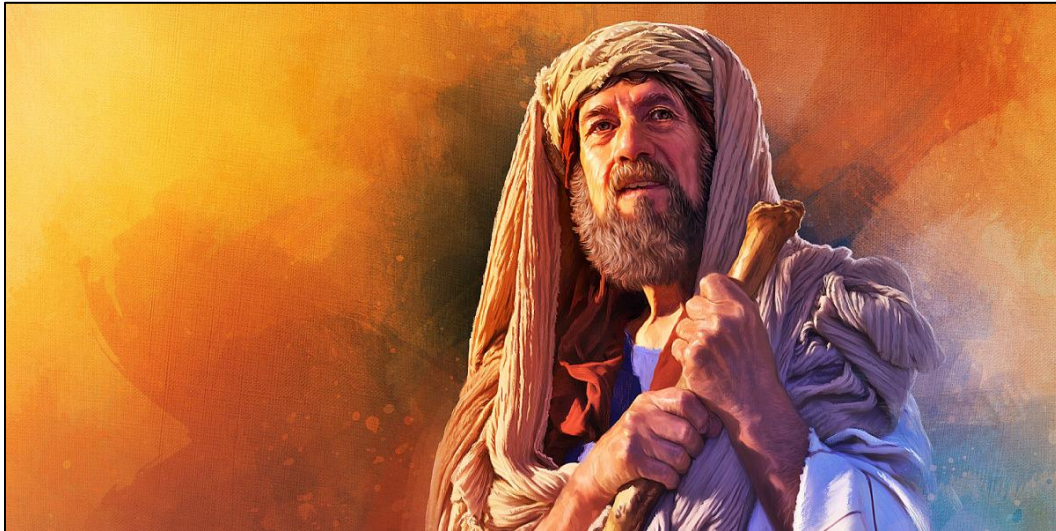


OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

Part 3: The Period of the Patriarchs

Mike Taylor

www.TaylorNotes.Info/abt



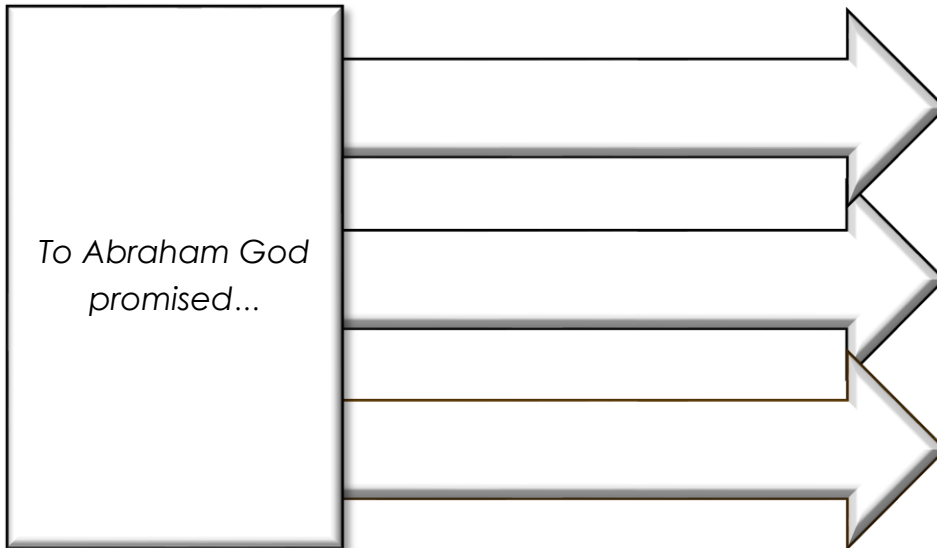
Scripture now focuses on the line of Shem, one of Noah's three sons. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph emerge in Genesis as prominent patriarchal figures that continue to disclose God's plan of redemption. During this period God promises to bless Abraham, and the world, through his descendants, allocating to them a specific area of land we often call the "Promised Land."

A patriarch in the Ancient Near East was either the father of a family or the ruler of a clan or tribe whose role was like that of a priest, a spiritual head of his family. The primary patriarchs of Israel were: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and his 12 sons (Acts 7:8-9).

I. ABRAHAM

- Abraham (born about 2166 B.C.) is not found initially to be a righteous man, nor was he someone like Noah who lived in contrast to the world around him.
- It is clear in the Scripture that Abraham's family did not worship Yahweh (Josh. 24:2), so in a sense God came to Abraham "out of the blue."
- About 26% of Genesis is dedicated to Abraham (Genesis 11:26-25:8), the first Patriarch of Israel.

A. The Abrahamic Covenant



B. The Nature of the Abrahamic Covenant

- It is an _____ covenant...there are no "if" conditions attached to it (15:17).
- It is a _____ covenant in which the promises should be understood literally.
- It is an _____ covenant (17:7, 13, 19).

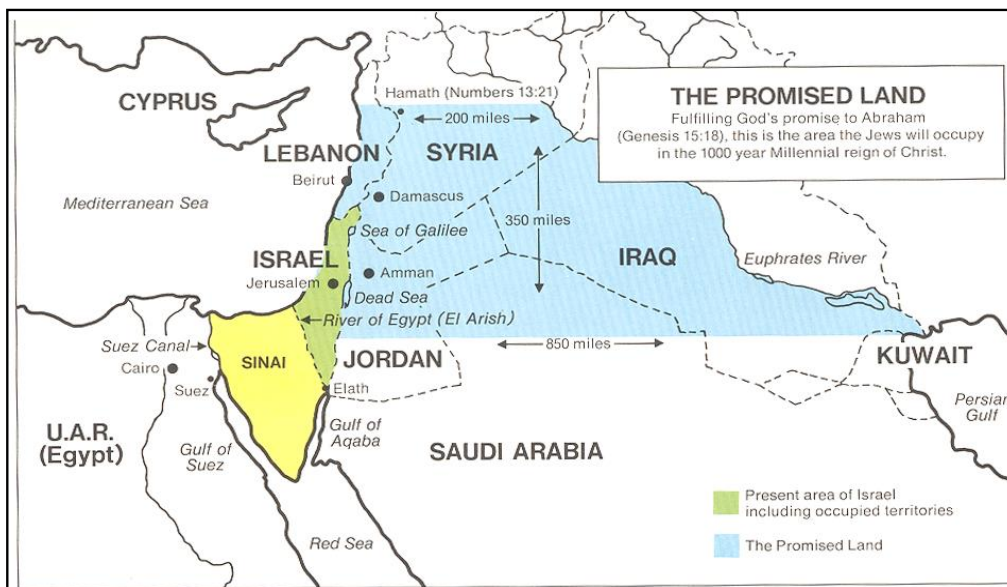


Figure 1 The approximate boundaries of the Promised Land (Kirban)

II. ISAAC

- His name means "He laughs" and was a quiet but very obedient individual.
- He often compromised or lied when facing a confrontation, but he was obedient when Abraham was about to sacrifice him.



- As the only child of Abraham and Sarah he became a wealthy livestock owner who eventually married Rebekah, the daughter of his uncle (Laban)
- Isaac became the recipient of the covenant God made with his father (Genesis 17:19) and fathered twin boys, Esau and Jacob.
- Scripture makes no qualms over his favoritism of his son Esau over his younger son, Jacob.
- Jacob tricked Esau out of receiving Jacob's covenantal blessing resulting in an intense hatred of Esau toward Jacob.
- Esau never challenged the validity of the transaction, though he regretted it bitterly.

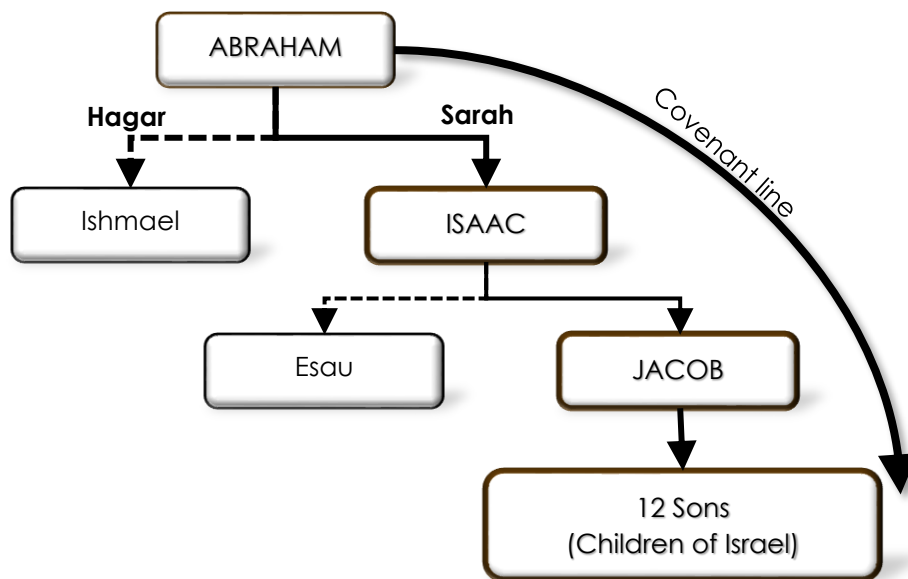


Figure 2 The covenant line through Isaac, not Ishmael

III. ISHMAEL

- Ishmael was the firstborn son of Abraham by Hagar (handmaid to Sarah).
- God had previously appeared to Abraham and promised that he would have a son and that he would be the father of many nations (Genesis 15).
- However, as time went on, Abraham had no children.
- His wife, Sarah, had been unable to conceive, and they began to question just how the promise would be fulfilled.
- Sarah was barren and in accordance with the custom of the age she gave to Abraham her handmaid Hagar an Egyptian as his concubine hoping that he might obtain a family by her.
- Ishmael, born of Hagar, is considered a patriarch of Islam (not Israel) based upon legends that have developed around him and information found in the Qur'an.



IV. ESAU

- Esau was Abraham's grandson, the older twin born to Isaac and Rebekah (the younger was Jacob).
- Rebekah had a difficult pregnancy, and God told her it was because "two nations are in your womb; one people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger" (Genesis 25:23).
- Esau's name means "hairy," which described him at birth (Genesis 25:25).
- Esau's twin was born holding Esau's heel and was named Jacob, which means "*supplanter*"—someone who tricks another out of something for personal gain.
- The twins' birth story served as a prophecy about their future.
- Esau became a skillful hunter (Genesis 25:27), and his father favored him.
- His mother favored Jacob.



- Esau took his hunting seriously; one day he came in from hunting so tired and hungry that he thought he was going to die (our first indication that Esau was a whiner).
- His hunger, along with the tantalizing scent of the red lentil stew his brother was cooking, convinced him to give up his birthright when Jacob asked for it (verses 29–34).
- Because of his desire for red stew, Esau became known as “Edom,” which means “red.”
- The son with the birthright would receive a double portion of the family inheritance, so Esau’s giving up his birthright was a big deal.
- In order to fill his belly, Esau had “despised his birthright” (Gen. 25:34).

V. JACOB

- Jacob’s life began with a struggle. As a twin in the womb with Esau, he jostled for position and was born grasping his brother’s heel.
- Jacob’s name is translated as “he deceives” (Genesis 25:26).
- When his mother, Rebekah, asked God during her pregnancy what was happening to her, God told her that there were two nations within her womb who would become divided.
- One would be stronger than the other, and the older would serve the younger (Genesis 25:23).
- Jacob and Esau grew up together living a nomadic life.

MOTHER	CHILDREN OF JACOB (ISRAEL)
Leah (Wife)	Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Dinah
Rachel (Wife)	Joseph, Benjamin
Bilhah (Concubine)	Dan, Naphtali
Zilpah (Concubine)	Gad, Asher

Figure 3 The children of Jacob (Israel)

VI. JOSEPH

- About 25% of the book of Genesis is dedicated to Joseph (Genesis 39:1-50:26).
- Of all the people in the Bible, Joseph was the most nearly perfect *type* of Jesus Christ.
- If you want to understand the life of Jesus Christ, become familiar with the life of Joseph.

JOSEPH	JESUS
Now Israel (Jacob) loved Joseph (Gen. 37:3)	This is my son my beloved with whom I am well pleased (Matt. 3:17)
His brothers hated him (Gen. 37:4)	They hated me without a cause (John 15:25)
So when Joseph came to his brothers they stripped him of his robe (Gen. 37:23)	They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him (Matt. 27:28)
Joseph found favor in his sight he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all he had (Gen. 39:4)	the father loves the son and has placed all things in his hands (John 3:35)
Joseph made himself known to his brothers (Gen. 45:1)	Then their eyes were open and they recognized him (Luke 24:31)

Figure 4 Similarities between Joseph and Jesus

VII. SUMMARY

- A. Abraham's life teaches us to trust God fully even when _____
_____.
- B. Joseph teaches us that God often works in ways we don't always understand but he ultimately means them for _____.
- C. God's covenant with Abraham reminds us of the great blessing that came through Abraham's line, the _____.