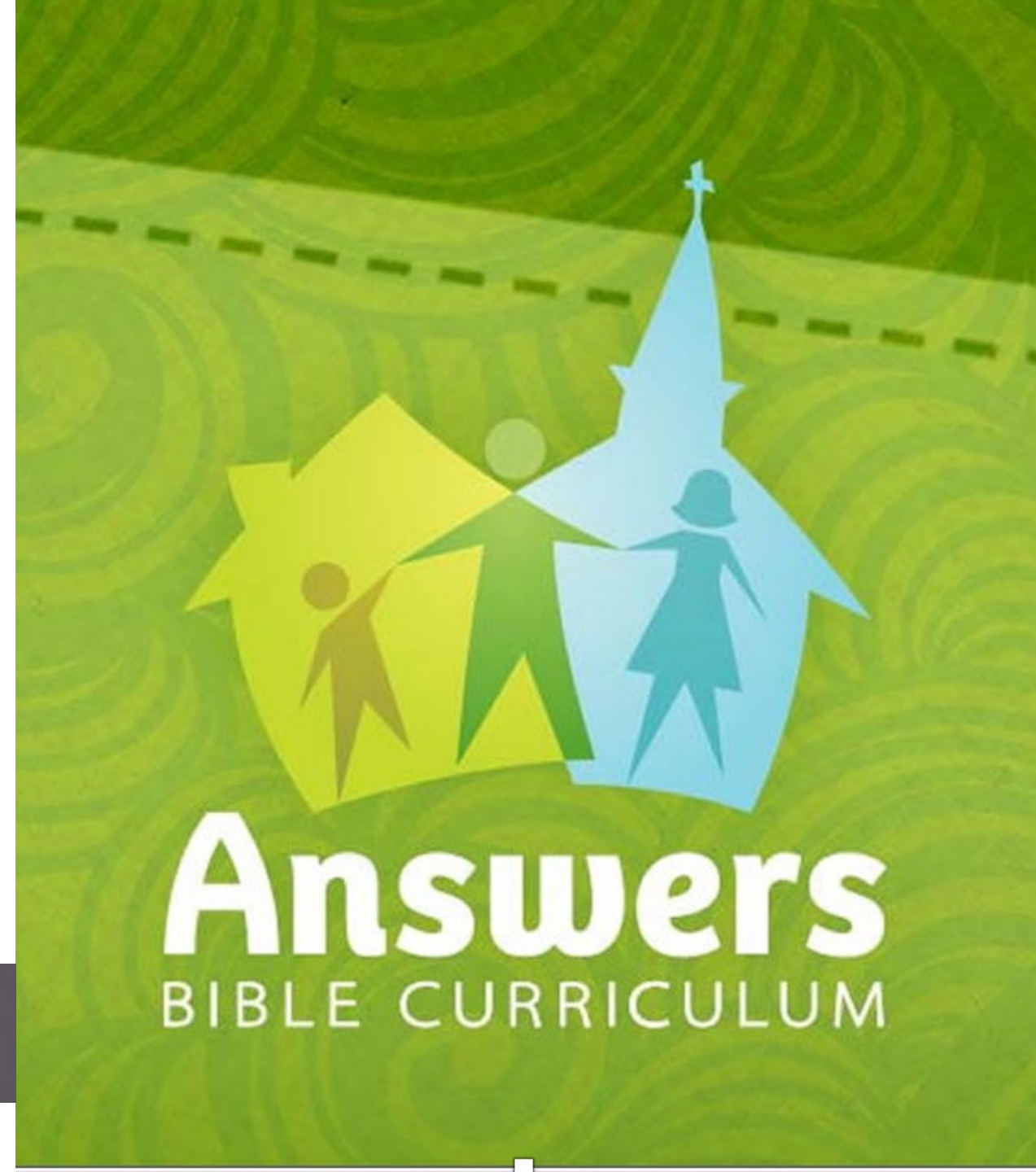
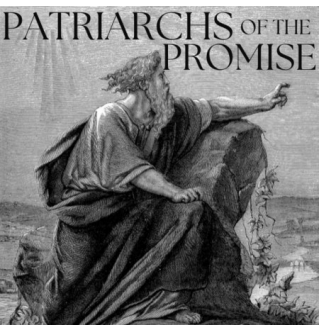


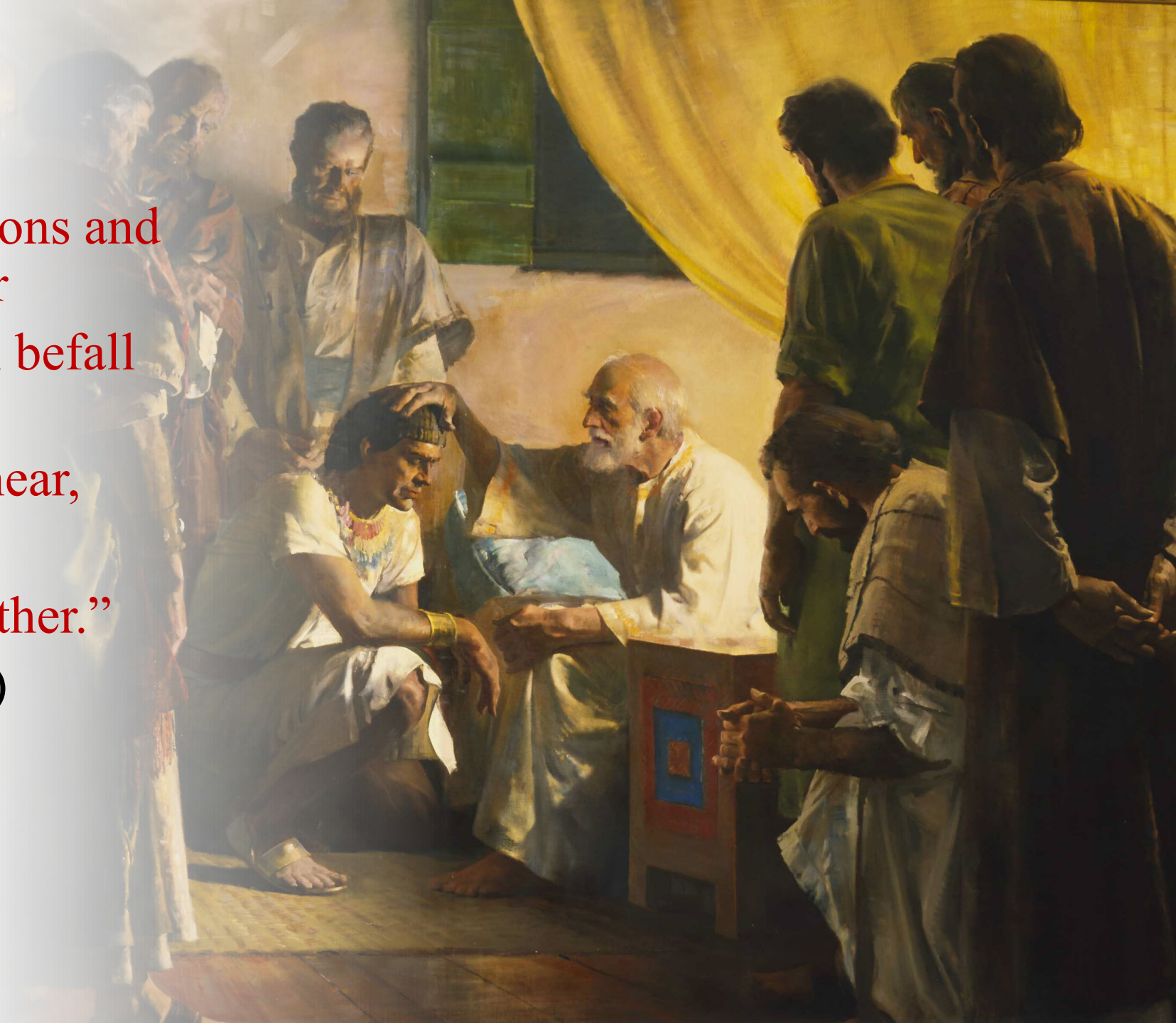
# **Lesson 16:** **Israel's Blessing**

May 11, 2025



“Then Jacob summoned his sons and  
said, “Gather together  
that I may tell you what will befall  
you in the last days.

“Assemble together and hear,  
O sons of Jacob;  
And listen to Israel your father.”  
(Genesis 49:1-2, LSB)





“For He established a testimony in Jacob And set a law in Israel,  
Which He commanded our fathers  
**That** they should teach them to their children,  
**That** the generation to come might know,  
even the children yet to be born,  
**That** they may arise and recount them to their children,  
**That they should set their confidence in God** And not forget  
the deeds of God, But observe His commandments, And not be  
like their fathers, A stubborn and rebellious generation, A  
generation that did not prepare its heart And whose spirit was not  
faithful to God.”

(Psalms 78:5-8, LSB, with emphasis)

“But **chose** the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion which He loved.

And He built His sanctuary like the heights,  
Like the earth which He has founded forever.

He also **chose** David His servant And took him from the  
sheepfolds; From following the nursing ewes He brought him  
To shepherd Jacob His people, And Israel His inheritance.  
So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart,  
And led them with his skillful hands.”

(Psalms 78:68-72, LSB, with emphasis)

“...**so that** in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”  
(Ephesians 2:7, LSB)

# Lesson Outline

- Scriptural and Historical Background
- Observation
- Interpretation / Correlation
- Q & A
- Application

# Scriptural and Historical Background

Historically Christians have described the redemptive flow of history as follows:

- Creation
- Fall
- Redemption
- Consummation

# The Seven C's of History



## Creation

God created the universe  
in six days



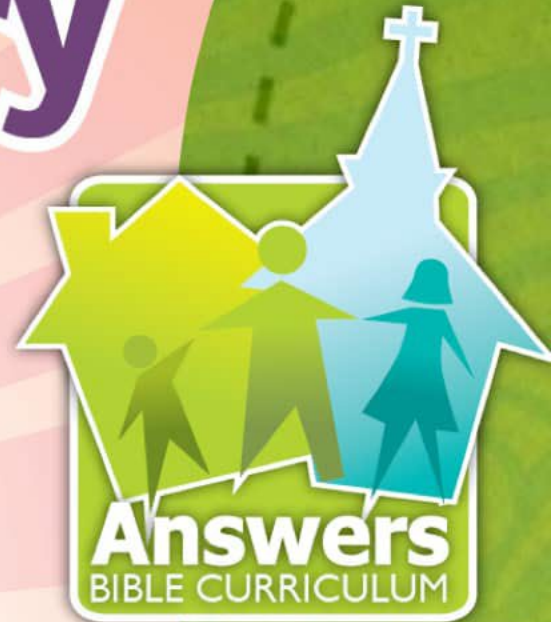
## Corruption

Sin entered the world



## Catastrophe

God judged sin—bringing  
the Flood



## Confusion

God judged sin—confusing  
the language



## Christ

Jesus, Son of God,  
became a human



## Cross

Jesus—the perfect  
sacrifice for sins



## Consummation

God will create a new heaven  
and a new earth



# Scriptural and Historical Background

Psalm 78, Psalm 105, and Acts 7 are among passages that summarize the history of Israel and redemptive history.

# Scriptural and Historical Background

- *God used a famine to bring Jacob and his family to Egypt where Joseph could provide food for them.*
- *Jacob lived in Egypt for 17 years. Before he died, he blessed Joseph's sons Manasseh and Ephraim and named them as his own sons, giving Joseph a double portion as his inheritance (Genesis 48:5–6, 48:22). Israel also gave a special blessing to Ephraim, Joseph's younger son, which displeased Joseph (Genesis 48:17–20).*
- *God often chose a younger son to receive the blessing of the firstborn, as he did with Isaac over Ishmael, Jacob over Esau, and Ephraim over Manasseh. This was against the cultural norm of the day.*

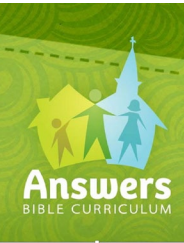
(Adapted from the AIG Curriculum)



# Scriptural and Historical Background

- *The blessings Jacob gave in Genesis 49 are prophetic regarding his sons' future tribes.*
- *As he'd done before, God chose a younger son to receive a greater blessing, in this case Judah.*
- *Judah had received the leadership position of the firstborn, which did not go to Reuben because of his instability and affair with his father's concubine Bilhah (Genesis 49:3–4).*

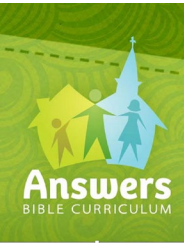
(Adapted from the AIG Curriculum)



# Scriptural and Historical Background

- *Israel's blessings warned that his sons' actions would affect their descendants.*
- *The patriarchs died without seeing all of God's promises fulfilled, but they had faith and hope that these things would come to pass.*
- *The goal of Israel's message to his sons was to encourage them to live their lives in purity and holiness for God and their future generations, not comfortably in Egypt, but to Canaan to claim God's promises.*
- *The growth of the tribes and their enslavement in Egypt were steps in God's perfect plan to prepare the Israelites to be his chosen people, a nation of priests.*

(Adapted from the AIG Curriculum)





# Observation

## *Genesis 49:1-2*

- What is the purpose of Jacob calling his sons together?  
*He intended to tell them what was going to happen in the future. He was going to prophesy over them.*

# Observation

## *Genesis 49:8-12*

- Is each of these ideas talking about Judah himself?  
*Not necessarily, but they refer to his descendants, the tribe that will come from his lineage.*
- What was promised to Judah in the first line of verse 8?  
*His brothers would praise him. This is actually a poetic play on his name since his name means “praise.”*

# Observation

## *Genesis 49:8-12*

- What did the prophecy indicate about Judah's relationship to his enemies?

*The idiom “your hand shall be on the neck” indicated Judah's military prowess and how he would hold the life of his enemies in his hand.*

- What does the imagery in vv. 9-10 tell us about Judah?

*The images of a lion and the scepter indicate strength, kingship, rule, and authority.*

# Observation

## *Genesis 49:8-12*

- How long will Judah's reign be?  
*'Shiloh' is a proper name which literally means 'he whose it is', and is commonly understood to refer to the coming Messiah.*

*Revelation 5:5 reminds us that Jesus is 'the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah', a descendent of King David whose throne was to be eternal (1 Kings 2:45).*



# Observation

## *Genesis 49:8-12*

- What does the imagery of verses 11–12 indicate about Judah?

*This is imagery of abundance and health. If donkeys are allowed to eat your choice vines, you must have an abundance of food. Dark eyes and white teeth would be signs of healthy vigor when contrasted to weak eyes and discolored teeth.*

# Observation

## *Revelation 5:5-8*

- Who is being referred to as the one who can open the scroll in Revelation 5:5?

*The elder speaking is referring to Jesus as the one who takes the scroll from the Father seated on the throne.*

- What three names are given to him (vv. 5–6)?

*Lion of the tribe of Judah, Root of David, and the Lamb.*

# Observation

## *Revelation 5:5-8*

- How does this lion reference relate to the passage in Genesis 49:9–10?

*It is relating Jesus as the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the language used in Israel's prophecy.*

# Observation

## *1 Samuel 17:12*

- What do we learn about the connection between David and Judah?

*David was in the tribe of Judah.*

- How is Jesus connected to David?

*Jesus' parents Joseph and Mary were both from the tribe of Judah and the line of David (Luke 3:31 and Matthew 1:6).*

*This explains the reference to the Root of David in Revelation 5.*



# Interpretation / Correlation

*We know that God had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob a land, a great nation, and a Seed who would bless all nations. Of all of Jacob's sons, we might have expected the Seed, the Messiah, to come through the line of Joseph, who became Egyptian royalty. But that is not the case.*

*Here we have clear indication that it was through Judah that the Messiah would come.*

# Interpretation / Correlation

*David's kingdom ultimately fell; there is no man on his throne today (since 607 BC). So how is God's promise in effect?*

*Through the One who would come, the One to whom tribute would come, the One to whom all nations will bow, who will rule over all people.*

*It is through Jesus, the Messiah, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, that the promise remains. He is seated right now at the Father's right hand, ruling from heaven. And one day, he will return as King of kings to rule all nations. This is the consummation (recall the 7 C's of History) which we eagerly await.*

# Interpretation / Correlation

*As Jacob blessed his sons, he prophesied over them. Yahweh revealed some elements of the future to Jacob and his sons through this blessing. Some of the blessings were related to events from the past and continuing discipline for the sons' disobedience, and others bestowed favor for no apparent reason other than Yahweh's sovereign choice.*

# Interpretation / Correlation

*The fact that Yahweh chose Judah's line to both rule over Israel and produce the Messiah is a reminder of His mercy and grace—we don't always get what we deserve.*

*Here is yet another reminder that God works according to his plans, not ours, and that he uses cracked and broken vessels to dispense his grace.*

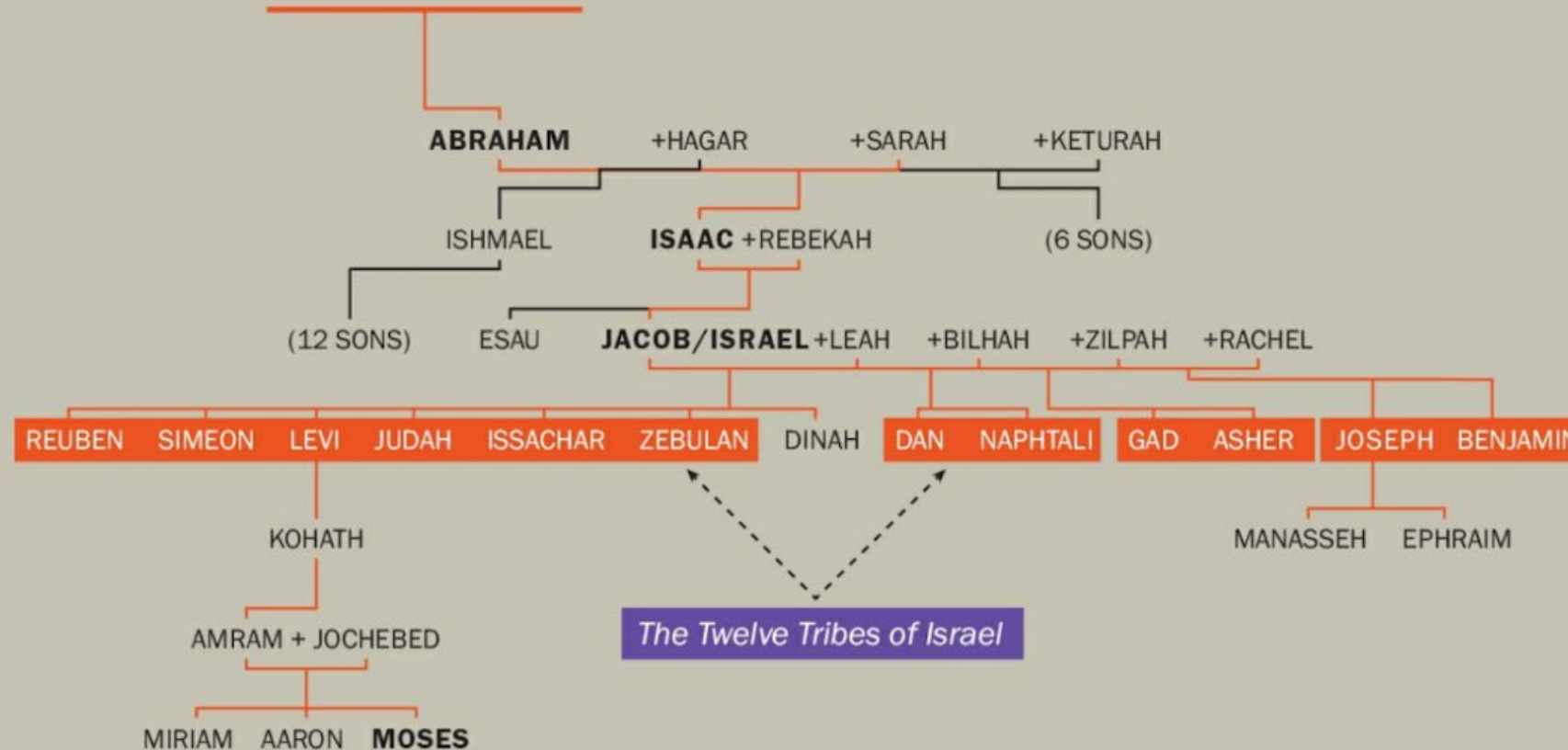


# The Tribes in the Land of Israel

- Genesis 48-49: Origin of the tribes
- Numbers 34-35: Leaders of the tribes
- Joshua 13-21: Distribution of the tribes



# The Covenant Family of Abraham / Israel



According to the Bible, the special Covenant passed from Abraham through Isaac to Jacob (Israel) and his 12 sons including Joseph. Moses came from the line of Levi.

(From Patterns of Evidence, Mahoney)

# Observation

## *Genesis 50:22 - Exodus 1:14*

- How does verse 7 relate to God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 15?

*God had promised to give Abraham descendants as numerous as the stars (Genesis 15:5–6).*

- What function does verse 8 serve?

*This creates a potential conflict since Joseph was the reason that the Israelites had received favorable treatment in Egypt.*

# Observation

## *Genesis 50:22 - Exodus 1:14*

- How much time had passed?  
*There are no explicit statements, but Genesis 50 told us Joseph was 110 when he died. Since he was 39 when Israel moved to Egypt, it has been 70 years plus more time for the new king to have forgotten Joseph.*
- What might the term “arose” imply about this new king?  
*He may have been the first in a new dynasty, having risen to power. This also makes sense as he would not necessarily have the historical connection to Joseph.*

# Observation

## *Genesis 50:22 - Exodus 1:14*

- How did the king describe the Israelites in verse 9?  
*He said they are “too many and too mighty” in the eyes of the Egyptians*
- What plan did the king implement to deal with the threat?  
*He enslaved them, setting taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens in order to control their numbers.*
- How did the plan work out?  
*The more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied.*

# Observation

*Genesis 50:22 - Exodus 1:14*

- What projects did the Israelites build?

*The cities of Raamses and Pithom.*



# Observation

## *Genesis 15:13-16*

- Not only did God fulfill the promise to grow them into a great nation, but there was another promise. What is the promise God gave to Abraham in Genesis 15:13–16?

*God told Abraham that his descendants would serve in a foreign land for 400 years.*

- What would happen after this period?

*They would come out of the land with great possessions as the enslavers were judged.*

# Observation

## *Genesis 15:13-16*

- What land is in view in the phrase, “they shall come back here” (v. 16)?  
*Abraham was living in the land of Canaan at this point, so it is the promised land.*
- Why was God delaying their return?  
*The iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete, so God must intend to judge the Amorites. This is a foreshadowing of what will happen during the conquest of the promised land.*

# Interpretation / Correlation

- How is God's faithfulness evident in this passage?

*As they lived in the land, they prospered and grew as God had promised. They also found themselves enslaved as God had promised.*

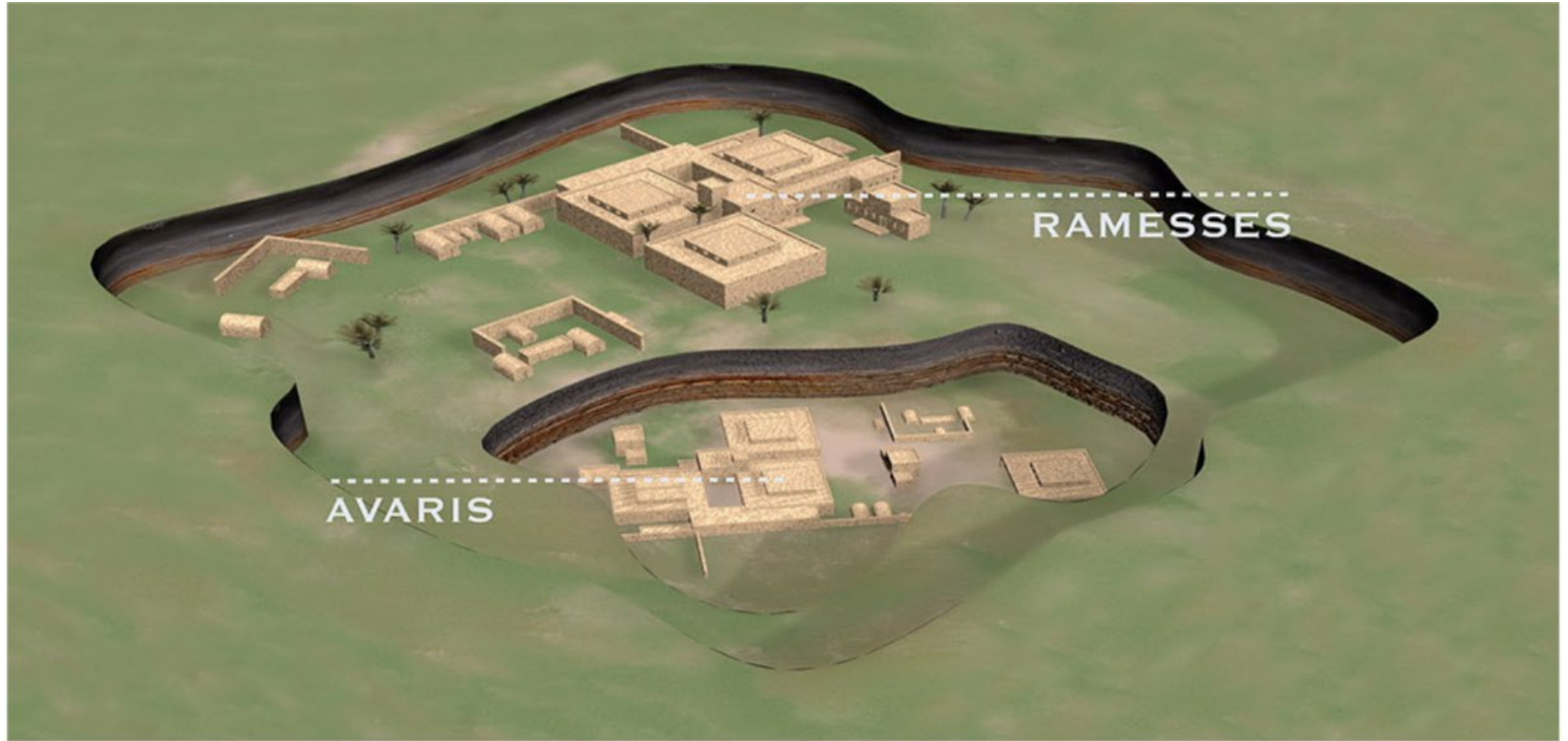
# Interpretation / Correlation

- Does the city of Raamses in Exodus 1:11 indicate that this is the name of the Pharaoh of the oppression and the Exodus (see also Genesis 47:11, Exodus 12:37, Numbers 33:3,5) ?

*No. Likely named after the Pharaoh Rameses II, this would have been a much later date than the time of the Exodus.*

*Biblical cities sometimes are cited by more current names, and Raamses was built later and over the city of Avaris, which has archaeological evidence of the ancient Israelites.*

# Interpretation / Correlation



**The remains of the older city of Avaris lie underneath the southern sector of the city of Ramesses.**

(From Patterns of Evidence, Mahoney)

# Interpretation / Correlation

- What other attributes of God do you recognize in his promise to Abraham and what we have read here in the opening verses of Exodus?
  - *Justice / judgment of both the Egyptians and the Amorites*
  - *Mercy and grace in providing relief for the Israelites and in giving hopeful promises*
  - *Wisdom and sovereignty in working out these things over hundreds of years*



# Q & A

## Recommended Resources:

- [The Pharaohs of the Bible \(AIG\)](#)
- [Patterns of Evidence, Mahoney](#)

# Application Questions

- While we see abundant evidence of God fulfilling His promises, why do we still struggle to trust?
- How can we use God's word specifically to bolster our faith?  
Consider the summary passages of Psalm 78, Psalm 105, Acts 7, and 2 Corinthians 6-7.
- Consider this from our study so far: Abraham, Isaac, Israel, and Joseph all died, but God's plan still marches on. How does this help you understand your place in God's plan (see Ephesians 2:1-10, 1 Peter 2:9-10)?