

GENESIS CH. 25-27

Isaac

My Purpose in these Studies

It is less a verse by verse presentation and commentary and more about the “big picture”.

Thus, in this series (from Genesis to Revelation) I have had several aims in mind:

- **STRATEGY** - to see how each book fits God’s overall strategy of creation, redemption & restoration
- **THEOLOGY OF PLACE** - to show how “places” play a vital role in learning and remembering Bible stories and teachings by linking with people & principles
- **PROPHETIC DESIGN** – to show how God has aligned OT places with NT places to record Gospel themes
- **OUR OUTCOMES**
 - to increase our wisdom, understanding and knowledge of God
 - To help our free-choice planning and decision-making conform with His strategy and commands
 - to more effectively perform our God-given role for worship & service

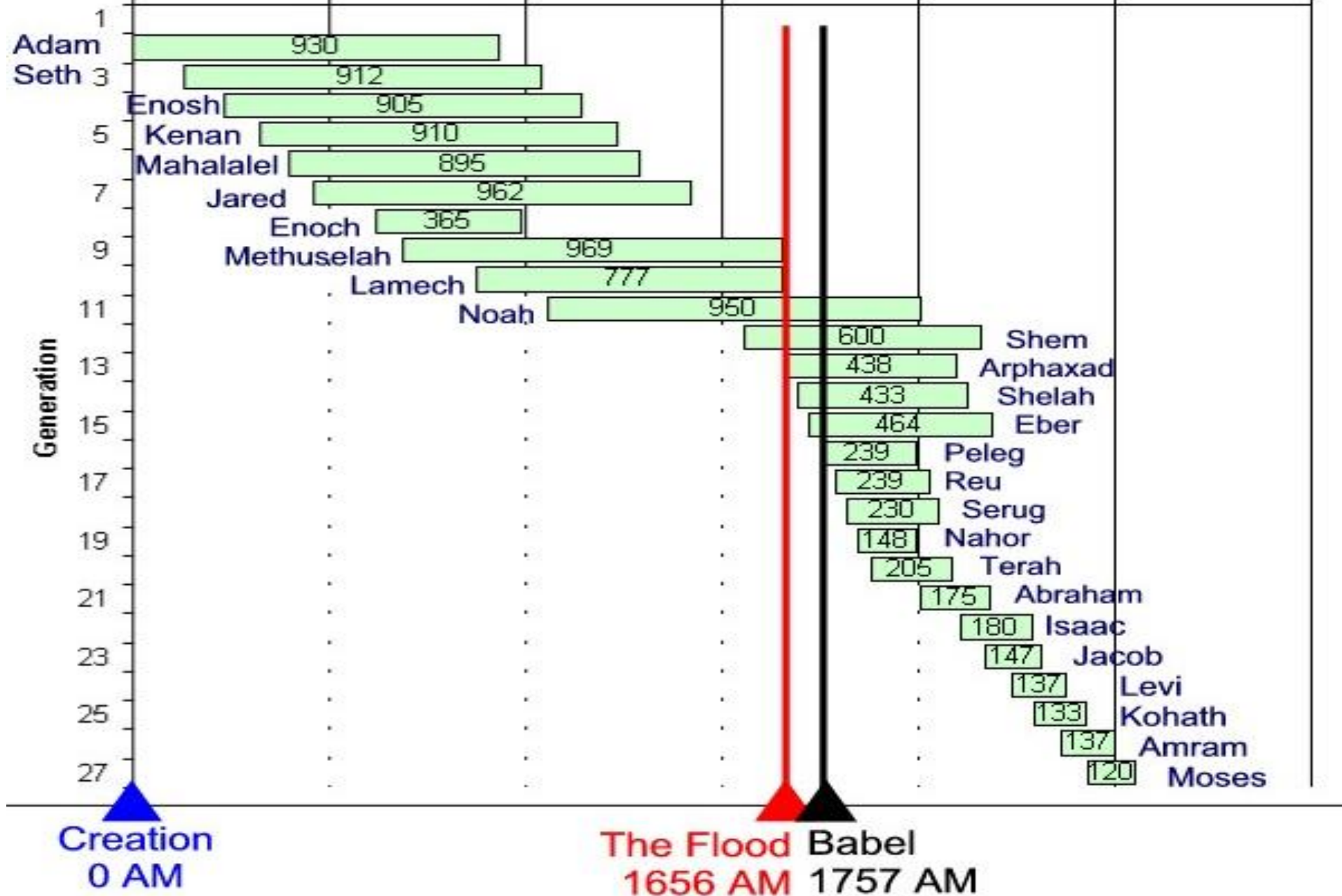
REVIEW FROM THE LAST STUDY ABOUT ABRAHAM

Abraham History (Gen. 11:10-25:10)

- **Abraham (Genesis 12:1-25:10)**
- **The call of Abram (Genesis 12:1-9)**
- **Abram visits Egypt (Genesis 12:10-20)**
- **Abram and Lot separate (Genesis 13)**
- **Abram rescues Lot (Genesis 14:1-16)**
- **Melchizedek (Genesis 14:17-24)**
- **God's covenant with Abram (Genesis 15)**
- **Hagar and Ishmael (Genesis 16)**
- **Abram becomes Abraham (Genesis 17:1-8)**
- **The covenant of circumcision (Genesis 17:9-14)**
- **God promises Abraham a son (Genesis 17:15-18:15)**
- **Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18:16-19:29)**
- **Lot and his daughters (Genesis 19:30-38)**
- **Abraham deceives Abimelech (Genesis 20)**
- **Birth of Isaac (Genesis 21:1-7)**
- **Hagar and Ishmael sent away (Genesis 21:8-21)**
- **Abraham's treaty with Abimelech (Genesis 21:22-34)**
- **Abraham told to offer Isaac (Genesis 22)**
- **Sarah dies, buried at Machpelah (Genesis 23)**
- **Isaac and Rebekah (Genesis 24)**
- **Death of Abraham (Genesis 25:1-10)**

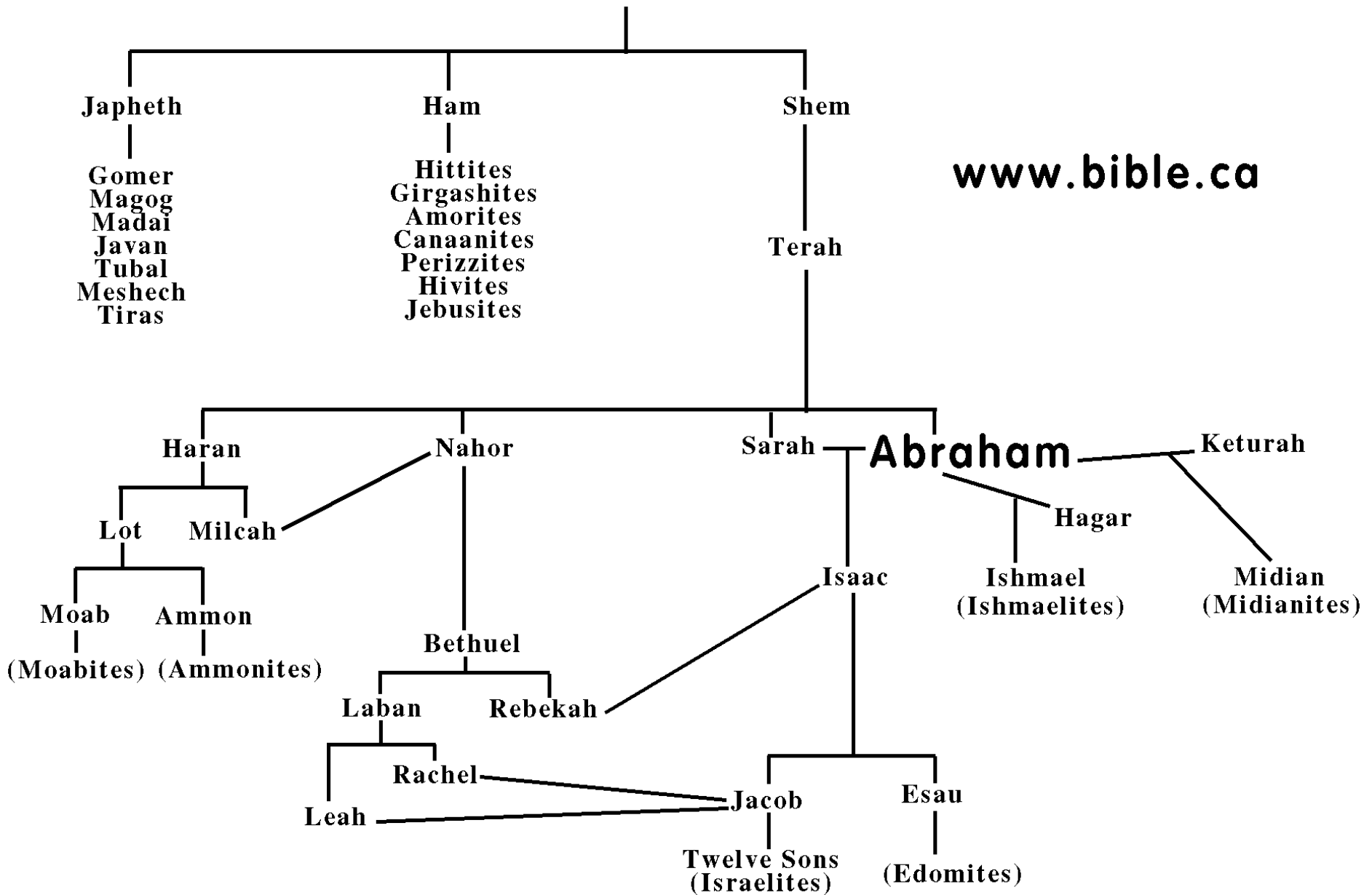
Year (AM)

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Noah

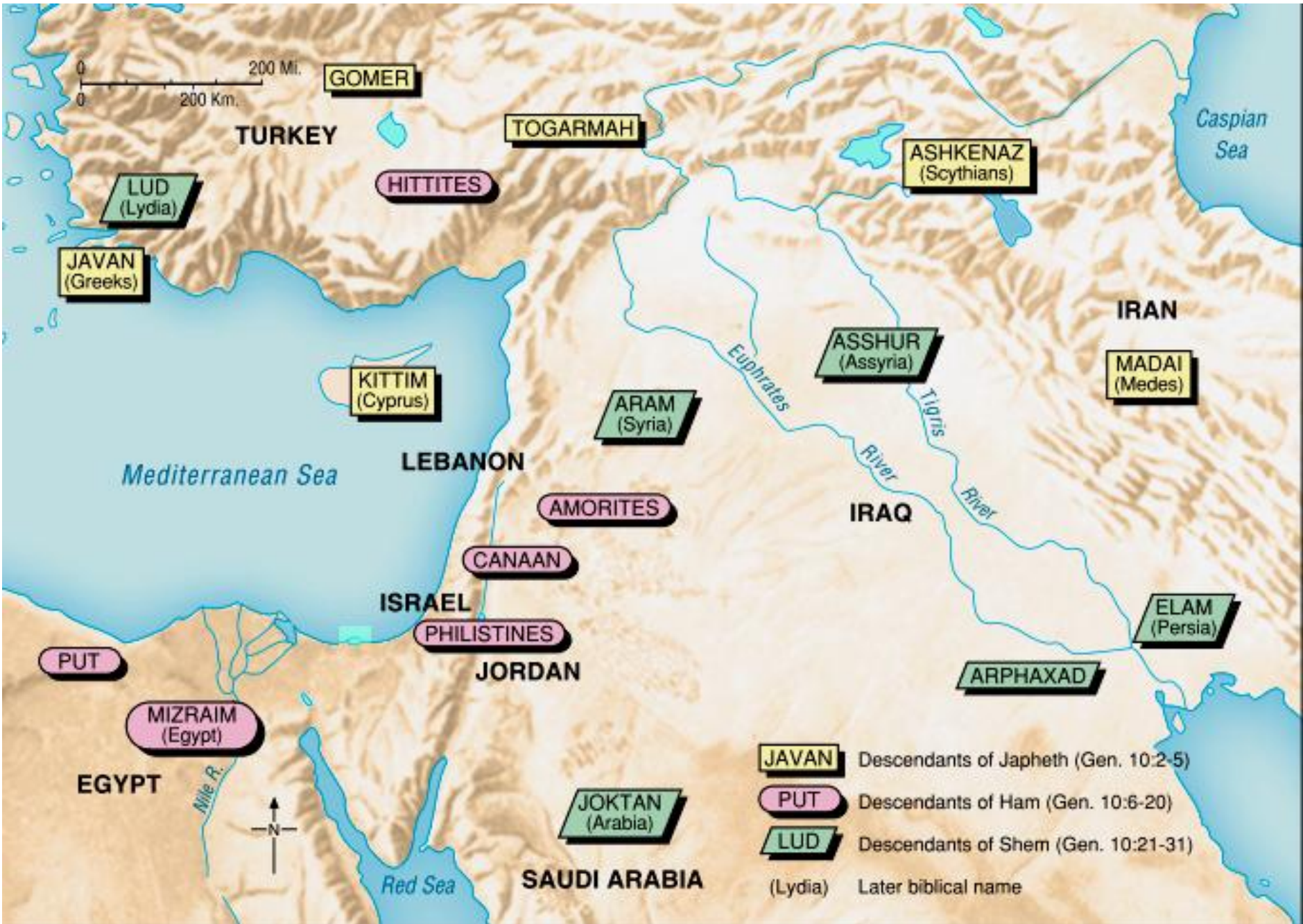
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What did the first 3 Patriarchs have in common?

- Abraham, Isaac & Jacob -

- Each is given a series of promises
 - A Seed
 - A Land
 - A Blessing
 - A Blessing to the nations
- Each lives as an alien in the land
- Each has a barren wife who gives birth
- Each deals with rivalry among his sons





Gen_11:31 (ESV) Terah took Abram his son and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram's wife, and they went forth together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan, but when they came to Haran, they settled there.

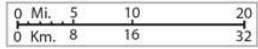
1

Gen_12:4 (ESV) So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Gen_12:6 (ESV) Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land.

2





Look at the Legend

1. Acco
2. Arnon River
3. Bashan
4. Beersheba
5. Caesarea
6. Capernaum
7. Coastal Plain
8. Dead (Salt) Sea
9. Desert
10. Galilee (Lower)
11. Galilee (Upper)
12. Gaza
13. Gilead
14. Hebron
15. Hulah Valley
16. Jabbok River
17. Jaffa
18. Jericho
19. Jerusalem
20. Jezreel Valley
21. Jordan Rift Valley
22. Jordan River
23. Judea (Hill Country)
24. Judean Wilderness
25. Kir-heraseth
26. Lachish
27. Litani River
28. Megiddo
29. Mt. Carmel
30. Mt. Hermon
31. Mt. Nebo
32. Nazareth
33. Negev
34. Plateau
35. Rabbath-Ammon
36. Samaria (Hill Country)
37. Sea of Galilee
38. Sharon Plain
39. Shechem
40. Shephelah
41. Tyre
42. Yarmuk River



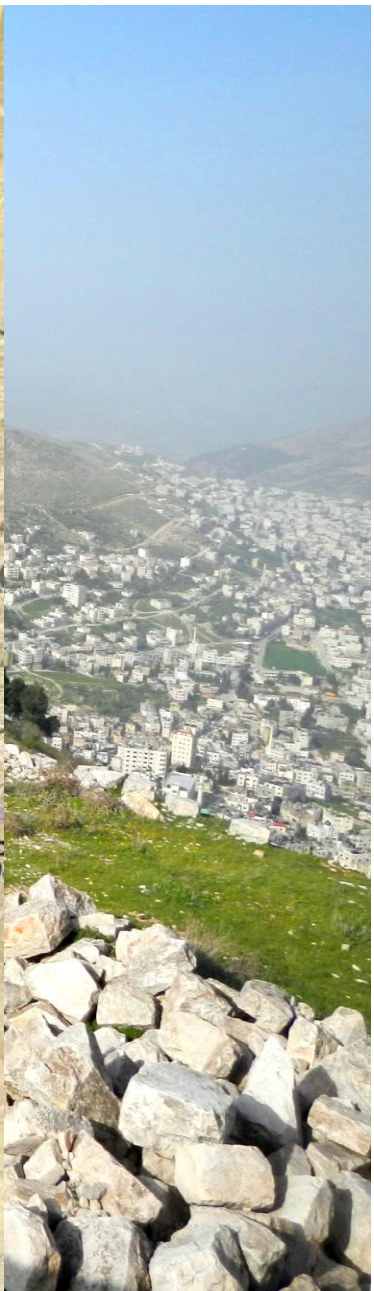
Photo: Jabbok River (#16) and Gilead (#13)

Mediterranean Sea

* Hebron (14)
Distance?

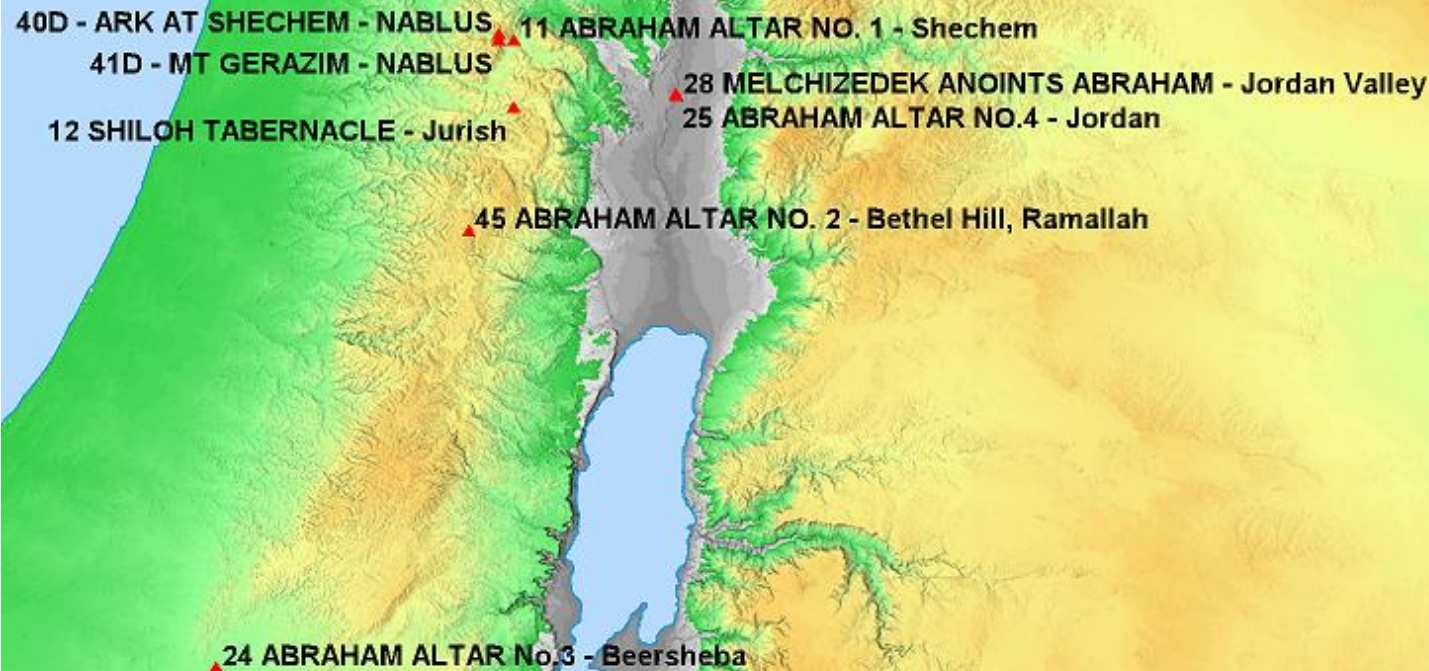
SHECHEM (39) - LIES BETWEEN Mt Gerizim & Mt Ebal





ALTARS ARE SIGNIFICANT

Exo 20:24 In every place where I record My name and cause it to be remembered I will come to you and bless you.





Gen_13:1 (ESV) So Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the Negeb.	4
Gen_13:12 (ESV) Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom.	5
Gen_13:18 (ESV) So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to the LORD.	6





1. SEPARATION FROM LOT

2. JUDGMENT ON SODOM & GOMORRAH

3. ABRAM'S MILITARY ACTIVITIES

Gen_14:12 (ESV) They also took Lot, the son of Abram's brother, who was dwelling in Sodom, and his possessions, and went their way.

Gen_14:14 (ESV) When Abram heard that his kinsman had been taken captive, he led forth his trained men, born in his house, 318 of them, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.





Gen_22:2 (ESV) He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

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)

MORE MOVEMENTS BY ABRAHAM



Gen_20:1 (ESV) From there Abraham journeyed toward the territory of the Negeb and lived between Kadesh and Shur; and he sojourned in Gerar.

8

Gen_21:14 (ESV) So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba.

9

Gen_21:33 (ESV) Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba and called there on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God.

10

Gen_22:19 (ESV) So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived at Beersheba.

Gen_23:2 (ESV) And Sarah died at Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham went in to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her.

11

Gen_23:19 (ESV) After this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah east of Mamre (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan.

12

Gen_25:9 (ESV) Isaac and Ishmael his sons buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite, east of Mamre,



ISAAC

- **Isaac (Genesis 25:11-27:46)**
- **Death and genealogy of Ishmael (Genesis 25:12-18)**
- **Jacob and Esau (Genesis 25:19-34)**
- **God's promise to Isaac (Genesis 26:1-5)**
- **Isaac and the Philistines (Genesis 26:6-35)**
- **Jacob gets Esau's blessing (Genesis 27)**

Isaac:

Vital Statistics

- Isaac = Laughter
- Born: 2066 BC No! 1897BC (2107AC)
- Lived: 180 Years
- Parents: Abraham & Sarah
- Spouse: Rebekah
- Sons: Jacob, Esau
- First Descendant in Fulfillment of God's Promise to Abraham

By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future.

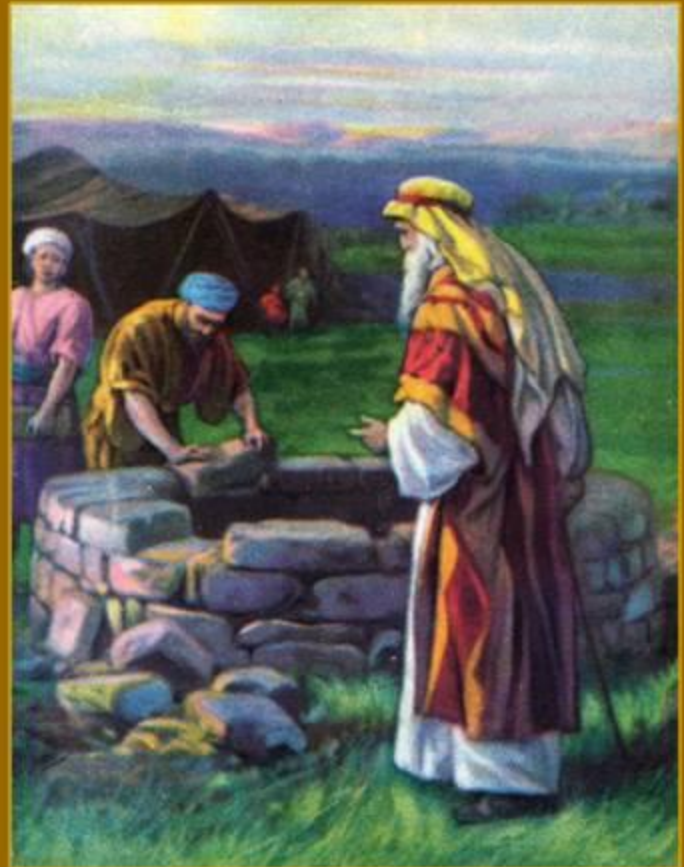


Isaac:

Strengths & Weaknesses

- + Miracle Child
- + Covenant Renewed
- + Caring Husband (at first)
- + Patient
- Lied about Wife
- Avoided Confrontation
- Favored Sons over Wife
- Resisted God's Intentions by Attempting to Bless Esau

"Now the LORD has given us room

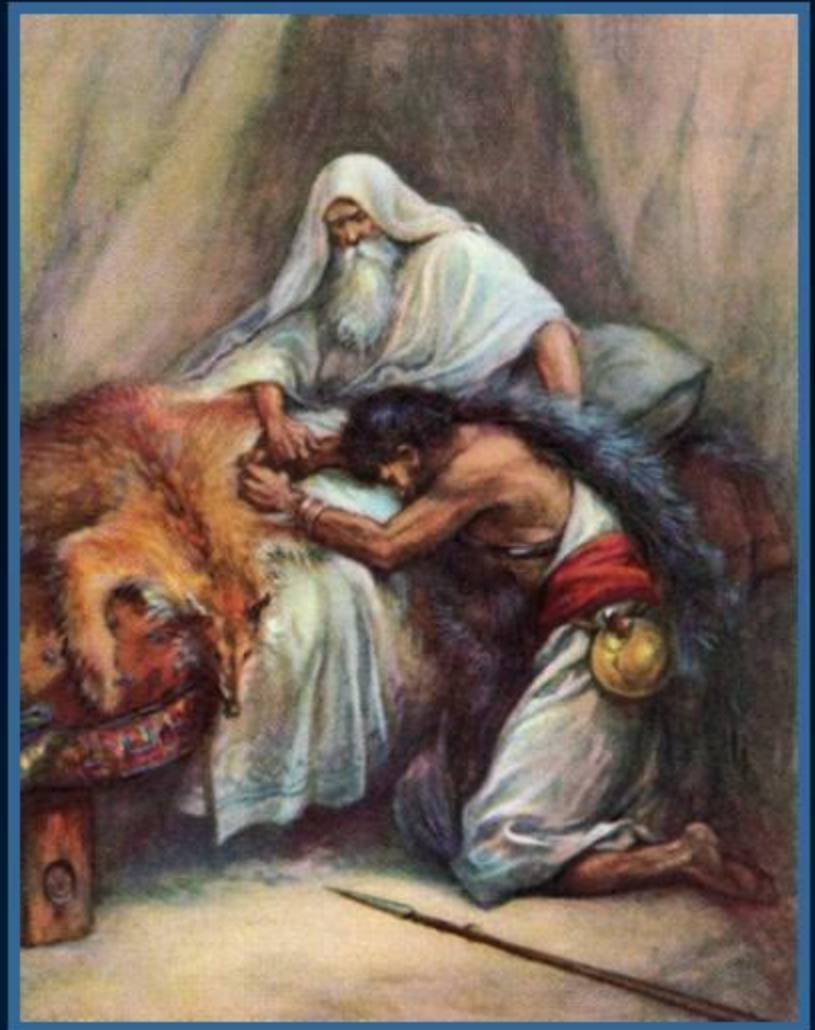


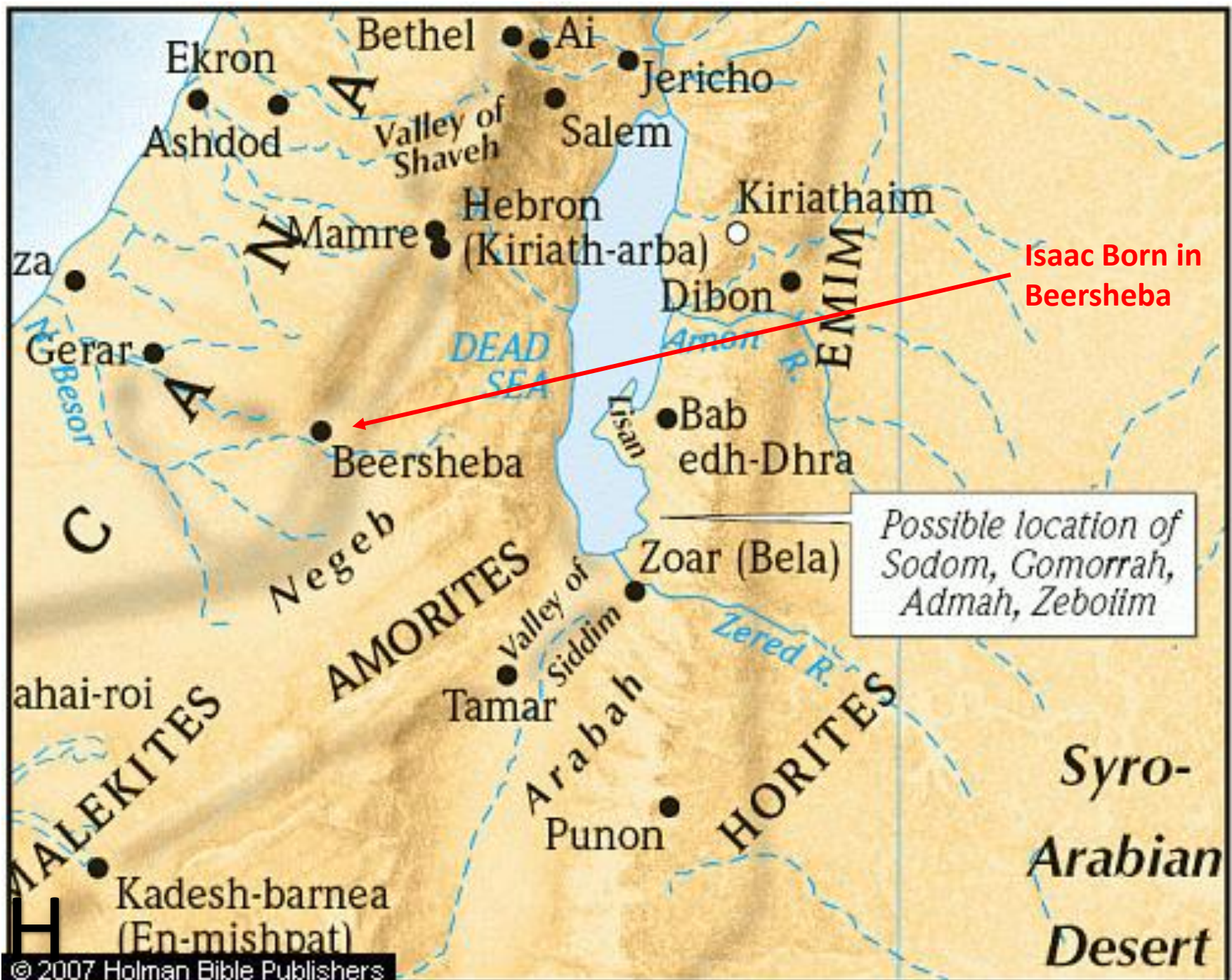
and we will flourish in the land."

Isaac: Verses

- Genesis 24: 62-67; 26: 6-11
- Romans 9: 6-13
- Hebrews 11: 17-20

*“May those who curse you be
cursed and those who bless you be
blessed.”*







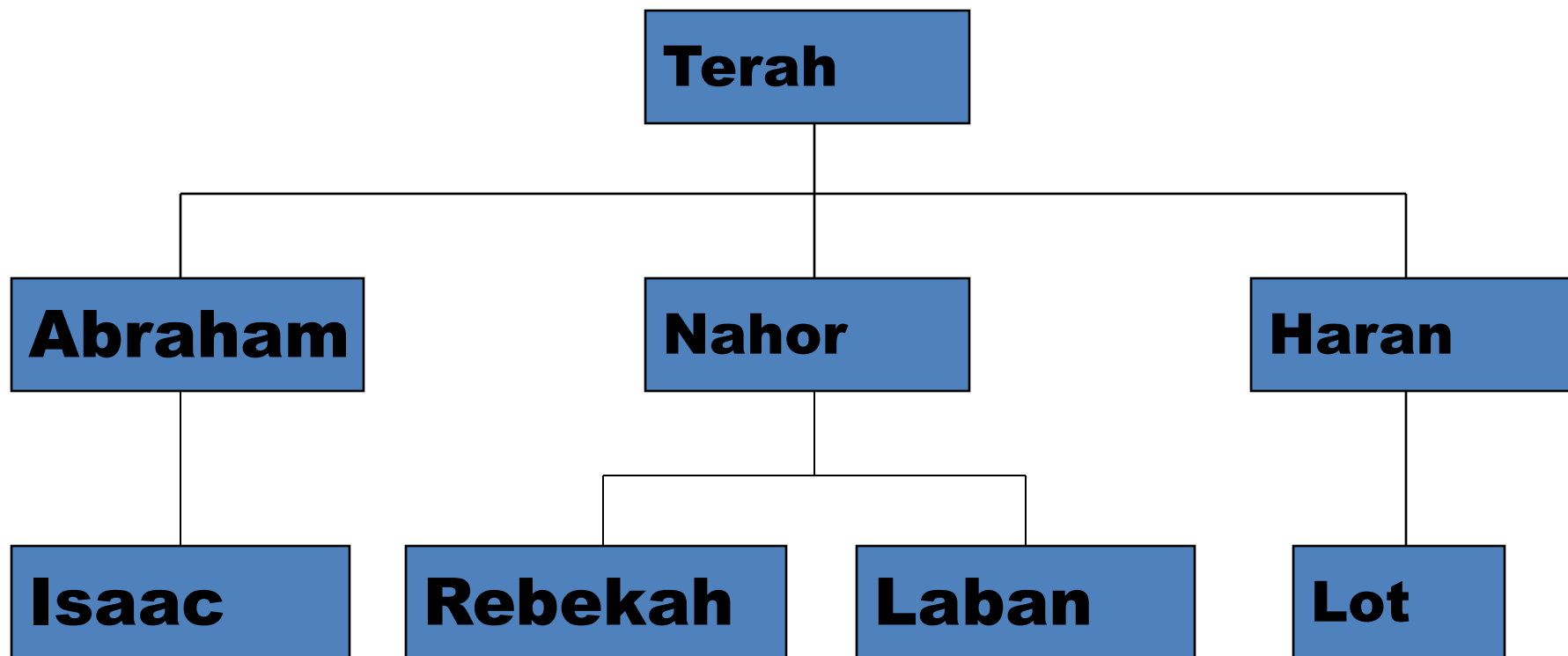


**Isaac was 75 years
old when
Abraham died**

Gen_25:11 (ESV) After the death of Abraham, God blessed Isaac his son. And Isaac settled at Beer-lahai-roi.

Gen_25:20 (ESV) and Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, the sister of Laban the Aramean, to be his wife.





Gen 24:1 NOW ABRAHAM was old, well advanced in years, and the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things.

Gen 24:2 And Abraham said to the eldest servant of his house [*Eliezer of Damascus*], who ruled over all that he had, I beg of you, put your hand under my thigh; [Gen. 15:2.]

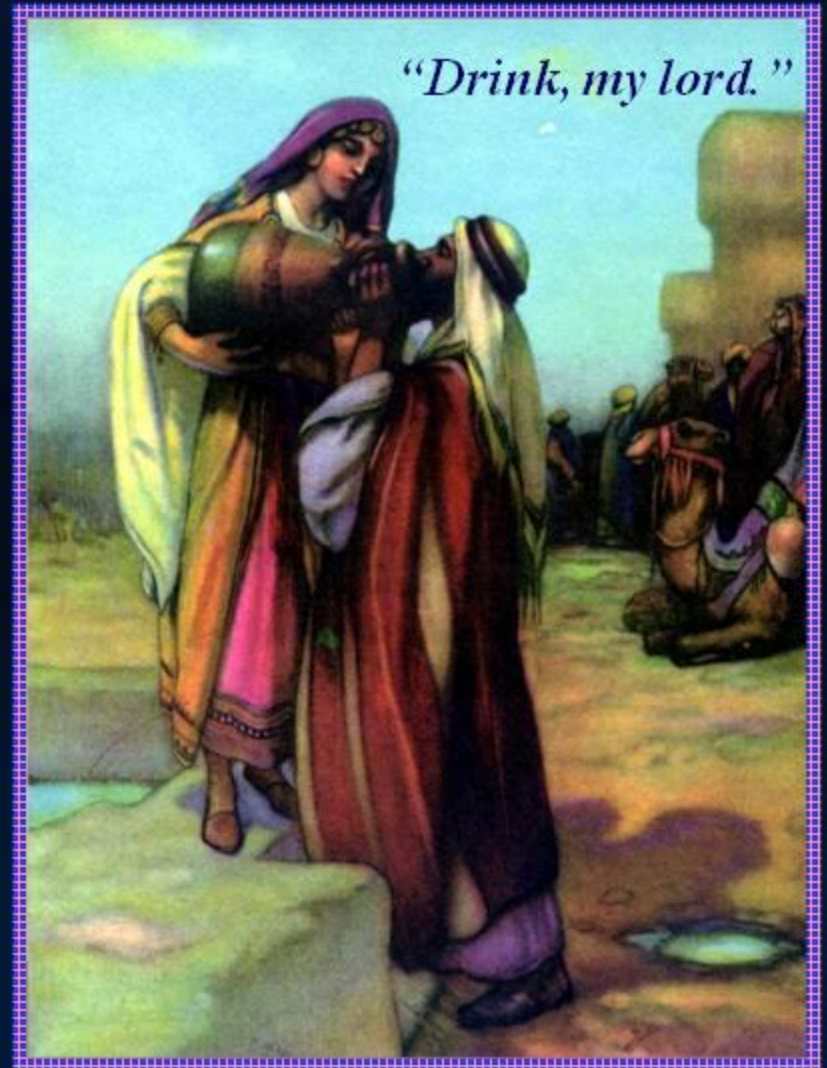
Gen 24:3 And you shall swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I have settled,

Gen 24:4 But you shall go to my country and to my relatives and take a wife for my son Isaac.

Rebekah:

Vital Statistics

- Rebekah = Ensnarer
- Born: 21st Century BC
- Father: Bethuel
- Spouse: Isaac
- Sons: Jacob, Esau

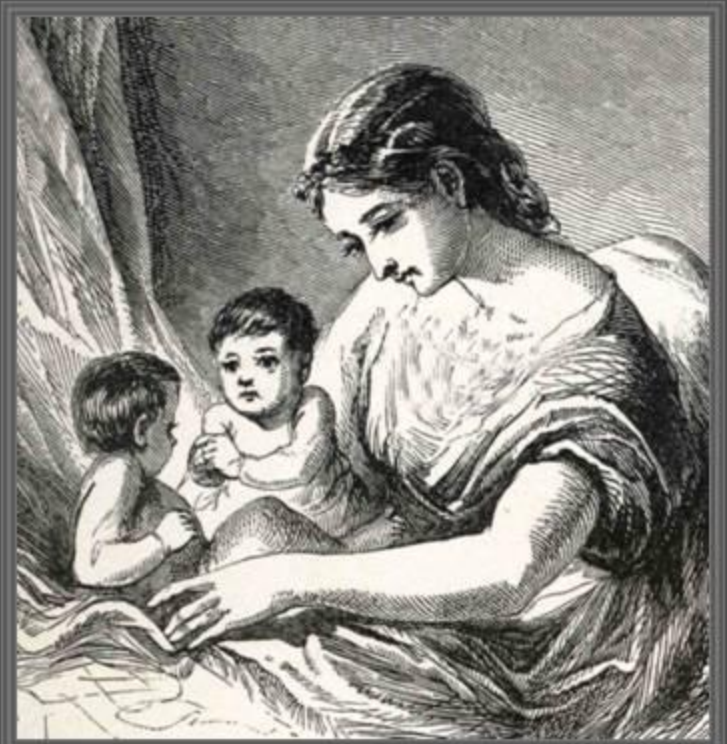


Rebekah:

Strengths & Weaknesses

- + Woman of Action
- + Accomplishment-oriented
- Did not Consider
Consequences of Action
- Favored One Son over
Other
- Deceived Husband

"Two nations are in your womb..."



Rebekah: Verses

- Genesis 24: 45-51; 25:28; 27: 5-13



*So she
became his
wife, and
he loved
her; and
Isaac was
comforted
after his
mother's
death.*

Abraham

- **was 86 years old when Ishmael was born (Gen ch.16)**
- **was 100 years old when Isaac was born (Gen ch.21)**
- **was 175 yrs old when he died (Gen 25:7)**

Therefore when Abraham died:

- **Ishmael was 89 years old**
- **Isaac was 75 years old**
 - **and had been married for 35 years (since age 40)**
 - **and fathered twins at age 60**
- **Esau and Jacob were 15 years old**

Genesis 25:21-2

21 Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD answered him and Rebekah his wife conceived.

22 But the children struggled together within her; and she said, “If it is so, why then am I this way?” So she went to inquire of the LORD.

Genesis 25:23-4

23 The LORD said to her, “Two nations are in your womb; And two peoples will be separated from your body; And one people shall be stronger than the other; And the older shall serve the younger.”

NOTE THIS IS A PROPHECY

24 When her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb.

What does this prophecy have to say about God's sovereignty versus the decisions that will be made by Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob and Esau?

SOVEREIGNTY & FREEDOM

Free to make decisions

But some options/choices are closed

Freedom is bounded by God's strategic choices/prophecies

Let's see how these principles are played out in the next part of the story

Genesis 25:28

Now Isaac loved Esau, because he had a taste for game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Genesis 25:29-31

When Jacob had cooked stew, Esau came in from the field and he was famished;

30 and Esau said to Jacob, “Please let me have a swallow of that red stuff there, for I am famished.” Therefore his name was called Edom.

31 But Jacob said, “First sell me your birthright.”

Genesis 25:32-34

Esau said, “Behold, I am about to die; so of what use then is the birthright to me?”

33 And Jacob said, “First swear to me”; so he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob.

34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew; and he ate and drank, and rose and went on his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.



Gen_26:1 (ESV) Now there was a famine in the land, besides the former famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Gerar to Abimelech king of the Philistines.

Gen_26:6 (ESV) So Isaac settled in Gerar.

Gen_26:17 (ESV) So Isaac departed from there and encamped in the Valley of Gerar and settled there.

Gen_26:20 (ESV) the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with Isaac's herdsmen, saying, "The water is ours." So he called the name of the well Esek, because they contended with him.

Like his father:

- Isaac also deceived Abimelech about his wife
- Isaac also got into the well business



He had gone back to all of the wells that his father dug and saw that they were all stopped up with earth.

The Philistines did this after Abraham died.

So, Isaac unearthed them and began to dig for more wells all the way to Beersheba, where he made a pact with Abimelech, just like in the day of his father



Our visit to the outskirts of Beersheba near the old city of **Besor**, where Abraham and Isaac had trouble with the locals eying off their wives. Australian light horse active in the area in WW1, just before their charge and capture of Beersheba (a great story)

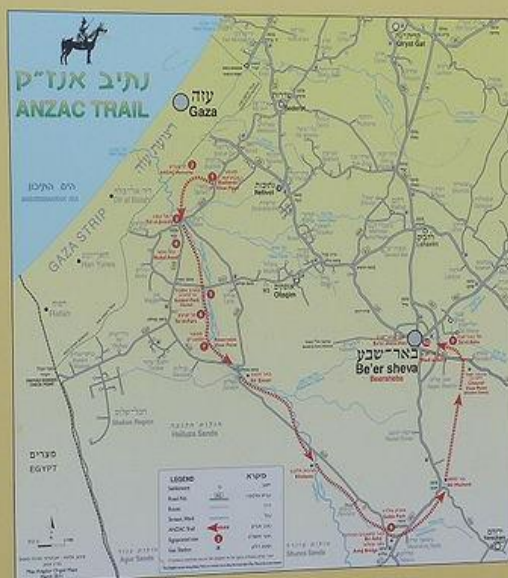


נתיב אנז"ק ANZAC Trail

As the sun rose over Beersheba on 31 October 1917, an unprecedented surprise awaited the Turkish forces. The Australian and New Zealand mounted infantry were prepared for battle, after a long night in which they had advanced 45 kilometres. The combat dragged out the entire day. In the evening, as the setting sun reddened the sky, the troops mounted a cavalry charge, galloped into Beersheba, and captured the Turkish positions.

It was the culmination of a brilliant manoeuvre, executed only after the failure of the British Army's attempts to breach the Turkish lines on the Gaza-Beersheba front. Twice, in March and in April, the British failed to take Gaza. Instead of advancing northward and conquering the Land of Israel, they had no choice but to dig in opposite the Turks for eight months. The British had concluded they needed to surprise the enemy by outflanking Gaza and breaching the front near Beersheba. They assigned this mission to the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC), which served under the British crown.

The ANZAC Trail, which is approximately 100 kilometres long, commemorates the route taken by the mounted infantry on their journey to capture Beersheba. You are invited to explore the Trail and the adjacent sites.



השטח שזרחה ב-31 באוקטובר 1917 על באר שבע, מצאה את התורכים מופתעים בעמדותיהם. הפרשים האוסטרלים והניו זילנדים כבר היו ערוכים לקרב. לאחר לילה ארוך שבו נמנו 45 קילומטרים. הקרב התארך רק לעת ערב, מול שמים מאדומים, הסתערו הפרשים על באר שבע ובכבו את עמדות התורכים בדרחה.

זה היה שיאו של תרגול הטקטיקה סבירה, שבא לאחר כשלונות צורניים של הצבא הבריטי לפרוץ את החזית התורכית בקו עזה - באר שבע. פעמים, במרץ ובאפריל, נכשלו הבריטים בניבוס עזה. במקום להתקדם צפונה ולכבוש את ארץ ישראל, נאלצו להתחפר מול התורכים במשך שמונה חודשים. הבריטים הגיעו למסקנה שעליהם להפתיע, לאגף את עזה ולפרוץ את החזית בבאר שבע. הם חיללו את המשימה על חיל הפרשים האוסטרלי והניו זילנדי (אנז"ק - Australian and New Zealand Army Corps), שירת תחת הכתר הבריטי.

נתיב אנז"ק, שאורכו כ-100 קילומטרים, מנציח את האוונטור הגדול של הפרשים. אחם מורכבים למול לאורכו ובאתרים שלצדו.

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ANZAC TRAIL



20,000 Turks dug in at Beersheba with the aim to launch another attempt to capture the Suez canal.

British and Anzac forces at Gaza.

11,000 Anzac troops rode 4 nights over 100km.

The cavalry charge was conducted by 800 Anzac light-horsemen.

Genesis 27:1

Now it came about, when Isaac was old and his eyes were too dim to see, that he called his older son Esau and said to him, “My son.” And he said to him, “Here I am.”

Genesis 27:2-4

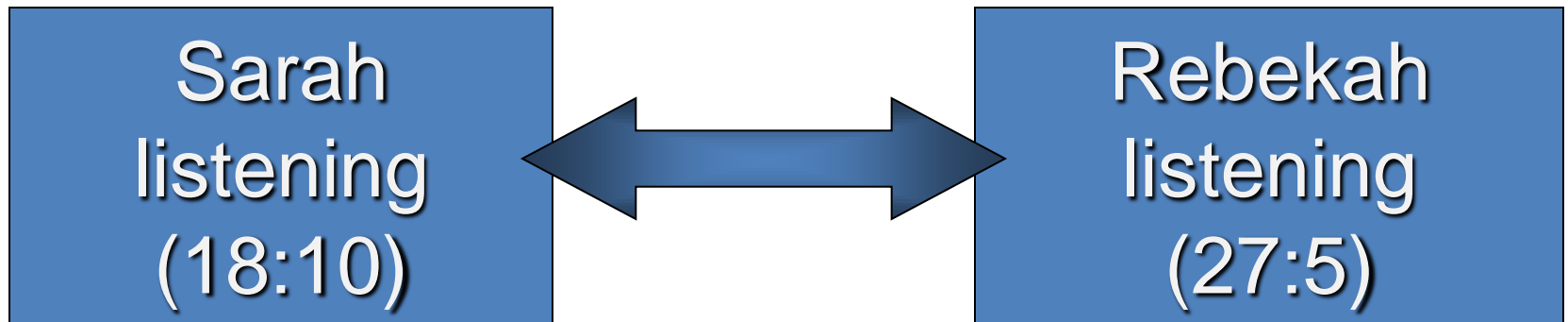
Isaac said, “Behold now, I am old *and* I do not know the day of my death.

3 Now then, please take your gear, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me;

4 and prepare a savory dish for me such as I love, and bring it to me that I may eat, so that my soul may bless you before I die.”

Genesis 27:5

Rebekah was listening while Isaac spoke to his son Esau. So when Esau went to the field to hunt for game to bring *home*...



Genesis 27:6-7

Rebekah said to her son Jacob,
“Behold, I heard your father
speak to your brother Esau,
saying,

7 ‘Bring me *some* game and
prepare a savory dish for me,
that I may eat, and bless you in
the presence of the LORD
before my death.’”

Genesis 27:8-10

“Now therefore, my son, listen to me as I command you.

9 Go now to the flock and bring me two choice young goats from there, that I may prepare them *as* a savory dish for your father, such as he loves.

10 Then you shall bring *it* to your father, that he may eat, so that he may bless you before his death.”

Genesis 27:11-12

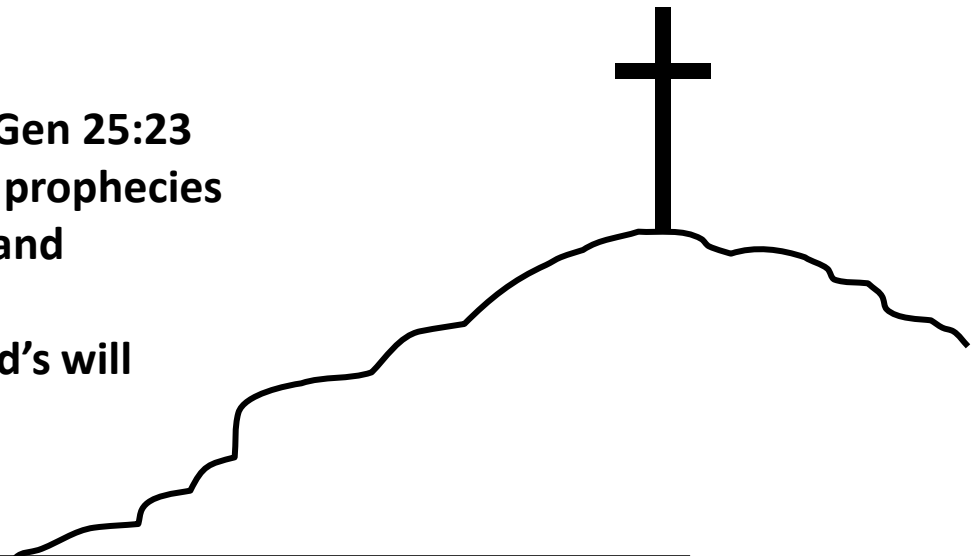
**Jacob answered his mother Rebekah,
“Behold, Esau my brother is a hairy
man and I am a smooth man. ¹²
Perhaps my father will feel me, then I
will be as a deceiver in his sight, and I
will bring upon myself a curse and not
a blessing.”**

Genesis 27:13

But his mother said to him, “Your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get *them* for me.”

We must note:

- 1. God told her the prophecy of Gen 25:23**
- 2. She would have known of the prophecies to Abraham & Isaac to “bless and multiply”**
- 3. So she believed she was in God’s will**



What was the basis of Jacob’s hesitancy?

Genesis 27:15-17

Then Rebekah took the best garments of Esau her elder son, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son.

¹⁶ And she put the skins of the young goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck.

¹⁷ She also gave the savory food and the bread, which she had made, to her son Jacob.

Genesis 27:18-19

Then he came to his father and said, “My father.” And he said, “Here I am. Who are you, my son?”

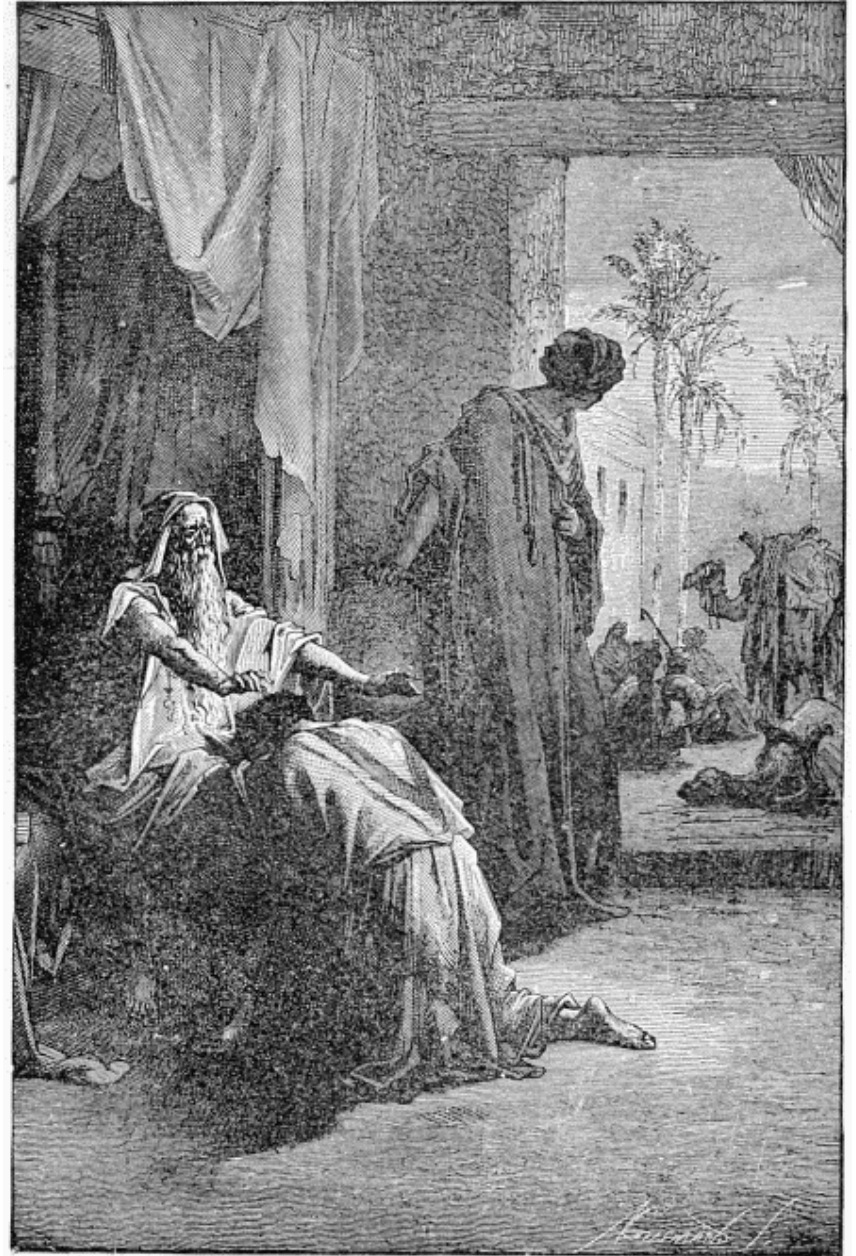
19 Jacob said to his father, “I am Esau your firstborn; I have done as you told me. Get up, please, sit and eat of my game, that you may bless me.”



Genesis 27:20

Isaac said to his son, “How is it that you have *it* so quickly, my son?” And he said, “Because the LORD your God caused *it* to happen to me.”

So Jacob now gets it?



Genesis 27:21-23

Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Please come close, that I may feel you, my son, whether you are really my son Esau or not.”

22 So Jacob came close to Isaac his father, and he felt him and said, “The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau.”

23 He did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau’s hands; so he blessed him.

Genesis 27:26-27

**Then his father Isaac said to him,
“Please come close and kiss me,
my son.”**

**27 So he came close and kissed
him; and when he smelled the
smell of his garments, he blessed
him and said, “See, the smell of my
son is like the smell of a field
which the LORD has blessed...”**

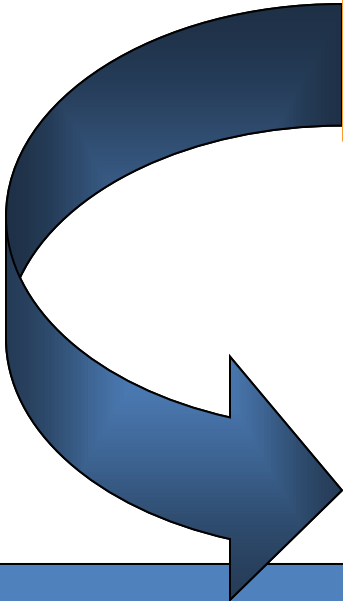
Genesis 27:28

**“Now may God give you
of the dew of heaven,
And of the fatness of the
earth,
And an abundance of
grain and new wine;**

Genesis 27:29

**“May peoples serve you,
And nations bow down to you;
Be master of your brothers,
And may your mother’s sons bow
down to you.
Cursed be those who curse you,
And blessed be those who bless
you.”**

Isaac



Jacob
leaves



Esau
arrives

Genesis 27:33-35

Then Isaac trembled violently and said, “Who was he then that hunted game and brought *it* to me, so that I ate of all *of it* before you came, and blessed him? Yes, and he shall be blessed.”

34 When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried out with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, “Bless me, *even* me also, O my father!”

35 And he said, “Your brother came deceitfully and has taken away your blessing.”

Genesis 27:36

Then he said, “Is he not rightly named Jacob, for he has supplanted me these two times? He took away my birthright, and behold, now he has taken away my blessing.” And he said, “Have you not reserved a blessing for me?”

Genesis 27:37

But Isaac replied to Esau, “Behold, I have made him your master, and all his relatives I have given to him as servants; and with grain and new wine I have sustained him. Now as for you then, what can I do, my son?”

Genesis 27:39

**Then Isaac his father
answered and said to him,
“Behold, away from the
fertility of the earth shall
be your dwelling,
And away from the dew
of heaven from above...”**

Genesis 27:40

**“By your sword you shall
live,**

**And your brother you shall
serve;**

**But it shall come about
when you become restless,**

**That you will break his yoke
from your neck.”**

In closing:

- **Esau had a choice, like us all and the whole of humanity, to be godly or godless**
- **Esau did not value the blessing and the God of the blessing – despite all the revelation to Abraham and Isaac**
- **his reaction was predictable but he saw no blame in himself**
- **look at the after-effects of Ishmael & Esau on the Middle East and the clash of religions today**
- **what does God think of Esau?**

Hebrews 12:15-17

15 See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled;

16 that *there be* no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a *single* meal.

17 For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears

My conclusion

- God is sovereign
- He reveals His will
- We have to listen and be alert to His every move
- Powerful story about the godly and the godless
- God has pre-determined a growth strategy for everyone, but most people only live out the first 2 stages and so miss out on true potential and fulfilment:
 - Creation
 - Freedom for self-rule
 - Redemption (based on repentance and repudiation of self-rule)
 - Transformation (based on obedience to and union with God)
 - Restoration/glory (our true destiny)

FINISH

Next Time “Jacob & Esau”

..... Let's pray