



## 02 Preparing to Enter the Promised Land – Sunday May 30, 2021

*12 Now the LORD had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, From your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”*

*<sup>4</sup> So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. <sup>5</sup> Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So, they came to the land of Canaan. <sup>6</sup> Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh. And the Canaanites were then in the land.*

*<sup>7</sup> Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants I will give this land.” And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. <sup>8</sup> And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD. <sup>9</sup> So Abram journeyed, going on still toward the South. (Genesis 12:1-9, NKJV).*

Let’s look at a few maps to find out where we are talking about.



How do we know that the Promised Land was given to the Jews forever? In Deuteronomy 4:40, the Lord gave the Israelites this command: *“Keep his decrees and commands, which I am giving you today, so that it may go well with you and your children after you and that you may live long in the land the LORD your God gives you for all time.” (NIV).* Does this mean God gave Israel the Promised Land in perpetuity? Yes.

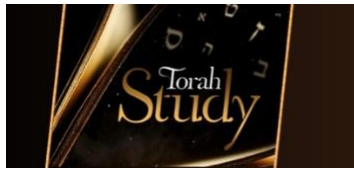
This passage contains a conditional offer. Israel would have the Promised Land as long as they kept God’s “decrees and commands.” The Israelites had to obey God’s statutes in order to remain in the land. History reveals that the Israelites often disobeyed, resulting in temporary times of exile from their land. However, the end of this passage notes that God is giving Israel the Promised Land “for all time.” The Hebrew phrase translated “for all time” is a general

statement, likely in reference to God’s original promise of a land to Abraham in [Genesis 12](#).<sup>1</sup>



What is a Hebrew – “Ivrit” (cross over – from the “other side”)? The Hebrews are peoples descended from [Abraham](#). The origin of the word *Hebrew* is thought to come from the proper name “Eber,” listed in [Genesis 10:24](#) as the great-grandson of Shem and an ancestor of Abraham. Another etymology traces the original root word back to the phrase “from the other side”—in that case, *Hebrew* would be a word designating an “immigrant,” which Abraham certainly was ([Genesis 12:1, 4–5](#)).<sup>2</sup>

This prompts me to ask you, “Have you crossed over?” *“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.” (John 5:24, NIV).*



Wednesday night we reviewed the names of the first five books of the Bible. These are called the “Torah.” This is mistranslated as “The Law” and the Law is misunderstood to be the Ten Commandments. What we read in these first five books is God’s first instructions to man. There are many narratives, but they are here for a purpose. They are here to “instruct” us in how to live and how not to live. They are here to instruct us and inform us of God’s ultimate plan of redemption for all of the world. We find SO MUCH basic Bible doctrine in the Torah.

**ΓΕΝΕΣΙΣ (Genesis)** The Greek word for “creation” is the name given to the first book of the Hebrew Bible, whose first word is בראשית, (*bereshit*), meaning “**In the beginning...**”.

**ΕΞΟΔΟΣ (Exodus)** The Exodus, the “way out” of Egypt for the Israelites. In Hebrew, the book is called שמות, *shemot*, which simply means “**names,**” according to the principle we mentioned in Part One of naming the books according to the first words: “Now these are the names of the children of Israel who came to Egypt...”

**ΛΕΥΙΤΙΚΟΝ (Leviticus)** Having to do with the duties of the Levites, members of the tribe of Levi who administered the Temple rituals. **In Hebrew, the book is called ויקרא, *vayyiqra*, “And (the Lord) called to Moses...”**.

**ΑΡΙΘΜΟΙ (Numbers)** The Greek word for number is ΑΡΙΘΜΟΣ, ΑΡΙΘΜΟΙ, in the plural. In Hebrew, it is simply called במדבר, *Bemidbar*, “**In the Desert.**”

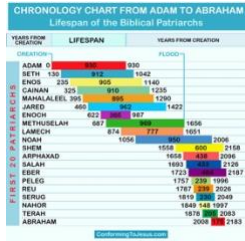
**ΔΕΥΤΕΡΟΝΟΜΙΟΝ (Deuteronomy) (also Mishneh Torah – repeated instruction)** ΔΕΥΤΕΡΟΣ = SECOND, ΝΟΜΟΣ = LAW. The second law? In the LXX, the Hebrew word *Torah* is translated by the Greek *nomos*, which has the sense of custom or tradition, rather than law. However, this was translated into Latin as *lex*, = law, which is perhaps a contribution to the mistaken notion that Torah = law and legalism. Deuteronomy is known in Hebrew as, דברים, *Devarim*, from the

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/Israel-promised-land.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/who-Hebrews.html>

opening phrase *Eleh ha-devarim*, “These are the words which Moses spoke to all Israel on the other side of the Jordan”.

## Timeline/Historical Review

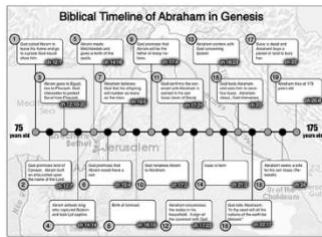


Abraham lived around 2000 BC.

*“So Abram departed as the Lord had spoken to him.” (Genesis 12:4a, NKJV).*

He left Ur of the Chaldees and went south.

God made a covenant with him. And only God performed.



As Abram grew older, he and Sarai decided to “help God out” with the promised heir. So, Abram when into Sarai’s handmaid and had a son Ishmael. Finally, when Abram was 100 and Sarah was about 90 they had Isaac (the promised heir from Sarai).

Isaac was born. He had two sons: Esau and Jacob

Jacob had 12 sons. These are the sons from which each of the twelve tribes of Israel came.



Genesis 37: Jacob favored Joseph and Benjamin

Let’s read the text

<sup>2</sup>Joseph, being seventeen years old, was pasturing the flock with his brothers. He was a boy with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives. And Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. <sup>3</sup> Now

Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colors. <sup>4</sup> But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him.

<sup>5</sup> Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more. <sup>6</sup> He said to them, “Hear this dream that I have dreamed: <sup>7</sup> Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf.” <sup>8</sup> His brothers said to him, “Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to rule over us?” So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.

<sup>9</sup> Then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and said, “Behold, I have dreamed another dream. Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me.” <sup>10</sup> But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him and said to him, “What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?” <sup>11</sup> And his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind. (Genesis 37:2b-11, ESV).

There are so many lessons to be learned in this passage, but I am only teaching it as background to getting to the Promised Land. So we remember what happened. His brothers took an

animal and killed it, and put the blood on the coat of many colors and they sold Joseph into slavery in Egypt. Interestingly it was the sons (descendants) of Ishmael (his second cousins) that came and purchased Joseph and took him away.

Well, most of us know the story. Joseph was placed in an official's house. The woman of the house tried to seduce Joseph and when he resisted, she claimed that he raped her. He spent time in prison and then through a series of events he got out of prison and slowly God elevated him from being a zero to being a hero in Egypt. He became what today we would know as the Prime Minister. He interpreted dreams of Pharaoh that came true, and through divine guidance he devised a scheme to store grain which resulted in the Egyptian people being saved from starvation due to a famine that struck the entire Middle East. When the famine became so severe, his brothers came down to Egypt looking for grain to buy.

Joseph could have taken retribution against them for all the harm that they had done to him, but instead he forgave them and told them, "What you meant for evil God used for good."

*You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. (Genesis 50:20, NIV).*

If we could grasp hold of what Joseph is saying, it could change our lives. We would see negative events differently if we realized that God causes *"all things to work together for good for those who love God for those who are called according to His purpose."* (Romans 8:28, my paraphrase). God works it out. People may do things to harm us or hurt us, but God can and does turn it right back around in His time. (This includes self-inflicted harm.)

Joseph died. The Bible tells us that eventually a Pharaoh arose who did not know Joseph (meaning didn't know about the great things he had done, see Exodus 1:8), and approximately 400 years passed. During that time, the Hebrews became the slaves of the Egyptians. The Egyptians used them to make brick and they used them as slave labor to build many of the great cities in Egypt. They were miserable, but they learned to live in and enjoy Egypt. They loved the vegetables that grew there and they loved the fish that were readily available there, but they were slaves.

As their lives grew more and more difficult, they cried out in their misery and God heard them. A tension developed within them. They were comfortable in Egypt, yet they were miserable in Egypt. There is a mishnah in this (a secondary teaching). We too grow comfortable in the pleasure and familiarity of our sin while we are in the misery of being slaves to our sin. Things got worse in Egypt than the Israelites could ever imagine.

Hoping to wipe out the Jews, the King (Pharaoh) passed a law decreeing that all of the Jewish males were to be killed. This was genocide. One of the Jewish mothers gave birth to a son and hid him in a basket covered with tar. She placed him in the Nile River where he floated down, only to be discovered by the Pharaoh's daughter. The child was found in the rushes that grew along the river's banks and he was "drawn out" of the water, so he was named Moses (Moshe) meaning "drawn out."

Moses grew up in Pharaoh's household, but scripture tells us that Pharaoh's daughter knew he was a Hebrew child. So, she must have related this to him as he grew up. Moses chose to remember who he was.

"Of course, Moses himself deserves great credit as well. Many of us choose to forget our heritage and ignore our identity. Sadly, we are easily persuaded to construct a false front over our real selves by three forces acting upon us. (i) Friends; (ii) Entertainment and the culture; (iii) Inside doubts and fears. Moses reminds us to remain true to who we really are.

Wherever the call to truth comes from, whether amazing grandparents who inspire us to live our heritage or a quiet dream inside our souls, we can summon up the strength to turn our backs upon the false promises taunting us to join a decaying culture. Just as Moses remembered who he really was even while surrounded by the luxurious depravity of Pharaoh, so can we. It really is very inspiring."<sup>3</sup>

I would say that we too as Christians can take a great lesson from Moses. As sons and daughters of Almighty God we should be careful to remember WHO we are and WHOSE we are as we are assaulted by the world, the flesh, and the devil. We should be careful to listen to the wonderful promises of God instead of the promises that the world makes to us. God's promises turn into testimonies, and the world's promises turn into tragedies. The world promises to fulfill our greatest needs but the result always comes up short or empty. The promises of Satan never deliver the pleasure that they promise. They always come up short.

So this morning, we've looked at charts that have shown us history from the beginning of the record. You've seen a chart showing the timeline from Adam to Abraham. We listened in as God guaranteed this Promised Land to Abraham's descendants forever. We then looked at scripture that gives an account of the dreams God gave Abraham's great-grandson, Joseph, who was sold into Egypt by his brothers. After he died, 400 years passed in which Abraham's descendants had been reduced to slaves. Then we finished by looking at a little boy named Moshe who was drawn out of the reeds of the Nile River who was destined to become the liberator of his people.

Moshe (Moses) never made it into the Promised Land, but his two young protégés named Caleb and Joshua were raised up because of their faithfulness and their belief in the trustworthiness of the promises of God. They were blessed by God because, as Paul would say some 1200 years later, it is this belief that God counts as righteousness. In speaking of Abraham, Paul says, *"<sup>20</sup> He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, <sup>21</sup> and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. <sup>22</sup> And therefore "it was accounted to him for righteousness." (Romans 4:20-22, NKJV).*

Let us go and do likewise. Let us pray.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://rabbidaniellapin.com/moses-know-he-was-an-israelite/>

Union Grove is one of the oldest Baptist communities of faith in the State of Texas dating back to 1844. Pastor Faber McMullen may be reached by email at [uniongrove362@gmail.com](mailto:uniongrove362@gmail.com) or by snail mail at: 15301 FM 362, Navasota, Texas 77868. Tel: 936-825-1227 (Edited and proofed by Amanda Neese- Webster, Texas.) All financial gifts to this ministry are tax-deductible as a 501 (c) (3) Corporation.