

Genesis

The Book of Beginnings

16. Jacob and the blessing

An outline of the Book of Genesis *

* Approximate chapter divisions only

Genesis 1 to 11

Creation

Genesis 1 to 2

The Fall

Genesis 3

Before the Flood

Genesis 4 to 5

The Flood

Genesis 6 to 8

After the Flood

Genesis 9 to 11

Genesis 12 to 50

Abraham

Genesis 12 to 23

Isaac

Genesis 24 to 27

Jacob

Genesis 28 to 36

Joseph

Genesis 37 to 50



Esau and Jacob

Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game

- **Esau** was a skillful hunter, a man of the field,
- **Jacob** was a quiet man, dwelling in tents.

Rebekah loved Jacob

Literally “complete”; upright, blameless

Esau sold his birthright

“Let me eat some of that red stew,
for I am exhausted!”

“Sell me your birthright now.”

“I am about to die;
of what use is a birthright to me?”

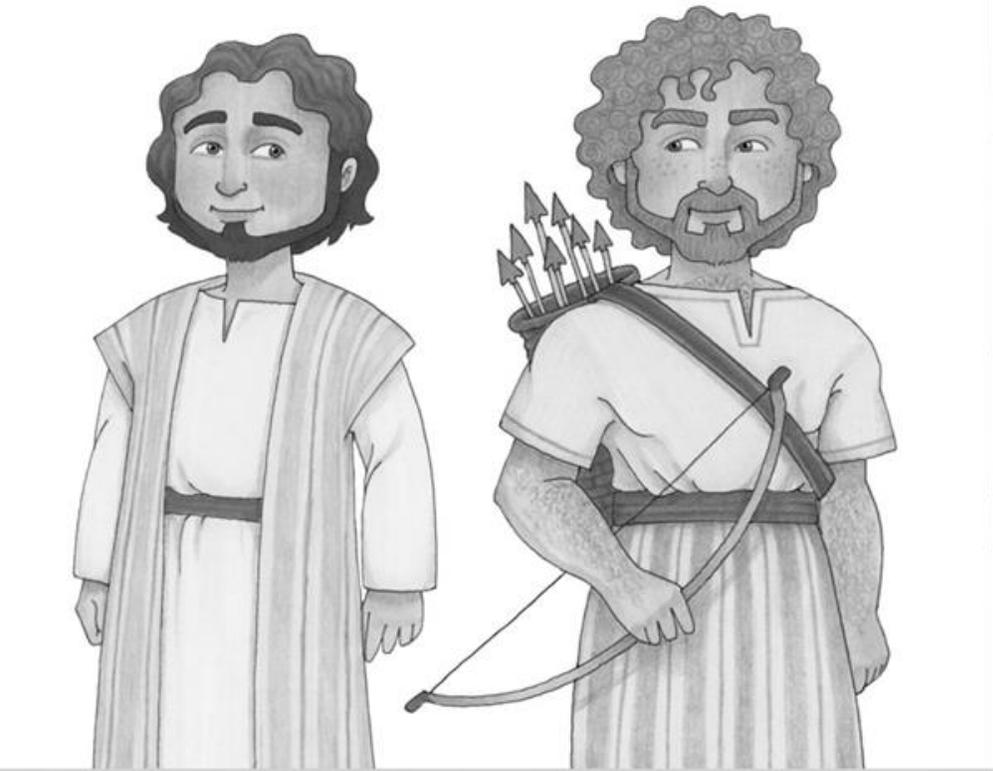
“Swear to me now.”

So he swore to him.

Thus Esau despised his birthright.

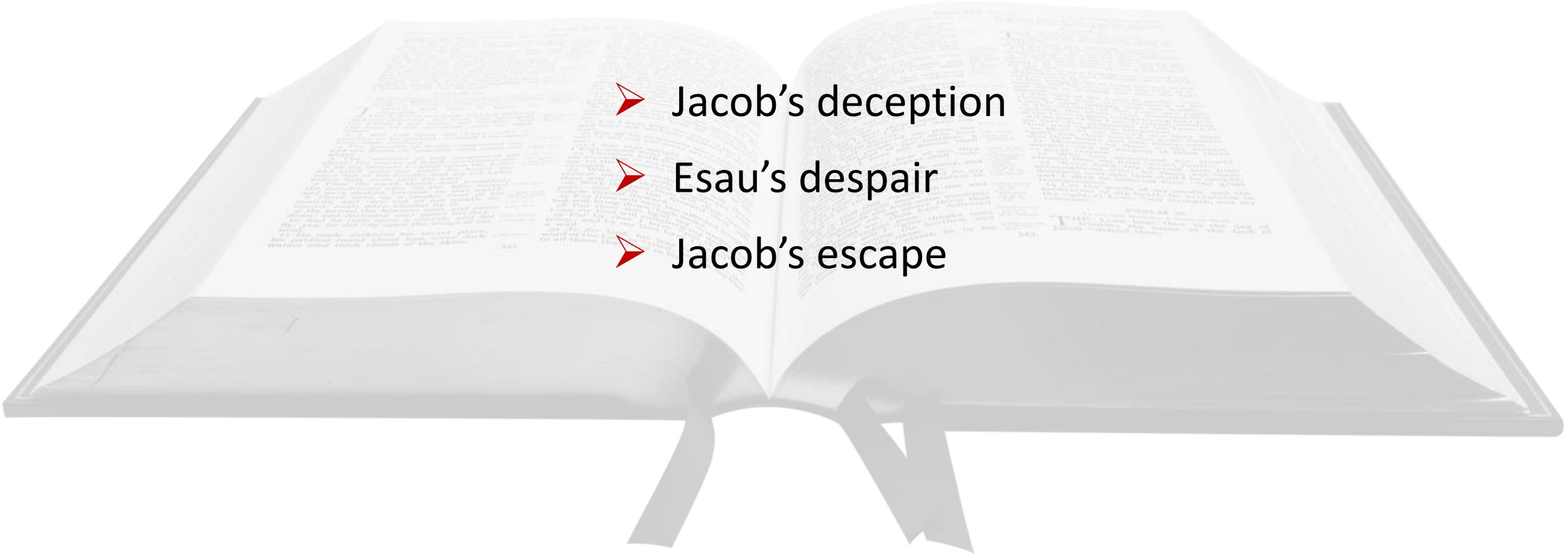
Including
the blessing
of Abraham

(See Genesis 25:29-34)



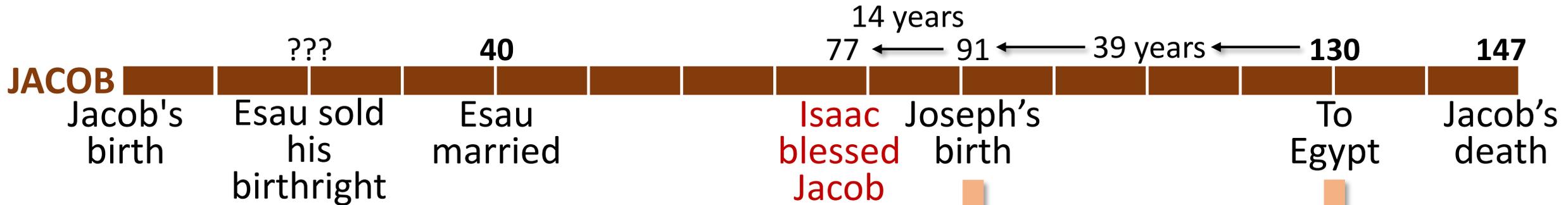
Genesis 27 and 28

- Jacob's deception
- Esau's despair
- Jacob's escape

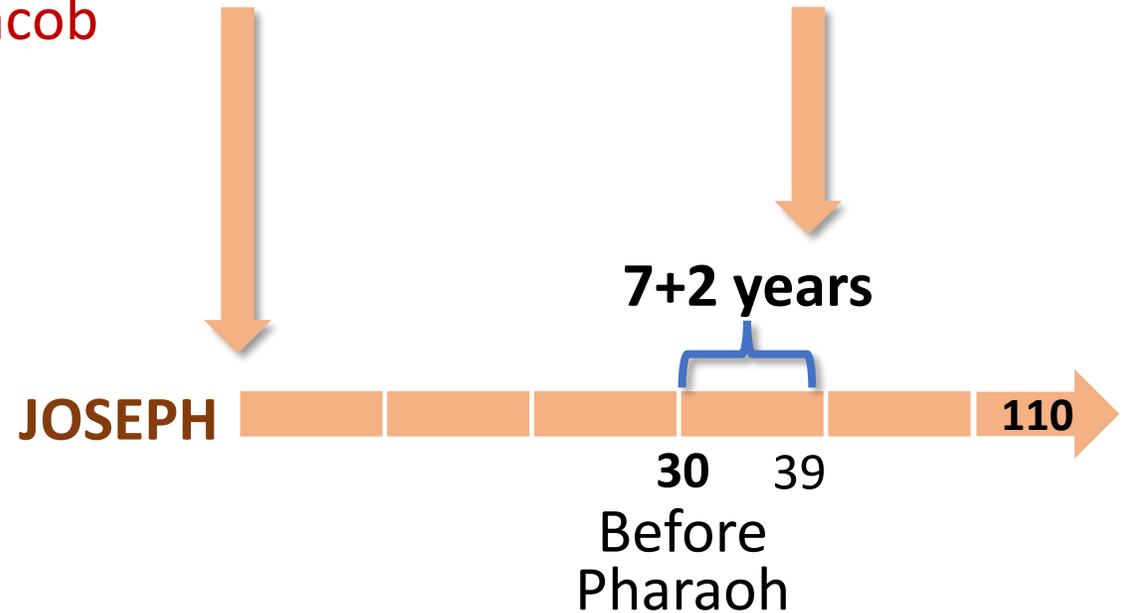


Jacob's deception

How old was Jacob when he received the blessing?



- ✓ Joseph was 39 when Jacob was 130.
- ✓ So Jacob was 91 when Joseph was born.
- ✓ Joseph was born after 14 years with Laban.
- ✓ **Jacob was 77 when he was blessed by Isaac.**



Bold type = ages or times specified in the text

Jacob's deception

137 years old

When **Isaac** was old
and his eyes were dim so that **he could not see**,
he called **Esau** his older son and said to him...

“Behold, I am old; I do not know the day of my death.

**“Now then... go out to the field and hunt game for me,
and prepare for me **delicious food, such as I love,**
and bring it to me so that I may eat,
that **my soul may bless you before I die.**”**

(Genesis 27:1-4)

The blessing
of the firstborn

*Two nations are in your womb...
the older shall serve the younger.*

(Genesis 25:23)

Jacob's deception

*Two nations are in your womb...
the older shall serve the younger.*

(Genesis 25:23)

Rebekah said to her son Jacob,

“I heard your father speak to your brother Esau,

‘Bring me game and prepare for me delicious food,
that I may eat it and bless you **before the LORD**
before I die.’

The blessing
of the firstborn

“Now therefore, my son, obey my voice as I command you.”

(Genesis 27:6-8)

Jacob's deception

Go to the flock and bring me two good young goats, so that I may prepare from them delicious food for your father, such as he loves.

And you shall bring it to your father to eat, **so that he may bless you** before he dies.

Perhaps my father will feel me, and **I shall seem to be mocking him and bring a curse upon myself and not a blessing.**"

Let your curse be on me, my son...



Jacob's deception

“My father.”

“Here I am. **Who are you, my son?**”

“**I am Esau your firstborn.** I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me.”

“How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?”

“Because the LORD your God granted me success.”

“Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not.”

“The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau.”

“**Are you really my son Esau?**”

“I am.”

Jacob's deception

“Come near and kiss me, my son.”

“See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field
that the LORD has blessed!”

*May God give you of the dew of heaven
and of the fatness of the earth and plenty of grain and wine.*

Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you.

*Be lord over your brothers,
and may your mother's sons bow down to you.*

*Cursed be everyone who curses you,
and blessed be everyone who blesses you!”*

Where is
the blessing
of Abraham?

See Genesis 27:26-29

Jacob's deception

Isaac

- He knew the prophecy but naturally favoured Esau
- He seemed willing to reverse God's word

Rebekah

- She knew the prophecy and naturally favoured Jacob
- She contrived to deceive Isaac
- She led Jacob into lies and deception

Jacob

- He wanted the blessing but used deception to gain it

Esau

- He despised his birthright but wanted natural blessing

...and these are Abraham's descendants !?!

Esau's despair

As soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob...
Esau his brother came in from his hunting.

“Let my father arise and eat of his son's game,
that you may bless me.”

“Who are you?”

“I am your son, your firstborn, Esau.”

Then Isaac trembled very violently...

“Who was it then that hunted game and brought it to me,
and I ate it all before you came, and I have blessed him?

Yes, and he shall be blessed.”

The blessing
was of the Lord!

See Genesis 27:30-33

Esau's despair

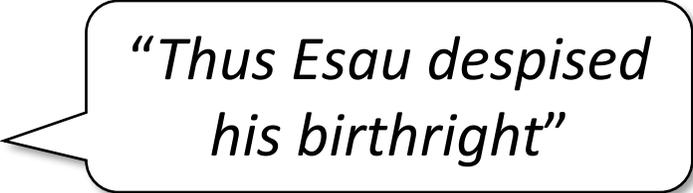
As soon as Esau heard the words of his father,
he cried out with **an exceedingly great and bitter cry...**

“Bless me, even me also, O my father!”

**“Your brother came deceitfully,
and he has taken away your blessing.”**

“Is he not rightly named **Jacob**?

For he has cheated me these two times.
He took away my birthright, and behold,
now he has taken away my blessing.”



*“Thus Esau despised
his birthright”*

Esau's despair

“Have you not reserved a blessing for me?”

“Behold, I have made him lord over you, and all his brothers I have given to him for servants, and with grain and wine I have sustained him.

What then can I do for you, my son?”

“Bless me, even me also, O my father.”

And Esau **lifted up his voice and wept.**

“Behold, by the fatness of the earth shall your dwelling be, and by the dew of heaven on high.

By your sword you shall live, and you shall serve your brother; but when you grow restless you shall break his yoke from your neck.”



Or “next to”

See Genesis 27:37-40

Esau's despair

The warning in Hebrews 12 to the believers...

See to it that no one fails to obtain **the grace of God**

...that no one is ... unholy like **Esau**,
who **sold his birthright** for a single meal.

Profane, godless

For you know that afterward,
when he desired to inherit the blessing,
he was rejected,
for he found no chance to repent,
though he sought it with tears.

(Hebrews 12:15-17)

Jacob's escape

Now **Esau hated Jacob** because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him and Esau said to himself,

“The days of mourning for my father are approaching;
then I will kill my brother Jacob.”

(Genesis 27:41)



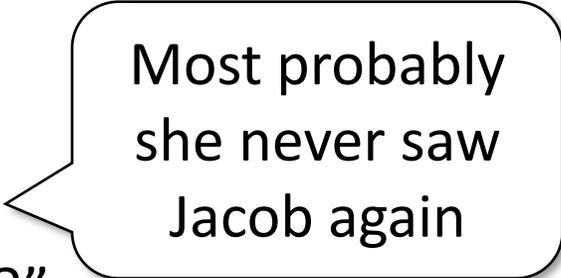
Jacob's escape

...then I will kill my brother Jacob.

But the words of **Esau** her older son were told to **Rebekah**.

So she sent and called **Jacob** her younger son and said to him...

“Arise, flee to **Laban** my brother in Haran ... until he forgets what you have done to him. Then I will send and bring you from there. Why should I be bereft of you both in one day?”



Most probably she never saw Jacob again

Jacob's escape

Then Rebekah said to Isaac,

“I loathe my life because of the Hittite women.

If Jacob marries one of the Hittite women like these, one of the women of the land, what good will my life be to me?”

Then Isaac called Jacob...

“You must not take a wife from the Canaanite women.”

(Genesis 27:46 - 28:1)



Esau's two wives

Jacob's escape

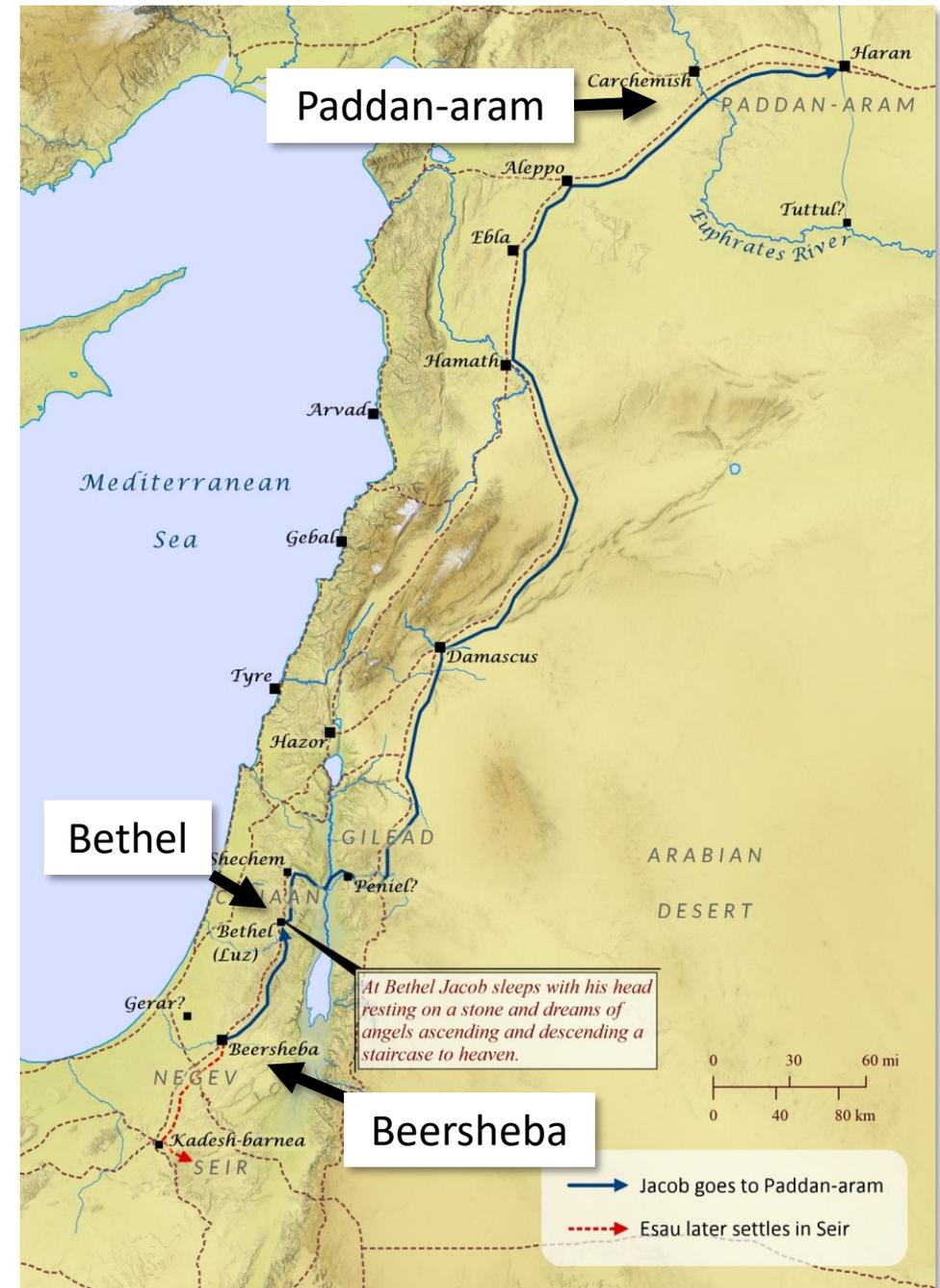
“Arise, go to **Paddan-aram**...
and take as your wife from there
one of the daughters of **Laban** your mother's brother.

*“God Almighty bless you
and make you fruitful and multiply you,
that you may become a company of peoples.*

*“May He give the blessing of **Abraham** to you
and to your offspring with you,
that you may take possession of the land
of your sojournings that God gave to **Abraham!**”*

Jacob left **Beersheba** and went toward **Haran**.

(Genesis 28:2-5, 10)

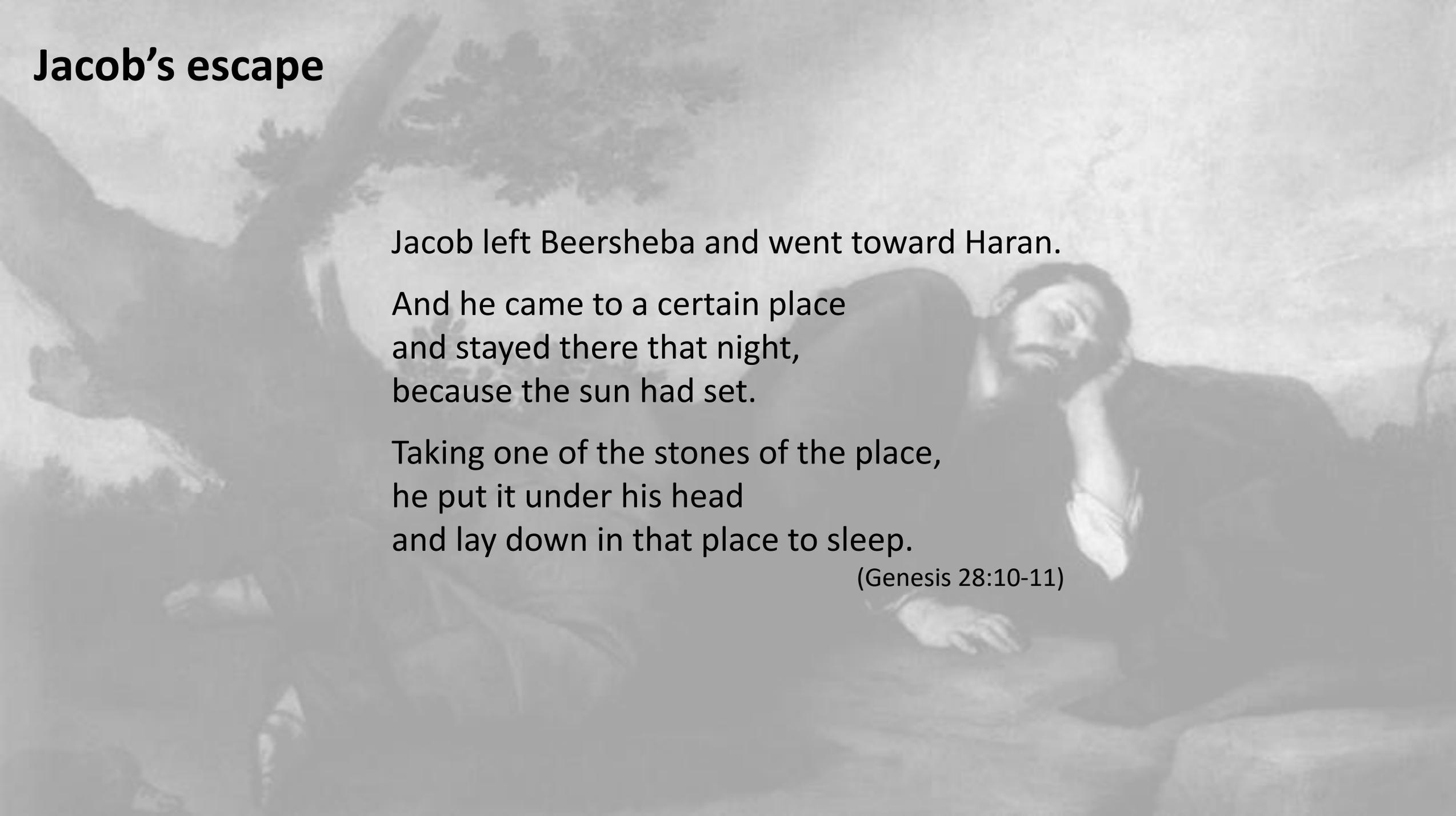


Jacob's escape

Now Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Paddan-aram... and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother... So when Esau saw that the Canaanite women did not please Isaac his father, Esau went to **Ishmael** and took as his wife... Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael...

(Genesis 28:6-9)

Jacob's escape



Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran.

And he came to a certain place
and stayed there that night,
because the sun had set.

Taking one of the stones of the place,
he put it under his head
and lay down in that place to sleep.

(Genesis 28:10-11)

Jacob's escape

And he dreamed,
and behold,

Or stairway

there was a ladder set up on the earth,
and the top of it reached to heaven.

And behold,
the angels of God were
ascending and descending on it!

And behold,
the LORD stood above it and said...

(Genesis 28:12-13)

Jacob's escape

"I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac.

"The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring.

*"Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth,
and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east
and to the north and to the south,
and in you and your offspring
shall all the families of the earth be blessed.*

*"Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go,
and will bring you back to this land.*

For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

(Genesis 28:13-15)

Jacob's escape

Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said,

“Surely the LORD is in this place,
and I did not know it.”

And he was afraid and said,

“How awesome is this place!
This is none other than **the house of God**,
and this is **the gate of heaven.**”

So early in the morning Jacob took the stone...
and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it.

He called the name of that place Bethel,
but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

House of God

(Genesis 28:16-19)

Jacob's escape

“How awesome is this place!
This is none other than **the house of God**,
and this is **the gate of heaven.**”

So early in the morning Jacob took the stone...
and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it.

Anointed

Nathanael answered Him,

“Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”

Jesus answered him,

“Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe?
You will see greater things than these.”

And He said to him,

***“Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened,
and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”***

(John 1:49-51)

Jacob's escape

Since

Then **Jacob made a vow**, saying,

“If God

- will be with me and
- will keep me in this way that I go, and
- will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear,
- so that I come again to my father's house in peace,

then

Genesis 35:1 ?

- the LORD shall be my God, and
- this stone... shall be God's house.
- And of all that You give me I will give a full tenth to You.”

(Genesis 28:20-22)

Genesis

The Book of Beginnings

Genesis 27 and 28

Abraham

- **Called** to go out to an unknown land
- God says of him, *“Abraham, My friend”*

Isaac

- **Predestined** to inherit the blessing
- He learned to accept God’s plan

Jacob

- **Chosen** to inherit the blessing of Abraham
- The journey to be “Israel” has just begun...

*I will not leave you
until I have done
what I have
promised you.*

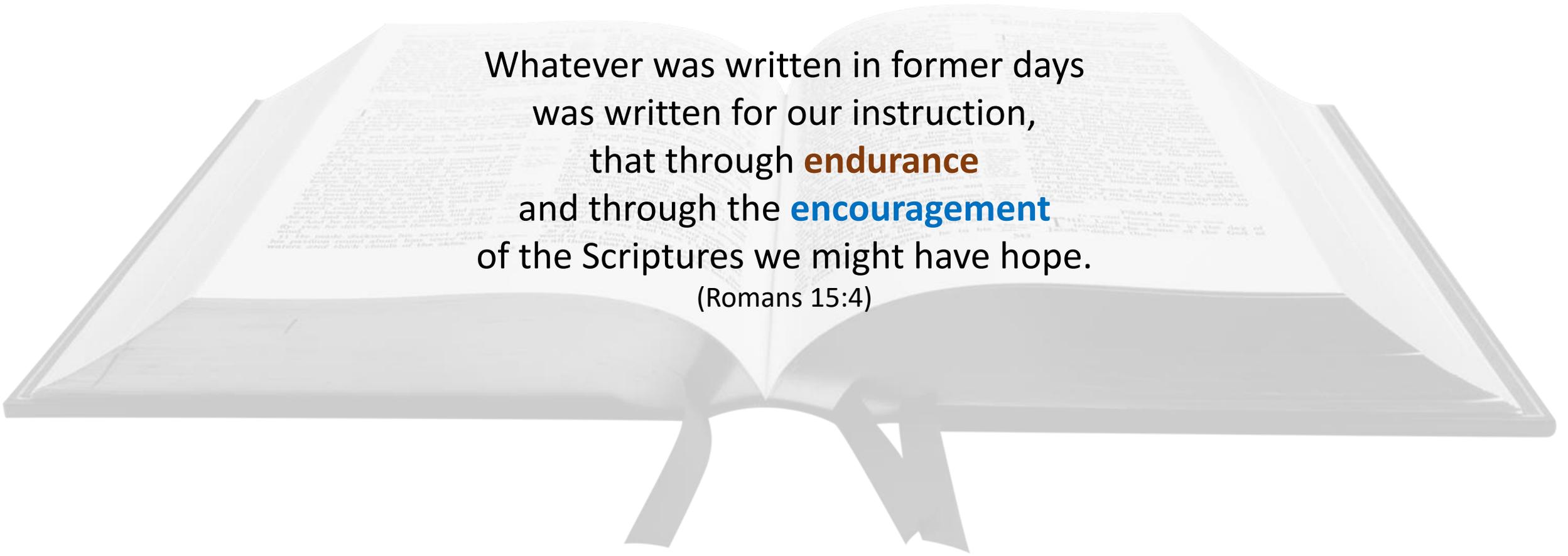
Genesis

The Book of Beginnings

Abraham

Isaac

Jacob

An open book is shown in a light gray, semi-transparent style, serving as a background for the text. The pages of the book are visible, showing faint text. The book is open to a central page.

Whatever was written in former days
was written for our instruction,
that through **endurance**
and through the **encouragement**
of the Scriptures we might have hope.

(Romans 15:4)