

GENESIS

Origin of the House of Israel as Exclusive and Collective Heir to the Abrahamic Covenant

I. Adam-Noah Cycle (1-11b)

Abraham Is a Rightful Heir to the Blessings of Adam, Noah, and Shem

Book 1: *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth ..."* (1:1)

A. Story of the Creation: mankind made in the image of God, married, and blessed with dominion (1:1-2:3)

Book 2: *"These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth ..."* (2:4)

B. Story of Adam & Eve and the Fall: knowledge of good and evil, clothing, and cursings (2:4-3:24)

C. Story of murders by Cain and Lamech, connected by genealogical list for non-birthright line from Cain to Lamech's three sons (4:1-26)

Book 3: *"This is the book of the generations of Adam ..."* (5:1)

D. Genealogical list: birthright line from Adam to Noah's three sons (5:1-32)

E. Story of pervasive wickedness and God's intent to destroy mankind (6:1-8)

Book 4: *"These are the generations of Noah ..."* (6:9)

A'. Story of Noah and the Flood: destruction and re-creation, blessed with dominion (6:9-9:19)

B'. Story of Ham's disrespect of Noah's nakedness: Canaan cursed to serve Shem and Japheth (9:20-29)

Book 5: *"Now these are the generations of the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth ..."* (10:1)

C'. Genealogical list: Noah's non-birthright descendants through his three sons (10:1-32)

E'. Story of the Tower of Babel and God's scattering of mankind (11:1-9)

Book 6: *"These are the generations of Shem [Noah's son] ..."* (11:10)

D'. Genealogical list: birthright line from Shem to Terah's three sons including Abraham (11:10-26)

II. Abraham Cycle (11c-25a)

God's Covenant with Abraham

Book 7: *"Now these are the generations of Terah [Abraham's father] ..."* (11:27)

• Story of Terah's son Abraham (11:27-25:6)

• Genealogical list of Terah's three sons: Abraham, Nahor, and Haran/Lot (11:27-32)

A. Abraham among the Canaanites: Abrahamic Covenant formed and renewed several times (12:1-15:21)

B. Birth of Ishmael, Hagar flees and returns (16:1-16)

C. Symbolic covenant of circumcision: Abrahamic Covenant again renewed, name changed (17:1-27)

D. Canaanites rejected: God destroys Sodom (18:1-19:29)

• Story of Terah's descendants through his third son Haran/Lot: Moab and Ammon (19:30-38)

A'. Abraham among the Canaanites (20:1-18; 21:22-34; 23:1-20, *text is significantly interrupted by B', C'*)

B'. Birth of Isaac, Hagar is cast out (21:1-21)

C'. Symbolic sacrifice of Isaac: Abrahamic Covenant again renewed (22:1-19)

• Genealogical list of Terah's descendants through his second son Nahor: Rebekah (22:20-24)

D'. Canaanites rejected: Isaac marries a bride from Haran rather than Canaan (24:1-67)

• Genealogical list of Terah's descendants through his first son Abraham, and death of Abraham (25:1-6)

III. Jacob Cycle (25b-35)

The Abrahamic Covenant Passes to Isaac and then to Jacob Individually

Book 8: "Now these are the generations of Ishmael, Abraham's son ..." (25:12)

- Genealogical list of Abraham's descendants through his son Ishmael (25:12-18)

Book 9: "And these are the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son ..." (25:19)

- Story of Abraham's descendants through his son Isaac: Jacob and Esau (25:19--35:29)

A. Isaac's two sons: Jacob and Esau (25:19-26)

B. Isaac deals humbly with Canaanites, peace treaty, God confirms Abrahamic Covenant to Isaac (26:1-33)

C. Jacob obtains Isaac's birthright blessing through trickery and flees from Esau (27:1-28:22)

- including Jacob's ladder: God confirms Abrahamic Covenant to Jacob (28:10-22)

D. Jacob works first seven years but is tricked by Laban regarding his bride (29:1-30)

E. Jacob is blessed with children during second seven years (29:31-30:24)

E'. Jacob is blessed with flocks during final six years (30:25-43)

D'. Jacob flees Laban's trickery and is then reconciled with Laban (31:1-55)

C'. Jacob deals humbly with Esau and is reconciled (32:1-33:20)

- including Jacob's wrestle: Jacob's names changed to Israel (32:24-32)

B'. Jacob's sons deal trickily and proudly with Canaanites, and Jacob's family flees (34:1-35:15)

A'. Jacob's sons, and deaths of his wife Rachel and his father Isaac (35:16-29)

IV. Joseph Cycle (36-50)

The Abrahamic Covenant Passes to the Entire House of Israel Collectively

Book 10: "Now these are the generations of Esau ..." (36:1)

- First genealogical list of Isaac's descendants through his son Esau (36:1-8)

Book 11: "And these are the generations of Esau ..." (36:9)

- Second genealogical list of Isaac's descendants through his son Esau (36:9-19)

Book 12: "These are the generations of Jacob ..." (37:2)

- Story of Isaac's descendants through his son Jacob/Israel: Joseph and his brothers (37:1-50:26)

A. Joseph's two dreams that brothers will bow to him (37:1-11)

A'. Brothers' plans to get rid of Joseph (37:12-36)

B. Judah a poor steward over posterity and seduced by Tamar (38:1-30)

B'. Joseph a good steward over household and resists Potiphar's wife (39:1-23)

C. Joseph interprets two prisoner dreams (40:1-23)

C'. Joseph interprets two Pharaoh dreams (41:1-45)

D. Pharaoh (through Joseph) prepares for the famine (41:46-57)

E. Brothers' first trip to buy grain from Egypt: brothers bow to Joseph (42:1-38)

E'. Brothers' second trip to buy grain from Egypt: brothers agree to serve Joseph (43:1-45:28)

F. Family's third trip to receive gift of Egypt's best: Joseph nourishes family (46:1-47:12)

D'. Pharaoh (through Joseph) profits from the famine, and Egyptians are impoverished (47:13-26)

- Jacob adopts and blesses Joseph's two sons, and blesses his own sons (48:1-49:28)

- Jacob dies and is buried in Canaan, Joseph dies (47:27-31; 49:29-50:14; 50:22-26)

A''. Brothers knowingly agree to serve Joseph (50:15-21)