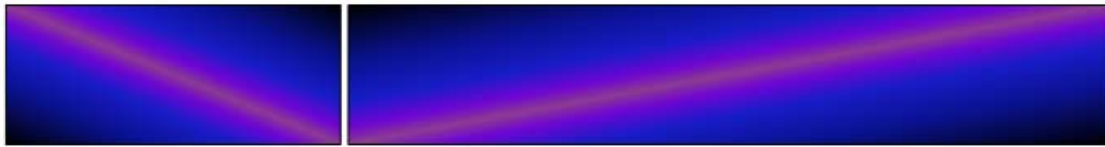


What are we covering today? – Second section of Genesis

**Primeval
Era (1-11)**

**Patriarchal
Era (12-50)**



**There are Four Story Segments in the Patriarchal Era (Ch. 12-50)
This is what we will cover today!**

**Abraham
(12-24)**

**Isaac
(25-26)**

**Jacob
(25-36)**

**Joseph
(37-50)**



Creation Reclaimed: A Family "Lives of Abraham, Isaac"

Abraham (12-24)

Litererary overview

Ab's Call: Imperative + 3 Conseqs.

Leave! (12.1, 3 > progression of identity base)
Great Nation
Blessed (Prosperity)
Great Name (3>progression of personal significance)
Bless Others! (12.2c)
Blessed-Blessers
Disparager-Cursed (chiasm, singular)
All Nations Blessed Through Abraham
(summation, design for blessing above all)

Tracing the Pattern: Ch. 12 (pattern of 12 through 24!)

Leave! (12.1, 3 > progression of identity base)
Great Nation
Blessed (Prosperity)
Great Name (3>progression of personal significance)
Bless Others! (12.2c)
Blessed-Blessers
Disparager-Cursed
All Nations Blessed Through Abraham

High points along the way

Ch. 12 Pharaoh is Angry - Protected fr. Ph.

Ch. 13 Yes: very rich, v. 2

Ch. 13 Gives Lot 1st Choice

Ch. 14 Test Implied: Gives \$ to Melc.

Ch. 14 Honored by Sodom's King

Ch. 14 Delivered Captive Cities

Ch. 14 Opponents Are Defeated

Ch. 15 Doubt: Eliezer=Heir?

God Responds with Reassurance of Biological Descendant
and Covenant for Land

Ch. 16 Doubt: Is Sarai Mother?

God's Plan is Muddled by Hagar / Ishmael Alternative

Ch. 17

Reconfirmed, Circum. Cvt
Names Changed
And Sarah will be mother.

Ch. 18

Reconfirm: Sarah
Hospitality to 3 Strangers
Ab Intercedes for Sodom

Ch. 19

Lot is Rescued, v. 29
Contrast: Ab's family will be moral (18.19)

Ch. 20

Muddled: Deception
Receives \$ from Abim.!
No: Abimelech is Angry; and Yes, Ab. Prays for Abim.
Yes: Protected fr. Abim.

Ch. 21

Isaac is Born
Abimelech Seeks Treaty
Torn: Loves Ishmael, Must Expel / Emancipate

Ch. 22

Yes-To Mt. Moriah!
The future Threatened
Binding of Isaac

Ch. 23 Land: Only a Grave

Ch. 24

Safeguard Son: A Kosher Bride
Safeguard Land: "Don't go back!!"

Further Chapter 24, Observations...

Literary Conclusion: A Winsome Episode, and Long!

Solemn Problem is Posed (24)

Though Abraham is blessed fully, v. 1...
A bride is needed (~Gen. 2, man is alone)
Solemn oaths imposed on servant
Not Canaanite wife
Not take son to Mesop.
A Joyful Solution Follows
Rebekah: answer to prayer, marriage, comfort (v. 67b)!

Historical Notes on Gen. 16, 21

Servant as Surrogate Wife (16)
Culturally accepted, but produced severe tensions (21)
Expulsion with Emancipation permitted, Laws of Lipit-Ishtar

Additional Hist. Notes

*Altars to God equivalent to "planting a flag for a king"

Name Changes

Name Change (17.5)
Abram (av = father + ram = exalted)
Abraham (av = father + raham = multitude [Arabic])
Sarai (my princess, archaic form)
Sarah (same, modern form)

Theological Context :Abraham (12-24)

About what did Abram believe God...leading to his justification (15.6)?
Any difference with faith >> justification in Paul's writings?

Why did God test Abraham (22)?

Quote On Faith and Righteousness

"Abraham's righteousness resided in his faith in God's gracious promise...[R]ighteousness in the Bible is not a norm-prescribing ethics [sic], but faithfulness to a relationship. The righteous person is loyal to the claims of all personal relationships."
OTS, 49.

Theology

God of Abraham answers specific prayer for servant, in interest of Isaac

Abraham (12-24): Theological Context, "**Covenant**"

Covenant

Initial Covenant (12.1-3)
Cvt Reconfirmed (15)
Abram believed God (15.6)
Cvt Sign: Circumcision (17)

Covenant Complications

Barrenness, 11ff
Pharaoh, 12
Abram at risk in battle, 14
Eliezer Servant? 15
Hagar >> Ishmael, 16
Abimelek, 20
Near-Sacrifice of Isaac at Moriah

God can miraculously fulfill promises despite complications!

Promises unfulfilled at Abraham's death:

- Greatness (only one retained son and ranch, not nation)
- Blessing to world (only rescued Lot's neighbors once)
- Land (only Sarah's burial plot, 400 yr. delay predicted in ch. 16)

Importance of Patriarch's (Abraham)

Transition from Global Focus (Gen. 1-11) to Chosen Family
Transition from Widespread Despair (Tower of Babel) to Global Blessing
(Gen. 12 Promise)

Though not perfect, Abraham demonstrated courageous faithfulness to God's leadership and promises.

Isaac (25-26), Literary Context: *Similarities to Abraham*

Barrenness of Wife
Two Sons
Wife/Sister Deception
Treaty with Abimelech of Gerar, Naming Beersheba
Material Prosperity
Reopening Father's Wells
Divine Reassurance
Famine

Literary: Isaac (25-26):

Aside from a conviction that a biblical writer would not fictionalize one of the patriarchs,
How can one begin to determine whether the story of Isaac has been fabricated?

Is Isaac a "Fabrication"?

*If fictionalized, the simplicity of Isaac's story is an insult to writer's demonstrated capabilities.

*The note concerning Second Famine (26.1) anticipates, counters charge of "fiction".

*Biographies of children which mirror parents are so very rare.

Historical Notes:

Mt. Moriah
Marah, "Bitter"
"Bitter of spirit"
"Morah" + "Yah[weh]" may yield "Moriah": "Bitterness / Grief of Yahweh, or Yahweh is my bitterness"

Gen. 26.4b-5

[To Isaac:] "Through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because Abraham obeyed me and kept my requirements, my commands, my decrees and my laws."

About Isaac's Famine...

Why do you suppose the underscored statement is included?

"Now there was a famine in the land—besides the earlier famine of Abraham's time—and Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines in Gerar." (Gen. 26.1)

Theological Context: Isaac (25-26)

Faithfulness of God
The Covenant Continues,
Despite initial lack of wife for Isaac
Despite Isaac's deception (26.3-5).
Despite initial barrenness of Rebekah

Creation Reclaimed: A Family "The Life of Jacob"

Jacob (25-35)

Literary Overview

Birth Promise to Rebekah, 25.23
Esau Despises Firstborn Birthright, 25.27-34
Jacob Obtains Father's Blessing, 27.1-40
Jacob Flees to Mesopotamia, 27.41ff
 God promises land, nation, blessing agency, 28.13ff
 Jacob is Tricked at Marriage, 29.14ff
Increase, but with Strife
 Flocks, 29.31ff
 Children, 29.31ff
God Protects Jacob from Laban, 31.1ff
Jacob Returns to Face Esau, 32.1ff
 Jacob Wrestles with God, 32.22ff
 God Protects Jacob from Esau, 33.1ff
Brothers Vindicate Sister Dinah, 34
Reconsecration at Bethel, 35

Birth Promise to Rebekah, 25.23
Barren, Again - God Provides Miraculous Birth
Foreshadows Jacob's Greatness
Heel-Grasper Name - God Gives Prophecy of Younger
 Esau Despises Firstborn Birthright, 25.27-34
 Erosion of Esau begins.

Birthright may be lost - Esau disqualified himself.
Jacob Obtains Father's Blessing, 27

-Jacob Obtains Father's Blessing, 27
-Is a blessing binding when deceptively obtained?
-Jacob Flees to Mesopotamia, 27.41-31.55...
 *Receive a blessing and run away?!?

*Reversal: Jacob Meets Deceptive Laban

Cvt. at Bethel: Gate of Heaven, 28.17
Jacob Became a Blessing, 30.27
God Fulfills Promise, Protects from Laban
Jacob Returns to Face Esau, Wrestles with God, 32
Jacob pleads with God, 32.10-11
Jacob appeals to Bethel promise, 32.12

Whom did Jacob wrestle?

Who won?

God Protects Jacob from Esau, 33.1ff
Brothers Vindicate Sister Dinah, 34

Historical and Theological Observations

Escalating Pattern of Deceit

-Abraham, Isaac deceived to protect a life (his own).
-Jacob deceived to usurp status and material benefit.
-Jacob's sons deceived to wreak deadly revenge.

"Dinah" means "vindicate, judge"

Unique Religion of Patriarchs..

Personal God

"God of my father Abraham, of my father Isaac", Jacob, 32.9.

Unlike place-bound Canaanite gods

Occasional Altars, But No Single Sacred Place

No Priesthood

Worship centered primarily in relationship, not ceremony.

"Righteousness in the Bible is not a norm-prescribing ethics, but faithfulness to a relationship." OTS 46, 49

Creation Reclaimed: A Family "The Life of Joseph"

Joseph : Genesis 37-50

Recap of Gen. 1-36

Creation Begun, Unraveled (Gen. 1-11)
Origin Of Universe, Of Family, Of Alienation (Gen. 1-4)
Global Renewal, Dispersal (Gen. 5-11)
Flood, Tower of Babel

Creation Reclaimed: A Family (Gen. 12-50)

Abraham: Refined Faith (12-24, 13 chs.)

Isaac: Father's Echo (25-26, 2 chs.)

Jacob: Blessing Wrestler (27-36, 10 chs.)

Joseph: (Your Title for Joseph?) (37-50, 14 chs.)

Overview of Joseph

Favored Son of Jacob's Favorite Wife, Rachel
Dreams of Prominence
Kidnapping by Brothers, Sale into Slavery
Success in Potiphar's House
Purity Despite Temptation
Framed (By Potiphar's wife)
Imprisonment

Two prisoners' dreams

Forgotten Two Years

Pharaoh's Dream

Dreams in Egypt

Elevation of Joseph

Famine and 10 Sons of Jacob

Joseph Tested His Brothers.

Jacob Moves to Egypt

Death of Jacob (and Fear of Brothers)

Joseph was moved to tears?

At Reuben's Remonstrance of Other Nine Brothers, 42.24

Upon Seeing Benjamin, 43.30

When Judah Pleads for Benjamin, 45.1-2

At Father Jacob's Death, 50.1-2

*What does this trail (esp. the first three) suggest concerning Joseph's motive in testing brothers?

Reasons for Joseph's Tests

Care of Brother (Benjamin in transit, in prison for theft)

Concern for Father (potentially return without Benjamin)

Joseph must know had they learned from their impropriety, and thus could be RECONCILED.

Historical Notes

Cistern Captivity
Sold for 20 Shekels
Average slave price in Hammurabi's Law (18th cent. BC)
Dream Interpretation in Egypt
Seven-Year Famine
Clean-Shaven

Investiture of Vizier office, signified by honors received by Joseph:

"In charge of the whole land of Egypt" reflects the Egyptian title, "Chief of the Entire Land"
(41.41)

Gold chain: one of the highest honors the king could bestow (41.42).

Why Didn't Brothers Recognize Joseph

Official Attire
Interpreter
Elapse of Time: 22 Years.
Kidnapped at Age 17
Elevated at Age 30 (13 yrs.)
Seven Years Plenty
Two Years Famine (45.6, 11)

Theological

Lessons from Joseph

Hold Steadfast Despite Unfair Treatment
Remain Willing to Serve
Keep Open to God's Voice

Flee Immorality
Pursue Reconciliation

Overall Application

Is the God of the OT Only a Vengeful God?

What did Adam & Eve deserve?
What did Cain deserve?
When did Noah's society deserve judgment?
How swiftly did God judge Amorites? (See Gen. 15.16.)
What did Jacob deserve?
Could it be that merciful Joseph is in fact imitating a merciful God?

Genesis in Review

- A Pristine Beginning with God, 1-2
- B. Relationship broken, 3-11
 - Disobedience (Adam Eve)
 - Death
 - Deluge (Flood)
 - Dispersal (Babel)
- C. Faith of the Patriarch's - Deliverance Begun
 - Abraham: Refined Faith (12-24)
 - Isaac: Father's Echo (25-26)
 - Jacob: Blessing Wrestler (27-36)
 - Joseph: Rejected Rescuer (37-50)