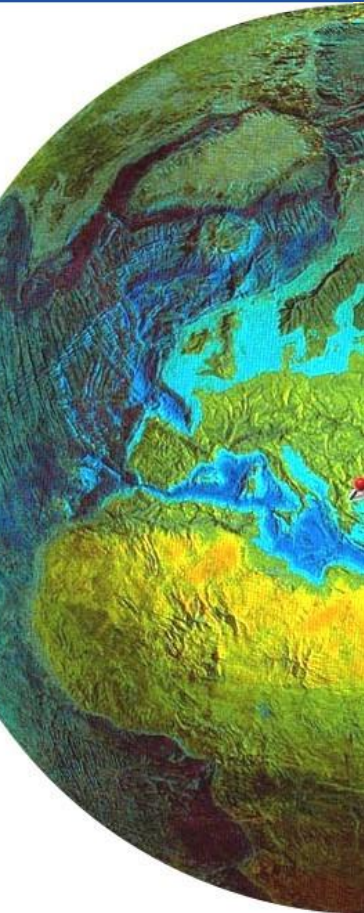
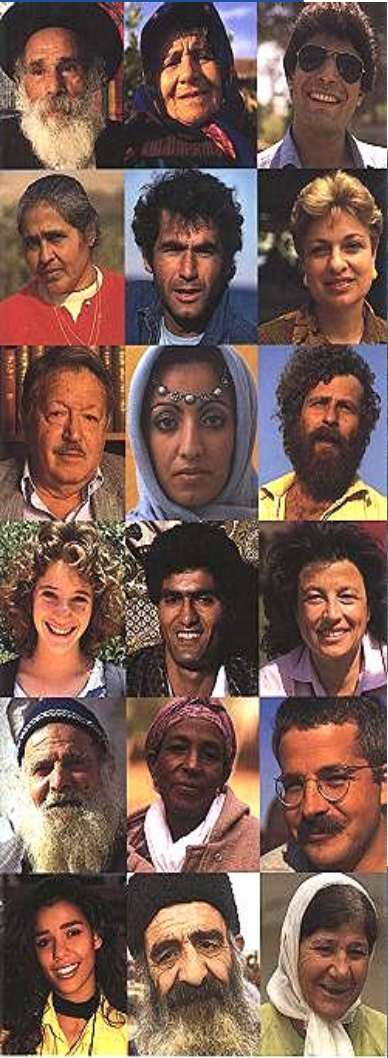


World at the time of Abraham's birth consisted of ONE kind of people

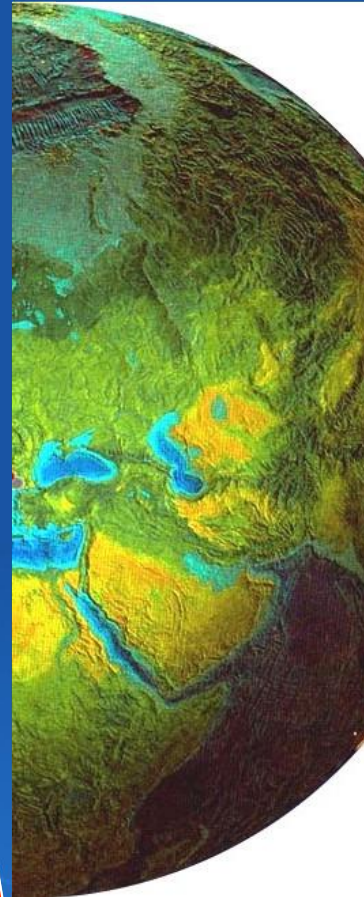


GOD DIVIDES THE WORLD

EVERYBODY ELSE

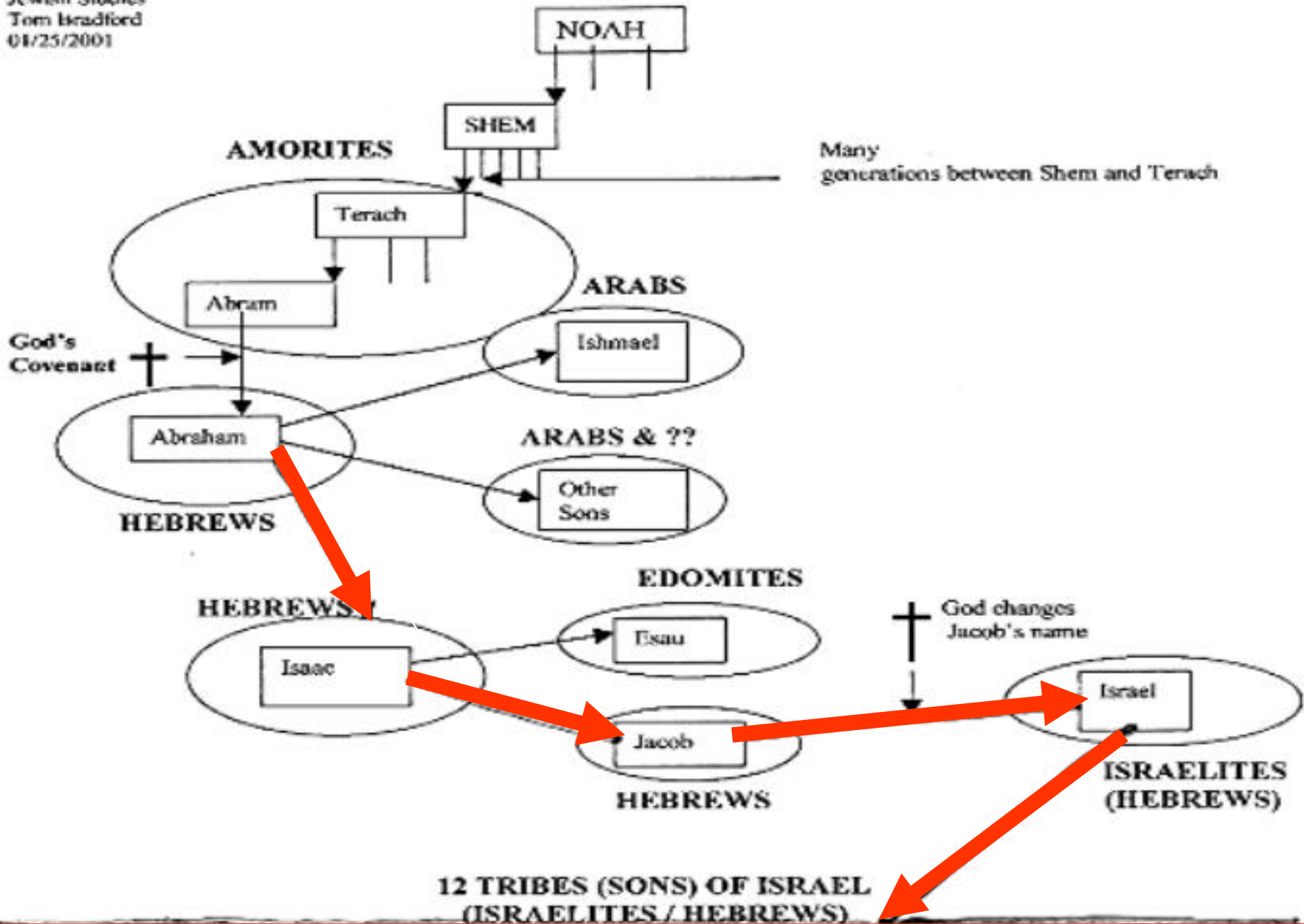


ABRAHAM / HEBREWS



THE CHANGING IDENTIFICATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Jewish Studies
Tom Bradford
01/25/2001



IF ISAAC AND ISHMAEL HAD THE SAME FATHER...

- WHY is only ONE of them considered a Hebrew?
- **PRINCIPLE:** Genealogy establishes PHYSICAL identity, but the declaration of God establishes SPIRITUAL identity
- The term Hebrew BEGAN by denoting BOTH a physical and a spiritual identity
- God granted Isaac the SPIRITUAL status to be a Hebrew
- God did NOT grant Ishmael the SPIRITUAL status to be a Hebrew

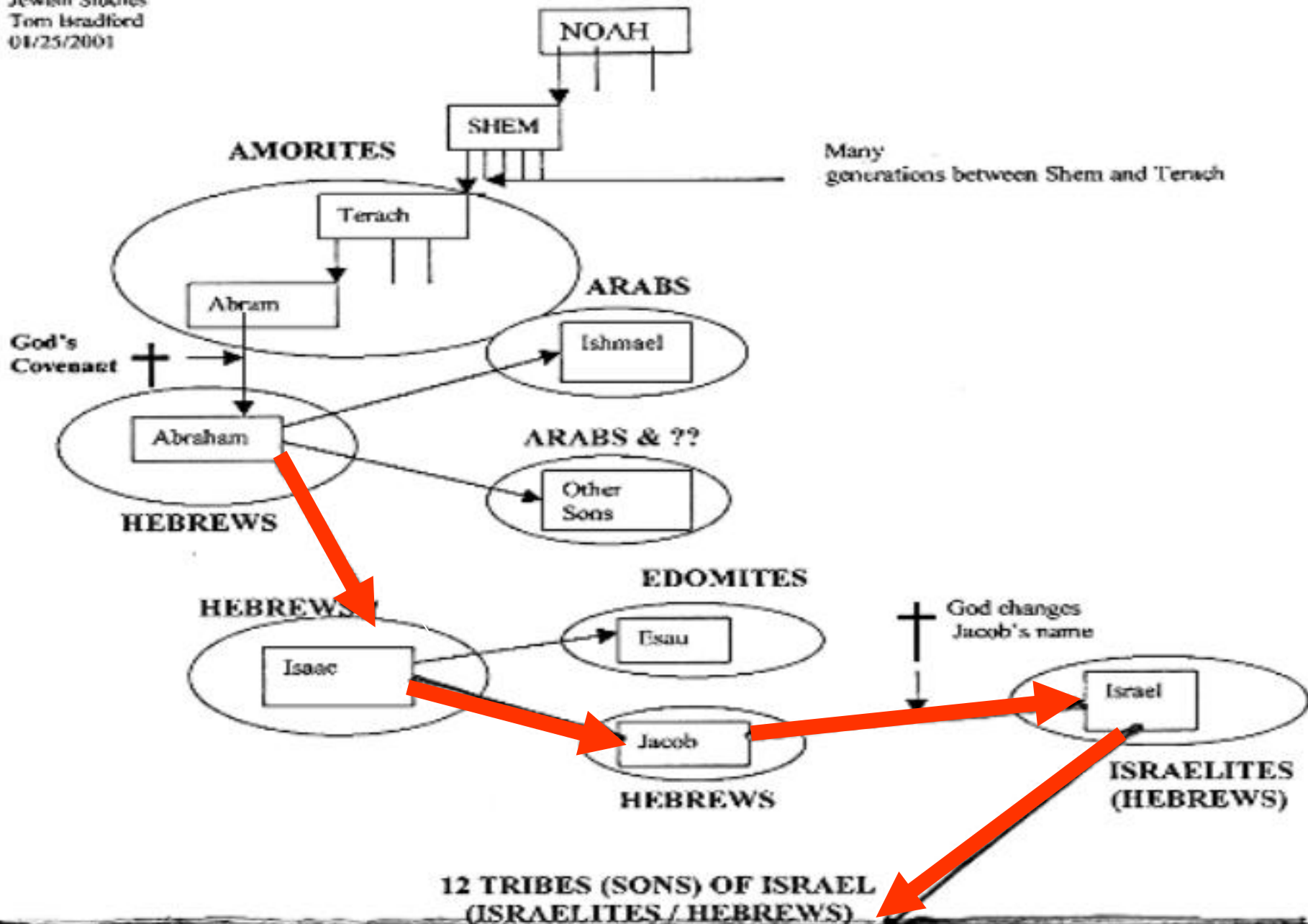
SAME PROCESS WITH JACOB AND ESAU

- God would CHOOSE one of these twins as inheritor of the covenants
- Both Jacob and Esau had essentially the same DNA
- Both would SEEM to be Hebrews
- God divides by DECLARATION



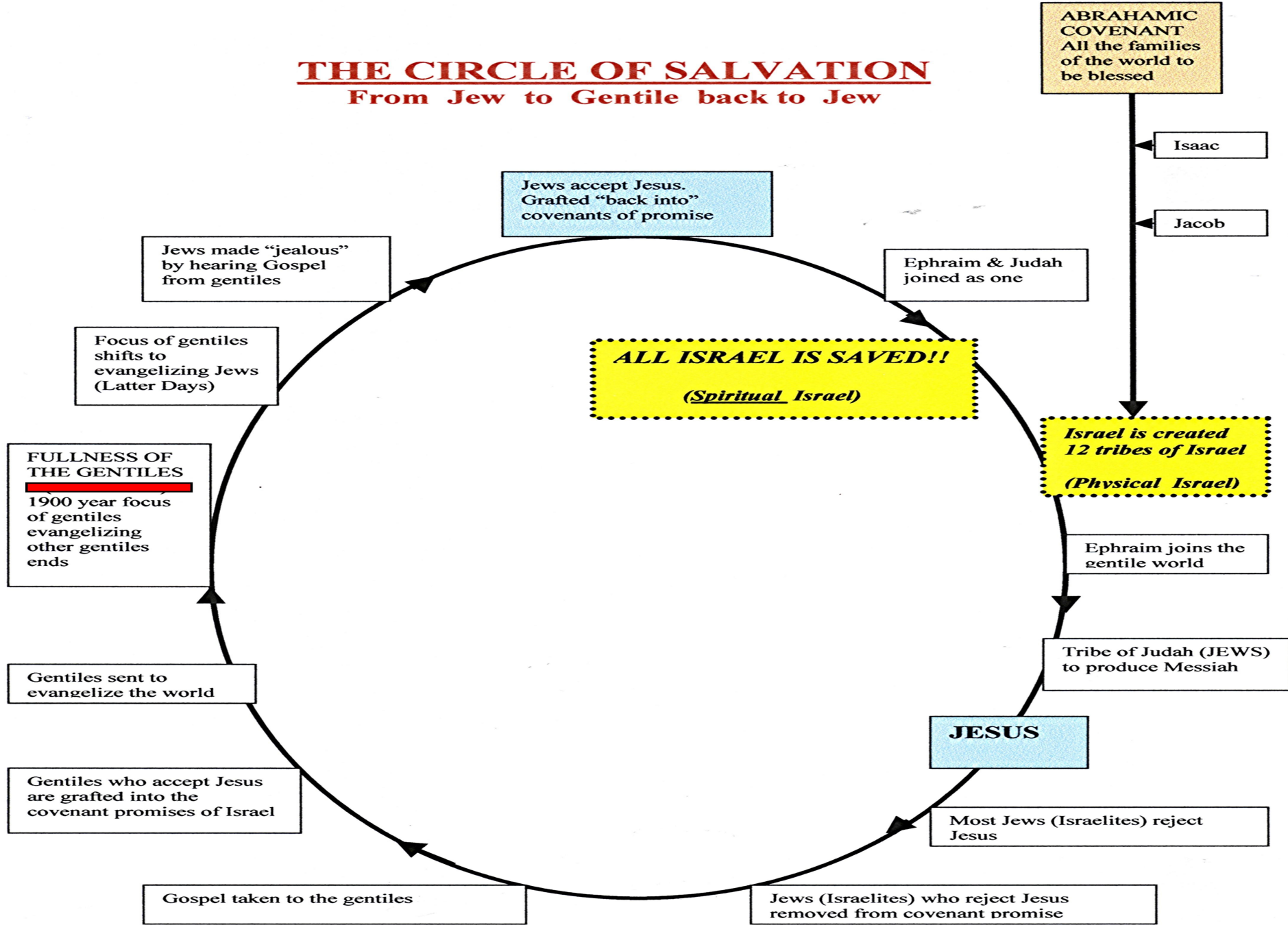
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THE CIRCLE OF SALVATION

From Jew to Gentile back to Jew



TWO NATIONS LIVE WITHIN HER



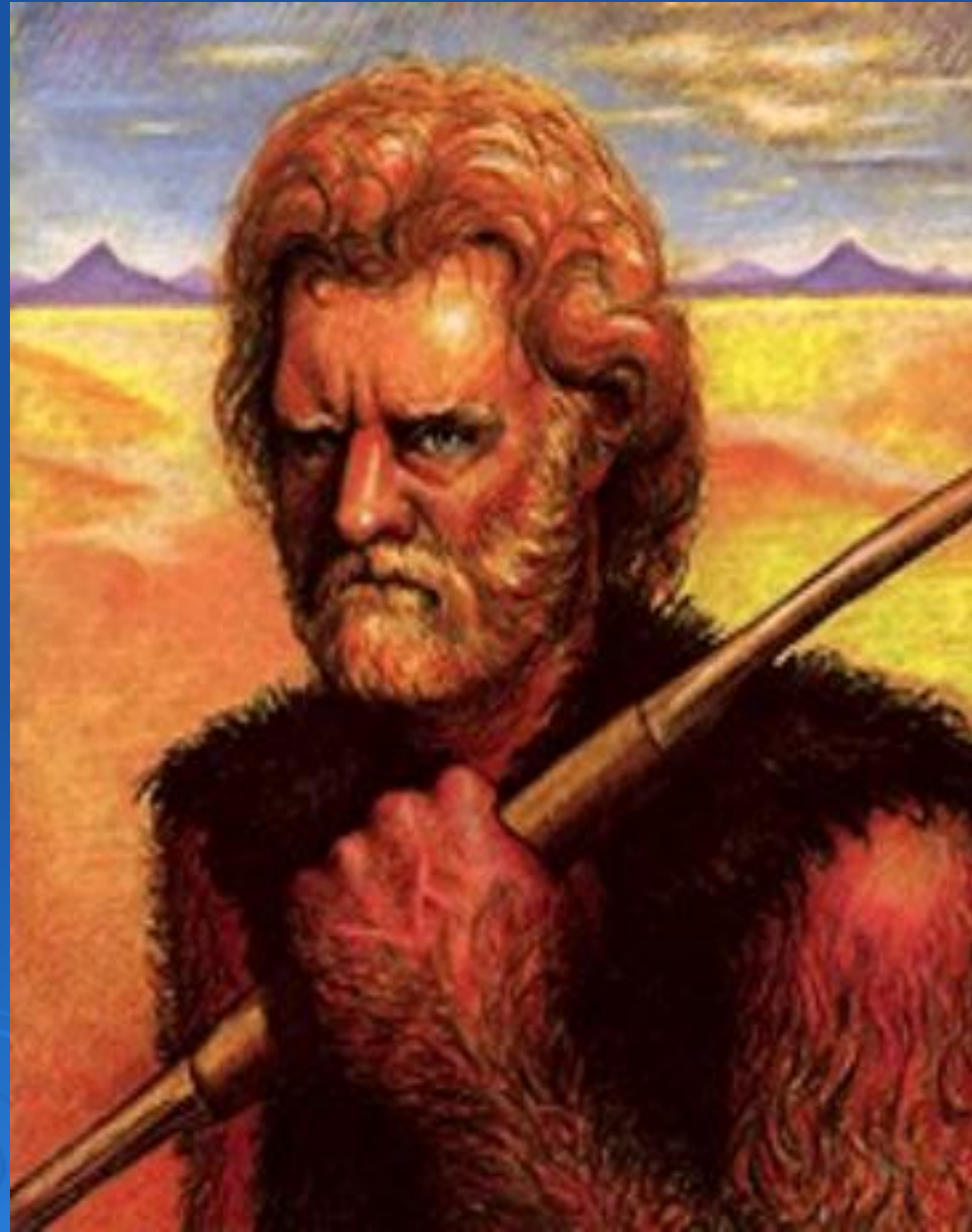
- NOT normal!
- A struggle for dominance
- **bekhor** = firstborn
- The first one out of the birth canal will NOT be the bekhor, the 2nd will
- On-going theme
- What SEEMS to be physically, is not so spiritually
- NO division of firstborn rights.....ONE is chosen and the other loses out

“...the older will serve the younger...”

- Esau will NOT inherit the covenant promises
- Jacob is the *bekhor* (firstborn) on a SPIRITUAL level
- Esau is like Ishmael (physical firstborn)
- Jacob is like Isaac (spiritual firstborn)
- These two nations will have enmity towards one another

ESAU

- **Se'ar** = hairy
- Mt. Se'ir = Mt. Hairy or hairy mountain
- Rivka would have told Isaac what God told her
- Esau and Jacob **ALSO** would have been told and grew up with the knowledge that Jacob was to be bekhor





ISAAC CLOSE TO ESAU RIVKA CLOSE TO JACOB



- Jacob is cooking “red stew”
- Lentils
- “..since I’m about to die...”
- Means “who cares?”
- Esau is given a nickname of Edom
- Edom means “red”
- Edomites are descendants of Esau
- Esau “despised his birthright”

WHY IS JACOB COOKING?

- Traditional for women to cook
- Was Jacob a momma's boy?
- Jacob and Esau about 15 years old at this time
- “sitting ***Shiva***”
- Rites of MOURNING
- Sages say Abraham had just died!
- Lentil soup is the “meal of mourning”



MOURNING TRADITION

- Immediate family members are NOT to cook for the 7 day period of mourning (sitting Shiva)
- Immediate family = father and mother, sister and brother, son and daughter, spouse
- Grandchildren are NOT immediate family
- OK for Jacob (grandchild of Abraham) to be the one to cook “the meal of mourning”

WHY LENTILS?

- Eggs are also customary
- Round
- Circular nature of life
- Same patterns over and over again
- History is circular
- Darwinism and Secular Humanism says history is a straight line
- No patterns, the old dies away and the new is different



RIGHTS OF THE FIRSTBORN GO HAND-IN-HAND WITH DUTIES



➤ Esau very aware of the burden of responsibility that Abraham and Isaac carried

➤ Esau wanted NO PART of the responsibilities

➤ Rashi says :

This shows the different world view of a righteous vs. a wicked person

➤ Righteous says “what are my duties and goals?”

➤ Wicked says, “eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow I may die”

ESAU WAS A HUNTER JACOB A MAN WHO LIVED IN TENTS

- This is explaining the CHARACTER of each man
- *Tsayid* = hunter
- Only Nimrod and Esau are called tsayid
- *Tam* = blameless, righteous
- Esau and Jacob are being contrasted
- ***“ Thus Esau showed how little he valued his birthright ”***