

3. For a written test remember the following facts:-

We are commencing a new division of the book of Genesis. The first eleven (11) chapters, forming an introduction to the history of the Hebrews and covering a period of about 2000 years, give us the history of the human race and explain why a plan of redemption was made necessary.

The remaining chapters tell us how God began to work out His plan through individuals who became the ancestors of the chosen nation.

As the root is to the stem, so is the first division of Genesis to the second.

4. What was God's purpose in separating Abraham from heathenism?

Abraham was a Chaldean shepherd who lived outside the city of Ur. God's purpose in separating him from heathenism was that he might become the father of a separated nation which should become a blessing to the other nations.

Spiritual Lesson: Like Abraham, God's people are commanded to separate themselves from the defilements of the world. "Hebrew" comes from a word meaning "to pass over". Therefore, "Hebrew" may mean immigrant or stranger.

5. What promises did the Lord give him as a compensation for his consecration and sacrifice? Chapter 12:1,3.

How often was this promise repeated, with variations and additions, throughout Abraham's life? Usually after what kind of an experience on Abraham's part was it repeated?

What made part of this promise seem impossible of fulfillment at the time?

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| (1) Personal | { A great name
A blessing
A blessing to others |
| (2) National | { Nation "Israel"
Land "Canaan" |
| (3) Universal | { The blessing of all nations. |

See Genesis 12:2, 6-7, 13:14-17, 15:5, 18-20, 17:1-8, 19, 16, 18:18, and 22:16-18.

The covenant was renewed with Abraham, after testing, discouragement, fear, and after an act of consecration.

Abraham was 75 years of age and had no children.

6. What was Abraham's attitude toward these promises?

Genesis 15:6. Abraham believed God.

7. What was Abraham's religion? In what kind of a church did he worship?

Abraham worshiped the one true God whom he worshiped through sacrifices and whose promises he believed. The New Testament tells us that he looked forward with joy to the day of Christ, considered himself a pilgrim on earth, and looked for a heavenly city. He worshiped in the church of the open air or open doors. Wherever he went he set up an altar and worshiped God.

8. Was he a Jew or a Gentile when he was called and when he was justified by faith in God?

Abraham was not a Jew because Judah was not yet born. He was not an Israelite because Israel was not yet born. He was not a Gentile because at that time mankind was not divided into two classes, Jew and Gentile. When called, Abraham was simply a Chaldean emigrant in the land of Canaan.

Practical Lesson: This teaches us that in relation to salvation God makes no difference between Jew and Gentile.

9. What is his relation to the Jewish people? to Christians?

Romans 4:16. Abraham is the father of the chosen people. He is the spiritual father of Christians because of his life of faith. Abraham - 75 years of age, leaves Ur; at the age of 85, Isaac is promised; at the age of 100, Isaac was born; at the age of 125 he was told to sacrifice his son.

10. Make a list of Abraham's trials of faith. Which was the first? the last? the greatest?

- (1) When he left his home town without knowing where he was going.
- (2) After a quarrel or dispute between his servants and those of Lot. He allowed Lot to take his choice of territory.
- (3) He rescued Lot from a great army of 318 men.
- (4) When he was 85 years old, God promised him a son by his wife, Sarah. This involved a miracle. He had to wait 15 years for the coming of this child.
- (5) Later, God tested him by commanding him to offer up Isaac, his son. Abraham obeyed, believing that God was able to raise Isaac from the dead.
- (6) Abraham's faith once failed, teaching us that even the most spiritual people will fail if they disobey God.
- (7) Although the land had been promised to Abraham, he died without actually inheriting it. He knew that in God's own time the promise would be fulfilled. The first trial of faith was when he left his home and kindred. The offering up of Isaac was his last trial of faith. The offering up of Isaac was also his greatest trial of faith.

11. What were the names of his two children and their mothers? Who was the first-born? Who was God's chosen one?

Ishmael, the son of Hagar, and Isaac, the son of Sarah. From Ishmael was descended the Arabian nation. Ishmael was the first-born, but in choosing people God very often disregards natural rights, customs, distinctions and prejudices. Isaac is a type of those who are born of God's spirit but Ishmael is a type of the natural man born of the flesh. Reference:- Galatians 4:21-31.

VII. THE STORY OF ISAAC. Chapters 26-28.

1. What circumstances were connected with his birth? What is the meaning of his name?

Isaac was born to his parents when it was naturally impossible for them to have children. Therefore, in a sense it was a miraculous birth brought about by the power of God.

Practical Lesson: God often works in spite of natural obstacles. Romans 4:17-21. Hebrews 11:11-12. Isaac is a type of Christ in being sacrificed and being born in a supernatural way. His name literally means, "he will laugh." He was so called from the fact that his parents laughed at the thought of having a child at their age. Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90.

2. Which do you consider the severest trial that came into his life?

The prominent tests that came into his life follow:

- (1) His being offered up by his father.
- (2) For many years they were childless.
- (3) He was deceived by his son, Jacob.
- (4) He was opposed by the Philistines. Isaac failed when he once lied to his wife in order to save his life.

3. What interesting story is told in connection with his meeting with his wife?

- (1) The story, Abraham sends his servant, Elizer, to find a wife for Isaac from among Abraham's own people.
- (2) Practical Lesson: A lesson in divine guidance. Elizer asked the Lord to lead him to the right person. That person was Rebekah, Isaac's cousin.
- (3) The divine purpose. Abraham's descendants were to learn that they must not inter-marry with the Canaanites. "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers."
- (4) The type:- In this story we have a picture of God, the Father, sending the Holy Spirit to prepare a bride for His son.

4. After Abraham's death is there anything exciting or unusual related concerning him, or does his life seem to be a mere echo of his father's? Although he led a quiet and humble life, of what did he become a channel?

Chapter 26. He became a channel through which the promise made to Abraham passed on its way to fulfillment. He led a quiet and comparatively uneventful life.

VIII. THE STORY OF JACOB. Chapters 29-35.

1. What prophecy was made at his birth? What was there unusual about this prophecy?

The prophecy was that the elder should serve the younger - something contrary to the custom of those days.

2. What is the meaning of Jacob's name?

Jacob literally means "one who catches another by the heel", that is, one who takes advantage of another.

3. What two nations were descended from Jacob and Esau?

Jacob was the one from whom Israel descended and from Esau was descended Edom. Edom became Israel's worst enemy.

4. Of which parent was each of the sons a favorite?

Jacob was Rebekah's favorite while Esau was Isaac's favorite.

5. Was Jacob justified in taking advantage of his brother's weakness and hunger in order to secure the birthright? See Chapter 25:29-34. Was Esau justified in selling it? What does this transaction reveal concerning the character of each?

Jacob was guilty of unbrotherly conduct in obtaining the birthright from Esau. Esau had no right to sell the birthright without permission of those who were over him. On the other hand Jacob was not called upon to help out the Lord by shrewd bargaining. The birthright of the eldest son included the following:

- (1) Abraham's spiritual blessing.
- (2) Lordship over the rest of the family.
- (3) The inheritance of Canaan.
- (4) A double portion of the family property.
- (5) The right of family priesthood.

The character of Esau:-

He was a good-natured man of the world, warm-hearted, and every inch a man. But, he was unspiritual and irreligious. See Hebrews 12:12. He had no appreciation of spiritual things. He was indifferent to the Divine covenant and to the responsibilities to his race. He lived for the present rather than for the future; for the seen rather than for the eternal.

VIII. 5 Cont'd.

The character of Jacob:-

He was crafty, shrewd, calculating, and one who could drive a hard bargain. But, he had an appreciation of spiritual things and realized the value of the birthright. He was persevering and was ready to sacrifice present enjoyment for future blessings. He was ambitious.

Practical Lessons:

- (1) Character is revealed in little things.
 - (2) The necessity of subduing natural appetites for the sake of spiritual things.
 - (3) We must do the right thing in God's way and in God's time.
 - (4) Whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap.
6. What three outstanding examples of deceitfulness are recorded in the story of his life?
- (1) His unfair dealings with Esau.
 - (2) His dishonest dealings with his father in obtaining the blessing of the first-born.
 - (3) His dealings with his uncle, Laban.
7. In what ways did Jacob reap for his deceitfulness? Was his a happy life?

See Genesis 47:9. Jacob made enemies by his deceitfulness. As he had lied to his father so his own sons later deceived him. He was exiled from home for about 20 years. Jacob later testified that his life had not been a happy one.

8. What story describes Jacob's first religious awakening, and his first act of consecration?

As Jacob was fleeing from Esau he had a dream of the open heavens and of a ladder connecting earth and heaven, and angels ascending and descending. At the top of this ladder stood the Lord who repeated to Jacob the promises made to Abraham. The meaning of this vision was that God and heaven through the ministry of the angels would take care of Jacob and bring him back safely to the promised land. The results of this vision were as follows:

- (1) Jacob consecrated that spot as a place of worship.
- (2) He made a covenant with God in which he made three promises.
 - 1- On his return to Canaan this spot would be made a sanctuary.
 - 2- The Lord would be acknowledged as Lord of his life.
 - 3- One tenth of all his property would belong to God.

9. Which was the crisis point of his life, when his character was transformed?

After leaving Laban, Jacob sent a messenger to greet his brother, Esau, with whom he desired a reconciliation; but the messenger reported that Esau was on his way with 400 men. Jacob began to pray. After Jacob had sent his party across the river Jabbok, he remained alone to pray through. As he prayed he was attacked by a man. Thinking him to be one of Esau's men, he resisted with all his strength. When the stranger saw that he could not defeat Jacob he touched his thigh and put it out of joint. This supernatural touch convinced Jacob that this supposed enemy was really a divine being. He, therefore, clung to him desperately and demanded his blessing. It was given, and Jacob's name was changed from Jacob, the cheat, to Israel, the prince of God. This incident gives us a picture of agonizing prayer or soul travail for some supreme blessing.

Gen 32 note

The Lesson: Jacob learned that he had been really resisting God by his scheming. God broke his natural strength and paralyzed his power of scheming in order that he might learn that carnal methods are useless in dealing with God. Canaan is not to be gained by cunning but by faith in God. After getting right with God, or prevailing with God, Jacob was now in a position to prevail with Esau.

Outline of the life of Jacob.

- (1) Jacob in his father's home. He takes the birthright and the blessing from his brother, Esau. His flight and his vision.
- (2) His twenty years visit with his uncle. Period of exile. Most of his children were born there.
- (3) The crisis. Jacob's transformation and reconciliation with Esau.
- (4) Jacob in Canaan. Family troubles. Joseph sold into Egypt.
- (5) Jacob and his family go down into Egypt where Jacob dies.

IX. THE STORY OF JOSEPH. Chapters 36-50.

More is told about Joseph than any other patriarch.
Note the value of this history:

- (1) The historical value. It answers the question, "Why did the Hebrews settle in Egypt?"
- (2) The providential value. It reveals God over-ruling the evil, and causing truth and righteousness to triumph.
- (3) Its spiritual value. It gives us the story of a victorious life.
- (4) Its typical value. Joseph in his sufferings and exaltation is a type of Christ.

1. Why was Joseph hated of his brethren?

They were jealous of Joseph because he was favored by his father. They hated him because of his dreams. As an overseer he reported their evil doings.

What nickname did they apply to him? They called him a dreamer.

What did they plan to do for his dreams? They planned to prevent their fulfillment.

2. Describe the two dreams. What was their meaning?

The sheaves of Joseph's brothers bowed down before his sheaf. The sun, moon and the 11 stars bowed down before Joseph. They showed Joseph's rulership over his family.

3. When did Joseph ever lose faith in these dreams? How long did he wait for their fulfillment? How were they fulfilled?

Joseph never lost faith in the meaning of dreams and his gift of interpreting them led to his exaltation. He waited about 22 years for their fulfillment. They were fulfilled when his brothers came down to Egypt during the famine in order to buy grain and when they fell on their faces before him.

The purpose of Joseph's dealings with his brothers was as follows:

- (1) To awaken their consciences. Gen.42:21
- (2) Joseph wanted to see his brother, Benjamin.
- (3) Joseph wanted to hear some news from home.

4. What three kinds of tests came into his life? Which was the crisis point of his life? the point of greatest danger?

(1) The test of adversity. (2) The moral test. (3) The test of prosperity. It seems that the moral test may have been the crisis point.

5. What was the Divine purpose in Joseph's life? Ch.45:7, 8; and 50:20.

Since he was called according to God's purpose, what naturally followed? Romans 8:28.

He was chosen of God to preserve the chosen family during a time of famine and to settle them in a fertile providence where they could develop into a great nation. See Genesis 42:36.

6. Which do you consider the most dramatic part of the story?

It seems that Joseph's revelation of himself to his brothers is the high point of the story. Zechariah 12:10.