

## Lecture 11: The Patriarchs – Two Surprising Transformations

February 7, 2020

*Who is a character that stands out to you, and why?*

### Dysfunctional Family – Incest, Rape, Revenge, Murder, Trafficking, Deceit, Fugitive...

*Who is God? Who is man?*

*What is the problem? The solution?*

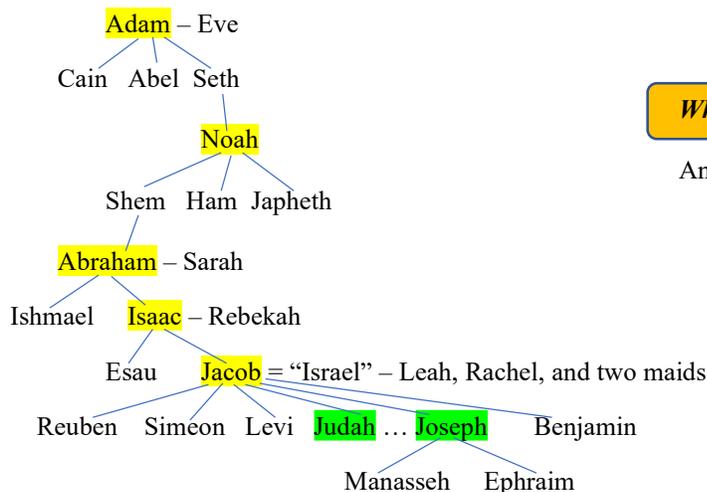
God is patient—both in fulfilling His promises and paying individuals back.

Man is diverse in his sin—obvious and not so obvious faults.

But have we made much progress of the promises of God? Hardly any families affected yet!

Ah, but the patterns of God's "ways" are being established and the roots of the coming Seed.

### The Family of the Chosen Seed



**What do we learn from this family tree?**

Ans. God's choices are often *counterintuitive*.

To choose the youngest?  
To choose the worst?!

### Two Pairs of Brothers

#### Esau & Jacob – twins!

Names – “Rough” Guy vs. “Heel-Grabber”

Character

Red Soup – legal, but ethical? What should we think of Jacob?

Illus. Manipulation in albums and rides, and the Minneapolis neighborhood

Robbed Blessing – all Jacob's fault?

Illus. The Wardrobe of the Moral Imagination – “no moral or godless person like Esau” (Heb. 12:16)

Poetic Justice – in father-in-law and in sons, Jacob received what is fitting (cf. Gal. 6:7)

Grace – Bethel/Penuel/Bethel

Oblivious. Blessed with *non-justice*, yet bargains with God. When will this wheeler-and-dealer *believe*?

“...few and evil have been the years of my life” (Gen. 47:9) – how much was unnecessary?

#### Judah & Joseph

Favoritism & Dreams – such showiness, such hatred...

Character

Joseph – the Lord was with him and prospered him in slavery, in prison, and on the throne

“How then could I do this great evil and sin against God?” (Gen. 39:9)

Judah – sold his brother, slept with his daughter-in-law and gave her *surety* (collateral) (Gen. 38)

Robert Alter – *Why is this chapter inserted into the narrative?*

Transformation

“Your servant became *surety* for the lad...” (Gen. 44:32) – the verbal link with Genesis 38

“Let your servant remain *instead of* the lad a slave to my lord” (Gen. 44:33).

*Judah has become “seed of Abraham” through rebirth and a picture of his descendent Jesus Christ!*

**Two Leading Tribes:** *Judah* and *Ephraim* – will lead the Jews into the Promised Land...