

Discipleship University Bible Reading Guide

Early Old Testament Foundations: Genesis 28-50

For class to be held October 3, 2015

Put priority on reading for a spiritual experience. Always pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and for a heart to conform to truth. Guide questions are to help the reader catch some of the key concepts and details.

Genesis 28-31:

1. Which verses indicate that the covenant is now officially being passed on to Jacob by God Himself? ____
2. Did Jacob fully accept the covenant offer from God? ____ How does 28:20-22 reveal some reservation on his part? _____
3. What did Jacob name the place where he dreamed, and what does it mean? _____
4. How can one explain the ultra-emotional reaction of Jacob (29:9-11) when he met Rachel, someone who he didn't know at all? _____
5. How would the deception that Laban pulled on Jacob help him understand how Esau and Isaac felt? What Bible principle is at play here? (Gal. 6:7.) _____ What other deception would cause Jacob great bitterness in his later years? _____
Is it true that what we do comes back on us sooner or later?
6. Who were Jacob's first 4 sons, and who was their mother? _____
7. In Rachel's jealousy, what sin of Abraham and Sarah does she instigate to be repeated? _____
_____ Who was Dan & Naphtali's mother? _____
8. Why did Leah copy Rachel and Jacob's sinful way of getting children? _____
_____ Who was Gad & Asher's mother? _____
9. What are mandrakes? _____ Did they work? _____
10. Who was Issachar & Zebulun's mother? _____ Who was Jacob's 11th son, & who was his mother? _____
_____. Who was Dinah's mother? _____
11. After reading chapter 30, why do you think God doesn't approve polygamy? _____
12. How did Jacob succeed in getting so many healthy speckled, spotted and black sheep and goats even when Laban cheated?
13. Of what significance is the phrase "I am the God of Bethel" when God tells Jacob to return to the land of his birth?
14. What do we learn about both Rachel and Laban in the case of the stolen household gods?
15. Even though Jacob had a three day headstart, why does it seem Laban caught up so quickly?
16. What evidence is there to question Laban's sincerity when he complained about not having been able to give a farewell party for his daughters and grandchildren? _____
17. What was to be the penalty for whoever took Laban's idols? _____ Why didn't Rachel have to get up, which would have revealed Laban's household gods? _____
18. Why was Jacob angry? _____ Why did Laban allow Jacob to continue his journey? _____ How does verse 52 indicate that their parting was not a friendly one (different from how people use verse 49 today sometimes)? _____

Suggested Reading: *Patriarchs and Prophets* chapter 17

Genesis 32 & 33:

1. What are verses 1 & 2 all about? _____ (See *PP* chapter 18)
2. Where did Esau live? _____ Where was that? _____

3. How does verse 10 show Jacob's spiritual growth? _____ What's Jacob's point in verse 12? _____ Why did he divide his company into two groups? _____
4. How much wealth was 200 she-goats, 20 he-goats, 200 ewes, 20 rams, 30 camels, 40 cows, 10 bulls, 20 she-asses, and 10 he-asses? What monetary value could be placed on all that livestock today?
5. Who did Jacob think he was wrestling? _____ What made him change his mind? _____
6. What did Jacob mean when he said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me?"
7. Why was Jacob's name changed to Israel? _____ What does Israel mean? _____ What does this have to do with God's last day Israel in the book of Revelation?
8. Of what significance is the ordering of Jacob's family in 33:1-3. _____
9. Did Esau accept Jacob's gifts? _____ Did he need them? ____ How do you know?
10. Where did Jacob settle after his arrival to Canaan? _____

Very Important Reading: PP chapter 18

Genesis 34-38:

1. What sign of being in the covenant with God was necessary before Hamor's people could unite with the people of Jacob? _____ What kind of people were Simeon & Levi? _____
2. What consequences did Jacob fear because of Simeon & Levi's actions? _____
3. What evidence in chap. 35 reveals that at least some members of Jacob's family were polytheists? _____ Why did Jacob's people take off their earrings? _____
4. Why didn't the Canaanites take revenge on Jacob's people for what Simeon & Levi had done? _____ Why did God protect Simeon & Levi from the consequences of their own action?
5. What specific points were repeated in the renewal of the covenant in 35:9-12?
6. What sin was committed by Reuben?
7. How old was Isaac when he died? _____ What nation grew from Esau's descendants? _____
8. Quickly read chapters 37 & 38. Who was the natural leader among Joseph's brothers? _____
9. What did Joseph's dreams mean in chapter 37? _____ Who bought Joseph down in Egypt? _____
10. What kind of person was Tamar? _____ Judah? _____ Remember, bearing children was considered a blessing of God (of the gods from a heathen viewpoint). Of what significance are twins?

Suggested Reading: PP chapter 19

Genesis 39-41:

1. What evidence in chapter 39 indicates God's law was understood before Sinai?
2. If God was with Joseph, why did He allow such injustice?
3. How were Joseph's experiences in Egypt similar to Abraham's?
4. How was Joseph's life a prophecy of the future?
5. What was the key difference between the end result of the butler's and the baker's dreams?
6. What did Pharaoh's dreams mean? _____ What was Joseph's proposal?
7. Why was Joseph selected to be the prime minister?

8. How old was Joseph at that time? ____ How did Joseph increase the power of Egypt?

9. What were Joseph's son's names? _____

Suggested Reading: **PP chapter 20**

Genesis 41:53 to 46:7:

1. Which son of Jacob remained a prisoner in Egypt? _____ Why did Joseph choose him?

2. What evidence in the story shows a major change in Judah's character?

3. Why were the sons of Jacob so amazed during the feast in Jacob's house?

4. Whose words led right into Joseph disclosing his identity _____ Why?

Genesis 46:8 to 50:26:

1. Why are all these people listed in verses 9-27? _____ Who were the 3 sons of Levi? _____

2. How many people were in the household of Jacob in Egypt? __ Who was not included in that number?

3. Read 46:28-47:31. What land was given to the family of Jacob by Pharaoh? _____ What did Jacob do for Pharaoh? _____ How would you summarize 47:13-26? _____ How did Joseph make Pharaoh stronger?

4. How long did Jacob live? ____ What promise did Israel request of Joseph?

5. How did Ephraim and Manasseh become a part of the 12 tribes of Israel? How could that be when Jacob already had 12 sons?

6. Of what significance was Jacob crossing his hands when blessing Ephraim and Manasseh?

7. Read chapter 49 carefully. How was Reuben characterized? _____ Why didn't he get much of a blessing from his father? Why were Simeon and Levi cursed? _____ What exactly was the curse?

8. To what was Judah compared? _____ What position of leadership would belong to Judah's descendants? _____ What was Zebulun's blessing? _____ Did it have much importance to the covenant promises? __ Did Issachar get much of a blessing?

9. Read verses 16 & 17 carefully. To what is Dan compared? _____ What clue do you see that may explain why Dan is not included as one of the 12 tribes making up the 144,00 in Rev. 7:4-8?

10. To whom did all the wonderful blessings for Joseph pass upon? _____

11. Where did Jacob request to be buried? _____

12. How did Joseph's death affect the nation of Egypt? _____ Why?

13. Why did Joseph's brothers come to see him after Jacob died? _____

14. How do we know that Joseph believed that God is the sovereign ruler of this earth?

15. How long did Joseph live? ____ What was Joseph's last request? _____

Suggested Reading: **PP chapter 21**