

The History of Creation

- The first lesson is that the first verse is similar to John 1:1-5 (1:1).
- Another lesson is that God is one God in 3 Persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), who created all things (1:1-3).
- God spoke light into the Earth which was without form and void, and dark (1:3).
- God called the light 'Day' and the darkness He called 'Night' (1:3-5).
- The evening and the morning were the first day. This was the first 24 hours of day and night (1:5).
- God called the firmament 'Heaven' (1:6-8).
- Whenever God speaks it was so, this means that whatever God says happens, and can be trusted (1:9-10).
- God called the dry land 'Earth' and the gathering of the waters God called seas (1:10).
- God created grass, the herbs and fruit tree according to its kind. This means an apple tree cannot produce oranges, but an apple tree produces apples after its kind (1:11-13).
- The final lesson is that God created the sun primarily to rule by day, and the moon (the lesser light) to rule by night, and both lights in outer space were given to Mankind for signs, seasons, and for days and years (1:14-19).

Genesis 1:20-31

The History of Creation (Part 2)

- The first lesson is that God created all things and creatures according to their kind (1:20-21); this means evolution is false.
- Another lesson is that God saw that after every 24-hour day in which there was an evening and morning, that it was good (1:21-25).
- God made mankind in His image and according to God's likeness, and God gave mankind dominion over all of creation (1:26-27).
- God created mankind, male and female, and blessed them (1:27-28).
- God gave to mankind every herb that yields seed, and every tree whose fruit yields seed, God gave to mankind for food (1:29). The green herb is good to keep us healthy.
- The final lesson is that God created the world in 6 days and after He created all things, He said that it was very good (1:30-31).

Genesis 2:1-14

Life in God's Garden

- The first lesson is that God created all things in six days, and all God's work was finished within 6 days. And on the seventh day God ended His work, and God rested on the seventh day (2:1-2).
- Another lesson is that God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, which means to keep it holy (2:3).
- The Bible is a history book of how the world was created (2:4-6).
- God formed mankind (male and female) of the dust of the ground, and breathed into Adam's nostrils the breath of life, and mankind became a living being or soul (2:7).
- Eden is a garden where God placed Adam, the male mankind (2:8).
- The tree of Life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was in God's Garden (2:9).
- The final lesson is that the garden of Eden had four riverheads (2:10-14).

Genesis 2:15-25

Life in God's Garden (Part 2)

- The first lesson is that Adam was given work by God as a farmer to tend and keep the Garden of Eden (2:15).
- Another lesson is that God gave Adam a command not to eat the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and a warning that if he did not obey, he will surely die (2:16-17).
- Adam was a very intelligent man, and he was able to name every living creature (2:18-19).
- Adam was alone, whilst all the other living creatures were male and female (2:20).
- God performed the first surgery when he formed the female from one of Adam's ribs (2:21-22).
- God brought the female to Adam to be his wife, and Adam was in agreement with God (2:22-23).
- The final lesson is that Adam and Eve were the first married couple, and our first parents (2:24-25).

Genesis 3:1-14

The Temptations and Fall of Mankind

- The first lesson is that the serpent was cunning in deceitful way to bring about evil. The devil was the serpent (3:1).
- The second lesson is that the devil is a liar, and he attacks people by putting doubt in their minds (3:1-5).
- Another lesson is that the woman saw that the tree was good for food (3:6-7), which teaches us that sometimes our eyes can cause us to sin.
- Another lesson is that Adam and Eve hid from the intimate presence of God (3:8-10), which means that they hid from fellowship with the Lord.
- Another lesson is that God gives us commandments that we must obey (3:11).
- Another lesson is that Adam and Eve blamed someone-else other than themselves (3:12-13).
- The final lesson is that God judges' sin. The serpent was cursed because he deceived Eve (3:14).

Genesis 3:15-24

The Temptation and Fall of Mankind (Part 2)

- The first lesson is that there is a war between mankind and Satan (or the devil), and it was evident between the Seed (who is Christ) who died on the cross for our sins. Satan was defeated symbolic to his head bruised (3:15).
- Another lesson is that the women's punishment was pain in child bearing, and also her husband would be her head, and be in authority (3:16). Satan wants to be head (in authority), but his head was bruised (symbolic to defeated), which means he is no longer our head because Christ who has defeated Satan is the head of mankind (1 Cor. 11:3).
- Adam's punishment was that the ground was cursed, so through hard work and sweat, he would bear fruit (3:17-19).
- Adam called his wife's name Eve because she was the mother of all mankind (3:20).
- God made tunics of skin and clothed them; this is symbolic to that there must be a price paid or blood shed to cover our sins (3:21).
- The final lesson is that all mankind when they have knowledge of good and evil, if they chose to do evil like Adam and Eve, then they have sinned against God. And because they sinned, God drove them out of the Garden of Eden, and placed an angel to guard the way to the tree of life (3:22-24).

Genesis 4:1-15

Cain Murders Abel

- The first lesson is that our first parents (Adam and Eve) firstly bore Cain, then Abel who was a keeper of sheep, whilst Cain was a tiller of the ground (4:1-2).
- Another lesson is that Cain's offering of the fruit of the ground was not accepted by the Lord because the ground was cursed (4:3-5).
- Abel's offering of the first born of his flock and their fat was accepted by the Lord because it was a sacrifice in the right way (4:4).
- Anger is the root of murder (Matt. 5:21-23), it is sinful to kill, but God told Cain to rule over sin (4:6-7). This is an indication that mankind has freewill to choose to do good or evil.
- Cain particularly broke two of God's commandments when he murdered his brother and lied (4:8-9).
- God judges all sins whether in this life or after life. Cain was punished while living on Earth, but was not sorry for his sin, but was selfish (4:10-14).
- The final lesson is that God showed mercy to Cain even in wrath, and said that nobody should kill Cain (4:15). Vengeance is the Lord's (Deut. 32:35).

Genesis 4:16-26

The Family of Cain

- The first lesson is that Cain went out from the presence of the Lord to live an ungodly life. He married a wife and had a family (4:16-17). Most people in the world also live an ungodly life and start a family and work.
- Another lesson in that Cain's ungodly descendants increased in the world. One of Cain's descendants called Lamech took for himself two wives, and so sin increased by polygamy (4:18-19).
- The ungodly descendants of Cain continue to live life without God and work (4:20).
- The ungodly descendants were inventors of tents, the harp and flute, and craftsmen of bronze and iron (4:20-22).
- Lamech killed a man, and so the sin of murder was repeated, and also pride increased (4:23-24).
- The final lesson is that a new son called Seth was born to Adam and Eve. Seth also had a family and from the descendants of Seth mankind began to call on the name of the Lord (4:25-26), and so the descendants of Seth were godly.

Genesis 5:1-16

The Family of Adam

- The first lesson is that Adam was created in the likeness of God (5:1). God created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind (5:1-2).
- Another lesson is that Mankind is both male and female, but the main difference is the female has a womb (5:2).
- All Mankind were made in the likeness of God, and in the days of Adam lived long lives. Adam lived 930 years, and had more sons and daughters (5:3-5).
- The final lesson is that God continues to keep His word to Mankind to be fruitful and multiply (Gen. 1:27-28). The descendants of Seth were godly who called on the name of the Lord (Gen. 4:26; 5:6-16).

Genesis 5:15-32

The Family of Adam (Part 2)

- The first lesson is that in the days of Adam's early descendants, mankind continues to live long on the Earth, and continue to be fruitful in accordance with God's blessing, sons and daughters are born (5:15-20).
- Another lesson is that before Enoch all mankind had a day of birth, and also a day of death (Eccl. 3:2). And so, all mankind lived and died, but Enoch did not experience death because he walked with God, so the Lord took him to heaven (5:21-24).
- Methuselah lived 969 years, and he died (5:25). And so, he was the only human to live this long.
- The final lesson is that in the early years of mankind, names had meaning. Noah means comfort (5:26-32).

Genesis 6:1-12

The Wickedness and Judgment of Mankind

- The first lesson is that the sons of God married the daughters of men, which means that the godly men married ungodly women, and now the two groups were mixed together (6:1-2).
- Another lesson is that because the sons of God married the daughters of men, God reduced the lifespan of mankind (6:3).
- The sons of God and the daughters of men bore children who were giants on the Earth, and mighty (6:4).
- The mighty men on Earth were wicked and sinful, and every thought in their mind was evil (6:5).
- God was sorry that He made mankind because mankind had fallen into sin, and so God decided to destroy all mankind and also animals, insects and birds, but Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord (6:6-8).
- The final lesson is that Noah was a godly and just man who walked with God, and God blessed him with 3 sons, whereas the whole earth was corrupted, filled with violence, except for Noah and his family (6:9-12).

Genesis 6:13-22

The Ark Prepared

- God brought judgment upon a fallen world due to prolonged violence and sin. God prophesied (that is predicted what will occur in the future) before He destroyed the ancient world. God gives a warning for the people to repent from sin before He carries out His word.
- God gives clear instructions for the preparation of the ark in regards to its length, width, height, windows, doors, and the 3 decks.
- God shows mercy in judgment through a covenant with Noah that allowed Noah and his family to escape the judgment upon those committing violence and sin upon the earth.
- God also shows concern for every living thing of all flesh by allowing two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive. Notice they were male and female because only male and female can reproduce after their kind.
- God provided them with food while in the ark.
- Noah was obedient to the instructions of God, he did according to all that God commanded him.

Genesis 7:1-12

The Great Flood

- The Lord God called Noah and all his family into the ark (7:1), which is similar to the gospel call to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved, you and your household in Act. 16:31.
- Notice that the Lord God declared Noah righteous in his generation (7:1), we are informed in 2 Pet. 2:5, that Noah was a preacher of righteousness, who warned the people of his generation of the coming judgment.
- Noah followed God's clear instructions about 7 each of every clean and unclean animal (7:2-3), and notice that they were male and female because only a male and female can reproduce. The clean animals would later be used for a burnt offering (8:20-21), and for food (9:3).
- The Lord prophesied (final warning before it happened) regarding 7 more days before the great flood would be carried out to bring judgment for the evil deeds done upon the earth, and also prophesied about the length of time of 40 days, and 40 nights (7:4).
- Noah was an obedient man, as he obeyed all that God commanded him (7:5-6). He was 600 years old when the great flood occurred because God waited a long time from His first instruction to Noah to build the ark (maybe even up to 100 years plus) before the floodwaters were on the earth (5:32).
- Noah and his family were saved, but life on earth continued for the people on earth who refused to listen to God's warnings of judgment through the preaching of Noah or repent of their evil ways (7:7-9), until it was too late (Matt. 24:37-39).
- All that the Lord God had prophesied beforehand occurred (7:10-12), because we are informed in Is. 55:11 that the word the Lord has spoken will not return void but will accomplish its purpose.

Genesis 7:13-24

The Great Flood (Part 2)

- Noah and his family entering the ark is a picture of salvation (7:13), as entering the ark is symbolic to us entering into the kingdom of God. The Lord Jesus said unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God (John 3:5).
- God also shows concern for every living thing of all flesh by allowing two of every sort (beasts, cattle, insects, birds after their kind) into the ark to keep them alive. Notice they were male and female because only male and female can reproduce after their kind (7:14-16).
- Notice that God shut them in (7:16), maybe because Noah may have been tempted to open the door for the people crying for help outside the ark as the waters increased, but to do so may have caused water to enter the ark (too much water entering could have sank the ark). Therefore, God shut them in was an act of love and mercy toward Noah and his family to save them from the great flood.
- As the waters increased upon the earth, God's wrath and judgment is poured out upon all wicked and sinful people to the extent that all flesh died that moved on the earth (man, beasts, cattle, birds, and insects) that moved on the earth (7:17-24). God has forewarned again, that because of mankind wicked and sinful lifestyles that the heaven and earth now are reserved for fire until the future day of judgment for ungodly people (2 Pet. 3:5-7).

Genesis 8:1-11

Noah's & All in the Ark Deliverance

- God remembered Noah, and God remembers all His children, and notice again God's concern for all the animals in the ark. The ark can be likened to the kingdom of God, so God remembers to deliver all His children in Christ and is concerned about all in His kingdom (8:1).
- God has power over the waters in the sky and also the sea to stop or to open the heavens for rain, and to recede the waters from the earth (8:2-3).
- The ark rested on the mountains of Ararat after a certain period (8:4), but although it has never been found through archaeology, we can trust the word of God.
- At the end of the period that God had indicated (40 days and 40 nights), the rain ceased according to the word of God (8:5-6).
- Noah checked the extent the receding of the waters from the earth by first sending out a raven, then a dove (8:7-8). The dove was very helpful in letting Noah know that the waters had receded from the earth (8:9-11).

Genesis 8:12-24

Noah's & All in the Ark Deliverance (Part 2)

- Noah waited another 7 days before sending out the dove again which never returned to him, the lesson we can learn from this verse is always to wait on the Lord's timing. According to Isaiah 40:31, this biblical verse informs that those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, and will not give up or faint under difficult situations, and in like manner no matter how long it would take after the great flood for things to return to normality, Noah was prepared to wait (8:12-14).
- God commanded Noah and all in the ark to go out, and Noah and all that were with him obeyed, which we learn an important lesson here to always trust and obey God (8:15-19). According to Proverb 3:5-6, this biblical verse informs us to trust in the Lord completely even when we do not understand, and in like manner, Noah and all with him obeyed God's command to go out of the ark, and also to be fruitful and repopulate the world (8:17).
- Noah built an altar to the Lord for sacrifice (8:20). The altar as seen later with other righteous people like Abraham (Gen. 12:7-8; 13:4; 22:4-8), and David (2 Sam.24:25; 1 Chr. 21:26), the altar Noah built to the Lord was also as a form of worship to God for deliverance, whom accepted the offerings and God promised never again to the ground or destroy every living thing as was done in the ancient world through the great flood (8:20-21).
- Notice also that the burnt offerings were possible because Noah obeyed God's instruction to bring 7 each of every clean animal into the ark (Gen. 7:2-3).
- Notice also that through the burnt offering that Noah offered upon the altar, God has also promised as long as the world remains that the process of seedtime and harvest, seasons (winter and summer), and day and night shall not cease (8:22).

Genesis 9:1-17

God's Covenant with Creation

- God blessed mankind through Noah and his family and all of His creation, and instructed them to reproduce upon the earth. God also gave to mankind dominion over every beast, birds, fish, and green herbs, particularly for food (9:1-3).
- God shows care for all His creation by warning mankind not abuse or misuse the God given dominion over every beast, birds, fish because there would be a reckoning for the lifeblood of every beast and mankind. God has vowed to punish all who shed innocent blood, which is the 6th commandment (9:4-6).
- God reaffirms His pleasure that mankind and all His creation should reproduce and multiply upon the earth, and establishes a covenant (which is an agreement) with mankind and every living creature upon the earth to be fruitful and prosper (9:7-10). God is a covenant keeping God, according to Psalm 89:34, but unfortunately some people break the covenant with God, particularly the marriage covenant (Mal. 2:14-16). God has also made another important covenant, which is the New Covenant in Christ's blood (1 Cor. 11:25).
- God also promised by a covenant with creation never again to bring judgment upon the world through flood, and the rainbow is a sign of God's covenant with creation (9:11-17), but God has forewarned mankind that because of sin in the world, there shall be a future judgment upon the world by fire (2 Pet. 3:5-7).

Genesis 9:18-29

Noah and his sons

- The whole world was repopulated through Noah's three sons (9:18-19), because the Lord God blessed Noah and his sons that they may be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth (Gen. 9:1).
- Noah worked for a living as a farmer, but as God prospered Noah, he drank excessively to the point of drunkenness, which according to Proverb 20:1, those who do this are unwise. Noah's behaviour also led to the embarrassment of indecency, when one of his sons observed him naked. The lesson to learn here is that as children, it is not good to show a lack of respect for our parents (9:20-22).
- But two of Noah's sons show proper respectful behaviour toward parents by covering Noah, which as a practical lesson, as children, Shem and Japheth set a good example for all children to imitate (9:23).
- When the drunkenness had gone from Noah, he was furious and cursed his own grandchild because of Ham's lack of respect, and particularly because Ham did something awful to Noah (9:24). But Noah blessed his two sons who covered his naked (9:24-27). The warning for all children is to never do anything so serious to cause parents to pronounce a curse because according to Proverb 18:21, death and life are in the power of the tongue. Children ought to behave in such a way to cause parents to bless them, like Noah towards his two sons (9:26-27), and also like Jacob did towards Joseph (Gen. 49:22-26).
- Although Noah sinned by getting drunk, he was an obedient child of God, and God blessed him with long life (9:28-29). The practical lesson here for children is the reminder of the fifth commandment to honour parents, which has a wonderful promise of long life as a result of obedience (Ex. 20:12).

Genesis 10:1-12

Nations Descended from Noah

- Once again, the first lesson is regarding the repopulation of the world after the great flood through Noah's descendants. A list of sons is recorded, but the Hebrew word for 'sons' can also refer to 'descendants' or 'successors' or 'nations' (10:1). The Lord calls the people called out of every nation His Church (Matt. 16:17-18; Act. 15:13-20).
- Japheth was Noah's oldest son, so a list of his descendants is listed first. The 14 nations that came from Japheth, the 30 from Ham, and also 26 from Shem add up to 70, which is a number symbolic to completeness (10:2). The genealogy of Shem (who was the chosen line) appears later in the chapter (v. 21-31).
- Japheth's descendants lived generally north and west of Canaan (the promise land according to Genesis 17:8), and a list of the different groups of people according to lands, language and family is recorded (10:2-5).
- Ham's descendants were located in south-western Asia, and also northeast Africa, such as the nation of Egypt. Canaan (who was cursed by Noah) means land of purple because it became known as an export of purple dye, but later was called Palestine after the Philistines (10:6-7).
- Nimrod referred to as a mighty one on the earth, was possibly the Hebrew name of Sargon I, an early ruler of Accad. Also, Nimrod's kingdom was called Babel, it is the old name for Babylon, it is where God caused the people to be confused by the different languages spoken (10:8-10). Nimrod then went onto build Nineveh (10:11-12), which later became the capital city of Assyria, one of the world's most powerful empires for about 1000 years (Jonah 1:2).

Genesis 10:13-32

Nations Descended from Noah (Part 2)

- A continuation of the list of nations descended from Noah. The first point is in regards to the origin of the people of the Philistines (10:13-14), who became one of Israel's major enemies, particularly during the days of the judges and the early days of the kings of Israel, which has continued to this day in regards to the ongoing conflict in the region of Palestine.
- Another point is in regards to the origin of Jerusalem (10:15-16), the city that the Lord God has chosen to place His name (2 Chr. 6:6).
- Another point to draw from our text is the origin of the region known as Canaan (the promise land given to Israel), which the Hittites (descendants of Heth), a powerful people centered in Asia Minor (10:15-20), dominated much of Canaan from 1800 to 1200 B.C. The nations mentioned from Genesis 10:13-20 conclude the descendants of Ham.
- Another important point to consider is the origin of the Semites (descendants of Shem), and the origin of the Hebrews (Eber was the ancestor of the Hebrews). Notice in the days of Eber's two sons, the name of one son was Peleg, in his days the earth was divided again into various language groups (10:21-25). The nations mentioned from Genesis 10:22-31 conclude the descendants of Shem, and also concludes the dialog of the various families of the sons of Noah according to their nations, lands, and languages (10:31-32).

Genesis 11:1-9

The Tower of Babel

- The first lesson is that there was a time when the whole earth (the descendants of the survivors of the flood) had one language, which led to the people being united of one mind of rebellion against God, and also set on evil intentions (11:1-3).
- Another lesson is that the people on earth made plans together without God in regards to building a city and tower (11:2-4). The people said, "Let us" which has an element of pride similar to when Satan (the king of pride) made 5 "I will" statements (Is. 14:13). In the same way that Satan wanted to be in the place of God, the people of the world wanted a world without God, for they were united in their pride to take destiny into their own hands by controlling the affairs on earth (11:2-4).
- Noticed that God knew what the people of the world intentions were (11:5-6). The lesson here is that God can prevent any evil intentions at any point or He may turn the evil intentions into His good intentions in the end, as was the case with Joseph (Gen. 50:20).
- Noticed that God also said, "Let Us" (11:7), just like the people of the world said, "let us" (11:4). The lesson here is that when "our will" conflicts with "God's will," then it is God's will that will overcome our will, as was the case here when God caused confusion with different languages, and the people ceased building (11:7-8).
- Notice that the people of the world did not want to be scattered abroad the earth, which is eventually what happened (11:8-9). The final lesson here is that when we make plans without God, our worst fears may come true.

Genesis 11:10-32

Shem's Descendants and Terah's Descendants

- The first lesson about the genealogy of Shem is that there is a pattern regarding Shem's descendants lived full and long lives, and had many sons and daughters (11:10-24).
- Another lesson is regarding the life span of Shem's descendants gradually decreases, and covers the centuries between Shem and Abraham as briefly as possible (11:10-26).
- Notice as in the case of Shem, Ham and Japheth, that the names of Terah's 3 sons may also not be in chronological order by age (11:27).
- One of Terah's three sons died before him, as in life generally, sometimes parents outlive their children. Terah's sons took wives in fulfilment of God's plan for humanity to be fruitful and to multiply (Gen. 9:1; 11:28-29).
- The final lesson is regarding Sarai's barrenness was for a reason, in that God was bringing a new humanity into being, of whom Abraham was father (Gen. 17:5), but particularly Abraham is referred to as the father of faith (Rom. 4:16), of all of those who believe in God and trust in the Seed of Abraham who is Christ (Rom. 4:16; Gal. 3:16).

Genesis 12:1-9

Promises to Abraham

- The Lord called Abram out from his country, family and father's house, to a certain land (12:1). The first lesson is that in a similar way God calls all His children out from the world, out from our worldly family, and out from our worldly lives to play part in His kingdom (Matt. 6:10, 33).
- God promised Abraham that He would make him [1] a great nation [2] bless him; [3] make his name great; and [4] Abraham would be a blessing, and all people of God partake in Abraham's blessing, but those that hate Abraham's descendants God has promised to curse them (12:2-3). The lesson here is not to curse the descendants of Abraham (the nation of Israel).
- Abraham was old when God called him (12:4). Another lesson is that God can use any person to do great things even when they are old.
- Abraham was assisted by his wife and his nephew, Lot (12:5-6). Another lesson is that God will give us helpers along the way in order to fulfil our calling.
- The Lord appeared to Abraham and promised to give his descendants' land (12:7). Another lesson is that the land known as Israel is the promise land to Abraham's descendants (Gen. 15:18-20).
- Abraham in his journey on earth built an altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord (12:7-9). The final lesson is that Abraham worshiped God, and in like manner, as Christians in our journey in life we must also spend time for God, worship and call upon his name, for God seeks such worshipers who worship in spirit and in truth (John 4:24).

Genesis 12:10-20

Abraham in Egypt

- There was a famine in the land (12:10), which is sometimes as a result of judgment (Lev. 26:19-29). The first lesson is that a lack of supply can be a reminder that we must always first and foremost look to God as our main source of supply (Phil. 4:19).
- Abraham lied because he did not reveal the whole truth that Sarah was his wife (12:11-13). This is what the devil also does, he revealed half-truth when he spoke to Eve in the garden of Eden. Therefore, another lesson is that we should not tell half-truths.
- Abraham was a prophet, he predicted correctly that Sarah beautiful appearance would be noticed in Egypt (12:14-15). The third lesson is that we should desire the gift of prophecy (1 Cor. 14:1).
- God was faithful to his promise to Abraham to bless him (Gen. 12:2-3), and also merciful towards Abraham although he lied, yet continued to bless him materially (12:16). The fourth lesson is that God is faithful and will always do what He said He will do.
- God was also faithful to his promise to Abraham to curse those who curse him (Gen. 12:3), therefore Pharaoh and his household were plagued (12:17). The lesson is that God also uses plagues as a form of judgment.
- Abraham was exposed as a liar (12:18-19), without God's protection Abraham's deception could have led to a serious sin. The final lesson is that even when we make mistakes, God will continue to protect His children to ensure that we fulfil our destiny in life.

Genesis 13:1-18

Abraham Inherits Canaan

- From this passage we learn that Abraham was very rich materially and spiritually (13:1-4). He was rich in livestock and gold and silver, and even left Egypt with greater wealth than he had before. But most importantly Abraham was rich towards God, as seen by wherever he went he built an altar and called upon the name of the Lord (13:4, 18).
- We learn from this text that Lot was also rich materially as result of partnering with Abraham whom God promised to bless along with those who blessed Abraham (Gen. 12:2-3; 13:5-8), which also agrees with the text of Proverb 11:11 about the result of the blessing of the upright.
- We learn from this text that Abraham was a very humble and generous person by him giving his young nephew the opportunity to choose the land he wanted, but Abraham would not obtain wealth except by God's blessing (13:9-11).
- We also learn from the separation between Abraham and Lot (13:11-15). Lot, perhaps influenced by his wife who because of her desire for Sodom looked back, in like manner, Lot looked selfishly and coveted Sodom. Whereas Abraham looked as God commanded and was blessed by dwelling in the promised land of Canaan (13:13-15).
- We learn from this passage that Abraham inherited through a promise from God, the land of Canaan, which also extended to his descendants (13:15-18).

Genesis 14:1-17

Lot's Captivity and Rescue

- From this passage we learn about a historical war between four kings against five kings (14:9), which resulted in the captivity of Lot, who pitched his tent as far as Sodom (Gen. 13:12), the people of Sodom were defeated in the war (14:1-12). Sodom can also be likened to the world, and so the lesson here is to take heed to the warning against being too close to the world because it could lead to captivity of living a sinful lifestyle.
- We learn from the person who escaped to inform Abraham (14:13), that God was working behind the scenes to rescue Lot from captivity through Abraham. Notice that the five kings were unable to defeat the army of the four kings, but Abraham with his trained servants with God's help through a wise plan, was able to rescue Lot, and recover all their possessions that were taken (14:13-16). The lesson here is that even when the odds are against us, we should always trust in the Lord like Abraham did, and also as the Proverb 3:5-6 reveals.
- We also can learn from the king of Sodom who went out to meet Abraham after the defeat in the war then the recovery, that it is always good to show appreciation when someone helps us (14:17).

Genesis 14:18-24

Abraham and Melchizedek

- The first lesson is regarding Melchizedek, who brought out bread and wine (which are symbols of holy communion), who was a priest and king who believed in God (14:18-19), therefore was a king of righteousness (Rom. 4:3), and king of Salem, meaning king of peace (Heb. 7:2). The kingdom of God also reflects righteousness and peace (Rom. 14:17). Christ is our King, and our Great High Priest (Heb. 1:1-4; Ps. 110:4), so He brings the roles of king and priest together.
- Melchizedek worshiped and gave God the glory for Abraham's victory over the four kings, and Abraham honoured Melchizedek with the gift of the tithe (14:19), which corresponds with New Testament teaching regarding giving double honour to elders in the church (1 Tim. 5:17).
- The final lesson is that Abraham refused to accept anything from the king of Sodom lest he boasts that he helped Abraham to be rich because Abraham was fully aware that his blessings come from the Lord God (Gen. 12:1-3; 13:2).

Genesis 15:1-21

God's Covenant with Abraham

- The first lesson is that the Almighty God is able to communicate with us through visions and dreams (15:1; Job 33:15; Act. 16:9).
- The second lesson is that the Lord primarily speaks to us by His word through the Bible or the Lord may impress His will on our mind (15:2-5; Heb. 1:2).
- Another lesson is that when we believe God it is accounted as righteousness (15:6; Rom. 4:3).
- Another lesson is that God made a covenant with Abraham to give him and his descendants (the nation of Israel) land to inherit (15:7-13).
- Another lesson is that God knows the future, and was able to predict accurately what would happen to [1] Abraham's descendants, [2] the nation that oppressed Israel (Egypt), and [3] a personal message about Abraham's own future (15:13-16).
- The final lesson is that God is a covenant keeping God (15:17-21), who has kept His promises to Abraham and his descendants regarding land (the region of Canaan), because the earth is the Lord's, God gives land to whomever He pleases (Ps. 24:1).

Genesis 16:1-16

Hagar and Ismael

- The first lesson is that Sarah impatiently implied that God was not keeping His promise, so she would take action herself to solve the problem of her barrenness by her ill advice to her husband to take another wife, and Abraham's agreement (16:1-3).
- The second lesson is that this wrong action by Abraham and Sarah led to the second wife (Hagar) despising Sarah, so instead of solving the problem it made matters worse (16:4-5), similar to Peninnah's actions toward Hannah (1 Sam. 1:6).
- The third lesson is that this wrong action by Abraham and Sarah led to further wrongdoing, as Sarah treated Hagar harshly (16:6), which led to wrong decision of Hagar to flee from Sarah which but for the Lord's intervention and mercy could have caused her to lose her unborn son (16:6-11). The Lord advised Hagar to return to Sarah, which enables us to understand that sometimes we have to put up with harsh treatment (16:9), as seen with slavery which the Lord eventually abolished, but we are instructed to pray for those who mistreat us (Luke 6:28).
- Another lesson is that this wrong action by Abraham and Sarah further led to hostility between Hagar and Sarah, and eventually between their descendants (16:12), as currently seen in the Middle East situation in regards to the Arabs hostility towards the Jews.
- Another lesson is that the Angel of the Lord that met Hagar was a preincarnate manifestation of Christ (16:7-12), as evident by Hagar's amazement that she saw the living God and lived (16:13-14).
- The final lesson is that it is important to learn from Abraham and Sarah's mistake, no matter how long it may take, it is better to wait patiently on the Lord and His timing for events in our life (16:15-16).

Genesis 17:1-27

The Sign of the Covenant

- The first lesson is that God appeared to Abraham and made a promise to Abraham that He would make a covenant (an agreement with God) with him, and bless him exceedingly (17:1-2; Gen. 12:1-3).
- The second lesson is that Abraham was a humble man who worshipped God, so God also changed his name from Abram (exalted father) to Abraham (father of many nations), with a promise to make Abraham exceedingly fruitful (17:3-6). God often changed his servants name like Jacob (Gen. 32:28), and Saul (Act. 13:9).
- The third lesson is that the covenant between God and Abraham, and also his descendants is an everlasting covenant consisting of land (17:7-8), but with New Testament believers who have trusted in Christ we also have an everlasting covenant with God through Christ blood (Matt. 26:28).
- The fourth lesson is that circumcision is the sign of the covenant between God and Abraham, and therefore any Israelite male that is not circumcised has broken the covenant (17:9-14).
- Another lesson is that God also changed Sarai name to Sarah (mother of nations), and promised that she would bare a miracle child (17:15-16).
- Another lesson is that God promised Abraham at the set time (Eccl. 3:1) that he and Sarah shall have a child together, and God also informed Abraham the name of their miracle child before he was born. God called him, Isaac (which means laughter), because Abraham laughed at the possibility of him and Sarah having a baby in their old age (17:17-22).
- The final lesson is that Abraham in obedience to the covenant was circumcised along with all the males of his household (17:23-27), and we too as Christians must take holy communion in obedience to the Lord's command about the blood of the new and everlasting covenant in remembrance of Him (Matt. 26:26-29; 1 Cor.11:23-26).

Genesis 18:1-15

The Son of Promise

- The Lord appeared to Abraham (18:1-5), and in a similar manner the Lord appeared to other Old Testament believers like Sansom's parents (Judg. 13:1-23), and Joshua (Jos. 5:13-16). The first lesson is an example of a theophany, which is a visible appearance of God Himself.
- Abraham hurried into the tent to prepare and serve the Lord (18:6-8), and in like manner when the Lord Jesus was on earth, Martha and other women served and ministered to the Lord's needs (Mark 15:40-41; Luke 10:38-42). The second lesson is that we must be eager to serve the Lord in some capacity.
- The Lord promised to give Abraham and Sarah a son (18:9-10), and in like manner the Lord promised Noah never again to destroy the world with a flood (Gen. 8:21-22). The third lesson is that God always keeps His promises (Is. 55:11).
- Sarah was listening when the Lord promised to give a son, and she laughed within herself because she and Abraham were old and past childbearing (18:11-12). Another lesson is that God can read our minds (Jer. 17:10; Mark 2:8-11).
- The Lord questioned why she laughed because she was past childbearing, and God promised her that at the set time the promise will happen (18:13-14). Another lesson is that there is nothing impossible for God (Mark 10:27), and there is a set time for everything (Eccl. 3:1-8).
- Sarah denied it, and the Lord rebuked her (18:15). The final lesson is that we must not lie, and we must always accept correction.

Genesis 18:16-33

Abraham Intercedes for Sodom

- The Lord did not want to hide from Abraham what He was doing (18:16-17). The first lesson is that Abraham was God's friend (Jam. 2:23), and because Abraham was God's covenant friend, God let Abraham know His plans (18:18-21).
- The Lord informed Abraham about the outcry of Sodom was great because of the terrible sins (18:20-21). The second lesson is that God announced His judgment upon Sodom, similar to when God announced His judgment upon the wicked in the days of Noah (Gen. 6:13).
- Abraham commanded his children and household, teaching them in the way of the Lord (18:19). The third lesson is that a man of God should rule his household well as revealed also in 1 Timothy 3:4.
- Abraham stood before the Lord (18:22). Another lesson is that Abraham had access to God, and in like manner as children of God through Christ, we have access to God (Eph. 1:7; Heb. 10:19).
- Abraham intervened to the Judge of all the earth for his relatives and for Sodom (18:23-25). Another lesson is that God gave Abraham the opportunity to intercede for the righteous, and like Abraham when we pray to God we can intercede on behalf of our family (Job 1:5), friends and those in the world that do not know God (Luke 6:28).
- Abraham questioned God while interceding (18:26-33). The final lesson is that Abraham had compassion and wanted to know God's way, and God gave Abraham the opportunity to learn about His ways of mercy and justice, and to understand that there is no other God besides Him, who can wisely show both mercy and justice (Is. 45:21; Ps. 103:8).

Genesis 19:1-11

Sodom's Depravity

- The first lesson is that we should always be respectful, friendly and show hospitality like Lot (19:1-3), particularly towards those who have believed in the Lord Jesus, as the Bible reveals that some have entertained angels or messengers from God unknowingly (Heb. 13:1-2; Rev. 2:1).
- The second lesson is that the people of Sodom were exceedingly wicked (19:4-7), like the people in the days of Noah before the great flood (Gen. 6:5-6).
- Another lesson is that in the days of Lot, women were not valued or respected (19:8), but the Lord Jesus helped to change this, He regularly taught women (Luke 10:38-42), and even chose a woman to be the first person to see Him resurrected (Matt. 28:9).
- Another lesson is that the wicked people of Sodom wanted to harm Lot, but the Lord through His angels protected Lot from evil (19:9-10), as deliverance from evil is what the Lord has taught us to pray (Matt. 6:13).
- The people of Sodom were struck with blindness (19:11), and so the final lesson is that all evil and wickedness will come under judgment (2 Pet. 2:9; Rev. 20:12-13).

Genesis 19:12-29

Sodom and Gomorrah Destroyed

- Lot and his family in the city were instructed to get out, so to save them from destruction along with all in the city (19:12-13). In the days of Noah, a preacher of righteousness (2 Pet. 2:5) there was a similar warning before the judgment of the great flood (Heb. 11:7). The first lesson is that even in the midst of judgment God gives warning and shows mercy toward Lot and his family.
- Lot was concerned for members of his family, and he informed them to get out of the city, but they did not take the warning seriously (19:14). Another lesson is that sometimes our good actions will not be received by some people.
- The angels had to take Lot and his family by the hand because they continued to linger in the city (19:15-16). Another lesson here is that God showed exceeding mercy towards Lot and his family because it is possible that they lingered in the city due to their love for the city of Sodom. The world is symbolic to Sodom, which the bible instructs us to love not the world (1 John 2:15-17).
- The angel gave Lot and his family clear instructions (19:17). Another lesson is that the Lord gives clear instructions regarding what not to do, and also gives warning of the consequences.
- Lot's plea for mercy and deliverance from evil were answered (19:18-22). In like manner, the Lord has instructed us in prayer not to be anxious but instead bring our requests before God, and pray for deliverance from evil (Matt. 6:13; Phil. 4:6-8). Another lesson is the importance of prayer.
- The angel informed Lot that nothing would be done until Lot and his family were in a safe place (19:22-26). Another lesson is that the Lord knows how to protect his people (as long as we do not look back longingly like Lot's wife) while He executes punishment upon the wicked on the day of judgment (2 Pet. 2:9).
- God remembered His promise to Abraham (Gen. 18:23-33), and fulfilled His word to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah (19:27-29). The final lesson is that God always keeps His word for good (Gal. 6:9), and also for evil if a person does not repent (Eze. 18:18-32; 19:13).

Genesis 20:1-18

Abraham and Abimelech

- Abraham informed Abimelech that his wife was his sister (20:1-2). The first lesson is that Abraham lied, and it could have ended in the sin of adultery, but set a bad example to his children (Gen. 26:1, 7).
- God came to Abimelech in a dream at night (20:3-7). The second lesson is that Bible reveals that God at times may speak through dreams (Job 33:14-18; 1 King. 3:5; Matt. 1:20-23).
- Another lesson is that although Abraham and Sarah lied, yet because of God's covenant with Abraham (Gen. 15:1-5), God intervened to spare Sarah from committing adultery (20:6).
- God called Abraham a prophet, and warned Abimelech of judgment for disobedience (20:7). Another lesson is that Abraham was the first man to bear the title of prophet, a long list would follow bearing this title which included Elijah (1 King. 18:22), Jeremiah (Jer. 1:5), even to John the Baptist (Matt. 11:9). Also, another lesson is that there are consequences for disobedience.
- Abimelech's generosity was a strong contrast to Abraham's fearfulness and deception (20:16). Another lesson is that God may sometimes use unbelievers to correct believers in the right way we should behave. God used Abimelech to rebuke both Abraham and Sarah for telling a half-truth which is a lie, not an explanation (20:8-16).
- Abraham still had fellowship and faith in God, and was able to pray to God for Abimelech and his household for healing (20:17-18). The final lesson is that God takes delight in hearing and answering prayers (Ps. 50:15; Pro. 15:8; 1 John 5:14; John 9:31).

Genesis 21:1-21

Isaac is Born and Hagar Departs with Ishmael

- The LORD God did for Sarah as He had spoken (21:1-2). The first lesson is that God always fulfils His spoken word (Gen. 1:3; Num. 23:19; Jer. 1:12; Eze. 12:28).
- Abraham called his son born to him, Isaac, and also circumcised him as God had commanded him (21:3-4). The second lesson is that like Abraham, as children of God we should always obey God's commands (Ex. 19:5; Deut. 11:1; Eph. 6:1-3; John 14:15; Luke 11:28).
- Abraham and Sarah were both old aged when Isaac was born (21:5-7). Another lesson is that the birth of Isaac to Sarah was a miraculous one, as was that of Jesus Christ to Mary in fulfilment of God's promise to them (Gen. 11:30; Matt. 1:18-25).
- When Isaac was weaned his brother Ishmael was seen mocking him, which led to Sarah requesting to Abraham that Hagar and Ishmael should be cast out (21:8-12). Another lesson is that Ishmael cast out is a picture of anything (mainly sin and demons) that may be a potential threat to our inheritance in Christ should be cast out (Luke 4:33-36; 8:2; 10:19; Mark 9:38-41; Matt. 10:1; 17:14-20; Rom. 6:16).
- Another lesson is that God overruled in this matter (21:12-13), as the LORD had done earlier (Gen. 15:4), although the LORD promises that Ishmael would also be blessed, Isaac was the seed through which the LORD would fulfil His promise to Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3).
- Hagar departs with Ishmael, wandered in the wilderness, and the skin of water was used up, but the LORD heard the voice of Hagar and Ishmael, and He intervened by sustaining them in the wilderness (21:14-21). The final lesson is that the LORD provides for all our needs (Phil. 4:19; Rom. 8:32; Matt. 6:33).

Genesis 21:22-34

A Covenant with Abimelech

- Abimelech noticed that God was with Abraham in all that he did (21:22-23). The first lesson is that when our ways please the Lord even our enemies will notice, and be at peace with us as also revealed in Prov. 16:7 and Zech. 8:23.
- Abraham agreed with Abimelech requests to friendship via a covenant (21:24). The second lesson is that a covenant involved oaths, which is also clear in the covenant of marriage (Mal. 2:14-16), and the covenant between God with Abraham (Heb. 6:13-18).
- Abraham rebuked Abimelech for a well that was seized (21:25-26). Another lesson is that sometimes it is necessary to speak up to confront and correct a wrongdoing (Eccl. 3:7).
- Abraham took sheep and oxen to make a covenant with Abimelech (21:27-32). Another lesson is that animals or birds were occasionally used to establish a covenant as seen with God's covenant with Abraham (Gen. 15:8-21).
- Abraham called upon the name of the Lord (21:33-34). The final lesson is that Abraham worshiped the Everlasting God, the One God who is the creator of Heaven and earth (Gen. 14:18-20).

Genesis 22:1-19

Abraham's Faith Confirmed

- God tested Abraham (22:1-2). The first lesson is that God may test us, but the devil tempts us (Matt. 4:1-11; 1 Cor. 7:5; 10:13; Job 2:1-6). God will never tempt us (Jam. 1:13).
- Abraham responded as a servant in prompt obedience (22:3-6). The second lesson is that we must always be willing to respond to God in obedience like our Lord Jesus who said, "not my will but Your will be done" (Luke 22:42).
- Isaac asked a question about the offering, Abraham responded by saying God will provide (22:7-8). Another lesson is that we must always remember that God will provide for our every need (Phil. 4:19; Matt. 6:31-33).
- When they came to the place which God directed, Abraham bound Isaac. It is possible that Isaac may have been a young man of military age, so Isaac could have out strengthened his father, but he was also willing to trust and obey his father (22:9-10). Another lesson is that children should always obey parents (Eph. 6:1-3).
- The Angel of the Lord called urgently from heaven to confirm that Abraham feared God (22:11-12). Another lesson is that we must fear God (Eccl. 12:13; Matt. 10:28).
- Instead of Isaac a ram was sacrificed on the mount Moriah (22:13-14). Another lesson is that as the ram died in Isaac's place, so also the Lord Jesus gave His life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45).
- The Lord God has sworn by Himself to bless Abraham, and his Seed because of Abraham's obedience (22:15-19). Another lesson is that there is a blessing in obedience, as revealed here, as God has made an everlasting promise to Abraham, and can never break His promise (Heb. 6:13; Ps. 89:34).
- The final lesson is that the devil tempts us in order to make us fall (1 Cor. 7:5), but God tests us in order to confirm our faith (Ex. 20:20), as seen with Abraham whose faith was made perfect by what he did (Jam. 2:21-22).

Genesis 22:20-24; 23:1-20

The Family of Nahor and Sarah's Death and Burial

- Nahor's sons would later become ancestors of 12 Aramean tribes (22:20-24), just as Abraham's grandson Jacob would become ancestor of the 12 tribes of Israel (Gen. 49:28). The first lesson is that God blessed the family of Nahor with the fruit of the womb, and in the process fulfilled His command to humanity to be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth (Gen. 1:28; 9:1).
- Sarah lived a long life before her death (23:1-2). The second lesson is that some family members may live a full life before their death, which generally results in grief (John 11:32-36).
- Abraham made arrangements for Sarah's burial (23:3-4). Another lesson is that it is good to make arrangement for dead family members to give them a decent burial (John 19:38-42).
- The sons of Heth and Abraham respected each other (23:5-7). Another lesson is that we should show respect to all people (Rom. 13:1-7).
- Abraham negotiated for a specific property for a burial place, and was willing to pay a huge amount of money (23:8-13). The amount quoted by Ephron to Abraham was unreasonably high (23:14-18). Another lesson is that we must be careful when negotiating especially at a time of grief and bereavement because some people may try to take advantage of us, but particularly like Abraham we should know what we are trying to accomplish.
- Abraham buried Sarah in the cave of the field of Machpelah (23:19-20). The final lesson is that by purchasing a burial place in Canaan Abraham showed his commitment to God's promise (Gen. 13:14-15), and as Christians we also should hold onto the promise of God of eternal life (John 3:16).

Genesis 24:1-28

A Bride for Isaac (Part 1)

- Abraham advised his servant to take a wife for his son Isaac from his country and family (24:1-4). The first lesson is that Abraham lived at a time when it was popular for parents to choose a wife for their son (Gen. 28:1-2), and also when there were no genetic defects, so it was safe for Isaac to intermarry by marrying his father's grandniece.
- Abraham charged his eldest servant with the task of taking a bride for his son (24:5-10). The second lesson is that it is not enough to just trust yourself, but sometimes it is necessary to rely on trustworthy people around us (Pro. 28:26).
- Abraham's servant prayed to the God of Abraham (24:11-13). Another lesson is that it is important always to ask the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob for help in our decision making (Matt. 7:7).
- Before Abraham's servant had done speaking, God had already begun to answer (24:14-21). Another lesson is that the Lord appoints certain people in our lives (Mark 6:30; 1 King. 17:7-16), and also appoints certain people for certain tasks (1 Tim. 2:7; Jer. 1:5).
- Another lesson is that Abraham's eldest servant worshipped God for making his journey prosperous (24:22-26), and in like manner as Christians we are to worship God in spirit and truth (John 4:24).
- Abraham's eldest servant blessed God for his mercy (24:27-28). The final lesson is that just like it is necessary to rely on trustworthy people around us, above all God is trustworthy (Ps. 18:30; 2 Sam. 7:28; 1 Tim. 1:15; 2 Tim. 2:11).

Genesis 24:29-67

A Bride for Isaac (Part 2)

- Rebekah had a brother called Laban who welcomed the servant of Abraham (24:29-32). The first lesson is that even in some cultures before a sister's marriage, it may be the brother's responsibility to ensure the wellbeing and comfort of his sister, and also to play an important role in any decision regarding marriage (Song. 8:8-9).
- Food was set before Abraham's servant, but he refused to eat until he had revealed his errand (24:33-49). The second lesson is that Abraham's servant explained his mission to Rebekah's family first before his own comfort because he was a faithful and trustworthy servant who worshipped the God of Abraham (Matt. 22:32).
- Laban and Bethuel were involved in the decision to allow Rebekah to travel to a foreign land and marry a man she had never met (24:50-51). Another lesson is that this indicates that above all, it was God who was involved in the decision for a bride for Isaac, and so it was God who appointed Rebekah to be Isaac's wife (Gen. 24:14, 44).
- Another lesson is that the rich gifts bestowed on Rebekah and her family indicated the wealth of the household into which she was being asked to marry, and to go far from her family and homeland (24:52-55).
- The servant informed Rebekah's family that God had prospered his way, and Rebekah was involved in the final decision (24:56-60). Another lesson is that we must not hinder the work of the Lord, but we can be a part of it, particularly through the spreading of the gospel (Matt. 24:14; 28:18-20).
- Isaac was informed of the plan of Abraham for a bride for him, and Isaac accepted the will of God (24:61-67). The final lesson is that we also must be aware of the will of God and accept His perfect will to spread the gospel and increase His kingdom (Rom. 12:2; Dan. 2:44; Matt. 6:33).

Genesis 25:1-34

Abraham's 2nd Wife, Death, Burial and Family

- Abraham took another wife (25:1-6). The first lesson is that God continued to fulfil His promise to Abraham and the human race through marriage to make us fruitful and multiply (Gen. 1:28; 12:1-3).
- Abraham lived a long life, and before his death and burial, he prepared for it by buying a property for burial and also by leaving a great inheritance to Isaac (25:5-11). The second lesson is that parents should prepare for death perhaps through life insurance and also leave an inheritance to their children (Pro. 13:22; 1 Tim. 5:8; 2 Cor. 12:14).
- Like Jacob, 12 major tribes descended from Ishmael's 12 sons that were born to him before he died (25:12-18). Another lesson is that before we die, we must keep the faith by accepting Christ as our Lord and Saviour, so that our testimony when we die is that we are with the Lord (2 Cor. 5:6-9; Phil. 1:23; 2 Tim. 4:7-8; John 11:25-26; 14:2-3).
- The genealogy of Isaac reveals 2 sons were born to him, and also that Isaac prayed for a long time before his wife conceived (25:19-27). Another lesson is that we should never give up praying in accordance with the will of God (Matt. 7:7; Jam. 5:16; 1 John 5:14-15; Pro. 15:8).
- Both sons of Isaac destiny and purpose revealed, and both parents had their favourites (25:23-28). Another lesson is that God has a purpose for our life, and as parents we should not have favourites (Jer. 1:5; Ps. 138:8; Rom. 8:28).
- Esau sold his birth right, which included the inheritance rights of the firstborn (25:29-34). The final lesson is that we must value something sacred or religious practices in life, and not follow Esau's profane behaviour which was hated by God (Rom. 9:13; Mal. 1:2-3).

Genesis 26:1-35

Isaac and Abimelech

- There was a famine, and Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines, then the Lord appeared to him and said to him to live wherever He tells him (26:1-6). The first lesson is that even in times of difficulties, we must follow God's instructions (Pro. 3:5-6; 6:20-23).
- Isaac lied when he said that Rebekah was his sister, and it could have resulted in a great sin committed (26:7-11). The second lesson is that like Abraham before him, Isaac lied, but the word of God instructs us not to lie because all liars will be judged and also God hates lying (Pro. 6:16-19; 12:22; 19:9; Col. 3:9-10; Rev. 21:8).
- Isaac sowed in the land, and the Lord prospered him, but the Philistines envied him and quarrelled with him (26:12-22). Another lesson in trusting God is that God will eventually make room for us (Jam. 4:8; Pro. 18:16; Deut. 31:6).
- Isaac was visited by the Lord, and built an altar in that place (26:23-25). Another lesson is that all who believe in God must worship Him (Ex. 23:25; John 4:24; Ps. 95:6).
- The Philistines sent Isaac away because they hated him, but Isaac sent them away from him in peace (26:26-31). Another lesson is that we must do good to all, even our enemies (Luke 6:35; Gal. 6:10; 1 Thess. 5:15; Heb. 13:16).
- Another well was found by Isaac called Beersheba in contrast to Esau who married a wife to the grief of his parents (26:32-35). The final lesson is that children should not do things that brings shame to parents, but children should honour their parents (Ex. 20:12; Eph. 6:1-3; Col. 3:20).

Genesis 27:1-29

Isaac Blesses Jacob

- Isaac was old and near blindness (27:1-5). The first lesson is that some people as revealed with Rebekah and Jacob, may try to take advantage of our delights and weaknesses (Lev. 25:17; Pro. 22:22-23).
- Rebekah instructed Jacob to pretend to be Esau to receive the blessing from his father Isaac (27:6-13). The Bible does not hide the sinful behaviour of believers, as seen here, Rebekah encouraged Jacob to lie, and she was willing to take the consequences (27:13; Matt. 27:25; Rev. 21:8).
- Jacob obeyed his mother's instruction because at this point of his life he did not know the Lord as his own God, but as the God of Abraham and Isaac (27:14-20), and therefore another lesson is that we must know the Lord personally as our God through the Lord Jesus (John 14:6; Eph. 2:18; Heb. 10:19).
- Isaac remained suspicious throughout this incident (27:21-26). Another lesson is that God can use our wrongdoing for his good purposes (John 1:29; 1 John 2:2; 3:5).
- Isaac blesses Jacob (27:27-29). When Rebekah inquired of the Lord when the children were in her womb, she was informed that it was the will of God that Jacob and not Esau should receive the blessing (Heb. 11:20; Gen. 25:21-24), and so the final lesson is we also can know the will of God for our lives when we bring our situation before the Lord in prayer (1 John 5:14; Jer. 42:3; Matt. 21:22).

Genesis 27:30-46; 28:1-9

Esau's Lost Hope & Jacob Escapes Esau

- Esau's brother Jacob with deceit took away his blessing (27:30-35). The first lesson is that blessing and curses through our words have power to accomplish what pronounced (Pro. 12:14; 18:21; 26:2; Jam. 3:10).
- Esau cried out bitterly and said, "Is he not rightly called Jacob," which means deceiver or supplanter because Jacob took away his birth-right and his blessing (27:36-38). The second lesson is that in Esau's lost hope, we learn that he thought he could separate the birth-right from the blessing, and even his tears provided no place for repentance, as God rejected him because the birth-right and blessing could not be separated, as both involved the inheritance of firstborn (Heb. 12:14-17), and also at the heart of the birthright were the covenant promises Isaac inherited from Abraham (Gen. 26:31-34), which God appointed Jacob to continue the line (Rom. 9:13; Mal. 1:2-3).
- Esau hated his brother Jacob because of the blessing he received from his father Isaac (27:39-41). Another lesson is that hatred is one of the root causes of murder (1 John 3:15; Matt. 5:21; Gen. 4:1-8).
- Esau intentions to kill Jacob was made known to Rebekah (27:42-46). Another lesson is that Rebekah's advice to Jacob to flee from Esau until his anger turns away on this occasion was good advice because the Bible advises us to avoid any appearance of evil (1 Thess. 5:22; 1 Cor. 6:18; Gen. 39:11-12).
- Jacob escaped Esau by obeying his parents voice, but Esau disobeyed his parents by marrying a wife in addition to the wives he had (28:1-9). The final lesson is that it is important for children to obey parents (Eph. 6:1-3; Col. 3:20; Deut. 5:16).

Genesis 28:10-22

Jacob's Vow at Bethel

- Jacob had a dream regarding a ladder that reached to heaven (28:10-12). The first lesson is that God particularly before the Scriptures were completed, often spoke through dreams (Job 33:14-16; Act. 18:9-10; Matt. 2:19-22).
- God used this dream in regards to the angels of God ascending and descending as a sign to offer to be Jacob's God, as He was the God of his forefathers, Abraham and Isaac (28:13). Another lesson is that the heavens open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man (John 1:51), is symbolic to Jesus Himself offering to be to everyone who believes, the bridge between heaven and earth, as the only Mediator between God and mankind (John 14:6; 1 Tim. 2:5).
- The promises God made to Jacob's forefathers, He fulfilled through Jacob, and assured Jacob that He would always be with him wherever he went (Gen. 12:1-3; 13:16; 22:17; 28:14-15). Another lesson is that God through the Lord Jesus has also promised to be with us always (Matt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5).
- Jacob called the name of the place where God met him, Bethel (which means house of God), and also set a pillar as a memorial of worship (28:16-19). Another lesson is that wherever the Lord meets us should be considered a place of worship or the house of God, and when we worship Him in spirit and truth in fellowship, we should value such moments (John 4:24; Rom. 12:1; 1 John 1:3; 1 Tim. 2:8).
- Jacob made a vow to God at Bethel, that if God provides and also if he returns to his father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be his God (28:20-22). The final lesson is that any vow to God must be kept (Eccl. 5:4-5; Deut. 23:21-23; Num. 30:2), and we too should acknowledge the Lord as our own (Phil. 4:19; Matt. 10:32).

Genesis 29:1-14

Jacob Meets Rachel

- Jacob's journey finally reached its destination in the land of the Middle East (29:1). The first lesson is that Jacob obedience to his parents was guided by the Lord (Gen. 28:1-7; Pro. 6:20-23; 16:9).
- Jacob arrived at a well in Haran where he met Rachel for the first time (29:2-6). The second lesson is that this meeting did not happen by chance, but was a divine appointment like the circumstances that led to Rebekah becoming Isaac's bride (Gen. 24:1-67), and also like when Abraham met Melchizedek (Gen. 14:18-24).
- Rachel was a shepherdess (29:7-9). Another lesson is that the task of caring for sheep and goats in the Middle East was shared by men and women (29:7-9; Ex. 2:16-21).
- Jacob rolled the stone from the well's mouth (29:10). Another lesson is that the rolling of the stone from the well was usually performed by more than one person, therefore Jacob must have had unusual strength because the stone was large (29:3; John 11:39-41).
- Jacob showed kindness when he meets Rachel for the first time, which eventually led to a family gathering (29:11-14). The final lesson is that the Bible teaches that where two or three are gathered in Jesus' name, He is in our midst (Matt. 18:19-20), in happy family unions such as church assemblies to worship God (Heb. 10:25), and also for church gatherings for discipline reasons (Matt. 18:15-20).

Genesis 29:15-30

Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel

- Laban offered Jacob wages for his service (29:15-20). The first lesson is that Jacob, whose name was later changed to Israel, because of his love for Rachel, agreed to work seven years for Laban in return for Rachel (the younger of Laban's two daughters), for her hand in marriage, as his wife (Hos. 12:12).
- When Jacob's days were fulfilled, he requested that Laban should honour their agreement (29:21). The second lesson is that the Bible teaches that the labourer is worthy of wages (Luke 10:7; 1 Tim. 5:18; Matt. 10:10; Lev. 19:13), and also even before the consummation of a marriage in some cultures a marriage is binding, and the two spouses are known as husband and wife (Matt. 1:18-25).
- Laban deliberately deceived Jacob by giving Leah to him as wife (29:22-25). Another lesson is that Jacob, the deceiver in name and in character (Gen. 25:26; 27:36), who deceived his brother two times to obtain the benefits of firstborn, was now deceived by Laban who gave Jacob his firstborn daughter, against Jacob's will (29:18).
- Laban continued the deception by requesting Jacob to serve yet another seven years for Rachel, as a second wife (29:26-30). The final lesson is that Jacob was reaping what he sowed, and from this we learn that if we sow righteousness, we shall reap righteousness if we do not grow weary in doing good (Gal. 6:7-9; Pro. 11:18; John 4:38).

Genesis 29:31-35; 30:1-24

The Children of Jacob

- Leah prayed to the Lord, and the Lord looked upon Leah's affliction, heard that she was unloved, and blessed her with the fruit of the womb (29:31-35). The first lesson is that the Lord is aware of what we are going through (Matt. 6:8; Ps. 44:21; 2 Cor. 7:6).
- Another lesson is the names given to the children of Jacob all had meaning like so many biblical names such as Jesus which means saviour (Matt. 1:21), Reuben means see or behold a son, Simeon means to be heard, Levi means joined in harmony and Judah means praise (29:31-35).
- Rachel envied her sister, then gave her maid to Jacob and she conceived (30:1-6). Another lesson is that Rachel was also prayerful which was evident in the name of the fifth son of Jacob (Dan means God is my judge), but both Leah and Rachel became rivals for the affection of their husband (1 Sam. 1:1-6).
- Rachel's maid bore again, and Rachel named him Naphtali (30:7-8). Another lesson is that the struggle for Jacob's affection was won by Rachel as Naphtali means my wrestling has prevailed similar to the name Israel (Gen. 32:22-31).
- When Leah stopped bearing children, she also gave her maid to Jacob (30:9-15). Another lesson from the next two sons, one called Gad (a troop comes), and the other called Asher (happy) is the infighting between the sisters continued through the maids of the sisters, as Jacob's fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth sons were born through his maidservant concubines.
- Leah hired Jacob with her son's mandrakes (30:16-21). Another lesson is that Leah continued to pray and God listened and blessed her with the fruit of the womb (1 Sam. 1:10-20).
- Rachel also continued to pray to God, and God remembered her and listened by opening her womb (30:22-24). The final lesson is like Rachel in prayer we should ask, and keep in asking until we receive (Matt. 7:7).

Genesis 30:25-43

Jacob's Agreement with Laban

- Jacob requested that Laban send him away to his own country (30:25-26). The first lesson is that Jacob had fulfilled his service with Laban, and now was ready to fulfil his calling with God (Gen. 28:12-15).
- Laban pleaded with Jacob to stay, and also offered more wages for his service (30:27-29). Another lesson is that some people will try to distract us from our God given calling, and it is usually Satan who is behind this (Matt. 16:22-23).
- Jacob wanted to fulfil his calling with God (Gen. 28:12-15), and also provide for his own household (30:30-31). Another lesson is that part of our calling involves providing for our household (1 Tim. 5:8; Eph. 6:4).
- Jacob proposed an agreement with Laban regarding wages (30:32-36). Another lesson is that although Jacob and Laban agreed wages, yet Laban continued to deceive Jacob by secretly removing the flocks that he agreed to give to Jacob as wages, which the Bible warns against by strongly encouraging that someone should be properly recompensed for effort (Luke 10:7; 1 Tim. 5:18).
- Jacob reverted to deception (30:37-42) just like when he deceived his brother Esau with red stew (Esau's name means red), he deceived Laban with a white popular (Laban's name means white). Another lesson is that this action of Jacob only worked because God was judging Laban by repaying Laban's own tactic of deception against him (Rom. 12:19-21; Pro. 17:3).
- Jacob became exceedingly prosperous (30:43). The final lesson is that Jacob became extremely wealthy because of God who promised to bless him (Gen. 28:12-15), and God keeps His word because He cannot lie (Num. 23:19; Heb. 6:18).

Genesis 31:1-21

Jacob Flees from Laban

- Laban's sons accused Jacob of taking away their father's wealth (31:1). The first lesson is that it was God who judged Laban by taking away his wealth because of [1] his wrongdoing towards Jacob (Gen. 31:12), and also [2] in fulfilment of His promise to Abraham and his descendants to curse those who mistreat them (Gen. 12:3).
- Laban's feelings towards Jacob were of envy (31:2), his wives encouraging words (31:14-16), and God's instructions to him in dreams were all signs (31:2-16). The second lesson is that it is important for [1] believers to recognise and study the signs in our life (Matt. 16:4; 24:24; John 2:11; 1 Cor. 14:22), and [2] the signs Jacob was getting, informed him that it was time to return to Canaan (Gen. 26:3-4; 28:12-15).
- Jacob gathered together his family and belongings to go to the land of Canaan (31:17-18). Another lesson is that Jacob was now ready to fulfil his God given calling (Gen. 28:12-15).
- Rachel stole her father's household idols (31:19). Another lesson is that Rachel was an idolater (Gen. 35:2; Judg. 10:16).
- Jacob flees from Laban (31:20-21). The final lesson is that Jacob's devious dealings produced only hostility from which he had to flee (Gen. 27:42-43), but the Bible encourages us as believers to flee sexual sin (1 Cor. 6:18; 2 Tim. 2:22).

Genesis 31:22-42

Laban Pursues Jacob

- Laban pursued Jacob for seven days' journey, but God warned Laban in a dream (31:22-29). The first lesson is that particularly in times past God gave warnings through dreams as seen when God appeared to Joseph, Mary's husband (Luke 1:26-38; Matt. 1:20-24; 2:13-15).
- Laban's household gods were stolen by Rachel (31:30-35). The second lesson is that Jacob (the deceiver) was now deceived by his beloved wife who had stolen them, but the Bible warns against deception (Pro. 10:9; 24:28).
- Jacob was angry and rebuked Laban for hotly pursuing him (31:36-41). Another lesson is that it is important to rebuke people regarding sins against us (Matt. 18:15-17; Tit. 2:15; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).
- The final lesson is that Jacob recognised God's divine intervention (31:42), which simply put is when God intervenes in the affairs of the world, as nothing happens that God does not ordain, cause, or allow (Gal.4:4; 2 Pet. 2:4-11).

Genesis 31:43-55

Laban's Covenant with Jacob

- Laban offers to make a covenant with Jacob (31:43-44). The first lesson is that a covenant is an agreement and commitment between two or more persons to fulfil a declared purpose (1 Sam. 20:14-17; Gen. 26:28-30).
- Laban and Jacob ate there on the heap (31:45-46). The second lesson is that covenants were often concluded with a shared meal, signifying the bond of friendship (Ex. 24:11; 1 Cor. 11:23-26).
- Both Laban and Jacob gave names to the heap (31:47-52). Another lesson is that the naming of the heap of witness signifies a greater witness who is God in any covenant relationship (Josh. 22:10-12, 34; Mal. 2:16).
- Both of them swore by the God of their fathers, and Jacob offered a sacrifice (31:53-55). The final lesson is Laban had a polytheistic background, whereas Jacob had met the only One true God (Gen. 28:13), who has sacrificed His Son Jesus to die for our sins (John 3:16; Rom. 3:25; 1 John 2:2).

Genesis 32:1-21

Esau Comes to Meet Jacob

- The angels of God met Jacob, and he said, "This is God's camp" (32:1-2). The first lesson is that Jacob discerned God's presence as he left the region of the hostile Laban to enter the region of the hostile Esau, and future generations would discern God's presence as they left the region of the hostile Egyptians (Ex. 13:22), and at the end of the Babylonian captivity (Ezra 8:21-23).
- Jacob sent messengers ahead before his meeting with Esau, and he also divided his household (32:3-8). The second lesson is that Jacob divided his household into two camps, as he sought to protect himself by his own devices instead of trusting the Lord (Pro. 3:5-6; 28:26; Ps. 37:3).
- Jacob feared Esau and prayed to God (32:9-12). Another lesson is that the Bible warns against fearing (Is. 41:10; Ps. 23:4; Luke 12:32), but Jacob's sincere prayer before God was commendable, as the Bible encourages us to pray (Jer. 29:12; Ps. 145:18; 1 Thess. 5:16-18; Phil. 4:6-7).
- Jacob sent a present by the hand of messengers ahead of his meeting with his brother Esau (32:13-21). The final lesson is that Jacob sent a gift prior to his meeting with Esau to appease his presumed anger, but the Bible warns against presumption (Deut. 18:20; Gen. 11:1-4; Luke 12:16-21), so we should heed David's example, and pray to be protected from presumptuous sins (Ps. 19:13).

Genesis 32:22-30

Jacob Wrestling with God

- Jacob sent his family and possessions over the brook, and was left alone (32:22-24). The first lesson is that sometimes it is good to be alone, particularly in prayer like the Lord Jesus (Luke 5:16; Matt. 26:36-46).
- A Man wrestled with Jacob until the breaking of the day (32:24), whom Jacob later realised was the Lord God (Gen. 32:30). The second lesson is that as Christians we can learn from Jacob's experience with God, and in a similar way, as Christians we can wrestle with God in prayer (Col. 1:29; 4:12).
- God wrestled with Jacob, prevailed not against him, but touched the socket of his hip (32:25). Another lesson is that Jacob could wrestle with God successfully, yet God showed Jacob that He could disable him at will, and in a similar way when we wrestle in prayer with God, He can bring the answer to our prayers at will (Matt. 7:7-8; Job 22:27; Jer. 29:12; John 14:14).
- Jacob was persistence in wrestling with God, which was rewarded with a blessing (32:26-29). Another lesson is like Jacob who was blessed by a change of name, through persistent in wrestling with God in prayer, we also can be rewarded with the blessing if we do not give up (Luke 18:1-8; Gal. 6:9).
- Jacob saw God face to face, and his life was preserved (32:30-32). The final lesson is that through the answer of our prayer we will experience or see God in a different light (Gen. 16:11-14), which will bold well in situations in life as we learn to trust Him more (Pro. 3:5-6).

Genesis 33:1-20

Jacob meets Esau, and afterwards comes to Canaan

- Jacob saw Esau coming, and divides his family because he wanted to keep his favourite wife and child away from potential harm (33:1-2). The first lesson is that the Bible teaches against personal favouritism (Jam. 2:1-9; Deut. 21:15-16; Act. 6:1; Pro. 28:21).
- Jacob bows before Esau, who ran to meet Jacob, and embraced him, and afterwards his family bowed before Esau (33:3-7). The second lesson is about respect and humility before elders (1 Pet. 5:5; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; Heb. 13:17; Rom. 13:1).
- Esau's responses were generous and loving, whilst Jacob's response was cautious and fearful (33:8-9). Another lesson is that the Bible teaches against fearing (Ps. 23:4; 56:3-4; 118:6; Is. 41:10; 2 Tim. 1:7).
- Jacob stole Esau's blessing, and in a sense, Jacob gave back the blessing he had stolen from the blessings the Lord had given him (33:10-11). Another lesson is that where possible we must make restitution (Num. 5:6-7; Ex. 22:2-3; Luke 19:8).
- Jacob informed Esau to go ahead, and that he would meet him in Seir (33:12-17). Another lesson is that Jacob still used deception instead of trusting the Lord, for he had no intention to go to Seir, but the Bible encourages us to trust in the Lord (Pro. 3:5-6; 29:25; Ps. 9:10; 37:4-5).
- Jacob comes to Canaan (33:18-19). Another lesson is that this was an answer to Jacob's prayer of 20 years earlier (Gen. 28:21), and in the process following the steps of Abraham in Shechem, where he dug a well (John 4:5-6), and eventually would inherit the promised land (Gen. 12:6; 28:21-22).
- Jacob built an altar and called it El Elohe Israel (33:20). The final lesson is that Jacob finally confesses God as his personal God, and we too must acknowledge the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, as our God (2 Cor. 1:3; 11:31; John 20:17).

Genesis 34:1-31

Jacob's Daughter Dinah Defiled

- Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite defiled Dinah, then requested to marry her (34:1-5). The first lesson is that the Bible forbids sexual relations outside of marriage (Heb. 13:4; Deut. 22:13-19; 1 Cor. 7:2; 1 Thess. 4:3-5), but Shechem's request to marry Dinah was righteous (1 Cor. 7:9; Ex. 22:16).
- The defilement of Dinah was a disgraceful thing (34:6-7). The second lesson is that sexual relations outside of marriage is a disgraceful thing, and in times past the penalty was a capital punishment of death (John 8:3-11; Lev. 20:20; Deut. 22:22).
- Hamor made a request to Jacob of marriages between his people and Jacob's family (34:8-12). Another lesson is that the Bible forbids intermarriages with non-religious people (Deut. 7:3-4; 2 Cor. 6:14).
- Jacob's sons spoke deceitfully because their sister Dinah was defiled (34:13-17). Another lesson is like father, like son, because Jacob was deceitful, his sons have learnt from him (Gen. 27:24; 33:14-17).
- Hamor and the people of Shechem agreed to the condition set by Jacob's sons (34:18-24). Another lesson is that the greed of the people of Shechem (even willing to submit to Israel's covenant rite) would eventually lead to their destruction (Eccl. 5:10; Heb. 13:5; Luke 12:15; Pro. 15:27).
- The Dinah incident of defilement was punished severely (34:25-31). The final lesson is that sexual relations outside of marriage is a serious offence to God (1 Cor. 6:18), but the behaviour of the sons of Jacob was excessive because Shechem was sincere in making amendment for his wrong (34:19).

Genesis 35:1-15

Jacob's Return to Bethel

- God said and God also appeared unto Jacob (35:1). The first lesson is that God can speak to any person willing to listen through the Bible, but God particularly appears to any person who responds to the gospel (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8; Is. 9:6).
- Jacob instructed his family members to put away foreign gods, and turn to the living God who met him, and has protected him (35:2-4). The second lesson is that Jacob called his family members to repentance by changing their minds and sinful lifestyle of idolatry to faith in the living God because repentance from a sinful lifestyle goes hand in hand with faith toward God through the gospel (Mark 1:14-15; Act. 2:37-38).
- The terror of God was upon the cities all around them (35:5-6). Another lesson is that God knows how to protect His servants and children (Is. 54:17; 1 Cor. 10:13; 2 Thess. 3:3; Deut. 31:6; Is. 41:10).
- Jacob built an altar and called it El Bethel (35:7-8). Another lesson is that we also should have a special place of worship to God, but particularly understand that God is Spirit, and therefore we are to worship God everywhere in the Spirit (John 4:23-24; 2 Cor. 3:17; Phil. 3:3).
- God had a direct relationship with Jacob, as He also had with Jacob's forefathers, and changed Jacob's name to Israel (35:9-15). The final lesson is that God confirmed His covenant promises made to Abraham (Gen. 17:1-8; 28:3), and His words echo the blessings on mankind at the beginning (Gen. 1:28), which was renewed after the great flood (Gen. 9:1, 7), and God's blessings on mankind would also be fulfilled through Jacob and his offspring, the people of Israel (Gen. 47:27; Ex. 1:7), but particularly through Christ (Gal. 3:14; Rom. 4:1-5, 9, 16).

Genesis 35:16-29

Death of 2 Close Family Members & Jacob's 12 Sons

- Rachel died in childbirth, but before her death she called the name of her son Ben-Oni, but his father called him Benjamin (35:16-18). The first lesson is that death of close family members or friends always results in sorrow (John 11:35; Luke 19:41; Matt. 23:37-39).
- Jacob set a pillar on Rachel's grave near Bethlehem, while Reuben made a premature claim to the right of firstborn (35:19-22). The second lesson is that we must be aware that when we are grieving that some people may still do us evil, but the Lord will comfort us (2 Cor. 1:3-4; Matt. 5:4; Ps. 73:26).
- A list of Jacob's 12 sons born to him (35:23-26). Another lesson is that God blessed Jacob with many sons, and in the process increased the human race and fulfilled prophecy (Gen. 1:26-28; 8:21-9:1; 12:1-3).
- Jacob's father Isaac also died and was buried in the family cave of Machpelah (Gen. 35:27-29; 49:30-31). The final lesson is that bereavement is always a sad occasion, but we can draw strength from God (Ps. 73:26; 86:16; Josh. 1:9).

Genesis 36:1-43

The Family of Esau

- The genealogy of Esau, who is Edom (36:1-14). The first lesson is that God makes records of various genealogies in the Bible (Matt. 1:1-17; Gen. 10:1-32), and also reveals the practice of polygamy at this time (Gen. 35:23-26; 1 Sam. 1:2).
- The same list of Esau's descendants is repeated as a list of tribal chieftains (36:15-19). The second lesson is that Eliphaz mentioned in this list bears the same name as one of Job's friends, Eliphaz the Temanite (Job 2:11), and Job was from Uz (Job 1:1), which reveals that Job probably lived in Edom (see also 36:28, 34).
- A list of sons of Seir, in the land of Edom (36:20-30). Another lesson is that God has allocated certain people certain lands (Ps. 24:1; Deut. 2:4-5, 9), as seen with the descendants of Esau (36:6-7), and any achievement in life is recorded as seen with Anah (Gen. 4:20-22; 36:24).
- A list of the kings of Edom (36:31-39). Another lesson in regards to the Holy Spirit predicting ahead of time and informing Moses that one day the Israelites will also have a monarchy (Gen. 36:31; Deut. 17:14; 1 Sam. 10:1-27), in a similar manner, the prophets of old, including David wrote things beyond their time by the Holy Spirit (Mark 12:35-37). Notice that when one king died, another king reigned in their place (2 Chr. 21:1; 26:1; 36:31-39).
- A list of the chiefs of Esau according to their families and places (36:40-43). The final lesson is that a whole chapter devoted to the family of Esau reveals that God does care for families, and has not forgotten His original plan mankind and families to be fruitful and increase (Gen. 1:26-29).

Genesis 37:1-11

Joseph Dreams of Greatness

- Jacob dwelt in the land of Canaan (37:1). The first lesson is that **Jacob made the promised land his homeland** and was later buried there (Gen. 49:29-30; 50:13).
- The biblical texts now introduce Joseph focusing on Jacob's love for him more than all his children (37:2-4). The second lesson is that **parents should love all their children and family members equally** otherwise it will lead to hatred (Gen. 4:4-8; 30:15; 1 Sam. 1:4-6).
- Joseph had a dream (37:5-8). Another lesson is that his brother's hated Joseph more for his dreams and we learn further that **people may hate us also for our God given dreams or calling** (Mark 12:1-12; Luke 20:9-19), particularly if they understand the dream like Joseph's brothers, who interpreted the dream as Joseph ruling over them, in like manner, the religious leaders understood the parable of Jesus directed at them (Mark 12:12).
- Joseph had another dream (37:9). Another lesson is that Joseph's second dream of the sun, moon and stars refers to **a prophecy regarding the nation of Israel** during the great tribulation (Rev. 12:1-6).
- Joseph told his father his dreams, who rebuked him but also kept the matter in mind (37:10-11). The final lesson is that we should not envy people's dreams like Joseph's brothers did, but **keep the matter in mind** and observe the details of the dream like Jacob who later recalled Joseph's dreams when events brought about their fulfilment (Gen. 42:6), and Mary's response to events during Jesus' boyhood days (Luke 2:19, 51).

Genesis 37:12-36

Joseph Sold by His Brothers

- Israel sends Joseph to report back how the brothers are faring (37:12-14). The first lesson is about **obedience and respect for parents** (Ex. 20:12), evident in Joseph who willingly went although it was a difficult task, as he went alone and could get lost or fall into the path of thieves (Luke 10:25-37).
- Joseph wandered in field, a man found him and guided him (37:15-17). The second lesson is about **divine guidance**, evident in the man (or perhaps an angel) who found Joseph, heard what the brothers said, and was used by God to guide him in the right direction (Pro. 3:5-6).
- The brothers said, let us kill this dreamer, then see what will become of his dreams (37:18-24). Another lesson is regarding **plotting evil and carrying it out** (Gen. 4:3-8), **and deliverance** from evil (Matt. 6:13), the brothers' hatred led to them making a sarcastic comment about his dreams, then to plotting to kill him before carrying out the plan by stripping Joseph of his robe and throwing him into a pit, which was used to deliver Joseph from certain death.
- The brothers listen to Judah advise to sell rather than kill him (37:25-31). Another lesson is that **effective leadership** passed to Judah (Gen. 43:3-5, 8-10; 49:8-12), Reuben's attempts were ineffective because of his incest, he lost respect from his brothers (Gen. 35:22).
- The brothers agree to deceive their father (37:32-36). The final lesson is a lesson of the **consequences of our actions** as years later the brothers had to face up to their sin because **what you sow you will eventually reap** (Matt. 27:25; Gal. 6:7-8; Jer. 17:9-10; Gen. 42:17-22).

Genesis 38:1-30

Judah and Tamar

- Judah departed from his brothers, married and had a family (38:1-5). The first lesson is that Judah displays **leadership qualities** in departing from his family, to marry and to start his own family (1 Tim. 3:1-7).
- Judah took wife for his firstborn son Er, her name was Tamar, but Er was wicked, so the LORD killed him (38:6-10). The second lesson is that this is an illustration of **the danger** that Israel (God's separated people) faced **if they married the Canaanites** (Gen. 15:16; 24:3; 28:1). Also, reveals details of a levirate marriage (Deut. 25:5-6; Ruth 2:20; 3:12; 4:1-5).
- The death of Judah's wife in process of time, and Judah's deception leads to him being deceived by Tamar who conceived (38:11-23). Another lesson is about **sowing and reaping**, as Judah sowed deception, he reaped what he had sowed (Gal. 6:7-8; Pro. 10:9).
- Tamar is accused of harlotry or sexual immorality (38:24). Another lesson is that adultery, or sexual immorality in times past was a serious offence that resulted in **judgment** of the capital punishment **of death** (Lev. 20:10; 21:19).
- Judah acknowledges his wrongdoing (38:25-26). Another lesson is that it is important to **acknowledge our wrongdoing** and confess our sins (1 John 1:9; Pro. 28:13; Ps. 32:5).
- Tamar bore twins (38:27-30). The final lesson is regarding **God's mercy**, as Pharez (one of the twin boys) became head of the leading clan in Judah and ancestor of David (Ruth 4:18-22), and ultimately of Christ (Matt. 1:1-6), so God showed mercy to Judah, who would later excel to be chosen as the head of the 12 tribes of Israel (Gen. 49:10).

Genesis 39:1-23

Joseph a Slave in Egypt

- Joseph as a slave in Egypt was a successful man because the LORD was with him (39:1-6). The first lesson is whether in material poverty, as was the case with Joseph as a slave (39:2), true **success and prosperity in life is having God with us** (Act. 7:9; Matt. 1:22-23; Phil. 4:11-13).
- Joseph refused Potiphar's wife advances to lie with her (39:7-9). The second lesson is that we [like Joseph or king David] should see any **sin as primarily a sin against God** (Ps. 51:4; 2 Sam. 12:13).
- Potiphar's wife continued to speak to him daily but he refused to heed (39:10). Another lesson is regarding Joseph's example of **refusing to bow to pressure** unlike Sansom who succumbed under similar pressure (Judg. 14:17; 16:16-17; Pro. 1:10-18).
- Joseph left his garment in Potiphar's wife hand (39:11-12). Another lesson is to **flee from sexual immorality** (1 Cor. 6:18; Heb. 13:4; Rom. 1:24).
- Potiphar's wife lies against Joseph (39:13-19). Another lesson is that although people may tell lies against us, we can hold onto the word of God for strength and encouragement (Is. 54:17; 1 Sam. 30:6) in the knowledge that **all things work together for good** (Rom. 8:28).
- Joseph was put into prison, but God showed him mercy and favour with the keeper of the prison (39:20-23). The final lesson is that **whatever situation we may be in life** [whether in prison or living in prosperity] if the LORD is with us, God can use whatever situation we may be in life as **preparation for future prosperity** (Deut. 28:8; 30:9; Ps. 1:1-3; 2 Cor. 8:1-5; 9:8).

Genesis 40:1-23

Joseph Interprets Dreams

- The chief butler and chief baker put in prison, the place where Joseph was confined (40:1-4). The first lesson is that this was no coincidence, but **a divine meeting** as the chief butler would be the divinely appointed agent for introducing Joseph to Pharaoh as his cupbearer, a very important role (Neh. 1:11).
- Both had dreams with its own interpretation (40:5-8). The second lesson is that dreams had specific meanings and that the proper interpretation of them could help to **predict the future** (Dan. 2:36-45; 4:18-28).
- Joseph interprets both dreams (40:9-19). Another lesson is that **interpretations of dreams belong to God who reveals and gives the gift of interpretation** to His servants like Joseph and Daniel (40:8; Dan. 2:20-23, 36).
- Pharaoh's birthday celebration (40:20-22). Another lesson is that centuries later, the **birthday** of Herod the tetrarch would become the occasion for another beheading (Matt. 14:6-10).
- The chief butler did not remember Joseph (40:23). The final lesson is that **there is a time for every purpose** to be manifested and although people may forget our good deeds God does not forget (Eccl 3:1-8; 9:15-16; John 2:4; Heb. 6:10), as seen with Joseph who by interpreting dreams was promoted at the right time (Gen. 41:1).

Genesis 41:1-36

Pharaoh's Dreams

- Pharaoh had two dreams in the night (41:1-7). The first lesson is that Bible reveals that **God at times may speak through dreams** (Job 33:14-18; 1 King. 3:5; Matt. 1:20-23).
- Pharaoh was troubled by the dreams, and called the wise men for the interpretation (41:8). The second lesson is that **some dreams have meaning which can be interpreted** (Gen. 37:6-8; 43:26).
- The chief butler spoke to Pharaoh (41:9-13). Another lesson is that the chief butler was **the divinely appointed agent** for introducing Joseph to Pharaoh recalling the meaning of his dream which Joseph interpreted (Gen. 40:5).
- Joseph said to Pharaoh, God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace (41:14-28). Another lesson is that Joseph recognised that **only God can interpret dreams** (Gen. 40:8; Dan. 2:11, 20-22, 27-28).
- God showed Pharaoh what He is about to do through the dreams (41:29-32). Another lesson is that God permitted Joseph to interpret the dreams in regards to **a great global famine** He was about to execute as revealed by the repetition (Gen. 41:25-28).
- Joseph advises Pharaoh regarding what to do to avert the famine (41:33-36). The final lesson is that Joseph gives **the solution to the dreams** regarding what to do (Matt. 2:12-13, 19-21).

Genesis 41:37-57

Joseph's Rise to Power

- Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God? (41:37-38). The first lesson is that **a leader should be filled and led by the Spirit of God** because a person who rules over people must be just (2 Sam. 23:1-2; Luke 4:18; Pro. 21:1).
- Pharaoh set Joseph as governor over all the land of Egypt and his house (41:39-45). The second lesson is that **promotion comes from the Lord**, it was the Lord who used Pharaoh for Joseph's rise to power as Prime Minister (Ps. 75:6-7; Act. 7:10; Ps. 105:21).
- In the 7 years of plenty the ground brought forth abundantly (41:46-49). Another lesson is that **in the years of prosperity be wise**, lay aside and save and store up for when it will be needed (Pro. 6:6-8; 1 Cor. 16:2).
- And to Joseph two sons were born before the years of famine (41:50-52). Another lesson is that God enabled Joseph **to forget the pain of his past** (the name of his first son), and **to be fruitful**, which was the name of his second son (Gen. 9:1; 17:6; 28:3-4).
- Then the 7 years of plenty ended (41:53-57). The final lesson of Joseph's rise to power is **the fulfilment of prophecy**, as Joseph's prediction of a severe famine came to pass, and also **with God's blessings there can be abundance in the days of famine** (Gen. 26:1-3; 41:29-30; Ps. 37:19).

Genesis 42:1-24

Joseph's Brothers Go to Egypt

- Jacob sent 10 of his sons to Egypt, only Benjamin remained for he said, “Lest some calamity befall him” (42:1-4). The first lesson is that **Jacob was very protective over Benjamin** because he was afraid harm might come to him, as Benjamin was the last of Rachel’s children (Gen. 35:16-18; 42:38).
- The brothers bow down themselves before Joseph (42:5-10). The second lesson is that Joseph’s brothers bow down in **fulfilment of Joseph’s dreams**, and therefore his brothers unwittingly fulfilled Joseph’s dreams (Gen. 37:7-9).
- The brothers were suspected to be spies (42:11-16). Another lesson is that Joseph tested his brothers to know whether they had changed, as **God tests us** by allowing us to get into situations where we might make a choice between right and wrong (Jam. 1:13).
- The brothers were confined to prison for a little while (42:17-20). Another lesson is that in prison **the brothers experienced the suffering that Joseph endured in prison** for a little while (Gen. 40:4).
- The brothers saw the anguish of Joseph’s soul as he pleaded, but they did not listen (42:21-24). The final lesson regarding Joseph’s brothers go to Egypt is that the brothers realized they were beginning to **reap what they had sown** (Gal. 6:7).

Genesis 42:25-38

Brothers Return to Canaan

- Joseph gave a command to fill their sacks with grain (42:25-28). The first lesson is a reminder that **God is our ultimate provider**, and God often works through people to provide for us (Phil. 4:19; Matt. 6:31-33; Luke 6:38; 2 Cor. 9:8).
- The brothers returned to Canaan, and reported all that happened to them including being accused as spies (42:29-34). The second lesson is that **God used Joseph to test the brothers** whether they had changed from haters to honest men (Gen. 37:8; 42:34; Jam. 1:2-4; Matt. 18:15-20).
- When they and their father saw the bundles of money, they were afraid (42:35-36). The third lesson is an encouragement that when it seems all things are against us, **do not fear but trust in God** (Mark 5:36; Is. 41:10).
- Reuben generously offers his two sons as security for Benjamin's safety (42:37-38). The final lesson regarding the brothers return to Canaan is that if calamity befell Benjamin, it would have led to Jacob giving up hope of life, but **thank God for the reminder that all things work together for our good in the end** for every person called by God (Rom. 8:28; Pro. 3:5-6).

Genesis 43:1-34

Joseph's Brothers Return with Benjamin

- Judah spoke on behalf of the brothers to his father Israel (43:1-10). The first lesson is that **Judah from this point onward takes on the leadership role** even offering himself as security in an even more generous gesture than Reuben (Gen. 42:37; 44:14; 46:28), and the tribe of Judah would become the leading tribe, and he also would be ancestor of Jesus Christ (Gen. 49:8-10; Matt. 1:2, 17; Luke 3:23, 33).
- Israel agrees to allow Benjamin to go, even if he is bereaved and advises to carry a present (43:11-14). Another lesson is regarding **a present is a customary practice when approaching a superior person** (1 Sam. 16:20; 17:18), also Israel was willing to accept bereavement similar to Esther (4:16).
- Joseph instructed his steward to take his brothers to his house to dine with him at noon (43:15-17). Another lesson is that similar to Joseph's invitation to dine with him, **the Lord invites whomever will hear the call to repentance to also dine with Him** (Rev. 3:20).
- The brothers said, "It is because of the money" (43:18-23). Another lesson is that because of their sinful past regarding selling Joseph and lying to their father, the brothers feared the worse similar to Job, and the thing Job feared came upon him (Job 3:25), but the steward comforted them (43:23) like **the Lord who teaches us to fear not** (Is. 41:10; John 14:27).
- The steward brought the brothers into Joseph's house, and the brothers made ready the present (43:24-25). The brothers followed their father's advice and the steward followed Joseph's instruction; therefore, another lesson is **the importance of following advice and instructions** (Pro. 10:17; 16:20; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).
- The brothers bowed before Joseph (43:26-28). Another lesson is **the further fulfilment of Joseph's dreams** (Gen. 37:7-9; 42:6; 43:28).
- Joseph's heart yearned for his brother Benjamin, so Joseph sought somewhere to weep (43:29-34). The final lesson regarding Joseph's brothers return with Benjamin is that **it was very emotional time for Joseph** who had to restrain himself more than once, but through his experience we learn that it is ok to weep sometimes (John 11:35; Eccl. 3:4).

Genesis 44:1-17

Joseph's Cup

- Joseph instructed his steward to say, "Why have you repaid evil for good?" (44:1-5). The first lesson is **a warning not to repay good with evil**, as the Bible clearly warns against this (Ps. 109:5; Pro. 17:13; Jer. 18:20).
- Joseph's steward spoke to the brothers the same words Joseph instructed, and the brothers denied the allegation (44:6-8). Joseph gave these instructions to test the brothers, therefore, another lesson is regarding **the importance of following instructions of a person in authority** (Matt. 8:9; Luke 7:8; Pro. 10:17).
- The brothers said whomever has Joseph's cup let him die (44:9-10). Another lesson is **a reminder not to speak rash words** because death and life are in the power of the tongue (Gen. 31:32; Pro. 18:21).
- The brothers let down their sacks, and Joseph's cup was found in Benjamin's sack which led to the brothers renting their clothes (44:11-13). Another lesson is that renting their clothes is **a sign of great distress** (Gen. 37:29, 34; Num. 14:6; Jos. 7:6).
- The brothers fell down before Joseph (44:14). Another lesson is **the further fulfilment of Joseph's dreams** (Gen. 37:7-9; 42:6; 43:28; 44:14).
- Judah said, "God has found out the iniquity of your servants" (44:15-17). The final lesson is that **God sees everything**, and God knows all things, and even sees what we do in secret (Pro. 15:3; Heb. 4:13; Job 28:24; Jer. 23:24).

Genesis 44:18-34

Judah Intercedes for Benjamin

- Judah was the spokesman (44:18-23). The first lesson is that Judah showed great leadership qualities and courage as the spokesman, but he also unfortunately **used a little flattery which was not necessary** (Matt. 20:26; Phil. 2:3; Job 32:21-22).
- Judah said that his father Jacob's life is bound up in the lad's (Benjamin) life (44:24-31). The second lesson is that the soul can be attached to people or even things in the world (1 Sam. 18:1; Mark 8:36-38), but **our soul must be bound up in the Lord** if we are to attain eternal life (John 15:4-9; 17:3).
- Judah was willing to be surety for Benjamin (44:32-33). Another lesson is that **Judah offered himself as security** in an even more generous gesture than Reuben (Gen. 42:37; 44:14; 46:28), although the Proverb likens being security for someone-else as a dangerous promise (Pro. 6:1-3).
- Judah intercedes for Benjamin by offering to be a slave instead of Benjamin lest he should see the evil that would befall his father Jacob (44:33-34). The final lesson is that **we should always learn from life's experiences** like Judah who was willing to be a substitute for his brother Benjamin to make amends for his role in selling Joseph, and he learnt from the experience of the great pain and sorrow that befell his father when Joseph was sold (Gen. 37:26-27; 34-35).

Genesis 45:1-28

Joseph Revealed to His Brothers

- Joseph said, “I am Joseph, does my father live?” His brothers were troubled (45:1-3). The first lesson is that his brothers were troubled in Joseph’s presence particularly because **they were afraid of what Joseph would do to them** (Gen. 50:15-19).
- Joseph said, “I am Joseph your brother,” and “God did send me.” (45:4-7). The second lesson is that Joseph emphasized his relationship to them, and also revealed that **God had a purpose to work through the brother’s evil deed** (Act. 2:23; 4:28).
- Joseph informed his brothers without an interpreter to tell their father Jacob of his glory in Egypt (45:8-13). Another lesson is that Joseph’s rise to power was of the LORD, as **prosperity and promotion comes from the LORD** (Jam. 4:10; Ps. 75:6-7; Dan. 2:48; 3:30; 3:1; Pro. 8:18).
- Joseph and his brothers wept (45:14-17). Another lesson is that when Joseph revealed himself to his brothers, **it was a very emotional occasion** (Gen. 43:30; 46:29).
- Joseph informed his brothers that they will eat the fat of the land (45:18-23). Another lesson is that Joseph promised to **provide for his relatives** (1 Tim. 5:8; Ex. 20:12; Pro. 11:29).
- Joseph sent them away with a command not to fall out along the way, and also a message for their father Jacob (45:24-28). The final lesson regarding Joseph revealed to his brothers is that this event was a happy ending, as the brothers avoided any accusation about the past, and their **father’s sorrow was turned to joy before he died** (Is. 61:3; Rev. 21:4; Gen. 37:34-35; 45:28).

Genesis 46:1-34

Jacob's Journey to Egypt

- Israel took his journey with all that he had, and offered sacrifices to God (46:1). The first lesson is that **Jacob worshiped God** and offered sacrifices in Beersheba like his forefathers Abraham and Isaac (Gen. 21:33; 26:23-25).
- Then God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night (46:2). The second lesson is that **God is able to communicate with us through visions and dreams** (Gen. 15:1; Job 33:15; Act. 16:9).
- God said, I AM God, the God of your father, do not fear to go to Egypt (46:3-4). Another lesson is that God eased Jacob's fear of going to Egypt by **reaffirming His covenant promises that He would be with Jacob** (Gen. 12:1-3; 15:15-16; 28:15; 31:3).
- Jacob journeyed to Egypt with all the children of Israel, seventy persons in all (46:5-27). Another lesson is that seventy represents **a complete number that God used to multiply Israel further as He promised** (Deut. 10:22; Gen. 15:5-6; 17:1-4).
- Jacob and his family were shepherds by occupation, so they carried their livestock and settled in Goshen (46:28-34). The final lesson regarding Jacob's journey to Egypt is the importance of the people of **Israel to live separate from the Egyptians** (Deut. 18:9-12; 2 Cor. 6:17; John 17:15; 1 Cor. 5:11-13; 6:9-11; Ezra 9:1-2).

Genesis 47:1-31

Joseph Deals with the Famine

- Joseph informed Pharaoh that his brethren have come from the Land of Canaan to settle in Goshen because of the severity of the famine (47:1-12). The first lesson is that **Joseph sets a good example of providing for his family** particularly through difficult times, which the Bible instructs all believers to do (1 Tim. 5:8; Pro. 3:27; Gen. 2:15).
- The famine was very severe (47:13-15). The second lesson is that after the people used up all their money to buy corn, **Joseph was a wise steward of the money**, and just like Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house, we are instructed to be wise stewards who bring the tithes and offerings into God's house (Mal. 3:10; Deut. 16:17; Ps. 4:5; 2 Cor. 9:7).
- The people traded their cattle for food, then their land, then themselves (47:16-21). Another lesson is that **Joseph traded wisely**, which the Bible advises us to do likewise (Matt. 25:14-17; Luke 19:13; Pro. 6:6-8).
- Joseph gained the whole land for Pharaoh, only the land of the priests, he did not buy (47:22-26). Another lesson is that **Joseph introduced exemptions for priests**, throughout Israel's history the priests have received benefits and exemptions (Ezra 7:24; Num. 18:20-32).
- Israel dwelt in the land of Egypt, and multiplied exceedingly, and Joseph vowed to Jacob (47:27-31). The final lesson regarding Joseph deals with the famine is that **both Jacob and Joseph were aware of the covenant with God** particularly regarding the promise land of Canaan, but also the multiplication of the people of God (Gen. 12:1-3; 15:1-6).

Genesis 48:1-22

Jacob Blesses Joseph's Sons

- The LORD God Almighty appeared to Jacob and promised to bless him (48:1-4). The first lesson is that **the LORD God is a covenant keeping God**, for God promised to bless and increase Abraham and his descendants (Gen. 12:1-3; 15:1-5; 17:19-21).
- Jacob said to Joseph that his two sons are mine (48:5-9). The second lesson is that **Jacob adopted Joseph's first two sons**, and they eventually superseded Jacob's first two sons because of an earlier sinful act (Gen. 34:25-30; 35:22).
- Jacob said, "Please bring them to me, and I will bless them" (48:10-16). Another lesson is the importance of receiving our father's blessing in life, just like Isaac blessed Jacob (Gen. 27:27-29), and also the significance of **the laying on of hands to transfer blessings** (Mark 10:16; Act. 6:6; 8:17; 1 Tim. 4:14).
- Jacob said regarding Joseph's two sons, "His younger brother shall be greater than he," and so he set Ephraim before Manasseh (48:17-20). Another lesson is that it is **God who divinely decides our calling**, and He often chooses to by pass the firstborn, and make the younger brother the leader (Ex. 7:7; Gen. 37:5-11; 1 Sam. 16:1-13; Judg. 6:11-16; 1 Chr. 22:6-10).
- Jacob gave Joseph one portion above his brothers (48:21-22). The final lesson regarding Jacob blesses Joseph's sons is that because of Reuben's serious sin, he forfeited the birthright, which went to Joseph because of his good character, and therefore **Joseph was entitled to a double portion of the inheritance** (Job 42:10; Is. 61:7; 2 King. 2:9; Deut. 21:17).

Genesis 49:1-33

Jacob's Last Words to His Sons

- Jacob called his sons to foretell what shall befall them in the last days (49:1-4). The first lesson is that Jacob's last words to his sons was also intended for the tribes that descended from them. Reuben, his firstborn, instead of a blessing, he and the tribe of Reuben received a curse, **Jacob's last words to Reuben was he would not excel** because of Reuben's serious sin, both he and his tribe became ineffective for leadership (Gen. 35:22;37:21; Judg. 5:15-16; Ex. 20:12).
- Simeon and Levi were rebuked for their anger and cruelty (49:5-7). The second lesson is that both Simeon and Levi were also overlooked for the leadership, **Jacob's last words to them was to curse their anger and divide them** fulfilled when the tribe of Levi were scattered throughout Israel (Num. 35:2,7; Josh. 14:4).
- Judah's name means praise (49:8-11). Another lesson is that Jacob's blessings upon Judah was perhaps the longest, as **Jacob's last words to Judah was to praise him and give Judah and his tribe the leadership** (Deut. 33:7; 1 Chr. 5:2).
- Zebulun, Issachar, Dan, Gad, Asher, and Naphtali, all received a blessing (49:13-21). Another lesson is that **some of Jacob's sons received blessings in connection with the meaning of their names**, as was the case with Zebulun (means dwell); Issachar (means wages); Dan (means judge); Gad (means a troop comes); Asher (means blessed); and Naphtali (means struggle).
- Joseph's blessings along with Judah's blessings, was the longest (49:22-26). Another lesson is that **Jacob's last words to Joseph was that he would be fruitful**, which is a pun on the name Ephraim who Jacob predicted would be greater than Joseph's firstborn son Manasseh (Gen. 48:19-20; Josh. 17:14-18).
- Jacob's youngest son Benjamin received a blessing in connection with the character of the tribe of Benjamin (49:27-33; Judg. 20:21, 25). The final lesson regarding **Jacob's last words to his sons is that he blessed each one according to his own blessing** before Jacob's death, as a father ought to bless his children (Gen. 49:26-27; Heb. 11:20-21).

Genesis 50:1-26

Events after Jacob's Death and Burial

- The Physicians embalmed Jacob (50:1-4). The first lesson is that **Jacob received an honourable burial** after his death like the Lord Jesus (Is. 53:9; Matt. 27:57-61).
- Forty days were required for Jacob (50:3-5). The second lesson is that **Jacob was greatly loved, and there was a great mourning** after his death and burial (Deut. 34:8; 2 King. 13:14).
- Jacob made Joseph swear that he would bury him in Canaan (50:6-13). Another lesson is that **Jacob's final request regarding his burial place was granted**, and there was a great gathering who mourned for him, which the Canaanites also recognised as a deep mourning like Stephen when he was martyred and also king Josiah (Act. 8:2; 2 Chr. 35:24-25).
- Joseph and his brothers returned to Egypt after they buried Jacob, and his brothers thought that Joseph would repay them for all the evil done to him (50:14-21). Another lesson is that **Joseph reassured his brothers, and repaid the evil with good**, as the children of God we are instructed to do good to those who hate us (Matt. 5:44; Luke 6:27-36), and leave redress to the LORD who will repay (Deut. 32:35; Po. 20:22; Rom. 12:9).
- Joseph dwelt in Egypt, and lived up to 110 years, and died (50:22-26). The final event after Jacob's death and burial was the death of Joseph many years later, and **Joseph also had an honourable burial** (Is. 53:9; Matt. 27:57-61).