

**JESUS
DAILY
BIBLE**

HOW TO USE THIS BIBLE

The *CSB Jesus Daily Bible* features a 52-week guided reading plan that shows Jesus throughout all of Scripture. Each week's reading is structured in a Day 1–5 reading format. Unlike other daily Bibles, the daily reading arrangement is not date specific (e.g., no "January 1"), so you can begin the plan at any point in the calendar year.

Along with a 52-week thematic reading plan through all of Scripture, this Bible includes the following features in each week to help you understand how Christ is at the center of God's Word.

Weekly introductions to set the stage for each week's reading

WEEK 49 • CHRIST OUR SUPERIOR PRIEST

Hebrews begins what are called the General Letters (or Catholic Epistles) of the NT. Although the author of Hebrews is unknown, the audience seems to have been composed of both Christian Jews and some hearers who were considering a return to Judaism. Some among this community were watching as Christians were being severely persecuted by the Roman government. Accordingly, Hebrews served as a charge for believers to stand firm in their faith and endure. Why? Because Christ is superior and therefore worth it. God's heavenly promises will come to pass, and they will exceed the temporary appeal of anything on this earth.

The letter to the Hebrews was most likely a sermon given to the church that emphasized Christ's superiority over Judaism's emphasis on angels, priests, and temple sacrifices. This sermon is filled with OT passages that indicate the supremacy of Jesus above all things. Thus, the book's structure is built around the argument for Christ's supremacy:

DAY 1	HEBREWS 1–3	<input type="checkbox"/>
DAY 2	HEBREWS 4–6	<input type="checkbox"/>
DAY 3	HEBREWS 7–9	<input type="checkbox"/>
DAY 4	HEBREWS 10–11	<input type="checkbox"/>
DAY 5	HEBREWS 12–13	<input type="checkbox"/>

- Jesus is superior to Moses and the original rest found in the promised land (3:1–4:16).
- Jesus is superior to the Levitical priesthood (5:1–7:28).
- Jesus is superior to the old covenant and its sacrifices (8:1–10:39).
- Hebrews offers encouragement to live by faith in Jesus and endure until we reach heaven (11:1–13:25).

Hebrews is arguably the most Christ-centered book in the Bible. Jesus is worthy of our endurance, so let's run to him with faith.

angels and the law

WHERE WILL I FIND CHRIST IN THIS WEEK'S READING?

- See Christ as our priest-king from the order of Melchizedek (5:5–6; see Gn 14:18–20; Ps 110:4).
- Find Christ as our superior high priest (Heb 7:20–25; see Ps 110:4).
- See Jesus as the mediator of a superior covenant (Heb 8:6; see Jr 31:31–34).
- Find Christ offering himself as a superior sacrifice for our forgiveness (Heb 10:11–14).
- See Jesus returning to deliver our inheritance from heaven (Heb 10:36–39; see Isa 26:21; Hab 2:3–4).
- See Jesus as the pioneer and perfecter of our faith (Heb 12:1–2).
- Find Christ in the bringing of his unshakable kingdom (12:25–29; see Hg 2:6).
- Find Christ who is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb 13:8).

HEBREWS

DAY 1 Heb 1–3

The Nature of the Son

1 Long ago God spoke to our ancestors by the prophets at different times and in different ways. ²In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son. God has appointed him heir of all things and made the universe through him. ³The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact expression of his nature, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. ⁴So he became superior to the angels, just as the name he inherited is more excellent than theirs.

The Son Superior to Angels

⁵For to which of the angels did he ever say, You are my Son, today I have become your Father,

or again, I will be his Father, and he will be my Son?

⁶Again, when he brings his firstborn into the world, he says, And let all God's angels worship him.

⁷And about the angels he says, He makes his angels winds, and his servants a fiery flame,

⁸but to the Son:

Your throne, God, is forever and ever, and the scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of justice.

⁹You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; this is why God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of joy beyond your companions.

¹⁰And:

In the beginning, Lord, you established the earth, and the heavens are the works

of your hands;

¹¹they will perish, but you remain. They will all wear out like clothing;

¹²you will roll them up like a cloak, and they will be changed like clothing. But you are the same,

and your years will never end.

¹³Now to which of the angels has he ever said: Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool?

Overview of Hebrews

Who: Many figures—such as Paul, Luke, Barnabas, Apollus, and Clement of Rome—have been suggested as the author, but the writer of Hebrews remains unknown on any kind of conclusive level, though the book itself suggests a second-generation Christian (Heb 2:3).

What: The author warned believers not to revert to Judaism but to endure persecution for the sake of Christ.

When: Hebrews was likely written in the mid- to late 50s, which is most evident because it neglects to mention the destruction of the Jerusalem temple in AD 70, an event that would have strengthened the author's argument even further concerning the end of the sacrificial system.

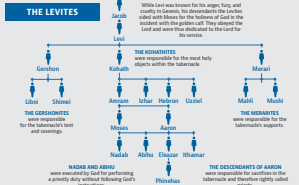
Where: While the exact location is unknown, the audience of this letter was made up of Christians with an apparently Jewish heritage (or at least a deep appreciation of the OT).

Why: The recipients of Hebrews had experienced persecution for their faith, so this letter served as a reminder of Christ's superiority to the ways of old during troubling times.

Book introductions in an easy-to-understand "Who, What, When, Where, Why" format

CHRIST AS PRIEST

WHO WAS AN OLD TESTAMENT PRIEST?	
REQUIREMENTS	DUTIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Levite, a descendant of Levi Specifically a descendant of Aaron Holy to the Lord Physically without blemish Without any debt Identified clearly by virtue of prescribed sacrifices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer sacrifices to God on behalf of the people Give the people an example of holiness Teach the people the law of God



WHO WAS AN OLD TESTAMENT HIGH PRIEST?	WHO WERE SOME OF THE HIGH PRIESTS?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A specific descendant of Aaron Appointed by God Held the responsibility of entering the most holy place once a year to make atonement for the people's sins on the Day of Atonement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AARON (Ex 28: 1-6; Heb 5: 1-4) ELI (1 Sam 2: 26-35) ELI (1 Sam 1: 9-28) ABIMELECH (Jud 20: 1-5) ABINADAB (1 Sam 7: 1-14) ZADOK (1 Kg 1: 33) HOZIAH (2 Kg 23: 1-5) JOHANAN (2 Kg 23: 1-5) ELASHAPH (1 Kg 1: 3)

WEEK 49 / DAY 3

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HOW WAS JESUS A PRIEST?	
REQUIREMENTS	JESUS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Levite, a descendant of Levi Specifically a descendant of Aaron Holy to the Lord Physically without blemish Without any debt Identified clearly by virtue of prescribed sacrifices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The King, the Messiah, a descendant of the line of Judah (Heb 7: 14) Holy to the Lord (Heb 7: 26) Identified clearly by virtue of his sinless, yet without sin A priest in the order of Melchizedek, based not on physical genealogy but on the power of his indescribable life, having been called from the dead never to die again (Heb 7: 25-27)

HOW WAS MELCHIZEDEK THE GREAT HIGH PRIEST?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Genesis 14: 18-20; Psalm 110: 4; Heb 7: 1-3 Called "King of Righteousness" "King of Salem," or "King of Peace" A priest of the Most High God Received Abraham's offerings and the tenth of Abraham's possessions 	

HOW WAS JESUS THE LEVITICAL HIGH PRIEST?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered the sacrifice for his own sins (Heb 9: 11) Offered the sacrifice according to physical descent (Heb 9: 1) Remained in the office of priest until physical death (Heb 9: 24) 	

HOW WAS JESUS THE MELCHIZEDEK HIGH PRIEST?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered the sacrifice for his own sins (Heb 9: 11) Offered the sacrifice according to physical descent (Heb 9: 1) Remained in the office of priest until physical death (Heb 9: 24) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus was the only one who was a priest of his own kind. He was not a descendant of Aaron, and he was not a descendant of Levi. He was a priest of his own kind, and he was a priest of his own kind. He was a priest of his own kind, and he was a priest of his own kind.

The priests of the old covenant were appointed. These priests were to be holy and set apart by the presence of God. They were to be set apart by the presence of God, and they were to be set apart by the presence of God. They were to be set apart by the presence of God, and they were to be set apart by the presence of God.

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Jesus-focused articles, charts, and infographics expanding each week's theme

CHRIST OUR SUPERIOR PRIEST

HEBREWS 8:1-13

With the letter to the Hebrews, some central themes of the entire Bible come full circle: covenant, kingdom, sacrifice, and redemption. The old covenant, represented by the whole of the OT, failed to accomplish complete redemption for God's people. This first covenant failed not because something was bad about it, but instead because God's people remained sinful. The conventions and rituals of the OT in other words, could not overcome humanity's sin problem, which made something "new and better" necessary to bring about true salvation. Despite Moses, Aaron, and other leaders who were faithful at times, they were still sinful and eventually died, pointing to the need for a more effective ministry. A greater mediator was needed who could fully sanctify the people.

To call to the chase, Jesus Christ came with our great high priest to establish a new covenant with God's people. The covenant he enacted with his sacrifice would bring permanent blessing as opposed to being provisional and temporary like the presently ministry of the Mosaic covenant. Accordingly, the author of Hebrews summarized his central argument:

"How the main point of what is being said is this: We have this kind of high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a minister of the sanctuary and the true tabernacle that was set up by the Lord and not man" (Heb 8: 1-2).

- The inward power of the Holy Spirit
- Intimate and saving knowledge of God across the covenant community
- The internalizing of God's commands toward renewed obedience
- The permanent forgiveness of sins (see Heb 8: 1-2)

In summation, these new-covenant promises describe a thriving and everlasting kingdom for God and his people, the kind of kingdom Jesus had intended from the beginning. The author of Hebrews thus drew this conclusion: "By saying a new covenant has been made, that the first is obsolete. And what is obsolete and giving place to another will soon disappear. The old has passed away, and the new has come (2Co 5: 17). Let us live with the utmost gratitude for the permanent salvation secured by Christ our superior priest."

WEEK 49 / DAY 3

Weekly summaries to reinforce key takeaways and applications for life

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Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Don't be led astray by various kinds of strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be established by grace and not by food regulations, since those who observe them have not benefited. We have an altar from which those who worship at the tabernacle do not have a right to eat. For the bodies of these animals whose blood is brought into the most holy place by the high priest as a sin offering are burned outside the camp. Therefore, Jesus also suffered outside the gate, so that he might sanctify the people by his own blood. Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing his disgrace. For we do not have an enduring city here; instead, we seek the one to come. Therefore, through his love we continually offer up to God a sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Don't neglect to do what is good and to share, for God is pleased with such sacrifices. Obey your leaders and submit to them, since they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account, so that they can do this with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. Pray for us, for we are convinced that we have a clear conscience, wanting to conduct ourselves honorably in everything. And I urge you who are all the more to pray that I may be restored to you very soon.

Benediction and Farewell
Now may the God of peace, who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus—the great Shepherd of the sheep—through the blood of the everlasting covenant, equip you with everything good to do his will, working in us what is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Brothers and sisters, I urge you to receive this message of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly. Be aware that our brother Timothy has been released. If he comes soon enough, he will be with me when I see you. Greet all your leaders and all the saints. Those who are from Italy send you greetings. Grace be with you all.

Mostly psalms, to show how Jesus is far greater than angels because of his position, place, power, and purpose (Heb 1: 5-13; see Ps 32: 4; 50m 7: 4; 117: 13; Ps 7: 45; 97: 102; 104: 4; 110: 1). Angels are indeed powerful servants, but our Savior is superior (Heb 1: 14).

Some within the church had drifted away from the Christian message and returned to Jewish tradition. The Jewish law was good because it condemns our sins, but it cannot provide permanent and lasting forgiveness. The Holy Spirit confirmed the early church's message by many signs and wonders. Thus, because of their greater exposure to the truth, devastatingly, the Jews who had rejected the message and fell away from the faith (2: 1-4). Again, the writer pointed to how the Son of God would humbly take upon himself our humanity, becoming lesser than the angels for a time. Christ tasted death to provide salvation and subsequently ascended to heaven in honor and glory (2: 5-9; see Ps 8: 4-6). Thus, Jesus had to become like us to identify with our weaknesses and make atonement for our sins (Heb 2: 10-18).

Looking at another portion of the OT, the author directed his audience to the pivotal figure of Moses. Moses faithfully led the household of Israel, but Jesus Christ is nonetheless the master builder of the house. Moses fulfilled God's law, but Jesus fulfilled it. Moses led God's people through the wilderness, but Jesus would lead us successfully into permanent rest if we trust him to the end. In all ways, Jesus is superior (3: 1-6). A related passage, Psalm 95, named the people of Israel not to harden their hearts like the angels in the wilderness who tried God's patience. They failed to enter Canaan, their promised place of rest (3: 7-11). Likewise, those among the

people superior to Moses and Joshua had to come and provide God's everlasting rest for his people, a rest we can experience partially but whose fullness is still to come for those who do not fall into persistent disobedience (Heb 4: 4-11; see Mt 11: 28-29).

This promise for rest proved true because God's Word is perfectly true and unchanging. It is the part of our souls. God's Word pierces us and then heals us. We cannot hide anything from God and will give an account to him at the time of judgment (Heb 4: 12-13). Just as Jesus is superior to Moses, he is also superior to Aaron or any other high priest. Aaron, Jesus passed through the heavens, not just the earth, through his ascension. Although Jesus was tempted like us, he remained sinless and yet sympathized with us according to our weaknesses, extending grace during this time of need (4: 14-16). The Levitical priesthood ultimately failed because it could not vanquish human sinfulness. As the author explained, on the Day of Atonement, Aaron had to offer a sacrifice for his own sins before making an offering for the people's sins. In contrast to Aaron, Jesus came from a different priestly order, that of Melchizedek. Christ's perfect obedience and effective intercession resulted in eternal life for all who trust and obey him (5: 1-10; see Gn 14: 18-20; Pt 7: 110: 4).

Some who were among the community had left the church and returned to Jewish tradition. Additionally, some in the church were not growing in their faith, remaining spiritually immature, like those who needed milk rather than meat. They perhaps wanted the blessings of the Christian faith but not its hardships. They liked grace but lacked the required discipline and devotion (Heb 5: 11-14). They needed to mature in

WEEK 49: SUMMARY

Hebrews functions like a sermon that exalts Jesus above everything. Beginning with a focus on the incarnation, the letter declares that the same God who revealed himself through the prophets has revealed himself in these last days in the person of Jesus (Heb 1: 1-2). The author presented Jesus and his work in the striking ways that follow:

- Jesus is our everlasting King, having been "appointed heir of all things" (1: 2).
- Jesus is our Creator, God the Father having "made the universe through him" (1: 2).
- Jesus possesses God's glory: "The Son is the radiance of God's glory" (1: 3).
- Jesus reveals what God is like as "the exact expression of his nature" (1: 3).
- Jesus holds the universe together, "sustaining all things by his powerful word" (1: 3).

Jesus became our ultimate priest and sacrifice for sin, having sat down "after making purification for our sins" (1: 3).

Jesus also obtained the highest place of authority in sitting down "at the right hand of the Majesty on high" (1: 3).

Even the name he inherited as a result of his work demonstrates that he is superior to the angels (1: 4). The old hymn, written by Edward Perronet, highlights the same truth: "All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall. Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all."

As reflected in Hebrews 2: 2, a common belief existed among the Jews that God gave the law to Moses on Mount Sinai through the mediation of angels (see Dt 33: 2; Ac 7: 53; G 3: 19). For this reason, the author appealed to a series of OT passages to stand in

unbelief? Rather than coming to the physical location that was Mount Sinai with fear of consequence, God's people now gather at Mount Zion before the living God, the angels, and the spirits of the departed saints. This is the benefit of Jesus' work as the mediator of a new covenant (12: 18-24).

When God called the Israelites to gather around Mount Sinai, the earth shook. If Moses' generation did not escape the voice that spoke there, how much more will it be for those who reject the voice from heaven? However, it

by living faithfully, we receive Christ's kingdom, which cannot be shaken, we can escape with thankfulness and worship God with appropriate reverence (12: 25-28). The author then concluded the sermon with a series of commands promoting perseverance through brotherly love, practical boldness, and submission to church leaders (13: 1-7). Fittingly, the letter ends with a benediction commending the readers to the care of Jesus, the great Shepherd who equips us for obedience through his new-covenant work there (13: 8-14). Let us live with the utmost gratitude for the permanent salvation secured by Christ our superior priest.

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HEBREWS 13 WEEK 49 / SUMMARY

WEEK 45



WEEK 1 ♦ CHRIST OUR COVENANT CREATOR

The Old Testament (OT) is the “First Testament” because it is needed to tell the complete story. The OT foreshadows Christ, and the New Testament (NT) ushers in Christ as the hero of God’s redemptive work.

Genesis is the book of beginnings. If we summarize the entire Bible as one story with four parts—creation, fall, redemption, and renewal—Genesis contains the first three.

From nothing, God made everything for his glory. He made Adam and Eve the pinnacle of his creative work (see Eph 2:10). First, God declared his universe and everything it contains to be “good, then God blessed his handiwork and rested on the Sabbath” (Gn 1:31; 2:3). A perfect, sinless creation is the first picture we have of God’s kingdom on earth.

Then came the fall. God had made Adam and Eve with the ability to sin and rebel against his truth—and they did so. God cursed his universe because of their sin. All creation would suffer death, devastation, and destruction from that moment forward. To this day, we can trace everything bad, everything wicked, and everything wrong with our world back to the fall. God is not the author of sin and evil; that’s where we creatures played our part.

DAY 1	GENESIS 1–5	<input type="checkbox"/>
DAY 2	GENESIS 6–10	<input type="checkbox"/>
DAY 3	GENESIS 11–15	<input type="checkbox"/>
DAY 4	GENESIS 16–20	<input type="checkbox"/>
DAY 5	GENESIS 21–25	<input type="checkbox"/>

However, God is gracious and merciful (Ex 34:6). He knew this would happen and before creation made a perfect and unstoppable plan to make a sinful world right again. a perfect and unstoppable plan to make a sinful world right again. God himself would intervene and provide for our redemption through Jesus Christ. Genesis thus begins the story of our redemption.

Throughout the Bible, God’s promise of salvation comes through covenant agreements he made with his chosen people. As we will see early in the story, God sometimes would validate covenant relationship with humanity through blood sacrifice, and these sacrifices foreshadow the ultimate sacrifice Jesus would make on the cross.

WHERE WILL I FIND CHRIST IN THIS WEEK’S READING?

- ♦ Look for Christ as Creator (see also Jn 1:1–3; Col 1:16).
- ♦ See Adam as a type (or prefigurement) of Christ who rules over God’s created kingdom (Gn 2:15; see Rm 5:14).
- ♦ Find Christ walking in the garden (Gn 3:8).
- ♦ See Christ as the promised “offspring” of Eve, who will conquer Satan and remove the death curse (3:15).
- ♦ See Christ symbolized in Abel’s sacrifice of “the firstborn” lamb (4:4).
- ♦ Look for Christ prefigured in righteous Noah (6:8).
- ♦ See Jesus’s work foreshadowed in the covenant God made with Noah after the great flood and in the blessing given to Noah’s son Shem (9:11,26).
- ♦ See Christ in the priest-king Melchizedek (14:17–20).
- ♦ Find Christ’s work foreshadowed in the covenant God made with Abram and in the salvation Abram received by faith (15:5–6).
- ♦ Find Christ prefigured in the story of the sacrifice of Isaac (22:1–18).

GENESIS

Overview of Genesis

Who: Moses is considered by most conservative scholars to be the inspired author/compiler of Genesis and the rest of the Pentateuch.

What: The book of Genesis represents a historical narrative about the first generations of God's people, beginning in the garden of Eden with Adam and ending in Egypt with Joseph.

When: Moses wrote Genesis sometime during Israel's journey in the wilderness and before he died in Moab.

Where: The setting of Genesis varies along with the multiplication of God's covenant people from the garden of Eden, to Canaan, to Bethel, and to Egypt.

Why: Genesis was written as a historical and theological foundation for the rest of the Bible, particularly setting the stage for the "offspring" (3:15) to redeem God's people.

The Creation

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. **2** Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. **3** Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. **4** God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. **5** God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." There was an evening, and there was a morning: one day.

6 Then God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters, separating water from water." **7** So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above the expanse. And it was so. **8** God called the expanse "sky." Evening came and then morning: the second day.

9 Then God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. **10** God called the dry land "earth," and the gathering of the water he called "seas." And God saw that it was good. **11** Then God said, "Let the earth produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds." And it was so. **12** The earth produced vegetation: seed-bearing plants according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. **13** Evening came and then morning: the third day.

14 Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night. They will serve as signs for seasons and for days and years. **15** They will be lights in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth." And it was so. **16** God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule over the day and the lesser light to rule over the night — as well as the stars. **17** God placed them in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth, **18** to rule the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. **19** Evening came and then morning: the fourth day.

20 Then God said, "Let the water swarm with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." **21** So God created the large sea-creatures and every living creature that moves and swarms in the water, according to their kinds. He also created every winged creature according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. **22** God blessed them: "Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the waters of the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth." **23** Evening came and then morning: the fifth day.

24 Then God said, "Let the earth produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that crawl, and the wildlife of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. **25** So God made the wildlife of the earth according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that crawl on the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth."

²⁷ So God created man in his own image;
he created him in the image of God;
he created them male and female.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth."²⁹ God also said, "Look, I have given you every seed-bearing plant on the surface of the entire earth and every tree whose fruit contains seed. This will be food for you,³⁰ for all the wildlife of the earth, for every bird of the sky, and for every creature that crawls on the earth — everything having the breath of life in it — I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good indeed. Evening came and then morning: the sixth day.

2 So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed.² On the seventh day God had completed his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.³ God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, for on it he rested from all his work of creation.

Man and Woman in the Garden

⁴ These are the records of the heavens and the earth, concerning their creation. At the time that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,⁵ no shrub of the field had yet grown on the land, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not made it rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground.⁶ But mist would come up from the earth and water all the ground.⁷ Then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being.

⁸ The LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he placed the man he had formed.⁹ The LORD God caused to grow out of the ground every tree pleasing in appearance and good for food, including the tree of life in the middle of the garden, as well as the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰ A river went out from Eden to water the garden. From there it divided and became the source of four rivers.¹¹ The name of the first is Pishon, which flows through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold.¹² Gold from that land is pure; bdellium and onyx are also there.¹³ The name of the second river is Gihon, which flows through the entire land of Cush.¹⁴ The name of the third river is Tigris, which runs east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it.¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree of the garden,¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die."¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper corresponding to him."¹⁹ The LORD God formed out of the ground every wild animal and every bird of the sky, and brought each to the man to see what he would call it. And whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.²⁰ The man gave names to all the livestock, to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal; but for the man no helper was found corresponding to him.²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to come over the man, and he slept. God took one of his ribs and closed the flesh at that place.²² Then the LORD God made the rib he had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man.²³ And the man said:

This one, at last, is bone of my bone
and flesh of my flesh;
this one will be called "woman,"
for she was taken from man.

²⁴This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh. ²⁵Both the man and his wife were naked, yet felt no shame.

The Temptation and the Fall

3 Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You can't eat from any tree in the garden?'"

²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. ³But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, 'You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die.'"

⁴"No! You will certainly not die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵"In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶The woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Sin's Consequences

⁸Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹So the LORD God called out to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

¹⁰And he said, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid."

¹¹Then he asked, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

¹²The man replied, "The woman you gave to be with me — she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate."

¹³So the LORD God asked the woman, "What have you done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴So the LORD God said to the serpent:
Because you have done this,
you are cursed more than any livestock
and more than any wild animal.
You will move on your belly
and eat dust all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put hostility between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring.
He will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel.

¹⁶He said to the woman:
I will intensify your labor pains;
you will bear children with painful effort.
Your desire will be for your husband,
yet he will rule over you.

¹⁷ And he said to the man, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'Do not eat from it':
The ground is cursed because of you.
You will eat from it by means of painful labor
all the days of your life.
¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you,
and you will eat the plants of the field.
¹⁹ You will eat bread by the sweat of your brow
until you return to the ground,
since you were taken from it.
For you are dust,
and you will return to dust."

²⁰ The man named his wife Eve because she was the mother of all the living. ²¹ The LORD God made clothing from skins for the man and his wife, and he clothed them.

²² The LORD God said, "Since the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil, he must not reach out, take from the tree of life, eat, and live forever." ²³ So the LORD God sent him away from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ He drove the man out and stationed the cherubim and the flaming, whirling sword east of the garden of Eden to guard the way to the tree of life.

Cain Murders Abel

4 The man was intimate with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain. She said, "I have had a male child with the LORD's help." ² She also gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel became a shepherd of flocks, but Cain worked the ground. ³ In the course of time Cain presented some of the land's produce as an offering to the LORD. ⁴ And Abel also presented an offering — some of the firstborn of his flock and their fat portions. The LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵ but he did not have regard for Cain and his offering. Cain was furious, and he looked despondent.

⁶ Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you furious? And why do you look despondent? ⁷ If you do what is right, won't you be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it."

⁸ Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

⁹ Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?"

"I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's guardian?"

¹⁰ Then he said, "What have you done? Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground! ¹¹ So now you are cursed, alienated from the ground that opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood you have shed. ¹² If you work the ground, it will never again give you its yield. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth."

¹³ But Cain answered the LORD, "My punishment is too great to bear!"

¹⁴ Since you are banishing me today from the face of the earth, and I must hide from your presence and become a restless wanderer on the earth, whoever finds me will kill me."

¹⁵ Then the LORD replied to him, "In that case, whoever kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over." And he placed a mark on Cain so that whoever found him would not kill him. ¹⁶ Then Cain went out from the LORD's presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

The Line of Cain

¹⁷ Cain was intimate with his wife, and she conceived and gave birth to Enoch. Then Cain became the builder of a city, and he named the city Enoch after his son. ¹⁸ Irad was born to Enoch, Irad fathered Mehujael, Mehujael fathered Methushael, and Methushael fathered Lamech. ¹⁹ Lamech took two wives for himself, one named Adah and the other named Zillah. ²⁰ Adah bore Jabal; he was the first of the nomadic herdsmen. ²¹ His brother was named Jubal; he was the first of all who play the lyre and the flute. ²² Zillah bore Tubal-cain, who made all kinds of bronze and iron tools. Tubal-cain's sister was Naamah.

²³ Lamech said to his wives:

Adah and Zillah, hear my voice;
wives of Lamech, pay attention to my words.
For I killed a man for wounding me,
a young man for striking me.

²⁴ If Cain is to be avenged seven times over,
then for Lamech it will be seventy-seven times!

²⁵ Adam was intimate with his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth, for she said, "God has given me another offspring in place of Abel, since Cain killed him." ²⁶ A son was born to Seth also, and he named him Enosh. At that time people began to call on the name of the LORD.

The Line of Seth

5 This is the document containing the family records of Adam. On the day that God created man, he made him in the likeness of God; ² he created them male and female. When they were created, he blessed them and called them mankind.

³ Adam was 130 years old when he fathered a son in his likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth. ⁴ Adam lived 800 years after he fathered Seth, and he fathered other sons and daughters. ⁵ So Adam's life lasted 930 years; then he died.

⁶ Seth was 105 years old when he fathered Enosh. ⁷ Seth lived 807 years after he fathered Enosh, and he fathered other sons and daughters. ⁸ So Seth's life lasted 912 years; then he died.

⁹ Enosh was 90 years old when he fathered Kenan. ¹⁰ Enosh lived 815 years after he fathered Kenan, and he fathered other sons and daughters. ¹¹ So Enosh's life lasted 905 years; then he died.

¹² Kenan was 70 years old when he fathered Mahalalel. ¹³ Kenan lived 840 years after he fathered Mahalalel, and he fathered other sons and daughters. ¹⁴ So Kenan's life lasted 910 years; then he died.

¹⁵ Mahalalel was 65 years old when he fathered Jared. ¹⁶ Mahalalel lived 830 years after he fathered Jared, and he fathered other sons and daughters. ¹⁷ So Mahalalel's life lasted 895 years; then he died.

¹⁸ Jared was 162 years old when he fathered Enoch. ¹⁹ Jared lived 800 years after he fathered Enoch, and he fathered other sons and daughters. ²⁰ So Jared's life lasted 962 years; then he died.

²¹ Enoch was 65 years old when he fathered Methuselah. ²² And after he fathered Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and fathered other sons and daughters. ²³ So Enoch's life lasted 365 years.

²⁴ Enoch walked with God; then he was not there because God took him.

²⁵ Methuselah was 187 years old when he fathered Lamech. ²⁶ Methuselah lived 782 years after he fathered Lamech, and he fathered other sons and daughters. ²⁷ So Methuselah's life lasted 969 years; then he died.

²⁸ Lamech was 182 years old when he fathered a son. ²⁹ And he named him Noah, saying, “This one will bring us relief from the agonizing labor of our hands, caused by the ground the LORD has cursed.” ³⁰ Lamech lived 595 years after he fathered Noah, and he fathered other sons and daughters. ³¹ So Lamech’s life lasted 777 years; then he died.

³² Noah was 500 years old, and he fathered Shem, Ham, and Japheth.



DAY 2

Gn 6–10

Sons of God and Daughters of Mankind

6 When mankind began to multiply on the earth and daughters were born to them, ² the sons of God saw that the daughters of mankind were beautiful, and they took any they chose as wives for themselves. ³ And the LORD said, “My Spirit will not remain with mankind forever, because they are corrupt. Their days will be 120 years.” ⁴ The Nephilim were on the earth both in those days and afterward, when the sons of God came to the daughters of mankind, who bore children to them. They were the powerful men of old, the famous men.

Judgment Decreed

⁵ When the LORD saw that human wickedness was widespread on the earth and that every inclination of the human mind was nothing but evil all the time, ⁶ the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and he was deeply grieved. ⁷ Then the LORD said, “I will wipe mankind, whom I created, off the face of the earth, together with the animals, creatures that crawl, and birds of the sky — for I regret that I made them.” ⁸ Noah, however, found favor with the LORD.

God Warns Noah

⁹ These are the family records of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among his contemporaries; Noah walked with God. ¹⁰ And Noah fathered three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

¹¹ Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight, and the earth was filled with wickedness. ¹² God saw how corrupt the earth was, for every creature had corrupted its way on the earth. ¹³ Then God said to Noah, “I have decided to put an end to every creature, for the earth is filled with wickedness because of them; therefore I am going to destroy them along with the earth.

¹⁴ “Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it with pitch inside and outside. ¹⁵ This is how you are to make it: The ark will be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. ¹⁶ You are to make a roof, finishing the sides of the ark to within eighteen inches of the roof. You are to put a door in the side of the ark. Make it with lower, middle, and upper decks.

¹⁷ “Understand that I am bringing a flood — floodwaters on the earth to destroy every creature under heaven with the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. ¹⁸ But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark with your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives. ¹⁹ You are also to bring into the ark two of all the living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. ²⁰ Two of everything — from the birds according to their kinds, from the livestock according to their kinds, and from the animals that crawl on the ground according to their kinds — will come to you so that you can keep them alive. ²¹ Take with you every kind of food that is eaten; gather it as food for you and for them.” ²² And Noah did this. He did everything that God had commanded him.

Entering the Ark

7 Then the LORD said to Noah, “Enter the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. ²You are to take with you seven pairs, a male and its female, of all the clean animals, and two of the animals that are not clean, a male and its female, ³and seven pairs, male and female, of the birds of the sky — in order to keep offspring alive throughout the earth. ⁴Seven days from now I will make it rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and every living thing I have made I will wipe off the face of the earth.” ⁵And Noah did everything that the LORD commanded him.

⁶Noah was six hundred years old when the flood came and water covered the earth. ⁷So Noah, his sons, his wife, and his sons’ wives entered the ark because of the floodwaters. ⁸From the animals that are clean, and from the animals that are not clean, and from the birds and every creature that crawls on the ground, ⁹two of each, male and female, came to Noah and entered the ark, just as God had commanded him. ¹⁰Seven days later the floodwaters came on the earth.

The Flood

¹¹In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the sources of the vast watery depths burst open, the floodgates of the sky were opened, ¹²and the rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. ¹³On that same day Noah and his three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, entered the ark, along with Noah’s wife and his three sons’ wives. ¹⁴They entered it with all the wildlife according to their kinds, all livestock according to their kinds, all the creatures that crawl on the earth according to their kinds, every flying creature — all the birds and every winged creature — according to their kinds. ¹⁵Two of every creature that has the breath of life in it came to Noah and entered the ark. ¹⁶Those that entered, male and female of every creature, entered just as God had commanded him. Then the LORD shut him in.

¹⁷The flood continued for forty days on the earth; the water increased and lifted up the ark so that it rose above the earth. ¹⁸The water surged and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. ¹⁹Then the water surged even higher on the earth, and all the high mountains under the whole sky were covered. ²⁰The mountains were covered as the water surged above them more than twenty feet. ²¹Every creature perished — those that crawl on the earth, birds, livestock, wildlife, and those that swarm on the earth, as well as all mankind. ²²Everything with the breath of the spirit of life in its nostrils — everything on dry land died. ²³He wiped out every living thing that was on the face of the earth, from mankind to livestock, to creatures that crawl, to the birds of the sky, and they were wiped off the earth. Only Noah was left, and those that were with him in the ark. ²⁴And the water surged on the earth 150 days.

The Flood Recedes

8 God remembered Noah, as well as all the wildlife and all the livestock that were with him in the ark. God caused a wind to pass over the earth, and the water began to subside. ²The sources of the watery depths and the floodgates of the sky were closed, and the rain from the sky stopped. ³The water steadily receded from the earth, and by the end of 150 days the water had decreased significantly. ⁴The ark came to rest in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat.

⁵The water continued to recede until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were visible. ⁶After forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made, ⁷and he sent out a raven. It went back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth. ⁸Then he sent out a dove to see whether the water on the earth's surface had gone down, ⁹but the dove found no resting place for its foot. It returned to him in the ark because water covered the surface of the whole earth. He reached out and brought it into the ark to himself. ¹⁰So Noah waited seven more days and sent out the dove from the ark again. ¹¹When the dove came to him at evening, there was a plucked olive leaf in its beak. So Noah knew that the water on the earth's surface had gone down. ¹²After he had waited another seven days, he sent out the dove, but it did not return to him again. ¹³In the six hundred first year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the water that had covered the earth was dried up. Then Noah removed the ark's cover and saw that the surface of the ground was drying. ¹⁴By the twenty-seventh day of the second month, the earth was dry.

The LORD's Promise

¹⁵Then God spoke to Noah, ¹⁶"Come out of the ark, you, your wife, your sons, and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁷Bring out all the living creatures that are with you — birds, livestock, those that crawl on the earth — and they will spread over the earth and be fruitful and multiply on the earth." ¹⁸So Noah, along with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, came out. ¹⁹All the animals, all the creatures that crawl, and all the flying creatures — everything that moves on the earth — came out of the ark by their families.

²⁰Then Noah built an altar to the LORD. He took some of every kind of clean animal and every kind of clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. ²¹When the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, he said to himself, "I will never again curse the ground because of human beings, even though the inclination of the human heart is evil from youth onward. And I will never again strike down every living thing as I have done.

²² As long as the earth endures,
seedtime and harvest, cold and heat,
summer and winter, and day and night
will not cease."

God's Covenant with Noah

9 God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. ²The fear and terror of you will be in every living creature on the earth, every bird of the sky, every creature that crawls on the ground, and all the fish of the sea. They are placed under your authority. ³Every creature that lives and moves will be food for you; as I gave the green plants, I have given you everything. ⁴However, you must not eat meat with its lifeblood in it. ⁵And I will require a penalty for your lifeblood; I will require it from any animal and from any human; if someone murders a fellow human, I will require that person's life.

⁶ Whoever sheds human blood,
by humans his blood will be shed,
for God made humans in his image.

⁷But you, be fruitful and multiply; spread out over the earth and multiply on it."

⁸Then God said to Noah and his sons with him, ⁹"Understand that I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants

after you,¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you — birds, livestock, and all wildlife of the earth that are with you — all the animals of the earth that came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you that never again will every creature be wiped out by floodwaters; there will never again be a flood to destroy the earth.”

¹²And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all future generations: ¹³I have placed my bow in the clouds, and it will be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴Whenever I form clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant between me and you and all the living creatures: water will never again become a flood to destroy every creature. ¹⁶The bow will be in the clouds, and I will look at it and remember the permanent covenant between God and all the living creatures on earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and every creature on earth.”

Prophecies about Noah's Family

¹⁸Noah's sons who came out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Ham was the father of Canaan. ¹⁹These three were Noah's sons, and from them the whole earth was populated.

²⁰Noah, as a man of the soil, began by planting a vineyard. ²¹He drank some of the wine, became drunk, and uncovered himself inside his tent. ²²Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father naked and told his two brothers outside. ²³Then Shem and Japheth took a cloak and placed it over both their shoulders, and walking backward, they covered their father's nakedness. Their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father naked.

²⁴When Noah awoke from his drinking and learned what his youngest son had done to him, ²⁵he said:

Canaan is cursed.

He will be the lowest of slaves to his brothers.

²⁶He also said:

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem;

Let Canaan be Shem's slave.

²⁷Let God extend Japheth;

let Japheth dwell in the tents of Shem;

let Canaan be Shem's slave.

²⁸Now Noah lived 350 years after the flood. ²⁹So Noah's life lasted 950 years; then he died.

The Table of Nations

10 These are the family records of Noah's sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. They also had sons after the flood.

²Japheth's sons: Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras. ³Gomer's sons: Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah. ⁴And Javan's sons: Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim. ⁵From these descendants, the peoples of the coasts and islands spread out into their lands according to their clans in their nations, each with its own language.

⁶Ham's sons: Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan. ⁷Cush's sons: Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabteca. And Raamah's sons: Sheba and Dedan.

⁸Cush fathered Nimrod, who began to be powerful in the land.

⁹He was a powerful hunter in the sight of the LORD. That is why it is said, “Like Nimrod, a powerful hunter in the sight of the LORD.”

◆ EARLY COVENANTS ◆

COVENANT	KEY PLAYERS	SCRIPTURE	DESCRIPTION OF THE PROMISE
Creation (sometimes called "covenant of works")	God and mankind (Adam and Eve)	Genesis 1:26–30; 2:16–17	Man was created in the image of God and told to be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Life (blessing) or death (curse) was offered based on Adam's trust in God and obedience to the command not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
Noahic	Noah and all his descendants and every living creature	Genesis 9:1–17	God made a promise to not repeat the great flood, using a rainbow as the covenant sign. Humanity is still expected to trust God and be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and rule it.
Abrahamic	Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and their descendants	Genesis 12:1–3; 15; 17	God promised to give the land (Canaan), offspring (nations and kings), and blessing (a great name and blessing to others) to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and their descendants. Circumcision was given as the covenant sign.
Mosaic (old)	The people of Israel	Exodus 6:2–8; 19–24; 31:16	God redeemed and liberated the Israelites from bondage based on his promises to Abraham and his descendants. The covenant established blessing for obedience and curse for disobedience (agricultural plight, military defeat, exile from the land). The Sabbath was given as a permanent covenant sign.

¹⁰ His kingdom started with Babylon, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. ¹¹ From that land he went to Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth-ir, Calah, ¹² and Resen, between Nineveh and the great city Calah.

¹³ Mizraim fathered the people of Lud, Anam, Lehab, Naphtuh, ¹⁴ Pathrus, Casluh (the Philistines came from them), and Caphtor.

¹⁵ Canaan fathered Sidon his firstborn and Heth, ¹⁶ as well as the Jebusites, the Amorites, the Girgashites, ¹⁷ the Hivites, the Arkites, the Sinites, ¹⁸ the Arvadites, the Zemarites, and the Hamathites. Afterward the Canaanite clans scattered. ¹⁹ The Canaanite border went from Sidon going toward Gerar as far as Gaza, and going toward Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim as far as Lasha.

²⁰ These are Ham's sons by their clans, according to their languages, in their lands and their nations.

²¹ And Shem, Japheth's older brother, also had sons. Shem was the father of all the sons of Eber. ²² Shem's sons were Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, and Aram.

²³ Aram's sons: Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash.

²⁴ Arpachshad fathered Shelah, and Shelah fathered Eber. ²⁵ Eber had two sons. One was named Peleg, for during his days the earth was divided; his brother was named Joktan. ²⁶ And Joktan fathered Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah, ²⁷ Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, ²⁸ Obal, Abimael, Sheba, ²⁹ Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. All these were Joktan's sons. ³⁰ Their settlements extended from Mesha to Sephar, the eastern hill country.

³¹ These are Shem's sons by their clans, according to their languages, in their lands and their nations.

³² These are the clans of Noah's sons, according to their family records, in their nations. The nations on earth spread out from these after the flood.



DAY 3
Gn 11–15

The Tower of Babylon

11 The whole earth had the same language and vocabulary. ² As people migrated from the east, they found a valley in the land of Shinar and settled there. ³ They said to each other, “Come, let’s make oven-fired bricks.” (They used brick for stone and asphalt for mortar.) ⁴ And they said, “Come, let’s build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the sky. Let’s make a name for ourselves; otherwise, we will be scattered throughout the earth.”

⁵ Then the LORD came down to look over the city and the tower that the humans were building. ⁶ The LORD said, “If they have begun to do this as one people all having the same language, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. ⁷ Come, let’s go down there and confuse their language so that they will not understand one another’s speech.” ⁸ So from there the LORD scattered them throughout the earth, and they stopped building the city. ⁹ Therefore it is called Babylon, for there the LORD confused the language of the whole earth, and from there the LORD scattered them throughout the earth.

From Shem to Abram

¹⁰ These are the family records of Shem. Shem lived 100 years and fathered Arpachshad two years after the flood. ¹¹ After he fathered Arpachshad, Shem lived 500 years and fathered other sons and daughters. ¹² Arpachshad lived 35 years and fathered Shelah. ¹³ After he fathered Shelah, Arpachshad lived 403 years and fathered other sons and daughters. ¹⁴ Shelah lived 30 years and fathered Eber. ¹⁵ After he fathered Eber, Shelah lived 403 years and fathered other sons and daughters. ¹⁶ Eber lived 34 years and fathered Peleg. ¹⁷ After he fathered Peleg, Eber lived 430 years and fathered other sons and daughters. ¹⁸ Peleg lived 30 years and fathered Reu. ¹⁹ After he fathered Reu, Peleg lived 209 years and fathered other sons and daughters. ²⁰ Reu lived 32 years and fathered Serug. ²¹ After he fathered Serug, Reu lived 207 years and fathered other sons and daughters. ²² Serug lived 30 years and fathered Nahor. ²³ After he fathered Nahor, Serug lived 200 years and fathered other sons and daughters. ²⁴ Nahor lived 29 years and fathered Terah. ²⁵ After he fathered Terah, Nahor lived 119 years and fathered other sons and daughters. ²⁶ Terah lived 70 years and fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran.

²⁷ These are the family records of Terah. Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran, and Haran fathered Lot. ²⁸ Haran died in his native land, in Ur of the Chaldeans, during his father Terah’s lifetime. ²⁹ Abram and Nahor took wives: Abram’s wife was named Sarai, and Nahor’s wife was named Milcah. She was the daughter of Haran, the father of both Milcah and Iscah. ³⁰ Sarai was unable to conceive; she did not have a child.

³¹ Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot (Haran’s son), and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram’s wife, and they set out together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of Canaan. But when they came to Haran, they settled there. ³² Terah lived 205 years and died in Haran.

The Call of Abram

12 The LORD said to Abram:
Go from your land,
your relatives,
and your father’s house
to the land that I will show you.

- ² I will make you into a great nation,
I will bless you,
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.
- ³ I will bless those who bless you,
I will curse anyone who treats you with contempt,
and all the peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.

⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran. ⁵ He took his wife, Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated, and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶ Abram passed through the land to the site of Shechem, at the oak of Moreh. (At that time the Canaanites were in the land.) ⁷ The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him. ⁸ From there he moved on to the hill country east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. He built an altar to the LORD there, and he called on the name of the LORD. ⁹ Then Abram journeyed by stages to the Negev.

Abram in Egypt

¹⁰ There was a famine in the land, so Abram went down to Egypt to stay there for a while because the famine in the land was severe. ¹¹ When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife, Sarai, "Look, I know what a beautiful woman you are. ¹² When the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' They will kill me but let you live. ¹³ Please say you're my sister so it will go well for me because of you, and my life will be spared on your account." ¹⁴ When Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. ¹⁵ Pharaoh's officials saw her and praised her to Pharaoh, so the woman was taken to Pharaoh's household. ¹⁶ He treated Abram well because of her, and Abram acquired flocks and herds, male and female donkeys, male and female slaves, and camels.

¹⁷ But the LORD struck Pharaoh and his household with severe plagues because of Abram's wife, Sarai. ¹⁸ So Pharaoh sent for Abram and said, "What have you done to me? Why didn't you tell me she was your wife? ¹⁹ Why did you say, 'She's my sister,' so that I took her as my wife? Now, here is your wife. Take her and go!" ²⁰ Then Pharaoh gave his men orders about him, and they sent him away with his wife and all he had.

Abram and Lot Separate

13 Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev — he, his wife, and all he had, and Lot with him. ² Abram was very rich in livestock, silver, and gold. ³ He went by stages from the Negev to Bethel, to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had formerly been, ⁴ to the site where he had built the altar. And Abram called on the name of the LORD there.

⁵ Now Lot, who was traveling with Abram, also had flocks, herds, and tents. ⁶ But the land was unable to support them as long as they stayed together, for they had so many possessions that they could not stay together; ⁷ and there was quarreling between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. (At that time the Canaanites and the Perizzites were living in the land.)

⁸ So Abram said to Lot, “Please, let’s not have quarreling between you and me, or between your herdsmen and my herdsmen, since we are relatives. ⁹ Isn’t the whole land before you? Separate from me: if you go to the left, I will go to the right; if you go to the right, I will go to the left.”

¹⁰ Lot looked out and saw that the entire plain of the Jordan as far as Zoar was well watered everywhere like the LORD’s garden and the land of Egypt. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.)

¹¹ So Lot chose the entire plain of the Jordan for himself. Then Lot journeyed eastward, and they separated from each other. ¹² Abram lived in the land of Canaan, but Lot lived in the cities on the plain and set up his tent near Sodom. ¹³ (Now the men of Sodom were evil, sinning immensely against the LORD.)

¹⁴ After Lot had separated from him, the LORD said to Abram, “Look from the place where you are. Look north and south, east and west, ¹⁵ for I will give you and your offspring forever all the land that you see. ¹⁶ I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust of the earth, then your offspring could be counted. ¹⁷ Get up and walk around the land, through its length and width, for I will give it to you.”

¹⁸ So Abram moved his tent and went to live near the oaks of Mamre at Hebron, where he built an altar to the LORD.

Abram Rescues Lot

14 In those days King Amraphel of Shinar, King Arioch of Ellasar, King Chedorlaomer of Elam, and King Tidal of Goiim ² waged war against King Bera of Sodom, King Birsha of Gomorrah, King Shinab of Admah, and King Shemeber of Zeboiim, as well as the king of Bela (that is, Zoar). ³ All of these came as allies to the Siddim Valley (that is, the Dead Sea). ⁴ They were subject to Chedorlaomer for twelve years, but in the thirteenth year they rebelled. ⁵ In the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him came and defeated the Rephaim in Ashteroth-karnaim, the Zuzim in Ham, the Emim in Shaveh-kiriat-haim, ⁶ and the Horites in the mountains of Seir, as far as El-paran by the wilderness. ⁷ Then they came back to invade En-mishpat (that is, Kadesh), and they defeated the whole territory of the Amalekites, as well as the Amorites who lived in Hazazon-tamar.

⁸ Then the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) went out and lined up for battle in the Siddim Valley ⁹ against King Chedorlaomer of Elam, King Tidal of Goiim, King Amraphel of Shinar, and King Arioch of Ellasar — four kings against five. ¹⁰ Now the Siddim Valley contained many asphalt pits, and as the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, some fell into them, but the rest fled to the mountains. ¹¹ The four kings took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food and went on. ¹² They also took Abram’s nephew Lot and his possessions, for he was living in Sodom, and they went on.

¹³ One of the survivors came and told Abram the Hebrew, who lived near the oaks belonging to Mamre the Amorite, the brother of Eshcol and the brother of Aner. They were bound by a treaty with Abram.

¹⁴ When Abram heard that his relative had been taken prisoner, he assembled his 318 trained men, born in his household, and they went in pursuit as far as Dan. ¹⁵ And he and his servants deployed against them by night, defeated them, and pursued them as far as Hobah to the north of Damascus. ¹⁶ He brought back all the goods and also his relative Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the other people.

Melchizedek's Blessing

¹⁷ After Abram returned from defeating Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him in the Shaveh Valley (that is, the King's Valley). ¹⁸ Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought out bread and wine; he was a priest to God Most High. ¹⁹ He blessed him and said:

Abram is blessed by God Most High,
Creator of heaven and earth,
²⁰ and blessed be God Most High
who has handed over your enemies to you.

And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

²¹ Then the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the people, but take the possessions for yourself."

²² But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have raised my hand in an oath to the LORD, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, ²³ that I will not take a thread or sandal strap or anything that belongs to you, so you can never say, 'I made Abram rich.' ²⁴ I will take nothing except what the servants have eaten. But as for the share of the men who came with me — Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre — they can take their share."

The Abrahamic Covenant

15 After these events, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:

Do not be afraid, Abram.
I am your shield;
your reward will be very great.

² But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what can you give me, since I am childless and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ Abram continued, "Look, you have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house will be my heir."

⁴ Now the word of the LORD came to him: "This one will not be your heir; instead, one who comes from your own body will be your heir."

⁵ He took him outside and said, "Look at the sky and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "Your offspring will be that numerous."

⁶ Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

⁷ He also said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess."

⁸ But he said, "Lord GOD, how can I know that I will possess it?"

⁹ He said to him, "Bring me a three-year-old cow, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon."

¹⁰ So he brought all these to him, cut them in half, and laid the pieces opposite each other, but he did not cut the birds in half. ¹¹ Birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away. ¹² As the sun was setting, a deep sleep came over Abram, and suddenly great terror and darkness descended on him.

¹³ Then the LORD said to Abram, "Know this for certain: Your offspring will be resident aliens for four hundred years in a land that does not belong to them and will be enslaved and oppressed. ¹⁴ However, I will judge the nation they serve, and afterward they will go out with many possessions. ¹⁵ But you will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. ¹⁶ In the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure."

¹⁷ When the sun had set and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch appeared and passed between the divided animals.

¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "I give this land to your offspring, from the Brook of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates River: ¹⁹ the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, ²⁰ Hethites, Perizzites, Rephaim, ²¹ Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites, and Jebusites."



DAY 4

Gn 16–20

Hagar and Ishmael

16 Abram's wife, Sarai, had not borne any children for him, but she owned an Egyptian slave named Hagar. ² Sarai said to Abram, "Since the LORD has prevented me from bearing children, go to my slave; perhaps through her I can build a family." And Abram agreed to what Sarai said. ³ So Abram's wife, Sarai, took Hagar, her Egyptian slave, and gave her to her husband, Abram, as a wife for him. This happened after Abram had lived in the land of Canaan ten years. ⁴ He slept with Hagar, and she became pregnant. When she saw that she was pregnant, her mistress became contemptible to her. ⁵ Then Sarai said to Abram, "You are responsible for my suffering! I put my slave in your arms, and when she saw that she was pregnant, I became contemptible to her. May the LORD judge between me and you."

⁶ Abram replied to Sarai, "Here, your slave is in your power; do whatever you want with her." Then Sarai mistreated her so much that she ran away from her.

⁷ The angel of the LORD found her by a spring in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. ⁸ He said, "Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?"

She replied, "I'm running away from my mistress Sarai."

⁹ The angel of the LORD said to her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her authority." ¹⁰ The angel of the LORD said to her, "I will greatly multiply your offspring, and they will be too many to count."

¹¹ The angel of the LORD said to her, "You have conceived and will have a son. You will name him Ishmael, for the LORD has heard your cry of affliction. ¹² This man will be like a wild donkey. His hand will be against everyone, and everyone's hand will be against him; he will settle near all his relatives."

¹³ So she named the LORD who spoke to her: "You are El-roi," for she said, "In this place, have I actually seen the one who sees me?" ¹⁴ That is why the well is called Beer-lahai-roi. It is between Kadesh and Bered.

¹⁵ So Hagar gave birth to Abram's son, and Abram named his son (whom Hagar bore) Ishmael. ¹⁶ Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to him.

Covenant Circumcision

17 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him, saying, "I am God Almighty. Live in my presence and be blameless. ² I will set up my covenant between me and you, and I will multiply you greatly."

³ Then Abram fell facedown and God spoke with him: ⁴ "As for me, here is my covenant with you: You will become the father of many nations. ⁵ Your name will no longer be Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I will make you the father of many nations. ⁶ I will make you extremely fruitful and will make nations and kings come from you. ⁷ I will confirm my covenant that is between me and you and your future offspring throughout their generations. It is a permanent covenant to be your God and the God of your offspring after you. ⁸ And to you and your future offspring I will give the land

where you are residing — all the land of Canaan — as a permanent possession, and I will be their God.”

⁹ God also said to Abraham, “As for you, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations are to keep my covenant. ¹⁰ This is my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you, which you are to keep: Every one of your males must be circumcised. ¹¹ You must circumcise the flesh of your foreskin to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and you. ¹² Throughout your generations, every male among you is to be circumcised at eight days old — every male born in your household or purchased from any foreigner and not your offspring. ¹³ Whether born in your household or purchased, he must be circumcised. My covenant will be marked in your flesh as a permanent covenant. ¹⁴ If any male is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that man will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.”

¹⁵ God said to Abraham, “As for your wife Sarai, do not call her Sarai, for Sarah will be her name. ¹⁶ I will bless her; indeed, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she will produce nations; kings of peoples will come from her.”

¹⁷ Abraham fell facedown. Then he laughed and said to himself, “Can a child be born to a hundred-year-old man? Can Sarah, a ninety-year-old woman, give birth?” ¹⁸ So Abraham said to God, “If only Ishmael were acceptable to you!”

¹⁹ But God said, “No. Your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will name him Isaac. I will confirm my covenant with him as a permanent covenant for his future offspring. ²⁰ As for Ishmael, I have heard you. I will certainly bless him; I will make him fruitful and will multiply him greatly. He will father twelve tribal leaders, and I will make him into a great nation. ²¹ But I will confirm my covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this time next year.” ²² When he finished talking with him, God withdrew from Abraham.

²³ So Abraham took his son Ishmael and those born in his household or purchased — every male among the members of Abraham’s household — and he circumcised the flesh of their foreskin on that very day, just as God had said to him. ²⁴ Abraham was ninety-nine years old when the flesh of his foreskin was circumcised, ²⁵ and his son Ishmael was thirteen years old when the flesh of his foreskin was circumcised. ²⁶ On that very day Abraham and his son Ishmael were circumcised. ²⁷ And all the men of his household — whether born in his household or purchased from a foreigner — were circumcised with him.

Abraham’s Three Visitors

18 The LORD appeared to Abraham at the oaks of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance of his tent during the heat of the day. ² He looked up, and he saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the entrance of the tent to meet them, bowed to the ground, ³ and said, “My lord, if I have found favor with you, please do not go on past your servant. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, that you may wash your feet and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵ I will bring a bit of bread so that you may strengthen yourselves. This is why you have passed your servant’s way. Later, you can continue on.”

“Yes,” they replied, “do as you have said.”

⁶ So Abraham hurried into the tent and said to Sarah, “Quick! Knead three measures of fine flour and make bread.” ⁷ Abraham ran to the herd and got a tender, choice calf. He gave it to a young man, who hurried to prepare it. ⁸ Then Abraham took curds and milk, as well as

the calf that he had prepared, and set them before the men. He served them as they ate under the tree.

Sarah Laughs

⁹“Where is your wife Sarah?” they asked him.

“There, in the tent,” he answered.

¹⁰The LORD said, “I will certainly come back to you in about a year’s time, and your wife Sarah will have a son!” Now Sarah was listening at the entrance of the tent behind him.

¹¹Abraham and Sarah were old and getting on in years. Sarah had passed the age of childbearing. ¹²So she laughed to herself: “After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I have delight?”

¹³But the LORD asked Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, saying, ‘Can I really have a baby when I’m old?’ ¹⁴Is anything impossible for the LORD? At the appointed time I will come back to you, and in about a year she will have a son.”

¹⁵Sarah denied it. “I did not laugh,” she said, because she was afraid. But he replied, “No, you did laugh.”

Abraham’s Plea for Sodom

¹⁶The men got up from there and looked out over Sodom, and Abraham was walking with them to see them off. ¹⁷Then the LORD said, “Should I hide what I am about to do from Abraham? ¹⁸Abraham is to become a great and powerful nation, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed through him. ¹⁹For I have chosen him so that he will command his children and his house after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just. This is how the LORD will fulfill to Abraham what he promised him.” ²⁰Then the LORD said, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is immense, and their sin is extremely serious. ²¹I will go down to see if what they have done justifies the cry that has come up to me. If not, I will find out.”

²²The men turned from there and went toward Sodom while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. ²³Abraham stepped forward and said, “Will you really sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away instead of sparing the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people who are in it? ²⁵You could not possibly do such a thing: to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. You could not possibly do that! Won’t the Judge of the whole earth do what is just?”

²⁶The LORD said, “If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

²⁷Then Abraham answered, “Since I have ventured to speak to my lord — even though I am dust and ashes — ²⁸suppose the fifty righteous lack five. Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?”

He replied, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.”

²⁹Then he spoke to him again, “Suppose forty are found there?”

He answered, “I will not do it on account of forty.”

³⁰Then he said, “Let my lord not be angry, and I will speak further. Suppose thirty are found there?”

He answered, “I will not do it if I find thirty there.”

³¹Then he said, “Since I have ventured to speak to my lord, suppose twenty are found there?”

He replied, “I will not destroy it on account of twenty.”

³²Then he said, “Let my lord not be angry, and I will speak one more time. Suppose ten are found there?”

He answered, "I will not destroy it on account of ten."³³ When the LORD had finished speaking with Abraham, he departed, and Abraham returned to his place.

The Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah

19 The two angels entered Sodom in the evening as Lot was sitting in Sodom's gateway. When Lot saw them, he got up to meet them. He bowed with his face to the ground² and said, "My lords, turn aside to your servant's house, wash your feet, and spend the night. Then you can get up early and go on your way."

"No," they said. "We would rather spend the night in the square."³ But he urged them so strongly that they followed him and went into his house. He prepared a feast and baked unleavened bread for them, and they ate.

⁴ Before they went to bed, the men of the city of Sodom, both young and old, the whole population, surrounded the house.⁵ They called out to Lot and said, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Send them out to us so we can have sex with them!"

⁶ Lot went out to them at the entrance and shut the door behind him.⁷ He said, "Don't do this evil, my brothers.⁸ Look, I've got two daughters who haven't been intimate with a man. I'll bring them out to you, and you can do whatever you want to them. However, don't do anything to these men, because they have come under the protection of my roof."

⁹ "Get out of the way!" they said, adding, "This one came here as an alien, but he's acting like a judge! Now we'll do more harm to you than to them." They put pressure on Lot and came up to break down the door.¹⁰ But the angels reached out, brought Lot into the house with them, and shut the door.¹¹ They struck the men who were at the entrance of the house, both young and old, with blindness so that they were unable to find the entrance.

¹² Then the angels said to Lot, "Do you have anyone else here: a son-in-law, your sons and daughters, or anyone else in the city who belongs to you? Get them out of this place,¹³ for we are about to destroy this place because the outcry against its people is so great before the LORD, that the LORD has sent us to destroy it."

¹⁴ So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were going to marry his daughters. "Get up," he said. "Get out of this place, for the LORD is about to destroy the city!" But his sons-in-law thought he was joking.

¹⁵ At daybreak the angels urged Lot on: "Get up! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away in the punishment of the city."¹⁶ But he hesitated. Because of the LORD's compassion for him, the men grabbed his hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters. They brought him out and left him outside the city.

¹⁷ As soon as the angels got them outside, one of them said, "Run for your lives! Don't look back and don't stop anywhere on the plain! Run to the mountains, or you will be swept away!"

¹⁸ But Lot said to them, "No, my lords — please.¹⁹ Your servant has indeed found favor with you, and you have shown me great kindness by saving my life. But I can't run to the mountains; the disaster will overtake me, and I will die.²⁰ Look, this town is close enough for me to flee to. It is a small place. Please let me run to it — it's only a small place, isn't it? — so that I can survive."

²¹ And he said to him, "All right, I'll grant your request about this matter too and will not demolish the town you mentioned.²² Hurry

up! Run to it, for I cannot do anything until you get there.” Therefore the name of the city is Zoar.

²³The sun had risen over the land when Lot reached Zoar. ²⁴Then out of the sky the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah burning sulfur from the LORD. ²⁵He demolished these cities, the entire plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and whatever grew on the ground. ²⁶But Lot’s wife looked back and became a pillar of salt.

²⁷Early in the morning Abraham went to the place where he had stood before the LORD. ²⁸He looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah and all the land of the plain, and he saw that smoke was going up from the land like the smoke of a furnace. ²⁹So it was, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, he remembered Abraham and brought Lot out of the middle of the upheaval when he demolished the cities where Lot had lived.

The Origin of Moab and Ammon

³⁰Lot departed from Zoar and lived in the mountains along with his two daughters, because he was afraid to live in Zoar. Instead, he and his two daughters lived in a cave. ³¹Then the firstborn said to the younger, “Our father is old, and there is no man in the land to sleep with us as is the custom of all the land. ³²Come, let’s get our father to drink wine so that we can sleep with him and preserve our father’s line.” ³³So they got their father to drink wine that night, and the firstborn came and slept with her father; he did not know when she lay down or when she got up.

³⁴The next day the firstborn said to the younger, “Look, I slept with my father last night. Let’s get him to drink wine again tonight so you can go sleep with him and we can preserve our father’s line.” ³⁵That night they again got their father to drink wine, and the younger went and slept with him; he did not know when she lay down or when she got up.

³⁶So both of Lot’s daughters became pregnant by their father. ³⁷The firstborn gave birth to a son and named him Moab. He is the father of the Moabites of today. ³⁸The younger also gave birth to a son, and she named him Ben-ammi. He is the father of the Ammonites of today.

Sarah Rescued from Abimelech

20 From there Abraham traveled to the region of the Negev and settled between Kadesh and Shur. While he was staying in Gerar, ²Abraham said about his wife Sarah, “She is my sister.” So King Abimelech of Gerar had Sarah brought to him.

³But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night and said to him, “You are about to die because of the woman you have taken, for she is a married woman.”

⁴Now Abimelech had not approached her, so he said, “Lord, would you destroy a nation even though it is innocent? ⁵Didn’t he himself say to me, ‘She is my sister’? And she herself said, ‘He is my brother.’ I did this with a clear conscience and clean hands.”

⁶Then God said to him in the dream, “Yes, I know that you did this with a clear conscience. I have also kept you from sinning against me. Therefore I have not let you touch her. ⁷Now return the man’s wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not return her, know that you will certainly die, you and all who are yours.”

⁸Early in the morning Abimelech got up, called all his servants together, and personally told them all these things, and the men were terrified.

⁹Then Abimelech called Abraham in and said to him, “What have you done to us? How did I sin against you that you have brought such

enormous guilt on me and on my kingdom? You have done things to me that should never be done.”¹⁰ Abimelech also asked Abraham, “What made you do this?”

¹¹ Abraham replied, “I thought, ‘There is absolutely no fear of God in this place. They will kill me because of my wife.’”¹² Besides, she really is my sister, the daughter of my father though not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife. ¹³ So when God had me wander from my father’s house, I said to her: Show your loyalty to me wherever we go and say about me, ‘He’s my brother.’”

¹⁴ Then Abimelech took flocks and herds and male and female slaves, gave them to Abraham, and returned his wife Sarah to him. ¹⁵ Abimelech said, “Look, my land is before you. Settle wherever you want.” ¹⁶ And he said to Sarah, “Look, I am giving your brother one thousand pieces of silver. It is a verification of your honor to all who are with you. You are fully vindicated.”

¹⁷ Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, his wife, and his female slaves so that they could bear children, ¹⁸ for the LORD had completely closed all the wombs in Abimelech’s household on account of Sarah, Abraham’s wife.



DAY 5

Gn 21–25

The Birth of Isaac

21 The LORD came to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised. ² Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the appointed time God had told him. ³ Abraham named his son who was born to him — the one Sarah bore to him — Isaac. ⁴ When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God had commanded him. ⁵ Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

⁶ Sarah said, “God has made me laugh, and everyone who hears will laugh with me.” ⁷ She also said, “Who would have told Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne a son for him in his old age.”

Hagar and Ishmael Sent Away

⁸ The child grew and was weaned, and Abraham held a great feast on the day Isaac was weaned. ⁹ But Sarah saw the son mocking — the one Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham. ¹⁰ So she said to Abraham, “Drive out this slave with her son, for the son of this slave will not be a coheir with my son Isaac!”

¹¹ This was very distressing to Abraham because of his son. ¹² But God said to Abraham, “Do not be distressed about the boy and about your slave. Whatever Sarah says to you, listen to her, because your offspring will be traced through Isaac, ¹³ and I will also make a nation of the slave’s son because he is your offspring.”

¹⁴ Early in the morning Abraham got up, took bread and a waterskin, put them on Hagar’s shoulders, and sent her and the boy away. She left and wandered in the Wilderness of Beer-sheba. ¹⁵ When the water in the skin was gone, she left the boy under one of the bushes ¹⁶ and went and sat at a distance, about a bowshot away, for she said, “I can’t bear to watch the boy die!” While she sat at a distance, she wept loudly.

¹⁷ God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What’s wrong, Hagar? Don’t be afraid, for God has heard the boy crying from the place where he is. ¹⁸ Get up, help the boy up, and grasp his hand, for I will make him a great nation.” ¹⁹ Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well. So she went

and filled the waterskin and gave the boy a drink. ²⁰ God was with the boy, and he grew; he settled in the wilderness and became an archer. ²¹ He settled in the Wilderness of Paran, and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Abraham's Covenant with Abimelech

²² At that time Abimelech, accompanied by Phicol the commander of his army, said to Abraham, "God is with you in everything you do. ²³ Swear to me by God here and now, that you will not break an agreement with me or with my children and descendants. As I have been loyal to you, so you will be loyal to me and to the country where you are a resident alien."

²⁴ And Abraham said, "I swear it." ²⁵ But Abraham complained to Abimelech because of the well that Abimelech's servants had seized.

²⁶ Abimelech replied, "I don't know who did this thing. You didn't report anything to me, so I hadn't heard about it until today."

²⁷ Abraham took flocks and herds and gave them to Abimelech, and the two of them made a covenant. ²⁸ Abraham separated seven ewe lambs from the flock. ²⁹ And Abimelech said to Abraham, "Why have you separated these seven ewe lambs?"

³⁰ He replied, "You are to accept the seven ewe lambs from me so that this act will serve as my witness that I dug this well." ³¹ Therefore that place was called Beer-sheba because it was there that the two of them swore an oath. ³² After they had made a covenant at Beer-sheba, Abimelech and Phicol, the commander of his army, left and returned to the land of the Philistines.

³³ Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beer-sheba, and there he called on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God. ³⁴ And Abraham lived as an alien in the land of the Philistines for many days.

The Sacrifice of Isaac

22 After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!"

"Here I am," he answered.

² "Take your son," he said, "your only son Isaac, whom you love, go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about."

³ So Abraham got up early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took with him two of his young men and his son Isaac. He split wood for a burnt offering and set out to go to the place God had told him about. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go over there to worship; then we'll come back to you." ⁶ Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac. In his hand he took the fire and the knife, and the two of them walked on together.

⁷ Then Isaac spoke to his father Abraham and said, "My father." And he replied, "Here I am, my son."

Isaac said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

⁸ Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." Then the two of them walked on together.

⁹ When they arrived at the place that God had told him about, Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood. He bound his son Isaac and placed him on the altar on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son.

¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!"

He replied, "Here I am."

¹² Then he said, "Do not lay a hand on the boy or do anything to him. For now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your only son from me." ¹³ Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught in the thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son. ¹⁴ And Abraham named that place The LORD Will Provide, so today it is said, "It will be provided on the LORD's mountain."

¹⁵ Then the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶ and said, "By myself I have sworn," this is the LORD's declaration: "Because you have done this thing and have not withheld your only son, ¹⁷ I will indeed bless you and make your offspring as numerous as the stars of the sky and the sand on the seashore. Your offspring will possess the city gates of their enemies. ¹⁸ And all the nations of the earth will be blessed by your offspring because you have obeyed my command."

¹⁹ Abraham went back to his young men, and they got up and went together to Beer-sheba. And Abraham settled in Beer-sheba.

Rebekah's Family

²⁰ Now after these things Abraham was told, "Milcah also has borne sons to your brother Nahor: ²¹ Uz his firstborn, his brother Buz, Kemuel the father of Aram, ²² Chesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph, and Bethuel." ²³ And Bethuel fathered Rebekah. Milcah bore these eight to Nahor, Abraham's brother. ²⁴ His concubine, whose name was Reumah, also bore Tebah, Gaham, Tahash, and Maacah.

Sarah's Burial

23 Now Sarah lived 127 years; these were all the years of her life. ² Sarah died in Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham went in to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her.

³ When Abraham got up from beside his dead wife, he spoke to the Hethites: ⁴ "I am an alien residing among you. Give me burial property among you so that I can bury my dead."

⁵ The Hethites replied to Abraham, ⁶ "Listen to us, my lord. You are a prince of God among us. Bury your dead in our finest burial place. None of us will withhold from you his burial place for burying your dead."

⁷ Then Abraham rose and bowed down to the Hethites, the people of the land. ⁸ He said to them, "If you are willing for me to bury my dead, listen to me and ask Ephron son of Zohar on my behalf ⁹ to give me the cave of Machpelah that belongs to him; it is at the end of his field. Let him give it to me in your presence, for the full price, as burial property."

¹⁰ Ephron was sitting among the Hethites. So in the hearing of all the Hethites who came to the gate of his city, Ephron the Hethite answered Abraham: ¹¹ "No, my lord. Listen to me. I give you the field, and I give you the cave that is in it. I give it to you in the sight of my people. Bury your dead."

¹² Abraham bowed down to the people of the land ¹³ and said to Ephron in the hearing of the people of the land, "Listen to me, if you please. Let me pay the price of the field. Accept it from me, and let me bury my dead there."

¹⁴ Ephron answered Abraham and said to him, ¹⁵ "My lord, listen to me. Land worth four hundred shekels of silver — what is that between you and me? Bury your dead." ¹⁶ Abraham agreed with Ephron, and

JESUS OUR COVENANT CREATOR

◆ GENESIS 22 ◆

As you will see when reading the Week 1 Summary, Christ can be seen throughout the early chapters of Genesis. Now, let's look more deeply into Genesis 22. Abraham's faith had been tested many times by the Lord. He obeyed God by leaving his home in Ur. He traveled to an unknown land. He and Sarah faced starvation from famine, difficulties with Pharaoh, challenges with their nephew Lot, and battles with neighboring kingdoms. After Hagar bore Abraham a son, Sarah finally gave birth to Isaac in her old age. The two mothers clashed over the sons (two lines of "offspring"). The Lord blessed Hagar and her son, Ishmael, as they departed from Abraham's care. Now Isaac would be the son of God's promise.

Then the Lord gave Abraham the most significant test of his faith. He commanded him to take Isaac and kill him as a burnt offering to the Lord. After waiting a hundred years for Isaac to be born, why would the Lord take him away? Nevertheless, Abraham did not delay in obeying God. Instead, he obediently gathered the needed supplies and headed toward Mount Moriah with his son. The three-day journey must have been grueling for Abraham, wondering what the Lord was doing.

In fact, Mount Moriah would become an important place in biblical history. Later, King David would purchase it, and his son Solomon would build a glorious temple on it to offer sacrifices of worship to the Lord. As Abraham ascended the hill, he carried a knife in one hand and walked with his son Isaac to the place he saw. Up they climbed to meet with God.

Isaac wondered how they would acquire a lamb for the burnt offering, and Abraham answered with tremendous faith, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering" (22:8). This powerful statement holds the story together and foreshadows the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.

Once they ascended to the top of the mountain, Abraham took large stones and constructed an altar of sacrifice. Then he took the wood Isaac was carrying and arranged it on the altar. Finally, he took some rope, bound Isaac, and placed him on the wood. We can only imagine what Isaac was thinking at that moment.

Finally, the moment had come for Abraham to offer his son on the altar. Just as he took out the knife to offer Isaac, suddenly, an angel intervened and cried out to Abraham in an audible voice to stop. With perhaps moments to spare, the angel commanded Abraham not to go through with it and then praised him for his unparalleled faith and reverence for God. Abraham thus passed the test of faith.

Then Abraham saw something caught in the thicket: not a lamb but a ram. God had provided. It was a substitute for sacrifice. He untied his son and grabbed the ram offering it to the Lord instead of Isaac. Afterwards, Abraham named this place "The Lord Will Provide" (22:14). The author of Hebrews recalled this story to speak of Abraham's faith, noting his confidence in God to raise even the dead (see Heb 11:17–19).

As a result of Abraham's faithful obedience, the angel pronounced a blessing on him. He repeated the covenant promise the Lord had made back in Genesis 12 and 15 (22:15–18). God swore by himself that he would keep the covenant he made to Abraham.

God promised that Abraham would be the father of a world full of his children, and they would be a blessing to the nations (22:17–18). We are these children if we have the same saving faith as Abraham (see Rm 4:11–12; Gl 3:29). So now we get to bless the nations with the good news of salvation that comes by faith in Christ Jesus.

Now let's answer the question, "Where is Christ in this story"? Is he found in Abraham, in Isaac, in the altar, in the lamb? The answer is "Yes." We see Christ throughout this story:

- ◆ Christ is seen in Abraham's faithful obedience to God's will.
- ◆ Christ is seen in the offering of Isaac as a burnt offering.
- ◆ Christ is seen in the altar that symbolizes the cross.
- ◆ Christ is seen in the ram who became the substitutionary sacrifice for sin.
- ◆ Christ is seen in God's covenant promises to Abraham as the true offspring who will bless the nations with the righteousness of salvation (see Gl 3:16).

Abraham weighed out to Ephron the silver that he had agreed to in the hearing of the Hethites: four hundred standard shekels of silver. ¹⁷ So Ephron's field at Machpelah near Mamre — the field with its cave and all the trees anywhere within the boundaries of the field — became ¹⁸ Abraham's possession in the sight of all the Hethites who came to the gate of his city. ¹⁹ After this, Abraham buried his wife Sarah in the cave of the field at Machpelah near Mamre (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan. ²⁰ The field with its cave passed from the Hethites to Abraham as burial property.

A Wife for Isaac

24 Abraham was now old, getting on in years, and the LORD had blessed him in everything. ² Abraham said to his servant, the elder of his household who managed all he owned, "Place your hand under my thigh, ³ and I will have you swear by the LORD, God of heaven and God of earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites among whom I live, ⁴ but will go to my land and my family to take a wife for my son Isaac."

⁵ The servant said to him, "Suppose the woman is unwilling to follow me to this land? Should I have your son go back to the land you came from?"

⁶ Abraham answered him, "Make sure that you don't take my son back there. ⁷ The LORD, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from my native land, who spoke to me and swore to me, 'I will give this land to your offspring' — he will send his angel before you, and you can take a wife for my son from there. ⁸ If the woman is unwilling to follow you, then you are free from this oath to me, but don't let my son go back there." ⁹ So the servant placed his hand under his master Abraham's thigh and swore an oath to him concerning this matter.

¹⁰ The servant took ten of his master's camels, and with all kinds of his master's goods in hand, he went to Aram-naharaim, to Nahor's town. ¹¹ At evening, the time when women went out to draw water, he made the camels kneel beside a well outside the town.

¹² "LORD, God of my master Abraham," he prayed, "make this happen for me today, and show kindness to my master Abraham. ¹³ I am standing here at the spring where the daughters of the men of the town are coming out to draw water. ¹⁴ Let the girl to whom I say, 'Please lower your water jug so that I may drink,' and who responds, 'Drink, and I'll water your camels also' — let her be the one you have appointed for your servant Isaac. By this I will know that you have shown kindness to my master."

¹⁵ Before he had finished speaking, there was Rebekah — daughter of Bethuel son of Milcah, the wife of Abraham's brother Nahor — coming with a jug on her shoulder. ¹⁶ Now the girl was very beautiful, a virgin — no man had been intimate with her. She went down to the spring, filled her jug, and came up. ¹⁷ Then the servant ran to meet her and said, "Please let me have a little water from your jug."

¹⁸ She replied, "Drink, my lord." She quickly lowered her jug to her hand and gave him a drink. ¹⁹ When she had finished giving him a drink, she said, "I'll also draw water for your camels until they have had enough to drink." ²⁰ She quickly emptied her jug into the trough and hurried to the well again to draw water. She drew water for all his camels ²¹ while the man silently watched her to see whether or not the LORD had made his journey a success.

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

of gold. ²³“Whose daughter are you?” he asked. “Please tell me, is there room in your father’s house for us to spend the night?”

²⁴She answered him, “I am the daughter of Bethuel son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor.” ²⁵She also said to him, “We have plenty of straw and feed and a place to spend the night.”

²⁶Then the man knelt low, worshiped the LORD, ²⁷and said, “Blessed be the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not withheld his kindness and faithfulness from my master. As for me, the LORD has led me on the journey to the house of my master’s relatives.”

²⁸The girl ran and told her mother’s household about these things. ²⁹Now Rebekah had a brother named Laban, and Laban ran out to the man at the spring. ³⁰As soon as he had seen the ring and the bracelets on his sister’s wrists, and when he had heard his sister Rebekah’s words — “The man said this to me!” — he went to the man. He was standing there by the camels at the spring.

³¹Laban said, “Come, you who are blessed by the LORD. Why are you standing out here? I have prepared the house and a place for the camels.” ³²So the man came to the house, and the camels were unloaded. Straw and feed were given to the camels, and water was brought to wash his feet and the feet of the men with him.

³³A meal was set before him, but he said, “I will not eat until I have said what I have to say.”

So Laban said, “Please speak.”

³⁴“I am Abraham’s servant,” he said. ³⁵“The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become rich. He has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, and camels and donkeys. ³⁶Sarah, my master’s wife, bore a son to my master in her old age, and he has given him everything he owns. ³⁷My master put me under this oath: ‘You will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites in whose land I live ³⁸but will go to my father’s family and to my clan to take a wife for my son.’ ³⁹But I said to my master, ‘Suppose the woman will not come back with me?’ ⁴⁰He said to me, ‘The LORD before whom I have walked will send his angel with you and make your journey a success, and you will take a wife for my son from my clan and from my father’s family. ⁴¹Then you will be free from my oath if you go to my family and they do not give her to you — you will be free from my oath.’

⁴²“Today when I came to the spring, I prayed: LORD, God of my master Abraham, if only you will make my journey successful! ⁴³I am standing here at a spring. Let the young woman who comes out to draw water, and I say to her, ‘Please let me drink a little water from your jug,’ ⁴⁴and who responds to me, ‘Drink, and I’ll draw water for your camels also’ — let her be the woman the LORD has appointed for my master’s son.

⁴⁵“Before I had finished praying silently, there was Rebekah coming with her jug on her shoulder, and she went down to the spring and drew water. So I said to her, ‘Please let me have a drink.’ ⁴⁶She quickly lowered her jug from her shoulder and said, ‘Drink, and I’ll water your camels also.’ So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷Then I asked her, ‘Whose daughter are you?’ She responded, ‘The daughter of Bethuel son of Nahor, whom Milcah bore to him.’ So I put the ring on her nose and the bracelets on her wrists. ⁴⁸Then I knelt low, worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who guided me on the right way to take the granddaughter of my master’s brother for his son. ⁴⁹Now, if you are going to show kindness and faithfulness to my master, tell me; if not, tell me, and I will go elsewhere.”

⁵⁰ Laban and Bethuel answered, "This is from the LORD; we have no choice in the matter. ⁵¹ Rebekah is here in front of you. Take her and go, and let her be a wife for your master's son, just as the LORD has spoken."

⁵² When Abraham's servant heard their words, he bowed to the ground before the LORD. ⁵³ Then he brought out objects of silver and gold, and garments, and gave them to Rebekah. He also gave precious gifts to her brother and her mother. ⁵⁴ Then he and the men with him ate and drank and spent the night.

When they got up in the morning, he said, "Send me to my master."

⁵⁵ But her brother and mother said, "Let the girl stay with us for about ten days. Then she can go."

⁵⁶ But he responded to them, "Do not delay me, since the LORD has made my journey a success. Send me away so that I may go to my master."

⁵⁷ So they said, "Let's call the girl and ask her opinion."

⁵⁸ They called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?"

She replied, "I will go." ⁵⁹ So they sent away their sister Rebekah with the one who had nursed and raised her, and Abraham's servant and his men.

⁶⁰ They blessed Rebekah, saying to her:

Our sister, may you become
thousands upon ten thousands.
May your offspring possess
the city gates of their enemies.

⁶¹ Then Rebekah and her female servants got up, mounted the camels, and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and left.

⁶² Now Isaac was returning from Beer-lahai-roi, for he was living in the Negev region. ⁶³ In the early evening Isaac went out to walk in the field, and looking up he saw camels coming. ⁶⁴ Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she got down from her camel ⁶⁵ and asked the servant, "Who is that man in the field coming to meet us?"

The servant answered, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶ Then the servant told Isaac everything he had done.

⁶⁷ And Isaac brought her into the tent of his mother Sarah and took Rebekah to be his wife. Isaac loved her, and he was comforted after his mother's death.

Abraham's Other Wife and Sons

25 Abraham had taken another wife, whose name was Keturah, ² and she bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah. ³ Jokshan fathered Sheba and Dedan. Dedan's sons were the Asshurim, Letushim, and Leummim. ⁴ And Midian's sons were Ephah, Epher, Hanoah, Abida, and Eldaah. All these were sons of Keturah. ⁵ Abraham gave everything he owned to Isaac. ⁶ But Abraham gave gifts to the sons of his concubines, and while he was still alive he sent them eastward, away from his son Isaac, to the land of the East.

Abraham's Death

⁷ This is the length of Abraham's life: 175 years. ⁸ He took his last breath and died at a good old age, old and contented, and he was gathered to his people. ⁹ His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah near Mamre, in the field of Ephron son of Zohar the Hethite. ¹⁰ This was the field that Abraham bought from the Hethites. Abraham was buried there with his wife Sarah. ¹¹ After Abraham's death, God blessed his son Isaac, who lived near Beer-lahai-roi.

Ishmael's Family Records

¹² These are the family records of Abraham's son Ishmael, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's slave, bore to Abraham. ¹³ These are the names of Ishmael's sons; their names according to the family records are Nebaioth, Ishmael's firstborn, then Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam, ¹⁴ Mishma, Dumah, Massa, ¹⁵ Hadad, Tema, Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah. ¹⁶ These are Ishmael's sons, and these are their names by their settlements and encampments: twelve leaders of their clans. ¹⁷ This is the length of Ishmael's life: 137 years. He took his last breath and died, and was gathered to his people. ¹⁸ And they settled from Havilah to Shur, which is opposite Egypt as you go toward Asshur. He stayed near all his relatives.

The Birth of Jacob and Esau

¹⁹ These are the family records of Isaac son of Abraham. Abraham fathered Isaac. ²⁰ Isaac was forty years old when he took as his wife Rebekah daughter of Bethuel the Aramean from Paddan-aram and sister of Laban the Aramean. ²¹ Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife because she was childless. The LORD was receptive to his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. ²² But the children inside her struggled with each other, and she said, "Why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. ²³ And the LORD said to her:

Two nations are in your womb;
two peoples will come from you and be separated.
One people will be stronger than the other,
and the older will serve the younger.

²⁴ When her time came to give birth, there were indeed twins in her womb. ²⁵ The first one came out red-looking, covered with hair like a fur coat, and they named him Esau. ²⁶ After this, his brother came out grasping Esau's heel with his hand. So he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when they were born.

Esau Sells His Birthright

²⁷ When the boys grew up, Esau became an expert hunter, an outdoorsman, but Jacob was a quiet man who stayed at home. ²⁸ Isaac loved Esau because he had a taste for wild game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

²⁹ Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field exhausted. ³⁰ He said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, because I'm exhausted." That is why he was also named Edom.

³¹ Jacob replied, "First sell me your birthright."

³² "Look," said Esau, "I'm about to die, so what good is a birthright to me?"

³³ Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to Jacob and sold his birthright to him. ³⁴ Then Jacob gave bread and lentil stew to Esau; he ate, drank, got up, and went away. So Esau despised his birthright.



◆ WEEK 1: SUMMARY ◆

Reading Genesis 1–25 is like drinking from a firehose, but it lays the foundation for the rest of the Bible. Embedded in these initial chapters are the central themes of God’s kingdom and his covenant. God’s covenant blessings include people, possessions, protection, and preservation. In contrast, God’s covenant curses result in death and separation from God.

The garden of Eden was God’s first temple and a glorious display of his kingdom on earth. Adam and Eve bore God’s “image” (1:27). They were given dominion over the earth and commissioned to fill it with other image-bearers (1:28).

In a real way, Adam was the first priest-king to worship God (see Gn 2:15; Nm 3:7–8; 8:26; 18:5–6), but he failed to fulfill his role, allowing Satan to corrupt the temple of Eden (see Gn 3:24; Ex 25:18–22; 26:31; 36:35; 1Kg 6:23–29; 2Ch 3:14; Ezk 47:1–12; Rv 21:1–22:5). After Adam and Eve sinned against God, death entered creation due to God’s curse. However, God made a covenant promise to humanity through a child. The offspring of Eve would eventually be a baby born to Mary.

The fall initiated the rise of two groups of people, all descended from the first couple (3:20; Ac 17:26). One group, figurative offspring of the serpent (Satan), chooses rebellion against God. The other, offspring of Eve, are those who embrace salvation through faith in God. The rest of the Bible chronicles the underlying conflict existing between God’s people and God’s opponents—of those who call upon the name of the Lord with sincerity and those who oppose him by rebellion. In the OT God made covenants to bless the former, but he delivered curses on the latter group. Ultimately, however, Christ came as the solution to the tension. He is the new and better Adam, who crushed Satan via his work on the cross and

resurrection from the grave (Gn 3:15; 1Jn 3:8). This established a new covenant based on his blood (Mk 14:24; Lk 22:20). By faith in what he did for us, even the most rebellious people can find forgiveness and grace and be counted among God’s own.

Upon the introduction of sin into the world, however, God forced Adam and Eve to leave Eden (Gn 3:22–24). Soon after, the first conflict between the figurative offspring of the serpent and those of the woman resulted in the murder of Abel by Cain (4:1–8). After that, sin increased until everyone was thoroughly corrupt except righteous Noah. Finally, God decided to destroy his creation with a global flood with rains lasting forty days and forty nights. After an extended period, the destructive waters subsided and God made a covenant promise to protect the earth from repeated, widescale destruction by water, sealing the promise with the sign of the rainbow (9:12–15). He repeated the covenant he made with Adam to Noah, granting him authority and telling him to fill the earth with people (9:1–4).

Noah’s descendants attempted to establish their own kingdom, but God confused their language and scattered them throughout the earth (11:1–9). As reflected by the name of the tower, “Babylon” became representative of any powerful, earthly kingdom that sets itself against God’s kingdom.

God called Abram to receive the covenant promise of people, possessions, protection, and preservation (Gn 12; 15). Abram believed in God and was declared righteous *as a result of his faith* (15:6). Next, God made circumcision the sign of the covenant (17:9–14). Nearly every chapter related to Abram reveals these covenant promises to faithful Abraham. Finally, the Lord blessed Abraham and Sarah in their old age with a chosen child who would continue the story of God redeeming his people.

APPLICATION

- ◆ From the beginning, life in God’s world has required faith. The serpent’s temptation confronted Eve with the moral nature of trust: we must ultimately trust in God and his word or in something else. When we fail to trust God with our lives, as Adam and Eve did, we are maligning God’s goodness, pronouncing him not to be trustworthy.
- ◆ Tests require faith because we must pursue or endure circumstances that are beyond our control while still believing that God is in control, as Abraham did in leaving Haran for Canaan. The Lord tests us to prove our faith is genuine. He tests us to show his faithfulness.
- ◆ When we make Christ the center of our lives, we learn how to live by faith and not by sight. We understand that life does not revolve around our competence and strength but on Christ who is all-sufficient. Faith looks away from ourselves and to Christ.
- ◆ We must trust God with the direction that he is leading us in. First comes testing, then obedience, then God’s provision. Abraham passed the great test of his faithful obedience. He believed God would provide. It works this way for all of us.