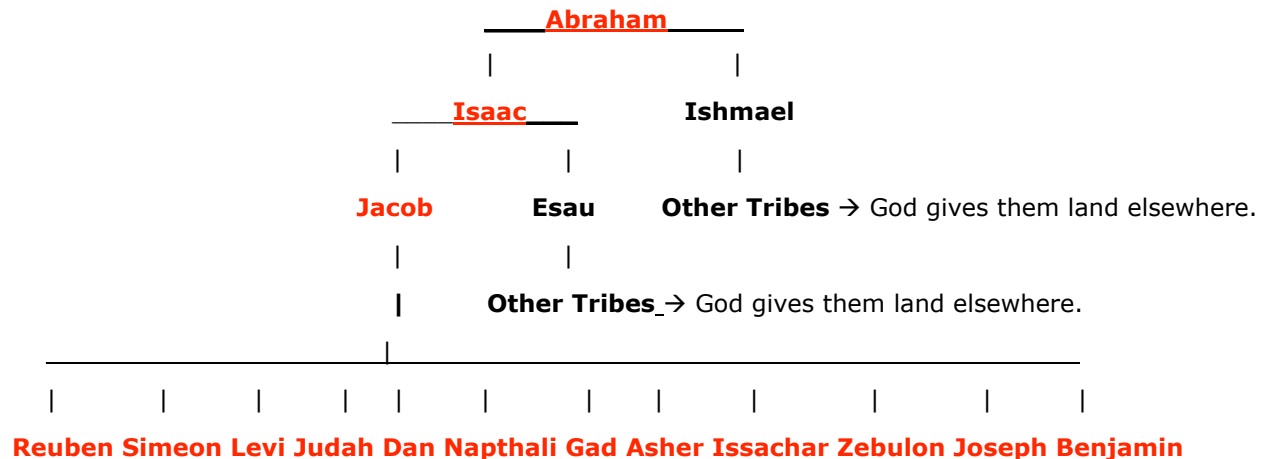


The People

Genesis 17-Joshua



All this happens in and around Egypt. Joseph gets sold into slavery by his brothers and becomes a great ruler in Egypt. After this, him and his brothers reconcile and their families multiply greatly in Egypt. Because of this rapid growth and the sheer size of the Hebrew nation, Pharaoh starts to get scared that this vast Hebrew nation will eventually overthrow his kingdom. To keep this from happening, he enslaves them. This is where our story begins, but by no means is it a complete narrative, just one to help illustrate God's divine plan for God's chosen people.

-(**Exodus 3|1-10**) *A Promise Kept*: God keeping his end of the covenant.

- What was God's part of the covenant he made with Abraham?
(Basically, if you worship me and keep my commands I'll be your God and take care of you. He'd make them into a great nation)
- Why did God wait so long to act on his people (the Israelites) behalf?
(Possibly to get them to a place where they knew they needed God and also to a place where they were ready to be lead out of captivity. Why escape Pharaoh just to die somewhere in the dessert. Why leave their homes behind, just to inherit some land that they were not even sure that they wanted? God needed to get them to a place where they were ready to give it all up to follow him.)

- Does God still do this today, in our lives?
(**Definitely. Think of what you've had to go through to get here today. Most of the time, it takes something big for us to notice God. It takes something huge realize he's calling us out of captivity.**)

-(**Exodus 13|21,22**) *"Follow Me"*: God Shows them the way.

- What is God doing in this scripture?
(**He's allowing US to be in HIS presence. Since Eden, God has always been in our presence, but when we were kicked out we could no longer be in his perfect presence. Here God is giving the people something to focus on, namely the cloud and fire, to show how they can be a part of what God is doing again.**)

-(**Exodus 15|22-27, Exodus 20|1-17**) *The Rules of the Game*: God's Law
We notice that God is calling his people to pay attention to his commands and keep his decrees. Then in a very logical way, gives them the "Rules of the Game"

-(**Exodus 24|1-8**) *The Covenant Confirmed*

Up to know God has waited for the opportune time to rescue his people, he has show them he is there God, and now has asked them to confirm the covenant God made with Abraham.

- So if God's plan was to build a great nation that would eventually be a light to the world, a nation that would show the rest of the world how to live out God's intended purpose, then what would be the next logical step?
(**Training. Since God has now established a standard, he would go about training this nation to be the kind of people that could help make the world the kind of place God intended it to be.**)

-(**Exodus 25|8,9-Deuteronomy**) *Idiots Guild to Worshipping God*: Read Ex 25|8,9 and summarize the rest by showing how God starts with the Tabernacle and teaches them how to worship in festivals, sacrifices, and the

like. This is all to prepare his people for the purpose for which they were called.

- Why does God want Israel to build the Tabernacle?
(He's giving them not only a starting point to which worship can be taught, but once again God is showing them, by dwelling in the Tabernacle, how much he wants for us to be in his presence.)

As a side note, it's kind of interesting that God makes the Tabernacle mobile. One possible reason for this is, so he can continue moving his people toward the promise land, (thus keeping their future hope in view) all the while, training them to become his great nation.

After much wandering in the dessert, we pick up the story in Joshua.

-(**Joshua 1|1-9**) *A New Era*: They've arrived, but now what?

God chooses Joshua to lead his nation into the promise land. God has finally allowed them to enter, but now what?

-(**Summarize Joshua 2-23**)

God is with his people, because they do right in his eyes. He helps them conquer every nation that stood before them, and gives them all the land he had promised them. Joshua divides up the land between the 12 nations. Finally at the end of Joshua's life, we see a call to renew the covenant.

-(**Joshua 24**) *The Covenant Renewed and A Warning is Given*

So God fulfills his end of the covenant, by bringing them into the promise land and helping them to defeat their enemies.

- What is the Israelites end of the covenant and how practically could they do this?

(They were to show the rest of the world how to live as people of God, namely working to restore his creation to it's intended state. They could do this by reaching out to the nations surrounding them. Teaching them how to be part of a movement that was suppose to change the world for the better. They could live out this purpose in their daily lives.

And they could do this by remembering the covenant God called them to everyday in worship.)

- If this was their purpose and calling, is ours much different today?
(No. All of us are called to join God's Kingdom and to live like people under God's covenant. While this covenant evolves in Jesus, our purpose as God's people does not.)

CONCLUSION:

-We see that God's plan goes into full swing with the dramatic rescue operation of his people from Egypt. God waited for just the right time to rescue his people. A time when they would be willing to drop everything and go anywhere. A time when they were desperate for God to act in their lives. Isn't that how God calls us as well?

-Once God gets his people the heck out of Egypt, he doesn't say, "okay, do whatever you want." God begins, at once to lead them to the promise land, all the while, teaching and training them to be the people he knows they can be, namely the people through whom he will use to put his creation back to rights.

-Once God feels they are ready to enter the promise land, he does so through a new leader, Joshua. Joshua leads the 12 tribes in conquering the nations that occupy their God given land. God is with his people as they route their enemies.

-After they have divided up the land, Joshua reminds everyone of their true calling. He reminds them to remember where they have come from and more importantly where they should be going. He renews the covenant before all the people of God and they embark on a mission to change the world. How they keep their promise to God is where the story goes next.