a woman) pregnant.” Rachel replied, “Give me some of the mandrakes. In exchange you will sleep with our husband tonight.”

¹⁶ In the evening Jacob returned to the camp from far away after work. Leah met him. The she said to him, “Tonight we two will sleep together. I gave my sister some mandrakes my child got. Therefore she told me we will sleep together.” That night truly those two slept together.

¹⁷ God listened to Leah, after that she became pregnant. After that she got another child, a male.

¹⁸ Leah said, "I gave my working woman to sleep with my husband. After doing like that God gave me another male child." So she named that child Issachar.

¹⁹ After that Leah got another child, a male.

²⁰ She said, "God has done good to me. I have had 6 sons for my husband. Because I have done that he will say I am a real woman." So she named that child Zebulun.

²¹ Later on she got another child, a female. She named that one Dinah.

²² For years and years Rachel had been begging God to give her children. At last he listened to her.

²³ Truly she became pregnant, she got a child, a male. She said, "For years and years I was ashamed from being without children. Truly God gave me a child. They will not make me ashamed any more."

²⁴ She said, "Perhaps God will give me another son." So she named that child Joseph.

JACOB WAS WORKING FOR HIS UNCLE SO THAT HE WILL GIVE HIM ANIMALS (30:25-43)

²⁵ As soon as Joseph was born Jacob said to his uncle, "I will return to my own country.

²⁶ Truly I worked for you for my wives (dual) and children. You know that. Now I will take them. Do not make me stay. I will go."

²⁷ Laban said to him, "Listen to me. I want you to stay here. As soon as you came from over there earlier God did good to me, he gave me many tame animals. I know about that by magic

from above. Resulting from that I want you just to stay with me.

²⁸ Name for yourself whatever you want, I will give you whatever, after that you will stay with me.”

²⁹ Jacob said to him, “I have worked completely for you. I took good care of your animals. You know that.

³⁰ You had a small number of animals. As soon as I came here they became many. I worked for you. Therefore God gave you lots of belongings. From now on I must take good care of my children.”

³¹⁻³² Laban asked him, “What shall I give you? Tell me.” Jacob replied, “Do not give me money. Wait, I will tell you. Today I will look at your animals, I will separate them. I will take the black sheep and the spotted and striped goats. Those particular ones. They will be mine, all the others will be yours. If you say yes, I will stay with you, I will take care of your animals for you.

³³ Later you will see I do the right thing to you, I am not a deceiver for you. You will see those animals. Some will be black sheep, some will be spotted and striped goats. If you see other kinds you will know I stole them from you.”

³⁴ Laban replied, “Yes, good. You will do like that.”

³⁵⁻³⁶ Laban deceived Jacob. That very day he took all the spotted and striped goats and all the black sheep, he told his sons, “Take all these goats and sheep over there far away, take care of

them over there.” As a result of that word they took them 3 days' journey.

Then Jacob was taking care of all the rest of Laban's animals.

³⁷ He broke different kinds of green trees/sticks. He trimmed those various small sticks finely to peel (them) down to the white parts.

³⁸ He put those whittled sticks near the water. As soon as those animals came to the water they saw those sticks. When they came close to the water they used to mate.

³⁹ When they mated they looked at those sticks. Then the sheep gave birth to black young, the goats gave birth to spotted and striped young.

⁴⁰ After that he separated those young ones. He kept them for himself, he did not put them with Laban's animals. He put the oldish [= mature, matable] animals facing towards Laban's animals. [Laban's animals: The plain ones in Jacob's care, not the non-plain ones that Laban's sons had taken far away. 'Facing' here is taken to be a euphemism for 'mating them with'.]

⁴¹ Whenever the strong animals were mating Jacob put the sticks in front of them.

⁴² Whenever the weakish animals were mating Jacob did not put those sticks there. The young ones from the weak animals became Laban's. The young ones from the strong animals became Jacob's.

⁴³ Because of doing that Jacob got for himself many sheep and goats. He was owning many camels and donkeys, and working men and women.

31

JACOB WANTED TO RETURN TO HIS COUNTRY (31:1-16)

¹ After that Laban's sons were criticising Jacob. They said, "Jacob took all our father's animals. As a result of doing that he has many animals. They should be our father's." Jacob heard about their critical words which they said.

² Laban didn't like him. Jacob knew that.

³ After that God said to Jacob, "Go back to your father's country, to your own people, I will take care of you." In that way God spoke to him.

⁴ At that time Jacob was staying a long way away from his camp with his animals. After that Jacob sent a word to his two wives, Rachel and Leah, to come to him.

⁵ As soon as they came he said to them, "Your father used to be good to me, now he is not. I know he does not like me. God has been taking care of me. He is the one who used to take care of my father, he has been taking care of me also.

⁶ You two know about me, I worked for your father a long time.

⁷ He lied to me many times about everything. God was preventing him from harming me.

⁸ Your father said to me, 'You will keep the black sheep in response to that work you've done.' After that those sheep gave birth to black offspring. Your father told me, 'You will keep the goats with spots and stripes in response to the work done.' After that those goats gave birth to young with spots and stripes.

⁹ God is the one who has been taking animals from your father, he has been giving them to me.

¹⁰ At the time the animals mated I had a dream. In that dream I saw that the male goats with spots and stripes were mating with the females, the other males did not mate.

¹¹ In that dream God spoke to me, 'Jacob!' 'Yes, what?'

¹²⁻¹³ 'I am God. Earlier I appeared to you at Bethel. There you stood up that rock for a reminder, and you poured oil on it for me, you told me, "I will listen to you." I have been watching you. I know about Laban, he has been deceiving you. Look at those animals. The male goats with spots and stripes are mating, the other males are not mating. Now listen to me. Leave this country, go back to your own country.' In that way God spoke to me."

¹⁴ Rachel and Leah listened to Jacob's word. They replied, "Our father will not give us anything from his.

¹⁵ He regards us as strangers. Earlier he gave us to you in exchange for work. As a result of that he got lots of belongings. From that now he has not kept anything.

¹⁶ God took the belongings from him, he has given them to you. Therefore those things whatever they are now belong to us two and our children. You listen to God. Do what he says to you."

JACOB SECRETLY LEFT LABAN'S CAMP (31:17-21)

17-20 After that Jacob got his belongings in preparation for leaving. He did not tell Laban. Laban had earlier gone from his camp to cut the wool from his sheep. While Laban was far away Rachel stole her father's carved ones like Dreamtime-Beings.

After that Jacob got camels to carry his wives and children. He sent his animals ahead, sheep and goats and cattle and donkeys. Jacob and his wives (pl) and children left that camp of Laban's secretly. In this way he deceived his uncle. He went with fear straight towards the country Canaan.

21 He crossed the big river, what's-its name, Euphrates. He kept on going towards the hilly country, towards what's-its-name, in Gilead.

LABAN FOLLOWED THEM RAPIDLY (31:22-25)

22 After three days Laban heard Jacob had already gone.

23 Laban got some men, after that they followed Jacob. They followed him for 7 days towards the hilly country, in what's-its-name, in Gilead.

24 Partway along God spoke in a dream to Laban, "You just go to Jacob without fighting."

25 Jacob and his children and wives had already camped in the hilly country. Then Laban and his men arrived near to Jacob, they made camp nearby.

LABAN AND JACOB REBUKED EACH OTHER (31:26-44)

26 Laban rebuked Jacob. “You deceived me. You took my two daughters, truly like two prisoners. Why did you do it like that?”

27 Why did you go secretly? You should have told me in preparation for your going. We could have eaten food, we could have danced and sung, we could have been happy. I could have sent you away happily.

28 I could have hugged my daughters and grandchildren. Why did you prevent me, why did you take them without a word? Truly you did that deceptively.

29 Since that is the way you behave I truly might do harm to you. But no. Your father used to listen to God. That same God spoke to me in the night, he told me, 'You just go to Jacob without fighting.' Because he spoke like that to me I will just let you off.

30 You want to see your father. That's alright. Why did you steal my Dreamtime-Being-like things? That is very bad indeed!”

31 Jacob replied, “I was thinking about you, you could have taken these two from me. I was afraid. Because of that I went secretly.

32 I did not take your Dreamtime-Being-like things. Whoever of my mob took them, that person you should kill. Look at my possessions. Whatever you see of yours, point it out to us, to your men and mine. After that keep those for yourself.” Jacob did not know that Rachel in readiness to leave for Canaan secretly took her father's carved Dreamtime-Being-like-things.

Because of that Jacob spoke in that way.

³³ After that Laban entered Jacob's tent. He was searching for those Dreamtime-Being-like things. He didn't see those things there. After that he was searching in Leah's tent, he didn't see them there either. After that he went into the tent of those two working women. Nothing, there also unsuccessfully he was searching for them. After that he went to Rachel's tent.

³⁴ Rachel had already hidden those Dreamtime-Being-like-things in a camel's saddle. After that she sat on that saddle. Her father was feeling around in Rachel's possessions, absolutely nothing, he did not see them.

³⁵ Rachel spoke to her father, "I cannot stand up, (I am) in our women's way. Please don't be angry with me, that I am sitting here." In that way Laban was unsuccessfully searching for his Dreamtime-Being-like-things.

³⁶ Therefore Jacob then became angry with Laban, he rebuked his uncle. "I didn't do anything bad to you. Why did you pester me like that? What bad did I truly do to you?"

³⁷ You thoroughly shifted and looked through all my belongings. What possessions did you see that were yours? If you saw them put them here. These men, yours and mine, will see them. They will say whose those things are.

³⁸ I stayed with you 20 whole years. I was taking care of your animals. In that time your sheep and goats stayed safe. They had many offspring. I did not eat your rams.

³⁹ When wild dogs would bite dead your goats and sheep I did not take those dead ones to show you. No. I put in my sheep and goats in replacement of those dead ones of yours. When other people secretly took yours in the day or night you used to ask me to put (mine) for those.

⁴⁰ Day after day I worked for you in the heat, many nights I truly stayed in the cold. Many times I stayed without sleep while I was caring for your animals.

⁴¹ I stayed with you 20 years. I worked for you 14 years for those two women, your two daughters. After that I worked for you for 6 years to get animals for myself. In those 20 years you deceived me many times.

⁴² You did not want to give me anything. God was taking care of me. He knows about me, I worked well for you, he knows about you, you made it hard for me. Therefore he rebuked you at night in a dream." In that way Jacob spoke to him.

⁴³ After that Laban answered him, "These two are my children, those children of theirs are my grandchildren. Those animals and other things you kept are mine too. You look! These are mine only. Perhaps I might keep my daughters and their children. No, I am just letting them go with you.

⁴⁴ Yes. We two will talk to each other. Without hitting we will just stay, without hitting. We will heap up these stones in order to remind us." In that way Laban spoke to him.

JACOB AND LABAN MADE A PROMISE TO

EACH OTHER (lit. 'put down a word for each other') (31:45-55)

⁴⁵ Therefore Jacob got a big stone, he stood it up.

⁴⁶ Then he told his men, "You also get stones." Truly they got them, they gathered them together near the big rock. After that they all ate food near that heap of rocks.

⁴⁷ Laban named that heap in his language, 'A heap for reminding'. Jacob also named it 'A heap for reminding' in his language.

⁴⁸ Laban said to Jacob, "This heap will remind us two of our word to each other.

⁴⁹ After we separate you will go to your country, I will return to mine. After that God will watch us two." That is why they also named that place Mizpah. That name says, 'Watching-place'.

⁵⁰ Laban kept talking to him, "You might take other wives, you might leave these two daughters, you might hit them over there. I might not know. Listen to me. God is watching you.

⁵¹ You see this big rock I stood up and this heap I made.

⁵² Those stones will stay to remind us two about this promise we made. I will not go beyond this pile to fight you. You also will not come to fight me because of/for fear of this pile.

⁵³ One of us two might ignore this word, God will know about him. Our two paternal grandfathers, Abraham and Nahor, used to obey him. Perhaps I might ignore that word. In that case truly that same one, God, he will hit me.

Perhaps you might ignore that word. In that case truly that same one, God, he will hit you.” Like that Laban spoke to Jacob.

Jacob listened to Laban's word. He said to Laban, “That same God is the one my father Isaac used to obey, that God knows about me. I am keeping that word for you.”

⁵⁴ After that Jacob got one of his animals and killed it to give to God. He asked his men and Laban's to eat food with him. After eating they slept at that stone for the night.

⁵⁵ Early in the morning Laban got up from sleep. He hugged his grandchildren and his two daughters. After that he returned to his country.

32

JACOB WAS THINKING IN PREPARATION FOR MEETING HIS OLDER BROTHER (32:1-23)

¹ As Jacob was going on towards his father's country, some of God's angels came to him.

² When Jacob saw them he said to himself, “This is God's camp.” He named that country Mahanaim.

³ After that Jacob sent some men ahead to his older brother, to Esau, he was in that country Edom.

⁴ He told them, “Take this word to him, say to Esau, my boss, 'Your working man, Jacob, sent us to you. He was staying with Laban. He was there a long time.

⁵ Now he has cattle and donkeys and sheep and goats and workers, men and women. He sent you this word. Perhaps you will feel good

towards him. Perhaps you will do something good to him.'#" He told his men, "You will talk like that to Esau."

⁶ The men went to Esau in accordance with Jacob's word. After returning they said to Jacob, "We went to your older brother, we told him your word. He is coming, he will meet you. He is coming with 400 men."

⁷ After hearing that word Jacob became very frightened. He separated his people into two groups. He separated his animals too.

⁸ He said to himself, "As soon as Esau comes to one mob he might kill them all, the other group will run away for safety."

⁹ After that he talked to God, "You truly are God, you are the one who took care of my grandfather Abraham and my father Isaac. You said to me, 'Go back to your own country, to your own people. I will take care of you, I will keep you safe.' Like that you spoke to me.

¹⁰ Truly you have been doing good things for me. I am quite unimportant, just rubbish. Earlier when I left my country I crossed to the far side of this river, this Jordan river, I was just going with only a walking stick. Now I have returned with many animals and people.

¹¹⁻¹² I am afraid of my older brother Esau. He might kill us all, the children and their mothers. You told me, 'I will take care of you, I will give you many children and theirs will come after them.' Like that you spoke to me. God, now will you take care of us. Prevent Esau, he might kill us all dead." In that way he spoke to God.

13 Jacob slept there one night. After that he chose some animals to give to his older brother.

14-15 He chose 200 female and 20 male goats, 200 female and 20 male sheep, 30 female camels and their young, 40 female and 10 male cattle, 20 female and 10 male donkeys. He separated those into different mobs to give to his older brother.

16 He said to his working men, "You go ahead of me, take these mobs of animals to Esau. Go one behind the other, fairly far apart, fairly far apart (from each other) you will travel."

17 He said to the leading man, "As soon as my brother meets you he will ask you, 'Who is your master? Where are you going? Whose are those animals you are caring for?'"

18 You will reply to him, 'These animals are Jacob's, your working man. He is sending them to his boss, to Esau. He is coming behind now.'#" That is what he told that man.

19 He told the others, "You (pl) also will say that to him, as soon as Esau meets you.

20 You tell him, 'Your working man Jacob is coming behind us.'#" Jacob was saying to himself, "Perhaps these animals will make Esau's feelings good towards me. Later he will see me, perhaps he will feel good towards me."

21 When his men went with the animals Jacob stayed there.

22-23 In the night he took his belongings and his wives and children, they crossed the river Jabbok. He left them all on the far side. After that he went back.

24a He stayed there alone.

*A STRANGER CAME TO JACOB AT NIGHT
(32:24-32)*

^{24b} A man, a stranger, came to him. Those two wrestled each other (lit. 'tried to put each other on the ground'), unsuccessfully they were doing that right up to daybreak.

²⁵ Jacob didn't give up, he kept holding the stranger. Therefore that one hit him on the hip and put it out of joint.

²⁶ After that he said to Jacob, "It is becoming first light. Don't hold me. Leave me!" Jacob said to him, "You tell me whatever good you will do for me. If you don't I will keep holding you."

²⁷ That stranger asked him, "Who are you?" "My name is Jacob."

²⁸ That stranger said to him, "From now they will not name you Jacob. You have argued with God and with people, they have left you, you are still standing up. Therefore from now on your name will be Israel."

²⁹ After that Jacob asked him, "And who are you?" He said to him, "Don't ask, you can't talk in that way to me. Now I will do good to you." Like that he spoke to Jacob. Then he left Jacob there, he went away.

³⁰ Jacob said to himself, "I saw God's face. Wow! He didn't kill me." Because of that Jacob named that camp Peniel. That name says, 'God's Face'.

³¹ Right at that time the sun was coming up. Jacob left that country, he was going along limping after being hit on the hip.

³² Because of that story Israel's mob after they kill an animal do not eat the muscle from the hip. They remember that long ago God hit Jacob right on the hip.

33

ESAU CAME, HE MET JACOB (33:1-20)

¹ After that Jacob looked, Esau was coming to him with 400 men. He put his children with their own mothers.

² He put the two working women and their children in the lead. Near those two he put Leah and her children, behind he put Rachel and her child Joseph.

³ He went ahead, he met his brother. As he was going towards Esau he was bowing his head down 7 times.

⁴ Then Esau in response ran to him, there those two hugged each other. They were crying with each other, they saw each other with happiness.

⁵ After that Esau was looking around, truly he saw the women and children. "Who are these you are bringing?" "Those are the children God gave me."

⁶ Then the two working women and their children came close, they bowed their heads down in front of Esau.

⁷ After that Leah and her children came close, they also bowed their heads down in front of Esau. Then Rachel and her child Joseph also came close, they also bowed their heads down in front of Esau.

⁸ Then Esau asked, “Those animals I saw, why did you send them?” Jacob said to him, “Those are for you. As a result of my giving them you might feel good towards me.”

⁹ “No, I have enough, younger brother. Keep them for yourself.”

¹⁰ Jacob said to him, “Truly you were being good to me. You did not stay angry with me. Therefore I am very happy to see you. Please take those animals for yourself.

¹¹ God was doing good to me, he gave me many things. Take those animals for yourself.” Like that Jacob said to him. Esau replied, “Truly I will take them.”

¹² After that Esau said to him, “Let's we two go together, I will go ahead.”

¹³ Jacob said to him, “My children are only weak, they should go not fast. My animals, the sheep and goats and cattle, have their little ones, I musttake care of them. After going a long way in one day they might die.

¹⁴ You go ahead of me. I will come slowly behind with this lot. Later I will come to your camp in Edom.”

¹⁵ Esau said to him, “Yes, I will leave these men with you, you will come behind.” Jacob replied, “Take your men. I just want you to feel good towards me.”

¹⁶ After that Esau left his younger brother, he went back south to his country, to Edom.

¹⁷ Jacob did not continue on towards Edom. He stopped partway, at what's-its-name, at Succoth. There he made a house for himself, he made

bough shades for the animals also. Therefore now they name that camp Succoth. That name says, 'Bough Shades'.

¹⁸ After that Jacob and his mob left that Succoth, they went west. They arrived at a town, at Shechem, in the country, in what's-its-name, in Canaan. He made his camp near the town.

¹⁹ Earlier that country where he made his camp used to be Hamor's, Shechem's father. Jacob gave Hamor a lot of money for that country.

²⁰ There he heaped up stones. There he used to talk to God. He named that heap of stones El Elohe Israel. That name says, 'God is the One who cares for Israel'. [Chapter 34 has been omitted at this stage.]

35

JACOB RETURNED TO BETHEL (35:1-7,9-15)

¹ After that God said to Jacob, "Leave this country, go to Bethel, stay there. That is where I appeared to you earlier, when you were running away afraid because of your brother Esau. As soon you come to Bethel you will pile up stones, there you will talk to me." In that way God talked to Jacob.

² Then Jacob spoke to his wives (pl) and his workers. He said to them, "Leave your what's-their-names, those carved things like Dreamtime-Beings, from another country. Then wash yourselves, put on other clothes.

³ After that we will leave this camp, we will go to Bethel. Earlier I ran away afraid because of Esau. That is where I called to God, he listened to me. He is the one who took care of me wherever I was going. At Bethel I will pile up stones, I will talk to God there.”

⁴ At Jacob's word they gave him all their Dreamtime-Being-like things, their earrings also they gave him. He dug a hole near a tree, there in the hole which had been dug he covered them.

⁵ After that Jacob and his mob were going towards Bethel. God made the inhabitants of the area afraid, they did not chase Jacob.

⁶ Jacob's mob arrived at Bethel in the country, in what's-its-name, in Canaan.

⁷ There Jacob piled up stones, he talked to God. Earlier when Jacob was running away from his brother God appeared to him there. It was at that time Jacob had named that country El-Bethel. That name says, 'God is at Bethel'. [Verse 8 omitted.]

⁹ When Jacob returned from his uncle's country, God again appeared to Jacob, he spoke very kindly to him.

¹⁰ He gave Jacob another name, that name Israel. He said to Jacob, “Your name used to be Jacob. Now they will not call you Jacob, they will name you Israel.

¹¹ I am truly God, the boss for you all. I will give you many grandchildren. They will be very many. They will go far away, to other countries. Some will be big bosses, they will be kings.

¹² Earlier I gave this country to your grandfather and your father, to Abraham and Isaac. Now I will give it to you and your grandchildren, and those who come after them.” In that way he talked to Jacob.

¹³ After that God left him.

¹⁴ Right there Jacob stood up a big stone, he stood it upright. He poured wine and oil on the stone to give them to God.

¹⁵ That place where God came to him he named Bethel.

BENJAMIN WAS BORN. RACHEL DIED (35:16-21)

¹⁶ After that Jacob's mob left Bethel, they went towards what's-its-name, towards Ephrath. At that time his wife Rachel was pregnant. Partway she gave birth to the child, there she was very sick.

¹⁷ Another woman was waiting for the child to appear. “Don't be afraid, don't worry, you will have a male child.”

¹⁸ Rachel was very sick, slowly she was dying. In preparation for dying she named that child Benoni. Later Jacob gave him another name, Benjamin.

¹⁹ They put Rachel in a hole in the ground near the road, that road was going to Ephrath. (Nowadays they name that town Bethlehem.)

²⁰ Jacob stood up a big stone, he stood it upright, on top of where they put Rachel in the ground. That stone is still there now.

²¹ After that Jacob's mob kept going. They made camp on the far side of what's-that-place, of Eder. [35:22-26 omitted.]

JACOB'S FATHER DIED (35:27-29)

²⁷ After that Jacob returned to his father's camp at what's-its-name, at Mamre. (Another name for that town is Hebron.) Earlier Jacob's grandfather and father, Abraham and Isaac, made their camps there.

²⁸⁻²⁹ Isaac was very old, having 180 years. After that he died. His two sons Esau and Jacob buried him.

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