

Salt Block Ministries Bible Study Guide
Genesis 1-11

Day One

Pray Psalm 20. Read Genesis 1-2. The book of Genesis is the book of beginnings. It describes the beginning of the world, the beginning of sin, and the beginning of salvation. The first eleven chapters have about as many different interpretations as the book of Revelation. This Bible study presents a literal interpretation of Genesis 1-11.

Write below what exactly was created each day according to Genesis 1:3-2:3.

Day 1:

Day 2:

Day 3:

Day 4:

Day 5:

Day 6:

Day 7:

One of the ways of God is that He first prepares a place, then He puts something in that place that He has prepared. Notice that God first prepared a place (1:3) for the lights of the day and night (1:14-18), as He did for the fish and birds (1:9-10, 1:20-23), as He did for the plants, animals, and man (1:9-10, 1:11, 24-31).

Another one of the ways of God is to bless many through one. Many “males and females” were created in 1:26-30, but one special man, Adam, and one special woman, Eve, were created in chapter 2. To Adam and Eve, God gave a special place, the Garden of Eden, and a special relationship each other and with Himself, (marriage, the breath of Life). They were to bless the others by sharing the glory of God they had in their special relationship with each other and with Him.

Genesis 1-11

Day Two

Pray Psalm 21. Read Genesis 3-4. These two chapters describe the beginning and spread of sin. They also describe the beginning and spread of salvation.

The beginning of sin is seen in 3:4-6. What did Satan say to the woman in verse 4? And what did God say in 2:16-17?

The beginning of sin is seen first with the lie of Satan, which is received by Eve and Adam. Believing the lie meant that they had not believed the truth, God’s Word. Receiving the lie is then seen in disobedient actions. This is the beginning of the spread of sin.

Sin continued to spread to their offspring. Read again Genesis 4:3-8. God did not have regard for Cain's sacrifice because he did not trust God like his brother Abel. Find Hebrews 11:4. What does it say about Abel in that verse?

Also notice how sin spread in Cain's family as they heaped up one thing after another to brag about in 4:17-24.

Salvation also began in today's reading. Genesis 3:15 is the first prophesy about the coming of Christ to crush the head of Satan; also of the cost of salvation. What happened in 3:21?

Something innocent died for their sin. God gave the first sacrifice for sin. Also read the last verse again in chapter 4. Salvation began to spread through Seth's descendants as they called upon the name of the LORD, as they looked to God for salvation.

Genesis 1-11

Day Three

Pray Psalm 22. Read Genesis 5-6. Many have wondered about the long life God gave to those who lived before the flood. The flood changed everything on earth. We do not know how much it changed, but everything changed after the flood. Shorter life on earth for man was one of the changes that God made during the time of the flood.

Another question from your reading today comes from 6:1-4. Who were the Nephilim and where did they come from? Notice 6:2 as compared with 3:6; saw...desired...took. From that comparison it is clear that the Nephilim were the product of temptation and sin; it was the result of some kind of ungodly and unnatural sexual union that increased the violence upon the earth and led to the flood.

God chose Seth's descendants as the line through which salvation would come. Noah is in that line.

Read chapter 6 again and notice every time the word "ark" is used. Did you notice that the Bible never calls it Noah's Ark? The ark did not belong to Noah, it was entrusted to Noah. It was God's ark. Noah proved faithful with what God entrusted to him. God's ark for Noah, and the animals He brought to Noah, points forward to Christ.

Read again the last verse in chapter 6. When you are obedient to what God commands, He makes it happen. This explains how Noah was able to build the ark and gather the animals

into it. When God's Word is received, He makes it happen, in you, with you, through you, as you, before the world around you, even though it seems impossible at the time.

Genesis 1-11

Day Four

Pray Psalm 23. Read Genesis 7-8. Chapter 6 ends with this sentence, ***“Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.”*** Look again at 7:5, 9, and 16. What is repeated in these three verses?

Now look again at 7:1, and look back at 6:8. What do these two verses have in common?

There is a direct relationship between God's grace, God's Word, and God's righteousness when His Word is believed (received) and obeyed by a person. Obedience is the result of receiving God's gift of His Word (believing). Obedience is the work of God in you, with you, through you, as you, in the world around you, for His own glory. This is one of the ways of God; your obedience, that results from your receiving (believing) God's Word.

The Flood changed the earth and its appearance. The Flood gave the earth an “old” appearance as a result of the extreme pressure of the waters and as a result of the receding of the waters. It was a yearlong natural disaster of humongous proportions. We can only imagine what the earth looked like before the Flood.

Something to think about and consider today: Following the judgment of God, a huge change takes place. The fire (not water) of God's wrath fell upon His Son, Jesus Christ, at Calvary, **rather than** falling upon you. As much change that happened on the earth following the Flood is nothing compared to the change that happens in a person who has received Jesus Christ!

Genesis 1-11

Day Five

Pray Psalm 24. Read Genesis 9-10. Several things changed in these two chapters and a couple of things remained the same. Look again at 9:3. What changed?

Look again at 9:1. What remained the same?

Look again at 9:8-17. What new thing did God do (a change)?

Now look at some of the things that remained the same. When did God say what He said in 9:1 and 9:7?

How would you describe the actions of Noah and his son, Ham, in 9:20-25?

In chapter nine you see that God did something new, He made a covenant with man. This was a first, but not the last. Look back at 6:18. First God said it, then He did it. This is one of the ways of God. God is faithful to His Word; what He says He does, always. Circle the word “covenant” in chapter nine. How many times is the word used in chapter nine?

The two things that remained the same in chapter nine are the original command of God, ***“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth...”*** and the sinfulness of man. The Bible does not say exactly what Ham did when he ***“...saw his father’s nakedness...”*** but it resulted in being cursed, which is always associated with sin. Noah’s drunkenness was the occasion.

Genesis 1-11

Day Six

Pray Psalm 25. Read Genesis 11. Genesis 10 is another one of the places in the Bible that is hard to read through; a long list of hard-to-pronounce names. But remember, for the Jewish people, those lists were extremely important. They reveal another one of the ways of God; He chooses some to bless the others. This is called “election.” Election does not leave people out, it chooses. God is sovereign in His election. This means that He chooses according to the counsel of His will.

Look back on 10:22-25 and compare these verses with 11:10-19. And then down to 11:26. You probably recognize the name “Abram.” Abraham (his name will get changed in 17:5) is in the line of Shem. Next week you will look at this again.

Chapter eleven also tells the story of the tower of Babel. What did all the people of the earth say and do in 11:2-4?

How is this the exact opposite of what God commanded in 9:1 and 7, the original command of God?

Tomorrow is a day of rest. During your quiet time tomorrow reflect upon the ways of God you learned this week. Tomorrow read and pray Psalm 26.

Genesis 12-22

Day One

Pray Psalm 27. Read Genesis 12-13. Abram does a lot of traveling in chapter twelve. He moves from his home in Ur (modern Iraq) up the Euphrates River to Haran (modern Syria), then south to Shechem (modern Israel), then further south to Egypt; all in one chapter!

Write the promises (“I will...”) that God made to Abram in 12:1-3.

Imagine how Abram must have felt when he finally arrived in the Promised Land, only to find a great famine in the land. What do you think he could have done rather than what he did?

Notice the three altars that Abram built in the land. Write the Scripture references for those three altars below.

Remember from last week the descendants of Shem in 10:22-25 and again in 11:10-26? Now in chapter twelve Abram is chosen to bless and be a blessing. How many families of the earth does God promise that Abram will bless in 12:3?

Go back to Matthew 1:1. Now go to Revelation 7:9-12. God is faithful to His Word.

Genesis 12-22

Day Two

Pray Psalm 28. Read Genesis 14-15. First there was a famine in the land, and now there was war in the land. How do you think Abram must have felt?

Sometimes things happen that simply do not line up with what God has promised, or so it seems. Remember, when you get in that kind of place, always stay with what God has said and wait upon Him. He will see you through.

Notice that the four powerful kings of the north (14:1), that defeated the five kings of the south (14:2), were routed by Abram and his 318 men! (14:14-18). God is good. He will fight and win against the enemies of His chosen ones!

Chapter fifteen is definitive. In ancient days, when two individuals made a covenant, they would cut an animal in half and both parties would walk in between the two halves. In doing this they were saying, "May the one who breaks this covenant end up like this animal!" Then, they would have a covenant meal together.

God made a covenant with Abram in this chapter, but in doing so He also made a covenant with Himself. What passed in between the pieces in 15:17?

God's promise to Abram and to Himself is still in effect today. Keep your eye on the Promised Land and the descendants of Abram.

Genesis 15:6 reveals one of the ways of God; He rewards faithfulness with righteousness. Think on that today.

Genesis 12-22

Day Three

Pray Psalm 29. Read Genesis 16-17. Abram has an experience in chapter sixteen that we are all very familiar with; not waiting upon the Lord and what He has promised, and then taking matters into our own hands. Sometimes this is the result of trying to apply human reason and experience to help God out with what He has said.

Look at 16:2-3 again. Who was it that was trying to help God be true to His Word?

The thing that Sarai suggested was acceptable in the culture of the day, but it was not according to God's Word. What does it say that Abram did?

He listened to the voice of his wife and was obedient to her rather than remembering what God had said and waiting upon Him.

According to 16:3, when did this happen?

Compare Genesis 12:1-3, 12:7, 13:14-17, 15:1-7, 15:18-20, 17:1-16, and 17:21. Notice what is repeated, and what is expanded in these seven “words” from God to Abram.

God’s Word unfolds with more and more meaning and instruction as you continue your walk with Him.

Also, in 17:5 God gave Abram a new name, Abraham. As you walk with the Lord and His Word becomes more and more meaningful, He becomes more and more personal to you and with you.

Genesis 12-22

Day Four

Pray Psalm 30. Read Genesis 18-19. These two chapters tell the story of amazing prayer and intercession for a city and the destruction of that city with a preview of the destruction that is one day coming upon the whole earth.

After the Lord and His two angels enjoyed the meal that Abraham prepared for them, and after God reminded Abraham and Sarah of His promise, an intense time of intercession began between Abraham and God. Read again 18:16-26.

What does God say to the angels in 18:17-18?

What did the angels do in 18:22 and what did Abraham do in that same verse and in 18:23?

This is a picture of intercession; standing before the Lord, face to face and pleading with Him on behalf of someone else, in this case, on behalf of a whole city. God did not find ten righteous people in Sodom and He destroyed the whole region. Only Lot and his family escaped.

After the Jewish people were scattered among all the other nations of the world, they developed Synagogues as places of study and worship. They would not start a synagogue until there were ten Jewish men living in that city. That practice was established based upon these two chapters. Also, ten righteous men tithing could support a Rabbi to teach in the Synagogue.

Begin asking God to reveal a city and country in the world for you to intercede for and keep those people on your prayer list.

Genesis 12-22

Day Five

Pray Psalm 31. Read Genesis 20-21. There are fourteen episodes in the life of Abraham that Genesis records for us. Two of them are about setbacks; when he went down to Egypt and told the Pharaoh that Sarah was his sister (13:10-20) and when he went down to Gerar (the far southern tip of the Promised Land) and told Abimelech, the king, the same thing. One thing for sure, Sarah must have been a very beautiful lady, even at 90 years of age!

Why do you think Abraham had these setbacks in his walk with God?

Even though Abraham is known as the Father of the Faithful, he still struggled with insecurities and fear. We all do.

Look again at 20:6-7. What did God say to Abimelech about Abraham and what Abraham would do?

Now look again at 20:17-18. Then, what happens in 21:1-2?

This is one of the ways of God; Give what has been promised to you by God; give what you need. After Abraham prayed for Abimelech and his family, Sarah conceived and gave birth to Isaac, the son of promise.

The trouble that Sarah and Hagar had continues to this day among the people of God and the descendants of Ishmael. One reason is because of the offense that Hagar never recovered from. She fed her son on that offense. Lesson: You can't manage offense and sin. Stay un-offended and forgiven by giving it all to the Lord.

Genesis 12-22

Day Six

Pray Psalm 32. Read Genesis 22. This is another definitive chapter in the Bible. In Jewish history this is known as "the binding of Isaac," from 22:9. It was a test of Abraham's faith. And he passed it.

Abraham had come to the place where he instantly could recognize the voice of God and immediately obeyed. Also, look again at 22:5. What expression of faith can you find in that verse?

Now turn to Hebrews 11:17-19 in the New Testament. Abraham had come to the place where he did not have to understand **how God would do what He said**, he just knew He would!

Later in the Old Testament, King David would purchase the very spot where this event took place for the Temple, the top of Mount Moriah. Solomon would build the Temple there. Today there is a Muslim mosque on that site, the Dome of the Rock. In their holy book, written by Muhammad, 610 AD, he describes it as the place where Abraham offered up Ishmael.

In Jesus' day, Herod's Temple was on this spot. And just north of this spot, just outside the walls at that time, there was a quarry where public executions were held. For that reason, it was called the Place of the Skull, Golgotha, where Jesus was crucified. Geologists have discovered that it is part of Mt. of Moriah.

God revealed Himself to Abraham as ***"The LORD will provide"*** for He provided for Abraham a sacrifice in Isaac's place. Two thousand years later, He would provide Himself as the Sacrifice in your place, at the very same place. Think on that today. Tomorrow read and pray Psalm 33.

Genesis 23-33

Day One

Read and pray Psalm 34. Read Genesis 23-24. Last week's reading covered 61 years (Sarah was 66 in chapter twelve). This week's reading will cover about 163 years (Isaac was 17 when Sarah died and he lived to be 180, 35:28). Keep that in mind as you read this week.

The last two events recorded for us of the life of Abraham are in today's reading; the purchase of the field of Ephron and the cave of Machpelah as a family burial site, and acquiring Rebekah as a wife for Isaac. Both events are expressions of the faith of Abraham in what God had promised him during his life. One a funeral, the other a wedding; both according to the promise God made to Abraham.

How was the buying of the field and cave an expression of Abraham's faith in what God had promised?

Abraham purchased what God had promised in order to leave a spiritual legacy for Isaac and his offspring. In buying the field and cave, Abraham was laying claim to the Promised Land for the son of promise, Isaac, and for his offspring. Abraham sent his servant back to where his brothers, Haran and Nahor, had settled, about 600 miles north of Abraham's first altar in the Promised Land (Shechem). Sarah was probably a daughter of Haran, making her Abraham's neice. How was Rebekah related to Abraham according to 24:15?

This is important because of the promise of God in 17:18-19, and 17:21. Look back at those verses. It was important that Isaac's wife be related to Abraham's family. And she was.

Genesis 23 – 33

Day Two

Read and pray Psalm 35. Read Genesis 25-26. These two chapters cover most of the life of Isaac. There are a couple of things that stand out for Isaac. He was the only patriarch in Genesis that never left the Promised Land. He lived his whole life in the land that God promised Abraham and his offspring from Sarah. Isaac had only one wife, Rebekah. Both of these facts point to Isaac's faith in what God had said and established from the very beginning.

Write down briefly the verses that describe how God blessed Isaac in these two chapters.

How did Isaac stumble? (26:6-11) Sound familiar?

It seems that Isaac also suffered from insecurities and fear. We all do, and yet God blessed him, just as He does us. But it seems that the insecurities and fear of Isaac were a bit less than Abraham. Sin had been passed on from father to son, but was diminished some. This is one of the blessings of God as we listen and obey Him.

Isaac and Rebekah had twins; Esau and Jacob. How are they described in 25:27-28?

Look again at the two places when God spoke to Isaac, 26:1-6, and 26:23-25. Also notice when God spoke to Rebekah, 25:22-23. She will act upon this word in tomorrow's reading.

Genesis 23-33

Day Three

Read and pray Psalm 36. Read Genesis 27-28. This begins the events in the life of Jacob. There are eleven chapters devoted to Jacob's life. Only Abraham has more print (12 chapters).

Who initiated tricking Isaac into blessing Jacob rather than Esau?

Remember the word that God spoke to Rebekah in yesterday's reading? What was that word? (25:22-23)

What she did seems a bit dishonest, and yet she was in essence keeping Isaac on track. Isaac loved Esau because of his love for the land, but God said that Jacob was the blessed one.

The blessing that was given by a father to a child was like an inheritance. In Bible days, only one child could receive an inheritance, the blessing. Then that child would distribute that blessing to the other siblings. It was always given to the oldest; but not in this case. The ways of God are not like the ways of man.

Read again 28:10-22 and imagine the feelings that Jacob must have been dealing with his first night away from home. He was what you would call a "mamma's boy," for sure. Do you remember a time when you had an experience with God during a transition in your life? Think about it and write down a key word or date to remember it. For Jacob, that word must have been "Bethel."

Look back at Genesis 12:8. You may want to write that reference beside 28:19.

Genesis 23-33

Day Four

Read and pray Psalm 37. Read Genesis 29-30. Below write down the sons of Leah in order of their birth. (29:31-35, 30:17-20)

Now the sons of Rachael's handmaid, Bilhah (30:4-8).

Now the sons of Leah's handmaid, Zilpah (30:9-13).

And finally, Rachael's son (30:22-24).

There will be one more son born to Rachael, Benjamin, but not until chapter thirty-five.

Now write them all again in the space below in the order of their birth and the initial of their mother beside each name. Memorize these names and their particular mother. It will add meaning later in your study.

Write down some of the problems you think this kind of family might have?

Genesis 23-33

Day Five

Read and pray Psalm 38. Read Genesis 31. This chapter stands alone and is a bit longer than the others.

God spoke to Jacob twice in this chapter. Look back and find those two places and write below what He said to Jacob.

Now look back to the first time God spoke to Jacob (28:10-22). How are these three words from God similar and how are they different? How are they related to what God said to Isaac and to Abraham? Look back to 26:2-5, 23, 22:15-18, 17:1-8, 15:1-7, 18-21, 12:1-3, 7, for a reminder.

Has there been a time in your life when you heard a personal word from the Lord? If so, write it below. How is it related to the Bible? If it a verse from the Bible, be sure to memorize that verse.

Genesis 23-33

Day Six

Read and pray Psalm 39. Read Genesis 32-33. Jacob has another experience with God in chapter thirty-two. It is different than the one he had his first night away from home. But how is the setting of these two encounters similar? (28:10-22 and 32:1-8, 22-24)

Look in the back of your Bible and find a map that has Shechem on it. You will find Shechem about half way down the Jordon River in between the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea and about half way in between the Jordon River and the Mediterranean Sea.

The place where Jacob had this encounter with God (Mahanaim and Peniel) is east of Shechem about the same distance from the Jordon River as Shechem is west of the Jordon River. Notice the distance from Bethel.

Look at Jacob's prayer in 32:9-12. Notice how Jacob prays what God has said to him. What were those phrases?

Jacob teaches us how to pray in that passage. Learn to pray what God has promised and said to you.

Also notice the three altars that Jacob erected (33:18-20, 31:46-49, and 28:18-22). How do they correspond to the three that Abraham erected (12:6-7, 8, and 13:18). Also note the new

name that God gave Jacob in 32:28. Jacob walked differently after that encounter. In what way? Tomorrow, read and pray Psalm 40.

Genesis 34-46

Day One

Read and pray Psalm 41. Read Genesis 34-35. Chapter thirty-four is a tough one. The deeds of this chapter are some of the worst in the Bible. It seems as though Jacob was going along with the deal and Dinah's brothers were standing firm for her honor. But then they went too far in what they did to avenge her. It is a tough chapter. One thing is for sure, it was one of the most disturbing things in the life of Jacob.

A lesson from that chapter is this: Be careful to do what is right when you are standing up for what is right. Doing the right thing in the right way requires total dependence upon God and a sensitive ear to hear from Him.

Genesis 35 is filled with strength for Jacob from God and grief for Jacob from his family. Look up and write down what happened in the following verses:

35:8

35:16-20

35:22

35:27-29

How could anyone deal with such rapid-fire grief? Look up these verses, write down what happened, and you will find the answer.

35:1

35:5-7

35:9-15

Genesis 34-46

Day Two

Read and pray Psalm 42. Read Genesis 36-38. Chapter thirty-six is one of those long list of names; Esau's descendants. These Edomites will cause the children of Israel a great deal of trouble later on in the Old Testament.

Chapter thirty-seven begins the life of Joseph, one of the most amazing men of the Bible. Remember who his mother was? Look back to 35:23-26 for a review. It will serve you well to memorize these brothers, their names, and who their mothers were.

It is hard to imagine how brothers could treat a younger brother the way Joseph's brothers treated him. Write out the answers to the following questions:

What was their first plan? (37:19-20)

Who saved Joseph from their plan? (37:22)

Who came up with the alternate plan and what was it? (37:25-27)

Who were the Ishmaelites? (Genesis 16:15-16)

How old was Joseph when all this happened to him? (37:2)

Chapter thirty-eight seems to be an intermission; a strange intermission. If you remember from your study of Matthew 1, you remember the name Tamar, the daughter-in-law of Judah. She is in the lineage of Jesus Christ. She kept the male line of Judah going with her shrewdness, which she was commended for by Judah (38:26).

Genesis 34-46

Day Three

Read and pray Psalm 43. Read Genesis 39-40. The actions of Joseph at age 17 shows us that he was gifted by God and knew it. What word describes Joseph in 39:2-3?

The word "successful" is the Hebrew word ***tsalack*** (pronounced sah-**lock**). It means to be victorious, to break through, to prosper by overcoming an obstacle. Look up and read Psalm 1:1-3. Did you find that word? Psalm 1 describes the man who meditates on God's Word as being one who has ***tsalack***.

Joseph was a young man who had already learned to meditate upon the revelations that God was giving to him. God gave him the ability to rise above (***tsalack***) his circumstances. He was able to do this because he chose to believe God's Word to him; he meditated on it rather than his circumstances.

When tempted (repeatedly), what does 39:7-10 say about the way Joseph dealt with the temptation?

He knew that the gifts (including his appearance) were a gift from God and that he was responsible to God. He knew that God was with him and he refused to listen to the voice of the tempter, but rather chose to continue listening to God's voice.

As a result, he got into deeper trouble. It did not matter. God was with him and kept giving him *tsalack* because he kept meditating on God's Word. Find 39:2, 3, 21, 23. Notice the relationship between having "success" and the Lord being "with him." Begin memorizing Psalm 1 and Psalm 119:11.

Genesis 34-46

Day Four

Read and pray Psalm 44. Read Genesis 41-42. These two chapters describe the humility and wisdom of Joseph. These two traits are also the result, the fruit, of meditating on God's Word.

Compare 41:15-16, 25, 28, with 40:8. What do they have in common?

They each tell how Joseph would not take credit (glory) from the ability that God gave him. He was always pointing upward to God as the One who reveals and speaks. This is humility. Being humble does not mean you put yourself down; it means that you are always lifting God up! This is the result of meditating on God's Word. It is the secret to rising above circumstances, good or bad.

Lesson: You do not have any control over what happens **to you**, but you do have a choice over what happens **in you**. Joseph chose to stay focused upon God's Word.

There are two very beautiful and meaningful words in 41:33, "...*a discerning and wise man...*" The first word is the Hebrew word *bayin* (pronounced bay-yin). It describes insight into what is right **before** an experience. This is not learning from your mistakes, this is learning **before** your mistakes! It is a gift from God given to one who meditates on His Word.

The second word is the Hebrew word *hokmah* (pronounced hoak-ma). It is also a gift from God and describes a special ability to know and accomplish the will of God. We would call it a spiritual gift. Find Exodus 31:1-5 and 36:1-2 where this word is used. Now back to 41:33-39. Who recognized this ability in Joseph?

Genesis 34-46

Day Five

Read and pray Psalm 45. Read Genesis 43-44. These two chapters tell the story of the anguish Joseph's brothers went through before Joseph revealed to them his true identity. Why do you think Joseph led them on like he did?

Some would say that it was "pay-back time." This is not consistent with Joseph's character. Others would say that Joseph is testing them to see if they had changed.

Read again 44:18-34. Does this sound different than the last time Judah spoke in 37:26-27?

Do you remember who else besides Joseph had Rachael as his mother?

Benjamin was very special to Joseph. It was his full brother. He also knew that his father, Jacob, favored Benjamin as his youngest and the only living (so he thought) son of Rachael, the wife he loved.

Look again at 43:33-34. If you were to seat these eleven brothers according to their age and birthright (Leah's, Rachael's, Zilpah's, Bilhah's) how would you seat them? Write their names and order below. If you need help, look back to 35:23-26 and/or 29:32-30:23.

Genesis 34-46

Day Six

Read and pray Psalm 46. Read Genesis 45-46. What is the first thing that Joseph said to his brothers after he told them his true identity in 45:4-8?

Joseph's interpretation of the events of his life was the result of meditating on God's Word and having the gift called *tsalack*, success. He was able to see that everything that happened **to him** was part of God's overall plan **for him**. This only comes from meditating on God's Word.

Lesson: Whatever comes **to you** must come **through God**. When you recognize this truth you will respond to every circumstance **according to God's Word**. This is called giving an answer. Jesus lived His life this way. Joseph was not perfect. Jesus was, is, and always will be!

Notice 46:8-27. Have you noticed how this is being repeated in Scripture? Learn the order of the twelve sons of Israel (Jacob) and how they were related to each other by their mothers. Write them below for practice.

Also, if you have not already begun this practice, begin a routine of memorizing and meditating on God's Word. Psalm 1 and Psalm 119:11 are a good place to start. If you have those memorized, begin Psalm 119:41-48. Tomorrow, read and pray Psalm 47.

Genesis 47-50

Day One

Read and pray Psalm 48. Read Genesis 47. Three events are recorded in this chapter; 47:1-12 is the introduction of Joseph's family to Pharaoh; 47:13-26 the final days of the famine; 47:27-31 the final request of Jacob.

What was the first thing that Pharaoh asked Jacob when he met him in 47:8? Why do you think Pharaoh wanted to know this?

It seems that life expectancy in Egypt was far less than with Abraham (175 yrs.) and Isaac (180 yrs) and Jacob (147 yrs., 47:28). Pharaoh recognized the blessing of God upon the life and family of Jacob.

When Jacob blesses Pharaoh in 47:10 it is in partial fulfillment of the promise God made to Abraham in 12:1-3; that through him all nations would be blessed. It is an expression of the faith of Jacob to bless Pharaoh, just like God promised he would.

As the famine grinds out, things get tighter and tighter. What do you think of the edict that Joseph made on the people in 47:16, 19, 23-24?

Some think it harsh, but read again what the people said in 47:25.

What phrase is used in 47:27 to describe the children of Israel in Egypt?

This goes back to God's original command in Genesis 1:28.

Genesis 47-50

Day Two

Read and pray Psalm 49. Read Genesis 48. Jacob blesses his offspring in chapters 48-49 before he dies. He starts with Joseph and his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim in today's reading.

Look back to Genesis 41:50-52. Which son was the firstborn and what does his name mean?

What does his second son's name mean?

Who were Rachael's only two sons and which one was her first born?

Jacob elevates his grandsons, Manasseh and Ephraim, to the status of full sons in 48:5, giving them the first blessing of his sons which was reserved for the first born. Why do you think he did this?

Jacob also blesses the younger, Ephraim, with his right hand, the hand of strength, also reserved for the firstborn. Why do you think he did this?

Ephraim and Manasseh will be named among the sons of Israel and recognized on the same level as each of the other tribes from this point on. When the twelve tribes of Israel receive their allotted land (Joshua), Joseph's descendants will receive one-sixth of the land, a double blessing.

Genesis 47-50

Day Three

Read and pray Psalm 50. Read Genesis 49. This chapter records the blessings that Jacob pronounced upon his sons. Some of the blessings are tied to the meaning of their names. For example, *Judah* in Hebrew means *praise*. The name *Issachar* means *hired*. The name *Dan* means *judged*. Look again at the blessings for these and see how their blessings match their names.

Find the two sons that received the longest blessings. Which two were they? Who were their mothers?

How would you describe the difference between these two blessings?

Look back to 41:51-52 and find the meaning of the names *Manasseh* and *Ephraim*. How does this match the blessing of Joseph?

Judah's blessing reaches forward to King David and beyond to the Son of David, Jesus Christ. Can you see the Messianic meaning in his blessing? Write some of the images from Judah's blessing that are fulfilled in Jesus Christ. For example; 49:10, Jesus is called the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Genesis 47-50

Day Four

Read and pray Psalm 51. Read Genesis 50. Look back at 50:7-9. Imagine what this procession must have looked like to the inhabitants of the Promised Land. What kind of impact do you think this had on those who saw this sight?

The threshing floor of Atad (50:10) was believed to be at the border of Caanan coming from Egypt. The cave of Machpelah was the burial place of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, and Leah. This place had been the gathering place for the descendants of Abraham on five different occasions. This was the sixth.

What was the request of Joseph in 50:25?

Now find Joshua 24:32. This tells where they buried Joseph after they came into the Promised Land. Now find Genesis 33:18-20 and 12:5-7. Why do you think they chose this place to bury Joseph?

Read again 50:15-21. There is an important phrase in these verses. What do you think it is?

Here is one of the ways of God: What is meant for evil against you, God turns it for good. Nothing comes to you without first going through the Father. He does not cause everything that happens to you, He uses everything that happens to you to form **Christ in you!** And that is good!

Genesis 47-50

Day Five

Read and pray Psalm 52. Today is a review day. There are seven different sections to the book of Genesis;

- Creation; chapter 1-2
- The fall and its effect; chapters 3-5
- The flood and its effect; chapters 6-11
- Abraham; 12-25:11
- Isaac: 21-28:5, 35:27-29
- Jacob; 25:19-49:33
- Joseph; 37-50

Today, chose a section and reread a couple of chapters in it.

Which section did you chose and why?

Genesis 1-50

Day Six

Read and pray Psalm 53. Genesis has seven different sections (review from yesterday). You should be able to write out the seven sections and their appropriate chapters (don't worry about the verses). Look back to yesterday's page, then write the seven sections with their appropriate chapters below.

Remember, Genesis is the book of beginnings. Write above after each of your sections what was **first** in that section. For example, after Creation you may write, the first man, or the first command.

Another Bible study you can do in Genesis is to study the twelve men of Genesis: Adam, Cain, Abel, Seth, Enoch (the seventh from Adam in Seth's line), Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Esau, Judah, and Joseph. You can take the verses and/or chapters devoted to each man and identify different character traits, both good and bad.

Another Bible study you can do in Genesis is to study the ten women of Genesis: Eve, Sarah, Hagar, Lot's wife, Rebekah, Rebekah's nurse, Deborah (24:59, 35:8) Tamar, Rachael, Leah, and Cain's wife. Ask, what does the Bible say about each of these women and what lessons can be learned by these women?

Can you name the twelve sons of Jacob in order of their birth and their mothers? Keep working on this along with remembering the seven sections of Genesis and their chapters. Tomorrow read and pray Psalm 54.