

Ezra & Nehemiah

History of the Jewish Nation

Lesson 1

1. Abram was born in Mesopotamia in the land of Ur of the Chaldeans.
(Modern day Iran)
2. Abram moved to Haran with his father Terah, his wife Sarai, and his nephew Lot.
(Lot's father Haran had died.)
3. After the death of Terah, God told Abram to move to a land He would show him and God spoke this blessing over Abram:

***"I will bless those who bless you
And I will curse those who curse you.
And in you all of the families of the
earth will be blessed."***

Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran to journey to the land of Canaan.

4. God once again met with Abram and they made a blood covenant. Abram sacrificed a heifer, a goat, a ram, a turtledove, and a pigeon. God made the following covenant with Abram.

***"To your descendants I will give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great
river, the River Euphrates - the Kenites, the Kennizites, the Kadmonites, the Hittites, the
Perizzites, the Rephaim, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgasites, and the Jebusites."***

God also told Abram that his descendants would be strangers in another land for 400 years, but would return with great possessions.

5. Abram and Hagar had a child named Ishamel at the insistence of Sarai when Abram was 86 years old.
6. God met with Abram again and told him he and Sarai would have a son. Abram was now 99 years old and Sarai was 89 years old. God changed Abram's name to Abraham and Sarai's name to Sarah. Abraham means "father of a multitude", and Sarah means "noblewoman" or "princess". A year later Isaac was born. Isaac means "he laughs" Both Abraham and Sarah had laughed when they heard that they would bear a son in their old age.
7. After Sarah died Abraham's servant returned to Mesopotamia to get a wife for Isaac. He met Rebekah at the well and learned that she was part of Sarah's family. He brought her back to be Isaac's wife. Isaac was 40 years old when they were married.
8. Rebekah was barren and so Isaac prayed for her and she conceived twins. She gave birth to Esau and Jacob. Isaac was 60 years old when they were born.
9. When they were young men Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of stew. As Isaac became old and blind he wanted to bless his firstborn son, Esau, as was the custom of the day. Through trickery Jacob stole his blessing. The following is the blessing that Isaac gave Jacob:

*“May God give you of the dew of heaven,
Of the fatness of the earth,
And plenty of grain and wine.
Let peoples serve you,
And nations bow down to you.
Be master over your brethren,
And let your mother’s sons bow down to you,
Cursed be everyone who curses you,
And blessed be those who bless you.”*

Notice that this was the blessing that God spoke over Abram when He told him to go to the land He would show him.

10. Esau was furious so Jacob had to run for his life. He went to Padan Aram which was the region where Abram, Sarai, Terah and Lot had originally moved to .
11. He worked for his mother, Rebekah’s, brother Laban for 7 years so that he could marry Rachel. On his wedding night Laban tricked him and gave him Leah instead. Jacob was furious but agreed to work an additional 7 years for Rachel.

Jacob’s Children:

Leah: Reuben (behold a son)

Simeon (heard)

Levi (joined to)

Judah (praised)

Bilhah: (Rachel’s maid)

Dan (judge)

Naphtali (wrestling)

Zilpah: (Leah’s maid)

Gad (troop)

Asher (happy)

Leah: Issachar (there is recompense)

Zebulun (exalted)

Dinah (judgement) the only daughter born to Jacob

Rachel: Joseph (Jehovah has added)

12. It was after these children were born to Jacob that he decided to return home to Canaan. On the way Esau came to meet him with 400 men. During the night Jacob had an encounter with God. God blessed him and changed his name from Jacob which means “supplanter” (someone who wrongfully takes the place of another) to Israel which means “God Prevails.” When Esau & Jacob finally meet, they meet in peace and part ways.

13. Rachel later gave birth to her 2nd son and dies during childbirth. She named him Benoni which means “son of my sorrow, but Jacob named him Benjamin which means, “son of my right hand”.
14. These 12 sons became the 12 tribes of Israel.