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# THE FIRST FAMILY OF FAITH

Part II

*THE STORY OF  
ABRAHAM  
AND SARAH*

# A Few Noteworthy Items

- After initially settling in the land of Canaan – Abraham and Sarah faced a famine which caused them to go to Egypt for a season of time:

***“Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe”***

***(Genesis 12:10)***

- Sometime thereafter; Abraham, Sarah and Lot returned to the land of promise and things got a little crowded:

**“So, Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, with his wife and everything he had, and Lot went with him. Abram had become very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold. From the Negev he went from place to place until he came to Bethel, to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had been earlier and where he had first built an altar. There Abram called on the name of the Lord” (Genesis 13:1-4)**

“Now Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. But the land could not support them while they stayed together, for **their possessions were so great that they were not able to stay together.** And quarreling arose between Abram’s herders and Lot’s. The Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land at that time. So, Abram said to Lot, “Let’s not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herders and mine, for we are close relatives. Is not the whole land before you? Let’s part company. If you go to the left, I’ll go to the right; if you go to the right, I’ll go to the left.” Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan toward Zoar was well watered, like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt. (This was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) So, Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company: Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom. **Now the people of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the Lord.”** (Genesis 13:5-13)

“The Lord said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, “Look around from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you.” So Abram went to live near the great trees of Mamre at Hebron, where he pitched his tents. There he built an altar to the Lord” (Genesis 13:14-18)

1. Lot’s passion was bent toward wickedness (he pitched his tents near Sodom)
2. Abraham’s passion was to worship God (There he built an altar to the Lord)



# A Little Trouble in Paradise

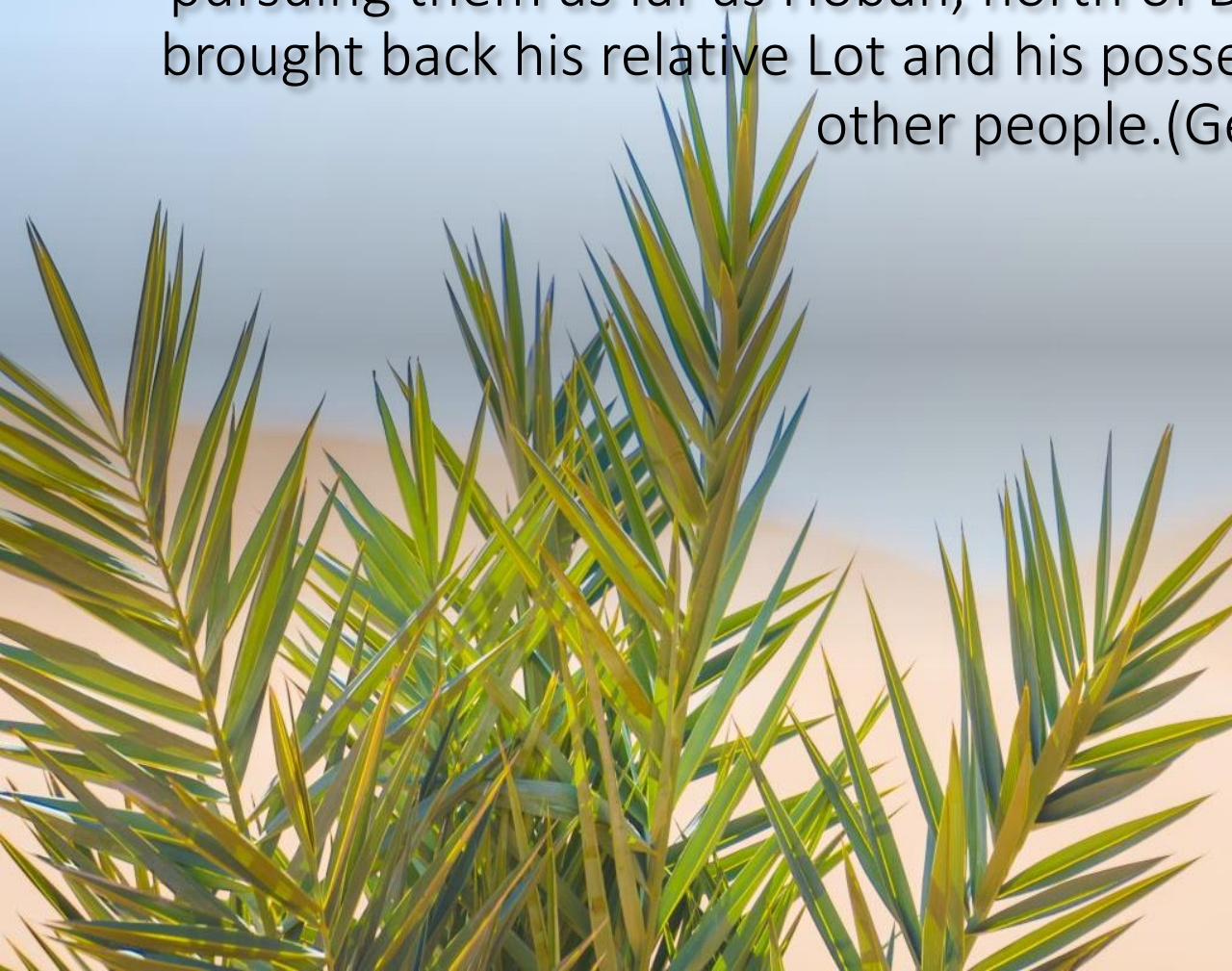


Then the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboyim and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) marched out and drew up their battle lines in the Valley of Siddim against Kedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of Goyim, Amraphel king of Shinar and Arioch king of Ellasar—four kings against five. Now the Valley of Siddim was full of tar pits, and when the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, some of the men fell into them and the rest fled to the hills. The four kings seized all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food; then they went away. **They also carried off Abram's nephew Lot and his possessions, since he was living in Sodom**" (Genesis 14:8-12)






A man who had escaped came and reported this to **Abram the Hebrew**. Now Abram was living near the great trees of Mamre the Amorite, a brother of Eshkol and Aner, all of whom were allied with Abram. When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he called out the **318 trained men** born in his household and went in pursuit as far as Dan. During the night Abram divided his men to attack them and he routed them, pursuing them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus. He recovered all the goods and brought back his relative Lot and his possessions, together with the women and the other people. (Genesis 14:13-16)

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1. Lot got mixed up in Sodom and was captured in one of these battles that took place near there
  2. Fortunately for him he had an Uncle who cared about him
  3. Abraham apparently had some military skills, because he was successful in defeating these marauders and was able to retrieve Lot and his possessions



# A Unique Encounter



Notice the unique  
relationship that  
Abraham has with  
The Lord God

“Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, and he blessed Abram, saying, “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand.” Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything”  
(Genesis 14:18-20)

**Melchizedek** means King of Righteousness

Best explained as a Pre-Incarnate  
appearance of Christ




# An Interesting Passage of Scripture

A Psalm of David

The Lord says to my lord: “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.” The Lord will extend your mighty scepter from Zion, saying, “Rule in the midst of your enemies!” Your troops will be willing on your day of battle. Arrayed in holy splendor, your young men will come to you like dew from the morning’s womb. The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: **You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.** (Psalm 110:1-4)

# An Interesting Passage of Scripture



The appearance by  
Melchizedek was no  
random meeting - it  
was providential

This **Melchizedek** was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, the name **Melchizedek means “king of righteousness”**; then also, “king of Salem” means “**king of peace.**” Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, **resembling the Son of God**, he remains a priest forever” (Hebrews 7:1-3)



# God's Covenant with Abraham

After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward. But Abram said, “Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

Then the word of the Lord came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and **count the stars—if indeed you can count them.**” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” **Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.** (Genesis 15:1-6)





# God's Covenant with Abraham continued.....

He also said to him, "I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to **give you this land to take possession of it.**" But Abram said, "Sovereign Lord, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?" So the Lord said to him, "Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon." Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away. (Genesis 15:7-11)





# God's Covenant with Abraham continued.....

As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. Then the Lord said to him, "Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.". (Genesis 15:12-16)





# God's Covenant with Abraham continued.....

When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, **“To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates, the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites (Genesis 15:17-21)**





# Terms of the Covenant/Agreement


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- Abraham would produce an heir/son
- Abraham's descendants would be numerous and impossible to count
- Abraham would inherit a vast amount of Real Estate



“On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, **“To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates”** (Genesis 15:8)



A watercolor illustration of a night sky with stars and a desert landscape. The sky is a deep blue with horizontal brushstrokes, and the foreground shows rolling sand dunes in shades of tan and gold. Several large, multi-pointed white stars are scattered across the sky, along with smaller, simpler white stars and dots. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

**God will reaffirm His covenant with Abraham  
at a later time, but a few important  
developments/events will occur first**



# The Birth of Ishmael

Abraham and Sarah got a little ahead of God:

“Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; so she said to Abram, “The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her.” Abram agreed to what Sarai said. So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian slave Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. He slept with Hagar, and she conceived. When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress. (Genesis 16:1-4)



# The Birth of Ishmael

“Then Sarai said to Abram, “You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my slave in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the Lord judge between you and me.” “Your slave is in your hands,” Abram said. “Do with her whatever you think best.” Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her. The angel of the Lord found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur. And he said, “Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?” “I’m running away from my mistress Sarai,” she answered. Then the angel of the Lord told her, “Go back to your mistress and submit to her.” The angel added, “I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count.” (Genesis 16:5-10)

# The Birth of Ishmael

The angel of the Lord also said to her:

“You are now pregnant, and you will give birth to a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the Lord has heard of your misery. He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone’s hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers.”

She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: “You are the God who sees me,” for she said, “I have now seen the One who sees me.” That is why the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; it is still there, between Kadesh and Bered.

So, Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram gave the name Ishmael to the son she had borne. Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.

(Genesis 16:11-16)

# The consequences of a bad decision:

- By doubting God and not consulting Him – Abraham and Sarah chose custom and convenience over patience and trust. This caused further damage and problems:
  - They blamed God for their circumstances
  - They took matters in their own hands and produced their own solutions
  - They put the blame on one individual (Hagar) when it was a group decision to begin with
  - They replaced their fears and doubting of God's provision with the negative responses of blame and hate



# God's Covenant with Abraham reaffirmed

“When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.”

Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram, your name will be **Abraham**, for I have made you a father of many nations.” (Genesis 17:1-5)





## God's Covenant with Abraham reaffirmed

“I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.” (Genesis 17:6-8)

God also said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.” (Genesis 17:15-16)





## God's Covenant with Abraham reaffirmed

“Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, “Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?” And Abraham said to God, “If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!” Then God said, “Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will **establish my covenant with him** as an everlasting covenant for **his descendants after him**. And as for Ishmael, I have heard you: I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and will greatly increase his numbers. He will be the father of twelve rulers, and I will make him into a great nation. But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you by this time next year.” When he had finished speaking with Abraham, God went up from him.” (Genesis 17:17-22)



# God's Covenant with Abraham reaffirmed

## The Sign/Seal of the Covenant

“On that very day Abraham took his son Ishmael and all those born in his household or bought with his money, every male in his household, and **circumcised them**, as God told him. Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised, and his son Ishmael was thirteen; Abraham and his son Ishmael were both circumcised on that very day. And every male in Abraham's household, including those born in his household or bought from a foreigner, was circumcised with him.” (Genesis 17:23-27)





# Several Key Events in the life of Abraham and Sarah

- The significance of the destruction of **Sodom** and **Gomorrah** and Abraham's plea to spare the righteous
- The Child of Promise – Isaac
- The test of Abraham's faith
- Isaac and Rebekah – the family of faith continues



The significance of the  
destruction of Sodom  
and Gomorrah  
and Abraham's plea to  
spare the righteous



# A Few Noteworthy Items

- Abraham had a special relationship with The Lord:

**The LORD appeared to Abraham** near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.

***(Genesis 18:1-2)***

- One of the main purposes of this visit by these three men was to let Abraham and Sarah know that she would be with child:

Then one of them said, “**I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son**” (Genesis 18:10)

## A Few Noteworthy Items

- Another purpose of this visit by the Lord and these three men was to verify the wickedness that seemed to permeate the cities of **Sodom** and **Gomorrah**:

Then the men rose up from there and looked down toward Sodom; and Abraham was walking with them to send them off. The Lord said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, since Abraham will certainly become a great and mighty nation, and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed?

**For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice, so that the Lord may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him.”** And the Lord said, “The outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah is indeed great, and **their sin is exceedingly grave**. I will go down now and see whether they have done entirely as the outcry, which has come to Me indicates; and if not, I will know.” (Genesis 18:16-21)



# A Few Noteworthy Items

- Abraham's plea to spare the righteous:

Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham was still standing before the Lord. Abraham approached and said, "Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? (Genesis 18:22-23)

- Abraham's passionate and heartfelt plea went from asking to spare the cities if 50 righteous souls could be found and after a series of requests The Lord would honor sparing them if even 10 righteous souls could be found

Then he said, "Oh may the Lord not be angry, and I shall speak only this once; suppose ten are found there?" And He said, "I will not destroy it on account of the ten." As soon as He had finished speaking to Abraham the Lord departed, and Abraham returned to his place. (Genesis 18:32-33)

# The Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah

Now Abraham arose early in the morning and went to the place where he had stood before the Lord; and he looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the valley, and he saw, and behold, the smoke of the land ascended like the smoke of a furnace.

Thus it came about, when God destroyed the cities of the valley, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when He overthrew the cities in which Lot lived. (Genesis 19:27-29)





The Child of Promise  
Isaac is born

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Then the Lord took note of Sarah as He had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as He had promised. So, Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the appointed time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom **Sarah bore to him, Isaac**. Then Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. Now Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Sarah said, "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me." And she said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age." (Genesis 21:1-7)



# Abraham's Test of Faith

Genesis 22





“Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you.” So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey and took two of his young men with him and Isaac his son; and he split wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.” (Genesis 22:1-4)





On the third day Abraham raised his eyes and saw the place from a distance. Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad will go over there; and we will worship and return to you. Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son, and he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." And he said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." So, the two of them walked on together.

(Genesis 22:5-8)



“Then they came to the place of which God had told him; and Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood and bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now, I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me” (Genesis 22:9-12)





Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son. Abraham called the name of that place The Lord Will Provide, as it is said to this day, "In the mount of the Lord it will be provided." (Genesis 22:13-14)



Then the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, “By Myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.” So, Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham lived at Beersheba. (Genesis 22:15-19)



# The Legacy of Abraham and Sarah

- Isaac will go on to marry Rebekah and will father two sons (Jacob and Esau) allowing the family of faith to continue
- Sarah will live to the age of 127 and will be buried in the plot of land (near Hebron) that Abraham purchased from the Hittites
- Abraham will marry again and will father 6 more sons
- Abraham will live to the age of 175 and will be buried next to the love of his life (Sarah)

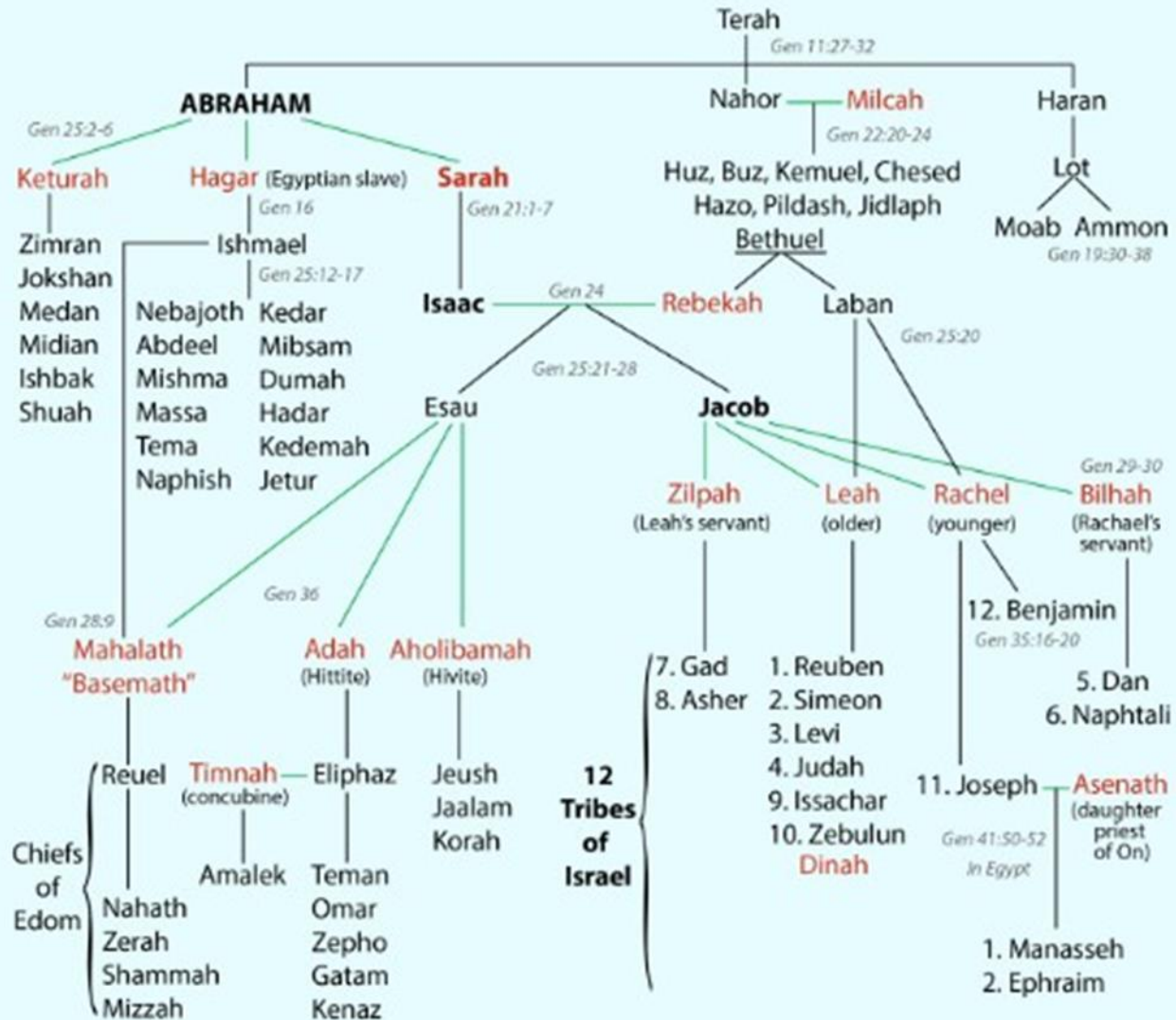


# The Legacy of Abraham and Sarah

“Abraham left everything he owned to Isaac. But while he was still living, he gave gifts to the sons of his concubines and sent them away from his son Isaac to the land of the east”  
(Genesis 25:5-6)



## GENEALOGY OF ABRAHAM



From the  
descendants of  
Abraham and  
Sarah would one  
day come:

The Light of the  
World  
Jesus Christ

