

GENESIS 35

- Jacob moves from Shechem to Beit-El
- Place where he saw angels on ladder to Heaven
- In Shechem, Jacob orders all idols to be collected and buried
- Idols came from residents of Shechem (now owned by Israel)
- By stealing Shechem's gods, power was stolen from Shechem



Build an Altar “to the God” who appeared to you...



- Has a built-in implication of there being other gods
- Men of that era thought there were many gods, and the gods were territorial
- God of Rain, only the “god of rain” for a certain area
- Yehoveh was associated with the Land of Canaan
- This matched well with the way Jacob thought

gods,

gods,

And more
gods

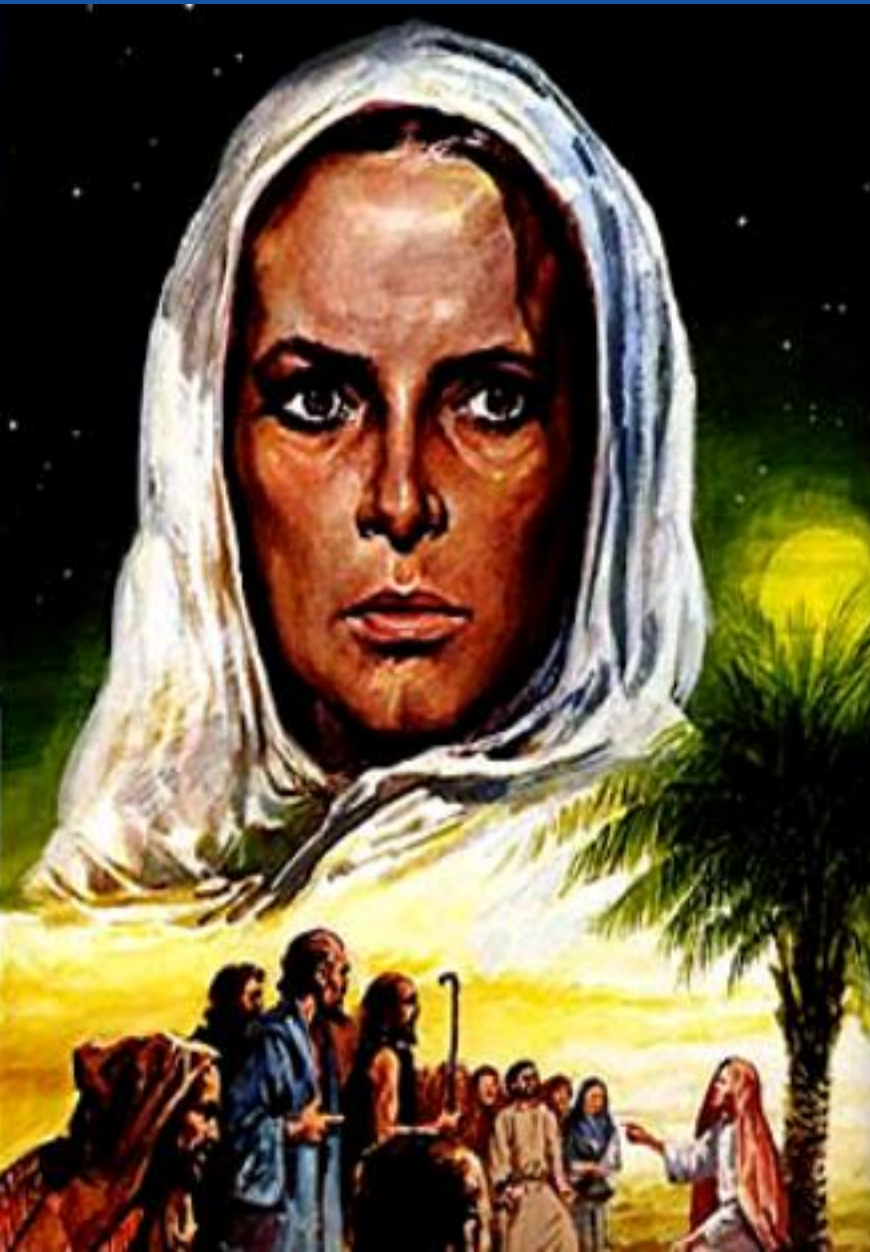


- In the Torah, just who Yehoveh is, and how He operated was fuzzy to the minds of the Israelites
- They tended to think of Him in the context of “the gods”
- Yehoveh BETTER defined Himself after the Exodus
- To their minds, Yehoveh was THEIR god, not the ONLY god

- Vs.4, earrings were Amulets to the gods
- Part of purification was to change (or wash) clothes
- Amulets and idols buried under a Terebinth tree
- Luz was the Canaanite name for Beit-El



THE DEATH OF DEBORAH



- Deborah was Rebecca's nurse
- Deaths of Rebecca and Leah not even recorded
- Deborah a link between Mesopotamia and Israel
- God wanted this link dissolved
- A metaphor for the death of family and land ties between Israel and Mesopotamia

GOD REAFFIRMS JACOB'S NEW NAME AND NATURE

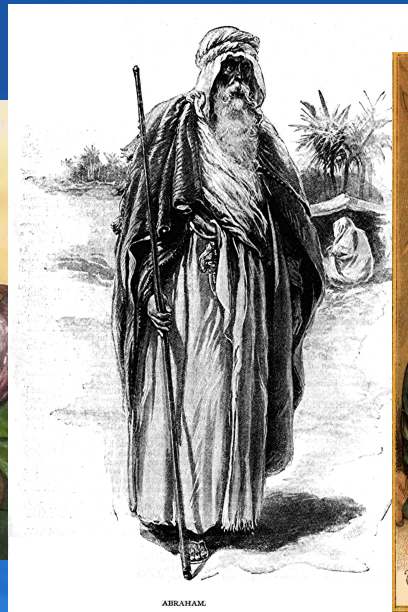
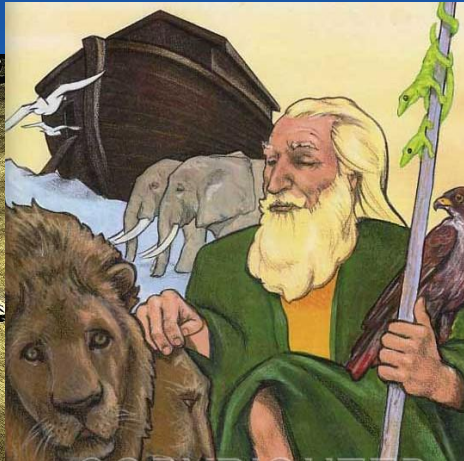
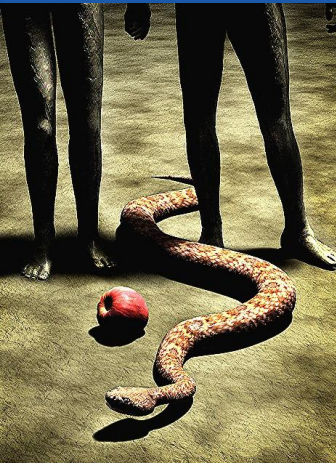
- When Yehoveh first gave Jacob his new name, Jacob was OUTSIDE of Canaan
- Now back INSIDE Canaan, He wanted El Shaddai's affirmation, because this was His territory
- Jacob believed there were other gods
- Jacob was not going to understand all the truths of God all at once
- Yehoveh works with us in the same way



- God reveals progressively
- Men are somehow BLIND to certain great Scriptural truths, and then suddenly, they see it!
- Prophecy is often both literal AND symbolic
- Looking ahead, details can be hazy
- As we get closer in time to the fulfillment, it becomes clearer

- The seed of the woman will bruise the head of the serpent
- Adam and Eve had NO idea what that meant!
- Each generation added more information
- Most prophecies fulfilled, but some yet to come

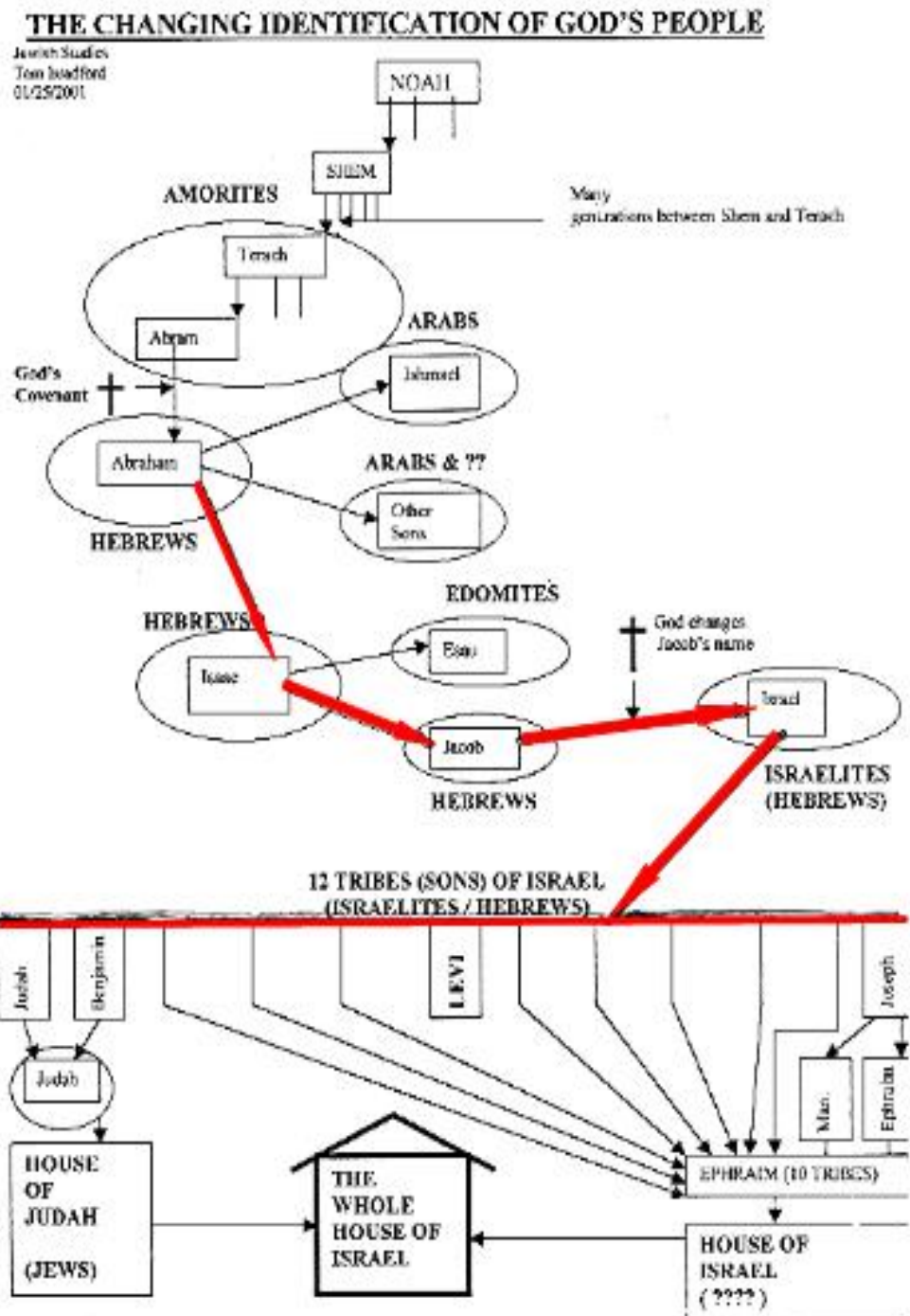
PROGRESSIVE REVELATION



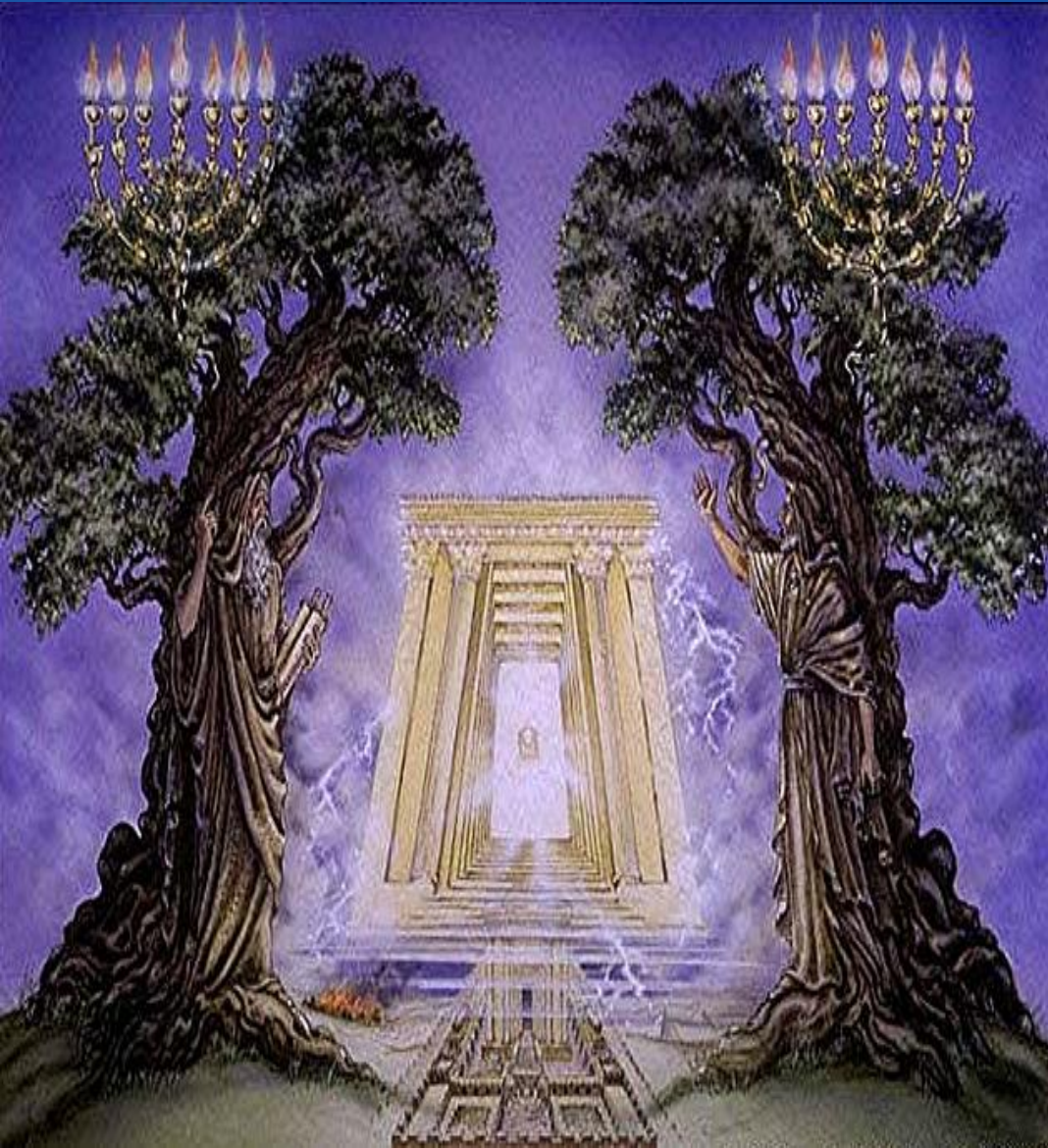
Vs. 11: “...*a nation, indeed a company of nations...*”

- This means: A nation, PLUS, a company of nations
- Abraham the father of “goy”
- Jacob the father of “kahal ammim”
- TIME HAS PASSED AND THINGS HAVE EVOLVED
- Jacob will produce a holy convocation of “goy”
- Paraphrase of vs.11: ***“A nation, and in addition a holy convocation of both Hebrew AND non-Hebrew nations (peoples) will come from you...”***

- Jacob the first to produce only Hebrew children
- Abraham produced Hebrews and gentiles
- Isaac produced Hebrews and gentiles
- Jacob adopts two Egyptian children, and NOW he has some gentiles as “sons”
- Ephraim is scattered among Assyrians, and many mix their genes with gentiles (though some remain Israelite)
- Ephraim and Judah to reunite.....HOW?
- It has just begun!



EZEKIEL 37: THE HOLY CONVOCATION



- One shepherd, one King, from the line of David
- Too shadowy to know all the details
- In 2005, Israeli gov't has recognized the reality that Israelites who are NOT Jews still exist
- Have officially allowed them to return to Israel to join Judah!
- These Israelites are from the tribes of Ephraim



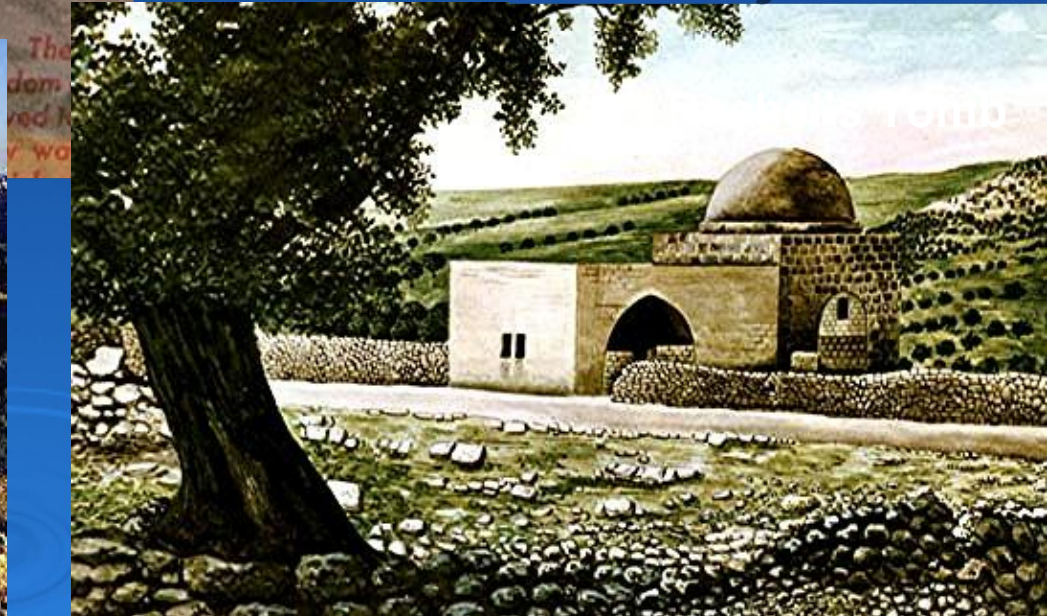
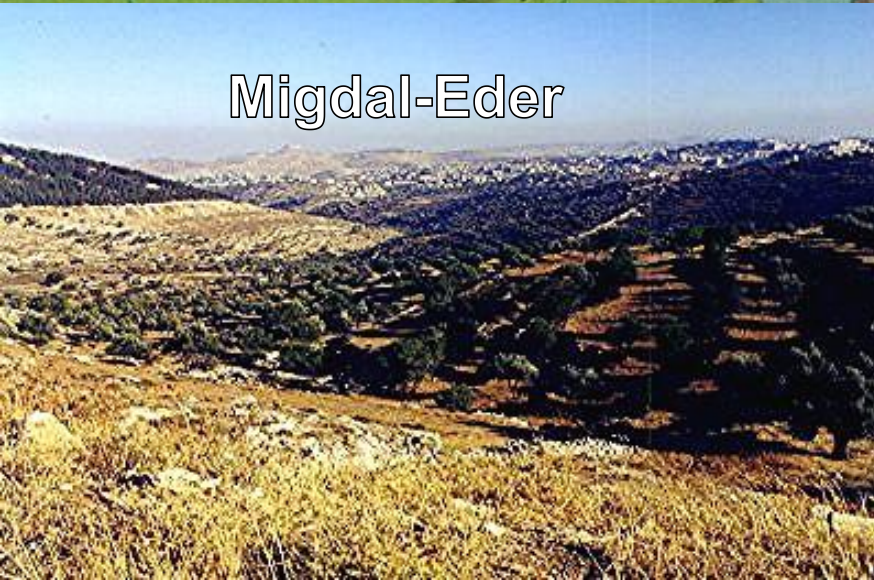
Tower of the Flock



Efrat
later called
Beit-Lechem

Rachel dies
after bearing
Benjamin

Migdal-Eder



REUBEN TAKES BILAH

- Takes place near Efrat (Beit-Lecheim)
- Bilah was Rachel's handmaiden
- Bilah bore Dan and Naphtali
- Reuben was Leah's son (Mandrakes)
- Reuben feared that his mother (Leah) would not now be Jacob's favorite since Rachel died
- Bilah was "ruined" by having sex with Reuben
- Therefore, Jacob could NOT elevate Bilah's status from concubine to LEGAL WIFE

“....and Israel found out...”

- It was necessary that Jacob (Israel) find out, Reuben WANTED him to find out
- Talmud: **Reuben said: “If my mother’s sister (Rachel) was rival to my mother (Leah), must the MAID (Bilah) of my mother’s sister be a rival to my mother?”**
- When a leader was toppled, the new leader took the old leader’s concubines
- This entire matter was about Reuben challenging Jacob’s authority and position
- This was a coup attempt by Reuben

REUBEN LOSES HIS BIRTHRIGHT

- NAS Genesis 49:1 *Then Jacob summoned his sons and said, "Assemble yourselves that I may tell you what shall befall you in the days to come. 2 "Gather together and hear, O sons of Jacob; And listen to Israel your father. 3 "Reuben, you are my first-born; My might and the beginning of my strength, Preeminent in dignity and preeminent in power. 4 "Uncontrolled as water, you shall not have preeminence, Because you went up to your father's bed; Then you defiled it-- he went up to my couch.*



ISAAC DIES AT 180 YEARS OLD

- Isaac met ALL of the children of Jacob
- Esau came and together with Jacob buried their father, Isaac
- Vs.29 Isaac was “gather to his kinspeople”
- Expression of peaceful death
- A leftover mindset of Ancestor Worship