Our Amazing Year Long Adventure Brown Community Group

Genesis 12-50, Oct. 7, 2018-Oct. 20, 2019

Since they say “Time flies when you’re having fun”, we must be having way too much fun, down here in the basement, because it’s hard for me to believe that it’s been over a year since we started this series. Every week I can’t wait to hear the treasures we’ll be taught from God’s word.

(see below) Lamech was 56 years old when Adam died. He could have easily spent time with Adam, his “Grandpa”. I can see it, on a Sunday afternoon, Hey, let’s go see Grandpa. Boy, he’s sure starting to show his age! Yeah, when you hit the big 9-0-0 you can’t help but get a few little wrinkles. I hope he doesn’t go on and on about the good old days. In the garden. Yeah, but I really like that story about the talking serpent. At least he and grandma are honest about how they really blew it. Yep, messed it up for all of us. Well, we better go see him while we can. People don’t live forever. Especially with that angel on the east side of that old garden, with the flaming sword blocking the way to the tree of life.

In the same way, Abraham could have spoken to his “Grandpa Shem”. Shem actually helped his dad, Noah build that big ark, fill it with animals, float around , saw the first rainbow. And, oh yeah, the tower of Babel, Shem lived through all that. Shem even outlived most of his descendants including Terah, Abraham’s dad. Truly, he’d “been there, done that!”. And just think, at 18 yrs. we think we’re pretty smart. 

Not that many links needed between creation and Abraham. Made it hard to argue with their stories, “No, he told me this is what happened, and he was actually there to see it!” When you couldn’t rely on google or a written history, you really locked it up in your memory, especially if you heard the same exact story told, hundreds of times, over a flickering campfire, outside your tents. Stories told by ernest faces, that campfire glowing and highlighting the faces of men who really cared about your spiritual walk with your creator God. The God that had spoken to them or their father.

No scripture that we know of yet. God spoke directly to his people.

 It was quite an abrupt, startling message to Abraham, to leave this land and go to another land, promised to him by God. Abraham followed.

And the rest is—well, what we’ve been studying since October 7, of last year. So many stories. True stories.

Those poor guys, those patriarchs and their brood! How would you like to have your dirty laundry out, for generations to see. The lies, trickery, playing favorites, doubting God, troubles with inlaws, sibling chaos, jealousy, revenge-- it’s all there, waving, flapping in the breeze, unlaundered, embarassing, hard to imagine in its twistedness.

So Why did God have these stories, about these people, written down and saved for us, for the world?

1. It is the truth- Genesis- God wants us to know the truth, unvarnished truth. God is not verbally or linguistically challenged. He want us to know what happened.
2. There is hope for us—everyone! He used everyday, imperfect people.
3. To show His love, mercy and forgiveness, offered to all.
4. To show His power over circumstances, in small details of lives and in all of history.
5. To show His wisdom—beyond comprehension.
6. To verify the lineage of our Savior, Jesus, where He came from. Through Jesus, the entire world is blessed!
7. These stories, revealing God and His dealings and interactions with people, are another huge way in which the entire world is blessed through the Jewish people. It is all on definitive display for the world to read and know. Where would we be if we didn’t have these accounts from the beginning and how God worked? How could we know anything about God?

John wrote in 1 John 5:13- “These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.”

Certainly that applies to the entire Bible. What could be a more important reason for this stack of scripture?

We began this series with:

Abraham- First Covenant with God, led him to Canaan, then to Egypt because of a famine

Lied about Sara

Back to Canaan, Lot goes to Sodom

Some battles, we meet Melchizedek from Jerusalem

Covenant is expanded- descendants

Sarah and Hagar and Ishmael

Nope- through Sarah, covenant reaffirmed

Three angels, you oldsters are gonna have a baby-Oldsters can have fun too

Sodom and Gomorrah destroyed (and Lot’s wife) his daughters aren’t much better

Abraham lied about his beautiful Sarah again

Oldsters had baby Isaac

Sacrifice your child! Not really. . .

Sarah dies

Bride for Isaac- Rebekah says yes

Twins Jacob and Esau-sold birthright

Isaac lied about Rebekah too- It never hurt dear old dad to tell that lie?

Jacob tricked old Dad with Rebekah’s help- stole blessing

Jacob- to Paddan-Aram

Jacob’s ladder on the way- blessing/covenant restated

Rachel-Laban- first Leah, then Rachel , then babies

Jacob prospers and tricks the trickster Laban

Jacob leaves

Jacob wrestles angel

Jacob meets Esau

12 sons- sibling chaos

Joseph sold by brothers

Joseph-slave-Potiphar’s wife- prison again-Pharaoh’s dream

Joseph master and his brothers

Joseph and Israel, his father

Now living in Egypt, another famine

Joseph dies

It’s not just about these men and women. It is not just moral stories, so that when our brother shows up, we don’t throw him into a well. Or when we’re going to visit a powerful person, we don’t tell them my beautiful wife is my sister. It’s not just so that now we know not to trick our blind, dying father and steal from our brother.

It is about God and His loving kindness. His patience and forgiveness. His power and His plan.

In the last words of Genesis, Joseph’s brother are worried, now that Daddy (Jacob/Israel) is dead. They are afraid that their story is about to come to an end. Joseph could easily, and most wouldn’t blame him if he did, have them all, but Benjamin, executed. Is the curtain dropping on their story, their eternity? Will they get what they deserve?

**15**[When Joseph's](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/3130.htm) [brothers](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/251.htm) [saw](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/7200.htm) [that their father](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/1.htm) [was dead,](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/4191.htm) [they said,](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/559.htm) ["What if Joseph](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/3130.htm) [bears](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/7852.htm) [a grudge](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/7852.htm) [against](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/7852.htm) [us and pays](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/7725.htm) [us back](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/7725.htm) [in full](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/7725.htm) [for all](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/3605.htm) [the wrong](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/7463a.htm) [which](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/834.htm) [we did](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/1580.htm) [to him!"](https://biblehub.com/strongs.htm) **16**[So they sent](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/6680.htm) [[a message] to Joseph,](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/3130.htm) [saying,](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/559.htm) ["Your father](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/1.htm) [charged](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/6680.htm) [before](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/6440.htm) [he died,](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/4194.htm) [saying,](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/559.htm) **17**[Thus](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/3541.htm) [you shall say](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/559.htm) [to Joseph,](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/3130.htm) ["Please](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/4994.htm) [forgive,](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/5375.htm) [I beg](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/577.htm) [you, the transgression](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/6588.htm) [of your brothers](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/251.htm) [and their sin,](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/2403b.htm) [for they did](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/1580.htm) [you wrong."'](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/7463a.htm) [And now,](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/6258.htm) [please](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/4994.htm) [forgive](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/5375.htm) [the transgression](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/6588.htm) [of the servants](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/5650.htm) [of the God](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/430.htm) [of your father."](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/1.htm) [And Joseph](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/3130.htm) [wept](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/1058.htm) [when they spoke](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/1696.htm) [to him.](https://biblehub.com/strongs.htm) **18**[Then his brothers](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/251.htm) [also](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/1571.htm) [came](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/1980.htm) [and fell](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/5307.htm) [down](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/5307.htm) [before](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/6440.htm) [him and said,](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/559.htm) ["Behold,](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/2009.htm) [we are your servants."](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/5650.htm) **19**[But Joseph](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/3130.htm) [said](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/559.htm) [to them, "Do not be afraid,](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/3372a.htm) [for am I in God's](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/430.htm) [place?](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/8478.htm) **20**["As for you, you meant](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/2803.htm) [evil](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/7463a.htm) [against](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/5921.htm) [me, [but] God](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/430.htm) [meant](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/2803.htm) [it for good](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/2899b.htm) [in order](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/4616.htm) [to bring](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/6213a.htm) [about](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/6213a.htm) [this](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/2088.htm) [present](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/3117.htm) [result, to preserve](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/2421a.htm) [many](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/7227a.htm) [people](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/5971a.htm) [alive.](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/2421a.htm) **21**["So](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/6258.htm) [therefore, do not be afraid;](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/3372a.htm) [I will provide](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/3557.htm) [for you and your little](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/2945.htm) [ones."](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/2945.htm) [So he comforted](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/5162.htm) [them and spoke](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/1696.htm) [kindly](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/3820.htm) [to them.](https://biblehub.com/strongs.htm)

 The words of Joseph, in Genesis 50:20, can echo back over the centuries, bouncing off the mishaps and treacheries of his ancestors, flowing back in time to cover all the unfortunate realities of their actions: Joseph said to his brothers, “As for you, you meant evil against me, *but* God meant it for good”.

Truly Joseph is a shining light in this saga, a real breath of fresh, Godly air. It IS possible to walk with God, like Enoch. Remember those old guys?

This is God- Our God-This is how He works with flawed, stumbling people—nitty-gritty, naughty, bratty people. Here’s where the blessing comes—People who will come to God, in faith, for forgiveness.

***Death of Joseph***

**22**[Now Joseph](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/3130.htm) [stayed](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/3427.htm) [in Egypt,](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/4714.htm) [he and his father's](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/1.htm) [household,](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/1004.htm) [and Joseph](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/3130.htm) [lived](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/2421a.htm) [one hundred](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/3967.htm) [and ten](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/6235.htm) [years.](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/8141.htm) **23**[Joseph](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/3130.htm) [saw](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/7200.htm) [the third](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/8029.htm) [generation of Ephraim's](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/669.htm) [sons;](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/1121.htm) [also](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/1571.htm) [the sons](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/1121.htm) [of Machir,](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/4353.htm) [the son](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/1121.htm) [of Manasseh,](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/4519.htm) [were born](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/3205.htm) [on Joseph's](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/3130.htm) [knees.](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/1290.htm) **24**[Joseph](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/3130.htm) [said](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/559.htm) [to his brothers,](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/251.htm) ["I am about to die,](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/4191.htm) [but God](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/430.htm) [will surely](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/6485.htm) [take](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/6485.htm) [care](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/6485.htm) [of you and bring](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/5927.htm) [you up from this](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/2088.htm) [land](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/776.htm) [to the land](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/776.htm) [which](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/834.htm) [He promised](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/7650.htm) [on oath](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/7650.htm) [to Abraham,](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/85.htm) [to Isaac](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/3327.htm) [and to Jacob."](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/3290.htm) **25**[Then Joseph](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/3130.htm) [made the sons](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/1121.htm) [of Israel](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/3478.htm) [swear,](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/7650.htm) [saying,](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/559.htm) ["God](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/430.htm) [will surely](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/6485.htm) [take](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/6485.htm) [care](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/6485.htm) [of you, and you shall carry](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/5927.htm) [my bones](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/6106.htm) [up from here."](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/2088.htm) **26**[So Joseph](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/3130.htm) [died](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/4191.htm) [at the age](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/1121.htm) [of one hundred](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/3967.htm) [and ten](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/6235.htm) [years;](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/8141.htm) [and he was embalmed](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/2590.htm) [and placed](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/7760.htm) [in a coffin](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/727.htm) [in Egypt.](https://biblesuite.com/hebrew/4714.htm)

Joseph wanted his brothers to know that God was going to fulfill His promises, they will return to the Promised Land. He is counting on it even as he approached death.

So now, their story is not over, and the story goes on, through David, and to Jesus, and through Jesus on into eternity! Remember, everlasting life, eternity of ecstasy begins when you believe in Jesus. And even when we arrive, in heaven, one day, some day, hold on, the ecstatic fun is still just getting started!