



Traveling God's Word

A chronological study of the Bible

WEEK 7

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Read:

Genesis 37-50

What a perfect plan! Canaan was about to become a place of hunger and oppression as famine and warring groups of people ravaged the land. The nation of Israel was still in its infancy and needed a protected place to grow to the size and strength that would be needed to claim the land that God had promised to Abraham. Egypt was the perfect cocoon, a safe resting place for the nation of Israel to flourish and grow. So God orchestrated the plan that would bring them to this safe haven. Joseph was sent ahead to make sure everything was set in place. The famine was perfectly timed. A place was ensured for the family group of Israelites in the relative safety of Goshen, a place in the Nile Delta fertile enough to support growth in livestock and people.

How many Israelites entered Egypt according to Genesis 46:26? _____

How long had God told Abraham that they would remain in Genesis 15:13? _____

Besides the Israelites growing in strength and number, what else needed to happen before it was time for them to return to Canaan (15:16)? _____

SPOTTING CHRIST

Rather than an actual encounter with our Lord this week, we see only a foreshadow of him in the life of Joseph. From these New Testament references, what parallels do you note between the life of Joseph, and the life of Jesus?

Matt. 1:21 _____

Matt. 3:17 _____

Matt. 4:1 _____

Matt. 26:15 _____

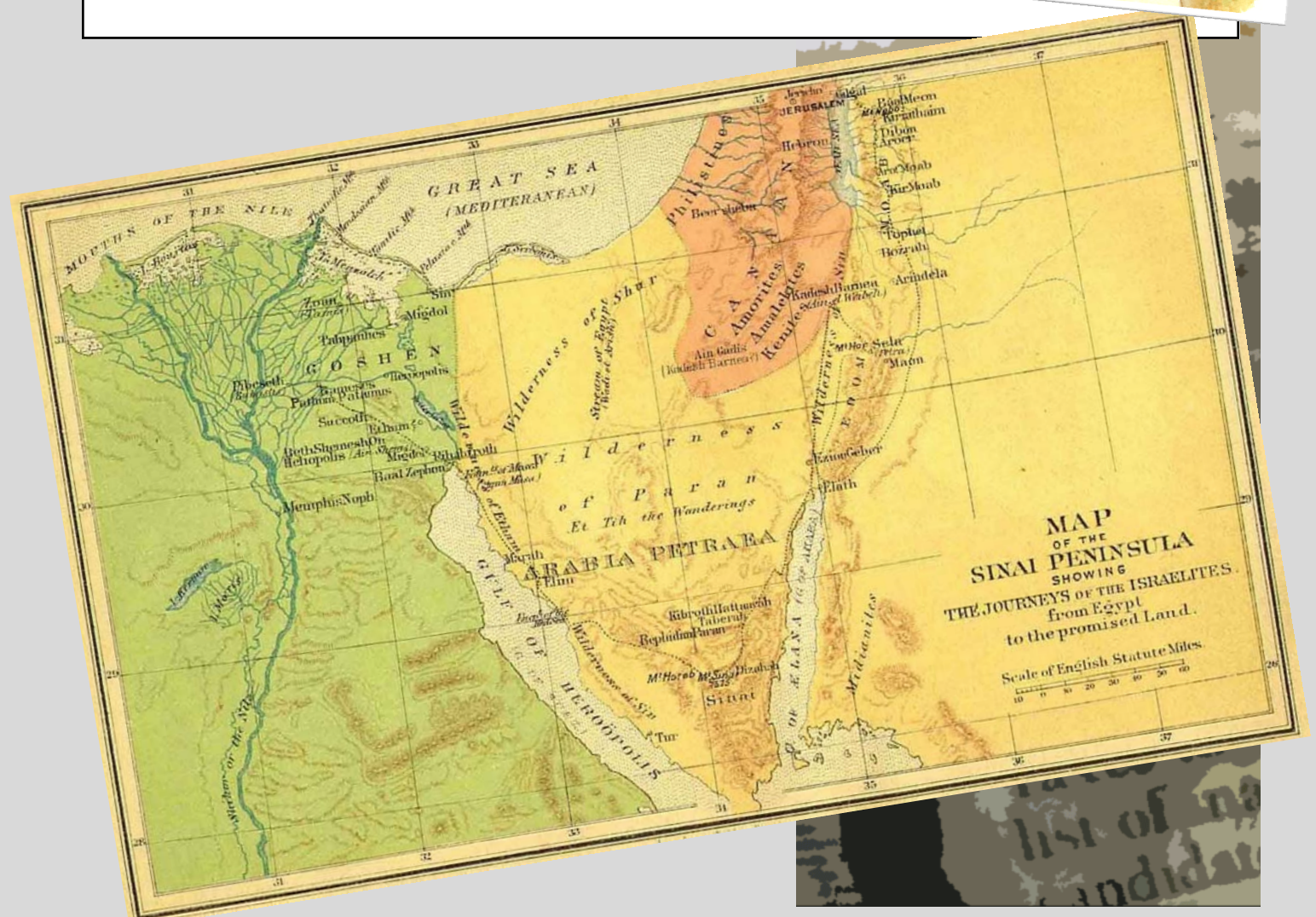
Matt. 26:59-60 _____

Luke 3:23-34 _____

John 7:5 _____

John 10:11,27 _____

1 Cor. 2:7,8 _____



TIMELINE

(approximate dates)

Abraham
2000 B.C.

City of Ur falls to the
Elamites
2004 B.C.

Amenenhet I began
the 12th dynasty an
1963 B.C.

Joseph sold into
slavery in Egypt
1898 B.C.

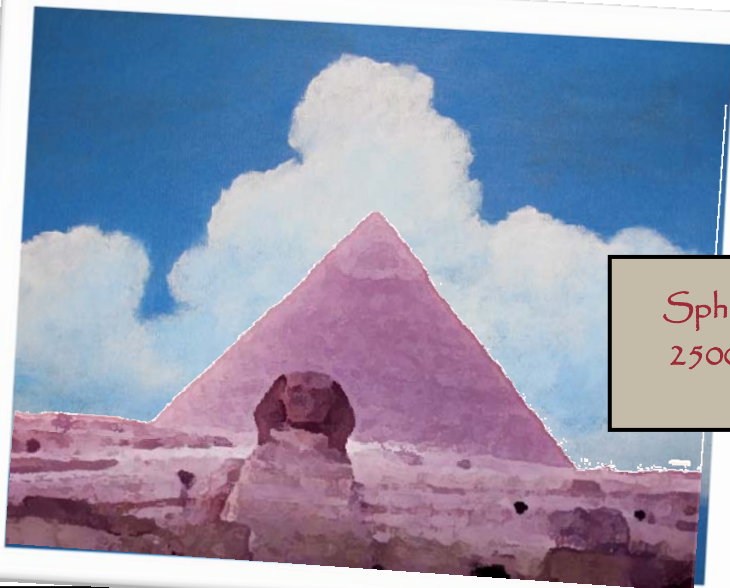
Hammurabi
becomes king of
Babylon
1792 B.C.

The Hyksos invade
and rule Egypt
1775-1570 B.C.

The Israelites leave
Egypt under Moses'
lead
1450 B.C.

EGYPT

Called "Misrayim" by the Hebrew people, the land of Egypt plays a huge role in the history of Israel. The first Egyptians, settling along the extremely fertile banks of the Nile, were descendants of Ham. Abraham visited Egypt for help during a time of famine in Canaan. No one is certain when exactly Joseph went to Egypt, but the most widely accepted time period is during Egypt's 12th Dynasty, a time when Egypt was a strong world power. Probably shortly after the time of Joseph, Egypt fell under the control of a Semitic people from Asia, known as the Hyksos.



Sphinx built
2500 B.C.

Just Wondering ...

What was the relationship between the Ishmaelites and Midianites?
How do you think they ended up in a caravan together in Genesis 37?



Lion of Judah Gen. 49

I love books with a surprise ending, and Genesis is no exception. Starting with Adam and Eve, we see the stage set for a Redeemer to come. With Abraham we begin to see some patterns emerging:

- Barren women, first Sarah, followed by her daughter-in-law Rebekah, blessed with a son through whom God's Covenant with mankind will be carried.
- The younger son gaining the blessing and birthright of the older son, as happened with Abraham's sons Ishmael and Isaac, and then his grandson's Esau and Jacob.

These patterns seem to be carried out in Jacob's family as well. When his favored wife Rachel proves to be barren, we immediately guess that God will eventually bless her with a child, and a special one at that. When that child, Joseph, arrives and is given the dream of ruling over his older brothers, our suspicions seem confirmed. Surely, this will be the Covenant carrier through whose line all the nations will be redeemed. The story of Joseph's repeated tragedies and triumphs only serve to set him up as THE ONE. The fact that Joseph himself sees the events of his life as part of God's greater plan confirm to us his worthiness. In addition, we have the events related to us that would disqualify his older brothers.

Reuben, the oldest, shows some honor in saving Joseph's life when his brothers wanted to kill him. But what had he done in 35:22 that disqualified him from the rights of the firstborn? _____

That would put Simeon as the next in line, but he and Levi, the next younger brother, had also done something that earned Jacob's disapproval. What was it? _____

Son number four, Judah, does not come across that great either. It was his idea to sell Joseph to the caravan of Ishmaelites coming through—though he may have seen that as better than the alternatives for Joseph. Perhaps to escape the constant reminder of guilt in living with their grief stricken father, he moved away and took a foreign wife. He lived there, away from his family, quit some time, and it seems less than honorably for most of it. The sons he raised were evil. He sat his widowed daughter-in-law aside rather than honor the custom that would give her marriage to his third and only surviving son. He sought the services of a prostitute, and then in a despicable act of hypocrisy wanted his daughter-in-law burned to death for adultery. We see this kind of man in our day and age too, running from failure and guilt, and running from the kind of man that they are meant to be.

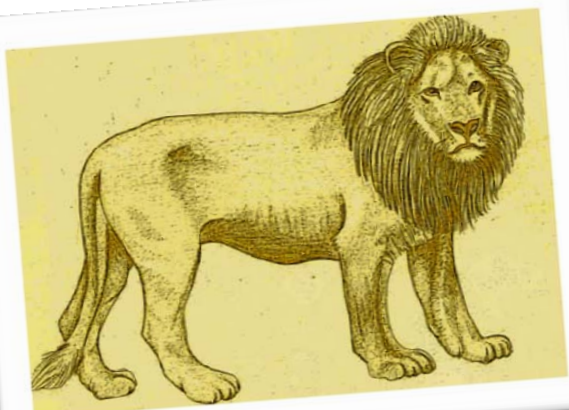
So, it is no surprise to us when Jacob gives Joseph, a younger son born of a barren wife, the double birthright that should have belonged to the firstborn. This birthright will be delivered through the two sons of Joseph, Manasseh and Ephraim, and once again, the younger was given greater than the older. What is a surprise, however, is that it is not Joseph that receives the blessing. Isaac received the birthright and the blessing. Jacob received the birthright and the blessing. But while Joseph's sons were given the rights of firstborn in the double portion of the land that God had promised Jacob, it was Judah, not Joseph, who received the blessing. Judah, always in the background, comes to the foreground. The story of Judah and Tamar seems almost an interruption in the story of Joseph, but the interruption becomes the story. It was the lion of Judah who would rule Israel, and with Judah the scepter would remain until the One, the Redeemer would come.

In the story of Judah and Tamar in chapter 38, what hint of change do we see in Judah? _____

What further evidence of change do we see by where he was living by the time of the famine? _____

How did Judah behave when Joseph asked for Benjamin to remain in Egypt? _____

What part did Tamar play in Judah's transformation? _____



Disappointed, or Appointed? Gen. 38

Which word would you use to describe Tamar? Surely her life had not gone as she had hoped. How would you describe her first marriage? _____

What problems did she have in her second marriage? _____

How did Judah fail to keep his promise to her? _____

What did she do about it? _____

Tamar knew exactly how it felt to wait for a promise to be kept. She knew about hopes being tied up in a child that it seemed would never exist. She, like all the other mothers of promise, was barren—though through different circumstances. I doubt that she even knew or cared about the promise that God had made to her father-in-law Jacob, she was just trying to survive in a world of pain and betrayal and loss. Yet, God had appointed her to bring forth Judah's son. Though men had meant her harm, God had used it for good, to accomplish the saving of many lives—hers and Judah's and many, many more to follow.

What harm and disappointments mar your life? What would it take for you to see your disappointment as a possible appointment from God?



A Coat of Many Colors

Joseph had a telling and varied wardrobe in his lifetime. His first notable garment was the multi-colored robe that his father had given him. It marked his identity as Jacob's favored son. Under what circumstances was this garment, and identity, left behind? _____

Why was it necessary for God's plan to shed that role? _____

The next mention we have of Joseph's attire is when he leaves his robe in the hands of Potiphar's wife. What did he leave behind with it? _____

Finally, Joseph was so thoroughly garbed as an Egyptian that his brothers didn't even recognize him. What did he do to show them who he really was? _____

Sometimes we cling to coverings that need to be left behind. Are there any that you need to shed? _____

What does Gal. 3:27 say we are to be clothed with? _____

Puzzle Clues

Across

- 2 animal that Pharaoh dreamt of (4)
 5 saved Joseph's life (6)
 8 Joseph said "God sent me ahead of you to pre-serve for you a _____" (7)
 10 number of Benjamin's sons (3)
 11 district that Jacob's family settled in Gen. 47:11 (7)
 13 first son of Joseph (8)
 15 what Joseph did in Potiphar's house (9)
 17 Pharaoh provided these for the move (5)
 19 hand that Jacob put on Joseph's younger son (5)
 21 the Lord brought this to Joseph in whatever he did Gen. 39:23 (7)
 22 Pharaoh gave this ring to Joseph (6)
 24 only thing in which Pharaoh was greater than Joseph (6)
 25 Joseph found this in Potiphar's eyes (5)
 28 Joseph's appearance (8)
 30 Potiphar's wife referred to Joseph as one (6)
 33 portion of the land's produce belonging to Pharaoh (5)
 34 put in the brother's bags (6)
 35 what young Joseph's brothers felt for him (8)
 37 Egypt suffered seven years of this (6)
 38 Egyptians would not do this with Hebrews (3)
 39 the baker and cupbearer both had one (5)
 41 Benjamin's was five times as much (7)
 42 number of Joseph's brothers (6)
 44 Joseph had a colorful one (4)
 47 land where Jacob was buried (6)
 50 Joseph's father (5)
 51 belong to God Gen. 40:8 (15)
 54 Jacob sent his sons to Egypt to buy some (5)
 57 done to Jacob after his death (8)
 58 number of tribes of Israel (6)
 59 the Ishmaelites were traveling by camel in one)
 60 detestable to the Egyptians (9)

Down

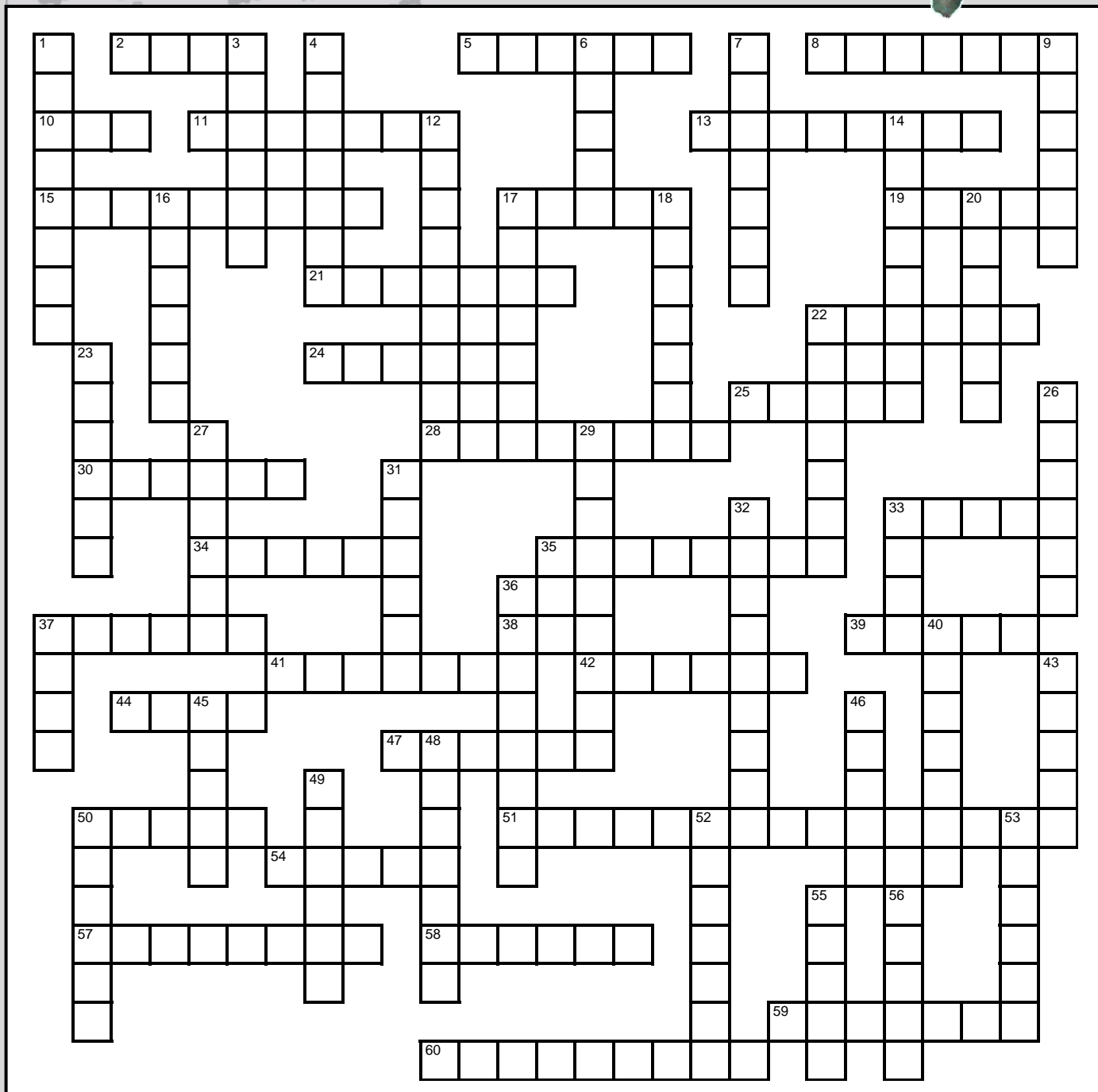
- 1 who Joseph was sold to (8)
 3 Joseph did this before he appeared before Pharaoh (6)
 4 Joseph was sold for twenty of these (7)
 6 was hung on a tree (5)
 7 Joseph instructed his brothers not to do this on the journey (7)
 9 age of Joseph when he entered Pharaoh's service (6)
 12 what Jacob wore while he mourned Joseph (9)
 14 Joseph pretended to be one when his brothers came for food (8)
 16 left behind as Joseph's prisoner until the brothers returned (6)
 17 where the brothers threw Joseph (7)
 18 Joseph searched for his brothers here Gen. 37:14 (7)
 20 the Midianite merchants were traveling from here to Egypt (6)
 22 number of Jacob's family in Egypt (7)
 23 where Joseph found his brothers Gen. 37:17 (6)
 26 where Jacob's family was invited to live (6)
 27 where Potiphar sent Joseph (6)
 29 the age of Joseph when we first meet him in Gen. 37:2 (9)
 31 the cupbearer did this to Joseph for two years (6)
 32 was restored to his position (9)
 33 What the brothers felt toward Joseph in Egypt (4)
 36 Joseph's youngest brother (8)
 37 Potiphar didn't concern himself with anything other than this (4)
 40 means "God has made me fruitful in the land of suffering" (7)
 43 eleven of them bowed to Joseph in a dream (5)
 45 Joseph's garment was dipped in this before returned to their father (5)
 46 took responsibility for Benjamin's safety (5)
 48 given to Joseph as a wife (7)
 49 new name for Joseph's father (6)
 50 put in charge of Pharaoh's palace and the whole land of Egypt (6)
 52 how Pharaoh felt about the arrival of Joseph's family (7)
 53 God promised Israel that He would make him into a great one in Egypt (6)
 55 Joseph left this with Potiphar's wife (5)
 56 daughter of Jacob and Leah (5)



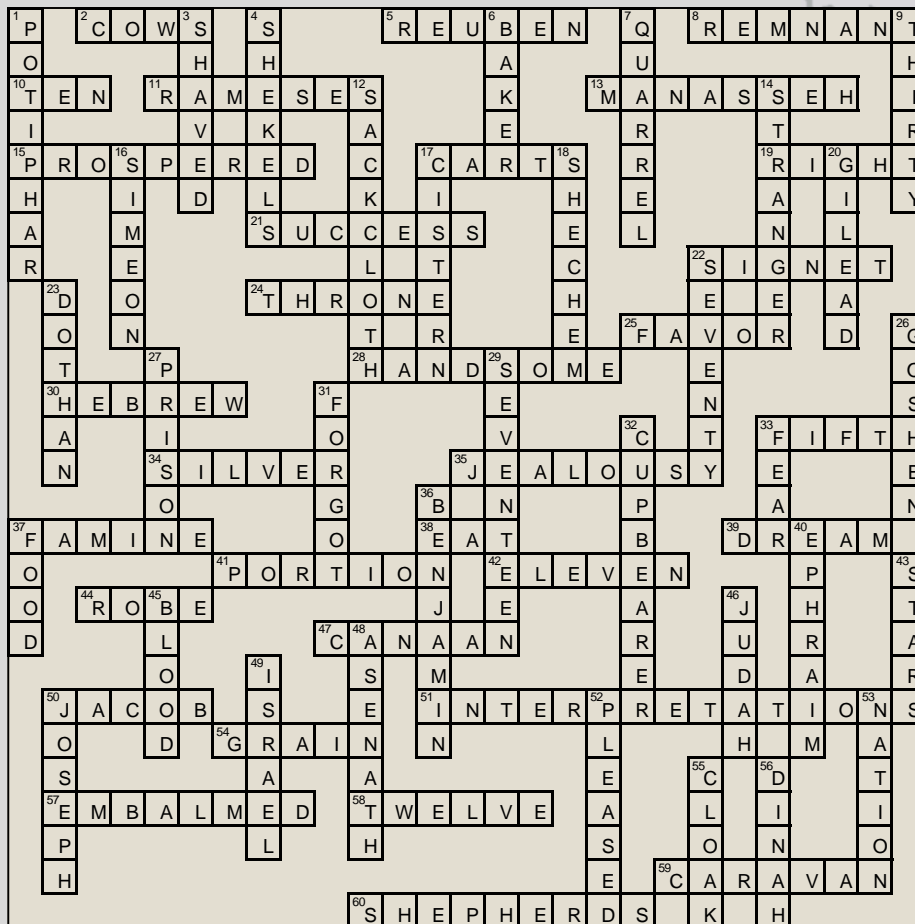


Puzzle Page

Genesis 37-50



ANSWERS AND SOURCES



Find the map on page 2 at: <http://www.onlinebibleworld.com/wp-content/gallery/american-bible-society/Sinai-Peninsula-Map-Journey-Israelites-from-Egypt-to-Promised-Land.jpg>

To find more studies go to:
<http://www.downvictoryrd.com>
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