

unfoldingWord® Simplified Text

v92

Genesis

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Table of Contents

Genesis 1
Chapter 1 1
Chapter 2 1
Chapter 3 2
Chapter 4 3
Chapter 5 4
Chapter 6 4
Chapter 7 5
Chapter 8 5
Chapter 9 6
Chapter 10 7
Chapter 11 7
Chapter 12 8
Chapter 13 8
Chapter 14 9
Chapter 15 10
Chapter 16 10
Chapter 17 11
Chapter 18 12
Chapter 19 12
Chapter 20 14
Chapter 21 14
Chapter 22 15
Chapter 23 15
Chapter 24 16
Chapter 25 18
Chapter 26 18
Chapter 27 19
Chapter 28 21
Chapter 29 21
Chapter 30 22
Chapter 31 23
Chapter 32 25
Chapter 33 25
Chapter 34 26
Chapter 35 27
Chapter 36 27
Chapter 37 28
Chapter 38 29
Chapter 39 30
Chapter 40 31
Chapter 41 31
Chapter 42 33
Chapter 43 34
Chapter 44 35
Chapter 45 35
Chapter 46 36
Chapter 47 37
Chapter 48 38
Chapter 49 39
Chapter 50 40

Genesis

How God Created the Universe and Everything in It
1:1-2:3

1 *This is how everything* began: God created the heavens and
the earth. 2 *At first after that,* the earth did not have *its*
present form, and there was nothing *living* on it. It was *totally*
dark, there was deep water *everywhere*, and God's Spirit was
moving above the water. 3 Then God said, "I command light
to start shining!" And *immediately* light started shining. 4 God
observed that the light *was* excellent. Then he divided the light
from the darkness *so that each had its own time*. 5 He named the
light Daytime, and the darkness he named Nighttime. Then
evening came, and *later* morning came, *and that was the end of*
the first day.

6 Then God said, "I command there to be a large space in
the middle of the water, so that it divides the water into two
separate places." 7 That is how God made a large space and
used it to divide the water that *was* below the space from
the water that *was* above it. Everything happened *exactly* as
he commanded, 8 and he named the space Sky. Then evening
came, and *later* morning came, *and that was the end of* the
second day.

9 Then God said, "I command the water *that is* below the
sky to come together in one place so that there is dry ground."
And that is *exactly* what happened. 10 Then God named the
ground that had dried off Land, and he named the water which
had gathered together Ocean. And he observed that *what he*
had made was excellent.

11 Then God said, "I command the land to produce *green*
plants all over the earth, *including all types of* plants that produce
seeds *and all types of* fruit trees that produce their own type
of fruit with seeds inside." And that is *exactly* what happened.
12 The land started producing *green* plants, *including all types*
of plants that produce their own type of seeds and *all types of*
trees that produce their own type of fruit with seeds inside.
God observed that *what he had made was* excellent. 13 Then
evening came, and *later* morning came, *and that was the end of*
the third day.

14 Then God said, "I command there to be sources of light
in the sky that divide the day*time* from the night*time*. They
must also mark when important things happen, and *they must*
show when seasons, days and years begin *and end*. 15 They
must function as lights in the sky that shine *light* on the earth."
And that is *exactly* what happened. 16 That is how God made
the two bright lights, the brighter light to shine during the
day*time*, and the weaker light to shine during the night*time*.
That is also *when he made* the stars. 17 He put those lights in the
sky to shine light on the earth, 18 to shine during the day*time* or
during the night*time*, and to divide the light from the darkness.
God observed that *what he had made was* excellent. 19 Then
evening came, and *later* morning came, *and that was the end of*
the fourth day.

20 Then God said, "I command there to be large groups
of *water* animals that live everywhere in the water. I also
command there to be birds that fly in the sky above the earth."
21 That is how God made the huge sea animals and all *the other*
types of animals that live all over the place in the water, *each*
having its own type of young. *That is* also *how he made* all
the different types of birds, *each* having its own type of young.
God observed that *what he had made was* excellent. 22 Then he
blessed them *all* by saying *to them*, "You *water animals* must
have many young so that you increase *greatly in number* and
live all over the place in the ocean. *You* birds must *also* increase
greatly in number all over the earth." 23 Then evening came,
and *later* morning came, *and that was the end of* the fifth day.

24 Then God said, "I command the land to produce *all*
types of animals, *each* having its own type of young, *including*
domestic animals, *all types of* animals that crawl and *all* the
other types of wild animals, *each* having its own type of young."
And that is *exactly* what happened. 25 That is how God made
all the different types of wild animals, *each* having its own type
of young, and *all* the domestic animals, *each* having its own
type of young, and all *different types of* animals that crawl on
the ground, *each* having its own type of young. God observed
that *what he had made was* excellent.

26 Then God said *to himself*, "*Now* we should make human
beings to be like us and act like us, and let us put them in charge
of the fish in the ocean, the birds in the sky, the domestic
animals, and the entire earth, including all the animals that
live on the earth." 27 So God created human beings to be like
himself. *Yes,* he made them to be like himself. He *also* created
them *to be* male or female.

28 Then God blessed them by saying to them, "Have many
children so that you *and your descendants* increase *greatly in*
number and live all over the earth and take control of it. You
are in charge of the fish in the ocean, the birds in the sky, and
all the animals that live on the land." 29 Then he *also* said *to*
them, "Listen, I am *now* giving to you *for food* all *the different*
types of plants that produce seeds and grow anywhere on the
earth, as well as all the *different types of* trees that *produce* fruit
with seeds inside it. *All of* them are yours to eat from. 30 In
the same way, *I give* every *type of* green plant for food to all
the *wild* animals *that live* on the earth, and all the birds *that*
fly in the sky, and all the *other* animals *that live* on the land
and breathe *air*." And that is how it was.

31 Then God looked at everything that he had made, and
he observed that it was *all* very excellent. Then evening came,
and *later* morning came, *and that was the end of* the sixth day.

2 That is how God finished *creating* the heavens and the
earth, including all the many things that are in them.
2 By the seventh day he had finished the work he had been
doing, so he rested on that day from all that work. 3 Then God
established the seventh day *as a day* to bless *people*, by setting
it apart as a special time *to rest and worship him*. *He did that*
because on that day he no longer did the work that he had
been doing, creating *everything*.

How Yahweh Created the First Man and First Woman
2:4-25

4 What follows tells *more details about* the history of what
God did when he created the heavens and the earth: During

the time *when* Yahweh *who is* God created the earth and the heavens, 5 *for a while* there were not yet any bushes *growing* in the fields on the earth, and there were not any *other* plants that had sprouted yet. *That was* because God had not *yet* sent rain to water the earth, and human beings did not exist *yet* to cultivate the ground. 6 *During that time* springs of water kept seeping up from underground and supplied water to the entire surface of the land. 7 Then Yahweh *who is* God *took some* dirt from the earth *and* formed the first man *out of it*. Then he blew his breath into the man's nostrils to make him live, so that the man became alive.

8 Now Yahweh God had planted a *large* garden in *the region of* Eden, *which was* in the east, and that is where he put the man whom he had created. 9 *There* Yahweh had caused all *types of* trees to grow from the ground that are beautiful to look at and *that grow fruit that is* good to eat. In the middle of the garden was the tree whose fruit makes people live *forever*, as well as the tree whose fruit enables people to know *what is* good and *what is* evil.

10 There was a river flowing through *the region of* Eden that provided water for the park. From Eden the river divided into four *smaller* rivers. 11 The first *river was* the Pishon *River*, which flowed around the entire region of Havilah, *a place* where *there was much* gold. 12 In fact, the gold from that region *was very* pure. A *type of* fragrant resin and *valuable* onyx gemstones *were also* in that region. 13 The second river *was* the Gihon *River*, which flowed around through the entire region of Cush. 14 The third river *was* the Tigris *River*, which flowed east of *the region of* Assyria, and the fourth river *was* called the Euphrates *River*.

15 After Yahweh God placed the man in Eden Garden to cultivate it and take care of it, 16 he instructed him, "You may eat as much *fruit* as you want *to eat* from any tree in the garden, 17 except I forbid you to eat *any fruit* from the tree whose fruit enables people to know *what is* good and *what is* evil. If you eat *fruit* from that tree, on that *same* day you will definitely die."

18 Then Yahweh *who is* God said, "*It is* not good *for* the man to live by himself. *So* I will create someone who is just right for him to help him." 19 Now *previously,* Yahweh had used *dirt* from the ground to form all *the different types of* wild animals and all *the different types of* birds *that fly* in the sky. So he brought *them all* to the man to hear how he would name them. Whatever name the man gave to each *kind of* animal, that *became* the name for that kind of animal. 20 The man gave names to all the *different kinds of* livestock and to *all* the *different kinds of* birds *that fly* in the sky, and to all the *different kinds of* wild animals, but none of them was an appropriate companion to help him.

21 So Yahweh God caused the man to sleep deeply. Then while the man was asleep, God took a rib *out of the man's body* and filled in the place where it had been with flesh *and healed it*. 22 Next Yahweh God made a woman from the rib which he had taken out of the man*'s body*, and he took her to the man.
23 *When the man saw her,* he exclaimed,

"Finally! Here is someone *like me*
who has bones and flesh from me!
I will call her 'woman,'
because *it was* from *the body of* a man
that God took her."

24 Because of that, *when a man gets married,* he must leave *the home of* his father and mother, and he must unite with his wife, so that they become completely united.

25 *During that time* the man and his wife did not wear any clothes, but *yet* they were not ashamed *about it*.

Adam and Eve Sin against Yahweh, and He Judges Them
3:1-24

3 Now the snake was the craftiest of all the animals that Yahweh God had created. *One day* he asked the woman, "Did God really command you not to eat *fruit* from any of the trees in the garden?" 2 The woman answered him, "*No, God said that* we may eat fruit from *any of* the tree*s* in the garden, 3 except fruit from the tree that is in the center of the garden. He commanded *us* not to eat that fruit or even touch it, because if we do, we will die!" 4 But the snake said to the woman, "*That is not true.* You will not die. 5 Actually, God knows that as soon as you eat *fruit* from that tree, you will understand new things, so that you will know *what is* right and *what is* wrong just like God does." 6 The woman saw that the tree*'s fruit looked* good to eat and that the tree *itself* was *very* beautiful. She also wanted *to eat* the fruit so that it would make her wise. So she picked some of the fruit *off the tree* and ate it. She also gave *some of the fruit* to her husband, *who was there* with her, and he ate *it too*. 7 Suddenly they both understood new things, and they realized that their bodies *were* bare. So they sewed *some* fig *tree* leaves together and made clothes for themselves *to cover their nakedness*.

8 *Late that afternoon,* during the cool time of the day, the man and his wife heard Yahweh God's voice as he walked in the garden, but they hid from him behind some tree*s* in the garden. 9 So Yahweh God called *out* to the man, "*Adam,* where are you?" 10 The man replied, "I heard the sound of you *walking* in the garden, but I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid *from you*." 11 Then Yahweh God asked, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you *disobey me and* eat *fruit* from the tree from which I ordered you not to eat?" 12 The man replied, "The woman whom you put here *to be* with me, she *is the one who* gave me some of that fruit, so I ate *it*."
13 Then Yahweh God asked the woman, "What did you do?" The woman replied, "The snake tricked me, so I ate *some of the fruit*." 14 So Yahweh God said to the snake, "Because you did that,

I am cursing you more *severely* than all the livestock
and all the animals in the fields!
As a result, you must crawl *along the ground* on your belly,
and you will eat dust *with your food*
for as long as you live.
15 Besides that, I will cause you and your
descendants to be enemies
with the woman and her descendants.
In fact, her descendant will crush your head,
and you will bite his heel."

16 *Then* God said to the woman,

"I will greatly increase how much you suffer
when you bear children,
yes, you will suffer *much pain* when you give birth.

But you will *still* desire *to be with* your husband,
and he will dominate you."

17 Then God said to Adam, "You did what your wife said
and ate *fruit* from the tree that I commanded you not to eat
any fruit from.

Because of what you did, I have cursed the ground.
As a result, for as long as you live,
you will have to work *very* hard and suffer *to
grow enough food* to eat.
18 In fact, thorn plants and thistle plants *and other
weeds* will grow from the ground
and make it difficult for you to grow *enough*
crops in your fields for food.
19 You will have to *work hard and* sweat a lot
in order to *produce enough* food to eat,
until you *die and* again become dirt,
which I created you from.
Yes, *I created* you out of dirt,
so dirt is what you will become again *after you die*."

20 Then Adam named his wife Eve, *which means "living,"*
because she would be the mother of everyone who would ever
live. 21 Then Yahweh God made *some* clothes out of *animal*
skins for Adam and his wife, and he put the clothes on them.
22 Then Yahweh God said *to himself*, "Look! The man *and
his wife* have become like one of us, so that they know *what is*
good and *what is* evil. So now we must do something so that
they do not also pick and eat *fruit* from the tree that gives
people *eternal* life, which will make them live forever!" 23 Then
Yahweh God expelled the man *and his wife* from Eden Garden
to work the ground which he had made them from. 24 After
he expelled them, he stationed to the east *side* of the garden
some powerful cherubs *angels* and a burning sword that was
swinging around in all directions to keep everyone away from
the path to the tree whose fruit makes people live *forever*.

Cain Kills Abel: The First Murder
4:1-16

4 Then Adam had *marital* relations with his wife Eve, and
she became pregnant and gave birth to *a son they named*
Cain, *which means "obtained." They named him that* because
she said, "Yahweh has enabled me to obtain a son!" 2 Then
Eve also gave birth to Cain's brother *whom they named* Abel.
When they grew up, Abel became a shepherd, and Cain became
a *crop* farmer. 3 As time went by, one day Cain gave some
of the crops *that he had grown* in his fields to Yahweh as a
gift *to honor him*. 4 Abel also gave *a gift to Yahweh*, *but what
he gave was* some of the firstborn animals from his flock*s*,
including some of their best parts. Yahweh was pleased with
Abel and his gift. 5 However, he was not pleased with Cain
or his gift. So Cain became extremely angry, and he frowned.
6 Then Yahweh asked him, "Why are you so angry? And why
are you frowning? 7 If you do *what is* right, I will accept *you
and your offering*. But if you do not do *what is* right, then sin *is
like a fierce animal that* is waiting outside your door *to attack
you*. It wants *to control* you, but you must control it *so that you
do not sin*."

8 But *after that,* Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out
to the field *to work together*." So *they went out* to the field, and
while they were there, Cain attacked his brother and murdered
him.
9 Later Yahweh asked Cain, "Where *is* your brother Abel?"
Cain responded, "I do not know *where he is*. Is it my job to
take care of my brother?" 10 Then Yahweh said *to him*, "You
have done a terrible thing! I see your brother's blood on the
ground, and I must punish you *for killing him*! 11 So from now
on I am cursing you *so that you will not be able to grow food*
from the ground, which is where your brother's blood spilled
out when you murdered him. 12 Whenever you *try to* farm the
ground, it will no longer produce good crops for you. *From
now on,* you will be an outcast who wanders around on the
earth *without a permanent home*."
13 Cain replied to Yahweh, "You are punishing me more
severely than I can endure. 14 Look, you have now banished me
from *farming* the ground, and I will be far away from you. I
will be a homeless fugitive on the earth, so that whoever sees
me will kill me!" 15 Yahweh replied to him, "So then, *I will
warn everyone that* I will take vengeance on whoever kills you
and punish him seven times more *severely than I am punishing
you*!" Then he put a mark on Cain to warn everyone who met
him not to kill him. 16 Then Cain left Yahweh's presence and
lived in the region of Nod, *which means "wandering," which was*
east of *the region of* Eden.

Cain's Descendants
4:17-24

17 Then Cain had *marital* relations with his wife, and she
became pregnant and gave birth to *a son they named* Enoch. *At
that time* Cain was building a city, so he named the city after
his son Enoch. 18 When Enoch *grew up,* he had *a son named*
Irad. Then Irad had *a son named* Mehujael. Then Mehujael had
a son named Methushael. Then Methushael had *a son named*
Lamech.
19 When Lamech *grew up,* he married two wives. His first
wife's name was Adah, and his other wife's name was Zillah.
20 Adah gave birth to *a son named* Jabal. He *grew up and*
became the first of *all* those who live *in* portable shelters and
raise livestock *for a living*. 21 His brother's name was Jubal. He
became the first of all *those* who play harps and flutes.
22 *Lamech's other wife* Zillah also gave birth to *a son named*
Tubal Cain. He *was the first of all those who* make all *kinds* of
tools *and other things* out of bronze and iron. Tubal Cain had
a sister *whose name was* Naamah.
23 *One day,* Lamech bragged to his *two* wives,

"Adah and Zillah, listen to what I have to say.
My wives, listen to this:
I killed a young man for wounding me!
In fact, *I killed* that man *just* because he bruised me.
24 God will avenge Cain seven times,
but *I,* Lamech *avenge myself* 77 times!"

People Start to Worship God Using His Name Yahweh
4:25-26

25 Then Adam had *marital* relations with his wife again, and
she gave birth to a son, and she named him Seth, *which means
"given." She named him that* because *when he was born, she had*

said, “God has given me another child to replace Abel, whom Cain killed.” 26 Seth also had a son, and he named him Enosh.

During that time people began to worship *God* by using His name Yahweh.

The Descendants from Adam to Noah 5:1-32

1 Chronicles 1:1-4

5 Here *is* the *family* record of Adam and his descendants:
On the day when God created human beings, he made
them to be like himself. 2 He *also* created them *to be* male and
female, and on the *same* day that he created them, he blessed
them and named them “human beings.”
3 When Adam was 130 years old, he had *a son* who was
like him in many ways, and he named him Seth. 4 After Seth’s
birth, Adam lived *another* 800 years. He *also* had *other* sons as
well as daughters. 5 So Adam lived a total of 930 years, and
then he died.
6 When Seth was 105 years old, he had *a son named* Enosh.
7 After Enosh’s birth, Seth lived *another* 807 years. He *also* had
other sons as well as daughters. 8 So Seth lived a total of 912
years, and *then* he died.
9 When Enosh was ninety years old, he had *a son named*
Kenan. 10 After Kenan’s birth, Enosh lived *another* 815 years.
He *also* had *other* sons as well as daughters. 11 So Enosh lived
a total of 905 years, and *then* he died.
12 When Kenan was seventy years old, he had *a son named*
Mahalalel. 13 After Mahalalel’s birth, Kenan lived *another* 840
years. He *also* had *other* sons as well as daughters. 14 So Kenan
lived a total of 910 years, and *then* he died.
15 When Mahalalel was sixty-five years old, he had *a son*
named Jared. 16 After Jared’s birth, Mahalalel lived *another*
830 years. He *also* had *other* sons as well as daughters. 17 So
Mahalalel lived a total of 895 years, and *then* he died.
18 When Jared was 162 years old, he had *a son named*
Enoch. 19 After Enoch’s birth, Jared lived *another* 800 years.
He *also* had *other* sons as well as daughters. 20 So Jared lived
a total of 962 years, and *then* he died.
21 When Enoch was sixty-five years old, he had *a son named*
Methuselah. 22 After Methuselah’s birth, Enoch lived *in a close*
relationship with God for *another* 300 years. He *also* had *other*
sons as well as daughters. 23 So Enoch lived a total of 365
years. 24 Then while he was *still* living *in a close relationship*
with God, *suddenly* he was no longer *on earth*, because God
had taken him away *to be with him*.
25 When Methuselah was 187 years old, he had *a son named*
Lamech. 26 After Lamech’s birth, Methuselah lived *another*
782 years. He *also* had *other* sons as well as daughters. 27 So
Methuselah lived a total of 969 years, and *then* he died.
28 When Lamech was 182 years old, he had a son, 29 and
he named him Noah *which means “rest,” because* he said, “This
son will give us rest from the difficult work that we have to
do because Yahweh has cursed the ground.” 30 After Noah’s
birth, Lamech lived *another* 595 years. He *also* had *other* sons
as well as daughters. 31 So Lamech lived a total of 777 years,
and then he died.
32 After Noah was 500 years old, he had *sons whose names*
were Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

God Destroys the World with a Flood 6:1-9:29

People on the Earth Become More and More Evil 6:1-8

6 Now it happened that people began to multiply *in number*
all over the earth, and they were having daughters. 2 *When*
those girls grew up, the sons of God saw that they *were* beautiful,
so they chose any *of them* that they wanted and married them.
3 Then Yahweh said *to himself*, “My Spirit will not put up with
human beings forever, because they *are* very corrupt. I will
give them 120 years *to repent*.”
4 *People called* the Nephils lived on the earth during that
time and also later on. *That happened* when the sons of God
had relations with the daughters of human beings, and those
women gave birth to children for them. Their children were
the Nephils, who were the famous mighty men who lived long
ago.
5 Yahweh saw that the people on the earth had become very
evil, and that everything they thought about and desired *was*
completely evil all the time. 6 As a result, he regretted that he
had made them *to live* on the earth, and he felt very sad. 7 So
he said *to himself*, “I will completely destroy from the earth *all*
the people whom I created. *In fact*, *I will destroy not only all* the
people, but also *all* the animals, including the creatures that
crawl *on the ground* and the birds *that fly* in the sky, because I
regret that I *ever* made them.” 8 But Yahweh was pleased with
Noah.

Noah Prepares for the Flood 6:9-22

9 Here is *more of* the history about Noah and his descendants:
Noah *was* a man who did what was right. Out of all the people
living at that time, he was the only one *whom God considered*
blameless, *and* he lived in a close relationship with God.
10 Eventually Noah had *his* three sons, *whose names were* Shem,
Ham, and Japheth.
11 Now *the people on* the earth had become wicked according
to God’s standards, and all over the earth they were doing
violent things. 12 God saw how wicked *everyone on* the earth had
become, because all the people on the earth were *continually*
behaving in evil ways. 13 So he said to Noah, “I am going to
destroy all people, because all over the earth they are doing
violent things. In fact, I am going to destroy them and *everything*
else on the earth *too*. 14 *Therefore you must* build a *very* large
boat for yourself *and your family* out of the best wood *for*
building boats. Build rooms inside the boat, and seal it inside
and outside with tar *to keep water out*. 15 You must make the
boat like this: It *must be* 140 meters long, twenty-three meters
wide, and fourteen meters high. 16 Make a half-meter high
opening between the top of the walls of the ark and its roof *all*
the way around, *to let light and air in*. Put a door in the side of
the boat, and build three levels *on the inside*. 17 Listen *carefully*
to me: I am going to bring a flood over the *whole* earth, which
will destroy all the creatures under the sky that breathe *air*. *As*
a result, every *living* thing that *is* on land will die! 18 But I will
make a *special* agreement between me and you, so you must
get on board the boat, and *take* your wife, your sons, and your
sons’ wives with you. 19 You must also take into the boat two

of every *kind of* animal, so that they stay alive with you. Each pair must include *one* male and *one* female. 20 Pairs of every kind of bird and every kind of animal, including every kind of creature that moves on the ground, will come to you so that you keep them alive *in the boat*. 21 You must *also* gather all the different kinds of food that people and animals eat and store it *on the boat* with you, so that there will be *enough* food for you *and your family* and for *all* the animals." 22 So, *that is what* Noah did; he did everything exactly as God had commanded him *to do*.

Yahweh Sends the Flood
7:1-23

7 Then *after they had finished building the boat,* Yahweh commanded Noah, "You and your entire family must go into the boat, because I know *that* you *are the only one* among the people living today *who is* living rightly according to my standards. 2 Take with you seven male and female pairs of every *kind of* pure animal, and *one* male and female pair of *every kind of* impure animal. 3 Also *take* seven male and female pairs of *every kind of* bird *that flies* in the sky, so that *later* their offspring will live all over the earth. 4 *You must do that,* because seven days from today I will make it rain *continuously all* over the earth *for* forty days and nights. In that way, I will completely destroy from the earth every living creature that I have made." 5 Then Noah did everything *exactly* as Yahweh had commanded him *to do*.

6 Noah was 600 years old when the flood covered the earth. 7 *That is when* he and his wife, and his sons and their wives went together into the boat so that they would not die in the flood. 8 *Also, every kind of* pure animal and *every kind of* impure animal and *every kind of* bird, *including* every *kind of creature* that lives on land, 9 came in pairs to Noah *and went* into the boat. *They were* male and female *pairs*, which was exactly what God had commanded him *to take along*.

10 So it happened *that* when the seven days *that God had spoken about* had passed, water started to flood the earth. 11 When Noah was 600 years old, on the seventeenth day of the second month *of the year*, on that *very* day all the springs in the deep ocean started pouring out water. *God also caused* the water in the sky to start pouring down, as if he had opened *huge* floodgates *in the sky*, 12 so that it rained *continuously all* over the earth *for* forty days and nights.

13 *So it was that* on the same day *that the flood started*, Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, along with his wife and his sons' three wives *all* entered the boat. 14 They had with them every kind of living creature, including every kind of livestock and every *other* kind of creature that lives on the land, and every kind of bird *and* everything *else* that flies. 15 Pairs of every *kind of* living thing that breathes *air* came to Noah *and went* into the boat. 16 The animals that went into *the boat were* male and female *pairs* from every *kind of* living thing, which was exactly what God had commanded Noah *to take along*. Then *after they were all inside,* Yahweh closed the door *of the boat* behind them.

17 *For* forty days *and forty nights* the flood kept getting deeper and deeper *all* over the earth, and as the water rose, it lifted up the boat so that it floated *on the water* above the ground. 18 So the floodwaters continued to rise and get much deeper *all* over the earth, while the boat floated *safely* on the water. 19 Eventually the water became so deep on the earth that *even* all the highest mountains everywhere under the sky were under water. 20 *In fact,* the water rose *at least* seven meters above *the tops of* the *highest* mountains, so that they were *completely* under water. 21 Then all the creatures that lived on land died. *That* included *all* the birds, the livestock, and the *other* living creatures, including every *kind of* creature that lived in large groups on the earth, as well as all the people. 22 Every living creature that breathed air and *lived* on dry land died. 23 That is how Yahweh completely destroyed all the living creatures that *were* on the earth, including *all* people and livestock and *all the other* creatures that lived *on the land* and also the birds *that flew* in the sky. Yes, he completely destroyed everything *that lived* on the earth, so that the only ones who were still alive were Noah and his family and the animals that were with them in the boat.

God Causes the Flood to Go Away
7:24-8:19

24 *Deep* water continued to cover the *entire* world *for* 150 days.

8 But God never forgot Noah *and his family* and all the animals, both wild and tame, that *were* with them in the boat. So he caused a wind to blow over *the water that was covering* the earth, so that the water *started to* go down. 2 *He also caused* the springs in the deep *ocean* to stop *gushing out water*, and *he caused* the water to stop pouring from the sky, so that it stopped raining. 3 Then the water steadily went down from *the surface of* the land. After the 150 days *had passed*, the water had gone down 4 so *much* that on the seventeenth day of the seventh month *of the year*, the boat came to rest on *one of* the mountains in the Ararat *mountain range*. 5 The floodwaters continued to go down until on the first *day* of the tenth month *of the year*, the peaks of the *surrounding* mountains became visible *above the water*.

6 After forty *more* days *had passed*, Noah opened a window in the boat that he had made, 7 and he released a raven, which kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up *more* from the land. 8 Meanwhile Noah *also* released a dove from the boat to find out if the water had gone down from the land. 9 But water was *still* covering the entire earth, so the dove did not find anywhere to land and rest. Then it returned to Noah in the boat, and Noah reached out, caught it, and brought it *back* into the boat. 10 Noah waited seven more days, then he released the dove from the boat again. 11 That evening the dove returned to him, and he saw that *it had* a fresh green olive *tree* leaf in its beak! That is how Noah realized that the water had gone down *further* from the land. 12 Then he waited seven more days and he released the dove *again*, but *this time* it did not come back to him again.

13 So it was, when *Noah was* 601 years old, on the first *day* of the first month *of the year*, the water had *almost* dried up from the land. So Noah took off *part of* the roof of the boat and looked *around*, and he saw that *much of* the land's surface was *almost* dry. 14 Then by the twenty-seventh day of the second month *of the year*, the land had dried off.

15 Then God commanded Noah, 16 "Come out of the boat, together with your wife, your sons, and your sons' wives. 17 Bring out all the animals that *are* with you, all of them,

including the birds, tame animals, and every *other* animal that moves on land. Then they can live all over the earth; *yes,* they will have many young and increase *in number all* over the earth." 18 So Noah came out *of the boat*, along with his wife and his sons and their wives. 19 All the animals, *including* all the animals that crawl and all the birds *and* everything *else* that lives on land, *also* came out of the boat in groups of their own kind.

Yahweh Makes a Covenant with Mankind and All Other Living Things 8:20-9:17

20 Then Noah made an altar *out of large stones to offer sacrifices* to Yahweh. Next he chose *some* of every *kind of* animal and bird that is acceptable to sacrifice, and he *killed them and* burned *their bodies* on the altar as an offering *to Yahweh to worship him*. 21 Yahweh smelled the aroma *of the offerings* and was pleased, and he thought to himself, "Never again will I curse the ground because of mankind*'s sins*, *even* though everything they desire and think about *is* evil from the time they are children. And never again will I destroy all living *creatures* the way I *just* did.

22 As long as the earth *still* exists,
each year there will always be a season to plant
seeds and a season to harvest *crops*,
as well as cold weather and hot weather,
summer and winter,
and day and night."

9 Then God caused Noah and his sons to prosper by saying to them, "Have many children so that you *and your descendants* will become numerous and live all over the earth. 2 Every living creature on the earth will be afraid and terrified of you, including every bird *that flies* in the sky, *along* with every creature that moves on land, and all the fish in the ocean. I have put them *all* under your authority. 3 *From now on* every creature that is alive and moves is yours *to eat* as food. In the same way that *I provided you* green plants *for food*, *now* I provide you everything *for food*. 4 However, you must never eat meat that still has its blood *in it*, which made it live. 5 Also, I definitely require that anyone who murders someone must die. *In fact,* if any animal *kills a human being*, I require that it must die. *That is also true* for human beings: If anyone *murders* another person, I require that he must die.

6 *That's right,* you must put to death
anyone who murders a human being,
because God made human beings
to be like himself.

7 Now *as for* you, have many children so that you *and your descendants* will become numerous. Spread out all over the earth and become numerous everywhere."

8 Then God said to Noah and his sons, 9 "Listen *carefully* to me: I am making my agreement with you and your descendants. 10 *It is* also with all the living creatures that *are* with you, including the birds, the livestock, and all the *other* living creatures on the earth *that are* with you. *That includes* all *those* that came out of the ark and all the living creatures *that will ever live* on the earth. 11 My agreement that I am making with you is that never again will all living things die from a flood. I will not use a flood ever again to destroy *everything on* the earth."

12 Then God continued, "This *is* how I will show *everyone* that I have made this agreement with you and with all the living creatures that *are* with you, as well as with all the people and animals that will ever live: 13 I will put my rainbow among the clouds *in the sky* to remind *everyone* that I have made this agreement with *every creature that lives on* the earth. 14 So whenever I cause clouds to form *in the sky* above the earth and a rainbow appears in the clouds, 15 then I will not forget *to keep* my agreement that I have established with you and with all living creatures of every kind. *I promise* that I will never again use a flood to destroy all living creatures. 16 Yes, whenever a rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and keep *my* permanent agreement which I have established with all people and all animals that *live* on the earth."

17 Then God *concluded* by saying to Noah, "A rainbow *is* what I will use to remind *everyone* that I have made this agreement with all the people and animals that *live* on the earth."

Noah and His Three Sons After the Flood 9:18-29

18 Noah's sons who came out of the boat *after the flood* were Shem, Ham, and Japheth; it was Ham who *was* Canaan's father. 19 It was the descendants of Noah's three sons who populated the entire earth *again*.

20 After a while, Noah, who was a farmer, planted *some* grape vines *and made wine from the grapes*. 21 Then *one day* he drank *too much of* the wine, so that he became drunk and was *lying* naked inside his tent. 22 Ham, *who was* Canaan's father, saw that his father was naked, and he went outside and told his two brothers *about it*. 23 However, Shem and Japheth took a robe, and held it *between them* at shoulder level and walked backward *into the tent* and covered their father's naked body *with it*. *As they did that,* they kept their faces turned away *from him* so that they would not see him naked.

24 Later Noah woke up from being drunk, and he found out that his youngest son *Ham* had dishonored him. 25 So he exclaimed *about him*,

"I *ask God to* curse *Ham's son* Canaan!
Canaan will be the lowest servant for his relatives."

26 Then Noah said,

"Praise Yahweh, *who is* the God *who takes care* of Shem!
May God cause Canaan to be Shem's servant.
27 I *also* ask God to give Japheth much *land*
and enable him to live together *in peace* with Shem.
May God *also* cause Canaan to be Japheth's servant."

28 From *the time that* the flood *began*, Noah lived *another* 350 years, 29 so that he lived a total of 950 years before he died.

The Descendants of Noah's Sons 10:1-32

1 Chronicles 1:4-23

10 This is the record of *the names of* Noah's sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and the descendants they had after the flood *was over*.

Japheth's Descendants

2 Japheth's sons *were* Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal,
Meshech, and Tiras.
3 Gomer's sons *were* Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah.
4 Javan's sons *were* Elishah and Tarshish, *and he was the ancestor of* the Kittites and the Dodanites.
5 From Japheth's *descendants* came the people groups who lived *in regions* near the sea. They moved to different places *and settled* in their *own* territories, and each *group* spoke its own language. They each had their *own* families, which *grew and* became their own people groups.

Ham's Descendants

6 Ham's sons *were* Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan.
7 Cush's sons *were* Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabtecah. And Raamah's sons *were* Sheba and Dedan. 8 Cush *also* had *a son named* Nimrod, who was the first *person* on earth to be a powerful *ruler*. 9 He was *also* a great hunter whom Yahweh blessed. That is why people say *about other great men*, "*That man is* like Nimrod, a great hunter whom Yahweh blessed." 10 Nimrod started ruling as king *over the cities of* Babel, Erech, Akkad, and Calneh, *which were all located* in the region of Shinar. 11 From the land of Shinar he went to *the region of* Assyria, where he built *the cities of* Nineveh, Rehoboth-Ir, Calah, 12 and Resen, *which is located* between *the cities of* Nineveh and the great city of Calah.
13 Mizraim was the ancestor of the Ludites, Anamites, Lehabites, Naphtuhites, 14 Pathrusites, Casluhites, and Caphtorites. The Philistines descended from the Casluhites.
15 Canaan had Sidon *who was* his firstborn *son*. *He was* also *the ancestor of* the Hittites, 16 Jebusites, Amorites, Girgashites, 17 Hivites, Arkites, Sinites, 18 Arvadites, Zemarites, and Hamathites. Later, those families *that descended* from Canaan spread out, 19 so that the territory where they lived reached from *the city of* Sidon *in the north*, all the way *south* toward *the city of* Gerar to *the city of* Gaza, *then* as far *east* as *the cities of* Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, all the way to *the city of* Lasha.
20 Those *people were* Ham's descendants and each one had his own family. Each family *grew and* became its own people group that spoke its own language and lived in its own territory.

Shem's Descendants

21 Shem also had *some* sons. He *was* the ancestor of all the descendants of Eber, and his older brother was Japheth.
22 Shem's sons *were* Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, and Aram.
23 Aram's sons *were* Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash.
24 Arpachshad had *a son named* Shelah, then Shelah had *a son named* Eber. 25 Then Eber had two sons. The name of the first *one was* Peleg, *which means "division,"* because during his lifetime *the people on* the earth divided *into separate groups and spread out everywhere*. Peleg's *younger* brother's name *was* Joktan.
26 Joktan had *sons named* Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah, 27 Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, 28 Obal, Abimael, Sheba, 29 Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. Those *were* all Joktan's sons.
30 The region where they *and their descendants* lived reached from *the city of* Mesha *in the west* all the way to *the city of* Sephar, *which is in* the hill country in the east.
31 Those *people are* Shem's descendants and each one had his own family. Each family *grew and* became its own people group that spoke its own language and lived in its own territory.
32 *All* those family groups descended from Noah's sons. Each family group had its own descendants and became its own people group. In fact, after the flood *all* the people groups on the earth descended from them and spread out everywhere.

The Tower of Babel 11:1-9

11 Now *at first,* all *the people on* the earth spoke the same language, so that everyone understood each other.
2 As time passed, they moved from the eastern *regions* and *eventually* came to a wide, flat valley in the region of Shinar and stayed there. 3 Then they urged each other, "Come on, let us *work together and* make bricks *from clay* and put them in fire to make them hard." They used bricks *to build with* instead of stone, and they used tar *between the bricks* instead of mortar. 4 Then they urged *each other*, "Come on, we should *work together and* build a city for us *to live in* that has a *very* tall building that reaches high into the sky. *That way* we will become famous, and we will not separate from each other *and live* all over the earth."
5 But *one day* Yahweh came down *from heaven* and looked at the city and the *very* tall building that the people were building. 6 Then he said, "Look, they are one people *group*, and they all speak the same language. This *is only* the beginning of what they can do *together*. Soon they will be able to do anything they plan to do. 7 *So* we must go down there *now* and mix up their language so that they are not able to understand what they say to each other." 8 In that way, Yahweh caused the people to leave from there and live in different places all over the world, so that they had to stop building the city *and the tall building*. 9 That is why the name of the city is Babel, *which means "mixed up,"* because that is where Yahweh mixed up the language that everyone on the earth shared, and *in that way* he made them spread out from there all over the earth.

The History about Abraham 11:10-25:18

Shem's Descendants down to Abram 11:10-26

1 Chronicles 1:24-27

10 This is the record of Shem's descendants:
Two years after the flood *began*, when Shem was 100 years old, he had *a son named* Arpachshad. 11 After Arpachshad was born, Shem lived *another* 500 years. He *also* had *other* sons, as well as daughters.
12 When Arpachshad was thirty-five years old, he had *a son named* Shelah. 13 After Shelah was born, Arpachshad lived *another* 403 years. He *also* had *other* sons, as well as daughters.
14 When Shelah was thirty years old, he had *a son named* Eber. 15 After Eber was born, Shelah lived *another* 403 years. He *also* had *other* sons, as well as daughters.

16 When Eber was thirty-four years old, he had *a son named* Peleg. 17 After Peleg was born, Eber lived *another* 430 years. He *also* had *other* sons, as well as daughters.

18 When Peleg was thirty years old, he had *a son named* Reu. 19 After Reu was born, Peleg lived *another* 209 years. He *also* had *other* sons, as well as daughters.

20 When Reu was thirty-two years old, he had *a son named* Serug. 21 After Serug was born, Reu lived *another* 207 years. He *also* had *other* sons, as well as daughters.

22 When Serug was thirty years old, he had *a son named* Nahor. 23 After Nahor was born, Serug lived *another* 200 years. He *also* had *other* sons, as well as daughters.

24 When Nahor was twenty-nine years old, he had *a son named* Terah. 25 After Terah was born, Nahor lived *another* 119 years. He *also* had *other* sons, as well as daughters.

26 After Terah was seventy years old, he had *sons whose names were* Abram, Nahor, and Haran.

Terah's Children, including Abram
11:27-32

27 Here is the history about Terah and his descendants: Terah's sons were Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Haran had a son *whose name was* Lot. 28 While his father was still alive, Haran died in the land where he was born, in *the city of* Ur where the Chaldean people lived. 29 Meanwhile Abram and Nahor each married a wife. Abram's wife was named Sarai, and Nahor's wife was Milcah. Milcah and *her sister* Iscah were the daughters of *Nahor's brother* Haran. 30 But Sarai was not able to become pregnant, *so* she did not have any children.

31 Then *one day,* Terah gathered his son Abram and his grandson Lot, *who was* Haran's son, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, who was Abram's wife, and they *all* left from *the city of* Ur where the Chaldean people lived to travel to the region of Canaan. But when they arrived at *the city of* Haran, they decided to live there *instead*. 32 Then *many years later,* when Terah was 205 years old, he died *there* in *the city of* Haran.

God Tells Abram to Move to Canaan
12:1-9

12 *One day* Yahweh commanded Abram, "You must move away from your homeland and your relatives, including your father's family, *and move* to the land that I will guide you to.

2 I will make you *and your descendants* become an
important people group,
and I will cause you *all* to prosper.
I will make you well-known,
and you *and your descendants* will bless *many people*.
3 I will bless everyone who blesses you,
but I will curse anyone who curses you.
I will bless all the people on the earth through you."

4 So Abram left *the city of Haran* exactly as Yahweh had commanded him *to do*, and *his nephew* Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left from there. 5 He took *with him* his wife Sarai and his nephew Lot and everything that they owned, including servants *and everything else* they had acquired in *the city of* Haran, and they *all* started traveling to the region of Canaan. When they arrived there, 6 they traveled through that region as far as the city of Shechem, to Moreh's oak tree. At that time the Canaanites were *still living* in that land, 7 but Yahweh came to Abram and said *to him*, "I will give this land to your descendants." So Abram built an altar *out of large stones* in that place *and burned sacrifices on it* to worship Yahweh, because Yahweh had appeared to him *there*.

8 From *the city of* Shechem, Abram *and his family* moved *south* to the hill country that was east of *the town of* Bethel. They set up their tents between Bethel to the west and *the town of* Ai to the east. There Abram built another altar *and burned sacrifices on it* to worship Yahweh, and he addressed Yahweh by *his* name as he worshiped him. 9 Then Abram *and his family* moved from place to place *southward* until they reached the Negeb *Desert*.

Abram and Sarai Go to *the Country of* Egypt *to Escape a Famine*
12:10-20

10 Now there was a serious food shortage in that region. It was so severe that Abram *and his family left there and* went down to *the country of* Egypt to live for a while. 11 Just before they arrived in Egypt, Abram said to his wife Sarai, "Please listen *to me*: you *are* a very beautiful woman. 12 When the people in Egypt see you *with me*, they will say that you are my wife. Then they will kill me and let you live *so that they can take you*. 13 *So* please tell people *that* you *are* my sister so that they will treat me well because of you and let me live."

14 That is *exactly* what happened: When Abram *and his family* arrived in *the country of* Egypt, the people there noticed that Sarai was *truly* very beautiful. 15 When some officers under Pharaoh *the king of Egypt* noticed her, they highly recommended her to him. So he had them bring her to his palace *to be one of his wives*. 16 The king thought that Abram was Sarai's brother, so he treated him well. He gave him many sheep and cattle, as well as men and women servants, male and female donkeys, and camels.

17 But since *King* Pharaoh had taken Abram's wife Sarai, Yahweh afflicted the king and his family *with* severe illnesses. 18 So the king summoned Abram *before him* and said *to him*, "You have treated me very badly! You should have told me that Sarai *is* your wife! 19 You should not have said that she *is* your sister, so that I ended up taking her to be my wife! So now, here is your wife. Take *her* and leave *my country*!" 20 Then *King* Pharaoh ordered *some of* his soldiers to make sure that Abram left, so they forced him to leave *the country*, along with his wife and everything that he owned.

Abram and Lot Go Separate Ways
13:1-13

13 So Abram left *the country of* Egypt *and traveled back* to the Negeb *Desert*. *He took* with him his wife and everything that they owned, and also *his nephew* Lot. 2 *By that time* Abram *had become* very rich, so that he owned *many* livestock and *much* silver and gold. 3 From the Negeb *Desert* he *and his family* traveled from place to place *northward until they came* to *the town of* Bethel, to the place where he had lived in

tents before, between *the towns of* Bethel and Ai. 4 *That was* the *same* place where he had previously built an altar. There *again* he *sacrificed animals on the altar and* worshiped Yahweh by name.

5 Lot was traveling with *his uncle* Abram, and he *and his family* also owned many sheep and cattle, as well as *many* tents. 6 In fact, there was not enough land to have enough food and water for both families *and their animals* if they lived in the same area. They each owned so many servants and animals that it was not possible for them to *all* live near each other. 7 As a result, the men who took care of Abram's livestock and the men who took care of Lot's livestock started to argue with each other. Besides that, the Canaanites and the Perizzites were *also* living in that land at that time.

8 Finally *one day* Abram said to Lot, "Please, since we *are* close relatives, we need to do something so that you and I and our herdsmen will not argue. 9 Look, the entire land is available to you *to choose from*. Please *choose where you want to live, and* let's live in separate places. If *you choose the land to* the left *of here*, then I will take *the land to* the right. Or if *you choose the land to* the right *of here*, then I will take *the land to* the left."

10 Lot looked *all* around and he noticed that the entire Jordan *River* Valley, all the way to *the town of* Zoar, had plenty of water. *It was lush and green* like the garden that Yahweh had planted or like the country of Egypt. *That is what it was like* before Yahweh destroyed *the cities of* Sodom and Gomorrah, *which were also in that valley*. 11 So Lot chose the entire Jordan *River* Valley for himself. Then he *left Abram and* moved to the east *to live there*. After that, Abram and Lot lived in separate places. 12 Abram stayed *where he was* in the region of Canaan, while Lot lived *in another part of the region* among the cities in the *Jordan River* valley and *eventually* moved his tents to *the city of* Sodom *and stayed there*. 13 But the people *who lived* in *the city of* Sodom *were* extremely wicked and were *always* sinning against Yahweh.

God Promises to Give Abram *the Land of* Canaan and Many Descendants 13:14-18

14 After Lot had left Abram, Yahweh said to Abram, "Look *all* around you from the place where you *live*. Look north, south, east, and west. 15 All the land that you see I will give to you and your descendants *to own* forever. 16 In fact, I will give you so many descendants that they will be as *numerous as* the *specks of* dust on the earth. No one will be able to count how many descendants you have, just as no one can count how many *specks of* dust there are. 17 *So now,* start walking through the land *in all directions*. Go throughout the entire land *and look it over*, because I am giving it *all* to you." 18 Then Abram *obeyed Yahweh and* moved his tents and settled near the oak trees *on the land* owned by *a man named* Mamre, near *the city of* Hebron. There he built an altar *out of stones and burned sacrifices on it* to *thank and* worship Yahweh.

Abram Rescues Lot from Four Kings 14:1-16

14 During that time Amraphel was the king over *the land of* Shinar, Arioch was the king over Ellasar, Chedorlaomer was the king over *the land of* Elam, and Tidal was the king over the Goiim *people*. 2 Those *four* kings *joined forces and* went to war against *five other kings, including* Bera *who was* the king over *the city of* Sodom, Birsha *who was* the king over *the city of* Gomorrah, Shinab *who was* the king over *the city of* Admah, Shemeber *who was* the king over *the city of* Zeboyim, and the king over *the town of* Bela, which *is also called* Zoar. 3 Those *five kings* all united their armies *as allies and fought against the four kings* in the Siddim Valley, where the Salt Sea *is now*.

4 *For* twelve years the five kings had paid tribute to *King* Chedorlaomer, but in the thirteenth year they started to rebel *against him*. 5 Then during the fourteenth year *King* Chedorlaomer and the *three* kings who *were* his allies *united their armies and* went *to war against all their enemies*. *First* they defeated the Raphaites in *the city of* Ashteroth-Karnaim, then the Zuzites in *the city of* Ham, the Emites in *the city of* Shaveh-Kiriathaim, 6 and the Horites *who lived* in the Seir Mountains *all the way* to *the city of* El Paran, which *is located* near the desert. 7 Next those *four* kings *and their armies* turned around and went to *the city of* En Mishpat, which *is also called* Kadesh. They conquered the entire territory where the Amalekites lived, as well as the Amorites, who lived in *the city of* Hazezon Tamar.

8 Then the king over *the city of* Sodom, the king over *the city of* Gomorrah, the king over *the city of* Admah, the king over *the city of* Zeboiim, and the king over *the town of* Bela, which *is also called* Zoar, marched out *with their armies* into the Siddim Valley and got ready to fight 9 against Chedorlaomer *who was* the king over *the land of* Elam, Tidal *who was* the king over the Goiim, Amraphel *who was* the king over *the land of* Shinar, and Arioch *who was* the king over *the kingdom of* Ellasar. *Then* the four kings attacked the five *kings and started defeating them*.

10 Now there were many tar pits in the Siddim Valley. As the kings over *the cities of* Sodom and Gomorrah *and their soldiers* were running away *from the battle*, some *of their soldiers* died there *in the tar pits*. Those who escaped ran away to the mountains *to hide*. 11 Then the four kings seized all the *people's* belongings in *the cities of* Sodom and Gomorrah, including all their food, and carried it away. 12 They also carried off Abram's nephew Lot and his belongings, since he was living in *the city of* Sodom.

13 But someone *from Sodom* escaped *from the battle* and went to Abram the Hebrew and reported *to him what had happened*. *At that time* Abram was *still* living near the oak trees that were owned by Mamre the Amorite, *who was* the brother of Eshcol and Aner. Those *three* men had made a pact with Abram *to be his allies*. 14 When Abram heard that *the four kings* had captured his nephew *Lot*, he called together 318 of his servants who had been born in his household and were skilled warriors. Then *together with his allies* they chased after *the four kings and their armies* all the way to *the town of* Dan. 15 There during the night Abram and his men divided *into groups*, *surprise* attacked the *four* kings *and their soldiers*, and defeated them. Then they chased them as far as *the town of* Hobah, which *is located* north of *the city of* Damascus. 16 As a result, Abram recovered all the *people's* belongings *that the four kings had taken*. He also rescued his nephew Lot and his belongings, as well as the women and *all* the other people *whom the kings had captured*.

Melchizedek Blesses Abram
14:17-24

17 After Abram defeated *King* Chedorlaomer and the *other three* kings who were Chedorlaomer's allies, he started to return *home*. When he reached the Shaveh Valley, which *is also called* the King's Valley, the king over *the city of* Sodom came there and welcomed him. 18 Melchizedek *who was* the king over *the city of* Salem *also came there, and he* brought food and wine *for Abram and his men to eat and drink*. *King* Melchizedek *was also* a priest who served the God who is greater *than all other gods*. 19 So he blessed Abram by saying *to him*,

"May the greatest God, who owns heaven
and earth, bless you.
20 Praise the greatest God,
because he enabled you to defeat your enemies!"

Then Abram gave *King* Melchizedek ten percent of everything *that he had recovered in the battle*. 21 After that, the king over *the city of* Sodom said to Abram, "*Please* return to me the people *whom you rescued*, but keep for yourself *their* belongings *that you recovered*." 22 But Abram replied to him, "I raise my hand *and swear* to Yahweh, *who is* the greatest God *and* the One who owns heaven and earth, 23 *that* I will not *accept* anything that is yours *or your people's*, not even a *piece of* string or the strap from a sandal. That way you can never say that you *were the one who* made me rich. 24 *So* I *will* only *keep* what my warriors ate and the part *of the plunder* that Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre deserve for being my allies. *Please* let them have their part *of the plunder*."

God Makes a Covenant with Abram
15:1-21

15 After that, Yahweh said to Abram in a vision,

"Abram, do not be afraid.
I will protect you,
and I will give you a very great reward." 2 But Abram said *to him*, "Yahweh my Master, even if you reward me greatly, *that will not benefit me*, since I still have no children. So *when I die,* the one who will inherit all that I have *is my servant* Eliezer *who is a foreigner* from *the city of* Damascus." 3 Then Abram continued, "That's right, you have not given me any children, so that now *when I die*, *one of* my household servants will inherit everything I own!" 4 But immediately Yahweh said to Abram, "*No,* your servant *Eliezer* will not inherit your property, rather it will be your very own *biological* son who will inherit it." 5 Then Yahweh took Abram outside *his tent* and said *to him*, "Look *up* at the *night* sky and count how many stars there are, if *in fact* you are able to count them *all*." *While Abram was looking at the stars,* Yahweh said to him, "That is how many descendants you will have."

6 Abram trusted Yahweh, and because of that, Yahweh considered him to be righteous. 7 Then Yahweh said to him, "I am Yahweh who brought you *here* from *the city of* Ur that the Chaldeans rule, to give this land to you to own." 8 But Abram asked *him*, "Yahweh my Master, how can I be sure that this land will be mine?" 9 Yahweh replied, "Bring me a heifer, a female goat and a male sheep, each of which is three years old, as well as a dove and a young pigeon." 10 So *the next day* Abram brought all those *animals* to Yahweh *and killed them*. Then he cut the animals' bodies in half lengthwise and placed each half a short space across from the other half *in two rows*, except for the birds, which he did not cut in half. 11 Then *some* vultures flew down *and landed* on the *animal* bodies *to eat them*, but Abram chased them away.

12 Later, as the sun was going down, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and suddenly, it became completely dark, and he became terrified. 13 Then Yahweh said to him, "I want you to know that your descendants will live as foreigners in a country that is not their own. They will serve the people *of that country as slaves*, and those people will treat them cruelly for 400 years. 14 But I will punish those people whom they serve. After that, your descendants will leave *that country* and take many riches with them. 15 As for you, after you have lived a good long life, you will die peacefully and join your ancestors *who have died before you*. 16 Then four generations later, your descendants will return here *to live*, because that is when the Amorites will have sinned as much as I will allow *before I take away their land and give it to your descendants*."

17 When the sun had set, it became *very* dark. Then suddenly a *clay* pot *appeared that was full* of burning coals and had smoke coming from it, and also a blazing torch, and they *both* went between the *animal* halves. 18 At that time Yahweh made a *special* agreement with Abram and said, "I am giving your descendants this land, *which extends* from Egypt's river *in the south* to the great Euphrates River *in the north*. 19 *That includes the land which belongs to* the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, 20 the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, 21 the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites."

Abram and *Sarai's Servant* Hagar Have *a Son Named* Ishmael
16:1-16

16 Now Abram's wife Sarai had *still* not given birth *to any children* for him, but she owned an Egyptian servant woman whose name was Hagar. 2 So she told Abram, "Please listen *to this*: *As you know,* Yahweh has not allowed me to have *any* children, *so* please have *marital* relations with my servant woman *Hagar so that* maybe I can have a family through her *children*." Abram agreed to do what Sarai requested. 3 So Abram's wife Sarai gave her Egyptian servant Hagar to her husband Abram to be his *second* wife. *This happened* after Abram *and Sarai* had lived in the region of Canaan for ten years.

4 Then Abram had *marital* relations with Hagar, and she became pregnant. But when she realized that she was pregnant, she started to disrespect her mistress *Sarai*. 5 So Sarai complained to Abram, "It is your fault that I am suffering! I gave my servant to you *to sleep with*, but now that she realizes that she is pregnant, she disrespects me! I ask Yahweh to judge whether it is you or I who is responsible *for this*!" 6 Abram replied to her, "Listen, you are in charge of your servant. Do with her what*ever* you

think is best." Then Sarai treated Hagar so harshly that she ran away *from home to get away* from her.

7 Then one of Yahweh's angels came to Hagar by a spring of water in the desert. It was the spring by the road to *the city of* Shur. 8 And the angel asked *her*, "Hagar, who serves Sarai, where are you coming from, and where are you headed?" She answered *him*, "I am running away from my mistress, Sarai." 9 But Yahweh's angel told her, "Go back *home* to your mistress and *humbly* obey her *as her servant*."

10 Then the angel added, "I *Yahweh* will give you so many descendants that no one will be able to count them all, because there will be so many of them."

11 Then the angel *also* told her,

"Listen, *as you know,* you are pregnant.
You will have a son,
and you are to name him Ishmael, *which means 'God listens,'*
because Yahweh listened to you when you were suffering *and has helped you*.
12 *When Ishmael grows up,* he will be *proud and free like* a wild donkey.
He will fight against everyone,
and everyone will fight against him.
In fact, he will *even* be hostile
toward all his relatives."

13 After Yahweh spoke to Hagar, she called him El Roi, *which means "the God who sees." She named him that,* because she had exclaimed *to herself*, "I just now saw the back of *God who* sees me!" 14 That is why the name of that well is Beer Lahai Roi, *which means "Well of the Living One, who sees me."* It is *still* there between *the cities of* Kadesh and Bered.

15 Then Hagar *returned home and* gave birth to a son for Abram, and Abram named his son Ishmael. 16 Abram *was* 86 years old when Hagar had Ishmael for him.

More Details about God's Agreement with Abram, including Circumcision 17:1-27

17 *Years* later, when Abram was ninety-nine years old, Yahweh came to him and told him, "I *am* God *who is* all-powerful. Live in a way that pleases me so that you will be blameless. 2 I will establish my agreement with you, and I will increase *the number of* your descendants so that they are very numerous."

3 *When* Abram *heard that, he* bowed with his face to the ground *before God to show respect*, and God continued speaking to him, 4 "Listen, this is what I will do to fulfill my agreement with you: I will make you a community of peoples. 5 So your name will no longer be Abram. Rather, *from now on* it will be Abraham, because you will be the ancestor of many people groups. 6 Yes, I will give you many, many descendants, so that you will become *the ancestor of many* people groups. In fact, some of your descendants will be kings. 7 I will establish my agreement with you and *all* your descendants *who live* after you for *all* generations to come. It will be an agreement that never ends, that I will be your God and *the God* of *all* your descendants. 8 I will also give to you and your descendants this land where you have been living as a foreigner, *yes,* the entire region of Canaan. They will own it forever, and I will be their God."

9 Then God continued, "Now as for your part *in this agreement*, you must obey me. *That applies to* you as well as *all* your descendants for *all* generations to come. 10 This is *what I require in* my agreement with you and your descendants, which you *all* must obey: You must circumcise all males *who live* among you. 11 Yes, you must circumcise the foreskins of *all the males among* you, and that *custom* will remind *you all* that *I made* this agreement with you. 12 For all *future* generations you must circumcise *every* baby boy who is eight days old, *as well as* all *other* males among your people. *That includes* males from your own family as well as those who *are* not your descendants but *are servants whom you* bought from foreigners. 13 *Yes,* you must definitely circumcise *all of* them, *regardless of whether* they are sons from your own family or servants whom you have bought. That is how you must mark my agreement on your bodies to show that it is an agreement that never ends. 14 In fact, if any man refuses to let you circumcise him, you must *send him away and* not allow him to associate with my people, *because* he has disobeyed *what I require in* my agreement."

15 God *also* told Abraham, "*As for* your wife Sarai, do not call her Sarai *anymore*. Rather, *from now on* her name will be Sarah. 16 I will bless her, and I will definitely enable her to bear a son for you. In fact, I will bless her so that she will *have many descendants that will* become *many* people groups, and some of her descendants will *even* be kings *who rule* over people groups."

17 *When* Abraham *heard that, he* bowed with his face to the ground *before God to respect him*, but he laughed *silently* and thought to himself, "How can a hundred-year-old man *like me* father a child? And how can Sarah, who is ninety years old, *still* have a baby?" 18 So Abraham said to God, "Please let Ishmael be the one whom you bless *as my heir*!" 19 God replied, "Yes, but *it is* your wife Sarah *who* will give birth to a son for you. You must name him Isaac. He *is the one* I will establish my agreement with, as a permanent agreement *that I will also keep* with *all* his descendants *who live* after him.

20 I also heard what you asked me to do for Ishmael. *So* this is what I will do: I will *also* bless him, and I will give him many children and greatly increase *the number of* his descendants. *In fact,* he will be the father of twelve *sons who become powerful* leaders, and I will make him *the ancestor of* a large people group. 21 But I will establish my agreement with *your son* Isaac. Sarah will give birth to him at this time next year." 22 After he had finished talking to Abraham, God left him and ascended *to heaven*.

23 Then Abraham gathered his son Ishmael and all the *other* males who were born in his household and all *his male servants* whom he had bought, *yes,* every male in his household. Then on that same day he circumcised them, exactly as God had commanded him *to do*. 24 Abraham *was* 99 years old when he was circumcised, 25 and his son Ishmael was thirteen years old when *Abraham* circumcised him. 26 *So it was,* on that same day *both* Abraham and his son Ishmael were circumcised. 27 And all the *other* males in Abraham's household, *including* those *who had been* born in his household as well as those *whom he had* bought *as servants* from foreigners, were also circumcised.

Yahweh Promises to Abraham and Sarah That They Will Have a Son 18:1-15

18 Then *one day* Yahweh appeared *again* to Abraham at the oak trees on Mamre's land, while he was sitting *at* the entrance of his tent during the hottest part of the day. 2 Abraham looked up and saw that there were three men standing a short distance away. As soon as he saw *them*, he *jumped up and* hurried *to them* to greet them. Then he bowed *before them with his face* to the ground *to show respect*, 3 and he said *to them*, "Sirs, if you consider me worthy *to be your host*, please do not leave here without letting me serve you *as my guests*. 4 Please let me bring *you* some water, so that you *all* can wash *the dust off* your feet, and then rest under *the shade of* this tree. 5 Since you are here with me, let me *also* bring some food *for you to eat*. That way you can regain your strength before you continue on your way." They replied *to him*, "Okay, do what you have proposed."

6 So Abraham quickly went to Sarah inside their tent and told her, "Quickly *get* three batches of our best flour and bake *some* bread." 7 Then he ran *outside* to his herd *of cattle* and chose one of his best calves that would be good to eat. Then he took it to one of his servants, and the servant quickly butchered it and cooked it. 8 Then Abraham brought *some* yogurt and milk and the meat that his servant had prepared, and he put it *all* before his *three* guests *to eat*. Then he stood nearby them *where they were sitting* under the tree *and served them* while they ate.

9 Then *one of* the men asked Abraham, "Where *is* your wife Sarah?" Abraham answered, "*She is* there in the tent." 10 Then the man said *to Abraham*, "I will definitely come back *here* to visit you at this time next year. When I do, your wife Sarah will have a *baby* son." Now Sarah was listening inside the entrance of the tent, which was behind the man. 11 She and Abraham were *already* very old, so that Sarah was *far* past the age that she could have children. 12 So she laughed to herself *in disbelief* and said *to herself*, "It does not seem possible that I could experience the pleasure *of having a child* now that I am too old *to conceive*. Besides that, my husband is *also very* old!" 13 But Yahweh asked Abraham, "Sarah should not have laughed and said *to herself* that she is too old to have a child! 14 Nothing is too difficult for Yahweh *to do*! At the time that I have set, I will return to you *here*. *Yes, I will come* at this time next year, and Sarah will *already* have a son." 15 *When Sarah heard that,* she was afraid, so she lied *to him* and said, "I did not laugh." But Yahweh replied, "That is not true. You did laugh."

Abraham Tries to Save the People of Sodom from Being Destroyed by Yahweh 18:16-33

16 *When they had finished eating,* the *three* men got up *to leave* and started walking down toward *the city of* Sodom. Abraham escorted them *for a while* to see them on their way. 17 Then Yahweh thought *to himself*, "Should I keep secret from Abraham what I am about to do *to the city of Sodom*? 18 After all, he *and his descendants* will definitely become a great and powerful people group, and through them I will bless all the people groups in the world. 19 In fact, I have chosen him so that he will train his children and his descendants, so that they will live the way I want them to live and do what is right and treat people justly. Therefore I will do for him everything I have promised him *that I will do*."

20 So Yahweh said *to Abraham*, "I have heard that *the people of the cities of* Sodom and Gomorrah have become very evil, and they are sinning very terribly. 21 I must go down *to those cities* now to determine whether *or not* they are guilty of everything that I have heard against them. If *they are* not *guilty*, *then* I will know *it and I will not punish them*."

22 Then the *other two* men left and continued walking toward *the city of* Sodom, while Abraham remained *there* with Yahweh. 23 Then Abraham stepped closer *to Yahweh* and asked *him*, "Certainly you will not destroy righteous *people along* with wicked *people*, will you? 24 What *will you do* if there are fifty righteous *people living* in the city *of Sodom*? Will you really *still* destroy *all the people in* the city rather than let them all live because of the fifty upright *people* who live there? 25 Certainly you would never do such a thing as kill righteous *people together* with evil *people*, so that you are treating them both the same way! Certainly you would never do such a thing! As the Judge over everyone on the earth, certainly you will treat people justly." 26 Yahweh replied *to him*, "If there are fifty righteous *people living* in the city of Sodom, then I will spare the whole city *and everyone who lives there* because of them."

27 Then Abraham spoke up *again* and asked *Yahweh*, "My Lord, please excuse me for speaking to you so boldly, even though I am *as insignificant as* dirt and ashes *compared to you*. 28 *But* what *will you do* if there are only forty-five righteous *people in the city* instead of fifty? Will you destroy the whole city *and everyone in it* if there are five people too few *who are righteous*?" Yahweh answered, "I will not destroy the city if there are forty-five *righteous people living* there."

29 Then Abraham spoke again to Yahweh and asked, "What *will you do* if there are *only* forty *righteous people* in the city? *Will you destroy it then?*" Yahweh answered, "I will not destroy *the city*, in order to save the forty *righteous people*."

30 Then Abraham pleaded *with him*, "My Lord, please do not be angry *with me*, but let me ask *you another question*: What *will you do* if there are *only* thirty *righteous people living* there?" He replied, "I will not destroy *the city* if there are thirty *righteous people* there."

31 Then Abraham asked *him*, "My Lord, please excuse me for speaking to you so boldly. What *will you do* if there are *only* twenty *righteous people living* in the city?" Yahweh replied, "I will not destroy the city, in order to save the twenty *righteous people*."

32 Then Abraham said, "My Lord, please do not be angry *with me*, but let me ask *you* just one more thing: What *will you do* if there are *only* ten *righteous people* in the city?" Yahweh answered *him*, "I will not destroy *the city*, in order to save the ten *righteous people*." 33 When Yahweh had finished talking with Abraham, he left *him*, and Abraham returned home.

Yahweh Destroys Sodom and Gomorrah 19:1-29

19 That evening the two angels arrived at *the city of* Sodom, while Lot was sitting at the gate of the city. When Lot saw them, he stood up and greeted them and *then* bowed *before them* with *his* face to the ground *to show respect*. 2 Then he said *to them*, "Sirs, please listen *to this*: Please come

to my house so that I can serve you and you can lodge for the night *there*. *That way* too *you can* wash *the dust off* your feet. Then *tomorrow morning* you can get up early and continue traveling." But the two angels replied, "Thank you, but we will *just* stay in the public square tonight." 3 However Lot continued to urgently invite them until they *finally agreed and* went with him to his house. Then Lot prepared a big meal for them, including *some* flat bread, and they *sat down and* ate *the meal*.

4 *But after supper,* before they could lie down *to sleep*, *all* the men in the city of Sodom surrounded Lot's house, including men of all ages. *In fact,* all the people from every part *of the city were there*. 5 Then they shouted to Lot, "Where *are* the *two* men who came to lodge with you tonight? Bring them outside to us so that we can have relations with them!" 6 But Lot went outside near the doorway *to talk* to them, and he closed the door *of the house* behind him. 7 Then he pleaded *with them*, "I beg you, my friends, do not do such an evil thing! 8 Listen *to this* please: My two daughters have never had *marital* relations with a man. Allow me to bring them out to you *instead* so that you can do with them whatever you want. But do not harm these men, because they are my guests and I am responsible for their safety." 9 But the men of Sodom shouted *at him*, "Get out of our way!" Then they complained *to each other*, "This guy came *here* as a foreigner, and now he thinks that he can judge *us*!" *Then they shouted at Lot,* "We will do worse things to you than *we do* to your *two* guests!" Then they started shoving hard against Lot and surged forward to break through the door *of his house*. 10 But Lot's *two* guests *opened the door*, reached outside and *quickly* pulled him *back* into the house with them and closed the door. 11 Then those two men *who were angels* caused the men who *were at* the door of the house to be blind, including every last one of them, so that they exhausted themselves *groping around* trying to find the door.

12 Then the *two* angels asked Lot, "Do you have any other relatives here in Sodom? *If you have* sons-in-law or sons or daughters or any *other* members of your family here, *then quickly* get them away from this city, 13 because we are about to destroy it. Yahweh has heard that the people of this city are guilty of serious sins, so he has sent us to destroy the city." 14 So Lot went to his *future* sons-in-law who were engaged to his daughters, and he warned them, "Hurry up *and* leave this city, because Yahweh is about to destroy it!" But his sons-in-law thought that he was joking, *so they ignored him*.

15 Early the next morning, the *two* angels urged Lot, "Hurry up *and* take your wife and your two daughters *out of the city* so that you will not die when *God* punishes *the people of* the city." 16 Lot hesitated, but Yahweh was being merciful to him, so the *two* men took hold of Lot's hand and the hands of his wife and two daughters and led them out of the city. 17 As *soon as* the angels had taken them outside *the city*, one of them said *to Lot*, "Run away from here as fast as you can! Do not look behind you, and do not delay in the valley for any reason! Go quickly to the hill country, or else you will die!" 18 But Lot replied to them, "I beg you, sirs, do not *make us do that*. 19 Listen *to me* please: You have treated me well even though I am unimportant, and you have been very kind to me and saved my life. But I am not able to run *all the way* to the mountains before the disaster occurs and kills me. 20 *So* listen *to this* please: That town up ahead *is* near *enough* to run to *in time*, and it *is just* a small *town*. Please let us run there, *and do not destroy it*. *After all,* it is very small. Then we can stay alive." 21 The angel replied to Lot, "Alright, I will allow you to go to the *small* town that you are talking about, and I will not destroy it. 22 *But* hurry up *now and* run there, because I cannot destroy anything until you get there." Since Lot said the town was small, the name of the town is Zoar *which means "small"*.

23 The sun was rising over the land as Lot *and his family* reached *the town of* Zoar. 24 Then Yahweh caused fire and burning rocks to fall like *heavy* rain from the sky on *the cities of* Sodom and Gomorrah. 25 In that way, he *completely* destroyed those *two* cities and the rest of the valley, including everyone who lived in the cities and *all* the plants in the area. 26 But Lot's wife, *who was walking* behind him, glanced back *at the city*, and *immediately* she turned into a statue of *solid* salt *rock*.

27 Early that same morning, Abraham got up and returned to the place where he had stood with Yahweh *the previous day*. 28 He looked down at *the cities of* Sodom and Gomorrah and all *the rest of* the valley. There in front of him, he saw that *lots of thick* smoke was billowing up over the land like smoke from a *huge* fire. 29 When God destroyed the cities in the valley, he did not forget Abraham *or his request*. So he saved Lot from the catastrophe that he had sent to *completely* destroy the cities where Lot had been living.

Lot's Descendants from His Daughters
19:30-38

30 After that, Lot was afraid to stay in *the town of* Zoar, so he and his two daughters moved from there to the mountains, where they lived in a cave. 31 Then *one day his* older *daughter* said to *his* younger *daughter*, "Our father is elderly, and there are not any men around here to marry us, which *is* the custom *that people have* everywhere else in the world. 32 *So* come on, we should get our father drunk on wine. Then we can have *sexual* relations with him so that we can continue our family line with him." 33 So that night Lot's daughters got their father drunk on wine. Then the older *daughter* went *to him* and had relations with him. But *he was so drunk that* he was not *even* aware that she got in bed *with him* or that she left.

34 The next day *Lot's* older *daughter* said to *his* younger *daughter*, "Listen, last night I had *sexual* relations with our father. Tonight we should get him drunk on wine again. Then you *also* should go *and* have relations with him so that we can continue our family line with him." 35 So that night Lot's daughters got their father drunk on wine again. Then the younger *daughter* went *to him* and had relations with him. And *once again he was so drunk that* he was not aware that she got in bed *with him* or that she left.

36 In that way, both of Lot's daughters became pregnant from *having relations with* their father. 37 Later his older *daughter* gave birth to a son, and she named him Moab, *which means "from my father."* He *became* the ancestor of the Moabite people *who are still living* today. 38 Lot's younger *daughter* also gave birth to a son, and she named him Ben-Ammi, *which means "son of my people."* He *became* the ancestor of the Ammonite people *who are still living* today.

King Abimelech Takes Sarah to Be His Wife
20:1-18

20 Meanwhile Abraham *and his family* left from the place
where they were living *and moved south* to the Negeb
Desert area. There they lived between *the cities of* Kadesh and
Shur, and they stayed for a while in *the city of* Gerar. 2 *While*
they were there, Abraham told *people* that his wife Sarah *was* his
sister. So *one day* Abimelech, *who was* the king of Gerar, had
some of his servants bring Sarah *to his home to be his wife*. 3 But
that night God appeared to *King* Abimelech in a dream and
warned him, "Listen, you are about to die because the woman
whom you have taken *to be your wife* is *already* married to
someone else!" 4 However, Abimelech had not *yet* slept with
Sarah, so he asked *God*, "Lord, will you kill *me and* my people
even if *we are* innocent? 5 Abraham himself told me that Sarah
was his sister. And she herself also said that he was her brother.
So I took her *to be my wife* with a pure conscience, and I did not
know that I was doing anything wrong!" 6 God replied to him
in the dream, "Yes, I realize that *it was* with a pure conscience
that you took Sarah *to be your wife*. In fact, I *am the one who*
kept you from sinning against me. That is why I did not let
you sleep with her. 7 Now then, you must give Abraham's wife
back *to him*. He is a spokesman *for me*, so he will ask me to
be merciful to you, so that you will not die. However, if you
refuse to give Sarah back *to him*, you can be sure that you and
all your people will definitely die!"

8 Early the next morning *King* Abimelech got up and called
together all of his officials. He told them everything that had
happened, and they were very afraid *that God would punish*
them. 9 Then the king summoned Abraham and scolded him *by*
saying, "You have treated us very badly! I never did anything
wrong to you, and yet you have caused me and the people
whom I rule to be guilty of sinning terribly! You have wronged
me in ways that should never be done *to anyone*!" 10 Finally,
King Abimelech asked him, "What motivated you to do what
you did?" 11 Abraham answered *him*, "*I did it,* because I thought
that there was certainly no one in this city who revered God,
so *I was afraid* they would kill me to get my wife *for themselves*.
12 Besides that, Sarah actually *is* my half-sister. We have the
same father, but different mothers, and *after we grew up,* we got
married. 13 *Years* later when God told me to leave my father's
family, I asked her to do me a favor and tell people wherever
we go that I *am* her brother."

14 Then *King* Abimelech brought *many* sheep and cattle and
male and female servants *to Abraham* and gave *them all* to him.
He *also* gave Abraham's wife Sarah back to him. 15 Then *King*
Abimelech said *to him*, "Look, my land *is* available to you. Live
wherever you decide *is* best." 16 Then he *turned* to Sarah *and*
said, "Listen, I have given 12 *kilos of* silver to your brother. I
am doing this so that everyone knows you did nothing wrong,
and to compensate you for everything *that has happened to*
you." 17 Then Abraham asked God *to be merciful to the king*.
So God healed *King* Abimelech, as well as his wife and his
female servants, and they were able to have children *again*.
18 *Previously* Yahweh had kept all the women in Abimelech's
household from conceiving because he had taken Abraham's
wife Sarah.

Isaac's Birth and Circumcision
21:1-7

21 Then Yahweh blessed Sarah *just* as he had said *he would*.
Yes, he did for her *exactly* what he had promised *to do*.
2 So Sarah became pregnant and at the time *God had* appointed,
she gave birth to a son for Abraham when he was old, just as
God had promised him *that she would*. 3 Then Abraham named
his son Isaac, *the son* whom Sarah had given birth to. 4 Also,
when Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him,
which was exactly what God had commanded him *to do*.

5 Abraham *was* 100 years old when his son Isaac was born.
6 *When he was born,* Sarah exclaimed, "God has made me laugh
for joy! Everyone who hears *about this* will laugh *for joy* with
me!" 7 She also exclaimed, "No one would have *even thought of*
telling Abraham *that* I would have children. Yet I have given
birth to a son *for him* when he is old!"

Sarah Has Abraham Send Hagar and Ishmael Away
21:8-21

8 Isaac grew as a child and reached the age when his mother
stopped nursing him. When that happened, Abraham held a
big feast *to celebrate*. 9 But *during the feast* Sarah noticed that
Ishmael, the son of *her* Egyptian *handmaid* Hagar and Abraham,
was making fun of *Isaac*. 10 So she *was angry and* told Abraham,
"Get rid of that servant woman and her son! Her son must
never share *any part of* what my son Isaac inherits *from you*!"
11 Abraham was very upset about that, because *Ishmael* was
also his son *and he cared about him too*. 12 But God told him,
"Do not be upset about the boy or your servant woman. *Rather,*
listen to everything Sarah tells you *to do*, *and do it,* because
Isaac is the one who will be the ancestor of your descendants
whom I promised to you. 13 But I will also make your servant
woman's son become *the ancestor of* a *large* people group,
because he is your son."

14 Early the next morning Abraham got up, brought *some*
food and a leather container *full* of water to Hagar *and* put them
on her back. Then he sent her off with the boy, and they left
and wandered *around* in the desert near *the city of* Beersheba.
15 When they had finished *all* the water in the container, she
left her son under *the shade of* a bush. 16 She thought *to herself*,
"I cannot *bear to* watch my son die." So she went *away from*
him and sat down by herself, about as far away as someone
can shoot an arrow. Then she started crying loudly.

17 God *also* heard the boy crying, so one of his angels called
to Hagar from heaven and said, "What is the matter, Hagar?
Do not be afraid. God has heard the boy crying over there
and will take care of him. 18 *So* go help the boy to get up, and
take care of him, because I *Yahweh* will make him become *the*
ancestor of a large people group." 19 Then God enabled Hagar
to see a water well. So she went over *to the well*, filled her
water container *with* water, and gave her son some water to
drink.

20 As the boy grew up, God was with him *and helped him*.
He lived in the *Paran* Desert and learned to hunt skillfully with
a bow *and arrows*. 21 While he was there, his mother found a
wife for him *who was* from the country of Egypt.

King Abimelech Makes a Treaty with Abraham
21:22-34

22 Meanwhile, one day *King* Abimelech *came* with his army
captain Phicol to Abraham *and* said to him, "*I have noticed*
that God *is* with you *and helps you* in everything that you do.
23 Now then, *please* vow to me here in God's presence that you
will never *again* deceive me or my children or my descendants.
Instead, just as I have treated you kindly, *vow that* you will
also be kind to me and *my people in* this country where you are
living." 24 Abraham replied *to him*, "I vow *that I will do those*
things."
25 Then Abraham *also* confronted *King* Abimelech about a
water well that Abimelech's servants had taken control of *from*
Abraham's servants. 26 But Abimelech responded, "I have no
idea who did that. Besides that, you did not tell me *about it*
before, and so today is the first that I have heard about it."
27 Then Abraham gave *some of his* sheep and cattle to
Abimelech, and he and Abimelech made a *peace* treaty *with*
one another. 28 Abraham *also* separated seven female lambs
from the rest of the flock. 29 So Abimelech asked him, "Why
did you separate those seven lambs *from the rest of the flock*?"
30 Abraham replied, "Because I want you to accept them from
me, to show *everyone* that you agree with me that I dug this
well *and it belongs to me*." 31 *Abimelech accepted the lambs,* so
Abraham named that place Beersheba, *which means "Well of*
the Seven" or "Well of the Vow," because that's where they both
vowed *to live at peace with one another*.
32 After Abraham and *King* Abimelech made their *peace*
treaty at Beersheba, Abimelech and his army captain Phicol
left *from there* and went back to *their homes in* the Philistines'
territory *that Abimelech ruled over*. 33 Then Abraham planted
an *evergreen* tree *named* tamarisk at *the place called* Beersheba,
and there he worshiped Yahweh, *who is* the God who lives
forever. 34 After that, Abraham lived *there* in the Philistines'
territory for many years.

God Tests Abraham's Trust in Him
22:1-19

22 Sometime later God *decided to* test Abraham. So he
called to him, "Abraham!" Abraham replied, "Yes,
Lord?" 2 Then God commanded *him*, "Take your son *with you*,
yes, your only son Isaac whom you love, and travel *with him*
to the region of Moriah. There you are to burn him up *on an*
altar as a sacrifice *to me*, on one of the mountains that I will
show to you."
3 So the next morning Abraham got up early and put a *pack*
saddle on his donkey *to get it ready for the trip*. Then he got
his son Isaac and two of his servants, and they chopped *some*
*fire*wood that they would use to burn the sacrifice *and loaded it*
on the donkey. Then they started traveling to the place that God
had told Abraham *to go to*. 4 Three days later Abraham looked
ahead and in the distance he could see the mountain *where*
they were headed. 5 Then he told his servants, "You *two* stay
here with the donkey, while my son and I go *to the mountain*
over there and worship *God*. Then we will come back to you."
6 Then Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering *off*
the donkey and loaded *it* on his son Isaac*'s shoulder to carry*.
He *himself* carried a fire *pot with hot coals in it* and a knife *to*
kill the sacrifice. Then the two of them walked on together.
7 *As they walked,* Isaac said to Abraham, "Father?" Abraham
replied, "Yes, my son?" Then Isaac asked *him*, "I see *that we*
have the fire *coals* and the *fire*wood, but where *is* the lamb
that *we* will burn as a sacrifice *to God*?" 8 Abraham answered
him, "My son, God himself will provide a lamb for us to burn
as a sacrifice *to him*." Then they continued walking together
toward the mountain.
9 When they reached the place that God had told him *to go*
to, Abraham built a *stone* altar there and put the wood *on top*
of it. Then he tied his son Isaac*'s arms and legs with rope* and
laid him on top of the wood on the altar. 10 Then he picked
up the knife *in order* to kill his son. 11 But one of Yahweh's
angels called to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" And
he replied, "Yes, *Lord*?" 12 Then the angel told *him*, "Do not
harm your son or do anything *else* to him. Now I know that you
revere me, since you *obeyed me and* did not refuse to sacrifice
your son to me, *even though he is* your only son."
13 Then Abraham looked around and there behind *him* he
saw a ram that had its horns stuck in a bush. So he *released*
Isaac, went *over to the ram* and untangled it. *Then he killed it*
and burned it *on the altar* as a sacrifice *to God* in place of his
son. 14 That is why Abraham named that place Yahweh-Yireh,
which means "Yahweh will provide". Even today people *still* say,
"On Yahweh's mountain he will provide what you need."
15 Then Yahweh's angel called to Abraham from heaven
again. 16 He said, "This is what Yahweh declares *to you*: 'With
myself *as my own witness*, I vow *to you* that since you have
obeyed me and did not hold back your son *from me*, *yes,* your
only son, 17 I will abundantly bless you. In fact, I will give
you so many descendants *that they will be as numerous* as the
stars in the sky and *as numerous* as the *grains of* sand on the
seashore. They will defeat their enemies and rule over them.
18 Through your descendants *I* will bless all the people groups
on the earth. *I will do that* because you obeyed me.'"
19 After that, Abraham returned *with Isaac* to his *two* servants.
Then together they *all* traveled *back home* to *the city of* Beersheba,
and Abraham *and his family* stayed there.

Abraham's Brother Nahor's Twelve Sons
22:20-24

20 Sometime later someone told Abraham, "I have news *for*
you: Your brother Nahor and *his wife* Milcah also have *some*
sons, 21 The oldest son *is* Uz, *the second is* Buz, and *the third is*
Kemuel, *who is* the father of Aram. 22 *They also have sons named*
Kesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph, and Bethuel." 23 Bethuel had *a*
daughter named Rebekah. Those *are* the eight *sons that* Milcah
had for Abraham's brother Nahor. 24 Besides that, Nahor and
his servant-wife Reumah also had *some sons, including* Tebah,
Gaham, Tahash, and Maacah.

Sarah Dies and Abraham Buys Some Land to Bury Her Body
23:1-20

23 Sarah lived to be 127 years old. That is how old she
was 2 when she died in *the city of* Kiriath Arba, which
is *now called* Hebron, in the region of Canaan. Abraham went
to her and cried and mourned for her. 3 Later he stood up from
mourning beside her and *went* to *the leaders of* the Hittites *at*
the city gates and said to them, 4 "*As you know,* I *am* a foreigner
who is living among you *so I do not own any property here*.
Please sell me some of your land so I have a place to bury *the*

body of my wife who has died." 5 *The leaders of* the Hittites
responded to Abraham, 6 "Sir, *please* listen to what we propose:
You are a powerful man *living* among us. *So you may* bury *the
body of* your wife who has died in *any* one of our best burial
sites. All of us are willing for you to use *any of* our burial sites
to bury her."
7 Abraham stood up and bowed *in respect* in front of *the
leaders of* the Hittites, who owned the land *in the area*. 8 Then
he said to them, "If you are willing *for me* to bury my deceased
wife here, *please* help me by asking Ephron the son of Zohar
9 to sell me his cave that is at the edge of his field in the
Machpelah *area*. Ask him to sell it to me for its full price, with
all of you *here* to witness *the sale*. That way I will have a place
where I can bury *my wife who has died*." 10 Now Ephron the
Hittite was sitting *there at the meeting* among the *other* Hittite
leaders, so he replied to Abraham as the *other* leaders listened,
including everyone who had gathered *there* at the city gate.
He said, 11 "That's not necessary, sir. *Please* accept this offer: I
hereby give you the *entire* field, including the cave that *is* in it.
I am giving it to you *now* as the leaders of my people watch.
You may bury your deceased *wife there*."
12 Then Abraham bowed *again* before the leaders who owned
the land *in the area*. 13 As they listened, he said to Ephron,
"Rather *than that*, since you are willing *to let me have the field*,
please accept my offer. I want to pay *you* the *full* price for the
field. *Please* let me buy it from you, so that *it will be mine and* I
can bury *my wife* there who has died." 14 Ephron responded to
Abraham, 15 "Sir, *please* listen to me. The land *is worth* about
five kilos of silver. *However* since you and I are friends, there is
no need for that. *Go ahead and* bury your deceased *wife there*."
16 Abraham agreed with Ephron's price, and he paid Ephron
the *amount of* silver that he had suggested while *the rest of*
the Hittites listened. *Abraham weighed the* 400 shekels of silver
using the standard weights that sellers used *at that time*.
17 So Ephron sold his field *to Abraham*, including the cave
that *was* in the field, as well as all the trees that *were* inside its
boundaries. The field was in the Machpelah *area* near *the city
of* Mamre. *Ephron sold that field* 18 to Abraham, and it became
his property while the Hittites watched, including everyone
who had gathered at the city gate. 19 After that, Abraham
put *the body of* his wife Sarah in the cave in that field in the
Machpelah *area* east of *the city of* Mamre, that is, Hebron, in
the region of Canaan. 20 So *that is how* that field, including the
cave that *was* in the field, was *officially* sold to Abraham by
the Hittites, so that he had a place where he could bury *his
wife who had died*.

Abraham Finds a Wife for Isaac
24:1-67

24 Abraham had lived a long time and was *now very* old,
and Yahweh had blessed him in every way. 2 *One day*
Abraham said to his chief household servant, who managed
his entire estate for him, "Please put your hand under my thigh
to show that you will do what I ask. 3 I want you to vow *to me*,
with Yahweh the God who rules the heavens and the earth as
your witness, that you will not arrange for my son *Isaac* to
marry *any of* the Canaanite women who live around us here.
4 Rather, you must go to the country where I grew up, to my
relatives *who live there*, and find a wife for him *from there*."
5 But *Abraham's* servant asked him, "What *should I do* if
the *young* woman *I find* refuses to come *back* with me to this
land *to live*? Do you want me to take your son back *there* to
your home country *to marry her and live there*?" 6 Abraham
answered him, "*No,* be sure that you never take my son back
there *to live*, 7 *because* Yahweh, the God who rules the heavens,
brought me *here* from my father's household and from the land
where *the rest of* my relatives live, and he vowed to me that
he will give this land to my descendants. He will send one of
his angels ahead of you *to help you*, so that you will find a
woman from my home land for my son *to marry*. 8 But if the
woman *you find* refuses to come back *here* with you, then you
will be free from *keeping* this vow that you are making to me
now. But *no matter what happens,* never take my son back to
my home country!"
9 So *Abraham's* servant put his hand under his master's
thigh and vowed to him that he would do what Abraham had
requested him to do. 10 Then he got ten of his master's camels
ready *for the trip*, and after he loaded them with all kinds of
valuable things from his master *to use as gifts*, he left *with some
other servants* and made the *long* trip to *the region of* Aram
Naharaim, to the city where Nahor lived. 11 *When they arrived
there,* Abraham's servant had the camels kneel down *to rest*
outside the city near the well *that was there*. It was evening
time, when the *young* women *of the city* were starting to come
out *to the well* to draw water.
12 Then Abraham's servant prayed, "*Dear* Yahweh, *who is*
the God *who takes care* of my master Abraham, please help me
succeed today and *in that way* be kind to my master. 13 As you
see, I am standing by this well, and young women from the
city are coming *here* to draw water. 14 *Please* make it happen
that when I say to one of the young women, 'Please lower your
jug so that I can have a drink,' she will say *to me*, 'Have a drink
and I will also draw water for your camels.' *Then I will know
that* she *is the one* you have chosen to be the wife of Isaac who
serves you, and that you have been kind to my master."
15 Before Abraham's servant had *even* finished praying, he
saw *a young woman named* Rebekah coming out *of the city*
carrying a water jug on her shoulder. She was the daughter
of Bethuel, *who was* the son of Milcah and Abraham's brother
Nahor. 16 She was a very beautiful unmarried young woman,
who had never had *marital* relations with a man. She walked
down to the well, filled her jug *with water* and came *back* up
carrying it on her shoulder.
17 Then *Abraham's* servant ran to meet her and said *to her*,
"Please let me have a little water to drink from your jug." 18 She
replied, "*Please* have a drink, sir." Then she quickly lowered
her jug *from her shoulder* to her hands and let him drink *some
water from it*. 19 After that, she said *to him*, "I will also draw
water for your camels until they have had enough to drink."
20 Then she quickly emptied *the rest of the water from* her jug
into the *animal drinking* trough *that was there* and ran back
and forth to the well to draw *more water*, until she had drawn
enough for all of the camels. 21 Meanwhile *Abraham's* servant
silently watched Rebekah *and waited* to find out whether or
not Yahweh had made him successful on his journey *to find a
wife for Isaac*.
22 Finally, when the camels had finished drinking, the
servant *gave Rebekah* a gold nose ring that weighed 6 grams,
and two gold bracelets for her wrists that weighed 110 grams

each. 23 Then he asked *her*, “Please tell me who your father *is*. *Also,* is there room at his house for me and my men to spend the night *there*?” 24 Rebekah answered him, “My father *is* Bethuel, *and he is* one of Nahor and Milcah’s sons.” 25 Then she added, “We have plenty of both straw and *other* feed *at our house for the camels to eat*, *and there is* also *enough* room *for you all* to stay *there* tonight.” 26 Then the servant bowed to the ground and worshiped Yahweh, 27 by saying, “Praise Yahweh, the God *who takes care* of my master Abraham! He has never stopped being kind and faithful to my master, and he has guided me on *my* journey *here to* the home of my master’s relatives!”

28 Then Rebekah hurried *home* and told her mother’s family about what had happened. 29 Rebekah had a brother whose name *was* Laban, and he rushed out to the well where Abraham’s servant was. 30 As soon as Laban had seen the nose ring *that his sister was wearing* and the bracelets on her arms and had heard her announce what the servant had said to her, he went *out* to meet him. He found him standing with *his* camels at the well. 31 Then Laban said *to him*, “Come *with me*, you whom Yahweh has blessed. There is no need for you to stand out here. I have gotten our house ready *for you and your men to stay with us* and *there is also* a place for *your* camels *to stay*.”

32 So Abraham’s servant went home *with Laban*. *When they arrived there,* Laban unloaded the camels, and he gave straw and *other* feed to them *to eat*. *He* also *gave* water *to the servant* and the men who *were* with him to wash their feet. 33 Then *Laban’s family* served them a meal to eat, but the servant said *to them*, “Before I can eat, I need to tell *you* why I am here.” Laban responded *to him*, “*Please* tell *us what you have to say*.”

34 So the servant told *them*, “I am Abraham’s servant. 35 Yahweh has abundantly blessed my master, so that he has become wealthy. Yahweh has given him *many* sheep and cattle, *much* silver and gold, *many* male and female servants, and *many* camels and donkeys. 36 Besides that, my master’s wife Sarah gave birth to a son for him when she was old, and my master has given him everything that he owns. 37 *Before I came here,* my master made me vow *to do something for him*. He said, ‘You must not arrange for my son *Isaac* to marry *any of* the Canaanite women whose land we have been living in. 38 Rather, go to my father’s family, to my *own* relatives, and find a wife for my son *from among them*.’ 39 So I asked my master, ‘What *should I do* if the *young* woman *I find* refuses to come *back here* with me?’ 40 He answered me, ‘Yahweh whom I serve will send one of his angels with you. He will make you succeed on your journey, so that you will find a wife for my son from *among* my relatives, *someone* from my father’s family. 41 At that time you will be free from *keeping* the vow *you are making* to me: If you find a wife for Isaac but my family refuses to let her go with you, then you will be free from *keeping* your vow to me.’

42 Then today when I came to *your city’s* well, I prayed, ‘*Dear* Yahweh, *who is* the God *who takes care* of my master Abraham, if you are willing, please give me success on this journey that I have made. 43 As you see, I am standing *here* near *this* well. *Please* make it happen *that* when a young woman comes out *of the city* to draw water and I ask her, “Please let me drink a little water from your jug,” 44 if she replies, “*Yes,* have a drink and I will also draw water for your camels,” *then let* her *be* the woman whom *you* Yahweh have chosen to be the wife of my master’s son.’

45 Before I had *even* finished praying quietly, suddenly I saw Rebekah coming out *of the city* carrying her *empty water* jug on her shoulder. She walked down to the well and filled her jug with water, so I asked her, ‘May I please have a drink *of water*?’ 46 She quickly lowered her jug from her *shoulder* and said, ‘Have a drink, and I will also draw water for your camels.’ So I took a drink *from her jug*, and she also gave water to my camels. 47 Then I asked her, ‘Who *is* your father?’ She answered, ‘My father is Bethuel, *who is* one of Nahor and Milcah’s sons.’ After that I gave her a nose ring and bracelets to wear. 48 Then I bowed *to the ground* and worshiped and praised Yahweh, the God *who takes care* of my master Abraham, because he guided me right where I should go to find the granddaughter of my master’s brother *to be the wife* for my master’s son. 49 So now, *please* tell me whether or not you are willing to be kind and faithful to my master *by letting her come with me*, so that I can decide what to do *next*.”

50 Then Laban and Bethuel answered *Abraham’s servant*, “*It is clear that* Yahweh has made *all* this happen, *so* it is not our place to tell you anything different. 51 Look, here *is* Rebekah. Take *her with you* and return *home* so that she can marry your master’s son as Yahweh has guided.” 52 When Abraham’s servant heard what they said, he bowed to the ground *and thanked* Yahweh. 53 Then he took out *expensive gifts, including* silver and gold jewelry, and *also beautiful* clothing, and gave *them* to Rebekah. He *also* gave *valuable* gifts to her brother and mother.

54 Then Abraham’s servant and his men ate *supper* and slept *there* that night. *Early* the next morning after everyone got up, Abraham’s servant said *to Rebekah’s family*, “*Please* let me return *home now* to my master.” 55 But Rebekah’s brother and her mother replied, “*Please* let the young woman stay *here* with us *for another* ten days or so. Then you can go and take her *with you*.” 56 But the servant said to them, “*Please* do not delay me. Now that Yahweh has made my journey successful, let me go so that I can return to my master.” 57 So they replied, “Let’s call Rebekah and ask her what she wants to do.”

58 So they called for her and asked her, “Do you want to go *now* with this man?” She answered *them*, “*Yes,* I will go *now*.” 59 So they *agreed to* send their sister Rebekah and her *personal* servant *who had helped raise her*, with Abraham’s servant and his companions. 60 They blessed Rebekah by saying to her,

> “Sister, we pray that God will give you
> countless thousands *of descendants*,
> and that he will help them conquer
> *all* their enemies and rule over them!”

61 After Rebekah and her servants *who were going with her* packed their things, they got up on the camels *they were going to ride* and went with Abraham’s servant. So *Abraham’s* servant took Rebekah *with him* and started the journey *back home*.

62 Meanwhile Isaac returned *home* from visiting *the place called* Beer Lahai Roi. *At that time* he was living in the Negeb *Wilderness*. 63 *One day* as it was becoming evening, he went to the field to pray. *As he was praying,* he looked up and suddenly he saw *in the distance some* camels coming *toward him*. 64 Rebekah *also* looked up and saw Isaac. Immediately

she got down from the camel *that she was riding*, 65 and asked *Abraham's* servant, "Who is that man in the field who is walking *this way* to greet us?" The servant answered *her*, "He *is* my master *Isaac*." So she covered her face with a veil *to show modesty*.

66 Then the servant told Isaac everything that he had done *on the journey*. 67 Then Isaac took Rebekah into the tent where his mother Sarah had lived, and he married her, so that she became his wife. Isaac loved her, and he was happy again after *mourning for* his mother *who had died*.

Abraham and Keturah's Descendants 25:1-6

1 Chronicles 1:32-33

25 Then Abraham got married again, and his wife's name *was* Keturah. 2 She had sons with him *whom they named* Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah. 3 *Her son* Jokshan had *sons named* Sheba and Dedan. Dedan's descendants became *people groups named* the Asshurites, Letushites, and Leummites. 4 *Keturah's son* Midian had sons *named* Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abida, and Eldaah. All of those *were* Keturah's descendants *whom she had with Abraham*.

5 Abraham gave everything that he owned to Isaac. 6 He also gave *valuable* gifts to the sons that his servant wives had *with him*, but after that he made them move away to the east country *so that they would live* far away from his son Isaac.

Abraham Dies and Is Buried 25:7-11

7 Abraham lived to be 175 years old. 8 Then he took his last breath and died at a very old age. After he had lived a long and satisfying life, he joined his ancestors *who had already died*. 9 His sons Isaac and Ishmael put his body in the cave of Machpelah *which was* in the field that had belonged to Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite, east of *the city of* Mamre. 10 *That is* the *same* field that Abraham had bought from the Hittites. That is *the cave* where his sons buried his body next to *the body of* his wife Sarah *whom he had buried there before*. 11 After Abraham died, God blessed his son Isaac, who lived near *the well* Beer Lahai Roi.

Ishmael's Descendants 25:12-18

12 What follows *is* a record of the descendants of Abraham's son Ishmael, the son Abraham had with Sarah's Egyptian slave woman Hagar. 13 Here is *a list of* the names of Ishmael's sons, *given* in the order that they were born: His oldest *son was* Nebaioth, followed by Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam, 14 Mishma, Dumah, Massa, 15 Hadad, Tema, Jetur, Naphish, and Kedermah. 16 Those were Ishmael's *twelve* sons, who became the leaders of twelve tribes that were named after them, and each tribe lived in its *own* towns and villages. 17 Ishmael lived a total of 137 years. Then he took his last breath and died, and he joined his ancestors *who had died before him*. 18 His descendants lived *throughout the area that extended* from *the region of* Havilah to *the wilderness of* Shur that *is* east of *the country of* Egypt as you head *from there* to *the city of* Asshur. They lived as enemies against all their relatives.

The Birth of Isaac's Twin Sons Jacob and Esau 25:19-26

19 Here *is more of* the history about Abraham's son Isaac and his descendants: *After* Abraham had Isaac, 20 Isaac *grew up and* married Rebekah when he was forty years old. *She was* a daughter of Bethuel, *who was* an Aramean from *the region of* Paddan Aram, and her brother was Laban *who was also* an Aramean. 21 However *for many years* Rebekah was not able to become pregnant, so Isaac prayed that Yahweh would give her children. Yahweh did what Isaac prayed for, so that she became pregnant *with twins*. 22 But the *two* babies wrestled with each other inside her, so she asked, "Why is this happening to me?" Then she asked Yahweh about it. 23 Yahweh answered her,

> "*The ancestors of* two *future* people groups *are* inside you.
> They will be enemies *starting now* even
> before they are born.
> One of them will be more powerful than the other,
> so that the older *son's descendants* will serve
> the younger *son's descendants*."

24 Later when it was time *for Rebekah* to give birth, sure enough, *there were* twin boys inside her! 25 The first *one* who was born was completely covered with thick red hair. So his parents named him Esau, *which means "hairy."* 26 Next his brother was born, with his hand grabbing on *tightly* to Esau's heel. So they named him Jacob, *which means "heel-grabber."* Isaac *was* sixty years old when Esau and Jacob were born.

Esau Sells His Rights as the Firstborn Son to Jacob 25:27-34

27 When the boys grew up, Esau became a skilled hunter and he enjoyed *being* in the open country, but Jacob had a quiet personality and *preferred* to work at home. 28 Isaac's favorite son was Esau, because he liked to eat the meat of wild animals *that Esau hunted*, whereas Rebekah's favorite son was Jacob.

29 *One day* when Jacob was making *some* soup, Esau came home from *hunting out in* the open country and he *felt* weak *and hungry*. 30 So Esau requested from Jacob, "Please let me have some of that very red soup because I *feel* weak *and hungry*!" That is why Esau's nickname was Edom, *which means "red."* 31 But Jacob replied, "First trade your rights as the oldest son to me *for the soup, then I will give you some*." 32 Esau responded, "Look, I am about to die *from hunger*! So my birthright is of no use to me *right now*." 33 Jacob insisted, "*First* make a vow to me today *before God that your rights are now mine*!" So Esau vowed to Jacob that he had traded his rights as the oldest son to him *for the soup*. 34 Then Jacob gave Esau *some of* the lentil soup with *some* bread, and Esau *quickly* ate the meal and left. In that way, Esau treated his birthright *carelessly* as if it had no value.

God Establishes His Covenant with Isaac 26:1-5

26 Now there was *another* severe food shortage in the region. *This was* a different shortage from the one that had happened *years* before, while Abraham was still alive. So Isaac *and his family* went to *the city of* Gerar to *ask for help*

from King Abimelech, who ruled over the Philistines. 2 Then Yahweh appeared to Isaac and commanded *him*, "Do not go to *the country of* Egypt, *rather* stay in this land where I tell you *to live*. 3 Live *as a foreigner* in this region, and I will stay with you and prosper you. In fact, I will give all the *surrounding* regions to you and your descendants, and I will continue *to keep* the vow that I made to your father Abraham 4 that I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky. I will also give them all these regions. In fact, through your descendants *I* will bless all the people groups on the earth. 5 *I will do all that* because Abraham obeyed me and did everything that I ever commanded *him to do*."

Isaac Lies about His Wife Rebekah to the Philistines 26:6-11

6 Then Isaac *did what God said and* settled *with his family* in *the city of* Gerar. 7 Now Rebekah *was* very beautiful, so the men in that city started asking *Isaac* about her. Isaac was afraid they might kill him in order to have her, so he *lied and* told *them* she *was* his sister. 8 *One day* after Isaac had lived there a long time, the Philistines' King Abimelech looked down from a window *of his palace* and saw to his surprise that Isaac was showing affection to his wife Rebekah. 9 So Abimelech summoned Isaac and scolded *him*, "It is obvious that Rebekah *is* actually your wife! So why did you tell us that she *is* your sister?" Isaac answered him, "*I said that* because I thought someone might kill me in order to have her *as a wife*." 10 Then Abimelech scolded *him further*, "You have treated us very badly! Sooner or later, one of my men could have slept with your wife, and you would have caused us to be guilty *of adultery*!" 11 Then *King* Abimelech warned all *his* people, "I will definitely execute anyone who harms Isaac or his wife!"

Isaac Has Conflict with the Philistines over His Wells 26:12-33

12 Isaac planted crops in that area, and that year he gathered *a huge harvest that was* a hundred times *more than what he had planted*. Yahweh continued to bless him, 13 so that he became richer and richer until he was extremely wealthy. 14 He owned many sheep and cattle and *he also owned* many servants. As a result, the Philistines were jealous of Isaac. 15 So they filled up with dirt all the wells that the servants of his father Abraham had dug while he was *still* alive.

16 Then *King* Abimelech said to Isaac, "*Please* move away from us, because you are so powerful *that you are a threat* to us." 17 So Isaac moved from *the city of* Gerar and pitched his tents in the Gerar Valley and stayed there *for a while*. 18 Then Isaac *had his servants* dig the dirt out of the wells that Abraham's servants had dug and *that* the Philistines had *just* filled *with dirt*. He gave the wells the same names that his father had given them.

19 Next Isaac's servants dug *at a new place* in the valley and discovered a source of fresh water there. 20 But the herdsmen from *the city of* Gerar argued with Isaac's herdsmen and said, "That well is ours!" So Isaac named the well Esek, *which means "argument,"* because they argued with him *about it*. 21 Then Isaac's servants dug another well, but Gerar's herdsmen argued *with them* about that one too, so Isaac named it Sitnah, *which means "hostility."* 22 Then Isaac *and his family* moved from there and he *had his servants* dig a third well. *This time* Gerar's herdsmen did not argue about it, so he named it Rehoboth, *which means "space,"* because he said, "Finally Yahweh has provided space for us, so that we will prosper in the land."

23 From there Isaac *and his family* went south to *the city of* Beersheba. 24 That night Yahweh appeared to him and said *to him*, "I *am* the God whom your father Abraham serves. Do not be afraid, because I *will always be* with you. I will bless you and make your descendants numerous, just as *I promised* to Abraham, who serves me." 25 So Isaac built an altar there *at Beersheba* and worshiped Yahweh by name. He also set up his tents there, and his servants started digging *another* well there *too*.

26 Then *King* Abimelech went to Isaac from *the city of* Gerar with his adviser Ahuzzath and his army commander Phicol. 27 Isaac asked them, "Why have you come to me, *especially* since you have been hostile toward me and forced me to move away from you?" 28 They answered *him*, "It is very obvious to us that Yahweh is with you *and blessing you*, and we decided that we should make a vow with you *to live in peace with one another*. So *please* let us make a *peace* treaty with you, 29 that you will never harm us, just as we never harmed you, but only treated you well and sent you away in peace. *As a result,* Yahweh has now blessed you." 30 Then Isaac prepared a feast, and they *all* ate and drank *together*. 31 Early the next morning they got up and made vows to one another *that they would keep their treaty*. Then Isaac said goodbye to them, and they went home from him in peace.

32 That *same* day Isaac's servants came to inform him about the well that they had been digging and announced, "We have struck water!" 33 So Isaac named the well Shebah, *which means "vow."* That is why *even* today the name of that city *is* still Beersheba, *which means "well of the vow."*

Esau's Foreign Wives 26:34-35

34 When Esau was forty years old, he married *two* Hittite women: Judith, whose father was Beeri, and Basemath, whose father was Elon. 35 Isaac and Rebekah were very distressed that their son had married foreign women *rather than a woman from their own religion and people*.

Jacob Steals Esau's Blessing from Their Father Isaac 27:1-29

27 One day when Isaac was an old man and he could no longer see, he sent for his older son Esau and said to him, "My son." Esau answered him, "Yes, *sir*?" 2 Then Isaac told *him*, "Please listen *closely*: I am an old man *now and* I do not know when I will die. 3 So then, get your bow and arrows, go out in the open country and hunt *some* deer *meat* for me. 4 Next *use the meat to* cook a delicious meal for me the way that I like it, and bring it to me to eat so that I can bless you before I die."

5 Rebekah overheard what Isaac said to his son Esau. So after Esau had gone out to the open country to hunt, 6 she said to her son Jacob, "Listen, I *just* overheard your father tell your brother Esau 7 to get him *some* deer *meat* and *use it to* cook a delicious meal for him to eat. Then before he dies, he wants to bless Esau with Yahweh as his witness. 8 So then, my son, listen to me and do what I tell you *to do*. 9 Please go *out* to our flock *of goats* and get for me two of the best young goats.

I will *use the meat from them to* cook a delicious meal for your
father, *just* the way that he likes it. 10 Then you can take the
meal to your father to eat, so that he will bless you before he
dies."
11 But Jacob responded to his mother, "As you know, my
brother Esau has hairy skin, but I have smooth skin. 12 What if
my father feels my skin? He will *recognize me and* realize that
I am trying to deceive him. Then he will curse me instead of
blessing me." 13 But his mother replied, "*If that happens,* may
God curse me instead of you, my son. Just listen to me, and
go get *two goats* for me!" 14 So Jacob went *to the flock* and
selected *two goats* and took *them* to her. Then she cooked a
delicious meal the way that his father liked it. 15 She also got
her older son Esau's finest clothes that she had in the house
and had her younger son Jacob put them on. 16 And she used
the goat skins to cover Jacob's arms and the part of his neck
that had no hair *on it*.
17 Then she handed the delicious meal to Jacob, including
some bread that she had baked. 18 He took the meal to his
father and said, "Father." His father answered, "Yes? Which of
my sons *are* you?" 19 Jacob replied to his father, "I am Esau,
your oldest son. I have done what you requested me *to do*. *So
now* please sit up and eat some of the deer *meat* that I have
cooked *for you*, so that you can bless me." 20 But Isaac asked
him, "How were you able to find *the deer* so quickly, my son?"
Jacob answered, "Yahweh, *who is* the God who takes care of
you, helped me to succeed."
21 Then Isaac said to him, "My son, please come here so
that I can feel you and make sure that you are really my son
Esau." 22 So Jacob stepped closer to his father Isaac, and his
father felt him and thought *to himself*, "*Hmm,* his voice *sounds
like* Jacob's voice, but *his* arms *feel like* Esau's arms." 23 So Isaac
was not able to identify who Jacob was because his arms felt
hairy like his brother Esau's. Isaac was about to bless Jacob,
24 but *first he wanted to be completely sure, so* he asked *him*, "Are
you really my son Esau?" Jacob answered, "*Yes,* I am." 25 So
Isaac said *to him*, "Serve me *the meal* so that I can eat some
of your deer meat and bless you." Then Jacob served *the meal*
to his father and he ate *it*. Jacob also served him wine and he
drank *it*.
26 Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Come here and kiss me, my
son." 27 So Jacob went over *to his father* and kissed him *on the
cheeks*. *As he did that,* his father recognized the fragrance of
Esau's clothes, so he blessed him and said,

"Ahh, my son, you smell *wonderful*
like the fragrance of a field
that Yahweh has caused to flourish!
28 I ask God to provide you *and your descendants plenty of*
rain from the sky *for your crops and animals*
and riches from the earth,
including abundant harvests and *much* wine.
29 I also ask God to cause nations to serve
and honor you *and your descendants*.
You will rule over your brother's descendants,
and they will *submit to you and* bow down to you.
Whoever curses you *God* will curse,
but whoever blesses you *he* will bless."

Esau Gets "Blessed" Too by His Father Isaac
27:30-40

30 As soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, and right
after Jacob had left his father's presence, Jacob's brother Esau
returned *home* from hunting. 31 Then he too cooked a delicious
meal, and he took *it* to his father *Isaac* and said to him, "Father,
please sit up and eat some of your son's deer meat so that you
can bless me." 32 But his father asked him, "Which son *are*
you?" Esau answered, "I *am* your oldest son Esau." 33 Then
Isaac *became so upset that his body* shook very violently, and
he asked *Esau*, "Who *was* it then that hunted deer meat and
brought a meal to me? I finished eating it just before you came,
and I blessed him. So God will definitely bless him." 34 When
Esau heard what his father said, he shouted out with a very
loud and distressed shout and begged his father, "*Please* bless
me too, father!" 35 But his father responded, "Your brother
came *to me* and tricked *me* and stole the blessing that I was
planning to give you." 36 Then Esau exclaimed, "The name
Jacob fits him exactly, because he has tricked me like this two
times *now*! *First* he stole my rights as the oldest son, and now
look *what he has done*: he has stolen my blessing!"
Then Esau begged *his father*, "Is there still a way you can
ask God to bless me?" 37 Isaac answered, "Listen, I have *already*
appointed Jacob to be your master. In fact, I have asked *God
to make it so* that you and all your descendants will serve him
and his descendants. Besides that, I have *also* blessed him with
abundant harvests and wine. So then, there is no way left for
me to bless you, my son!" 38 But Esau continued to beg his
father *and say*, "Father, is there not *just* one more way that you
can bless *me*? *Please* bless me too, father!" Then Esau started
crying loudly. 39 Finally his father said to him,

"Listen, you *and your descendants* will live
in a place where the land is not good *for farming*
and where there is not much rain.
40 You *and your descendants* will have to fight
battles to stay alive,
and you will serve your brother *and his descendants*.
But when you rebel *against them*,
you will get free from their control over you."

Jacob Flees from Esau
27:41-28:5

41 After that Esau held a grudge against Jacob because their
father had blessed him. So Esau thought to himself, "Soon my
father will die; then after we *bury him and* mourn for him, I
will kill my brother Jacob." 42 But Rebekah heard about what
her oldest son Esau was planning, so she sent for her youngest
son Jacob and told him, "Listen, your brother Esau is planning
to take revenge on you and kill you. 43 So then, my son, listen
to me: Hurry *and* escape to *the city of* Haran to my brother
Laban! 44 Live with him for a short time until your brother is
no longer angry *with you*. 45 When he is not angry with you
anymore and he forgets what you did to him, I will send word
that it is safe for you to come *back home* from there. I do not
want to lose both of you *on* the same day!"
46 Then Rebekah complained to Isaac, "My life is *very*
miserable because of our Hittite daughters-in-law *whom Esau*

married! If Jacob were to *also* marry a local Hittite woman like that, I would not want to keep on living!"

28 So Isaac summoned Jacob, blessed him and told him,
"You must not marry a Canaanite woman. 2 *Instead*
you must go right away to *the region of* Paddan Aram, to the
home of your mother's father, Bethuel, and marry one of your
uncle Laban's daughters. 3 I pray that God, *who is* all-powerful,
will bless you and give you many children and increase *the*
number of your descendants, so that you become *the ancestor*
of a community of peoples. 4 I *also* pray that he will bless you
and your descendants the same way that he blessed Abraham,
so that you will own this land where you have been living as a
foreigner, *the same land* which God gave to him." 5 Then Isaac
sent Jacob *on his way*, so Jacob started traveling to Laban*'s*
house which was in *the region of* Paddan Aram. *Laban was* the
son of Bethuel the Aramean and *also* the brother of Rebekah,
who was Jacob and Esau's mother.

Esau Marries Another Wife
28:6-9

6 Now Esau had seen Isaac bless Jacob and send him to
the region of Paddan Aram to marry a woman from there. As
Isaac was blessing him, *Esau heard* him tell Jacob not to marry
a Canaanite woman. 7 *Esau also saw that* Jacob obeyed their
father and mother and started traveling to Paddan Aram. 8 That
is when Esau realized that his father Isaac did not approve of
his sons marrying Canaanite women. 9 So in addition to the *two*
wives he already had, Esau went to *the family of* Abraham's
son Ishmael and married Ishmael's daughter Mahalath, whose
brother was Nebaioth.

Jacob Dreams about a Stairway to Heaven
28:10-22

10 *After* Jacob left from *his family's home in the city of*
Beersheba, he started traveling to *the city of* Haran. 11 *That*
evening he reached a *good* place *to sleep*, so he stopped there *for*
the night because the sun had set. He chose *one* of the stones
that was there and used it as a pillow. Then he lay down and
went to sleep. 12 While he was dreaming, he saw a stairway.
The bottom of the stairway was on the ground and its top
reached up to heaven, and he saw God's angels going up and
coming down on the stairway. 13 And there standing at the
top *of the stairway* was Yahweh, and he said *to Jacob*, "I *am*
Yahweh, the God whom your ancestors Abraham and Isaac
serve. I will give you and your descendants this land that you
are lying on. 14 They will be *as numerous* as the dust *specks*
on the ground, so that they live throughout this land in every
direction. Because of you and your descendants, I will bless
all the families in the world. 15 Remember that I *will always be*
with you. I will protect you wherever you go, and I will lead
you back to this land. In fact, I will never leave you and I will
do everything that I have promised you *that I will do*."

16 Suddenly Jacob woke up from his dream and exclaimed
to himself, "Yahweh definitely lives in this place, but I did not
know *it before now*!" 17 He was afraid, so he *also* exclaimed,
"This is a terrifying place! This can only be God's house! It
must be the entrance to heaven!"

18 Early the next morning Jacob got up, took the stone that
he had used as a pillow and set it up *on its end* to mark the
place *where God had appeared to him*. Then he poured *some olive*
oil on top of the stone *to dedicate the place to God*. 19 He named
that place Bethel, *which means "house of God."* Previously the
name of that town had been Luz.

20 Then Jacob made a vow *to God* and said, "God, if *you*
will stay with me and protect me as I travel on this journey
and if you provide me food to eat and clothes to wear, 21 so
that I return safely to my father's home, then Yahweh, *you*
will be the God whom I serve. 22 This stone that I have set up
will be your house and mark the place *that you appeared to*
me, and I will give back to you a tenth of everything that you
give to me."

Jacob Meets Rachel and Laban in the City of Haran
29:1-14

29 Then Jacob left *Bethel* and continued traveling *until*
he came to the land in the east where various people
from that land lived. 2 *When he arrived there,* he looked *around*,
and he saw a well in an *open* field. There were three flocks
of sheep lying near the well *waiting for water*. That was the
well that flocks drank water from, but there was a *heavy,* large
stone covering the top of the well. 3 *Every day* shepherds would
bring all the flocks *of sheep* there. They would *work together to*
remove the stone from the top of the well and draw water for
the sheep. Then they would put the stone back over the top of
the well.

4 Jacob asked the shepherds, "My friends, where do you
live?" They replied, "We *are* from *the city of* Haran." 5 So Jacob
asked them, "Do you know Laban, Nahor's grandson?" They
answered, "*Yes,* we do." 6 So Jacob asked, "Is he doing well?"
They answered *him*, "*Yes, he is* well. In fact, here comes his
daughter Rachel *now*, bringing *his* sheep." 7 Then Jacob urged
them, "Look, the sun is still bright, and *it is* too early to gather
the flocks *for the night*. *You ought to* draw water for them and
take *them* back out *to the fields* to graze *some more*." 8 But they
replied, "We can not *do that* until all the shepherds are here
with their flocks. Then *together* we will move the stone away
from the top of the well and draw water for the sheep."

9 While Jacob was still talking with the shepherds, Rachel
arrived *at the well* with her father *Laban*'s sheep; it was her
job to take care of them. 10 As soon as Jacob saw Rachel the
daughter of his uncle Laban with her father's sheep, he walked
over *to the well*, removed the stone that covered it, and drew
water for his uncle's sheep. 11 Then he kissed Rachel *on her*
cheek and *he was so happy that* he started crying. 12 Then he
told her that he *was* her father's nephew, the son of *her aunt*
Rebekah. So she ran home and told her father *the news*.

13 When Laban heard about his sister's son Jacob, he ran *out*
to greet him. Then he hugged him and kissed him *on the cheeks*
and took him to his house. Then Jacob told Laban *about himself*
and everything that had happened, 14 and Laban exclaimed to
him, "There is no doubt that you *are* a close relative of my
family!"

Jacob Works for Laban to Marry Rachel and Leah
29:14b-30

After Jacob had stayed with Laban *and worked for him for*
an entire month, 15 Laban said to him, "*Just* because you are
my nephew, *that does not mean that* you should *have to* work
for me for free! Tell me what you want me to pay you." 16 Now

Laban had two daughters: The name of the older *one was* Leah,
and the younger *one* was Rachel. 17 Leah had pretty eyes, but
Rachel was extremely beautiful in every way. 18 Jacob was
in love with Rachel, so he said *to Laban*, "I will work seven
years for you if you will let me marry your younger daughter
Rachel." 19 Laban replied, "*I agree to your terms.* I would *much*
rather give her to you *to marry* than give her to someone else.
So stay here *and work for me*." 20 So Jacob worked seven years
for Laban so that he could marry Rachel, but he loved her so
much that to him the time seemed *to pass quickly* like *only* a
few days.

21 *When the seven years were over,* Jacob said to Laban,
"*Please* let me marry *your daughter Rachel now* so that I can live
with her *as* my wife, because I have finished my *seven* years
of work for you." 22 So Laban invited all the local people and
held a *wedding* feast. 23 But that evening Laban *tricked Jacob*
and brought his daughter Leah *to Jacob's tent instead of Rachel*,
so that he had marital relations with her. 24 Laban also gave
his female servant Zilpah to Leah *to be her personal* servant.

25 But the next morning Jacob was shocked to see that it
was Leah *he had married*! So he complained to Laban, "You
have treated me very badly! *You know that* Rachel is the one
I served you for! So why did you trick me?" 26 Laban replied,
"It is not our custom here for the younger *daughter* to marry
before the older *daughter marries*. 27 *So then, keep Leah as your*
wife and finish this week of celebrating your marriage to her.
Then our family will also give you *my* younger daughter *to*
marry if you will work for me for another seven years."

28 So Jacob *agreed with Laban and* did what he said: he
finished celebrating his marriage to Leah that week. Then
Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to marry. 29 Laban *also*
gave his servant Bilhah to Rachel to be her servant. 30 Then
Jacob had marital relations with Rachel, and he loved her
more than *he loved* Leah. Then he *started* working for Laban
for seven more years.

Jacob's Children
29:31-30:24

31 Now Yahweh knew that Jacob did not love Leah, so he
made it possible for her to have children, but Rachel was not
able to conceive. 32 Then Leah became pregnant and gave birth
to a son. She named him Reuben, *which means "See, a son!"*
because she exclaimed, "Now that Yahweh has seen that I am
suffering *and helped me*, surely my husband will love me!"

33 Then Leah became pregnant again and gave birth to
another son. She exclaimed, "Since Yahweh heard that my
husband does not love me, he has given me this child also."
So she named him Simeon, *which means "he hears."*

34 Then Leah became pregnant *yet* again and gave birth to
another son, and she exclaimed, "Now finally my husband will
want to be with me because I have given him three sons!"
That is why his name was Levi, *which means "be with."*

35 Once again Leah became pregnant and gave birth to
another son, and she exclaimed, "Now I will praise Yahweh!"
That is why she named him Judah, *which means "praise."* Then
Leah stopped having children *for a while*.

30 Meanwhile *when* Rachel realized that she was not able
to bear *any children* for Jacob, she was jealous of her
sister, and she demanded of Jacob, "Help me have children, or
else I want to die!" 2 Jacob became very angry with Rachel and
responded, "I am not God! He is the one who has prevented
you from having children!" 3 Then Rachel told *him*, "You can
have my servant woman Bilhah *as a wife*. Have *marital* relations
with her so that she will have children for me, so that I too can
have a family." 4 So Rachel gave Jacob her servant Bilhah to
be *another* wife *for him*, and Jacob had *marital* relations with
her.

5 Then Bilhah became pregnant and had a son for Jacob,
6 and Rachel exclaimed, "God has judged in my favor! Yes
indeed, he has answered my prayer and given me a son!" That
is why she named the baby Dan, *which means "he judged in my*
favor."

7 Then Rachel's servant Bilhah became pregnant again and
had a second son for Jacob. 8 Then Rachel exclaimed, "I have
had a difficult contest with my sister, and *now* I have defeated
her!" Then she named that son Naphtali, *which means "my*
contest."

9 Now when Leah realized that she had stopped having
children, she brought her servant Zilpah *to Jacob* and gave her
to him to be *another* wife *for him*. 10 Then Zilpah had a son
for Jacob, 11 and Leah exclaimed, "I am so fortunate!" So she
named him Gad, *which means "fortunate."*

12 Then Leah's servant Zilpah had a second son for Jacob,
13 and Leah exclaimed, "*God* has truly blessed me! Now *other*
women will know that *God* has blessed me." So she named
that son Asher, *which means "blessed."*

14 Then *one day* during the season when people were
harvesting wheat, Leah's son Reuben went out in a field and
found *some* fertility plants, and he gave them to his mother.
When Rachel found out about the plants, she begged Leah, "Please
give me some of the fertility plants that your son found." 15 But
Leah replied to her, "*No!* It was *bad* enough that you stole my
husband *from me*! And *now* you even want to take my son's
fertility plants!" Rachel replied, "Alright then, Jacob can sleep
with you tonight if you will give me your son's fertility plants."

16 That evening when Jacob came *home* from *working in*
the field, Leah went out to greet him and told *him*, "You must
sleep with me *tonight*, because I have traded my son's fertility
plants for time with you." So Jacob spent that night with
Leah. 17 God answered *the prayers of* Leah, so that she became
pregnant and had a fifth son for Jacob. 18 Then she said, "God
has rewarded me for giving my servant to my husband *as a*
wife." So she named that son Issachar, *which means "reward."*

19 Then Leah became pregnant again and had a sixth son
for Jacob. 20 Then she said, "God has given me a valuable gift,
so that now my husband will honor me because I have had six
sons for him." So she named their son Zebulun, *which means*
"honor."

21 *Sometime* after that, Leah had a daughter and named her
Dinah.

22 God had not forgotten Rachel, so he answered her *prayers*
and made it possible for her to have children. 23 Then she
became pregnant and had a son, and she exclaimed, "God has
made it so that I am no longer ashamed!" 24 She named her
son Joseph, *which means "may he give another," because* she
said, "I pray that Yahweh will give me another son."

Jacob Becomes Very Rich Working for Laban
30:25-43

25 After Rachel had Joseph, Jacob requested of Laban,
"*Please* allow me to leave *here*, so that I can return to my *own*
home in my *own* country. 26 Let me take my wives and my
children, whom I have earned by working for you, so that I can
leave *with them*. You yourself know how *well* I have worked
for you."
27 But Laban responded to him, "Please be kind to me *and*
stay, *because* I have found out from observing signs that Yahweh
has blessed me because you *are here with me*." 28 Then he added,
"Tell me what you want your pay to be, and that is what I will
pay you." 29 Jacob replied to him, "You yourself know how
hard I have worked for you and how *well* your animals have
prospered under my care. 30 The few that you owned before I
came have multiplied dramatically. Yes, Yahweh has blessed
you because of me. But now, I need to also provide for my
own family!"
31 So Laban asked *him*, "What can I pay you *to persuade you*
to stay here?" Jacob answered, "Do not pay me anything. Just
do this *one* thing for me, and I will continue taking care of
your flock*s*: 32 Let me look through all your flock*s* today and
separate out from them all the lambs that are speckled, spotted
or dark-colored, and *all* the young goats that are spotted or
speckled. They will be my pay. 33 That way *too*, in the future it
will be easy *for you* to know whether *or not* I am being honest
whenever you check the animals you have paid me. *If you see*
that I have any *sheep or* goats that are not speckled or spotted
or any lambs *that are not* dark-colored, *you will know that* I
stole them *from you*."
34 Laban replied, "I agree, let's do exactly as you have
suggested." 35 But that *same* day, Laban separated *from his*
flocks all the he-goats that had stripes or spots, and all the
she-goats that had speckles or spots, all that *had any* white
marks on them, together with all the dark-colored lambs. Then
he told his sons to take care of *them*, 36 and he *and his sons* took
those animals a three-day walking-distance away from Jacob.
Meanwhile Jacob continued taking care of the rest of Laban's
flock*s*.
37 Then Jacob cut *some* branches from poplar *trees*, almond
trees, and chestnut *trees*, and made white streaks on them *by*
peeling off long strips of bark, which exposed the white *wood*
that was inside the branches. 38 Then he put those *streaked*
branches in all the drinking troughs that the flock*s* would come
to drink from, so that the flock*s* would see the branches. *That*
way, whenever the animals that were ready to mate came *to the*
troughs to drink, 39 they would see the branches as they were
mating. As a result, they would have *young that were* striped
or speckled or spotted. 40 Then Jacob separated those young
animals *from Laban's flocks to form new flocks for himself*, and
he put *the rest of* the flock*s* with the striped and dark-colored
animals in Laban's flock*s* *so that they would mate and have*
young that were striped or dark-colored. In that way, *over time*
he created separate flocks *of sheep and goats* for himself that
he kept separate from Laban's flock*s*.
41 Whenever the stronger female animals were ready to
mate, Jacob put the *streaked* branches in the *drinking* troughs
in front of those animals so that they would see the branches as
they were mating. 42 But whenever the weaker female animals
were ready to mate, Jacob did not put *the branches in the troughs*.
In that way, *the young from* the weaker *animals* were Laban's
and *the young from* the stronger *animals* were Jacob's. 43 So
Jacob became extremely wealthy. He owned large flock*s* *of*
sheep and goats, and *many* male and female servants and *many*
camels and donkeys.

Jacob and His Family Flee from Laban
31:1-21

31 Then *one day* Jacob heard that Laban's sons were
complaining and saying, "Jacob has taken *for himself*
everything that our father owned. In fact, he has gotten all his
riches by taking *the animals* that were our father's!" 2 Jacob
also noticed that Laban no longer acted friendly toward him
the way he did in the past. 3 Then Yahweh told Jacob, "Return
to your ancestors' homeland, where your relatives live, and I
will stay with you *and help you*."
4 So Jacob sent a message to Rachel and Leah that they
should meet him at the field *where he was with* his flock*s* *of*
sheep and goats. 5 *When they arrived,* he said to them, "I have
noticed that your father no longer acts friendly toward me the
way he did in the past, but the God whom my father serves
has stayed with me *and has helped me*. 6 You *both* know how
I have worked for your father as hard as I could, 7 but he has
cheated me by changing what he pays me ten times. However,
God has not permitted him to hurt me. 8 *For example,* every
time that he told *me* that the speckled *animals* would be my
pay, all *the female animals in* the flock*s* gave birth to speckled
young. But whenever he *changed his mind and* told *me* that the
striped animals would be my pay, then they all gave birth
to streaked *young*. 9 In that way, God has taken your father's
animals *from him* and has given *them* to me.
10 One time during the season when the flock*s* *of sheep and*
goats were mating, I had a dream. *In the dream* I looked around
and was surprised to see that the *only* male goats *and sheep*
that were mating with the female goats *and sheep were* striped,
speckled, or blotched. 11 Then an angel from God called to me
in the dream, 'Jacob!' and I answered, 'Yes, *Lord*?' 12 Then he
said *to me*, 'Look around and notice *that* all the male goats
and sheep that are mating with the female goats *and sheep are*
striped, speckled, or blotched. *I have caused that to happen,*
because I have noticed all *the wrong things* that Laban has been
doing to you. 13 I am the God *who appeared to you* at *the town*
of Bethel, where you poured oil on top of a memorial stone *to*
dedicate the place to me, *and* where you made an oath to me. *So*
then, get ready *and* leave this land *immediately*, and go back
to your home land.'"
14 Then Rachel and Leah responded to Jacob, "We will not
inherit anything from our father *when he dies*! 15 It is obvious
that he treats us like strangers *and not family*. For example, he
sold us *to you*, and then he spent all the money that should
have been ours. 16 In fact, all the wealth that God has taken
from our father *rightfully belongs* to us and our children. So
then, *you should* do everything that God has told you *to do*."
17 So Jacob *quickly* got ready *for the journey* and helped his
wives and his children *get up* onto some camels. 18 Then he
started herding *the camels and* all his *other* animals toward the
region of Canaan where his father Isaac lived. *He took with*
him all his possessions that he had accumulated, *including* all

the livestock that he had acquired *while living* in *the region of* Paddan Aram.

19 Now *before that,* Laban *the Aramean* had gone away *for several days* to shear his sheep. *While her father was gone,* Rachel *entered his tent and* stole his idols *that he worshiped*. 20 At the same time, Jacob *also* deceived Laban by fleeing *secretly* without telling him that he was leaving. 21 So *in that way* Jacob ran away *with his family* and *took* everything that they owned. They quickly crossed the *Euphrates* River and headed toward the hill country of Gilead.

Laban Chases After Jacob and His Family 31:22-42

22 Three days later someone informed Laban that Jacob had run away. 23 So Laban took *some of* his relatives with him and chased after Jacob *and his family* for seven days until they overtook him in the hill country of Gilead. 24 But that night God appeared to Laban in a dream and warned him, "Be sure that you do not threaten Jacob in any way."

25 *By the time that* Laban caught up with Jacob, Jacob had *already* set up his tents in the hill country *of Gilead*, so Laban and his relatives *also* set up camp there *at a place nearby*. 26 Then *the next day* Laban *met with Jacob and* complained to him, "Look what you have done! You have deceived me and dragged away my daughters like prisoners of war! 27 You should not have deceived me and secretly run away! You should have told me *you were leaving*! *If I had known,* we could have *held a feast and* sung joyful songs *and danced* together, with tambourines and lyres playing, before sending you *on your way*. 28 You did not *even* let me kiss my daughters and my grandchildren *before they left*! What you have done is foolish! 29 I have the power to harm *all of* you, but last night *in a dream* the God whom your father serves warned me not to threaten you in any way. 30 Now then, *I understand that* you left because you were so homesick to return to your father's family, *but* why did you steal my gods?"

31 Jacob answered Laban, "*We left secretly* because I was afraid. I thought that *if I told you we were leaving,* you might take your *two* daughters from me *by force*. 32 *However we did not take your gods. In fact,* if you find your gods with anyone *here*, that person will die *for stealing them*! *So* while our relatives are watching, *go ahead and* search *all* my belongings for yourself. *If you find* anything that is yours, take it." *When Jacob said that,* he did not know that Rachel *was the one who* had stolen the idols.

33 So Laban started searching in Jacob's tent. Then *he searched* through Leah's tent and through the two servant women's tent, but he did not find *anything that belonged to him*. Next after he left those tents, he went into Rachel's tent. 34 Now Rachel had hidden the idols inside *her* camel saddlebag, and she was sitting on them. So although Laban searched through everything *else* in the tent, he could not find them. 35 *As he was searching,* Rachel said to him, "Sir, *please* do not be upset that I am not able to get up to greet you, because it's that time of the month *when I feel weak*." *That is also why* he could not find *his* idols when he searched *her tent*.

36 Then Jacob became *very* angry *at Laban* and confronted him by saying to him, "Tell me my crime! Tell me what sin I have done *against you* that gives you the right to chase after me! 37 Now that you have searched through all my things, did you find anything *that anyone took* from your household? *If so,* put *it* here in front of our relatives, so that they can decide which one of us is right!

38 For twenty years I *have worked* for you! *During all that time* your sheep and your goats had no trouble bearing young, and I have never *killed and* eaten *any* animals from your flocks. 39 Whenever wild animals killed *any of* your animals, I never brought *the dead animal* to you *to prove I was innocent*. *Rather,* I replaced them at my own expense. *Besides that,* you required me to pay for *any* animals *that anyone ever* stole *at any time of* day or night. 40 That was my situation! During the days, I suffered from the hot sun, and during the nights it was so cold that I could not sleep. 41 *It was like* that for me *during the entire* twenty years that I was with you. I worked for you for fourteen years in order to marry your two daughters, and *I worked another* six years to earn flocks *of animals* from you, even though you changed my pay ten times. 42 If God, whom my ancestors Abraham and Isaac serve and revere, had not been with me *to take care of me*, there is no doubt that I would now be leaving *here* with *absolutely* nothing. *But* God knows how *much* you have mistreated me and how hard I have worked *for you*, so last night he rebuked *you*."

Jacob and Laban Establish a Peace Treaty with Each Other 31:43-55

43 Then Laban responded to Jacob, "These women *are* my daughters, and their children *are* my grandchildren, and these flock*s are also* mine. In fact, all that you see *here* is mine! But there is nothing I can do today to keep my daughters or their children near me *any longer*! 44 So then, you and I should make a *peace* treaty *with each other*, and there should be something to remind us *to keep that treaty*." 45 So Jacob picked out a *large* stone and set it up *on its end as* a monument *to mark the place where they made their treaty*. 46 Then he told his relatives, "Gather *some more* stones." So they *all* gathered stones and put them in a *large* pile. Then everyone ate *a meal together* there next to the pile *of stones*. 47 Laban gave the pile the *Aramaic* name Jegar Sahadutha, *which means "pile that reminds,"* while Jacob gave it the *Hebrew* name Galeed, *which has the same meaning*. 48 Laban said *to him*, "*Starting* today this pile *of stones* will remind you and me *about our peace treaty*." That is why the name of that place is Galeed. 49 *Another name for the place is* Mizpah, *which means "watchtower,"* because Laban said *to Jacob*, "May Yahweh watch both of us *to make sure that we keep our treaty* while we are apart from each other. 50 If you treat my daughters badly, or if you marry *other* wives besides them, remember *that even if* no one *else* is watching us, God is *always* watching both of us *to hold us accountable*."

51 Then Laban *also* said to Jacob, "Here is this pile *of stones*, and here is this monument which we stood up between us *to remind us about our peace treaty*. 52 This pile *of stones* and this monument *both* remind us that I must never go past this pile *to attack you*, and that you must never go past this pile and this monument to attack me. 53 May *your grandfather* Abraham's God and *my grandfather* Nahor's gods, *which were also* their father *Terah*'s gods, judge between us *and punish us if we break this agreement*!" But Jacob made a vow by the God whom his father Isaac revered *that he would keep their treaty*, 54 and he burned *the body of* an animal *on an altar* as a sacrifice *to God* on the mountain. Then he invited his relatives to eat a meal

together there. So they *all* ate the meal *together* and spent the night there.

55 Early the next morning Laban got up and kissed his grandchildren and his daughters *goodbye on the cheeks* and asked God to bless them. Then he *and his men* left *from there* and returned home.

Jacob Prepares to Meet Esau
32:1-21

32 Meanwhile Jacob continued on his journey *toward home with his family*, and *some* angels from God met him. 2 When Jacob saw the angels, he exclaimed, "This is God's army!" So he named that place Mahanaim, *which means "two armies."*

3 Then Jacob sent *some* messengers ahead of him to his brother Esau *who was living* in the region of Seir, *which was also called* the country of Edom. 4 *Before they left,* he ordered them, "This *is what* you must tell my master Esau: 'I, your servant Jacob, want you to know that I have been staying with *our uncle* Laban all this time. 5 I *now* own *many* cattle, donkeys, and flocks, as well as *many* male and female servants. I have sent this message to *you,* sir, hoping that you will be kind *to me when I arrive*.'"

6 *After the messengers delivered Jacob's message,* they returned to Jacob and reported *to him*, "We went *and spoke* to your brother Esau. Now he is on his way *here* to meet you, but *there are also* 400 men *coming* with him!" 7 *When Jacob heard that,* he was very frightened and worried. So he put *all* the people *and animals* that were with him into two *large* groups, including *his family, his servants and all* his flocks *of sheep and goats*, herds *of cattle* and camels. 8 *He did that* because he thought, "If Esau *and his men* come and attack one group, then the other group might *be able to* escape."

9 Then he prayed, "*Dear* Yahweh, the God whom my grandfather Abraham and my father Isaac served, you told me to go back to my country where my relatives live, and that you would cause me to prosper. 10 I am not worthy of how kind and faithful you have always been to *me* as I have served you. When I *first* crossed this Jordan *River*, all that I owned was my walking stick, but now my family and belongings are enough to form two *large* groups. 11 Please rescue me *now* from my brother Esau, because I am afraid that he *and his men* will come and attack me *as well as these* mothers and *our* children! 12 But you promised me that you would greatly prosper me, and that you would make my descendants *as numerous* as *the grains of* sand on the seashore, which are so numerous that no one can count them all."

13 Then Jacob spent the night there, and *during that time* he selected many of his animals to give to his brother Esau, 14 *including* 200 female goats and twenty male goats, 200 female sheep and twenty male sheep, 15 thirty mother camels with their colts, forty cows and ten bulls, *and* twenty female donkeys and ten male donkeys. 16 Jacob put his servants in charge of the animals, with each kind *of animal* in a separate group. Then he ordered his servants, "Go ahead of me, *one group at a time,* and keep *some* distance between each group *of animals*." 17 He *also* ordered the servant in charge of the first group *of animals*, "When my brother Esau meets you and asks you, 'Who is your master, and where are you headed? And who do these *animals* belong to *that you are driving* ahead of you?' 18 then you are to tell *him*, 'Esau, sir, these *animals* belong to Jacob who *humbly* serves you. He has sent them to you as a gift. In fact, he is following us *here*.'"

19 In the same way, Jacob ordered the servants who were in charge of the second and third groups *of animals*, and all *the servants* who were in charge of the *other* groups, "When you meet Esau, tell him the same thing *that I told the first servant*. 20 Especially be sure to tell *him* that his servant Jacob is following you *there*." *Jacob did all that,* because he thought that if he sent the gifts *of animals* ahead of himself *to Esau*, then Esau would stop being angry at him. He was hoping that when Esau saw the gifts, he would *forgive him and* welcome him when they met in person. 21 So Jacob's servants *went* ahead of Jacob with the *animal* gifts *for Esau*, while Jacob *and his family* stayed *behind* in the camp that night.

Jacob Wrestles with God, Who Names Him Israel
32:22-32

22 *Later* that *same* night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two servant wives and his eleven sons across a shallow place in the Jabbok *Stream*. 23 *After* he had taken them across the stream, he *went back and* had his servants take *all* his *animals and other* belongings across *the stream too*. 24 Then Jacob was *there* by himself *for a while*, and a man *came and* fought with him until daybreak. 25 When the man realized that he was not able to defeat Jacob, he struck him on his hip, so that it went out of place as they fought with each other. 26 Then the man said *to him*, "Let go of me, because it is daybreak!" But Jacob replied, "*No!* I will not let go of you until you *first* bless me!" 27 So the man asked him, "What *is* your name?" He answered, "*My name is* Jacob." 28 Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but *rather it will be* Israel, *which means 'he who wrestles with God,'* because you have wrestled with God and with people, and you have won."

29 Then Jacob asked *the man* to tell him his name. But he replied, "There is no need for you to ask *me* what my name is!" Then the man blessed Jacob there. 30 So Jacob named the place Peniel, *which means "God's face,"* because *he exclaimed*, "I saw God's face *here*, but *yet* he allowed me to live!"

31 The sun was shining as Jacob left Penuel *and returned to his family*. He was limping *as he walked* because of his hip *injury*. 32 That is why even today the people of Israel do not eat meat that comes from an *animal's* hip joint, because that is the place on Jacob's hip that God struck *and injured*.

Jacob Reunites with Esau and Settles in *the City of* Shechem
33:1-20

33 Then Jacob looked and saw *in the distance* that Esau was coming *toward him*, and with him *were* 400 men! So Jacob *quickly* divided up *his* children among Leah, Rachel and *his* two servant wives. 2 He put his servant wives and their children first *in line*, then Leah with her children behind them, and Rachel with *her son* Joseph last. 3 Then Jacob himself went ahead of them *all toward his brother*. As he got closer to him, he bowed *with his face* to the ground seven times *to show respect*.

4 But Esau ran to greet Jacob and hugged him. He held him tightly and kissed him *on the cheeks*, as they *both* cried *for joy*. 5 Then Esau looked ahead and noticed the women and children *who were there*, so he asked *Jacob*, "Who *are* these *people*? *Do they belong* to you?" Jacob answered *him*, "*They are*

the wives and the children whom God has kindly given to me, sir." 6 Then the *two* servant wives with their children came forward, and they *all* bowed *to the ground in front of Esau to show respect*. 7 Next Leah and her children also came forward and bowed *to the ground*. Then last *of all*, Joseph and *his mother* Rachel came forward, and they *also* bowed *to the ground*.

8 Then Esau asked *Jacob*, "Why did you send all those herds *of animals* that I encountered?" Jacob answered *him*, "*They are gifts for you* so that you will be kind to me, sir." 9 But Esau replied, "My brother, I *already* have enough *animals*, *so* keep them for yourself." 10 But Jacob insisted, "Please do not refuse *my gifts*. *Rather,* if you want to be kind to me, then *please* accept these gifts from me. After all, for me to see your face is like seeing God's face, especially since you have welcomed me *so kindly*. 11 *So* please accept my gift *of animals* that I sent to you, because God has been kind to me, so that I have all *that I need*." Jacob kept insisting *that Esau accept the animals from him* until *finally* he accepted *them*.

12 Then Esau suggested *to Jacob*, "Let's start traveling *home*, and I will accompany you." 13 But Jacob replied to him, "Sir, as you know, *my* children *are* fragile, and I need *to be careful with all* the sheep and cattle that are nursing *their young*. If I force the animals to go too far *for even* one day, all of them will die. 14 *So then,* sir, please go on *home* ahead of me, sir. I will travel along slowly at a safe pace for the animals and the children that are with me, until we reach you in *the region of* Seir."

15 So Esau responded, "*Okay, then* please let me leave with you some of my men *to escort you*." But Jacob replied, "There is no need *for you* to do that. *Just* please *continue to* be kind to me, sir." 16 So that *same* day Esau *and his men* started on their way back *home* to *the land of* Seir. 17 Meanwhile, *instead of going to Seir,* Jacob *and his family* traveled to *the town of* Succoth. There he *and his men* built houses for himself *and his family*, and they built *some* shelters for his animals. That is why the name of that place is Succoth, *which means "shelters."*

18 *After that,* Jacob *and his family* continued their journey *home* from Paddan Aram, until they arrived safely at the city of Shechem in the region of Canaan. Then they set up their tents *in a field* near that city. 19 *While he was there,* he bought the land where he had set up his tents for a hundred pieces *of silver* from the descendants of Hamor, *who was* the father of Shechem. 20 Jacob *also* built an altar *out of stones* on that land, and he named it El Elohe Israel, *which means "God is the God of Israel."*

Shechem Rapes Dinah, and Jacob's Sons Take Revenge 34:1-31

34 Then *one day* Dinah, *who was* the daughter of Jacob and Leah, went out to visit with *some of* the local women. 2 The chief of that region was a Hivite named Hamor. His son Shechem saw *how beautiful* Dinah was, so he grabbed *hold of* her and raped her. 3 Shechem admired Jacob's daughter Dinah so much that he fell in love with her and spoke sweetly to her *to try to woo her*. 4 Then Shechem said to his father Hamor, "Negotiate *things* for me so that I can marry this girl."

5 When Jacob found out that Shechem had dishonored his daughter Dinah, his sons were *still out* in the fields taking care of his animals, so he did not say anything *about it* until they returned *home*. 6 Meanwhile, *Shechem and* his father Hamor went to talk to Jacob. 7 Soon Jacob's sons returned *home* from the fields. When they heard *what had happened*, they were shocked and extremely angry that Shechem had dishonored *the people of* Israel by raping Jacob's daughter. No one should ever do such a *horrible* thing! 8 But Hamor urged Jacob and his sons, "My son Shechem deeply loves your daughter *and sister*. *So* please allow him to marry her. 9 *In fact,* let's allow marriage between our two peoples, *so that* your daughters can marry our *young men* and your *young men* can marry our daughters. 10 You can live among us. The land is available for you *to choose what you want*; live *in it wherever you want*. You can *also* trade *freely* here, and you can buy *your own land*."

11 Then Shechem said to Dinah's father and brothers, "*Please* be kind to me *and let me marry her*. Then I will pay *you* whatever you request from me *for her*. 12 Set the bride-price and *marriage* gifts *that I must pay for her* as high as you want, and I will pay *you* whatever you ask from me. *Just please* give the young woman to me to marry."

13 But since Shechem had dishonored their sister Dinah, Jacob's sons replied to him and his father Hamor in a deceitful way. 14 They said to them, "It would not be acceptable for us to let our sister marry a man *like you* who is not circumcised, because that would dishonor our family! 15 The only way that we can agree with your proposal *is* if *first* you *and your people* become like us by circumcising all of your males. 16 *If you do that,* then we will allow your *young* men to marry our daughters, and *we will allow* your daughters to marry our *young men*. We will *also* live among you *in this land*, so that we become one people group. 17 However if you refuse to agree with our requirement that you circumcise *your people*, then we will take our sister and move *somewhere else*."

18 What Jacob's sons said seemed good to Hamor and his son Shechem. 19 So right away Shechem, who was the most respected member in his family, started to do what they required, because he was thrilled with Jacob's daughter. 20 In fact, he and his father Hamor went *straight* to their city entrance *for a town meeting*, and they told the elders of their city *about Jacob and his sons*, 21 "These people are friendly toward us, so *let's* allow them to live in *our* land and trade *freely* here. After all, there is more than enough space in the land for them *too*. *Besides that, then* our *young* men can marry their daughters, and their *young* men can marry our daughters. 22 There is just one thing: They will only agree to live among us and become one people group *with us* if we circumcise all our males so that we are like them. 23 *But if we do that, all* their property, *including* their livestock and all their *other* animals will belong to us! *So* let's just agree to do what they require so that they will live among us!"

24 All *the men* who were leaders of the city agreed with Hamor and his son Shechem, so they circumcised every male in the city, including themselves.

25 Three days later, when the men of *the city of* Shechem were *all still* sore *from being circumcised*, two of Jacob's sons, Simeon and Levi, *who were* Dinah's brothers, took their swords and attacked the city, with no one opposing them. They killed all the men *there* 26 with their swords, including Hamor and his son Shechem. Then they got Dinah from Shechem's house and left *the city*. 27 *Next all* Jacob's sons went *into the city* and took everything valuable from the dead bodies and from *the rest of* the city. *They did that,* because *that was where* Shechem

had dishonored their sister. 28 They plundered whatever was
in the city and in the *surrounding* fields, including the people's
flocks *of sheep and goats*, their herds *of cattle* and their donkeys.
29 They carried away all the valuable things the people of
Shechem had owned, including everything that was in their
houses. They also captured their women and children.

30 Later Jacob scolded Simeon and Levi *by saying*, "You
have brought me *serious* trouble by causing the Canaanites
and Perizzites who live in this land to hate us! I *only* have
a few men *to defend us*, so if they *all* join *forces* against us
and attack us, they will destroy us and *the rest of* our family!"
31 But Simeon and Levi responded, "Shechem should not have
treated our sister like a whore!"

God Blesses Jacob at *the Town of* Bethel
35:1-15

35 Then God commanded Jacob, "Leave here and move
to *the town of* Bethel. Build an altar there *and offer
sacrifices on it* to worship *me as* the God who appeared to you
there when you were running away from your brother Esau."
2 So Jacob told his family and everyone else who *was* with
him, "Get rid of the idols you have that other people worship.
Also wash and make yourselves clean and put on clean clothes.
3 Then we will leave here and move to *the town of* Bethel. There
we will build an altar and worship God because he helped me
during the time when I was in trouble. He has *always* been
with us *and taken care of us* everywhere that we have gone."
4 So they gave Jacob all their idols and *all* their earrings. Then
Jacob buried all those things at the base of the oak tree that
was near *the city of* Shechem.

5 Then Jacob and everyone with him left that place, and
God caused *the people in* the surrounding towns to be terrified,
so that they did not attack Jacob's family. 6 He and his family
continued traveling in the region of Canaan, and they arrived
at *the town of* Luz, which *also has the name* Bethel. 7 There
Jacob built an altar, and he named the place El Bethel, *which
means "the God of Bethel,"* because that is where God had *first*
appeared to him when he was running away from his brother.

8 *While they were there,* Deborah died. She was the servant
that had helped raise *Jacob's mother* Rebekah *when she was
young*. Jacob buried her body at the base of an oak tree, *in the
valley* near *the town of* Bethel. So he named the place Allon
Bacuth, *which means "oak tree of mourning."*

9 Now that Jacob had returned from *the region of* Paddan
Aram, God appeared to him *at Bethel* again. *There* God blessed
him 10 and said to him, "*Although* your name *has been* Jacob,
that will no longer be your name. Rather, you will have the
name Israel!" So *once again* God gave Jacob the name Israel.

11 Then God *also* said to Jacob, "I am Almighty God. Have
many children so that you *and your descendants* become *very*
numerous. Your descendants will become a community of
peoples, and some of your descendants will be kings. 12 *Besides
that,* the land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I *also* give to
you and your descendants *who live* after you." 13 After God
finished talking to Jacob, he left him there and went up *to
heaven*.

14 Then Jacob stood a *large* stone up *on its end* at the place
where God had talked to him, to mark the place *as special*.
Then he poured some wine and some *olive* oil on the stone
marker *to thank God and dedicate the place to him*. 15 Since God
had talked to Jacob at that place, Jacob named it Bethel, *which
means "God's house."*

Rachel Dies Giving Birth to Benjamin
35:16-20

16 Later Jacob and his family moved on from Bethel and
headed for *the town of* Ephrath. While they were still some
distance from there, *his wife* Rachel went into labor, but she
was experiencing great difficulty. 17 Then when her labor pain
was at its worst, *the baby was born and* the woman who was
helping her deliver exclaimed to her, "Do not despair! You
now have another son!" 18 But Rachel was dying, and as her
spirit was leaving her body, she named her baby Benoni *which
means "son of my sorrow"*. But *later,* his father *Jacob* changed
his name to Benjamin, *which means "son of my right hand."*

19 After Rachel died, they buried her body beside the road
to *the town of* Ephrath, which *also has the name* Bethlehem.
20 Jacob stood a stone up *on its end* on her grave *to mark where
it was*. *In fact,* that *same* stone still marks Rachel's grave today.

Jacob's Twelve Sons
35:21-26

21 Then Israel *and his family* moved on *from there* and set
up their tents on the south side of the tower of Eder. 22 While
they were living in that area, *Israel's son* Reuben committed
adultery with his father's servant-wife Bilhah, and Israel found
out *about it*.

With the birth of Benjamin, Jacob *now* had *a total of* twelve
sons. 23 The sons *he had* with Leah *were* Reuben, *who was* his
oldest *child*, then Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun.
24 The sons *he had* with Rachel *were* Joseph and Benjamin.
25 The sons *he had* with Rachel's servant Bilhah *were* Dan and
Naphtali. 26 And the sons *he had* with Leah's servant Zilpah
were Gad and Asher. *All* those *are* the sons Jacob had *starting
from the time that he lived* in *the region of* Paddan Aram.

Isaac Dies
35:27-29

27 Then Jacob went *home* to his father Isaac *in the city of*
Mamre, which *also has the name* Kiriath Arba or Hebron, where
Abraham and Isaac *and their families* had lived for a while
as foreigners. 28 Isaac lived to be 180 years old. 29 Then, after
living a long, full life, he took his last breath and died, and
he joined his ancestors *who had died before him*. Then his sons
Esau and Jacob buried his body.

Esau's Descendants
36:1-19

1 Chronicles 1:34-54

36 Here *is* a record about the descendants of Esau, whose
name was *also* Edom. 2 Esau had married *two* Canaanite
women. *Their names were* Adah, *who was* the daughter of a
Hittite *man* named Elon, and Oholibamah, whose father was
Anah and whose grandfather was a Hivite named Zibeon.
3 *Esau also married* Basemath, *who was* Ishmael's daughter and
Nebaioth's sister.

4 Adah had *a son* with Esau *whom they named* Eliphaz, while
Basemath had *a son named* Reuel. 5 Oholibamah had *sons named*
Jeush, Jalam, and Korah. *All* those *were* Esau's sons whom he
and his wives had *while they lived* in the region of Canaan.

6 Later Esau moved away from his brother Jacob. He took *with him* his wives, his sons, his daughters, and all the *other* members of his household, as well as his livestock and all *the rest of* his animals and all the *other* belongings that he had gotten in the region of Canaan. 7 The reason *he moved away* is that he and Jacob *both* owned so many animals that they could not live together *in the same area*. The land where they were staying was *just* not big enough to support them *both* because they had so many livestock. 8 That is how Esau *and his family* ended up living in the Seir Mountains. *That is the record about* Esau, that *is*, Edom.

9 Here *is* a *more detailed* record of the descendants of Esau, *who was* the ancestor of the Edomites *who live* in the Seir Mountains. 10 *Two of* Esau's sons *were* Eliphaz, whom he had with his wife Adah, and Reuel, whom he had with his wife Basemath. 11 Eliphaz *and his wife* had sons *they named* Teman, Omar, Zepho, Gatam, and Kenaz. 12 Eliphaz and his servant-wife Timna had *a son they named* Amalek. Eliphaz's sons *were all* grandsons of *Esau and* his wife Adah.

13 Reuel's sons *were* Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah. They were the grandsons of *Esau and* his wife Basemath.

14 Esau and his wife Oholibamah had sons *whom they named* Jeush, Jalam, and Korah. *Oholibamah was* the daughter of Anah and the granddaughter of Zibeon.

15 Here *is a record of* the descendants of Esau *who became* clan leaders: The sons of his firstborn *son* Eliphaz *who became* clan leaders *were* Teman, Omar, Zepho, Kenaz, 16 Korah, Gatam, and Amalek. They *were* the clan leaders *who descended* from Eliphaz *and lived* in the land of Edom. They *were all* grandsons of Adah *and Esau*.

17 The sons of Esau's son Reuel *who became* clan leaders *were* Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah. They *were* the clan leaders *who descended* from Reuel *and lived* in the land of Edom. They *were all* grandsons of *Esau and* his wife Basemath.

18 The sons of Esau's wife Oholibamah *who became* clan leaders were Jeush, Jalam, and Korah. They *were* the clan leaders *who descended* from *Esau and* his wife Oholibamah, *who was* Anah's daughter.

19 *All* those *clan leaders were* the descendants of Esau, that *is*, Edom, and each one led his own family group.

Seir's Descendants
36:20-30

20 Here is *a record of* the descendants of Seir the Horite who were *also* living in that land: Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah, 21 Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan. They were the descendants of Seir *who became* clan leaders over the Horites in the land of Edom.

22 Lotan's sons were Hori and Hemam, and his sister *was* Timna.

23 Shobal's sons *were* Alvan, Manahath, Ebal, Shepho and Onam.

24 Zibeon's sons *were* Aiah and Anah. This *is the same* Anah who discovered some hot springs while he was *out* in the desert grazing his father's donkeys. 25 Anah's children *were his son* Dishon and his daughter Oholibamah. 26 Dishon's sons *were* Hemdan, Eshban, Ithran, and Keran.

27 Ezer's sons *were* Bilhan, Zaavan, and Akan.

28 Dishan's sons *were* Uz and Aran.

29 The Horites *who became* clan leaders *were* Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah, 30 Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan. Those *were* the Horite clan leaders. They led their own family groups *and lived* in the land of Seir.

The Rulers over the Land of Edom
36:31-43

1 Chronicles 1:43-54

31 Here *is a record of* the kings who ruled over *the people of* the land of Edom before the Israelites had their own king. 32 Bela, *who was* the son of Beor, was the *first* king to rule over *the people of the land of* Edom. The name of his hometown *that he ruled from was* Dinhabah. 33 When *King* Bela died, Jobab, *who was* the son of Zerah, replaced him as king *and ruled* from *his hometown of* Bozrah. 34 When *King* Jobab died, Husham replaced him as king *and ruled* from *his hometown, which was in* the land where the Temanites lived. 35 When *King* Husham died, Hadad, *who was* the son of Bedad, replaced him as king. *King Hadad is the one* who defeated the Midianites *in battle* in the land of Moab. The name of his hometown *that he ruled from was* Avith. 36 When *King* Hadad died, Samlah replaced him as king *and ruled* from *his hometown of* Masrekah. 37 When *King* Samlah died, Shaul replaced him as king *and ruled* from *his hometown of* Rehoboth beside the *Euphrates* River. 38 When *King* Shaul died, Baal-Hanan, *who was* the son of Acbor, replaced him as king. 39 When *King* Baal-Hanan died, Hadar replaced him as king, and the name of his hometown *that he ruled from was* Pau. His wife's name *was* Mehetabel, *who was* the daughter of Matred *and* the granddaughter of Me-Zahab.

40 Here *are* the names of *more of* the clan leaders *who descended* from Esau; *each clan leader led* his own family group and ruled his own region that was named after him: Timna, Alvah, Jetheth, 41 Oholibamah, Elah, Pinon, 42 Kenaz, Teman, Mibzar, 43 Magdiel, *and* Iram. *All of* those *were* clan leaders over the Edomites; they *all* led their own settlements in the land that they controlled. This *concludes the record about* Esau, *who was* the ancestor of *all* the Edomites.

Joseph's Dreams Anger His Brothers
37:1–11

37 Jacob continued to live in the region of Canaan where his father *Isaac* had lived for a while *as a foreigner*.

2 Here is *more of* the record about Jacob and his family: *One day his* seventeen-year-old son Joseph was taking care of the *family's* flocks *of sheep and goats*. Joseph was helping his brothers *who were* the sons of his father's *servant* wives Bilhah and Zilpah, and he told their father about the bad things they were doing.

3 Now Israel, *that is, Jacob,* loved Joseph more than any of his other sons because he was born to him when he was old. So he made a *special* robe for Joseph that had many colors. 4 When Joseph's brothers realized that their father loved Joseph more than the rest of them, they hated him so much that they would not talk to him in a friendly manner.

5 *One night* Joseph had a dream, and he told his brothers about it. That made them hate him even more *than before*. 6 *This is what* he told them, "Please listen to this dream that I had: 7 *In it* I saw us *working* out in a field *cutting and* tying bundles *of grain stalks*. Then suddenly the bundle that I had made stood up straight. Then I saw that the bundles you had made stood around *my bundle* and bowed down to my bundle *to show respect*." 8 His brothers responded to him, "Do you

really expect to be our king? You will never rule over us!" So they hated him even more *intensely than they did before* because of what he had said *to them* about his dreams.

9 Then Joseph had another dream that he *also* told to his brothers. He said, "Listen, I *just* had another dream, and *in it* I saw that the sun, the moon, and eleven stars bowed down *to the ground* before me *to show respect*." 10 Later Joseph told *the same dream* to *both* his father and his brothers, but his father scolded him by saying, "That *is* a strange dream that you had! Do you really expect your mother and me and your brothers to bow down before you?" 11 So Joseph's brothers were jealous of him, but his father continued to think about what it all could mean.

Joseph's Brothers Sell Him as a Slave and He Is Taken to *the Country of* Egypt 37:12-36

12 Sometime after that, Joseph's brothers took their father's flock*s of sheep and goats* to graze *in the fields* near *the city of* Shechem. 13 Then *one day* Israel said to Joseph, "As you know, your brothers are tending *our flocks* near *the city of* Shechem. Get ready so that I can send you to them." Joseph responded, "I am ready *to go*." 14 Then Israel told him, "Please go and check on how your brothers and the flock*s* are doing. Then report back to me *what you find out*." So Israel sent him *on his way* from *their home in* the valley near *the city of* Hebron, and Joseph traveled to *the city of* Shechem. 15 *When he arrived there,* a man saw him searching around in the *nearby* fields and asked him, "What are you looking for?" 16 He replied, "I am looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are tending *their flocks*?" 17 The man answered, "They were here and then left, but I overheard them say that they were going to *the town of* Dothan."

So Joseph followed his brothers and caught up with them near *the town of* Dothan. 18 But they saw him while he was still some distance away, and before he reached them, they made plans to kill him. 19 They said to each other *about him*, "Look, here comes that expert dreamer! 20 Come on, let's kill him and throw his body into one of the pits *here*. Then we can tell *people* that a vicious animal ate him up, and we will watch if his dreams come true!"

21 But Reuben heard *their plan*, so he *tried to* rescue Joseph from them by urging them, "We should not kill him." 22 Then he continued, "You must not take his life. *Instead* put him into this pit *here* in the desert, but you must not harm him." Reuben was planning to rescue Joseph from them and take him back *home* to their father.

23 When Joseph reached his brothers, they *took hold of him and* ripped off the colorful robe that he was wearing. 24 Then they grabbed him and put him into the pit. The pit *was* empty and *completely* dry inside.

25 Then *some of* Joseph's brothers sat down to eat a meal. *While they were eating,* they looked around and noticed *that* a *large* group of Ishmaelite *traders* was traveling *toward them* from *the region of* Gilead. Their camels were loaded with *expensive* spices, healing salve, and incense *that* they were taking down to *the country of* Egypt *to sell there*. 26 So Judah urged to his brothers, "We will not gain anything by killing our brother and trying to hide it! 27 *Instead,* come on, let's sell him to those Ishmaelite *traders over there* so that we will not be guilty of harming him. After all, he *is* a member of our family, our own brother." Judah's brothers agreed *with him*. 28 So when the Midianite *(that is, Ishmaelite)* traders came by *them*, *some of* Joseph's brothers pulled Joseph up out of the pit and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty *pieces of* silver. Then the Ishmaelites took him to *the country of* Egypt.

29 Later Reuben came back to the pit, and he was shocked to see that Joseph was not there! So he tore his clothes *to show distress*. 30 Then he went to his brothers and exclaimed *to them*, "Joseph is gone! Now I do not know what to do!" 31 So Joseph's brothers killed a young goat and dipped Joseph's robe in the *goat's* blood.

32 Then they had someone take the colorful robe back to their father and say *to him for them*, "We found this *robe*. Please look at it *to see* whether or not it is your son's." 33 Jacob recognized the robe and exclaimed, "*This is* my son *Joseph*'s robe! Clearly a fierce animal has torn him to bits and eaten him up!" 34 Then Jacob tore his clothes *in grief*, put on mourning clothes, and for many days he mourned that his son had died. 35 All Jacob's sons and daughters came *to him and tried* to console him, but he did not let them comfort him. Instead he said *to them*, "*No,* I will continue to mourn *for my son* until I *die and* go down to be with him in the afterworld." So Joseph's father continued to mourn for him.

36 Meanwhile, in *the country of* Egypt, the Midianite *traders* sold Joseph to Potiphar, *who was* an officer under Pharaoh *the king of Egypt*; *he was* the captain over the *palace* guards.

Judah and His Daughter-in-law Tamar 38:1-30

38 About that time, Judah left his brothers and went down to *the town of* Adullam and stayed near *the home of* a man from there whose name *was* Hirah. 2 *While he was living* there, he met a Canaanite woman whose father *was* Shua, and he married her. Then he had *marital* relations with her, 3 and she became pregnant. When she gave birth, she had a son, whom Judah named Er. 4 Then Judah's wife became pregnant again and gave birth to *another* son, and she named him Onan. 5 Then she *became pregnant* yet again and gave birth to another son, and she named him Shelah. When she gave birth to Shelah, Judah was at *the town of* Chezib.

6 When Judah's oldest son Er *grew up*, Judah arranged for him to marry a woman whose name *was* Tamar. 7 But Er did things that Yahweh considered to be evil, so Yahweh caused him to die.

8 After that, Judah told *his son* Onan, "Marry your brother's widow *Tamar according to our custom* so that you fulfill your obligation to her *as her brother-in-law* and have children *with her* for your *deceased* brother." 9 However Onan knew that the children *they would have together* would not belong to him. So whenever he had *marital* relations with Tamar, he wasted *his semen* on the ground to keep her from *getting pregnant and* having *any* children for his brother. 10 Yahweh considered what Onan did to be evil, so he caused him to die too.

11 Then Judah told his daughter-in-law Tamar, "*Go and* live at your father's house, and do not marry again until my son Shelah is old enough *to marry you*." *Actually Judah did not want Shelah to marry Tamar* because he was afraid *that if he did,* he would also die like his brothers had. So Tamar went *home* to her father's house and stayed there.

12 After a long time, Judah's wife, the daughter of Shua,
died. After Judah finished mourning *for her*, *one day* he *decided*
to go to *the town of* Timnah *to work* with *the men* who were
shearing his sheep *there*. He and his friend Hirah, *who was* from
the town of Adullam, *started traveling there together*. 13 Meanwhile
someone told Tamar, "Listen, your father-in-law *Judah* is on
his way to *the town of* Timnah to shear his sheep." 14 So she
changed from her clothes that showed she was a widow and
covered her face with a *thin* headscarf and dressed herself *like*
a prostitute. Then *she went* toward *the town of* Timnah and sat
down near the gateway of *the town of* Enaim, which *was* along
the way. *She did that* because she had noticed that Shelah was
now old enough *to marry*, but Judah had not given her to him
to marry *as he was supposed to do*.

15 *As Judah was traveling to Timnah,* he saw Tamar *beside*
the road, but since she had veiled her face *with a scarf*, *he could*
not see who she was, and he assumed that she was a prostitute.
16 So he went over to where she was *sitting* beside the road and
said *to her*, "Let me have sex with you." *He did that* because he
did not recognize that she was his daughter-in-law *Tamar*. So
she asked *him*, "What will you pay me so that you can have
sex with me?" 17 He answered *her*, "I will send *you* a young
goat from my flock." She replied, "*I will agree,* if you will give
me something *valuable of yours* to keep until you deliver *the*
goat to me." 18 So Judah asked, "What do you want me to leave
with you?" She answered *him*, "*Leave me* your name seal with
its cord *that you have around your neck*, and your walking stick
that you are holding." So he gave *those things* to her. Then he
had *sexual* relations with her, and she became pregnant from
him. 19 After that, Tamar left *Judah* and returned *home*. Then
she took off her scarf and put on her clothes that showed she
was a widow.

20 Meanwhile Judah sent a young goat with his friend *Hirah*,
who was from *the town of* Adullam, to reclaim his things from
the prostitute *whom he had given them to*. But *when Hirah looked*
for her, he was not able to find her. 21 So he asked *some* men
who lived near the place where she had been, "Where *is* the
temple prostitute who was *sitting* beside the road near *the town*
of Enaim?" But they answered *him*, "There has never been a
temple prostitute around here." 22 So Hirah returned to Judah
and told *him*, "I was not able to find the prostitute. In fact, the
men who live near that town claim *that* there has never been
a temple prostitute around there." 23 Then Judah said, "*Stop*
looking for her and let her keep *my things* for herself. Otherwise
everyone will make fun of us. Besides that, I *did try to* send
this goat *to her*, but you were not able to find her."

24 About three months later, someone told Judah, "Your
daughter-in-law Tamar has acted like a prostitute. In fact, look,
she is now pregnant from doing that!" Judah responded *angrily*,
"Take her outside *the town* and burn her *to death*!" 25 *So they*
went to get her, but as they were taking her out *of the town*, she
sent *a messenger* to her father-in-law *along with his things* and
told the messenger to say, "The man who owns these things
is the one who got me pregnant. Please identify *the man* who
owns this name seal with its cord and this walking stick."
26 Judah recognized *his things* and confessed, "Tamar is right,
and I am wrong, because I refused to have my son Shelah
marry her *as I was supposed to*!" *So they released Tamar,* and
after that Judah never had *sexual* relations with her again.

27 Months later, when Tamar was ready to give birth, they
realized that *there were* twins inside her! 28 While she was in
labor, *one of them* stuck out *his* hand. So the midwife *who was*
there tied a *bright* red string around his wrist and said, "This
baby was born first." 29 But then the baby pulled his hand back
inside, and suddenly his brother was born *first instead*. So the
midwife exclaimed *to the baby*, "What a dramatic way for you
to burst out!" That is why he was named Perez, *which means*
"break out." 30 After that, his brother, who *had* the *bright* red
string on his wrist, came out. So he was named Zerah, *which*
means "brightness."

Potiphar's Wife Tries to Seduce Joseph
39:1-23

39 Now *as you know, some* Ishmaelite traders had taken
Joseph down to *the country of* Egypt, and an Egyptian
named Potiphar had bought him *as a servant* from them.
Potiphar *was one of King* Pharaoh's officers, the captain over
the king's *personal* guards. 2 As Joseph worked in his Egyptian
owner's house, Yahweh was with him *and helped him*, so that
he succeeded in everything he did. 3 His owner realized that
Yahweh *was* with him and was helping him to succeed in
everything that he did. 4 So Potiphar was pleased with Joseph
and made him his personal servant. He also put him in charge
of managing his household and taking care of everything *else*
that he owned. 5 From the time *that* Joseph's Egyptian owner
did that, Yahweh blessed the household of that Egyptian *man*
for Joseph's sake. He blessed everything that belonged to him,
including everything in *his* home and in *his* fields. 6 In fact,
after Joseph's owner put him in charge of everything that he
owned, he did not *need to* concern himself with anything *in*
his household except for *personal matters like deciding* what *kind*
of food *he wanted* to eat.

Joseph was well-built and good-looking. 7 So after a while,
his owner's wife started looking at him *with desire* and told
him, "Come to bed with me!" 8 But Joseph refused and said
to her, "Listen, because of me, my owner does not *have to*
concern himself with anything that *is* in *his* house. In fact, he
has put me in charge of everything that he owns, 9 *so that* he
has no one in his household who has more authority than I
do. He has given me freedom with everything *in his household*,
except you, *of course,* because you *are* his wife. So there is no
way I would *ever* sin against God by doing such an evil thing!"
10 Day after day Potiphar's wife kept pressuring Joseph to go
to bed with her, but he refused her requests and stayed away
from her.

11 Then one day Joseph went to *his owner's* house *as usual*
to do his work, but no other menservants from the household
were there. 12 So Potiphar's wife *saw her chance and* grabbed
hold of Joseph by his robe *and* demanded, "Come to bed with
me!" But *immediately* he fled and left his robe in her hands
as he ran outdoors. 13 As soon as she saw that Joseph had
run outdoors and left his robe *behind* in her hands, 14 she
summoned the *other* menservants from her household. Then
when they arrived, she exclaimed to them, "Look, my husband
brought *this* Hebrew servant *here* among us to make fools of
us! He came here to rape me, but I screamed loudly *for help*!
15 Then as soon as he heard me scream like that, he left his
robe with me and ran outdoors!"

16 So Potiphar's wife kept Joseph's robe with her until *her husband,* Joseph's owner, returned home. 17 Then she told him the same story. She said, "The Hebrew servant whom you brought among us came here to make a fool of me! 18 But as soon as I screamed loudly, he left his robe with me and ran outdoors!" 19 When Joseph's owner heard what his wife said his servant had done to her, he became very angry. 20 So he *had soldiers* arrest Joseph and put him in the prison where they kept people who had committed crimes against the king.

Joseph remained there in prison, 21 but Yahweh was with him and was kind to him and caused the prison warden to be pleased with him, *so that he treated him well*. 22 So *before long* the warden put Joseph in charge of all the *other* prisoners who *were* in that prison, so that he *was the one who* managed everything that they did there. 23 The warden did not *need to* pay attention to anything at all that Joseph was in charge of, because Yahweh was with Joseph and enabled him to succeed at everything he did.

The Head Wine-server's and Head Baker's Dreams 40:1-23

40 Sometime after that, the *head* wine-server and the *head* baker disobeyed their master, *who was Pharaoh,* the king of Egypt. 2 As a result, *King* Pharaoh was furious with those two officers. 3 So he *had his soldiers arrest them and* put them in prison at the captain over the guards' house, in the same prison where Joseph was. 4 *There* the captain over the guards appointed Joseph to *take care of* them, so he served them, and they remained in prison *for* some time.

5 One night the king of Egypt's wine server and baker each had a dream while they were in prison. Each *one's* dream had its own meaning. 6 The next morning, when Joseph came to *serve* them, he noticed that they looked sad. 7 So he asked them, "Why do you look *so* unhappy today?" 8 They answered him, "We *each* had a dream *last night*, but there is no one *here* who can tell *us* what our dreams mean." Joseph replied, "God is the *only* one who gives someone the ability to interpret *the meaning of dreams*. Please tell me *what you dreamed*."

9 Then the head wine-server told Joseph what was in his dream. He said, "While I was dreaming, I saw a vine in front of me 10 that had three branches. Soon buds started forming *on the branches*. *Then the buds* became flowers, *and the flowers* became bunches of ripe grapes. 11 Next I was holding *King* Pharaoh's cup, and I picked grapes *from the vine* and squeezed juice from them into the cup. Then I handed the cup to Pharaoh *and he drank from it*."

12 Joseph said to him, "This *is* what your dream means: The three branches *represent* three days. 13 In three days *King* Pharaoh will summon you and give you back your job, so that you will *again* serve wine to him, as you used to do when you were his wine-server. 14 When *you are out of prison and* everything is going well for you, please remember that I was *here* with you, and please be kind to me and mention my situation to *King* Pharaoh so that he releases me from this prison. 15 People brought me *here* by force from the land where *my people,* the Hebrews, live. Even here *in Egypt* I have done nothing *wrong* to deserve being in a dungeon."

16 When the head baker heard the positive meaning that Joseph gave *for the first dream*, he told him, "I also *had a dream*, and while I was dreaming, I saw three bread baskets *stacked* on my head. 17 In the top basket *there were* many *kinds* of bread and cakes for *King* Pharaoh *to eat*, but *some* birds were gobbling them *up* from the basket."

18 Joseph said *to him*, "This *is* what your dream means: The three baskets *represent* three days. 19 In three days *King* Pharaoh will *have his soldiers* chop off your head and impale your body on a *sharp* pole, where vultures will eat *all* your flesh off your bones."

20 Then sure enough, three days later *it was King* Pharaoh's birthday, and he invited all his officers to attend a banquet. *During the banquet,* he *had soldiers* bring *his* head wine-server and head baker *to the banquet* in front of *all* his *other* officers. 21 Then he returned the head wine-server to his *former* work, so that he *again* served wine to him. 22 But he *had his soldiers execute* the head baker *and* impale *his body on a pole*. *Everything happened* exactly the way Joseph had explained *their dreams* to them.

23 However the head wine-server *completely* forgot about Joseph and did not remember *to tell Pharaoh about* him.

Joseph Explains the Meaning of Pharaoh's Dreams 41:1-36

41 Two whole years later, *King* Pharaoh had a dream. *In the dream* he saw himself standing beside the *Nile* River. 2 Suddenly, seven healthy-looking, fat cows walked up out of the river and started eating the tall grass *beside the river*. 3 Next he saw that seven sickly-looking, scrawny cows walked up out of the river and stood next to the *first* cows on the river bank. 4 Then the sickly-looking, scrawny cows devoured the seven healthy-looking, fat cows. *Just* then Pharaoh woke up.

5 Then he went *back* to sleep and had a second *dream*. *This time* he saw seven plump, well-formed heads of grain growing on the same plant. 6 Suddenly, seven small heads of grain that the *hot* desert wind had dried out started growing *on the same plant* beside the first heads. 7 Next, the small heads of grain gobbled up the seven big, well-formed heads. At that point, Pharaoh woke up and realized that *he had been* dreaming.

8 The next morning Pharaoh was upset *about the dreams*, so he had *servants* summon all the sorcerers and *other* scholars in *the country of* Egypt. *When they arrived,* he told them what he had dreamed, but none of them was able to explain to him *what* the dreams *meant*. 9 Then the head wine-server said to Pharaoh, "*Sir,* today I remember *the time* when I offended *you*. 10 *Some time ago, King* Pharaoh, you were angry with your officials, *including* me and the head baker, and you put us in prison at the captain of the guards' house. 11 *While we were there,* one night we *each* had a dream, *and* each of our dreams had a different meaning. 12 There was a young Hebrew man with us *who was* a servant for the captain over the guards. After we told him *our dreams*, he explained them to us. He told us what each of our dreams meant. 13 And sure enough, everything happened exactly the way he had explained *the dreams* to us: you returned me to my *former* work *as your wine-server*, and you *had your soldiers* execute the baker."

14 *When Pharaoh heard that, immediately* he had *servants* summon Joseph. So they went right away and got him out of the prison. Then after he shaved *his head and face* and changed into appropriate clothing, he went before Pharaoh. 15 Then Pharaoh said to him, "I had a dream, but no one has been able to explain *to me* what it means. But someone told me about

you, *that* when you hear a dream, *you are able* to explain what it means." 16 Joseph replied to him, "*Sir,* I do not have that ability *on my own*, *but* God will explain *your dream* so that *you, King* Pharaoh, will have peace *in your heart*."

17 So Pharaoh told Joseph, "As I was dreaming, I saw myself standing beside the *Nile* River. 18 Then suddenly, seven fat, healthy-looking cows walked up out of the river *onto the bank* and started eating the tall grass *that was there*. 19 Suddenly seven other cows walked up *out of the river* behind the first cows; *they were* in terrible condition, very sickly-looking and scrawny. *In fact,* I have never seen such awful-looking *cows* anywhere in the land of Egypt! 20 Then the scrawny, sickly cows devoured the seven fat ones. 21 But *even* after they had swallowed them, no one would *ever* know that they had devoured them, because they *still* looked just as terrible as before. That's when I woke up.

22 Then I *went back to sleep and* had *another* dream. *This time* I saw that there were seven big, well-formed heads of grain growing on the same plant. 23 Then suddenly, seven small heads of grain sprouted *on the same plant* next to the first heads. *These had* wilted because the *hot* desert wind had dried them out. 24 Then the small heads of grain gobbled up the seven well-formed ones. I told *my dreams* to *my* sorcerers, but none of them could explain to me *what the dreams meant*."

25 Then Joseph told *King* Pharaoh, "*Your Majesty, both of* your dreams mean the same thing. *Through them,* God is revealing to you what he is going to do. 26 The seven healthy cows *represent* seven years, and the seven well-formed heads of grain *represent the same* seven years. *Both* dreams mean the same thing. 27 The seven scrawny and sickly cows that walked up *out of the river* behind the first cows *represent a different* seven years, and *so do* the seven small heads of grain that the desert wind had dried out. *They both mean that* there will be a famine that lasts seven years. 28 *King* Pharaoh, that *is* what I was talking about *when I told* you *that* God is revealing to you what he is going to do. 29 Listen, *first* there will be seven years when people will have more than enough food *to eat* throughout the entire country of Egypt. 30 But after that, there will be a famine that lasts seven years. As a result, the people in Egypt will forget what it was like in their country during all the years when they had more than enough *food to eat*, because the famine will devastate the country *so that many people will starve*. 31 That's right, people will completely forget about the years when there was plenty of food, because the famine *that comes* after that *will be* so severe. 32 The fact that you, *King* Pharaoh, had two *different* dreams that mean the same thing shows that God has decided what he is going to do, and he will make it happen soon.

33 So now, *your Majesty,* I recommend that you look for a man *who is* intelligent and knows what to do, and put him in charge over the country of Egypt. 34 Sir, you should *also* appoint *regional* administrators in charge of the country, and *have them* collect one-fifth of *the crops that people harvest throughout* the country during the seven years when harvests are plentiful. 35 Have them collect all that *surplus* grain during the prosperous years ahead *when there will be plenty of food*. Using your authority, *King* Pharaoh, have them stockpile *that* grain *in storehouses* in the cities and *have soldiers* guard it, so that there will be food *for the people*. 36 That food should stay in storage for *the people of* the country *to eat* during the famine that will last seven years in the country of Egypt, so that they will not starve to death because of the severe lack of food."

Joseph Becomes the Governor over the Country of Egypt and Stores Up Food 41:37-57

37 What Joseph proposed seemed like a good plan to Pharaoh and all his officials. 38 So Pharaoh exclaimed to them, "*Certainly* we cannot find anyone else more qualified than this man whom God's Spirit guides!" 39 Then he said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, no one *else* is *as* intelligent as you *are* or knows what to do *in this situation*. 40 *So* I am putting you in charge of my household *and my kingdom*, so that all the people in my country must obey whatever you command. Only I who am king will have higher authority than you." 41 Then Pharaoh said, "Listen, I hereby put you in charge of the whole country of Egypt." 42 Then he took off his *official* identification ring and put it on Joseph's finger *to show that he had appointed him*. He *also* gave Joseph *expensive* linen clothes to wear and put a chain *made* of gold around his neck. 43 Then Pharaoh had Joseph ride *around* in the chariot that showed he was the second highest ruler in the country. *As he rode,* messengers *walked in the road* ahead of him calling out *to everyone*, "Make way!" In that way, Pharaoh *officially* appointed Joseph to be in charge of the whole country of Egypt.

44 Pharaoh *also* told Joseph, "I, Pharaoh, *hereby command* that throughout the whole country of Egypt, everyone must only do what you tell them to do!" 45 Then Pharaoh gave Joseph the *Egyptian* name Zaphenath-Paneah, *which means "the one who explains/reveals secrets,"* and he gave him *a woman named* Asenath to be *his* wife. *She was* the daughter of Potiphera, *who was* a priest *at the temple* in *the city of* On. Then Joseph *started his duties and* traveled throughout the country of Egypt.

46 Joseph *was* thirty years old when he *started* serving Pharaoh, the king over Egypt. *After Pharaoh appointed him,* Joseph left him and traveled throughout the whole country of Egypt *doing his work*. 47 During the seven years when food was plentiful, the land produced huge amounts of grain. 48 So Joseph *had his helpers* collect all the *surplus* grain *that people harvested* during *those* seven years in the country of Egypt, and he *had them* stockpile *that* grain in the cities. In each city he *had them* store the grain *that people harvested* from the surrounding fields. 49 In that way, Joseph stockpiled so much grain that it was as *plentiful as* the *grains of* sand on the seashore. *In fact,* it was so plentiful that he stopped keeping records *of it* because it was too much to keep track of.

50 Before the *seven* famine years started, Joseph had two sons with *his wife* Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera, *who was* a priest in *the city of* On. 51 Joseph named *his* oldest *son* Manasseh, *which means "forget," and he explained,* "*It is* because God has helped me to forget *about* all my troubles and about *how much I have missed* my father and the rest of my family *back home*." 52 And he named *his* second son Ephraim, *which means "twice prosperous," and he explained,* "*It is* because God has helped me to prosper in the country where I have suffered *so much*."

53 Finally the seven years were over when food was plentiful in the country of Egypt. 54 Then the seven years began when there was a severe lack of food, which is exactly what Joseph had predicted *would happen*. The famine spread to every

country, but throughout the whole country of Egypt there was *still* food *in the storehouses*. 55 When everyone in Egypt became very hungry *because of the famine*, they begged *King* Pharaoh for food. So he commanded them, "Go ask Joseph *for help*, *and* do whatever he commands you *to do*." 56 Since the severe food shortage was affecting the whole country, Joseph *had his helpers* open up all the storehouses *full of grain*, and he started selling *the grain* to the people of Egypt. Then the famine became worse *and worse* throughout the country of Egypt. 57 In fact, *people from* all over the world started coming to Egypt to buy *grain* from Joseph, because the food shortage was *so* terrible throughout the whole world.

Joseph's Brothers Come to Egypt to Buy Grain
42:1-38

42 Meanwhile *back in the region of Canaan*, *when* Jacob heard that there was grain *for sale* in *the country of* Egypt, he told his sons, "Do not just *stand around* doing nothing! 2 Listen *to this*! I heard that there is grain *for sale* in *the country of* Egypt. *So* go down there and buy *some* for us *and our families to eat*, so that we can stay alive and not starve to death." 3 So Joseph's ten *older* brothers *left home and* traveled down to Egypt to buy *some* grain *there*. 4 But Jacob did not allow Joseph's *younger* brother Benjamin to go *to Egypt* with *the rest of* his brothers, because Jacob was afraid that something bad might happen to him.

5 Israel's sons arrived *in Egypt* along with *many* other people who were coming *there* to buy *food*, because the severe food shortage was *also affecting everyone* in the region of Canaan. 6 *Since* Joseph *was* the administrator over the country *of Egypt*, he *was* the one selling *grain* to people *who came to him* from all over the country. So Joseph's brothers *also* went before him *like everyone else* and bowed down *with their* faces to the ground *to show him respect*. 7 When Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but he pretended that he did not *know them*. In fact, he spoke to them sternly and asked them, "What country are you from?" They answered *him*, "*Sir, we are* from the region of Canaan to buy *some* grain." 8 Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not realize who he was.

9 Then Joseph remembered what he had dreamed about his brothers *long ago*, so he accused them, "You are secretly gathering information *about our country*! You came *here* to find out where *our* country is weak!" 10 But his brothers replied to him, "Sir, we are not *spies*. Rather, *we are* humble men *who* have come *here only* to buy *some* grain. 11 We *are* all brothers who have the same father. We *are* humble, trustworthy men, not spies."

12 But Joseph accused them, "*That is* not *true*! You have definitely come *here* to find out where *our* country is weak!" 13 But they replied *to him*, "Sir, *there were* twelve of us brothers. We *are* sons of the same father *who lives* in the region of Canaan. *Our* youngest *brother is* with our father right now, but *our other* brother has died."

14 But Joseph accused them, "What I told you is true! You are spying *on our country*! 15 *So now,* this is how I will verify whether *or not* you *told me the truth*: As certain as *King* Pharaoh lives, *I swear that* you will *definitely* never leave Egypt until your youngest brother is here. 16 *So* one of you must go *back home* and bring your *youngest* brother back *here*. *The rest of* you must stay here in prison. That way I can verify *whether* you told me the truth. But if you are lying, as certain as *King* Pharaoh lives, *that means* you really are spying *on our country*!" 17 Then Joseph *had his soldiers* lock up his brothers in prison *for* three days.

18 Three days later, Joseph said to them, "I am a man who reveres God. So if you do what I say, *I will let* you live. 19 Since you *claim to be* trustworthy men, I will make *just* one of you brothers stay where you have been, in prison. *The rest of* you *may* go *and* carry food back *home for* your hungry families. 20 But you *must* bring your youngest brother *back here* to me. That way I will know that you are telling the truth, and I will let you live." So Joseph's brothers *agreed to* do what he said.

21 *While they were still standing there,* they said to each other, "Surely what we did to our brother *Joseph long ago* was *very* wrong. We saw how he was suffering when he begged us *not to harm him*, but we refused to listen *to him*. That is why we are suffering now." 22 Reuben scolded them by saying, "I told you *that* you should not do anything bad to him! But you refused to listen *to me*, and now look, God is holding us responsible for causing him to die!" 23 Joseph's brothers did not realize that he *could* understand *what they were saying to each other*, because he had been speaking to them using a translator *as if he did not know their language*. 24 *When Joseph heard what they were saying,* he turned his back to them and started crying. Then *after he recovered,* he turned back around and spoke to them *again*. Then he chose Simeon from *among* them and *had his soldiers* bind him *with chains* while they watched.

25 Then Joseph told *his servants* to fill his brothers' sacks *with* grain. *He* also *told them* to *secretly* put in each brother's sack the money *they had paid for the grain* and to provide them *with* food to eat on their trip *home*. After Joseph did that for his brothers, 26 his brothers loaded their *sacks of* grain onto their donkeys' *backs* and started traveling *home*.

27 Later, *when they stopped* at a place to stay for the night, one *of them* opened his sack to get *some* grain to feed his donkey. There in the top of his sack he saw the money that he had used *to buy grain*! 28 So he exclaimed to the others, "Somebody has returned my money *to me*! Here it is in my sack!" *When they saw it,* they were *completely* shocked, and they shook *with fear*. They asked each other, "Why is God doing this to us?"

29 *When* they reached *their home in* the region of Canaan where their father Jacob was, they told him everything they had experienced. They said, 30 "The man who governs the country *of Egypt* spoke to us sternly and accused us of spying *on their* country! 31 But we told him, 'We *are* trustworthy *men*; not spies. 32 *There were* twelve of us brothers, *and we are* the sons of the same father. One *of our brothers* has died, and the youngest *brother is at home* with our father right now in the region of Canaan.'

33 But the man who governs the country told us, 'This is how I will know if you *are* trustworthy *men*: You must leave one of you *here* with me, and *the rest of you* go *home* with *food for* your starving families. 34 But bring your youngest brother *back here* to me. Then I will know that you *are* trustworthy *men* and not spies. *Then* I will return your brother to you *from prison*, and you can travel around my country *and trade freely*.'"

35 Then Joseph's brothers started emptying their sacks *of grain*, and there inside each man's sack was his bag of money *that he had paid for the grain*! *When* they and their father *Jacob*

saw the *money* bags, they were terrified. 36 Then their father exclaimed to them, "You have caused me *terrible* loss! Joseph is gone! Simeon is gone! And *now* you *want to* take Benjamin *away from me too*! Everything is going terribly for me!"

37 Reuben replied, "*Father,* let me be responsible for *taking* Benjamin *down to Egypt*. If I fail to bring him *back* to you *safely*, you can *punish me by* killing my two sons." 38 But his father replied, "*No,* I will not let my son *Benjamin* go down *to Egypt* with you. His brother is dead, so he is the only son *I have* left *from his mother*. So if anything bad happened to him on *your* journey, you would cause me, your elderly father, to grieve so badly that I would *die and* go down to the afterworld!"

Joseph's Brothers, including Benjamin, Return to the Country of Egypt 43:1-34

43 The famine *continued to be* severe in the region *of Canaan*. 2 So when Jacob and his family finished eating *all* the grain that his sons had brought from *the country of* Egypt, he said to them, "Go back *to Egypt and* buy some *more* grain for us *and our families*." 3 But *his son* Judah replied to him, "The governor *there* sternly warned us that we cannot go to him *again to buy grain* if our *youngest* brother *is* not with us. 4 *So* if you will allow our *youngest* brother to go with us, *then* we can go *to Egypt* and buy *more* grain for you. 5 However if you refuse to let him go *with us*, we cannot go *there*, because the governor warned us that we cannot go to him *again* if our *youngest* brother *is* not with us."

6 Then *their father* Israel asked *them*, "Why did you cause trouble for me by telling the governor that you have a younger brother?" 7 They answered *him*, "The governor asked *us* many questions about ourselves and about our family. He asked *us* if our father was still alive and if we had *another* brother. We *just* answered his questions honestly. There is no way we could have known that he would require us to take our brother down *there to him*!"

8 Then Judah urged his father Israel *about Benjamin*, "Entrust the young man to me *to take care of* so that we can go immediately *to Egypt to buy grain*. Then all of us, including our children, can survive and not starve to death. 9 I personally promise to keep him safe. You can hold me responsible for him, *so that* if I do not bring him *back* to you safely, I will be guilty of this sin against you for the rest of my life. 10 *In any case,* if we had not waited *this long*, we could have made two *round* trips *there and back* by now." 11 Then their father Israel said to them, "Since that is how it must be, then do this: Put *some* of the best things from *our* land in your sacks, and take *them* to the governor *as* gifts. *Include* some healing salve, some honey, *some* spices and incense, *and some* pistachio nuts and almonds. 12 *Also* take with you twice *as much* money *as you took the first time*, because you must take back the money that someone gave back *to you* in your sacks. Maybe they did that by mistake. 13 So *now,* take your *youngest* brother and immediately go back to the governor. 14 I pray that God *who is* all-powerful will cause him to treat you kindly so that he will let your other brother and Benjamin come *back home* with you. But *if not, and* if I *must* lose them and grieve *for them*, *then* I *will* grieve."

15 Then the brothers packed those gifts *in their sacks* along with twice as much money *as the grain would cost*. Then they *took* Benjamin *with them* and quickly traveled down to *the country of* Egypt and went directly to Joseph. 16 When Joseph saw Benjamin with his *other* brothers, he commanded his head house-servant, "Escort these men to *my* house. Then butcher a calf and prepare *a feast*, because *I want* them to eat with me *today* at noon."

17 The servant did exactly what Joseph *had* told *him to do* and escorted the brothers to Joseph's house. 18 But when the brothers *saw* that he had taken them to Joseph's house, they were afraid, and they said *to each other*, "He has taken us here because of *our* money that someone gave back to us in our sacks *on our* first trip *here*. *He intends* to *have his soldiers* attack us and overpower us and make us *his* servants, along with our donkeys!"

19 Then they approached Joseph's head house-servant *outside* the door to *his* house to speak to him. 20 And said, "Excuse us, sir, one time before this, we traveled all the way down *here to Egypt* to buy *some* grain. 21 But *on our way home,* when we arrived at the place where we lodged for the night, we opened our sacks. There in the top of each of our sacks *was* the money *we had paid to you for the grain*! The money was all there! So we brought it *all* back with us *to give to you*. 22 We have *also* brought more money with us so that we can buy *some more* grain *now*. We have no idea who put the money in our sacks." 23 But Joseph's servant replied *to them*, "It is all right, *so* do not worry *about it*. The God whom you and your father serve must have put the money in your sacks, *because* I *definitely* received your money *that you paid for the grain*." Then Joseph's servant brought Simeon out *of prison* to his brothers.

24 Then Joseph's servant brought the brothers into Joseph's house and provided *them* with water to wash *the road dust off* their feet. He also fed their donkeys. 25 *Meanwhile,* Joseph's brothers got *their* gifts ready to give to Joseph when he came home at noon, because they had heard that they were going to eat a meal *with him* there.

26 When Joseph came home, his brothers *gave* to him the gifts that they had brought with them into the house, and they bowed down before him *with their faces* to the ground *to show respect*. 27 Then Joseph asked them how they were doing, and he asked *them*, "Is your elderly father well whom you mentioned *to me*? Is he still living?" 28 They answered *him*, "*Yes sir,* our father, who highly respects you, is still alive and well." Then they bowed *their heads* and bowed down *to the ground again*.

29 Then Joseph looked around and saw his brother Benjamin, who had the same mother that he had, and he said *to them*, "So this must be your youngest brother whom you told me about." Then he said *to Benjamin*, "I pray that God will be kind to you, young man." 30 Suddenly Joseph rushed out *of the room* because he felt overwhelmed with emotions about his brother and was about to cry. So he went to his bedroom, where he cried *privately*.

31 After he had gotten control of his emotions *and stopped crying*, he washed *the tears off* his face and came back out *of his room*. Then he commanded *his servants*, "Serve the food *to us*." 32 So they served *food* to Joseph at his own table, and his brothers at their own table, and the Egyptians who were eating with him at their own table. Egyptians do not eat at the same table as Hebrew people, because Egyptians consider it unacceptable *to do that*. 33 Joseph's brothers were sitting *at a*

table facing his table in the order of their ages, from the oldest to the youngest. *When they noticed that,* they were amazed *and stared* at one another. 34 Then Joseph *had his servants* serve food to his brothers from his table, but he *had them* serve Benjamin five times more *food* than *they* served to any of the rest *of his brothers*. Then his brothers feasted and drank *wine* freely with him.

Joseph Tests His Brothers
44:1-17

44 Later Joseph ordered his head house-servant, "Fill the men's *grain* bags with as much grain as they can take *with them*, and in the top of their bags, put the money that each *of them* paid *for the grain*. 2 Also put my silver cup in the top of the youngest *one*'s bag, along with the money that he paid for the grain." So the servant did exactly what Joseph had ordered *him to do*.

3 Early the next morning, *Joseph* sent the brothers *on their way*, along with their donkeys. 4 *But* they had not gone very far out of the city when he ordered his head servant, "Hurry *and* pursue those men. When you catch up with them, ask them, 'Why have you treated *my master* so badly *after he was* so good *to you*? 5 The cup *you stole* is *the cup* that my master drinks from. He *also* uses it to find out secret things! What you have done is *very* wrong!'"

6 Then the servant *left, and when he* caught up with the men, he repeated to them what Joseph had told him *to say*. 7 But they replied, "Sir, why do you say such things? *We assure you,* sir, *that* we would never do anything like that! 8 Remember that we returned to you the money that we discovered in our *grain* bags *last time*. *We brought it all the way* from *our home in* the region of Canaan! So we would never steal silver *things* or gold *things or anything else* from your master's house! 9 *In fact,* sir, if you find that one of us does have the cup, then *you may* execute that person, and *the rest of* us, sir, will become your slaves."

10 Joseph's servant replied *to them*, "Okay then, I will do as you suggest *except for this*: The one whom I find with my master's cup *is the only one who* will become my slave. *The rest of* you will be innocent *and free to go*." 11 So each of the brothers quickly took his *grain* bag *off his donkey* and put it on the ground, and each of them opened his *own* bag. 12 Then Joseph's servant searched *their bags*. He started with the oldest *brother* and continued until he came to the youngest *brother*, and *there* he found the cup in Benjamin's bag! 13 In response *to that*, the brothers tore their clothes *in distress*. Then each *of them* put his bag *back* on his *own* donkey, and they *all turned around and* went back to the city.

14 When Judah and his brothers arrived at Joseph's house, Joseph was there *waiting for them*. So they prostrated themselves on the ground before him *to show respect*. 15 Then Joseph exclaimed to them, "What you have done is terrible! You should have known that someone in my position knows how to discover the secret things *that people do*!" 16 Judah replied *to him*, "Sir, there is nothing *convincing* that we can say *to you*. There is no way that we can explain *this*. There is no way we can prove *to you* that we are innocent. God is punishing us for our *past* sin. *So now,* sir, we are *all* here to be your slaves, including *the one* whom *your house-servant* found with your cup *in his bag*." 17 But Joseph told *them*, "*No,* I would never *even* consider doing such a thing! *Rather only* the man whom *my servant* found with my cup *in his bag* will be my slave. *The rest of* you are free to go *back* home to your father."

Judah Begs Joseph to Set Benjamin Free
44:18-34

18 Then Judah approached Joseph and said *to him*, "Please, sir, I humbly ask you to let me speak freely to you. Please do not be angry with me, *especially* since you *are* as *powerful as King* Pharaoh *himself*. 19 Sir, *previously* you asked us if our father was *still* alive and if we had *any other* brothers. 20 And we told you, sir, *that* we have an elderly father and *also* a younger brother who was born when our father was *already* old. That brother's mother only had one other son, who is now dead. So our father *especially* loves our youngest brother.

21 Then you told us, sir, to bring our youngest brother *here* to you, so that you could see him for yourself. 22 But we told you, sir, that the young man should not leave his father *and come here*, because if he did, his father would die *from anxiety*. 23 But then, sir, you told us *that* unless our youngest brother came with us, we could never see you again.

24 When we returned *home* to our father, who highly respects you, we reported to him what you told *us*. 25 *Months* later our father told *us*, 'Go back *to Egypt and* buy some *more* grain for us.' 26 But we replied *to him*, 'We cannot go *there* unless our youngest brother is with us. Then we can go. The governor *who sells grain there* will not allow us to see him *again* if our youngest brother is not with us.' 27 Then our father said to us, 'As you know, my wife *Rachel* and I *only* had two *sons* together. 28 One *of her sons* left here *one day*, and I have not seen him since then. I am sure that *a wild animal* must have *killed him and* torn him apart. 29 So if you also take her other son *away* from me, and anything harms him, you will cause me, your gray-haired father, so much grief that I will *die and* go down to the afterworld.'

30 So now, *sir,* if we go *home* to our father without his youngest son, since our father's life depends on his son's life, 31 if he sees that his son is gone, he will die! *Yes,* we will cause our gray-haired father so much grief that he will *die and* go to the afterworld! 32 Besides that, sir, I promised my father that I would return his son to him safely. I told *him* that if I did not bring his son *back* to him, I would be guilty of sinning against him forever.

33 So then, sir, I beg you to let me stay *here* and be your slave in place of our youngest *brother*, and let him go back *home* with his *other* brothers. 34 There is no way I can go back to my father if his youngest *son* is not with me! I could not bear to see how terribly my father would suffer!"

Joseph Reveals Who He Is to His Brothers
45:1-28

45 *When Joseph heard that,* he could no *longer* keep himself from crying in front of all his servants, so he shouted *to them*, "All of you leave my presence!" *Immediately the servants left the room,* so that no one else was with Joseph when he told his brothers who he was. 2 But he started crying so loudly that *many* Egyptians heard *him*, including Pharaoh's family. 3 Then he exclaimed to his brothers *in their language*, "I *am your brother* Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But Joseph's brothers

could not reply to him, because they felt very afraid to be standing in front of him.

4 So Joseph said to them, “Please come here next to me.”
After they went closer *to him*, he said *to them*, “I *really am* your
brother Joseph, whom you sold *to be a slave* in *the country of*
Egypt. 5 But now, do not be upset or angry with yourselves
for selling me, because *it was actually* God *who* sent me *here*
before you came, to save *many people's* lives. 6 For two years
now there has been a famine throughout this region, and for
another five years *it will be so severe that* no one will *be able*
to plant *seeds* or harvest *crops*. 7 That is why God sent me *here*
before you came, to save your lives in this amazing way so
that you will survive and have descendants on the earth. 8 So
then, you *were* not *the ones who* caused me to come here, but
rather it was God *who sent me*. He has *also* made me *like a* father
to *King* Pharaoh, so that I am the one in charge of his entire
household and *also* the governor over the entire country of
Egypt.

9 Hurry back to our father and tell him that his son Joseph
has sent him this message: ‘God has appointed me governor
over the entire *country of* Egypt. *So please* come down *here*
to live near me, *and* do not delay. 10 You can live in Goshen
Province. That way you will live close to me with your children
and your grandchildren, along with your flocks *of sheep and*
goats, your herds *of cattle* and everything *else* that you own.
11 I will take care of you there, since the famine will last five
more years. *Please come* so that *the famine* will not cause you
and your family to lose everything you own *and die*.’”

12 *Then Joseph said to his brothers,* “Look! *All of* you, including
my brother Benjamin, *can* see that *it really is* me, *Joseph,* who
is talking to you. 13 So *go and* tell our father all *about* how
powerful I am in Egypt and *about* everything *else* that you have
seen *here*. Then quickly bring him down here *to me*.”

14 Then Joseph hugged his brother Benjamin *tightly* and
cried *for joy*, and Benjamin *also* cried as he hugged Joseph.
15 Then Joseph kissed all his brothers *on their cheeks* as he
continued to cry *for joy*. After *he did* that, his brothers started
talking with him.

16 When Pharaoh's household heard the news that Joseph's
brothers had come *there*, Pharaoh and *all* his servants were
happy. 17 So Pharaoh told Joseph, “Give your brothers this
message *from me*: ‘Load your donkeys *with grain* and go quickly
back to Canaan. 18 Then bring your father and your families
back here to me. I will give you the best *area* in the country
of Egypt *to live in*, so that you will live well with the best of
everything in the country.’”

19 *Then Pharaoh said to Joseph,* “I also want you *to tell them*
to take *some of my* wagons with them from the country of
Egypt for their wives and *young* children *to travel in*. Then *tell*
them to bring their father *back here to live*. 20 They should not
worry about *leaving some of* their belongings *behind*, because
the best *things* in all the country of Egypt *will be* theirs.”

21 So Israel's sons *agreed to* do that. Then Joseph gave
them wagons *to use* as *King* Pharaoh had commanded, and he
supplied them with food to eat as they traveled *home*. 22 He
also gave a *new* set of clothes to each one of his brothers, but
to Benjamin he gave five *new* sets of clothes and 300 *pieces* of
silver *money*. 23 He also gave *them* the following gifts to give
to his father: ten male donkeys that were carrying *some of*
the best *things* from Egypt, and ten female donkeys that were
carrying grain, bread, and *other* food for him *and his family* to
eat as they traveled *to Egypt*. 24 Then Joseph sent his brothers
off *on their way home*. As they were leaving, he told them, “Do
not argue *with each other* on the way.”

25 Then Joseph's brothers left Egypt and traveled *home* to
their father Jacob in the region of Canaan. 26 *When they arrived,*
they announced to him, “Joseph *is* still alive! In fact, he *is*
the governor over the entire country of Egypt!” *When their*
father heard that news, he was stunned *and silent*, because he
could not believe them. 27 But *after* they told him everything
that Joseph had said to them, and *after* he saw the wagons
that Joseph had sent to carry him *and his family to Egypt*, he
recovered *from the shock*. 28 Then he exclaimed *to them*, “*That's*
enough! *It must be true!* My son Joseph really is alive! I must
go *now* and see him *again* before I die.”

Jacob and His Family Move to *the Country of* Egypt 46:1-27

46 So Israel *and his family* started traveling *toward Egypt*
with all their belongings. When they reached *the city*
of Beersheba, he offered some of his animals *on an altar there*
as sacrifices to God, whom his father Isaac had worshiped.
2 During the night God called to Israel in a vision, “Jacob!
Jacob!” Jacob replied, “Yes, *Lord*?” 3 Then God said *to him*,
“I *am* God, the God whom your father worshiped. Do not be
afraid of moving down to *the country of* Egypt, because I will
make your descendants *multiply and* become a large people
group *while they live* there. 4 I will personally go with you down
to Egypt *and take care of you there*. Later I will definitely bring
your descendants *back here to Canaan*. When you die, Joseph
will be with you.”

5 After that, Jacob left *the city of* Beersheba, and his sons
took him and their wives and children in the wagons that *King*
Pharaoh had provided for them to ride in *to Egypt*. 6 They *also*
brought *with them* their livestock and their *other* belongings
that they had gotten in the region of Canaan. Then Jacob
and all of his descendants arrived in Egypt. 7 He brought his
entire *extended* family with him to Egypt, *including* his sons
and daughters, *and* his grandsons and granddaughters.

8 Here is a list of the names of Israel's descendants who came
with him to Egypt, *that is, the names of* Jacob's descendants:
Reuben, *who was* his oldest *son*, 9 and Reuben's sons, *who were*
Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi. 10 *Simeon and* Simeon's
sons, *who were* Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jakin, Zohar, and Shaul,
who had a Canaanite mother. 11 *Levi and* Levi's sons, *who were*
Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. 12 *Judah and* Judah's sons, *who*
were Er, Onan, Shelah, Perez, and Zerah; actually, Er and Onan
had *already* died in the region of Canaan. Perez's sons were
Hezron and Hamul. 13 *Issachar and* Issachar's sons, *who were*
Tola, Puvah, Job, and Shimron. 14 *Zebulun and* Zebulun's sons,
who were Sered, Elon, and Jahleel. 15 Those *were* the sons *and*
grandsons whom Jacob and *his wife* Leah had together in *the*
region of Paddan Aram. *They* also *had* a daughter *named* Dinah.
The total number of those descendants *was* thirty-three.

16 *Jacob's other descendants who came with him included his*
son Gad and Gad's sons, *who were* Ziphion, Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon,
Eri, Arodi, and Areli. 17 *He also took his son Asher and* Asher's
sons, *who were* Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi, and Beriah, and their sister
Serah. Beriah's sons *were* Heber and Malkiel. 18 Those *were* the
children *and grandchildren that Jacob had* with Zilpah, *who was*

the servant woman that Laban had given to his daughter Leah. *Those descendants that* Zilpah and Jacob had together *totaled* sixteen persons.

19 The sons that Jacob had with his wife Rachel *were* Joseph and Benjamin. 20 Joseph's *sons* who were born in *the country of* Egypt *were* Manasseh and Ephraim. Their mother was *Joseph's wife* Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera, *who was* the priest at *the city of* On. 21 Benjamin's sons *were* Bela, Beker, Ashbel, Gera, Naaman, Ehi, Rosh, Muppim, Huppim, and Ard. 22 Those *were* the sons *and grandsons* whom Jacob and *his wife* Rachel had together, a total of fourteen descendants.

23 *Other descendants who came with Jacob included: his son Dan and* Dan's son Hushim. 24 *Naphtali and* Naphtali's sons, *who were* Jahziel, Guni, Jezer, and Shillem. 25 Those *were all* the sons *and grandsons* that Jacob had with Bilhah, *the servant woman* whom Laban had given to his daughter Rachel. The total number of those descendants *was* seven.

26 Altogether Jacob had sixty-six blood relatives who went with him to Egypt. That *number* does not include *his wives or* his sons' wives. 27 *If you include Jacob, Joseph, and* Joseph's two sons, who were born in Egypt, *then* there was a total of seventy members of Jacob's family in Egypt.

Jacob Reunites with His Son Joseph and Meets *King* Pharaoh 46:28-47:12

28 *When they reached Egypt,* Jacob had Judah go to Joseph ahead of them to get directions *from him* to Goshen *Province*. After that, Jacob's family traveled to Goshen. 29 Then Joseph got his chariot ready and went to Goshen to meet his father Israel. *There* Joseph greeted his father and hugged him *tightly* and cried *for joy* on his shoulder *for* a long time. 30 Then Israel exclaimed to Joseph, "Now when I die *I will be at peace*, because I have seen you in person *and know* that you are still alive!"

31 Then Joseph announced to his brothers and *the rest of* his father's family, "I will go to *King* Pharaoh and inform him, 'My brothers and *the rest of* my father's family have traveled *here* from the region of Canaan to live near me. 32 The men *of my family* raise sheep *and goats*. In fact, they raise *all kinds of* livestock *for a living*, and they have brought *with them all* their sheep *and goats* and cattle, and everything *else* that they own.' 33 So then, when the king summons you and asks *you* what your occupation is, 34 you should tell *him*, 'Sir, ever since the time we were young until now, we have been raising livestock, *which is* the same occupation that our ancestors had.' That way *he will allow* you to live *separately* in Goshen Province, *especially* since Egyptians despise everyone who raises sheep."

47 So Joseph went to *King* Pharaoh and informed *him*, "My father and my brothers *and their families* have come *to Egypt* from the region of Canaan and *are* now in Goshen Province. *They brought with them* their sheep, *goats,* cattle, and everything *else* that they own." 2 Then Joseph brought five of his brothers before Pharaoh and introduced them *to him*. 3 Then Pharaoh asked them, "What *is* your occupation?" They answered him, "Your Majesty, we raise sheep *for a living*, just like our ancestors did." 4 They *also* said to him, "We have come *here* to live for a while in *your* country. The famine is so severe In the region of Canaan *where we come from* that there is not enough grass *in the fields* for our flocks. So then, sir, please let us live in Goshen Province."

5 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "*Now that* your father and brothers have come *to live* near you, 6 you may choose any part of the land of Egypt *for them to live in*. *In fact,* they may live in the best land *in the country*, in Goshen Province. And if you know that some of them are especially talented *at raising livestock*, then put them in charge of raising my livestock *also*."

7 Then Joseph took his father Jacob and introduced him to *King* Pharaoh, and Jacob *asked God to* bless Pharaoh. 8 Then Pharaoh asked Jacob, "*Sir,* how old are you now?" 9 Jacob answered him, "I have been living *in this world* for 130 years. My life has been short, with many hardships. In fact, I have not lived *nearly* as long as my ancestors did during their time on earth." 10 Then Jacob *again asked God to* bless Pharaoh and left him.

11 After that, Joseph did what Pharaoh had told him *to do*: He helped his father and brothers settle in the country of Egypt. He gave them the choicest property *in Egypt*, which was in *Goshen Province, also known as* Rameses Province. 12 Joseph *also* provided his father and brothers and all *the rest of* his father's family *with* as much food as *each family* needed to feed *all* the people in their family.

How Joseph Ruled Egypt During the Rest of the Famine 47:13-26

13 Now *after a while,* the famine became so severe in the entire world that there was very little food *available anywhere*. *The people of* the country of Egypt and the region of Canaan were suffering badly because they did not have enough to eat. 14 So they bought grain from Joseph until there was no more money left in the country of Egypt or the region of Canaan. Joseph *had his servants* take the money to Pharaoh's palace. 15 When *the people in* Egypt and Canaan had spent all their money, *people from* all over Egypt went to Joseph and begged *him*, "*Sir,* we have no more money! Please give us food so that we do not starve to death!" 16 Joseph responded, "Since your money is gone, bring *me* your livestock to pay for the food that I will give you." 17 So the people brought their livestock to Joseph. They gave him *their* horses, sheep, goats, cattle, and donkeys to pay for the food that he gave them. In that way Joseph supplied the people with food that year, *and they gave him* all their livestock *to pay* for it.

18 After that year was over, the people went to Joseph *again* in the following year and pleaded with him, "Sir, as you know, *our* money is gone and *all our* livestock *belong* to you. The only way we can pay you *for food* is to give you our farmland and work for you, sir. 19 Please do not *just* watch us die or let our land *become wasteland*. *Instead, please* take us and our land *in exchange* for food. Then we will be *King* Pharaoh's slaves, and our land *will also be his*. *Please* give *us* seeds *to plant* so that we can stay alive and not *starve* to death, and *so that* the land will not become a desert!"

20 So Joseph *agreed and* acquired all the land in *the country of* Egypt for Pharaoh. All the Egyptians sold their fields *to him in exchange for food*, because the food shortage was *so* severe. In that way, *all* the land became Pharaoh's *property*. 21 Joseph *also* relocated the people to the cities throughout the entire *country of* Egypt. 22 The only land that he did not buy was the priests' *land*, because they regularly received a certain amount *of food* from Pharaoh, and they had enough to eat from what

he gave to them. That is why they did not *need to* sell their land *to buy food*.

23 Next Joseph announced to the *Egyptian* people, "Listen, now that you and your farmland belong to *King* Pharaoh, here *are some* seeds for you so that you can plant *them in* the fields. 24 Then every harvest season, you must give him one-fifth *of the crops you harvest*. The rest *of what you harvest* will be yours *to use* to plant *in* the fields and as food for you and your families, including your children." 25 The people replied *to him*, "You have saved our lives! Please *continue to* be kind to us, sir, and we will *agree to* be *King* Pharaoh's servants." 26 So Joseph made a law *that required people to give* to Pharaoh one-fifth *of all the crops they harvested* from the fields in Egypt. *That law* is still *in effect* today. The priests' land was the only *land in Egypt* that did not belong to Pharaoh.

Jacob Asks His Son Joseph to Bury His Body in the Land of Canaan 47:27-31

27 Now *Jacob, whose other name was* Israel, was living *with his family* in Goshen Province in the country of Egypt, and they acquired *many possessions* there. They had many children and became very numerous. 28 *After* Jacob had lived in the country of Egypt *for* seventeen years, he was 147 years old. 29 *When* it was almost time for him to die, he summoned his son Joseph and urged him, "Please do this favor for me: Put your hand under my leg, and *promise me that after I die,* you will be kind and faithful to me. Please *promise that* you will not bury my body *here* in *the country of* Egypt. 30 Rather, after I die and join my ancestors *who have died*, take my body out of Egypt *to the region of Canaan* and bury it in the same burial place where their bodies are." Joseph promised *him*, "I will do what you requested." 31 But his father insisted, "Vow to me *before God that you will do it*." So Joseph vowed *that he would do it*. Then *his father* Israel bowed *down to worship God* beside *his* bed.

Jacob Blesses Joseph's Sons Ephraim and Manasseh 48:1-22

48 *Some time* after those things happened, *someone* told Joseph, "Listen, your father is sick." So Joseph *went to visit his father and* took his two sons Manasseh and Ephraim with him. 2 *When they got there,* someone informed Jacob, "Look, your son Joseph has come to visit you." *Immediately* Israel exerted himself and sat up at *the head of his* bed *and they greeted each other*. 3 Then Jacob told Joseph, "God *who is* all-powerful appeared to me *long ago* in the region of Canaan at *the town of* Luz. He blessed me *there* 4 by saying to me, 'Listen, I will give you many descendants who will increase *in number* and become a community of peoples. I will *also* give this land to your descendants to own forever.'"

5 *Then Jacob said to Joseph,* "Now then, your two sons Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born to you *here* in the country of Egypt before I joined you here, *I will treat as* my sons, just like my sons Reuben and Simeon. 6 If you have any more children, they will be yours, *so that* what they inherit *from me* will be some of what their brothers *Ephraim and Manasseh* inherit *from me*. 7 I *am doing this because* as our family was returning *home* from *the region of* Paddan *Aram*, *your mother* Rachel died beside me in the region of Canaan while we were still traveling and some distance away from *the town of* Ephrath. *As you know,* I buried her body there by the road that goes to Ephrath, which *now has the name* Bethlehem."

8 Then Israel noticed Joseph's *two* sons and asked *him*, "Who *are* these *young men*?" 9 Joseph answered him, "These *are* my sons whom God gave to me here *in Egypt*." Then Israel said *to Joseph*, "Please bring them *closer* to me so that I can *ask God to* bless them." 10 Now Israel was almost blind because of old age, *so that* he could not see *very clearly*. So Joseph took his sons *closer* to his father, and his father kissed them *on the cheeks* and hugged them. 11 Then Israel exclaimed to Joseph, "I never thought I would see you *again*, but *now* look, God has even let me meet your children!" 12 Then Joseph had his sons move away from beside his father's knees, and he bowed *before his father* and touched the ground with his forehead *to show him respect*.

13 Then he brought his sons close to his father *again*. He had Ephraim stand in front of Israel's left *side*, and he had Manasseh stand in front of Israel's right *side*. 14 But Israel *intentionally* reached out his right hand and put *it* on Ephraim's head, even though Ephraim *was Joseph's* younger *son*. Then he crossed his arms and *put* his left hand on Manasseh's head, *even* though Manasseh *was Joseph's* oldest *son*. 15 Then Israel blessed Joseph *and his sons* by saying,

"I pray that the God whom my ancestors Abraham
and Isaac served *will bless your sons*.
He is the God who has taken care of me my entire life.
16 *He is also* the Angel who saved me *continually*
from every harm.
I pray that he will cause *these* young men
to prosper *greatly*,
so that my family line and the family line of my ancestors
Abraham and Isaac will continue through them
and so that they will have many descendants
on the earth."

17 *When* Joseph noticed that his father had put his right hand on Ephraim's head, he thought it was a mistake. So he took hold of his father's hand *in order* to move it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head. 18 Then he said to his father, "That is the wrong son, Father. The other *one is my* oldest son. *So you need to* have your right hand on his head." 19 But his father would not *move his hands* and replied, "I know *it*, my son, I know *what I am doing*. *In fact,* your oldest son will also be a great man, and he will become *the ancestor of* a people group. However, his younger brother will be *even* greater than he *will be*, and his *younger* brother's descendants will become many people groups." 20 So Israel blessed Ephraim and Manasseh that day by saying *to them*,

"*The people of* Israel will use your names when
they bless *people* and say,
'May God prosper you like *he prospered*
Ephraim and Manasseh.'"

In that way, Israel made Ephraim greater than Manasseh.

21 After that, Israel *turned* to Joseph *and* said *to him*, "As you can see, I am about to die, but God will *always* be with you and your brothers *and all your descendants to help you*. He will also take you back to the land that *he gave* to your

ancestors. 22 Besides that, *as part of your inheritance from me,* I *hereby* give you *the city of* Shechem, *which* I captured from the Amorite*s* when I defeated them in battle. This is more *land* than I am giving to your brothers."

Jacob's Last Words to His Twelve Sons
49:1-28

49 Then Jacob summoned *all* his sons. He said *to them*,
"Come together *here*, so that I can tell you what will
happen to you *and your descendants* in the years ahead.

2 My sons, gather around *me, your father* Jacob,
and listen *to me*.
I, your father Israel, have something
important to tell you.

3 Reuben, you *are* my oldest *son*,
the result of my strength and the first child
I had as a young man.
You had high status and great authority *in our family*.
4 *However, you are* unstable like *rushing* water, *so*
you will no longer have your important
status *in our family*,
because you got *into* my bed *with my concubine*
and dishonored me! You *actually* climbed
into my couch!

5 Simeon and Levi, *you are* partners.
You use your swords to do violent things *together*.
6 I will never participate with you when you
plan *evil* things!
I refuse to make *evil* plans with you,
because you became angry and murdered *many* people,
and *just* to entertain yourselves you
crippled *some* cattle.
7 May God curse you for being so fiercely angry
and malicious!
I *ask God to* scatter you *and your descendants*
among *the descendants of* Jacob.
That's right, I *ask him to* scatter you throughout
the land of Israel.

8 Judah, your brothers *and their descendants* will *highly*
praise you *and your descendants*.
You will conquer your enemies.
Then my *other* sons will prostrate themselves before
you *and your descendants in respect*.
9 Judah, my son, *you are powerful like* a young lion
that has returned *to its den* after *killing its* prey.
It stretches out *and* lies down *to sleep*.
No one dares to disturb that lion.
10 Judah, there will always be one of your
descendants ruling as king.
In fact, your descendants will rule
until the *highest* king comes
and the peoples *of the earth* obey him.
11 You *and your descendants* will *be so wealthy that you*
could tie your donkey*s* to *your grape*vine*s*
to eat the valuable fruit.
It will not matter if your donkeys' colts eat
your best *grapevine* branch*es*.
You will still have so much wine from other vines
that you could *even* use it like water to
wash your clothes.
12 *Your* eyes *will be* bright from *drinking abundant* wine,
and *your* teeth *will be* white from *drinking*
abundant milk.

13 Zebulun, *you and your descendants* will live near the coast,
where there will be a *safe* harbor for ships.
Your territory *will extend* as far *north* as *the city of* Sidon.

14 Issachar, *you and your descendants will be like*
a sturdy donkey
that is resting *on the ground* between two loads.
15 You will have a good place to rest,
in a land that is pleasant,
but you will work hard and carry *heavy loads*.
You will have to work *very* hard *for others* as slaves.

16 Dan, you *and your descendants* will rule your *own* people
and have equal status with *the rest of* the tribes of Israel.
17 You will be *like* a poisonous snake
lying beside a road
that strikes the feet of *its enemy's* horse,
so that *it rears up and* the enemy falls off
backward *to the ground*."

18 *Then Jacob paused and exclaimed,* "Yahweh, I am looking
expectantly to you to save *me*!"

19 *Then he continued,* "*As for you,* Gad, a group of robbers
will attack you *and your descendants*,
but you will chase them *and defeat them*.

20 Asher, *you and your descendants* will *be wealthy*
and eat the best food.
In fact, you will produce delicious foods *that*
are fit for kings *to eat*.

21 Naphtali, *you and your descendants will be swift like* a
deer that is free to run wherever it wants.
You will *also* speak eloquently.

22 Joseph, *you and your descendants will become* very
numerous *like fruit on* a productive *tree*
that is growing next to a stream *of water*,
with branches *full of fruit* that hang over a *nearby* wall.
23 Enemy warriors will *fiercely* attack you *and*
your descendants
and shoot *arrows at you* and try to destroy you.
24 But the Mighty *God* whom I worship will keep you strong
and help you use your weapons well *as you fight back*.
He takes care of *his people* the way a shepherd
takes care of his sheep.
He is like a rock *fortress* who protects Israel
and his descendants.
25 *That strength/power comes* from the God *who has*
always taken care of *me,* your father.

He is the all-powerful *God* who will help you
and your descendants
and bless you *all with* rain from above
and water from deep in the ground.
He will *also* bless *you* with many children
and much livestock.
26 *God* has blessed me more
than he blessed my ancestors.
He has blessed me with riches that are greater than the
riches *that come* from the ancient mountains.
I pray that *God* will abundantly bless *you too,* Joseph,
as the one he chose to set apart *and honor*
above your brothers.

27 Benjamin *you and your descendants will be*
like a fierce wolf.
You will always defeat your enemies
and take their possessions and wealth."

28 Those *twelve sons are the ancestors of* the twelve tribes that descended from Israel, and those *were* the blessings that their father spoke to them. He blessed each one of them with blessings that were appropriate for them *and their descendants*.

Jacob Dies and Is Buried
49:29-50:14

29 Then Jacob instructed his sons by saying to them, "I am about to *die and* join my ancestors *who have already died*. Bury my body next to their *bodies* inside the cave that *is* in the field that Ephron the Hittite used to own. 30 That cave and field are in the Machpelah *area* that is near *the city of* Mamre in the region of Canaan. *That is the cave* that *my grandfather* Abraham bought, along with the field, from Ephron the Hittite, in order to have a place to bury *his dead relatives*. 31 That is where *the bodies of* Abraham and his wife Sarah are buried, *and* where *the bodies of* Isaac and his wife Rebekah are buried, and that is where I buried *the body of my wife* Leah. 32 *Abraham* bought that field and cave from the descendants of Heth." 33 When Jacob had finished giving those instructions to his sons, he *lay down and* pulled his feet *up* into *his* bed. Then he took his last breath *and died* and joined his ancestors *who had died before him*.

50 Then Joseph hugged his father *in sorrow*, and he cried over him and kissed him *goodbye on the cheek*. 2 Then he ordered his doctors who served him to prepare his father*'s body* for burial. So they did that. 3 The process took forty days, which is how long it *normally* takes to prepare a body. The people in Egypt mourned for Israel *for* seventy days.

4 After that time of mourning Israel's death, Joseph said to Pharaoh's officials, "Please do this favor for me: please take a message to *King* Pharaoh *for me* and tell *him* 5 that when my father was about to die, he had me vow to him that I would bury his body in the region of Canaan, in a tomb that he had prepared for himself there. So *ask the king to* please let me go *to Canaan* and bury my father*'s body there*. After that, I will come back *here*." 6 *When Pharaoh heard Joseph's message,* he replied, "*Tell Joseph that* he may go *to Canaan* and bury his father*'s body* just as his father made him vow *that he would do*."

7 So Joseph started the trip *to Canaan* to bury his father*'s body*, and all Pharaoh's officials escorted him, *including* the important leaders from Pharaoh's court and all the *other* important leaders in the country of Egypt. 8 All of Joseph's family also *went with him,* including his brothers and *the rest of* his father's family. They only left *behind* their children and their livestock in Goshen Province. 9 *Many* soldiers also escorted Joseph, *including* those *who were* riding chariots and those *who were* riding horses, so that the *entire* group was very large.

10 They traveled to the other side of the Jordan *River* and stopped at a *grain* threshing place owned by *a man named* Atad. There Joseph *and the others* mourned for his father very loudly and sorrowfully for seven days. 11 When the Canaanites who lived in the area saw them mourning *like that* at Atad's threshing place, they exclaimed *to each other*, "*Wow!* Those people from Egypt are mourning *very* sorrowfully *for someone who died*!" That is why the name of that place on the other side of the Jordan *River* is Abel Mizraim, *which means "Egyptians' mourning place."*

12 Jacob's sons did *everything* for him just as he had instructed them *to do*: 13 They took his body to the region of Canaan and buried it in the cave *that is* in the field in the Machpelah *area*, near *the city of* Mamre. *It was* the field *and cave* that Abraham had bought from Ephron the Hittite as a place to bury his dead *relatives*. 14 After Joseph buried his father*'s body*, he returned to *the country of* Egypt, along with his brothers and everyone *else* who had accompanied him to his father's funeral.

Joseph Reassures His Brothers That He Has Forgiven Them
50:15-21

15 Now that their father was no longer alive, Joseph's brothers *were worried and* said *to each other*, "If Joseph is angry at us for the terrible way that we treated him, he might punish us severely for what we did." 16 So they sent *a messenger* to Joseph to tell *him*, "Before our father died, he told *us* 17 to ask you to please forgive *us*, your brothers, for sinning *against you* and treating you so badly. So then, as servants of God whom our father worshiped, we beg you to forgive us for sinning *against you*." When Joseph heard his brothers' message to him, he *was very sad and* cried. 18 Then his brothers came *to him*, prostrated themselves before him *to show respect*, and said *to him*, "Here we are, we *will be* your servants!" 19 But Joseph replied to them, "You do not need to be afraid. After all, I am not God! *So I have no right to punish you.* 20 *It is true that* you planned to harm me, *but* God is using that to benefit *us all*. Right now he is doing what he planned, to keep many people from dying. 21 So then, you do not need to be afraid. I *myself* will provide *everything* that you and your children need." In that way, Joseph assured them *that he had forgiven them*, and he *also* said *other* things to encourage them.

Joseph Dies in Egypt
50:22-26

22 Joseph continued to live in *the country of* Egypt, along with *the rest of* his father *Jacob*'s family, until he was 110 years old. 23 He lived *long enough* to see *his son* Ephraim's children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. The children of *his grandson* Machir, *who was* Manasseh's son, also grew up during his lifetime.

24 Then *one day* Joseph said to his brothers, “I am about to
die, but God will definitely help you and take you *and your*
descendants from this country to the land that he vowed *to give*
to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. 25 When God does that, you
must take my body back *to Canaan with you and bury it there*.”
Then Joseph had *his brothers and the rest of* the descendants of
Israel vow *that they would do that*.
26 So Joseph died at the age of 110 years. Then his doctors
prepared his body for burial, and they put it in a burial box
in *the country of* Egypt.