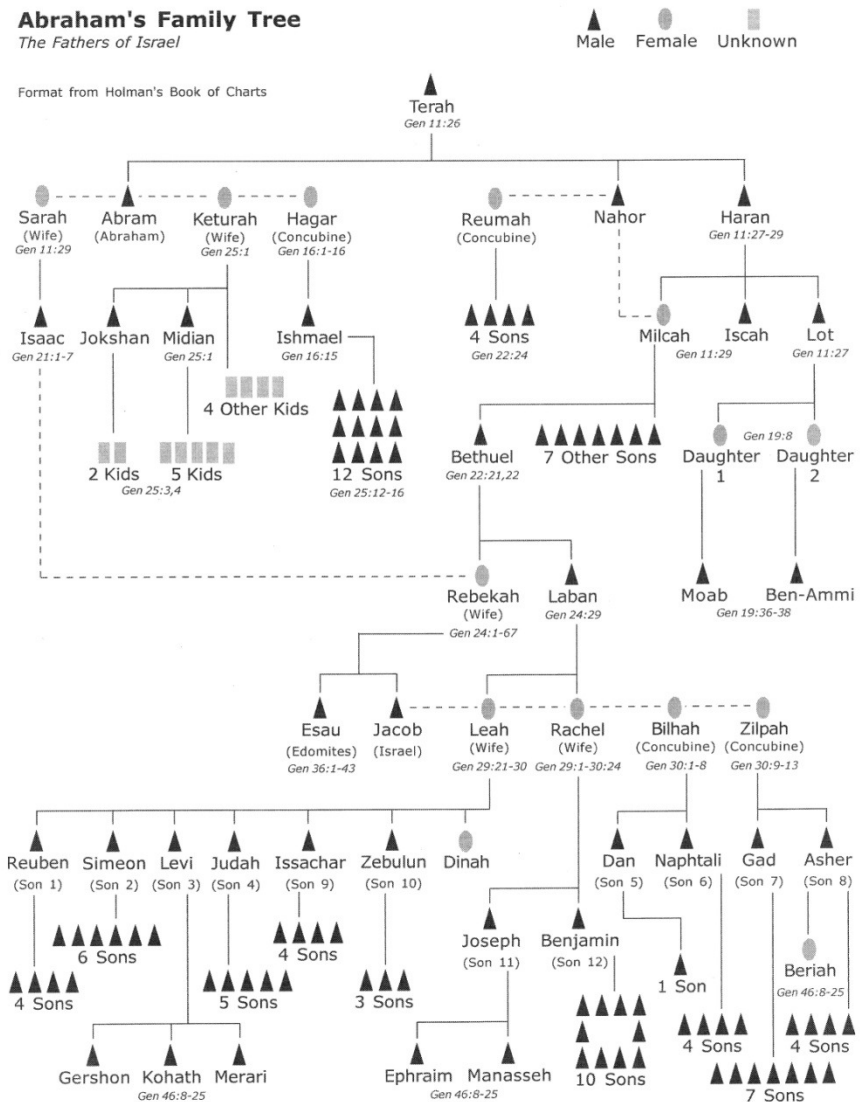


Unpacking the Book

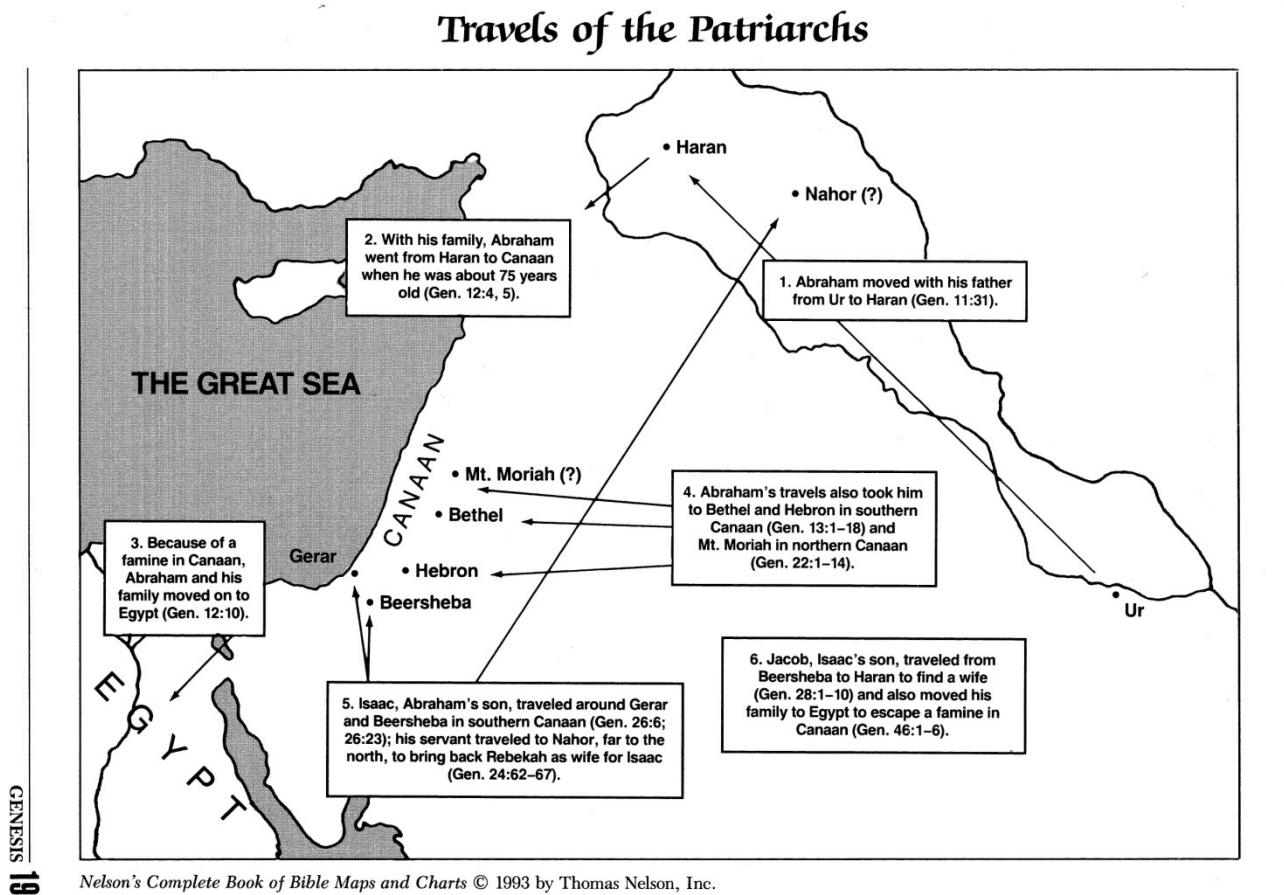
#3 The Patriarchs

I. Introduction

- A. The age of the patriarchs (pre-Egyptian Hebrews) was approximately 2150-1500 BC
 Patriarchs: Greek word meaning “father-ruler”
- B. Apparently the Hebrews do not appear in recorded history until the reign of Marniptah, King of Egypt from (1290-1224 BC). On a military campaign, an account is etched in granite listing conquered people and the Israelites are mentioned as those “now living in Canaan.” (Jewish Virtual Library)
- C. The biblical record is found in Genesis 12-50. (The Middle and Late Bronze Age)
- D. The patriarchs are Abraham (Gen. 11-20), Isaac (Gen. 21-26), Jacob (Gen. 25-35) and many would add Joseph (Gen. 37-50).
- E. Let’s take a look at a “Family Tree” see Gen. 11, 16, 19, 21, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 35, 41



F. Consider the travel of the patriarchs:



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II. Abraham

Abram means “exalted father” Abraham means “father of a multitude”

A. His story

1. His birth and call to “the promised land” (Gen. 11-12)
2. Ur... Haran... Canaan (Gen. 12:1-20)
3. He deals with his nephew Lot (Gen. 13-14)
4. He pays tithes to Melchizedek (Gen. 14 and Heb. 7:1-10)
5. Abraham’s Lapses of Faith
 - a. He lied twice to protect himself – Gen. 12:11-20, Gen. 20:1-13.
 - b. He slept with Hagar in order to get an heir. Gen. 16:1-16 and Gen. 21:9-14
6. God’s covenant with Abraham (Gen. 15:1-21 and Rom. 4:1-25, Gal. 3:6-25 and Heb. 6:13-20)

- a. This was a one-sided covenant – God’s self imposed obligation to Abraham (Gen. 17:7)
- b. It foreshadows the new covenant (See Heb. 8:7-9:25) between God and the believer

The Abrahamic Covenant	
Genesis 12:1-3	God initiated His covenant with Abram when he was living in Ur of the Chaldeans, promising a land, descendants, and blessing.
Genesis 12:4-5	Abram went with his family to Haran, lived there for a time, and left at the age of 75.
Genesis 13:14-17	After Lot separated from Abram, God again promised the land to him and his descendants.
Genesis 15:1-21	This covenant was ratified when God passes between the sacrificial animals Abram laid before God.
Genesis 17:1-27	When Abram was 99 God renewed His covenant, changing Abram’s name to Abraham (“Father of Multitude”). Sign of the covenant: circumcision.
Genesis 22:15-18	Confirmation of the covenant because of Abraham’s obedience.

(from Nelson’s Complete Book of Maps and Charts, p.18)

- 7. Covenants: a solemn binding with both blessing and curses attached. Involved a formal ratification: salt (Num. 18:19, Lev. 2:13) a shoe (Book of Ruth) and blood (Heb. 9:12)

There are a number of covenants in the scriptures:

Covenant with	Proposed Benefit	Parties	Sign	Condition	Scripture
Adam	Confirmed innocence and blessedness in God’s presence	God and Humanity		Adam’s obedience	Gen.3:3
Noah	Delay of judgment	God and Humanity	Rainbow	God’s Faithfulness to His Pledge	Gen. 9:18-18
Abraham	Numerous descendants, land, blessing to all nations	God and Humanity	Circumcision	God’s Faithfulness to His Pledge	Gen. 12; 15; 17
Moses	Unique relationships with God, a holy nation	God and Israel	Sabbath	Israel’s faithfulness	Ex. 2:24-25, 6:2-8, 19:5-6
Levitical	A priesthood	God and the descendants of Phinehas		God’s Faithfulness to His Pledge	Num 25:12-13
David	Permanent House for Yahweh	God and David’s “House”		God’s Faithfulness to His Pledge	2 Sam. 2:7-16 2 Sam. 23:5
New Covenant	Restored innocence and blessedness in God’s presence	God and Humanity		The last Adam’s obedience	Jer. 31:31, Luke 22:20, 2 Cor. 3:6; Heb. 8:13, 9:15, 12:24

(adapted from T. David Gordon)

- a. Three monotheistic religions (Judaism, Christianity and Islam) all lay claims to the Abrahamic Covenant. For the Jewish reference see Ps. 105:1-44, for the Christians see Gal. 3:10-29, for the Muslims see the Quran 2:124-2:140
- 8. Birth of Ishmael (Gen. 16:1-16)
- 9. 13 years later the promised son – Isaac (Gen. 17-21) and Romans 4:18-25, Hebrews 11:11-12). Abram is 100 and Sarai is 90
- 10. Hagar and Ishmael sent away (Gen. 21:8-21, Gal. 4:21-31)
- 11. Isaac offered as a sacrifice (Gen. 22:1-19, Heb. 11:17-19 and Jam. 2:20-24)
- 12. Death of Sarah and Abraham (Gen. 23-25) the cave at Machpelah

III. Isaac (his name means “laughter”)

- A. Most of the stories about Isaac are actually focused on someone else:
 - His promised birth/Abraham
 - His wife / Rebekah
 - His sons / Jacob and Esau
- B. The stories that focus on him as an adult are in Gen. 26. They “mirror” stories about his father:
 - 1. He too lied and said his wife was his sister
 - 2. He also negotiated with Abimelech over water rights
- C. God’s covenant is reaffirmed through Jacob (Gen. 26:4-5)
- D. Isaac marries Rebekah at age 40. At age 60 he had twin sons, Esau (name means “hairy”) and Jacob. The elder would serve the younger (Gen. 25:23)
- E. The blessing of his sons occurs in Gen. 27-28:5 when Isaac is over 100 years old.
- F. He died at 180 years old and is buried at Mamre (Hebron).

IV. Jacob (his name means “supplanter” or “conniver”)

- A. He was a fraternal twin of Esau.
 - 1. They were at war with each other before they were even born (Gen. 25:19-34)
 - 2. Esau sells his birthright to Jacob (Gen. 25)
- B. Jacob deceives Isaac in order to steal his blessing (Gen. 27)
- C. Jacob journeys from Canaan to Haran region
 - 1. Jacob’s dream (Gen. 28)
 - 2. Laban’s treachery (Gen. 29)
 - 3. Jacob marries Leah and Rachel (Gen. 29)
 - 4. He prospers (Gen. 30)

- D. He returns to Canaan and faces Esau (Gen. 31-35)
- E. His name is changed to Israel (meaning “Prince of God”) at Peniel – on the Jabbock River (Gen. 32)
- F. Jacob has 12 sons:
 1. Rachel: Joseph, Benjamin
 2. Leah: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun
 3. Rachel’s handmaid Bilhah: Dan, Naphtali
 4. Leah’s handmaid Zilpah: Gad, Asher

V. Joseph (name means “may God add”)

- A. His birth is found in Gen. 30:22-24, the rest of his life is covered in Gen. 37-50.
- B. The eleventh son of Jacob, son of Rachel, father of two sons Ephraim and Manasseh. (replacing Joseph and Levi)
- C. At 17 years of age, he was sold into slavery by his brothers (Gen. 37)
- D. Eventually he become the second in command to the pharaoh of Egypt and makes tremendous preparations for a devastating regional famine.
- E. Eventually his brothers seek help in Egypt and are finally reconciled to Joseph (Gen. 42-47)
- F. Joseph lived to the age of 110 and was buried in Shechem (Ex. 13:19 and Joshua 24:32)

VI. So what?

The “berith” (covenant) as expressed so clearly to Abraham and reaffirmed down through the ages allowed God to choose a people for Himself. He wanted to have a binding relationship with Israel. He likewise desires a binding relationship with us.

Heb. 8:10 “This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

Rev. 21:3 “And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.”

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Why do you think God made His covenant with Abraham unconditional (one-sided – it says “I will bless...”)? It’s not conditional, why?
- 2) Is the new covenant “conditional”? What is it based upon?