

Story of the Bible

NIGHT SCHOOL

Week Four



Where are we in the story?

Genesis 12 - 50



TURNING POINTS	God calls Abraham	Joseph dies	Moses dies	Joshua dies	Samuel	Rehoboam & Jeroboam	Jerusalem captured	Cyrus's decree	
KEY FIGURES	Adam; Eve; Noah	Abraham; Isaac; Jacob; Joseph	Moses	Joshua	Gideon; Samson; Ruth	Samuel; Saul; David; Solomon	Daniel	Zerubbabel; Ezra; Esther; Nehemiah	
BOOK/S	Genesis 1-11	Genesis 12-50	Exodus - Deuteronomy	Joshua	Judges - Ruth	1 Samuel – 2 Chronicles	Ezekiel - Daniel	Ezra - Esther	
SUMMARY	God creates the world; humankind rebels against Him	God chooses Abraham and his descendants	God rescues the Israelites from Egypt. They fail to trust Him and spent 40 years wandering in the wilderness	Joshua leads the Israelites to conquer the Promised Land	The Israelites consistently turn away from God	The Israelites demand a king. Saul is followed by David's line	Israel becomes two nations (Israel and Judah), both eventually taken into exile	Judah lives in exile in Babylon, which is then conquered by the Medo-Persians	Cyrus allows the Jews to return, where they rebuild the Temple and Jerusalem's city walls

Patriarchs

Transition between the primeval and patriarchal stages

Genesis 11

- Tower of Babel
- In the post-flood world, instead of filling the Earth and multiplying (Genesis 9:1) the people come together to construct a tower (Genesis 11:3-4)
- God confuses their language to disrupt their organised rebellion and scatters them across the Earth, accomplishing what they tried to avoid
 - A repeated pattern = humanity not accepting God's rulership and trying, in pride, to reach Him/become like God

Transition between the primeval and patriarchal stages

Genesis 11

- Demonstrating that God has preserved his covenant w/ Noah despite human pride (Genesis 12:1-4)
- After the flood, we may expect more fireworks from God. However, God's redemption plan includes Him calling one man to trust Him. In the midst of chaos and sin we have one man who chooses to trust and follow God (like with Noah, for God this is enough).

"Babylon arrogantly tried to make a "great name" for itself but was instead scattered across the earth. God in his generosity, however, will bestow a "great name" on this man Abraham. God's blessing of Abraham also echoes back to the original blessing God gave all creation and humanity. Now the question is, Why is God going to bless this man and his family? The last line of God's promise makes it clear: "So that all the families of the Earth will find blessing in you" (Gen. 12:3)."

- Bible Project

- The rest of the Old Testament focuses on the family of Abram, people who eventually come to be known as the Israelites.

Abram's wrestle of trust in God

Genesis 12-50

- Throughout the story we see Abram both trust God and take matters into his own hands
 - Abram is afraid for his life because other men are attracted to his wife. His solution is to deny that he's even married to her
 - Abram and Sarai also grow impatient with God's promise and try to take matters into their own hands. Sarai arranges for Abram to sleep with one of their servant girls, Hagar, who gives birth to Ishmael
- From a biblical lens, the ongoing conflict that we see today between Israel and Palestine is not surprising, it's foretold when God tells Hagar that Ishmael "will live in hostility toward all his brothers" (Gen 16:12)

Abrahamic Covenant

Genesis 12-50

- God continuously speaks to Abram and affirms his promise. Seen best in the covenant he makes with Abram
 - Genesis 15:1-21
- Two significant things happening
 - This is not a sacrifice.
 - Abram believed the Lord, and He credited it to him as righteousness.
- We are saved by grace, through faith. Always true, the progressive revelation of God's character unfolds.
 - Romans 4:11-12

Abraham called the father of our faith

Genesis 12-50

- Not because he did not waver from his faith, but because he took his doubts to God.
 - When Abraham doubts he is in conversation with God.
- Doubts are not sinful, they are an opportunity to display faith.
- We are to trust that even when we are not faithful, He is. That is faith. It rests on a revelation of God's character, not our own.
 - Where are we guilty of making faith more about us than God?

BREAK TIME

Esau and Jacob

Genesis 12-50

- God chooses Isaac, not Ishmael to be the one to carry the blessing/covenant.
 - Isaac has two sons, Esau and Jacob.

“The Jacob story is all about a guy who doesn’t believe he’s going to get God’s blessing, so he spends his life hurting everyone around him. He tries to scheme and steal the blessing and abundance for himself, instead of trusting God is going to give it to him.” Bible Project

- Esau is Isaac's favourite, Jacob is crafty and tricks Isaac into giving him the two-fold blessing reserved for the firstborn. Esau plots to kill Jacob, the author highlights the sin of Cain and Abel continues.
- Rebecca sends Jacob away to her family to keep the boys apart. Jacob marries Rachel and Leah.
- Jacob ends up with 4 wives and 12 sons, all evidence of God’s blessing. But his wives and children are rivals, leading to a divided family that constantly hurts one another.
- Over time he realizes that he needs to return home. Fearful that Esau is going to meet him, sends family ahead of him. Jacob has an encounter with God on the way home.

Jacob wrestles with God

Genesis 12-50

'At the end of this exile, as Jacob prepares to encounter his brother Esau again, he stays up all night scheming, sending his wives and children ahead of him in reverse order of importance. Then God shows up to wrestle with him and punches Jacob in the groin, the biological source of his fruitfulness. Because Jacob won't receive God's blessing, God wounds him in the place that allowed him to generate his own blessings. Jacob wrestles God for the blessing God intended for him all along—a summarizing picture of Jacob's life.

For the rest of his life, Jacob walks with a limp. He's a wounded chosen one, not unlike other wounded chosen ones we will meet later in the story of the Bible—notably, the suffering servant of Isaiah. But unlike the suffering servant, Jacob brought about his own pain. The suffering servant is righteous, and his wounds are received on behalf of the sins of others. But the message of Jacob's story is clear: God never forsakes his chosen ones, even those who are less than righteous.' - BP

- Jacob is named Israel because he has struggled with God and humans and overcome.

Joseph, Jacob 's favorite of his 12 sons

Genesis 12-50

- Joseph boasts about his dreams to his brothers who put him in a pit and sell him as a slave.
 - Repeated theme. It is important to understand both God's will and his ways. Joseph learns God's ways through the rest of his journey.
- Joseph is placed in Potiphar's house. He refuses to sleep with Potiphar's wife.
- He is imprisoned and gains pharaoh's favor through interpretation of dreams.
- He is put in charge of distribution of food, which allows him to rescue his family during a famine.

Jacob's final blessing

Genesis 12-50

- Jacob is on his deathbed and wants to bless his 12 sons.
- The messiah is coming from the line of Judah.

“Judah, your brothers will praise you. You will grasp your enemies by the neck. All your relatives will bow before you. 9 Judah, my son, is a young lion that has finished eating its prey. Like a lion he crouches and lies down like a lioness—who dares to rouse him? 10 The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from his descendants, until the coming of the one to whom it belongs, the one whom all nations will honor.

Genesis 49:8-10

Joseph 's revelation of God 's sovereignty

Genesis 12-50

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Genesis 50:20 NIV

- Link to Genesis. Humanity causes evil, not God. God is, however, at work to redeem the evil of humanity and work it for the good of those who love Him.
- How should we navigate evil in our own and others lives?

Genesis ' conclusion

Genesis 12-50

- Jacob and his family live in Egypt. This is where Genesis finishes.
 - Jacob asks to be buried in Canaan (Genesis 49:29). He knows God's promise to Abram, his grandfather.
- Similarly (Genesis 50:24).
 - Joseph is about to die and asks the people to take his bones with them to the promised land when they get there.
 - He is saying even though I may die here, this is not the resting place of me or my people. God made a promise to us.
- This is the note on which the book of Genesis finishes. The family have been blessed by God and are safe, but they have not yet seen the promise to Abraham fulfilled.

Q&A

**THANKS FOR YOUR
TIME!**

See you next week!