



ISRAEL UPDATE

with Pastor Trey Graham



April 3, 2024
Day 180

According to reports from Syria and Iran, the Israeli Air Force allegedly attacked a building adjacent to the Iranian embassy in Damascus, where several senior Iranian officials were located, among them Mohammad Reza Zahedi, deputy commander of the Quds Force of the Revolutionary Guards in Syria and Lebanon. “A very senior member of the Iranian hierarchy, he managed the entire operation of smuggling weapons from Syria to Lebanon. He was a very senior person who can be said to have given Israel a lot of headaches in the last twenty years for all his exploits in his involvement in terrorism. This is the most senior Iranian who has been eliminated so far since October 7 on Syrian soil,” Hezi Simantov said. “This is a severe and painful blow to the Iranian regime, a matter in which the Iranians are more inclined to take revenge against Israel. We have already eliminated several of their senior officials since October 7 on Syrian soil. This is the period when Iran wants to show that it is leading the axis of resistance.”

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/ground-is-being-prepared-for-major-attack-the-coming-iranian-response-to-syria-strike-794907>

Jerusalem Post > Middle East

'Preparing strikes on Israeli embassies': The coming Iranian response to Syria strike

Israeli expert: 'Iran does not want direct confrontation with the US or with Israel that would involve the US...That could change.'

By 103FM

APRIL 2, 2024 11:19 Updated: APRIL 2, 2024 20:24



Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi visits the military equipment of IRGC Navy in Bandar Abbas, Iran, February 2, 2024.
(photo credit: IRAN'S PRESIDENCY/WANA (WEST ASIA NEWS AGENCY)/HANDOUT VIA REUTERS)

IDF calls up air defense reservists amid concerns of retaliation for strike on Iran mission in Syria

By EMANUEL FABIAN



People gather near a destroyed building in Damascus, Syria, April 1, 2024. (SANA via AP)

THE TIMES OF ISRAEL

The IDF says that it has bolstered its air defense array, calling up reservists following a fresh assessment.

The move follows threats by Iran to respond to the alleged Israeli assassination of Mohammad Reza Zahedi, the IRGC's most senior official in Syria, along with his deputy, five other IRGC officers, and at least one member of Hezbollah.

Channel 12 reports that Israel is on high alert for a potential Iranian response to the strike in Syria and that a retaliatory strike originating from Iranian territory — as opposed to from one of its proxies — would require a more significant IDF response.

Ismail Haniyeh: Hamas won't back down from hostage deal demands

Haniyeh said that the Islamist movement at war with Israel was sticking to its conditions for a ceasefire in Gaza, including an Israeli military withdrawal.

By JERUSALEM POST STAFF, REUTERS

THE JERUSALEM POST



Ismail Haniyeh talks to his supporters during a Hamas rally in Gaza City

(photo credit: REUTERS)

134 hostages remain in Gaza

Hamas is sticking to its original ceasefire and hostage negotiations demands that Israel must halt all military operations in the Gaza Strip, Hamas leader abroad, Ismail Haniyeh, said in a Wednesday speech, according to Arab media sources.

Speaking on International Quds (Jerusalem) Day, Haniyeh said, "We are adhering to our demands for a permanent ceasefire, a comprehensive withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, and the return of the displaced."

Israel

A Study of the Land



Source: Ocha

BBC

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-hamas-war/2024-04-03/live-updates-795071>

IDF removes rocket launchers, kills more terrorists in Gaza's Khan Yunis

In the middle of a civilian olive grove, soldiers found and subsequently destroyed a rocket launcher.

THE JERUSALEM POST

By JERUSALEM POST STAFF



IDF finds rocket launcher in the middle of a civilian olive grove in the Gaza Strip. April 3, 2024.

(photo credit: IDF SPOKESPERSON'S UNIT)

IDF soldiers continued fighting in the al-Karara and Absanim areas of the southern Gaza city of Khan Yunis, the Israeli military said on Wednesday.

Aided by aircraft, the forces killed terrorists using tank and sniper fire and unearthed underground terror infrastructures.

During raids on terror infrastructure, troops found and confiscated weapons, among which were cartridges and ammunition, mortar bombs, explosives, and military equipment, along with a manual explaining how to operate weapons.

Israel acknowledges killing 7 aid charity workers in 'tragic, unintentional' airstrike

World Central Kitchen halts Gaza ops after 'unforgivable' Israeli bombing; victims' countries demand answers; PM says will 'do everything' to prevent recurrence; White House 'heartbroken'

By EMANUEL FABIAN [FOLLOW](#)

TOI STAFF and AGENCIES

Today, 2:58 pm | Updated at 5:49 pm

THE TIMES OF ISRAEL



The aftermath of an IAF strike that killed seven staff members of World Central Kitchen, a US-based charity group, in the central Gaza Strip, April 2, 2024 (Stringer APFTV/AFP, Agencies)

Facing searing criticism on Tuesday, Israel acknowledged mistakenly carrying out an airstrike that killed seven staff members of a US-based charity group who were unloading food brought by sea to the war-torn Gaza Strip.

The group World Central Kitchen said it was pausing operations after a "targeted Israeli strike" at around midnight between Monday and Tuesday killed three British and four other staffers — an Australian, a Palestinian, a Pole and a US-Canadian.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-promises-probe-as-slain-aid-workers-home-countries-demand-explanation/>

Israel to probe killing of Gaza aid workers, drafts new hostage deal

Blinken on Gaza WKC deaths: Imperative for Israel to protect innocent lives • Israel drafts new Gaza ceasefire proposal in Cairo talks

By JERUSALEM POST STAFF

THE JERUSALEM POST



Israeli soldiers operate in the Gaza Strip, on April 2, 2024

(photo credit: IDF SPOKESPERSON'S UNIT)

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-hamas-war/2024-04-02/live-updates-794874>

US indicates opposition to renewed Palestinian bid for statehood status at UN

By JACOB MAGID  FOLLOW

Today, 10:30 pm

THE TIMES OF ISRAEL



Russia's UN Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia, and China's UN Ambassador Zhang Jun, center left, speak with ambassadors of Arab countries and the PLO before a Security Council meeting and vote on a resolution on Israel and Gaza conflict at UN Headquarters, March 25, 2024. (AP/Craig Ruttle)

US State Department spokesman Matthew Miller indicates that the Biden administration opposes the renewed Palestinian bid to obtain full-member state status at the United Nations.

“We have always made clear that, while we support the establishment of an independent Palestinian state... that is something that should be done through direct negotiations through the parties — something we are pursuing at this time — and not at the United Nations,” Miller says during a press briefing.

US opposition to the initiative in the UN Security Council would all but block it, given that Washington has veto power.

Benny Gantz to Netanyahu: Hold Israeli elections in September

Gantz stopped short of saying he would leave the government if the prime minister did not accept his demand.

THE JERUSALEM POST

By ELIAV BREUER



Benny Gantz holds a press conference at the Knesset, in Jerusalem, April 3, 2024

(photo credit: Chaim Goldberg/Flash90)

Israel's political system should agree to hold a national election in September as it approaches a year since the war against Hamas broke out on October 7, National Unity chairman MK Benny Gantz said in a press conference on Wednesday evening.

The statement was the first time Gantz mentioned a specific month as a goal for an election since joining Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in an emergency government days after the Hamas massacre in October.

israel

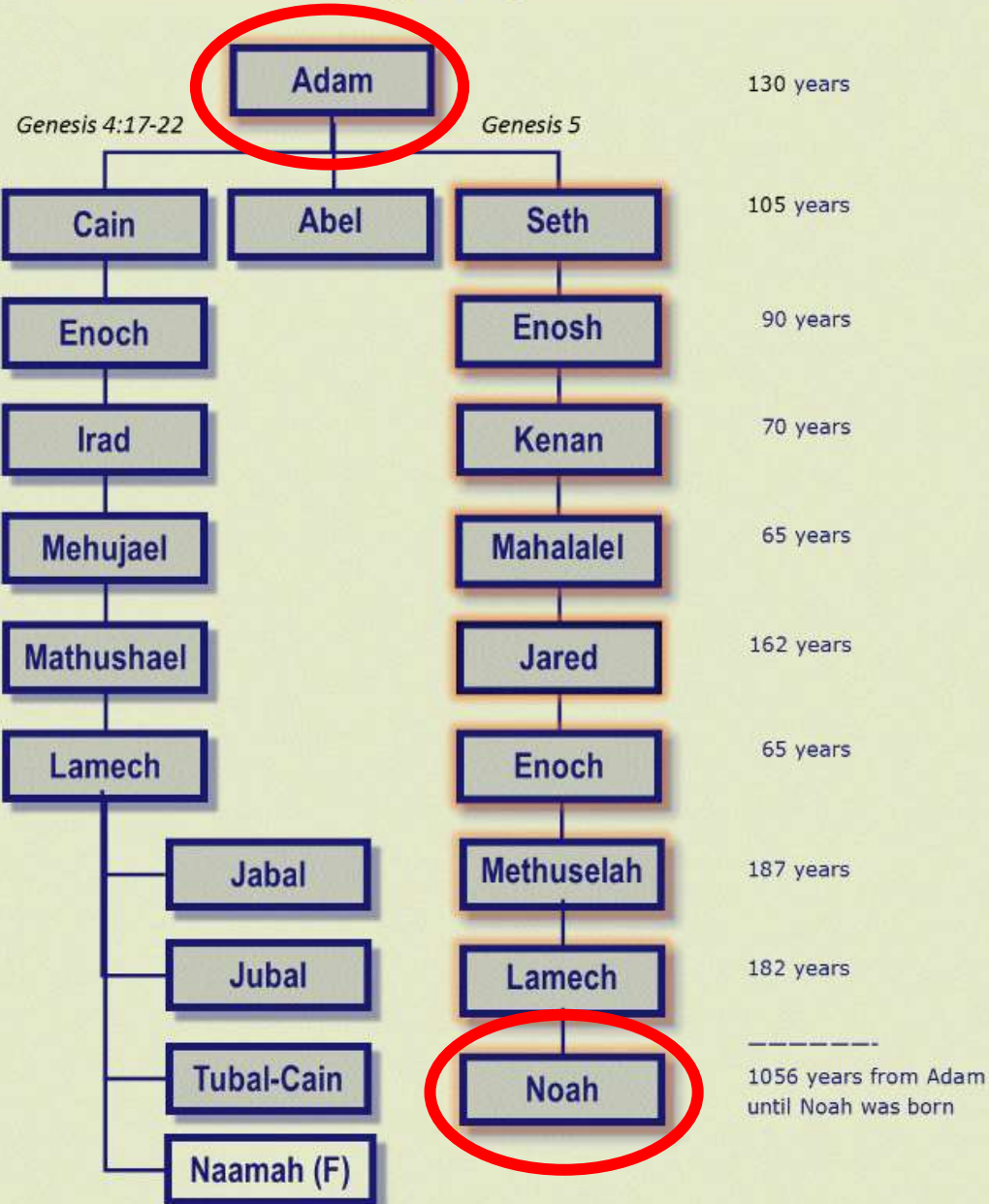
A Study of the Land

THE HISTORY

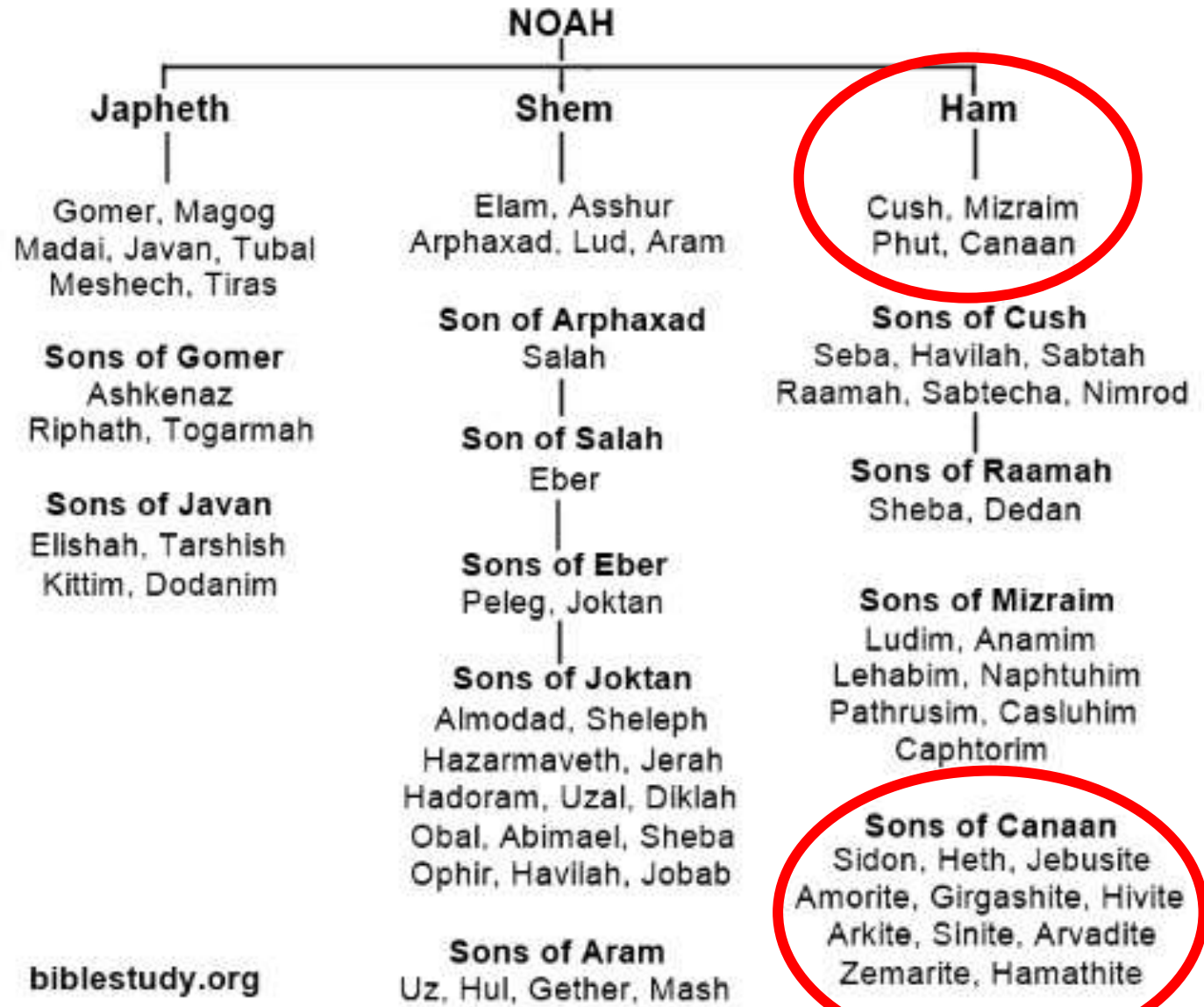


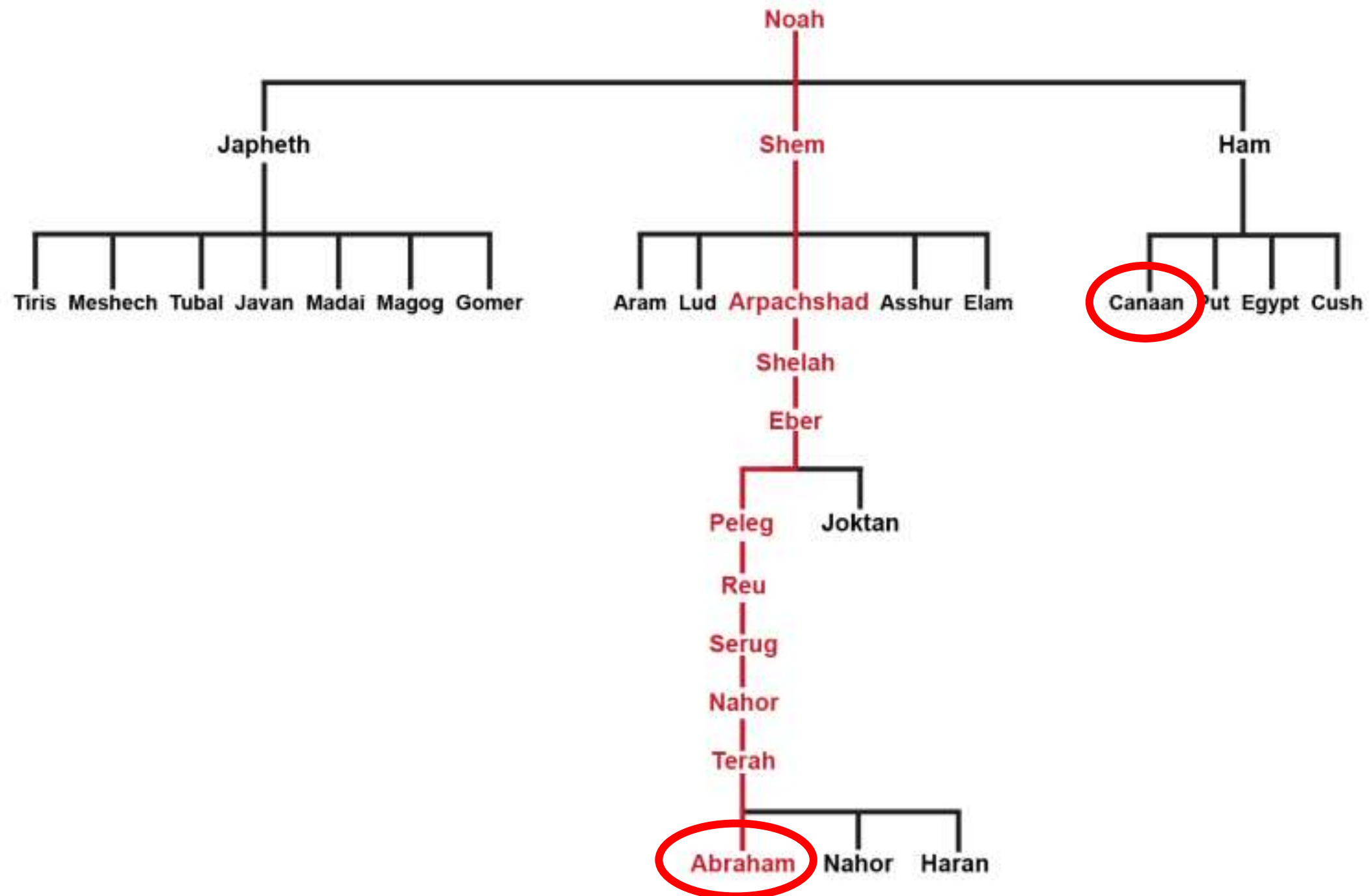
Adam's Descendants

[2.1.1.3]



Noah's descendants (Table of Nations)





Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father’s house, **to the land which I will show you**; and I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; and I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.” So Abram went forth as the Lord had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his nephew, and all their possessions which they had accumulated, and the persons which they had acquired in Haran, **and they set out for the land of Canaan; thus they came to the land of Canaan.** Abram passed through the land as far as the site of Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. Now the Canaanite was then in the land. The Lord appeared to Abram and said, **“To your descendants I will give this land.”** So he built an altar there to the Lord who had appeared to him. Genesis 12:1-7

- God calls Abraham leave Ur and go to an unknown land (ca. 1920 BC). Genesis 12:1-3
- Abraham and Sarah migrate into Canaan with Lot and their large household. Gen. 12:4-5
- Abraham settles first at Shechem in central Canaan. God promises to give this land to Abraham's descendants. Gen. 12:6-7
- God appears to Abraham in a vision and makes a formal covenant with him. Gen. 15:1

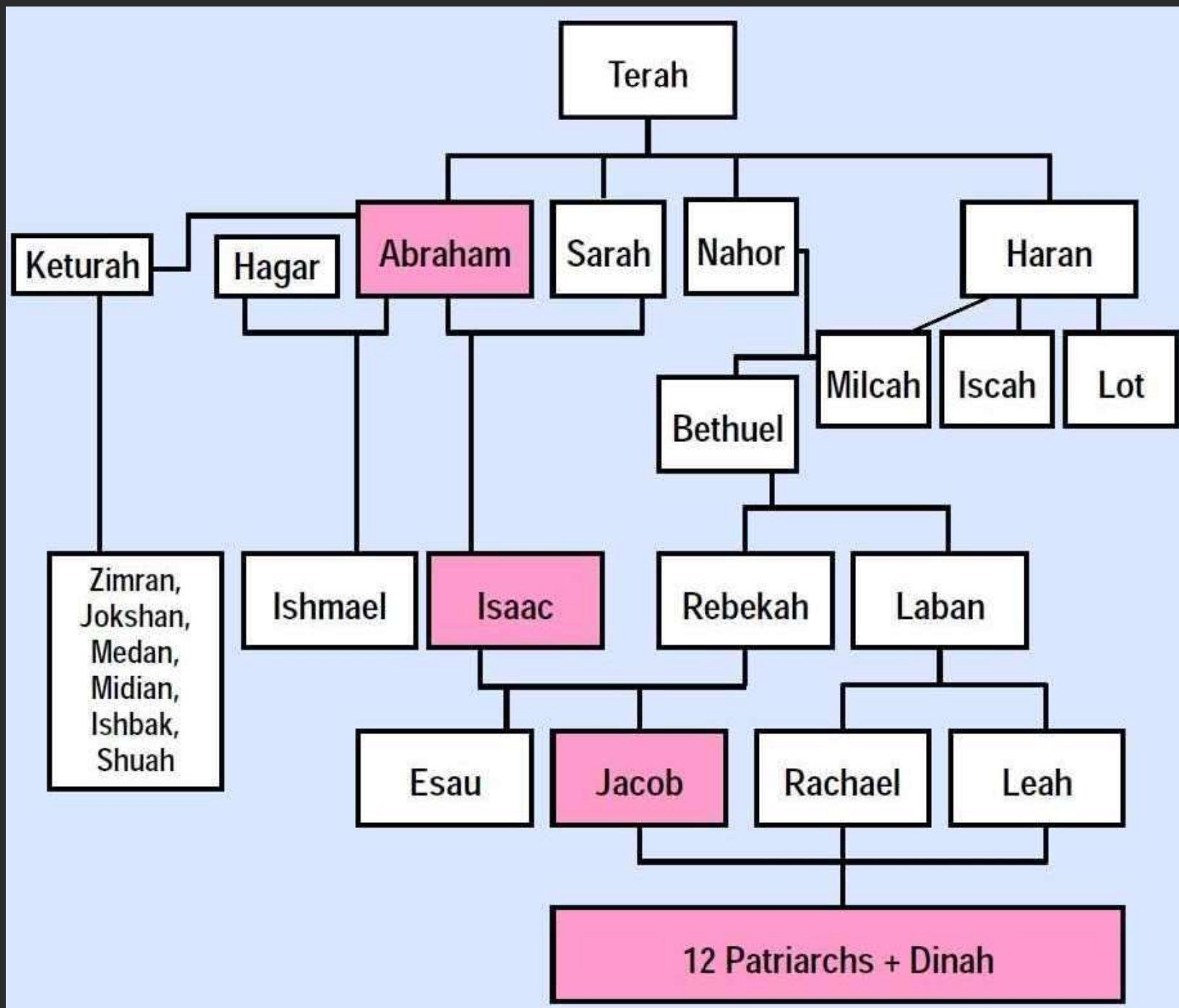


- Sarah gives her Egyptian maid Hagar to Abraham as a concubine. Gen. 16
- Hagar gives birth to Ishmael, Abraham's first son. Gen. 16.
- God confirms his covenant with Abraham, changes his name from Abram to Abraham ("father of a multitude") and Sarai to Sarah. God commands Abraham and Ishmael and all their male descendants to be circumcised. God promises that Sarah will bear a son to be named Isaac. Abraham laughs. Gen. 17
- God and two angels appear to Abraham as three visitors. God renews the promise of a son. Sarah laughs. Gen. 18:1-5

- God tells Abraham that He intends to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah for their sins. Abraham argues that God should spare the city if even 10 righteous people can be found in Sodom. God agrees. Gen. 18:16-33
- Isaac is born as first Jew. His name means “laughter.” Gen. 21:1-7
- Abraham makes Isaac his only heir. Hagar and Ishmael are sent away. Gen. 21:8-21
- God commands Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. Abraham obeys but God spares Isaac at the last moment and substitutes a ram. This location is where the First Temple was built, on Mount Moriah. Gen. 22

- Isaac, age 40, marries Rebekah. Gen. 24:67, 25:19-20
- God tells Rebekah she will have twin sons who will become two nations and the older will serve the younger (Gen. 25:21-23)
- Jacob and Esau are born. Esau is older. Gen. 25:21-26
- Esau returns from a hunting trip famished. For a bowl of lentil soup, he sells Jacob his birthright to a double portion of inheritance. Gen. 25:29-34
- Isaac, old and blind at age 110, desires to bless his oldest son, Esau, before he dies. Jacob tricks his father and obtains the patriarchal blessing to be dominant over Esau. Gen. 27:1-40
- Jacob flees from Esau's anger. Isaac and Rebekah send Isaac to Haran to find a wife. Gen. 27:41-28:5
- Jacob marries Rachel. Gen. 29:21-30
- Jacob wrestles with an angel at the Jabbok River. God changes his name to Israel. Jacob reconciles with Esau. Gen. 32:22-33:15

Abraham's Family Tree



God's Promises and Covenants

To Abraham

I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you...Genesis 12:3

To your offspring I will give this land...Genesis.12:7

To Isaac

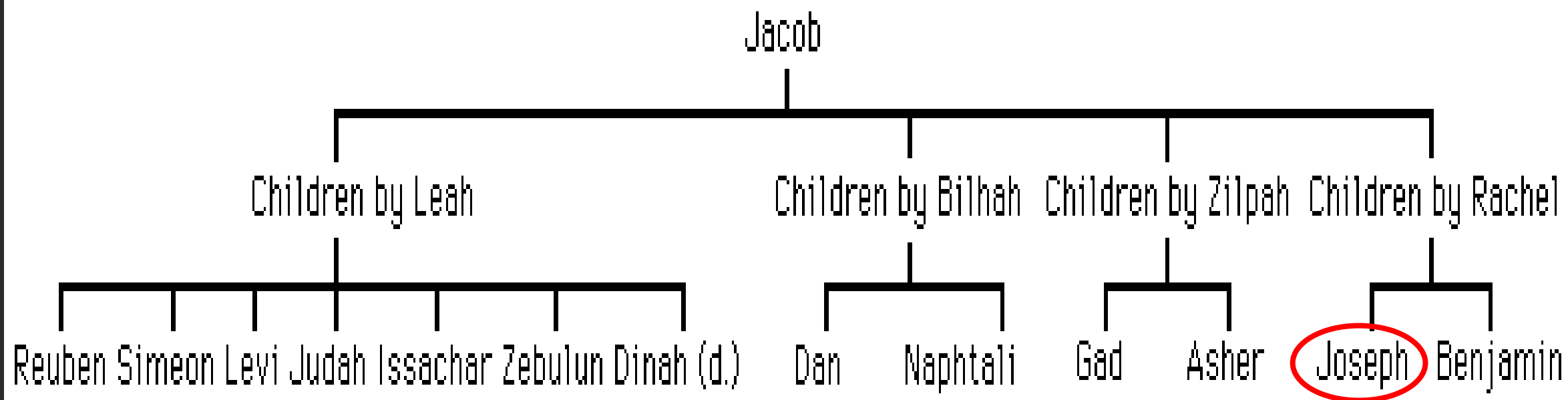
I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed. ...Genesis 26:4

To Jacob

The land I gave to Abraham and Isaac I also give to you, and I will give this land to your descendants after you. ...Genesis 35:12

Now there were twelve sons of Jacob— the sons of Leah: Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, then Simeon and Levi and Judah and Issachar and Zebulun; the sons of Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin; and the sons of Bilhah, Rachel's maid: Dan and Naphtali; and the sons of Zilpah, Leah's maid: Gad and Asher. These are the sons of Jacob who were born to him in Paddan-aram. Genesis 35:22-26

Jacob's Family



Genesis chapter 37

Now Jacob lived in the land where his father [Isaac] had sojourned, **in the land of Canaan**. These are the records of the generations of Jacob. Joseph, when seventeen years of age, was pasturing the flock with his brothers while he was still a youth, along with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives. And Joseph brought back a bad report about them (his half-brothers) to their father. Now Israel [Jacob] loved Joseph more than all his sons, because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a varicolored tunic.

Genesis 37:1-3

His brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers; and so they hated him and could not speak to him on friendly terms. Then Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. He said to them, "Please listen to this dream which I have had; for behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and lo, my sheaf rose up and also stood upright; and behold, your sheaves gathered around and bowed down to my sheaf." Then his brothers said to him, "Are you actually going to reign over us? Or are you really going to rule over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words. Genesis 37:4-8

Now he had still another dream, and related it to his brothers, and said, “Lo, I have had still another dream; and behold, the sun and the moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me.” He related it to his father and to his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, “What is this dream that you have had? Shall I and your mother and your brothers actually come to bow ourselves down before you to the ground?” His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind.

Genesis 37:9-11

Then his brothers went to pasture their father's flock in Shechem. Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock in Shechem? Come, and I will send you to them." And he said to him, "I will go." Then he said to him, "Go now and see about the welfare of your brothers and the welfare of the flock, and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron, and he came to Shechem. A man found him, and behold, he was wandering in the field; and the man asked him, "What are you looking for?" He said, "I am looking for my brothers; please tell me where they are pasturing the flock." Then the man said, "They have moved from here; for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.' " So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan. Genesis 37:12-17

*Journey from Hebron to Shechem was about 50 miles and Dothan was 15 miles farther north

Joseph's Journey

Joseph is sold at **Dothan** and transported to Egypt—probably to **Zoan/Tanis**

Joseph goes from **Hebron** to **Shechem** to **Dothan** looking for his brothers

Dothan
Shechem
Bethel
Jerusalem
Gaza
Hebron

Joseph's brother travel from **Hebron** to **Zoan/Tanis** to buy food from Egypt, a trip of about 200 miles from **Hebron**

Zoan • Tanis

Sinai Peninsula

— = 20 km





Tel Dothan, where Joseph was sold as a slave (Daniel Ventura)

When they saw him [Joseph] from a distance and before he came close to them, they plotted against him to put him to death. They said to one another, “Here comes this dreamer! Now then, come and let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; and we will say, ‘A wild beast devoured him.’ Then let us see what will become of his dreams!” But Reuben heard this and rescued him out of their hands and said, “Let us not take his life.” Reuben further said to them, “Shed no blood. Throw him into this pit that is in the wilderness, but do not lay hands on him”—that he might rescue him out of their hands, to restore him to his father. Genesis 37:18-22

So it came about, when Joseph reached his brothers, that they stripped Joseph of his tunic, the varicolored tunic that was on him; and they took him and threw him into the pit. Now the pit was empty, without any water in it. Then they sat down to eat a meal. And as they raised their eyes and looked, behold, a caravan of Ishmaelites was coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing aromatic gum and balm and myrrh, on their way to bring them down to Egypt. Genesis 37:23-25

Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is it for us to kill our brother and cover up his blood? Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.” And his brothers listened to him. Then some Midianite (sub-group of Ishmaelites) traders passed by, so they pulled him up and lifted Joseph out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver (8 ounces of silver). Thus they brought Joseph into Egypt. Now Reuben returned to the pit, and behold, Joseph was not in the pit; so he tore his garments. He returned to his brothers and said, “The boy is not there; as for me, where am I to go?” Genesis 37:26-30

So they took Joseph's tunic, and slaughtered a male goat and dipped the tunic in the blood; and they sent the varicolored tunic and brought it to their father and said, "We found this; please examine it to see whether it is your son's tunic or not." Then he examined it and said, "It is my son's tunic. A wild beast has devoured him; Joseph has surely been torn to pieces!" So Jacob tore his clothes, and put sackcloth on his loins and mourned for his son many days. Then all his sons and all his daughters arose to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. And he said, "Surely I will go down to Sheol in mourning for my son." So his father wept for him. Meanwhile, **the Midianites sold him in Egypt** to Potiphar, Pharaoh's officer, the captain of the bodyguard. Genesis 37:31-36

Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an Egyptian officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the bodyguard, bought him from the Ishmaelites, who had taken him down there. The Lord was with Joseph, so he became a successful man. And he was in the house of his master, the Egyptian. Now his master saw that the Lord was with him and how the Lord caused all that he did to prosper in his hand. Genesis 39:1-3

*This Pharaoh was probably Sesostri II (1897–1879 BC)

So Joseph found favor in his sight and became his personal servant; and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he owned he put in his charge. It came about that from the time he made him overseer in his house and over all that he owned, the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house on account of Joseph; thus the Lord's blessing was upon all that he owned, in the house and in the field. So he left everything he owned in Joseph's charge; and with him there he did not concern himself with anything except the food which he ate. Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. Genesis 39:4-6

It came about after these events that his master's wife looked with desire at Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me." But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Behold, with me here, my master does not concern himself with anything in the house, and he has put all that he owns in my charge. There is no one greater in this house than I, and he has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great evil and sin against God?" As she spoke to Joseph day after day, he did not listen to her to lie beside her or be with her. Genesis 39:7-10

Now it happened one day that he went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the household was there inside. She caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me!" And he left his garment in her hand and fled, and went outside. When she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled outside, she called to the men of her household and said to them, "See, he has brought in a Hebrew to us to make sport of us; he came in to me to lie with me, and I screamed. When he heard that I raised my voice and screamed, he left his garment beside me and fled and went outside." So she left his garment beside her until his master came home. Then she spoke to him with these words, "The Hebrew slave, whom you brought to us, came in to me to make sport of me; and as I raised my voice and screamed, he left his garment beside me and fled outside." Genesis 39:11-18

Now when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spoke to him, saying, “This is what your slave did to me,” his anger burned. So Joseph’s master took him and put him into the jail, the place where the king’s prisoners were confined; and he was there in the jail. But the Lord was with Joseph and extended kindness to him, and gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer. The chief jailer committed to Joseph’s charge all the prisoners who were in the jail; so that whatever was done there, he was responsible for it. The chief jailer did not supervise anything under Joseph’s charge because the Lord was with him; and whatever he did, the Lord made to prosper. Genesis 39:19-23

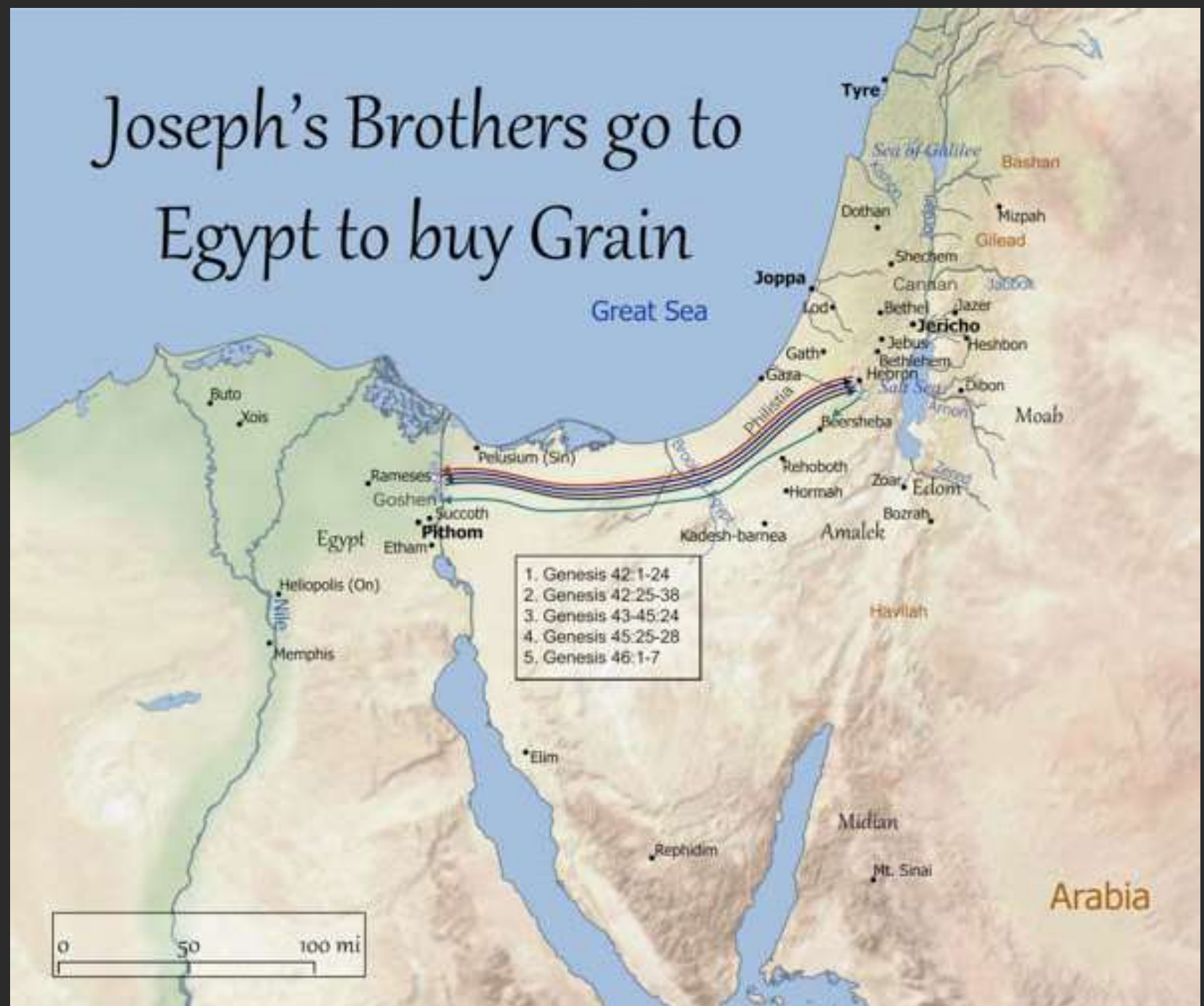
- Joseph is born to Jacob and Rachel when Jacob is 91. Gen. 37:3
- Joseph is favorite son of Jacob. Joseph's brothers are jealous and sell him into slavery in Egypt and convince Jacob that Joseph is dead. Gen. 37
- Joseph is a slave of Potiphar, the captain of Pharaoh's guard. He rises to be chief steward over Potiphar's house. Gen. 39:1-6
- Potiphar's wife accuses Joseph of seducing her and he is put in prison. Gen. 39:7-20
- Joseph is given charge of all prisoners. Gen. 39:21-23
- Pharaoh's baker and cupbearer are put into prison and both dream mysterious dreams. Joseph interprets both dreams correctly. Gen. 40
- Pharaoh dreams a mysterious double dream that no one can interpret. Pharaoh's cupbearer remember Joseph. Joseph interprets the dream and foretells 7 years of famine. Pharaoh elevates Joseph, age 30, to viceroy over all Egypt. Gen. 41:1-44

Joseph interpreted the Pharaoh's dream and said... "Now let Pharaoh look for a man discerning and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt. Let Pharaoh take action to appoint overseers in charge of the land, and let him exact a fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt in the seven years of abundance. "Then let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming, and store up the grain for food in the cities under Pharaoh's authority, and let them guard it. Let the food become as a reserve for the land for the seven years of famine which will occur in the land of Egypt, so that the land will not perish during the famine." Now the proposal seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his servants. Then Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find a man like this, in whom is a divine spirit?" So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has informed you of all this, there is no one so discerning and wise as you are. You shall be over my house, and according to your command all my people shall do homage; only in the throne I will be greater than you." Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt." Genesis 41:33-41

Then Pharaoh took off his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph's hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put the gold necklace around his neck. He had him ride in his second chariot; and they proclaimed before him, "Bow the knee!" And he set him over all the land of Egypt. Moreover, Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Though I am Pharaoh, yet without your permission no one shall raise his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt." Then Pharaoh named Joseph Zaphenath-paneah; and he gave him Asenath, the daughter of Potiphara priest of On, as his wife. And Joseph went forth over the land of Egypt. Now Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh, king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh and went through all the land of Egypt. During the seven years of plenty the land brought forth abundantly. So he gathered all the food of these seven years which occurred in the land of Egypt and placed the food in the cities; he placed in every city the food from its own surrounding fields. Thus Joseph stored up grain in great abundance like the sand of the sea, until he stopped measuring it, for it was beyond measure. Genesis 41:42-49

- Joseph stores grain all over Egypt. Gen. 41:46-49
- Severe famine strikes Egypt and Canaan. Joseph sells the stored grain. Gen. 41:53-57
- Joseph's 10 older brothers come to buy grain from Joseph but they do not recognize them. Joseph accuses them of spying and keeps one of them hostage until they bring their younger brother, Benjamin. Gen. 42
- When their grain is gone, Jacob and the brothers return. Joseph tests whether his brothers have changed since they sold him into slavery. Finally he reveals his identity to them. Gen. 43-45
- Jacob, age 130, and his family of 66 descendants and their wives and servants, migrate to Egypt. They settle in the Nile delta region called Goshen. Gen. 46-47
- Jacob/Israel dies in Egypt at age 147. His body is mummified and taken to Canaan for burial. Gen. 49:29-50:14
- Joseph dies in Egypt at age 110. His body is mummified and kept in Egypt until the Exodus. Gen. 50:25-26

Joseph's Brothers go to Egypt to buy Grain



So Israel set out with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, “Jacob, Jacob.” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “I am God, the God of your father; **do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you a great nation there. I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again;** and Joseph will close your eyes.” Then Jacob arose from Beersheba; and the sons of Israel carried their father Jacob and their little ones and their wives in the wagons which Pharaoh had sent to carry him. They took their livestock and their property, which they had acquired in the land of Canaan, and **came to Egypt**, Jacob and all his descendants with him: his sons and his grandsons with him, his daughters and his granddaughters, and all his descendants he brought with him to Egypt. Genesis 46:1-7

Israel

A Study of the Land

All the persons belonging to Jacob, who came to Egypt, his direct descendants, not including the wives of Jacob's sons, were sixty-six persons in all, and the sons of Joseph, who were born to him in Egypt were two; all the persons of the house of Jacob, who came to Egypt, were seventy. Now he sent Judah before him to Joseph, to point out the way before him to **Goshen**; and they came into the land of **Goshen**. Joseph prepared his chariot and went up to **Goshen** to meet his father Israel; as soon as he appeared before him, he fell on his neck and wept on his neck a long time. Genesis 46:26-29



All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father said to them when he blessed them. He blessed them, every one with the blessing appropriate to him. Then he charged them and said to them, “I am about to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite, **in the cave that is in the field of Machpelah**, which is before Mamre, **in the land of Canaan**, which Abraham bought along with the field from Ephron the Hittite for a burial site. There they buried Abraham and his wife Sarah, there they buried Isaac and his wife Rebekah, and there I buried Leah—the field and the cave that is in it, purchased from the sons of Heth.” When Jacob [Israel] finished charging his sons, he drew his feet into the bed and breathed his last, and was gathered to his people. Then Joseph fell on his father’s face, and wept over him and kissed him. Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel. Now forty days were required for it, for such is the period required for embalming. And the Egyptians wept for him seventy days. Genesis 49:28-50:3

When the days of mourning for him were past, Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh, saying, “If now I have found favor in your sight, please speak to Pharaoh, saying, ‘My father made me swear, saying, “Behold, I am about to die; in my grave which I dug for myself **in the land of Canaan, there you shall bury me.**” Now therefore, please let me go up and bury my father; then I will return.’ ” Pharaoh said, “Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear.” So Joseph went up to bury his father, and with him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his household and all the elders of the land of Egypt, and all the household of Joseph and his brothers and his father’s household; they left only their little ones and their flocks and their herds in the land of **Goshen.**

Genesis 50:4-8

There also went up with him both chariots and horsemen; and it was a very great company. When they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, they lamented there with a very great and sorrowful lamentation; and he observed seven days mourning for his father. Now when **the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites**, saw the mourning at the threshing floor of Atad, they said, “This is a grievous mourning for the Egyptians.” Therefore it was named Abel-mizraim, which is beyond the Jordan. Thus his sons did for him as he had charged them; for his sons carried him to the land of Canaan and **buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah before Mamre, which Abraham had bought along with the field for a burial site from Ephron the Hittite**. After he had buried his father, **Joseph returned to Egypt**, he and his brothers, and all who had gone up with him to bury his father.

Genesis 50:9-14

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong which we did to him!" So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father charged before he died, saying, 'Thus you shall say to Joseph, "Please forgive, I beg you, the transgression of your brothers and their sin, for they did you wrong." ' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.'" And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them. **Now Joseph stayed in Egypt, he and his father's household**, and Joseph lived one hundred and ten years. Joseph saw the third generation of Ephraim's sons; also the sons of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were born on Joseph's knees. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die, but God will surely take care of you and bring you up from this land to the land which He promised on oath to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob." Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, "God will surely take care of you, and you shall carry my bones up from here." So Joseph died at the age of one hundred and ten years; and he was embalmed and placed in a coffin in Egypt. Genesis 50:15-21

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Genesis 50:22-26

As our history lesson continues...

- At this point in history, the people of Israel do not live in the land of Israel (known at the time as Canaan), they live in Egypt.
- The people of Israel will live in Egypt for more than 400 years, as promised by the Lord to Abraham.
 - God said to Abram, “Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years. But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions.” Genesis 15:13-14
- Who lives in Israel / Canaan at the end of the Book of Genesis? The various pagan groups known collectively as the Canaanites.
- When and how will the People of Israel inhabit the Promised Land of Israel? Stay tuned for next week.