

“A Tale of Two Sisters”

“For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.”—James 3:16

*“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of **wisdom**, it was the age of **foolishness**, it was the epoch of **belief**, it was the epoch of **incredulity**, it was the season of **light**, it was the season of **darkness**, it was the spring of **hope**, it was the winter of **despair**.”* — Charles Dickens/ *A Tale of Two Cities*

Division of Genesis

Genesis 1-11

Events

- *Creation
- *Fall
- *Flood
- *Tower of Babel

2000 years

Human Race as whole

Genesis 12-50

People

- *Abraham(*Sarah*)
- *Isaac(*Rebekah*)
- *Jacob(*Rachel/Leah*)
- *Joseph

2500 years

Abraham's Family

Our Legacy of Grace

- **Abraham**: faithful; founder; obedient (a few detours 😊)

Weakness: *ran when tested(abandoned his altar); dishonesty*

Lesson: *God desires our faith and trust in Him; **GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES***

Sarah: Doubted God's provision and timing

- **Isaac**: patient; caring husband; conflict avoider

Weakness: *ran when tested(abandoned his altar);family favoritism;dishonesty*

Lesson: *patience brings rewards; **GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES***

Rebekah: deception; favoritism and manipulation will destroy a family

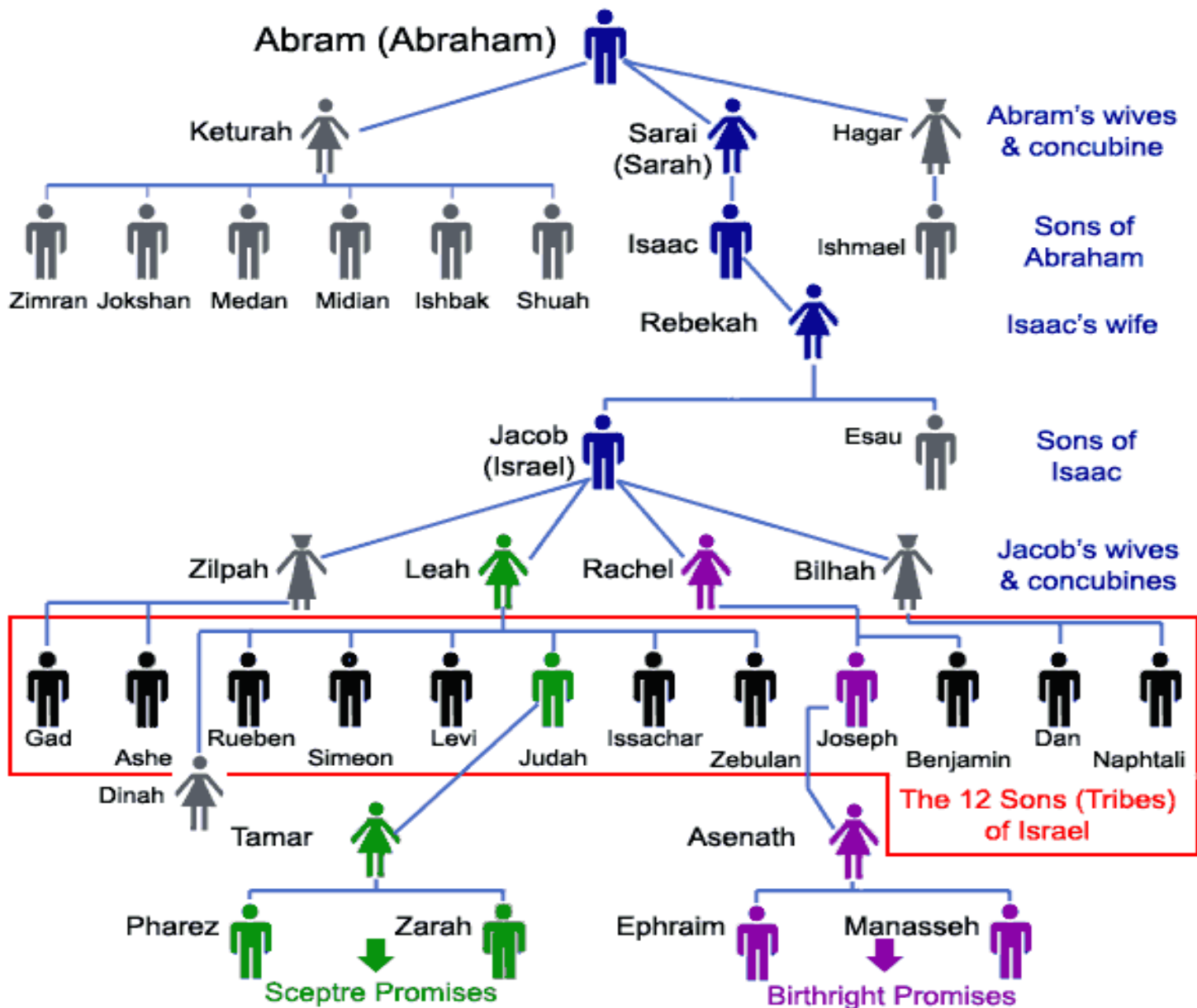
- **Jacob**: determined; hardworker;

Weakness: *ran when tested(abandoned his altar);self-reliance; dishonesty; favoritism*

Lesson: *God will work around and through our weaknesses to accomplish his plan;*

GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

Rachel/Leah: jealousy and discontentment will never bring joy and peace





Genesis 29

- I. The meeting (vv. 1-13)
- II. The marriage (vv. 14-20)
- III. The mess (vv. 21-30)
- IV. The mating game (vv. 31-35)



II. The marriage (vv. 14-20)



III. The Mess (vv. 21-30)



IV. The Mating Game (vv. 31-35)

What's In a Name?

Leah's Boys

- Reuben: *"see—a son!"*
- Simeon: *"one who hears"*
- Levi: *"attached"*
- Judah: *"praise"*
- Issachar: *"reward"*
- Zebulun: *"honor"*

Zilpah's (Leah's maidservant) Boys

- Gad: *"luck has come"*
- Asher: *"happy"*

Mandrake Roots



Rachel's Boys

Bilhah's (Rachel's maidservant) boys

- Dan: *"vindication"*
- Naphtali: *"my struggle"*

Rachel's boys

- Joseph: *"to add"*
- Benjamin: *"son of my right hand"*

Truths from the Tale

- God doesn't have favorites
- Never replace dependence on God with human schemes.
- God works around our weaknesses & sins
- The sin of jealousy ruins a relationship
- All children come about because of God's grace
- God doesn't reward sin; He blesses obedience

Challenge

- “Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us **return to the Lord.**” —*Lamentations 3:40*
- “Above all, **love each other deeply**, because love covers over a multitude of sins.” —*1Pet 4:8*
- “**Delight in weaknesses**, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” —*2 Corinthians 12:10*