

GENESIS: Where Grace Begins

The Legacy of Jacob – Genesis 47:27-31

²⁷ Thus Israel settled in the land of Egypt, in the land of Goshen. And they gained possessions in it, and were fruitful and multiplied greatly. ²⁸ And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years. So the days of Jacob, the years of his life, were 147 years.

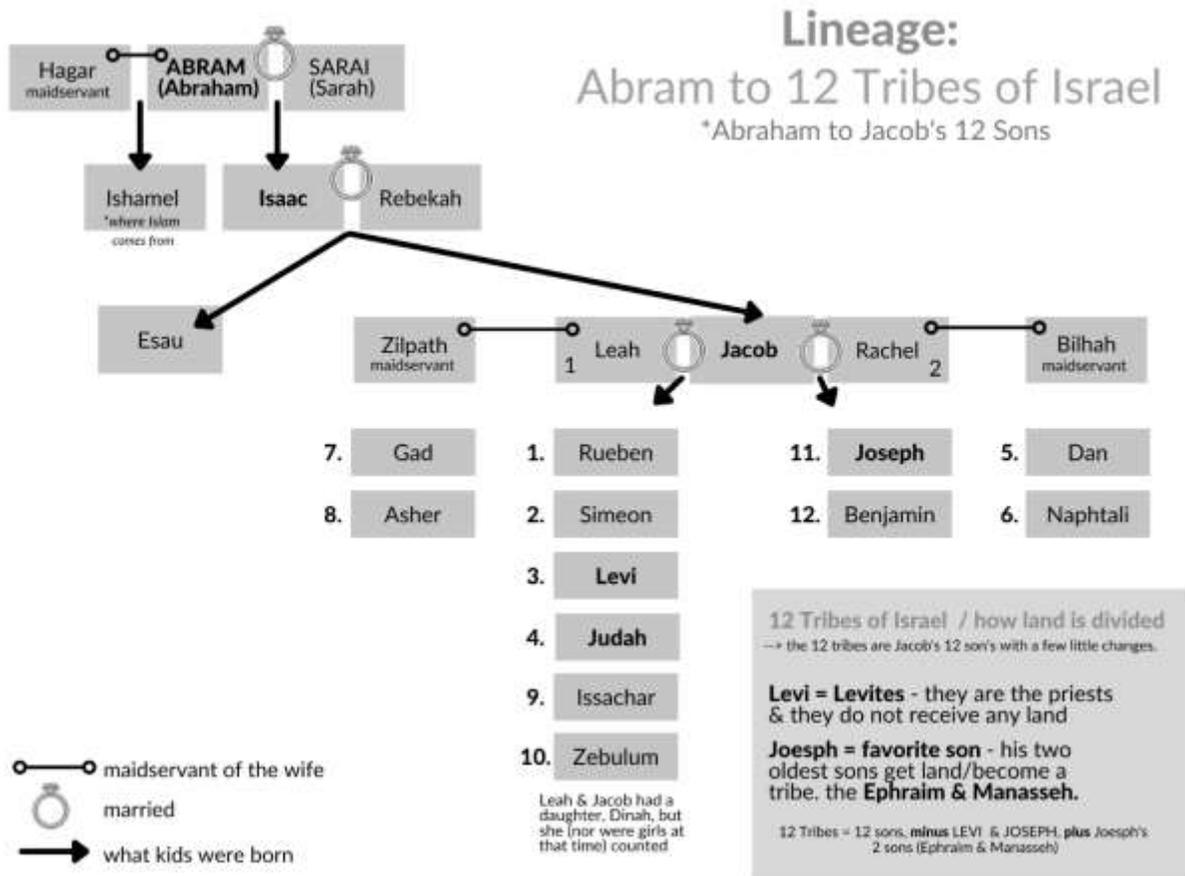
²⁹ And when the time drew near that Israel must die, he called his son Joseph and said to him, "If now I have found favor in your sight, put your hand under my thigh and promise to deal kindly and truly with me. Do not bury me in Egypt, ³⁰ but let me lie with my fathers. Carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their burying place."

He answered, "I will do as you have said."

³¹ And he said, "Swear to me"; and he swore to him.

Then Israel bowed himself upon the head of his bed.

Genesis 47:27-31



Jacob – Six Lessons from A Short and Troubled Life

Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The days of the years of my sojourning are 130 years. Few and evil have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not attained to the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their sojourning."

Genesis 47:9

1. God is _____ and uses every action and decision we make to accomplish His plans.

This does not mean that God _____ or _____ sinful actions, but that God is not limited by us in carrying out His purposes. It also means that God does not need our 'help' in accomplishing His plans. He requires our _____.

2. Being blessed by God and covered by His _____ does not eliminate the _____ for sinful behavior.

We still "reap what we sow" (Galatians 6:7). Jacob brought a lot of unnecessary pain into his life (and the lives of those around him) because of bad choices. God graciously _____ those choices for His own purposes, but Jacob still suffered as a result.

3. God never _____ His covenant people.

Sometimes one wonders how Jacob ever made it to a peaceful end. Esau, Laban, any number of Canaanites could have killed him were it not for God. God surely was blessing him even when he didn't deserve it. Jacob was never without God. God's faithfulness to His covenant with us is our _____ and _____.

4. God is _____ to our _____.

Because of His grace and love for us, God _____ us. And He orchestrates circumstances, events, and individuals for the purpose of changing our hearts, shaping our character, and directing our steps. Like clay in the hands of a master potter, God is always forming us. (Jeremiah 18:3-4; Isaiah 64:8; 2 Cor. 4:7)

5. To use us greatly, God must break us from our _____.

Jacob, the deceiver, fighter, striver had spent his life relying on his ability and plans. When he wrestled with God and ultimately 'lost', he actually 'won'. The Lord turned Jacob from a self-reliant and self-dependent man to God-reliant and God leaning man.

6. What God desires most from us – and what blesses our lives the most – is genuine _____ with Him.

The _____ of God reminds us that God needs nothing from us, for He lacks nothing. It is out of his loving care for us that He offers and invites us to draw near to Him. The best moments of Jacobs's life were when he did just that:

After cheating Esau and deceiving his father, he is compelled to flee for his life. It is then that he encounters God at Bethel for the first time (28:10-22).

In Haran, where he fled, he experiences difficulty after difficulty. He is deceived by Laban, whom he will contest with for years and his wives will struggle with jealousy. But as he is called to return to Canaan, he meets angelic messengers (32:1-2).

At Peniel, his challenging circumstances push him to _____. Afterwards, he wrestles with God for a blessing. He emerges a changed man with a new name. (32:3-12; 24-32).

Later, his daughter is raped, and the awful responses of his sons brings calamity to the family. (34) Forced to return to Bethel, he remembers meeting God there before and builds an altar. (35)

His later years are marked with great pain and sorrow and the supposed loss of his favored son. (37) Family troubles emerge and then a devastating famine. (38-39) But in the end, he is driven (by God) to Egypt where he is reunited with Joseph (39-47). In his death, he blesses his sons and grandsons (48-49) and even prophesies about the Messiah (49:10).

More than anything else, God desires to be _____, _____ and _____. Worship and obedience are the natural effects of those causes.

*Next week: Genesis 48 – The Blessing of Joseph**