

Genesis

Chapter 1

1. God started creating the heavens and the earth.
2. Nothing existed on the earth. And water was covering the earth. The sky was dark in all places. Then God's Holy Spirit moved over the water.
3. Then God said, "Let there be light." Then there was light.
4. God saw the light. And the light was good. Then God separated the light from the darkness.
5. God called the light 'day' and called the darkness 'night'. That evening and that morning were the first day.
6. Then God said, "Let there be a place that will separate the water that is in the sky from the water that is on the earth."
7. This was how God made a place that was between the water. Some water was above that place. And other water was below that place.
8. God called that place 'sky'. That evening and that morning were the second day.
9. Then God said, "I'll gather the water that is under the sky. Then dry places will appear." This was how God caused dry places to appear.
10. God called the dry places 'land' and called the water that he had gathered 'seas'. He saw the land and the seas. And the land and the seas were good.
11. Then God said, "Let plants grow on the earth. And let all of these plants produce seeds. Certain plants will produce seeds that are grain. Other plants will produce seeds that are inside their fruit. Each seed will produce a plant. And that plant will be the same kind of plant that produced the seed." This was how God created plants.
12. So plants started growing on the earth. Certain plants produced grain. And other plants produced fruit. Each seed produced a plant. And that plant was the same kind of plant that had produced the seed. God saw these plants. And these plants were good.
13. That evening and that morning were the third day.
14. Then God said, "Let there be lights in the heavens. These lights will separate day from night. And let these lights mark new days, new seasons, and new years.
15. Let these lights shine on the earth." This was how God made these lights.

16. God made two lights. He made a bright light that shines during the day. And he made a small light that shines during the night. And he also made the stars.

17. God put all of these lights in the sky to shine on the earth.

18. These lights shine during the day and during the night. God created these lights to separate the light from the darkness. He saw these lights. And these lights were good.

19. That evening and that morning were the fourth day.

20. Then God said, "Let many fish and many animals live in the water. And let many birds fly in the sky."

21. This was how God created the big animals that lived in the ocean. He created all of the fish and all of the animals that lived in the ocean. And he also created all of the birds. He saw all of these animals. And these animals were good.

22. Then God blessed these animals and said to them, "Produce many babies."

23. That evening and that morning were the fifth day.

24. Then God said, "Let there be many animals on the earth. Let there be livestock, wild animals, and small animals." This was how God created all of the animals that lived on the earth.

25. God made all of the wild animals, all of the livestock, and all of the small animals. These animals gave birth to babies. Parents and babies always were the same kind of animal. God saw all of these animals. And these animals were good.

26. Then God said, "We will create people now. These people will be like us. They will rule the fish that are in the ocean and the birds that are in the sky. They will rule the livestock, the wild animals, and the small animals."

27. This was how God created people. These people were like God. God created one man and one woman.

28. Then God blessed those people. He said to those people, "Give birth to many babies. Produce many children who will live on the earth. Care for all of the things that are on the earth. Take care of the fish that are in the ocean and the birds that are in the sky. Take care of all of the animals that live on the earth."

29. And God said to those people, "I created for you all of the plants that produce grain and all of the trees that produce fruit. You may eat that grain and that fruit.

30. And I created all of the green plants for the animals. All of the birds that are in the sky, all of the wild animals, and all of the small animals will eat the green plants." This was how God created all of the things that were on the earth. All of the things that God created were good.

31. God saw all of the things that he made. And those things were very good. That evening and that morning were the sixth day.

Chapter 2

1. Title: God rests on the seventh day. God finished creating all of the things that were in the sky and all of the things that were on the earth.

2. After God finished creating all things on the sixth day, he rested on the seventh day. He didn't work on the seventh day.

3. Therefore God blessed the seventh day of each week. He caused the seventh day of each week to be holy because he rested on it. He didn't work on the seventh day.

4. This was how God created all of the things that were in the sky and all of the things that were on the earth.

5. Title: Adam and Eve live in Eden. Before God created all of the things that were on the earth, there were not plants there. At that time God yet didn't cause it to rain. And he didn't create yet people who will take care of the plants.

6. But water came from the ground. That water flowed to all of the places that were on the earth.

7. When God created man, he used the dust that was on the ground to make the man's body. Then he breathed into that man's nose. This was how he caused that man to become alive.

8. Before God created that man, he created a garden that was in the eastern region. The name of that garden was Eden. God put in that garden the man that he created.

9. God caused many beautiful trees and many trees that produced good fruit to grow in that garden. He also put two special trees in the middle of that garden. The fruit that is on one of those trees causes people to live forever. The fruit that is on the other tree causes people to know about good things and evil things.

10. There was a river in Eden. That river carried water to all of the plants that were in that garden. After that river flowed through Eden, that river divided into four rivers.

11. The name of the first river is Pishon. That river is in Havilah. There is gold in Havilah.

12. The gold that is in Havilah is pure. Other valuable gems and expensive perfumes also are in Havilah.

13. The name of the second river is Gihon. That river flows through Cush.

14. The name of the third river is Tigris. That river flows toward the eastern region. That river flows along the eastern border of Assyria. And the name of the fourth river is Euphrates.

15. So after God created that man, he put that man in this garden to take care of the plants.
16. Then God said to that man, "You may eat the fruit that is on all of the trees that are in this garden except the fruit that is on one tree.
17. You must not eat the fruit that causes you to know about good things and evil things. If you eat that fruit, you will certainly die."
18. Title: God creates the first woman. Then God said, "It is not good that this man is alone. I'll create a person who will help this man."
19. God already had created all of the animals and the birds from the dust that is on the ground. So he brought all of these animals and all of these birds to this man that he had created. God called this man 'Adam'. Then Adam named all of the animals and all of the birds that God brought to him. Footnote: Adam means 'person'.
20. So Adam named all of the animals. He named the livestock, the birds, and the wild animals. But he didn't see an animal that was able to help him.
21. So God caused Adam to sleep. While Adam was sleeping, God took one rib out of his body. Then he healed Adam's skin.
22. Then God created a woman from Adam's rib. Then he brought that woman to Adam.
23. After Adam saw that woman, he said, "God created this person's bones from my bones and created this person's body from my body. I'll call this person 'woman' because God created this person from a man."
24. Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother to marry a woman. God joins the man and the woman so that they could become one body.
25. At that time Adam and his wife were naked. But they were not ashamed.

Chapter 3

1. Title: Adam and Eve sin. The snake was the most clever animal that God created. One day the snake asked the woman, "Did God forbid you to eat the fruit of the trees that are in this garden?"
2. The woman answered the snake, "God allows us to eat the fruit of all of these trees that are in this garden.
3. But God said to us, "You must not eat the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden. Don't touch the fruit of that tree. If you touch the fruit of that tree, you will die.""
4. But the snake said to that woman, "You will certainly not die!

5. God knows that after you eat that fruit, you will know whether something is good or it is bad. If you eat that fruit, you will become like God! But God doesn't want you to become like him."

6. Then the woman looked at that tree. That tree was very beautiful. And the woman thought that the fruit of that tree will taste good. And she thought that that fruit will cause her to become wise. So she picked the fruit of that tree and ate it. And she gave some fruit to the man. And the man also ate the fruit.

7. Then that man and that woman immediately realized that they were naked. And they were ashamed. So they made clothes with some leaves of a fig tree and covered their bodies with them.

8. Then that man and that woman heard God walking in the garden. The weather was cool in the garden. That man and that woman hid from God. They hid behind some trees that were in the garden because they were ashamed.

9. But God called that man and asked him, "Where are you?"

10. The man answered God, "I heard you walking in the garden. I was afraid because I'm naked. So I hid from you."

11. God asked that man, "Who told you that you're naked? Did you eat the fruit that I forbid you to eat?"

12. Then the man said, "The woman that you gave to me gave that fruit to me. And I ate that fruit."

13. Then God asked that woman, "What did you do?" That woman answered, "The snake tricked me. So I ate the fruit."

14. Then God said to that snake, "I curse you because you tricked this woman. I'll cause you to become different from all of the other animals. You won't be like the livestock or the wild animals. You will crawl on the ground and eat dust until you die.

15. I'll cause you to be the woman's enemy. Your descendants will be the woman's descendants' enemies. The woman's descendant will crush your head. And you will hurt that descendant's heel."

16. And God said to that woman, "I'll cause you to hurt much while you give birth to your children. You will love your husband. But your husband will rule you."

17. Then God said to that man, "I'll curse the ground because you listened to your wife and because you ate the fruit that I forbid you to eat. While you're living, you will work hard to obtain food.

18. You will eat the plants that will grow in the field. But there will be many thorns and many weeds in the field.

19. You will sweat when you work in the field. And you will work hard until you die to obtain food. Then after you die, you will return to the ground. I made you with dust. And after you die, you will become dust again."

20. Adam named his wife Eve because she is the mother of all of the people who will live on the earth. Footnote: Eve means 'to live'.

21. Then God made clothes for Adam and Eve with animals' skin and covered them with them.

22. Then God said, "This man has become like us. The man knows whether something is good or it is evil. We have to prevent the man from eating the fruit that causes people to live forever. If the man eats that fruit, he'll live forever."

23. So God forced that man and that woman to leave the garden that was in Eden. Then that man that God created from dust started working on the soil.

24. Then God sent two angels to the eastern side of the garden to prevent that man from returning there. God gave swords to those two angels. Those swords were made of fire. Those angels guarded the tree that had fruit that causes people to live forever. After that day God didn't allow people to enter the garden again.

Chapter 4

1. Title: Cain kills Abel. Adam slept with his wife named Eve. Then Eve became pregnant and gave birth to a son named Cain. Then she said, "God helped me give birth to this child." Footnote: Cain means 'to give'.

2. Later Eve gave birth to another son named Abel. When Abel grew up, he became a shepherd. And when Cain grew up, he became a farmer.

3. Later Cain brought an offering to God. Cain's offering was some plants that he harvested.

4. Abel also brought an offering to God. Abel killed several of his firstborn sheep. Then he cut off those sheep's best parts and brought them to God. God was pleased with Abel and accepted his offering.

5. But God was not pleased with Cain and didn't accept his offering. So Cain became very angry.

6. Then God asked Cain, "Why are you angry?"

7. If you obey me, I'll be pleased with you. But if you don't obey me, sin is like a wild animal that will attack you. Sin wants to destroy you. But you have to fight sin."

8. Later Cain said to his younger brother named Abel, "Come to the field with me." So Cain and Abel went to the field. Then Cain attacked his younger brother and killed him.

9. Later God asked Cain, "Where is your younger brother named Abel?" Cain answered God, "I don't know. Must I always take care of my younger brother?"

10. Then God said, "What did you do? Your younger brother's blood is on the ground. Your younger brother's blood is crying to me.

11. Therefore I curse you. You won't be able to harvest many crops from the ground. Your younger brother's blood is on the ground because you killed him.

12. Therefore the ground won't grow crops for you. You will wander on the earth."

13. Then Cain said to God, "You're punishing me too much! I won't be able to live!

14. You forced me to stop working in the fields. I have to hide from you now. I'll wander on the earth. But if a person finds me, he'll kill me."

15. But God said to Cain, "If a person kills you, I'll punish him much. I'll punish that person more than I punished you! I'll punish that person seven times." Then God put a mark on Cain so that other people would not kill him.

16. Title: Cain has a family. Then Cain left God and lived in a region named Nod. Nod was on the eastern side of the garden named Eden.

17. Later Cain slept with his wife. Then Cain's wife became pregnant. Then she gave birth to a son named Enoch. At that time Cain was building a city. So he also named that city Enoch to honor his son.

18. Later Enoch had another son named Irad. Then Irad had a son named Mehujael. Mehujael had a son named Methushael. And Methushael had a son named Lamech.

19. Lamech married two women. Lamech's first wife's name was Adah. And Lamech's second wife's name was Zillah.

20. Then Adah gave birth to a son named Jabal. Jabal was the first person who lived in a tent and took care of cattle.

21. Jabal's younger brother's name was Jubal. Jubal was the first person who played a harp and a flute.

22. Zillah gave birth to a son named Tubal-Cain. Tubal-Cain made bronze tools and iron tools. Tubal-Cain's younger sister's name was Naamah.

23. One day Lamech said to his two wives, "Listen to me. I killed a man because he wounded me. I killed that young man because he hit me.

24. God will punish seven times the person who will kill Cain. But I hope that God will punish 77 times the person who will kill me."

25. Title: Eve gives birth to another son. Adam slept with Eve again. Then Eve gave birth to another son. She named that son Seth. She said, "God gave another son to me. I have this son instead of Abel, whom Cain killed." Footnote: Seth means 'to give'.

26. After Seth grew up, he had a son named Enosh. At that time people started praying to God.

Chapter 5

1. Title: Adam has a family. This story is about Adam's family. When God created people, they were like him.

2. God created a man and a woman and blessed those people. And God called those people 'human'.

3. When Adam was 130 years old, he had another son. This son was like Adam. Adam named this son Seth.

4. After Seth was born, Adam lived for 800 years. He also had other children.

5. Therefore Adam lived for 930 years. Then he died.

6. When Seth was 105 years old, he had a son. Seth named this son Enosh.

7. After Enosh was born, Seth lived for 807 years. He also had other children.

8. Therefore Seth lived for 912 years. Then he died.

9. When Enosh was 90 years old, he had a son. Enosh named this son Kenan.

10. After Kenan was born, Enosh lived for 815 years. He also had other children.

11. Therefore Enosh lived for 905 years. Then he died.

12. When Kenan was 70 years old, he had a son. Kenan named this son Mahalalel.

13. After Mahalalel was born, Kenan lived for 840 years. He also had other children.

14. Therefore Kenan lived for 910 years. Then he died.

15. When Mahalalel was 65 years old, he had a son. Mahalalel named this son Jared.

16. After Jared was born, Mahalalel lived for 830 years. He also had other children.

17. Therefore Mahalalel lived for 895 years. Then he died.

18. When Jared was 162 years old, he had a son. Jared named this son Enoch.

19. After Enoch was born, Jared lived for 800 years. He also had other children.

20. Therefore Jared lived for 962 years. Then he died.

21. When Enoch was 65 years old, he had a son. Enoch named this son Methuselah.

22. After Methuselah was born, Enoch walked for three hundred years with God. Enoch also had other children.

23. Therefore Enoch lived for 365 years.

24. Enoch regularly walked with God. Then people were not able to find Enoch because God took Enoch to heaven.

25. When Methuselah was 187 years old, he had a son. Methuselah named this son Lamech.

26. After Lamech was born, Methuselah lived for 782 years. He also had other children.

27. Therefore Methuselah lived for 969 years. Then he died.

28. When Lamech was 182 years old, he had a son.

29. Lamech named this son Noah. Lamech said, "Noah will comfort us. We have to work very hard because God cursed the ground." Footnote: Noah means 'to rest'.

30. After Noah was born, Lamech lived for 595 years. He also had other children.

31. Therefore Lamech lived for 777 years. Then he died.

32. When Noah was five hundred years old, he became the father of Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Chapter 6

1. Title: People become evil. The number of people who lived on the earth started increasing. Those people gave birth to many daughters.

2. God's sons thought that those girls were very beautiful. So they married those girls. They married the girls that they chose. Footnote: Today certain people think that God's sons were angels who joined Satan. Other people think that God's sons were Seth's children.

3. Then God said, "My spirit won't stay in people forever because they are made of flesh. I'll allow people to live for only 120 years." Alternate 1: I'll destroy these people after 120 years."

4. At that time giants were living on the earth. People called those giants 'Nephilim'. Later there were Nephilim also. They were God's sons' children. God's sons slept with women who lived on the earth. Then those women gave birth to the Nephilim. The Nephilim were very famous and were strong soldiers.

5. Then God saw that the people who were living on the earth were very evil. He knew that the people always thought about evil things.

6. So God regretted creating people. He was very sad.

7. So God said, "I'll destroy all of these people that I created and will destroy all of the animals that are living on the earth. And I will also destroy all of the birds. I'll destroy all of these things because I regret creating them."

8. But Noah pleased God.

9. Title: God saves Noah from the flood. This story is about Noah. Noah was a good man. Noah was the most righteous person who lived on the earth. Noah regularly walked with God.

10. Noah had three sons. Noah's sons' names were Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

11. God knew that the people who were living on the earth were very evil. The people were very violent.

12. God saw that the people were evil. All of the people who were living on the earth except Noah sinned often.

13. So God said to Noah, "I'll destroy all of the people who are living on the earth because they are evil and because they are violent.

14. So you have to build a very big ark with wood of Cypress trees. Build rooms that are inside that ark. Put tar inside the ark and put tar outside it. Cover the ark with tar.

15. That ark has to be very big. The ark has to be 450 feet long and 75 feet wide. And the ark has to be 45 feet tall.

16. Build a roof on that ark. That roof has to be above the top of the ark's wall. That roof has to be one and a half feet above the wall. And build a door that will be in the ark's side. And build three floors in the ark. Build a bottom floor, a middle floor, and a top floor.

17. I'll destroy with a flood all things that are living on the earth. All of the animals that are on the earth will die.

18. But I'll make a covenant with you. You, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives will enter this ark.

19. You also have to bring all kinds of animals into this ark. For each kind of animal, bring one male animal and one female animal into this ark. These animals that you will bring into this ark will also live.

20. I'll cause these animals to come to you so that they could continue living. For each kind of bird, two birds will come to you. And for each kind of animal that is living on the ground, two animals will come to you.

21. You also have to gather the food that you will need. Store this food for yourself and the animals in the ark."

22. Then Noah obeyed God.

Chapter 7

1. After Noah finished building the ark, God said to him, "I know that you're the only good man who is living on the earth. Therefore enter the ark and take your family into it.
2. For each kind of animal that is clean, take seven male animals and seven female animals into the ark. And for each kind of animal that is not clean, take one male animal and one female animal into the ark.
3. For each kind of bird, take seven male birds and seven female birds into the ark. After you take all of these animals into the ark, they will continue living after the flood.
4. After seven days I'll cause it to rain. It will rain for forty days and for forty nights. I'll destroy with rain all of the things that are living on the earth. I'll destroy all of the things that I created."
5. So Noah obeyed God.
6. When God caused water to cover the earth, Noah was 600 years old.
7. After God finished speaking to Noah, Noah, his wife, his sons, and their wives entered the ark. Those people entered the ark to escape from the flood.
8. Then all kinds of clean animals, all kinds of unclean animals, and all kinds of birds entered the ark. These animals came to Noah, who was in the ark.
9. For each kind of animal, a male animal and a female animal entered the ark at the same time. So all kinds of animals entered the ark like God promised Noah.
10. Then after seven days it started raining.
11. When the flood began, Noah was 600 years, one month, and 17 days old. That day all of the water that was under the ground started flowing onto the ground. And God opened the skies like a person opens a window. And it rained much.
12. It rained for forty days and for forty nights.
13. On the day when it started raining Noah, his sons named Shem, Ham, and Japheth, Noah's wife, and his sons' wives entered the ark.
14. All kinds of wild animals, all kinds of livestock, all kinds of animals that crawled on the ground, and all kinds of birds entered the ark with Noah.
15. All of these animals came to Noah and entered the ark. A male animal and a female animal entered the ark at the same time. All kinds of animals that lived on the earth entered the ark.
16. For each kind of animal, one male animal and one female animal entered the ark like God promised Noah. Then God closed the door of the ark.
17. Then it rained for forty days. When the water became deep, the ark started floating.

18. The water continued becoming deeper. And the ark floated on the water that covered the earth.
19. The water continued becoming deeper and covered the tallest mountains.
20. The water continued becoming deeper. The water was twenty feet above the tops of the mountains.
21. All of the things that lived on the earth died. All of the birds, all of the animals that lived on the earth, and all of the people died.
22. All of the animals that breathed air died.
23. So God destroyed all of the things that lived on the land. He destroyed all of the people, all of the animals, and all of the birds. Only Noah, his family, and the animals were living in the ark.
24. The water covered the earth for 150 days.

Chapter 8

1. Title: The land becomes dry. But God remembered that Noah and all of the animals were in the ark. So God caused a wind to blow on the earth. Then the water started becoming less deep.
2. The water that was under the ground stopped flowing. And it stopped raining.
3. The water continued becoming less deep for 150 days.
4. The ark stopped floating on the 17th day of the seventh month. The ark was on a mountain that was in a region named Ararat.
5. The water continued becoming less deep. On the first day of the tenth month Noah saw the tops of the mountains.
6. After forty days Noah opened a window that he made in the side of the ark.
7. Noah put a raven outside the ark several times. That bird flew around the region. But the bird always returned to the ark until the water stopped covering the earth.
8. One day Noah put a dove outside the ark. He knew that if the dove returned to the ark, water still was covering the ground.
9. But the dove didn't find a dry place because water still was covering the earth. So the dove returned to the ark. Then Noah put his arm outside the window. And the dove flew to Noah's arm. Then Noah brought the dove inside the ark again.
10. After seven days Noah put the dove outside the ark again.

11. In the evening the dove returned to the ark and was carrying a green leaf that was part of an Olive tree. So Noah knew that the ground almost was dry.
12. Then Noah waited seven more days. Then he put the dove outside the ark again. But the dove didn't return to the ark.
13. On the first day of the first month the ground was dry. At that time Noah was 601 years old. He opened the door of the ark and saw that the ground was dry.
14. On the 27th day of the second month the ground was completely dry.
15. Then God spoke to Noah.
16. God said, "Leave the ark. You, your wife, your sons, and their wives have to leave the ark.
17. Bring all of the animals with you. Bring all of the birds, all of the animals, and all of the animals that crawl on the ground. All of those animals will live and have many children."
18. So Noah, his sons, his wife, and their wives left the ark.
19. Then all of the animals, all of the animals that crawled on the ground, and all of the birds left the ark. All of the animals left the ark with their families.
20. Then Noah built an altar for God. Noah killed some clean birds and some clean animals. Then he put those birds and those animals on that altar. Then he burned those birds and those animals on that altar to worship God.
21. Then Yahweh smelled that fire. And he was pleased with Noah's offering. He thought, "I won't curse the ground again to punish people. People are evil. When people are young, they are evil. But I won't destroy again all of the animals that live on the earth.
22. People will continue planting crops while the earth exists. And people will continue harvesting crops. It will be cold and be hot. And there will be summers. And there will be winters. And there will be days. And there will be nights."

Chapter 9

1. Title: God makes a covenant with Noah. Then God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Produce many children.
2. All of the animals that are on earth, all of the birds that are in the sky, all of the animals that crawl on the ground, and all of the fish that are in the sea will fear you. I have given all of these animals to you.
3. You may eat all of the animals that move and all of the animals that live. When Adam lived in the garden, I told him that he may eat the green plants. But I also now allow you to eat all animals.

4. But you must not eat meat that contains blood because it gives life to people and animals.
5. Your blood is important to me. If a person kills you, I'll punish him. If an animal kills you, I'll punish him. I'll punish each person who kills another person.
6. If one person kills another person, people have to kill him. They have to kill that person because I created people. And people are like me.
7. I want you and your family to produce many children. I want many people to live on the earth."
8. Then God spoke to Noah and his sons again.
9. God said, "I'm making my covenant with you and your descendants.
10. I also am making this covenant with all of the animals that were in the ark with you. I'm making this covenant with the birds, the livestock, the wild animals, and all of the animals that left the ark with you. I'm making this covenant with all of the animals that live on the earth.
11. And I'm making this covenant with you. I'll never destroy again with a flood all things that live on the earth."
12. And God said, "My rainbow is a sign. This sign shows all of the people who live on the earth this covenant that I made with you and with all of the animals.
13. I'll put my rainbow in the clouds. This rainbow will remind me and all people that I made this covenant with all of the people who live on the earth.
14. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth, a rainbow will appear in them.
15. And when I see that rainbow, I'll remember this covenant that I made with you and all of the things that live on the earth. So I'll never destroy again with a flood all things that live on the earth.
16. Whenever I see a rainbow, I'll remember this covenant that I made with all things that live on the earth. This covenant will exist forever."
17. Then God said to Noah, "The rainbow is a sign. The rainbow will remind me and all people that I made this covenant with all things that live on the earth."
18. Title: Noah and his sons live after the flood. Noah's sons who left the ark with him were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. After Ham left the ark, he had a son named Canaan.
19. These three men were Noah's sons. All of the people who live on earth today are these three men's descendants.
20. Noah became a farmer and planted many grape vines.
21. One day Noah drank wine that he made with his grapes. Then he became drunk and lay in his tent. He was not wearing clothes while he was in his tent.

22. Then Ham, who had a son named Canaan, looked at his father. Then Ham told his brothers who were outside the tent that Noah was not wearing clothes.
23. Then Shem and Japheth brought a coat to Noah's tent and carried it into there. They covered Noah with that coat. But they didn't look at Noah, who was not wearing clothes.
24. Noah was sleeping because he was drunk. After Noah woke up, he found out that while he was not wearing clothes, his youngest son looked at him.
25. Then Noah said, "I hope that God will curse Canaan! I hope that Canaan will become his brothers' slave."
26. Then Noah also said, "I praise the Lord, who is Shem's God! I pray that Canaan will be Shem's slave.
27. I hope that God will give more land to Japheth. I hope that Japheth will live in Shem's tents. And I hope that Canaan will be Japheth's slave."
28. Noah lived for 350 years after the flood.
29. So when Noah died, he was 950 years old.

Chapter 10

1. Title: Noah has descendants. Noah had sons named Shem, Ham, and Japheth. These three men had sons after the flood.
2. Japheth had sons named Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.
3. Gomer had sons named Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah.
4. Javan had sons named Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Rodanim.
5. The people who worked on the sea were Japheth's sons' descendants. All of Japheth's sons' families had many children. And each family's descendants lived in a different place and spoke a different language.
6. Ham had sons named Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan.
7. Cush had sons named Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabteca. Raamah had sons named Sheba and Dedan.
8. Cush also had a son named Nimrod. Nimrod became a very powerful man.
9. Nimrod hunted animals better than all of the other men who lived on the earth. So when a person said, "That man is like Nimrod", other people thought that he hunted animals well.

10. Nimrod built first a kingdom that was in Babylonia. He built cities named Babylon, Erech, Akkad, and Calneh.
11. Then Nimrod went to Assyria and built cities named Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, and Calah.
12. Nimrod also built Resen. Resen was the biggest city that was between Nineveh and Calah.
13. Mizraim had sons named Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, and Naphtuhim.
14. Mizraim also had sons named Pathrusim, Casluhim, and Caphtorim. The Philistines were Casluhim's descendants.
15. Canaan had sons named Sidon and Heth. Sidon was Canaan's firstborn son.
16. Canaan also was the ancestor of the Jebusites, the Amorites, and the Girgashites.
17. And Canaan also was the ancestor of the Hivites, the Arkites, and the Sinites.
18. And Canaan also was the ancestor of the Arvadites, the Zemarites, and the Hamathites. Canaan's descendants moved to many different places.
19. Certain descendants of Canaan lived in a city named Sidon. And certain descendants of Canaan lived in cities named Gerar and Gaza. And certain descendants of Canaan lived in cities named Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim, and Lasha.
20. All of these people were Ham's descendants. All of these families spoke different languages and lived in different places.
21. Title: Shem has descendants. Shem was Japheth's older brother. Shem also had sons. He was all of Eber's sons' ancestor.
22. Shem had sons named Elam, Asshur, Arphaxad, Lud, and Aram.
23. Aram had sons named Uz, Hul, Gether, and Meshech.
24. Arphaxad had a son named Shelah. And Shelah had a son named Eber.
25. Eber had two sons named Peleg and Joktan. He named his son Peleg because the people who lived on the earth were divided by God. Footnote: Peleg means 'to divide'.
26. Joktan had sons named Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, and Jerah.
27. And Joktan also had sons named Hadoram, Uzal, and Diklah.
28. And Joktan also had sons named Obal, Abimael, and Sheba.
29. And Joktan also had sons named Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. All of these people were Joktan's sons.
30. These people lived in the eastern hills that were between Mesha and Sephar.

31. All of these people were Shem's descendants. All of these families spoke different languages and lived in different places.

32. All of these people were Noah's sons' descendants. These people became the different nations and moved after the flood to many places that were on the earth.

Chapter 11

1. Title: God causes the people who live at Babel to speak many languages. At that time all of the people who lived on the earth spoke one language.

2. When certain people moved to eastern regions, they found a plain that was in a region named Babylonia. So they moved to that plain.

3. Then those people said to each other, "We should make bricks. We will bake the bricks so that they will become hard." Those people used those bricks instead of stones to build buildings. And they attached one brick to another brick using tar.

4. Then those people said to each other, "We should build a city. And we should build a tower. The top of the tower will be in the clouds. Then we will become famous. If we don't build a city, we have to move to other regions."

5. But Yahweh came to the earth to see that city and that tower that those people were building.

6. Then Yahweh said, "These people are one group and speak one language. Therefore these people will be able to do all of the things that they want to do.

7. We will go to that city and cause these people to speak many languages. Then these people won't be able to understand each other."

8. So Yahweh caused those people to move from that region to many different places that were on the earth. And those people stopped building that city.

9. So those people called that place 'Babel' because Yahweh confused the people who lived there. And Yahweh caused those people to move from there to many different places that were on the earth.

Footnote: Babel means 'to confuse'.

10. Title: Shem has a family. When the flood ended, Shem was 98 years old. Two years later he had a son named Arphaxad.

11. After Arphaxad was born, Shem lived for five hundred years. And he had other sons and daughters.

12. When Arphaxad was 35 years old, he had a son named Shelah.

13. After Shelah was born, Arphaxad lived for 403 years. And he had other sons and daughters.

14. When Shelah was thirty years old, he had a son named Eber.
15. After Eber was born, Shelah lived for 403 years. And he had other sons and daughters.
16. When Eber was 34 years old, he had a son named Peleg.
17. After Peleg was born, Eber lived for 430 years. And he had other sons and daughters.
18. When Peleg was thirty years old, he had a son named Reu.
19. After Reu was born, Peleg lived for 209 years. And he had other sons and daughters.
20. When Reu was 32 years old, he had a son named Serug.
21. After Serug was born, Reu lived for 207 years. And he had other sons and daughters.
22. When Serug was thirty years old, he had a son named Nahor.
23. After Nahor was born, Serug lived for 200 years. And he had other sons and daughters.
24. When Nahor was 29 years old, he had a son named Terah.
25. After Terah was born, Nahor lived for 119 years. And he had other sons and daughters.
26. When Terah was 70 years old, he had three sons. He named those sons Abram, Nahor, and Haran.
27. Title: Terah has a family. Terah was the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran. And Haran was Lot's father.
28. While Haran's father named Terah still was living, Haran died in a city named Ur. Ur was in Babylonia. Haran was born in Ur.
29. Abram married a woman named Sarai. And Nahor married a woman named Milcah, who was Haran's daughter. Haran also had another daughter named Iscah.
30. At that time Sarai was not able to have a baby.
31. One day Terah decided to move from Ur, which was in Babylonia, to Canaan. So Terah, his son named Abram, Terah's grandson named Lot, and Terah's daughter-in-law named Sarai started moving from Ur to Canaan. But when Terah and his family arrived at Haran, they decided to live there.
32. Terah lived for 205 years. Then he died in Haran.

Chapter 12

1. Title: God blesses Abram. One day Yahweh said to Abram, "Leave your country, your relatives, and your father's family and go to a place that I'll show to you."

2. I'll cause you to have many descendants. And I will bless you. I'll cause you to become famous. And many people will be blessed through you.

3. I'll bless people who bless you. And I will curse people who curse you. And all of the people who live on the earth will be blessed through you."

4. So Abram obeyed Yahweh and left Haran. Lot also went with him. At that time he was 75 years old.

5. When Abram left Haran, he took his wife named Sarai and his nephew named Lot. Abram also took all of the things that he owned. And he took all of his servants from Haran. Then Abram traveled to Canaan.

6. After Abram arrived in Canaan, he went to a big tree that was in a plain named Moreh. Moreh is near a city named Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were living in that region.

7. One day when Abram was in Moreh, Yahweh appeared to him. And Yahweh said, "I'll give this land to your descendants." So Abram built an altar for Yahweh there.

8. Then Abram traveled from Shechem to the hills that were east of Bethel. And he set his tent up there. That place was west of a city named Ai. Then Abram built another altar for Yahweh and worshiped him again.

9. Then Abram traveled toward the desert named Negev that was in the southern region of Canaan.

10. Title: Abram goes to Egypt. At that time there was a famine in Canaan. So Abram went to Egypt to live there.

11. Before Abram entered Egypt, he said to his wife named Sarai, "You're very beautiful.

12. When the Egyptians see you, they will say, "This woman is Abram's wife." Then an Egyptian man will kill me so that he could marry you.

13. So tell the Egyptians that you're my younger sister. Then the Egyptians will be kind to me and won't kill me because they will want to please you."

14. When Abram and Sarai arrived in Egypt, the Egyptians thought that Sarai was very beautiful.

15. The Egyptian officers saw Sarai and told the king of Egypt that she was very beautiful. Then they took Sarai to the king's palace.

16. The king was kind to Abram because he thought that Abram was Sarai's older brother. So he gave sheep, cattle, male donkeys, female donkeys, male servants, female servants, and camels to Abram.

17. But Yahweh caused the king and all of the people who lived in his house to become very sick because he married Abram's wife named Sarai.

18. So the king called Abram and said, "Why did you lie to me? You should have told me that Sarai is your wife.

19. Why did you say to me, "Sarai is my younger sister?" I married Sarai because you told me that she was your younger sister. Take Sarai and leave this place!"

20. Then the king commanded his soldiers to take Abram from Egypt. So Abram and his wife left Egypt. And Abram took all of the things that he owned.

Chapter 13

1. Title: Abram moves to Hebron and Lot moves to Sodom. So Abram left Egypt and took all of the things that he owned. Then he traveled to Negev, which was in the southern region of Canaan. Abram's wife and Lot also went with Abram.

2. At that time Abram was very rich. He had many cattle and had a lot of silver and a lot of gold.

3. Then Abram left Negev and returned to the place that was between Bethel and Ai. Previously he had set his tent up there.

4. And previously Abram had built an altar there. After Abram arrived there, he worshiped Yahweh at that altar again.

5. Lot was traveling with Abram. Lot also had many sheep, many cattle, and many tents.

6. But the animals didn't find enough food there because Abram and Lot had too many animals.

7. So the servants who took care of Abram's animals started arguing with the servants who took care of Lot's animals. At that time Canaanites and Perizzites also were living there.

8. So Abram said to Lot, "I don't want to argue with you because you're my relative. And my servants should not argue with your servants.

9. You and I should not live in the same place. Choose the place where you want to live. You may live in any place. If you go to the western region, I'll go to the eastern region. If you go to the eastern region, I'll go to the western region."

10. So Lot looked at all of the places that were in that region. And he saw that there was a lot of water in the plain where the Jordan river was. That place was like Yahweh's garden. That place was like the beautiful places in Egypt. Footnote: At that time Sodom and Gomorrah were not destroyed by Yahweh. They were two cities that were in this plain.

11. So Lot moved to the eastern region and lived in the plain where the Jordan river was. Then Abram moved to the western region named Canaan. So he stopped living with Lot.

12. Abram lived in Canaan. But Lot lived near the cities that were in the plain where the Jordan river was. That plain was very close to Sodom.

13. The people who lived in Sodom were very evil. They always were sinning.
14. After Lot left Abram, Yahweh said to Abram, "Look at all of the places that are around you. Look at the northern regions, the western regions, the southern regions, and the eastern regions.
15. I'll give all of these places to you and your descendants. These places will belong to you and your descendants forever. I'll give you all of these places that you see.
16. And I will cause you to have many descendants. No person will be able to count your descendants like no person is able to count all of the dust that is on the earth.
17. Stand up! Walk through this land because I'm giving it to you."
18. So Abram moved his tents to a place that was close to a big tree. That tree belonged to a man named Mamre. Mamre lived near the city named Hebron. Then Abram built an altar for Yahweh there.

Chapter 14

1. Title: The king of Elam captures Lot. At that time a man named Amraphel was the king of Babylonia. And Arioch was the king of Ellasar. And Kedorlaomer was the king of Elam. And Tidal was the king of Goiim.
2. One day these four kings went to fight five other kings. These five other kings were Bera, who was the king of Sodom, Birsha, who was the king of Gomorrah, Shinab, who was the king of Admah, Shemeber, who was the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela. Footnote: Sometimes people called Bela 'Zoar'.
3. So these five kings gathered all of their armies to fight those four kings. Then they led their armies to a valley named Siddim. Footnote: The Dead Sea is in the valley named Siddim.
4. These five kings had served King Kedorlaomer for twelve years. But they refused to continue serving King Kedorlaomer.
5. While King Kedorlaomer and the three other kings who fought with him were traveling to fight these five kings, they defeated the Rephaites, who lived in Ashteroth Karnaim, the Zuzites, who lived in Ham, and the Emites, who lived in Shaveh Kiriathaim.
6. Kedorlaomers also defeated the Horites, who lived in the mountains of Edom. The kings defeated all of the people who lived in that region. They even went to a city named El Paran, which was near the desert.
7. Then the kings went to another region named En Mishpat, which some people called 'Kadesh'. They defeated all of the Amalekites and also defeated the Amorites, who lived in a place named Hazazon Tamar.

8. At that time the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela went to the valley that was in Siddim to fight those four kings.

9. So these five kings fought those four kings. Those four kings were Kedorlaomer, who was the king of Elam, Tidal, who was the king of Goiim, Amraphel, who was the king of Babylonia, and Arioch, who was the king of Ellasar.

10. There were many holes that contained tar in the valley named Siddim. When the army of Sodom and the army of Gomorrah ran from those four kings, some soldiers fell into those holes. But the other soldiers ran to the mountains.

11. Then those four kings took away all of the things that the people who lived in Sodom and the people who lived in Gomorrah owned. They even took the people's food away.

12. The kings also took away Lot, who was Abram's nephew. Lot was living in Sodom. And those four kings took away all of the things that Lot owned. Then the kings and their armies left that region.

13. But one man who escaped from those four kings came to Abram. This man told Abram that those four kings captured Lot. At that time Abram was living near some big trees that were owned by a man named Mamre. Mamre was an Amorite and was Eshcol and Aner's older brother. These brothers had agreed to help Abram.

14. Title: Abram saves Lot. When Abram heard that those four kings captured Lot, he called the 318 men who had worked for him for many years. Those men's parents also had worked for Abram. Abram had taught those men how to fight. Then Abram and those men pursued those four kings and their armies to the region named Dan.

15. That night Abram divided his men into groups. Then Abram and his men attacked those four kings. Abram's men surprised those four kings. So those four kings and their armies ran from Abram and his men. Then Abram's men chased those four kings to a city named Hobah. Hobah is in the region that is north of Damascus.

16. Then Abram took away all of the things that those four kings had stolen. And he saved the women and the other people from those kings. He also saved Lot from those kings and took away from them all of the things that he owned.

17. After Abram defeated King Kedorlaomer and those other kings who were with him, he returned to his house. While Abram was returning to his house, the king of Sodom met Abram in the valley named Shaveh. Footnote: Today people call the valley named Shaveh 'the king's valley'.

18. While Abram was talking to the king of Sodom, the king of Salem named Melchizedek brought bread and wine to him. Melchizedek was a priest of the highest God.

19. Then Melchizedek blessed Abram and said, "I pray that the highest God who created the sky and the earth will bless you.

20. And I praise him because he helped you defeat your enemies." Then Abram gave Melchizedek one tenth of the things that he had brought from the battle.

21. Then the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me only my people who were captured by those four kings. But you may keep all of these other things."

22. But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I make a promise to Yahweh, who is the highest God, who created the heavens and the earth.

23. I promise Yahweh that I won't keep anything that belongs to you. I'll even not keep a thread or a part of a sandal that belongs to you. I don't want you to say, "I caused Abram to become rich."

24. So I won't keep anything except the food that my young men ate. But give Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre some of the things that we took away from those four kings because Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre helped me fight them."

Chapter 15

1. Title: God makes a covenant with Abram. Later Yahweh spoke to Abram in a vision. Yahweh said to Abram, "Abram, don't be afraid. I'll protect you and reward you much."

2. But Abram said, "Lord Yahweh, what will you give to me? I don't have a son. My slave named Eliezer, who is from Damascus, will inherit all of my things."

3. And Abram said, "A slave who was born in my house will inherit all of my things because you didn't give a son to me."

4. Then Yahweh said to Abram, "That slave won't inherit all of your things because you will have a son. Your son will inherit all of your things."

5. Then Yahweh led Abram outside the tent and said, "Look at the sky. You're not able to count the stars. You will have many descendants. People won't be able to count your descendants like you're not able to count the stars."

6. And Abram believed Yahweh. Yahweh declared that Abram was righteous because he believed him.

7. Yahweh also said to Abram, "I'm Yahweh, who led you from Ur, which is in Babylonia, to this land to give it to you."

8. But Abram said, "Lord Yahweh, how will I know that I'll own this land?"

9. Yahweh said to Abram, "Bring a young cow that is three years old, a goat that is three years old, a ram that is three years old, a dove, and a young pidgeon to me."

10. So Abram brought these animals to Yahweh. Then Abram killed these animals and cut them. And he divided each animal into two pieces. Then Abram put each piece of an animal beside the other piece of him. But he didn't cut the birds.

11. Later some vultures tried to eat these animals. But Abram chased the vultures away.

12. While the sun was setting, Abram started sleeping. While Abram was sleeping, he dreamed that the sky became dark. So he was very afraid.

13. Then Yahweh said to Abram, "Your descendants will live in a place that they don't own. The people who live there will force your descendants to become slaves. And they will be cruel to your descendants for 400 years.

14. But I'll punish that nation. I'll punish those people who force your descendants to be slaves. Then your descendants will leave that land. When your descendants leave that place, they will be rich.

15. But you will have peace. And when you're very old, you will die.

16. After 400 years your descendants will return here. They won't return here before that time because the Amorites, who live here, will become very wicked. Then I'll punish the Amorites."

17. After the sun set, the sky became dark. After Abram woke up, he saw a pot that contained a fire. Smoke was rising from that pot. That pot moved between the pieces of the animals.

18. So that day Yahweh made a covenant with Abram and said, "I'll give your descendants this land that is between the river that is in Egypt and the river named Euphrates.

19. This land is the place where the Kenites, the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites live.

20. And the Hittites, the Perizzites, and the Rephaites also live in this land.

21. And the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites also live in this land."

Chapter 16

1. Title: Ishmael is born. Abram's wife named Sarai didn't have any children. But Sarai had a female slave named Hagar who was from Egypt.

2. One day Sarai said to Abram, "Yahweh didn't allow me to have a child. Therefore sleep with my female slave. If my female slave has a child, I'll have my family through her." So Abram agreed to sleep with Sarai's female slave.

3. When Sarai told Abram to sleep with Hagar, he had lived in Canaan for ten years. Hagar was Sarai's female slave who was from Egypt.

4. So Abram slept with Hagar. Then Hagar became pregnant. After Hagar found out that she was pregnant, she started treating Sarai badly.
5. Then Sarai said to Abram, "I blame you because my female servant is treating me badly. I allowed you to sleep with my female servant. But after my female servant became pregnant, she started treating me badly. I hope that Yahweh will punish you!"
6. But Abram said to Sarai, "You're Hagar's master. If you want to punish Hagar, punish her." Then Sarai started acting badly to Hagar. So Hagar ran from Sarai.
7. Then the angel of Yahweh came to Hagar. Hagar was sitting beside a spring that was in the desert. That spring was near the road that led to Shur.
8. The angel said, "Hagar, you're Sarai's female servant. From where did you come? To where will you go?" Hagar answered, "I'm running from my female master named Sarai."
9. Yahweh spoke to Hagar through the angel. Yahweh said to Hagar, "Return to your master named Sarai and obey her."
10. Yahweh also said, "I'll cause you to have many descendants. You won't be able to count your descendants!"
11. Then the angel said, "You're pregnant and will give birth to a son. Name your son Ishmael because Yahweh heard you crying." Footnote: Ishmael means 'to hear'.
12. And the angel said, "Ishmael will be like a wild donkey. Ishmael will fight all people. And all people will fight Ishmael. Ishmael will attack all of his younger brothers."
13. Then Hagar gave a new name to Yahweh. She named Yahweh God who saw me. She said to herself, "I saw God who sees me."
14. Therefore people called the well that was between Kadesh and Bered 'Beer-Lahai-Roi'. Footnote: Beer-Lahai-Roi means 'the well of God who lives and sees me'.
15. Later Hagar gave birth to Abram's son. And Abram named his son Ishmael.
16. When Hagar gave birth to Ishmael, Abram was 86 years old.

Chapter 17

1. Title: Yahweh makes a covenant with Abram. When Abram was 99 years old, Yahweh came to him. And Yahweh said, "I'm God Almighty. Serve me. And be righteous."
2. I'll make a covenant with you. I'll cause you to have many descendants."
3. Then Abram bowed to God. And God spoke to Abram again.

4. God said, "I'm making a covenant with you. I'll cause you to become the father of many nations.
5. I'll change your name. I'll call you 'Abraham' because I'll cause you to become the father of many nations. Footnote: Abraham means 'many people's father'.
6. I'll cause you to have many descendants. Your descendants will become new nations. Some of your descendants will be kings.
7. I'll make a covenant with you and your descendants. I'll be your God forever and be your descendants' God forever.
8. You're now a foreigner who is living in Canaan. But I'll give this land to you and your descendants. You will own this land forever. And I will be your descendants' God."
9. Then God said to Abraham, "You and your descendants have to obey the following law.
10. This law is part of the covenant that I'll make with you and your descendants. You and your descendants have to obey this law. You and your descendants will be circumcised.
11. Circumcise yourself to prove that you will keep the covenant that I made with you.
12. When a male baby is eight days old, you will circumcise him. You will circumcise all male babies that are your descendants. You will also circumcise all babies that your slaves give birth to.
13. Circumcise all male babies that live among your people. This mark that will be on your bodies will remind you that I made this covenant with you. This covenant will exist forever.
14. I won't bless a man who won't be circumcised because he didn't keep my covenant."
15. Title: God promises Abraham that he'll have a son. God said to Abraham, "I'll change Sarai's name. I'll call Sarai 'Sarah'. Footnote: Sarah means 'princess'.
16. I'll bless Sarah and cause her to give birth to a son. You will be the father. Sarah will become the mother of many nations. Some of Sarah's descendants will be kings."
17. Then Abraham bowed to God. But Abraham laughed. He said to himself, "Is a man who is one hundred years old able to have a baby? Is Sarah, who is 90 years old, able to give birth to a baby?"
18. Then Abraham said to God, "Is Ishmael the son that you promised me that you would give to me?"
19. But God said, "Ishmael is not the son that I promised you that I would give to you. Your wife named Sarah will give birth to a son. And you will name that son Isaac. I'll make this covenant with Isaac. And this covenant will exist forever. I'll make this covenant with all of Isaac's descendants. Footnote: Isaac means 'to laugh'.
20. I'll also bless Ishmael and cause him to have many descendants. Ishmael will be the father of twelve rulers. And I will cause Ishmael's descendants to be a great nation.

21. But I'll make my covenant with Isaac, to whom Sarah will give birth next year."
22. After God finished talking to Abraham, he left Abraham.
23. Then Abraham called Ishmael, all of the other men, and all of the slaves that he bought. That day Abraham obeyed God and circumcised all of these men.
24. When Abraham was circumcised, he was 99 years old.
25. And when Abraham circumcised his son, his son named Ishmael was 13 years old.
26. Abraham and his son were circumcised on the same day.
27. All of the men who lived with Abraham were circumcised on that same day. And Abraham also circumcised all of his slaves.

Chapter 18

1. Title: Yahweh visits Abraham. Later Yahweh came to Abraham near the big trees of Mamre. Abraham was sitting at the door of his tent. At that time it was hot.
2. When Abraham looked outside the tent, he saw three men standing there. So he ran from his tent to meet these three men. Then he bowed to the three men.
3. And Abraham said, "Lord, please stay for a short time with me.
4. I'll bring water so that you could wash yourselves. You may rest under this tree.
5. And I will bring bread to you. After you eat, you will feel strong again. Then you may continue traveling." The three men said, "Bring the bread to us. We will rest."
6. So Abraham walked quickly to the tent where Sarah was sitting. And he said to Sarah, "Prepare twenty liters of good flour quickly. Then bake bread."
7. Then Abraham ran to his herd of cows and chose a young cow that was very good. He brought that cow to a servant. The servant killed that cow quickly and cooked the meat of it for the three men.
8. After the servant cooked the food, Abraham gave it to the three men. He also gave milk to the three men. He stood under the tree that was near the three men while they ate the food.
9. The men asked Abraham, "Where is your wife named Sarah?" Abraham answered the men, "Sarah is in that tent."
10. Then Yahweh said, "I'll return to you after one year. At that time your wife named Sarah will have a son." Sarah was sitting at the door of the tent and listening to these men.

11. Abraham and Sarah were very old. Sarah was too old to give birth to children.
12. So Sarah laughed and said to herself, "My husband and I are too old to give birth to a baby."
13. Then Yahweh said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh? Why did Sarah say that she is too old to give birth to a baby?"
14. I'm able to do all things. I'll return to you after one year. And Sarah will certainly have a son."
15. Then Sarah lied to Yahweh because she was afraid. She said, "I didn't laugh." But Yahweh said, "I know that you laughed."
16. Then the three men stood up. They started walking toward Sodom. Abraham walked for a short time with the three men to say goodbye to them.
17. Title: Abraham pleads with Yahweh. Yahweh asked himself, "Should I tell Abraham about my plan?"
18. I'll cause Abraham's descendants to become a powerful nation. And all of the people who live on the earth will be blessed through Abraham.
19. I chose Abraham so that he could teach his descendants. Then Abraham's descendants will behave well like I want them to behave well. They will obey me. Then I'll give Abraham the things that I promised I'll give to him."
20. Then Yahweh said to Abraham, "I heard many people complaining about the people who live in Sodom and Gomorrah. Those people who live in Sodom and Gomorrah are very evil.
21. I'm going to Sodom and Gomorrah to find out whether those people are good or they are evil. If the people are not evil, I'll know that they are not evil."
22. The two men who were with Yahweh were angels. So those two angels started walking toward Sodom. But Abraham stood in front of Yahweh.
23. Then Abraham asked Yahweh, "When you destroy the evil people who live in Sodom, will you also destroy the righteous people who live in that city?"
24. If fifty righteous people live in that city, will you destroy it? You will certainly save the fifty righteous people.
25. When you destroy the evil people, you will certainly not destroy the righteous people. Those righteous people are not like the evil people. You will certainly judge the people correctly."
26. Then Yahweh answered Abraham, "If I find fifty righteous people in Sodom, I won't destroy the city because of them."
27. Then Abraham said to Yahweh, "Although I'm like dust and ashes, when I spoke to you, I had courage. So I'll speak again.

28. If there are only 45 righteous people who live in that city, will you destroy it? Will you destroy that city because of five evil people?" Yahweh answered Abraham, "If I find 45 righteous people, I won't destroy that city."

29. Abraham asked Yahweh, "If you find only forty righteous people who live in that city, will you destroy it?" Yahweh answered Abraham, "If I find forty righteous people, I won't destroy that city."

30. Then Abraham said, "Lord, please don't be angry with me. If you find only thirty righteous people who live in that city, will you destroy it?" Yahweh answered Abraham, "If I find thirty righteous people, I won't destroy that city."

31. Then Abraham said, "Lord, I have courage. So I'll speak to you again. If there are twenty righteous people who live in that city, will you destroy it?" Yahweh answered Abraham, "If I find twenty righteous people, I won't destroy that city."

32. Then Abraham said, "Lord, please don't be angry with me. Allow me to ask one more question. If there are only ten righteous people, will you destroy the city?" Yahweh answered Abraham, "If I find ten righteous people, I won't destroy the city."

33. After Yahweh finished speaking to Abraham, he left that place. And Abraham returned to his tent.

Chapter 19

1. Title: Lot leaves Sodom. While Lot was sitting near the city gate, those two angels arrived in Sodom in the evening. When Lot saw those two angels, he stood up. And he went to those two angels. Then he bowed to those angels.

2. Lot said to those two angels, "Please come to my house. Sleep at my house tonight. You will wash your feet. Then tomorrow you will continue traveling." Then those two angels answered Lot, "No. We will sleep in the place where people who live in this city meet."

3. But Lot begged those angels to come to his house. So those angels agreed to go to Lot's house. Then Lot prepared a meal for those angels. He baked bread that didn't contain yeast. And those angels ate the bread.

4. That night many men who lived in Sodom surrounded Lot's house. Old men and young men were surrounding Lot's house.

5. Then some men called Lot. They said to Lot, "Where are the two men who came to you tonight? Bring the two men to us. We want to sleep with the two men."

6. Lot went outside the house to speak to those men. He closed the door of his house.

7. Then Lot said, "No! My friends, don't do this evil thing.

8. I have two daughters who didn't sleep with a man. I'll bring my two daughters to you. Do to my daughters all of the things that you want to do. But don't do anything to these two men. These two men came to my house. So I have to protect these two men."

9. The men said to Lot, "Step aside!" Then they said to each other, "This man named Lot is a foreigner. But Lot is telling us to do things!" Then the men said to Lot, "We will do a worse thing to you!" Then they pushed Lot away and started hitting the door.

10. But the two angels who were in Lot's house opened the door. Then they pulled Lot into the house. Then they closed the door.

11. Then the two angels caused the men who were outside the house to become blind. So those men were not able to find the door.

12. Then the two angels said to Lot, "Do you have relatives who live in this city? Do you have sons, sons-in-law, daughters, or other relatives? If you have relatives who live in this city, tell them to leave it now.

13. Tomorrow we will destroy this city. Yahweh heard people complaining about the evil people who live in this city. So he sent us to destroy this city."

14. So Lot went to the two men who promised they will marry his two daughters. He said to these two men, "Leave this city quickly! Tomorrow Yahweh will destroy this city." But the two men thought that Lot was telling a joke. So they didn't leave the city.

15. When the sun rose on the next day, the two angels told Lot that he should leave the city quickly. They said, "Leave this city! Take your wife and your two daughters away from this city. Then when Yahweh punishes this city, you won't die."

16. But Lot didn't leave the house quickly. So the two angels pushed Lot, his wife, and his two daughters outside the house and led them outside the city. So Yahweh was merciful to Lot and his family.

17. After the two angels brought Lot's family outside the city, one angel said to Lot, "If you want to continue living, run to the mountains! Don't look at the city again. Don't stop running in the valley. Run to the mountains! If you don't run to the mountains, you will be destroyed by Yahweh."

18. But Lot said to the angel, "Lord, please don't tell me to run to the mountains!

19. You were merciful to me and saved me. But I'm not able to run to the mountains because they are too far from here. Before I arrive at the mountains, I'll die.

20. Look at that small town. That town is close to here. I'm able to run to that town. Allow me to run to that town. That town is very small. When I arrive in that town, I'll be safe."

21. The angels said to Lot, "Ok. We will allow you to go to that town. We won't destroy that town.

22. But you have to run to that town quickly because we won't be able to destroy Sodom until you arrive in that town." That town is Zoar because the town is small. Footnote: Zoar means 'small'.

23. Title: Yahweh destroys Sodom and Gomorrah. At noon Lot entered Zoar. Alternate 1: After the sun rose, Lot entered Zoar.

24. Then Yahweh caused fire and stones to fall from the sky onto Sodom and onto Gomorrah.

25. So Yahweh destroyed those two cities. He also destroyed all of the things that were in the valley named Jordan. He destroyed all of the people who lived in the cities and all of the plants.

26. While Yahweh was destroying the cities, Lot's wife turned around to see Sodom and Gomorrah. And she looked at the two cities. Then she became a pillar of salt.

27. The next morning Abraham went early to the place where he had spoken to Yahweh.

28. Abraham looked at Sodom, Gomorrah, and the valley named Jordan and saw smoke rising from the land like it rises from a furnace.

29. So God destroyed the cities that were in the valley. But he remembered that Abraham asked him to save Lot. So God saved Lot. But God completely destroyed the cities where Lot lived.

30. Title: Lot's daughters become pregnant. Lot was afraid to continue living in Zoar. So Lot and his two daughters moved to a cave that was in the mountains.

31. One day the older daughter said to the younger daughter, "Our father is old. Men marry women in all places that are on the earth. But no men are here. Therefore we are not able to marry a man. And we are not able to have children.

32. We should cause our father to drink a lot of wine. Then we will sleep with our father. So we will be able to have descendants.

33. So that night the two daughters caused their father to become drunk. And the older daughter slept with Lot. But Lot didn't know that the daughter slept with him.

34. The next day the older daughter said to the younger daughter, "Last night I slept with our father. We should cause our father to become drunk again. Then you will also be able to sleep with our father. So we will have descendants through our father."

35. So that night the daughters caused their father to become drunk again. Then the younger daughter slept with Lot. But Lot didn't know that the daughter slept with him.

36. So Lot's two daughters became pregnant through their father.

37. Then the older daughter gave birth to a son. She named her son Moab. Moab is the ancestor of the Moabites who still are living today.

38. The younger daughter also gave birth to a son. She named her son Ben-Ammi. Ben-Ammi is the ancestor of the Ammonites who still are living today.

Chapter 20

1. Title: Abraham deceives Abimelech. Abraham left Hebron and traveled to a region named Negev. Then he lived for a short time in a place that was between Kadesh and Shur. Then he moved to a city named Gerar.

2. When Abraham arrived in Gerar, he told the people that his wife named Sarah was his younger sister. Abimelech, who was the king of Gerar, heard about Sarah. So he commanded some servants to bring Sarah to him.

3. But one night God spoke to Abimelech through a dream. God said, "You will die because Sarah is married to Abraham."

4. But Abimelech had not slept with Sarah. So he said to God, "Lord, will you destroy an innocent nation?"

5. Abraham said to me, "This woman is my younger sister." And Sarah said to me, "Abraham is my older brother." I'm innocent. I didn't know that Sarah is married to Abraham."

6. Then God said to Abimelech in the dream, "I know that you didn't know that Sarah is married to Abraham. So I prevented you from sinning. I didn't allow you to touch Sarah.

7. Return Sarah to her husband named Abraham. Abraham is a prophet. Abraham will pray for you. Then you won't die. But if you don't return Sarah to Abraham, you and your family will certainly die."

8. So in the morning Abimelech called his officers and told them about his dream. Then the officers were very afraid.

9. Then Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, "What did you do to us? I didn't act badly to you. Why did you cause my kingdom to have trouble? You should have prevented me from taking your wife to my house.

10. Why did you lie to me?"

11. Then Abraham answered Abimelech, "I thought that the people who live here don't respect God. I thought that a person will kill me to marry Sarah.

12. But I didn't lie to you. Sarah is my younger sister. Sarah is my father's daughter. But Sarah is not my mother's daughter.

13. After God told me to leave my father's house, I said to Sarah, "When we travel to different places, tell people that I'm your older brother.""

14. Then Abimelech gave sheep, cattle, male slaves, and female slaves to Abraham. Abimelech also returned Abraham's wife named Sarah to him.

15. And Abimelech said, "You may live in any place that is in my kingdom."

16. Then Abimelech said to Sarah, "I gave twelve kilograms of silver to your older brother named Abraham to prove to all people that you're innocent."

17. Then Abraham prayed to God. And God healed Abimelech and healed his wife and his female servants. Then these women were able to give birth to children.

18. Before Yahweh healed these women, he didn't allow them to become pregnant to punish Abimelech. Yahweh punished Abimelech because he took away Abraham's wife named Sarah.

Chapter 21

1. Title: Sarah gives birth to Isaac. Yahweh kept the promise that he made to Sarah. And he took care of Sarah.

2. When Abraham was very old, Sarah gave birth to his son. She gave birth to that son at the time when Yahweh had promised her that she would give birth to the baby.

3. Then Abraham named the son that Sarah gave birth to Isaac.

4. When Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him. So Abraham obeyed God.

5. When Isaac was born, Abraham was one hundred years old.

6. Then Sarah said, "God has caused me to laugh. All people who hear that I gave birth to Isaac will laugh with me.

7. People thought that I'll certainly not nurse a child. But although Abraham is very old, I gave birth to his son."

8. Title: Hagar and Ishmael leave Abraham. Isaac grew up. And when Isaac was able to eat food, Abraham prepared a feast for him.

9. But Sarah saw that Ishmael acted badly to Isaac. Ishmael was the son of Abraham and of Hagar, who was Sarah's female slave.

10. So Sarah said to Abraham, "Tell this female slave and her son to leave. This female slave's son must not inherit anything from you. My son named Isaac will inherit all of your things."

11. Abraham was very sad because Ishmael also was his son.

12. But God said to Abraham, "Don't be sad about the boy and about the female slave. Listen to Sarah. The descendants that I promised I'll give to you will be Isaac's descendants.

13. But I'll also cause Ishmael's descendants to become a great nation because he also is your son."

14. The next morning Abraham gave Hagar food and a bag that contained water. And he told Hagar to leave. So Hagar accepted the food and water. And Hagar and her son started wandering in the desert that was in Beersheba.

15. After Hagar and Ishmael finished drinking all of the water, Hagar put her son under a big bush.

16. Then Hagar walked for a short time. Then she sat down. She thought, "My son will die soon. I don't want to watch my son die." So Hagar sat down there and started crying loudly.

17. The boy also was crying. Then God heard the boy crying. So God's angel who was in heaven called Hagar. He said, "Hagar, why are you crying? Don't be afraid! I heard the boy crying.

18. Go to the boy and help him stand up. Comfort the boy. I'll cause the boy's descendants to become a great nation."

19. Then God showed a well to Hagar. So Hagar went to that well and filled the bag with water. And she gave the water to the boy. And the boy drank the water.

20. God took care of the boy while he grew up. Ishmael lived in the desert. He was able to shoot animals with arrows skillfully.

21. After Ishmael grew up, he lived in a desert named Paran. Ishmael's mother brought a woman from Egypt to him. Then Ishmael married the woman.

22. Title: Abraham and King Abimelech make a treaty. Then King Abimelech and a man named Phicol who was the captain of his army came to Abraham. And Abimelech said to Abraham, "God takes care of you.

23. Therefore promise me that you will act kindly to me, my children, and my descendants. You're a foreigner in my country. So act kindly to me like I acted kindly to you."

24. Then Abraham said, "I promise you that I'll act kindly to you."

25. Then Abraham complained to Abimelech about Abimelech's servants. Abraham told Abimelech that Abimelech's servants had prevented him from using a well that he dug.

26. But Abimelech said, "I didn't know that my servants prevented you from using that well. You didn't tell me about this problem."

27. Then Abraham gave sheep and cattle to Abimelech. And Abraham and Abimelech made a treaty.

28. Abraham also put seven female lambs in front of Abimelech.

29. Abimelech asked Abraham, "Why did you put these seven female lambs in front of me?"

30. Abraham answered, "If you agree with me I dug this well, accept these lambs."

31. So this place is called 'Beersheba' because Abraham and Abimelech made a promise. Footnote: Beersheba means 'well of the promise'.

32. After Abraham and Abimelech made the treaty at Beersheba, Abimelech and Phicol who was the captain of his army returned to the Philistines' land.

33. Then Abraham planted a tamarisk tree at Beersheba and prayed to Yahweh, who is the Eternal God.

34. Abraham was a foreigner in the Philistines' land. Abraham lived there for many years.

Chapter 22

1. Title: God tests Abraham. Later God tested Abraham. God said to Abraham, "Abraham." And Abraham said to God, "Yes."

2. Then God said to Abraham, "Take your only son named Isaac, whom you love, to the region named Moriah. Kill Isaac there and burn his body. So you will sacrifice Isaac to me. I'll show you the mountain where you should sacrifice Isaac."

3. So the next morning Abraham woke up early and put a saddle on his donkey. Abraham called Isaac and his two servants. After Abraham cut the wood that he'll burn the sacrifice with, the four men started walking to the place where God told him to go.

4. After the men walked for three days, Abraham saw the place that God had told him about.

5. Then Abraham said to his two servants, "Stay here with the donkey. My son and I will walk there. Then we will worship God there. Then we will return to you."

6. Then Abraham gave his son the wood that he had cut. So Abraham's son carried the wood. And Abraham carried the knife and a piece of wood that was burning. So Abraham and his son walked to the place that God had told Abraham about.

7. Isaac said to his father named Abraham, "Father." Abraham said to Isaac, "Yes." Isaac said, "We have the fire and the wood. But where is the lamb that we will sacrifice to God?"

8. Abraham answered Isaac, "My son, God will give us the lamb that we will sacrifice." So Abraham and his son continued walking toward the place.

9. Then Abraham and his son arrived at the place that God told Abraham about. Then Abraham made an altar there and put the wood on the altar. Then he tied his son named Isaac and put him on the wood that was on the altar.

10. Then Abraham picked his knife up. And he was ready to kill his son.

11. But the angel of Yahweh, who was in heaven, called Abraham. And the angel said, "Abraham! Abraham!" Then Abraham said to the angel, "Yes."
12. The angel said to Abraham, "Don't kill your son. Don't hurt your son. I now know that you respect me. And I know that you were willing to give your only son to me."
13. Then Abraham saw a ram. The ram's horns were in a bush. And the ram was not able to run. So Abraham walked to the ram and killed him. Then Abraham burned the ram's body to give an offering to God. So God saved Abraham's son.
14. So Abraham named that place Yahweh gave me the things that I needed. Today people still say, "Yahweh will give me on this mountain the things that I need."
15. Then the angel of Yahweh called Abraham again.
16. And the angel said, "I make this promise in my name because you were willing to give your only son to me.
17. I'll certainly bless you and cause you to have many descendants. There are many stars in the sky. And there are many grains of sand by the ocean. The number of your descendants will be like the number of the stars. And the number of your descendants will be like the number of grains of sand. And your descendants will capture the cities of their enemies.
18. All of the nations that are on the earth will be blessed through your descendants because you obeyed me."
19. Then Abraham and Isaac returned to Abraham's servants. Then the four men returned to Beersheba. Then Abraham stayed in Beersheba.
20. Later a person said to Abraham, "Your older brother named Nahor and his wife named Milcah have children now.
21. The name of Nahor's first son is Uz. And the name of Nahor's second son is Buz. And the name of Nahor's third son is Kemuel. Footnote: Kemuel is Aram's father.
22. Nahor's other sons are Kesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph, and Bethuel."
23. Later Bethuel had a daughter named Rebekah. Milcah was these eight sons' mother. And Nahor, who was Abraham's older brother, was these eight sons' father.
24. Nahor also had four other sons. These four sons' mother was Nahor's concubine named Reumah. These sons were Tebah, Gaham, Tahash, and Maacah.

1. Title: Sarah dies. When Sarah was 127 years old, she died.
2. Sarah died in a region named Kiriath-Arba, which was in Canaan. Today people call Kiriath-Arba 'Hebron'. After Sarah died, Abraham was very sad. He cried because Sarah died.
3. Later Abraham stood up. Then he left the place where Sarah's body was. And he went to the place where the Hittites lived to talk to them.
4. Abraham said, "I'm a foreigner who is living in your land. Will you sell a tomb to me? Then I'll bury my wife in that tomb."
5. The Hittites answered Abraham, "Yes.
6. You're a great leader who lives among us. We will give you the best tomb that is in our region. Then you will be able to bury your wife. You may choose any tomb. We won't prevent you from burying your wife."
7. So Abraham stood up and bowed to the Hittites.
8. And Abraham said to the Hittites, "If you allow me to bury my wife in this region, speak to Ephron, who is Zohar's son.
9. Ask Ephron to sell to me the cave that is in a field named Machpelah. That field is at the edge of Ephron's land. I'll buy the field from Ephron. You will witness me burying my wife in that cave."
10. At that time Ephron was sitting at the city gate with other Hittites. Then he came to Abraham.
11. And Ephron said, "My master, no. I won't sell that land to you. I'll give you that land and the cave that is on that land. These people witness me giving that land to you. Bury your wife in that cave."
12. Then Abraham bowed to the Hittites again.
13. Then Abraham said to Ephron, "Allow me to buy the land from you. Accept my silver. Then I'll bury my wife in that cave." All of the Hittites heard Abraham speaking to Ephron.
14. Then Ephron spoke to Abraham again.
15. Ephron said, "My master, the price of that field is five kilograms of silver. But I won't argue with you about the price. Pay to me the silver that you want to pay to me. Then bury your wife in that field."
16. So Abraham agreed to pay five kilograms of silver to Ephron. The Hittites witnessed Abraham buying the field from Ephron. Abraham weighed some silver and gave it to Ephron.
17. So Ephron sold to Abraham the field that was in Machpelah, which was east of Mamre. Abraham bought the field, the cave, and the trees that were in the field.
18. Abraham bought this land from Ephron while they stood at the city gate. And the Hittites witnessed Abraham buying the land.

19. Later Abraham buried his wife named Sarah in the cave that was in that field. That field was in Machpelah, which was near Mamre. Footnote: Later people who lived in Canaan called Mamre 'Hebron'.

20. So Abraham bought the field and the cave from the Hittites to bury his wife and his relatives.

Chapter 24

1. Title: Isaac marries Rebekah. When Sarah died, Abraham was very old. Yahweh had blessed Abraham much.

2. One day Abraham said to the chief servant of him who oversaw all things that Abraham owned, "Make a promise to me by putting your hand under my leg.

3. Swear to me by the name of Yahweh, who is the God of heaven and of earth, that you won't search for my son's wife in Canaan. My son must not marry a woman who is from Canaan.

4. Return to the country where my relatives live. Then you will search for my son's wife there."

5. The servant said to Abraham, "If the woman that I'll find doesn't want to return to Canaan with me, should I take your son there with me?"

6. Abraham answered the servant, "No! Don't take my son there.

7. Yahweh, who is the God of heaven, brought me from my father's house and my relatives' land here. And Yahweh promised me that he would give this land to my descendants. Before you travel there, Yahweh will send the angel of him there to help you find a wife for my son.

8. If the woman refuses to return to Canaan with you, don't search for another woman. And don't force a woman to return to Canaan with you. But you must not take my son there."

9. Then the servant put his hand under Abraham's leg and swore to Abraham that the servant will do all of these things.

10. Then the servant left Canaan with several men who will help him. He brought ten of Abraham's camels. Those camels carried many beautiful gifts. Then the servant traveled to the northwest region of Mesopotamia. Later he arrived in the city where Nahor was born.

11. There was a well that was outside that city. The servant of Abraham knew that many women who lived in that city will walk to a spring that was near the well to obtain water in the evening. So he stood near that well and allowed the camels to rest there.

12. Then the servant prayed to Yahweh. The servant said, "Yahweh, you're the God of my master named Abraham. Allow me today to find a wife for Abraham's son. Please be kind to my master named Abraham.

13. I'm standing near this spring. And the women who live in this city are coming to this spring to obtain water.

14. I'll say to a woman who comes to this spring, "Please give me some water that is in your jar." If you want me to take this woman to Isaac, she has to say, "Drink some water. And I will also give water to your camels." If the woman says those words, I'll know that you chose her for your servant named Isaac. And I will know that you were kind to my master."

15. Before the servant finished praying to Yahweh, Rebekah, who was Bethuel's daughter, came out from the city. Bethuel was the son of Milcah and of Nahor, who was Abraham's older brother. Rebekah was carrying a jar on her shoulder.

16. Rebekah was very beautiful and was a virgin. Rebekah walked to the spring. Then she filled the jar with water. Then she started walking from the spring to the city.

17. Then the servant ran to Rebekah and said to her, "Please give me some water that is in your jar."

18. Rebekah said, "Master, drink some of this water." She moved the jar from her shoulder to her hip quickly and allowed Abraham's servant to drink some water.

19. After the servant finished drinking the water, Rebekah said, "I'll also pour water into the trough so that your camels could drink it."

20. So Rebekah poured quickly all of the water that was in her jar into the trough for the camels. Then she repeatedly ran to the well and brought water there to the camels until all of them finished drinking the water.

21. The servant watched Rebekah pour the water into the trough for the camels. But he didn't speak. He waited until he knew that Yahweh had chosen this woman.

22. After the camels finished drinking the water, the servant gave a gold ring and two gold bracelets to Rebekah. The ring and the bracelets were very big. The ring weighed about six grams. And the two bracelets weighed about 220 grams.

23. Then the servant asked Rebekah, "Who is your father? May the men who are traveling with me and I sleep in your father's house tonight?"

24. Rebekah answered the servant, "My father is Bethuel, who is the son of Milcah and Nahor."

25. Then Rebekah said, "Yes. We have straw that your camels may eat. And we have a room where you may sleep tonight."

26. Then the servant worshiped Yahweh.

27. The servant said, "I praise Yahweh! Yahweh is the God of my master named Abraham. Yahweh is kind to Abraham and faithful to him. He led me to my master's relatives."

28. Then Rebekah ran to her mother's house and told her family about the words that Abraham's servant said to her.

29. Rebekah had an older brother named Laban. Laban ran to Abraham's servant, who still was at the spring.

30. Laban heard all of the things that Rebekah said. And he saw the ring that is on Rebekah's nose and the bracelets that were on her arms. So he ran to the spring and saw the man who was standing there.

31. Laban said, "Come into our house. Don't stand here. I know that God blessed you much. We have a room where you may stay. And we also have a place where your camels may stay."

32. So Abraham's servant entered the house. Then Laban took away the things that were on the camels' backs. And he gave straw and food to the camels. Then he gave water to Abraham's servant and the men who were with him so that they could wash their feet.

33. Then Laban gave food to the servant. But the servant said, "I won't eat this food until I tell you about the reason why I came here." So Laban said, "Tell us about the reason why you came here."

34. The servant said, "I'm Abraham's servant.

35. Yahweh blessed Abraham much. And Abraham has become very rich. Yahweh gave many sheep, many cattle, a lot of silver, a lot of gold, male servants, female servants, camels, and donkeys to Abraham.

36. When Abraham's wife named Sarah was old, she gave birth to a son. And Abraham gave that son all of the things that he owns.

37. Abraham told me to promise him that I won't search for a wife for his son in Canaan.

38. Abraham said to me, "You have to go to the village of my father's relatives. And you have to find a wife for my son there."

39. Then I said to my master, "If the woman that I find doesn't want to return to Canaan with me, what should I do?"

40. Then Abraham answered me, "I serve Yahweh. Yahweh will send the angel of him with you. That angel will help you. You will find a wife for my son among my father's relatives.

41. If my father's relatives don't allow any woman to marry my son, you may return to Canaan. Don't do any other thing."

42. So today I came to this spring. Then I said, "Yahweh, you're the God of my master named Abraham. Allow me today to find a wife for Abraham's son.

43. I'm standing near this spring. I'll wait for a young woman to come to this spring. Then I'll say to that woman, "Please give me some water that is in your jar."

44. If you want me to take this woman to Isaac, she has to say, "Drink the water. And I will also give water to your camels." If the woman says those words, I'll know that you chose her. That woman will be my master's wife.

45. Before I finished praying to Yahweh, Rebekah came out from that city. She was carrying a jar on her shoulder. She walked to the spring. Then she filled the jar with water. And I said to Rebekah, "Please give me some water that is in your jar."

46. Rebekah said, "Master, drink some of this water." Then she moved the jar from her shoulder to her hip quickly and allowed me to drink some water. And she also said, "I'll also pour water into the trough so that your camels could drink it." So I drank some water. And Rebekah also poured water into the trough so that my camels could drink it.

47. Then I asked Rebekah, "Who is your father?" And Rebekah answered, "My father is Bethuel, who is the son of Milcah and Nahor." Then I put the ring on Rebekah's nose and put the bracelets onto her arms.

48. And I thanked Yahweh. I praised Yahweh, who is the God of my master named Abraham, because Yahweh caused me to find Abraham's older brother's granddaughter for his son.

49. Therefore I ask you, "Will you be kind to my master? Will you be faithful to my master? Will you allow Rebekah to return to my master with me? Answer these questions now. Then I'll know the things that I have to do.

50. Then Laban and Bethuel said to the servant, "Yahweh certainly wants Isaac to marry Rebekah. Therefore we won't prevent Isaac from marrying Rebekah.

51. Take Rebekah to Isaac. Rebekah may marry your master's son. We will obey Yahweh."

52. After Abraham's servant heard these words, he worshiped Yahweh.

53. Then the servant gave Rebekah clothes and jewelry that was made of gold and silver. He also gave valuable gifts to Rebekah's older brother and her mother.

54. Then the servant and the men who came with him ate food and slept at that house. After the servant and those men woke up the next morning, the servant said, "Allow me to return to my master."

55. But Rebekah's mother and her older brother said, "Allow Rebekah to stay for ten days with us. Then Rebekah may go with you."

56. But the servant said to the mother and the older brother, "Don't ask me to stay here. Yahweh helped me find a wife for Isaac. Therefore allow me today to return to my master."

57. Rebekah's older brother and her mother said, "We will ask Rebekah whether Rebekah wants to leave now or Rebekah wants to stay for ten days with us."

58. So the mother and the older brother called Rebekah and asked her, "Do you want to leave with this man now?" Rebekah answered, "Yes I want to leave now."

59. So the mother and the older brother allowed Rebekah and her nurse to go with Abraham's servant and his men.

60. Before Rebekah left, Laban blessed her. He said, "Our younger sister, we pray that you will be many children's mother and pray that your descendants will capture the cities of their enemies."

61. Then Rebekah and her female servants sat on the camels and followed Abraham's servant and his men. So the servant and Rebekah left that place.

62. Before this time Isaac left Beer-Lahai-Roi. Isaac was living in the desert named Negev that was in southern Canaan.

63. After the servant and Rebekah traveled for several days, Isaac went to a field to think in a quiet place. Then he saw camels traveling on the road. So he stood up and started walking toward the camels.

64. And Rebekah saw Isaac. Then she jumped from the camel.

65. And Rebekah asked the servant, "Who is that man who is walking toward us?" The servant answered, "That man is my master." So Rebekah covered her face with a cloth.

66. Then the servant told Isaac about all of the things that he did.

67. Then Isaac married Rebekah. And Isaac and Rebekah lived in the tent of Isaac's mother named Sarah. Isaac loved Rebekah much. So after Isaac's mother died, he was comforted by Rebekah.

Chapter 25

1. Title: Abraham dies. After Sarah died, Abraham married a woman named Keturah.

2. Then Keturah gave birth to sons named Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah.

3. Jokshan had sons named Sheba and Dedan. Dedan's descendants lived in Assyria, in Letush, and in Leum.

4. Then Midian had sons named Ephah, Epher, Hanoah, Abida, and Eldaah. All of these people were Abraham and Keturah's descendants.

5. After Abraham died, Isaac inherited all of his things.

6. But before Abraham died, he gave gifts to the sons of his concubines. Then he forced those sons to live in the eastern region so that they would be far from Isaac.

7. When Abraham died, he was 175 years old.

8. When Abraham died, he was very old. While Abraham was living, he was very happy.
9. Abraham's sons named Isaac and Ishmael buried Abraham in the cave of Machpelah that was in Ephron's field that was east of Mamre. Ephron was the son of Zohar, who was a Hittite.
10. So Abraham was buried in the same cave where he buried Sarah. That cave was in the field that Abraham bought from the Hittites.
11. After Abraham died, God blessed Abraham's son named Isaac. Isaac was living near Beer-Lahai-Roi.
12. Title: Ishmael has descendants. Ishmael was Hagar's son. Hagar had been the female servant of Sarah. Hagar was from Egypt.
13. Ishmael had sons named Nebaioth, Adbeel, Kedar, and Mibsam. Nebaioth was Ishmael's oldest son.
14. Ishmael had other sons named Mishma, Dumah, and Massa.
15. And Ishmael also had other sons named Hadad, Tema, Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah. Kedemah was Ishmael's youngest son.
16. These twelve sons became the leaders of twelve tribes.
17. When Ishmael died, he was 137 years old.
18. Ishmael's descendants lived in many places that were between Havilah and Shur, which was east of Egypt. They attacked each other often.
19. Title: Isaac has descendants. Isaac was Abraham's son.
20. When Isaac was forty years old, he married Rebekah, who came from the northwest region of Mesopotamia. Rebekah was Bethuel's daughter and was Laban's younger sister.
21. Isaac's wife was not able to become pregnant. So Isaac prayed to Yahweh for Rebekah. Then Yahweh answered Isaac's prayer. So Rebekah became pregnant.
22. There were two babies in Rebekah's womb while she was pregnant. Before Rebekah gave birth to those two babies, they fought each other. Rebekah asked Yahweh, "Why do the babies that are in my womb fight each other?"
23. Then Yahweh said to Rebekah, "Two nations are in your womb. You will give birth to two sons. And each son will lead a group of people. One group will be stronger than the other group. And the older son will serve the younger son."
24. Later Rebekah gave birth to twins.
25. The first baby was red. The first baby's skin had many hairs like a robe has many hairs. So Isaac and Rebekah named this boy Esau. Footnote: Esau means 'hairs'.

26. When Rebekah gave birth to the second baby, he was holding the first baby's heel. So Isaac and Rebekah named the second baby Jacob. When Rebekah gave birth to these twins, Isaac was 60 years old. Footnote: Jacob means 'heel'. Footnote: And Jacob also means 'to deceive'.

27. After the two boys grew up, Esau hunted animals skillfully. He liked staying in the fields where he hunted animals. But Jacob was quiet. He liked staying near their family's tents.

28. Isaac loved Esau more than he loved Jacob because Esau hunted the wild animals that he liked eating. But Rebekah loved Jacob more than she loved Esau.

29. One day Jacob was cooking food. At that time Esau returned from the fields where he was hunting animals. He was extremely hungry.

30. So Esau said to Jacob, "Allow me to eat that food. I'm extremely hungry." The food that Jacob was preparing was red. People called Esau 'Edom' because he liked eating red food. Footnote: Edom means 'red'.

31. But Jacob said, "I'll trade this food for all of the things that you will inherit from our father."

32. Esau said, "I'll die soon because I'm extremely hungry. If I die, I won't need our father's things."

33. But Jacob said, "Promise me that you will allow me to inherit all of our father's things. So Esau promised Jacob that he would inherit their father's things.

34. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and the food that he prepared. And Esau ate the food and drank water. Then he left that place. So he didn't act wisely. He sold to Jacob all of the things that he'll inherit from their father.

Chapter 26

1. Title: Isaac lies to Abimelech. Later there was another famine in that region. Footnote: While Abraham was living, there was a famine in that same region. So Isaac went to Gerar to talk to the king of the Philistines named Abimelech.

2. After Isaac arrived in Gerar, Yahweh appeared to him. And Yahweh said to Isaac, "Don't go to Egypt. Live here.

3. Stay here. Then I'll be with you and bless you. I'll give all of this land to you and your descendants and do all of the things that I promised your father that I would do.

4. I'll cause you to have many descendants. There are many stars in the sky. The number of your descendants will be like the number of the stars. And I will give all of this land to your descendants. All of the nations that are on the earth will be blessed by me through your descendants.

5. I'll give this land to you because your father named Abraham obeyed me. Abraham obeyed my commands and my laws."

6. So Isaac stayed in Gerar.

7. Isaac's wife named Rebekah was very beautiful. And the men who lived in Gerar asked Isaac about Rebekah. Isaac said to those men, "Rebekah is my younger sister." He didn't want to tell those men that Rebekah was his wife because he thought that a man might kill Isaac to marry her.

8. Isaac lived in Gerar for many years. One day when the king of the Philistines named Abimelech looked through a window, Abimelech saw Isaac kissing Rebekah.

9. Then Abimelech called Isaac and said to him, "That woman is your wife! Why did you tell me that this woman was your younger sister?" Isaac answered Abimelech, "I was afraid that you will kill me to marry Rebekah."

10. Abimelech said, "You treated us badly! If a man who lives here had slept with your wife, we would have sinned."

11. So Abimelech told all of the men that all of them must not touch Rebekah. He said to the men, "If a man touches Isaac or his wife, he'll be killed."

12. Title: Isaac becomes rich. Isaac planted seeds in that land. And that year he harvested many crops. So Yahweh blessed Isaac much.

13. And Isaac became rich. Each year he harvested many crops and bought many slaves. And he also owned many animals. So he became very rich.

14. The Philistines were jealous of Isaac because he owned many slaves and many animals.

15. So the Philistines filled with dirt all of the wells that the servants of Isaac's father named Abraham dug.

16. And Abimelech said to Isaac, "Leave our country because you're too rich."

17. So Isaac left that place. Then he moved to a valley that was near Gerar. And he lived there.

18. When Abraham was living, his servants had dug many wells in that region. But after Abraham died, the Philistines filled those wells with dirt. So Isaac dug those wells again. He named each well the same name that Abraham had named it.

19. So Isaac's servants dug a well in the valley that was near Gerar. There was water in that well.

20. But one day the men who lived in Gerar that took care of the animals argued with Isaac's servants about the well. And they said to the servants, "This well belongs to us." So Isaac named that well Esek because the men argued with him. Footnote: Esek means 'to argue'.

21. Then Isaac's servants dug another well. When the people who lived in Gerar argued with Isaac about that well, he named it Sitnah. Sitnah means 'to fight'.

22. Then Isaac went to a different place. And Isaac's servants dug another well. The men who lived in Gerar didn't argue with Isaac about that well. So Isaac named that well Rehoboth. He said, "Yahweh gave enough land to us now. And we will be prosperous here." Footnote: Rehoboth means 'enough land'.

23. Then Isaac traveled from there to Beersheba.

24. That night Yahweh appeared to Isaac and said to him, "I'm the God of your father named Abraham. Don't be afraid because I'm with you. I'll bless you and cause you to have many descendants because Abraham served me."

25. So Isaac built an altar and worshiped Yahweh there. Isaac also put his family's tents and the tents of his servants there. And Isaac's servants dug a well.

26. Then Abimelech came from Gerar to talk to Isaac. Abimelech brought Ahuzzath, who advised him, and Phicol, who was the captain of Abimelech's army.

27. Isaac asked Abimelech, "Why did you come here? You treated me badly and forced me to leave your country."

28. Abimelech answered Isaac, "We now know that Yahweh blessed you. We want to make a treaty with you.

29. We want you to promise us that you will treat us well because we treated you well. And when we asked you to leave our country, we were not angry with you. We know that Yahweh blessed you."

30. So Isaac prepared food for these three men. And Isaac and the three men ate the meal.

31. The next morning Isaac made a treaty with Abimelech. Then the three men were happy and returned to Gerar.

32. That day Isaac's servants told him about the well that they dug. They said, "We found water in that well."

33. So Isaac named the well Shibah. And today people call the city that is near that well 'Beersheba'. Footnote: Shibah means 'promise'. Footnote: Beersheba means 'the well of the promise'.

34. When Esau was forty years old, he married two women who were Hittites. He married Judith, who was Beer's daughter. And he also married Basemath, who was Elon's daughter.

35. These two women did many evil things. These two women caused Isaac and Rebekah to be very sad.

Chapter 27

1. Title: Jacob tricks Isaac. When Isaac was old, he didn't see well. One day he called his oldest son named Esau. After Esau came to Isaac, Isaac said, "Are you Esau?" And Esau said to Isaac, "Yes. I'm Esau."
2. Isaac said, "I'm old and will die soon."
3. So you will take your arrows to a field and hunt an animal that I like eating.
4. After you cook that animal, bring that food to me. After I eat that food, I'll bless you. I want before I die, to bless you."
5. So Esau went to the field to hunt an animal. But Rebekah heard Isaac talking to his son named Esau.
6. Then Rebekah said to her son named Jacob, "I heard your father talking to your older brother named Esau."
7. Isaac said to Esau, "Hunt an animal that I like eating and cook him. Then I'll bless you. I want before I die, to bless you. Yahweh will witness me blessing you."
8. Then Rebekah said to Jacob, "My son, obey me."
9. Bring your two young goats to me. I'll kill those goats and cook them so that your father could like eating them."
10. Then take that food to your father. Then before your father dies, he'll bless you."
11. But Jacob said to his mother named Rebekah, "My older brother named Esau has many hairs that are on his body. But I don't have many hairs!"
12. If my father touches me, he'll know that I'm not Esau. Then my father won't bless me. My father will curse me because I tried to trick him."
13. So Rebekah said to Jacob, "If your father curses you, he'll curse me instead of you. You won't be cursed by your father. But obey me now. Go to the field to bring the goats to me."
14. So Jacob brought two goats to his mother. Then Rebekah cooked those goats so that Isaac would like eating them."
15. Then Rebekah told Jacob to put Esau's best clothes on."
16. Rebekah also put the skins of the two goats, who had many hairs, on Jacob's hands and on his neck."
17. Then Rebekah told Jacob to take the food and the bread that she baked to Isaac."
18. So Jacob entered Isaac's tent and said to him, "Isaac." And Jacob's father said to him, "Yes." Then Isaac said, "Who are you?"

19. Then Jacob said to Isaac, "I'm your firstborn son named Esau. I obeyed you. Sit up now so that you could eat this meat of the animal that I hunted you. Then bless me."

20. But Isaac asked his son, "How did you find this animal very quickly?" Jacob answered Isaac, "Your God named Yahweh helped me find this animal."

21. Then Isaac said to Jacob, "My Son, come to me so that I could be able to touch you. Then I'll know that you're my son named Esau."

22. So Jacob went near his father named Isaac. Then Isaac touched Jacob's hands and said, "When you talked to me, I thought that you were Jacob. But your hands have many hairs like Esau's hands have many hairs."

23. So Isaac didn't know that this son was Jacob because the two goats' hairs were covering his hands. So Isaac decided to bless Jacob.

24. But Isaac asked Jacob, "Are you my son named Esau? And Jacob answered Isaac, "Yes. I'm Esau."

25. Then Isaac said, "Bring some food to me. I'll eat that food. Then I'll bless you." So Jacob gave some food to Isaac. And Isaac ate that food. Jacob also gave some wine to Isaac. And Isaac drank that wine.

26. Then Isaac said to Jacob, "My son, come near me and kiss me."

27. So Jacob went near his father and kissed him. After Isaac smelled Esau's clothes, he blessed Jacob. Isaac said, "When I smell my son, I smell a field that Yahweh blessed.

28. I pray that God will give enough rain to you and that he'll give good soil to you so that you could have a lot of grain and good wine.

29. Nations will serve you. And many people will bow to you. You will be your older brothers' master. And your mother's sons will bow to you. If a person curses you, God will curse him. And if a person blesses you, God will bless him

30. So Isaac blessed Jacob. Then after Jacob left his father named Isaac, Esau returned to Isaac's tents.

31. Then Esau cooked the animal that he killed. And Esau brought that food to his father. Then Esau said to his father, "Father, you will sit up and eat the food that I killed for you. Then bless me."

32. But Isaac asked Esau, "Who are you?" Esau answered, "I'm your firstborn son named Esau."

33. Then Isaac became very troubled. And Isaac's body started shaking. And Isaac said to Esau, "Then before you came into my tent, who brought food to me? I ate that food and blessed that person. And God will certainly bless that person."

34. When Esau heard these words, he became very troubled. And he cried loudly. Then he said to his father, "Father, also bless me!

35. But Isaac said to Esau, "Your older brother tricked me! Jacob caused me to bless him instead of you."

36. Then Esau said, "You named my younger brother Jacob correctly. Jacob tricked me two times. Jacob caused me to promise him that he'll inherit all of your things. And today Jacob caused you to bless him instead of me." Then Esau asked Isaac, "Will you also bless me?"

37. Isaac answered Esau, "I already caused Jacob to be your master. All of Jacob's older brothers will be his servants. And God will bless Jacob by giving a lot of grain and a lot of wine to him. I don't have anything that I'm able to give to you."

38. But Esau said, "Father, please also bless me!" Then Esau started crying.

39. So Isaac said to Esau, "You will live far away from the best land. It will rain a little.

40. You will need your sword to fight many people. And you will be your older brother's slave. But when you want to leave Jacob, you will break his chains."

41. After this time Esau hated Jacob because Isaac blessed Jacob instead of him. Esau thought, "My father will die soon. Then I'll kill Jacob."

42. But Rebekah found out that Esau wanted to kill Jacob. So she called Jacob and said to him, "Your older brother named Esau is planning to kill you.

43. My son, go to my older brother named Laban who is living in Haran. Immediately leave!

44. Stay with Laban until your older brother stops being angry.

45. Your older brother will always not be angry with you. He'll forget that you caused your father to bless you. Then I'll send a servant who will bring you here. I don't want my husband or my son to die on the same day!"

46. Later Rebekah said to Isaac, "I don't like those female Hittites. If Jacob marries a female Hittite who lives here, I'll die."

Chapter 28

1. Title: Isaac sends Jacob to Laban to marry his one daughter. Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him. And Isaac said to Jacob, "You must not marry a woman who is from Canaan.

2. Go to the house of your mother's father named Bethuel. Bethuel's house is in northwest Mesopotamia. Your mother's older brother named Laban lives in that house. Marry Laban's one daughter.

3. I pray that God will bless you. God will cause you to have many children. Your descendants will become many nations.

4. God will bless you and the descendants you like he blessed Abraham. God will give this land to you and your descendants. We are foreigners that live in this land. But God gave this land to Abraham.”
5. So Isaac sent Jacob to Rebekah's older brother named Laban who lived in northwest Mesopotamia. Bethuel was the father of Laban and Rebekah. And Rebekah was the mother of Jacob and Esau.
6. Later Esau found out that Isaac blessed Jacob again and that he sent Jacob to northwest Mesopotamia to marry a woman who lived there. Esau also found out that Isaac told Jacob to not marry a woman who was from Canaan.
7. And Esau also found out that Jacob obeyed the father of him and his mother. Jacob went to northwest Mesopotamia.
8. Then Esau realized that his father named Isaac didn't want his sons to marry women who were from Canaan.
9. At that time Esau already had several wives. But after Esau knew that his father didn't like the women who were from Canaan, he went to Abraham's son named Ishmael. And Ishmael allowed Esau to marry his daughter named Mahalath. Mahalath was Nebaioth's sister.
10. Title: Jacob has a dream at Bethel. One day Jacob left Beersheba and started traveling to Haran.
11. After the sun set, on one day Jacob decided to stop walking. Then he lay down and put his head on that stone. And he started sleeping.
12. While Jacob slept, he dreamed that he saw a ladder. That ladder was near Jacob and was very tall. The top of that ladder was in heaven. And Jacob saw God's angels walking up that ladder heaven. And he also saw God's angels walking down that ladder earth.
13. Then Jacob saw Yahweh standing above the ladder. And Yahweh said to Jacob, “I'm Yahweh. I'm the God of your grandfather named Abraham and am Isaac's God. I'll give you and your descendants this land where you're sleeping.
14. There are many pieces of dust on the earth. The number of your descendants will be like the number of pieces of dust. Your descendants will live in all places that are on the earth. They will live in the western region, in the eastern region, in the northern region, and in the southern region. And all of the families that live on the earth will be blessed through you and through your descendants.
15. I'm with you and will always protect you. And I will cause you to return to this land. I won't leave you. I'll certainly do all of these things.”
16. Then Jacob woke up and said to himself, “Yahweh certainly is here. But I didn't know that Yahweh was here.”
17. Then Jacob was afraid and said, “I'm afraid of this place! This place certainly is God's house and is the gate of heaven.”

18. In the morning Jacob made a pillar with the stone that he slept on. Then he poured olive oil on that pillar.

19. Before that time people called that city 'Luz'. But Jacob named that city Bethel. Footnote: Bethel means 'God's house'.

20. Then Jacob said to himself, "I want God to be with me. And while I'll be traveling to northwest Mesopotamia, I want God to protect me. And I want God to give food and clothes to me.

21. Then I'll be able to return to my father's house. If Yahweh does these things, he'll be my God.

22. Then this pillar will be God's house. And I will give Yahweh one tenth of the things that he'll give to me."

Chapter 29

1. Title: Jacob travels to northwest Mesopotamia. Then Jacob continued traveling and arrived in the eastern region.

2. Jacob saw a well that was in a field while he was in that region. And three herds of sheep were lying near that well because they drank water that was in there. The people who lived there covered the top of that well with a big stone.

3. When the sheep came near the well, the shepherds moved the stone so that they could give water to them. After the shepherds finished giving water to the sheep, they put the stone on the top of the well again.

4. One day Jacob said to the shepherds who were near the well, "My friends, where do you live?" The shepherds answered Jacob, "We live in Haran."

5. Then Jacob asked, "Do you know the grandson of Nahor named Laban?" The shepherds answered, "Yes. We know Laban."

6. Then Jacob asked, "Is Laban healthy?" The shepherds answered, "Laban is healthy. Laban's daughter named Rachel is bringing his sheep to this well now."

7. Jacob said, "The time is 2 pm. Later you will gather the sheep to protect them during the night. But you should give water to the sheep now and then allow them to return to the place where they eat grass."

8. But the shepherds said, "We won't give water to the sheep until they are at the well. Then we will move the stone from the top of the well so that we could give water to the sheep."

9. While Jacob was talking to the shepherds, Rachel brought her father's sheep to this well. She took care of her father's sheep.

10. After Jacob saw Laban's daughter named Rachel and his sheep, he went to the well. And he moved the stone from the top of the well and gave water to Laban's sheep. Laban was the older brother of Jacob's mother named Rebekah.

11. Then Jacob greeted Rachel. He was very happy.

12. Jacob told Rachel that he was her father's relative and that he was Rebekah's son. So Rachel ran to her house and told her father about Jacob.

13. After Laban heard that his older sister's son named Jacob was at the well, Laban ran to Jacob. Then Laban hugged Jacob and kissed him. Then Laban brought Jacob to his house. Then Jacob told Laban about his family and all of the things that his family had done.

14. Then Laban said to Jacob, "You're my relative. I'm very happy because you came to my house ! Then Jacob lived in Laban's house.

15. Title: Laban tricks Jacob. After Jacob lived for one month with Laban, Laban said to him, "You're my relative. But I should pay you because you're working for me. How much money do you want me to pay to you?"

16. At that time Laban had two daughters. The older daughter was Leah. And the younger daughter was Rachel.

17. Leah was not beautiful. But Rachel was very beautiful.

18. And Jacob loved Rachel. So he said to Laban, "If you allow me to marry your daughter named Rachel, I'll work for you for seven years."

19. Laban said, "Yes. I want you to marry Rachel. I don't want Rachel to marry another man. So stay with me. Work for me for seven years. Then I'll allow you to marry Rachel.

20. So Jacob worked for Laban for seven years because he wanted to marry Rachel. But those seven years were like seven days because Jacob loved Rachel much.

21. After Jacob worked for seven years, he said to Laban, "You promised me that after I worked for you for seven years, I would marry Rachel. Therefore allow me to marry Rachel now."

22. So Laban had a feast for all of the people who lived there.

23. But that night Laban brought his daughter named Leah to Jacob. But Jacob thought that Laban brought Rachel to him. So that night Jacob slept with Leah.

24. Laban also gave his female slave named Zilpah to Leah.

25. In the morning Jacob found out that he slept with Leah. Then he said to Laban, "You treated me badly! I worked hard for you so that I could marry Rachel! Why did you trick me?"

26. Then Laban said to Jacob, "The people who live here don't allow the younger daughter before the older daughter marries a man, to marry a man.

27. You should stay for one week with Leah. Then I'll allow you to also marry Rachel. But you have to work for me for seven more years."

28. So Jacob stayed for one week with Leah. Then Laban allowed Jacob to marry his daughter named Rachel.

29. Laban also gave his female slave named Bilhah to Rachel.

30. Then Jacob slept with Rachel. He loved Rachel more than he loved Leah. Then he worked for Laban for seven more years.

31. Title: Jacob has children. Yahweh allowed Leah to have children because he knew that Jacob loved Rachel more than he loved Leah. But he didn't allow Rachel to have children.

32. So Leah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named this son Reuben. She said, "Yahweh sees that I'm sad. My husband will certainly love me now." Footnote: Reuben means 'Yahweh sees that I'm sad'.

33. Later Leah became pregnant again and gave birth to another son. She named this son Simeon. She said, "Yahweh heard that Jacob doesn't love me. Therefore Yahweh gave this son to me." Footnote: Simeon means 'Yahweh heard'.

34. Later Leah became pregnant again and gave birth to another son. She named this son Levi. She said, "My husband will certainly stay close to me now because I gave three sons to him." Footnote: Levi means 'close'.

35. Then Leah gives birth to another son. She named this son Judah. She said, "I'll praise Yahweh now." At that time she was not able to become pregnant again. Footnote: Judah means 'to praise'.

Chapter 30

1. Title: Jacob has more sons. Rachel was jealous of her older sister named Leah because she gave birth to children for Jacob. So one day Rachel said to Jacob, "If you don't give children to me, I'll die!"

2. Then Jacob became angry with Rachel and said to her, "I'm not able to give children to you! Only God is able to give children to you. He prevented you from becoming pregnant."

3. Then Rachel said to Jacob, "Sleep with my female slave named Bilhah. Then Bilhah will give birth to a child for me. Then I'll have a family through Bilhah."

4. So Rachel sent her female slave named Bilhah to Jacob. And Jacob slept with Bilhah.

5. Then Bilhah became pregnant and gave birth to a son for Jacob.
6. Then Rachel said, "God judged me and decided that I'm innocent. God answered my prayer by giving a son to me." So Rachel named that child Dan. Dan means 'to judge'.
7. Later Bilhah became pregnant again and gave birth to another son for Jacob.
8. Then Rachel said, "I struggled with my older sister and defeated her." So Rachel named that child Naphtali. Footnote: Naphtali means 'to struggle'.
9. Then Leah sent her female slave named Zilpah to Jacob because Leah was not able to become pregnant again. And Jacob slept with Zilpah.
10. Then Zilpah gave birth to a son.
11. And Leah said, "I'm lucky." So she named that child Gad. Footnote: Gad means 'lucky'.
12. Later Zilpah gave birth to another son.
13. So Leah said, "I'm very happy! Women will now see that I'm happy." So Leah named that child Asher. Footnote: Asher means 'happy'.
14. Later when wheat was harvested, Reuben went to a field. And he found some mandrake plants and brought them to his mother named Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, "Please give me some mandrake plants that your son found."
15. But Leah said, "You took my husband away from me. You now want to take my son's mandrake plants away from me!" But Rachel said to Leah, "If you give your son's mandrake plants to me, you may sleep with Jacob tonight." So Leah gave the mandrake plants to Rachel.
16. That evening after Jacob returned from the field, Leah said to him, "You have to sleep with me tonight because I paid to Rachel the mandrake plants that my son found." So that night Jacob slept with Leah.
17. Then God answered Leah's prayer. And Leah became pregnant again. She gave birth to a fifth son.
18. Then Leah said, "God gave me the son that I bought because I gave my female slave to my husband." So she named this son Issachar. Footnote: Issachar means 'to pay'.
19. Later Leah became pregnant again and gave birth to a sixth son.
20. Leah said, "God gave a good gift to me. Jacob will certainly honor me now because I gave birth to six sons for him." So Leah named this son Zebulun. Footnote: Zebulun means 'to honor'.
21. Later Leah gave birth to a daughter and named her Dinah.
22. Then God was merciful to Rachel and answered her prayer. He allowed Rachel to become pregnant.

23. Then Rachel gave birth to a son and said, "I praise God. I was ashamed because I didn't have a son. But God gave a son to me now.

24. And Rachel also said, "I pray that Yahweh will give another son to me." And she named her son Joseph. Footnote: Joseph means 'another'.

25. Title: Jacob tricks Laban. After Rachel gave birth to Joseph, Jacob said to Laban, "Allow me to return to my house that is in my country.

26. Allow me to take my wives and my children. I worked hard for you for many years. So you have to allow me to leave now."

27. Then Laban said to Jacob, "If I pleased you, stay here. Yahweh blessed me because you worked for me.

28. If you continue working for me, I'll give you anything that you want."

29. Jacob said to Laban, "You know that I worked hard for you. You have many sheep now because I took care of them.

30. Before I came here, you had few things. But you have many things now. Yahweh blessed you while I worked for you. But I now want to obtain sheep and goats for my family.

31. So Laban asked Jacob, "What should I give to you?" Jacob answered Laban, "Don't give anything to me. But if you allow me to do one thing, I'll stay here. And I will continue taking care of your sheep.

32. Allow me to examine all of your sheep. I'll take away all of the sheep that have black marks. And I will take away all of the lambs that are black. And I will take away all of the goats that have black marks. Those animals will belong to me.

33. Later you will know that I didn't steal a sheep or a goat from you. All of my goats will have black marks. And all of my lambs will be black.

34. Then Laban said to Jacob, "I agree to give you all of the goats that have black marks, all of the black lambs, and all of the sheep that have black marks."

35. But that day Laban tried to cheat Jacob. Laban took all of the goats that had black marks and all of the black sheep away. He told his sons that they will take care of those animals.

36. Then Laban sent his sons and those animals to a different place. Laban's sons walked there for three days. And Laban told Jacob to take care of the animals that still were near his house.

37. But then Jacob tricked Laban. Jacob cut green branches from the poplar trees, the almond trees, and the other trees and took the bark away from them so that white marks would appear.

38. Then when the animals came to the wells, Jacob put those branches in front of them. When the animals came to the wells to drink water, they also mated with each other.

39. So the animals mated with each other in front of the branches that had white marks. Then the female sheep and the female goats gave birth to young animals that had marks.

40. Then Jacob separated these young animals from Laban's animals. Then he prevented his animals from mating with Laban's animals that had black marks and his animals that were black.

41. Jacob also did the following thing. When the strong animals mated with each other, he put the branches in front of them.

42. But when the weak animals mated with each other, Jacob didn't put the branches in front of them. So the young animals that the weak animals gave birth to belonged to Laban. And the young animals that the strong animals gave birth to belonged to Jacob.

43. So Jacob became very rich. He had many sheep, many goats, male servants, female servants, camels, and donkeys.

Chapter 31

1. Title: Jacob leaves Laban. One day Jacob heard Laban's sons talking to each other. The sons said, "Jacob took all of the things that our father owned. So Jacob became rich."

2. And Jacob noticed that Laban stopped treating him kindly.

3. Then Yahweh said to Jacob, "Return to the land where your ancestors lived. Then I'll be with you."

4. So Jacob told Rachel and Leah to meet him in the field where his animals were.

5. Then Jacob said to Rachel and Leah, "Your father stopped treating me kindly. But my father's God is with me.

6. You know that I worked hard for your father.

7. But your father cheated me. Your father promised me that he would give many things to me. But your father changed his mind ten times. But God didn't allow your father to hurt me.

8. One day Laban said to me, "After animals give birth to their babies, I'll give you all of the babies that have black marks." After Laban said those words, the animals gave birth to babies that have black marks. But then Laban said, "After animals give birth to their babies, I'll give you all of the babies that have stripes. Then all of the animals gave birth to babies that have stripes.

9. So God took the animals away from your father and gave them to me.

10. One day the animals were mating with each other. I dreamed that only male goats that had black marks or stripes mated with the female goats.

11. While I was dreaming, God's angel came to me. That angel said to me, "Jacob." And I said to that angel, "Yes."

12. Then that angel said, "Look at the goats. Only the male goats that have black marks or stripes mate with the female goats. So I'll give all of Laban's animals to you. I know that Laban treated you badly. Therefore I'll be helping you."

13. When you poured olive oil on the pillar that is at Bethel, I'm God who appeared to you. At that time you promised me that I would be your God. I now want you to leave this place. Return to the land where you were born."

14. Then Rachel and Leah said to Jacob, "When our father dies, he won't give anything to us."

15. Our father treats us like he treats foreigners. He sold us to you. Then our father spent all of the money that you gave to him."

16. God took this money and all of the animals away from our father. That money and those animals belong to us and our children now. So obey God by taking us to your house that is in Canaan."

17. So Jacob put his children and his wives on camels."

18. Then Jacob and his family started traveling to the house of his father named Isaac who lived in Canaan. All of the animals that Jacob owned walked in front of them. Jacob brought all of the things that he had obtained while he lived in northwest Mesopotamia."

19. But before Rachel left with Jacob, she stole the idols that belonged to Laban. At that time Laban was cutting off his sheep's hairs."

20. But Jacob didn't tell Laban that he was leaving. So Jacob tricked Laban."

21. So Jacob and his family left quickly. They traveled across Euphrates. Then they traveled toward the mountains that were in Gilead."

22. Three days later Laban found out that Jacob and his family left."

23. So Laban called his relatives. Then they started chasing Jacob. Seven days later they found Jacob in the mountains that were in Gilead."

24. But before Laban found Jacob, God spoke to him in a dream. God said, "Don't treat Jacob badly. If you hurt Jacob, I'll punish you."

25. Title: Laban searches for his idols. One day later Laban found Jacob. Jacob had set his tents up at a place that is in the mountains that are in Gilead. So Laban and his relatives set their tents up near Jacob."

26. Then Laban went to Jacob and said to him, "You tricked me! You stole my daughters like a soldier captures a prisoner during a war!"

27. Why did you run from me? Why did you trick me? Why didn't you tell me that you will leave? If you had told me that you will leave, I would have had a feast for you. If you had told me that you will leave, we would have listened to people who play tambourine and harps.

28. But you didn't allow me to say goodbye to my grandchildren and my daughters. You were very foolish!

29. I'm able to treat you badly. But yesterday your father's God spoke to me. God warned me that I must not treat you badly.

30. I know that you want to return to your house. But you should not have stolen my idols.”

31. Then Jacob said to Laban, “I didn't tell you that I was leaving because I didn't want you to take your daughters away.

32. But I didn't steal your idols. If you find your idols here, I'll kill the person who stole them! Your relatives will witness us not stealing anything that belongs to you. You may search for anything that belongs to you. And if you find anything that belongs to you, take it.” But Jacob didn't know that Rachel stole Laban's idols.

33. So Laban searched for the idols in Jacob's tent, in Leah's tent, and in the tent where the two female slaves were. But he didn't find the idols. After Laban left Leah's tent, he entered Rachel's tent.

34. Rachel had hidden the idols inside her saddle and was sitting on it. Then Laban searched for the idols in Rachel's tent. But he didn't find the idols in Rachel's tent.

35. Then Rachel said to her father named Laban, “Father, don't be angry with me. I'm not able to stand up because I'm menstruating.” So Laban searched for the idols in all of Jacob's tents. But he didn't find his idols.

36. Then Jacob became very angry and shouted, “I didn't do any bad thing! I didn't break a law. You should not be chasing me!

37. You looked at all of the things that I own. But you didn't find anything that belongs to you. If you found anything that belongs to you, show it to us now. Put that thing in front of your relatives and in front of my relatives now. Our relatives will know that I didn't steal anything from you.

38. I worked for you for twenty years. All of the animal's babies lived while I worked for you. And I didn't eat any of your rams.

39. When a wild animal killed your animal, I didn't bring to you the animal that died. Instead I gave you an animal that belonged to me. But when your animals were stolen, you forced me to pay you for them.

40. During the day I became weak because it was hot. And during the night I didn't sleep because it was cold.

41. I worked for you for twenty years like a slave works for his master. I worked for you for 14 years to obtain your two daughters. Then I worked for you for six years to obtain my animals. You changed your mind ten times while I worked for you. One day you said that you will pay this thing to me. But the next day you said that you will pay a different thing to me.

42. But the God of my father, Abraham, and Isaac was with me. If God had not been with me, you would have forced me to leave with no things. But God saw that you treated me badly. And God saw that I worked hard. So yesterday God rebuked you.”

43. Title: Laban allows Jacob to leave. Then Laban said to Jacob, “These women are my daughters. These women's children belong to me. And these animals belong to me. All of the things that are here belong to me. But I'm not able to keep my daughters and their children.

44. Therefore I'll allow you to leave. We will make a treaty and gather stones to remind us that I allowed you to return to your father with my daughters and that you promised us that you would treat them kindly.”

45. So Jacob found a big stone.

46. And Jacob told his relatives to put other stones on it. Then Jacob and Laban ate beside those stones.

47. Laban called that place ‘Jegarsahadutha’. But Jacob called that place ‘Galeed’. Footnote: Jegarsahadutha means ‘stones that will remind us’. Footnote: And Galeed means ‘stones that will remind us’.

48. Then Laban said to Jacob, “These stones will remind us that I allowed you to leave and that you promised me that you would treat my daughters kindly.”

49. People also called that place ‘Mizpah’ because Laban said, “After you leave, Yahweh will watch us.” Footnote: Mizpah means ‘to watch’.

50. Remember that God will watch you. If you hurt my daughters, or if you marry other women, God will know that you did these evil things.

51. We have gathered these stones here.

52. These stones will remind us that I must not pass them to hurt you and that you must not pass them to hurt me.

53. If we lie to each other, the God of Abraham, Nahor, and Abraham's ancestors will punish us.” So Jacob promised Laban in the name of God, whom his father named Isaac worshiped, that Jacob would do all of these things.

54. Then Jacob killed an animal and sacrificed him on that mountain. Then Jacob, Laban, and their relatives ate a meal. After Jacob and Laban finished eating that meal, they stayed on the mountain during the night.

55. Then in the morning Laban kissed his grandchildren and his daughters early and blessed them. Then he left Jacob and returned to his house.

Chapter 32

1. Title: Jacob meets Esau. After Jacob left that place, God's angels met him.

2. When Jacob saw those angels, he said, "This place is God's camp!" So he named that place Mahanaim. Footnote: Mahanaim means 'the two camps'.

3. At that time Jacob's older brother named Esau was living in the region named Seir, which was in the country named Edom. So Jacob sent some messengers to Esau.

4. Jacob said to these messengers, "Say to my master named Esau, "Your servant named Jacob says, "I lived for twenty years with Laban.

5. I have cattle, donkeys, sheep, goats, male servants, and female servants. I sent these messengers to you to ask you to treat us kindly."""

6. After these messengers spoke to Esau, they returned to Jacob. And they said to Jacob, "We went to your older brother named Esau. Esau is coming here now to meet you. And 400 men are coming with Esau."

7. Then Jacob became very afraid. He thought that Esau wanted to kill him. So Jacob divided into two groups the people who were with him and the animals that were with him.

8. Jacob thought, "If Esau attacks one group, the other group will be able to run from him."

9. Then Jacob prayed to God, "God of my ancestor named Abraham and of my father named Isaac, you told me to return to my country and my family. Yahweh, you said that you will treat me well.

10. You were kind to me. I don't deserve to have all of the things that you gave to me. When I traveled across the Jordan river twenty years ago, I had only a stick that I used to help me walk. But I own many animals and many servants now. I have two groups of people and have two groups of animals.

11. Please protect me from my older brother named Esau. I'm afraid that Esau will kill me and my people. And Esau might kill the mothers and the children who are with me.

12. You said to me, "I'll treat you kindly. The number of your descendants will be like the number of the grains of sand that is near the sea. You won't be able to count your descendants.""

13. Then Jacob stayed there during the night and gathered some animals to give them to Esau.

14. Jacob gathered 200 female goats, twenty male goats, 200 female sheep, and twenty rams.

15. Jacob also gathered thirty female camels, their babies, forty cows, ten bulls, twenty female donkeys, and ten male donkeys.

16. Jacob planned to give all of these animals to Esau. Jacob also sent a servant with each group of animals and said to them, "Walk in front of me. Walk with these animals so that there could be one half mile between the groups."

17. Then Jacob said to the first servant, "My older brother named Esau will ask you, "Who are you? Where are you going? To whom do these animals belong?"

18. Then answer Esau, "These animals belong to your servant named Jacob. My master named Esau, Jacob is giving these animals to you. Tomorrow Jacob will arrive here."

19. Then Jacob told the other servants to say the same words to Esau.

20. Then Jacob said to these servants, "Also say to Esau, "Tomorrow your servant named Jacob will arrive here."" Jacob thought, "If I send these gifts to Esau, he might forgive me. Then Esau might treat me kindly."

21. So Jacob sent all of these gifts to Esau. But that night Jacob stayed in the camp.

22. Title: Jacob fights God. During the night Jacob went across a river named Jabbok. He took his two wives, his two female slaves, and his 11 sons.

23. Then Jacob returned to the camp and told his servant to take across the river all of his things that still were in the camp.

24. So Jacob was alone in the camp. Then a man came to the camp. He fought Jacob until the sun rose.

25. That man realized that he was not able to defeat Jacob. So he touched Jacob's hip so that he would not be able to walk.

26. Then the man said to Jacob, "Allow me to go. The sun is rising." But Jacob said to the man, "After you bless me, I'll allow you to go."

27. The man said to Jacob, "What is your name?" And Jacob answered, "My name is Jacob."

28. Then the man said to Jacob, "Your name won't be Jacob. Your name will be Israel because you fought God and people. And you defeated God and people." Footnote: Israel means 'the man fights God'.

29. Then Jacob asked the man, "What is your name?" But the man said to Jacob, "Why do you want to know my name?" Then the man blessed Jacob.

30. So Jacob named that place 'Peniel' and said to himself, "I saw God's face. But I didn't die." Footnote: Peniel means 'God's face'.

31. Then the sun rose. And Jacob left that place. But he limped because God touched his hip.

32. Therefore today the Israelites don't eat the muscle that is on an animal's hip because God touched Jacob's hip.

Chapter 33

1. Title: Jacob meets Esau. Then Jacob saw Esau walking toward him. And 400 men were with Esau. So Jacob divided his wives and his children into three groups.

2. Jacob put the female slaves and their children in the first group. Then he put Leah and her children in the second group and put Rachel and Joseph in the third group.

3. Jacob walked in front of these three groups and bowed to Esau seven times while he walked toward his older brother.

4. Then Esau ran to Jacob and hugged him. Then Esau kissed Jacob. And Esau and Jacob cried.

5. When Esau saw the women and children, he asked Jacob, "Who are they?" Jacob answered Esau, "God gave these children to me. My master, God blessed me."

6. Then the two female slaves and their children came to Esau and bowed to him.

7. Then Leah and her children also came to Esau and bowed to him. Then Joseph and Rachel came to Esau and bowed to him.

8. Then Esau said to Jacob, "While I was coming here, I met many of your servants and many of your animals. Why did you send those servants and those animals to me?" And Jacob answered Esau, "My master, I'm giving those animals to you to please you."

9. But Esau said, "My younger brother, I already have enough animals. Keep those animals."

10. But Jacob said, "No! If I please you, accept the gift that I'm giving to you. I'm very happy because I see you again. Your face is like God's face because when you saw me, you were happy.

11. So I beg you to accept the gift that I'm giving to you. God blessed me. I don't need all of those animals." So Esau accepted the gift because Jacob begged him.

12. Then Esau said, "We should go to my house that is in Edom. I'll travel with you."

13. But Jacob said to Esau, "My master, you know that these children are weak. And I have to travel with my animals and with their babies slowly. If I force these animals to walk quickly, they will die.

14. Therefore return to your house. I'll follow you slowly. My master, I'll meet you in Edom."

15. But Esau said, "I'll leave my slaves here to help you." But Jacob said, "No. My master, I want only to please you."

16. So that day Esau started returning to Edom.

17. But Jacob went to Succoth and built a house for his family. And he built shelters for his animals. So the people call that place 'Succoth'. Footnote: Succoth means 'shelters'.

18. So Jacob traveled from northwest Mesopotamia to Canaan. Later he went to a city named Shechem. He stayed at a place that was east of that city.

19. Jacob bought from the sons of Hamor, who was Shechem's father, for one hundred pieces of silver the field where he stayed.

20. Then Jacob built an altar there and named that altar the God of Israel.

Chapter 34

1. Title: Shechem attacks Dinah. One day the daughter of Leah and Jacob named Dinah decided to visit certain women who lived in that region.

2. While Dinah was walking to those women, Hamor's son named Shechem saw her. Footnote: Hamor was the ruler of the Hivites. Then Shechem forced Dinah to sleep with him.

3. Then Shechem loved Dinah and spoke kindly to her.

4. And Shechem brought Dinah to his house. After Shechem returned to his house, he said to his father named Hamor, "Please talk to Dinah's father so that I could marry her."

5. A few days later Jacob found out that Shechem forced Dinah to sleep with him. But Jacob waited for his sons to return to him because they were in the field with the cattle.

6. While Jacob was waiting for his sons, Shechem's father named Hamor came to Jacob to talk to him.

7. But while Jacob's sons were in the field, they found out that Shechem forced Dinah to sleep with him. Then they returned to Jacob's house quickly. They were very angry because Shechem slept with their younger sister. They thought that Shechem should not have forced Dinah to sleep with him.

8. When Hamor saw Dinah's older brothers, he said to them, "My son named Shechem loves Dinah much. Please allow Shechem to marry Dinah.

9. Your people may marry my people. Your women may marry my men. And my women may marry your men.

10. You may live in this region with us. And you may own land. And you may trade things with us."

11. Then Shechem also talked to Dinah's father and her older brothers. Shechem said, "I'll give anything to you.

12. Ask me for something that you want. If you allow me to marry Dinah, I'll give that thing to you. I'll give a very expensive gift to you."

13. Then Jacob's sons lied to Shechem and his father because Shechem attacked Dinah.

14. Jacob's sons said to Shechem, "We won't allow you to marry our younger sister now because you were not circumcised. Our God commanded us and our men they and we to be circumcised.

15. But if all of the men who live in your town are circumcised, we will allow you to marry Dinah.

16. Then the men who live in your town may marry our women. And our men may marry the women who live in your town. Then we will live in your land. And our people and your people will become one nation.

17. But if you refuse you to be circumcised, we will take our younger sister from you. And we will leave you."

18. Then Hamor and Shechem agreed that all of the men who live in that town should be circumcised.

19. So Shechem decided to circumcise himself because he loved Jacob's daughter. The people who lived in that city respected Shechem much.

20. So Hamor and Shechem went to the city gate. And Shechem spoke to the men who lived in that city.

21. Shechem said to those men, "These people want to become our friends. Therefore allow these people to live in our land. There is a lot of land. And allow these people to trade their things for our things with us. Then we will marry these people's women. And these people will marry our women.

22. These people asked us we to be circumcised like they were circumcised. After we are circumcised, they will live in our land. And these people and we will become one nation.

23. If we are circumcised, these people's animals and their land will belong to us. Therefore we should be circumcised. Then these people will stay in our land."

24. All of the men who came to the city gate heard Shechem speaking. Then they agreed with Hamor and Shechem and were circumcised.

25. Three days later the men still were hurting because they were circumcised. A man named Simeon and a man named Levi were Jacob's two sons. Simeon and Levi were Dinah's older brothers. They picked their swords up. Then they went to that town. Then they attacked all of the men who lived in that city. They killed all of those men.

26. Simeon and Levi killed Hamor and his son named Shechem. Then they took Dinah from Shechem's house. Then Simeon, Levi, and Dinah left this city.

27. Then Jacob's sons stole all of the things that were in that city because Shechem forced Dinah to sleep with him.

28. So Dinah's older brothers stole all of the animals that were in the fields and all of the things that were in that city.

29. The older brothers took all of the valuable things that people owned. And they also took the women, the children, and all of the things that were in the houses.

30. Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, "You should not have killed those people. The Canaanites and the Perizzites who live in this land will hate me because you killed these people. If the Canaanites and Perizzites attack us, they will kill us."

31. But the older brothers said to Jacob, "We won't allow these people to treat our younger sister like they treat a prostitute."

Chapter 35

1. Title: Jacob moves to Bethel. One day God said to Jacob, "Go to the city named Bethel and live there. Make an altar for me at Bethel because while you were running from your older brother named Esau, I appeared to you there."

2. So Jacob said to his family and all of the people who were with him, "Destroy the idols that you made. Foreigners worship those idols! Clean yourselves. Then put clean clothes on."

3. Then we will return from here to Bethel and build an altar for God at Bethel because when I had trouble, he helped me. God was with me in each place where I was.

4. So the people gave all of the idols to Jacob and gave their earrings to him. Then Jacob buried those idols and those earrings under a big tree that was near the city named Shechem.

5. Then Jacob and his sons left that place. But God caused the people who lived near there to be afraid of Jacob. Therefore those people didn't pursue Jacob.

6. Then Jacob and all of the people who were with him went to a city named Luz. People who are living today call Luz 'Bethel'. Luz is in Canaan.

7. Jacob built an altar in Luz and named that place Bethel because while he was running from his older brother, God appeared to Jacob there. Footnote: Bethel means 'God's house'.

8. At that time Rebekah's nurse named Deborah died. So Jacob buried Deborah's body under an oak tree that was at Bethel. Then people named that place the oak trees that they cried at.

9. Title: God names Jacob Israel. After Jacob returned from northwest Mesopotamia to Bethel, God appeared to him again. And God blessed Jacob.

10. Then God said to Jacob, "Your name is Jacob. But people won't call you 'Jacob'. Your new name is Israel." So God called Jacob 'Israel'.
11. Then God said to Israel, "I'm God Almighty. Have many children. Become a big nation. You will be many nations' father and many kings' father.
12. I'll give you and your descendants the same land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac."
13. Then God left Israel.
14. Jacob put a big stone at the place where God talked to him. And he poured a drink offering on that stone. And Israel also poured expensive olive oil on that stone.
15. Then Jacob named Bethel that place where God talked to him.
16. Title: After Rachel gives birth to Benjamin, she dies. Then Israel and the people who were with him left Bethel. Before Israel arrived at Ephrathah, Rachel started giving birth to a baby.
17. But while Rachel was giving birth to the baby, she had a lot of trouble. So Rachel's nurse said to her, "Don't be afraid. You're giving birth to another son."
18. Then Rachel gave birth to a son. But then she immediately died. Before Rachel died, she named the boy my pain's Son. But Jacob named the boy Benjamin. Footnote: Benjamin means 'my right hand's son'.
19. Israel buried Rachel's body near the road. He was traveling to Ephrathah on that road. People also called Ephrathah 'Bethlehem'.
20. Jacob put a big stone on Rachel's grave to honor her. That stone still is on Rachel's grave.
21. Then Israel started traveling again. One day he camped at a place that was near Migdal-Eder.
22. While Israel was living there, Reuben slept with his female slave named Bilhah. And Israel found out that Reuben slept with Bilhah. Israel had twelve sons.
23. Israel and Leah had six sons. Reuben was Israel's first son. Then Israel had sons named Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun.
24. Israel and Rachel had two sons named Joseph and Benjamin.
25. Israel and Rachel's female slave named Bilhah had two sons named Dan and Naphtali.
26. And Israel and Leah's female slave named Zilpah had two sons named Gad and Asher. Those children are Jacob's sons who were born in northwest Mesopotamia.
27. Jacob went to his father named Isaac, who was at Mamre, which was near Hebron. Earlier Abraham and Isaac had lived in Hebron.
28. Isaac lived for 180 years.

29. Then Isaac died. At that time he was very old. And Isaac's sons named Esau and Jacob buried Isaac's body.

Chapter 36

1. Title: Esau has a family. The following people are Esau's wives and his sons. Esau was also called 'Edom' by people.
2. Esau married three women who were from Canaan. He married Adah, who was the daughter of Elon, who was a Hittite. And he also married Oholibamah, who was Anah's daughter. Anah was the son of Zibeon, who was a Hivite.
3. And Esau also married Basemath, who was Ishmael's daughter. Basemath was Nebaioth's older sister.
4. Adah gave birth to Eliphaz for Esau. And Basemath gave birth to Reuel.
5. And Oholibamah gave birth to Jeush, Jalam, and Korah. These children were Esau's sons who were birthed by his wives in the land of Canaan.
6. One day Esau took his wives, his sons, his daughters, all of the people who lived with him, his animals, and all of the things that he owned to a place that was far from his younger brother named Jacob. Esau and his family moved there.
7. Esau and Jacob had many animals. These animals were not able to find enough food in Canaan because there were too many of them. The land where Esau and Jacob lived was too small.
8. So Esau moved to the hills that were in Edom. He was also called 'Edom' by people.
9. The following people are Esau's descendants. Esau is the ancestor of the Edomites, who lived in the hills that were in Edom.
10. Eliphaz was the son of Adah and Esau. And Reuel was the son of Basemath and Esau.
11. Eliphaz had five sons named Teman, Omar, Zepho, Gatam, and Kenaz.
12. Eliphaz also had a female slave named Timna. Timna gave birth to Amalek for Eliphaz. These children were the grandsons of Esau and Adah.
13. Reuel had four sons named Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah. These boys were the grandsons of Esau and of his wife named Basemath.
14. Esau's third wife was a woman named Oholibamah. Oholibamah was Anah's daughter. Anah was Zibeon's son. Oholibamah gave birth to Jeush, Jalam, and Korah.

15. The leaders of the Edomites were Esau's descendants. The following men were the leaders of the people who were Esau's descendants. Esau's first son was Eliphaz. Teman, Omar, Zepho, Kenaz, Korah, Gatam, and Amalek were the leaders who were Eliphaz's sons.
16. These men were the leaders who were Eliphaz's sons and who lived in Edom. These people were Adah's grandsons.
17. Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah were the leaders who were sons of Esau's son named Reuel. These men were the leaders who were Reuel's sons and lived in Edom. They were the grandsons of Esau's wife named Basemath.
18. Esau's wife named Oholibamah gave birth to the leaders named Jeush, Jalam, and Korah. These men were the leaders who were the sons of Esau's wife named Oholibamah. Oholibamah was Anah's daughter.
19. These people were leaders of the Edomites. They were the sons of Esau, who was also called 'Edom' by people.
20. Seir was a Horite who lived in Canaan. Seir had sons named Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, and Anah.
21. Seir also had sons named Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan. Seir's sons were the leaders of the Horites, who lived in Edom.
22. Lotan had sons named Hori and Homam. Timna was Lotan's older sister.
23. Shobal had sons named Alvan, Manahath, Ebal, Shepho, and Onam.
24. Zibeon had sons named Aiah and Anah. While Anah was taking care of his father's donkeys, he found hot springs that were in the desert.
25. Anah had a son named Dishon and a daughter named Oholibamah.
26. Dishon had sons named Hemdan, Eshban, Ithran, and Keran.
27. Ezer had sons named Bilhan, Zaavan, and Akan.
28. Dishan had sons named Uz and Aran.
29. The leaders of the Horites were men named Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, and Anah.
30. Men named Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan also were leaders of the Horites. They were the leaders of the Horites who lived in Edom.
31. Before the Israelites had a king, the following men were the kings who ruled the people who lived in Edom.
32. Bela, who was Beor's son, was the king of Edom. Bela was born in a city named Dinhabah.

33. After Bela died, Jobab, who was Zerah's son, became the king. Jobab was born in a city named Bozrah.
34. After Jobab died, Husham became the king. Husham was born in the place where the Temanites lived.
35. After Husham died, Hadad, who was Bedad's son, became king. Bedad had defeated the Midianites in Moab. Hadad was born in a city named Avith.
36. After Hadad died, a man named Samlah became the king. Samlah was born in a city named Masrekah.
37. After Samlah died, a man named Shaul became the king. Shaul was born in a city named Rehoboth, which was near the river named Euphrates.
38. After Shaul died, a man named Baal-Hanan, who was Acbor's son, became the king.
39. After Baal-Hanan, who was Acbor's son, died, a man named Hadad became the king. Hadad was born in a city named Pau. Hadad's wife was a woman named Mehetabel. Mehetabel was Matred's daughter. And Matred was Me-Zahab's daughter.
40. The following men were Esau's descendants. They were the leaders of the Edomites. They were Timna, Alvah, and Jetheth.
41. Oholibamah, Elah, and Pinon also were leaders of the Edomites.
42. And Kenaz, Teman, and Mibzar also were leaders of the Edomites.
43. And Magdiel and Iram also were leaders. These men were the leaders in Edom. Esau was the Edomites' ancestor. The places where these families lived and the man who was the leader of it had the same name.

Chapter 37

1. Title: Joseph has a dream. Jacob lived in Canaan, which was the same country where his father had lived.
2. The following story is about Jacob's family. One day when Joseph was 17 years old, he and his older brothers were taking care of his father's sheep. Joseph's older brothers were the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah. Bilhah and Zilpah were Joseph's father's wives. Rachel, who had died, was Joseph's mother. But while Joseph and his older brothers were taking care of the sheep, Joseph told his father named Jacob that they were acting badly.
3. Jacob loved Joseph very much because when he was old, Joseph was born. So Jacob loved Joseph more than he loved his other sons. One day Jacob made a beautiful robe for Joseph.

4. Joseph's older brothers hated him because Jacob loved Joseph more than he loved them. So they treated Joseph badly.
5. While Joseph was sleeping, on one night he had a dream. After Joseph woke up, he told his older brothers about the dream.
6. Joseph said to his older brothers, "Listen to me. Yesterday I had a dream at night.
7. We were in a field and were tying the wheat that we harvested. Then my wheat stood up. Then your wheat stood around my wheat. Then your wheat bowed to my wheat."
8. Then Joseph's older brothers said, "You won't be our king! You won't rule us!" After Joseph told his older brothers about this dream, they hated him much.
9. Then Joseph had a dream again and also told his older brothers about that dream. He said, "Listen to me. I had a dream again. I saw the sun, moon, and 11 stars bowing to me."
10. Joseph also told his father named Jacob about this dream. But Jacob scolded Joseph. Jacob said to Joseph, "That dream is bad! Your mother, your older brothers, and I won't bow to you!"
11. Joseph's older brothers were jealous of him. But Joseph's father thought about these dreams.
12. One day Joseph's older brothers went to Shechem so that the livestock could eat the grass that was near there.
13. After a few days Jacob said to Joseph, "Go to Shechem where your older brothers are taking care of the livestock." Joseph said, "I'll go to Shechem."
14. Joseph's father said, "Find out whether your older brothers and the livestock are safe or they have problems. Then return to me and tell me about your older brothers." So Joseph's father sent him from the valley of Hebron to Shechem.
15. After Joseph arrived in Shechem, a man saw him wandering in the field. Then the man asked Joseph, "For what are you searching?"
16. Joseph answered, "I'm searching for my older brothers. My older brothers brought our livestock to this region so that they could eat the grass. Did you see my older brothers?"
17. The man answered Joseph, "Your older brothers already left this place. I heard that your older brothers are going to Dothan." So Joseph went to Dothan to search for his older brothers.
18. Title: Joseph becomes a slave. Some of Joseph's older brothers saw him walking toward them. Before Joseph arrived at the place where the older brothers were taking care of the livestock, they planned to kill him.
19. The older brothers said to each other, "The boy who regularly dreams is coming!"

20. We should kill Joseph. Then we will throw Joseph's body into a well. We will tell our father that a wild animal killed Joseph. Then we won't listen to Joseph again. Joseph won't tell us about his dreams again!"

21. But Reuben found out that his younger brothers planned to kill Joseph. Then he wanted to save Joseph. So Reuben said to his younger brothers, "We must not kill Joseph.

22. Throw Joseph into a well that is in the desert. But don't hurt Joseph." Reuben planned later to return to that well. Then he'll save Joseph and send him to his father.

23. After Joseph came to his older brothers, they took off his beautiful robe.

24. Then the older brothers threw Joseph into a well. That well was empty. There was not water in that well.

25. The older brothers ate food while Joseph was in that well. But Reuben was not with the older brothers. While the older brothers were eating food, they saw people who were traveling from Gilead to Egypt. Those people were traveling to Egypt to sell spices, medicine, and myrrh. They were Ishmael and Midian's descendants.

26. Then Judah said to the other older brothers, "We should not kill Joseph.

27. We should sell Joseph to these people. We should not kill Joseph because he is our younger brother." The other older brothers agreed with Judah.

28. So after those people arrived at the well, the older brothers pulled Joseph out of it. And they sold Joseph to those people for 225 grams of silver. Then those people took Joseph to Egypt.

29. Later Reuben returned to that well. Then he saw that Joseph was not in the well. So Reuben tore his clothes because he was very upset about Joseph.

30. Then Reuben went to the other older brothers and said, "The boy is not in the well! What will I do?"

31. Then the older brothers killed a goat and put his blood on Joseph's beautiful robe.

32. Then the older brothers brought the robe to their father and said, "We found this robe. Look at this robe carefully. Does this robe belong to your son?"

33. Jacob looked at the robe. Then he said, "This robe belongs to my son! A wild animal ate Joseph!"

34. Then Jacob was very sad. So he tore his clothes and put on clothes that people wore while they mourn. He was very sad about Joseph for many years.

35. Jacob's sons and his daughters tried to comfort him. But Jacob continued being sad. He said, "I'll be sad about Joseph until I die." So Jacob cried because his son named Joseph died.

36. But the people who bought Joseph took him to Egypt. Then they sold Joseph to a man named Potiphar. Potiphar was an officer who worked for the king of Egypt. Potiphar was the captain of the soldiers who guarded the king's palace.

Chapter 38

1. Title: Tamar tricks Judah. Later Judah left his brothers. Then he moved to a town named Adullam and lived in a house that was owned by a man named Hirah.

2. Then Judah met a Canaanite girl who lived in Adullam. This girl was the daughter of a man named Shua. Judah married this girl and slept with her.

3. Then this girl became pregnant and gave birth to a son. Judah named this son Er.

4. Later this girl gave birth to another son and named him Onan.

5. Later this girl gave birth to another son and named him Shelah. When this girl gave birth to Shelah, she was in a town named Kezib.

6. After the oldest son of Judah named Er grew up, Judah chose a girl named Tamar to marry Er.

7. But Yahweh killed Er because he was evil.

8. Then Judah said to Er's younger brother named Onan, "Sleep with the wife of your older brother who died. You have to have children for your older brother."

9. But Onan knew that Tamar's children won't belong to him. So while Onan was sleeping with Tamar, he didn't finish sleeping with her. Therefore Tamar didn't become pregnant. So Er didn't have descendants.

10. But Yahweh knew that Onan did this wicked thing. So Yahweh also killed Onan because he didn't please him.

11. Then Judah said to his daughter-in-law named Tamar, "Return to your father. Live in your father's house. But don't marry a man. Wait until my son named Shelah grows up. Then you may marry Shelah." But Judah was afraid that Shelah will also die. He thought that Shelah will die like his older brothers died. So Tamar returned to her father's house.

12. Many years later Judah's wife, who was Shua's daughter, died. After Judah finished mourning his wife, he went to a city named Timnah, where his men were cutting his sheep's hair. Judah's friend named Hirah, who lived in Adullam, went to Timnah with Judah.

13. Tamar found out that her father in law named Judah was going to Timnah to cut his sheep's hair.

14. Then Tamar took off the clothes that widows wore. And she covered her face with a veil so that people would not recognize her. Then she sat down by the gate of a city named Enaim. This gate was near the road where Judah was walking to go to Timnah. Tamar was angry with Judah because he didn't tell his son named Shelah to marry her even though he had grown up.

15. When Judah saw Tamar sitting by the gate, he thought that she was a prostitute because Tamar covered her face with a veil.

16. So Judah went to Tamar and said, "Sleep with me." At that time he didn't recognize his daughter-in-law named Tamar. Tamar asked Judah, "If I sleep with you, what will you give to me?"

17. Judah answered Tamar, "I'll give a young goat to you." Then Tamar said, "You have to give some things to me now until you send the goat to me."

18. Judah asked Tamar, "What should I give to you?" Tamar answered, "Give your special ring and your staff to me." So Judah gave these things to Tamar. Then he slept with Tamar. And Tamar became pregnant.

19. When Tamar returned to her house, she took off the veil that covered her face. Then she put on the clothes that widows wore.

20. A few days later Judah sent his friend named Hirah to take a goat to Tamar. Judah wanted Hirah to bring his special ring and the staff that he gave to Tamar to him. But Hirah was not able to find Tamar.

21. So Hirah asked some people who lived in the town named Enaim, "Where is the prostitute who was sitting near the gate?" Those people answered Hirah, "There is not a prostitute in this town."

22. So Hirah returned to Judah and said to him, "I was not able to find the woman that you slept with. And the people who live in that town said, "There is not a prostitute in this town.'"

23. Then Judah said, "Then that prostitute may keep the things that I gave to her. I don't want people to laugh at me. I sent to the prostitute the goat that I promised her that I would give to her. But you were not able to find the prostitute."

24. Three months later a person said to Judah, "Your daughter-in-law named Tamar is pregnant. Tamar slept with a man to earn money." Then Judah said, "Bring Tamar here. We have to kill Tamar by burning her."

25. When those people went to Tamar, she wrote a message to her father in law. She wrote, "The man who owns these things caused me to become pregnant. Look at this ring and this staff. Who owns these things?"

26. After Judah read the message, he saw the ring and the staff. When Judah saw the ring and the staff, he knew that they belonged to him. So he said, "Tamar is more righteous than me. Tamar tricked me because I didn't keep the promise that I made to her. I didn't tell my son named Shelah to marry Tamar." So Judah didn't kill Tamar and didn't sleep with her again.

27. Later Tamar gave birth to twins.

28. While Tamar was giving birth to the two babies, one baby put his hand outside the womb. The nurse tied a red string on that baby's hand and said, "This baby came from the womb first."

29. But that baby pulled his hand into the womb. Then Tamar gave birth to the other baby. The nurse said, "You were able to open the womb first." So Tamar named that baby Perez. Footnote: Perez means 'to open'.

30. Then Tamar gave birth to the baby that had the red string on his hand. And she named that baby Zerah. Footnote: Zerah means 'red'.

Chapter 39

1. Title: Potiphar buys Joseph. At that time the people who bought Joseph from his older brothers took him to Egypt. An Egyptian man named Potiphar was an officer who served the king of Egypt. Potiphar was the captain of the soldiers who guarded the king's palace. Potiphar bought Joseph from the people who brought him to Egypt.

2. Yahweh blessed Joseph while he served Potiphar in his house. So Potiphar allowed Joseph to live in his house. Joseph always succeeded while he worked for Potiphar.

3. Potiphar saw that Yahweh blessed Joseph and that he caused Joseph to succeed.

4. So Potiphar was very pleased with Joseph. He asked Joseph to care for all of the things that were in his house. Potiphar completely trusted Joseph.

5. While Joseph was caring for all of the things that Potiphar owned, Yahweh blessed the people who were in his house. He blessed those people because he loved Joseph. And Yahweh blessed all of the things that Potiphar owned. He blessed the people who were in Potiphar's house and the crops that were in his field.

6. So Potiphar allowed Joseph to care for all of the things that he owned. Potiphar didn't worry about his things and didn't think about his work. He rested and enjoyed eating his food.

7. Title: Potiphar puts Joseph in prison. Joseph was very handsome. The wife of Joseph's master thought that he was handsome. So she wanted to sleep with Joseph. One day she said to Joseph, "Lie down with me. I want to sleep with you."

8. But Joseph refused to lie down with Potiphar's wife. He said to Potiphar's wife, "My master trusts me. I care for all of the things that are in my master's house.

9. I'm the most important person who lives in this house. My master allows me to do all things in this house. But the master doesn't allow me to be with you because you're his wife. I won't sleep with you. I won't sin against God."

10. Potiphar's wife talked to Joseph each day. But Joseph refused to sleep with Potiphar's wife. And he didn't stay near Potiphar's wife.
11. One day Joseph entered the house to work. At that time he was the only man who was in the house.
12. Then Potiphar's wife came to Joseph and grabbed Joseph's coat. And she said to Joseph, "Sleep with me." But Joseph left his coat and ran from the house.
13. Then Potiphar's wife called the female servants who were in the house.
14. And Potiphar's wife said, "Listen to me! This Hebrew slave wants to embarrass us. He came in the house and tried to sleep with me. So I screamed.
15. When that slave heard me screaming, he became afraid. Then he ran from this house. But he left his coat."
16. Potiphar's wife held Joseph's coat until Potiphar returned to the house.
17. Then the wife told the same story to her husband. She said, "That Hebrew slave that you brought into this house wants to embarrass me!
18. But when that slave came toward me, I screamed. Then that slave ran from this house. But he left his coat."
19. After Potiphar listened to his wife, he became very angry.
20. Then Potiphar arrested Joseph and put him in the prison where the king put prisoners. So Joseph stayed in the prison.
21. But Yahweh continued blessing Joseph. Yahweh caused the chief prison guard to like Joseph.
22. So that guard told Joseph to take care of the other prisoners. So Joseph took care of all of the people who were in that prison.
23. That chief guard didn't worry about things because Yahweh blessed Joseph. And Yahweh caused Joseph to succeed.

Chapter 40

1. Title: Joseph explains two dreams. Later two of the king's officers caused him to become angry. They were the man who made wine for the king and the man who baked bread for the king.
2. The king became very angry with these two officers.
3. So the king put these two officers in the prison where Joseph was.

4. Then the chief guard told Joseph to take care of these two men. So these two men stayed in the prison.
5. On one night these two men had a dream. The officer who made wine for the king had a dream. And the officer who baked bread for the king also had a dream.
6. When Joseph saw these two officers in the morning, he saw that they were upset.
7. So Joseph asked these two officers, "Why are you sad today?"
8. These two men answered, "We had a dream last night. But no person is able to explain these dreams to us." Then Joseph said to these two officers, "Only God is able to explain dreams. Tell me about these dreams."
9. So the man who made wine for the king told Joseph about his dream. That man said, "While I was dreaming, I saw a vine.
10. This vine had three branches. And flowers grew on this vine. Then the grapes that were on this vine became ripe quickly.
11. At that time I was holding the king's cup. So I picked the grapes that were on this vine. And I made wine in the cup. Then I gave the cup to the king."
12. Then Joseph said to that man, "I'll explain this dream to you. The three branches represent three days.
13. After three days the king will allow you to leave this prison. And the king will allow you to work for him again. You will make wine for the king again like before you came to this prison, you made wine for him.
14. After the king allows you to leave this place, tell him about me. Act kindly to me. Tell the king about me so that he would allow me to leave this prison.
15. When I lived with the Hebrews, men forced me to come to Egypt. I didn't do evil things. I don't deserve to be in this prison."
16. Then the man who baked bread for the king saw that Joseph understood the other man's dream. So that man said to Joseph, "I also had a dream. I dreamed that three baskets were on my head. Those baskets contained bread.
17. There were many kinds of bread in those baskets. That bread was for the king. But birds were eating that bread."
18. Then Joseph said, "I'll explain this dream to you. The three baskets represent three days.
19. After three days the king will cut off your head. Then he'll hang your body in a tree. And birds will eat your body."

20. Three days later the king was celebrating his birthday. He had a feast for all of his officers. He allowed these two officers during that feast to leave the prison.

21. The king allowed the officer who made wine for him to work for him again.

22. But the king hung on a tree the man who baked bread for him. So Joseph explained these two dreams correctly.

23. But the officer who made wine for the king forgot to tell him about Joseph.

Chapter 41

1. Title: Joseph explains the king's dream. Two years later the king dreamed that he was standing near the river named Nile.

2. Then the king saw seven fat cows that were healthy coming from the river. Those cows ate the grass that was growing near the river.

3. Then seven other cows came from the river. Those cows were thin and ugly. Those seven thin cows stood beside the other healthy cows near the river.

4. Then the seven thin cows ate the seven fat cows. Then the king woke up.

5. Later the king slept again and had a dream again. While the king was dreaming, he saw wheat growing in a field. He saw seven plants that were big. Those seven plants had a lot of grain.

6. Then seven other plants grew quickly. Those seven plants were thin. Those plants didn't have a lot of grain. A hot wind that blew from the east had burned those plants.

7. Then the thin wheat ate the fat wheat. Then the king woke up again and realized that he had a dream again.

8. In the morning the king worried about these dreams. So he called all of the wise men who lived in Egypt and all of the magicians who lived there. He told these people about the two dreams. But these people were not able to explain the dreams to the king.

9. Then the officer who made wine for the king said to him, "I remembered a certain man while I heard you talking about your dreams. That man was in prison with me. But I forgot about that man.

10. Several years ago you were angry with me and the officer who baked bread for you. So you put us in the prison.

11. We had a dream on the same night while we were in prison.

12. A young Hebrew man who was the chief guard's servant was in the prison with us. After we told that man about our dreams, he explained them to us.

13. And that man explained the dreams correctly! You allowed me to work for you again. But you hung the man who baked bread for you. That man said that you will do those things. That man is Joseph.”

14. So the king called Joseph. The guards brought Joseph from the prison to the palace quickly. Then Joseph shaved and put clean clothes on. Then he went to the king.

15. The king said to Joseph, “I had a dream. But no person is able to explain this dream to me. I heard that you're able to explain dreams.”

16. Then Joseph said to the king, “I'm not able to explain dreams. But God will explain your dream to you.”

17. Then the king said to Joseph, “I was standing near the river named Nile.

18. Then I saw seven fat cows that were healthy coming from the river. Those seven cows ate the grass that was growing near the river.

19. Then I saw seven other cows coming from the river. Those cows were thin and ugly. Those cows were uglier than all of the cows that were in Egypt.

20. Then the seven thin cows ate the seven fat cows.

21. But after the thin cows ate the seven fat cows, they still were thin. Those cows still were thin and ugly! Then I woke up.

22. Later I had a dream again. I saw wheat growing in a field. I saw seven plants that were big. Those seven plants had a lot of grain.

23. Then seven other plants grew quickly. Those seven plants were thin. Those plants didn't have a lot of grain. A hot wind that blew from the east had burned those plants.

24. Then the thin wheat ate the fat wheat. I told the magicians about these dreams. But the magicians were not able to explain these dreams to me.”

25. Then Joseph said to the king, “These two dreams have the same meaning. God is telling you about the things that he'll do.

26. The seven good cows represent seven years. And the seven good plants also represent seven years. These two dreams have the same meaning.

27. The seven thin cows represent seven years. And the seven thin plants that the wind burned represent seven years. During those seven years your people will be hungry.

28. God is telling you about the things that he'll do soon.

29. Your people will harvest many crops for seven years. All of the people who live in Egypt will have enough food.

30. But after those seven years the people who live in Egypt will be hungry because there will be a famine. They will forget that they had a lot of food during those other years. This famine will destroy all of the crops.

31. People will forget about the good years because they will be very hungry.

32. So your two dreams have the same meaning. You had two dreams because God is telling you that these things will certainly happen soon.

33. So you should choose a man who is very wise. That man should oversee the crops that people grow in Egypt.

34. And you should choose officers who will collect grain during the seven good years from all of the farmers who live in Egypt. After a farmer harvests one hundred liters of crops, those officers should take twenty liters of crops from him.

35. Then these officers should store this food for you in the cities and guard it.

36. You should not allow people to eat that food. You will need that food during the seven bad years. If you keep that food, the people who live in Egypt won't die during the seven bad years."

37. Title: The king causes Joseph to become a ruler in Egypt. The king thought that Joseph explained the dreams correctly. And the king and his officers agreed with Joseph's plan.

38. Then the king said to his officers, "Joseph is the wisest man who lives in Egypt. Joseph is able to oversee the crops in Egypt. God's spirit is in Joseph!"

39. So the king said to Joseph, "God showed all of these things to you. You're the wisest person who lives in Egypt.

40. Therefore I choose you to rule my palace. All of the people who live in Egypt will obey you. I'm the only person who is in Egypt that is greater than you."

41. Then the king said to Joseph, "You're my chief official. You will rule all of the people who live in Egypt."

42. Then the king took off his ring. That ring had the king's mark on it. Then the king put that ring on Joseph's finger. He also gave expensive clothes to Joseph and put a gold chain around his neck.

43. Then the king gave a special chariot to Joseph. That chariot belonged to the king's chief official. Men walked in front of that chariot while Joseph rode it. And they shouted, "Bow to Joseph!" So the king showed all of the people who lived in Egypt that Joseph was his chief official.

44. The king said to Joseph, "I'm the king. I command all of the people who live in Egypt to obey you."

45. Then the king named Joseph Zaphenath-Panea. The king also gave a wife named Asenath to Joseph. Asenath was the daughter of Potiphera, who was the priest of On. Then Joseph traveled throughout Egypt.

46. When Joseph was thirty years old, he started serving the king of Egypt. Joseph always didn't stay near the palace. He left the palace to go to all of the cities that were in Egypt.

47. During the seven good years the crops that were in Egypt grew well.

48. So Joseph gathered a lot of food that the people harvested. And he stored that food for the people in the cities. For each city that was in Egypt, he stored in that city grain that the people harvested in the fields that were near that city.

49. So Joseph stored a lot of grain. People were not able to measure the grain that Joseph stored because there was too much grain.

50. Joseph's wife was a woman named Asenath. Asenath was the daughter of Potiphera, who was the priest of On. Before the famine began, Joseph and Asenath had two sons.

51. Joseph named the first son Manasseh. Joseph said, "God caused me to forget about all of the problems that I had. And I forgot about my family that treated me badly." Footnote: Manasseh means 'God caused me to forget'.

52. Joseph named the second son Ephraim. Joseph said, "God gave children to me while I was in the country where I had a lot of trouble." Footnote: Ephraim means 'God gave children to me'.

53. Seven years later the crops stopped growing.

54. Then there was a famine for seven years like Joseph said. People who lived in other countries didn't have food. But the people who lived in Egypt had the food that Joseph stored.

55. When the people who lived in Egypt became hungry, they asked the king to give food to them. Then the king said to the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph. You obey Joseph. Joseph will take care of you."

56. All of the people who lived in countries that were near Egypt also were very hungry. Then Joseph started selling grain to the people who lived in Egypt.

57. And people who lived in the other countries that were near Egypt also came to Joseph because the famine also was in those countries.

Chapter 42

1. Title: Joseph tricks his older brothers. Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt. So he said to his sons, "Stop sitting here! We will die soon because we don't have food!"

2. I heard that there is food in Egypt. Go to Egypt and buy grain so that we could eat it. Then we won't die."
3. So Joseph's ten older brothers went to Egypt to buy grain.
4. But Jacob didn't allow Joseph's younger brother named Benjamin to go with them because he was afraid that a bad thing might happen to Benjamin.
5. So Jacob's sons went to Egypt. Many other people who lived in Canaan also went to Egypt to buy grain. All of the people who lived in Canaan were very hungry.
6. At that time Joseph was the chief official in Egypt. Joseph was the official who sold grain to people who came to Egypt. So after Joseph's older brothers arrived in Egypt, they went to him. Then they bowed to Joseph to honor him.
7. When Joseph saw his older brothers, he recognized them. But he pretended to not know his older brothers. He spoke to his older brothers cruelly. He said to his older brothers, "Where do you live?" The older brothers answered Joseph, "We live in Canaan. We came to Egypt to buy food."
8. Although Joseph recognized his older brothers, they didn't recognize him.
9. Then Joseph remembered his dream. He had dreamed that his older brothers will bow to him. Then he said to his older brothers, "You're spies! You came to Egypt to learn about our secrets!"
10. But Joseph's older brothers said to him, "Master, we are your servants. We came to Egypt to buy food.
11. We are brothers and are honest. We are not spies."
12. Then Joseph said to his older brothers, "I don't believe you! You came to Egypt to learn about our secrets!"
13. Then the older brothers said, "We are ten brothers and have two younger brothers. All of us have the same father and live in Canaan. Our youngest younger brother is in Canaan with our father. And our other younger brother died."
14. But Joseph said to his older brothers, "I'm correct! You're spies!
15. But I'll allow you to prove that you didn't lie to me. You have to bring your youngest younger brother to me.
16. One of you has to return to your house. And that man has to bring your youngest younger brother to me. Nine of you have to stay in prison. Then I'll know whether you're lying to me or you're telling the truth to me. If you're lying to me about your youngest younger brother, you're spies."
17. Then Joseph forced his ten older brothers to stay in the prison for three days.

18. After three days Joseph called his ten older brothers and said to them, "I fear God. If you obey me, I'll allow you to continue living.

19. One of you has to stay in the prison. But nine of you may return to your house. You may take grain to your families so that they could eat it.

20. Then you have to bring your youngest younger brother to me. If you bring your youngest younger brother to me, I'll know that you're telling the truth to me. Then you won't die." Then the older brothers agreed to bring their youngest younger brother to Joseph.

21. The older brothers said to each other, "God is punishing us because we sold our younger brother named Joseph. Joseph begged us to save him. But we didn't listen to Joseph. Therefore God is punishing us now."

22. Then Reuben said to the other older brothers, "I told you to not hurt that boy. But you didn't obey me. Therefore God is punishing us now."

23. While Joseph's older brothers were speaking to each other, he pretended to not understand the language that they were speaking. But he understood all of the things that his older brothers said. Joseph's servant who spoke using the language that Joseph's older brothers spoke and also spoke using the language that Egyptians spoke spoke to them for Joseph. So Joseph's older brothers didn't know that he understood all of the things that they said.

24. Then Joseph left his older brothers and cried. Later he returned to his older brothers and spoke to them again. Then he ordered a guard to tie Simeon with ropes. The other older brothers watched the guard tie Simeon with ropes.

25. Then Joseph told some servants to fill the older brothers' bags with grain. And he told those servants to put in the older brothers' bags the money that they paid him for the grain. And he also told those servants to give his older brothers food and other things that they will need while they traveled to Canaan.

26. Then the older brothers put on their donkeys the bags that contained grain. And they left that place.

27. After the sun set, the older brothers stopped traveling. Then one older brother opened his bag to obtain food for his donkey. Then that older brother saw the money in his bag.

28. Then that older brother said to the other older brothers, "The money that I paid for the grain is in my bag!" Then all of the older brothers became very afraid because Joseph might think that they stole the money. They said to each other, "God is punishing us!"

29. Title: The older brothers return to Canaan. After the older brothers arrived at their house, they told their father named Jacob about the things that happened to them while they were in Egypt.

30. The older brothers said to Jacob, "The official who is in Egypt spoke to us cruelly. That official said that we are spies.

31. But we told that official that we are honest. We said that we are not spies.
32. We told that official that we are ten brothers. We said that one of our younger brothers died. And we told that official that our youngest younger brother is with our father who is in Canaan.
33. Then that official said to us, "You have to prove that you didn't lie to me. Leave one brother here. Then take this grain to your families so that they could eat it.
34. Then bring your youngest younger brother to me. Then I'll know that you're not spies. Then I'll allow your other brother to leave the prison. Then you may travel to any place that is in our country.""
35. After the older brothers told Jacob about all of these things, they took the grain out of their bags. Then they found money in all of the bags. Then the older brothers and Jacob became very afraid.
36. Jacob said to his sons, "You're stealing my children from me! Joseph is dead. Simeon left me now. And you also want to take Benjamin from me. Many bad things are happening to me!"
37. Then Reuben said to Jacob, "If I don't bring Benjamin to you, you may kill my two sons. Trust me. I'll take care of Benjamin and bring him to you."
38. But Jacob said, "I won't allow Benjamin to go to Egypt with you. Joseph is dead. So Benjamin is the only son of my wife named Rachel who still is alive. While you're traveling to Egypt, a bad thing might happen to Benjamin. Then I'll be sad until I die."

Chapter 43

1. So the older brothers stayed in Canaan. But there was a famine still in Canaan.
2. Title: The older brothers return to Egypt. After Jacob's family ate all of the grain that the older brothers brought from Egypt, he said to his sons, "Go to Egypt again. Buy more grain so that we could eat it."
3. But Judah said to Jacob, "The chief official of that country said to us, "If you don't bring your youngest younger brother to me, I won't talk to you."
4. But if you allow Benjamin to go with us, we will go to Egypt. Then we will buy food for you.
5. But if you don't allow Benjamin to go with us, we won't go to Egypt. The official of that country told us that if we don't bring Benjamin to him, he won't allow us to talk to him."
6. Then Jacob said, "You should not have told that man that you have another younger brother! You caused me to have a lot of trouble."

7. The older brothers said, "That official asked us about our family. That official asked us, "Is your father still living? Do you have another younger brother?" We had to answer those questions. We didn't know that the official will tell us to bring our other younger brother to him!"

8. Then Judah said to his father named Jacob, "Allow Benjamin to go with me. We immediately have to go. If we immediately don't go, you and your children will die because you don't have food.

9. I promise you that no bad things will happen to Benjamin. I'll take care of Benjamin. If I don't bring Benjamin to you, when we return to Canaan, you may blame me.

10. If you had not prevented us from going to Egypt again, we would have traveled there two times."

11. Then Jacob said to his sons, "If you have to take Benjamin, also take a gift to that official. You take the best crops that we grow in our land. Give those crops to that official. Give medicine, honey, myrrh, spices, pistachios, and almonds to that official.

12. Also take to that man the money that you found in your bags. And take more money to pay that man for more grain.

13. And take Benjamin. Leave now and go to that official.

14. I'll pray that God Almighty will cause that official to be kind to you. And I will pray that that official will allow Simeon and Benjamin to return with you. If that official steals my children, I have to live without them!"

15. So the older brothers took those gifts to Egypt. They also took to Egypt the money that they found in their bags. And they also took more money to Egypt to buy more grain. And they took Benjamin to Egypt. They traveled to Egypt quickly. After the older brothers arrived in Egypt, they went to Joseph to speak to him.

16. When Joseph saw Benjamin and his older brothers, he said to the chief servant who worked in Joseph's house, "Take these men to my house. Then kill an animal and prepare a meal. Today these men will eat that meal at my house with me at noon."

17. The servant obeyed Joseph. So the older brothers entered Joseph's house.

18. After the servant brought the older brothers to Joseph's house, they became afraid. They thought, "This official thinks that we stole the money that a person put into our bags. This official plans to arrest us. He wants to make us become his slaves. And he'll steal our donkeys."

19. So the older brothers went to the chief servant who worked in Joseph's house. And they spoke to that servant near the door of the house.

20. The older brothers said, "Master, when we came to Egypt the first time, we bought food.

21. But while we were returning to Canaan, we stopped traveling at night. At that time we found in our bags the money that we paid for the food. Today we brought that money to Egypt because we want to give it to you.

22. We also brought more money to pay for the food that we want today to buy. We didn't know that a person put money in our bags."

23. The servant said, "Don't be afraid. Your God, who is your father's God, put that money in your bags. I received the money that you paid me for the grain." Then the servant brought Simeon to the brothers.

24. Then that servant led the older brothers into Joseph's house and gave water to them so that they could wash their feet. Then he gave food to the older brothers' donkeys.

25. Then the older brothers heard that Joseph will eat in that house with them. So they prepared the gifts that they wanted to give to him.

26. After Joseph arrived at that house, the older brothers gave him the gifts that they brought from Canaan. Then they bowed to Joseph.

27. Then Joseph asked the older brothers about their father. Joseph said, "Is your father still living? Is your father healthy?"

28. The older brothers answered, "Our father, who is your servant, still is living and is healthy." Then they bowed to Joseph again to show him that they respected him.

29. Then Joseph saw his younger brother named Benjamin. Benjamin and Joseph had the same mother. Then Joseph asked the older brothers, "Is this boy your youngest younger brother that you told me about?" Then Joseph said to Benjamin, "My son, I hope that God blesses you!"

30. Then after Joseph saw Benjamin, he ran from the room because he started crying. So he ran into his room and cried.

31. Then Joseph washed his face and returned to his older brothers. And he tried to not cry. Then he said to the servants, "Bring the meal to us."

32. Joseph sat at a table. And Joseph's older brothers sat at another table. And the Egyptians who regularly ate with Joseph sat at another table. They didn't sit with the older brothers because they didn't like Hebrews. Then the servants brought the meal to these three tables.

33. Joseph told the older brothers to sit at the table. He first told the oldest older brother to sit at the table. Then Joseph told the second older brother to sit at the table. Then Joseph told the third older brother to sit at the table. Joseph told each older brother to sit at the table. Joseph finally told the youngest younger brother to sit at the table. The older brothers were amazed that this Egyptian official knew their ages.

34. Then the servants brought food from Joseph's table to his older brothers. They brought one plate of food to each older brother. But they brought five plates of food to Benjamin. So Joseph's older brothers ate with him and drank with him.

Chapter 44

1. Title: Joseph tricks his older brothers again. Then Joseph spoke to the chief servant who worked in his house. Joseph commanded that servant, "Fill these men's bags with a lot of grain. Then put the men's money into their bags.

2. And also put my silver cup into the bag that belongs to the youngest brother." Then that servant obeyed Joseph.

3. After the sun rose the next day, the older brothers left with their donkeys.

4. After the older brothers left that city, Joseph said to his servant, "Immediately run to those men. When you come to those men, say to them, "My master treated you well. But you acted badly. You're evil!

5. You stole my master's cup. My master drinks wine from that cup and uses it to understand dreams. You did a wicked thing!"

6. So the servant ran to these older brothers. When the servant came to these older brothers, he said to them the words that Joseph commanded him to say.

7. But these older brothers said to the servant, "We didn't steal a cup! We certainly didn't steal anything from your master.

8. We even brought to you the money that we found in our bags. We certainly didn't steal anything that was in your master's house.

9. If you find that silver cup in one of our bags, you may kill the man who stole it. And the other older brothers will become your slaves."

10. Then the servant said, "I'll search for the cup. But only the man who took the cup will become my slave. The other older brothers may leave."

11. Then each older brother put his bag on the ground. Then he opened his bag.

12. Then that servant started searching for the cup in those bags. He searched for the cup in the oldest older brothers' bags first. Then he searched for the cup in the younger older brothers' bags. He finally searched for the cup in the bag of the youngest younger brother named Benjamin and found it in it.

13. Then the older brothers tore their clothes because they were very upset. Then they put their bags on the donkeys and returned to the city with the servant.

14. When Judah and his brothers arrived at Joseph's house, he still was in there. When the older brothers saw Joseph, they bowed to him.

15. Then Joseph said to the older brothers, "Why did you steal my cup? Did you not know that I'm able to find out that people do certain things by using signs and dreams?"

16. Judah said, "Master, we are not able to prove that we are innocent. God has shown you that we are guilty. Therefore we will become your slaves."

17. But Joseph said, "All of you won't become my slaves! Only the man who stole my cup will become my slave. The other older brothers may return to your father."

18. Then Judah stood near Joseph and said to him, "Master, please allow me to speak to you. Please don't be angry with me. I know that you're very powerful. You're like the king of Egypt.

19. When earlier we came here, you asked us about our father and our younger brother.

20. We told you that our father was old. And we told you that we had a younger brother. This younger brother's mother gave birth to two sons. The other son died. So the youngest son is now this woman's only son who still is living. Our father loves this son much.

21. Then you commanded us to bring our youngest younger brother to you.

22. But we said to you, "That boy must not leave our father. If that boy leaves our father, our father will die."

23. But you said to us, "If you don't bring your youngest younger brother to me, I won't speak to you again."

24. So we returned to our father and told him about all of the things that you said to us.

25. Later our father said to us, "Return to Egypt and buy more food."

26. But we said to our father, "If we go to Egypt, we have to take our youngest younger brother. If we don't take that younger brother, the chief official won't speak to us."

27. Then my father said to us, "You know that my wife named Rachel gave birth to two sons for me.

28. When one of Rachel's sons left me, I thought, "A wild animal ate that son." And I didn't see that son again.

29. You now also want to take Rachel's other son from me. But a terrible thing might happen to this boy. Then I'll be very sad until I die."

30. Therefore we must not return to our father without our youngest younger brother.

31. If our father sees that this young boy is not with us, he'll die! We will cause our father to die!

32. I promised my father that this young boy would return to my father safely. I said to my father, "If I don't bring Benjamin to you, you may blame me."

33. Therefore please allow me to stay here. I'll become your slave. And allow this young boy to return to our house with his older brothers.

34. If the boy is not with me, I won't return to my father. I won't cause my father to be sad."

Chapter 45

1. Title: Joseph tells his older brothers that he is their younger brother. Joseph didn't want his servants to see him crying. So he commanded the servants, "Leave this room." After the servants left that room, he started speaking to his older brothers.

2. Then Joseph started crying very loudly. The Egyptians who had left that room heard Joseph crying. And those servants told the people who were in the king's palace that Joseph was crying.

3. Then Joseph said to his older brothers, "I'm Joseph. Is my father still living?" But Joseph's older brothers didn't answer his question because they were very afraid of him.

4. So Joseph said to his older brothers, "Come near me. After Joseph's older brothers came near him, he said to them, "I'm your younger brother named Joseph. You caused me to become a slave in Egypt.

5. But don't be afraid and don't be angry with you because you sold me. God sent me here to save people.

6. There is a famine for two years. And crops won't grow for five more years.

7. God sent me to Egypt to save our family. God wants our descendants to continue living on the earth. So he did this wonderful thing. He sent me to Egypt.

8. Therefore you didn't send me here. God sent me here. God caused me to become the chief official in Egypt. I oversee the king's palace and rule all people who live in Egypt.

9. So leave Egypt quickly. Go to my father and say to him, "Your son named Joseph is living! Joseph says, "God caused me to rule all people who live in Egypt. Come to me quickly.

10. If you move to Goshen, you will be near me. Your children, your grandchildren, your livestock, and all of the things that you own will also be near me.

11. There will be a famine for five more years. I'll take care of you while there is a famine. Then you and your family won't die."

12. You now know that I'm Joseph. My younger brother named Benjamin, you also know that I'm Joseph.

13. Therefore tell my father that I'm powerful in Egypt. Tell my father about the things that you saw. Return to our father quickly and bring him to me."

14. Then Joseph hugged his younger brother named Benjamin and cried. Then Benjamin also cried.

15. Then Joseph kissed his older brothers. While Joseph was hugging his older brothers, he cried. Then Joseph's older brothers spoke to him.

16. After the king of Egypt and his officers heard that Joseph's older brothers came there, the king and the officials were very happy.

17. So the king said to Joseph, "Say to your older brothers, "Return to Canaan. But before you go to Canaan, put a lot of grain on your donkeys. And take that grain to your father.

18. Then bring your father and your families to me. I'll give your relatives the best land that is in Egypt. And your relatives will eat the best food that we have.

19. Take wagons so that your children, your wives, and your father could return to Egypt with you.

20. Don't bring your things from Canaan with you because we will give you the best things that we have in Egypt.""

21. So Jacob's sons obeyed the king. Joseph gave wagons and food to his older brothers like the king commanded.

22. Joseph gave one set of clothes to each older brother. But Joseph gave five sets of clothes to Benjamin and also gave three kilograms of silver to him.

23. Joseph also sent ten donkeys to his father to carry the best things that people made in Egypt. And Joseph also sent ten female donkeys to his father to carry grain, bread, and other food.

24. Then Joseph told his older brothers to leave. He said to his older brothers, "While you're traveling, don't argue with each other."

25. So the older brothers left Egypt and returned to their father named Jacob, who lived in Canaan.

26. After the older brothers arrived at their house, they said to Jacob, "Joseph still is living and rules all people who live in Egypt." Jacob was very surprised and didn't believe the things that his sons said to him.

27. But the older brothers told Jacob about all of the things that Joseph said to them. And after Jacob saw the wagons that Joseph sent to him so that he could ride to Egypt, he became very happy.

28. Jacob said, "I believe now all of the things that you said to me. My son named Joseph still is living! And before I die, I'll see him again."

Chapter 46

1. Title: Jacob goes to Egypt. So Jacob started traveling to Egypt. He took all of the things that he owned. When Jacob came to a city named Beersheba, he sacrificed animals to the God of his father named Isaac.
2. That night God spoke to Jacob and showed a vision to him. God said to Jacob, "Jacob." Then Jacob said, "I'm here."
3. Then God said, "I'm God. I'm your father's God. Don't be afraid to go to Egypt because I'll bless your descendants. Your descendants will become a great nation in Egypt."
4. I'll go to Egypt with you and later bring you there to Canaan. When you die, Joseph's hands will close your eyes."
5. The next morning Jacob's sons helped him, their children, and their wives sit in the wagons that the king of Egypt sent. Then Jacob and his family left Beersheba.
6. Jacob also took his livestock and all of the things that he obtained while he lived in Canaan. So he went to Egypt with all of his descendants.
7. Jacob took his sons, his grandsons, his daughters, and his granddaughters to Egypt. He took to Egypt with him all of the people who were in his family.
8. The following people are Jacob's descendants who went to Egypt. Reuben was Jacob's first son.
9. Reuben had sons named Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi.
10. Simeon had sons named Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jakin, Zohar, and Shaul. Shaul's mother was a Canaanite woman.
11. Levi had sons named Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.
12. Judah had sons named Er, Onan, Shelah, Perez, and Zerah. But before Jacob went to Egypt, Er and Onan died. Perez had sons named Hezron and Hamul.
13. Issachar had sons named Tola, Puah, Jashub, and Shimron.
14. Zebulun had sons named Sered, Elon, and Jahleel.
15. Leah gave birth to sons named Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun for Jacob while they lived in northwest Mesopotamia. She also gave birth to Jacob's daughter named Dinah. So 33 people who were Jacob and Leah's descendants went to Egypt.
16. Gad had sons named Zephon, Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon, Eri, Arodi, and Areli.
17. Asher had sons named Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi, and Beriah and had a daughter named Serah. Beriah had sons named Heber and Malkiel.

18. Zilpah gave birth to sons named Gad and Asher for Jacob. She was the female slave that Laban gave to his daughter named Leah. So 16 people who were Jacob and Zilpah's descendants went to Egypt.

19. Jacob's wife named Rachel had sons named Joseph and Benjamin.

20. Joseph married a woman named Asenath while he lived in Egypt. Asenath was the daughter of Potiphara, who was the priest of On. Joseph and Asenath had sons named Manasseh and Ephraim.

21. Benjamin had sons named Bela, Beker, Ashbel, Gera, Naaman, Ehi, Rosh, Muppim, Huppim, and Ard.

22. So 14 people who were Jacob and Rachel's descendants went to Egypt.

23. Dan had a son named Hushim.

24. Naphtali had sons named Jahziel, Guni, Jezer, and Shillem.

25. Bilhah gave birth to sons named Dan and Naphtali for Jacob. She was the female slave that Laban gave to his daughter named Rachel. So seven people who were Jacob and Bilhah's descendants went to Egypt.

26. So 66 people who were Jacob's descendants traveled to Egypt. And Jacob's sons' wives also went to Egypt.

27. Joseph had two sons that his wife gave birth to in Egypt. Alternate 1: Joseph had nine sons that his wife gave birth to in Egypt. So 70 people who were Jacob's descendants lived in Egypt. Alternate 1: So 75 people who were Jacob's descendants lived in Egypt.

28. Title: Jacob arrives in Egypt. Before Jacob arrived in Egypt, he sent Judah there to talk to Joseph. Then Joseph told Judah about the road that leads to Goshen.

29. After Jacob and his family arrived in Goshen, Joseph rode his chariot to the place where his father was. When Joseph met his father, he hugged his father. And Joseph cried much.

30. Then Jacob said to Joseph, "I'm ready to die now because I see that you still are living."

31. Then Joseph said to his older brothers and his father's family, "I'll tell the king that you arrived in Egypt. I'll say to the king, "My older brothers and my father's family traveled from Canaan to Egypt to see me.

32. My father and my older brothers are shepherds. They take care of livestock. My family brought its livestock and all of the things that it owns to Egypt."

33. When the king speaks to you, he'll ask you about the work that you do.

34. Say to the king, "We are your servants. We take care of livestock. Our ancestors also took care of livestock." Then the king will allow you to live in Goshen. Goshen is not close to the places where the Egyptians live. The Egyptians don't like being near shepherds."

Chapter 47

1. Title: Jacob lives in a region named Goshen. After Joseph finished talking to Jacob and his older brothers, he went to the king. And Joseph said to the king, "My father and my older brothers arrived from Canaan. My father brought all of his livestock and all of the things that he owns. My father and my older brothers are in Goshen now."
2. Before Joseph went to the king, he chose five of his older brothers. He took those five older brothers to the king and introduced them to him.
3. Then the king asked these five older brothers about their work. Then these five older brothers said to the king, "We are your servants. We take care of livestock. Our ancestors also took care of livestock."
4. Then these five older brothers said to the king, "We came to Egypt to live in this country. There is no grass in Canaan now. So our animals don't have the food that they eat. All of the people who live in Canaan and all of the animals that live there are very hungry. Therefore please allow us to live in Goshen."
5. Then the king said to Joseph, "Your father and your older brothers came to you.
6. You may choose any place that is in Egypt. Then your father's family may live there. Give your father's family the best land that is in Egypt. Allow your father's family to live in Goshen. And if any men who are in your father's family are able to take care of livestock well, tell them that they also may take care of my livestock."
7. Then Joseph brought his father named Jacob to the king and introduced Jacob to the king. Then Jacob blessed the king.
8. Then the king asked Jacob, "How old are you?"
9. Jacob said to the king, "I traveled from one place to another place during my life. I had a lot of trouble while I traveled. I'm 130 years old. My ancestors lived for more years than me.
10. Then Jacob blessed the king again and left him.
11. Then Joseph obeyed the king. Joseph gave his father and his older brothers the best land that was in Egypt. This land was near the city named Rameses.
12. And Joseph also gave food to his father, his older brothers, and all of the people who lived with his family.
13. Title: Joseph buys land for the king. Later the famine became very bad. The people who lived in Egypt and in Canaan became very poor because they were not able to harvest crops.

14. The people who lived in Egypt and in Canaan paid a lot of money to Joseph to buy grain. Joseph took all of that money to the king's palace.

15. Later these people were not able to pay Joseph for grain because they didn't have money. So they went to Joseph and said to him, "Although we don't have money, please give food to us. If we don't eat food, we will die in front of you."

16. Joseph said to those people, "You have to give your livestock to me because you don't have money. Then I'll give food to you."

17. So the people brought their livestock to Joseph. Then Joseph gave food to the people. The people brought horses, sheep, goats, cattle, and donkeys to Joseph. During that year they were able to continue living because they traded livestock for food with Joseph.

18. The next year the people came to Joseph again and said, "You know that we don't have money. And you own all of our animals. We don't have other things. We have only our bodies and our land.

19. If you don't help us, we will certainly die in front of you. If you give food to us, we will give our land to you. And we will become the king's slaves. And the king will own our land. Give seeds to us so that we could plant them. Then we won't die. And the land won't become a desert."

20. So Joseph bought for the king all of the land that was in Egypt. All of the people who lived in Egypt sold their land to Joseph because all of them were very hungry. So the king owned all of the land that was in Egypt.

21. And all of the people who lived in Egypt became the king's slaves.

22. But Joseph didn't buy the priest's land because the king paid money to them. Therefore the priests had money. So they were able to buy food.

23. Then Joseph said to the people, "I bought you and your land for the king. I'll give seeds to you now so that you could plant them in the king's fields.

24. But after you harvest the grain, you have to give two tenths of it to the king. You may keep eight tenths of the grain that you harvest. Use that grain to plant crops in the king's fields. And also feed your families with that grain."

25. The people said to Joseph, "You saved us. We will become the king's slaves like you commanded."

26. So Joseph made a new law. This new law said that two tenths of the crops that the people who lived in Egypt harvested from the land belonged to the king. But the king didn't obtain the priest's land.

27. Title: Jacob wants Joseph to bury him in Canaan. Jacob's descendants were called 'Israelites'. The Israelites continued living in Goshen. They obtained a lot of land and had many children.

28. Jacob lived in Egypt for 17 years. Therefore he lived for 147 years.

29. When Jacob knew that he'll die soon, he called his son named Joseph. Then Jacob said to Joseph, "If you love me, promise me that you won't bury my body in Egypt. Footnote: An Israelite put his hand under a person's leg to promise him that the Israelite will do a certain thing. Put your hand under my leg.

30. Promise me that after I die, you will carry my body from Egypt to Canaan. Then bury my body in the place where people buried my ancestors' bodies." Joseph said, "I'll do all of the things that you commanded me to do."

31. Then Jacob said to Joseph, "Promise me that you will do these things." Then Joseph promised Jacob that he would do these things. Then while Jacob was leaning on the top of his staff, he worshiped God.

Chapter 48

1. Title: Jacob blesses Manasseh and Ephraim. Later Joseph heard that his father was very sick. So Joseph took his two sons named Manasseh and Ephraim to Joseph's father.

2. When Joseph arrived at Jacob's house, a person said to Jacob, "Your son named Joseph came here to speak to you." At that time Jacob was very weak. But he sat up in his bed slowly.

3. After Joseph greeted Jacob, Jacob said to him, "God Almighty appeared to me at Luz, which is in Canaan, and blessed me there.

4. God Almighty said to me, "I'll cause you to have many children. I'll cause you to have many descendants. And I will give this land to your descendants. This land will belong to your descendants forever."

5. I declare that your two sons, who were born in Egypt, are my sons. Ephraim and Manasseh will be my sons like Reuben and Simeon are my sons.

6. But if you have other children, they will belong to you. You have to give those children some of the land that I'll give to Ephraim and Manasseh.

7. While I was going from northwest Mesopotamia to Canaan, Rachel died. When we were near Ephrathah, she died. At that time I was very sad. I buried Rachel's body beside that road that leads to Ephrathah." Footnote: People call Ephrathah 'Bethlehem'.

8. Then Jacob saw Joseph's two sons. Then he said to Joseph, "Who are these two boys?"

9. Joseph answered his father, "These two boys are my sons that God gave to me while I lived here." Then Jacob said, "Bring your two sons to me so that I could bless them."

10. At that time Jacob was not able to see well because he was very old. So Joseph brought the two boys to Jacob. Then Jacob kissed the two boys and hugged them.

11. Then Jacob said to Joseph, "I thought that I won't see you again. But God now allowed me to see you and your two children!"

12. Then Joseph moved his two sons so that they could sit in front of Jacob. Then Joseph bowed to Jacob to show him that he respected Jacob.

13. Then Joseph caused Ephraim to sit near Jacob's left hand. And Joseph caused Manasseh to sit near Jacob's right hand.

14. But Jacob put his right hand on Ephraim's head. Ephraim was younger than Manasseh. And Jacob put his left hand on Manasseh's head. Manasseh was Joseph's oldest son.

15. Then Jacob blessed Joseph. Jacob said, "My ancestors named Abraham and Isaac served our God. While I was living, God led me like a shepherd leads sheep.

16. God was the angel who saved me. I now pray that God will bless these two boys. I pray that people will remember me because these two boys will become great. And I pray that people will remember my ancestors named Abraham and named Isaac because these two boys will become great. I pray that God will cause these two boys to have many descendants."

17. When Joseph saw that Jacob put his right hand on Ephraim's head, he was upset. So he tried to move Jacob's right hand from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head.

18. And Joseph said to his father, "Father, put your right hand on Manasseh's head because he is my firstborn son."

19. But Jacob didn't obey Joseph. Jacob said, "My son, I know that Manasseh is your firstborn son. Manasseh will become great and have many descendants. But Manasseh's younger brother will be greater than him. Ephraim will have very many descendants. Ephraim's descendants will become many nations."

20. So Jacob blessed Joseph's two sons. Then he said, "When a person blesses another person who lives in Israel, he'll say, 'I pray that God will cause you to be like Ephraim and Manasseh.'" So Jacob caused Ephraim to be greater than Manasseh.

21. Then Jacob said to Joseph, "I'll die soon. But God will be with you. God will take you to the land where your ancestors lived.

22. I'm giving you some land that is in Canaan. I'm giving that land to you because you're greater than your older brothers. That land is in a region named Shechem. I took that land from the Amorites. I fought the Amorites there. After I won that battle, I took that land from the Amorites. I won't give that land to your older brothers. But I'll give that land to you."

1. Title: Jacob blesses his sons. Then Jacob called all of his sons. After Jacob's sons came to him, he said, "Come near me. I'll tell you about the things that will happen to you in the future.
2. My sons, come near me. Listen to your father named Israel.
3. Reuben, you're my firstborn son. You caused me to be strong. When you were born, I proved that I was able to be a father. You're my chief son. You're more powerful than my other sons.
4. But I'm not able to control you. You're like water. I'm not able to prevent you from doing bad things. Therefore you won't lead your younger brothers. You won't lead your younger brothers because you lay down in your father's bed. I'm ashamed because you slept with my female slave.
5. Simeon and Levi are brothers who fight people with swords.
6. I won't listen to your evil plans. When you're angry, you kill men. You hurt oxen because you enjoy being cruel to animals.
7. God will curse you because you're violent. God will curse you because you're cruel. God will scatter your descendants among the tribes of Jacob. He'll cause your descendants to wander among Israel's people.
8. Judah, your brothers will praise you. You will defeat your enemies. And your brothers will bow to you.
9. Judah, you're like a young lion. After you hunt animals, you rest. After you kill a deer, you lie down to rest. People won't wake you up because they are afraid of you.
10. Judah's descendants will be kings. Judah's descendant will always sit on the throne. Judah will rule the nations until Shiloh comes. Alternate 1: Judah will rule the nations until the leader that God chooses comes. The nations will obey Judah.
11. Judah will be rich. He'll tie his expensive donkey to a beautiful grape vine. Judah will be able to wash his clothes with expensive wine. He'll wash his robes with the best wine.
12. Judah will be very handsome. Judah's eyes will be darker than wine. And Judah's teeth will be whiter than milk.
13. Zebulun will live near the Dead Sea. The shore of Zebulun's land will be safe. Ships will stay in Zebulun's harbor. Zebulun will own a lot of land that is near the ocean. He'll even own land that is near Sidon.
14. Issachar is like a strong donkey. While the donkey is carrying a heavy load, he lies down.
15. When Issachar sees that his land is good, he'll become a slave to stay in Issachar's house.
16. Dan will judge fairly the people who live in Israel.

17. Dan will be like a snake that lies near the road. Dan is a dangerous snake that hides near the path. That snake will bite a horse's leg. Then the man who rides that horse will fall.

18. Lord, I'm waiting for you to save me.

19. Thieves will attack Gad. But Gad will defeat those thieves. He'll force those thieves to run from him.

20. Asher's descendants will grow a lot of food on his land. Kings will eat the food that Asher harvests.

21. Naphtali is like a female deer who runs very quickly. No person is able to catch Naphtali. The deer named Naphtali runs through the fields. This deer's babies are beautiful.

22. Joseph is like a vineyard. People harvest a lot of fruit from Joseph's vines. Joseph is like a healthy vine. Water that comes from a spring flows through this vineyard. Joseph's branches grow over the wall.

23. Joseph's enemies shot arrows at him. They were angry with Joseph and attacked him.

24. But Joseph shoots a bow skillfully. God caused Joseph's arms to be strong. He caused Joseph to be powerful. The shepherd who took care of Israel caused Joseph to become strong.

25. Your father's God helps you. God blesses you. God sends water to you by causing it to rain. God sends you water that flows in springs. God causes your wives to give birth to many children. And he causes your livestock to give birth to many babies.

26. The mountains have existed forever. And the hills are very old. But when I bless you, my words are more solid than those mountains and hills. I pray that these good things will come to you. I pray that these treasures will stay with the boy that people separated from his older brothers.

27. Benjamin is like a wolf who is hungry. In the morning this wolf eats the animal that he hunted. In the evening this wolf divides the food that he killed."

28. So Israel spoke to his twelve sons. These sons' descendants became the twelve tribes of Israel. Jacob described each son and told him about the things that will happen to him.

29. Then Jacob said to his sons, "I'll die soon. Bury my body in the cave where people buried my ancestors' bodies. That cave is in the field of Ephron, who was a Hittite.

30. That cave is in a field that belonged to Machpelah. That field is in eastern Mamre, which is in Canaan. Abraham bought that field and that cave from Ephron so that people could bury his descendants' bodies there.

31. People buried Abraham's body and the body of his wife named Sarah in that cave. They also buried Isaac's body and the body of his wife named Rebekah in that cave. And I buried the body of my wife named Leah in that cave.

32. Abraham bought that field and that cave from the Hittites."

33. After Jacob finished speaking to his sons, he lay down on his bed. Then he died.

Chapter 50

1. Title: Joseph buries Jacob's body. After Jacob died, Joseph hugged his father. And Joseph cried and kissed Jacob.

2. Joseph commanded the doctors who served him to prepare Jacob's body so that Joseph could bury it.

3. At that time the doctors who lived in Egypt prepared a body for forty days. So they prepared Jacob's body. The Egyptians mourned Jacob for 70 days.

4. After the people finished mourning Jacob, Joseph spoke to the king's officers. He said to those officers, "If you're pleased with me, speak to the king for me.

5. Say to the king, "Before Joseph's father died, Joseph promised him that Joseph would bury Jacob's body in a tomb that is in Canaan. Jacob dug a tomb in a cave so that his sons could bury his body in that tomb. Therefore please allow Joseph to go to Canaan to bury his father's body. Then Joseph will return here.""

6. After the king's officers said these things to him, he said to Joseph, "Keep your promise. Go to Canaan and bury your father's body."

7. So Joseph went to Canaan to bury his father's body. The king's officers and all of the important people who lived in Egypt went to Canaan with Joseph.

8. All of the people who lived with Joseph and his older brothers also went to Canaan with him. And all of the people who lived with Jacob also went to Canaan. They left their children and their livestock in Goshen.

9. Soldiers who rode chariots and soldiers who rode horses also went to Canaan with Joseph.

10. After Joseph went across the Jordan river, he and the people who were with him cried loudly. These people cried at the place where Atad threshed grain. Joseph stayed there for seven days. Joseph and the people who were with him mourned Jacob while Joseph stayed there.

11. The people who lived in Canaan saw these people mourning at the place where Atad threshed grain. Then the Canaanites said, "Those Egyptians are sad!" Therefore people now call that place, "The Egyptians are sad."

12. So Jacob's sons obeyed him.

13. Jacob's sons carried his body to Canaan and buried it in the cave that was in the field that belonged to Machpelah. That field is near Mamre. Abraham bought that cave and that field from Ephron, who was a Hittite, so that people could bury his descendants' bodies in that cave.

14. After Joseph buried his father's body, he returned to Egypt. Joseph's older brothers and the other people who traveled with him to bury Jacob's body also returned to Egypt.

15. Title: Joseph's older brothers are afraid of him. After Jacob died, Joseph's older brothers said to each other, "Joseph might be angry with us. We treated Joseph very badly. Joseph might want to punish us."

16. So the older brothers sent a message to Joseph. They said, "Before your father died, he spoke to us.

17. Your father said to us, "You sinned. You treated Joseph badly. Tell Joseph that I asked him to forgive you." Joseph, we beg you to forgive us. We are servants of your father's God." After Joseph heard this message, he cried.

18. Then Joseph's older brothers came to him and bowed to him. And they said, "We are your slaves."

19. But Joseph said to his older brothers, "Don't be afraid. Only God punishes people. I won't punish you.

20. You tried to hurt me. But God caused your evil actions to become a good thing. He used you to save many people.

21. Therefore don't be afraid. I'll take care of you and your children." So Joseph comforted his older brothers by speaking kindly to them.

22. Joseph stayed in Egypt for many years. And Jacob's family also stayed in Egypt. When Joseph was 110 years old, he died.

23. Before Joseph died, Ephraim had children and grandchildren. And Joseph's son named Manasseh had a son named Makir. Makir also had children. Joseph loved these children and grandchildren.

24. Title: Joseph dies. Joseph said to his older brothers, "I'll die soon. But God will take care of you. He'll lead you from this land to the land that he promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that he would give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

25. Then Joseph said to his older brothers, "Promise me that you will carry my bones from Egypt."

26. When Joseph was 110 years old, he died. Joseph's doctors prepared his body. Then the people who lived in Egypt put Joseph's body into a coffin.