

Christ in Genesis

Introduction

What would be some of the reasons for a study of this nature?

1. **Worship & Faith.** If what Jesus Christ taught and claimed was true, for example that he was the Son of God and therefore divine and equal to God, then we must be able to see evidence for such claims in the OT.
2. **Apologetics & Evangelism.** Interaction with especially Jews, Muslims and Jehovah's witnesses, on the person and nature of Christ usually leads to the demand for proof from the OT.

In what manner do we expect to find such evidence?

1. **Prophecy & Fulfilment.** Predictive prophecies uttered hundreds, even thousands of years before the incarnation of Christ that have been fulfilled to the minutest detail.
2. **Promise:** The vast number of promises have been fulfilled in Christ.
3. **Shadow.** The Tabernacle, Sacrificial System and the Priesthood.
4. **Types and Antitype.** The sacrifice of Isaac, the salvation of his family by Joseph, the kingship of David.
5. **Divine Plurality.** The proof that God exists in more than one person, yet still being only one God.
6. **Theophany:** The appearances of more than one or another person called YAHWEH in the OT.
7. **Genealogy:** For prophecies such as 'the seed of the woman' (Genesis 3:15), 'the seed of Abraham' (Genesis 22:18) and of 'the king to whom all rule belongs' (Genesis 49:10) to be fulfilled, the genealogies in Genesis, Chronicles, Matthew and Luke are of the utmost importance for proof or falsification.

Reflection & Application

1. What does Luke mean by?

- Moses and the Law of Moses. Luke 24: 27, 44

- The prophets. Luke 24:25, 27, 44

- The Psalms. Luke 24:44

- All the Scriptures. Luke 24:27, 45

2. What was said about Christ in all the Scriptures. Luke 24:27, 45

3. What does 'all the promises of God are "Yes" in Christ' mean?
2 Corinthians 1:20

4. In what manner did Christ fulfil the Scriptures? 2 Peter 1:16-19a

5. How will these texts influence your view of Genesis to Malachi?

The God of Creation**Introduction**

The opening line of the Bible states: **In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth** (Genesis 1:1). This informs us that God existed before the heavens and the earth and that he is therefore outside of the created order. This statement is unique among all the religious and philosophical writings of the world. All other accounts start with some form of pre-existent matter and with the gods contained as part of the cosmos.

Who or what is God? The Hebrew word translated as **God** is **elohim** (אֱלֹהִים). However, in Hebrew an **im**-ending indicates masculine plurality. The word **elohim** can therefore also be translated as **gods**.

Psalms 135:5 I know that the LORD (**YAHWEH**) is great, that our Lord (**adonay**) is greater than all gods (**elohim**).

So, it seems that there are different kinds of **elohim**. Why would the translators at times choose to translate **elohim** as **God** and not **gods**, indicating that this particular **elohim** is singular?

The answer lies in the Hebrew use of **verbs**. In Hebrew, verbs, as in many other languages, apart from **tense** also indicate **person** (I, you, he, she, it, we, they), **gender** (masculine, feminine or neuter) and **number** (singular or plural) as well.

What is the nature of God and the manner of his existence? How many gods are there and if there is only one God, does God exist as more than one person? For Jesus' claim to be the Son of God, is there any evidence here in the book of Genesis?

Study Questions

Note: Answer questions from the text.

Read Genesis 1:1-5, 2:1-4a

See Appendix 7: The ‘accounts’ of Genesis.

Take note: Genesis 1:1-2:4a, ‘the Book of Creation’.

1. Why do you think the word **elohim** in Genesis 1:1-5 is translated as **God** and not as **gods**?
2. When the Bible speaks of the gods of the nations, why is the same word **elohim** (אֱלֹהִים) now translated as **gods**? Cf. **Exodus 32:1-4**;
3. Why do you think that **elohim** is translated as **gods** in Isaiah 41:23? Cf. **Isaiah 41:21-23**

Read Psalm 82:1-7

4. What does Asaph mean by using **God** and **gods** for the same Hebrew word **elohim** in Psalm 82:1, 6-7?

Reflection & Application _____

1. What are the implications if the actions of a plural noun such as **elohim** is described by a verb indicating a 3rd person, masculine singular ending such as in Genesis 1:1-2:4?
2. What do you think the author of Genesis 1:1 to 2:4a is doing? Why is he introducing God in this way?

The Creation of Mankind**Introduction**

Mankind was created on the same day as the land animals. Evolutionists claim that we are evolved animals and that we should be classified as mammals. However, the creation account makes it clear that though humans share many common characteristics with certain animals, we are also in many ways clearly distinct from animals. The creation account also informs us that humans have different qualities as well as a different roles to the animals.

Study Questions

Note: Answer questions from the text.

Read Genesis 1:24-31; Genesis 2:1-8

1. Why is **Elohim** in v. 24-25, 27-28 translated as God and not gods? The Hebrew verbs for **said**, **make**, **saw** and **create** in these verses are all in the:

.....rd person, -line and

Note: In many languages, *verbs* indicate **person** (I, you, he, she, it, we, they), **gender** (masculine, feminine or neuter) and **number** (singular or plural).

2. In what way are humans like animals? 1:24-25, 30
3. In what way are humans not like animals? 1:26-27; Psalm 8:3-8
What is an **image** and what is a **likeness**?
4. How many humans did God create? Why? 1:27

See Appendix 1. Y-chromosome Adam and mitochondrial Eve.

5. Why did God create mankind in this manner? Matthew 26:64; Hebrews 2:5-8a; 14-17
6. Who is the perfect image and likeness of God? 2 Corinthians 4:4, 6; Colossians 1:15; 2:9; Hebrews 1:3
7. Who will be the man to represent us and rule over everything? Hebrews 2:9-10
8. How did God become like us? Hebrews 2:14-15

Reflection & Application _____

1. How will we be able to discern the correct translation for, “Let us make...” Genesis 1:26. Who is God speaking to?
How does it differ from, ‘So God created man...’ Genesis 1:27
2. What is Elohim’s Name? Genesis 2:4b
_____ יהוה
3. What would be the main reason that Elohim would make mankind in his own image and likeness? Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:1-9; Daniel 7:9-14, Romans 5:12-21; 1 Corinthians 15:20-21; Ephesians 1:18-23; 2:4-7; 3:8-10; 5:32; Hebrews 2:5-18

The Creation of the Woman**Introduction**

This passage contains divine instruction and has immense implications, not only for Christians, but also for all of mankind. It teaches us about the LORD God's sovereign rule and sole determination of what is good and evil, the spiritual responsibility we bear and the implications of rejecting his good design and authority.

The passage also instructs mankind about God's good design for human sexuality, the complementarity of gender and the wonder of marriage.

Finally, it provides us with a vast prophetic perspective from the creation of the woman and marriage with regard to the creation of the church of Jesus Christ.

Study Questions

Note: Answer questions from the text.

Read Genesis 2:4b-25, Matthew 19:4-6, Ephesians 5:21-32

See Appendix 7: The 'accounts' of Genesis.

Take note: Genesis 2:4b-5:1a, *'the Book of Adam'*.

1. In what new and distinct manner is God presented to the reader from Genesis 2:4b onward? Why is this significant?
2. What did the LORD God provide for the man and how did he have to respond to it and treat it? 2:15
3. Whom did the LORD God command not to eat of the tree of good and evil? Who ultimately would bear the responsibility for disobedience? 2:16-17; Romans 5:12-21

4. What would the consequences of disobedience be? 2:17
5. What was **not good** in the Garden of Eden? 2:18
6. What did the naming of the animals indicate? 2:19-20; Psalm 8
7. How did the LORD God create the woman? 2:21-22
8. Was the woman in any way inferior to the man? 2:23; Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 5:1

Note: **Man** is *ish* (אִישׁ) and **woman** is *ishah* (אִשָּׁה) in Hebrew.

9. How do men and women complement one another? 2:24

Reflection & Application _____

1. Where was Jesus pierced when he hung on the cross? Why is this significant? Zechariah 12:10; 13:1; John 19:34, 37
How does the piercing of Jesus' side fulfil Genesis 2:21-23?
2. Why did both Jesus (Matthew 19:4-5) and Paul (Ephesians 5:31-32) connect the relationship between the husband and wife to Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 2:24?
3. Considering these texts, is there life on other planets?

The Woman's Seed**Introduction**

This passage provides us with divine revelation on a number of universal truths.

Rebellion & Curse: The introduction of the serpent, the twisting of God's word, the lure of temptation, the desire to be like God, rebellion against God, the responsibility for rebellion, the result of this rebellion, the implementation of the curse, the entry of death into the world.

Promise & Grace: The promise of 'a seed of the woman' that would crush the serpent's head and the common humanity of all people.

Study Questions

Note: Answer questions from the text.

Read Genesis 3:1-22; John 12:31-32; Revelation 12:9-10

1. What did the serpent deny and promise? 3:1-4
2. What did the woman desire? 3:5-6
3. What was the immediate result of disobedience? 3:7-11
4. Where did it all go wrong? 3:12-13
5. What was the curse? 3:14-19

6. What is strange about the phrase, the 'seed of the woman'?
What could it possibly mean? 3:15; Isaiah 7:14
7. Why are the genealogies **of Genesis 5:1-32; 1 Chronicles 1-3; Luke 3:23-38** in the Bible and why is the genealogy in Luke so important? Luke 3:23-38

See Appendix 2. The Genealogies of Jesus.

8. What would be the correct translation of Luke 3:23-38 be?
9. How many **races** are there? 3:20; Daniel 7:14; Revelation 5:9; 7:9; 13:7
10. Was there animal death before the curse? 3:17, 21

Reflection & Application _____

1. What is the meaning of the prophecy of the 'seed of the woman' and how was it fulfilled? How can one be sure?
2. Why is it important that Jesus had to have the blood of King David in his veins? Could his father Joseph have given this to him according to Matthew's genealogy? Matthew 1:1-17; Isaiah 11:1-11; 16:5; 55:3 Jeremiah 23:5-6; Ezekiel 34:23-24; 37:24-25
3. What would have been the easiest way to discredit Jesus' claims for being the Messiah by the religious leaders? Luke 23:23-38

A Man from the LORD

Introduction

Did Adam and Eve understand the promise in Genesis 3:15 of ‘the seed of the woman’ correctly? Have we as modern readers, correctly understood the fulfilment of the promise? The Word of God gives us some clues in the story of Cain and Abel found in Genesis 4.

In Genesis 4:1 we find this strange sentence: Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, ***"With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man."***

What did Eve mean? Did she understand the promise literally to mean that she would bear a son or man-child without any human help or intervention?

Study Questions

Note: Answer questions from the text.

Read Genesis 4:1-16; 4:25-5:1

1. What name changes for Elohim or God have we encountered in the text thus far?

Genesis 1:1-2:3

Genesis 2:4-3:23

Genesis 4:1-26

Why?

2. Did Eve understand the promise of ***the seed of the woman*** correctly? What did she mean by the strange words in 4:1?

3. The seed of the woman was supposed to crush the serpent's head? Could Cain have been the promised seed? 4:3-8
4. What was happening? Who was the ultimate force behind the slaying of Abel? 3:15; 4:8
5. For those who are like Abel, is this all that life has to offer? Have we understood the promise of ***the woman's seed*** correctly? 3:15
6. Why is Seth's birth necessary? 4:25

Reflection & Application _____

1. Is being a believer in this world any guarantee for healthy, wealthy and prosperous life? Luke 11:51; Psalm 73:13-14
2. What do the followers of the LORD experience in this world? Hebrews 11:9-10; 13; 16; 13:14; 1 Peter 1:1, 1:17; 2:11;
3. Why must there be a resurrection? Where is our city and our home? Galatians 4:26; Hebrews 12:22-23; Psalm 73:23-26
4. Why is Abel mentioned by both Jesus, as well as by the writer to the Hebrews as the first man of faith? Matthew 23:35; Hebrews 11:4
5. What will ultimately happen to the wicked who seem to prosper in this present world such as Cain? Psalm 73:2-12; 16-20

Noah found favour...**Introduction**

In this passage we have the strange account of the 'sons of God' and their relations with the 'daughters of men'. One popular explanation is that this was 'the line of the serpent' having relationships with 'the godly line', i.e. the line of the promise to the woman (Genesis 3:15). However, who are 'the **sons of God**' according to the OT Scriptures? In the Old Testament the phrase 'sons of God', (בְּנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים) always refers to angels (e.g. Job 1:6; 38:7). So if correctly understood, **rebellious angels** or demons had sexual relations with **human females** and produced powerful offspring, called the **Nephilim**.

This explanation seems to be borne out by the letters of 1 Peter, 2 Peter and Jude. This may be totally unthinkable from our understanding, but that is what the Biblical evidence points to. Is this what the average Jew in Jude's day would believe? The answer is given in a popular text in the day of Peter and Jude, such as the **book of Enoch**.

Enoch 6:1 And it came to pass after the children of men had increased in those days, beautiful and comely daughters were born to them. 2. And the angels, the sons of the heavens, saw and lusted after them, and said one to another: "Behold, we will choose for ourselves wives from among the children of men, and will beget for ourselves children."

Study Questions

Note: Answer questions from the text.

Read Genesis 6:1-9a. The Book of Enoch.

1. Is there a spirit world? What did Satan attempt to do? 6:1-4, 1 Peter 3:18b-20; 2 Peter 2:4-5; Jude 6
2. How does the LORD view contact between the living and the spirit world? 6:5; Deuteronomy 18:10-12

3. How did the LORD feel about all the corruption and wickedness on the earth? How did he plan to act against all mankind? 6:6-7
4. What happened to Noah? Why? What did he do differently? What was the basis of his salvation? 6:8
5. Could Noah have written 9:28-29?
6. Which is *'the book of Noah'*, 5:1b-6:9a or 6:9b-10:1?

See Appendix 7. The 'Accounts' of Genesis.

Take note: Genesis 5:1b-6:9a, the Book of Noah.

Reflection & Application _____

1. What does the name Noah mean? 5:29
2. What is the basis of salvation? When did Noah's faith come, before or after God's favour? 6:8; Hebrews 11:7
3. Where is true rest to be found? Matthew 11:28-29

The Judgement of the Flood

Introduction

Was the judgement of the Biblical flood universal? Why would the universality of the flood be of any importance? If the Flood was localised, what would this do to Jesus' understanding with regard to the Old Testament, as well as to his teaching with regard to a coming universal judgement in Matthew 24:37-39?

What is the significance of the fact that there are at present more than 300 flood legends amongst different cultures of the world? The basics of much of these flood stories are the same. One of these flood accounts from China, describes *'a global catastrophic flood so vast that the waters reached the sun and covered the mountains, drowning all the land-dwelling creatures, including mankind. In the midst of this global calamity, there stood a legendary hero named Nüwa (女媧) who after the flood receded, the world began to be repopulated from the eight people on the Ark.* (Kui Shin et al)

See Appendix 3. The Noachian Flood.

Study Questions

Note: Answer questions from the text.

Read Genesis 6:9b-17; 7:11-23; 9:1-13

1. Who wrote these wonderful words about Noah? 6:9b-10; 10:1

See Appendix 7. The 'Accounts' of Genesis.

Take note: Genesis 6:9b-10:1, the Book of Shem, Ham and Japheth.

2. What was God going to do about the corruption and violence on earth? 6:11-13

3. What would be the extent of this judgement of God? 6:17
4. What about people who claim that the effect of the flood was limited? 7:21-23; Matthew 24:37-39; Luke 17:26-27; 1 Peter 3:19-20; 2 Peter 2:5; 2 Peter 3:5-7.
5. What mandate was repeated to Noah and his sons? 1:28; 9:1-2, 7
6. Which dietary change took place after the flood? 1:29-30; 9:3
7. How does God view the killing of any human being? 9:6

Reflection & Application _____

1. Why does Jesus connect the return of the Son of Man with the flood? Matthew 24:37-39; Luke 17:26-27
2. Why will the return of Jesus and the Day of Judgement affect every human being? Matthew 24:37-39; Luke 17:26-27 Cf. Daniel 12:2
3. Which two outcomes does a demonstration of true faith always have? Hebrews 11:7

The Tower of Babel**Introduction**

Since the beginning of time, humans have been trying to reach God or the gods in their own manner. It really started with our first parents, who believed the devil's lie, that God was somehow withholding something good from them and that they could be like God.

At the Tower of Babel, humans once again wanted to reach the gods in their own way. At the site of the Biblical city of Babylon, they attempted to build 'a tower to the heavens' (Genesis 11:1-4). Similar structures to the one built at Babylon may still be observed all over Mesopotamia in the vicinity of the original Tower of Babel. These structures are called ziggurats.

See Appendix 4. The Table of Nations and Tower of Babel.

On the side of the ziggurat, there is a stairway leading up to the smallest square on top. Closest to the sky or the gods, sacrifices to the gods were made. At the bottom of such a ziggurat you find a temple. The idea was that the gods would come down to meet the worshippers in their temple. All kinds of detestable practices would take place in these temples.

Study Questions

Note: Answer questions from the text.

Read Genesis 10:32-11:10

Take note: Genesis (10:2/10:6/10.21)-11:10a, the Book of Shem.

1. What was the sin of Babel? 11:4
2. How did the LORD judge them? 11:7

3. Will rebellion against the LORD prevail? 11:4; 7-8
4. Why is Babel / Babylon such an important city throughout the Bible? Zechariah 2:7; 1 Peter 5:13; Revelation 14:8; 16:19; 17:4-6
5. What is the alternative city according to God's design? Isaiah 61:1-3; 62:1-7; Zechariah 2:7, 10; Hebrews 11:10, 16; Hebrews 12:22; 13:14; Revelation 21-22

Reflection & Application _____

1. How many spiritual cities are there of which human beings can be citizens? What are their names? Zechariah 2; Revelation 17-18; Revelation 21-22
2. In the Bible, what are unknown human languages a sign of to the people of God and who are they intended for? Isaiah 28:11-12; 1 Corinthians 14:21-22
3. How has the judgement of Babel been reversed? Acts 2:5-11

The Promise to Abram**Introduction**

After the judgement at Babel and the dispersion of people all over the world, the LORD once again acted in grace for the benefit of all of humankind. The LORD called a man by the name of Abram, from Haran in Mesopotamia, to the land of Canaan. The LORD would use this man, his family line and a specific descendant to bring great blessing to all the peoples of the world. The LORD made a number of very significant promises to Abram, which mainly included a land, a people and blessing.

Study Questions

Note: Answer questions from the text.

Read Genesis 12:1-7

1. What happened after dispersion at Babel? 11:8; 12:1
2. What promises did the LORD make to Abram? 12:2-3, 7
 - 2a
 - 2b
 - 3a
 - 3b
 - 7
3. Which was the greatest promise of them all? 12:3b, 12:7
4. What did Abram do immediately? Why did he take everything he owned with him? 12:4-5

5. What was needed for the promise of blessing to the nations through Abram to be fulfilled? What obstacle stood in the way of this promise? 11:30; 12:4, 7

Note: The Hebrew word used for **offspring** / **seed** in 12:7, is the word *zera* (זֶרַע), which means a sowing, a seed or offspring and it is rendered singular in the Hebrew Masoretic text, as well as the LXX.

6. What is the significance of the Hebrew word offspring or seed being masculine and singular? 12:7
7. How can the LORD 'appear' to a man? 12:7

Note: The Aramaic Targums 'solve' this problem of any humanlike actions of YAHWEH, such as touching, resting or appearing, by speaking of 'the **memrah** of YAHWEH', which simply means the **Word of the LORD**.

Reflection & Application _____

1. How was the promise to Abram, whose name was later changed to Abraham, fulfilled? Who was the **seed of Abraham**? Galatians 3:16
2. How can we become children of Abraham? In what sense are we **Abraham's seed**? Galatians 3:26-29

Melchizedek, the Priest-King**Introduction**

In Genesis 14 we find the account of the rescue of Abram's nephew Lot, who unwisely chose to settle near the town of Sodom. Four hostile kings captured the cities of the plain and took a number of hostages, which included Lot and his family. When he heard the news, Abram pursued the kings, routed them and set Lot free.

On his way back from his successful military expedition, he met a mysterious figure by the name of Melchizedek. There are literally only 3 verses in the Genesis account, regarding this hugely significant ancient figure (Genesis 14:18-20).

Study Questions

Note: Answer questions from the text.

Read Genesis 14:8-20

1. What happened in the battle between the kings of the five cities of the plain and the four opposing kings? 14:8-13
2. What action did Abram take when he heard the news? 14:13-16
3. Whom did he meet in the King's valley? What did his name mean? Of which city was he the King? 14:18a

Note: *Melech* means king and *tsedek* means righteousness. Melchizedek therefore literally means **King of Righteousness**. He was also the King of **Salem** (later Jerusalem), therefore also the **King of Peace**.

4. What action did Melchizedek take and what does this sound like? 14:18b
5. What else was significant about Melchizedek? 14:18c
6. Who is **God Most High** or **El Elyon**, mentioned four times? Is this **God Most High** the one true God? 14:18-20, 22

Note: One could say that God Most High is God's international name. This name is used when speaking about the LORD among the nations. Daniel e.g. speaks of **the God of heaven** (Daniel 2:19), **the God of gods and the Lord of kings** (Daniel 2:47) and **the Most High God** (Daniel 5:21) to the Babylonians. Cf. Paul in Acts 17:24-25

7. What did Melchizedek do for Abraham and what is significant about this? 14:19
8. What else did Melchizedek do and how did Abram respond? 14:20

Reflection & Application _____

1. Of which order is the priesthood of Jesus Christ? Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 7:17
2. In what way is Melchizedek a shadow of Christ? Psalm 110:1-4, Zechariah 6:11-13
3. What is significant about Melchizedek's name? Jeremiah 23:5-6

The Word of the LORD**Introduction**

In the book of Genesis, as time went past, the LORD revealed more and more of himself to mankind. The LORD created the first humans in his own image and likeness. He met with them and spoke with them in the Garden of Eden. The LORD judged their rebellion, but he also promised **a seed of the woman** to crush the serpent's head. He also revealed himself by his name, the LORD God.

He punished the wickedness of the human population via a worldwide flood, but chose a man named Noah to perpetuate the promised line.

As the LORD dispersed the rebellious offspring of Noah at Babel to form the different nations, the LORD once again chose a man by the name of Abram and made some wonderful promises to him. In Genesis 15, we find the next step in the LORD's revelation of himself to Abram.

Study Questions

Note: Answer questions from the text.

Read Genesis 15:1-6

1. What is the meaning of a vision in its simplest form? 15:1
2. What did Abram see in a vision, soon after his encounter with Melchizedek? 15:1, 4
3. Which pronoun did the Word of the LORD use for himself? How did Abram address the Word of the LORD? 15:1-3
4. Where did the Word of the LORD take Abram? So where was he before? 15:5

5. Which of the promises did the Word of the LORD re-affirm? How many would Abram's offspring be? 15:4-5
6. In what manner did Abram respond to this promise and what was the effect? 15:6
7. What was credited to Abram as righteousness, the strength of his faith, or his trust in the spoken promises of the LORD? 15:6; Galatians 3:8

Reflection & Application _____

1. Whom do you think Abram saw? John 1:1; 8:56-58
2. In what manner did Abram see Christ? Galatians 3:16
3. In which manner are people saved after Christ? How does it differ from the faith and salvation of Abram? Galatians 3:7; 29
4. What is saving faith? Hebrews 11:11; 17-19; James 2:20-24
5. What is the basis of our faith? How do we become part of Christ? Galatians 3:26-27
6. Compare Abram's experience with that of Jeremiah, many years later. Who did Jeremiah see and speak to? Jeremiah 1:4-9

The Covenant

The LORD had made a number of very significant promises to Abram. These included the promise of a great people, a great name, blessing to him and a land (Genesis 12:1-3, 7). The most remarkable promise of all was that all people on earth would be blessed through a singular male seed of Abram (Genesis 12:3b; 22:18). This promise of blessing to the nations became known as ***the promise*** in the NT (Galatians 3:17, 19, 29).

After Abram's encounter with Melchizedek, the LORD repeated the promises and re-affirmed the promise of a specific male seed (Genesis 15:4). The LORD then ratified the promises with a covenant.

Study Questions

Note: Answer questions from the text.

Read Genesis 15:1-18a

1. Can you remember which promises the LORD had made to Abram?
Genesis 12:2-3; 7
 -
 -
 -
 -
2. Which promises did the LORD re-affirm to Abram?
 - 15:4
 - 15:5
 - 15:7; 18-21
3. What kind of ceremony was this? 15:9-10, 17-18a

4. What did this procedure mean? Jeremiah 34:18-20
5. What was significant about the procedure? How did the LORD guarantee his promises? 15:17-18
6. Can you think of a common covenant practice to be found among all nations?

Reflection & Application _____

1. How are **all the many promises** of God found from Genesis to Malachi fulfilled? 2 Corinthians 1:20
2. Who are the **great multitude** promised to Abraham in Genesis 15:5? Hebrews 11:12; Galatians 3:29
3. What difference is there in Christ between ethnicity, social standing or gender? Who are all **Abraham's seed**? Psalm 87, Galatians 3:26-28
4. How is the promise of **great blessing** fulfilled in Christ? Ephesians 1:3
5. How is the promise of **land** fulfilled in Christ? Galatians 4:26; Hebrews 11:10, 16; 12:22-23a; 13:14

The Angel of the LORD

The English word 'angel' that we find in our Bibles, is derived from the Greek word **angelos**. **Angelos** can also rightly be translated as 'messenger.' The Hebrew word for angel or messenger is **malach**. The word 'messenger' would probably be a better translation than angel.

There are a number of different kinds of angels and heavenly beings found in the pages of the Bible and they are described by various terms. They are angels, archangels, seraphim, cherubim, watchers, the host, thrones, principalities, powers and sons of God.

However, there is a specific figure we meet in the pages of the Old Testament called **the angel of the LORD**. The article **the**, identifies this angel or messenger as a very specific being. The reason that this being is called **the angel of the LORD** is because this angel is different to all other angelic beings.

Study Questions

Note: Answer questions from the text.

Read Genesis 16:1-16

1. What was the main reason Hagar fled from Sarai? 16:1-5
2. Who found Hagar near a spring in the desert after she had fled from Sarai? 16:7
3. What did the angel of the LORD command Hagar to do? 16:9
4. What did the angel of the LORD promise Hagar? 16:10

5. Who heard of Hagar's misery? 16:11
6. Who is the angel of the LORD? Who was it that spoke to Hagar?
16:13

Reflection & Application _____

1. Is there perhaps not a mistake? In which manner is the identity of the Angel of the LORD confirmed? 16:13
 - 13a
 - 13b
 - 13c
2. Why is the well named **Beer Lahai Roi**? 16:14
3. Is this a correct understanding of the identity of the name, 'the angel of the LORD'? Compare with the following passages.
 - Exodus 3:2, 4-6
 - Judges 6:11-12, 14, 22-23;
 - Zechariah 3:1-2.

The Sign of the Covenant

The Promise. The LORD made some very significant promises to Abram when he was 75 years old and his wife Sarai was 65 (Genesis 12:2-3, 7). The promises included the following:

- A great nation.
- A great name.
- Blessing to those who blessed Abram; curses to those who cursed Abram.
- Worldwide blessing through a specific male seed of Abram.
- A land.

The Covenant. Some time later the LORD had confirmed **the promise** by a covenant, a formal agreement or treaty which we read about in Genesis 15:5-6, 17-18.

The Sign. In Genesis 17, the LORD once again appeared visibly to Abram. We have now come a long way from Haran in Aram Naharaim to Canaan, the land to which YAHWEH had called Abram and his wife Sarai. Genesis 17 begins with a reminder of the lapse of time. It was 24 years later, 13 years after the birth of Ishmael and Abram was already 99 years old and Sarai was 89 years old.

The LORD once again re-affirmed the covenant he had made with Abram.

Study Questions

Note: Answer questions from the text.

Read Genesis 17:1-22

1. What was the main aspect of the promise? 17:2, 4-6, 19-21
2. What is connected to the promise? 17:7-8

3. How was the covenant to be remembered? What was the sign?
17:9-11
4. What was the relation between the promise, the covenant and the sign?
 - Promise
 - Covenant
 - Sign
5. Why did circumcision apply only to boys and why did circumcision have to take place on the 8th day? 17:12
6. Why would the name of Abram and Sarai change? 17:5-6; 15-16, 19

Reflection & Application _____

1. What does the sign of the covenant signify? Romans 2:28-29
2. How was the sign of circumcision fulfilled? Colossians 2:11-12; Galatians 3:26-29
3. What is the reality to which the new covenant sign of water baptism points? Ezekiel 36:26-27; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Titus 3:4-7
4. In what way are all the covenant promises of God ultimately fulfilled? 2 Corinthians 1:20

Three Heavenly Visitors

When Abram was 99 years old the LORD confirmed the covenant and promised Abram that he would become the father of many nations and have a son by Sarai his wife. Abram's name would change to Abraham, meaning father of many nations and Sarai's name to Sarah, meaning princess.

The sign of the LORD's covenant with Abraham would be the circumcision of every male that belonged to him on the 8th day.

Soon after this exchange, three men appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. He invited them to wash their feet and stay for a meal. At this time, a very significant conversation took place between Abraham, Sarah and the main spokesperson.

Study Questions

Note: Answer questions from the text.

Read Genesis 18:1-33

1. What was an amazing statement with regard to whom appeared to Abraham? 18:1, 33; 19:1 (Also v. 10, 13, 14, 17, 20, 22, 26)
2. What did the three visitors look like? 18:2-5
3. What did the visitors do with the food? 18:6-8
4. What promise was given to Sarah? 18:9-10

5. Why was this promise so difficult to believe? Is there anything too hard for the LORD which he cannot do? 18:11, 14; 11:30; Hebrews 11:11
6. What else did the LORD reveal to Abraham? 18:16-21
7. How should Abraham's attitude to the people of Sodom be an example to us and inspire us? 18:22-32
8. What happened when the LORD had finished speaking to Abraham? 18:33

Reflection & Application _____

1. Is this theophany, i.e. the appearance of YAHWEH in human form something which you can understand?
2. Why is this theophany so important? In what manner did YAHWEH ultimately appear to mankind in human form? Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 1:23
3. Are there two persons called the LORD (YAHWEH)? Zechariah 2:10-11
4. For which two specific reasons did the heavenly visitors come to see Abraham? 18:9-10, 17, 20-21

The Destruction of Sodom

The LORD revealed to Abraham that he was about to destroy the five cities of the plain, which were Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim and Bela (Zoar). The reason for this was that their wickedness was extremely great and their sin was so grievous that there was an outcry before the LORD.

The events in the account may sound like an ancient myth or just-so story. However, remains of five ancient towns have been found in the area south of the Dead Sea, formerly known as the Valley of Siddim. This used to be a fertile plain (Genesis 13:10). However, after the destruction of the cities of the plain, it became known as the Valley of Salt. The area is situated on a geological fault line and is known for its massive bitumen and salt deposits.

See Appendix 5. Sodom and Gomorrah and the Cities of the Plain.

Study Questions

Note: Answer questions from the text.

Read Genesis 19:1-29

1. Who were the three visitors to Abraham and Sarah? 18:1, 19:1
2. Who were the two visitors to Sodom and what did they plan to do? 18:2; 19:2-3
3. What happened after supper? 19:4-5
4. What strange behaviour did Lot exhibit? 19:7-8

5. How did the men of Sodom react? What did the angels do? 19:9-11
6. Why did the angels come to Sodom? 19:12-13, 16
7. Who actually rained down burning Sulphur on Sodom and Gomorrah? How many persons were there in this account who are called YAHWEH? 19:24 Cf. also Zechariah 2:10-11
8. What was the sin of Sodom? Jude 1:7

Reflection & Application _____

1. What was Lot like in his heart? 2 Peter 2:6-9
2. What does '*sitting in the gateway of the city*' mean? Proverbs 31:23; Job 29:7-11
3. Despite his apparent position, was Lot very effective in his witness to the people of Sodom? 19:1; 9, 14, 26
4. What is your witness to a lost world like? How effective are you?
5. What will happen when the Son of Man returns? Luke 17:29-30; 2 Peter 3:7-10

The LORD honours his Promises!

At long last the promised son of Abraham was born. This was a full twenty five years after the LORD had called him from Haran in Aram Naharaim. Abraham was a hundred years old and his wife Sarah was 90.

The name of the baby boy would be Isaac, meaning '**he laughs**'. Unfortunately, because Abraham and Sarah were trying to do things in their own flesh, Abraham already had a son by his slave girl Hagar, named Ishmael. Ishmael was already fourteen years old by the time Isaac was born.

Five years later, when Isaac was weaned, Ishmael mocked Sarah and Isaac. This led to Sarah's demand to have Hagar and Ishmael expelled from Abraham's household.

Study Questions

Note: Answer questions from the text.

Read Genesis 21:1-21

1. Does the LORD honour his promises? 21:1-2
2. What was miraculous about Isaac's birth? 11:30; 21:3-5; Hebrews 11:11-12
3. What did Ishmael (19) do the day when Isaac (5) was weaned? Why? 21:8-9; 16:16
4. What did Sarah demand from Abraham? 21:10

5. What did the LORD confirm to Abraham regarding Isaac? 21:11-13
6. What did the angel of God do for Hagar? Who is the angel of God? 21:17-20
7. Who was the LORD upon whom Abraham called? 21:33

Reflection & Application _____

1. What must we understand about God's promises? 21:1; Galatians 4:22-23
2. What does the story of Hagar and Sarah and their children teach us with regard to salvation? Galatians 4:24-26
3. What was the difference between Isaac and Ishmael's birth? Galatians 4:28-31
4. Is there any promise which God will not honour? What is the guarantee of God's promises? Ephesians 1:3; 2 Corinthians 1:20; Galatians 3:29

God will Provide the Lamb

‘By faith Abraham, even though he was past age -- and Sarah herself was barren -- was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. And so, 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 11:11-12).

Isaac the son of the promise grew up and then one day, God tested Abraham’s faith by commanding Abraham, “Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering (Genesis 22:2).”

Study Questions

Note: Answer questions from the text.

Read Genesis 22:1-19

1. Why was God’s test of Abraham’s faith so severe? Why did God call Isaac Abraham’s only son? What would happen to the promise and the covenant if Isaac died? 22:1-2
2. Why was Abraham sure that he and Isaac would both come back from making the sacrifice? 22:3-5
3. What did Abraham believe God could do? 22:6-8; Hebrews 11:17ff

Note: Abraham literally said: **‘God will see for himself the lamb!’**
From **ra’ah** (רָאָה), meaning ‘to see’.

4. Did Abraham waver at all to obey God’s command? 22:3, 9-10

5. Who called out to Abraham not to slay his son? Who is speaking here in the 1st person? Notice the pronouns 'I' and 'me'. 22:11-12
6. What was provided by the LORD instead? What Abraham call that place? What does it literally mean? 22:13-14

Note: the translation '**the LORD Will Provide**', literally translated is **YAHWEH will see**, from **YHWH-jireh** (יְהוָה יִרְאֶה).

7. Who is the angel of the LORD? 22:15-16
8. Which four promises did the LORD reaffirm to Abraham? 22:17-18

Reflection & Application _____

1. Abraham spoke incredible prophetic words of faith in Genesis 22:14. How was this prophecy literally fulfilled on Mt. Moriah? 2 Chronicles 3:1

Note: Moriah means **the mountain of the house**.

2. Who is **the seed of Abraham** through whom all nations would be blessed? The word for seed (**zera**) is singular. 22:18; Galatians 3:16
3. Can you see that Isaac is a type of Christ? In what manner?
4. What is life-giving faith? Does Abraham's faith differ from ours today? Galatians 3:6-8 Cf. Romans 4:13-20

A Bride for Isaac

There are certain types of **stories** in literature. They could be spy, thriller, war, detective, travel, love or adventure stories. Even in telling these different kinds of stories, there are smaller scenes which authors love to use. Scenes such as a courtroom scene, a police interrogation scene, a battle scene, or a romantic scene.

In the OT we find a very significant type of story on three different occasions. One could call this **a woman, well and water** story. Why was this popular kind of story? In those days there weren't discos, social clubs or dating sites. One good place for a young man to meet a prospective wife was at the local well, while she was working at watering dusty tired and smelly animals.

We find '**woman, well and water**' stories in encounters of:

- Abraham's servant and Rebekah (Genesis 24).
- Jacob and Rachel (Genesis 29).
- Moses and Zipporah (Exodus 2).

Let us have a look at the first of these encounters.

Study Questions

Note: Answer questions from the text.

Read Genesis 24:1-19

1. What was Abraham's request and what was the reason? 24:1-4
2. Why did the servant have to find a bride in Aram Naharaim and not in Canaan, but then he had to return to Canaan? 24:6-7
3. Where did the servant go and what did he do? 24:10-11

4. What did he pray for and was this a good strategy? 24:12-14
5. Who came out to the well and what was her moral character like? 24:15-16
6. What kind of attitude or character did she display? 24:17-20
7. Was Rebekah from the right family? 24:15, 22-27
8. In the end, was Isaac happy about his bride? 24:67

Reflection & Application _____

1. How is this story fulfilled in Christ? John 4:1-7
2. What was wrong with the Samaritan woman, in comparison with Rebekah? John 4:9; 16-18
3. Who offered water to whom? John 4:10-12
4. Who do the characters in this '**woman, well and water**' story represent? Who is the 'Samaritan woman' representative of?
5. What does Jesus offer you? John 4:13-14; 7:37-39

A Stairway to Heaven

Esau held a grudge against Jacob because he stole his blessing. Therefore, Esau decided to kill him as soon as Isaac died. When Rebekah heard of Esau's plan, she urged Jacob to flee to Haran for safety. Rebekah also led Isaac to believe that her greatest concern was that Jacob would marry a Canaanite woman.

In response Isaac called for Jacob and blessed him and commanded him not marry a Canaanite woman, but to go to Paddan Aram, to find himself a wife from among the daughters of Laban, his mother Rebekah's brother (28:1-10). Jacob gladly left supposedly to find a wife, but actually fled from his brother Esau.

Then one night, on his way to Haran, Jacob had an amazing dream. What did Jacob see in his dream?

Study Questions

Note: Answer questions from the text.

Read Genesis 28:1-19

1. Was Jacob looking for the LORD? 28:1-11
2. What did Jacob see in his dream and what was striking about it?
28:12
3. Would Jacob have known the story of Babel? Why? 28:12
4. Which beings were ascending and descending on this stairway?
28:12

5. Whom did Jacob see at the top of the stairway? How was Jacob introduced to this being? 28:13.
6. Which promises did YAHWEH repeat to Jacob? 28:13-14
7. What further promise did YAHWEH make to Jacob? 28:15
8. What did Jacob realise when he woke up? 28:16-17
9. What did Jacob call that place and what does it mean? 28:18-19

Reflection & Application _____

1. Which covenant promises were repeated to Jacob? Why are they significant? 28:14-15
2. Whom did Jacob really see? 35:1, 7, 9; John 1:48-51
3. Who is 'Jacob's ladder' and the 'Gate of Heaven'? Matthew 7:13-14; John 10:9

The Mother of the King

You cannot help but feel sorry for Leah.

1st It is clear she was not as physically attractive as her sister.

2nd Her own father used her in a humiliating manner to deceive Jacob.

3rd An added indignity, was that her more beautiful sister married her husband the very next week, after her own bridal week (honeymoon).

4th She also had to live the rest of her life with the painful knowledge that she was not as desirable to Jacob, as her younger sister Rachel.

To be loved, valued and desired by your husband is hugely important for any wife today, but even more so in those days, where a wife was totally dependent on her husband's treatment and love. However, the Word of God tells us that **God did not forget Leah**. God had a plan for her life that was far greater than she ever could have imagined. What was this plan?

Study Questions

Note: Answer questions from the text.

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

1. When the LORD saw that Leah was not loved, what did he do for Leah which Jacob and her father Laban did not do? 29:31-35

Note: In Hebrew the word **sane** (שנא) is literally translated, 'to hate!'

2. What did the names of the sons of Leah mean? What does it tell us about Leah? 29:32-35

Reuben 29:32

Simeon 29:33

Levi 29:34

Judah 29:35

3. In the history of the patriarchs, which wife was most important in the LORD's fulfilment of his Covenant promises?
Genesis 17:19; Genesis 25:21-23; Genesis 29:35; Genesis 49:31
4. What did Rachel's Jealousy lead her to do? 30:1-8
5. Did the LORD eventually grant Rachel her own biological son?
30:22-24
6. Rachel's first biological son is called Joseph, meaning "YAHWEH has added". The Covenant Name of God is used once again for the 1st time after 29:31-35. Why did Rachel perhaps choose this name?

Reflection & Application _____

1. Who were two of Leah's most famous children and what did they become famous for? 29:34-35; 49:10; Numbers 3:12-13
2. Which greater King would Leah one day be the great ancestor of?
Psalm 110:1-4; Matthew 1:2; Luke 3:33-34
3. How are both the offices of King and High Priest ultimately fulfilled?
Zechariah 6:9-13, ; John 19:5; Hebrews 7:11-22
4. Do you feel weary, unseen, unheard, unloved? How does the LORD feel about you? Psalm 34:7-8; 15, 17-18; John 1:14
What privileges do you have? Ephesians 1:3; 2 Corinthians 1:20

Jacob and the Angel of God

Laban had realised that there was something blessed about Jacob, so he used him for his own benefit and did his utmost to deceive Jacob and to get the most out of the free labour Jacob could provide. However, God thwarted him by prospering Jacob. After twenty years, Jacob sensed that his father-in-law's attitude towards him had changed and that their relationship was deteriorating (Genesis 31:1).

The **Situation in Canaan** in the days of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob was also precarious. The land was not empty, but full of various kinds of Canaanite tribes. To live and move about in Canaan was actually very dangerous. What made it a little safer, was that Abraham's people were livestock farmers, whereas the Canaanites were mainly crop farmers.

Therefore, Jacob's ancestors did not compete for the fertile soil on the plains near the main watercourses, but lived in the hills and even desert areas where life was harsh. Water had to be found in remote areas, where there would be little chance of dispute about ownership.

Study Questions

Note: Answer questions from the text.

Read Genesis 31:1-24; 36-42; 53-55

1. What did YAHWEH command and promise Jacob? 31:3
2. Why did Jacob speak to his wives out in the fields? 31:4-6
3. What did Jacob realise after twenty years? Who was his success attributed to? 31:5, 7, 9

4. Who watched over Jacob? Who is this Angel of God? 31:11-13 Cf. 28:12-13

5. How did Laban treat his daughters? 31:14-15

The word translated 'tricked' or 'deceived' (v.20) should be literally translated: **Jacob stole Laban's inner man, soul or heart.**

6. In what manner did Jacob 'steal Laban's heart'? 31:20

7. Where was Jacob when he crossed the River? 31:21

8. What was Laban's intent? What did God warn Laban about when he pursued Jacob? 31:22-24

Reflection & Application _____

1. How is the warning to Laban connected to the promise? 31:24

2. What if we do not receive what has been promised? Why are we called aliens and strangers on earth? Hebrews 11:8-10

3. Where is our promised land? 2 Corinthians 1:20; Galatians 4:26; Ephesians 1:4; Hebrews 12:22-24

Jacob's Night Struggle

Jacob stayed behind as his family crossed over the Jabbok River. Jacob was willing to offer himself as a sacrifice, in the hope that his family might escape. He had been absent from Canaan for twenty years and he survived through many trials and dangers by his own wits. But now he was all alone and afraid, as his brother Esau was on his way with four hundred men. The noise of the rushing river was in his ears and around him it was pitch black night except for the stars. He could not make a fire, for fear of giving his position away. Imagine his terror when all of a sudden he felt an immensely powerful assailant laying hold of him. Jacob himself was strong man (Genesis 29:7-10), yet this attacker was his superior. **Note:** The Jabbok flows west into the Jordan 32 km north of the Dead Sea. It rises near Amman in Jordan and is approximately 96 km long.

Study Questions

Note: Answer questions from the text.

Read Genesis 32:22-31

1. A man wrestled with him until daybreak. When he could not overpower Jacob, what did he do? 32:25
2. Did his assailant combat with all his strength? 32:25
3. What was the only thing Jacob could do to his adversary? 32:26-27
4. What did Jacob want from his adversary? 32:26
5. What did Jacob confess? What did this mean? 32:27

6. What was Jacob's new name? What does this mean? 32:28
7. Whom did Jacob struggle with? 32:29-30; Hosea 12:3-5
8. What was the purpose of this struggle? Cf. Galatians 6:15-16

Reflection & Application _____

1. Do you think Jesus alludes to this event in Revelation 2:17? Cf. 1 John 5:4-5
2. Spell out the words in this story in describing the transition from being lost to salvation.
 - totally alone
 - great and terrible darkness
 - struggle with a man
 - confess your sin
 - a new name
 - face to face with God
3. How do you have to enter the Kingdom? Matthew 11:12
4. Can you encounter the Lord Jesus and walk away unscathed? 32:31

Israel returns to Bethel

Do Christians understand what these stories of the patriarchs in Genesis have to do with us? The LORD made **a promise** to Abraham and Sarah and said amongst other things: 'Through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed' (Genesis 12:3). The LORD then confirmed **the promise** on oath with **a covenant**. The LORD repeated this same **promise** to Isaac and Rebekah. Circumcision was given as a **visible sign** of the covenant.

The OT covers the history of the promise of blessing to all nations through a particular male offspring. It traces this history from the time of the patriarchs, all the way through king David and ultimately at the fullness of time in the arrival of Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:16). What we have in the OT is the genealogical godly line of the ancestors of Jesus. That is why the genealogies of Jesus in Matthew and Luke are so significant.

The promise was always under the threat of derailment, either by the failure of the covenant family line, or by the attempts of Satan. That is what the OT is all about! It is the story of the expectation of the fulfilment of **the promise** and the coming of Christ! **This is the gospel story!**

Study Questions

Note: Answer questions from the text.

Read Genesis 35:1-19; 37:1-2a

1. Why was it important for Jacob to return to Bethel? 35:1
2. What does it mean that **God said** to Jacob, "Go up to Bethel and settle there, and build an altar there **to God, who appeared to you...**" Are there two persons called God? 35:1 Compare with 35:3.
3. What was the significance of Jacob's instruction and actions in 35:2-3?

4. What did Jacob do at Bethel and what did he call that place?
35:6-7
5. What did God remind Jacob of? 35:9-10
6. Which promises did Jacob receive from the LORD at Bethel the first time? 28:13-15
What promises did he repeat when he appeared to Jacob a second time? 35:11-12
7. What went wrong as Rachel was giving birth? 35:16-18a. Why did Israel change Ben-Oni's name to Benjamin? 35:18b, Psalm 80:17
8. Where did Rachel die? Is there any significance to it? 35:19

Reflection & Application _____

1. What is the significance of the first three words in 35:27? Cf. 28:15
2. What is significant about the words: 'And his sons Esau and Jacob buried him?' 35:29
3. Who was this God who spoke to Jacob? 35:1, 3; Cf. 48:15-16
4. How many times has Christ has spoken to you and how?

Prepared for Higher Service

Do you believe that God is Sovereign? That every possible situation that the believer is faced with in life, is a test of faithfulness, as well as a training ground for higher purpose? For being loved most by his father Jacob, Joseph was sold into slavery by his hateful brothers and became a slave in the house of Potiphar. His life seemed to be heading in the wrong direction. Despite all of this, Joseph not only remained deeply committed to the LORD, but he was also determined not to sin against the LORD (YAHWEH).

Study Questions _____

Note: Answer questions from the text.

Read Genesis 37:2b-11; 39:1-23

1. What did Potiphar recognise about Joseph? 39:2-3
Who does this remind you of? 30:27
2. What did the LORD do for the household of Potiphar and why?
39:4-5; 12:3
3. What did Potiphar do for Joseph? In Potiphar's household, what was Joseph's position? 39:6a, 8-9a
4. What went wrong between Joseph and Potiphar? Do you think Joseph was severely tested? 39:6b-7
5. What did Joseph do and how did he manage to do so? Ultimately, whom did Joseph not want to sin against? 39:8-10; Psalm 51:4

6. What did Potiphar's wife accuse Joseph of? 39:13-18
7. Did Joseph defend himself when falsely accused? What was the outcome for Joseph? 39:19-20
8. Did the LORD abandon Joseph in prison? 39:20b-23

Reflection & Application _____

1. What was similar in Potiphar's household and in prison? Was the LORD preparing Joseph for a higher purpose? 39:4-6; 21-23
2. In what manner did Joseph serve his superiors, first as a slave and then later as a prisoner? How do you think he would possibly serve someone greater? 39:6, 23
3. In what manner is Joseph a type of Christ? For example, who was tempted yet did not sin, was falsely accused and remained quiet before his accusers? Hebrews 4:15, Isaiah 53:7; Matthew 26:63
4. What was one of Jesus' two favourite descriptions of himself? Isaiah 42:1; 49:5-7; 50:10; 52:13; 53:11; Mark 10:45
6. What favourite titles does the apostle Paul call himself by? Romans 1:1; Ephesians 3:1

One in whom is the Spirit of God

After Joseph ended up in prison, he noticed that two of the prisoners he oversaw were troubled. It turned out that they were the cupbearer and the baker of the Pharaoh. They each had a dream which they did not understand. Joseph revealed the meaning of the dreams to them and it turned out exactly as he said. The cupbearer returned to the service of the king. Joseph asked him to remember him once he was released. A full two years went past, until the Pharaoh had some disturbing dreams which none of his wise men, magicians or advisors could explain. The cupbearer then remembered Joseph.

Study Questions _____

Note: Answer questions from the text.

Read Genesis 41:1-16; 25-46

1. Why was **the LORD** being spoken of in Genesis 39 and **God** in Genesis 41?
2. Who would give the answer to the dream? What was Joseph doing here and why? 41:16
3. When Joseph had heard the dream, what did he do next? What was Joseph doing? 41:25, 28, 32
4. What did Joseph want to stress to Pharaoh?
5. What did Pharaoh recognise about Joseph? Who lived in Joseph? 41:38

6. Who did Pharaoh acknowledge had made things known to Joseph?
41:39
7. What would Joseph be in all of Egypt? Who alone would be greater than Joseph? 41:40-43

Reflection & Application _____

1. What did **Zaphenath Paneah** mean? What was the significance of this name? 41:45
2. Does God always answer immediately? How long was Joseph in prison for? 37:2; 41:46
3. Who else in the OT ultimately submitted himself totally to God's will, despite being falsely accused, did not defend himself and was gloriously vindicated?
4. Who was Joseph a shadow and a type of? Who became God's regent on earth over all the nations? Psalm 2:1-12; Psalm 110:1-7; Daniel 7:13-14

The Saviour of Israel

The sons of Israel were sent to Egypt to buy food, as there was famine in the land of Canaan. They had to buy grain from their own brother Joseph, although they did not realise it. This was two years into the famine with five years still left. Seven good years had passed before the famine. Joseph, by that time, was already thirty nine years old. As he was no longer a youth of seventeen and he was second in command of all Egypt, with the accompanying headdress and clothes, his brothers did not recognise him. His brothers bowed down before him in fulfilment of prophecy and they were being prepared to move to Egypt for four generations, in line with earlier prophecy (Genesis 15:16).

Study Questions _____

Note: Answer questions from the text.

Read Genesis 45:1-28

1. In what way was the actions of Joseph's brothers a fulfilment of prophecy? 42:6-9a; 37:6-7, 9
2. In what way is Joseph a shadow of Christ? 45:4-5
3. What did God do through Joseph? 45:7-8a
4. What was Joseph's position in Egypt? 41:40-43; 45:9
5. How do these events relate to the earlier prophecy of the LORD to Abraham? 15:13-16

Reflection & Application _____

1. In what manner is Joseph a shadow of Christ? Psalm 2; Psalm 110; Philippians 2:6-11

2. Why did God do this to Joseph and in how is Joseph a type of Christ? 45:5; Isaiah 53:8, Mark 10:45

3. How long would the children of Israel remain in Egypt for? Consider Genesis 15:16; Exodus 12:40-41; Numbers 3:14-20, 38

See Appendix 6. Strangers and Slaves for 430 Years.

4. Can you confidently confess that you been saved by Christ going ahead of you? John 17:24

The Shepherd of Israel's Life

Some time later, after moving to Egypt, Jacob fell seriously ill. Joseph probably sensed that Jacob's time on earth was coming to an end (48:21). So Joseph, accompanied by his two sons Ephraim and Manasseh, went to visit Jacob. Joseph took his sons along in the hope that his father would bless them, which was really Joseph's task on his deathbed. During this visit, Jacob made some remarkable comments.

Study Questions

Note: Answer questions from the text.

Read Genesis 48:1-22

1. Who appeared to Jacob at Luz on his way to Paddan Aram? 48:3-4; 28:12-13
2. What did Jacob rename Luz? 48:3; Genesis 28:11-19
3. What did God Almighty promise Jacob at Bethel? 48:3-4
4. What was strange about Jacob's claim regarding Ephraim and Manasseh? 48:5-6.
5. What happened to Jacob's wife Rachel in childbirth? Where did this happen? What did Jacob call the son who was born? 48:7

6. In what manner did Jacob bless Ephraim and Manasseh? What did this mean? 48:13-14

7. In whose name did Jacob bless the boys? 48:15-16

..... before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked...
the who has been my shepherd all my life to this day...
the who has redeemed me from all evil...

8. What did Jacob prophecy about Joseph and his brothers? How did he know this? 48:21; 15:13-16

See Appendix 6. Strangers and Slaves for 430 Years.

Reflection & Application _____

1. How is the death of Rachel at Bethlehem Ephrath and the birth of Benjamin connected to Christ? 48:7; Psalm 80:14-17; Micah 5:2

2. What is significant about Jacob's blessing? 48:15-16

3. By whose name should the boys be called? How did this turn out in the history of Israel? 48:16b

4. Did this return of Joseph and his brothers eventually happen? 48:21; Exodus 12:40-41; 13:19

A Prophecy regarding a Cosmic King

Jacob was about to die (48:21). As was the custom in those days, Jacob called all his sons to surround his bed, so that he could pronounce his deathbed will (Genesis 49:1-2; 29-33). He blessed them one by one, appropriate to each of their characters. Jacob (Israel) pronounced an especially remarkable blessing upon his fourth son named Judah. This was a prophecy regarding the future, not only of the people of Israel, but also the people of the world.

Study Questions _____

Note: Answer questions from the text.

Read Genesis 49:1-33

1. Normally the firstborn son received the greatest blessing. If the firstborn was disqualified, the primary blessing would come to the second brother and so on. Why did neither Reuben, Simeon nor Levi receive the greatest blessing? 49:3-7
2. Who received the greatest blessing and what was the meaning of this blessing? 49:10
3. What is the meaning of *shiloh* (שִׁלֹה)? 49:10

Meaning: ***'he whose it is'*** or ***'that which belongs to him'***.

4. When did this prophecy come true? 49:10; Matthew 28:18-20
Cf. Psalm 2, Psalm 110, Daniel 7:13-14

5. What does ***‘the obedience of the nations is his’*** mean? 49:10
Daniel 7:13-14

6. Which final instructions did Jacob give his sons and why was it important that they did not bury him in Egypt? 49:29-33

Reflection & Application _____

1. What does the description in 49:11a remind you of?

Zechariah 9:9

Matthew 21:2-5

2. What does the description in 49:11b remind you of?

Isaiah 63:1-6

Revelation 19:13, 15

3. What is the description in 49:12 possibly a reference of?
Song of Songs 5:12

A Shadow of Christ

Jacob died in Egypt after giving instructions to his sons regarding his burial (49:33). Joseph and his brothers mourned for their father Jacob. After the forty days of embalming and another seventy days of mourning, Joseph asked permission from Pharaoh to go and bury his father. A very large number of men and dignitaries went with Joseph to bury his father.

Study Questions

Note: Answer questions from the text.

Read Genesis 50:1-26

1. Where did Joseph and his brothers bury Jacob? 50:12-13
2. What were Joseph's brothers afraid of after they returned to Egypt? 50:15
3. What plan did they devise to make sure that Joseph would not mete out retribution for the wrongs they had done to him? 50:16-17
4. Why did this make Joseph sad? 50:17
5. What did Joseph's brothers not understand, but Joseph did? 50:19-20
6. What did Joseph reassure them of? 50:21

7. What is significant of the fact that Joseph saw Ephraim and Manasseh's children, i.e. the third generation? 50:22-23
8. When would their sojourn to the land of Egypt end? 15:13-16
9. What did Joseph remind his brothers of? 50:24
10. What did Joseph ask of his brothers? How did he know that they would be able to do this? 50:25-26; 48:21; 15:13-16

See Appendix 6. Strangers and Slaves for 430 Years.

Reflection & Application _____

How is Joseph's words in 50:19-20 fulfilled in the life of Christ?

Christ in Genesis**Conclusion**

We have come to the end of our study of Christ in Genesis. This same kind of study can be conducted with great benefit in other books of the OT. Obviously some books contain more on the pre-incarnate Christ than others.

The Torah: The best book to study for this purpose would probably be **Exodus**.

The Writings: The book of **Psalms** would be the best. Many messianic Psalms come to mind such as Psalm 2, 16, 22, 45, 110 etc.

The Prophets: The best books to study would probably be Isaiah, Daniel and Zechariah.

Isaiah has a host of references, appearances, prophecies with regard to the pre-incarnate Christ, for example:

The prophecies about the Messiah in a passages such as Isaiah 7, 9 and 11.

The Servant Songs in Isaiah 40 to 55.

The Songs of the Anointed Conqueror in Isaiah 56 to 66.

Daniel contains many excellent passages to study such as Daniel 2, 7 and 9.

Zechariah is saturated with the pre-incarnate Christ and many have called this prophecy the 5th gospel.

We have studies available on the following prophets:

- Daniel
- Isaiah 56-66 – The Anointed Conqueror
- Zechariah

Reflection & Application _____

1. In which way(s) has this study strengthened you in your Christian faith and your walk with the Lord?

2. Are you able to understand that there are more than one person of the Trinity present in Genesis?

3. Can you in your own words express the benefit(s) of seeing other persons of the Trinity in the book of Genesis?