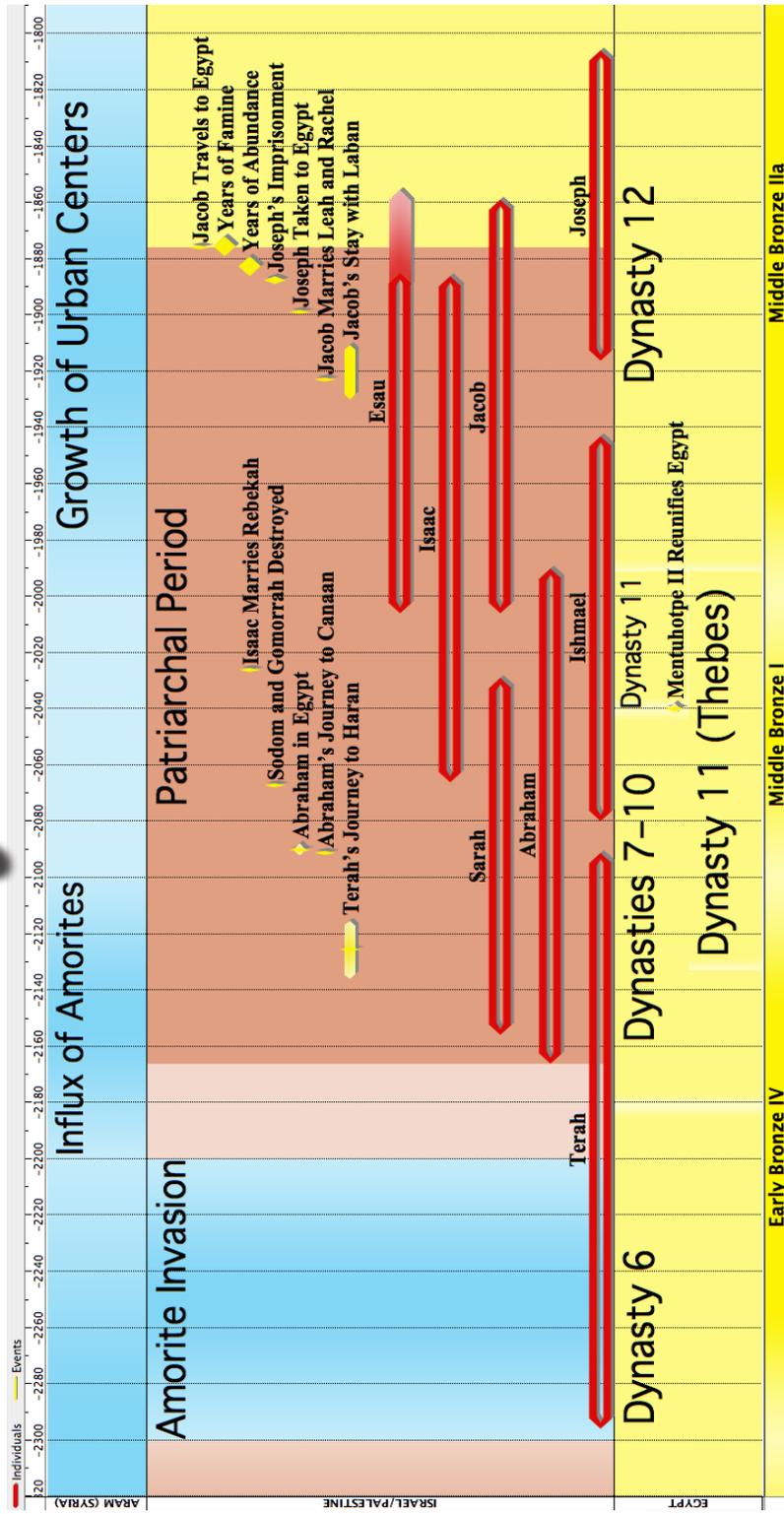


Timeline Of Major Events In Genesis



Providence

Long Beach Alliance Church • November 26th, 2006 • Pastor Chris Lankford

BUT JOSEPH SAID TO THEM, "DO NOT BE AFRAID, FOR AM I IN GOD'S PLACE? AS FOR YOU, YOU MEANT EVIL AGAINST ME, BUT GOD MEANT IT FOR GOOD IN ORDER TO BRING ABOUT THIS PRESENT RESULT, TO PRESERVE MANY PEOPLE ALIVE. SO THEREFORE, DO NOT BE AFRAID... ~GENESIS 50:19-21 A (NASB)

1) Jacob's Death & Burial At Machpelah

- Before his death, Jacob tells his sons to bury him in the cave of Machpelah, where Abraham & Sarah, Isaac & Rebekah, and Jacob's own wife, Leah, are already buried (Genesis 49:29-32).
- With these final instructions given to his sons, Jacob "drew his feet into bed" (akin to a sleeping position, like the fetal position), and is joined* to his ancestors (49:33).

* There is a notable textual absence of the verb "died." The emphasis is not on dying, but on rejoining one's ancestors. The Bible appears to use different terms for three stages of the death process: one dies (here "took his last breath"), one is gathered to one's kin, and lastly, one is buried. Thus "to be gathered to one's kin" takes place after dying but before burial, and carries with it the idea of "being reunited with one's ancestors." One might understand "to be gathered to one's kin" as the antonym of "to be cut off from one's kin" (Genesis 17:14; Exodus 12:15, 19; Leviticus 7:25), the former expression could indicate death without guilt, just as the latter expression would indicate death with guilt. (*Genesis*, by Victor P. Hamilton, New International Commentary on the Old Testament (NICOT), pages 689).

- C) Jacob's death initiates a mourning period in which his body is embalmed (50:1-3). Joseph and his brothers, faithful to their father's wishes, bury their father in Canaan (50:4-14).

2) Fear And Forgiveness

- A) In the absence of their father's protection, Joseph's brothers fear that the time of reckoning for their sins against Joseph will come (50:15).
- B) Joseph's brothers send a message^Y through an emissary begging for forgiveness, and then appear in person, bowing down (again!) before Joseph, pleading with him for forgiveness and pledging servitude (50:16-18).
- C) Joseph response is one of compassion (50:17, 19ff). Joseph testifies to God's goodness and sovereignty (50:19-20). Joseph promises, as the new head of the household, that he will care for his (suddenly larger) family (50:21).

3) Joseph's Death & Faithful Vision Of The Exodus

- A) Joseph lived in Egypt the rest of his life and dies at 110 years of age (93 years in Egypt, 17 years in Canaan). Before his death Joseph lives a rich and satisfying life (50:22-23).
- B) Before his death (like his father), Joseph has his brothers promise they will bury him in Canaan (50:24-25), and speaks in faith of the future Exodus (Hebrews 11:22). Joseph dies and is embalmed (probably a sarcophagus) in Egypt (50:26).

^Y Was the brother's report of Jacob's words accurate, or were they fabricating another story for their own advantage? The character of the brothers begs the question, but the text gives us no clues. Since Joseph never questions the authenticity of the brothers message, I choose to assume the best about the brothers, and take their story as being authentic. What matters most in the narrative is not the story of the brothers, but the response of faithfulness to God to which Joseph testifies.

4) The Great Themes Of Genesis

- A) **Beginnings.** Genesis introduces the beginnings of the heavens and earth (1:1-10, 14-19), plant & animal life (1:11-13, 20-25), mankind (1:26-31), relationship with God (2:7-25), mankind's original sin (3:1-24), death (4:1-16), and God's grace through the covenant promise (12:1-3).
- B) **Descendants.** The overall theme of the Pentateuch is first introduced in Genesis 12:1-3, and includes the promise of descendants (12:2, 7), blessing (12:2, 17:1-11), and land (12:1, 7, 13:14-17). Genesis is the book of descendants (12:2, 7, 13:15, 15:4, 13, 16, 18, 16:10, 17:2, 4-7, 16, 19, 21:12, 18, 22:16, 26:3, 24, 28:13, 35:11-12, 46:3).
- C) **Sin & Judgement.** Adam's sin (Genesis 3) begins a section of the book where sin consumes mankind and results in terrible judgments (Cain, 4:1-16; Lamech, 4:19-24; Men of Renown, 6:1-8; Noachin Flood, 7-9; Tower of Babel, 11:1-9).
- D) **Righteousness & Faith.** In the midst of sin, there are stories of those who follow God (Abel, Genesis 4; Enoch, 5; Noah, 6-7; Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph 12-50). These men and women acted in obedience and faith toward God and leave a lasting legacy for us (Hebrews 11:2-22).
- E) **God's Grace.** God preserves mankind despite their sin, even giving benevolent judgments to preserve mankind's relationship with God (Genesis 1-11). God chooses a single man with whom to establish His blessing which will extend to all people's everywhere (12:1-3; 17:1-8).
- F) **Providence.** God sovereignly works in and through the everyday, non-miraculous events of life to effect His will. He maintains all of life, involves himself in all events, and directs all things to their appointed end. God will accomplish His will in His way and in His time. God is great, much greater than we can think or imagine (Genesis 50:20)!