**Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – The Conclusion**

**A Bible Story From**

**Genesis 12:1-50:26**

**Bible Story Number: 1010430**

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**Bible Story**

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**Background**

This Bible story is a composite story because it uses several different parts of the Bible to recount a summary of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Biblical references are included to assist the reader.

These three men are often referred to by their descendants because of their obedience to God. These men were not flawless, as is evident in the previous Bible stories.

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were real men who each made mistakes in their lives. God still chose to reveal Himself through His interactions with them. God demonstrated that He is not hindered by their imperfections. As a matter of fact, God’s compassion and faithfulness is especially evident because these individuals were not perfect.

**Story from the Bible**

**Genesis 12:1-50:26**Note: The Scripture references for this Bible story are included with each section.

This is what the Bible says.

Abraham (his name was changed from Abram to Abraham) was chosen by God. God told him to leave his country, his people and his father’s household and go to the land God would show him. (Gen. 12:1)

God made a profound promise, called a covenant, to Abram: (Gen. 12:2-3)

I will bless you and make you the father of a great nation.

I will make you famous throughout history.

I will protect your allies and punish your enemies.

I will bless the entire world through your descendants.

Abraham was the father of Isaac. Isaac was born when Abraham was one hundred years old (Gen. 21:5) and Sarah his mother was past the age of childbearing.

Isaac had two sons, Esau and Jacob. Jacob, although he was not the firstborn son, deceived his father and received the blessing his father intended for his brother. Jacob became the heir as if he were the firstborn. (Gen. 22:1-19)

Jacob had twelve sons. (Gen. 35:22-26) Their descendants became known as the twelve tribes of Israel. They were also known as Israelites.

Joseph was Jacob’s favorite son. His brothers sold him as a slave and led their father to believe a wild animal killed him. He became a slave in Egypt and ended up in prison. Joseph later became the second most powerful man in Egypt. (Gen. 37:1-41:57)

A severe famine came and Joseph’s brothers went to Egypt to buy grain. At first they did not recognize their brother, Joseph. Joseph accused them of being spies and required them to bring Benjamin to Egypt. During their second trip to purchase grain, Joseph finally told his brothers who he was and sent them back to bring their father and their families. Jacob’s entire family moved to Egypt. (Gen. 42:1-47:31)

As Jacob’s health was fading, Joseph went to his father. He had his two sons with him. Jacob blessed Joseph’s sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. Jacob began to bless the younger as if he were the oldest. When Joseph tried to correct his father, Jacob told him that he knew what he was doing and that Ephraim would be greater than his older brother Manasseh. (Gen. 48:8-20)

Jacob lived seventeen years in Egypt. Before he died, he asked Joseph not to bury him in Egypt, but to take his body back to Canaan. (Gen. 47:28-30)

Before his death, Joseph told his brothers that God would surely come to their aid and take them up out of Egypt to the land God had promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He made his brothers promise that when they did return to Canaan that they would carry his bones back to Canaan. Joseph died at the age of 110 and was embalmed and placed in a coffin in Egypt. (Gen. 50:24, 26)

God worked through a man named Moses and after living in Egypt for 430 years, the Israelites returned to Canaan. (Ex. 12:40) (Exodus 13:19 records that Moses did take Joseph’s bones back to Canaan for burial.)

Note:

The Bible provides an excellent summary of the lives of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their influence in history:

“By faith Abraham, even though he was past age—and Sarah herself was barren—was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

“All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

“By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, ‘It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.’ Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death.

“By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future.

“By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph’s sons, and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff.

“By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions about his bones” (Hebrews 11:8-22, NIV).

That concludes this story from the Bible.

**Retelling the Story**

Let’s review this story by retelling it as a group. We want to retell it as faithfully as we can to the story from the Bible. We do not want to add to it or leave out anything important. Who will get us started?

**Questions**

* How did Abraham demonstrate his faith?
* What did Isaac do because of his faith?
* What profound promise (or covenant) did God give to Abraham that was passed down to Isaac and Jacob?
* What name was given to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?
* How and why did they end up in Egypt?
* What did you like about these stories?
* What did you not like about these stories?
* What did you learn about God from these stories?

**Prayer**

Prayer is more than a way to end the session. It is time to talk to God. Public prayer is a model for others. Boldly ask God to guide participants to use the Bible story with others. Ask God to give you and the participant’s insight and understanding as you think about this biblical event.