

God always acts justly & righteously

Genesis 18:25

^{25b} Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?



The Day of Reckoning is coming!

Habakkuk 2

³ For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.

We should not be surprised at God's justice

Luke 13:5

⁵ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish."



Warning! Our expectations may not be in alignment with God

Matthew 11

⁶ "Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me."



Ultimately – God has our good in mind!

Romans 8:28

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God



Immediate – evil Ultimate – good

Genesis 50:20

²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good.



¹Later on God tested Abraham's faith and obedience.



James 1

to do wrong should ever say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else either.



²"Take your son, your only son--yes, Isaac, whom you love so much--and go to the land of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will point out to you."



- ¹Then the LORD told Abram, "Leave your country, your relatives, and your father's house, and go to the land that I will show you.
- ² I will cause you to become the father of a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and I will make you a blessing to others.



⁴So Abram departed as the LORD had instructed him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran.



- ¹Afterward the LORD spoke to Abram in a vision and said to him, "Do not be afraid, Abram, for I will protect you, and your reward will be great."
- ²But Abram replied, "O Sovereign LORD, what good are all your blessings when I don't even have a son? Since I don't have a son, Eliezer of Damascus, a servant in my household, will inherit all my wealth.

³You have given me no children, so one of my servants will have to be my heir."



⁴Then the LORD said to him, "No, your servant will not be your heir, for you will have a son of your own to inherit everything I am giving you."

⁵Then the LORD brought Abram outside beneath the night sky and told him, "Look up into the heavens and count the stars if you can. Your descendants will be like that--too many to count!"



⁶And Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD declared him righteous because of his faith.



¹But Sarai, Abram's wife, had no children. So Sarai took her servant, an Egyptian woman named Hagar,

²and gave her to Abram so she could bear his children. "The LORD has kept me from having any children," Sarai said to Abram. "Go and sleep with my servant. Perhaps I can have children through her." And Abram agreed.



³So Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian servant and gave her to Abram as a wife. (This happened ten years after Abram first arrived in the land of Canaan.)

⁴So Abram slept with Hagar, and she became pregnant.



¹⁵So Hagar gave Abram a son, and Abram named him Ishmael.

¹⁶Abram was eighty-six years old at that time.



¹ When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; serve me faithfully and live a blameless life.

² I will make a covenant with you, by which I will guarantee to make you into a mighty nation."



¹⁵ Then God added, "Regarding Sarai, your wife--her name will no longer be Sarai; from now on you will call her Sarah.

¹⁶ And I will bless her and give you a son from her! Yes, I will bless her richly, and she will become the mother of many nations. Kings will be among her descendants!"



¹⁷ Then Abraham bowed down to the ground, but he laughed to himself in disbelief. "How could I become a father at the age of one hundred?" he wondered. "Besides, Sarah is ninety; how could she have a baby?"

¹⁸ And Abraham said to God, "Yes, may Ishmael enjoy your special blessing!"



¹⁹ But God replied, "Sarah, your wife, will bear you a son. You will name him Isaac, and I will confirm my everlasting covenant with him and his descendants.

As for Ishmael, I will bless him also, just as you have asked. I will cause him to multiply and become a great nation. Twelve princes will be among his descendants.



²¹ But my covenant is with Isaac, who will be born to you and Sarah about this time next year."

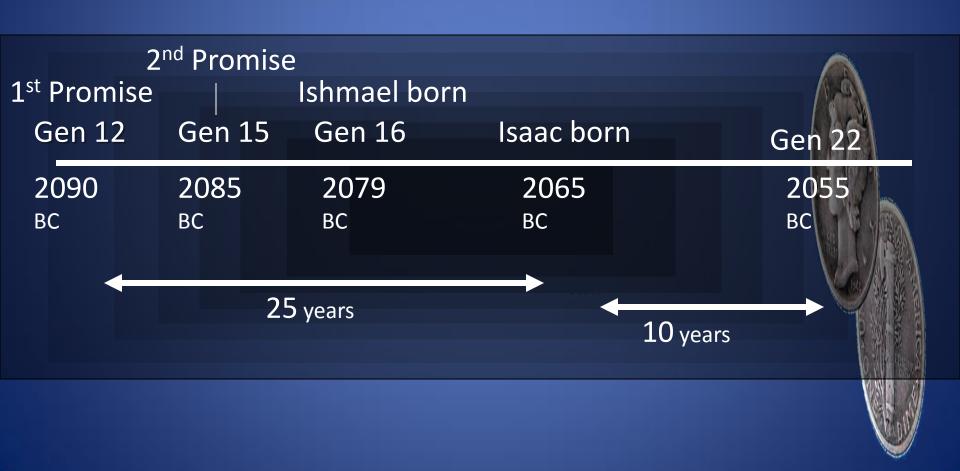


Isaac

יִּצְחָק

"He laughs"





² "Take your son, your only son--yes, Isaac, whom you love so much--and go to the land of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will point out to you."



³The next morning Abraham got up early. He saddled his donkey and took two of his servants with him, along with his son Isaac. Then he chopped wood to build a fire for a burnt offering and set out for the place where God had told him to go.



⁴ On the third day of the journey, Abraham saw the place in the distance.

⁵ "Stay here with the donkey," Abraham told the young men. "The boy and I will travel a little farther. We will worship there, and then we will come right back."



- ⁶ Abraham placed the wood for the burnt offering on Isaac's shoulders, while he himself carried the knife and the fire. As the two of them went on together,
- ⁷ Isaac said, "Father?"
- "Yes, my son," Abraham replied.
- "We have the wood and the fire," said the boy, "but where is the lamb for the sacrifice?"



8 "God will provide a lamb, my son,"
 Abraham answered.
 And they both went on together.



⁹ When they arrived at the place where God had told Abraham to go, he built an altar and placed the wood on it. Then he tied Isaac up and laid him on the altar over the wood.

¹⁰ And Abraham took the knife and lifted it up to kill his son as a sacrifice to the LORD.



¹¹ At that moment the angel of the LORD shouted to him from heaven, "Abraham!"

"Yes," he answered. "I'm listening."

12 "Lay down the knife," the angel said. "Do not hurt the boy in any way, for now I know that you truly fear God. You have not withheld even your beloved son from me."



13 Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. So he took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering on the altar in place of his son.



¹⁴ Abraham named the place "The LORD Will Provide." This name has now become a proverb: "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."



יְהוָה יִרְאָה Jehovah Jireh

"The Lord will Provide"



Jacob Mourned Joseph

Genesis 37:34-35

³⁴ Then Jacob tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and mourned for his son many days.



Jacob Mourned Joseph

Genesis 37:34-35

³⁵ All his sons and daughters came to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted.

"No," he said, "in mourning will I go down to the grave to my son." So his father wept for him.



Jacob's boys go to Egypt

Genesis 42:3,4

³ Then ten of Joseph's brothers went down to buy grain from Egypt.

⁴ But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph's brother, with the others, because he was afraid that harm might come to him.



Jacob's boys return

Genesis 42:33-36

³³ "Then the man who is lord over the land said to us, 'This is how I will know whether you are honest men: Leave one of your brothers here with me, and take food for your starving households and go.



Jacob's boys return

Genesis 42:33-36

³⁴ But bring your youngest brother to me so I will know that you are not spies but honest men. Then I will give your brother back to you, and you can trade in the land.'"



Jacob & boys scared

Genesis 42:33-36

³⁵ As they were emptying their sacks, there in each man's sack was his pouch of silver! When they and their father saw the money pouches, they were frightened.



Jacob's world collapses

Genesis 42:33-36

³⁶ Their father Jacob said to them, "You have deprived me of my children.

Joseph is no more and Simeon is no more, and now you want to take Benjamin. Everything is against me!"



Jacob's world collapses

Genesis 42:33-36

³⁶ "Everything is against me!"



GOD FOR US

Romans 8:31

What, then, shall we say in response to this?

If God is for us, who can be against us?



Reality Revealed

Genesis 45:25-28

²⁵ So they went up out of Egypt and came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan.

²⁶ They told him, "Joseph is still alive! In fact, he is ruler of all Egypt."

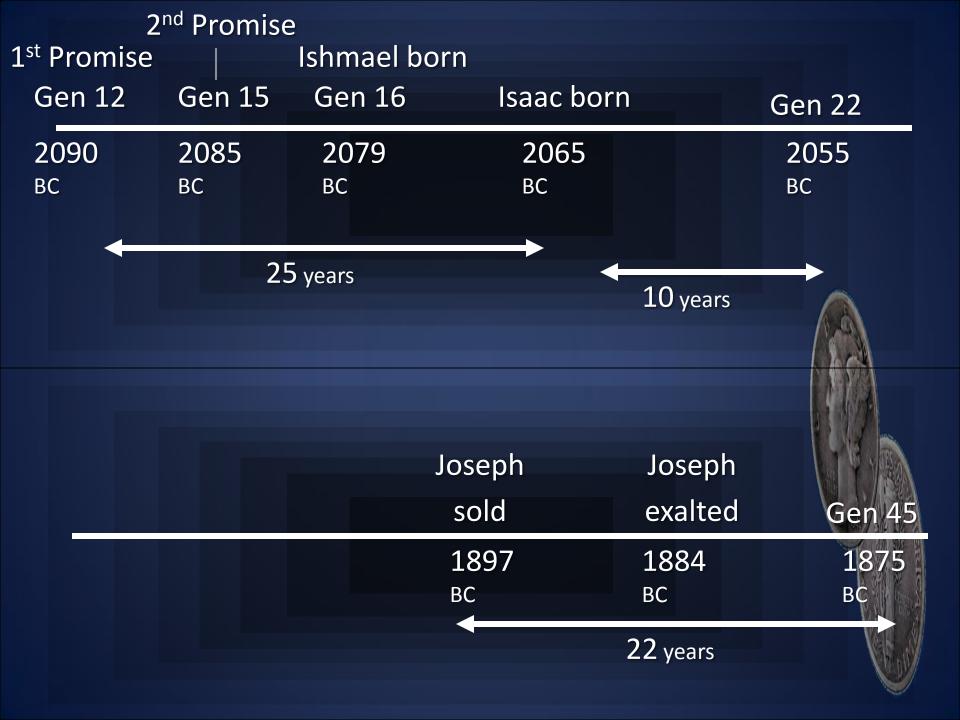


Jacob's Disbelief

Genesis 45:25-28

^{26b} Jacob was stunned; he did not believe them.





Jacob Revived

Genesis 45:25-28

²⁷ But when they told him everything Joseph had said to them, and when he saw the carts Joseph had sent to carry him back, the spirit of their father Jacob revived.



Jacob Convinced

Genesis 45:25-28

And Israel said, "I'm convinced!
 My son Joseph is still alive.
 I will go and see him before I die."



Sometimes we think, act, & talk as if . . .

Genesis 42:36

"Everything is against me!"



GOD FOR US

Romans 8:31

What, then, shall we say in response to this?

If God is for us, who can be against us?

