

Old Testament Series

- Week 1

- Genesis – The Big Story

26th May 2024

2 Why the Old Testament?

- *The whole of the New Testament witness to Jesus presupposes the Old Testament as its context*
- *When we open our Bibles, we should not be in a rush to get to the New Testament*

Genesis – Beginning and End

- In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.. God created human beings in his own image....God looked over all he had made and it was very good. (Gen 1:1-31)
- So Joseph died at the age of 110. And after they embalmed him, he was placed in a coffin in Egypt. (Gen 50:26)

The Plot of Genesis (and the whole Bible)

- **What has gone wrong with the world?**
- **What is God going to do about it?**

1) What has gone wrong?

- 1-11 Creation, fall, judgement and mercy (Noah's flood)

2) What is God going to do about it?

- 12-50 The Family of the promises
 - 12-26 The story of Abraham and Isaac
 - 27-36 The story of Jacob
 - 37-50 The story of Joseph

Genesis – The Mystery of the Book

- The revelation of God
- The hiddenness of God

Chapter 12 - The Incredible Promises

- I will make of you a **great nation** (12:2)
- And in you shall **all families** of the earth be blessed (12:3)
- Unto your seed (descendants) will I give the **land** (12:7)
 - **It hangs on Abram having descendants**

1 The Name of the Father

- Abram = Exalted father
- Abraham = The Father of Many Peoples / Nations

2 The Son of Promise

- Abram has a son Ishmael through Sarai's servant Hagar
- But God promises a son through a miraculous birth
- Impossible ?
- Isaac = He laughs , or = It must be a joke !

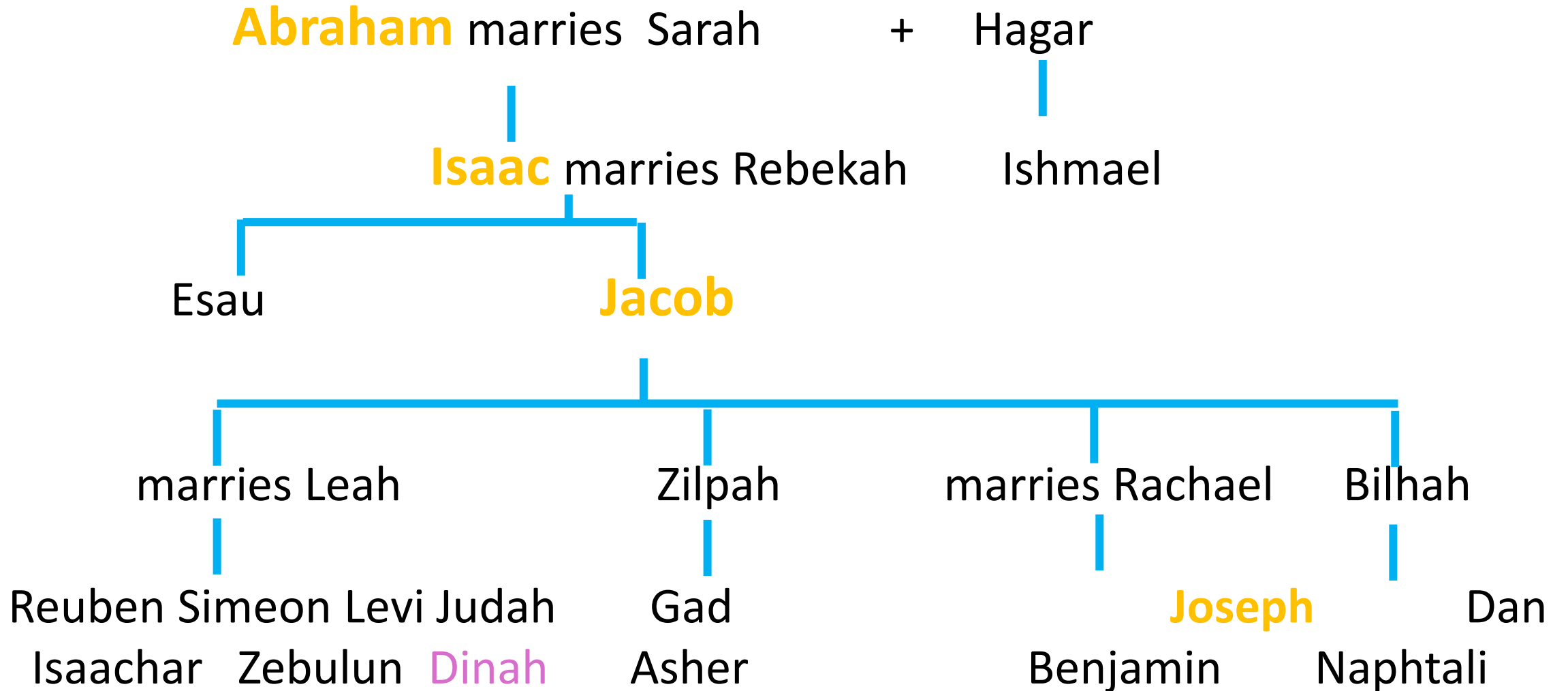
3 The Father's sacrifice of his Son

- Chapter 22 - the father, Abraham, is willing to sacrifice his only begotten son Isaac
- On Mount Moriah – where Jerusalem will subsequently be built

4 The Search for the Bride

- Chapter 24 - the long, extraordinary story where the father Abraham sends his Chosen Servant back to the homeland to search out a Bride for the Son

Abraham's Family



5 – Jacob and Spiritual Transformation

- Jacob does bad and devious things and suffers for them
- Jacob's own deeds seem to shape the story
- The Lord guides Jacob's life towards fulfilling his promises
- The Lord finally encounters him on his return to Canaan
- He changes his name – his identity, his character – to Israel

6 The Name and Nature of God

- I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob (Exodus 3:6)
- The God of the Father, and the Son and of the one in whom is seen the transforming work of God

7 Joseph - The Saviour of the World

- Joseph replied ' You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could **save the lives of many people.**'
Gen 50 v 20
- *And all peoples on earth will be blessed through you'* Gen 12 v 3

What does this remind you of?

1. The exalted Father becomes Father to people of many nations
2. The Father's Son enters the world through a miraculous birth
3. The Father is willing to sacrifice the only Son
4. The Father sends his chosen servant to find a bride for the Son
5. Devious human character is transformed by God's angel (or Spirit)
6. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – a 'trinitarian' God
7. Joseph – the betrayed and rejected Son is miraculously exalted to the right hand of Power to save the world