

Handout 1: Genesis Lesson 12

- Abraham came to Canaan when he was 75 years old
- Abraham died when he was 175 years old
- Abraham lived 100 years in his “Promised Land”
- Isaac married Rebekah when he was 40
- Isaac was married 35 years before his father’s death
- Isaac was 60 years old when his sons were born
- Isaac was 75 years old when his father Abraham died
- Esau and Jacob were 15 years old when Abraham died
- Ishmael died when he was 137 years old
- Isaac died when he was 180 years old

This part of the narrative begins another chiastic pattern that will pivot on the birth of the fourth central figure in the second half of the Genesis narrative: Joseph son of Jacob:

- A. The beginning of the history of Isaac’s descendants: births of Esau and Jacob, divided and fighting against each other (25:19-34).
- B. Encounter with Yahweh and relationship with pagan neighbors (26:1-35).
- C. Blessings sought and given (27:1-40)
- D. Jacob flees from Esau (27:41-28:5).
- E. Esau’s union (marriage) to an Ishmaelite woman (28:6-9)
- F. Jacob’s encounter with God’s messenger (28:10-22).
- G. Jacob’s arrival in Haran and meeting with Laban (29:1-30).
- H. Jacob acquires a family (30:1-21).
- I. The birth of Joseph (30:22-24).**
- H. Jacob acquires wealth (30:25-43).
- G. Jacob’s departure from Haran and Laban (31:1-32:1).
- F. Jacob’s encounter with God’s messenger (32:2-3).
- E. Jacob’s planned reunion with Esau (Gen 32:4-13).
- D. Jacob prepares to meet Esau (32:4-22).
- C. Blessing sought and given (32:23-33).
- B. Encounter with Esau and relationship with pagan neighbors (33:1- 34:31).
- A. The end of the history of Isaac: the 12 sons of Jacob and Isaac’s death; Jacob and Esau united in peace to bury their father (35:23-29).

The successive chiastic and parallel/alternating patterns in Genesis suggest one plan and one purpose uniting the narrative that is the beginning of the inspired account of salvation history.

Handout 2: Genesis Lesson 12

Old Testament women who were barren but later, by the will of God, gave birth to men who had an impact on salvation history.

- Sarah was barren prior to the birth of Isaac (Gen 11:30; 21:1-3).
- Rebekah was barren prior to the birth of Jacob/Israel (Gen 25:21-26).
- Rachel was barren prior to the birth of Joseph (Gen 29:31; 30:22-23).
- Manoah's wife was barren prior to the birth of the Samson (Judg 13:1-7, 24).
- Hannah was barren prior to the birth of the Prophet Samuel (1 Sam 1:1-5, 19-21).

In each case the bareness of the mother was reversed by God's intervention. It is by God's divine will that sons were born from these women—sons who played an important role in God's plan of salvation:

- Isaac continued the line of the “promised seed” and the covenant made with Abraham continued through Isaac (Gen 26:3-5).
- The covenant continued through Jacob who God renamed Israel. He became the father of the 12 tribes of Israel who were the people from whom the “promised seed” was destined to come forth (Gen 32:28; 46:8-25; 49:28).
- Joseph, son of Jacob/Israel became the instrument by which God sent the children of Israel into Egypt (45:16-20; 46:6-7, 26-27).
- Samson, a Nazariate Judge of Israel, was instrumental in bringing God's judgment on the pagan gods of the Philistines and those who worshipped them (Judg 16:23-31).
- The Prophet Samuel was God's last representative in the era of the Judges of Israel and the holy prophet who anointed David as God's chosen king of Israel. David was the “father” (ancestor) of the future Redeemer-Messiah (1 Sam 3:19-20; 16:1-13; 2 Sam 5:1-3; Mt 1:1).

Isaac, Rebekah, and Jacob all paid a painful price for their sins in usurping God's plan for the future of the family:

- Isaac became completely alienated from his wife and younger son—the once holy family disintegrated into a dysfunctional family filled with mistrust, hatred, and the desire for revenge.
- Rebekah sent Jacob away to protect him from his angry brother, but she never saw her beloved Jacob again.
- Jacob, who deceived his father, was himself deceived by his uncle Laban, by his bride Leah, and most cruelly by his own sons.