

HOW TO FIND GOD AT WORK IN MY LIFE

Beginning in Beginnings: Genesis

January 16, 2022

Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt The Lord was with Joseph, and he prospered in the home of his Egyptian master

Genesis 39:1-2

But while he was there in the prison, the Lord was with him

Genesis 39:20-21

The final “account” in Genesis

Jacob stayed in the land where his father has stayed, the land of Canaan.

This is the account of Jacob. Joseph, a young man of seventeen was tending the flocks

Genesis 37:1-2

“You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don’t be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.”

Genesis 50:20

1. How has God revealed himself in his creation and redemption?

2. What is most important about myself and my fellow “adams”?

3. What is my place in this creation and God’s redemption plan?

Key question: Where in the opening chapters of Joseph’s story does he experience God’s presence?

The new chapter in God's story begins

Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with the brothers, the sons of Bilah and the sons of Zilphah, his father's wives. and he brought their father a bad report about them. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age, and he made a richly ornamented robe for him

Genesis 37:2-3

1. Families have been struggling since Cain and Abel – and God still works!
2. Joseph is part of a long line of shepherds who faced rejection – which brings us to Jesus

Finding Jesus in the story

1. Genesis has already pointed to Jesus in the pictures of light, Son, and sacrifice
2. Watch the sonship theme (but there will always be a surprise – God is in charge!)

Jacob had twelve sons:

²³ *The sons of Leah:*
Reuben the firstborn of Jacob, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar and Zebulun.

²⁴ *The sons of Rachel:*

Joseph and Benjamin.

²⁵ *The sons of Rachel's maidservant Bilhah:*
Dan and Naphtali.

²⁶ *The sons of Leah's maidservant Zilpah:*
Gad and Asher.

These were the sons of Jacob, who were born to him in Paddan Aram.

Genesis 37:17-20

3. In God's economy, deliverance ultimately comes from rejection and suffering

So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan. ¹⁸ But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him.

¹⁹ "Here comes that dreamer!" they said to each other. ²⁰ "Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams."

Genesis 37:17-20

Lessons from Genesis

1. Remember God's promises

The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you.

² *“I will make you into a great nation*

and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,

and you will be a blessing.

³ *I will bless those who bless you,*

and whoever curses you I will curse;

and all peoples on earth

will be blessed through you.”

Genesis 12:1-3 (see also Genesis 50:22-25; Hebrews 11:22)

2. Obedience

Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned.⁵ From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the LORD blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the LORD was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field.⁶ So he left in Joseph’s care everything he had; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate.

Genesis 39:4-6 (see also Genesis 22:3 for Abraham’s obedience)

3. Where is God's provision

⁶ *Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together,⁷ Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?”*

“Yes, my son?” Abraham replied.

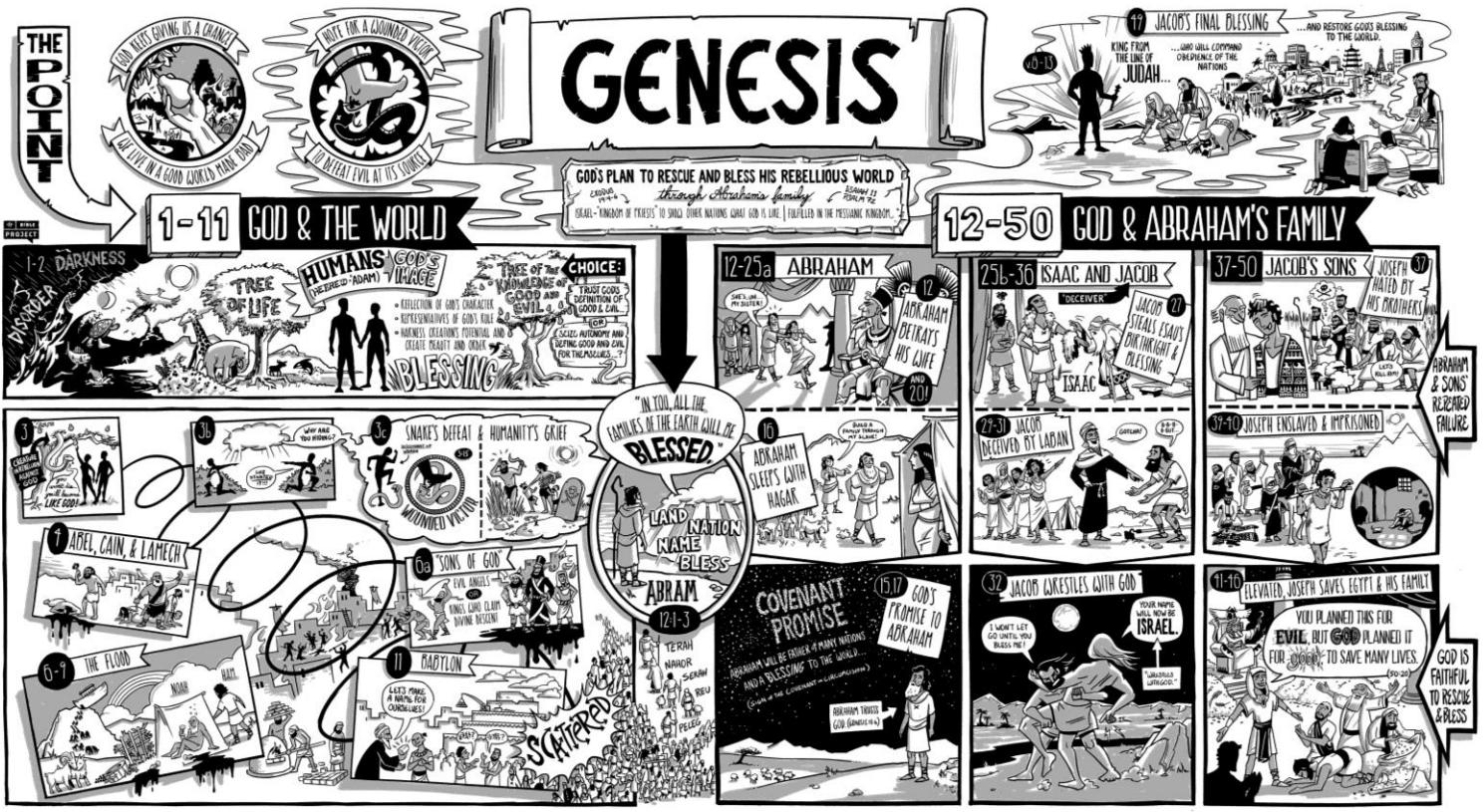
“The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”

⁸ *Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together.*

Genesis 22

But while Joseph was there in the prison,²¹ the LORD was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden.²² So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there.²³ The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph’s care, because the LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.

Genesis 39 (also check Maclaren's commentary on this text)



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