

EXTREME ADVENTURES WITH GOD

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EXTREME ADVENTURES WITH GOD

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For the seventh grade class at Silverdale Baptist Academy, 2003-04

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You are so awesome! Thanks for your patience and understanding as I was writing this book. I pray that you will always seek and trust God's choice for your life. Remember, He only wants the very best for you! Keep your eyes on Him and follow His plan even when it is hard and you struggle. Hang on tight to God like Jacob did. Surrender your ways for His. Be strong and courageous!

I love you,

Mrs. Arndt

Ephesians 6:10-13

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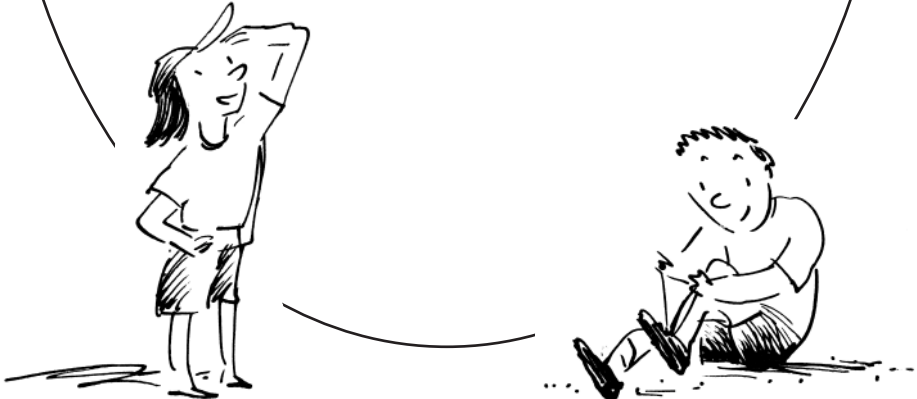
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SEARCHING FOR TRUTH— A BIBLE STUDY YOU CAN DO!

Hey! Guess what? Molly, Sam (the great detective beagle), and I are getting outfitted for a great new adventure. By the way, my name is Max, and we want you to join us as we backpack across mountains and through forests, take on white-water rafting, and learn to rock climb as we become outfitted for God's plan. Did you know that God has a plan for each one of our lives and that His choice is always best?

As we begin our new adventure, we will take along our map, the Bible, to learn about three guys in God's plan: Isaac, Esau, and Jacob. WHAT lessons can we learn as we follow these three guys' adventures with God? WHAT will God show us about Jacob and Esau before they are ever born? HOW do these two brothers get along? Are they close, or is there a struggle? WHO is in control? And HOW we can trust God's choice, even when we face struggles and disappointments.

You have so much to discover about Isaac, Esau, and Jacob as you study God's Word, the Bible, the source of all truth, and ask God's Spirit to lead and guide you. You also have this book, which is an inductive Bible study. That word *inductive* means you go straight to the Bible *yourself* to investigate the lives of Isaac, Esau, and Jacob in the Book of Genesis. In inductive Bible study, you discover for yourself what the Bible says and means.

So pack up your gear, and don't forget God's map! Let's get outfitted for the great outdoors and discover what it means to trust God to guide us, even in the most challenging and difficult adventures of our lives.

See you at the river!



GEAR YOU'LL NEED



NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE
(UPDATED EDITION)—PREFERABLY,
THE NEW INDUCTIVE STUDY BIBLE (NISB)

PEN OR PENCIL
COLORED PENCILS
INDEX CARDS
A DICTIONARY
THIS WORKBOOK



A STRUGGLE FOR THE BIRTHRIGHT

GENESIS 24-25

All right—you're here! Are you ready for the adventure of your life? Great! Grab those tent poles. The first thing we need to learn is how to set up our campsite. Then we can get started discovering just who these three guys are in God's plan.





THE ADVENTURE BEGINS

The campsite looks great! Why don't you give Sam a bowl of water? All that running around and yapping makes him thirsty. Now we can go sit by the river with a handful of trail mix and get started discovering the first guy in God's great adventure. WHAT is the first thing we need to do before we get started? Do you remember? *Pray!* Way to go!

Bible study should always begin with prayer. We need God to be our Expert Guide on this great adventure, to lead and direct us by His Holy Spirit. Then we can understand what God says and make sure we handle His Word accurately.

So first things first. Let's pray. Then we will be ready to get started on this great adventure by following one of the guys in God's plan: Isaac.

Isaac's life begins in the Book of Genesis, which is known as the book of beginnings. So let's put ourselves in context by reviewing the Book of Genesis.

WHAT is context? Context is the setting in which something is found. This is very important in Bible study. Context is a combination of two words: *con*, which means "with," and *text*, which means "what is written." When you look for context in the Bible, you begin by looking at the verses and chapters surrounding the passage you are studying. Then you see how it fits into the Book of Genesis, as well as into the whole Bible. Remember, Scripture never contradicts Scripture!

Context also includes:

- The place something happens. (This is **geographical** context, such as knowing where Isaac lived. Did he live in the land of Canaan or in Babylon (present-day Iraq)?)
- The time in history an event happens. (This is **historical** context. Did Isaac, Jacob, and Esau live before Noah and the flood or after the flood?)
- The customs of a group of people. (This is **cultural** context. For instance, did Isaac live in a tent or in a house like we do today?)

If you have already studied Genesis Part One, *God's Amazing Creation*, and Genesis Part Two, *Digging Up the Past*, then you have discovered for yourself that Genesis is a book of generations, of beginnings. A generation is what is brought into being. It shows where something or someone came from. A generation shows the order of birth, the family history.

Let's discover the different generations that are found in Genesis by looking up and reading the following passages of Scripture to put ourselves in context as we begin our study of Isaac, Esau, and Jacob.

Genesis 2:4 WHAT is this the account of?

The _____ and the _____

Genesis 5:1 This is the book of the generations of

_____.

Genesis 6:9 These are the records of the generations of

_____.

Genesis 10:1 These are the records of the generations of _____, _____, and _____.

Genesis 11:10 These are the records of the generations of _____.

Genesis 11:27 These are the records of the generations of _____. _____ became the father of _____, _____, and _____.

Genesis 25:12 These are the records of the generations of _____, _____ son by _____ the Egyptian.

Genesis 25:19 These are the records of the generations of _____, _____ son.

Now let's look up one more Scripture verse to find out WHO is Isaac's mother. Look up and read Genesis 21:3.

WHO is Isaac's mother? _____

All right! Way to go! You have just discovered all the different generations from the beginning of the heaven and the earth. And if you have already done the Bible study of the third part in Genesis (*Abraham—God's Brave Explorer*) then you also know that not only was Isaac the son of Abraham and Sarah, but he was also the child of the promise. All the covenant promises that God made to Abraham and his descendants would come through Isaac.

Now that we have put ourselves in context, let's get started on God's extreme adventure with Isaac. Read Genesis 24 by turning to your Observation Worksheets on page 163. Observation Worksheets are pages that have the Bible text printed out for you to use as you begin your adventure on the lives of Isaac, Esau, and Jacob.

Now read Genesis 24 and mark the following key words. What are *key words*? Key words are words that pop up more than once. They are called key words because they help unlock the meaning of the chapter or book that you are studying and give you clues about what is most important in a passage of Scripture.

- Key words are usually used over and over again.
- Key words are important.
- Key words are used by the writer for a reason.

Once you discover a key word, you need to mark it in a special way using a special color or symbol so that you can immediately spot it in Scripture. Don't forget to mark any pronouns that go with the key words, too! WHAT are pronouns? Check out Max and Molly's map below.


PRONOUNS


Pronouns are words that take the place of nouns. A noun is a person, place, or thing. A pronoun stands in for a noun! Here's an example: "Molly and Max are excited about their new adventure. They can't wait to go white-water rafting!" The word *they* is a pronoun because it takes the place of Molly's and Max's names in the second sentence. It is another word we use to refer to Molly and Max.

Watch for these other pronouns when you are marking people's names:

I	you	he	she
me	yours	him	her
mine	it	his	hers
we	its		
our	them		
they			

Let's get started. Read Genesis 24 and mark the following key words:


 God (Lord) (draw a purple triangle and color it yellow)


 Isaac (color it blue)


 Rebekah (circle it in pink)

 bless (blessing, blessed) (put a blue cloud around it and color it pink)

land (double-underline it in green and color it blue)

 worshiped (circle it in purple and color it blue)

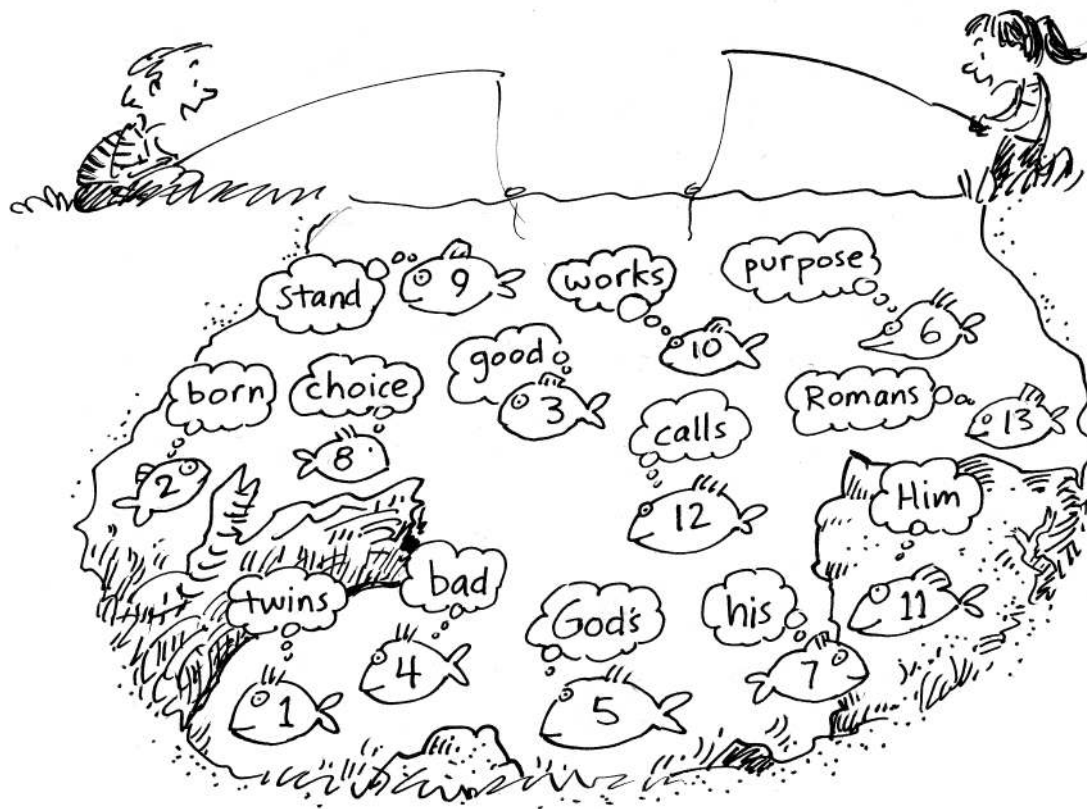
 loved (draw a red heart)

Don't forget to mark anything that tells you WHERE by double-underlining the WHERE in green. And don't forget to mark anything that tells you WHEN by drawing a green clock like this: 

That was great work! Now grab those fishing poles with Max and Molly and try to catch a "big one" for your first outdoor dinner.

But before you catch dinner, you need to catch your first memory verse. In order to be outfitted for God's plan, we need to know His Word and have it hidden in our hearts.

Look at all the fish that are swimming in the river on the next page. Each one has a number on it. Catch each fish and place the word that is written in its air bubble on the blank with the number of that fish written underneath.



For though the _____
 1 _____ 2 and
 had not done anything _____ or _____, so that
 3 _____ 4
 _____ according to _____
 5 _____ 6 _____ 7
 _____ would _____, not because of
 8 _____ 9
 _____ but because of _____ who _____...
 10 _____ 11 _____ 12

— _____ 9:11
 13

Great catch! Now practice saying this verse aloud three times in a row three times every day.

Day
Two
GUIDED BY GOD

Good morning! How did you sleep last night? It's time to go meet our guides and find out what will be our first adventure today. Are you ready? Great! Then race Max and Molly to the outpost.

"Hey, no fair, Max," Molly huffed as she caught up with Max at the outpost. "You took a shortcut!"

"Sure did! You didn't say we had to stay on the path. You just said, 'Let's race.' I beat you fair and square, didn't I, Dad?" Max replied.

"Okay, you guys," Max's dad laughed. "You're both here. That's all that matters. Let's go inside and meet up with our group. Here comes our guide now."

"Hey, guys," Mr. Burt called out as he approached Max, Molly, Sam, and Max's dad, Luke. "Are you ready for your first outdoor adventure? How would you like to get started today with some white-water rafting?"

"Yeah!" Max and Molly answered excitedly, while Sam started yapping and wagging his tail.

"Great!" answered Mr. Burt. "Let's go get you outfitted. You'll need paddles, helmets, sunscreen, and PFDs."

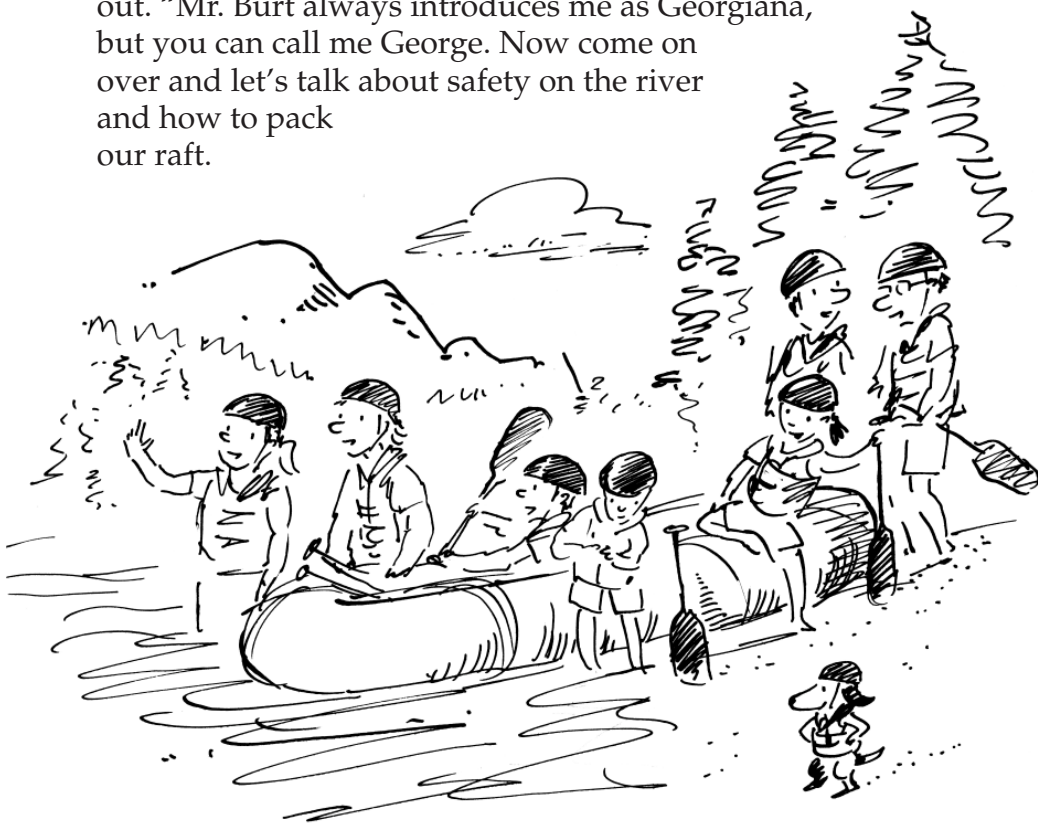
"What are PFDs?" Molly asked.



“Personal flotation devices. That’s what we call life jackets,” Mr. Burt answered Molly. “After we get you set up, we’ll go meet the other kids on your team. Then we’ll talk about safety on the river and get started learning how to paddle.”

After Mr. Burt outfitted them, he took them out to the river to introduce them to the rest of their team. “This is Alex, Lauren, Mr. Paul, who is Alex and Lauren’s dad, and your other guide for the week, Georgiana. Guys, this is Max, his cousin Molly, and Max’s dad, Mr. Luke.”

“Hey, guys, it’s nice to meet you,” Georgiana called out. “Mr. Burt always introduces me as Georgiana, but you can call me George. Now come on over and let’s talk about safety on the river and how to pack our raft.”



Then we need to learn how to use our paddles. Before we can get on the river, we need to be sure everyone is equipped for their adventure.”

Good work. It looks like the raft is packed, and you're ready to go. So grab those maps and let's head back to Genesis 24 on page 163 to find out what is happening with Isaac. Read Genesis 24.

Now let's outfit ourselves. WHAT can we learn from Genesis 24 about Isaac by asking the 5 W's and an H questions? What are the 5 W's and an H? They are the WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY, and HOW questions.

1. Asking WHO helps you find out:

WHO wrote this?

WHOM are we reading about?

To WHOM was it written?

WHO said this or did that?

2. WHAT helps you understand:

WHAT is the author talking about?

WHAT are the main things that happen?


3. WHERE helps you learn:

WHERE did something happen?

WHERE did they go?

WHERE was this said?

When we discover a WHERE, we double-underline the WHERE in green.

4. WHEN tells us about time. We mark it with a green clock like this: 

WHEN tells us:

WHEN did this event happen or WHEN will it happen?

WHEN did the main characters do something? It helps us to follow the order of events.

-
5. WHY asks questions like:
WHY did he say that?
WHY did this happen?
WHY did they go there?

 6. HOW lets you figure out things like:
HOW is something to be done?
HOW did people know something had happened?

Now ask the 5 W's and an H.

Genesis 24:1 WHAT do we discover about Abraham?

Genesis 24:2-4 WHAT does Abraham ask his servant to do?

Genesis 24:4 WHERE is Isaac's wife to come from?

Genesis 24:7 WHO will go before the servant?

Genesis 24:8 WHAT is the only reason Abraham gives for his servant *not* to bring a wife from Abraham's relatives?

Genesis 24:11-14 WHAT do we see the servant doing in these verses?

Genesis 24:15 WHO comes out before the servant finishes speaking to the Lord?

Genesis 24:16 HOW is she described?

Genesis 24:17-20 WHAT does Rebekah do for the servant?

Genesis 24:22 WHAT did the servant give Rebekah?

Genesis 24:24 WHO is Rebekah?

The daughter of _____, who is the son of _____, whom she bore to _____

Is Rebekah related to Abraham? ___ Yes ___ No

If you aren't sure, look back at the generations we did on Genesis 11:27 on page 10.

WHO are Abraham's brothers? _____ and

This shows us that Rebekah is from Abraham's family. She is Abraham's brother's (Nahor's) granddaughter.

Genesis 24:26 WHAT does the servant do?

Genesis 24:27 WHAT was the servant doing as he worshiped God?



Wow! He blessed God. Isn't that awesome? Look back at Genesis 24:12. Did you notice how the servant prayed to God and asked God to guide him to Abraham's relatives, and to show him specifically who the girl is that Isaac is to marry?

Now look at Genesis 24:27. The servant is worshiping and thanking God for answering his prayer by guiding him to the house of his master's brothers.

HOW about you? Do you pray and ask God to guide you each day, to help you know what He wants you to do and how He wants you to live? Or do you just do what you want to do, instead of asking God for guidance and direction?

Write out what you do on the line below.

Write out one of your experiences of asking God for His help.

Do you remember to bless and thank God for His answers?

_____ Always _____ Most of the time

_____ Sometimes _____ Never

Abraham's servant's prayer shows us not only that he knew God as Lord, but also that he trusted God completely.

Do you trust God with all the details in your life, or do you think that you know what is best for you?

Write out what you do on the line below.

Will you surrender your plans and allow God to have

complete control over your life? _____

Genesis 24:28 WHAT did Rebekah do?

Genesis 24:29 WHO was Rebekah's brother?

Genesis 24:31-32 HOW did he treat the servant?

Genesis 24:33-49 WHAT does the servant do before he eats?

Genesis 24:49 Does the servant ask permission to take Rebekah? _____

Genesis 24:51 HOW does Rebekah's family respond?

Genesis 24:58 HOW did Rebekah respond to leaving with the servant immediately?_____

Genesis 24:60 WHAT did they do to Rebekah as she prepared to leave?

Genesis 24:62 WHERE was Isaac living? _____

Genesis 24:67 WHAT did Isaac do?

Now turn to Genesis 25 on page 168. Read Genesis 25:20 for a sneak peek to find out HOW old Isaac is.

HOW old was Isaac when he married Rebekah?

_____ years old

Wow! Just look at all you discovered today. You know how Isaac married his wife, Rebekah. Isaac didn't go looking for the right person. Instead, we see how God guided Abraham's servant to Rebekah and worked out all the details of providing a wife for Isaac. Isn't that amazing!

Isaac waited on God. He was 40 years old when God provided his wife. Isaac loved Rebekah, and she was a comfort to him after his mother's death. God always has the best plans for us. We need to trust Him completely with our lives. Remember this when it comes time for you to get married. We need to be like Abraham's servant who sought God's will in prayer. We need to ask God to guide and direct us in everything we do each and every day.

Now that you have discovered that God is your Guide, practice saying your memory verse. Then head out into the open water for a thrilling ride into the white-water rapids.



RIDING THE RAPIDS—RUN TO GOD!

Look at you! You are soaking wet! That was quite a ride down those white-water rapids. Are you learning how to read the river? Today as we head back on the river, we will have an even wilder ride. We will encounter cascading waterfalls and gigantic boulders as we move from a Class II course with waves up to a foot high to Class III rapids with waves up to three feet high.

Are you ready to take the plunge? Then pack your lunch in your river bag, and let's head back to Genesis. Turn to your Observation Worksheets on page 168.



We are going to skip the first part of Genesis 25, which focuses on Abraham, since this adventure begins with Isaac. Let's start reading at Genesis 25:19-34. Mark the following key words and key phrase:

These are the records of the generations of (circle it in blue)

Lord (draw a purple triangle and color it yellow)


Esau and Edom (color it red)

Jacob (circle it in blue)

prayer (inquire) (draw a purple  and color it pink)

birthright (box it in orange and color it green)

nations (underline it in brown and color it green)

And don't forget to mark anything that tells you WHEN by drawing a green clock like this: 

Now let's get the facts.

Genesis 25:21 WHAT did Isaac do?

WHY did Isaac pray to the Lord?

Do you know what it means to be barren? *Barren* means to not have any children. Do you remember WHO was barren in *Abraham—God's Brave Explorer*? That's right. It was Sarah, Isaac's mother.

Genesis 25:21 WHAT happened when Isaac prayed?

Genesis 25:22 WHAT did Rebekah inquire of the Lord?

Genesis 25:23 Did God answer Rebekah? _____

Did you notice that Isaac went straight to the Lord with the problem of Rebekah not having children and asked for children on Rebekah's behalf?

WHAT did Rebekah do when the children were struggling inside her? That's right. She went straight to God and asked Him what was going on.

Do you remember Abraham's servant in Genesis 24, how he asked the Lord to make his mission a success in finding a wife for Isaac? And do you remember how he blessed and worshiped God for His answer?

HOW about you? WHAT do you do when you have a problem? Do you go straight to God and give it to Him? Or do you try to handle the problem by yourself or by asking your friends for their help?

Write out what you do on the line below.

WHAT should you do when you are in trouble, confused, or hurting?

The next time you have a problem or need an answer, remember the examples of Rebekah, Isaac, and Abraham's servant. Pray and ask God what you should do. Turn your problems and hurt over to Him. He wants you to trust and depend on Him.

Look up and read Philippians 4:19.

WHAT is God's promise in this verse?

We are to put our trust in God and not in ourselves or our friends. God will take care of all our needs.

Look up and read 1 John 5:14-15.

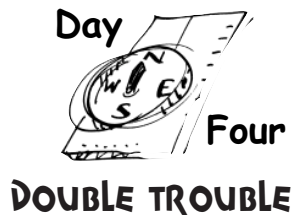
1 John 5:14 WHAT is the confidence we have before God?

1 John 5:15 Will God give us our requests? _____

Yes! God loves us. He hears and answers our prayers. We are to run to Him with all our problems and cares!

"Casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7).

Way to go! Tomorrow we will find out more about these two children of Isaac and Rebekah. Don't forget to practice saying your memory verse!



"Wow! Did you see that? I almost fell out," exclaimed Max. "That was a really big one!"

"You better hang on, buddy," Max's dad called back.

"George said there's another one up ahead, and they don't call it the 'Double Trouble' for nothing."

"Bring it on," laughed Max as they headed toward Double Trouble. "This is so awesome! Are you having fun, Molly?"

"Eieeee," Molly screamed. "I hope I don't fall out! Did you see how high I bounced up that time?"

Mr. Burt laughed. "Is anyone hungry? There's a stretch of quiet water coming up with an area where we can get out of the river and have a picnic lunch."

"I'm starving," yelled Alex.

"Me, too," yelled Molly, Max, and Lauren in unison.

"Hang on tight," Mr. Burt replied. "We'll be there before you know it."

Whew, that was some big water. How are you holding up? Now that we have conquered Double Trouble, let's help Mr. Burt and George get our picnic set up. Then we need to pull out our maps and find out more about Isaac and Rebekah's children.

Let's head back to page 170 and read Genesis 25:19-34.

Now ask the 5 W's and an H.

Genesis 25:23 WHAT does the Lord tell Rebekah is in her womb?

" _____ "

are in your womb."

WHAT is their relationship to each other? WHAT does it say about one people?

WHO will serve WHOM?

Genesis 25:24 WHAT did Rebekah have in her womb?

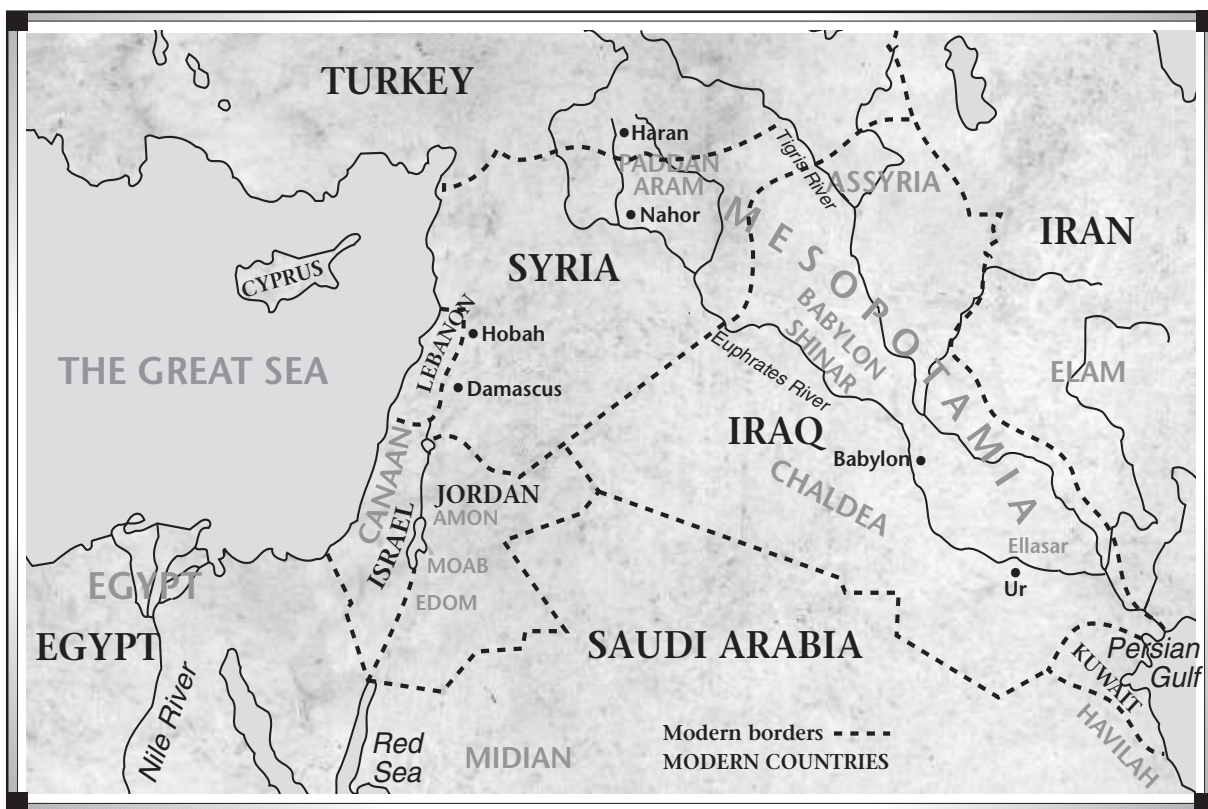


Now let's make a list to see what we can discover about these two twin brothers.

Esau	Jacob
Genesis 25:25 born _____	Genesis 25:26 born
r ____ all over like a _____	_____ with his
garment	hand _____ on to
Genesis 25:23 prophesied by	Esau's _____
God to _____ the	Genesis 25:23 prophesied by
younger	God to be
Genesis 25:27 became a skillful	s _____ r
_____, a man of the	Genesis 25:27 a
_____	_____ man
Genesis 25:28 _____ loved	living in _____
him	Genesis 25:28 _____
Genesis 25:30 called	loved him
_____	Genesis 25:31 wanted Esau to
Genesis 25:31 the	sell him his
b _____ t	_____
belonged to him	Genesis 25:33-34 bought the
Genesis 25:33 sold his	b _____ t with
_____.	_____ and
Genesis 25:34 Esau _____	_____
his birthright	Nation of _____
Nation of _____ (dEmo)	(eIIsar)

Since we know these two boys represent two different nations, unscramble the words in the parentheses at the bottom of the chart on page 28 to show the two nations of Jacob and Esau.

Take a look at the map below to find out WHERE the nation of Edom is located, and then circle it in green. Next find the modern country WHERE Edom is located today and circle this name in green also.



Way to go! We will learn more about Edom and Esau, and Jacob and the nation of Israel as we continue our great adventure.

Now look at Genesis 25:26. HOW old was Isaac when his twin sons were born? _____ years old

If Isaac was 40 years old when he married Rebekah, HOW long did he wait for God to give him his sons?

_____ years

Isn't that awesome to see how God in His own timing and ways brings about His perfect plan?

Did you also notice how Rebekah loved Jacob, and Isaac loved Esau?

Is it right to have favorites? _____

Have you ever felt like your mother or father loved your brother or sister more than you? _____

HOW did it make you feel: angry, sad, or jealous?
Write out how you felt on the lines below.

Keep your eyes open to find out how playing favorites and lying cause some big problems in Isaac and Rebekah's lives.

Now before we head out, let's write the names of Isaac's wife, Rebekah, and his twin sons, Jacob and Esau, on the family tree below.

All right! Now that you have finished your lunch, pack up, climb back into the raft, and hold on tight! Two very tough rapids—Tablesaw and the awesome Hell’s Hole—are right down the river. Don’t forget to practice saying your memory verse three times in a row, three times today!



A PRICELESS GIFT

“Okay,” Mr. Burt called out, “is everyone ready to head back into the river?”

“We sure are!” Max, Molly, Alex, and Lauren shouted.

“Then hop in,” instructed Mr. Burt. “Start paddling nice and steady.”

“I can hear the roar,” Alex called out. “We must be getting close.”

“Look ahead,” Lauren yelled as the raft approached the white water. “I see a rapid!”

“Okay, guys,” George reminded everyone, “look for the V in the water and aim for it.”

“Piece of cake,” Max yelled out over the roar of the water just as their raft started picking up speed and zipping down the river.

Max yelled, “Yee-ha!” as their raft hit the drop-off and lifted up into the air,



then bounced and rocked into the churning water. As they hit the water, the raft turned sideways and a huge, freezing wave washed over the side, soaking them. Then they smacked against a boulder and almost lost Lauren as she flew out of her seat.

"Whew, that was close," Lauren smiled as she climbed back into her seat. "I thought I was gone for sure that time."

Just as soon as they got their raft moving back into the river, Mr. Burt looked back and smiled. "Hear that roar? This is the big one. There are two drop-offs. If you get tossed out, just remember to turn over on your back and float with your feet first. Don't panic. Work toward the side to the quiet water. We're getting ready to go. Is everybody ready? Here it comes!"

As the raft hit the first drop-off, all you could hear was screaming as the kids bounced up and the raft hit the water to swirl around in the wild water, and then hit the second drop-off.

The raft came down, and Max shot over the side of the raft, yelling as he hit the water. He went under, swallowed a mouthful of water, and flipped. Finally he managed to break the surface of the water gasping for air. As his feet hit a rock, he remembered to flip on his back and float feet first. Just as he started floating, he spotted the raft up ahead, proceeding into the quiet water.

Max floated toward the quiet water, trying to head for the bank. Mr. Burt and his dad were already there, ready to pull him out of the river where everyone was waiting. "Now that was a ride!" Max laughed as he struggled out of the river. "Let's do that again!"

"Not right now," Max's dad smiled back. "You took about ten years off my life watching you fly out of the raft."

Mr. Burt laughed. "Let's dry off and have a snack before we head back to the outpost. Why don't you get your maps out



and see how far we have to go? Then we can snack on trail mix and find out more about Jacob, Esau, and the birthright.”

“That’s a great idea,” replied Mr. Luke. “Let’s dry off and head back to Genesis.”

Yesterday you discovered that Rebekah has two sons who will be two different nations, and that the older would serve the younger.

WHO is the older, the firstborn? _____

WHO is the younger? _____

WHAT did Esau sell to Jacob? His _____

WHAT is a birthright? Do you know? Let’s find out what it is, and if it is important. First let’s turn to page 170. Read Genesis 25:25-34. Make a list below of what you learn about the birthright in this passage in Genesis.

Birthright	
Genesis 25:31-32	_____'s birthright. _____ wanted to buy it.
Genesis 25:33	Esau _____ his _____ to _____.
Genesis 25:34	Esau _____ his birthright.
Hebrews 12:16	Esau _____ his own _____ for a _____.

Now let's find out more about the birthright by doing some cross-referencing. WHAT is *cross-referencing*? Cross-referencing is where we compare Scripture with Scripture by going to other passages in the Bible. This is a very important Bible study tool that we can use as we search out the meaning of Scripture because we know that Scripture never contradicts Scripture.

Let's read Hebrews 12:14-17 printed out below.

Mark the key word *birthright* by drawing an orange box around it and coloring it green.

Then add what you learn about the birthright in Hebrews to your chart on page 34.

Hebrews 12:14-17

- 14 Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.
- 15 See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled;
- 16 that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal.
- 17 For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.

Now let's ask the 5 W's and an H to see what Hebrews tells us about Esau.

Hebrews 12:16 HOW is Esau described?

Hebrews 12:17 WHAT did Esau desire afterwards?

WHAT do we see happen? Did Esau inherit the blessing?

From WHAT you have read in Genesis 25 and Hebrews 12, WHAT do you think the birthright is? Do you know?

Write out what you think it is on the line below.

Do you think it was valuable? _____ WHY or WHY not?

WHICH brother thought the birthright was valuable?

WHICH brother despised it? _____

Now find out what the birthright is. HOW can you find out? To get started, you can do a word study on the word *birthright*. A word study is where you look at the word you are

studying in the original language in which it was written. Did you know that the Old Testament (where Genesis 25 is found) was written primarily in Hebrew with some Aramaic? And the New Testament (where Hebrews is found) was written in Koine Greek.

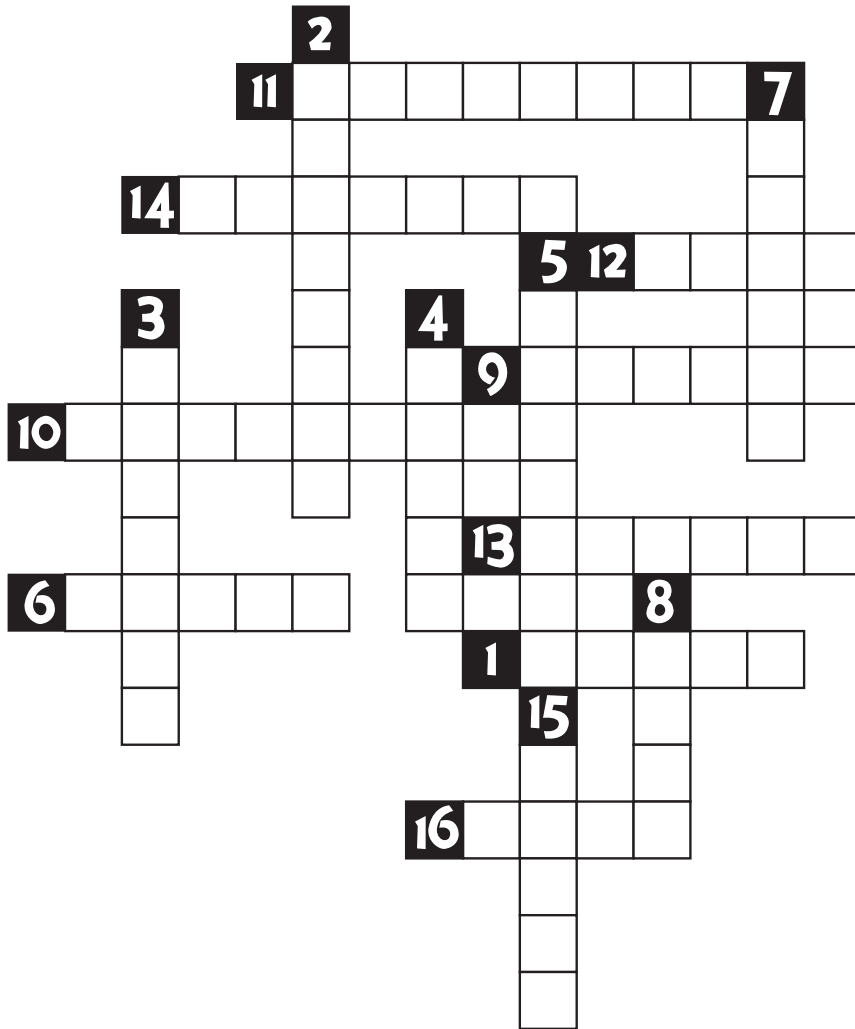
By looking at both the Hebrew (Old Testament) and Greek (New Testament) words for *birthright*, you will understand more about what the word *birthright* means.

Check out Max and Molly's "map" below to discover the Hebrew and Greek words for *birthright* and what they mean. And since you also discovered that Esau despised his birthright, find out what *despised* means, too!

- The Hebrew word for *birthright* is *bekowrah* (pronounced bek-o-raw), and it means "the firstling of man or beast, the firstborn; the right of the firstborn."
- The Greek word for *birthright* is *prototokia* (pronounced pro-tot-ok-ee-ah), and it means "as a privilege, a birthright."
- The Hebrew word for *despised* is *bazah* (pronounced baw-zaw), and it means "to disesteem, to not put the proper value on."

Now that you know that the birthright is a privilege that belongs to the firstborn, and that Esau, Isaac's firstborn, did not put the proper value on the birthright, let's do some more cross-referencing to get the facts about the firstborn and help you understand the importance of the birthright.

Solve the crossword puzzle on page 38 by looking up the passages of Scripture in your map (the Bible) and asking the 5 W's and an H questions.



Look up and read Genesis 49:2-4.

Genesis 49:3 WHAT do we learn about the firstborn by looking at Reuben, Jacob's firstborn?

1. (Across) My _____ and the beginning of my
2. (Down) _____. He is preeminent in 3. (Down) _____ and 4. (Down) _____.

Do you know what it means to be preeminent? It means to have more, to be superior to or stand out above all others. Because Reuben is the firstborn, he is the beginning of Jacob's strength and might. He is to have more dignity and power than his brothers, but does he? Look at verse 4. Will he have preeminence? No. Because Reuben sins against his father, he will not have the birthright, even though he is the firstborn.

Look up and read 2 Chronicles 21:1-3.

2 Chronicles 21:3 WHAT did Jehoshaphat give Jehoram, his firstborn?

5. (Down) The _____

2 Chronicles 21:3 WHAT did he give the other children?

6. (Across) Many _____ of 7. (Down)

8. (Down) _____, and precious things with fortified cities in Judah.

Look up and read Exodus 4:22-23.

Exodus 4:22 WHO is God's firstborn?

9. (Across) _____ (This is referring to the nation.)

Look up and read Exodus 13:2,11-15.

Exodus 13:2 WHAT belongs to God?

10. (Across) The _____

Exodus 13:2 WHAT are they to do with the firstborn?

11. (Across) _____ to Me

Exodus 13:12 WHAT is the firstborn, male or female?

12. (Across) _____

Look up and read Deuteronomy 21:15-17.

Deuteronomy 21:17 WHAT does the firstborn receive?
WHAT is the firstborn's right?

13. (Across) A _____ 14. (Across) _____
of all that he has.

Look up and read Colossians 1:15-18.

Colossians 1:15 WHO is the firstborn of creation? WHO
is the "He" in this verse? If you aren't sure who the "He"
is, look back at verses 13-14. WHO is God's beloved Son
in whom we have redemption of sins?

15. (Down) _____

Colossians 1:18 WHAT else is Jesus also the firstborn of?

16. (Across) The firstborn from the _____

This doesn't mean that Jesus was the first person who was raised from the dead, because we know that Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead before He died on the cross. But this means that Jesus is the first to have ever been raised from the dead to never die again!

Jesus is alive! He lives in heaven with the Father, and one day He will come back and take you to live in heaven with Him, never to die again, if you have accepted Him as your Savior.

Do you see how important the birthright was? The birthright belonged to the firstborn (the first male child). The firstborn was the beginning of the father's might and strength. He was to receive a double portion of the inheritance, and if the father had a kingdom, it was to go to the firstborn.

The birthright was very, very important! But HOW did Esau treat it? As if it had no value. Esau cared more about satisfying his hunger than about the inheritance that belonged to him. Esau was not looking at future blessings but only at his needs of the moment.



He did not control his appetite but gave in to his desires and gave up his inheritance for a bowl of stew. Isn't that sad? Do you remember how he was described in Hebrews? He was an immoral and godless person who later desired to inherit the blessing but was rejected. There was no repentance (a changing of the mind), only tears.

HOW about you? Do you know that you have a birthright if you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior? Once you



have accepted Jesus, you are a child of God and share in His inheritance (Colossians 3:24; 1 Peter 1:3-4).

Are you like Esau? Do you value your inheritance in Jesus Christ, or is it worthless to you? Are you living for God's kingdom, or for the world in which you live? HOW do you know? Examine your heart and the things you do.

- Do you obey God and do what His Word says?

- Do you share the gospel, even if it means kids will laugh and make fun of you?

- Do you have self-control? Do you watch television shows you shouldn't watch, look at bad things on the Internet, and say words that you shouldn't say because all of your friends do?

Write out what you do below.

- Do you live for the moment, caught up in your feelings and desires, or do you think about your future?
Example: Will you wait until you are married to have a physical relationship, like God's Word says, or will you allow yourself to get caught up in what you are feeling at the moment?

Write out what you will do on the line below.

Would you steal something you wanted, or would you wait until you could buy it?

Write out what you would do on the line below.

Would you take drugs if someone promised they would make you feel good to satisfy that need at the moment, or would you say no and trust God to get you through?

Remember, you are a child of God. You have an inheritance that is waiting for you in heaven. If you value it, then you will want to live the way God tells you to by doing what He says is right, whether it is easy or not. Your friends may make fun of you, ignore you, and reject you. But you have to decide how much you value God. Is your birthright important to you?

As we close today, spend some time with God, thanking Him for the priceless birthright He has given you. Ask Him how He wants you to live to honor this priceless gift. Ask Him to help you stand firm when you are lonely and rejected. Remember how He answered Isaac and Rebekah. He hears your prayers, and He will answer you!

Way to go! You did an awesome job! Now that you have dried off, hop back into the raft and head down the river to the outpost. Don't forget to practice your memory verse!



PUZZLE ANSWERS

Page 13

For though the twins were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to His choice would stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls...

—Romans 9:11

Page 38



OBSERVATION WORKSHEETS

GENESIS 24

1 Now Abraham was old, advanced in age; and the LORD had blessed Abraham in every way.

2 Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he owned, "Please place your hand under my thigh,
3 and I will make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I live,

4 but you will go to my country and to my relatives, and take a wife for my son Isaac."

5 The servant said to him, "Suppose the woman is not willing to follow me to this land; should I take your son back to the land from where you came?"

6 Then Abraham said to him, "Beware that you do not take my son back there!

7 "The LORD, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my birth, and who spoke to me and who swore to me, saying, 'To your descendants I will give this land,' He will send His angel before you, and you will take a wife for my son from there.

8 "But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be free from this my oath; only do not take my son back there."

9 So the servant placed his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and swore to him concerning this matter.

10 Then the servant took ten camels from the camels of his master, and set out with a variety of good things of his master's in his hand; and he arose and went to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor.

11 He made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water at evening time, the time when women go out to draw water.

12 He said, "O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today, and show lovingkindness to my master Abraham.

13 "Behold, I am standing by the spring, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water;

14 now may it be that the girl to whom I say, 'Please let down your jar so that I may drink,' and who answers, 'Drink, and I will water your camels also'—*may she be the one* whom You have appointed for Your servant Isaac; and by this I will know that You have shown lovingkindness to my master."

15 Before he had finished speaking, behold, Rebekah who was born to Bethuel the son of Milcah, the wife of Abraham's brother Nahor, came out with her jar on her shoulder.

16 The girl was very beautiful, a virgin, and no man had had relations with her; and she went down to the spring and filled her jar and came up.

17 Then the servant ran to meet her, and said, "Please let me drink a little water from your jar."

18 She said, "Drink, my lord"; and she quickly lowered her jar to her hand, and gave him a drink.

19 Now when she had finished giving him a drink, she said, "I will draw also for your camels until they have finished drinking."

20 So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough, and ran back to the well to draw, and she drew for all his camels.

21 Meanwhile, the man was gazing at her in silence, to know whether the LORD had made his journey successful or not.

22 When the camels had finished drinking, the man took a gold ring weighing a half-shekel and two bracelets for her wrists weighing ten shekels in gold,

23 and said, "Whose daughter are you? Please tell me, is there room for us to lodge in your father's house?"

24 She said to him, "I am the daughter of Bethuel, the son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor."

25 Again she said to him, "We have plenty of both straw and feed, and room to lodge in."

26 Then the man bowed low and worshiped the LORD.

27 He said, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His lovingkindness and His truth toward my master; as for me, the LORD has guided me in the way to the house of my master's brothers."

28 Then the girl ran and told her mother's household about these things.

29 Now Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban; and Laban ran outside to the man at the spring.

30 When he saw the ring and the bracelets on his sister's wrists, and when he heard the words of Rebekah his sister, saying, "This is what the man said to me," he went to the man; and behold, he was standing by the camels at the spring.

31 And he said, "Come in, blessed of the LORD! Why do you stand outside since I have prepared the house, and a place for the camels?"

32 So the man entered the house. Then Laban unloaded the camels, and he gave straw and feed to the camels, and water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him.

33 But when *food* was set before him to eat, he said, "I will not eat until I have told my business." And he said, "Speak on."

34 So he said, "I am Abraham's servant.

35 "The LORD has greatly blessed my master, so that he has become rich; and He has given him flocks and herds, and silver and gold, and servants and maids, and camels and donkeys.

36 "Now Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master in her old age, and he has given him all that he has.

37 "My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live;

38 but you shall go to my father's house and to my relatives, and take a wife for my son.'

39 "I said to my master, 'Suppose the woman does not follow me.'

40 "He said to me, 'The LORD, before whom I have walked, will send His angel with you to make your journey successful, and you will take a wife for my son from my relatives and from my father's house;

41 then you will be free from my oath, when you come to my relatives; and if they do not give her to you, you will be free from my oath.'

42 "So I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now You will make my journey on which I go successful;

43 behold, I am standing by the spring, and may it be that the maiden who comes out to draw, and to whom I say, "Please let me drink a little water from your jar";

44 and she will say to me, "You drink, and I will draw for your camels also"; let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

45 "Before I had finished speaking in my heart, behold, Rebekah came out with her jar on her shoulder, and went down to the spring and drew, and I said to her, 'Please let me drink.'

46 "She quickly lowered her jar from her *shoulder*, and said, 'Drink, and I will water your camels also'; so I drank, and she watered the camels also.

47 “Then I asked her, and said, ‘Whose daughter are you?’ And she said, ‘The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor’s son, whom Milcah bore to him’; and I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her wrists.

48 “And I bowed low and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had guided me in the right way to take the daughter of my master’s kinsman for his son.

49 “So now if you are going to deal kindly and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, let me know, that I may turn to the right hand or the left.”

50 Then Laban and Bethuel replied, “The matter comes from the LORD; so we cannot speak to you bad or good.

51 “Here is Rebekah before you, take *her* and go, and let her be the wife of your master’s son, as the LORD has spoken.”

52 When Abraham’s servant heard their words, he bowed himself to the ground before the LORD.

53 The servant brought out articles of silver and articles of gold, and garments, and gave them to Rebekah; he also gave precious things to her brother and to her mother.

54 Then he and the men who were with him ate and drank and spent the night. When they arose in the morning, he said, “Send me away to my master.”

55 But her brother and her mother said, “Let the girl stay with us *a few* days, say ten; afterward she may go.”

56 He said to them, “Do not delay me, since the LORD has prospered my way. Send me away that I may go to my master.”

57 And they said, “We will call the girl and consult her wishes.”

58 Then they called Rebekah and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” And she said, “I will go.”

59 Thus they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse with Abraham’s servant and his men.

60 They blessed Rebekah and said to her,
“May you, our sister,
Become thousands of ten thousands,
And may your descendants possess
The gate of those who hate them.”

61 Then Rebekah arose with her maids, and they mounted the camels and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and departed.

62 Now Isaac had come from going to Beer-lahai-roi; for he was living in the Negev.

63 Isaac went out to meditate in the field toward evening; and he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, camels were coming.

64 Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from the camel.

65 She said to the servant, “Who is that man walking in the field to meet us?” And the servant said, “He is my master.” Then she took her veil and covered herself.

66 The servant told Isaac all the things that he had done.

67 Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent, and he took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her; thus Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

GENESIS 25

1 Now Abraham took another wife, whose name was Keturah.

2 She bore to him Zimran and Jokshan and Medan and Midian and Ishbak and Shuah.

3 Jokshan became the father of Sheba and Dedan. And the sons of Dedan were Asshurim and Letushim and Leummim.

4 The sons of Midian *were* Ephah and Ephher and Hanoch and Abida and Eldaah. All these *were* the sons of Keturah.

- 5 Now Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac;
- 6 but to the sons of his concubines, Abraham gave gifts while he was still living, and sent them away from his son Isaac eastward, to the land of the east.
- 7 These are all the years of Abraham's life that he lived, one hundred and seventy-five years.
- 8 Abraham breathed his last and died in a ripe old age, an old man and satisfied *with life*; and he was gathered to his people.
- 9 Then his sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite, facing Mamre,
- 10 the field which Abraham purchased from the sons of Heth; there Abraham was buried with Sarah his wife.
- 11 It came about after the death of Abraham, that God blessed his son Isaac; and Isaac lived by Beer-lahai-roi.
- 12 Now these are the records of the generations of Ishmael, Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's maid, bore to Abraham;
- 13 and these are the names of the sons of Ishmael, by their names, in the order of their birth: Nebaioth, the firstborn of Ishmael, and Kedar and Adbeel and Mibsam
- 14 and Mishma and Dumah and Massa,
- 15 Hadad and Tema, Jetur, Naphish and Kedemah.
- 16 These are the sons of Ishmael and these are their names, by their villages, and by their camps; twelve princes according to their tribes.
- 17 These are the years of the life of Ishmael, one hundred and thirty-seven years; and he breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people.
- 18 They settled from Havilah to Shur which is east of Egypt as one goes toward Assyria; he settled in defiance of all his relatives.

19 Now these are the records of the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham became the father of Isaac;

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

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

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

23 The LORD said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb;

And two peoples will be separated from your body;

And one people shall be stronger than the other;

And the older shall serve the younger."

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

25 Now the first came forth red, all over like a hairy garment; and they named him Esau.

26 Afterward his brother came forth with his hand holding on to Esau's heel, so his name was called Jacob; and Isaac was sixty years old when she gave birth to them.

27 When the boys grew up, Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the field, but Jacob was a peaceful man, living in tents.

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

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

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

31 But Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright."

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

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

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

GENESIS 26

1 Now there was a famine in the land, besides the previous famine that had occurred in the days of Abraham. So Isaac went to Gerar, to Abimelech king of the Philistines.

2 The LORD appeared to him and said, "Do not go down to Egypt; stay in the land of which I shall tell you.

3 "Sojourn in this land and I will be with you and bless you, for to you and to your descendants I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath which I swore to your father Abraham.

4 "I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven, and will give your descendants all these lands; and by your descendants all the nations of the earth shall be blessed;

5 because Abraham obeyed Me and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes and My laws."

6 So Isaac lived in Gerar.

7 When the men of the place asked about his wife, he said, "She is my sister," for he was afraid to say, "my wife," *thinking*, "the men of the place might kill me on account of Rebekah, for she is beautiful."

8 It came about, when he had been there a long time, that Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out through a window, and saw, and behold, Isaac was caressing his wife Rebekah.

9 Then Abimelech called Isaac and said, "Behold, certainly she is your wife! How then did you say, 'She is my sister'?" And Isaac said to him, "Because I said, 'I might die on account of her.'"

10 Abimelech said, "What is this you have done to us? One of the people might easily have lain with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us."

11 So Abimelech charged all the people, saying, "He who touches this man or his wife shall surely be put to death."

12 Now Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold. And the LORD blessed him,

13 and the man became rich, and continued to grow richer until he became very wealthy;

14 for he had possessions of flocks and herds and a great household, so that the Philistines envied him.

15 Now all the wells which his father's servants had dug in the days of Abraham his father, the Philistines stopped up by filling them with earth.

16 Then Abimelech said to Isaac, "Go away from us, for you are too powerful for us."

17 And Isaac departed from there and camped in the valley of Gerar, and settled there.

18 Then Isaac dug again the wells of water which had been dug in the days of his father Abraham, for the Philistines had stopped them up after the death of Abraham; and he gave them the same names which his father had given them.

19 But when Isaac's servants dug in the valley and found there a well of flowing water,

20 the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with the herdsmen of Isaac, saying, "The water is ours!" So he named the well Esek, because they contended with him.

21 Then they dug another well, and they quarreled over it too, so he named it Sitnah.

22 He moved away from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it; so he named it Rehoboth, for he said, "At last the LORD has made room for us, and we will be fruitful in the land."

23 Then he went up from there to Beersheba.

24 The LORD appeared to him the same night and said,

"I am the God of your father Abraham;

Do not fear, for I am with you.

I will bless you, and multiply your descendants,

For the sake of My servant Abraham."

25 So he built an altar there and called upon the name of the LORD, and pitched his tent there; and there Isaac's servants dug a well.

26 Then Abimelech came to him from Gerar with his adviser Ahuzzath and Phicol the commander of his army.

27 Isaac said to them, "Why have you come to me, since you hate me and have sent me away from you?"

28 They said, "We see plainly that the LORD has been with you; so we said, 'Let there now be an oath between us, *even* between you and us, and let us make a covenant with you,

29 that you will do us no harm, just as we have not touched you and have done to you nothing but good and have sent you away in peace. You are now the blessed of the LORD.'"

30 Then he made them a feast, and they ate and drank.

31 In the morning they arose early and exchanged oaths; then Isaac sent them away and they departed from him in peace.

32 Now it came about on the same day, that Isaac's servants came in and told him about the well which they had dug, and said to him, "We have found water."

33 So he called it Shibah; therefore the name of the city is Beersheba to this day.

34 When Esau was forty years old he married Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite;

35 and they brought grief to Isaac and Rebekah.

CHAPTER 27

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 Jacob answered his mother Rebekah, "Behold, Esau my brother is a hairy man and I am a smooth man.

12 "Perhaps my father will feel me, then I will be as a deceiver in his sight, and I will bring upon myself a curse and not a blessing."

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

14 So he went and got *them*, and brought *them* to his mother; and his mother made savory food such as his father loved.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 And he said, "Are you really my son Esau?" And he said, "I am."

25 So he said, "Bring *it* to me, and I will eat of my son's game, that I may bless you." And he brought *it* to him, and he ate; he also brought him wine and he drank.

26 Then his father Isaac said to him, "Please come close and kiss me, my son."

27 So he came close and kissed him; and when he smelled the smell of his garments, he blessed him and said,

"See, the smell of my son

Is like the smell of a field which the LORD has blessed;

28 Now may God give you of the dew of heaven,

And of the fatness of the earth,

And an abundance of grain and new wine;

29 May peoples serve you,

And nations bow down to you;

Be master of your brothers,

And may your mother's sons bow down to you.

Cursed be those who curse you,

And blessed be those who bless you."

30 Now it came about, as soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, and Jacob had hardly gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting.

31 Then he also made savory food, and brought it to his father; and he said to his father, "Let my father arise and eat of his son's game, that you may bless me."

32 Isaac his father said to him, "Who are you?" And he said, "I am your son, your firstborn, Esau."

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

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

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

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

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

38 Esau said to his father, "Do you have only one blessing, my father? Bless me, *even* me also, O my father." So Esau lifted his voice and wept.

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

40 "By your sword you shall live,
And your brother you shall serve;
But it shall come about when you become restless,
That you will break his yoke from your neck."

41 So Esau bore a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him; and Esau said to himself, "The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob."

42 Now when the words of her elder son Esau were reported to Rebekah, she sent and called her younger son Jacob, and said to him, "Behold your brother Esau is consoling himself concerning you *by planning* to kill you.

43 “Now therefore, my son, obey my voice, and arise, flee to Haran, to my brother Laban!

44 “Stay with him a few days, until your brother’s fury subsides,
45 until your brother’s anger against you subsides and he forgets what you did to him. Then I will send and get you from there. Why should I be bereaved of you both in one day?”

46 Rebekah said to Isaac, “I am tired of living because of the daughters of Heth; if Jacob takes a wife from the daughters of Heth, like these, from the daughters of the land, what good will my life be to me?”

CHAPTER 28

1 So Isaac called Jacob and blessed him and charged him, and said to him, “You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan.

2 “Arise, go to Paddan-aram, to the house of Bethuel your mother’s father; and from there take to yourself a wife from the daughters of Laban your mother’s brother.

3 “May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may become a company of peoples.

4 “May He also give you the blessing of Abraham, to you and to your descendants with you, that you may possess the land of your sojournings, which God gave to Abraham.”

5 Then Isaac sent Jacob away, and he went to Paddan-aram to Laban, son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, the mother of Jacob and Esau.

6 Now Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Paddan-aram to take to himself a wife from there, *and that* when he blessed him he charged him, saying, “You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan,”

7 and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother and had gone to Paddan-aram.

8 So Esau saw that the daughters of Canaan displeased his father Isaac;

9 and Esau went to Ishmael, and married, besides the wives that he had, Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son, the sister of Nebaioth.

10 Then Jacob departed from Beersheba and went toward Haran.

11 He came to a certain place and spent the night there, because the sun had set; and he took one of the stones of the place and put it under his head, and lay down in that place.

12 He had a dream, and behold, a ladder was set on the earth with its top reaching to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

13 And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your descendants.

14 "Your descendants will also be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

15 "Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

16 Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it."

17 He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

18 So Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on its top.

19 He called the name of that place Bethel; however, previously the name of the city had been Luz.

20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will keep me on this journey that I take, and will give me food to eat and garments to wear,

21 and I return to my father's house in safety, then the LORD will be my God.

22 "This stone, which I have set up as a pillar, will be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You."

CHAPTER 29

1 Then Jacob went on his journey, and came to the land of the sons of the east.

2 He looked, and saw a well in the field, and behold, three flocks of sheep were lying there beside it, for from that well they watered the flocks. Now the stone on the mouth of the well was large.

3 When all the flocks were gathered there, they would then roll the stone from the mouth of the well and water the sheep, and put the stone back in its place on the mouth of the well.

4 Jacob said to them, "My brothers, where are you from?" And they said, "We are from Haran."

5 He said to them, "Do you know Laban the son of Nahor?" And they said, "We know *him*."

6 And he said to them, "Is it well with him?" And they said, "It is well, and here is Rachel his daughter coming with the sheep."

7 He said, "Behold, it is still high day; it is not time for the livestock to be gathered. Water the sheep, and go, pasture them."

8 But they said, "We cannot, until all the flocks are gathered, and they roll the stone from the mouth of the well; then we water the sheep."

9 While he was still speaking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she was a shepherdess.

10 When Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, Jacob went up and rolled the stone from the mouth of the well and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother.

11 Then Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted his voice and wept.

12 Jacob told Rachel that he was a relative of her father and that he was Rebekah's son, and she ran and told her father.

13 So when Laban heard the news of Jacob his sister's son, he ran to meet him, and embraced him and kissed him and brought him to his house. Then he related to Laban all these things.

14 Laban said to him, "Surely you are my bone and my flesh." And he stayed with him a month.

15 Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my relative, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?"

16 Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel.

17 And Leah's eyes were weak, but Rachel was beautiful of form and face.

18 Now Jacob loved Rachel, so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel."

19 Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than to give her to another man; stay with me."

20 So Jacob served seven years for Rachel and they seemed to him but a few days because of his love for her.

21 Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give *me* my wife, for my time is completed, that I may go in to her."

22 Laban gathered all the men of the place and made a feast.

23 Now in the evening he took his daughter Leah, and brought her to him; and *Jacob* went in to her.

24 Laban also gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah as a maid.

25 So it came about in the morning that, behold, it was Leah! And he said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served with you? Why then have you deceived me?"

26 But Laban said, "It is not the practice in our place to marry off the younger before the firstborn.

27 "Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also for the service which you shall serve with me for another seven years."

28 Jacob did so and completed her week, and he gave him his daughter Rachel as his wife.

29 Laban also gave his maid Bilhah to his daughter Rachel as her maid.

30 So *Jacob* went in to Rachel also, and indeed he loved Rachel more than Leah, and he served with Laban for another seven years.

31 Now the LORD saw that Leah was unloved, and He opened her womb, but Rachel was barren.

32 Leah conceived and bore a son and named him Reuben, for she said, "Because the LORD has seen my affliction; surely now my husband will love me."

33 Then she conceived again and bore a son and said, "Because the LORD has heard that I am unloved, He has therefore given me this *son* also." So she named him Simeon.

34 She conceived again and bore a son and said, "Now this time my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons." Therefore he was named Levi.

35 And she conceived again and bore a son and said, "This time I will praise the LORD." Therefore she named him Judah. Then she stopped bearing.

CHAPTER 30

1 Now when Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, she became jealous of her sister; and she said to Jacob, "Give me children, or else I die."

2 Then Jacob's anger burned against Rachel, and he said, "Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?"

3 She said, "Here is my maid Bilhah, go in to her that she may bear on my knees, that through her I too may have children."

4 So she gave him her maid Bilhah as a wife, and Jacob went in to her.

5 Bilhah conceived and bore Jacob a son.

6 Then Rachel said, "God has vindicated me, and has indeed heard my voice and has given me a son." Therefore she named him Dan.

7 Rachel's maid Bilhah conceived again and bore Jacob a second son.

8 So Rachel said, "With mighty wrestlings I have wrestled with my sister, *and* I have indeed prevailed." And she named him Naphtali.

9 When Leah saw that she had stopped bearing, she took her maid Zilpah and gave her to Jacob as a wife.

10 Leah's maid Zilpah bore Jacob a son.

11 Then Leah said, "How fortunate!" So she named him Gad.

12 Leah's maid Zilpah bore Jacob a second son.

13 Then Leah said, "Happy am I! For women will call me happy." So she named him Asher.

14 Now in the days of wheat harvest Reuben went and found mandrakes in the field, and brought them to his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, "Please give me some of your son's mandrakes."

15 But she said to her, "Is it a small matter for you to take my husband? And would you take my son's mandrakes also?" So Rachel said, "Therefore he may lie with you tonight in return for your son's mandrakes."

16 When Jacob came in from the field in the evening, then Leah went out to meet him and said, "You must come in to me, for I have surely hired you with my son's mandrakes." So he lay with her that night.

17 God gave heed to Leah, and she conceived and bore Jacob a fifth son.

18 Then Leah said, "God has given me my wages because I gave my maid to my husband." So she named him Issachar.

19 Leah conceived again and bore a sixth son to Jacob.

20 Then Leah said, "God has endowed me with a good gift; now my husband will dwell with me, because I have borne him six sons." So she named him Zebulun.

21 Afterward she bore a daughter and named her Dinah.

22 Then God remembered Rachel, and God gave heed to her and opened her womb.

23 So she conceived and bore a son and said, "God has taken away my reproach."

24 She named him Joseph, saying, "May the LORD give me another son."

25 Now it came about when Rachel had borne Joseph, that Jacob said to Laban, "Send me away, that I may go to my own place and to my own country."

26 "Give *me* my wives and my children for whom I have served you, and let me depart; for you yourself know my service which I have rendered you."

27 But Laban said to him, "If now it pleases you, *stay with me*; I have divined that the LORD has blessed me on your account."

28 He continued, "Name me your wages, and I will give it."

29 But he said to him, "You yourself know how I have served you and how your cattle have fared with me.

30 "For you had little before I came and it has increased to a multitude, and the LORD has blessed you wherever I turned. But now, when shall I provide for my own household also?"

31 So he said, "What shall I give you?" And Jacob said, "You shall not give me anything. If you will do this *one* thing for me, I will again pasture *and* keep your flock:

32 let me pass through your entire flock today, removing from there every speckled and spotted sheep and every black one among the lambs and the spotted and speckled among the goats; and *such* shall be my wages.

33 "So my honesty will answer for me later, when you come concerning my wages. Every one that is not speckled and spotted among the goats and black among the lambs, *if found* with me, will be considered stolen."

34 Laban said, "Good, let it be according to your word."

35 So he removed on that day the striped and spotted male goats and all the speckled and spotted female goats, every one with white in it, and all the black ones among the sheep, and gave them into the care of his sons.

36 And he put a *distance of* three days' journey between himself and Jacob, and Jacob fed the rest of Laban's flocks.

37 Then Jacob took fresh rods of poplar and almond and plane trees, and peeled white stripes in them, exposing the white which *was* in the rods.

38 He set the rods which he had peeled in front of the flocks in the gutters, *even* in the watering troughs, where the flocks came to drink; and they mated when they came to drink.

39 So the flocks mated by the rods, and the flocks brought forth striped, speckled, and spotted.

40 Jacob separated the lambs, and made the flocks face toward the striped and all the black in the flock of Laban; and he put his own herds apart, and did not put them with Laban's flock.

41 Moreover, whenever the stronger of the flock were mating, Jacob would place the rods in the sight of the flock in the gutters, so that they might mate by the rods;

42 but when the flock was feeble, he did not put *them* in; so the feebler were Laban's and the stronger Jacob's.

43 So the man became exceedingly prosperous, and had large flocks and female and male servants and camels and donkeys.

CHAPTER 31

1 Now Jacob heard the words of Laban's sons, saying, "Jacob has taken away all that was our father's, and from what belonged to our father he has made all this wealth."

2 Jacob saw the attitude of Laban, and behold, it was not *friendly* toward him as formerly.

3 Then the LORD said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your fathers and to your relatives, and I will be with you."

4 So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to his flock in the field,

5 and said to them, "I see your father's attitude, that it is not *friendly* toward me as formerly, but the God of my father has been with me.

6 "You know that I have served your father with all my strength.

7 "Yet your father has cheated me and changed my wages ten times; however, God did not allow him to hurt me.

8 "If he spoke thus, 'The speckled shall be your wages,' then all the flock brought forth speckled; and if he spoke thus, 'The striped shall be your wages,' then all the flock brought forth striped.

9 "Thus God has taken away your father's livestock and given *them* to me.

10 "And it came about at the time when the flock were mating that I lifted up my eyes and saw in a dream, and behold, the male goats which were mating *were* striped, speckled, and mottled.

11 "Then the angel of God said to me in the dream, 'Jacob,' and I said, 'Here I am.'

12 "He said, 'Lift up now your eyes and see *that* all the male goats which are mating are striped, speckled, and mottled; for I have seen all that Laban has been doing to you.

13 'I am the God *of* Bethel, where you anointed a pillar, where you made a vow to Me; now arise, leave this land, and return to the land of your birth.'"

14 Rachel and Leah said to him, "Do we still have any portion or inheritance in our father's house?"

15 "Are we not reckoned by him as foreigners? For he has sold us, and has also entirely consumed our purchase price.

16 "Surely all the wealth which God has taken away from our father belongs to us and our children; now then, do whatever God has said to you."

17 Then Jacob arose and put his children and his wives upon camels;

18 and he drove away all his livestock and all his property which he had gathered, his acquired livestock which he had gathered in Paddan-aram, to go to the land of Canaan to his father Isaac.

19 When Laban had gone to shear his flock, then Rachel stole the household idols that were her father's.

20 And Jacob deceived Laban the Aramean by not telling him that he was fleeing.

21 So he fled with all that he had; and he arose and crossed the *Euphrates* River, and set his face toward the hill country of Gilead.

22 When it was told Laban on the third day that Jacob had fled,

23 then he took his kinsmen with him and pursued him *a distance of seven days' journey*, and he overtook him in the hill country of Gilead.

24 God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream of the night and said to him, "Be careful that you do not speak to Jacob either good or bad."

25 Laban caught up with Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the hill country, and Laban with his kinsmen camped in the hill country of Gilead.

26 Then Laban said to Jacob, "What have you done by deceiving me and carrying away my daughters like captives of the sword?"

27 "Why did you flee secretly and deceive me, and did not tell me so that I might have sent you away with joy and with songs, with timbrel and with lyre;

28 and did not allow me to kiss my sons and my daughters? Now you have done foolishly.

29 "It is in my power to do you harm, but the God of your father spoke to me last night, saying, 'Be careful not to speak either good or bad to Jacob.'

30 "Now you have indeed gone away because you longed greatly for your father's house; *but* why did you steal my gods?"

31 Then Jacob replied to Laban, "Because I was afraid, for I thought that you would take your daughters from me by force.

32 "The one with whom you find your gods shall not live; in the presence of our kinsmen point out what is yours among my belongings and take *it* for yourself." For Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them.

33 So Laban went into Jacob's tent and into Leah's tent and into the tent of the two maids, but he did not find *them*. Then he went out of Leah's tent and entered Rachel's tent.

34 Now Rachel had taken the household idols and put them in the camel's saddle, and she sat on them. And Laban felt through all the tent but did not find *them*.

35 She said to her father, "Let not my lord be angry that I cannot rise before you, for the manner of women is upon me." So he searched but did not find the household idols.

36 Then Jacob became angry and contended with Laban; and Jacob said to Laban, "What is my transgression? What is my sin that you have hotly pursued me?"

37 "Though you have felt through all my goods, what have you found of all your household goods? Set *it* here before my kinsmen and your kinsmen, that they may decide between us two.

38 "These twenty years I *have been* with you; your ewes and your female goats have not miscarried, nor have I eaten the rams of your flocks.

39 "That which was torn *of beasts* I did not bring to you; I bore the loss of it myself. You required it of my hand *whether* stolen by day or stolen by night.

40 "Thus I was: by day the heat consumed me and the frost by night, and my sleep fled from my eyes.

41 “These twenty years I have been in your house; I served you fourteen years for your two daughters and six years for your flock, and you changed my wages ten times.

42 “If the God of my father, the God of Abraham, and the fear of Isaac, had not been for me, surely now you would have sent me away empty-handed. God has seen my affliction and the toil of my hands, so He rendered judgment last night.”

43 Then Laban replied to Jacob, “The daughters are my daughters, and the children are my children, and the flocks are my flocks, and all that you see is mine. But what can I do this day to these my daughters or to their children whom they have borne?

44 “So now come, let us make a covenant, you and I, and let it be a witness between you and me.”

45 Then Jacob took a stone and set it up *as* a pillar.

46 Jacob said to his kinsmen, “Gather stones.” So they took stones and made a heap, and they ate there by the heap.

47 Now Laban called it Jegar-sahadutha, but Jacob called it Galeed.

48 Laban said, “This heap is a witness between you and me this day.” Therefore it was named Galeed,

49 and Mizpah, for he said, “May the LORD watch between you and me when we are absent one from the other.

50 “If you mistreat my daughters, or if you take wives besides my daughters, *although* no man is with us, see, God is witness between you and me.”

51 Laban said to Jacob, “Behold this heap and behold the pillar which I have set between you and me.

52 “This heap is a witness, and the pillar is a witness, that I will not pass by this heap to you for harm, and you will not pass by this heap and this pillar to me, for harm.

53 "The God of Abraham and the God of Nahor, the God of their father, judge between us." So Jacob swore by the fear of his father Isaac.

54 Then Jacob offered a sacrifice on the mountain, and called his kinsmen to the meal; and they ate the meal and spent the night on the mountain.

55 Early in the morning Laban arose, and kissed his sons and his daughters and blessed them. Then Laban departed and returned to his place.

CHAPTER 32

1 Now as Jacob went on his way, the angels of God met him.

2 Jacob said when he saw them, "This is God's camp." So he named that place Mahanaim.

3 Then Jacob sent messengers before him to his brother Esau in the land of Seir, the country of Edom.

4 He also commanded them saying, "Thus you shall say to my lord Esau: 'Thus says your servant Jacob, "I have sojourned with Laban, and stayed until now;

5 I have oxen and donkeys *and* flocks and male and female servants; and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find favor in your sight.'"

6 The messengers returned to Jacob, saying, "We came to your brother Esau, and furthermore he is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him."

7 Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed; and he divided the people who were with him, and the flocks and the herds and the camels, into two companies;

8 for he said, "If Esau comes to the one company and attacks it, then the company which is left will escape."

9 Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O LORD, who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your relatives, and I will prosper you,'

10 I am unworthy of all the lovingkindness and of all the faithfulness which You have shown to Your servant; for with my staff *only* I crossed this Jordan, and now I have become two companies.

11 "Deliver me, I pray, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, that he will come and attack me *and* the mothers with the children.

12 "For You said, 'I will surely prosper you and make your descendants as the sand of the sea, which is too great to be numbered.'"

13 So he spent the night there. Then he selected from what he had with him a present for his brother Esau:

14 two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams,

15 thirty milking camels and their colts, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten male donkeys.

16 He delivered *them* into the hand of his servants, every drove by itself, and said to his servants, "Pass on before me, and put a space between droves."

17 He commanded the one in front, saying, "When my brother Esau meets you and asks you, saying, 'To whom do you belong, and where are you going, and to whom do these *animals* in front of you belong?'

18 then you shall say, 'These belong to your servant Jacob; it is a present sent to my lord Esau. And behold, he also is behind us.'"

19 Then he commanded also the second and the third, and all those who followed the droves, saying, "After this manner you shall speak to Esau when you find him;

20 and you shall say, 'Behold, your servant Jacob also is behind us.'" For he said, "I will appease him with the present that goes before me. Then afterward I will see his face; perhaps he will accept me."

21 So the present passed on before him, while he himself spent that night in the camp.

22 Now he arose that same night and took his two wives and his two maids and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok.

23 He took them and sent them across the stream. And he sent across whatever he had.

24 Then Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until day-break.

25 When he saw that he had not prevailed against him, he touched the socket of his thigh; so the socket of Jacob's thigh was dislocated while he wrestled with him.

26 Then he said, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking." But he said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

27 So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob."

28 He said, "Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel; for you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed."

29 Then Jacob asked him and said, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And he blessed him there.

30 So Jacob named the place Peniel, for *he said*, "I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been preserved."

31 Now the sun rose upon him just as he crossed over Penuel, and he was limping on his thigh.

32 Therefore, to this day the sons of Israel do not eat the sinew of the hip which is on the socket of the thigh, because he touched the socket of Jacob's thigh in the sinew of the hip.

CHAPTER 33

1 Then Jacob lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, Esau was coming, and four hundred men with him. So he divided the children among Leah and Rachel and the two maids.

2 He put the maids and their children in front, and Leah and her children next, and Rachel and Joseph last.

3 But he himself passed on ahead of them and bowed down to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother.

4 Then Esau ran to meet him and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept.

5 He lifted his eyes and saw the women and the children, and said, "Who are these with you?" So he said, "The children whom God has graciously given your servant."

6 Then the maids came near with their children, and they bowed down.

7 Leah likewise came near with her children, and they bowed down; and afterward Joseph came near with Rachel, and they bowed down.

8 And he said, "What do you mean by all this company which I have met?" And he said, "To find favor in the sight of my lord."

9 But Esau said, "I have plenty, my brother; let what you have be your own."

10 Jacob said, "No, please, if now I have found favor in your sight, then take my present from my hand, for I see your face as one sees the face of God, and you have received me favorably.

11 "Please take my gift which has been brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me and because I have plenty." Thus he urged him and he took *it*.

12 Then Esau said, "Let us take our journey and go, and I will go before you."

13 But he said to him, "My lord knows that the children are frail and that the flocks and herds which are nursing are a care to me. And if they are driven hard one day, all the flocks will die.

14 "Please let my lord pass on before his servant, and I will proceed at my leisure, according to the pace of the cattle that are before me and according to the pace of the children, until I come to my lord at Seir."

15 Esau said, "Please let me leave with you some of the people who are with me." But he said, "What need is there? Let me find favor in the sight of my lord."

16 So Esau returned that day on his way to Seir.

17 Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built for himself a house and made booths for his livestock; therefore the place is named Succoth.

18 Now Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Paddan-aram, and camped before the city.

19 He bought the piece of land where he had pitched his tent from the hand of the sons of Hamor, Shechem's father, for one hundred pieces of money.

20 Then he erected there an altar and called it El-Elohe-Israel.

CHAPTER 34

1 Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to visit the daughters of the land.

2 When Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, the prince of the land, saw her, he took her and lay with her by force.

3 He was deeply attracted to Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the girl and spoke tenderly to her.

4 So Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, "Get me this young girl for a wife."

5 Now Jacob heard that he had defiled Dinah his daughter; but his sons were with his livestock in the field, so Jacob kept silent until they came in.

6 Then Hamor the father of Shechem went out to Jacob to speak with him.

7 Now the sons of Jacob came in from the field when they heard *it*; and the men were grieved, and they were very angry because he had done a disgraceful thing in Israel by lying with Jacob's daughter, for such a thing ought not to be done.

8 But Hamor spoke with them, saying, "The soul of my son Shechem longs for your daughter; please give her to him in marriage.

9 "Intermarry with us; give your daughters to us and take our daughters for yourselves.

10 "Thus you shall live with us, and the land shall be *open* before you; live and trade in it and acquire property in it."

11 Shechem also said to her father and to her brothers, "If I find favor in your sight, then I will give whatever you say to me.

12 "Ask me ever so much bridal payment and gift, and I will give according as you say to me; but give me the girl in marriage."

13 But Jacob's sons answered Shechem and his father Hamor with deceit, because he had defiled Dinah their sister.

14 They said to them, "We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one who is uncircumcised, for that would be a disgrace to us.

15 "Only on this *condition* will we consent to you: if you will become like us, in that every male of you be circumcised,

16 then we will give our daughters to you, and we will take your daughters for ourselves, and we will live with you and become one people.

17 "But if you will not listen to us to be circumcised, then we will take our daughter and go."

18 Now their words seemed reasonable to Hamor and Shechem, Hamor's son.

19 The young man did not delay to do the thing, because he was delighted with Jacob's daughter. Now he was more respected than all the household of his father.

20 So Hamor and his son Shechem came to the gate of their city and spoke to the men of their city, saying,

21 "These men are friendly with us; therefore let them live in the land and trade in it, for behold, the land is large enough for them. Let us take their daughters in marriage, and give our daughters to them.

22 "Only on this *condition* will the men consent to us to live with us, to become one people: that every male among us be circumcised as they are circumcised.

23 "Will not their livestock and their property and all their animals be ours? Only let us consent to them, and they will live with us."

24 All who went out of the gate of his city listened to Hamor and to his son Shechem, and every male was circumcised, all who went out of the gate of his city.

25 Now it came about on the third day, when they were in pain, that two of Jacob's sons, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers, each took his sword and came upon the city unawares, and killed every male.

26 They killed Hamor and his son Shechem with the edge of the sword, and took Dinah from Shechem's house, and went forth.

27 Jacob's sons came upon the slain and looted the city, because they had defiled their sister.

28 They took their flocks and their herds and their donkeys, and that which was in the city and that which was in the field;

29 and they captured and looted all their wealth and all their little ones and their wives, even all that *was* in the houses.

30 Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, "You have brought trouble on me by making me odious among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites; and my men being few in number, they will gather together against me and attack me and I will be destroyed, I and my household."

31 But they said, "Should he treat our sister as a harlot?"

CHAPTER 35

1 Then God said to Jacob, "Arise, go up to Bethel and live there, and make an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau."

2 So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Put away the foreign gods which are among you, and purify yourselves and change your garments;

3 and let us arise and go up to Bethel, and I will make an altar there to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone."

4 So they gave to Jacob all the foreign gods which they had and the rings which were in their ears, and Jacob hid them under the oak which was near Shechem.

5 As they journeyed, there was a great terror upon the cities which were around them, and they did not pursue the sons of Jacob.

6 So Jacob came to Luz (that is, Bethel), which is in the land of Canaan, he and all the people who were with him.

7 He built an altar there, and called the place El-bethel, because there God had revealed Himself to him when he fled from his brother.

8 Now Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died, and she was buried below Bethel under the oak; it was named Allon-bacuth.

9 Then God appeared to Jacob again when he came from Paddan-aram, and He blessed him.

10 God said to him,
"Your name is Jacob;
You shall no longer be called Jacob,
But Israel shall be your name."

Thus He called him Israel.

11 God also said to him,
"I am God Almighty;
Be fruitful and multiply;
A nation and a company of nations shall come from you,
And kings shall come forth from you.

12 "The land which I gave to Abraham and Isaac,
I will give it to you,
And I will give the land to your descendants after you."

13 Then God went up from him in the place where He had spoken with him.

14 Jacob set up a pillar in the place where He had spoken with him, a pillar of stone, and he poured out a drink offering on it; he also poured oil on it.

15 So Jacob named the place where God had spoken with him, Bethel.

16 Then they journeyed from Bethel; and when there was still some distance to go to Ephrath, Rachel began to give birth and she suffered severe labor.

17 When she was in severe labor the midwife said to her, "Do not fear, for now you have another son."

18 It came about as her soul was departing (for she died), that she named him Ben-oni; but his father called him Benjamin.

19 So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem).

20 Jacob set up a pillar over her grave; that is the pillar of Rachel's grave to this day.

21 Then Israel journeyed on and pitched his tent beyond the tower of Eder.

22 It came about while Israel was dwelling in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine, and Israel heard *of it*. Now there were twelve sons of Jacob—

23 the sons of Leah: Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, then Simeon and Levi and Judah and Issachar and Zebulun;

24 the sons of Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin;

25 and the sons of Bilhah, Rachel's maid: Dan and Naphtali;

26 and the sons of Zilpah, Leah's maid: Gad and Asher. These are the sons of Jacob who were born to him in Paddan-aram.

27 Jacob came to his father Isaac at Mamre of Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron), where Abraham and Isaac had sojourned.

28 Now the days of Isaac were one hundred and eighty years.

29 Isaac breathed his last and died and was gathered to his people, an old man of ripe age; and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.

CHAPTER 36

1 Now these are *the records of* the generations of Esau (that is, Edom).

2 Esau took his wives from the daughters of Canaan: Adah the daughter of Elon the Hittite, and Oholibamah the daughter of Anah and the granddaughter of Zibeon the Hivite;

3 also Basemath, Ishmael's daughter, the sister of Nebaioth.

4 Adah bore Eliphaz to Esau, and Basemath bore Reuel,

5 and Oholibamah bore Jeshu and Jalam and Korah. These are the sons of Esau who were born to him in the land of Canaan.

6 Then Esau took his wives and his sons and his daughters and all his household, and his livestock and all his cattle and all his goods which he had acquired in the land of Canaan, and went to *another* land away from his brother Jacob.

7 For their property had become too great for them to live together, and the land where they sojourned could not sustain them because of their livestock.

8 So Esau lived in the hill country of Seir; Esau is Edom.

9 These then are *the records of* the generations of Esau the father of the Edomites in the hill country of Seir.

10 These are the names of Esau's sons: Eliphaz the son of Esau's wife Adah, Reuel the son of Esau's wife Basemath.

11 The sons of Eliphaz were Teman, Omar, Zepho and Gatam and Kenaz.

12 Timna was a concubine of Esau's son Eliphaz and she bore Amalek to Eliphaz. These are the sons of Esau's wife Adah.

13 These are the sons of Reuel: Nahath and Zerah, Shammah and Mizzah. These were the sons of Esau's wife Basemath.

14 These were the sons of Esau's wife Oholibamah, the daughter of Anah and the granddaughter of Zibeon: she bore to Esau, Jeush and Jalam and Korah.

15 These are the chiefs of the sons of Esau. The sons of Eliphaz, the firstborn of Esau, are chief Teman, chief Omar, chief Zepho, chief Kenaz,

16 chief Korah, chief Gatam, chief Amalek. These are the chiefs descended from Eliphaz in the land of Edom; these are the sons of Adah.

17 These are the sons of Reuel, Esau's son: chief Nahath, chief Zerah, chief Shammah, chief Mizzah. These are the chiefs descended from Reuel in the land of Edom; these are the sons of Esau's wife Basemath.

18 These are the sons of Esau's wife Oholibamah: chief Jeush, chief Jalam, chief Korah. These are the chiefs descended from Esau's wife Oholibamah, the daughter of Anah.

19 These are the sons of Esau (that is, Edom), and these are their chiefs.

20 These are the sons of Seir the Horite, the inhabitants of the land: Lotan and Shobal and Zibeon and Anah,

21 and Dishon and Ezer and Dishan. These are the chiefs descended from the Horites, the sons of Seir in the land of Edom.

22 The sons of Lotan were Hori and Hemam; and Lotan's sister was Timna.

23 These are the sons of Shobal: Alvan and Manahath and Ebal, Shepho and Onam.

24 These are the sons of Zibeon: Aiah and Anah—he is the Anah who found the hot springs in the wilderness when he was pasturing the donkeys of his father Zibeon.

25 These are the children of Anah: Dishon, and Oholibamah, the daughter of Anah.

26 These are the sons of Dishon: Hemdan and Eshban and Ithran and Cheran.

27 These are the sons of Ezer: Bilhan and Zaavan and Akan.

28 These are the sons of Dishan: Uz and Aran.

29 These are the chiefs descended from the Horites: chief Lotan, chief Shobal, chief Zibeon, chief Anah,

30 chief Dishon, chief Ezer, chief Dishan. These are the chiefs descended from the Horites, according to their *various* chiefs in the land of Seir.

31 Now these are the kings who reigned in the land of Edom before any king reigned over the sons of Israel.

32 Bela the son of Beor reigned in Edom, and the name of his city was Dinhabah.

33 Then Bela died, and Jobab the son of Zerah of Bozrah became king in his place.

34 Then Jobab died, and Husham of the land of the Temanites became king in his place.

35 Then Husham died, and Hadad the son of Bedad, who defeated Midian in the field of Moab, became king in his place; and the name of his city was Avith.

36 Then Hadad died, and Samlah of Masrekah became king in his place.

37 Then Samlah died, and Shaul of Rehoboth on the *Euphrates* River became king in his place.

38 Then Shaul died, and Baal-hanan the son of Achbor became king in his place.

39 Then Baal-hanan the son of Achbor died, and Hadar became king in his place; and the name of his city was Pau; and his wife's name was Mehetabel, the daughter of Matred, daughter of Mezahab.

40 Now these are the names of the chiefs descended from Esau, according to their families *and* their localities, by their names: chief Timna, chief Alvah, chief Jetheth,

41 chief Oholibamah, chief Elah, chief Pinon,

42 chief Kenaz, chief Teman, chief Mibzar,

43 chief Magdiel, chief Iram. These are the chiefs of Edom (that is, Esau, the father of the Edomites), according to their habitations in the land of their possession.

ACTS 3

1 Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth *hour*, the hour of prayer.

2 And a man who had been lame from his mother's womb was being carried along, whom they used to set down every day at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, in order to beg alms of those who were entering the temple.

3 When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he *began* asking to receive alms.

4 But Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, "Look at us!"

5 And he *began* to give them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.

6 But Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—walk!"

7 And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened.

8 With a leap he stood upright and *began* to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.

9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God;

10 and they were taking note of him as being the one who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple to *beg* alms, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

11 While he was clinging to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them at the so-called portico of Solomon, full of amazement.

12 But when Peter saw *this*, he replied to the people, "Men of Israel, why are you amazed at this, or why do you gaze at us, as if by our own power or piety we had made him walk?"

13 "The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus, *the one* whom you delivered and disowned in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him.

14 “But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you,

15 but put to death the Prince of life, *the one* whom God raised from the dead, *a fact* to which we are witnesses.

16 “And on the basis of faith in His name, *it is* the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man whom you see and know; and the faith which *comes* through Him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all.

17 “And now, brethren, I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers did also.

18 “But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.

19 “Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;

20 and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you,

21 whom heaven must receive until *the* period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.

22 “Moses said, ‘THE LORD GOD WILL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR BRETHREN; TO HIM YOU SHALL GIVE HEED to everything He says to you.

23 ‘And it will be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.’

24 “And likewise, all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and *his* successors onward, also announced these days.

25 “It is you who are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant which God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘AND IN YOUR SEED ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED.’

26 “For you first, God raised up His Servant and sent Him to bless you by turning every one *of you* from your wicked ways.”

ACTS 4:1-4

1 As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple *guard* and the Sadducees came up to them,

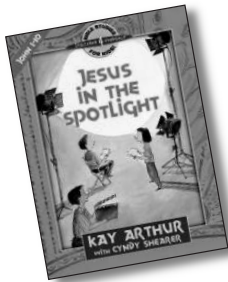
2 being greatly disturbed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

3 And they laid hands on them and put them in jail until the next day, for it was already evening.

4 But many of those who had heard the message believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.

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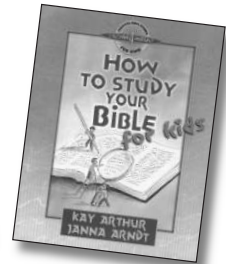
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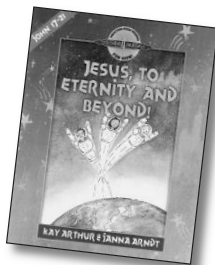
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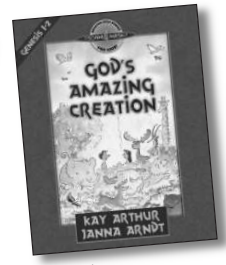
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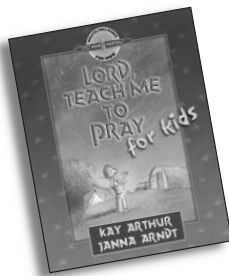
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