

Possible Study Plan

- ~~1 Is the Bible Trustworthy?~~
- ~~2 Did God Really Create the World?~~
- ~~3 If God is good, why does suffering exist?~~
- ~~4 Why is evil so widespread and powerful?~~
- 5 Why is Israel so important?
- 6 Who is God?
- 7 What is the purpose of the Ten Commandments?
- 8 Are Biblical heroes all good guys?
- 9 How do the Old and New Testaments fit together?
- 10 Why did Jesus perform miracles?
- 11 What did Jesus really say?
- 12 Is death the end (or the beginning)?

Why is Israel So Important?

(A necessary history lesson)

Last Week : Things to Remember

- Even the **very best efforts** of man **cannot** please God. He is God – **His way** is the **only right way**.
- In the midst of **judgment for sin**, God shows mercy, providing a **safe place**.
- **God** created people for **His glory**, but people are proud and seek their own glory.
- **Evil is real** and always pulls men away from God. We have **only one hope** – **God** must **bring us** back to Himself.

And now, more about God's plan...

The call of Abram

- **Genesis 12:1-3** > God spoke to Abram
 - **Verse 1** : what did God tell Abram to do?
 - A strong faith is required to go on a journey without a clear destination! (**Hebrews 11:8**)
 - **Verses 2-3** : what promise did God make to Abram?
 - Who would be blessed by the offspring of Abram?
- **Deuteronomy 7:7** > Why did God choose such a small nation for such a big promise?
 - 1 Corinthians 1:27-29 God often chooses the weak

The “Qualifications” of Abram

- **Genesis 12:10-13** > Abram was not perfect!
 - What did Abram tell his wife to do?
 - The Bible tells the truth about people – even the heroes are sinful.
- **Genesis 15:1-5** > The promise
 - **Verse 2** : What was Abram’s problem?
 - **Verse 4** : What was God’s promise?
- **Genesis 15:6** > Righteousness “credited”
 - Righteousness does not come from perfect behavior
 - Righteousness comes through belief (faith)

Some things to remember

- Righteousness does **not** come from **perfect behavior** – it comes from God through **belief**

Promises Fulfilled

- **Genesis 15:13-14** > A prophecy of the future
- **Genesis 17:5,15-16** > New names for old people
- Abram → Abraham: “father of a multitude”
- Sarai → Sarah: “mother of many nations”
- **Genesis 21:1-5** > The promise comes true
 - **Verse 2** : What happened to Sarah?
 - God is faithful : “at the very time God promised”
 - **Verse 5** : How old was Abraham?

An unexpected sacrifice (Genesis 22)

- **Verses 1-2** : What did God tell Abraham to do?
 - Sacrifice his only son, the one that he loves
 - The special child of promise
- **Verses 3-5** : What did Abraham do?
 - Started the journey early the next morning
 - “We will worship and then we will come back”
 - Abraham didn't understand, but he trusted God

An unexpected sacrifice (Genesis 22)

- **Verses 6-8** : What did Abraham say about the offering?
 - Remember this image: the only son carries wood up the mountain for his own sacrifice.
- **Verses 9-11** : Abraham faithfully obeyed
- **Verses 12-13** : God provides a substitute
- **Verse 14** : The Lord Will Provide (He did provide, *and* He will provide)

Some things to remember

- Righteousness does **not** come from **perfect behavior** – it comes from God through **belief**
- The **only son** of a father climbed the mountain with the **wood of sacrifice** on his back
- On the mountain of the Lord, **a lamb will be provided**

Isaac and Jacob

- **Genesis 25:24-26** > When Isaac was 60 years old, his wife had two sons: Esau and Jacob
- **Genesis 28:10-14** > God speaks to Jacob
 - **Verse 12**: a stairway into heaven
 - **Verse 13**: Jacob's descendants will inherit this land
 - **Verse 14** : his offspring will bless the entire earth
- **Genesis 35:23-26** > Jacob had four wives and 12 sons
- God changed Jacob's name to Israel

Some things to remember

- Righteousness does **not** come from **perfect behavior** – it comes from God through **belief**
- The **only son** of a father climbed the mountain with the **wood of sacrifice** on his back
- On the mountain of the Lord, **a lamb will be provided**
- From Israel: A stairway into heaven and blessing to all people

Israel and Joseph

- **Genesis 37** > Joseph had some problems
 - **Verse 2** : he was a “tattletale”
 - **Verse 3** : his father treated him special
 - **Verse 4** : his brothers hated him
 - **Verses 5-8** : he was proud, telling them he will be their ruler
- **Genesis 37** > Joseph’s brothers take action
 - **Verses 19-20** : they decide to kill him
 - **Verses 25-28** : they sell him as a slave to Egypt
 - **Verses 31-33** : they cover up their crime

Joseph in Egypt

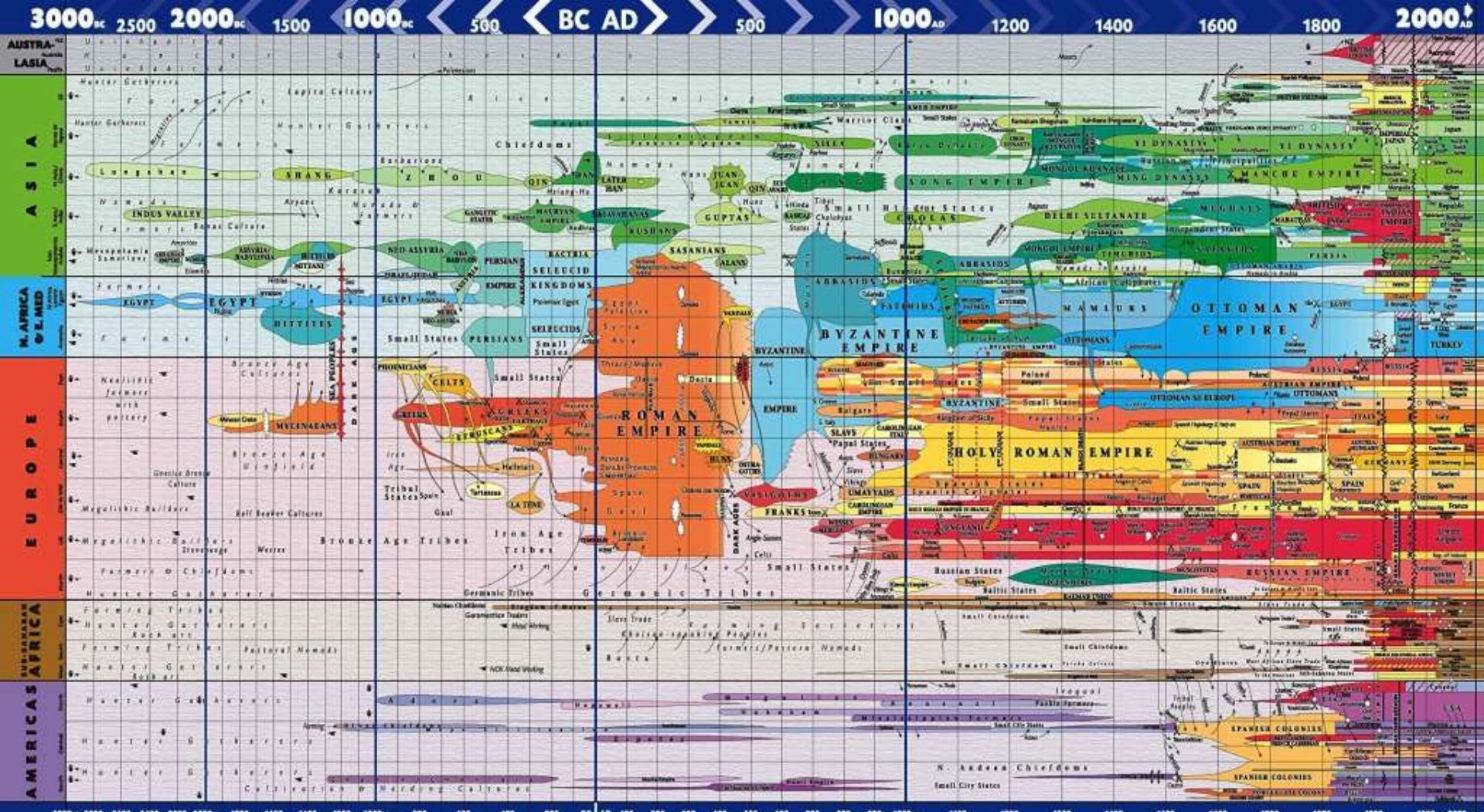
- **Genesis 39** > In the house of Potiphar
 - **Verses 2-4** : The Lord was with him
 - **Verses 7-8** : Refused his master's wife's temptation
 - **Verses 11-12** : falsely accused and sent to prison
- **Genesis 40:12-15** > Interpreting dream in prison
- **Genesis 41** > In the presence of Pharaoh
 - **Verses 15-16** : Only God can interpret dreams
 - **1 Peter 5:5-7** : Now humble and useful
 - **Verses 28-30** : 7 years of plenty and famine
 - **Verses 39-40** : Joseph in charge of Egypt

Israel comes to Egypt

- **Genesis 42** > Joseph's brothers
 - **Verses 1-3** : The famine brings the brothers to Egypt
 - **Verses 6-7** : The brothers bow to Joseph
 - **Verses 21-22** : The brothers feel guilty about their sin
- **Genesis 45:3-5** > Joseph reveals his identity
- **Genesis 45:7-8** > God is in control of everything
- **Genesis 47:5-6** > Israel welcomed as guests in Egypt

History is not random events

- **God has a plan** for the future
 - **Genesis 15:13-14** – Israel would be slaves in a foreign land 400 years, but God will come to rescue them
 - **Genesis 50:24** – Joseph reminds them of the promise
- **Some clues** of the future:
 - Righteousness does **not** come from perfect **behavior** – it comes from God through **belief**
 - The **only son** of a father climbed the mountain with **the wood of sacrifice on his back**
 - On the mountain of the Lord, **a lamb will be provided**
 - From Israel: A stairway into heaven and blessing to all people
- **God is in control** of history (His story) ... →



O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. Isaiah 25:1