

## Genesis 12—50

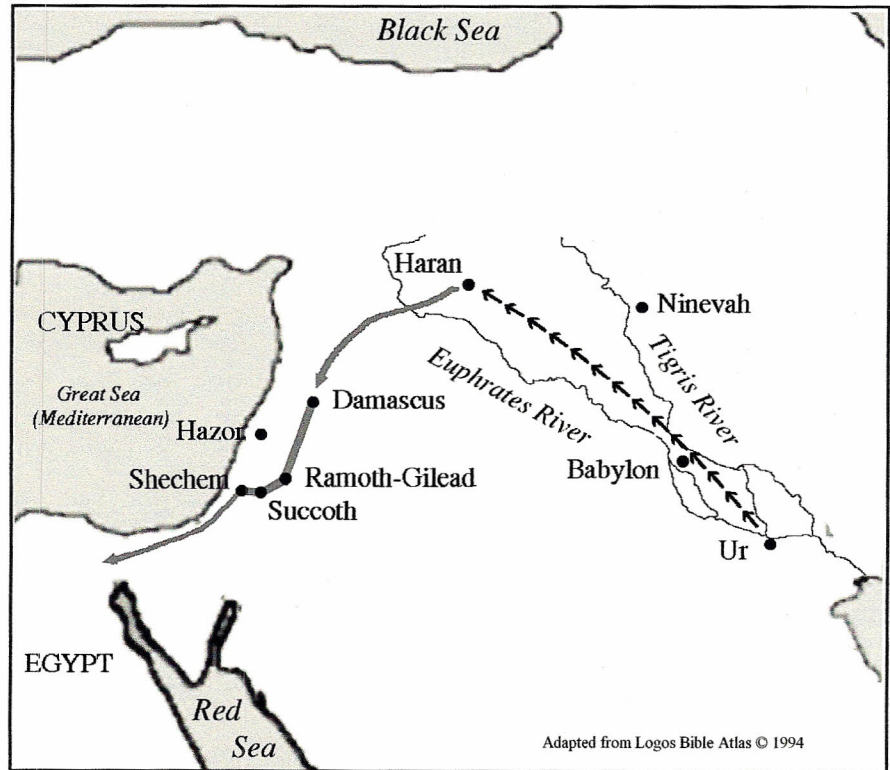
This section of *Genesis* focuses on God’s selection of his chosen people. We see that God makes and keeps promises; we begin to learn that humans are somewhat less capable of this.

### LOOKING FORWARD TO JESUS

Several disturbing incidents occur in these chapters of *Genesis*. One that astonishes many first-time readers is when God commands Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac (and Abraham starts to comply!).

Our first reaction may be that this is a cruel command, one *not* befitting a loving God. But God spares Isaac, providing a lamb at the last moment as a substitute sacrifice.

When viewed in the context of what occurs more than a thousand years later — God’s sacrifice of his own son as a substitute for our sins — the incident with Isaac can take on a different meaning. Perhaps God wants us to empathize with Abraham, feeling his anguish, the anguish God will feel at Christ’s death.



*Journey of Abraham*

### TERMS

**birthright**—right of firstborn Hebrew son to receive a double portion of inheritance  
**blessing**—when from God, a favor or assistance  
**clean/unclean (ceremonially or ritually)** - classifications based on specific guidelines spelled out particularly in the book of *Leviticus*  
**circumcision**—spiritually: a symbol of the covenant between God and his chosen people; physically: cutting off a section of excess skin at the top of a male’s penis  
**covenant**—agreement between two parties  
**prophet**—one who speaks for, or in the name of, God  
**unclean**—see clean/unclean

### Old Testament Timeline

BC	2000-1700	1700	1250	1210	1030
<b>Creation/Fall</b> Adam & Eve Noah	<b>Patriarchs</b> Abraham Isaac Jacob Joseph	<b>Israel in Egypt</b>	<b>The Exodus</b> Moses The Law	<b>Promised Land</b> Joshua Deborah Gideon Sampson	<b>United Kingdom</b> Samuel Saul David Solomon

PEOPLE

**Abimelech** king of Gerar who becomes upset when first Abraham (Sarah) and then Isaac (Rebekah) tell him their wives are instead their sisters **Abram/Abraham** founder of the Hebrew nation; father of Isaac; grandfather of Jacob **Asher** Jacob's eighth son; with Zilpah; later, tribe of his descendants **Benjamin** Jacob's twelfth son; with Rachel; later, tribe of his descendants **Bilhah** Rachel's servant girl; mother of Jacob's sons Dan and Naphtali **Canaanites** people living in Canaan (see) **Dan** Jacob's fifth son; with Bilhah; later, tribe of his descendants **Dinah** Jacob's daughter, with Leah **Esau/Edom** first son of Isaac and Rebekah; Jacob's older twin **Gad** Jacob's seventh son; with Zilpah; later, tribe of his descendants **Hagar** Sarah's Egyptian maidservant; mother of Ishmael **ISAAC** Abraham's second son, by Sarah; father of Esau and Jacob **Ishmael** Abraham's first son, by Hagar; ancestor of ... **ISRAEL** see Jacob **Issachar** Jacob's ninth son; with Leah; later, tribe of his descendants **Jacob/Israel** second son of Isaac and Rebekah; younger twin of Esau; later, tribe of his descendants **Jebusites** inhabitants of the city of Jebus, which became known later as Jerusalem **JOSEPH** Jacob's eleventh son; with Rachel **Judah** Jacob's fourth son; with Leah; receives birthright lost by Reuben; ancestor of Christ; later, tribe of his descendants **Laban the Aramean** Rebekah's brother; later Jacob's father in law **Leah** Jacob's first wife; older sister of Rachel; mother of six of Jacob's sons **Levi** Jacob's third son; with Leah; cursed by Jacob when he, along with Simeon (son 2), attacks Shechemites over sister Dinah; later, tribe of his descendants **Lot** Abraham's nephew; settles in Sodom **Mamre the Amorite** an ally of Abraham **Melchizedek** priest and king of Salem (probably Jerusalem); Abraham gives him "a tenth of everything" after rescuing Lot **Midianites** descendants of Abraham who are a nomadic enemy of Israel **Naphtali** Jacob's sixth son; with Bilhah; later, tribe of his descendants **Nephilim** unknown reference **Perez** son of Judah **Perizzites** descendants of Perez **Philistines** these Philistines are probably not the same as those battled later by King David **Rachel** Jacob's true love and second wife; mother of Jacob's two favorite sons: Joseph and Benjamin **Rebekah** daughter of Isaac's first cousin; becomes Isaac's wife and the mother of Esau and Jacob **Reuben** Jacob's first son; with Leah; loses his birthright when sleeps with Bilhah and Jacob learns of it; rescues Joseph from being killed by other brothers; later, tribe of his descendants **Sarai/Sarah** Abraham's wife; mother of Isaac; grandmother of Jacob **Semites** **Simeon** Jacob's second son; with Leah; cursed by Jacob when he, along with Levi (son 3), attacks Shechemites over sister Dinah; later, tribe of his descendants **Tamar** Judah's daughter in law who gives birth to Judah's twin sons Perez and Zerah **Zebulun** Jacob's tenth son; with Leah; later, tribe of his descendants **Zilpah** Leah's servant girl; mother of Jacob's sons Gad and Ashe

**Genealogy of Christ**



930

722

587

538

336

63 BC

**Divided Kingdom**

North: Ahab  
Elijah  
South: Hezekiah  
Isaiah

**Samaria**

falls to Assyria, scatters

**Jerusalem**

falls to Babylon, exiled

**Judeans return**

Esther  
Ezra  
Nehemiah

**Greek**

rule

**Roman**

rule