

Genesis 49 v29 – 50 v26 The end of the beginning

- 1) Recap on life of Jacob** Gen (chapters 25-49)
- 2) The death of Jacob** Gen 49 v29 – 50 v1
- 3) The burial of Jacob** 50 v2-14
- 4) Joseph's reaction to the fear of his brothers** 50 v15-21
- 5) The death of Joseph** 50 v22-26
- 6) Lesson for us**

Abraham

Isaac

Jacob

Joseph

Date	Event	Genesis
2006 BC	Birth of Jacob and Esau, probably in Beer-lahai-roi	25:26
1966	Marriage of Esau in Beersheba, age 40	26:34
1930	Jacob's journey to Haran, age 76	28:2
1923	Jacob's marriages, age 83, Haran	29:23, 28
1918	Birth of Judah, Jacob's age 88	29:35
1916	End of Jacob's 14 year labor for his wives, Jacob's age 90	29:30
1916	Birth of Joseph	30:23
1910	End of Jacob's stay with Laban, age 96	31:41
1910	Jacob's arrival at Shechem	33:18
1902	Rape of Dinah	34:1-2
1900	Marriage of Judah, Judah is 18, Jacob is 106	38:1-2
1899	Selling of Joseph, Joseph is 17, Jacob is 107	37:2, 27
1888	Joseph imprisoned	39:20; cf. 41:1
1886	Joseph released from prison, made ruler of Egypt	41:1, 46
1886	Death of Isaac, Isaac is 180, Jacob is 120	35:28
1879	Beginning of famine, Jacob is 127	41:54
1878	Brothers' first visit to Egypt	42:1-2
1877	Brothers' second visit to Egypt	43:1; 45:6, 11
1876	Jacob's descent to Egypt at age 130	46:6; cf. 47:9
1859	Death of Jacob at age 147	47:28
1806	Death of Joseph at age 110	50:22

1) Recap on Jacob's life

Born clutching the heel of his twin Esau (25v26).

(heb: ya aqob) he grasps the heel or *(heb: ya qob)* he clutched – possible pun with *(heb: ya qob-il)* God protects.

Older son had primary blessing & became head of the family.

Jacob obtained the birth right of the older son Esau.

During her pregnancy Rebekah was told: “Two nations are in your womb & two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other & the older will serve the younger.” Gen 25 v23

Echoes of Jacob blessing the younger Ephraim over Manasseh.

Gen 28 v2-4 Isaac sends Jacob to Rebekah's parents in Paddan Aram & blesses him.



Jacob's flees from Esau & the first night he dreams of a stairway to heaven
Gen 28 v12-15

Key promises from God to Jacob at Bethel (*Luz*):

- he will have many descendants
- his descendants will have the land of Canaan
- other nations will be blessed through them
- I am with you/will watch over you/will bring you back to this land.

“ Surely the LORD is in this place & I was not aware of it”

“How awesome is this place! . . .”

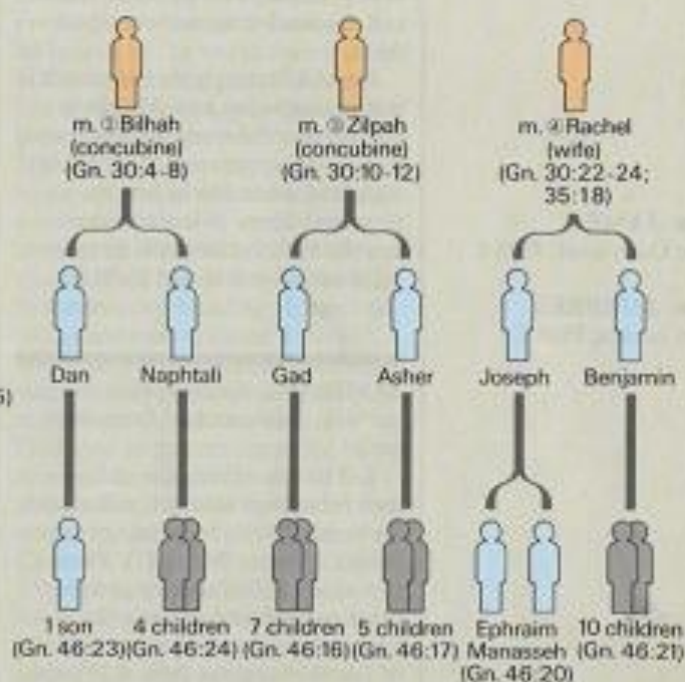
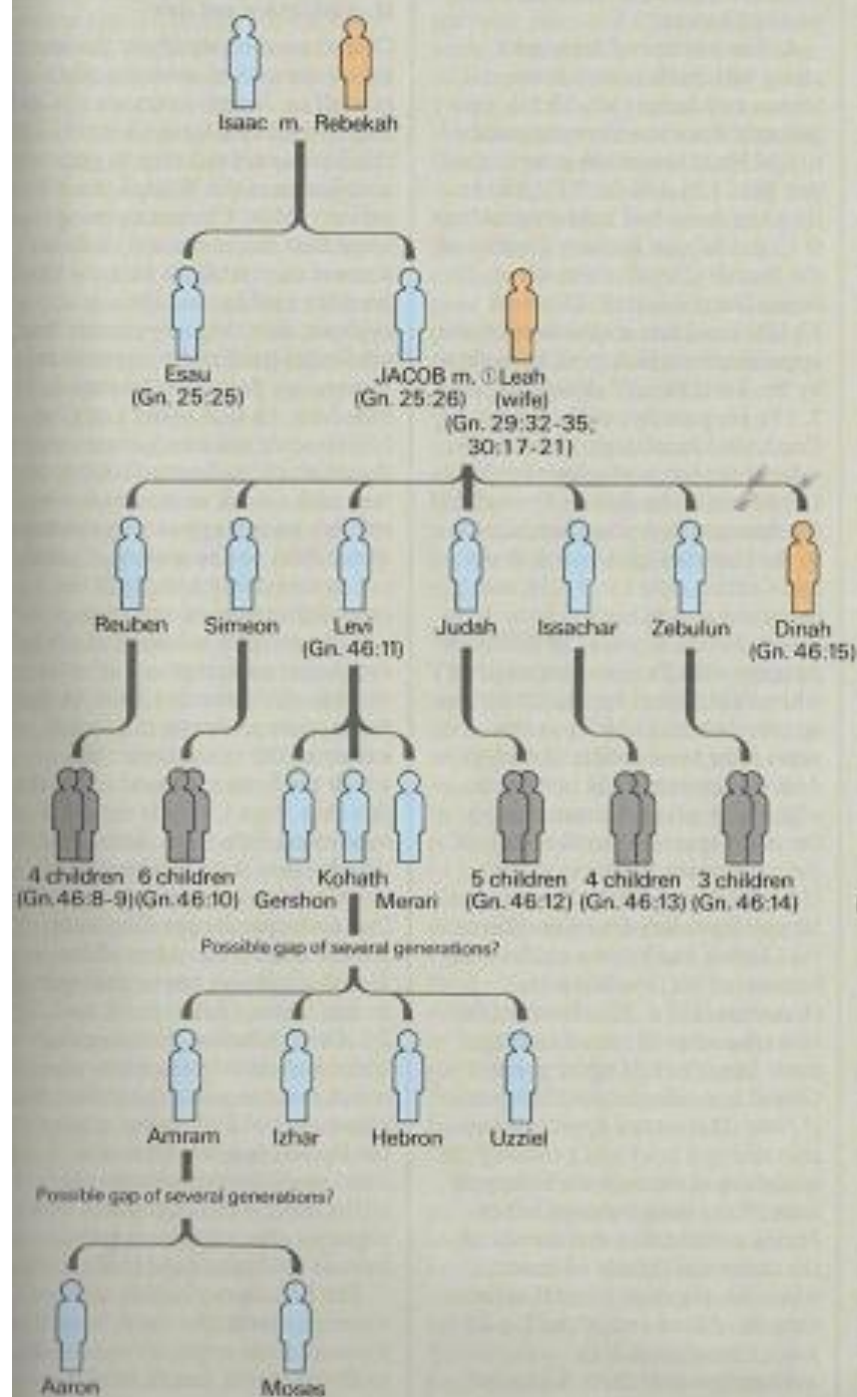
He called that place Bethel (*house of God*) - used to be Luz.



Onward travel to his Uncle Laban in Haran where he works for 7yrs to marry Rachel (given Leah)

Then given Rachel also but must work another 7yrs.

Jacob was a shepherd, stays another 6 yrs & has 11 sons





After 20 yrs at Paddan Aram
In Gen 31 v11-13 an angel
appears to Jacob: "now
leave & go home"

Notice Peniel on map

at Peniel 32 v24-31 – wrestling with God

Jacob wrestles with a man all night.
As Jacob was so strong the man touched
his hip & it was wrenched.

Man: Let me go, for it is daybreak.
Jacob: Not unless you bless me . . .
Man: Your name will no longer be Jacob
but Israel, because you struggled with
God & humans & overcame.



Jacob called this place Peniel (*he struggles with God*)
“I saw God face to face & my life was spared.”
The sun rose . . & Jacob was limping because of his hip.

Gen 33: Jacob sees Esau coming toward him. Jacob anxious but all went OK.

Gen 37 & on: story of Joseph, Jacob & family end up in Egypt/Goshen
where they live for 17 yrs till Jacob is 147 years old - Gen 47 v28

2) The death of Jacob Gen 49 v29 - 50 v1

a) Jacob seeks burial in Canaan:

“When the time drew near for Israel to die, he called for his son Joseph & said to him . . Do not bury me in Egypt, but when I rest with my fathers, carry me out of Egypt & bury me where they are buried.” 47 v29

b) Jacob blesses his sons (48 v3 - 49 v28)

“God Almighty (*El Shaddai*) appeared to me at Luz (Bethel) in the land of Canaan & there he blessed me. . now then . . Your sons will be blessed”
48 v3

Gen 48 v15-16: Jacob’s threefold blessing for Joseph/Ephraim/Manasseh

- from the God of my fathers Abraham & Isaac
- From the God who has been my shepherd.
- from the angel who has delivered me from all harm.

c) Jacob knew death was not the end:

“Rest with my fathers” 47 v30, “gathered to my people” 49 v29

d) Jacob was ready to die:

“By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph’s sons, & worshipped as he leaned on the top of his staff.” (Heb 11 v21, Gen 47 v31)

“When Jacob had finished giving instructions to his sons, he drew his feet up into bed, breathed his last & was gathered to his people.” Gen 49 v33

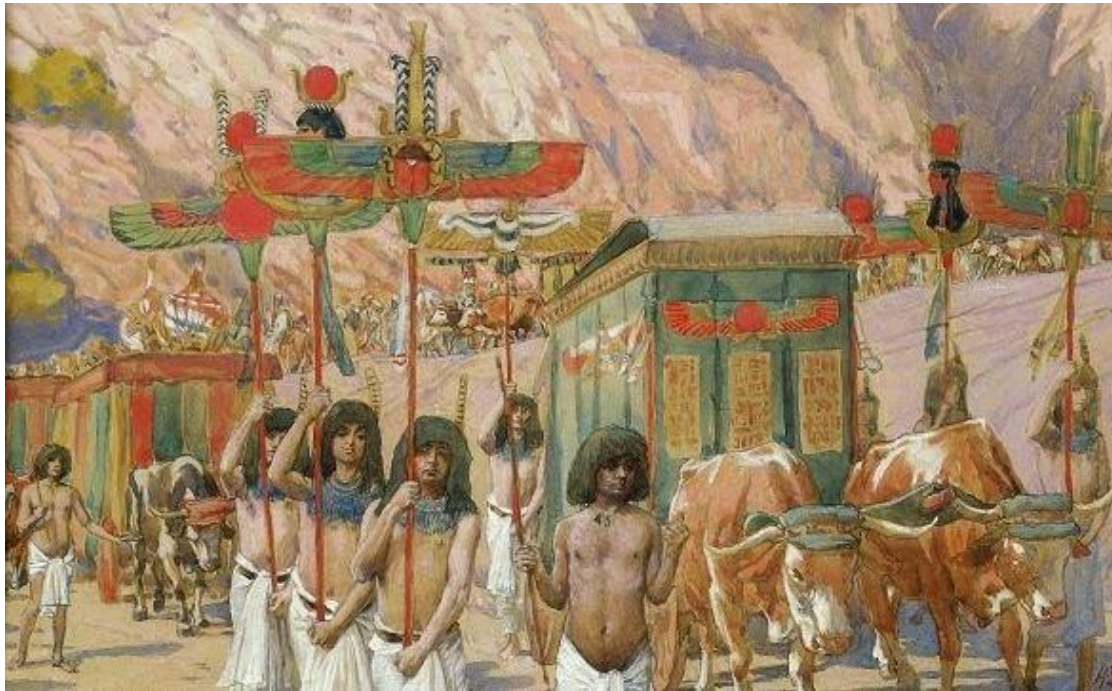
“Joseph threw himself on his father (*lit. on his father’s face*) & wept over him & kissed him” 50 v1

3) The burial of Jacob Gen 50 v2-14

Embalming 40 days plus further 30 days in Egypt (72 max for a Pharaoh)

Joseph asked to go bury his father in Canaan & Pharaoh agrees.

Journey to Canaan & burial - grand procession (children/animals don't go)



- Atad near the Jordan (further week of mourning) v10-11
- Atad renamed Abel Mizraim “mourning of the Egyptians”
- Jacob’s sons bury Jacob near Mamre & all return to Egypt v12-14

4) Joseph's reaction to the fear of his brothers 50 v 15-21

- With Jacob gone Joseph's brothers feared the worst
- A message: "**your** father says you must forgive"
- "We are your slaves" (irony)

Joseph weeps (v17b)

"Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God?

You intended to harm me but God intended it for good
.. & the saving of many lives"

Joseph provides for them .. reassures them

.. speaks kindly to them (lit. spoke to their heart)

5) The death of Joseph 50 v 22-26

- The joys of grandchildren & great grandchildren etc
- “God will come to you & take you up out of this land.”
- “Then you must carry my bones with you.”
- Joseph dies aged 110 yrs
- End of his story
- first 30 yrs tough, last 80 yrs as a ruler 2nd only to Pharoah

Promise re bones later fulfilled in Ex 13 v19:

“Moses took the bones of Joseph with him because Joseph had made the Israelites swear an oath . .”

6) Lessons for us

This was the end of Jacob & Joseph & the start of the nation of Israel.
God's special people.

Not yet in the Promised land – they would wait 400 years for that.

Jacob knew death was not the end – he was looking ahead!
Where is your focus?

Jacob was satisfied at the end of his life:

“By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons, & worshipped as he leaned on the top of his staff.”

Will we be?

Jacob had encounters with God, & received protection & promises for the future he would never forget. As a spiritual father he passed this on to the next generation.

How we need Spiritual Fathers/Mothers.

Mourning/grieving – when someone dies our culture is quick to move on.
How healthy to not rush this process.

Joseph's response to his brothers: "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good . . . The saving of many lives"

Are we ready to forgive like this?

Jacob wrestled with God "I will not let you go unless you bless me!"