

GENESIS:
Created With A Purpose &
For God's Glory

A Bible Reading Plan & Devotional

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Dear FBC Family,

In obedience to the Lord's will to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18), we are publishing our OT Devotionals on the "Torah." The "Torah" refers to the first five books of the Old Testament (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, & Deuteronomy). I believe that a good grasp of these five books is foundational in order to have a solid understanding and better appreciation of the New Testament. As someone has aptly said, "The Old Testament is God's will concealed while the New Testament is God's will revealed."

From the Book of Genesis, we learned that Man was not a product of pure chance but is the handiwork of a Sovereign and yet Loving God. From it we know and understand that Man was "Created with a Purpose and for God's Glory." My prayer and hope is that you will enjoy reading these books and the devotionals on them. My devotional may not be "inspired" but they surely came from a heart that longs for another visitation of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

God bless!

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Val P. Natcher

Elohim & His Creation

Here is the answer to one of life's greatest questions – Where did we come from? What is the purpose of life? Why are we here? Man has been grappling with these old-age questions and has offered us a variety of man-made answers – from evolution and to pure chance. However, recently, there are a growing number of scientists who are refuting Darwinism and are offering alternative views because of the latest discoveries in biochemistry. But let me offer an ancient but viable alternative, which the Bible teaches – “Elohim” or the Lord God created the universe. Somebody said that it takes ‘greater faith’ to believe that we came from a single cell or as a result of ‘Big Bang’ than to believe that a powerful and loving God created the universe. And for that I truly admire those who believe in Darwinism. From the Book of Genesis’ account of the universe, we see right away that the Lord our God has a grand design and purpose for man.

1) The Lord God creates the heavens and the earth (vv. 1-25).

Observe the sequence how the Lord God created the universe – the heavens and earth first and then man. Notice that He just spoke the WORD and the thing was created, showing us that God’s Word is powerful! Observe that He created the light in the first day. Then He created the sky or heavens – the second day. He created the “seas” and the “dry lands” in the third day. Next, He created the “sun, moon, and stars” in the sky to determine the times and seasons of the year. It was the fourth day. Then God created the “living things” in the land and in the waters and He blessed them. It was the fifth day. After He had created all these things, He said and evaluated that they were all good.

2) The Lord God creates humanity (1:26 - 2:25).

Finally, on the sixth day the Lord created man. He created them male and female and in His image or “imago Dei.” Then He blessed and commanded them to “multiply” and to “rule” or “manage” the earth where He has placed them. In Genesis 2, we see the writer giving a more

detailed account of the creation of man. Here, it tells us how God created man – from the dust of the ground.

Day 1 Genesis 1-2

He gave him the breath of life or spirit and became a living being (v. 7). The Lord created a garden in Eden and placed man there to take care of it. In the garden, man was provided all that he needed, but he was given one command – not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (vv. 15-16). The Lord made a partner or ‘helpmeet’ for man and she was called woman. She came from his rib – not to compete with him but to complete him and to be his companion and in order for them to procreate or begin a family. Thus, the Lord instituted the family and marriage.

Points to Ponder:

1) The Lord our God is the SOVEREIGN CREATOR of the universe! He is our Almighty God and Creator. He created you and me to have eternal fellowship and to ENJOY Him forever! Man is the crowning glory of His creation (Ps. 8)!

2) The Lord created man in order to start a family and a community who will glorify Him and serve Him. The normal structure of family then is a male and a female in order to pro-create. This is basically the reason why “same-sex marriage” is not only immoral as far as the Bible is concerned, but downright impractical. Same-sex marriage is directly contrary to the purpose of family as a basic unit of society. It is anti-family and if not abandoned will ultimately bring the destruction of our society. It plainly distorts the concept of what a true and natural family is all about.

PRAYER:

“Our heavenly Father, thank that you are our POWERFUL & LOVING MAKER, the SOVERIEGN LORD of the universe! The AUTHOR OF LIFE! Lord, thank You for answering our greatest questions in life. And though we will never be able to fully understand Your will and purpose in this world, thank You for knowing that I have a purpose in this world and will not just perish like the grass in oblivion. Lord, teach us to fully TRUST Your PLAN and PURPOSE for our life and what You have revealed to us in Your Word, the Bible. Lord,

teach me to submit to You and Your Word and to do that which pleases You. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen!"

Day 2

Bible Reading: Genesis 3

THE REASON FOR ALL OF MAN'S MISERY

Here is recorded the reason for all of man's problems and miseries. Man let sin entered his world. Here, we will also see the Devil, the old serpent, deceiving Eve and ultimately Adam, to sin against their God, which led to man's spiritual downfall.

1) The Devil (the serpent) deceives Eve (vv. 1-5).

Envious of their status as the object of God's love and attention and wanting to sabotage God's eternal plan for Man, the devil, that old serpent, came to the Adam and Eve to tempt them. He particularly made them to doubt God's words about the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, which the Lord commanded them not to eat from. Instead, the devil told them that it would make them wise and not die as God has spoken. So, Eve took of the fruit and gave it also to Adam who was with her. Note that Adam was there all along but kept silent and gave in to his wife's voice.

2) Adam & Eve disobey the Lord God (vv. 5-13).

After they ate the fruit, the eyes of Adam and Eve were opened, their innocence were taken away and they felt ashamed that they were naked. So, they sew fig leaves and made coverings for themselves (Man is starting to depend on his own wisdom on how to solve his problems!). Then, they heard the sound of the Lord as He walked in the garden as usual to have fellowship with them but they were afraid of him and they hid from Him (the first time this negative emotion and action was experienced by man and its appearance in the Bible). But the gracious words of the Lord was, "Where are you, Adam?" (And He has been speaking the same words until now to man). When the Lord found them, He asked them what they did and they started blaming each other (Start of the blame game of man). So, the Lord gave judgments to each of them – the serpent was cursed, the woman will have increased labor pains, and the man will have to work in order to live and eat, and the ground

was cursed. Man forfeited his right to rule the earth and became spiritually in bondage to sin and the devil.

DAY 2 Genesis 3

3) The Lord displays grace and mercy to Man (vv.14-24).

But after all these things, the Lord showed compassion and mercy to man for He made them coats of skin; meaning He killed an animal so that they could have ‘proper clothing’ (Foreshadowing the coming of Christ and shedding His Blood for the sins of man). The Lord also predicted the coming of the Messiah who will kill the serpent in v. 15. Then, the Lord sent them away from the Garden of Eden so that they could not eat from the tree of life and guarded Eden with cherubim and flashing swords.

Points to Ponder:

1) The Lord our God is a HOLY & RIGHTEOUS & FAITHFUL GOD! He will do what He says He will do. He will punish sin accordingly and bring to justice those who are guilty of disobedience. But He is also a LOVING, GRACIOUS & MERCIFUL GOD!

2) The Lord’s plan for man is to have fellowship with Him and to enjoy Him forever. Satan or the Devil that old serpent temporarily thwarted this (See Rev. 12:1ffg) by causing them to sin against God. But the Lord was gracious that He has already made provision for our restoration and salvation – the Messiah who is to come, the Lamb of God who is none other than JESUS CHRIST, the One who will be slain and whose Blood will wash the sins of sinners who will believe in Him and turn from their sins.

PRAYER:

“Our heavenly Father, You are a HOLY & RIGHTEOUS GOD and yet You are LOVING, GRACIOUS, & MERCIFUL! Even when our first parents, Adam and Eve sinned against You, You have shown us that You will do something to restore us back to Yourself. You will send us Your Son JESUS CHRIST to be the LAMB who will be slain in order for our sins to be forgiven. Lord, I thank You and praise You! I WORSHIP

You today and place my full trust and confidence in You, my LOVING and COMPASSIONATE GOD! Amen! Amen! Amen!"

Day 3

Bible Reading: Genesis 4-5

The Birth of a Godly Generation

From Genesis 4: 25-26, we learned about the birth of Seth after Abel was killed by Cain. Genesis 5 says that Seth was born after Adam lived for 130 years. The following are some of the interesting observations in this chapter:

1) It was the time of Seth that men began to call on the Name of the Lord (4:26).

Some Bible version renders to "call" as to "proclaim." So that as early as Seth's time, we know that the Lord expected and desired that men ought to come to Him and worship Him as their God and Creator. There are no details given here but it is safe to assume based on other places on the Bible that God wanted to be honored and for men to acknowledge Him and even call or proclaim His Name.

2) Seth was made in the image of his father Adam (5:3).

Verse 3 seems to emphasize that Seth was made in the image or likeness of his father Adam who was made in the image or likeness of the Lord (see vv.1-2). It suggests that Seth was going to start a new generation of people who will call on the Lord and honor Him as their God. Since Cain has gone his own way (see Ch. 4), the Lord has prepared another line, where His original will and intention will be done and accomplished. Thus, from Seth came the likes of Enoch, Noah, and then Abraham, the father of the Jews and the father of faith (believers).

POINTS TO PONDER:

1) The Lord our God from the very beginning has prepared a PEOPLE for Himself. Like Seth, you and I, are His channels or instruments to fulfill His will and plan for this universe.

2) *You and I are created in the image of our Heavenly Father! We are destined for greatness and glory. So don't waste Your life but seek God's will for you and pursue it with all your heart!*

Day 3 Genesis 4-5

PRAYER:

"Our heavenly Father, indeed, You have prepared a SPECIAL PEOPLE for Yourself. Thank you for choosing us to be part of Your forever family. Lord, teach me to be compassionate and loving like you are to Your People. Mold me and make me the servant leader that You desire me to be. All for the praise, honor, glory of Your Name. AMEN! AMEN! AMEN!"

Day 4

Bible Reading: Genesis 6-8

In Chapters 6-8 we learn about Noah, the man favored by God and whose family He saved from the Flood. He told Noah to build an Ark and build he did. God told him to enter the Ark with his family and the whole earth was destroyed; but Noah and his family were spared and saved. After the Flood, the Lord made a covenant with Noah. The following are some interesting observations/insights from these chapters:

1) The Lord conveys to Noah what He plans to do to the sinful earth and commissions him to build an Ark (6:13ffg).

After considering the extent of man's wickedness and evil God, decided to destroy all the earth particularly all those which breathe. But the Lord shared His plan to Noah, a righteous man in his sight and commanded him to build the Ark. Noah did what the Lord told him to do. Without hesitation (but I'm sure with lots of questions in mind), Noah obeyed the Lord nonetheless and completed the Ark. Then, when the rain came, the Lord told him to enter the Ark and the Lord also caused the various animals to enter the Ark too! I could just imagine the perplexity of the people around Noah at that time when he was building the Ark as well as the scoffing and ridicule he and his family received from the people. But anyway, Noah completed the task.

2) The Flood covers the whole earth but the Lord keeps Noah and his family safe in the Ark (7: 17ffg).

In Chapter 7:17ffg, we saw how the flood covered the whole earth and destroyed every living thing. But the Lord saved Noah and his family through the Ark. After 150 days of the flood and the Ark floating in the waters, the Lord remembers Noah. He stopped the rain and the waters from the earth receded. The land began to dry up and at the proper time, Noah went out of the Ark as well as all the living animals and creatures from the Ark.

Noah acknowledged the Lord and what He has done for him and his family by building an altar to the Lord and offering Him burnt offerings of choice animals. The Lord smelled Noah's offering and was pleased with him and made a promise to him that He will never destroy the earth again by water.

DAY 4 Genesis 6-8

POINTS TO PONDER:

1) The Lord our God deserves our full trust and reverence for He is our Sovereign Creator and Lord of the universe! He is Holy and will punish sin and unrighteousness. Yet He is loving and merciful and gracious!

2) The Lord God delights in our worship of Him. He is pleased with His people who fully trust Him, humble themselves before Him, and acknowledges Him as their God and Lord.

PRAYER:

"Our heavenly Father, indeed, You are loving and gracious but You are also holy and just. Thank You for reminding me that I can hurt you by my disobedience and sin. Mold me Lord and give me an undivided heart for You that I may glorify You in all things that I do. And that I may diligently warn others of the danger of ignoring and defying Your commands. Lord, to You I give praise and thanks and worship. In Jesus' Name. AMEN! AMEN! AMEN!"

Day 5
Bible Reading: Genesis 9-10

The Blessing of Noah and His sons

After the flood receded and Noah and his sons were able to get out of the Ark, Noah worshiped the Lord and the Lord was pleased with Noah. Here in Genesis 9, the Lord blessed Noah and his family and made a covenant with him.

1) The Lord God blesses Noah and his family (9:1-19).

The Lord clearly was not abandoning His original intention or will for man to have eternal fellowship with Him. He could have stopped it all together by not sparing a single man when He sent the Flood, but He did not! He spared Noah and his family and then blessed him with the same blessing and command He gave Adam. He also made a covenant or promise to Noah that He will never again destroy the earth with flood and place the rainbow in the sky to remind us of this promise.

2) Noah blesses his sons, Japheth and Shem, but curses his son Ham (vv. 18-28).

Then, Noah became a farmer of vines and one day, got drunk by his wine. And while he lay bare, his son Ham entered his tent and found him naked but did nothing to cover his nakedness. Instead of covering his father's nakedness, he told this to his brothers who unlike Ham covered their father's nakedness. Because of this, Noah curses his son Ham but he blesses Japheth and Shem.

3) The Lord multiplies Noah's sons and the people on earth began to increase in number (ch. 10).

Chapter 10 records the peoples that came from Noah's sons. From Japheth came the Japhethites, from Ham came the Hamites, and from Shem came the Semites. These people have their own territories as well as their own language. From these peoples came the nations of the world and they continue to spread all over the earth.

DAY 5 Genesis 9-10

POINTS TO PONDER:

1) *The Lord our God has a PLAN & PURPOSE for His People. He is determined to BLESS them. His intention for us is always for our earthly and eternal good and He gives us ample opportunities to return to Him in repentance and faith. Indeed, He is gracious and merciful!*

2) *Like Noah, being created in the Lord's image, you and I have the power to bless and to curse others. Words that proceed from our mouth just like the Lord have power to give life or destroy life as seen in Noah's blessings to his sons. May we learn to use our mouth (our words) for the good of others especially in sharing the Gospel!*

3) *The Lord is the Lord of the nations! He is our Maker and King. Blessed is the nation who fears and worships Him!*

PRAYER:

"Our heavenly Father, indeed, You are good and gracious to us. Your will and intention for us is our eternal good and blessing. You preserve our life and give us opportunities to fulfill or obey Your words. Lord, You have granted us the power of the spoken words. Help us to use it for Your glory and honor even to persuade others to place their full trust and hope in You alone. AMEN! AMEN! AMEN!"

Day 6

Bible Reading: Genesis 11

The Beginning of Nations & Tower of Babel

After the flood, Noah's sons, Japheth, Shem, and Ham populated the earth and began to spread in the earth. But some of them tried to build a city and gather all the people together in that city and even built a tower that will reach to the heavens. But the Lord saw their heart and the danger that they are in. So the Lord came down and confused their language and scattered them throughout the earth.

1) The People Builds the Tower of Babel (11:1-4). The people at that time had one language and a common speech so they decided to settle in the plain of Shinar and there built a city of Babel or Babylon. They also decided to make a tower that will reach to the heavens so that they may make a name for themselves! They decided not to scatter into all the earth, but to settle in that land, and build a name for themselves. The Lord came down to check what they are doing and see the city and tower they are making.

2) The Lord breaks down the Tower of Babel (11:5-9). Then, the Lord saw the evil intent of the people and decided to STOP the people from accomplishing their plan. He did this by confusing their language and the people could no longer understand each other. They stopped building the city and tower and they went each to his people with their own families and languages. So the Lord scattered them throughout the earth each to their own families and languages and the table of nations were born (ch. 10).

POINTS TO PONDER:

1) The Lord our God hates pride and rebellion! The Lord desires that we obey and submit to His will and ways. He delights in those who walk in His words and obey His commands.

2) The Lord our God loves unity in the Lord! What the Lord wants is our unity in the things of God and not in the things of men. The Lord will bless those who pursue peace and unity in the Lord.

Day 6 Genesis 11

PRAYER:

"Our heavenly Father, indeed, You DO NOT want Your people to be destroyed by pride and rebellion. Thank You for reminding us that this life is not about us but YOU! You desire that we Your People walk in humility and gratefulness instead of pride and self-reliance and self-sufficiency. Lord, mold me and teach me to always trust You and walk in humility and thankfulness for WHO You are and WHAT You have done and are doing in my life. Lord, teach me to OBEY Your will and Your commands. All for the glory of Your Name. AMEN!"

Day 7
Bible Reading: Genesis 12

The Call of Abraham

In time, the Lord called Abraham to continue His original plan and intention for mankind. He chose the line of Shem to start a family from whom the Messiah will come. It was Abraham who will be the father of the Jews and from whom the Promise of the Seed will be fulfilled.

1) From Ur to Canaan: Abraham's Obedience (12:1-9). The Lord called Abraham from Ur and he obeyed the Lord by faith. He brought his wife, Sarah and nephew Lot as well as all his servants and possessions. He reached the land of Canaan, pitched his tent in Bethel, made an altar to the Lord, and called on the Name of the Lord. He then proceeded to the land of Negev.

2) From Canaan to Egypt: Abraham's Flaw (12:10-20). But there occurred a famine and Abraham was forced to travel to Egypt to get food for his people. He told Sarah to lie about their relationship being afraid for his life because Sarah was beautiful. The king indeed liked Sarah and took her as his wife and he gave lavish gifts of possessions and servants to Abraham. But the Lord sent a serious disease to his family on account of Sarah and the king discovered that Sarah was Abraham's wife. Warned by the Lord, the king confronted Abraham but did not harm him; instead he gave back Sarah to him and asked them to leave his land.

POINTS TO PONDER:

1) The Lord our God has a PLAN for mankind through Abraham – to form a PEOPLE who will declare His praise and glory! This PEOPLE will come from the Jews and Gentiles alike.

2) *The Lord our God will SOVEREIGNLY fulfill His PLAN to have a PEOPLE for His own. His SOVEREIGN HAND will overcome their sins and weaknesses and flaws. His POWERFUL SPIRIT will change them and transform them into the likeness of His Son Jesus our Savior and Lord!*

Day 7 Genesis 12

PRAYER:

"Our heavenly Father, indeed, You are our SOVEREIGN GOD & LORD! You have a PLAN to have a PEOPLE of Your own. And nothing can stop You from fulfilling Your will for them. Lord, You are POWERFUL yet GRACIOUS and MERCIFUL. You will overcome even my stubbornness and failures and sins. To You I will put my trust and hope and confidence. Lord, teach me continually to obey Your Word faithfully and diligently. For Your Word is true and faithful. All for the glory of Your Name. AMEN! AMEN! AMEN!"

Day 8
Bible Reading: Genesis 13-14

Lessons from Abraham & Lot

After Abraham came back from Egypt, he settled in the Negev region and he had become wealthy with many possessions, both servants and animals. He moved from place to place until he settled back in Bethel and there called on the Name of the Lord. But Lot had also become wealthy also and had many servants and herds too; so there arose a conflict between his herdsmen and Abraham's. So Abraham told Lot to choose the land he wants to have and he will go the other side. Lot chose the land near Sodom and Gomorrah for it was green and fertile. So Abraham went the other side.

1) The Lord blesses Lot by his association with Abraham (13:5).

Indeed, it was very clear that the hero of our story from the very beginning (Ch. 12) was Abraham; and that Lot was just invited and asked by Abraham to join him in his journey to Canaan. Without Abraham's presence, Lot was nothing. This teaches us that you and I who have believed and received Jesus as our Savior are potential harbingers of tremendous blessings to our family, community, and society. On the other hand, we could also be a source of curse and destruction to them when we disobey the Lord. This was exactly what happened to Lot as he chose to live near the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah as we will discover in the next chapter.

2) The Lord rescues Lot and his family through Abraham (14:1ffg).

After some time the kings of the land had war with each other and Lot was taken captive together with his household and all his possessions. Not all "green pastures" will be good to us! Upon learning this, Abraham rescues Lot. It may not be obvious but it was very clear that Abraham and his men were less experienced in battle and probably outnumbered by these four kings who raided Sodom and Gomorrah.

Abraham's victory and success could only be possible through sheer luck or God's divine intervention. I choose the latter. This could be further seen in the action of Abraham giving tribute to God by giving a tenth of his loot to the priest Melchizedek. It is interesting to note that Melchizedek came out of nowhere and blesses Abraham because of his heroic deed in rescuing the people of Sodom. He pointed out that the

Day 8 Genesis 13-14

Lord Most High was the One who gave him success and blessed the Lord. So, Abraham honors the Lord and gives this priest of the Most High God a tithe of all his loot. Abraham also gave everything back to the king of Sodom and gave the share of his companions who went to war with him.

POINTS TO PONDER:

1) The Lord our God BLESSES US so that we will be a BLESSING to others. And God said that those who bless us will be blessed and those who curse us will be cursed.

2) The Lord our God desires that we honor and recognize Him as our God and SOURCE of all our BLESSINGS! Indeed, He is and He continually blesses us in every aspects of our life.

2) The Lord our God deserves EVERYTHING from us as our Creator and Savior. He expects us to have a giving heart! He desires that we cultivate a grateful and thankful and humble heart. Absolutely He deserves a token of our love and appreciation and whatever that is totally depends upon us –how we see His goodness and love for us!

PRAYER:

"Our heavenly Father, indeed, You are our SOVEREIGN GOD & BLESSER! You blessed us so that we too could be a blessing to others. Lord, teach me to always remember this truth that I am destined and called to be BLESSED and that I am a blessing to my family, my community, and my society. Lord, empower me to do Your will and obey Your commands. All for the honor and glory and praise of Your Name; and of the Lord Jesus Christ to whom I pray all these things. AMEN! AMEN! AMEN!"

Day 9
Bible Reading: Genesis 15

THE PROMISE OF THE LORD

In Genesis 15, the Lord appeared again to Abraham and gave two amazing and awesome promises to Abraham: (1) That he will have a multitude of descendants and (2) That he and his descendants will possess the land of Canaan.

1) The Lord promises Abraham multitudes of descendants and a land!
(vv. 1-7)

After Abraham's rescue of Lot and his family and goods, the Lord appeared again to him and introduced Himself as his Sovereign God and King. He told Abraham that He will greatly reward Him or that He is His great Reward! In any case, the Lord made two great and awesome promises to Abraham. One is that from his own body (not Eliezer his trustee or adopted son) will come a son who will inherit his possessions and that a multitude of people will come from his seed. The second was that He would give the land of Canaan to him and his descendants in the future.

2) The Lord provides proofs He will do what He has promised Abraham
(vv. 8-15).

After the Lord told these great promises to Abraham, he asked the Lord how these would be fulfilled. So, the Lord asked Abraham to get some animals in order for the Lord to make a ceremony where He will swear to fulfill His promises to Abraham. (This ceremony was actually a common practice at that time for a covenant or promised made). Then the Lord put Abraham into a deep sleep and a thick darkness came over him. Then the Lord predicted to Abraham what will be the future of his descendants: They will be in bondage in a foreign nation for 400 years but will be set free by the Lord and come out of that nation with great possessions and will take over the land of Canaan. After this, the Lord sent a smoking firepot with a blazing torch and

consumed the animals that Abraham had prepared, completing the Lord's pledge to fulfill His promises.

Day 9 Genesis 15

POINTS TO PONDER:

1) The Lord is indeed our SOVEREIGN GOD! He is our GREAT REWARD! HE will greatly reward those who TRUST Him and place their hope and confidence in Him. Blessed are those who fully TRUST Him and obeys His word.

2) The LORD OUR GOD is a FAITHFUL GOD! He will fulfill what He said He would do – His PROMISES as well as His THREATS. The Lord fulfilled all that He promised to Abraham and He has not changed. He is our same God yesterday, today, and forevermore!

PRAYER:

"Our Heavenly Father, indeed You are our SOVEREIGN & FAITHFUL GOD! You are worthy of our praise and worship and adoration. Lord, teach me to fully TRUST YOU & YOUR WORD. That You are a God who is not only ALL POWERFUL that nothing is impossible to You, but You are also a FAITHFUL God who will fulfill every promise that You made to us in Your Word, the Bible. Lord, to you I put my trust and hope. To your Word I will rely and depend for Your guidance so teach me continually to obey Your commands. All these I pray in Jesus' Name, my Savior and Lord. AMEN! AMEN! AMEN!"

Day 10
Bible Reading: Genesis 16

The Unbelief of Abraham and Sarah

After ten years since the Lord's promise to Abraham, he and Sarah still did not have a child. So, Sarah 'helped' the Lord to fulfill His promise by giving to Abraham her servant Hagar to be his wife and yes, Abraham agreed.

1) Abraham and Sarah MISTRUST the Lord God (16: 1,2).

Abraham knew that he will have a son of his own as the Lord had told him but after ten years in Canaan they still have no children. So, when Sarah offered to give to him her servant Hagar to be his wife, Abraham agreed. No question asks. Sarah blamed the Lord for making her barren. Abraham thought it was through Hagar he will have a son. So, Hagar became pregnant and she began to despise Sarah her mistress.

2) The Lord God MANAGES the conflict in the family (16: 5,6).

Because of this, Sarah blames Abraham who in turn told her to do what she wants to do with Hagar. So, Sarah mistreats Hagar and she runs away from Sarah. But the Lord knows the conflict happening in Abraham's family and He comforts Hagar and assures her that she and her child will be okay, but she must submit to Sarah her mistress.

POINTS TO PONDER:

1) The Lord our God ALLOWS us to commit mistakes so that we will learn to TRUST HIM fully. We cannot go ahead of nor lag behind God's WILL. We are to go with or obey His will if we are to experience His blessings and grace.

2) The Lord our God OVERCOMES our sins and failures or shortcomings. He continues to mold and transform us into the person that He wants us to be.

3) Through, Hagar, we learned that God SEES our miseries and our situations and He COMFORTS and ASSURES us of His PRESENCE & INTERVENTION in our life.

DAY 10 Genesis 16

PRAYER:

"Our heavenly Father, indeed, You are our FAITHFUL & TRUE God! You are worthy of our TRUST and HOPE and CONFIDENCE! Lord, You allow me to make mistakes and fail so that I will learn to trust You FULLY. Lord, thank You that You SEE my life from beginning to end. You have a PLAN for my life and my future. Teach me to TRUST fully You and OBEY Your Word faithfully and wholeheartedly. Lord, I praise and thank You and worship You alone. AMEN! AMEN! AMEN!"

DAY 11
Bible Reading: Genesis 17

The Lord Reaffirms Covenant with Abraham

Here, the Lord appeared again to Abram and re-affirmed His covenant with him. The Lord told Abram what his future destiny would be as the father of the nations and as father of faith to many multitudes who like him will believe in the Lord Jesus.

1) The Lord reveals Himself to Abraham (vv. 1-2).

The Lord for the first time revealed himself to Abram as the Almighty God, “Jehovah El Shaddai,” meaning the All Powerful God. This was to prepare Abram to the things that He will tell him about what will take place in his life and his future destiny.

2) The Lord reveals to Abraham his future destiny (vv. 3-14).

The Lord re-affirmed his covenant with Abram and told him more details about his future destiny. The Lord changed his name from Abram to Abraham indicating that he will be the father of nations. The Lord promised Abraham that he will make him fruitful, nations and kings will come out of him, and He will establish His covenant with his descendants. The Lord also promised to give him and his descendants the land of Canaan. The Lord commanded Abraham to be circumcised as well as all the male person in his household. This will be the sign of their covenant.

3) The Lord reveals to Abraham the future destiny of his family (15-27).

The Lord also showed Abraham what would take place in the lives of his family beginning with Sarai. The Lord told Abraham to call her Sarah for she will be the mother of many nations. And that she will bear him a son by next year. The Lord made clear to Abraham that Ismael will not be his heir but Isaac who will come from their flesh. But the Lord assured Abraham that Ismael will also be blessed and will become a great nation. And so Abraham obeyed what the Lord

commanded him that day and circumcised all the males in his household.

Day 11 Genesis 17

POINTS TO PONDER:

- 1) *The Lord our God is EL SHADDAI, He is the ALMIGHTY GOD! Nothing is impossible with Him. He is our SOVEREIGN LORD & GOD!*
- 2) *The Lord our God desires that we fully TRUST Him and His Word. Doubting God's word like Abraham and Sarah did, leads only to misery and pain. But trusting the Lord brings blessing and peace!*

PRAYER:

"Our heavenly Father, You are indeed the ALMIGHTY GOD, You are EL SHADDAI! Teach us to fully trust You and Your Plan for our life. Lord, empower us to believe that Your will for us is perfect and for our earthly and eternal good. Lord, remind us always that nothing is too hard for You to do and that You promise to provide and protect us from all harm and evil. And that You know what You are doing and best for us. Lord, we give You praise and thanks and put my trust and hope in You alone. In Jesus' Name. Amen!"

A Just and Merciful God

When the Lord decided to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, He first went to Abraham to inform him about it. From this story, we can learn several important qualities of a soul winner. We also learn that the Lord is just and merciful. He is true to His Word –He will do what He says He will do.

1) A Soul Winner has three important qualities – a personal encounter with the living Lord (vv. 1-5), a passionate service to the Lord (vv. 6-8), and a persistent prayer life (vv.9-33).

Genesis 18:1 says that the Lord has just appeared to Abraham or revealed himself to Abraham. Observe that verse 2 says that Abraham saw “three people” when the Lord appeared to him (Some commentators says that this was a theophany. He saw the Godhead or Trinity). In any case, the idea was that Abraham personally encountered the Lord. He knew Him as the “El Shaddai” (Gen. 15:1ffg). He not only met Him but even serve him. The next thing that we observe in the story was how Abraham served the Lord that day (vv.6-8). He urged “THEM” to stay and serve them and they gave in to his prodding. So, he prepared the best food and service that he could provide the Lord by baking the best bread and killing the best animal for their meal. Then, he set these foods before them and he served them. Finally, Abraham was also a persistent intercessor before the Lord (vv. 9ffg). The Lord informed Abraham about the cry against Sodom and Gomorrah and that He planned to destroy the city. Upon hearing this, Abraham started interceding for his relative Lot and his family who lives in Sodom and Gomorrah. After negotiating and pleading with them, Abraham was able to secure the safety of Lot and his family. He knows that the Lord will save Lot and his family.

2) The Lord is our true SOUL RESCUER! He answered Abraham’s intercession and sent angels to rescue Lot and his family (vv. 1-29).

The Lord honored His word to Abraham that He will save the righteous from Sodom and Gomorrah if there were some. So, the men sent by the Lord met Lot at the gate of the city and persuade them to stay with him in his house that they may eat and rest. But the men of the city

Day 12 Genesis 18-19

learned about this and came to Lot's house and forced him to give these men to them so that they could abuse them. Lot tried to stop them from doing this but he was overpowered by these men so the Lord intervened by blinding these men and told Lot to get out of the city and take with him his family. But Lot hesitated that the men had to carry Lot and his family outside the city. After this, as the sun starts to rise, the Lord started to rain fire and sulfur to the cities and the land. The men told Lot and his family not to look back to city as they flee the city. But Lot's wife did not heed this order and she did look back and so she turned into a pillar of salt. The next day Abraham saw the thick smoke arising from the city of Sodom and Gomorrah.

When Lot's daughters saw that the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and thinking that they have no man to marry and propagate their kind (Perhaps, influenced by the wicked and selfish lifestyle of the land), they conspired to lay with their father so that they could have children by their father. So they made their father drunk and the eldest daughter lay with her father and the next day the younger daughter lay with her father. Thus, they got pregnant and had a child with their father respectively. The elder daughter had Moab as her son who later became the Moabite people and the younger has Ben-Ammi who later became the Ammonite people.

POINTS TO PONDER:

1) Like Abraham, let us become the Soul Winner that the Lord wanted us to be. May these qualities – a personal encounter with God, a passionate service to Him, a persistent prayer life, be found also in our own life.

2) The Lord is a PRAYER-ANSWERING GOD! He remembers our intercession for lost people. He did answer Abraham's pleading and intercession for Lot and his family. We are to be persistent as prayer-warriors and intercessors for lost souls. Like, Abraham, we can be a

blessing to others by interceding and praying for their salvation. For the Lord is merciful and gracious.

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PRAYER:

“Heavenly Father, You are indeed a God who is holy and just! You are merciful and gracious, yet You are a God who hates sin and will punish evil and wickedness. Lord, teach me to be an effective soul winner and intercessor for others who do not know you yet. Mold me to be compassionate and merciful just as You were merciful and gracious to us. Lord, thank You for Your mercy and grace to me. I love You and fully place my trust in You as my God and King. Lord, I praise and worship You. In Jesus’ Name. AMEN! AMEN! AMEN!”

Day 13
Bible Reading: Genesis 20

Abraham Lied Again!

Abraham journeyed again and came to the land of Gerar. He introduced Sarah again as his sister to the people of the land and cost trouble again. But the Lord came again to the rescue.

1) Abraham comes to Gerar and lies about Sarah to Abimelech.

Abraham journeyed again and stayed in Gerar for a while. He lied again about Sarah to the people and the king for she was beautiful and introduced her as his sister. Then, Abimelech took Sarah for he wanted her to be his wife.

2) The Lord comes to Abimelech in a dream and confronted him about Sarah.

But the Lord came to Abimelech and confronted him about Sarah. So, Abimelech reasoned with the Lord and told Him that he was innocent and did not know that Sarah was married. So the Lord spared Abimelech and told him what he needed to do about Sarah and Abraham. He conferred with his officials and they too were afraid of the Lord.

3) Abimelech confronts Abraham and blesses him with abundant provisions and let them go.

So, Abimelech called Abraham and told him what the Lord has revealed about Sarah and him. Abraham said that he was afraid that there was no fear of God in the place and that he will be killed. So, he lied about Sarah. After this, Abimelech blessed Abraham with abundant provisions of servants and goods. He gave also money to Sarah and let them go. Abraham prayed for Abimelech and the Lord healed his wife and slaves that they too had children again. So the Lord blessed Abimelech and his household.

Day 13 Genesis 20

Points to Ponder:

1) *The Lord delights in the truth and that we walk in the truth! He is our Omniscient God, our All-knowing God. He knows our heart more than we know it.*

2) *The Lord defends His People! He is our Great Shield, our Divine Protection. He will shield us from all dangers and evil and preserve our life even from our own folly until His purpose in our life is over.*

3) *The Lord distributes His blessings to and thru His People. He is our Great Blessor and Provider.*

PRAYER:

"Our heavenly Father, You are indeed great Lord! You are awesome in power. Teach me continually to be truthful and to live in truth and to TRUST YOU every moment. Lord, You are my Defender and Shield. You protect my life and preserve me. I love You and trust You. Lord, You are my Jehovah Jireh! You bless my life with abundance and with good things. Lord, I am forever grateful and thankful to You, Lord! I place my hope and trust in You and I will bless Your Name forevermore. Amen! Amen! Amen!"

Day 14
Bible Reading: Genesis 21

The Lord Fulfills His Promise

In this chapter, the Lord fulfills His Word given to Abraham and Sarah. Sarah got pregnant and gave birth to a son and they named him Isaac.

1) The Lord sees to it that His Word/Promise is fulfilled.

In time, the Lord was gracious to Sarah and fulfilled His promise to Abraham. Sarah got pregnant and gave birth to a son according to the Word of God and the time He gave the Promise. They named him Isaac.

2) Sarah sends away Hagar and Ishmael.

When the time for Isaac to be weaned came, they made a feast for him. But when Sarah saw that Ishmael was mocking, Sarah told Abraham to send away Hagar and Ishmael and that she will not share in the inheritance of Isaac. Abraham did what Sarah told him to do.

3) Abraham and Abimelech seals a treaty at Beersheba.

Then, the time came that Abimelech saw that God has blessed Abraham greatly and made him swear not to deal falsely with him and his nation. But Abraham complains to Abimelech about a well that Abimelech's men had taken by force. Abraham got seven ewes and made a treaty to Abimelech at Beersheba. Also, Abraham planted a tree and called in the Name of the Lord, the Eternal God.

Points to Ponder:

1) The Lord is FAITHFUL AND TRUSTWORTHY! His Word is worthy of our COMPLETE TRUST and CONFIDENCE. HE rules and reigns this world we live in. We are to place our complete trust in Him.

2) *The Lord God is our PROVIDER & DEFENSE! He will bless His people according to His plan and purpose.*

Day 14 Genesis 21

PRAYER:

"Our heavenly Father, You are indeed our SOVEREIGN LORD! You are FAITHFUL to Your Word/Promise so I fully TRUST in Your Word. You have a PLAN and PURPOSE in this world so teach me continually to TRUST You and PLACE my CONFIDENCE in You alone. Lord, thank You because You are my PROTECTOR and PROVIDER. Lord, I know that Your PLAN & PURPOSE will not fail. So, teach me to OBEY Your WILL/PURPOSE for it alone will PREVAIL in the end. Lord, I place my TRUST and HOPE and CONFIDENCE in You alone. IN JESUS' Name! Amen!"

DAY 15
Bible Reading: Genesis 22

The Lord Tests Abraham's Faith

The Lord tests Abraham's faith. He asks Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, his only son, to Him as a burnt offering in the mountain of Moriah.

1) The Lord God TESTS Abraham's faith.

Sometime later, the Lord tests Abraham's faith by ordering him to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, as a burnt offering to Him on the region of Moriah. Abraham immediately obeyed the Lord's command. He brought his son Isaac together with his two servants and they set for the region of Moriah. After three days they arrived at the place and Abraham took Isaac and they went to the mountain to sacrifice to the Lord.

2) Abraham TRIUMPHS over the testing of his faith.

As Abraham and Isaac went to the place where they will worship, the boy Isaac asked Abraham, "Where is the sacrifice?" And he replied, "The Lord will provide..." Abraham's faith or trust in the Lord could be seen in how he carried out his order. He obeyed without arguing or complaining or questioning the Lord. When they came to the place to sacrifice Isaac, Abraham told the servants, "Stay for we will worship the Lord and we will come back here." When he offered Isaac, there was no hesitation or trace of fear or doubt in Abraham's action. The writer of Hebrews gives light to this very important event in the life of Abraham: *"By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac. He received the promises and he was offering his unique son, ¹⁸the one it had been said about, Your seed will be traced through Isaac. ¹⁹He considered God to be able even to raise someone from the dead, and as an illustration, he received him back."* (Heb. 11:17-19)

Then, the Lord provided a ram to be sacrificed to Him and so, Abraham called the place, "On this mountain, the Lord will provide. And the Lord reaffirmed his promises to Abraham.

Day 15 Genesis 22

Points to Ponder:

1) *The Lord God TESTS our faith! He allows situation and brings us into situations where our faith will be tested and pass through fire.*

2) *The Lord God TESTS us to show us our true HEART; that is, for us to know how we trust and love the Lord. Only hard and difficult situations could expose the true contents of our hearts. Only crisis and fiery testings and trials will show our true heart.*

3) *The Lord God is our JEHOVAH JIREH! He will provide what we need. There is nothing that we will give to God willingly that He will not return a thousand times more to us. We can never out give the Lord!*

PRAYER:

"Our heavenly Father, You are indeed our JEHOVAH JIREH! You are GOOD and GRACIOUS! You give us what we do not deserve and teach us to TRUST YOO so that we could receive more. Lord, empower me to fully TRUST You like Abraham, who willing gave his son, the most important thing in his life to show you his trust and love for you. Lord, mold us and open our eyes clearly to see that You will take care of our 'little' needs. Lord, thank You for Jesus who gave to me as my SAVIOR. Teach me continually to be thankful and grateful to You as I live my life. All for Your glory and honor. Amen! Amen! Amen!"

Day 16
Bible Reading: Genesis 23

The Lord Takes Sarah Home

In this chapter, the Lord takes Sara home at the age of 127. Abraham buys a field in Kiriath-Arba or Hebron for Sarah's body to be buried.

1) The Lord God TAKES Sarah home.

Sometime later, the Lord takes Sarah home at the age of 127. Abraham went to the leaders of the Hittites people to purchase a land or field for a burial site where Sarah could be laid.

2) Abraham TAKES a field in Hebron for a burial site.

Abraham requested to the Hittites people to buy the land or field of Ephron son of Zoar. He asked them to intercede on his behalf to Ephron, the owner of the field; and he did sell the land for 400 shekels of silver. And so, the field became Abraham's and he buried Sarah there.

Points to Ponder:

1) The Lord God is the SOURCE & SUSTAINER of our life. We came from Him and we will go back to Him. From dust He created us to dust we will return. That life is short and temporary and we are to do His Will with all our heart and with a sense of urgency.

2) The Lord God TEMPERS OR MOLDS us even through the death of our loved ones. To show us that they are not the most important person or thing in this life but the LORD OUR CREATOR & SAVIOR!

PRAYER:

"Our heavenly Father, You are indeed our CREATOR our MAKER! You made us and to You we will return. Teach me to value You above all relationships, above all things in this world; and to do Your Will for life here is short and temporary. May You be the JOY, the

SATISFACTION, and HOPE of my heart. Lord, to You I entrust my loved ones for You know what is best for each of us. To You I place my TRUST and CONFIDENCE and HOPE. Amen!"

Day 17

Bible Reading: Genesis 24

Isaac Marries Rebecca

In this chapter, Abraham commands his servant to take a wife for his son Isaac from among his people in the land of Ur.

1) Abraham takes his servant and asks him to take a wife for Isaac.

Abraham, being old, commanded his servant to get a wife for Isaac from among his people from the land of Ur. He made his servant swear to do this faithfully. Perhaps, this was a revelation from the Lord that Isaac has to marry from among his relatives.

2) Abraham's servant takes Rebecca to Canaan.

So, Abraham's servant took ten camels with various goods to travel to Ur. At Ur he asks the Lord for his blessing and guidance to find Isaac's wife. He specifically asks for a sign and the Lord confirmed the sign by bringing Rebecca, Abraham's niece daughter of Bethuel, to him. So, he told her his reason for being there and also meets with her father and brother. After revealing his purpose to them, he asks that Rebecca be brought to Isaac in Canaan. So, he and Rebecca and his company traveled back to Canaan.

3) Isaac takes Rebecca as his wife.

When Isaac saw Rebecca for the first time, he likes her and takes her as his wife. As indicated in the author, Rebecca's presence greatly relieved Isaac of his depression due to his mother Sarah's death.

Points to Ponder:

1) The Lord our God is the SOVEREIGN LORD of the universe as well as our individual lives. He GUIDES us and KNOWS what is best for us even the person who we are to marry. He is concern with even the minute detail of our life.

Day 17 Genesis 24

2) *The Lord God has revealed to us BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES how to choose a mate. Number one is that he or she must be of the same faith. One who knows and fears the Lord. His Word, the Bible, is filled with wisdom and principles or teachings that would guide and help us look for a godly mate and partner in life.*

PRAYER:

"Our heavenly Father, You are indeed AMAZING! You are our SOVEREIGN LORD! You GUIDE Your people for You KNOW what is best for us. You are even CONCERN over the minutest detail of my life. Lord, thank You for guiding me in choosing my wife. Thank You for giving me a wife and kids. I know that it is Your will and purpose for me and I pray that I will be able to guide my kids also in this very special area of their life. Lord, I praise and thank You. I put my hope and trust in Your plan for my life, my family, and ministry. I give You praise, honor and worship and bless Your Name. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen!"

Day 18
Bible Reading: Genesis 25

Jacob and Esau

In this chapter, we see the birth of Jacob and Esau, from whom two nations will come. But the younger, Jacob, will rule the older, Esau, and shall continue the seed of blessing to the nations.

1) Isaac and Ishmael bury their father Abraham.

Abraham married again and from Keturah, he had other children. But to Isaac he gave all his possessions and gave gifts to his wives and other children. When Abraham died, his sons, Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Macpelah in Mamre, where Sarah his wife was also buried. The Lord blessed Isaac and Ishmael also had become a great nation with twelve princes.

2) Rebecca gives birth to Jacob and Esau.

Rebecca, Isaac's wife, was barren and Isaac interceded for her to the Lord. He heard him and she gave birth to two sons, Jacob and Esau but had difficulty in delivering them. So the Lord revealed to her that two nations are being born into her womb; and that the older will serve the younger. Esau came first and then followed by Jacob. As they grew, Isaac loved Esau for he was a hunter but Rebecca loved Jacob for he is a homebody and a shepherd. One day, Esau was famished and asked Jacob for his stew. But Jacob bargained for Esau's birthright and Esau gave it up in exchange for his stew. So, Esau despised his birthright.

Points to Ponder:

1) The Lord our God is the SOVEREIGN BLESSER of His People. He is FAITHFUL to His Word to Ishmael and to Isaac, whom He both made into great nations. He is the God who blesses and intervenes in the lives of His People!

2) *The Lord God DESPISES those who despise Him. The Lord was pleased with Jacob but not with Esau who despised his birthright. The Lord desires that we value all our blessings including the privilege to share the Gospel to others and to be always grateful to the Lord.*

Day 18 Genesis 25

PRAYER:

"Our heavenly Father, You are indeed FAITHFUL! You are worthy of our TRUST. You do what You promised You will do. We saw it all in the life of Abraham and now in the life of Isaac. Lord, You are our SOVEREIGN LORD! Your plan and purposes will prevail and win in the end. So, teach me not to despise You particularly all the blessings that give me each day including the participation in the Great Commission. Teach me to be always grateful and humble. I place my trust and confidence in You alone. Lord, I put my HOPE and LIFE into Your hands. Lord, I give You praise and thanks and worship. In Jesus' Name. Amen! Amen! Amen!"

Day 19
Bible reading: Genesis 26

Like Father like Son

In this chapter, we see Isaac repeating what his father did in Gerar. But the Lord is good and faithful. Like his father Abraham, the Lord blessed Isaac and became great among the land.

1) The Lord appears to Isaac in Gerar.

After sometime, a famine struck the land and Isaac went to Abimelech in Gerar. The Lord appeared to Isaac and told him to stay for a while there and He will tell him where he should go later. But Isaac lied also on account of his wife Rebecca and told the people that she was his sister. So when Abimelech discovered that it was not so he was angry with Isaac. But the Lord protected Isaac and he was not harmed by the king. Also, that year the Lord blessed Isaac and he became rich and even tremendously wealthy. So, Abimelech told him to move away from the land. Isaac went to the Valley of Gerar and settled there.

2) The Lord affirms His covenant with Isaac in Beersheba.

In Beersheba, the Lord appeared again to Isaac and affirmed His covenant with him. He promised to fulfill all that He promised to his father Abraham and as He was with him then He will be with him now. Also, Abimelech made a treaty of peace with him and the Lord also blessed him with wells of water there for their flock and Isaac continued to be blessed.

Points to Ponder:

1) The Lord our God is the SOVEREIGN BLESSER of His People. He is FAITHFUL to His Word or Promise. He is the God who blesses and intervenes in the lives of His People!

2) *The Lord God is our EMMANUEL! He is with His People and walks with them. He blesses their life with favor and blessing. He protects and saves them from their enemies. Paul said: "If God is for us, who can be against us?"*

Day 19 Genesis 26

PRAYER:

"Our heavenly Father, You are indeed TRUE and FAITHFUL! You are a covenant-making God and You fulfill what You promise to do. Indeed, You are worthy of our TRUST. Lord, You blessed Isaac's life just like Abraham. And You are with him and showed Your favor and blessing upon his life, spiritually and materially. Lord, I know that You are also my Emmanuel, You are with me and You will also bless me and prosper the works of my hands. Lord, to You I put my trust, my hope, and my life. And to Your Son Jesus Christ, my Savior and Lord and through whom I pray all these things. Amen! Amen! Amen!"

THE BLESSING OF ISAAC

In this chapter, we see Jacob and Esau contending for the blessing of Isaac. At the end, it is Jacob who gets it as predicted by the Word of the Lord.

1) Isaac CONFIDES to Esau about his decision to bless him.

Isaac, being old, calls Esau, his firstborn, and asks him to hunt for him venison and to make him his favorite food so that he may release his blessing to Esau. So, Esau went to do his father's bidding.

2) Rebecca and Jacob CONSPIRE to get Isaac's blessing.

But Rebecca heard Isaac and Esau's conversation and told Jacob about it. She summons Jacob to get meat and she will prepare the food Isaac requested. Jacob was hesitant at first but later agreed to his mother's plan. After she prepared the food, Jacob went to his father bringing the food that he requested. Jacob also wore Esau's clothe/vest to pretend he was Esau. So, Isaac did not recognize that it was Jacob though he sounded like Jacob because of the goat of skin and its smell. Thus, Isaac went on to eat the food and then release his blessing to Jacob. In his blessing, Isaac gave Jacob all the blessings of the land and rulership over his brethren to Jacob. And so, when Esau came to present his food to his father, Isaac trembled and told Esau about what Jacob did. Esau asks for other blessing for him but he told him that he has release the blessing of the firstborn to Jacob.

3) Isaac CONFIRMS his BLESSING to Jacob.

Later, Rebecca tells Jacob to go to his brother Laban in Haran and to let things cool down because Esau is angry and plans to harm Jacob. So, Isaac blesses Jacob and tells him to go to Haran and find a

wife among his relatives there and to stay there until his brother's anger is gone. And Jacob obeyed his parent's instruction.

Day 20 Genesis 27

Points to Ponder:

1) The Lord our God is the SOVEREIGN LORD of this universe. All things will come to pass according to His own perfect will and plan. His plan will never fail! Praise the Lord!

2) The Lord our God is a God of BLESSING! His plan is to bless His people and for them to experience His love and goodness. His blessing will make them great and see them through all the ordeals of this life.

PRAYER:

"Our heavenly Father, You are indeed GREAT and AWESOME! You are our SOVEREIGN LORD! Your will and plan will never fail even Your will for my life will never fail. Your Word can be trusted for it is good as done. Your love and faithfulness to me will never fail. Man will fail but You, Lord will never fail me. My heart will fail me but Your heart will not fail me. Lord, You are the God of Blessing and You have blessed my life. You are indeed my life and Blessing! Lord, I put my trust and hope in You and I praise and worship You with all my heart. Amen!"

Day 21
Bible Reading: Genesis 28

THE LORD APPEARS TO JACOB

On his way to Haran, Jacob rested in a place where (which he called Bethel) the Lord appeared to him in a dream and confirmed his covenant with him.

1) The Lord reveals Himself to Jacob (vv. 10-15).

Tired of his journey, Jacob rested in a certain place and put a stone on his head and slept. That night Jacob had a dream and in this dream, he saw a ladder set on the earth and the top resting on heaven; and the Lord Jehovah was standing on the top and angels were going up and down the ladder. Also, Jehovah spoke to him and told him about His covenant with his forefathers, Abraham and Isaac and that He is reaffirming the same covenant with him and his seed.

2) Jacob realizes God's presence in the place (vv. 16-22).

Jacob woke up and was afraid because he thought that the place was where the Lord God dwells. So, he got the stone where he laid his head and poured oil in it and worshiped the Lord Jehovah. He also made a vow to the Lord that if the Lord will keep him and provide for him and return back safely to his father, and that the Lord is his God, he will give a tenth of all that the Lord will give him.

Points to Ponder:

1) The Lord our God is the FAITHFUL GOD of Abraham and Isaac & Jacob. In pursuing Jacob, He was true to His promise to them and was committed to let His word/promise come to pass.

2) *The Lord our God is the Molder of His People. He transforms them and conforms them to Himself even to His character. Jacob will soon become Israel as the Lord deals with him and molds him into a godly man and leader that He intended him to be.*

Day 21 Genesis 28

PRAYER:

"Our heavenly Father, You are indeed GREAT and FAITHFUL! You are true to Your promise/word. You are unrelenting in pursuing us as Your People and conforming us into Your image. You desire that we walk in Your will and ways. You desire that we be conformed to Your image even the likeness of Jesus our Savior and Lord. Yes, Lord, mold me and transform me into the person and leader that You intended me to be. All for the glory and honor of Your Name, Amen!"

Day 22
Bible Reading: Genesis 29

JACOB MARRIES LEAH & RACHEL

In Haran, Jacob reunites with his relatives, Laban, his uncle and his two daughters, Leah and Rachel. Later, Jacob took them both as his wives.

1) Jacob meets his relatives in Haran (vv. 1-14).

Finally, Jacob arrived in Haran and met with the servants of his uncle Laban near a well. Jacob asked the people there if they knew Laban and they said yes and even pointed to Rachel who was now coming to let her sheep drink water from the well. Then, Jacob helped Rachel to water her flock and later revealed who he was. Rachel ran to her father, Laban and told him about Jacob and finally they met and Jacob was welcomed well into Laban's house.

2) Jacob marries Leah and Rachel (vv. 15-35).

After a month in the place, Laban offered Jacob to work for him and asked for his wages. Jacob asked that he would like to work for Laban for seven years and get her daughter Rachel as his wages after the time. So, Laban agreed as he was his relative and Jacob started working for Laban for seven years. And because he was really in love with Rachel the seven years flew just like several days and then he was able to complete his work. But on the night of his wedding, Laban deceitfully gave his older daughter, Leah, to Jacob instead of Rachel. Learning about the deception, Jacob confronted Laban but he reasoned out that it was the custom of their land to give the older first in marriage. Cunningly, Laban offered Jacob his other daughter Rachel to Jacob for another seven years of service. And because Jacob loved Rachel, he agreed to the terms and worked again for Laban.

Day 22 Genesis 29

Points to Ponder:

1) The Lord our God is the FAITHFUL GOD of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob. Now, Jacob begins to know this God who called his forefathers to follow His will. Now, he learns to obey His guidance and to believe His Word.

2) The Lord our God is the MOLDER of His People. Jacob meets his match in the person his uncle Laban. Laban deceived him and dealt cunningly with him with regards to his two daughters. The Lord uses people and things to mold us and conform us to the likeness of our Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER:

"Our heavenly Father, thank You for Your transforming GRACE in our life. Your GRACE transforms and molds us to be the person that you want me to be. You use things and people to mold my character and realize that I am a sinner and constantly needs Your grace and help in my life. Lord indeed, use me also to be a blessing to others even those who don't know You yet and to those brethren who are undergoing hard times in the life. To mold their faith and character and to be conformed to Jesus my Savior and Lord. In His Name I pray. Amen!"

Day 23
Bible Reading: Genesis 30

JACOB & HIS TWELVE SONS

Jacob prospers in Haran in all aspects of his life. His wives Leah and Rachel bore him 12 sons (later Benjamin will be born) and his wealth continues to increase.

1) Jacob's family increases in Haran (vv. 1-24).

The Lord blessed Jacob with children with Leah and Rachel, and with their respective maidservants, Zilpah and Bilhah. From Leah was born Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun and Dinah. From Rachel's maidservant Bilhah were born Dan and Naphtali. From Leah's maidservant Zilpah was born Gad and Asher. From Rachel was born Joseph and later Benjamin.

2) Jacob's flocks increases in Haran (vv. 25-43).

After the birth of Benjamin, Jacob decided to leave Haran and build his family in Canaan. But Laban persuaded him to work for him instead. So, Jacob proposed a deal how he could build his own flocks and Laban agreed to it. Thus, Jacob's flocks began to increase as well as his servants and possessions.

Points to Ponder:

1) The Lord our God is the FAITHFUL GOD of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob. The Lord begins to fulfill His promise to Abraham that he will become a great nation through Jacob's twelve sons.

2) The Lord our God is the BLESSER of His People. Jacob through hard work and patience continues to prosper and experience God's blessings. The Lord gives him wisdom how to deal with Laban and he will overcome him in the end.

Day 23 Genesis 30

PRAYER:

"Our heavenly Father, thank You for Your faithfulness and goodness to us. You are our true BLESSER and source of all that we have today. Lord, help me always see that it Your mighty hand that place me here where I am today. Mold me and teach me to be eternally grateful to You and trust in Your mighty Hand guiding and leading me to Your perfect plan for my life, my ministry. All for the honor and glory of Your Name! Amen!"

Day 24
Bible Reading: Genesis 31

JACOB & FAMILY FLEES FROM LABAN

After some time, Jacob sensed that Laban's treatment of him as well as his men has changed. So he decided to flee to Canaan and bring all his family and all his flocks.

1) Jacob & family flee from Laban (vv. 1-21).

After Jacob sensed that Laban and his men's treatment of him have changed, he decided to escape from Laban and to return to Canaan his father's homeland. So, without telling Laban, Jacob planned an escape together with all his family and all his flocks. After crossing the river they went to the hill country of Gilead.

2) Laban and his men follow after Jacob & family (vv. 22-44).

After three days Laban learned of Jacob's escape and together with his relatives, he pursued them. After seven days, he found them at Gilead but was warned in a dream not to harm Jacob. So, he confronted him and asked him why he tried to escape so that he could have prepared for their leaving and so forth and so on. Then, he charged Jacob of stealing his household gods (which actually Rachel did). So, Jacob let Laban searched their tents but he did not find them for Rachel was sitting on them. So, Jacob was angry with Laban. But Laban requested that a treaty be made between them.

3) Jacob & Laban forge a treaty at Gilead (vv. 45-55).

So, Jacob and Laban made a pillar of stone in Gilead and made a treaty to remember each other and not to harm each other's families. They ate and celebrated together that night. Then the next morning Laban kissed his children and grandchildren and went back home.

Day 24 Genesis 31

Points to Ponder:

1) The Lord our God is the FAITHFUL GOD of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob. He is the SOVEREIGN PROTECTOR of His people. He is the Great Shield of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

2) The Lord our God is our Great Shield and Protector! He will guide and lead us to fulfill His sovereign plan and purposes in our life and ministry. We are immortal until His purpose is completed in our life!

PRAYER:

"Our heavenly Father, thank You for Your faithfulness and goodness to us. You are indeed our GREAT SHIELD & PROTECTOR! You will see to it that we are going to fulfill Your plan and purposes for our life. And that we are immortal until Your purpose is accomplished in our life. You guide and lead us. And show us where to go and how to get there. Lord, I put my trust and confidence in Your Sovereign Power over things and people and events. I worship and praise You! All in the Name Of Jesus my Savior and Lord. Amen!"

Day 25
Bible Reading: Genesis 32

JACOB GOES BACK HOME!

After Laban, Jacob now has to confront his brother Esau from whom he stole the birthright and the blessing.

1) Jacob works out a plan to meet Esau (vv. 1-21).

Jacob sent envoy to inform Esau that he is coming back home. When he learned that Esau was coming with 400 men with him, Jacob was afraid and thought that Esau may still be harboring hatred and bitterness at him. So, he prepares his coming by groups of animals and men, placing behind his family members from all the groups. He also prepared gifts of flocks to Esau as a peace offering. He let them all cross the ford of Jabbok but he stayed in Manahaim till daybreak. (He also met angels of God there! (v.1).

2) Jacob wrestles with the Lord (vv. 22-32).

After all his family and men and flocks have crossed the ford of Jabbok, Jacob wrestled with a man till daybreak. The man could not overcome Jacob so he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that it was wrenched. Then the man told Jacob to release him for daybreak is coming but Jacob won't let him go unless he blesses him. So the man blessed Jacob. He changed his name from Jacob to Israel meaning 'you have struggled with men and with God and has prevailed.' And he blessed Jacob there. Jacob called the place "Peniel" saying "He has seen God face to face and yet did not die." He came out the place limping because of this.

Points to Ponder:

1) The Lord our God is the FAITHFUL GOD! He is the BLESSER of His People. He is the Great MOLDER of our character leading us to our great destiny.

2) *The Lord our God is the LORD OF HOSTS! He is our Great Angel watching over us and directing and leading us to our great destiny. He sends us angels to minister to us.*

Day 25 Genesis 32

PRAYER:

"Our heavenly Father, thank You for Your faithfulness and goodness to us. You are indeed our GREAT GUIDE & LEADER of our life. You lead us to our great destiny. You bless us by Your angels and they minister to us so that we are guided and protected. Lord, thank You for Your bless me and mold me to be an overcomer in this life. Thank You for the victorious life I have in Christ. Teach me to appropriate it daily in my life. I give You praise, worship and thanks. In Jesus' Name. Amen! Amen! Amen!"

JACOB RECONCILES WITH ESAU!

After being estranged with his brother Esau for many years, the Lord intervened to reconcile Jacob to his brother.

1) Jacob reconciles with his brother Esau (vv. 1-11).

After Jacob's encounter with the angel of the Lord in Jabbok, he now faces Esau with 400 men with him. Jacob prepares his family in facing Esau but Esau ran coming to him and they embraced and wept together. Esau inquired about the groups of flocks that passed by him and Jacob said that those were gifts to him. Esau refused to accept them saying he had enough but Jacob insisted on him receiving them and he finally accept them.

2) Jacob resettles in Shechem in Canaan (vv. 12-20).

Then Esau offered to accompany them as they come to Seir but Jacob requested him to let them go on their own pace because of the children and the young animals and so Esau went ahead of them and went back to Seir. Jacob however, went to Succoth and made shelter there for his family and his flocks. Then, he went to the city of Shechem and bought the plot of ground where he pitched his tent from the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem. He also set an altar there to worship the Lord.

Points to Ponder:

1) The Lord our God is the FAITHFUL GOD of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob. He is TRUE to His Word or Promise. What He told Jacob that He will provide for him and allow him to return to Canaan was now fulfilled. His words to Esau were also fulfilled as he forgives Jacob his burden was relieved and the Lord too blessed him.

2) *The Lord our God is worthy of TRUST and CONFIDENCE and so His words! I am to trust and obey His Words and claim His promises to my life.*

Day 26 Genesis 33

PRAYER:

"Our heavenly Father, thank You for Your faithfulness and goodness to us. You and Your words are indeed worthy of our TRUST and CONFIDENCE! I will obey Your Word. I claim Your PROMISES in my life and ministry! Lord, thank You for Your Word encouraging and giving me faith to believe and obey You. I will hide Your Word in my heart and I will ponder on it till it change me and conforms me to Your Son Jesus's likeness and image. Thank You again Lord for Your love and mercy to me in Jesus Christ. In His Name I pray all these. Amen!"

DAY 27
Bible Reading: Genesis 34

JACOB'S SONS MASSACRE THE SHECHEMITES!

After learning that Shechem abused their sister Dinah, Jacob's sons by deception killed all the male population of the Shechemites.

1) Shechem abuses Jacob's only daughter, Dinah (vv. 1-7).

In Shechem, Dinah, Jacob's only daughter, went to visit the city of Shechem. Shechem, the prince of the land, liked her and forced himself to her. He told his father Hamor that he wanted her to be his wife. The news reached Jacob but his sons were in the field. He waited for them to arrive before telling them the news. Hamor came to Jacob to talk about what happened and to request the hand of Dinah to be his son's wife. But Jacob's sons learned about it and were in grief and in fury after hearing what had happened to their sister – a thing that should not be done.

2) Jacob's sons avenge their sister's violation (vv. 8-31).

Hamor told them to give Dinah as wife to his son Shechem for he loved her. He also told them to intermarry with them and to live with them and to become as one people. But because the sons of Jacob were angry at the violation of their sister, they deceitfully told Shechem that they will only intermarry with them if all their males will undergo circumcision. Shechem relayed this condition to the leaders of the people and they agreed to it. But in the third day of their circumcision, while in pain, Simeon and Levi, went to the unsuspecting city and killed the entire male population. Then, the sons of Jacob looted the city of all their possessions and they also took all the women and children with them. So, Jacob was afraid of the Canaanites and the Perizzites who lived in the land because of what they did. But his sons told him that the Shechemites should have not treated their sister as a prostitute.

Day 27 Genesis 34

Points to Ponder:

1) *The Lord our God is a JUST & HOLY GOD but man is SINFUL! Human justice always fall short compare to divine justice. We cannot correct a wrong by another wrong. We are not to rely on emotion or instinct for decision-making but follow God's Word.*

2) *The Lord our God is gracious and merciful GOD. He preserves and uses His people in spite of them. His grace is greater than our sins. Later, He will use these twelve tribes to accomplish His plan of salvation for sinful mankind.*

PRAYER:

"Our heavenly Father, thank You for Your grace and mercy! Indeed, Your grace is greater than our sins. Your grace overcomes our stubbornness and sins. You mold us and transform us and conforms us to Your Son Jesus. Lord, teach me continually to trust You and obey Your word in my life. Not to rely on my instinct and feelings or emotions but on Your Word and the guidance of the Spirit. Lord, I praise You and thank You for giving me Jesus as my Savior. In Him I place my trust and confidence. Amen!"

Day 28
Bible Reading: Genesis 35

RACHEL & ISAAC DIES

In Canaan, Rachel died in delivering another son, Benjamin. Jacob's father, Isaac, also died after seeing him and his family.

1) Jacob and his family go to Bethel (vv. 1-15).

After Jacob's sons massacre the Shechemites, the Lord told Jacob to go to Bethel and settle there and make an altar there. So, Jacob went and told the people to surrender all their gods to him before they went to Bethel. In Bethel, Jacob made an altar to the Lord and the Lord revealed again himself to Jacob. He reaffirmed His covenant with him as with Abraham and Isaac. And Jacob worshiped the Lord there and called the place 'Bethel' or the 'House of God.'

2) Rachel and Isaac go home to the Lord (vv. 16-29).

On the way to Hebron, at Ephrath, Rachel delivered a baby and died there. Jacob named the child Benjamin. They buried Rachel at Bethlehem. Also on at that time Jacob learned that his firstborn Reuben slept with his concubine, Bilhah. Then, Jacob came home to Kiriath Arba or Hebron to see his father Isaac. After seeing Jacob, Isaac breathed his last and died. Jacob and Esau buried their father, Isaac, in Hebron.

Points to Ponder:

1) The Lord our God is the ALMIGHTY GOD! He will do what He says He will do. His Promise will not fail. His Word will save and preserve us in spite of our weaknesses and frailty.

2) The Lord our God is ETERNAL and yet He desires that we share His glory and eternity. Man is temporal and finite. But our God is infinitely glorious and gracious!

Day 28 Genesis 35

PRAYER:

"Our heavenly Father, thank that You are our ALMIGHTY GOD. You preserve us by Your grace and mercy! You are ETERNAL but we are FRAIL and TEMPORAL. Yet through Christ Jesus we will share in Your eternal GLORY. Where You are is where we will be! Lord, I thank You for Your loving kindness and Your faithfulness to Your Word. I know that I will be preserved till You come again to take me to be with You forevermore! Amen! Amen! Amen!"

Day 29
Bible Reading: Genesis 36

ESAU & HIS DESCENDANTS

God fulfilled His Word to Esau. He too became a great nation. The Lord also blessed him and gave him a multitude of descendants.

1) Esau moves in the hill country of Seir (vv. 1-8).

After Jacob and his family as well as all his possessions went back to Canaan, Esau decided to move in the hill country of Seir; because they both had too many possessions and animals that the land could not sustain them both. Thus, Esau took all his family and possessions and move in the hill country of Seir.

2) Esau multiplies into multitudes of people (vv. 9-42).

In Seir, Esau (Edom) had many sons and began to fill the region of Seir. His descendants became chiefs of the land and began to rule. In fact, they were the first to reign as kings of Edom before any Israelite king reign over them. Thus, Esau became a multitude of people reigning in the land of Seir called the Edomites.

Points to Ponder:

1) The Lord our God is the ALMIGHTY GOD! He overcomes human frailty and weaknesses. Man plans and decides but His will and purpose is the one which prevails.

2) The Lord our God is the SOVEREIGN LORD of life and the universe. He is in perfect control of this life even my life. He will accomplish His purpose in my life and ministry.

Day 29 Genesis 36

PRAYER:

"Our heavenly Father, thank that You are our ALMIGHTY GOD, our SOVEREIGN LORD! You are in perfect control of this universe and of our lives. You will overcome the sins and imperfection of man. You will accomplish Your eternal purpose and will for mankind. Lord, teach us to continually trust in You and believe that Your purposes will prevail and overcome. Your Word can be trusted and I will trust in You and Your Word. We look forward to Your Church even FBC growing in the Spirit and in the Word and fulfilling Your Great Commission. All for the honor and glory of Your Name and of Jesus Christ my Savior and Lord, and in whom I pray all these things. Amen! Amen! Amen!"

JOSEPH THE DREAMER!

Sometime later, Joseph, the favorite son, was envied by his brothers because of Jacob's love for him. They plotted to kill Joseph but succeeded only in selling him to the merchants going to Egypt. So, they sent Joseph to Egypt.

1) Jacob shows favor to Joseph (vv. 1-8).

After the death of Rachel, Joseph comforted Jacob. He was also his son in his old age. So, he made him his watchdog to his brothers and he made him a beautifully crafted robe. This made his brothers to resent him and they hated him all the more for this.

2) Joseph shares his dreams to his family (vv. 9-42).

In time, Joseph had a series of dreams and shared these dreams to his brothers and his father. The first dream got his brothers angry because they interpreted it as that they were going to bow down to Joseph. Then, Joseph shared his second dream to his brothers and to his father. Again, they interpreted it as the same – they will one day bow down to Joseph and honor him. Jacob kept this matter in his mind but Joseph's brothers became more jealous and angry at him.

3) Jacob's sons send Joseph to Egypt (vv. 9-42).

Later, Jacob asked Joseph to check on his brothers as they feed their flocks. But when they saw him at a distance, they plotted to kill him. Reuben tried to save him but Judah prevailed and they compromised to just sell Joseph to the Midianite merchants going to Egypt. So, they sent Joseph to Egypt. At home, they showed Jacob his robe torn and bloodied and suggested that Joseph could have been slayed by a wild beast. And so they were able to hide the truth from their father, Jacob.

Points to Ponder:

1) The Lord our God is the ALMIGHTY GOD! He chooses people whom He will use for His purpose and glory. He intervenes in their lives and set their course to fulfill His plan and purpose for His Kingdom agenda.

2) The Lord our God is the GOD WHO INTERVENES in this world and in the life of His people. He never commits mistakes and makes all things good in His time and purpose. Even our hurts and our sins will work out for the glory and honor of our God!

PRAYER:

"Our heavenly Father, thank that You are our ALMIGHTY GOD, our SOVEREIGN LORD! Your ways and Your thoughts are unfathomable! They are indeed higher than our thoughts. They are beyond our knowing and understanding. But in the end, we know that Your perfect will prevails. Lord, teach me and mold me to trust You that even my imperfections and my shortcomings shall be used for Your honor and glory. Lord, I put my hope in You and in Your Word. I bow down in worship and submission to Your will and glorify You. All in the Name of Jesus my Savior and Lord. Amen!"

JUDAH SEEKS HIS OWN FORTUNE

Sometime later, Judah left the rest of his family and tried to live separately and independently from them. He settled in Adullam.

1) Judah decides to have a family (vv. 1-11).

In Adullam, Judah takes a wife from the Canaanites women and had sons with her. Later, he gets his oldest son, Er, with a wife named Tamar. But Er was evil and the Lord killed him. So, as their custom dictates, Judah asks his second son, Onan, to take his brother's wife and have children for his brother, Er. Onan did not like this and spills his semen to the ground every time they had sex. So, the Lord also took his life. Judah afraid that his third son, Shelah, would die like his two sons, told Tamar to go home first to her parents and pretended that he wanted to wait till his son is in the right age. But he has no plan of fulfilling his promise.

2) Tamar disguises as a prostitute (vv. 12-).

Sensing and knowing that Judah will not fulfill his promise to give his third son to be her husband, Tamar decides to take matters in his own hands. Upon learning that Judah was in Timnah to shear sheep, she disguised as a prostitute and stood at the gate of Enaim, going to Timnah. When Judah saw her, he thought that she was a prostitute and decided to use her for the night. But he had no money to pay so Tamar asked for his cord, signet, and staff for a guarantee. Judah agreed and then later sent a goat as payment for her but they could not find her anymore. So, Tamar succeeded in her plot and she became pregnant.

3) Judah discovers the truth (vv. 9-42).

Later, the people told Judah that his daughter-in-law, Tamar, was several months pregnant so Judah asked her to brought over and stoned to death. But when they are about to do this, Tamar revealed that she got pregnant by none other than Judah himself and she presented his cord, signet and staff. Judah realized his sin against Tamar and did not

touch her again. Later, Tamar bore a twin, Zerah and Perez. Perez later became the predecessor of David and then the Messiah, Jesus (see Ruth 4; Matthew 1).

Day 31 Genesis 38

Points to Ponder:

1) The Lord our God is the ALMIGHTY GOD! He chooses the people whom He will use for His will and purposes. He intervenes in their lives and set their course to fulfill His plan and purpose for His Kingdom agenda and His glory.

2) The Lord our God is the GOD WHO INTERVENES in the curse of this life and in the life of His people. He overcomes our sin and shortcomings and uses our mistakes to fulfill His plan and purposes. Thus, our destiny and greatness does not depend on our background or beginnings. It depends on the Lord who is the GRAND ARCHITECT of this life.

PRAYER:

"Our heavenly Father, thank that You are our ALMIGHTY GOD, our SOVEREIGN LORD! Your ways and Your thoughts are unfathomable. They are indeed higher than our thoughts. They are beyond our knowing and understanding. But in the end, we know that Your perfect will prevail. Lord, teach me and mold me to trust You that even my imperfections and my shortcomings shall be used for Your honor and glory. Lord, I put my hope in You and in Your Word. I bow down in worship and submission to Your will and glorify You. All in the Name of Jesus, my Savior and Lord. Amen!"

JOSEPH IN EGYPT

In Egypt, Joseph became the property of Potiphar, captain of the guard and one of Pharaoh's officials. But the Lord was with Joseph and He prospered him in Egypt.

1) Joseph prospers in Potiphar's house (vv. 1-11).

In Egypt, Joseph prospers in Potiphar's house because the Lord was with him. Potiphar made Joseph manager of his house and has authority and control of all things except his wife. So Potiphar's house prospered under Joseph's management. Sometime later, Potiphar's wife noticed Joseph and she tried to seduce him to lie with her. But Joseph would not mind her. So, one time she tried to seduce him again but he ran away from her but she got hold of his cloak and used it to allege that he tried to rape her. Because of this, Potiphar imprisoned Joseph and he was placed in the king's prison house.

2) Joseph prospers in the prison cell (vv. 12ffg).

In prison, Joseph also prospered because the Lord was with him. He had favor with the warden and made him manager of the prison house. And the Lord prospers Joseph and his work in the prison house and the warden was pleased with him.

Points to Ponder:

1) The Lord our God is the SOVEREIGN LORD! He can prosper us even in our 'exile' or 'imprisonment' or in our 'suffering.' He is our EMMANUEL. He will be with us. He will never leave nor forsake us!

2) The Lord our God is the GOD WHO INTERVENES in the course of this life and in the life of His people. A believer can overcome the trials and troubles of this life through the grace and help of our God who is with us.

Day 32 Genesis 39

PRAYER:

"Our heavenly Father, thank that You are our ALMIGHTY GOD, our SOVEREIGN LORD! You are also our EMMANUEL, the GOD WHO IS WITH US! You are indeed our Almighty God, Jehovah El Shaddai! Nothing is impossible with You. You can turn our "prison" into "praise" and our tragedies into triumphs! Our crucifixion into coronation! Lord, I give You praise and thanks and worship You. In Jesus' Name. Amen!"

THE KING'S CUPBEARER & BAKER'S DREAMS

The king's cupbearer and baker offended the king and he placed them in prison where Joseph was. They both had a dream and Joseph correctly interpreted them.

1) The King imprisons his cupbearer and baker (vv. 1-4).

The king's cupbearer and baker offended the king and so he put them in prison where Joseph was. Joseph was charged to take care of them. But one day they both had a dream and this made them very sad because they don't know what their dreams were all about.

2) Joseph interprets the cupbearer & baker's dreams (vv. 5-19).

When Joseph saw that they were sad he asked the reason for it and learned about their dreams. So, Joseph offered to interpret the dream of the cupbearer. After telling his dream, Joseph interprets his dream. When the baker saw that Joseph's interpretation of the cupbearer's dream was good, he also asked Joseph to interpret his also. But the interpretation of his dream was bad.

3) The King invites the cupbearer and baker to his party (vv. 20-23).

After three days, as predicted by Joseph, the King invited the two to his birthday feast. The king restored the cupbearer to his position but the baker was hanged according to the word of Joseph. Joseph requested the cupbearer to remember him and mention him to Pharaoh but he forgot all about Joseph.

Points to Ponder:

1) The Lord our God is the SOVEREIGN LORD! All things work together for the good for those who are called in Christ (Rom. 8:28). God is sovereignly working and intervening in the lives of men to accomplish His will and purpose for His people in this world.

2) *The Lord our God is the GOD WHO REMEMBERS HIS PEOPLE!
People may forget us but the Lord will never forget nor forsake us!*

Day 33 Genesis 40

PRAYER:

"Our heavenly Father, thank that You are our ALMIGHTY GOD, our SOVEREIGN LORD! You work mysteriously and sovereignly in the affairs of men to accomplish Your divine purpose and plans. You will never forget us nor forsake us. Thank You for the assurance that there is no PIT or HOLE or PRISON or PROBLEM where You cannot rescue or pull us out. You are worthy of our trust and hope and our obedience. I praise You and worship You! All in Christ's Name. Amen! Amen! Amen!"

PHARAOH'S DREAM & JOSEPH'S INTERPRETATION

Pharaoh had a series of dream and they disturbed him that he called all the magicians of the land to interpret his dream. But no one was able to do it. Then, the cupbearer remembers Joseph and told the king about him. Joseph then was summoned before the king and he interpreted the king's dream and the king was pleased with it.

1) Pharaoh's dreams disturb him (vv. 1-4).

Sometime later the king had a series of dreams that disturbed him. So he called all the magicians of the land to interpret his dream but they could not. Then, the cupbearer remembered Joseph after two full years and he told the king about Joseph and how he accurately interpreted their dreams.

2) Joseph discloses Pharaoh's dreams (vv. 5-19).

So the King summoned Joseph to be brought before him and he told Joseph his dreams. Then, Joseph, by God's help, interpreted the king's dreams. In summary, he told the king that there would be a seven-year of plenty that will be succeeded with a seven-year of famine. Pharaoh as well as his officials was pleased with his interpretation.

3) Pharaoh declares Joseph ADMINISTRATOR of Egypt (vv. 20-23).

Also, Joseph suggested to the king what needs to be done to prepare for the coming great famine in the land. He told the king that he needed a wise man who will manage the seven years of plenty and then the next seven years of famine. Thus, the king said that there is none as wise as Joseph. So, he appointed Joseph as the administrator of the land.

Points to Ponder:

1) The Lord our God is the SOVEREIGN LORD! All things work together for good for those who are called in Christ. God is sovereignly working and intervening not only in the lives of men but also in nature to accomplish His will and purpose for His people in this world.

Day 34 Genesis 41

2) *The Lord our God is the GOD WHO REMEMBERS HIS PEOPLE! The Lord God is the ONE who DEMOTES and PROMOTES. HE is the POWERFUL ONE!*

PRAYER:

"Our heavenly Father, thank that You are our ALMIGHTY GOD, our SOVEREIGN LORD! You works mysteriously and sovereignly in the affairs of men as well as nature to accomplish Your divine purpose and plans. You are the One who promotes and demotes. You humble the proud but You promote the humble. Lord, teach me to fully trust You and put my confidence in You alone. Lord, I will never be afraid and I will trust in Your Name. In Jesus' Name! Amen!"

JACOB SENDS HIS SONS TO EGYPT

In time, a great famine started in the land, which includes Canaan. So, Jacob asked his ten sons to buy food from Egypt. In Egypt, their brother, Joseph, who is now the Administrator of the land, recognized them.

1) *Jacob's sons BUY food from Egypt (vv. 1-4).*

Then the word of Joseph came to pass and there was a great famine in the land that affected the land of Canaan. So, Jacob sent his ten sons, leaving behind Benjamin, to Egypt to buy some grains for the family.

2) *Joseph BULLIES his brothers (vv. 5-19).*

But in Egypt, Joseph recognized them, who is now the administrator of the land and they did not recognize him. He treated them harshly and even accused them of being spies. His brothers denied this and told him about themselves and their family; but Joseph insisted that they were spying the land. So, he kept them in custody for three days. Then, Joseph told them to go home and return to Egypt with their youngest brother in order to prove that they were telling the truth. But Joseph kept Simeon in Egypt. So they proceeded back home to Canaan and Joseph gave them grains and their provisions for the journey.

3) *Jacob's sons BLAME each other (vv. 20-23).*

As they go back home they discovered that they have their silver back in their sacks and they begin to blame each other for their present predicament. When Jacob learned about what had happened in Egypt – the harsh treatment of Joseph, Simeon being kept in Egypt, and the request that Benjamin be brought to Egypt to prove their innocence, Jacob was depressed. He told them that Benjamin would not go to Egypt lest he too be removed from him and caused his early death.

Points to Ponder:

1) The Lord our God is the SOVEREIGN LORD! All things work together for good for those who are called in Christ. God is sovereignly working and intervening not only in the lives of men but also in nature to accomplish His will and purpose for His people in this world.

2) The Lord our God is the GOD WHO IS OUR RIGHTEOUS & JUST JUDGE. We will suffer the BAD CONSEQUENCES of our wrong doings and reap the BLESSINGS of our good deeds. Our actions have present and eternal consequences.

PRAYER:

"Our heavenly Father, thank that You are our ALMIGHTY GOD, our SOVEREIGN LORD! You are our RIGHTEOUS & JUST JUDGE. You will require an ACCOUNTING of all our works and deeds. What we sow we will also reap – today and in eternity. Lord, continually remind me that there are present and eternal consequences to my actions. Lord, purify my thoughts and my heart. Empower me to do that will give glory and honor to Your Name. Amen!"

JACOB REVEALS HIMSELF TO HIS BROTHERS

But because of the severe famine, Jacob was forced to send his sons back to Egypt. On their second trip to Egypt, Joseph tried to trap them so that he could get Benjamin to stay in Egypt but Judah interceded and Joseph could not contain himself (Ch. 43-44). So in Ch. 45, Joseph finally revealed his real identity to his brothers. He told them how God has protected and blessed him and made him a father to Pharaoh and administrator of the land.

1) Joseph reveals himself to his brothers (vv. 1-4).

When Judah told Joseph that they could not leave Benjamin in Egypt for their father would die, Joseph could not contain himself and asked that every one of his servants be out of the room. Then he finally revealed to them that he was their brother Joseph whom they sold to Egypt.

2) Joseph reasons out that it was God's plan (vv. 5-19).

But Joseph comforted them that it was not them that send him to Egypt but the Lord their God. He told them that it was God's sovereign plan and purpose why these things happened. For there will be still five years of famine that will take place and God sent him to Egypt to preserve their people and fulfill God's promise to their forefathers that they will be a great nation and will be a blessing to the nations.

3) Jacob requests his brothers to bring their father to Egypt (vv. 20-23).

Then, Joseph requested his brothers to tell their father that he is alive and well! That he is now administrator of all Egypt and that he is inviting him and his whole household to stay in Egypt till the famine is over for there will still be 5 years left and he will provide for them in Egypt. So they left and went back home and told their father what Joseph told them to tell him. At first Jacob could not believe their word but when he saw the goods that Joseph sent for him he believed. And Jacob together with all his family and all his possession went down to Egypt.

Points to Ponder:

1) The Lord our God is the SOVEREIGN LORD! All things work together for good for those who are called in Christ. God is sovereignly working and intervening not only in the lives of men but also in nature to accomplish His will and purpose for His people in this world.

2) The Lord our God is the GOD WHO HAS SEND US TO OUR PRESENT POSITION OR PREDICAMENT. He is in control of our life. He will accomplish SOMETHING GREAT in what we are undergoing RIGHT NOW. And all things will work for the good of all ad the GLORY of God!

PRAYER:

"Our heavenly Father, thank that You are our ALMIGHTY GOD, our SOVEREIGN LORD! You are in control of our life and of this universe we live in. Lord, You are the HAND that sent us where we are right now and will accomplish Your good plan and purpose to the glory and honor of Your Name. Lord, teach me to TRUST You and Your POWERFUL HAND in my life and situation. Lord to You I place my ALL, my faith, my confidence, and my hope. All in Jesus' Name. Amen! Amen! Amen!"

JACOB GOES TO EGYPT!

After being convinced that Joseph was alive, Jacob set out for Egypt upon the invitation of Joseph, bringing all his household members as well all his possessions.

1) Joseph provides for Jacob and his whole family (46-47:12).

So, Jacob went to Egypt with his whole household and with all his possessions. He was met by Joseph at Goshen where he told them to settle. It was an emotional time for Joseph and Jacob and both wept as they embraced each other. Then, Joseph told Pharaoh that his family from Canaan came to him because of the great famine in the land and requested that they be settled in the land of Goshen where there is a good land for their animals and Pharaoh did grant Joseph's request. Pharaoh met with Jacob and some members of the family. And Jacob blessed Pharaoh. So, Joseph settled them in Goshen and provided for their needs.

2) Joseph provides for Egypt and the whole land (47:13-31).

The famine spread and there was no food in the land. So Pharaoh told the people to go to Joseph to buy food. But the famine was so great that all the money of the people became Pharaoh's and Joseph told them to trade their animals for food. Later, their animals were all gone and became Pharaoh's. So the people asked Joseph to give them seed. Joseph gave them seed but made it a rule that the fifth of their harvest belongs to Pharaoh. And it became a law in the land. All land and animals became Pharaoh's except the land of the priests. And Joseph provided food for the whole of Egypt and the other nations.

Points to Ponder:

1) *The Lord our God is the SOVEREIGN LORD! All things work together for good for those who are called in Christ. God is sovereignly working and intervening not only in the lives of men but also in nature to accomplish His will and purpose for His people in this world.*

2) *The Lord our God is the GOD WHO USES HIS PEOPLE TO BE A BLESSING TO THE REST OF THE WORLD. He is our PROVIDER and SHIELD. HE WILL PROTECT US FROM ALL HARM AND EVIL UNTIL GOD'S PURPOSE IS ACCOMPLISHED IN THIS WORLD.*

PRAYER:

"Our heavenly Father, thank that You are our ALMIGHTY GOD, our SOVEREIGN LORD! You are our PROTECTOR AND PROVIDER. YOU used Joseph in the OT - One man to bless Israel and the rest of the world. Lord, I know that You will use me too to bless Your people even FBC in spite of my limitations and imperfections. Lord, I put my trust in Your unlimited Power and in Your goodness and faithfulness and mercy. All these I pray in Jesus' Name. Amen! Amen! Amen!"

JACOB BLESSES EPHRAIM & MANASSEH

After sometime, Joseph learned that his father Jacob was ill. Sensing that his days are limited, Joseph went to see his father and brought also his two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh.

1) Jacob blesses Joseph (1-7).

When Jacob learned that Joseph came to see him, he gathered his strength and sat down in his bed. Jacob told Joseph that he is reckoning his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim as his. Then Jacob blesses Joseph and told him that he will have the land in Shechem, which he himself took from the Amorites as his inheritance.

2) Jacob blesses Joseph's sons (9-20).

When Jacob finally saw the two sons of Joseph (because of poor eyesight he was not able to recognize them), he asked as to who were these boys. After learning that they were Joseph's sons, he asked them to be brought near him in order to bless them. So, Joseph brought them to Jacob, Manasseh to Jacob's right being the firstborn, and Ephraim to Jacob's left. But when Jacob blessed them, he laid his right hand to Ephraim and his left hand to Manasseh; and he blessed them. When Joseph saw that his father has made Ephraim first by placing his right hand over him he tried to correct him; but Jacob told him that he knew what he was doing. Manasseh also will be a great people but Ephraim will be greater.

Points to Ponder:

1) The Lord our God is the SOVEREIGN LORD! All things work together for good for those who are called in Christ. God is sovereignly working and intervening not only in the lives of men but also in nature to accomplish His will and purpose for His people in this world.

2) The Lord our God is the GOD WHO KNOWS WHOM HE WILL USE FOR HIS HONOR AND HIS GLORY. HE IS THE ONE WHO

DEMOTES AND PROMOTES. HE EMPOWERS AND BLESSES. WE ARE TO FEAR AND OBEY HIM ALONE!

Day 38 Genesis 48

PRAYER:

"Our heavenly Father, thank that You are our ALMIGHTY GOD, our SOVEREIGN LORD! You are THE ONE WHO CALLS and EMPOWERS, the ONE WHO PROMOTES & BLESSES! Lord, teach me to fully trust You in my life and ministry. Help me to believe that You have called me to bless me and my family and others. That You will USE me for Your HONOR & GLORY. Lord, I put my trust and confidence in You alone. In Jesus' Name. Amen!"

JACOB BLESSES HIS TWELVE SONS

Jacob, before dying, calls his 12 sons and pronounces His blessings to them as well their future.

1) Jacob blesses his twelve sons, the 12 tribes (49:1-28).

Sensing his near death, Jacob called his 12 sons and predicted what will take in the future for them. What is noteworthy is how he relates their future on their attitudes and behavior as his sons. We become what we behave. Another noteworthy observation is the prediction to the house of Judah, which relates to the coming Messiah or Shiloh as noted by the NIV footnote. Indeed, through Israel and particularly through Judah, the Lord has prepared the coming Messiah, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

2) Joseph buries his father Jacob (49:29-50:14).

After giving his last words and before dying, Jacob instructed Joseph and his sons to bury him in Canaan where his fathers were also buried. So, Joseph embalmed Jacob according to the tradition of the Egyptians and arranged for his burial in Canaan. Joseph asked the favor of Pharaoh and he granted his request. A great contingent from Pharaoh's court and army accompanied Joseph and the family as they went to Canaan. And according to Jacob's words, Joseph buried his father Jacob in the land of Canaan, in the cave in the field of Machpelah, near Mamre, which Abraham bought from Ephron the Hittite. Afterwards, they all returned to Egypt.

Points to Ponder:

1) The Lord our God is the SOVEREIGN LORD! All things work together for good for those who are called in Christ. God is sovereignly working and intervening not only in the lives of men but also in nature to accomplish His will and purpose for His people in this world.

2) *The Lord our God is the GOD OUR MAKER, THE AUTHOR OF OUR LIFE & OUR DESTINY. He is the Lord of history even our future.*

Day 39 Genesis 49

He knows His plan for our life and in fact, has a plan and purpose for each of our life (Jer. 29:11).

PRAYER:

"Our heavenly Father, thank that You are our MAKER! The AUTHOR OF LIFE, the LORD OF HISTORY and LORD OF OUR FUTURE. Lord, give us the faith to fully trust You and rely on You and believe Your promise and Your Word. That they are faithful and will one day come to pass. Lord, I believe in Your Word even Your Word for Your Church – "I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH..." Lord, I put my trust and confidence in You and Your Word. I know that You will bless and build FBC in Your own sweet time. In Jesus' Name. Amen! Amen! Amen!"

JOSEPH FORGIVES HIS BROTHERS

After the death of Jacob, Joseph's brothers were afraid that he would take revenge on them. But Joseph already got the Lord's message in all the things that happened to them – As he beautifully puts it, *"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good..."* (v. 20).

1) Joseph's brothers fears Joseph's revenge (vv. 15-18).

After the burial of their father Jacob, Joseph's brothers were afraid that he would take revenge over them for what they did to him in the past. They were thinking that he was still angry with them and will now do to them what they deserved. They were even willing to be his servants just to appease him. But to their surprise Joseph did the unthinkable, he forgave them and set them free!

2) Joseph forgives his brothers (vv. 19-21).

Thinking that Joseph was still angry with them and harboring evil intent in his heart, his brothers came to him and asked for mercy and to spare them for doing what they did to him. But to their surprise and amazement, Joseph was gracious and forgave them. He spoke one of those unforgettable words in the Bible: *"You meant it evil for me, but God meant it for our good!"* So, Joseph promised to provide and protect them and their families in Egypt. He also requested that his bones be brought back to Canaan for he knew in his spirit that God will bring them back again to their promised land.

Points to Ponder:

1) *The Lord our God is the SOVEREIGN LORD! All things work together for good for those who are called in Christ. Even our personal tragedies and hurts have a place in the grand and unsearchable plan and purpose of God.*

2) *Like Joseph, we are to emulate the Lord for being merciful and gracious to sinners. Like Joseph, we have people who have hurt us and*

done us wrong. If you and I are believers in Christ, we are to do what Joseph did – forgive and have compassion to all those who have hurt!

Day 40 Genesis 50

For our own sake, we free ourselves from the prison of anger, and bitterness, pain, and unforgiving spirit!

PRAYER:

“Our heavenly Father, thank You are our MAKER and our SOVEREIGN LORD! You are the LORD OF HISTORY and the LORD OF MY LIFE! Lord, give us the faith to fully trust You and rely on You and believe Your promise and Your Word. Lord, like Joseph, teach me to truly FORGIVE those who have done me wrong or hurt me. Open my eyes to see that You desire us to live to be loving, compassionate, and obedient to Your Will and Your Word. By Your grace and power, teach me to live a bitterness-free life. To believe that You are sovereignly working in my life and people’s life. In Jesus’ Name. Amen! Amen! Amen!”

(Special Note: This devotional material was written and prepared by Rev. Valentino P. Natcher, Senior Pastor of Filipino Bible Church and cannot be reproduced without permission.)