

IN &
OUT®

Genesis

PART 4

WRESTLING
WITH GOD

A STUDY ON ISAAC,
JACOB, AND ESAU
(GENESIS 24–36)

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GENESIS
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A STUDY ON ISAAC, JACOB, AND ESAU
(GENESIS 24–36)

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Two Nations

What a wonderful study awaits you! In the next four weeks you will build a solid foundation of understanding two nations that play a significant role in the history of mankind from the time of Isaac right through the very coming of Messiah as King of kings and Lord of lords!

In addition to all this you will gain practical, compelling lessons for life, “for whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope” (Romans 15:4).

Begin with prayer. Ask God to lead you and guide you into all truth. Tell Him you want truth, even if it means having to admit that maybe you misunderstood the meaning of a text. Such humility will lead you to greater depths of understanding and godliness. And that, beloved student, is what it is all about: knowing truth and being conformed to it!

TAKING IT IN

1. Read Genesis 24 on your Observation Worksheets in the Appendix; mark geographical locations*, and record the main events in the margin.
2. Now read Genesis 25:19-34.
 - a. Mark *Esau* and *Edom*, including pronouns, both in the same way. Continue to mark him throughout this study. You’ll know what color to mark Edom when you read Genesis 25:25, 30.

Also mark *Jacob*. You could color Jacob blue.

- b. Mark the following, each in a distinctive way. Suggestions for marking some words frequently used in the Bible are found on the back cover of this workbook. These will be denoted throughout this workbook with an asterisk.
 - 1) *prayer** (and any synonyms)
 - 2) *birthright*
 - 3) time references*

4) geographical locations*—Find locations on the map in the Appendix.

Continue to mark these words during this study. So cut out the Key Word Bookmark on the back cover of this workbook and list these words on the blank side, marking them the way you will throughout this study.

- c. Think of the significance of these two sons born to Rebekah and Isaac. Note what they represent and their relationship to one another according to Genesis 25:23.
 - d. Look at the maps, “From Ur to Canaan” and “Abraham’s Sojournings,” located in the Appendix. Note where Edom is and what nation presently occupies the land of Edom. Interesting, isn’t it!
 - e. Record below the age of Isaac when (1) he married Rebekah, and (2) when Rebekah gave birth to Isaac’s twins.
 - f. Record the main topic(s) or event(s) of Genesis 24–25 on the “Genesis at a Glance” chart, located in the Appendix.
3. On the chart in the Appendix, “Isaac’s Descendants,” add the descendants of Isaac.
 4. Now, let’s study the birthright.
 - a. Read Genesis 25:19-34 using your Observation Worksheets. Note every place you marked *birthright*. List below what you observe.

- b. Read Hebrews 12:14-16 and record below what you learn about Esau and about the birthright.
- c. From what you have read in Genesis 25 and Hebrews 12: Who does the birthright belong to? How significant was the birthright? Who valued it? Who despised it? What did it mean “to despise” it? Watch how Moses, the writer of Hebrews, draws a conclusion in Hebrews 12:16. Take this into consideration as you answer these questions.
- d. Look up the following verses and record what you learn about the firstborn and the birthright. Also note who the firstborn is if the text tells you. You might want to mark references to *firstborn* and to the *birthright*.
- 1) Genesis 49:3-4—Genesis 35:22 tells when Reuben defiled his father’s bed.

2) 1 Chronicles 5:1-2

3) Deuteronomy 21:15-17

4) Romans 8:29

5. Finally, read Romans 9:1-16 which is printed below.

a. Mark:

- 1) *God*,* including all pronouns that refer to Him
- 2) *Jacob* and *Esau* as you did in Genesis. As you progress in this study, you will see that eventually God changes Jacob's name to Israel. Mark *Israel* the same way you mark *Jacob*.
- 3) *descendants*—If you did our Genesis study on Abraham, mark *descendants* the same way you did in that course; if not, then design a color-code for *descendants* because you will mark it the same way next week. Watch for the mention of Abraham and Isaac.
- 4) *choice*

ROMANS 9:1-16

- 1 I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit,
- 2 that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart.
- 3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed, *separated* from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh,

- 4 who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the *temple* service and the promises,
- 5 whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.
- 6 But *it is* not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are *descended* from Israel;
- 7 nor are they all children because they are Abraham’s descendants, but: “THROUGH ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL BE NAMED.”
- 8 That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants.
- 9 For this is the word of promise: “AT THIS TIME I WILL COME, AND SARAH SHALL HAVE A SON.”
- 10 And not only this, but there was Rebekah also, when she had conceived *twins* by one man, our father Isaac;
- 11 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,
- 12 it was said to her, “THE OLDER WILL SERVE THE YOUNGER.”
- 13 Just as it is written, “JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED.”
- 14 What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be!
- 15 For He says to Moses, “I WILL HAVE MERCY ON WHOM I HAVE MERCY, AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOM I HAVE COMPASSION.”
- 16 So then it *does* not *depend* on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.
- b. Now note who makes the choice and the basis of the choice. Record it in the margin.

It really helps, doesn't it, beloved student, to slow down, observe the text, and give our Father an opportunity to speak to you by His Spirit. We're so thankful you have joined us for this study. We have purposely made it only four weeks long, so it will be totally doable—what you have begun, you can complete. The discipline will not go unchallenged, but you can “hangeth thou in there” for three more weeks. The benefit will far outweigh the cost! Press on.

LIVING IT OUT

1. We want to reflect on what we learn about God from our study of Genesis 25:19-34 by allowing Scripture to interpret Scripture. Whenever you study the Word of God, remember that the Bible is God's book about Himself, by Himself through the agency of men ordained to write for Him. It is the one and only true and absolutely reliable revelation by which you should measure everything you ever think, hear, or are taught about God. The Bible is God's plumb line on Himself and on truth!

Read Genesis 25:19-34 once more. This time mark in a distinctive way references to the *LORD*.

We learn so much about God in this study that we thought it would be good to keep a “Journal on God.” In fact, you could continue this journal throughout your study of God's Word. You'll find pages for this journal in the Appendix. In the “Journal on God” record what you learned as a result of marking *LORD* in Genesis 25:19-34.

2. It is good to get in the habit of marking references to prayer in the Word of God. Many people have no idea of the role of God's Word in prayer.
 - a. The Bible is a progressive revelation; therefore, truths that are introduced in Genesis are expanded upon in other books of the Bible. It is always interesting to see where a concept is first introduced and to look at the circumstances surrounding its use or introduction. The first references to prayer are in Genesis 20:7, 17. Look up these verses in your Bible, mark the words *pray* and *prayed*, and record below the circumstances connected with prayer and what you learn about it.

- b. The second occurrence of *prayed* is in Genesis 25:21. What do you learn about prayer (inquiring of God) from Genesis 25:19-34? Look at “inquire” in verse 22 and note if this has anything to do with prayer. If so, include it in your comments.
- c. What is your first response in the time of trouble, confusion, need? Where do you turn first? What does that show? Is there any lesson for life here for you, Beloved? Anything to be learned from the lives of these people who lived about four millennia ago? What? Write an answer below.

3. Take time to worship God, to bow before Him in humble submission and praise for what you have seen in your study this week.

We want to commend you and your leader, Beloved, for disciplining yourselves for the purpose of godliness. Remember, you are to be not only a hearer of His Word, but a doer also. Follow Isaac's and Rebekah's example and stay in communication with God. The New Testament refers to it as praying without ceasing; in other words, seeking Him in every situation about every matter and circumstance.

GENESIS 24

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

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
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

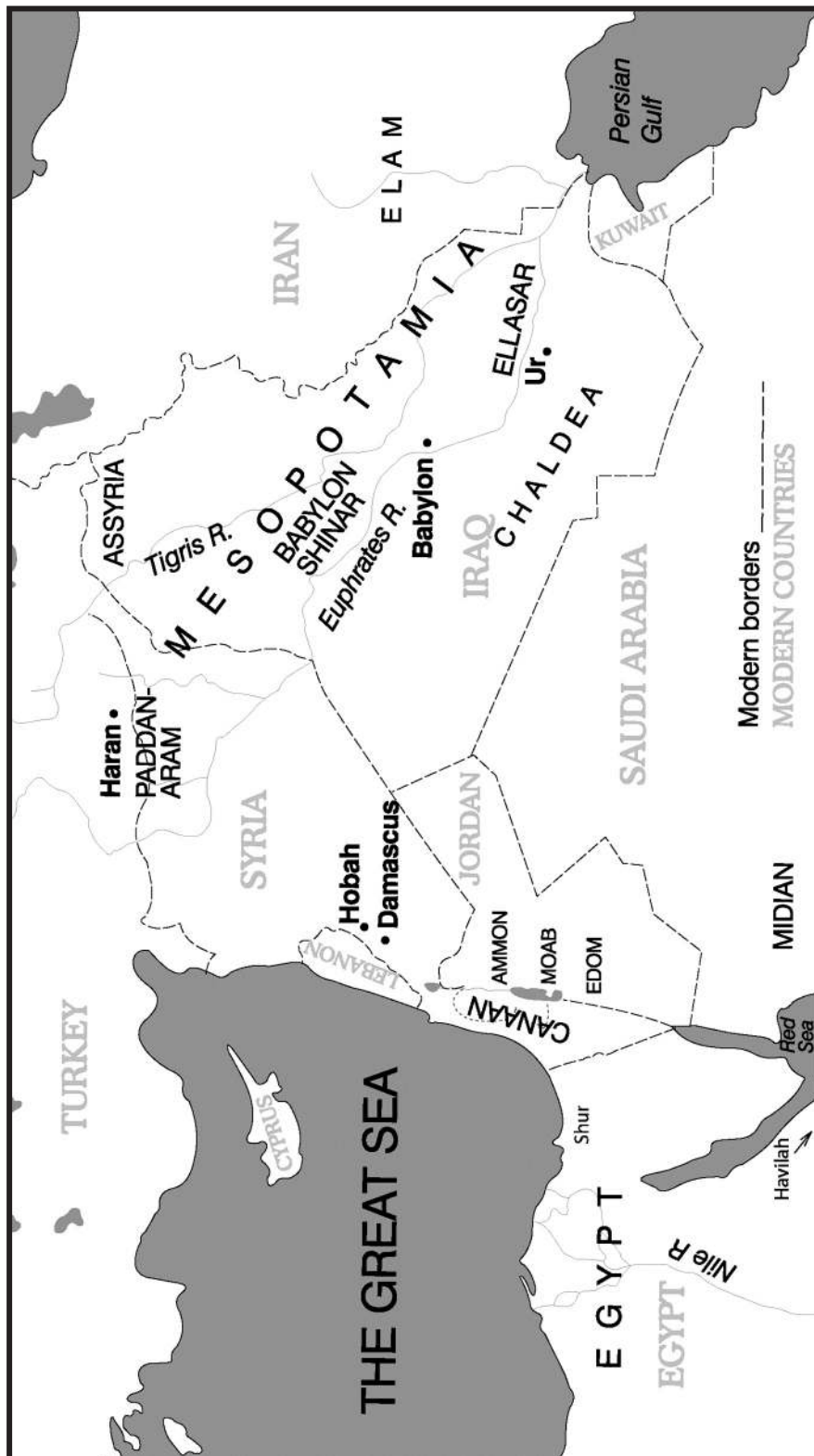
NOW Abraham took another wife, whose name was Keturah.

- 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.

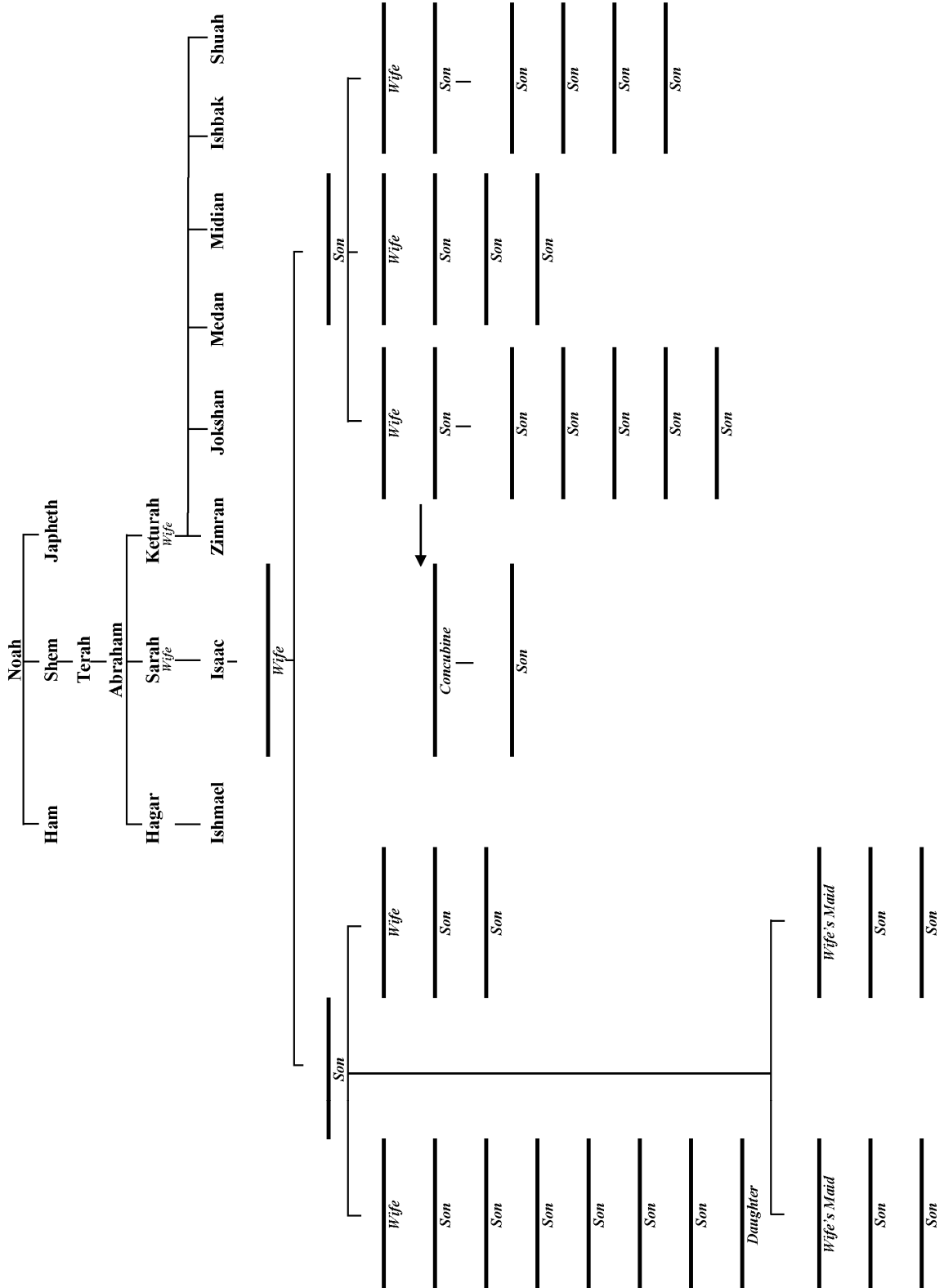
Wrestling with God
From Ur to Canaan



Wrestling with God *Abraham's Sojournings*



ISAAC'S DESCENDANTS



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GENESIS AT A GLANCE

Theme of Genesis:

Chapter Themes

1	Creation in Six Days
2	Creation of Mankind
3	The Fall
4	Cain & Abel
5	Life under the Curse
6	Setting for the Flood Judgment
7	The Flood
8	The End of the Flood
9	God's Covenant with Noah
10	Nations Separated after the Flood
11	Babel/Terah and Family to Haran
12	God Calls Abram/Abram & Pharaoh
13	Abram and Lot Separate
14	Abram Rescues Lot/Melchizedek
15	God's Covenant with Abram
16	Hagar Bears Ishmael
17	Circumcision—Sign of the Covenant
18	Promise of Isaac/Abraham Intercedes for Sodom
19	Destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah
20	Abraham & Abimelech
21	Sarah Bears Isaac
22	Abraham Offers Isaac
23	Sarah Buried at Hebron

Chapter Themes	
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