

# SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

AN OVERVIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

JN. 5:39



Jn. 5:39 “**Search the scriptures....they are they which testify of me.**”

Jn. 5:46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for **he wrote of me.**

Rom. 15:4 For whatsoever things were **written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.**

Gen. 49

## Review

We began in Genesis with the beginnings of the human race.

I. THE PRIMEVAL HISTORY: BEGINNINGS OF THE HUMAN RACE, 1:1—11:32

II. THE PATRIARCHAL HISTORY: BEGINNINGS OF THE HEBREW RACE, 12:1—50:26

A. The Progenitor: Abraham, 12:1—25:11

B. The Pilgrim: Isaac, 25:19—27:46

C. The Propagator: Jacob, 28:1—36:43

D. The Provider: Joseph, 37:1—47:26

E. The Conclusion, 47:27—50:26

# 1. The Death of Jacob, 47:27—50:21

a. Jacob's Foreknowledge, 47:27—49:27

b. Jacob's Funeral, 49:28—50:21

(1) The Pledge, 49:28-33

(a) Jacob's Last Words, 49:28

(b) Jacob's Last Will, 49:29-32

(c) Jacob's Last Witness, 49:33

Tonight, we begin Gen. 50, with the death of Jacob. The life of Jacob was one that was a sojourner, and he died while sojourning in Egypt. Jacob lived a life of faith until the very end of his days.

## (2) The Preparation, 50:1-3

Gen. 50:1 And Joseph fell upon his father's face, and wept upon him, and kissed him.

2 And Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father: and the physicians embalmed Israel.

3 And forty days were fulfilled for him; for so are fulfilled the days of those which are embalmed: and the Egyptians mourned for him threescore and ten days.

❖ The life of Jacob was one that was a sojourner.

Gen. 32:4 And he commanded them, saying, Thus shall ye speak unto my lord Esau; Thy servant Jacob saith thus, **I have sojourned with Laban**, and stayed there until now:

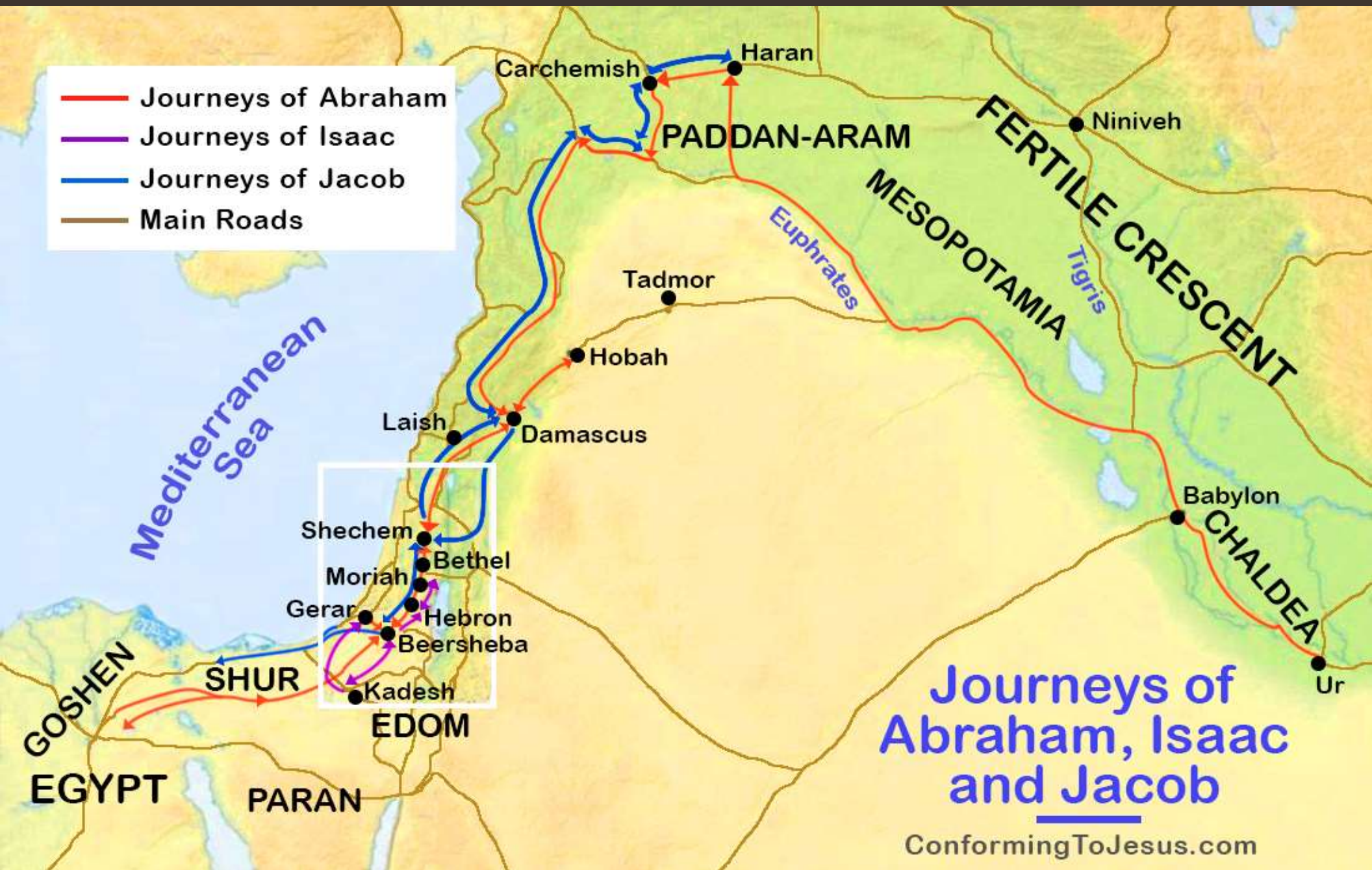
Gen. 47:4 They said moreover unto Pharaoh, **For to sojourn in the land are we come**; for thy servants have no pasture for their flocks; for the famine *is* sore in the land of Canaan: now therefore, we pray thee, let thy servants dwell in the land of Goshen.

Deut. 26:5 And thou shalt speak and say before the LORD thy God, A Syrian ready to perish *was* my father, and **he went down into Egypt, and sojourned there with a few, and became there a nation, great, mighty, and populous:**

Psa. 105:23 Israel also came into Egypt; and **Jacob sojourned in the land of Ham.**

Isa. 52:4 For thus saith the Lord GOD, **My people went down aforetime into Egypt to sojourn there;** and the Assyrian oppressed them without cause.

Heb. 11:9 **By faith he sojourned** in the land of promise, as *in* a strange country, **dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob**, the heirs with him of the same promise:





### (3) The Permission, 50:4-6

Gen. 50:4 And when the days of his mourning were past, Joseph spake unto the house of Pharaoh, saying, If now I have found grace in your eyes, speak, I pray you, in the ears of Pharaoh, saying,

5 My father made me swear, saying, Lo, I die: in my grave which I have digged for me in the land of Canaan, there shalt thou bury me. Now therefore let me go up, I pray thee, and bury my father, and I will come again.

6 And Pharaoh said, Go up, and bury thy father, according as he made thee swear.

- ❖ Egypt, a type of the world, was not to be the final resting place for Jacob. He wanted to be buried in the Promised Land.
- ❖ Joseph acknowledge respect for authority in seeking Pharaoh's blessing.
- ❖ Believers today should respect authority as a matter of a good testimony.

(4) The Procession, 50:7-14

## (a) The Funeral Party, 50:7-9

Gen. 50:7 And Joseph went up to bury his father: and with him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his house, and all the elders of the land of Egypt,

8 And all the house of Joseph, and his brethren, and his father's house: only their little ones, and their flocks, and their herds, they left in the land of Goshen.

9 And there went up with him both chariots and horsemen: and it was a very great company.

❖ The large entourage from Egypt attracted attention of all who witnessed the huge funeral procession.

(b) The Formal Proceedings, 50:10-13

Gen. 50:10 And they came to the threshingfloor of Atad, which *is* beyond Jordan, and there they mourned with a great and very sore lamentation: and he made a mourning for his father seven days.

11 And when the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the mourning in the floor of Atad, they said, **This is a grievous mourning to the Egyptians:** wherefore the name of it was called Abelmizraim, which *is* beyond Jordan.

12 And his sons did unto him according as he commanded them:

13 For his sons carried him into the land of Canaan, and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah, which Abraham bought with the field for a possession of a buryingplace of Ephron the Hittite, before Mamre.

**Original Word:** אֶבֶל מִצְרַיִם **Transliteration:** Abel

Mitsrayim; **Definition:** "meadow of Egypt", a place East of the Jordan <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/67.htm>

❖ Abelmizraim = “the meadow of the Egyptians” or “mourning of Egypt”; this is thought to be an area near the city of Jericho, east of the Jordan and north of the Dead Sea.



- ❖ The funeral possession passed on the east side of Jordan, the path of the Exodus, and then proceeded to the burial cave of Machpelah.



- ❖ Joseph and his brothers carried out Jacob's desire for his burial.

(c) The Final Parting, 50:14

Gen. 50:14 And Joseph returned into Egypt, he, and his brethren, and all that went up with him to bury his father, after he had buried his father.

- ❖ The death of a loved one is an interruption in life that is an inconvenient attack upon emotions that forces a person to face the inevitable confrontation with eternity.
- ❖ The funeral is both a confrontation and a closure, but not an elimination of sorrow. A departed loved one will always be just a thought away in rekindling a sorrowful emotion.
- ❖ After the funeral, loved ones return home to encounter life.



## Summary

- ❖ The death of a loved one evokes memories expressed in respectful condolences, and emotional conflicts.
- ❖ A funeral forces the facing of mankind's fragile mortality and temporality.
- ❖ A wise believer embraces the fact of life's brevity, and simple reality of sojourning as "...strangers and pilgrims on the earth." (Heb. 11:13)

Heb. 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of *them*, and embraced *them*, and **confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.**

1 Pet. 1:17 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, **pass the time of your sojourning *here* in fear:**

1 Pet. 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* **as strangers and pilgrims**, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

## Conclusion

❖ Jacob passed the time of his sojourning walking by faith until his death.

Heb. 11:21 **By faith Jacob**, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, *leaning* upon the top of his staff.

Rom. 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, **The just shall live by faith.**

2 Cor. 5:7 (For **we walk by faith**, not by sight:)

Gal. 3:11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, *it is* evident: for, **The just shall live by faith.**

Eph. 3:17 **That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith**; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

Phil. 3:9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, **the righteousness which is of God by faith:**

Heb. 10:38 Now **the just shall live by faith**: but if *any man* draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

Hab. 2:4 Behold, his soul *which* is lifted up is not upright in him: but **the just shall live by his faith.**