

Answers

Introduction

1. **Moses:** The Torah. Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.
Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, the 12 minor prophets (Daniel to Malachi), the former prophets (Judges, Samuel, Kings).
Psalms: Psalms, Job, Ecclesiastes, Proverbs Song of Solomon, Ruth.
Scriptures: The whole of the OT, from Genesis to Malachi.
2. That he would suffer and die and be raised again on the third day.
3. Jesus would fulfil every single promise made in the OT.
4. He came as a man to fulfil many strands of OT prophecy.
For example: The Seed of the woman, Seed of Abraham, Messiah, Suffering Servant, Anointed Conqueror, Son of Man etc.
5. Read them with new eyes.

Study 1 The God of Creation Genesis 1:1-5, 2:1-4a

Study Questions

1. The reason is simple. In Hebrew, **verbs** indicate tense, person, gender, and number. All the **verbs** used in conjunction with Elohim, such as **created, said, saw** and **called** are in the **3rd person, masculine, and singular**, i.e. one God. In English the **pronoun** used to describe this Elohim would be **he**.
2. All the Hebrew **verbs** connected to Elohim in this instance are now **3rd person, common** (i.e. masculine and feminine) and **plural**! In other words, many gods. In this context **the elohim** would be referred to with the pronoun **they**.
3. The Hebrew verbs for **do good** and **do evil** is now in the 2nd person, masculine and plural. The Elohim would be referred to as **you** plural.
4. The verb 'presides' (**v.1**) for **God** is **masculine** and **singular**. The verb for 'die', referring to these people (**v. 7**), is **2nd person masculine** and **plural**.

Reflection & Application

1. It depends on the verb describing the action of Elohim.
If the verb is third person, masculine and singular, then Elohim is translated as God. If the verb is third person, common plural, then Elohim is translated as gods.
2. As the **noun** is **plural**, it indicates that God is **more than one person**, but the **verb** that describes the action of Elohim is **singular** it indicates that there is only **one God**. Also In Matthew 28:19b.

Study 2 The Creation of Mankind Genesis 1:24-31

Study Questions

1. 3rd person, masculine, singular.
2. We eat and breathe and move and procreate in similar ways.
3. We are in the image and likeness of God.
An image is a copy of the original.
A likeness is similar in personality, attributes, relationship and ability to reason.
4. Only two. So that we can become co-creators with God. At the moment of conception, a new eternal being comes into existence!
5. God would come to earth as a human, as the Son of Man (Matthew 26:64).
6. Jesus (2 Corinthians 4:4, 6).
7. Jesus.

7. Flesh and blood (Hebrews 2:14). He bought the church with his own blood (Acts 20:28).

Reflection & Application

1. The context will tell us. If the verb that accompanies **Elohim** is:
2nd person masculine and plural, i.e. 'let us make' (1:26), then it is to be translated and understood as gods.
3rd person masculine and singular, then it is translated as God, i.e. 'so God created' (1:27).
2. YAHWEH.
3. Because God himself would come to earth as a man.

Study 3 The Creation of the Woman Genesis 2:4b-25

Study Questions

1. The LORD, or YAHWEH. This is God's Name!
2. A garden. To take care of it.
3. The man.
4. Death. Physical and spiritual death.
5. The man was all alone. There was no other human to relate to. He was not an animal.
6. Authority over the animals, superiority to the animals, responsible for the animals.
7. From the side of the man.
8. The same as the man. Together male and female were called **man**.
9. They fit together and complete each other.

Reflection & Application

1. In his side. His bride **the church** was born from his side in his death.
2. The church is the bride of Christ, just as Eve was the bride of Adam.
It is a relationship ordained by God. The marriage relationship is a copy of the relationship between Christ and the church.
3. No.

Study 4 The Seed of the Woman Genesis 3:1-22

Study Questions

1. You will surely not die.
2. The promise, "You will be like God." She desired what belonged to God alone.
3. Innocence was gone. The relationship with God was broken.
4. The order of creation was reversed.
Instead of: God-man-woman-animal.
It became: animal-woman-man- God.
5. A broken relationship with God. A loss of innocence.
Sin and death. Death is both physical and spiritual. A broken world.
6. The **seed of the woman**, an offspring not of both the man and the woman.
This **seed** will only have a human mother, with no action of a human father involved. One day such an offspring, such a seed would indeed be born without the action of a human father. This promise was fulfilled in Jesus Christ.
7. The genealogy in Luke 3:23-38 leads from Adam down to Mary, i.e. it is Mary's genealogy. Some would claim that this is Joseph's genealogy. However when we compare Luke's with Matthew's genealogy we note the following:

Matthew's genealogy leads from **David's son Solomon** to Rehoboam (Matthew 1:6-7) down to **Joseph the husband of Mary**, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ (Matthew 1:16).

Luke's genealogy leads from **David's son Nathan** to Mattatha (Luke 3:31) all the way down to Eli the grandfather of Jesus. We are told that Jesus was the son, **so it was thought**, of Joseph (Luke 3:23). Luke makes it clear that Jesus was thought to be the son of Joseph, the point being that he was not! Therefore he was the son of Mary.

8. The words in the NIV '**the son of**' only appears once when it is speaking of Joseph. For the rest of the genealogy the phrase **the son of** does not actually appear in the Greek. Instead of 'the son of' there is only the word **of**.
Literally translated: **Luke 3:23** ...being, it was thought, **son of** Joseph, **of** Eli, Luke 3:24 of Matthat, of Levi, of Melchi... all the way to Luke 3:38 **of** Seth, **of** Adam, **of** God. This genealogy has to go all the way to Adam as Jesus' great and final ancestor had to be Eve, and Eve herself of course came from Adam.
9. Only one. The human race.
10. No, none at all.

Reflection & Application

1. Jesus was born of a human mother, without the action of a human father.
2. To fulfil the promise of kingship (Genesis 49:10; Isaiah 11:1-10; Ezekiel 34:23-24; Jeremiah 23:5-6 etc.) as well as the promise of the seed of the woman (Genesis 3:15).
3. Look up the genealogies of both David and Mary.

Study 5 A Man from the LORD Genesis 4:1-16, 4:25-5:1

Study Questions

1. Genesis 1:1-2:3 God
Genesis 2:4 -3:23 The LORD God
Genesis 4:1-26 The LORD
To get to know him more and more personally as his revelation of himself unfolds.
2. Yes, but she probably thought that this baby was the fulfilment of the promised 'seed of the woman', who would crush the serpent's head, as she and Adam did not know at this stage where babies came from.
3. Abel honoured God by sacrifices of the **firstborn** of his flock, therefore delaying the increase of his herd. In other words, he gave his very best to the LORD. Cain did not honour the LORD as he gave **some** of his produce.
The wicked son, which was like 'the seed of the serpent', namely Cain, crushed the righteous son, which was like 'the seed of the woman', namely Abel's head.
4. The ultimate power behind this killing was the serpent, as he was there when the promise was spoken to Eve. He wanted to prevent this promise from being fulfilled.
5. 'Good' people do not always prosper.
6. The godly line must continue for **the seed of the woman** to be born.

Reflection & Application

1. No, not at all.
2. Aliens and strangers on earth. This world is not their home.

3. There must be a resurrection, else this life is all there is and if we do not prosper the promises of God are simply not true. However, there is a heavenly city, which is our true home.
4. He trusted the promises of God.
The promise of **the seed of the woman**, as he had heard from his parents. Abel looked to Christ!
5. The wicked may prosper for a while and flourish, but ultimately they will be destroyed.

Study 6 Noah found Favour... Genesis 6:1-9a

Study Questions

1. Yes there is. Satan attempted to corrupt or intercept 'the seed of the woman'. If he could intercept the birth of the promised one, he would succeed in destroying God's plan.
2. As an abomination. The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time (6:5).
Probably to make contact with demons and to attempt to have sexual relations with them as happened in the days before the flood. God views contact with the spirit world as utterly detestable and an abomination.
3. The LORD was grieved that he had made man.
He determined to wipe out mankind.
4. Noah found favour with the LORD. He did not do anything to merit God's favour. Favour or grace alone. The LORD saw the great wickedness of the people on earth, especially the events earlier in Genesis 6 where the sons of God went in to the daughters of men and had children by them. Despite all of man's wickedness and despite the LORD plan to wipe out all of mankind, Noah found favour with the LORD. This has been the basis of salvation from the beginning, the fact that human beings find favour with the LORD and that the LORD lavishes his grace upon sinful human beings.
5. No, he could not have written about his own death.
6. From Genesis 5:1b to 6:9a.
Genesis 5:1 This is the written account of Adam's line.
 When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God.
Genesis 6:9a This is the account of Noah.

Reflection & Application

1. 'Rest' or 'Comfort.'
2. After grace, Noah walked with God. 6:9b
Unmerited favour of grace is the only basis of salvation.
3. In Christ.

Study 7 The Judgement of the Flood Genesis 6:1-9a

Study Questions

1. His sons.
Genesis 10:1 This is the account of Shem, Ham and Japheth, Noah's sons ...
From Genesis 6:9b to 10:1 is the account of Noah's sons.
2. He was going to wipe out all of mankind, as well as the earth.
"I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth."

3. A world-wide flood. **Genesis 6:17** I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish.
4. They are wrong, as the NT confirms the universality of the flood, in the words of Peter and Jesus.
5. The creation mandate to fill the earth and to take care of it.
6. They could now eat meat instead of plants only.
7. In a very serious light. He demands the life of the murderer.

Reflection & Application

1. It will be an unexpected judgement on the wickedness of mankind, just like the flood.
2. It will be just as in the days of Noah. Judgement will be universal, as we are all sinners. Only the favour and grace of the LORD will save anyone. This favour is found only in Christ.
3. Faith will lead to a walk in righteousness and ultimate salvation.
Unbelief will lead to a walk in rebellion and ultimate condemnation.
Faith will condemn unbelief.

Study 8 The Tower of Babel Genesis 10:32-11:10

Study Questions

1. They wanted to reach God and be like God. This is reminiscent of the sin of Adam and Eve (3:5). They also refused to fill the earth.
2. He confused their language and dispersed them over the earth.
3. No. No rebellion against the LORD will remain unchallenged.
4. It is the city of rebellion. It becomes symbolic of all rebellion and false religion. Human beings are called to escape from Babylon.
5. Zion, the city of God, Jerusalem.

Reflection & Application

1. Only two. Babylon or Zion.
2. A sign for unbelievers. A sign of judgement.
3. God enabled the Galilean believers to declare the wonders of God in the languages of the world to 'the Jews from every nation under heaven' who gathered at Pentecost, i.e. they declared the gospel to the nations. Each could hear the message of the good news of God in their own language.

Study 9 The Promise Genesis 12:1-7

Study Questions

1. God called Abram.
2. 2a great nation.
2b great name.
3a blessing.
3b blessing for all families on earth through Abram.
7 a land.
3. A seed or offspring.
4. He took all he had. He obeyed and went.
5. A son. Sarai his wife was barren.
6. It is singular, masculine, i.e. it was a specific male individual.
7. If he comes in visible human form.

Reflection & Application

1. Jesus is the fulfilment of the promise of a specific seed through whom all the nations would be blessed.
2. By faith in Jesus Christ, the seed of Abraham.

Study 10

Melchizedek

Genesis 14:8-20

Study Questions

1. They routed the kings of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim and Bela. They also took Lot captive.
2. He went to war to rescue Lot.
3. Melchizedek. King of righteousness. Salem, the city of peace.
4. He brought out bread and wine and they had a meal. It sounds like Holy Communion.
5. He was a priest of God Most High.
6. He is the God of heaven, the Creator of heaven and earth, the same as YAHWEH.
7. He blessed Abraham in the Name of God Most High. He was the greater man.
8. Melchizedek blessed Abram in the name of God Most High. Abraham gave him a tithe.

Reflection & Application

1. A priest in the order of Melchizedek.
2. He is a King who is a Priest and a Priest who is a King. Christ would come and unify the kingship and the priesthood. By the sacrifice of himself, he would earn the right over the nations as king.
3. His name means, 'king of righteousness', just as Jesus will be called, 'the LORD our Righteousness', according to Jeremiah.

Study 11

The Word of the LORD

Genesis 15:1-6

Study Questions

1. Something that you can see.
2. The Word of the LORD.
3. The pronoun 'I'. 'Sovereign LORD' or Adonai YAHWEH (אֲדֹנָי יְהוָה)
4. He took Abram outside. In the tent.
5. A son. Offspring as countless as the stars.
6. Abram believed the LORD and it was counted to him as righteousness.
7. Trust in the spoken promises of God.

Reflection & Application

1. He saw the pre-incarnate Christ.
2. He saw the pre-incarnate Christ in the Word of the LORD.
He also saw Christ in the distant future, as the fulfilment of the promise of a blessed seed through whom all nations would be blessed.
3. Trusting in the promises of God as fulfilled in Christ.
Essentially the same. The OT saints look forward to the coming of Christ.
We look backward to Christ who has already come.
4. A faith that results in a changed lifestyle and action.
5. The promises of God as fulfilled in Christ. By trusting in the promises.
E.g. Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies."

And whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

John 11:25-26

6. Jeremiah saw the Word of the LORD.

Jeremiah 1:4 The **word of the LORD** came to me, saying, ⁵ "Before **I formed you** in the womb **I knew you**, before you were born **I set you apart; I appointed you** as a prophet to the nations." ⁶ "Ah, **Sovereign LORD**," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am only a child." ⁷ But **the LORD** said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a child.' You must go to everyone **I send you** to and say whatever **I command you**." ⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for **I am with you** and will rescue you," declares **the LORD**. ⁹ Then **the LORD** reached out **his hand** and **touched my mouth** and **said** to me, "Now, **I have put my words** in your mouth."

Study 12

The Covenant

Genesis 15:6-18a

Study Questions

1. The promises were:
 - A great nation and name.
 - Blessing for those who bless, and curses for those who curse Abram.
 - Blessing to all nations of earth through Abram.
 - Land.
2. The promise of:
 - 15:4 A son, one through whom the nations would be blessed.
 - 15: 5 A great nation
 - 15:7; 18-21 Land
3. A covenant ceremony. The ceremony was the ratification of the covenant.
4. The covenant had blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience, for breaking the covenant conditions.
5. Only the LORD, in the form of a theophany, a smoking brazier with a flaming torch, moved in between the pieces, thereby guaranteeing the fulfilment of the covenant promises.
Even if Abram should fail, the LORD took the blessings and curses of the covenant upon himself.
The LORD alone guaranteed on oath the successful outcome of the covenant by his own perfect character. These covenant promises would one day be fulfilled in Christ who would take the curses of our failure upon himself.
6. Marriage.

Reflection & Application

1. No matter how many promises God has made, they are all 'Yes' in Christ.
2. All those who believe in Christ. All people of faith in Jesus Christ. From this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore (Hebrews 11:12).
3. There is no distinction in Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. All who believe and Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.
4. The believer has been blessed in the spiritual realm with all blessings in Christ
5. The New Jerusalem, Zion, the city of God. An eternal city that is above

Study 13**The Angel of the LORD****Genesis 16:1-16****Study Questions**

1. A child. She had a child and Sarai did not. Hagar came to despise Sarai. Sarai became jealous of Hagar.
2. The Angel of the LORD.
3. To return to Sarai.
4. Many descendants.
5. The LORD.
6. The LORD or **YAHWEH** himself. The 'God who sees.'

Reflection & Application

1. 13a The LORD or **YAHWEH**.
13b You are the **God** who sees me.
13c I have now seen **the One who sees me**.
2. It literally means, "You are the God who sees me (Genesis 16:13)."
3. In **Exodus 3**, the angel of the LORD appeared to Moses in flames of fire, from within a bush (Exodus 3:2). He is identified as 'the LORD' and 'God' (Exodus 3:4-5). The angel of the LORD also identifies himself as "the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." On hearing this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God (Exodus 3:6).
In **Judges 6**, the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon and said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior (Judges 6:11-12)." Gideon addresses the angel of the LORD as, "Ah, Sovereign LORD!"
When Gideon realised that he had seen the angel of the LORD face to face, he was assured by the LORD that he was not going to die (Judges 6:22-23).
In **Zechariah 3** we see Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD. The angel of the LORD speaks to Satan as the LORD and says, "The LORD, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you (Zechariah 3:1-2)!"

Study 14**The Sign of the Covenant****Genesis 17:1-22****Study Questions**

1. His own son and numerous descendants.
2. An everlasting covenant. The land. He would be Abraham's God and the God of his descendants. NB: By faith, not by birth!
3. By male circumcision.
Genesis 12 the promise(s). A promise is made regarding what will be done.
Genesis 15 the covenant. A formal agreement between two parties, ratified by sacrifice and ceremony.
Genesis 17 the sign. A reminder of the covenant and the promises.
4. To place the mark or the sign of remembrance of the covenant upon the person. This was the ratification of the covenant. In Hebrew, we speak of cutting a covenant. It was the mark in your body, which reminded you that the LORD had entered into a contract, covenant or treaty with man.
כָּרַת *karath* Meaning: to cut, cut off; מוּל *mul* Meaning: to circumcise
5. The seed of Abraham through whom all nations would be blessed would be a man. The 8th day speaks of a New Creation! It took 7 days to complete the old creation. The eighth day marks the beginning of a New Creation. Jesus rose on the first day of the new creation; i.e. the 8th day.
6. Abraham means 'Exalted father' or 'Father of a multitude.'

The LORD promised: ... "I have made you a father of many nations..." and "I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you (Genesis 17:5-6)

Sarah means 'Princess'. The LORD promised: "I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her (Genesis 17:16)."

Reflection & Application

1. It meant a New People! It is done to this specific part of the body as it affects the offspring of the recipient of the covenant as well! It signifies a new people corporately! Circumcision signifies that a change of heart is needed. A circumcision of the heart (Romans 2:28-29). So somehow, this sign, this cutting signifies a new beginning. Cut from the world brought into a new relationship. That there is a new person. The old person or the previous person has changed.
2. In Jesus you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead (Colossians 2:11-12).
3. The circumcision of the heart, or the circumcision of Christ, is the baptism with the Holy Spirit!
4. For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ.

Study 15 Three Heavenly Visitors Genesis 18:1-33

Study Questions

1. The LORD appeared to Abraham.
2. Abraham looked up and saw what looked like three men.
He offered to wash their feet and to give them something to eat.
3. He brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared. They ate and they drank.
4. The LORD promised Sarah her own son by the next year.
5. Abraham was 99 and Sarah 89. Sarah had been barren her whole life. However, nothing is too hard for the LORD.
6. The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah was so great and their sin so grievous, that the LORD was going to destroy them.
7. Abraham pleaded that the LORD would spare the people of Sodom
8. The LORD left.

Reflection & Application

1. The LORD or YAHWEH (18:1, 10, 13, 14, 17, 20, 22, 25-26, 33).
2. This happens at various times throughout the Old Testament. If someone cannot comprehend or accept the idea of theophany in the OT, then such a person will struggle to accept the incarnation.
3. It prepares the way for the LORD to come to us as the man Christ Jesus (Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 1:23, Hebrews 1:1-2). These appearances of God as man in the OT is a confirmation of the NT.
4. To announce Isaac's birth, and to rescue Lot and destroy Sodom and Gomorrah.

Study 16**The Destruction of Sodom****Genesis 19:1-29****Study Questions**

1. The LORD and two angels.
2. Angels who looked like men. They wanted to spend the night in the square.
3. The men of Sodom wanted to rape them.
4. Lot offered his daughters in the place of the men. Lot probably realised that in the aroused state they were in, they would not be interested in his daughters. Alternatively, it could have been an ancient custom that the safety of your visitors were sacrosanct (19:8). Whatever the reason was, this was a despicable and vile offer on Lot's behalf.
5. They rejected Lot and tried to force their way in. The angels then struck the men of Sodom with blindness.
6. They were going to destroy Sodom, because their wickedness in the sight of the LORD was great and terrible. They also came to rescue Lot and his family, because of the promise to Abraham.
7. The LORD who was on earth; the One speaking to Abraham (Genesis 18). Two persons called YAHWEH are in this verse. YAHWEH on earth and YAHWEH in heaven. YAHWEH on earth was none other than the pre-incarnate Christ or Son of God.
8. Sexual immorality and perversion. Going after strange flesh (Jude 7).

Reflection & Application

1. Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard) (2 Peter 2:7-8).
 2. Lot was probably part of the leadership and administration of the city.
 3. Lot may have been righteous and grieved, but his witness was not at all effective. His son-in-law thought he was joking. He also lost his wife because of unbelief.
 4. Righteous and grieved. Probably not very effective.
 5. Judgement. But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulphur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. "It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed (Luke 17:29-30)."
- Like Sodom and Gomorrah, this present world will be destroyed when Jesus returns. It will be overthrown with fire and destroyed.

Study 17**The LORD honours his Promises****Genesis 21:1-21****Study Questions**

1. Yes. The LORD was gracious to Sarah and did for her what he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age.
2. Abraham was a hundred years old and Sarah was ninety. She had been barren all her life. Abraham was as good as dead (Hebrews 11:12).
3. On the day Isaac was weaned, Abraham held a great feast, but Sarah saw that Ishmael was mocking. He probably found it hilarious to see this ninety-year-old woman with a five-year-old boy.
4. To get rid of Hagar and her son, as she was adamant that Ishmael would not share in the inheritance with Isaac.
5. That Abraham should not be overly concerned about Ishmael's welfare, as it was through Isaac that his offspring would be reckoned. The LORD himself would take care of Ishmael.

6. The angel of God heard Ishmael crying and he provided water for them. God, who is in this case, the pre-incarnate Christ or *malach elohim* (מַלְאֲכֵי אֱלֹהִים)
7. The LORD, the Eternal God. *YAHWEH EI Olam* (יְהוָה אֵל עוֹלָם)

Reflection & Application

1. God cannot break his promises. He will do as he has promised.
The Son of Sarah the free woman was born as the result of a promise (Galatians 4:22-23). There is a very important lesson we can learn from this.
We may stand on God's promises and we do not have to save ourselves.
The moment we attempt do so, we are heading for trouble, as Abraham did.
2. Paul uses this story figuratively. If you think you can obtain God's blessing by works, a works-based righteousness, then these attempts will produce slavery and trouble. As it was by works that Abram strove to fulfill the promise of God by sleeping with Hagar, the slave woman. The reality is also true for the present city of Jerusalem, which is in slavery with her children because the Jews are trying to obtain righteousness their religion of works and are not relying on the promises of God Galatians 4:24-26).
3. Isaac was born as the result of God's promise, even though humanly speaking it was impossible. The promise was that through the seed of Abraham, all the nations of the earth would be blessed. The supernatural birth of Isaac points forward to an even more miraculous birth in future, the birth of Jesus Christ.
4. There is no promise, which God will not honour. The guarantee of all God's promises is the Lord Jesus Christ himself. In fact, no matter how many promises God has made, they are all "Yes" in Christ (2 Corinthians 1:20). We as Christians are by faith like Abraham, as we trust in the same seed as Abraham. Like Isaac we are heirs of the promise, as we belong to the free woman.

Study 18 God will Provide the Lamb Genesis 22:1-19

Study Questions

1. If Isaac died, that would mean the end of the promise that all nations on earth would be blessed through Abraham's seed. As Isaac was the child of the promise, he was called Abraham's only son.
2. The only way the promise could still be guaranteed was if Isaac remained alive, or if Isaac had to die, that he would come back from the dead. God's very honour was at stake. That is why Abraham could confidently say, "We will worship and then we will come back to you." Abraham believed in the resurrection!
3. God would himself would provide a lamb as substitute to solve this dilemma. Abraham replied to Isaac, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." Literally: **'God will see for himself the lamb!'**
4. Abraham never wavered for one minute to obey God's command. When they reached the right place, Abraham built an altar, arranged the wood, bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.
5. The angel of the LORD. The angel of the LORD said: "Now **I know** that you fear **God**, because you have not withheld **from me** your son." It was God himself speaking.
6. God provided a ram, so Abraham called that place **The LORD Will Provide**. Literally: 'YAHWEH will see', from *YHWH-jireh* (יְהוָה יִרְאֶה).

And: This this day it is said, "At this mountain, the LORD will see."

God had supplied a substitute, as Abraham believed he would.

7. The angel of the LORD said, "I swear by myself, declares **the LORD...**"

The angel of YAHWEH is YAHWEH, i.e. the pre-incarnate Christ!

8. I will surely bless you.

I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore.

The land. The cities of their enemies.

Through your offspring, all nations on earth will be blessed.

Reflection & Application

1. **2 Chronicles 3:1** Then Solomon began to build the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem on **Mount Moriah**, where the LORD had appeared to his father David.

It was previously the threshing-floor of Araunah the Jebusite, the place provided by David (1 Chronicles 21:15; 2 Chronicles 3:1). On this very mountain, Solomon built the temple of YAHWEH. On this very mountain, the 2nd temple was built in the time of Zerubbabel. The prophet Haggai was told that the glory of the 2nd temple would be greater than the glory of Solomon's temple. The glory of the LORD descended on Solomon's temple 1 Kings 8:11, but God incarnate came into the 2nd temple. It was in this very temple on Mount Moriah, that Jesus revealed himself as the substitute Lamb of God. The Lamb provided to take away the sins of the world!

2. Note that **the seed of Abraham** through whom all nations would be blessed is singular. This is fulfilled by Christ! 'The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say "and to seeds", meaning many people, but "and to your seed", meaning one person, who is Christ (Galatians 3:16).'

3. Isaac, the unique son of Abraham by miraculous birth, was offered as a sacrifice to God. Jesus, the unique son of God, was offered as a sin-bearing substitute to the Father on our behalf.

4. Trusting in the promises of God! We are children of the promise!
Abraham had the same faith that we need today for our salvation.

- Trusting in the promises of God
- Trusting in the God of the promises.
- Trusting that God can raise the dead.
- Trusting that the LORD God will provide a substitute.

Christ is the fulfilment of all the promises of God (2 Corinthians 1:20).

Study 19

A Bride for Isaac

Genesis 24:1-19

Study Questions

1. A wife for Isaac from his relatives. The Canaanites were very ungodly. Amongst your own family you are also more certain of what you would get.
2. The promises of God Were connected to the land of Canaan. The LORD had promised that land to Abraham.
3. To Nahor in Aram Naharaim where Abraham came from.
Where did the servant go and what did he do? He went to the town's well.
4. For the right girl to come to the well. For her to offer him a drink as well as for his ten thirsty camels.

5. Rebekah. She was young, beautiful and a virgin. She was also very respectful and kind.
6. She offered him water and to water his camels also until they were finished drinking. All ten of them!
7. She was from Abraham's family. The daughter of Bethuel, the son of Milcah and Nahor. Nahor was Abraham's brother.
8. She became his wife, and he loved her.

Reflection & Application

1. Jesus went to the local town well to meet a woman.
2. She had a hard life, five husbands, living with a sixth man. She was unloved, scars on her body, her face and her soul.
3. Jesus offered water to the woman.
4. Jesus is the servant as well as the bridegroom. He is looking for his bride. The ugly, sinful, unloved, beat-up woman? You are the Samaritan woman!
5. Living water! He wants you to be his bride!

Study 20 A Stairway to Heaven Genesis 28:1-19

Study Questions

1. Jacob wasn't seeking for God at all. He was running away for his life.
2. Jacob saw a stairway that rested on the earth and reached the heavens. The staircase literally connected heaven to earth. And above the stairway stood the LORD and the angels of God were ascending and descending on the stairway. Jacob saw not a ladder, but a stairway or *sullam* (סֹלָם), an ascending series of stones or **stairway**, like a *ziggurat*. The ancients built their *ziggurats* to reach the gods. They used mind altering drugs and sacrifice and dancing to move them over into an altered state of consciousness. However, as their ecstatic experiences were counterfeit, they did not really make contact with the gods or heaven. Their experiences were demonic.
3. Jacob must have known the story of the tower of Babel for the language reminds us of the Tower of Babel. 'Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and **a tower whose top will reach into heaven** (Genesis 11:4)'. Compare this with '**... a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven** (Genesis 28:12)'.
The name YAHWEH, or LORD is the covenant Name of God. He names himself, a name which no-one can take for himself. The Covenant Name is a reminder that he had made certain promises to Abraham and Isaac.
4. The angels of God were ascending and descending on this stairway. Above this stairway stood the LORD or YAHWEH himself.
This is the remarkable thing: there is no point to try and build a bridge to heaven, we cannot do this. God has to come down to us. Nor was it a structure enabling Jacob to climb upwards (as a ladder might suggest). Rather, it was to allow God to come down! It is God who connects heaven and earth
5. Above the stairway stood the LORD, and he said: **"I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac."**
The name YAHWEH, or LORD is the covenant Name of God. He names himself, a name which no-one can take for himself. The Covenant Name is a reminder that he had made certain promises to Abraham and Isaac.
6. **I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south.**

All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring (seed). (NB: singular), i.e. Christ.

7. **I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."**

YAHWEH reassured Jacob of his presence and of his **covenantal faithfulness** to him and his family. I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land.

8. **"Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it."
He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."**

Understand the significance and magnitude of this experience.

Jacob had this terrible and frightening dream as he came face to face with God.

This is a terrible and fearsome experience as John on Patmos, when he saw the risen Christ fell down as one who was dead. *ἄρα (yare) meaning to fear*

9. **Bethel**, the house of God.

It was God's initiative to fellowship with man — a sinful man!

It spoke of justification by faith in the promise made by God apart from human initiative. It spoke of grace.

Babel had been man's attempt to reach God and make himself equal with God. It had been a symbol of man's idolatry and self-justification.

Bethel is God reaching down and condescending to man.

Reflection & Application

1. **a land
a multitude of descendants and
a seed through whom all nations on earth would be blessed.**
2. Jacob had seen the pre-incarnate revelation of Jesus. At Bethel, Jacob was being given a glimpse of redemption. God takes initiative to rescue sinners by coming down and eventually taking them to be with Himself. Angels came down at the time of Jesus' birth to announce that God had come down. The baby in Mary's arms was the God of Bethel. Something happened there at Bethel, which was revealed by Jesus to the disciple Nathanael. When Jesus called Nathanael, he cited this story of Jacob and Bethel: **John 1:51 "I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."** Nathanael was given a glimpse of the second coming. Just as the Lord came down to Jacob, so, too, at the end of the age.
3. Jesus is Jacob's ladder, the One who connects heaven to earth.
Jesus is Bethel, the house of God.
Jesus is the gate of heaven.
Jesus is the Promised seed through whom all nations would be blessed.
Jesus is the Father of many peoples, tribes, tongues and nations, as they are his spiritual children.

Study 21

The Mother of the King

Genesis 29:31-30:24

Study Questions

1. The LORD gave Leah four sons. There were probably daughters too, but only the sons were mentioned.
2. Reuben – **'behold a son'**.

Simeon – **‘heard’**, derived from ‘to hear’.

Levi – **‘joined to’**.

Judah – **‘praised’**.

These names tell us that Leah wanted to be loved and appreciated.

3. The first wife. See Genesis 49:31.
4. She gave her concubine to Jacob, Just like Sarah did with Hagar.
5. Yes. Joseph.
6. Not her own works, but the LORD’s provision.

Reflection & Application

1. Levi, the father of the priestly tribe.
Judah, the father of the tribe of the kings.
2. Jesus, the Christ.
3. The offices of priest and king were combined as one in the priestly king, namely Jesus.

Zechariah 6:12 Tell him this is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘Here is the man whose name is the Branch, and he will branch out from his place and build the temple of the LORD.

¹³ It is he who will build the temple of the LORD, and he will be clothed with majesty and will sit and rule on his throne. And he will be a priest on his throne. And there will be harmony between the two.’

See also Psalm 110:1-2, 4.

4. Psalm 34 states that the Angel of the LORD encamps near those who fear him (34:7), and that the LORD’s eyes are on the righteous, and the LORD’s ears are attentive to our cry (34:15).

All the promises of God are ‘Yes’ in Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 1:20).

All the nations of the earth would be blessed through the seed of:

- Abraham and Sarah
- Isaac and Rebekah
- Jacob and Leah

We are sons of Abraham and the seed of Abraham

We have Sarah as our mother as we are children of the promise.

We are spiritually the sons of Jacob and Leah!

In a sense Leah is your spiritual mother too!

Study 22 Jacob and the Angel of God Genesis 31:1-24

Study Questions

1. **‘Go back to the Land and I will be with you!’** This was because Jacob was the recipient of the covenant blessings. For YAHWEH to promise to remain faithful to you; that is the greatest covenant blessing! The same covenant God had made with Abraham and Isaac and now with Jacob.
2. So that he could not be overheard, it had to be out in the fields.
“I see that your father’s attitude towards me is not what it was before...”
3. These verses, v. 5, 7 and 9 show how much he has grown.
‘I see that your father’s attitude towards me is not what it was before, but **the God of my father has been with me (31:5)**.
‘...your father has cheated me by changing my wages ten times. **However, God has not allowed him to harm me (31:7)**.
‘So **God has taken away your father’s livestock and has given them to me (31:9)**’.

After years relying on his own deception and cunning, Jacob was beginning to recognize that everything he had, came only from the good hand of the LORD. **Three times** he describes what Laban did and then affirms how **God turned his father-in-law's efforts to harm him into a blessing.**

4. The **angel of God** said to me in the dream, 'Jacob.' (31:11)
'I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and where you made a vow to me.' (31:13)
 The Person that had met Jacob at the stairway at Bethel was none other than the angel of God, the God of Bethel and the Pre-Incarnate Christ.
5. Laban treated his daughters as bargaining chips. Rachel and Leah replied, "Does he not regard us as foreigners? Not only has he sold us, but he has used up what was paid for us. Surely all the wealth that God took away from our father belongs to us and our children. So do whatever God has told you." Then Jacob left with his two wives, two concubines and 11 sons.
6. We read a very interesting phrase in 31:20. The words translated 'tricked' or 'deceived' is actually literally translated: **Jacob stole Laban's inner man, soul or heart** (וַיִּגְנֹב יַעֲקֹב אֶת־לֵב לָבָן).
 What could this mean? Jacob took all that really mattered in Laban's life. His daughters his grandchildren and their love for him. Laban was left behind a failed, unloved and bitter old man. By harming Jacob, Rachel and Leah's husband and ill-treating him, he was actually harming his daughters and eventually harming himself.
 They did not care much for their father after 20 years of being used as pawns and seeing their husband ill-treated and deceived.
7. When Jacob had crossed the River, the great river Euphrates, it meant that he was no longer in the land of Paddan Aram, but in the wilderness, on his way to Canaan.
8. What he planned on doing is not clearly spelt out in the text, but that he had evil intentions seems to be without doubt. He was out to get revenge and do more harm to his daughters. In those days and in that culture, he could easily get rid of Jacob and take back all that Jacob had acquired in twenty years.

Reflection & Application

1. It was the LORD who made a sovereign choice of **Abraham** and made a certain number of promises to him (**Genesis 12:1-3, 7**).
 God then confirmed all of these promises with a covenant on oath (**Genesis 15**).
 And then the LORD gave a covenant sign, the sign of circumcision (**Genesis 17**).
 And the LORD repeated these promises to **Isaac**
 And the LORD repeated these promises to **Jacob**
 In fact the promised seed would come from the offspring of Jacob and Leah
 So, the story cannot end badly for Jacob.
 As in this story, upon Jacob and Leah and their sons, the blessing to the nations of the world hung in the balance.
2. Remember **the Promises to the patriarchs**.
 - Their own Land.
 - Great Blessing.
 - A great Nation - a vast multitude of descendants
 - Blessing to those who bless them, curses to those who curse them

- A Promised seed through whom all the nations of the world would be blessed.

None of these really materialised in their day. They only had a burial plot at Machpelah.

They were looking forward to the fulfilment of those promises.

For he was looking forward to **the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God (Hebrews 11:10).**

We are called aliens and strangers in the same manner as the patriarchs (**1 Peter 1:1**).

They did not receive the fulfilment of all the promises and were aliens and strangers on earth, looking forward to a land of their own. As they were, we are also looking forward to a land of our own.

3. There is a **Promised Land** of which all Christian believers are citizens of. It is the same land and city that Abraham Isaac and Jacob looked for. It is the same Land of rest you and I are looking forward to (**Hebrews 12:22-24, Galatians 4:26, 2 Corinthians 1:20**).
4. Yes! Jesus the mediator of a new and better covenant (**Hebrews 12:1-3**).

Study 23 Jacob's night Struggle Genesis 32:22-31

Study Questions

1. When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man.
2. After this long time, Jacob sensed that this assailant was holding back That he was able to do more, but for some strange reason he did not. The assailant seemed to be in two minds whether to kill Jacob or to let him go. The force of the man's tap began to reveal the possibility that this was no mere human being. After all, who had the strength to crush with a delicate tap?
3. **All that Jacob could do was to cling to his adversary!**
4. **Daybreak.** As the day was breaking, the man wanted Jacob to let him go. At this time Jacob understood that there was more to his adversary than he realised. For some reason, despite wounding Jacob, he did not kill him. Realising that his assailant displayed no malevolence to him, he now clung to him with all his might. After a whole night of struggle he must have been almost dead with exhaustion. The man wanted Jacob to 'tap out', but he clung for dear life. As if he sensed that if he let his adversary go, it would be over for him. Blessing.
Genesis 32:26 Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak."
But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."
²⁷ The man asked him, "**What is your name?**" "Jacob," he answered.
5. The man could not bless an evildoer!
The man said to him, 'What is your name?'
I am Jacob! I am a deceiver.
Example: When we were boys, we wrestled and our opponent would put us in a painful arm lock or a neck lock, or we were just dead tired. We then had the option to call our opponent: '**Uncle**' or '**King**', else he would keep on inflicting pain.
Sinner – Confession

When Jacob had to cry: "I am Jacob, I am a deceiver!"

What did it mean? It was a confession!

Jacob was really confessing his sinful self-reliance on his own way.

This is what his adversary wanted him to confess!

A sobbing confession, as he was immensely tired, in pain and under conviction of his sin.

Jacob seized his brother's birthright and blessing unlawfully, and now he admits to being a crafty usurper when he calls himself "Jacob."

6. From this day on you will be *called Israel*.

Genesis 32:28 Then the man said, "**Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome.**"

What does this mean?

El = suffix means God.

What does the prefix mean?

Sharah = struggle, contest or fight with God

Yashar = Upright

Yisrah = uprightness

The name by which all future generations of God's people would be known. The name change marks the shift from an outcast and usurper to the heir of the covenant.

7. As the day broke the realisation dawned on him that the person with whom he was struggling was no mere man.

Genesis 32:29 Jacob said, "**Please tell me your name.**" But he replied, "**Why do you ask my name?**" Then he blessed him there.

³⁰ **So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared."**

³¹ The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip.

The prophet **Hosea** describes Jacob's struggle as one that occurred with God, the same God who appeared to Jacob at Bethel (Gen 35.1).

^{NKJV} **Hos 12:3** He (Jacob) took his brother by the heel in the womb, And in his strength (manhood) he struggled with God.

⁴ Yes, he struggled with **the Angel** and prevailed;

He wept, and sought favour from Him.

He found Him *in* Bethel, And there He spoke to us--

⁵ That is, the LORD God of hosts. The LORD *is* His memorable name.

The man he struggled with was none other than **the Angel of the LORD**

The Angel of the LORD is the human expression of the pre-incarnate Christ

It is **a pre-incarnate manifestation of the Son of God** who struggled with Jacob.

8. **To discipline Jacob. To have Jacob born again.**

The Jacob who wrestled with the unknown assailant on the banks of the river was very different from the Jacob who, by trusting himself, gained the blessing of Esau. Who attempted to buy Esau's forgiveness and get himself out of the predicament he caused.

For too long, Jacob had assumed his skill was the primary factor in his success. In defeating Jacob, Jacob was shown that he does not hold the power over his own life, neither the key to his future.

Maybe you have been fighting against God for a long time?

And you have been wounded.

Maybe God is disciplining you?

Perhaps, like Paul, God will give us a thorn to display His power in our weakness.

Maybe God will use the stripes of men to discipline us like He did with David's sons. God may use hardship and setbacks to discipline us.

Discipline the Father has for his sons.

Hebrews 12: 10 Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness.

¹¹ No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

9. Why does the Son of God appear in this manner, time and again in the OT? To ultimately prepare the people of Israel for the incarnation of the Son of God. The **Son of God**, the second person of the Godhead, appears on numerous occasions in the Old Testament; from Genesis to Malachi.

A pre-incarnate manifestation of the Son of God.

He limits himself in human form.

Reflection & Application

1. How does this apply to us? It is interesting that Jesus ALLUDES to this event in Revelation.

To him who overcomes (like Jacob), I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with **a new name** written on it, known only to him who receives it (**Revelation 2:17**).

Note: Overcome? nikaow – to conquer! As in Nike shoes.

How did Jacob overcome? V. 28b

Jacob prevailed in this battle by admitting His guilt and absolute dependence on the Lord, clinging to Him with all his might.

Such cleaving is the only way we can prevail with the Lord and trust Him to work for our good even when life is tough.

Application: Every true Israelites, every true child of God, by faith would wrestle like Jacob did — holding on to the Lord with all their might that they might find blessing.

Let us imitate Jacob and cling to Him for blessing so that we may see the good things He has in store for us.

2. **From being lost to salvation,** the following needs to happen
- You need to be **totally alone**, such as Jacob on the banks of the Jabbok river
 - You need to understand **the great and terrible darkness** surrounding you,
 - You need to struggle with God or more particular **the Lord Jesus Christ!**
 - Like Jacob, you need to release and to **confess you sin!**
You need to cry out in pain and exhaustion: **I am deceiver!**
 - You need **a new name** and a new nature.
Only the Messenger of the LORD can give that to you
From now on you will be called child of God!
 - You need to realize you have come **face to face with God** and he will let you live! Your life has been spared.

3. **Can you just drift into the Kingdom? Mat 11:12** Jesus said: From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.
Jesus: Powerful men lay hold of the Kingdom!
 You cannot drift into the Kingdom. You need to lay hold of it!
 A life and death struggle is needed.
Blessing. Your wrestling with the Lord will bring him great blessing if you confess your sin. If you cry out to God to bless you!
 Know that the Lord is eager to bless you if you belong to Him.
John Calvin: "When the Father tests us, we may find ourselves struggling with Him, looking for blessing in the midst of our trouble.
 This striving is not blasphemous; wrestling with God can prove our faith if undertaken in the right spirit."
 4. **No one walks away from the Lord unscathed.** Jacob received a permanent limp to remind him that he is not self-sufficient but must rely on God.
 Though His servants are at times a bruised reed or a smouldering wick, our Father will not destroy those who trust in Him (**Isaiah 42:1-3**).

Study 24 Israel returns to Bethel Genesis 35:1-19; 37:1-2

Study Questions

1. God commanded Jacob to return to Bethel. It was at Bethel where Jacob had met God. At Bethel he had a vision of a stairway reaching all the way up to heaven. There were angels ascending and descending on it and above stood the LORD. It was at Bethel where the covenant promises of God to Abraham and Isaac were repeated to him. So Jacob did what was commanded and went back to Bethel.
2. God commanded Jacob to build an altar to God who appeared to him, not to me! Does that mean there are two persons called God? Again there is no confusion here. **The Person Jacob had met at Bethel was the pre-incarnate Christ, God the Son.** There Jacob had made a promise to God to worship him if God looked after him.
3. Jacob was a new man. He buried these false gods at the oak at Shechem. When Laban pursued Jacob and God had warned Laban in a dream not to cause any harm to Jacob, Jacob made a covenant with Laban in the Name of **'the Fear of Isaac.'** Shortly after that was Jacob's all night struggle with **the LORD** at the Jabbok River. Jacob was a changed man after that with a new name namely Israel. Israel the one who struggles with God and overcomes or also the upright one. Then Jacob built an altar at Shechem and called it: **The God of Israel is God.**
And yet, after all this time and all his experiences, he still had family members with idols and foreign gods! Even publically displaying their worship of false gods by having pagan rings in their ears.
 Remember, his favourite wife Rachel had stolen her father Laban's household gods and by this time Jacob must surely have known about these gods. But Jacob was a changed man and his family would follow the LORD.
Genesis 35:3 Then come, let us go up to **Bethel**, where I will build **an altar to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and who has been with me wherever I have gone.**"
4. So Jacob and his family went up and came to Bethel.
 There Jacob built an altar and he called the place **El Bethel**

El Bethel - **The God of the House of God.**

5. After his night struggle, at the Jabbok, Jacob was told that his name would change to Israel. However, Jacob struggled to live up his new name.
Genesis 35:9 After Jacob returned from Paddan Aram, **God appeared** to him again and blessed him. ¹⁰ **God** said to him, "Your name is Jacob, but you will no longer be called Jacob; your name will be **Israel**." So he named him Israel. Now at last Jacob was where God wanted him to be.
Now God appeared to him again and God confirmed his name as 'Israel' and God blessed him.
6. **Genesis 28:12** He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ There above it stood the LORD, and he said:
"I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying.
¹⁴ **Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south.**
All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring.
¹⁵ **I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."**
Genesis 35:11 And **God** said to him, "I am **God Almighty**; be fruitful and increase in number. A nation and a community of nations will come from you, and kings will come from your body. ¹² The land I gave to Abraham and Isaac I also give to you, and I will give this land to your descendants after you." ¹³ Then **God** went up from him at the place where he had talked with him.
- Be fruitful and increase in number, which means many descendants.
 - A nation and a community of nations will come from you, kings will come from your body.
 - The land God had promised to Abraham and Isaac, God would also give to him and to his descendants after him!
 - Then God blessed him and then God went up from that place.
7. **Genesis 35:16** Then they moved on from **Bethel**. While they were still some distance from Ephrath, Rachel began to give birth and had great difficulty. ¹⁷ And as she was having great difficulty in childbirth, the midwife said to her, "Don't be afraid, for you have another son." ¹⁸ As she breathed her last--for she was dying--she named her son **Ben-Oni**. But his father named him **Benjamin**.
Psalms 80:14 Return to us, O God Almighty! Look down from heaven and see! Watch over this vine,
¹⁵ the root your right hand has planted, the son you have raised up for yourself.
¹⁶ Your vine is cut down, it is burned with fire; at your rebuke your people perish.
¹⁷ Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand, the son of man you have raised up for yourself.
8. **Genesis 35:19** So Rachel died and was buried on the way to **Ephrath** (that is, **Bethlehem**).
Micah 5:2-4 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."
³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labour gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.

⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

Reflection & Application

1. **Jacob came home** to his father Isaac in Mamre, near Kiriath Arba (that is, Hebron), **where Abraham and Isaac had stayed**.
After more than 20 long years, Jacob eventually returned to his father's house. As God had promised to him twenty years before at Bethel.
Genesis 28:15 I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."
2. When Isaac died, his sons Esau and Jacob buried him. This was good news, as it meant that there was peace between Esau and Jacob.
Irony! Jacob wrote down Esau's name first!
Esau named first by Jacob, who wrote this account.
Jacob was a changed man.
3. God who had appeared to Jacob at Bethel, when fleeing from Esau (35:1).
The God who answered me in my distress and had been with me wherever I have gone (35:3).
We also read in Genesis 48:15
Then he blessed Joseph and said,
"May the God **before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked**,
The God who **has been my shepherd all my life to this day**,
¹⁶ **the Angel who has delivered me from all harm**--may he bless these boys.
He revealed and repeated the name of God three times.
The God, the same God, and **the Angel or Messenger**, who is the same!
The Angel of the LORD or the Messenger of YAHWEH, which is none other than **the pre-incarnate Christ**.
4. Christ spoke to you through a sermon, a word, a text from the Bible, circumstances. But you still have foreign gods in your life and in your household. The practices you cling to?
The **programs** you watch, filled with **violence** or **sexually explicit** content?
Maybe the **conversations** you have with friends?
Maybe your **pursuit of wealth** by unscrupulous means?
Whatever it is! **Get rid of the foreign gods** in your life!
And go up to Bethel – the House of God.

Study 25 Prepared for Higher Service Genesis 37:2-11; 39:1-23

Study Questions

1. The LORD was with Joseph and he prospered. Potiphar saw that the LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in everything that he did. Just as Laban when he saw that the LORD had blessed Jacob.
2. The LORD blessed the household of Potiphar.
The blessing of the LORD was everything Potiphar had.
The fulfilment of the promise and the covenant.
I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you.
Who was Potiphar like (Laban?)
3. He left everything in charge of Joseph. Joseph was in charge of everything and only Potiphar was greater than him.

4. Potiphar's wife noticed Joseph and wanted to commit adultery with him.
5. Joseph refused to comply. He was faithful to his earthly master and he refused to "do such a wicked thing against God".
6. Lied that Joseph had tried to rape her.
7. He said nothing and left the judgement in the hands of God.
He ended up in prison.
8. Joseph was sold into slavery at the age of 17.
Explained the dreams of the cupbearer and the baker when he was 28
He was released from prison at 30 to enter the service of the King.

Reflection & Application

1. Was the LORD preparing Joseph in Potiphar's household and in prison for higher service?
2. In what manner did Joseph serve his bosses, first as a slave and then later as a prisoner? How would he serve the Pharaoh if he was made a king?
3. Against whom is all sin ultimately directed?
4. Who remained quiet before his accusers?
5. To whom will the blessings of Jesus come? **2 Corinthians 1:20**
6. What favourite titles does the apostle Paul call himself by?
A prisoner of Christ, or slave of Christ (**Ephesians 3:1, Romans 1:1**).

Study 26 One in whom is the Spirit of God Genesis 41:1-46

Study Questions

1. The LORD: The focus is on God's covenant promises. The LORD is the covenant Name of God.
God: This is God's international name and witness. This is the God who is overall for the Egyptians. For example in the book of Daniel he is called God Most High.
2. The one true God is the only one who can answer the dream. Not the gods of the Egyptians. Joseph is witnessing. Things may not work out favourably for him in the end, but he uses the opportunity to witness.
3. Joseph is still witnessing. He wants to make sure Pharaoh knows that God is the one revealing the meaning of the dream.
'God has revealed' 41:25; God has shown 41:28
4. God is the only true God that exists.
God is Sovereign! God has decided 41:32 and God will do it soon!
It will come to pass without a shadow of a doubt.
5. The very Spirit of this God that Joseph was speaking about was dwelling in him.
Genesis 41:38 And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find *such a one* as this, a man in whom *is* the Spirit of God?" (Gen 41:38 NKJ)
6. The God of Joseph.
7. He was second in command in all Egypt. Only Pharaoh would be greater than him. He would be Pharaoh's executive ruler.

Reflection & Application

1. **Zaphenath-Paneah (רֹחַ אֱלֹהִים)**
"the god speaks and he lives" or "treasury of the glorious rest"
Note the irony.
The names of the gods of Egypt in the names of the following:
His previous master: Potiphar "belonging to the sun"

- His father in law: Poti-pherah meaning "he whom the Ra gave"
 His wife: Asenath meaning "belonging to the goddess Neith"
2. Joseph was 17 when sold into slavery, 30 when he was released.
 He could have spent 10 years or more in prison.
 3. Daniel.
 4. Christ became God's regent on earth over all the nations.
 Psalm 2:1-12; Psalm 110:1-7; Daniel 7:13-14
 Christ was placed as the Ruler's over God's Kingdom. No-one can do anything,
 not even lift a hand or foot, apart from God's ruler.

Study 27 The Saviour of Israel Genesis 45:1-28

Study Questions

1. When Joseph's brothers arrived, they bowed down to him with their faces to the ground. Joseph's dreams were fulfilled.
2. **"I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.**
 For the saving of many lives, God sent me ahead of you 45:5
3. Preserve his people because of his covenant with them.
But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance (45:7).
4. Joseph was ruler of all Egypt, only second in authority to Pharaoh himself.
5. Abraham's descendants would be strangers in a country not their own, and they would be enslaved and ill-treated four hundred years. However in the fourth generation his descendants would return to Canaan.
 This happened as described in Exodus 12:40-41.

Reflection & Application

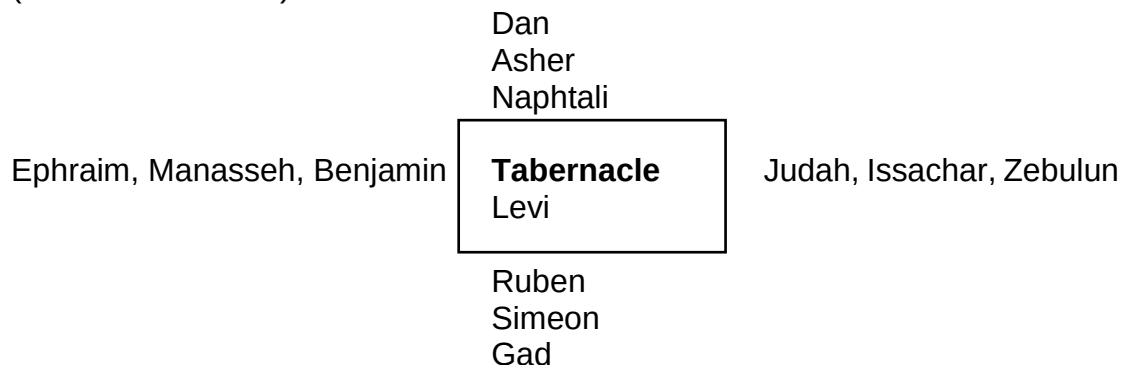
1. Joseph was sold into slavery. Philippians 2:6-11
 To his family Joseph had died for all practical purposes
 They firmly believed that they would never see Joseph again.
 But then Joseph came back from the dead as it were.
 Not as a slave, but as a King.
 They all had to bow the knee before him.
2. 45:5; Isaiah 53:8, Mark 10:45
 Because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.
 To preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.
3. **Exodus 12:40** Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in **the land of** Egypt and **in the land of Canaan** was four hundred and thirty years. 41
 And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years-- on that very same day-- it came to pass that all the armies of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt
 215 years in Egypt from time Jacob moved to Egypt to Exodus
 144 years from the time Joseph dies to the Exodus
 Between this time and Moses' birth 64 years later, the oppression of Israelites begin
 That is, 144 years to 80 years before the Exodus.
 Genesis 15:16 speaks of four generations.
 We find an example the four generations in **Numbers 3:14-20, 38**

- Levi
 - Kohath
 - Amram
 - Moses, Aaron and Miriam.
4. Christ has gone before me and he has set me free. John 17:24 "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. This is very much the same Joseph wanted for his family who he had saved (45:13).

Study 28 The Shepherd of Israel's Life Genesis 48:1-22

Study Questions

1. God Almighty or El Shadday (אֱלֹהִים)
2. Bethel, meaning the House of God.
3. God Almighty blessed Jacob and said, 'I am going to make you fruitful and will increase your numbers. I will make you a community of peoples, and I will give this land as an everlasting possession to your descendants after you.'
4. This is a prophecy. Ephraim and Manasseh became two tribes, a double blessing to Joseph, to form two of the twelve tribes of Israel. Levi was chosen as a permanent priesthood after the death of the firstborn (**Numbers 3:11-13**).



5. Twenty years later as Jacob returned to Canaan, his wife Rachel died in childbirth near Ephrath (Bethlehem). The boy's name was Benjamin, son of my right hand.
6. He placed the blessing normally reserved for the elder on the younger and vice versa. Ephraim became more powerful in the history of the sons of Israel. After the divided kingdom, the Northern kingdom was often called Ephraim.
7. He blessed them in the Name of God twice and then in the Name of the Angel of God. The Angel of God is God.
8. Jacob prophesied that they would return to Canaan. He knew this from the promise and the timeline given to his grandfather Abraham in Genesis 15

Reflection & Application

1. There is a prophetic connection between Benjamin, son of my right hand and Bethlehem Ephratah. In Psalm 80 and Micah 5 we read two remarkable messianic prophecies:
Psalm 80:14 Return to us, O God Almighty! Look down from heaven and see! Watch over this vine, ¹⁵ the root your right hand has planted, the son you have raised up for yourself.

¹⁶ Your vine is cut down, it is burned with fire; at your rebuke your people perish.

¹⁷ Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand, the son of man you have raised up for yourself.

Micah 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." ³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labour gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. ⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

2. The God..., the God, the Angel. The point being that the Angel of God who was with Jacob all his life and also with Abraham and Isaac, this Angel of God was God himself.

"May **the God** before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked,
the God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day,
the Angel who has delivered me from all harm--may he bless these boys.

אֱלֹהִים 'Elohim meaning God; מַלְאָךְ mal'ak **Meaning:** messenger,

3. May they be called by **my name** and the names of my fathers **Abraham** and **Isaac**, and may they increase greatly upon the earth." This was fulfilled in the 12 tribes. Levi was taken for the priesthood, and the sons of Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh took up the place of Levi and Joseph.
4. Yes. After 430 years in Egypt and Canaan, Israel came out of Egypt. They took the bones of Joseph with them.

Study 29 Prophecy regarding a Cosmic King Genesis 49:1-33

Study Questions

1. Normally the firstborn son received the greatest blessing.
They all failed miserably and were disqualified.
Reuben slept with his father Jacob's concubine.
Simeon and Levi deceived and killed the Schechemites.
2. Judah did. He received the primary blessing and the meaning of this blessing was intimately tied up with the promise of the coming seed of Abraham through whom all nations on earth would be blessed
3. What is the meaning of *Shiloh* (שִׁילֹה)? 49:10
Meaning: **'he whose it is'** or **'that which belongs to him'**.
4. When Jesus came this prophecy was fulfilled. As we can see in the Great Commission. Matthew 28:18 "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
5. **'The obedience of the nations is his'** meaning is spelt out in Daniel 7. The nations of the world must obey him. He is king over all and his kingdom will never end. Daniel 7:14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshipped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.
6. The blessings of the promise are tied to the land. The cave of Machpelah was the only foothold and legal claim in the land.

Abraham and Sarah were buried there. Isaac and Rebekah were buried there. Leah was already buried there. Jacob also needed to be buried there.

Reflection & Application

1. What does, 'He will tether his donkey to a vine, his colt to the choicest branch' in 49:11a remind you of?
Zechariah 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
Matthew 21:2 "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me."
⁴ This took place to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet:
⁵ "Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"
2. What does the description he will wash his garments in wine, his robes in the blood of grapes. (Gen 49:11b) remind you of?
Isaiah 63:1 Who is this coming from Edom, from Bozrah, with his garments stained crimson? Who is this, robed in splendour, striding forward in the greatness of his strength? "It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save."
² Why are your garments red, like those of one treading the winepress?
³ "I have trodden the winepress alone; from the nations no-one was with me. I trampled them in my anger and trod them down in my wrath; their blood spattered my garments, and I stained all my clothing. ⁴ For the day of vengeance was in my heart, and the year of my redemption has come. ⁵ I looked, but there was no-one to help, I was appalled that no-one gave support; so my own arm worked salvation for me, and my own wrath sustained me. ⁶ I trampled the nations in my anger; in my wrath I made them drunk and poured their blood on the ground."
Revelation 19:13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. ¹⁵ Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron sceptre." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.
3. **Song of Solomon 5:12** His eyes are like doves by the water streams, washed in milk, mounted like jewels.

Study 30

A Shadow of Christ

Genesis 50:1-26

Study Questions

1. The cave in the field of Machpelah in Mamre.
With Abraham and Sarah.
With Isaac and Rebekah.
With Jacob and Leah.
2. Possible revenge, because of their betrayal.
3. Something Jacob supposedly said.
4. He was not going to take revenge.
5. It was Gods' will that he be sold to Egypt as a slave, as it was for the saving of many lives.
6. His love for God's plan.
7. The 4th generation after Abraham would leave Egypt. Genesis 15

8. In the 4th generation, i.e. after 430 years from the time Abram went to go live in Canaan.
9. To take his body back to Canaan.

Reflection & Application

Joseph was sold as a slave by his brothers, believed to be dead, but he came back from the dead, was made second in command of all Egypt. His life was given by God for the saving of many lives. The lives of the people of Israel.

Jesus came as a slave, was sentenced to death by his own people, killed, died and rose again. He came back from the dead, was given all rule under God the Father (Daniel 7: 13-14). They intended it for harm, but his death was for the saving of many lives.

Conclusion

1. My faith is verified, authentic, real and robust.
2. In the OT:
 Isaiah 48:12-13, 16 The LORD, the Creator, the Spirit.
 Isaiah 63:9, 10, 16 The Father, the Angel of the LORD and the Holy Spirit.
 In the NT:
 Matthew 28:20 The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
3. Verifies the NT.