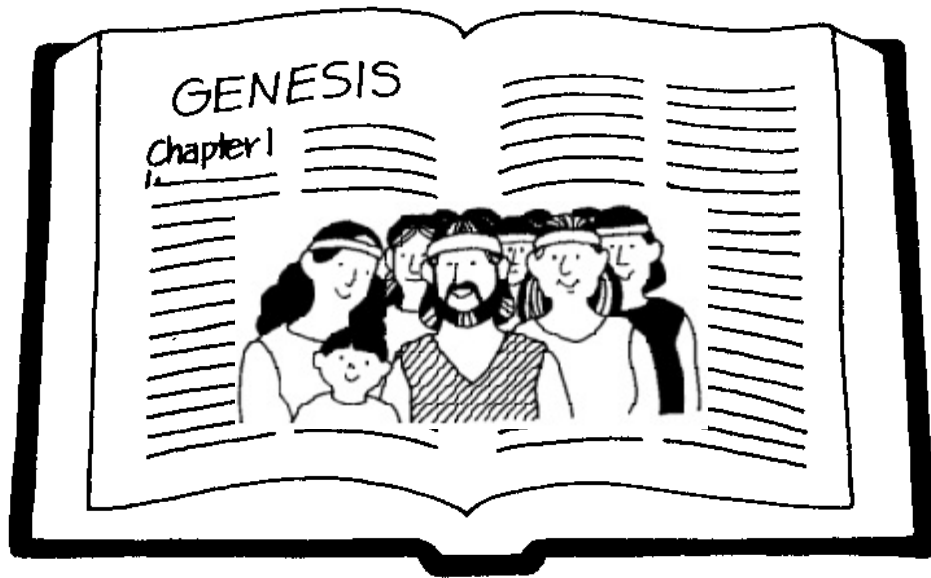


Character Studies

in



Genesis

Gene Taylor

Preface

Many people are interested in learning about the lives of others. At nearly any time one can find any number of biographies on the best-seller lists. Such an interest in learning more about people, and in turn learning more about self, should cause an individual to turn to the Bible.

In essence, the Bible is a biography. It is the story of its central character Jesus Christ. But as it reveals the Son of God and His life to man, it also relates the lives of many other people.

Many of the characters found in the Old Testament serve as types and figures of persons who were to come after them. Some were even types of Jesus Himself. Others serve as examples, good and bad, so that people might learn from their experiences.

The lessons to be learned and the applications to be made from the lives of these people are of vital importance to that person who is striving to please God and looking forward to an eternal abode with Him.

It is with this in mind that these lessons have been prepared. It is my hope that they will be used to inspire greater determination in the student to conform his life to that of the greatest person who ever lived—Jesus Christ.

Gene Taylor

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Adam: The First Man



Genesis 1:26 - 3:24; 4:1-2, 25; 5:1-5; Deuteronomy 32:8; Job 31:33; Luke 3:38; Romans 5:12-21; 1 Corinthians 15:22, 45; 1 Timothy 2:13-14

Biography

Personal Data

Name Defined: 1. "Man," "mankind" (Genesis 5:2; Deut. 32:8).
 2. "Earth," "ground," "soil," "red earth" (Genesis 2:7; 3:19, 23).
 Wife: Eve (Genesis 2:21-23; 3:20).
 Sons: Cain (Genesis 4:1), Abel (Genesis 4:2) and Seth (Genesis 4:25).
 Life span: 930 years.

Historical Data

I. Before the Fall

- A. He lived in a state of innocence.
 1. He had been created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27).
 - a. He was the crowning act of creation.
 - b. Everything was created for him.
 2. He and his wife were naked and unashamed (Genesis 2:25).
 3. He was placed in the garden of Eden by God (Genesis 2:7-15).
- B. He had certain God-given responsibilities.
 1. He was to have dominion over the earth and all living things on it (Genesis 1:28). He was to:
 - a. Subdue the earth (Genesis 1:28).
 - b. Replenish the earth (Genesis 1:28).
 - c. Dress and keep the garden of Eden (Genesis 2:15).
 2. He was to be a proper husband to his wife.
 - a. She was created for him (Genesis 2:18).
 - b. He was to be "one" with her (Genesis 2:24).
 3. He was to obey the commands of God.
 - a. He was not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:17).
 - b. "Adam was permitted to eat of the fruit of every tree in the garden but one, which was called 'the tree of the knowledge of good and evil,' because it was the test of Adam's obedience. By it Adam could know good and evil in the divine way, through obedience; thus knowing good by experience in resisting temptation and forming a strong and holy character, while he knew evil only by observation and inference. Or he could 'know good and evil,' in Satan's way, by experiencing the evil and know good only by contrast" (*Smith's Bible Dictionary*, p. 18).

II. The Fall (Genesis 3:1-7)

- He brought sin into the world (Romans 5:12).

III. After the Fall.

A. Consequences of the fall.

1. He was no longer innocent (Genesis 3:7-8).
 - a. He was ashamed of his nakedness (v. 7).
 - b. He hid from the presence of God (v. 8).
2. He was driven from the garden of Eden by God (Genesis 3:22-24).
 - a. He could no longer have access to the tree of life (v. 22).
 - b. A cherubim with a flaming sword was placed east of Eden to keep him from returning to the garden (v. 24).
3. Hard labor (Genesis 3:17-19).
 - a. The ground was cursed (v. 17).
 - b. Thorns and thistles were to grow (v. 18).
 - c. He would have to eat the bread of "the sweat of his face" (v. 19).
4. Death (Genesis 3:19). He would return to the dust of the ground.

B. Family.

1. Eve, his wife, was fashioned from a rib taken from his side (Genesis 2:18-24).
 - a. She was beguiled by Satan (Genesis 3:13).
 - b. She caused Adam to eat the fruit of the forbidden tree (Genesis 3:12).
2. Sons born to him.
 - a. Cain (Genesis 4:1).
 - 1) He was a tiller of the ground (Genesis 4:2).
 - 2) He killed his brother Abel (Genesis 4:8).
 - b. Abel (Genesis 4:2).
 - 1) He was a keeper of sheep (Genesis 4:2).
 - 2) He was killed by Cain, his brother (Genesis 4:8).
 - c. Seth ["Compensation"] (Genesis 4:25).
 - 1) Adam was 130 years old when he was born (Genesis 5:3).
 - 2) He was "in the likeness" and "after the image of" his father (Genesis 5:3).

C. Adam died at age 930 (Genesis 5:5).

Lessons and Applications

References to Adam in the Old Testament

- I. Deuteronomy 32:8 (KJV, NKJV): "sons of Adam" (ASV: "children of men").
- II. Job 31:33: "covered transgressions as Adam."

Comparisons and Contrasts to Jesus

I. Comparisons

- A. He was a figure of Christ (Romans 5:14).
- B. He was to Eve as Christ was to the church.
 - 1. While Adam slept, God opened his side and removed one of his ribs and from it formed his wife, Eve, the woman with whom he became “one” (Genesis 2:18-24)
 - 2. Jesus was put to death (sleep), his side was opened and His blood flowed forth, the blood that purchased the church, His bride (Ephesians 5:30-31).

Adam	Jesus
Slept (Gen. 2:21)	Died (John 19:30, 33)
Side opened (Gen. 2:21)	Side opened (John 19:34)
Rib removed (Gen. 2:21)	Blood flowed (John 19:34)
Woman built (Gen. 2:22)	Church purchased (Acts 20:28)
She was bone of his bone, flesh of his flesh (Gen. 2:23)	Those in church are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones (Eph. 5:31)

II. Contrasts

- A. In Adam all die, in Christ all are made alive (1 Corinthians 15:22)
- B. Adam was “a living being” while Christ is “a life-giving spirit” [KJV: “quickening spirit;” ASV: “lifegiving spirit”] (1 Corinthians 15:45).
- C. Romans 5:12-21:
 - 1. Adam:
 - a. Sin and death entered the world (v. 12).
 - b. Condemnation entered the world(v. 16).
 - c. Disobedience was the cause (v. 19).

Romans 5:12-21	
Adam	Christ
Sin and death entered world (v. 12)	Brought life, the gracious gift of God (v. 15)
Condemnation (v. 16)	Justification (v. 16)
Disobedience (v. 19)	Obedience (v. 19)

2. Christ:
 - a. Brought life, the gracious gift of God (v. 15).
 - b. Justification (v. 16).
 - c. Obedience was the cause (v. 19).

Other New Testament References to Adam

- I. Luke 3:38: The genealogy of Christ.
- II. 1 Timothy 2:13-14: Used in Paul's explanation of the subjection of the woman to the man.

Questions

1. Give a summary account of the creation of Adam by God.
2. What distinguished man from every other being created by God?
3. Upon his creation, what responsibilities did Adam sustain to God? To his wife? To his world?
4. Describe Adam's actions in the fall of man.
5. What personal consequences did Adam suffer because of his sin?
6. What did Job mean when he said, "If I cover my transgressions as Adam...?" (Job 31:33)
7. What is meant in Genesis 5:3 when it states that Seth was in Adam's "own likeness, after his image?"
8. How is Adam a figure of Christ?
9. What is meant by the statement in 1 Corinthians 15:22 that "in Adam all die?" Is this death due to hereditary depravity? If so, why? If not, why not?
10. Contrast Jesus to Adam using 1 Corinthians 15:22, 45 and Romans 5:12-21.

Eve: The First Woman



Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18 - 4:2, 25; 5:1-2; Matthew 4:1-11; 19:4-6; Romans 7:1-4; 1 Corinthians 7:1-2; 2 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:22-33; 1 Timothy 2:12-14; James 1:13-15; 1 John 2:16

Biography

Personal Data

Name Defined: “Living,” “life” (Genesis 3:20).

Husband: Adam (Genesis 2:25).

Sons: Cain (Genesis 4:1), Abel (Genesis 4:2) and Seth (Genesis 4:25).

Historical Data

I. Before the Fall

D. She had been created by God (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-23).

10. Like her husband, she had been created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27).

11. She was formed from a rib taken from Adam’s side (Genesis 2:21-22).

d. Man was made the last of all creation—the best and most excellent of all things created.

e. Since Eve was made after and out of Adam, woman was made the crowning glory of man (1 Corinthians 11:7).

f. “That the woman was made of a rib out of the side of Adam; not made out of his head to top him not out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved” (*Matthew Henry’s Commentary*, p. 12).

12. To be a “helper comparable to him” [KJV: “help meet”] (Genesis 2:18).

a. NASV: “helper suitable for him.”

b. Helper: “complement, counterpart” (*Popular and Critical Bible Encyclopedia*).

E. She, with Adam, lived in the garden of Eden in a state of innocence (Genesis 2:25).

F. She had certain God-given responsibilities.

1. She was to be a good wife to her husband (Genesis 2:18).

a. She was to be “one” with him (Genesis 2:23-24).

b. She was to help him with the tasks God had given him: subdue the earth, be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth (Genesis 1:28).

2. She was to obey the commands of God. Like Adam, she was not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:16-17).

II. The Fall (Genesis 3:1-7)

A. She was tempted by Satan (vv. 1-5). Satan:

1. Appeared to her in the form of a serpent (v. 1).
2. Questioned what God had said (v. 1).
3. Said she would not die (v. 4).
4. Told her she would be like God (v. 5).
5. Lied (John 8:44).

B. Her response (Genesis 3:6).

1. She was "beguiled" [KJV] by Satan [NKJV: "deceived"] (Genesis 3:13; 2 Corinthians 11:3; 1 Timothy 2:14).
2. She saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food.
3. She saw that it was pleasant to the eyes.
4. She saw that it was to be desired to make one wise.
5. She ate and then gave it to her husband and he ate of it.

III. After the Fall.

A. Consequences of the fall.

1. She had a loss of innocence, shame over her nakedness (Genesis 3:7).
2. She had a fear of God (Genesis 3:8, 10).
3. She employed a shifting of responsibility—rationalization of her actions (Genesis 3:13).
4. Her pain in child birth was greatly multiplied (Genesis 3:16).
5. She was now in subjection to the rule of her husband (Genesis 3:16).
6. She and Adam were driven from the garden of Eden (Genesis 3:24).
7. Death (Genesis 2:16, 17; 3:19). She and her husband could no longer have access to the tree of life (Genesis 3:22).
8. The promise of a Redeemer (Genesis 3:15).

B. Family.

1. She gives birth to three sons: Cain, Abel and Seth (Genesis 4:1, 2, 25).
2. Cain kills Abel (Genesis 4:8).
3. She rejoices over the birth of Seth (Genesis 4:25).

Lessons and Applications

God's Plan for Marriage and the Home (Genesis 2:22-25)

I. Upon seeing the need of man, God created one woman

A. Adam and Eve became husband and wife (Genesis 2:25, 36).

B. At the creation of man and woman, God stated His marriage law (Genesis 2:23).

C. God's intent has always been "one man, one woman, one life."

II. The marriage law of God was reaffirmed by Jesus (Matthew 19:4-6; Romans 7:1-4; 1 Corinthians 7:1-2). The marriage relationship is used to:

A. Show the relationship of the Jew to the old law of Moses and to the new law of Christ (Romans 7:1-4).

B. Teach the relationship of the church to Christ (Ephesians 5:22-33).

Her Actions in the Fall Serve as an Illustration of Sin

I. A Comparison of the Sin of Eve in Genesis 3:6 to James 1:13-15

Genesis 3:6	James 1:13-15
Eve saw	Tempted (v. 13)
Good for food	Own lust and enticed (v. 14)
Delight to the eyes	
Desired to make one wise	
Took and ate	Lust brings forth sin (v. 15)
Death the result	Death the result (v. 15)

II. Avenues of Sin (All sin may be found in one of three categories)

Genesis 3:6	1 John 2:16
Good for food	Lust of the flesh
Pleasant (a delight) to the eyes	Lust of the eyes
Desired to make one wise	Pride (vainglory) of life

A. Jesus was tempted by Satan in the same avenues of sin as Eve was.

1 John 2:16	Matthew 4:1-11
Lust of the flesh	Command stones to be bread
Lust of the eyes	Shown all the kingdoms of the world
Pride (vainglory) of life	Told to cast Himself down

B. Eve serves as a warning to all in regard to sin (2 Cor. 11:3)

Questions

1. What is meant by the phrase "help meet" (KJV) or "helper comparable" (NKJV)?
2. What devices did Satan employ in tempting Eve?

3. How did Eve respond to Satan's temptation. Compare her response to that of Jesus when Satan tempted Him. (Matt. 4:1-11)
4. What personal consequences did Eve suffer because of her sin?
5. What "enmity" is there between Satan and the woman?
6. What is meant by the statement "He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel?"
7. Why do Adam and Eve so ably illustrate the marriage law of God?
8. Compare the sin of Eve to the teaching of James 1:13-15.
9. How can we be beguiled like Eve? (2 Cor. 11:3)
10. Eve was the first woman. In what else was she the "first?"

Cain: Sinner, Murderer, Vagabond



Genesis 4:1-24; Hebrews 11:4; 1 John 3:10-12; Jude 11

Biography

Personal Data

Name Defined: “Gotten,” “acquired,” “possession,” “acquisition” (Genesis 4:1).
 Parents: Adam and Eve (Genesis 4:1).
 Brothers: Abel (Genesis 4:2) and Seth (Genesis 4:25).
 Son: Enoch (Genesis 4:17).

Historical Data

- I. Following Their Expulsion from the Garden of Eden, He Was the First Son Born to Adam and Eve (Genesis 4:1)
 - C. He was a tiller of the ground (Genesis 4:2).
 - D. His was a necessary vocation because of the sin of his mother and father (Genesis 3:17-19).
- II. His Sinful Sacrifice
 - A. He brought an offering of “the fruit of the ground” to God while Abel, his brother, offered of the firstborn of his sheep (Genesis 4:3-4).
 10. His sacrifice was rejected while God found his brother’s sacrifice acceptable (Genesis 4:4-5).
 11. Abel sacrificed “by faith” (Hebrews 11:4), i.e., in accordance with the word of God (Romans 10:17) but Cain did not.
 - B. Instead of seeking God’s forgiveness, he was angry with God at His rejection of his sacrifice (Genesis 4:5).
 - C. God responded to his attitude (Genesis 4:6-7).
 1. God asked him why he was angry (v. 6).
 2. He showed him that there was no need for anger.
 - c. If he did well, he would be accepted (v. 7).
 - d. If he did not do well, then he is responsible for his sin.
 - e. God told him he must master sin rather than letting it rule him (v. 7; see NASV).
- III. His Crime of Murder (Genesis 4:8-15)
 - A. He became jealous of Abel because Abel’s sacrifice was accepted by God so while they were in the field he killed him (v. 8).

- B. God was aware of his actions.
 - 1. Abel's blood cried out to God from the ground (v. 10).
 - 2. God asked him of Abel's whereabouts (v. 9).
 - a. He lied to God. He said he did not know (v. 9).
 - b. He asked God if he were his "brother's keeper."
 - C. God punished him for his crime (vv. 11-12).
 - 1. He was "cursed from the earth" (v. 11). The ground would no longer yield its strength to him (v. 12).
 - 2. He was a fugitive and vagabond on the earth (v. 12).
 - D. His response to his punishment (vv. 13-14).
 - 1. He showed no remorse or sorrow for his actions.
 - 2. His only concern was for himself.
 - a. "My punishment is greater than I can bear" (v. 13).
 - b. He was concerned that he was to be driven out from the face of the earth.
 - c. He was concerned he would be hidden from the face of God.
 - d. "Anyone who finds me will kill me" (v. 14).
 - E. God provided for his protection in that He "set a mark upon him" (v. 15).
 - 1. NASV: "appointed a sign."
 - 2. "And the Lord appointed to Cain a token or sign, to convince him that no person should be permitted to slay him" (*Clarke's Commentary*, Vol. I, p. 61).
- IV. His Life After the Murder (Genesis 4:16-24)
- A. He went out from the presence of the Lord to the land of Nod, east of Eden (v. 16). Nod meant vagabond, wandering, the land of wandering or straying.
 - B. Family (vv. 17-24)
 - 1. He had a son, Enoch (v. 17) after whom he named a city which he had built.
 - 2. Descendants.
 - a. Enoch: Irad, Mehujael, Methusael, Lamech who by Adah had Jabal and Jubal, and by Zillah had Tubal-cain and Naamah (F.).
 - b. Lamech (vv. 19-24).
 - 1) He was the first recorded polygamist.
 - aa. He took both Adah and Zillah as wives (v. 19).
 - bb. Such was contrary to the marriage law of God (Genesis 2:24).
 - 2) He spoke the only ante-deluvian poetry recorded (vv. 23-24).
 - aa. It was not beautiful but was an arrogant boast of his terrible nature—he killed a man for wounding him (NASV), he killed a boy for striking him (NASV).
 - bb. He boasted of being ten times worse than Cain (v. 24).

- c. The sons of Lamech.
 - 1) Jabal was an inventor of tent-dwelling and cattle-keeping (v. 20).
 - 2) Jubal was an inventor of musical instruments (v. 21).
 - aa. Harp: string instruments.
 - bb. Pipe: wind instruments.
 - 3) Tubal-cain was the first brass and iron worker, a forger of metals, a smith (v. 22).
3. His family did not seek to do the will of God.

Lessons and Applications

God's Commands for Worship Are to Be Followed (No matter what dispensation)

I. Cain: Patriarchal Period

- A. He sought to offer of the fruit of the ground while God had commanded that animals were to be offered (Genesis 4:3; Hebrews 11:4; Romans 10:17).
- B. God rejected his worship.
- C. God's law could not be changed, it had to be followed.

II. Nadab and Abihu: Mosaic Dispensation (Leviticus 10:1-2)

- A. They sought to change the worship practice by using fire other than that which God had commanded.
- B. God was displeased, their worship was rejected and they were destroyed by fire.

III. Gospel Age: God Has Commanded How We Are to Worship

- A. We are to partake of the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:23-29); give of our means (1 Corinthians 16:1-2); teach the word of God (Acts 2:42); sing (Colossians 3:16); and pray (Acts 2:42).
- B. Just like Cain we do not have the right to alter these expressions of worship in any way. Should we do so, our worship and we, ourselves, would be rejected by God.

The Way of Cain (Jude 11)

I. The Teachings of Jude on False Teachers

- A. Sinners in any age have common characteristics.
- B. In describing false teachers who were plaguing the church in the first century, Jude used three example of evil-doers from the Old Testament: the way of Cain, the error of Balaam and the gainsaying of Korah.

II. The Way of Cain

- A. "Life of wicked selfishness" (*Zerr Commentaries*, Vol. VI, p. 293).
- B. "Haters of their brethren" (*Adam Clarke's Commentaries*, Vol. VI, p. 953).
- C. "Cain...who became wicked, one who defied the simplest and most obvious law of God; and who, in addition, followed his own natural instinct rather than the will of the Lord..." (*Gospel Advocate Commentaries*, Vol. XII, p. 394).
- D. "He is devoid of faith and love" (*Tyndale Commentaries*, Vol. 18, p. 172).

A Child of the Devil (1 John 3:11-12)

- I. The Text Defines One Who Is a Child of (belonging to) Satan (v. 10)
 - A. "Whoever does not practice righteousness."
 - B. "He who does not love his brother."
- II. Cain Is the Illustration
 - A. He is described as "of the wicked one."
 - B. He "murdered his brother," he did not love him.
 - C. His brother's works were righteous, his own were evil (v. 12).
 - D. Hating one's brother is the same as murdering one's brother (Matthew 5:21-22; 1 John 3:14-15).

Questions

1. What was Cain's vocation? Why was it a necessary one?
2. Why was Cain's sacrifice rejected by God?
3. Upon seeing that his offering was not honored by God, what could Cain have done to be acceptable to God once again?
4. What motivated Cain to kill Abel? How did God know of the crime?
5. What consequences did Cain suffer because of the murder of his brother?
6. Name the sins of Cain that can be found in the fourth chapter of Genesis.
7. What is meant in Genesis 4:15 when, in relation to Cain, it says that God "set a mark upon him?"
8. For what are the following descendants of Cain noted?
 - a. Lamech.
 - b. Jabal.
 - c. Jubal.
 - d. Tubal-cain.
9. What does it mean to "walk in the way of Cain?"
10. Why is a person who hates his brother the same as a murderer?

Abel: An Innocent Martyr



Genesis 4:1-15, 25; Matthew 23:34-35; Luke 11:49-52; Hebrews 11:4; 12:24; 1 John 3:11-12

Biography

Personal Data

Name Defined: ‘Breath, vapor, transitoriness’ (Genesis 4:2). Possibly a variant of Jabal meaning shepherd, herdsman.

Parents: Adam and Eve (Genesis 4:2).

Brothers: Cain (Genesis 4:1) and Seth (Genesis 4:25), born after Abel’s death.

Historical Data

I. Following Their Expulsion from the Garden of Eden, After the birth of Cain, He Was Born to Adam and Eve (Genesis 4:1-2).

E. He was a keeper of sheep (Genesis 4:2).

F. The animals had been created for man to have dominion over (Genesis 1:28).

II. His Sacrifice (Genesis 4:3-5).

A. He offered of the “firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof” unto God” (v. 4). His offering was:

1. “By faith” (Hebrews 11:4; Romans 10:17).
2. Acceptable to God (v. 4).

B. His brother Cain’s offering was of the “fruit of the ground” was not acceptable to God (v. 5).

1. Cain was angry.
2. His countenance fell.

III. His Death (Genesis 4:8)

A. Cain “talked with Abel.”

B. Cain rose up and killed him while they were in the field.

IV. Results of His Death (Genesis 4:9-15)

A. His blood cried out to God from the ground (v. 10).

B. Cain was punished for murdering him (vv. 11-12).

1. The earth was cursed to him in that it would not yield its strength to him.
2. He was to be a fugitive and vagabond on the earth.

Lessons and Applications

A Figure of Righteousness (Matthew 23:35; Luke 11:51; 1 John 3:12)

- I. Righteousness Was Originally Pronounced "Rightwiseness." It Is:
 - A. What men ought to be.
 - B. What God intended man to be (Ecclesiastes 7:29).
 - C. To be just, right, innocent.
- II. How Is One Righteous?
 - A. Righteousness is revealed in God's word (Psalm 19:9; 119:172; Romans 1:16-17).
 - B. When one hears and obeys the word of God, being guided by its precepts and being submissive to its commands, that person is righteous.
 1. Abel was righteous because his works were righteous (1 John 3:12).
 2. Other examples of righteous people (and what made them righteous).
 - a. Noah (Hebrews 11:6; Genesis 6:22; 7:1).
 - b. Job (Job 1:8).
 - c. Zacharias and Elisabeth (Luke 1:6).
 - d. Abraham (James 2:23-24).
 3. Such is not a salvation of merit, i.e., one is not earning his salvation.
 - a. The works are the works of faith commanded by God not works of man's origin.
 - b. The righteous are still dependent upon the grace of God for their salvation.
 - c. Salvation is the gift of God (Ephesians 2:8-9), thus no one could ever earn it.

An Example of Faith

- I. His Example of Faith Is Still Speaking to Man
 - A. It was considered worthy enough to be preserved by the Holy Spirit for people of every age to see.
 - B. It was powerful enough to be alluded to by Jesus while He was upon the earth (Matt. 23:35; Luke 11:51).
- II. Abel Is Faith Personified
 - A. He heard, believed and obeyed (Heb. 11:4; Rom. 10:17).
 - B. Though his faith cost him his physical life, it gained him a life without end in the eternal abode of God.
- III. All People Need to Have the Faith of Abel
 - A. Without faith it is impossible to please God. (Hebrews 11:6)
 - B. All today must be willing to put their faith into practice, as Abel did, in spite of adverse consequences that might come because of it.

A Figure of Christ

Abel	Jesus Christ
Shepherd (Gen. 4:2)	The Good Shepherd (John 10:11)
Righteous (Matt. 23:35; 1 John 3:12)	Righteous (Luke 23:47)
Innocent [Did nothing worthy of death]	Innocent [Did nothing worthy of death] (Luke 23:4, 14-22, 41; John 15:25)
Did the will of the Father [Sacrificed according to the will of God] (Heb. 11:4)	Did the will of the Father [He was sacrificed according to the will of God] (John 6:38; Matt. 23:39, 42; Luke 22:42-44; John 10:17-18)
Put to death by one who hated him for exposing his evil (Gen. 4:8)	Put to death by those who hated Him for exposing their evil (John 15:25; 3:19-21)
Honored by God [His death avenged by God] (Gen. 4:10-12)	Honored by God [He was raised from the dead through the power of God] (John 11:23, 28; Rom. 6:4; Acts 2:32-36)
Still speaking to man [Through his righteous example of faith] (Heb. 11:4)	Still speaking to man [In the living and active gospel] (Heb. 1:1-2; 4:12)

A Comparison of the Message of Abel's Blood to That of the Blood of Christ (Hebrews 12:24)

Blood of Abel	Blood of Christ
Cried for vengeance (Gen. 4:10; cf. Rev. 6:9-10)	Appeals to God for mercy and forgiveness (Heb. 12:24)
Spoke of death (Gen. 4:10)	Speaks of life (John 6:53-58)
Brought a curse (Gen. 4:11)	Frees from the curse of sin (Eph. 1:7) and the law (Gal. 3:10-13)
Brought despair (Gen. 4:13)	Brings joy (1 Pet. 1:18; Phil. 4:4)
Made one [Cain] separate from God (Gen. 4:14)	Redeems (Col. 1:14)
Condemned (Gen. 4:11)	Justifies (Rom. 3:25; 5:9)

Questions

1. Of what did Abel's offering consist? Why was it acceptable to God?
2. Why was Cain angry with Abel? What do you think that Cain hoped to accomplish by killing Abel?
3. What did God mean when He said that Abel's "blood cried out to Him from the ground?"
4. What is required for one to be righteous? Apply your answer to Abel and the fact that he was called "righteous" by God.
5. In 1 John 3:12 it states that Abel's works were righteous. Does that mean that he earned his salvation? Explain your answer.
6. How is Abel still speaking to mankind?
7. In what sense were the Jews in Matthew 23:35 guilty of the blood of Abel?
8. What are some ways that Abel was a figure of Jesus Christ?
9. Compare the message of the blood of Abel to the message of the blood of Christ.
10. Though the Bible does not mention any earthly descendants of Abel, what are some things that Abel has left to the world?

Noah: A Preacher of Righteousness



Genesis 5:28 - 10:32; 1 Chronicles 1:4; Isaiah 54:9; Ezekiel 14:14-20; Matthew 24:37-39; Luke 17:26-27; Hebrews 11:7; 1 Peter 3:20-21; 2 Peter 2:5

Biography

Personal Data

Name Defined: "rest;" "to comfort" (Genesis 5:29).

Father: Lamech (Genesis 5:28). [Noah was of the tenth generation, ninth from Adam].

Wife: not named in Scripture.

Sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth (Genesis 5:32).

Life span: 950 years (Genesis 9:29). He lived 600 years before the flood and 350 years after it (Genesis 7:6; 9:28).

Historical Data

I. Before the Flood

C. He was a righteous man in a time of exceedingly great wickedness (Genesis 6:1-13).

10. The sons of God took wives of the daughters of men (vv. 1-4).

11. The thoughts of men were evil continually (v. 5).

12. The earth was corrupt and filled with violence (vv. 11-13).

13. The situation grieved God and caused Him to be sorry that He had ever created man (vv. 6-7).

14. God decided to destroy man, beast, creeping thing and the fowls of the air (vv. 7, 13).

15. Noah "found grace in the eyes of the Lord" (vv. 8-9), because:

e. He was a "just man" (v. 9a).

1) ASV: "righteous man."

2) He was a man filled with right principles and a godly disposition (Genesis 7:1).

f. He was "perfect in his generations" (v. 9b).

1) Footnote in ASV: "blameless."

2) It did not mean he lived in sinless perfection rather that he had the singular purpose of serving God.

3) His life stood out among those of his time.

g. He "walked with God" (v. 9c).

1) His life was spent in doing that which God would have him to do (1 John 1:6-7).

2) While others of his time were living for themselves, he lived for God.

- D. God warned him of the impending flood and commanded him to build an ark (Genesis 6:14 - 7:6).
1. God told him of the coming destruction of all flesh (6:3, 13, 17).
 - a. It was to be destroyed by a flood of waters.
 - b. He and his family were to be spared (6:18).
 2. He was instructed to build an ark (6:14-22; 7:1-6).
 - a. Details of the ark.
 - 1) It was made of gopher wood.
 - 2) It was pitched within and without with pitch.
 - 3) It had one window—a cubit square finished above.
 - 4) It had one door—in the side.
 - 5) It had three stories.
 - b. Dimensions of the ark (6:15).
 - 1) Length: 300 cubits.
 - 2) Width: 50 cubits.
 - 3) Height: 30 cubits.
 - c. Inhabitants of the ark.
 - 1) Noah, his wife, their three sons and their wives (6:18).
 - 2) Unclean animals: a male and female of each.
 - 3) Clean animals: seven males and seven females of each.
 - 4) Fowls: seven males and seven females of each.
- II. The Flood (Genesis 7:7 - 8:14)
- A. In the 600th year, the 2nd month and 17th day of Noah's life, the flood began (7:6-11).
- B. The water came upon the earth on the seventh day after Noah and his family and the animals had, upon the command of God, entered the ark (7:7).
1. The fountains of the deep were broken up and the windows of heaven were opened.
 2. It rained for 40 days and nights (7:16).
 3. The waters prevailed over the earth until the mountains were covered (7:17-20).
 - a. The waters prevailed for 150 days (7:24).
 - b. In the 10th month, 1st day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen (8:5).
 - c. In the 601st year, 1st month, 1st day of the month, the waters were dried up from off the earth (8:13).
- C. The ark went upon the face of the waters (Genesis 7:18).
1. Every living creature was destroyed (7:21-23). Only those in the ark were saved (7:23).
 2. In the 7th month, 17th day of the month, the ark came to rest upon the mountains of Ararat (8:4).
 - a. Forty days after the 10th month and 1st day of the month, Noah opened the window and sent out a raven (8:7).

- b. A dove was sent out (8:8-12).
 - 1) It could find no place to rest so it returned to the ark.
 - 2) It was sent out a second time after a seven day waiting period and returned with an olive leaf in its mouth (vv. 10-11).
 - 3) After another seven days it was sent out again and it did not return (v. 12).

III. After the Flood (Genesis 8:15 - 10:32)

- A. God commanded Noah, his family and the animals to leave the ark (8:15-19).
- B. Noah built an altar and sacrificed of the clean animals for burnt offerings (8:20).
- C. God made promises to Noah and his descendants.
 1. God will not destroy every living thing by a flood (8:21; 9:8-12).
 - a. A bow set in the cloud is a token of this covenant between God and man (9:13-17).
 - b. It was to be an everlasting covenant (9:16).
 2. The setting of the seasons (8:22).
- D. God gave instruction to Noah and his sons (9:1-7). He told them:
 1. To replenish the earth (vv. 1, 7).
 2. Animals were to be meat for them (vv. 2-3).
 3. They were not to eat blood (v. 3).
 4. He would require the life of one who shed blood (vv. 5-6).
- E. Noah's life (9:20-29).
 1. He became a husbandman (v. 20).
 2. He planted a vineyard.
 3. Sin reappeared.
 - a. He became drunk and laid uncovered in his tent (v. 21).
 - b. Ham saw his father's nakedness and told his two brothers of it (v. 22).
 - c. Shem and Japheth covered him without looking at him (v. 23).
 - d. Upon awakening and discovering what had happened, he pronounced a curse upon Ham—Ham's descendants would be servants to the descendants of his brothers (vv. 24-27).
 4. His death at age 950 (9:28-29).
- F. The descendants of Noah (ch. 10).
 1. They filled the earth after the flood (Gen. 9:19).
 2. The descendants of Japheth (vv. 2-5).
 3. The descendants of Ham, the father of Canaan (vv. 6-20; Genesis 9:18).
 4. The descendants of Shem (vv. 21-31).

Lessons and Applications

In the Old Testament

- I. Isaiah 54:9. God's covenant with Israel was as sure as His covenant with Noah.
- II. Ezekiel 14:14-20. As one of three righteous men, the others being Daniel and Job, whose intercession could not avert the judgments of God

In the New Testament

The Coming of the Lord Shall Be as in the Days of Noah (Matthew 24:37-39; Luke 17:26-27)

- A. Days of secular activity.
- B. Days of spiritual apathy. The people:
 1. Were characterized by unbelief.
 2. Gave no thought for things eternal in nature.
 3. Were caught unaware (2 Peter 3:10).
- C. Days of salvation.
 1. Few were saved in the ark (2 Peter 3:20).
 2. Few will be saved at the second coming (Matthew 7:13-14).
- D. Days of doom and destruction.
 1. All, except those in the ark, were destroyed.
 2. All, except those in the church, will be destroyed (Matthew 7:13-14; 25:31-46; Acts 2:47; Ephesians 5:23).

A Figure of Christ

- I. A Preacher of Righteousness (2 Peter 2:5)
 - A. A herald (ASV footnote): one with a message.
 - B. Both he and Jesus preached the message of salvation.
- II. Just, Righteous, Walked with God (Genesis 6:8, 9; John 6:38; 14:9; Hebrews 4:15)
- III. Built that which contains the saved (Hebrews 11:7; Matthew 16:18).

An Example of the Faith That Leads to Salvation (Hebrews 11:7)

An Analysis of Hebrews 11:7

- A. "By faith Noah..." Faith saved him but not faith alone.
- B. "Being warned of God..." Divinely admonished.
- C. "Concerning things not seen as yet..."
 1. There had never been such a flood.
 2. Faith involves things not seen (Hebrews 11:1).
- D. "Moved with godly fear..."
 1. Faith prompted obedience.
 2. "Godly fear" is reverence and respect.
- E. "To the saving of his house..."

The Salvation of Noah: A Figure of Man's Salvation Today

Noah's Salvation	Elements Involved	Salvation Today
Genesis 6:8	Grace	Ephesians 2:8-9
Hebrews 11:7	Faith	Galatians 3:26
Hebrews 11:7	Works	James 2:24
Genesis 6:22	Obedience	Hebrews 5:8-9
1 Peter 3:20	Water	1 Peter 3:21

The Ark: A Type of the Church

The Ark	Characteristics	The Church
Gen. 6:14-16	Each designed by God	Eph. 3:10-11
Genesis 6:8-9	Each had a righteous builder	Acts 3:14
Genesis 6:14	Only one	Matthew 16:18
Gen. 6:17-18	Only refuge	Acts 2:47
Gen. 7:21-22	Entrance necessary	Acts 2:47
Genesis 6:16	One entrance	John 10:1, 9
Genesis 6:16	One source of light	John 9:5
Genesis 7:7	Contain only one family	1 Timothy 3:15

Questions

1. What is meant by the phrases "sons of God" and "daughters of men?"
2. What does it mean when it says God "repented" that He made man?
3. Why was God gracious toward Noah?
4. What lesson is to be learned from Noah's adherence to the specifics demanded by God in the building of the ark?
5. Define the following.
 - a. Fountains of the great deep.
 - b. Windows of heaven.

6. What promises and instructions did God give to Noah following the flood?
7. Why was Ham cursed by Noah in the incident of Noah's drunkenness and nakedness?
8. In what ways do the days of Noah compare to the days of the coming of the Lord?
9. How is Noah a figure of the Christ?
10. Compare the salvation of Noah and the salvation of men today with particular emphasis on Hebrews 11:7 and 1 Peter 3:20-21.

Abraham: Father of the Faithful



Genesis 11:10 - 18:33; 20:1 - 24:9; 25:1-10; Romans 4; Galatians 3; Hebrews 11:8-19; James 2:17-24

Biography

Personal Data

Names Defined: 1. Abram. "A high father" (*Smith's Bible Dictionary*).
 2. Abraham. Father of a multitude; father of a great multitude; father of many nations (Genesis 17:5).

Father: Terah, a descendant of Shem, a son of Noah (Genesis 11:26).

Brothers: Haran and Nahor (Genesis 11:26).

Wife: Sarai [Sarah] (Genesis 11:29).

Sons: By Sarah: Isaac (Genesis 21:3)

By Hagar: Ishmael (Genesis 16:15).

By Keturah: Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak and Shuah (Genesis 25:1-2).

Life span: 175 years (Genesis 25:7).

Historical Data

I. The Journey from Ur to Haran (Genesis 11:27-32)

F. Born "Abram" to Terah in Ur of the Chaldees, he was brother to Nahor and Haran. Haran died in Ur (vv. 27-28).

G. He and Nahor took wives (v. 29).

1. Nahor married Milcah who was a daughter of Haran and sister of Iscah.

2. Abram married Sarai.

c. She was his half-sister [same father] (Genesis 20:12).

d. She bore him no children (v. 30).

H. Terah, Abram, Sarai and Lot, Haran's son, journeyed from Ur of the Chaldees to Haran (v. 31).

1. It was in the land of Canaan.

2. Terah died at Haran at the age of 205 (v. 32).

II. God's Promise to Abram (Genesis 12:1-3)

A. God instructed him to leave his father's house and country (v. 1).

B. The promise was three-fold.

1. It included a land that God would show him (v. 1).

2. It stated that a great nation would spring from him (v. 2).

3. It assured that in him all the families of the earth would be blessed.

a. Those who blessed him would be blessed.

b. Those who cursed him would be cursed.

- III. The Journey from Haran into the Land of Canaan (Genesis 12:4-9)
 - A. He departed Haran as God had instructed (v. 4).
 - 1. He took Sarai, Lot and his people of Haran (v. 5).
 - 2. He was 75 years old.
 - B. He came to Shechem on the plain of Moreh (v. 6).
 - 1. The Canaanite lived there.
 - 2. God appeared to him and promised to give this land to his seed (v. 7).
 - 3. He built an altar to God there.
 - C. He moved to the mountain east of Bethel and west of Ai (v. 8). There he built an altar and called upon the name of the Lord.
 - D. He journeyed southward (v. 9).
- III. The Journey Into Egypt (Genesis 12:10-20)
 - A. He went to Egypt because of a grievous famine in Canaan (v. 10).
 - B. He formulated a plan to lie about Sarai (vv. 10-13).
 - 1. She was fair to look upon.
 - 2. He thought the Egyptians' desire for her would be so great that it would endanger his life if they knew she was his wife.
 - C. Pharaoh took Sarai into his house (vv. 14-20).
 - 1. His princes had commended her to him
 - 2. He entreated Abram for her with sheep, oxen, asses, camels and servants.
 - 3. The Lord sent great plagues on him and his house (v. 17).
 - a. The cause of the plagues was Sarai's presence in his house.
 - b. Pharaoh remonstrated Abram for lying to him about Sarai then sent him and Sarai away (vv. 18-20).
- IV. The Journey from Egypt to Bethel (Genesis 13:1-18)
 - A. Abram, Sarai and Lot left Egypt and returned to Bethel (vv. 1, 3).
 - 1. Abram was very rich (v. 2).
 - 2. Abram called on the name of the Lord again (v. 4).
 - B. A strife developed between the herdsmen of Abram and Lot (vv. 5-7).
 - 1. Because the flocks and herds of both men were great, there was not enough pasture for them to be able to live in the same place (vv. 5-6).
 - 2. A strife developed between their herdsmen over it (v. 7).
 - C. Abram and Lot parted company (vv. 8-13).
 - 1. Abram gave Lot the opportunity to choose where he would live. Abram would go where Lot did not choose (v. 9).
 - 2. Lot chose the plain of Jordan (v. 11).
 - 1. It was well-watered, lush and green.
 - 2. Its cities were filled with wicked, sinful people.
 - D. God appeared to Abram (vv. 14-17).
 - 1. He reaffirmed His promise to give land to Abram and his seed (v. 15).
 - 2. He reassured him that his seed would be as numerous as the dust of the earth if it were numbered (v. 16).
 - E. Abram moved to the plain of Mamre in Hebron where he built an altar (v. 18).

V. Abram's Battle With Chedorlaomer (Genesis 14:1-24)

- A. Amraphel, king of Shinar; Arioch, king of Ellasar; Chedorlaomer, king of Elam; and Tidal, king of nations (ASV; "Goiim") warred against Bera, king of Sodom; Birsha, king of Gomorrah; Shinab, king of Admah; Shemeber, king of Zeboiim; and the king of Bela (Zoar) in the vale of Siddim (vv. 1-3).
 1. After serving Chedorlaomer for twelve years, they rebelled.
 2. In the fourteenth year, Chedorlaomer attacked them.
 - a. The kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled in defeat (v. 10).
 - b. All of the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah were taken captive, Lot and his goods with them (vv. 11-12).
- B. Abram's battle (vv. 14-16).
 1. Word reached Abram in the plain of Mamre of Lot's capture.
 2. He armed those trained servants born in his house some 318 in number.
 3. He pursued Lot's captors to Dan, defeated them in battle and pursued their retreat to Hobah.
 4. He brought back Lot, all the people and their goods.
- C. Melchizedek and Abram (vv. 17-24).
 1. The king of Sodom greeted Abram on his return (v. 17).
 2. Melchizedek, king of Salem, greeted Abram (v. 18).
 - a. He was a priest of the Most High God.
 - b. He blessed Abram (vv. 19-20).
 - c. Abram gave tithes to him.
 3. The king of Sodom offered Abram all of the goods returned in battle (v. 21).
 - a. Abram refused (vv. 22-23).
 - b. Abram asked only that the men who went with him—Aner, Eshcol and Mamre—get their portion (v. 24).

VI. Abram's Vision (Genesis 15)

- A. The assurance of the seed of Abram (vv. 1-6).
 1. He was still childless (v. 2).
 2. He thought his seed would just be one "born in my house" (v. 3).
 3. God assured him that his seed would be of his own flesh (v. 4).
 4. His seed would number as the stars of heaven (v. 5).
 5. He believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness (v. 6).
- B. The assurance of the land inheritance (vv. 7-21).
 1. Animals gave indication of trouble (vv. 9-11).
 2. While in a deep sleep, Abram was told that he seed would be a stranger in their land and serve another nation for 400 years (v. 13).
 - a. That nation would be judged (v. 14).
 - b. Abram's seed would leave their affliction with great substance.
 - c. The return of his seed to their land would be in the fourth generation after their captivity (v. 16).
 3. God made a covenant with Abram which indicated the land to be given to his seed was from the river of Egypt to the Euphrates River (v. 18).

VII. The Birth of Ishmael (Genesis 16:1-16)

- A. Sarai devised a way for Abram to have a son by Hagar, her handmaiden (vv. 1-3).
- B. After Hagar conceived, she despised Sarai (vv. 4-6).
 - 1. Sarai told Abram of it. He advised her to deal with Hagar as she pleased.
 - 2. Sarai dealt harshly with her so Hagar fled to the wilderness.
- C. A messenger of the Lord visited Hagar at the fountain on the way to Shur (vv. 7-14). He told her:
 - 1. To return to Sarai (v. 8).
 - 2. That her seed would be exceedingly great in number (v. 10).
 - 3. She would bear a son (v. 11).
 - a. He would be called "Ishmael" because God had heard her affliction.
 - b. He would be a "wild man" (v. 12).
- D. Ishmael was born when Abram was 86 years old (vv. 15-16).

VIII. God Reaffirmed the Covenant with Abram (Genesis 17:1-22)

- A. God talked to him when he was 99 years old (v. 1).
- B. God reminded him that His promises were conditional.
 - 1. He had to walk before God.
 - 2. He had to be "perfect."
- C. The covenant stated (vv. 5-14).
 - 1. Abram would be a father of many nations (vv. 5-7).
 - a. God changed his name to "Abraham" to reflect this fact.
 - b. Kings would be in his descendants (v. 6).
 - 2. His seed would possess all the land of Canaan (v. 8).
 - 3. Circumcision would serve as the token of this covenant (vv. 9-14).
- D. God promised a son by Sarai—Isaac (vv. 15-22).
 - 1. God changed her name to "Sarah" (v. 15).
 - 2. Abraham laughed (v. 17).
 - 3. Abraham wanted Ishmael to be the chosen heir (v. 18).
 - a. God would make a great nation out of him.
 - b. He would beget twelve princes.
 - 4. Sarah was to bear Isaac the next year (v. 21).
- E. Abraham and all the men of his house were circumcised (vv. 23-27).

IX. Abraham's Entreaty for Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18:1-33)

- A. He provided hospitality for three men who, unbeknownst to him, were messengers of the Lord (vv. 1-8).
- B. These men tell him that Sarah is to bear a son (vv. 9-16).
 - 1. She, overhearing the conversation, laughed (v. 12).
 - 2. Fearful later, she denied laughing (v. 15).
- C. The men, accompanied by Abraham, journey toward Sodom (vv. 16, 22).
- D. God told Abraham of His judgment against Sodom and Gomorrah (vv. 17-22). He told him because:
 - 1. The earth would be blessed in him.
 - 2. He would command his children to keep the way of the Lord.

- E. Abraham entreated God to spare the cities if enough righteous men could be found in them (vv. 23-33).
 - 1. He started at fifty men and ended up at just ten.
 - 2. God agreed to spare the cities if ten righteous people could be found.
- X. The Journey to Gerar (Genesis 20:1-28)
 - A. Abraham journeyed to Gerar between Kadesh and Shur (v. 1).
 - B. He lied to Abimelech, king of Gerar, about Sarah (vv. 2-16).
 - 1. It was the same lie that he told in Egypt.
 - 2. In a dream, God warned Abimelech that he and his nation were dead because of Sarah (vv. 3-8).
 - a. He claimed innocence.
 - b. God told him that it was for that reason that he warned him and instructed him to restore her to Abraham.
 - 3. Abimelech confronted Abraham (vv. 10-16).
 - a. He restored Sarah.
 - b. He gave Abraham 1000 pieces of silver and many animals and servants.
 - c. He told Abraham that he could live anywhere in his land.
 - C. Abraham prayed to God in behalf of Abimelech (vv. 17-18).
 - 1. God healed Abimelech.
 - 2. God opened the wombs of the women in Abimelech's house that He had closed because of Sarah.
- XI. The Birth of Isaac (Genesis 21:1-8)
 - A. Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born (v. 5).
 - B. Abraham circumcised Isaac when he was eight days old (v. 4).
 - C. Since she had laughed, Sarah named the boy "Isaac" — laughter.
- XII. Hagar and Ishmael Sent Away (Genesis 21:9-21)
 - A. Ishmael mocked Isaac (vv. 9-13).
 - 1. Sarah wanted Abraham to cast out Hagar and Ishmael because of it but such a casting out was grievous to him.
 - 2. God instructed Abraham to do as Sarah wished.
 - B. Ishmael and Hagar were sent away into the wilderness of Beersheba (vv. 14-21).
 - 1. God was with them.
 - 2. They dwelt in the wilderness of Paran where Ishmael married an Egyptian woman.
- XIII. Abraham's Covenant with Abimelech (Genesis 21:22-34)
 - A. Abimelech and Phicol visited Abraham.
 - 1. They acknowledged that God was with him.
 - 2. They desired to have a covenant with him.
 - B. Abraham reproved Abimelech because some of his servants had violently taken a well from him and then gave him sheep and oxen to witness that he had dug the well at Beersheba (v. 25).
 - C. Abimelech and Phicol returned to the land of the Philistines and Abraham sojourned there.

- XIV. The Sacrifice of Isaac (Genesis 22:1-19)
- A. God instructed Abraham to offer Isaac as a burnt offering in the land of Moriah (vv. 1-2).
 - B. Abraham obeyed God (vv. 3-14).
 - 1. He rose early and began his journey with Isaac and the essentials for the offering.
 - 2. At the place God showed him, he built an altar and laid Isaac on it ready to plunge a knife into him when an angel stopped him.
 - a. His faith had withstood the test.
 - b. A ram was provided for the sacrifice.
 - C. The result of his sacrifice would be that God would be able to bless Abraham abundantly (vv. 15-18).
 - D. Abraham returned to Beersheba.
- XV. The Death of Sarah (Genesis 23:1-20)
- A. Sarah died at age 127.
 - B. Abraham bought the cave of Machpelah from Ephron, son of Zohar, for 400 shekels of silver to use as a place of burial for his family.
- XVI. Abraham's Arrangements for a Wife for Isaac (Genesis 24:1-9)
- A. Isaac was not to take a wife of the Canaanites.
 - B. Abraham desired that Isaac's wife be of his kindred.
- XVII. Abraham and Keturah (Genesis 25:1-6)
- A. He had six sons by her.
 - B. Their sons were sent to live away from Isaac in the east.
- XVIII. The Death of Abraham (Genesis 25:7-10)
- A. He gave all he had to Isaac.
 - B. He died at age 175.
 - C. He was buried in the cave of Machpelah with Sarah.

Lessons and Applications

An Example of Faith

- I. He is the Father of the Faithful (Galatians 3:16-29; Romans 4:11)
- II. He Left His Country and His Countrymen Never to Return (Hebrews 11:8-16)
- III. He Believed the Promise of a Son though Such a Birth Was Naturally Impossible (Romans 4:18-21)
- IV. He Cast Out a Son, Ishmael, When Sarah and God Commanded It (Genesis 21:9-14)
- V. He Offered Isaac (Hebrews 11:17-19). From This Sacrifice Is Learned:
 - A. The sacrifice of faith (Romans 12:1-2).
 - B. The obedience of faith. Faith is swift to carry out the command of God.
 - C. The expectation of faith.
 - D. The work of faith.
 - 1. He did what God desired, thus, he had something to **do**.
 - 2. It shows the relationship of faith and works (Jas. 2:24-26; Romans 4).

- E. The persistence of faith.
 - 1. A faith not tried is no faith at all.
 - 2. He endured the hour of trial.
- F. The victory of faith (Genesis 22:12).

The Friend of God (James 2:23) [Some Characteristics that Made Him a Friend of God]

- I. Faithful (See above)
- II. Obedient (See above)
- III. Devoted. He Found Time to Worship God
- IV. Peaceable. He Settled Strife Peacefully (Genesis 13:1-13)
 - A. He regarded others better than self.
 - B. He took that which was left.
- V. Hospitable.
 - A. This is seen in the case of the three visitors (Genesis 18:1-8).
 - B. He is set forth in the New Testament as our example (Hebrews 13:2).
 - C. We are to be "given to hospitality" (Romans 12:13b).
- VI. Unselfish. Seen in:
 - A. Giving Lot first choice (Genesis 13:9).
 - B. Rescuing Lot and the others taken captive by Chedorlaomer (Genesis 14).
 - C. His intercession for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18:22-23).

An Example of a Pilgrim and Sojourner (Hebrews 11:9, 13)

- I. We Are Pilgrims and Sojourners: In the World But Not of the World (John 15:19; 1 John 2:15-17).
- II. He Looked "For a City" as We Must Ever Be Looking to Heaven and the Things That Are Above (Hebrews 11:10; Colossian 3:1-3)
- III. He Is a Resident of Paradise (Luke 16:23-31)

An Example of a Righteous Father

- I. He Instructed His Children in the Way of the Lord (Genesis 18:19; Ephesians 6:1-4)
- II. He Desired to Have His Son Marry of His Family
 - A. He knew the influence of the Canaanite women would not be for the good.
 - B. Parents should counsel children to marry those of the spiritual family of God.

An Example of Sin

- I. The Bible Exposes the Weaknesses of Such a Great Man as Abraham
 - A. He lied twice about Sarah.
 - 1. To Pharaoh in Egypt (Genesis 12:11-13).
 - 2. To Abimelech in Gerar (Genesis 20:2).
 - B. Both lies were occasions when he forgot to trust in God.
- II. If Such a One as Abraham Can Be Overtaken by Sin, Surely We Must Be Constantly on Guard Against It

Questions

1. What was involved in God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3?
2. In what way are all the families of the earth blessed through Abraham?
3. List some things Abraham did in settling the strife between his and Lot's herdsmen that we could do in settling differences with others today.
4. Why was it necessary for Ishmael and Hagar to be sent away?
5. How was the great depth of Abraham's faith demonstrated by his sacrifice of Isaac?
6. How does the sacrifice of Isaac show the relationship of faith and works?
7. What are some things that make a person a friend of God?
8. How can one today be of Abraham's seed?
9. Why do you think the Bible reveals the lies Abraham told about Sarah?
10. Describe how Abraham was a pilgrim and sojourner. How are we one today?

Sarah: Princess



Genesis 11: 29-31; 12:5, 10-20; 16:1-9; 17:15-22; 18:1-15; 20:1 - 21:14;
23:1-20; 24:67; 25:20; Isaiah 51:2; Romans 4:19; 9:9; Galatians 4:22-31,
Hebrews 11:11;
1 Peter 3:1-6

Biography

Personal Data

- Names Defined: 1. Sarai (Genesis 11:29). "My princess" (*Smith's Bible Dictionary*).
2. Sarah (Genesis 17:15). Princess.
- Father: Terah, a descendant of Shem, a son of Noah (Genesis 20:12; 11:26).
Husband: Abraham (Genesis 11:29).
Son: Isaac (Genesis 21:3)
Life span: 127 years (Genesis 23:1).

Historical Data

- I. She Married Abram While in Ur of the Chaldees (Genesis 11:29-31)
 - C. He was her half-brother (Genesis 20:12).
 - D. She was a "very beautiful" woman (Genesis 12:11, 14).
 - E. She was childless (Genesis 11:30).
 - F. She journeyed with Abram, Terah and Lot to Haran then, after Terah's death, on to Canaan (Genesis 11:31; 12:5).
- II. Her Part in the Lies to Pharaoh and Abimelech (Genesis 12:10-20; 20:1-18)
 - A. She and Abram journeyed to Egypt because of a great famine in Canaan (Genesis 12:1).
 1. Because of her great beauty, Abram feared for his life and had her lie about their relationship (12:11-13).
 2. She, after being commended to him by his princes, was taken into the house of Pharaoh (12:15).
 - c. He was plagued by God because of her.
 - d. He remonstrated Abram for his lie and sent him and Sarai away (12:18-20).
 - B. History was repeated with Abimelech in Gerar (20:1-18).
 1. The same lie was repeated (v. 2).
 2. Abimelech took her into his house.
 - a. As a result, God caused all the women in his house not to be able to bear children.
 - b. In a dream God told him he was a dead man because of Sarah (v. 3).

- c. He said he had taken her in innocence (v. 5).
 - d. God instructed him to restore her to Abraham (vv. 6-7).
 3. Abimelech reproved them and restored her to him (vv. 9-16)
- III. The Birth of Ishmael (Genesis 16:1-9)
 - A. Sarai gave Hagar, her Egyptian handmaid, to Abram so that she could obtain children by her (vv. 1-2).
 - B. After Hagar conceived, she despised Sarai (v. 4).
 - C. Sarai blamed Abram for Hagar's actions (v. 5).
 - D. Sarai dealt harshly with Hagar so she fled.
 1. God told her to return and submit to Sarai (v. 9).
 2. After her return, Ishmael was born (v. 15).
- IV. The Birth of Isaac (Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7)
 - A. Messengers of God informed Abraham and Sarah that she would bear a son (18:10).
 1. She was past the age of childbearing (18:11).
 2. She laughed at such an idea (18:12).
 - a. It seemed preposterous to her.
 - b. She later denied laughing because she feared God (18:15).
 - B. In accordance with the promise of God, Isaac was born (21:1-5)
- V. Hagar and Ishmael Sent Away (Genesis 21:8-14)
 - A. Sarah saw Ishmael mocking Isaac and entreated Abraham to cast out him and his mother (vv. 8-10).
 - B. God told Abraham to listen to Sarah and do as she desired (vv. 12-13).
 - C. Abraham sent Hagar and Ishmael away (v. 14).
- VI. The Death of Sarah (Genesis 23:1-19)
 - A. She died at age 127 in Kirjath Arba [Hebron] (vv. 1-2).
 - B. Abraham secured the cave of Machpelah in the field of Ephron as a burial place for her (vv. 3-19).
 - C. Isaac mourned her death for three years.
 1. She was 90 when he was born (Genesis 17:17).
 2. He mourned her until his marriage at age 40 (Genesis 25:20; 24:67).

Lessons and Applications

The Mother of Israel

- I. Physical (Isaiah 51:2)
- II. Spiritual (Galatians 4:26; Romans 9:6-9)

An Example of Faith (Hebrews 11:11)

An Example of the Folly of Taking Things Into Your Own Hands Rather Than Submitting to the Will of God

- I. The Lies Told to Pharaoh and Abimelech.
 - A. Instead of providing peace, comfort and security, they brought grief.
 - B. She and Abraham should have trusted in God for protection.
- II. Her Plan to Have a Child By Hagar
 - A. Instead of happiness, it brought her grief.
 - B. She was despised by Hagar and her son Isaac was mocked by Ishmael.

An Example of the Submissiveness of the Wife to Her Husband (1 Peter 3:1-6)

An Allegory to Demonstrate the Relationship of the Old Law to the New (Galatians 4:22-31)

The Allegory of Galatians 4:22-31	
Hagar	Sarah
Bondmaid	Freewoman
Son born after the flesh	Son of promise
Represents covenant from Mt. Sinai (in Arabia) which brought bondage	
Corresponded to physical Jerusalem	Corresponds to Jerusalem above
In bondage with her children	Children are free (Mother of all free) and are children of promise
Cast out	
No inheritance	Will inherit

Questions

1. What does the Bible reveal about Sarah's physical appearance? What were some problems she experienced because of it?
2. Why did Sarah want Abraham to father a child by Hagar? What were some of the results of that plan?
3. What was Sarah's reaction when she heard she was to bear a child? Why did she react in such a manner?

4. Why did Sarah want Hagar and Ishmael sent away?
5. In what way is Sarah the mother of both physical and spiritual Israel?
6. What happened each time Sarah and Abraham sought to aid or circumvent the will of God by taking matters into their own hands?
7. In what ways does Sarah represent the roles of wife and mother in a positive way?
8. What is meant by the phrase “calling him lord” as Peter used it in 1 Peter 3:6 in reference to Sarah and Abraham?
9. What is an allegory?
10. Describe the allegory found in Galatians 4:22-31 that uses Hagar and Sarah to illustrate the relationship of the old covenant to the new.

Lot: A Vexed Righteous Man



Genesis 11: 27-31; 12:1-5; 13:1-13; 14:1-16; 18:20-33; 19:1-38;
Deuteronomy 2:9, 19; Psalm 83:8; Luke 17:28-32; 2 Peter 2:7-9

Biography

Personal Data

Name Defined: “veil or covering” (*Smith’s Bible Dictionary*).

Father: Haran (Genesis 11:27).

Uncle: Abraham (Genesis 11:27).

Sisters: Milcah and Iscah (Genesis 11:28-29).

Wife and children: Not named in the Bible.

Historical Data

I. The Journey from Ur to Haran and Then to Canaan (Genesis 11:27 - 12:5)

C. Lot was born to Abram’s brother, Haran (11:27).

D. Following Haran’s death, Lot went with Terah and Abram to Haran (11:31).

E. After Terah’s death, Abram and Lot went to Canaan (12:5).

II. Lot’s Decision (Genesis 13:1-18)

A. Upon their return from a journey to Egypt, Abram and Lot were faced with a problem (vv. 6-7).

10. The land was not able to support the great flocks and herds of both Abram and Lot so that they could live in the same place.

11. A strife developed between their herdsmen.

B. Abram allowed Lot to choose where he would dwell (vv. 8-13).

1. He chose the plain of Jordan because it has well-watered, lush green pastures.

2. He “pitched his tent” toward Sodom where the people were “wicked and sinners...exceedingly.”

III. Lot’s Capture by Chedorlaomer (Genesis 14:1-16)

A. When Sodom was overrun by Chedorlaomer and his allies, Lot and his goods were taken captive to Dan (v. 12).

B. He was rescued by Abram and his servants (vv. 14-16).

IV. The Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 18:20 - 19:29)

A. God decided to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah because of their great sin (18:20-33).

1. Abraham asked God to spare the cities if enough righteous people could be found in them.

2. God told Abraham that if only ten righteous people were in them, the cities would not be destroyed.

- B. Lot and his family were warned by angels of the impending destruction (19:1-16).
 - 1. He invited the angels to stay at his home where he showed hospitality to them (vv. 1-3).
 - 2. The men of the city surrounded his house and demanded he send the men (angels) out to them so that they might “know them carnally” (vv. 4-11).
 - a. He offered his daughters to them instead.
 - b. They turned upon him but he was rescued by the angels.
 - c. The angels blinded those men of the city.
 - 3. The angels informed him of the cities’ impending destruction (vv. 12-14).
 - a. He told his married daughters and their husbands so that they too could be spared.
 - b. His sons-in-law thought he “seemed to be joking.”
 - c. The angels physically led him, his wife and their two unmarried daughters out of the city (vv. 15-16).
- C. The angels told Lot to flee to the mountains but he wanted to go to the city of Zoar (19:17-22).
 - 1. He feared for his life if he went to the mountains.
 - 2. The angels allowed him to go to Zoar.
- D. God rained fire and brimstone on Sodom and Gomorrah and all the plain destroying the cities and their inhabitants (19:23-29).
 - 1. Lot’s wife, contrary to the command of God, looked back and became a pillar of salt (v. 26).
 - 2. Abraham viewed the destruction (vv. 27-29).
- V. Lot’s Life After the Destruction of the Cities (Genesis 19:30-38)
 - A. Fearing for his life, he and his two daughters fled to the mountains and lived in a cave (v. 30).
 - B. His daughters plotted to get their father to have children by them (vv. 31-38)
 - 1. They got him drunk with wine and went in to him. He was unaware of their presence.
 - 2. Each bore a child because of their incestuous relationship with their father.
 - a. The older bore Moab, father of the Moabites.
 - b. The younger bore Benammi, father of the Ammonites.

Lessons and Applications

The Father of Two Nations (Genesis 19:37-38; Deuteronomy 2:9, 19; Psalm 83:8)

An Example of the Importance of Making Proper Decisions

- I. His Decision to Live in the Cities of the Plain Brought Him and His Family Much Grief

II. Consequences of His Choice

- A. His own daughters partook of the city of Sodom and were destroyed (Genesis 19:14).
- B. He lost his wealth, leaving it behind when Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed.
- C. He lost his wife (Genesis 19:26).
- D. His two surviving daughters were so influenced by the evil of Sodom they got their father drunk and sinned with him (Genesis 19:32-38).

An Illustration of the Principle of 1 Corinthians 15:33

- I. Though Lot Was Strong Enough to Overcome the Evil Influence of Sodom, His Family Was Not
- II. His Wife and Some of His Daughters Perished Because of Sodom's Influence

An Example of Selfishness

- I. As Seen in Genesis 13, He Picked What He Thought Was Best for Him
- II. In Reality, It Was the Worse Thing He Could Have Done
- III. Selflessness Is **Always** Better Than Selfishness in the Long Run

An Example of the Dangers of Materialism

- I. His Decision in Genesis 13 Was Made With a Materialistic Eye and Heart
 - A. He saw no further than the lush green pastures of the plain of Jordan.
 - B. His mind was on the here and now.
- II. He Should Have Had Greater Foresight and Taken Spiritual Factors into Consideration

His Wife Is to Be Remembered (Luke 17:32)

- I. Her Death Illustrates a Number of Facts That All Must Consider
- II. She Perished Even Though She:
 - A. Was the wife of a righteous man (2 Peter 2:7-8).
 - B. Had been warned by God.
 - C. Made an effort to save herself.
 - D. Committed only one sin.

Lot, A Righteous Man (2 Peter 2:6-8)

- I. He Was Righteous Even Though Surrounded by Wickedness
- II. He Was "Vexed" on a Daily Basis By the Wickedness of Those Around Him
 - A. Christians are to be separate from those in the world even though they are living among them (2 Corinthians 6:17-18).
 - B. Those who are truly righteous, instead of longing to be part of it, will always be "vexed" by the ungodliness that surrounds them.
 - C. Righteousness is possible in the midst of great wickedness.

Questions

1. What do you think are some reasons why Lot made the trip from Ur to Haran and Canaan with Terah and Abram?
2. Why did Abram and Lot finally have to separate? How did Abram propose to solve the problem.
3. Detail some of the consequences of the decision Lot made that in Genesis 13.
4. Why did Lot offer his two unmarried daughters to the men of Sodom? Do you think he was justified to do so? Explain your answer.
5. What was the response of Lot's sons-in-law to his warning of the destruction of Sodom? Why do you think they reacted that way?
6. What happened to Lot's wife as she fled from Sodom? Why, in Luke 17:32, did Jesus emphasize that we are to "remember Lot's wife?"
7. Why did Lot want to go to the city of Zoar instead of the mountains? Why did he leave it for the mountains?
8. How is Lot an example of the importance of making proper decisions?
9. Cite some dangers of selfishness and materialism.
10. What is meant in 2 Peter 2:8 when it says that Lot's righteous soul was "vexed... from day to day?" In our relationship to heaven and to the world, how are we to view sin and wickedness and what are some consequences if we fail to view them properly?

Melchizedek: King and Priest



Genesis 14:18-20; Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 5:6-10; 6:19 - 8:6

Biography

Personal Data

Name Defined: king of righteousness (Hebrews 7:2).

Family: Not named in the Bible.

Historical Data

I. King of Salem (Genesis 14:18; Hebrews 7:1)

- A. Salem was most likely what is now the city of Jerusalem.
- B. Salem means “peace,” so he was a king of peace.

II. Priest of God (Genesis 14:18; Hebrews 7:1)

A. He was without father, mother or genealogy (Hebrews 7:3).

- 9. This does not mean that he was some kind of supernatural being who was born without parents.
- 10. It means that he neither receive the priesthood from his parents nor by being part of a particular family as did the Levites under the law of Moses.

B. He had neither beginning of days nor end of life (Hebrews 7:3).

- 1. This does not mean that he was eternal.
- 2. It means that man does not know of his birth or death nor the beginning or end of his priesthood.

C. He was a “priest continually” (Hebrews 7:3).

- 1. This phrase could also be translated “all his life.”
- 2. He was a priest throughout his earthly existence.

III. His Encounter with Abraham (Genesis 14:17-20; Hebrews 7:1-2)

A. Abraham was returning from battle against Chedorlaomer and his allies who had captured Lot and his fellow-citizens of the cities of the plain when he was visited by Melchizedek.

B. He gave bread and wine to Abraham and blessed him.

C. Abraham gave “tithes of all” to him.

- 1. In so doing, he recognized his authority.
- 2. Levi, the father of the Levitical priesthood, in a sense, paid tithes to him (Hebrews 7:9-10).

Lessons and Applications

Jesus Christ: A Priest Forever After the Order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 7:17)

A Comparison of the Priesthoods of Melchizedek and Jesus	
Melchizedek	Jesus Christ
King and priest	King and priest
Stood for righteousness and peace	Stands for righteousness and peace
Not of the Levitical order	Not of the Levitical order (Of tribe of Judah)
Superior to the Levitical priesthood	Superior to the Levitical priesthood
Not a priest because of family or ancestry	Not a priest because of family or ancestry
Made a priest by God	Made a priest with an oath by God
Abided continually as a priest	Abides forever as a priest
Had neither beginning nor end of days	Eternal

Questions

1. What does the name Melchizedek mean? How did it apply to him?
2. Over what city was Melchizedek king? What modern city is it? What did the name of the city mean?
3. What does it mean in Hebrews 7:3 where it says that Melchizedek was “without father, without mother, without genealogy?”
4. How did Melchizedek not have beginning or end of days?
5. How was Melchizedek a “priest continually?”
6. What did Melchizedek do for Abraham when they met? What did Abraham do for him?
7. How did Levi give tithes to Melchizedek?
8. Compare the priesthood of Melchizedek to the priesthood of Jesus.

Isaac: Son of Promise



Genesis 17:15-1; 21:1-10; 22:1-24; 24:1-67; 25:19-28; 26:1-35; 27:1-40, 46; 28:1-5; 35:27-29; Exodus 3:6, 15; Amos 7:9, 16; Matthew 22:23-33; Mark 12:18-27; Romans 9:6-13; Galatians 4:28-31; Hebrews 11:20

Biography

Personal Data

Name Defined: laughter (Genesis 17:19; 21:6).
 Parents: Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 21:23).
 Wife: Rebekah (Genesis 24:67).
 Sons: Jacob and Esau (Genesis 25:21-26).
 Life span: 180 years (Genesis 35:28).

Historical Data

I. The Birth and Youth of Isaac (Genesis 17:15-19; 21:1-10)

- D. In accordance with the promise God had made to Abraham and Sarah, he was born to them when Abraham was 100 and Sarah 90 years old.
- E. His birth was miraculous in that it was physically impossible for Sarah to have had a child (Genesis 18:11).
- F. He was named "Isaac" according to the command of God and the reaction of Sarah.
- G. After Ishmael scoffed him, Abraham sent Ishmael away in accordance with the wishes of Sarah and the instruction of God.

II. The Sacrifice of Isaac (Genesis 22)

- A. He accompanied Abraham to the land of Moriah not realizing that he was to be sacrificed.
- B. He willingly laid on the altar that his father had built waiting for his father's knife to plunge in him and kill him.
- C. The angel of the Lord stayed the hand of Abraham and he was spared.

III. The Marriage of Isaac (Genesis 24)

- A. Abraham sent his oldest servant to his family to get a wife for Isaac.
 - 9. Outside of the city of Nahor, he prayed to God to assist him in finding the proper woman for Isaac.
 - 10. In response to his prayer, he met Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the son of Nahor, Abraham's brother.
 - c. She gave him and his camels water from the well.
 - d. She told him that he could lodge at her father's house.

- e. He was met at the well by Laban, Rebekah's brother, who went there after hearing her tell of Abraham's servant. He repeated the invitation to lodge with them.
 3. He told them of the purpose of his mission and asked that Rebekah return with him to be Isaac's wife.
 - a. They agreed to allow it.
 - b. Rebekah agreed and accompanied him.
 - B. After meeting Isaac, Rebekah went in to Sarah's tent with him and became his wife.
 1. Isaac, being 40 years at the time of his marriage, loved her.
 2. Isaac was then comforted from his mother's death.
- IV. The Birth of Isaac's Sons (Genesis 25:20-28)
- A. Rebekah was barren so Isaac prayed to God that she might have children.
 1. God granted his plea.
 2. She conceived.
 - B. Rebekah bore twins.
 1. During the time she was with child she thought something was wrong but God answered her fears. He told her that:
 - a. Two babies were within her.
 - b. One would be stronger than the other and that the older would serve the younger.
 2. The first-born was Esau.
 - a. He was red and hairy.
 - b. He became a skillful hunter.
 3. Jacob was the younger.
 - a. At birth he took hold of Esau's heel.
 - b. He became a mild man, a dweller in tents.
 4. Isaac loved Esau but Rebekah loved Jacob.
- V. Isaac, Abimelech and the Philistines (Genesis 26)
- A. There was a famine in the land that caused Isaac to journey to Gerar where Abimelech, king of the Philistines, lived.
 1. God told him not to go to Egypt but to sojourn in the land of the Philistines.
 2. God repeated to Isaac the promises He had made to Abraham.
 - B. While living in Gerar, Isaac repeated the lie of his father.
 1. He told the men of Gerar that Rebekah was his sister.
 - a. She, like Sarah, was beautiful.
 - b. He, as had his father, feared for his life.
 2. Abimelech saw him "showing endearment with Rebekah."
 - a. He chastised him for lying about her.
 - b. He charged his people not to touch her under penalty of death.

- C. Isaac prospered in Gerar.
 - 1. He reaped a hundredfold from what he sowed.
 - 2. He had great flocks and herds and a great number of servants.
 - 3. The Philistines envied him and feared him so that Abimelech sent him away.
 - D. Isaac redug the wells that Abraham had dug that the Philistines had filled with earth.
 - 1. In two instances they were taken from him by the herdsmen of Gerar.
 - 2. The third well provided him and his flocks and herds plentifully.
 - E. Upon Isaac's return to Beersheba, Abimelech visited him.
 - 1. Abimelech recognized God was with Isaac and wanted to have peace with him.
 - 2. They feasted and made an oath with one another.
 - F. The Hittite wives of Esau were a grief to Isaac and Rebekah.
- VI. Isaac's Blessings on His Sons (Genesis 27:1-40; 28:1-5)
- A. He was nearly blind.
 - 1. He instructed Esau to provide food for him and then he would bless him.
 - 2. He desired to bless Esau before he died.
 - B. Rebekah overheard his instructions to Esau and then commanded Jacob to deceive his father into blessing him with the blessing Isaac intended to bestow upon Esau.
 - 1. She put skins of animals on Jacob so that he would appear to be hairy like Esau.
 - 2. She prepared food for Jacob to give to Isaac.
 - C. He unwittingly bestowed Esau's blessing on Jacob.
 - 1. Esau tearfully pleaded with his father to revoke the blessing but he will not.
 - 2. Esau became irate with Jacob.
 - 3. In his blessing of Esau, Isaac said that he would serve his brother.
 - D. He sent Jacob to Laban, Rebekah's brother, so that Jacob could marry one of Laban's daughters instead of a Canaanite woman.
- VII. The Death of Isaac (Genesis 35:27-29)
- A. He died at Hebron at the age of 180 years.
 - B. His sons buried him.

Lessons and Applications

God Identifies Himself as Being the "God of Isaac" (Gen. 3:6, 15)

Israel Was Identified as His People (Amos 7:9, 16)

- I. As Physical Descendants of Isaac, the Jews Were His People
- II. Now, the “Children of Promise” Under the Law of Christ Are His Seed (Romans 9:6-13)

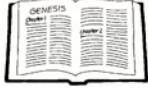
He is Used to Illustrate the Relation of the Old Law to the New (Galatians 4:28-31)**His Blessing of His Sons Is an Example of Faith (Hebrews 11:20)****He Illustrates the Dangers of Parents Showing Partiality Between or Among Their Children****His Lie to Abimelech Shows That Even the Faithful Have Weaknesses and Sin****In His Father’s Sacrifice of Him, He Is Seen as a Type of Jesus**

A Comparison of the Sacrifices of Isaac and Jesus	
Isaac	Jesus Christ
The only son of promise (Gen. 22:2)	The only begotten of the Father (John 3:16)
To be sacrificed at land of Moriah (Gen. 22:2)	Sacrificed in Jerusalem (2 Chron. 3:1)
Considered dead by father for three days (Gen. 22:4)	Dead for three days (1 Cor. 15:3-4)
Carried the necessary wood for his own sacrifice (Gen. 22:6)	Bore His own cross (John 19:17-18)
Submitted himself willingly to the will of his father (Gen. 22:6, 8)	Submitted willingly to the will of the heavenly Father (Matt. 26:39)
Raised from the altar, his life spared by the power of God	Raised from the dead by the power of God (Rom. 6:4)

Questions

1. What made the birth of Isaac miraculous?
2. In what ways is Isaac a type of Jesus as seen in the sacrifice recorded in Genesis 22?
3. How did Rebekah come to be Isaac's wife?
4. What are some noteworthy things surrounding the birth of Isaac's sons?
5. Give a brief account of Isaac's dealings with Abimelech and the Philistines.
6. How did it come about that Jacob received Esau's blessing?
7. What does it mean in Hebrews 11:20 when it says that Isaac blessed his sons "by faith?"
8. How is Isaac an illustration of the resurrection of the dead?
9. What were some of the consequences of the partiality Isaac showed toward Esau and Rebekah's partiality toward Jacob?
10. How are the "children of promise" Isaac's seed?

Esau: A Profane Person



Genesis 25:21-34; 26:34-35; 27:1-46; 28:6-9; 32:1-21; 33:1-17; 35:27-29; 36:1-30; Numbers 20:14-21; Deuteronomy 2:1-8, 12; 23:7; 1 Samuel 14:47; 2 Samuel 8:13-14; 1 Kings 11:14-25; 2 Kings 8:20-22; 2 Chronicles 20:22; Isaiah 34:5-8; 63:1-4; Jeremiah 49:17; Obadiah 1-21; Malachi 1:2-4; Romans 9:10-13; Hebrews 12:14-17

Biography

Personal Data

- Name Defined: 1. Esau: hairy (Genesis 25:25).
 2. Edom: red (Genesis 25:30).
 Parents: Isaac and Rebekah (Genesis 25:21).
 Brother: Jacob [his twin] (Genesis 25:26).
 Wives: 1. Judith [Aholibamah] (Genesis 26:34; 36:2).
 2. Basemath [Adah] (Genesis 26:34; 36:2).
 3. Mahalath [Basemath] (Genesis 28:9; 36:3).

Historical Data

- I. The Birth and Youth of Esau (Genesis 25:21-28).
 C. He and Jacob were the twin sons of Isaac and Rebekah.
 1. He was born first.
 2. He was red and hairy.
 3. Isaac was 60 years old when he and his brother were born.
 D. Before their birth, God told Rebekah that the older would serve the younger.
 E. He grew to become a skillful hunter, a “man of the field” while Jacob was a mild man.
 F. Isaac preferred him over his brother because of the meat he provided but Rebekah preferred Jacob.
- II. The Selling of Esau’s Birthright (Genesis 25:29-34)
 A. He came in from the field hungry and weary.
 B. He wanted some of the red stew (pottage) of lentils that Jacob had prepared.
 C. Jacob told him that if he would sell his birthright to him he would give him some stew.
 1. He reasoned that his birthright would be of no value to him if he died of starvation.
 2. He sold to Jacob thus he “despised” it.

III. Esau's Hittite Wives (Genesis 26:34-35)

- A. At age 40 he married two Hittite women.
 - 1. One was Judith the daughter of Beerli.
 - 2. The other was Basemath the daughter of Elon.
- B. They caused grief to Isaac and Rebekah.

IV. Esau's Lost Blessing (Genesis 27:1-46)

- A. Isaac, old and blind, called Esau to him and instructed him to go hunting for game and then prepare it for him to eat so he could bless him.
- B. Rebekah overheard Isaac speaking to him.
 - 1. She told Jacob that he would get Esau's blessing.
 - 2. She prepared a meal from two kids and then, dressing Jacob in Esau's clothes and putting the skins of the kids on his hands and neck so that he would seem to be Esau to Isaac, sent him into his father with the food.
- C. Isaac was deceived and blessed Jacob.
 - 1. The blessing was that peoples and nations would serve him and that he was to be master over his brethren.
 - 2. It also said that everyone who cursed him would be cursed and those who blessed him would be blessed.
- D. Esau returned and prepared a meal from the game he had gotten and brought it to his father.
 - 1. Isaac, upon recognizing that it was really Esau, told him that he had been deceived by Jacob and had blessed him.
 - 2. He pleaded for Isaac to bless him too.
 - c. His blessing stated that he would live by the sword.
 - d. It also declared that he would serve his brother.
- E. Esau hated Jacob for taking his birthright and his blessing.
 - 1. He plotted to kill him after his father died.
 - 2. Learning of his plans, Rebekah had Isaac send Jacob to Laban, her brother, to get a wife from their family and to escape Esau's wrath.

V. Esau's Marriage to Mahalath (Genesis 28:6-9)

- A. Seeing that Isaac sent Jacob to Padan Aram to get a wife, Esau reasoned that the Canaanite women were not proper as wives to Isaac.
- B. To please his father, he took Mahalath, an Ishmaelite, a descendant of Abraham, as his wife in addition to the wives he already had.

VI. Esau's Reunion with Jacob (Genesis 32:1-21; 33:1-17)

- A. After a 20 year period (Genesis 31:38), Jacob left Laban and journeyed toward Edom where Esau lived.
 - 1. He sent messengers to Esau.
 - 2. Esau responded that he would meet him. 400 men accompanied him.

- B. Jacob feared Esau would attack him so he divided his people and animals into two companies so that if Esau attacked one the other would be spared.
 - C. By messengers, Jacob sent a present of many animals to Esau to appease him.
 - D. When Esau finally encountered Jacob, he embraced and kissed him and they wept together.
 - 1. He wanted to decline Jacob's gift but Jacob persisted so he accepted.
 - 2. He urged Jacob and his family to journey with him.
 - a. Jacob declined saying that because of the weakness of the animal he would have to travel slowly.
 - b. He went to Seir and Jacob went to Succoth.
 - E. The brothers were together again at the burial of Isaac (Genesis 35:29).
- VII. The Descendants of Esau (Genesis 26)
- A. He lived in Mt. Seir.
 - 1. The area was also called Edom and Idumea.
 - 2. It was a mountainous area.
 - 3. It had been taken from the Horites (Deuteronomy 2:12).
 - 4. Israel was not allowed to take any of the land of Esau's descendants (Deuteronomy 2:1-8).
 - B. His descendants became the nation of Edom.
 - 1. Their history was one of servitude to the nation of Israel.
 - a. They refused to let the children of Israel pass through their land on the journey to Canaan from Egypt (Numbers 20:14-21).
 - b. They were attacked and defeated by King Saul (1 Samuel 14:47).
 - c. They were attacked and defeated by David (2 Samuel 8:13-14).
 - d. Joab, chief of David's army, during a six month period, killed the males of Edom. Hadad, who fled to Egypt, returned to Edom during Solomon's reign and became Solomon's adversary (1 Kings 11:14-25).
 - e. They revolted during the reign of Jehoram but were defeated by him at Zair (2 Kings 8:20-22).
 - f. They attempted to invade Israel during the reign of Jehoshaphat but failed (2 Chronicles 20:22).
 - g. They joined Nebuchadnezzar in besieging Jerusalem. They were denounced by the prophets for this (Isaiah 34:5-8; 63:1-4; Jeremiah 49:17).
 - h. God brought judgment against them as a nation (Obadiah 1-21; Malachi 1:1-5).
 - i. They were subdued and made to live as Jews by John Hyrcanus during the Maccabean period.
 - j. They were lost to history by 100 A.D.

2. "Throughout the writings of the prophets Edom stands as a symbol of the earthly, non-spiritual people of the world" (Homer Hailey, *A Commentary on the Minor Prophets*, p. 30).

Lessons and Applications

He Is Used by God to Illustrate a "Profane Person" (Hebrews 12:14-17)

The Nation That Came from Him Was "Hated" by God While the One Which Came from Jacob Was "Loved" (Malachi 1:1-5; Romans 9:10-13)

He Shows the Folly of Sacrificing Future Glory for Present Sensual Gratification

He Is an Example of the Danger of Acting Impetuously

Questions

1. Define the names "Esau" and "Edom." Why were they given to him?
2. Why did Isaac prefer Esau over Jacob?
3. What were the circumstances surrounding the selling of Esau's birthright?
4. What blessing did Esau receive from Isaac? Why did he not receive the one originally intended for him?
5. Why did Esau marry Mahalath?
6. Why did Jacob fear meeting Esau after being separated from him for 20 years? What transpired when they did meet?
7. Name and describe the land in which Esau and his descendants lived.
8. What kind of relationship was there between the Edomites and the Israelites over the years? Why?
9. What does it mean when it says that God "hated" Esau? (Malachi 1:3; Romans 9:13)
10. How was Esau a "profane person?" (Heb. 12:16)

Jacob - Israel: Prince of God



Genesis 25:21-34; 27:1-46; 28:1-5, 20-22; 29:1 - 35:29; 37:1-36; 42:1-5, 25-38; 43:1-14; 45:25-28; 46:1-30; 47:5-12, 27-31; 48:1 - 50:14; Hosea 12:2-6; John 4:5-42; Romans 9:10-13; Hebrews 11:21

Biography

Personal Data

- Name Defined:
1. Jacob (Genesis 25:26).
 - k. "To supplant, to take by the heel" (*I.S.B.E.*).
 - l. "Supplanter" (*Smith's Bible Dictionary*).
 2. Israel (Genesis 32:28; 35:10).
 - a. "Prince with God" (Footnote: NKJV).
 - b. "Prince" (*Adam Clarke's Commentary*).
 - c. "He who strives with God" (*ASV*).
 - d. "Prince that prevails with God" (*Smith's Bible Dictionary*).
 - e. "He will rule as God" (*Zerr's Commentary*).

Parents: Isaac and Rebekah (Genesis 25:21).

Brother: Esau [his twin] (Genesis 25:26).

- Wives:
1. Leah (Genesis 29:23-28).
 2. Rachel (Genesis 29:28).

- Children:
1. Born to Leah: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun and Dinah (Genesis 35:23; 30:21).
 2. Born to Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin (Genesis 35:24).
 3. Born to Bilhah, Rachel's handmaid: Dan and Naphtali (Genesis 35:25).
 4. Born to Zilpah, Leah's handmaid: Gad and Asher (Genesis 35:26).

Life span: 147 years (Genesis 47:28).

Historical Data

- I. The Birth and Youth of Jacob (Genesis 25:21-28).
 - C. In answer to Isaac's prayer, Rebekah gave birth to twin sons.
 1. Before their birth, she was told by God that each would be the father of a nation and that the older would serve the younger.
 2. Jacob, the younger, when coming from the womb, had a grasp on the heel of Esau, his brother.
 - D. He was the favorite of his mother while Esau was his father's favorite.
 - E. He grew to be a mild man, a dweller in tents.

II. The Birthright from Esau (Genesis 25:29-34)

- A. When Esau came in weary from the field, he wanted some of the stew Jacob had made.
- B. Jacob demanded that Esau sell him his birthright in exchange for some of the stew.
- C. Esau did so thinking that his birthright would be of no value to him if he were to die.

III. Isaac's Blessing of Jacob (Genesis 27:1 - 28:5)

- A. Advanced in age and blind, Jacob, before he died, desired to bless Esau.
 1. He called him to him and told him to hunt for game and prepare it for him to eat then he would bless him.
 2. Rebekah overheard Isaac's instruction.
- B. Rebekah plotted with Jacob to have Isaac bless him.
 1. She told Jacob that he would get Esau's blessing.
 2. She prepared a meal from two kids and then, dressing Jacob in Esau's clothes and putting the skins of the kids on his hands and neck so that he would seem to be Esau to Isaac, sent him into his father with the food.
- C. Isaac was deceived.
 1. He blessed Jacob with the blessing he intended for Esau.
 2. Esau returned, learned of Jacob's deception and cried bitterly.
 - a. Isaac did not remove the blessing from Jacob.
 - b. At Esau's insistence, Isaac blessed him but the blessing included servitude to his brother.
 3. Esau plotted to kill Jacob after Isaac died.
- D. Rebekah, fearing Esau, persuaded Isaac to send Jacob to Padan Aram to Laban, her brother, so that he could marry one of Laban's daughters.

IV. Jacob's Vision at Bethel (Genesis 28:10-22)

- A. Jacob journeyed from Beersheba to Haran.
 1. At night he had a vision of a ladder that reached from earth to heaven with angels ascending and descending on it.
 2. God repeated to him the promise first made to Abraham.
 - a. His descendants were to be great in number.
 - b. In his seed all of the nations of the earth would be blessed.
 - c. He would possess the land.
- B. Jacob called the place "Bethel" meaning "house of God."
 1. He set up a stone as a pillar.
 2. He said he would give tithes to God.

V. Jacob's Marriages and Family (Genesis 29:1 - 30:24; 35:16-26)

- A. He met Rachel at a well where she was watering her father's flocks.
 1. He kissed her and told her that he was a relative.
 2. She ran and brought Laban, her father, to him.
 3. He went to Laban's home and stayed there a month.

- B. He told Laban he would serve him seven years for Rachel.
 - 1. He loved her deeply so the seven years went by swiftly.
 - 2. At the end of seven years, Leah, Rachel's older sister, was given to him instead of Rachel.
 - a. Laban explained the younger could not be married before the older.
 - b. Leah's eyes were "delicate" [KJV: "tender," footnote NKJV: "weak"] (Genesis 29:17).
 - 3. After one week he took Rachel as his wife after agreeing to serve Laban another seven years.
 - a. Rachel was "beautiful of form and appearance" (Genesis 29:17).
 - b. He loved her more than Leah.
 - 4. Many children were born to him by his wives, Leah and Rachel, and their handmaids, Bilhah and Zilpah.
 - a. Six sons and a daughter were born to Leah.
 - b. Two sons were born to Zilpah, Leah's handmaid.
 - c. Two sons were born to Bilhah, Rachel's handmaid.
 - d. Rachel was barren for a long time.
 - 1) God opened her womb and she bore Joseph.
 - 2) On the journey from Padan Aram to Canaan, she died while giving birth to Benjamin near Ephrah [Bethlehem] (Genesis 35:16-19).

VI. Jacob and Laban (Genesis 30:25 - 31:55)

- A. After Joseph's birth, Jacob wanted to return to Canaan.
 - 1. Laban wanted him to stay because God had caused him to prosper while Jacob was with him.
 - 2. Laban told Jacob he would pay whatever was necessary to make him stay.
- B. Jacob said he would work for the animals of Laban's herds and flocks that were speckled, spotted or brown.
 - 1. Jacob, according to the will of God (31:9-12), made it so that the stronger, healthier animals would bear spotted, speckled or brown offspring.
 - 2. Jacob became exceedingly prosperous while Laban's flocks became more feeble.
 - 3. Laban's outlook toward Jacob was no longer favorable.
- C. God told Jacob to go to Canaan and He would be with him.
 - 1. He and all his livestock, possessions and family started the journey home without Laban knowing that he had departed.
 - 2. Rachel took Laban's household gods.

3. On the third day, Laban pursued him and finally overtook him seven days later in the mountains of Gilead.
 - a. God had warned Laban not to harm Jacob.
 - b. Jacob, not knowing that Rachel had them, told Laban that whoever had taken his gods would die but Laban could not find the idols because Rachel was sitting on them.
 - D. Jacob and Laban made a covenant at Mizpah that each would not harm the other.
- VII. Jacob's Reunion with Esau (Genesis 32:1 - 33:20)
- A. Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau in the land of Seir.
 1. Upon returning, they told him Esau was coming to meet him with 400 men.
 2. He divided his people, animals and possessions into two companies so that if Esau attacked him half of them would be spared.
 3. He prayed to God for deliverance from Esau.
 4. He sent presents to appease Esau.
 - B. At Peniel, he wrestled all night with an angel of God (Hosea 12:4).
 1. The angel put Jacob's hip out of socket.
 2. At morning, he refused to let the angel go until he blessed him.
 - C. When they finally met, Esau fell on Jacob's neck, embraced and kissed him.
 1. He wanted to refuse Jacob's gift but Jacob insisted he take it.
 2. After he left, Jacob went to Succoth and then to Shechem.
 - a. In Shechem he bought some land from the children of Hamor.
 - b. He built an altar in Shechem.
- VIII. The Incident with Dinah (Genesis 34).
- A. Jacob's daughter, Dinah, was defiled by Shechem, son of Hamor.
 1. Hamor then asked the sons of Jacob to let her marry his son.
 2. They replied they would allow it if the men of the city would be circumcised.
 3. All the men of Shechem were circumcised.
 - B. On the third day following their circumcision while they were still in pain from it, Simeon and Levi, two of Jacob's sons, killed all the males of the city including Shechem and Hamor.
 1. They took Dinah from Shechem's house.
 2. They plundered the city.
 3. Jacob was not pleased with what they did.
- IX. Jacob's Return to Bethel (Genesis 35:1-29)
- A. God told Jacob to go and live in Bethel.
 - B. Jacob told those of his household to put away all their foreign gods.
 - C. Jacob journeyed to Bethel.
 1. God did not allow any of the people in the cities he passed to pursue him.
 2. The "terror of God" was upon those cities.

- D. Jacob built an altar to God in Bethel.
 - 1. God appeared to him and blessed him.
 - 2. God repeated the promise first made to Abraham.
- E. While journeying from Bethel to Ephrath, Rachel died while giving birth to Benjamin.
- F. Jacob went and lived beyond the tower of Edar.
 - 1. While there Reuben committed fornication with Bilhah.
 - 2. Jacob knew of Reuben's actions.
- X. Jacob's Favorite Son (Genesis 37:1-5; 42:1 - 47:12)
 - A. Jacob loved Joseph more than all his children. He gave him a coat of many colors.
 - B. His brothers hated Joseph and were going to kill him.
 - 1. While feeding Jacob's flocks in Shechem, they intended to kill him but Reuben interceded for him so they sold him to some Midianites instead.
 - 2. They tore his multicolored coat and put animal blood on it to make it appear as if he were killed by an animal.
 - C. Jacob, thinking Joseph was dead, refused to be comforted.
 - D. When famine was upon them, Jacob sent his sons to Egypt to get food.
 - 1. Little did he know that Joseph would be the one to give them food.
 - 2. On their second trip, Joseph revealed his identity to his brothers and had them send for Jacob.
 - 3. Jacob was 130 years old when he was reunited with Joseph in Egypt.
 - a. Pharaoh blessed him and allowed him and his family to live in Goshen.
 - b. He lived in Egypt for seventeen years.
- XI. Jacob's Death (Genesis 47:27 - 50:14)
 - A. Before he died, he had Joseph promise to bury him in the burial place of Abraham.
 - B. He blessed Joseph's son but reversed the blessings giving to the younger the blessing which should have been given to the older.
 - C. He pronounced his final blessings on all of his sons.
 - D. He died at 147 years of age and was buried by his sons in the cave of Machpelah.

Lessons and Applications

The Nation of Israel Was Named for Him (Called "Israel" or "Jacob" in Many Passages)

- I. He Was the Father of the Twelve Sons that Made Up the Twelve Tribes
- II. The Sons of Joseph Each Had a Tribe
- III. Levi's Descendants Were the Priestly Tribe

He Was an Ancestor of Jesus Christ (Matthew 1:2)**The Nation That Came from Him Was Loved by God (Romans 9:10-13)****God Refers to Himself as the God of Jacob Showing He Favorably Regarded Him**

- I. He Is One of God's Faithful (Matthew 8:11)
- II. He Is an Example of Faith (Hebrews 11:21)

He Is an Example of Perseverance in His Servitude to Laban for Rachel**His Favoritism for Joseph Caused Many Problems for Joseph Which Illustrate the Dangers Involved When Parents Show Partiality****His Physical Struggle with an Angel at Peniel Is Typical of Man's Spiritual Struggle (Genesis 32:22-30; Hosea 12:2-6; Romans 7:13-25; 1 Corinthians 9:27)****Jesus Taught the Samaritan Woman at Jacob's Well (John 4:5-42)****Questions**

1. Tell why the names given to Jacob were so appropriate for him.
2. Describe Jacob's vision at Bethel and give its meaning.
3. How did Jacob come to be married to Leah?
4. How did Jacob amass great flocks and herds? What was Laban's reaction to this?
5. What was Jacob's attitude toward Esau when they were reunited after being separated for 20 years?
6. Why did Jacob wrestle with an angel at Peniel? What was the outcome of it?
7. What transpired with Dinah at Shechem? What did Jacob's sons do to get revenge?
8. Who was Jacob's favorite son? Why? What happened to him?
9. What are some indications that Jacob was considered faithful by God?
10. How does Jacob's physical struggle at Peniel typify man's spiritual struggle?

Joseph: A Savior of His People



Genesis 30:22-24; 37:1-36; 39:1 - 48:22; 49:22-26; 49:33 - 50:26; Exodus 1:6-8; 13:18-19; Deuteronomy 33:13-17; 1 Chronicles 5:1-2; Psalm 77:15; 105:16-22; Acts 7:1-18; Hebrews 11:22

Biography

Personal Data

Names Defined: 1. Joseph (Genesis 30:24).

c. "Increase" (*Smith's Bible Dictionary*).

d. "He will add" (*I.S.B.E.*).

2. Zaphnathpaaneah (Genesis 41:45).

a. Heb.: "revealer of a secret" (*Smith's Bible Dictionary*).

b. Egyptian from the coptic: "the preserver of the age" (*Smith's Bible Dictionary*).

c. "The one who furnishes the nourishment of life, i.e., the chief steward" (*I.S.B.E.*)

Parents: Jacob and Rachel (Genesis 30:22-24).

Wife: Asenath, daughter of Potiphera, priest of On (Genesis 41:45).

Sons: Manasseh and Ephraim (Genesis 41:51-52).

Brother: Benjamin (Genesis 35:18).

Half-brothers: Reuben, Simeon, Gad, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Dan, Asher, Naphtali, Zebulun.

Half-sister: Dinah.

Physical appearance "handsome in form and appearance" (Genesis 39:6).

Life span: 110 years (Genesis 50:26).

Historical Data

I. Birth and Youth (Genesis 30:22-24; 37:1-36)

E. He was born to Jacob and Rachel while they were living in Padan Aram even though she had been barren for a long time.

F. At age 17 he was his father's favorite son because "he was the son of his old age."

1. Jacob gave him a multicolored coat as a sign of his affection for him.

2. His brothers hated him because he was the favorite and also because he had given their father an "bad report" of them while they had been feeding the flock.

- G. He dreamed that he and his brothers were binding sheaves in a field and that their sheaves “bowed down” to his sheaf.
 - 1. His brothers became angry when he told them of it.
 - 2. They hated him even more.
- H. He dreamed another dream in which the sun, moon and eleven stars “bowed down” to him.
 - 1. He revealed it to his father and brothers.
 - 2. Jacob rebuked him but “kept the matter in his mind” while his brothers envied him.
- I. His father sent him to check on his brothers who were feeding the flock in Dothan.
 - 1. They plotted to kill him but Reuben interceded for him.
 - 2. After removing his coat, they cast him into a pit.
 - 3. They sold him to some Ishmaelites (Midianites) for twenty pieces of silver. They, in turn, sold him into slavery in Egypt to Potiphar, captain of Pharaoh’s guard.
 - 4. They tore his coat and sprinkled animal blood on it to make their father believe he had been killed by an animal.
 - 5. Jacob mourned for him and refused to be comforted.
- II. Joseph and Potiphar’s Wife (Genesis 39)
 - A. Potiphar saw that God was with Joseph so he made him overseer of all his house and possessions.
 - B. Potiphar’s wife desired Joseph to lie with her.
 - 1. He refused because he knew it would be wicked to do so and that it would cause him to “sin against God.”
 - 2. She, while no one else was there, attempted to get him to change his mind.
 - a. He fled but she held onto his garment.
 - b. She used the garment as evidence that he had tried to take advantage of her.
 - 3. Potiphar, believing his wife’s lie, had him put in prison.
 - 4. God caused him to prosper in prison and he was put in charge of all of the prisoners.
- III. Interpreter of Dreams (Genesis 40:1 - 41:32)
 - A. Pharaoh cast his butler and baker into prison because they had offended him.
 - 1. While there, they dream and Joseph interprets their dreams.
 - a. He told the butler his dream indicated that he would be restored to his former position in three days.
 - 1) He told him to remember him so that he might be released.
 - 2) The butler, upon his release, forgot him.

- b. He told the baker that his dream meant that within three days he would be put to death.
 2. Joseph's interpretations came to pass just as he said they would.
 - B. Two years later Pharaoh dreamed two dreams that none of his magicians or wise men could interpret.
 1. The butler remembered Joseph and Pharaoh sent for him.
 2. Joseph interpreted his dreams saying that they meant that Egypt would shortly have seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine.
- IV. A Ruler in Egypt (Genesis 41:33-57)
- A. Pharaoh set Joseph, who was 30 years old at the time, over his house and all Egypt so that he could prepare for the famine by stockpiling food during the years of plenty.
 - B. Pharaoh named Joseph "Zaphenathpaaneah" and gave him Asenath to be his wife. She bore his sons Manasseh and Ephraim.
 - C. When the famine came, all the countries of the world came to Egypt to buy grain.
- V. The Reunion with His Family (Genesis 42:1 - 47:12; 48:1-22)
- A. Jacob sent all of his sons, except Benjamin, to Egypt to buy grain.
 1. Joseph recognized them but did not reveal his identity to them. He accused them of being spies.
 2. Joseph sent all of them, except Simeon, back home to bring Benjamin to verify their story.
 - a. He restored their money to them in their grain sacks.
 - b. They returned to their father and told him all that had happened in Egypt.
 - c. Jacob refused to let them take Benjamin.
 - B. When the grain ran out, Jacob relented and allowed them to take Benjamin to Egypt to get more.
 1. They took double money so that they could pay for the grain from the first trip.
 2. Joseph prepared a meal for them.
 3. Joseph filled their sacks with grain and put his silver cup in Benjamin's sack.
 - a. He had his steward follow them and bring them back to him. The one with the cup was to die.
 - b. Judah tried to take the place of Benjamin.
 - C. Joseph could not keep his identity from his brothers any longer.
 1. He told them that he had forgiven them.
 2. He told them he knew it was God's plan for him to be in Egypt.

- D. Jacob and all his family came to Egypt to live.
 - 1. He was tearfully, yet joyfully, reunited with Joseph.
 - 2. Pharaoh allowed him to live in Goshen.
 - E. Jacob blessed Joseph's sons in the reverse order of their birth.
 - 1. Joseph was displeased and tried to have him change the blessing.
 - 2. He would not change.
 - F. Upon Jacob's death, Joseph buried him in the cave of Machpelah.
 - 1. His brothers feared that he would now take his vengeance out on them.
 - 2. He assured them of his forgiveness, love and care.
- VI. Latter-Life and Death (Genesis 47:13-26; 50:22-26)
- A. As governor of Egypt, Joseph acquired all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh and required the people to give a fifth of all they grew.
 - B. He died in Egypt when he was 110 years old.
 - 1. He saw his descendants to the third generation.
 - 2. He told his brethren that God would bring them up out of Egypt to the land He had promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
 - 3. When the children of Israel left Egypt, they carried his embalmed physical remains with them (Exodus 13:18-19).

Lessons and Applications

He Is an Example of Righteousness

- I. No Weaknesses or Flaws Are Revealed About Him in the Bible (It did not mean he did not have any)
- II. He Knew That Sin Is Against God (Gen. 39:9)

He Is an Example of Faith (Heb. 11:22)

He Is an Illustration of How to Deal with Temptation (In the Case of Potiphar's Wife)

He Is an Example of the Forgiving Spirit That Is to Be Characteristic of Every Child of God (Matt. 6:14-15; Eph. 4:32)

He Is a Demonstration of the Providence of God (Gen. 45:5, 7-8)

He Shows How to Trust God

- I. He trusted Him While in Dire Circumstances in Prison
- II. He Trusted Him in Times of Plenty

He Is a Type of the Christ

Parallels in the Lives of Joseph and Jesus		
Joseph	Parallels	Jesus
Genesis 37:3	Beloved of His Father	Psalms 110:2
Genesis 37:7	Told He Would One Day Rule	Matt. 3:17
Genesis 37:14	Sent by Father to Seek His Brothers' Welfare	Luke 19:10
Genesis 37:17	Went to His Brethren Willingly	John 10:17, 18
Genesis 37:4	Envied and Hated Without Cause	John 15:25
Genesis 37:18	Rejected and Condemned to Die	Matt. 21:42 Luke 23:21
Genesis 37:28	Sold for Silver	Matt. 26:14-16
Gen. 39:1-2	Became a Servant	Phil. 2:5-8
Gen. 39:17, 18	False Accused	Matt. 26:57-61
Genesis 39:20	Treated as a Criminal	Luke 23:32-33
Genesis 41:39	Proved to Be a Great Counselor	Isaiah 9:6
Gen. 41:41, 45	Promoted to Glory and Honor - Given a New Name	Acts 2:32, 33
Genesis 41:43	All Commanded to Bow Before Him	Phil. 2:10, 11
Gen. 41:5-7	Provided for All in Need	John 6:35

“Joseph stands out among the patriarchs in some respects with preeminence. His nobility of character, his purity of life and heart, his magnanimity as a ruler and brother make him, more than any other OT character, an illustration of that type of man which Christ was to give to the world in perfection. Joseph is not in the list of persons distinctly referred to in Scripture as types of Christ (the only perfectly safe criterion) but none more fully illustrates the life and work of the Savior. He wrought salvation for those who betrayed and rejected him, he went down into humiliation as the way to his exaltation, he forgave those who, at least in spirit, put him to death, and to him as to the Saviour, all must come for relief, or perish” (*I.S.B.E.*, p. 1740).

Questions

1. Why did Joseph's brothers dislike him? How did they rid themselves of him?
2. How is the incident that involved Potiphar's wife a good illustration on how to deal with temptation?
3. What were the dreams of Pharaoh's butler and baker? What did they mean?
4. What were the dreams Joseph interpreted for Pharaoh? What did they mean?
5. To what position did Pharaoh appoint Joseph after he had successfully interpreted his dreams? What responsibilities did such a position have?
6. How did Joseph get to be reunited with his family? What kind of reunion was it?
7. How is Joseph an example of righteousness?
8. What kind of a forgiving spirit did Joseph manifest toward his brothers? What application can be made of it today?
9. How does the life of Joseph demonstrate the providence of God?
10. Compare Joseph to Jesus in as many ways as you can think of.

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