

# From Abraham and Isaac on through Jacob, Joseph and the Tribes of Israel

## Graphical Overview [ref. Gen 25-50]

by Larry Yerkes

Genesis = In (the) beginning = *beresit* (Heb.) (or *bereshit* or *bereshith*)

**Rebekah (Rebecca)**  
Mother of Jacob and Esau,  
favored Jacob;  
Prophecy predicted fighting  
and Esau serving Jacob  
[Gen. 25:25]

**Isaac**  
[birth: Gen 17:19, Gen 21]  
Son of Abraham (who was  
100 years old) and Sarah  
(who was 90 years old);  
**Married to Rebekah**;  
60 years old when twins  
Esau and Jacob were born,  
Isaac favored Esau

**Abraham**  
Son of Terah (descendant of Noah's son, Shem) [Gen 11];  
originally named, Abram (noble father), God changes name to  
Abraham (father of many nations) [Gen. 17:5];  
His wife, **Sarah** (means "Princess"), originally named Sarai ("my  
princess"), was his half sister [Gen 11:21] and Isaac's mother;  
Abraham was 160 years old at the birth of Isaac's sons, Jacob and Esau

**Ishmael**  
Meaning "God Hears"; God promises: he will be like a  
wild donkey (onager: a valued animal, untamable) too  
many offspring to count, conflict with others. Son of  
Sarah's Handmaiden, **Hagar**, given by Sarah to  
Abraham (86 years old) to bear sons when she could not  
conceive [Gen 16, 21]; Ishmael had 12 sons, and a  
daughter (Mahalath or Basemath) who married Esau.

**Jacob / Israel**  
"Jacob" means Supplanter, One who deceives, "heel catcher"  
/ Israel means Prince or Power with God, one who reigns with God, God contends, God fights  
Was a simple man, dwelling in tents.  
[Gen. 27, Gains birthright and Isaac's blessing from Esau by  
deception motivated by Rebekah, eventually forced to flee to avoid  
Esau's wrath]; [Gen 28:10-10 Jacob's Ladder at Bethel],  
[Named **Israel** (possible meanings: "striven with / saved by God", "God strives / rules /  
persists", "He will be a prince with God") by God in Gen. 32:28, 35:10]  
[Gen. 32-33, Reconciles with Esau day after being renamed Israel.

**Esau**  
Meaning "rough", "hairy" (reddish), or "fully developed"  
(also called Edom = "red", because of skintone and/or red stew;  
is the "Father of the **Edomites**", who later caused problems for Israelites).  
Twin brother of Jacob and firstborn; a hunter  
[Gen. 27 trades birthright to Jacob for bowl of stew]  
[Gen. 32-33, forgives and reconciles with Jacob]  
[Gen. 36 lists descendants of Esau]  
Intermarried with Canaanites (2) and with Uncle Ishmael's daughter (Mahalath [or  
Bathsemuth, Gen. 36:3]; his 3<sup>rd</sup> wife; was chosen to appease his father, Isaac).  
Note: The Herod dynasty was of Edomite ancestry.

**Ishmaelites**  
Offspring (of the 12 sons) of Ishmael the elder son of Abraham by **Hagar**.  
They eventually mixed with Midianites and later with other children of  
Keturah and then were called "Arabs".

**Midianites**  
Offspring of **Keturah**, [Gen. 25:1-6; 1 Chron 1:32] whom Abraham married after  
the death of Sarah, resulting in 6 sons: Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian,  
Ishbak, and Shuah. Some offspring eventually became known as "Arabs".  
Others assimilated into various groups.

