




The Old Testament

Lesson 2: The Book of Genesis

St Mark's Coptic Church London

Summary of last lesson

- ▶ The OT and NT form one book.
 - ▶ In the OT God reveals his plan for the salvation of the world.
 - ▶ The NT is the fulfillment of the plan.
 - ▶ The NT is hidden in the OT, and the OT is revealed in the NT.
 - ▶ Christ is the centre of both Testaments.
 - ▶ The Bible can be interpreted allegorically or literally.
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The Old Testament Canon

The Protestant Canon: 39 books in 5 divisions

LAW - 5	POETRY - 5	MAJOR PROPHETS - 5
GENESIS	JOB	ISAIAH
EXODUS	PSALMS	JEREMIAH
LEVITICUS	PROVERBS	LAMENTATIONS
NUMBERS	ECCLESIASTES	EZEKIEL
DEUTERONOMY	SONG OF SOLOMON	DANIEL
HISTORY - 12		MINOR PROPHETS - 12
JOSHUA		HOSEA
JUDGES		JOEL
RUTH		AMOS
1 SAMUEL		OBADIAH
2 SAMUEL		JONAH
1 KINGS		MICAH
2 KINGS		NAHUM
1 CHRONICLES		HABAKKUK
2 CHRONICLES		ZEPHANIAH
EZRA		HAGGAI
NEHEMIAH		ZECHARIAH
ESTHER		MALACHI

Divisions of OT

Division	Christ
Law	Our Saviour
History	Our King
Prophets	Our Hope
Poetry	Our praise and wisdom

Pentateuch: First 5 books

- ▶ Penta = Five, Teuch = scrolls
- ▶ Written by Moses the Prophet
- ▶ Also known as “The Law”, “The Law of Moses”,
- ▶ Each book gives us an aspect of God’s redemption

Book	The work of God
Genesis	Created us
Exodus	Saved us
Leviticus	Sanctified us
Numbers	Guides us to His Kingdom
Deuteronomy	Gave us his commands

Genesis: “In the beginning”

- ▶ The Book of “beginnings”:
 - Universe
 - Of matrimony and family life
 - Of sin and the fall
- ▶ God’s plan for salvation mankind
 - God introduces the concept of sacrifice for remission of sins
 - Sows the seed for the nation from whom He will be incarnate

Genesis: Our yardstick

- ▶ *He said to them, “Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but **from the beginning it was not so.** (Matthew 19:8)*

The Structure of Genesis

▶ Chapter 1–11: Primeval History: Pre Flood

- Gen 1–5 Adam and Sons
- Gen 6–11 Noah and Sons

▶ Chapters 12–50 The Patriarchal history:

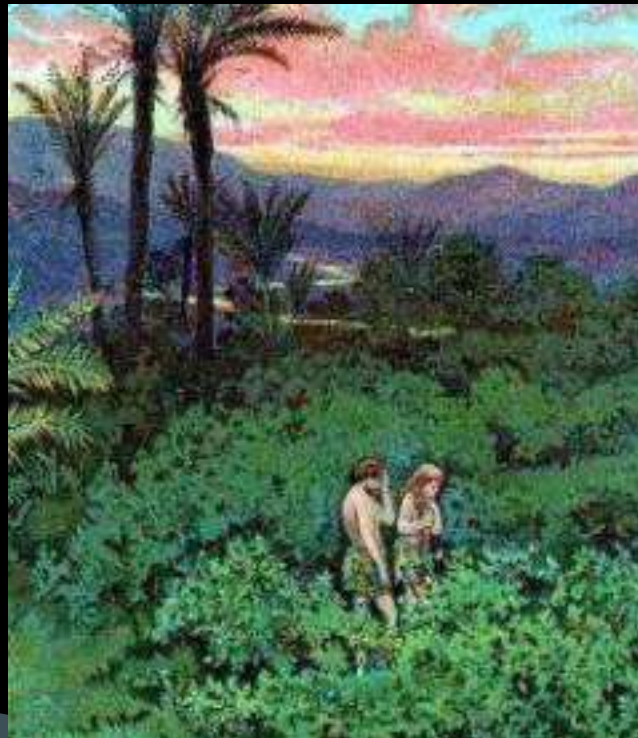
- Gen 12–36 Lives of the three patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
- Gen 37–50 Joseph Cycle: The history of twelve sons of Jacob

The Command

- ▶ Man created with a free will to choose whether to love God
- ▶ Love cannot be expressed unless man is given the ability to exercise his free will
- ▶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “*Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but **of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.***”

Man can't deal with His sin

- ▶ Adam and Eve tried to cover their nakedness with leaves of fig tree.
- ▶ Fig leaves = self justification



God teaches need for sacrifice

- ▶ *Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and **clothed** them. (Gen 3:21)*
- ▶ An animal was slaughtered and its blood shed.
- ▶ Covering of sin requires shedding of blood.
- ▶ Adam and Eve taught their children to offer sacrifice for remission of sins.



Altar: meeting place with God



The First promise of salvation

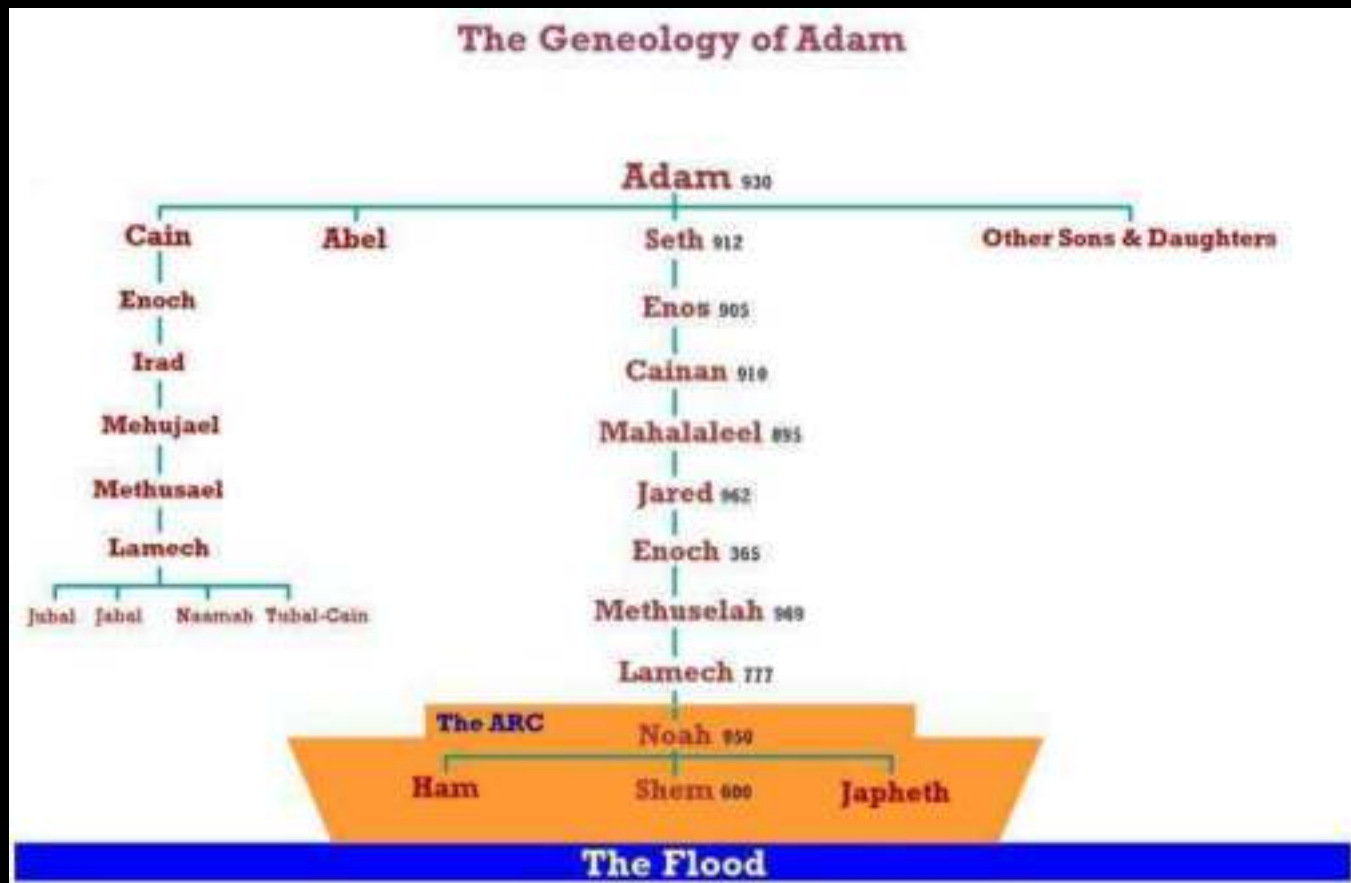
- ▶ *And I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your seed and **her seed**. He Shall bruise your **head** and you shall bruise his **heel**. (Genesis 3:15)*
 - Seed of woman = Christ born of a woman (incarnation)
 - Bruise your head = Satan's authority will be crushed
 - Bruise your heel = Christ's suffering in the flesh.

Cain and Abel

- ▶ Abel:
 - Was a shepherd but did not eat meat
 - Offered the best of his flock
 - Offered blood sacrifices
- ▶ Cain:
 - Did not offer the best of his crop.
 - Did not offer a blood sacrifice
- ▶ God gave Eve another son instead of Abel, Seth. (death and resurrection)



Lineage of Cain vs Seth



- ▶ Christ descended from the godly lineage of Seth

The corruption of humanity

- ▶ Eventually the descendants of Seth (sons of God) intermarried with the descendants of Cain (sons of men).
 - *The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.. (Genesis 6:11-13)*

God renews the earth

- ▶ *“But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord” (Gen 6:8)*
- ▶ God desired to renew the face of the earth through Noah
- ▶ The earth was renewed by means of the Flood (Baptism)
- ▶ Eight people saved through the ark (eight symbol of eternity)

The Covenant with Noah

- ▶ God made a covenant with Noah (and all of mankind) never to destroy every living thing again
- ▶ Sign of covenant: rainbow
 - Revelations 4:3
 - and *there was* a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald. (Revelations 4:

The Tower of Babel

- ▶ Eventually the earth was corrupted again.
- ▶ Men were earthly, seeking to establish a life for themselves without God.
 - *“Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves”*

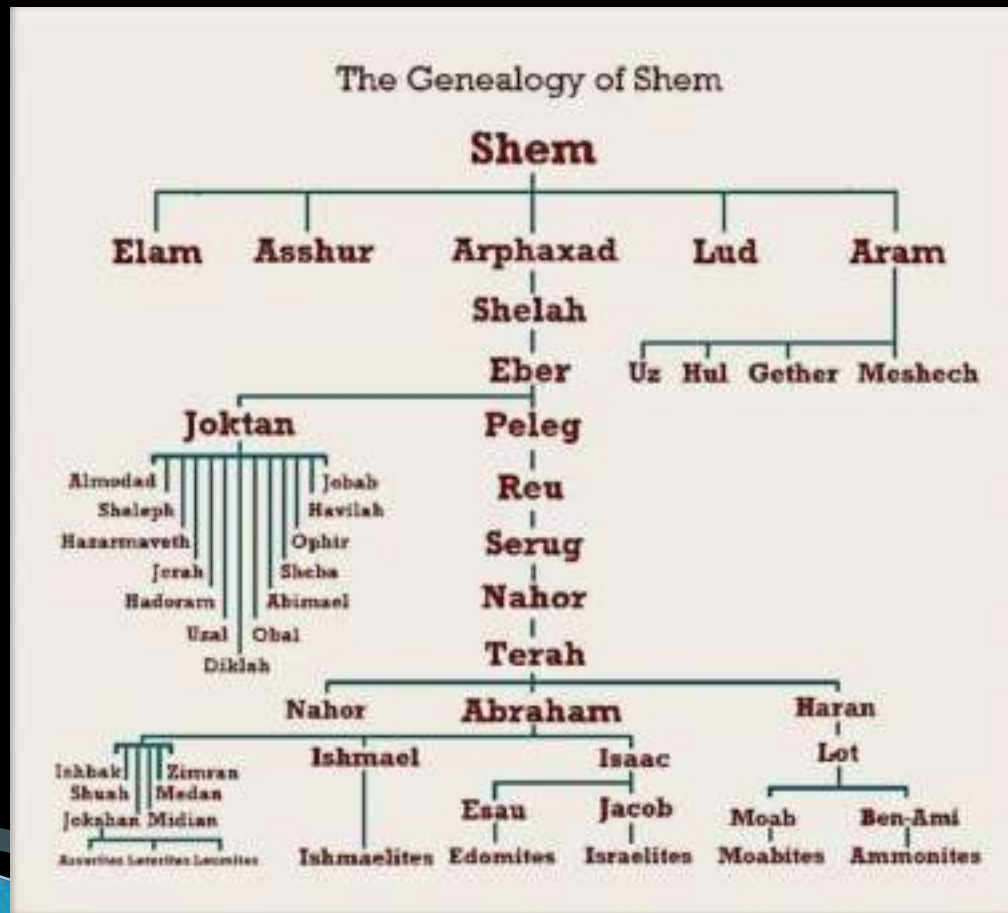
The Spread of all nations

- ▶ God confused their languages, and dispersed the peoples
- ▶ Nations would be disunited until Pentecost in NT



The Patriarchal Period (Gen 12–50)

- ▶ Shem, the forefather of the Jewish nation.
- ▶ Abraham descended from Shem.



The Patriarchal Period

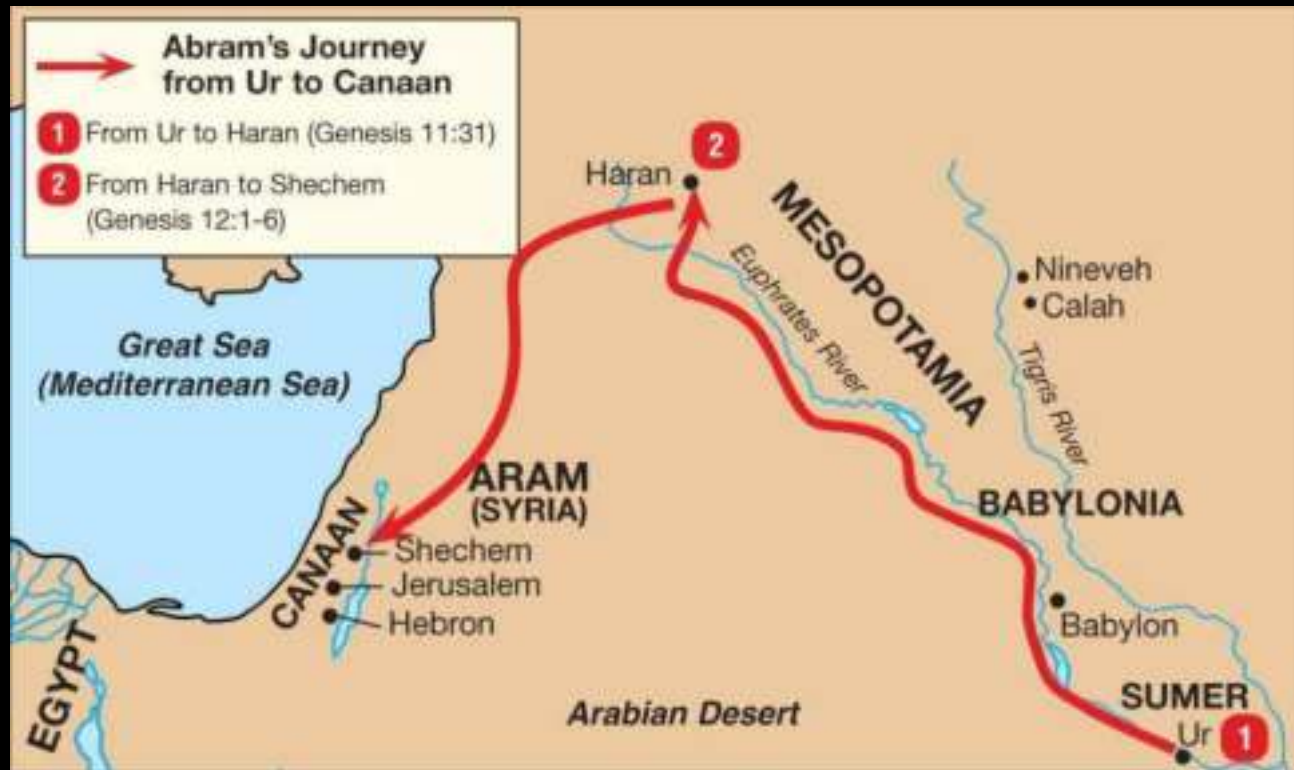
- ▶ Chapters 12–50
- ▶ The roots of the Jewish nation, through whom Christ would descend
- ▶ Patriarch = Patri = father, Arch = original
 - Abraham
 - Isaac
 - Jacob
 - (Joseph)

Abraham

- ▶ Abraham descended from Seth
- ▶ God called him to leave his country (Ur in Mesopotamea) and kindred to go to the land of Canaan.
- ▶ God separated him from any pagan influence to establish a nation who would know Him

The calling of Abraham

- ▶ *“Get out of your country from your family and from your father’s house to a land that I will show you.”*



God's covenant with Abram

*I will make you a great nation ...
I will bless those who bless you,
And I will curse him who curses you;
***And in you all the families of the earth shall
be blessed.***” (Genesis 12)*

- “In you”: Christ will come from Abraham, and in Christ all nations will know the Lord.
- “Abraham” = father of nations

Isaac: the promised seed

- ▶ Isaac promised to Abraham in his old age.
- ▶ Abraham believed God could bring life from death (a barren womb)
- ▶ Salvation will not by our own strength (works of the law) but through grace of God (faith)
- ▶ Abraham father of those who have the faith of Abraham who believe in the Resurrection (life from death)

The sacrifice of Isaac

- ▶ Sacrifice of Isaac: Abraham believed God could raise Isaac (The resurrection)
- ▶ God renewed the Abrahamic covenant with Isaac:
 - *“in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed”*




Jacob

- ▶ Isaac married Rebekah and gave birth to twins: Esau and Jacob
- ▶ Esau was the eldest but he sold his birthright to Jacob (Esau is a type of the Jews)
- ▶ Jacob “took” the blessing instead of Esau (the Gentiles replaced the Jews as the blessed people)

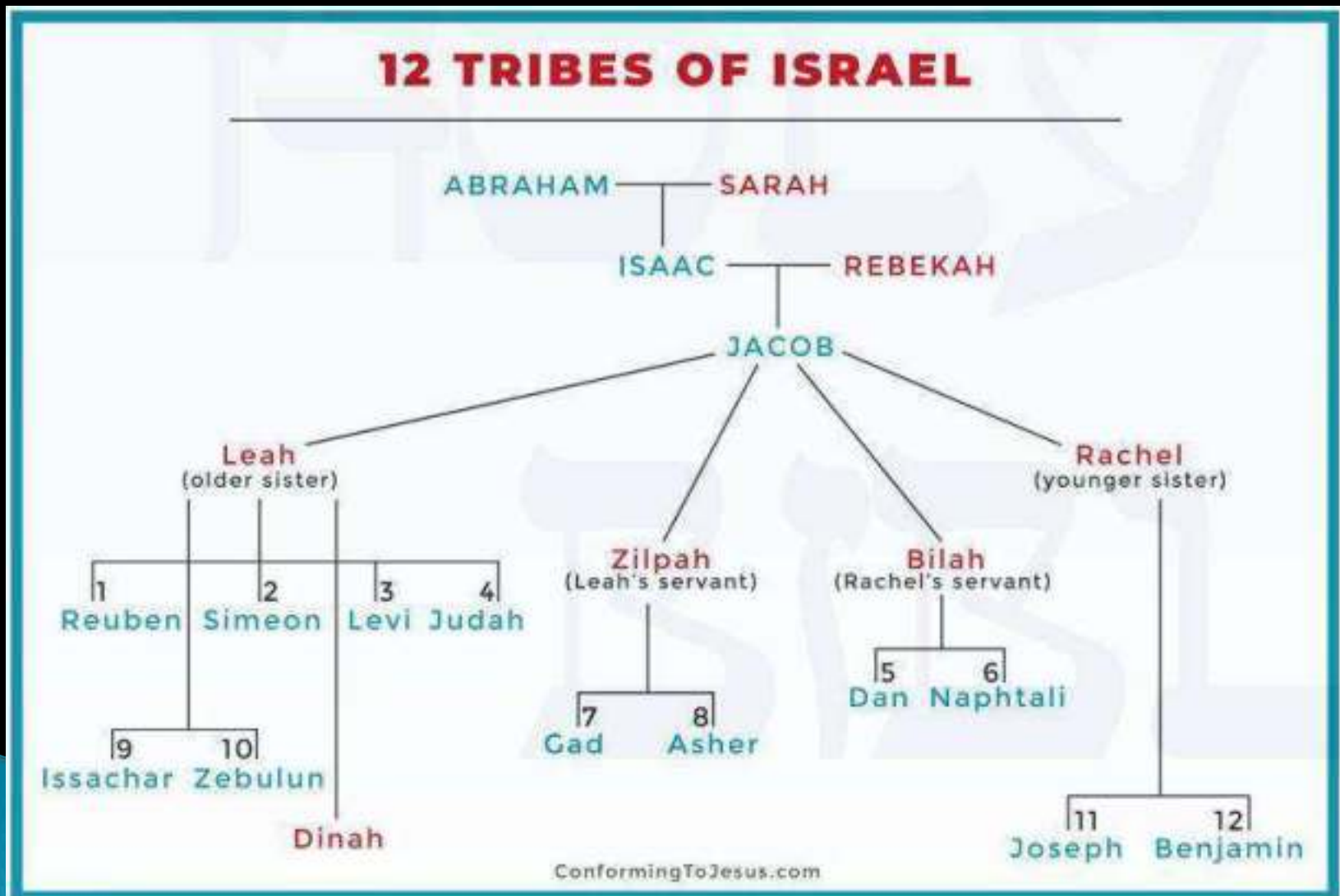
Ladder of Jacob

- ▶ On his way to Syria, he slept on a rock.
- ▶ He saw a vision of a ladder reaching from the ground to heaven,
- ▶ The Lord stood on the ladder, and angels and archangels were ascending and descending.
- ▶ This is a prophecy of Christ, who through his incarnation will unite heaven and earth.
 - *Behold, I am with you .. and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you."*

Jacob in Syria

- ▶ Jacob stayed with his Uncle Laban
 - ▶ He married the two daughters of Laban, Leah and Rachel.
 - ▶ He had 6 sons from Leah, 2 sons from Rachel, and 4 sons from their 2 servants
 - ▶ These 12 sons later formed the nation of Israel consisting of 12 tribes.
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The 12 tribes of Israel



Joseph sold as a slave

- ▶ Joseph who was born to Rachel had a special place in Jacob's heart.
- ▶ *Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of many colors.*
- ▶ This made his brothers envious of him, and they sold him as a slave into Egypt.

Joseph a type of Christ




Joseph, a type of Christ

Joseph	Christ
sold by his brothers	sold by his brothers, the Jews
Taken as slave into Egypt	Came into the world as a servant
Falsely accused	Falsely accused
Imprisoned	Was placed in a tomb
Exalted to the right hand of Pharoah	Resurrected and ascended to the right hand of the Father
Saved the world from famine	Gave us His Body and Blood

Jacob's prophecy

- ▶ Jacob and his 11 sons went to Egypt because of a famine in Canaan
- ▶ Before his death, he blessed his 12 sons:
- ▶ Concerning Judah, he said:
 - *The scepter shall not depart from Judah,
Nor a lawgiver from between his feet,
Until Shiloh comes;
And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.
(Gen. 49:10)*
- ▶ This is a prophecy that kings will descend from Judah, and will not cease until Shiloh (Christ) comes.

The Jews slaves in Egypt

- ▶ While Joseph was alive, the Jews had favour in the eyes of Pharaoh
 - ▶ But after the death of Joseph, and the death of Pharaoh, the Jews were despised
 - ▶ They grew in numbers, and the Egyptians were afraid they could pose a threat to their security
 - ▶ So they started to oppress the Jews, and enslave them in bitter bondage.
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Summary

- ▶ Genesis is the yardstick for our lives
- ▶ No remission without shedding of blood
- ▶ God established the nation of Israel from whom He would incarnate.

Next Lesson

Exodus to Deuteronomy

Book	The work of God
Genesis	Created us
Exodus	Saved us
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Further reading

