

# Smoky Mountain Bible Institute

## History 110 Patriarchs II

Break out your maps and histories as we travel again in our time machine to examine history & geography through a biblical world view. Before we get back to the biblical narrative let's do a quick fly over of some of the things going on in other places in the world from 2000 to 1500 BC. During this window of time, a number of civilizations and cultures are starting to transition from pictographic and cuneiform methods of writing to literary structures built on letters and grammar, from the beginnings of the Semitic alphabet to the first of seven defined periods of Chinese literature. This is the window of time when Hammurabi and his codes become the first recorded legal system. As Europe enters the Bronze Age, Stonehenge comes into existence. Other innovations during this period are dam building, irrigation and trade routes. Those are some of the things going on in the world around the time Jacob spends about 20 years at his (Uncle / Father-in-Law) Laban's place in Paddan Arram.

We pick up our chronology after Jacob's second wedding feast in one week in Paddan Arram near Haran in 1923 BC. His four wives spend the better part of the next 7 years competing to see who can produce the most male heirs for him. His favorite wife gives birth to his 11th (and favorite) son Joseph in 1916 BC. When Joseph is about 5 years old, Jacob decided it was time to return to Canaan in order to get away from the strife and stress of dealing with Laban. He also wanted to try to reconcile with his brother Esau and live peaceably, as his neighbor, in the Promised Land.

Jacob turned 100 in 1906 BC and a few years later, the turn of the century, brought him a few bad years. First after being blessed with 11 sons in the first 7 years of marriage, it would be another 15 years, around 1901 BC, before his next son Benjamin, the only son born in the Promised Land, caused the death of his favorite wife Rachel. Then a couple of years later, around 1899 BC, Joseph is sold into slavery. Of course Jacob thinks His favorite son has been mauled by wild beasts.

Things seem to get better about 15 years later in 1885 BC. His fields start to bring in bumper crops and that continues on for seven years. Jacob's little clan of around 70 people is doing well for themselves. They have more than they need and are dwelling in the land that God promised to his grandfather. What could go wrong? Then the first year of severe drought hits and by the end of the second year of drought and famine they had to look elsewhere for food. In around 1876 BC, Jacob heard that they were selling grain in Egypt so he sent his sons to purchase some. This began a sequence of events that eventually led to the reunion of Jacob and the son he thought was dead, the son who actually was now the Grand Vizier to the whole land of Egypt. That reunion led to the relocation of Jacob's humble and hungry clan to the green lands of Goshen in the eastern part of the Nile Delta in Egypt. Before Jacob breaths his last however, he; adopts his two grandsons born to Joseph; blesses all his sons; and has them promise to bury him back in Canaan. In the words of Genesis 49 ***"he drew up his feet into the bed and breathed his last and was gathered to his people."*** Jacob lived to the ripe old age of 147 and with his death in 1859 BC ends the period known as the 'time of the Patriarchs'. The Patriarchs are the three men God identifies Himself with when He addresses Moses from the burning bush.....Exodus 3:6 ... ***"I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."***...

So thus ends my discussion on the Patriarchs. Next month we will discuss the entry into Egypt of God's promised people. There are some inconsistencies between the biblical chronology and the commonly held Egyptian chronology. We will start to address some of those differences and cover likely explanations next month. Until then have a blessed Thanksgiving.

In Christ Pastor Portier