

# Old Testament Survey

## Genesis, chapters 12-50

# Genesis

- "Beginnings" or "Origins"
  - 1st book of both Hebrew & Christian Bibles
  - speaks of the beginnings of
    - the universe and the earth
    - mankind
    - God's people, in particular the nation of Israel

# Genesis

- "Beginnings" or "Origins"
  - spans Creation (>4000 B.C.) through the life and death of Joseph (~1800 B.C.)
  - introduces many themes and concepts that run through the rest of the Scriptures

# Genesis

- Structure of the book

1. Genealogical - '*Toledoth*' formula

- starts with a 'prologue' describing Creation (1:1-2:3), followed by 10 sections focusing on God's dealings with humanity
- each section starts with Hebrew phrase '*elleh tole dot*' - "These are the generations of..."

# Genesis

- Structure of the book

## 2. Historical

- Genesis 1-11 - 'ancient' history - pre-patriarchal
  - from Creation to Abraham (>4000 B.C. to ~2100 B.C.)
- Genesis 12-50 - patriarchs (~2100-1800 B.C.)
  - Abraham (Gen. 12-25)
  - Isaac (Gen. 24-26)
  - Jacob (Israel) & Esau (Gen. 25-36)
  - Joseph and the sons of Israel (Gen. 37-50)

# Genesis 12-25 - Abraham

- **Abram** (later renamed Abraham - 17:5)
  - son of Terah, uncle of Lot, husband of Sarai (11:31)
  - originally from Ur of the Chaldeans (11:31)
  - Worshipper of other gods before God called him (Joshua 24:2)

# Genesis 12-25 - Abraham

- **12:1-3 - The call of Abram**

- God told Abram to leave his country, his people, his father's household, to the land He should show Abram (ultimately the land of Canaan)

- Abram was initially in Ur when God first called him (Acts 7:2-3)
- moved to Haran, then at the age of 75, continued to the land of Canaan after his father's death (Genesis 12:1,4-5; Acts 7:4)

# Genesis 12-25 - Abraham

- **12:1-3 - The call of Abram**

- promises blessings on Abram and his seed (offspring)

- ***descendants*** - "I will make of you a great nation" (12:2)
    - ***a name*** - "I will bless you and make your name great" (12:2)
    - ***protection*** - "I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse" (12:3)
    - ***blessing to the whole world*** - "in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (12:3)
    - ***a land*** - to your offspring I will give this land



# Genesis 12-25 - Abraham

- **12:1-3 - The call of Abram**

- direct contrast with what happened at the Tower of Babel (11:1-9)

Babel	Abraham's call
"Come, let us build ourselves a city..." (11:3)	"Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house..." (12:1)
"let us make a name for ourselves" (11:4)	"I will bless you and make your name great" (12:2)
"So the LORD dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth" (11:8)	"in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (12:3)

# Genesis 12-25 - Abraham

- **12:4-23:20 - Abraham in the Promised Land**
  - Abram arrives in the land of Canaan with Sarai and Lot (12:4-6)
  - God appears to Abram and promises the land to his offspring (12:7-9)
  - Abram goes to Egypt to escape famine (12:10-20)
    - lies about Sarai being his sister rather than his wife; Pharaoh takes Sarai, but God delivers her

# Genesis 12-25 - Abraham

- **12:4-23:20 - Abraham in the Promised Land**
  - Abram & Lot separate, with Lot moving towards Sodom (13:1-18)
  - Abram rescues Lot, defeating the forces of 5 kings who had taken Lot captive in war (14:1-24)
    - meets Melchizedek, king of Salem after his victory and gives him a tenth of everything

# Genesis 12-25 - Abraham

- **12:4-23:20 - Abraham in the Promised Land**
  - God makes a covenant with Abram (15:1-21)
    - confirms the promises made to Abram
      - many descendants and possession of the land
    - prophesies enslavement of Abraham's descendants in a foreign land (Egypt) for 400 years, with God's subsequent deliverance
    - "And he believed the LORD, and He counted it to him as righteousness." (15:6)

# Genesis 12-25 - Abraham

- **12:4-23:20 - Abraham in the Promised Land**
  - At age 86, Abram has a son (Ishmael) through Sarai's maidservant, Hagar (16:1-16)
  - God confirms His covenant with Abram and changes his name to Abraham ("father of many") (17:1-27)
    - reiterates his promise of descendants and land
    - commands Abraham to circumcise males in his household
    - changes Sarai's name to Sarah ("princess")
    - promises Abraham, at 99 years of age, a son through Sarah, who is almost 90 years old

# Genesis 12-25 - Abraham

- **12:4-23:20 - Abraham in the Promised Land**
  - The LORD destroys Sodom & Gomorrah, but saves Lot (18:1-19:38)
    - the Lord reveals to Abraham that He will judge Sodom & Gomorrah for their wickedness
    - Abraham intercedes for Sodom
    - God promises not to destroy the city if there are 10 righteous people there
    - God destroys Sodom & Gomorrah, but Lot and his daughters escape

# Genesis 12-25 - Abraham

- **12:4-23:20 - Abraham in the Promised Land**
  - Abraham moves to Gerar (land of the Philistines) (20:1-18)
    - lies about Sarah being his sister, but God again intervenes to deliver her
    - makes a treaty with the king of Gerar (Abimelech) (21:22-34)
  - the promised son is born to Sarah and is named Isaac ("he laughs"); Hagar & Ishmael are sent away (21:1-21)

# Genesis 12-25 - Abraham

- **12:4-23:20 - Abraham in the Promised Land**
  - God tells Abraham to sacrifice Isaac as a burnt offering (22:1-24)
    - Abraham obeys, but God intervenes to stop him, and to provide a ram to offer in Isaac's place
    - this occurs on Mount Moriah, the future site of Solomon's Temple (2 Chronicles 3:1)
  - Sarah dies at age 127; Abraham buys a burial plot for her (23:1-20)
  - Abraham remarries and has many other descendants; dies at age 175 (25:1-18)



# Genesis 24-26 - Isaac

- **24:1-67 - Isaac marries Rebekah**
  - granddaughter of Nahor (Abraham's brother)
- **25:19-34 - Isaac & Rebekah have two sons**
  - God foretells that they will father 2 nations, but that the older (Esau) will serve the younger (Jacob)
  - Esau sells his rights as firstborn for a single meal

# Genesis 24-26 - Isaac

- **26:1-35 - Isaac in Gerar**
  - Isaac moves to Gerar
    - says Rebekah is his sister, but his secret is discovered by the king (Abimelech)
  - God confirms to Isaac the promise He made to Abraham, and blesses Isaac
  - Abimelech sees how God has blessed Isaac, and seeks a treaty with Isaac
  - Esau's Hittite wives cause Isaac & Rebekah grief

# Genesis 27-36 - Jacob

- **27:1-46 - Jacob gets Isaac's blessing**
  - Jacob tricks Isaac into thinking he is Esau
  - Jacob is blessed by Isaac
    - “inherits” God's blessing to Abraham, which had been passed down through Isaac (27:28-29)
  - Esau nurses a grudge against Jacob and thinks to kill him

# Genesis 27-36 - Jacob

- **28:1-31:55 - Jacob in Haran**
  - Isaac & Rebekah send Jacob to Haran, to get him away from Esau (28:1-9)
    - but also to get a proper wife
  - Jacob has a dream at Bethel, of a stairway to heaven (28:10-22)
    - God confirms to Jacob the promise He had made to Abraham
    - Jacob makes a vow to that the LORD would be his God

# Genesis 27-36 - Jacob

- **28:1-31:55 - Jacob in Haran**
  - Jacob arrives at Haran and works for his uncle, Laban (Rebekah's brother) (29:1-30:43)
    - agrees to work 7 years to marry Laban's daughter Rachel, but is tricked into marrying Leah, and has to work another 7 years (29:15-30)
    - ultimately has 12 sons and 1 daughter (29:31-30:24, 35:16-18)
    - after 14 years working for his wives, spends 6 years building up his wealth (flocks) (30:25-41)
    - flees from Laban to return to Canaan (31:1-55)

# Genesis 27-36 - Jacob

- **32:1-35:29 - Jacob returns to Canaan**
  - As Jacob returns to Canaan, he prepares to meet Esau (32:1-21)
    - afraid, as Esau is coming to meet him with 400 men
  - Jacob wrestles with God (32:22-32)
    - is broken and renamed from Jacob ("he grasps the heel" or "he cheats"), to Israel ("he struggles with God")
  - Jacob is welcomed back by Esau, and settles at Shechem (33:1-20)

# Genesis 27-36 - Jacob

- **32:1-35:29 - Jacob returns to Canaan**
  - Jacob's daughter Dinah is raped by one of the young men of Shechem (34:1-31)
    - Two of Jacob's sons, Simeon & Levi, slaughter all the men of Shechem in retaliation
  - Jacob returns to Bethel, where he had sworn his oath to God (35:1-15)
    - God again confirms His promises to Jacob
  - Jacob's wife Rachel dies while giving birth to Benjamin; Isaac dies at age 180 (35:16-29)

# Genesis 27-36 - Jacob

- **36:1-43 - descendants of Esau, father of the Edomites**



# Genesis 37-50 – Joseph & the sons of Israel

- **37:1-36 - Joseph is despised by his brothers and is sold by them into slavery in Egypt**
- **38:1-30 - Judah fathers Perez and Zerah by his own daughter-in-law**

# Genesis 37-50 – Joseph & the sons of Israel

- **39:1-50:26 - Joseph in Egypt**
  - Joseph serves in Potiphar's house; imprisoned after being falsely accused by Potiphar's wife (39:1-23)
  - In prison, Joseph correctly interprets the dreams of two of Pharaoh's servants (40:1-23)
  - Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dreams (41:1-57)
    - predicts seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine
    - advises storing up grain during the years of plenty
    - is placed in charge of the whole land of Egypt by Pharaoh

# Genesis 37-50 – Joseph & the sons of Israel

- **39:1-50:26 - Joseph in Egypt**

- Joseph's brothers go to Egypt to buy grain during the famine (42:1-44:34)
  - Joseph recognizes them, but they do not recognize him
  - Joseph treats them kindly, but tests them
- Joseph reveals himself to his brothers and brings his family to live in Egypt (45:1-47:12)
- Joseph saves Egypt and Canaan from the famine (47:13-26)

# Genesis 37-50 – Joseph & the sons of Israel

- **39:1-50:26 - Joseph in Egypt**

- Jacob makes Joseph swear to bury him in Canaan (47:27-31)

- Jacob blesses and 'adopts' Joseph's two sons (48:1-22)

- give each an equal share with the rest of Jacob's sons in the nation of Israel

- Jacob blesses his sons, with special attention to Judah and Joseph (49:1-28)

# Genesis 37-50 – Joseph & the sons of Israel

- **39:1-50:26 - Joseph in Egypt**

- Jacob dies at age 147 and is buried in Abraham's burial ground in Canaan (49:29-50:14)
- Joseph reassures his brothers (50:15-21)
  - "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good..." (50:20)
- Joseph dies at age 110 (50:22-26)
  - is embalmed and placed in a coffin, awaiting the time when God would fulfill His promise to bring them back out of Egypt

# Genesis 12-50 – Themes/Concepts

- **God's sovereignty**
  - over Creation
    - seen most clearly in Genesis 1-11 but also, for example, in
      - Sarah giving birth to Isaac at the age of 90
      - growth of Jacob's flocks despite Laban's attempts to cheat him
      - 7 years of plenty and 7 years of famine in Joseph's time

# Genesis 12-50 – Themes/Concepts

- **God's sovereignty**

- in election

- Not all Abraham's descendants are children of the Promise, but only those chosen and called by God
  - of all Shem's descendants (10:21-11:28), God calls Abram (12:1)
  - God chooses Isaac rather than Ishmael (17:18-21)
  - God chooses Jacob rather than Esau (25:23)
- God's choosing not based on Man's works, but on His purposes:
  - "...when Rebecca had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad - in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of His call - she was told, 'The older will serve the younger.'" (Romans 9:10-12)

# Genesis 12-50 – Themes/Concepts

- **God's sovereignty**
  - over the affairs of mankind/human history
    - God's good purposes for His people as they live in this world cannot be thwarted and will surely be fulfilled
      - illustrated in the lives of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob & his children
      - God preserves His people against those who would harm them, and even against their own folly
      - uses others to bring blessing to those whom He has called



# Genesis 12-50 – Themes/Concepts

- **God's sovereignty**

- in over-ruling evil

- God preserves His people against those who would harm them

- "I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse" (12:3)

- e.g. over-ruling Laban's deceitfulness, to bless and prosper Jacob

- God uses even the sins and evil intentions of people (including His own people) for good

- out of Judah's sin → Perez, an ancestor of Jesus Christ (38:1-30)

- Joseph being sold into Egypt → God's means for preserving Jacob's family

- " you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good..." (50:20)

# Genesis 12-50 – Themes/Concepts

- **God's promised blessing to Abraham**
  - God promises to make Abraham into a great nation
    - entails both descendants and land
    - looks to fulfillment of God's mandate to mankind in Creation to be fruitful and multiply; to fill the earth and subdue/rule over it (1:28)
    - echoed to Isaac (26:3-5, 24) and Jacob (28:13-15; 35:9-12)
  - promises not given to all Abraham's descendants, but only to those whom God had chosen and called
    - Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (see above, on God's sovereignty in election)

# Genesis 12-50 – Themes/Concepts

- **God's promised blessing to Abraham**
  - continues God's promise to Adam & Eve of redemption
    - the seed (offspring) of the woman who would crush the head of the serpent (3:15)
    - God promises that "***in you*** [Abraham] all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (12:3)
      - promise made to Abraham and his seed (offspring), looking forward ultimately to Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:16)
        - » the blessing promised Abraham comes to the whole world ***in Christ***, Abraham's seed

# Genesis 12-50 – Themes/Concepts

- **God's faithfulness**
  - God remains faithful to His promises to Abraham and his descendants
    - in spite of themselves
    - in spite of others who may oppose them

# Genesis 12-50 – Themes/Concepts

- **God's covenants with Man**

- covenant - "a bond in blood that is sovereignly administered" (O. Palmer Robertson)

- a life-and-death commitment between 2 (or more) parties
    - in the covenants God makes with men, He unilaterally sets the terms ('sovereignly administered')
    - often inaugurated with a 'self-maledictory oath', calling for judgment on the covenant-breaker
      - e.g. cutting animals in half and walking between the pieces → signifies that what happened to the animals should happen to the covenant-breaker (cf. Jeremiah 34:8-20)
    - often accompanied by a 'sign' signifying the covenant

# Genesis 12-50 – Themes/Concepts

- **God's covenants with Man**
  - God makes a covenant with Abraham (chapter 15) (and previously with Noah, chapter 9)
    - God alone walks between the halves of the animals, signifying He alone bears responsibility for fulfilling the terms of the covenant
    - as with many of the covenants God makes, He involves not just Abraham, but his seed/offspring
    - sign of the covenant is circumcision (chapter 17)
  - anticipates the New Covenant in Christ's blood

# Genesis 12-50 – Themes/Concepts

- **Faith**

- "[Abraham] believed the LORD, and He counted it to him as righteousness." (15:6)
  - God credits righteousness to those who trust Him and believe in His promises
  - basis of justification by faith, as expounded by Paul (Romans 4, Galatians 3)
- genuine faith works out in obedience to God
  - seen especially in the life of Abraham (e.g. leaving his country; offering Isaac)

# Genesis 12-50 – Themes/Concepts

- **Glimpses of the Promised Savior - "Types" of Jesus Christ**
  - types - people, things, or events that foreshadow something or someone else



# Genesis 12-50 – Themes/Concepts

- **Glimpses of the Promised Savior - "Types" of Jesus Christ**
  - In Genesis 12-50, many people & events point forward to Jesus Christ, including
    - Melchizedek (14:18-20) - both a king and a priest, as Christ would be (see Psalm 110, Hebrews 7)
    - Abraham's offering of Isaac (22:1-18) - points to God's provision of His Son as a substitute
    - Jacob's ladder reaching into heaven (28:10-19) - points to Jesus Christ, who is the ladder to heaven (see John 1:51)
    - Joseph - beloved by his father; persecuted and rejected by his brothers, but saves them and is exalted to a position of honor and power

# Next class

- Exodus

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