

GENESIS STUDY GUIDE

CHAPTERS 26-50

LITERARY STRUCTURE

As a reminder, the book may be divided into four major parts. We turn our attention to the patriarchs of Jacob & Joseph, but you'll still learn lessons about Abraham & Isaac.

1. The Creation & the Early Days of Humankind (Gen. 1:1-11:26)
2. The Story of Abraham & Isaac (Gen. 12:1-25:18)
3. The Story of Jacob & Esau (Gen. 25:19-36:43)
4. The Story of Joseph & His Brothers (Gen. ch. 35-51)

AGES BEFORE & AFTER THE FLOOD

BEFORE THE FLOOD	THE FLOOD
ADAM 930 years (Gen. 5:5)	SHEM 600 years (Gen. 11:10, 11)
SETH 912 years (Gen. 5:8)	EBER 464 years (Gen. 11:16, 17)
ENOSH 905 years (Gen. 5:11)	TERAH 205 years (Gen. 11:32)
ENOCH 365 years (Gen. 5:23)	ABRAHAM 175 years (Gen. 25:7)
METHUSELAH 969 years (Gen. 5:27)	ISAAC 180 years (Gen. 35:28)
LAMECH 777 years (Gen. 5:31)	JACOB 147 years (Gen. 47:28)
NOAH 950 years (Gen. 9:29)	JOSEPH 110 years (Gen. 50:26)

The patriarchs who lived before the Flood had an average lifespan of about 900 years (Gen. 5).
The ages of post-Flood patriarchs dropped rapidly and gradually leveled off (Gen. 11).
Some suggest that this is due to major environmental changes brought about by the Flood.

Chart by Dean Niforatos

PARALLELS IN THE LIVES OF ABRAHAM & ISAAC

	Abraham	Isaac
Famine in the land forced a move	2:10	26:1
Moved to Gerar & stayed with Abimelech	20:1-2	26:1, 6
God appeared & issued promises	12:2-3, 7; 13:14-17	26:3-4, 24
Out of fear, called his wife his sister	12:12-13; 20:11-13	26:7-8
Rebuked by the king	12:18-19; 20:9-10	26:9-10
Became wealthy	12:16; 13:2; 20:14-15	26:12-13
Quarreled over water rights	21:25-30	26:19-22
Worshiped by building an altar	13:18	26:25
Abimelech acknowledged God was with him	21:22	26:28
Made a covenant with Abimelech	21:27	26:28-31
Named a well "Beersheba"	21:31	26:33

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SPIRITUAL DECLINE IN THE PATRIARCHAL AGE

First Generation	Second Generation	Third Generation	Fourth Generation
Abraham	Ishmael and Isaac	Esau and Jacob	Joseph and his eleven brothers
Abraham: man of faith believed God	Ishmael: not son of promise Isaac: called on God, believed God	Esau: unspiritual little faith Jacob: at first compromised, later committed to the Lord	Joseph: man of God, showed faith Brothers: treachery, immorality, lack of separation from Canaanites
Abraham: built altars to God (Gen. 12:7, 8; 13:4, 18, 22:9)	Isaac: built an altar to God, rebuilt his dad's (Gen. 26:25)	Jacob: built altars to God (Gen. 33:20; 35:1, 3, 7)	No altars were built to God in the fourth generation

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OBSERVATION WORDS

- **God** – Different ways He's referenced & what you learn about Him
- **Holy Spirit** – When He's named directly, what He does, note miracles, etc.
- **Jesus** – When & how is He present? What types/symbols represent Christ in the text?
- **God said/spoke** – What is He saying? What are the implications?
- **"I will..." (in context of God speaking)** – What is God promising?
- **Covenant** – What is the covenant about? What are the details of the covenant?
- **Bless/Blessed** – Who is blessed & who is doing the blessing?
- **Promise/oath** – What is it referring to? What is promised? Why?
- **Abraham** – What do you learn about him?
- **Isaac** – What do you learn about him?
- **Jacob** – What do you learn about him?
- **Joseph** – What do you learn about him?

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SUMMARY QUESTIONS

- What do you learn about God the Father?

- What are the blessings of obedience? The consequences of disobedience?

- Where do you see Jesus in this book?

- Where do you see the Holy Spirit in this book?

- What did the Lord teach YOU through what you read? How will you apply what you've learned to your daily life?

- What repeated patterns do you notice between the different generations?

- What do you learn about family dynamics & how can you apply lessons learned in your own family?

KEY WORD

Now, provide a key word or really short phrase that describes the WHOLE book. Why did you choose that?

KEY VERSE AND CHAPTER

Choose a key verse and key chapter from the WHOLE book. It may be what summarizes the book for you, or it may be something the Lord taught you through that verse & chapter.

- Key Verse:

- Key Chapter: