

Chapter One

The Patriarchal Prophecies

The Lion and the Unicorn on the Road to Zion is the mostly forgotten story of the prophesied destiny of two kingdoms that have a future rendezvous with the Kingdom of God. Many will readily identify the Lion, but most will have no idea about the Unicorn. How it could have been forgotten and why it got forgotten when there is so much said about it in the pages of God's Word is beyond me. Perhaps it is simply because: "For everything there is a season" (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

In this chapter you will find God's promises made to the patriarchs that have set the course of history right through to the latter days. The destiny of the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is the central and most important piece of the eschatology puzzle, without which fully ninety percent of end-time prophecy cannot be correctly understood. That estimation might seem rather audacious, but when this study has been completed, you may even consider it an understatement.

This prophetic destiny is first revealed in Chapter 12 of Genesis where Abraham is chosen by God to be the father of many nations. Through Abraham and Sarah the whole world would be blessed by the bringing forth of both the Lion and the Unicorn.

Abraham and Sarah were at this time known as Abram and Sarai.

Genesis 12:1-3

Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: 2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 13:16

And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.

Genesis 15:3-5

And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir. 4 And, behold, the word of the Lord came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. 5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

The promises or prophecies given to Abraham by God are: He will become a great nation; His name shall be great; He will be a blessing; Blessed be everyone who blesses him; Cursed be everyone who curses him; In him all families of the earth will be blessed; His descendants shall be as uncountable as the stars in heaven; His descendants will be as uncountable as the dust of the earth.

At this point in time, Abram and Sarai could not see how these promises would come to pass so they made their own plan.

Genesis 16:3-4

And Sarai Abram's wife took Hagar her maid the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife. 4 And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes.

Genesis 16:10-12

And the angel of the Lord said unto her, I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude. 11 And the angel of the Lord said unto her, Behold, thou art with child and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the Lord hath heard thy affliction. 12 And he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.

The promises to Ishmael through Hagar are: He will be a wild man; His hand shall be against every man; Everyman's hand will be against him; He will dwell in the presence of all his brethren; He will multiply exceedingly.

However, God was about to make it clear that the promises concerning Abram's descendants were going to be fulfilled through his wife. In doing so He also changed their names to Abraham and Sarah.

Genesis 17:1-7

And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. 2 And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly. 3 And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, 4 As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations. 5 Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee. 6 And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. 7 And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

Genesis 17:15-22

And God said unto Abraham, As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall her name be. 16 And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her. 17 Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall a child be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear? 18 And Abraham said unto God, O that Ishmael might live before thee! 19 And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his

seed after him. 20 And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation. 21 But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year. 22 And he left off talking with him, and God went up from Abraham.

In the process Ishmael receives these blessings through Abraham: He will become a great nation; He shall beget 12 princes.

Abraham himself receives further blessings which include: Abraham shall have a son by his wife and will name him Isaac; Abraham will become the father of many nations; Kings will come from him; He will be exceedingly fruitful; The everlasting covenant will be established through Isaac. In due time, God fulfils His promise to Abraham to bring forth a child through Sarah.

Genesis 21:1-3

And the Lord visited Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did unto Sarah as he had spoken. 2 For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. 3 And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac.

And the blessings upon Sarah are: She will be blessed; She will be a mother of nations; Kings of peoples will come from her.

Genesis 22:17

. . . in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

Abraham again receives promises: His descendants shall multiply as the stars in heaven and the sand on the sea shore; His descendants shall possess the gates of their enemies.

Isaac receives the promise of the Birthright Blessing; Ishmael does not. Ishmael receives his own promises from God, but not those promised to Abraham and Sarah. God confirms the Birthright Blessings to Isaac after Abraham dies.

Genesis 26:3-5

Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swore unto Abraham thy father; 4 And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; 5 Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.

God said to Isaac: I will be with you; I will give you all these lands; I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; In your seed, all nations of the earth will be blessed. Hidden in these blessings given to Abraham and Isaac is the Promise of the Seed through whom all nations shall be blessed. Isaac marries Rebekah who receives more promises.

Genesis 24:67

And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her: and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Genesis 24:60

And they blessed Rebekah, and said unto her, Thou art our sister, be thou the mother of thousands of millions, and let thy seed possess the gate of those which hate them.

The New King James gives it more literally regarding the number of the descendants.

Genesis 24:60 NKJV

. . . *The mother of thousands of ten thousands* . . .

The promises to Rebekah are: Her descendants will possess the gates of their enemies; Rebekah will be the mother of thousands of ten thousands. One thousand times one thousand equals one million, so I wonder how many tens of millions are intended in this promise?

Isaac and Rebekah have twin boys: Esau and Jacob; Esau being the firstborn.

Genesis 25:23

And the Lord said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.

Genesis 25:24-26

And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb. 25 And the first came out red, all over like a hairy garment; and they called his name Esau. 26 And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau's heel; and his name was called Jacob: and Isaac was threescore years old when she bare them.

Genesis 25:29-34

And Jacob sod pottage: and Esau came from the field, and he was faint: 30 And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage; for I am faint: therefore was his name called Edom. 31 And Jacob said, Sell me this day thy birthright. 32 And Esau said, Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me? 33 And Jacob said, Swear to me this day; and he swore unto him: and he sold his birthright unto Jacob. 34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentiles; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau despised his birthright.

Oh boy, that first phrase really got me: Jacob sod pottage! How English has changed. It means he cooked a stew. But concerning the destiny we are focusing on, it is the last phrase that is significant: Esau despised his birthright and as a consequence, Jacob received the Birthright Blessing from his father, Isaac:

Genesis 27:27-29

And he came near, and kissed him: and he smelled the smell of his raiment, and blessed him, and said, See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field which the Lord hath blessed: 28 Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine: 29 Let people serve thee, and nations bow down to thee: be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee: cursed be every one that curseth thee, and blessed be he that blesseth thee.

Jacob received the Birthright Blessing: May the Lord give you of the dew of heaven and the fatness of the earth; And plenty of grain and wine; Let people serve you; Many nations will bow down to you; Be master over your brethren; Let your mother's sons bow down to you; Cursed be everyone who curses you; Blessed be those who bless you.

Esau also received promises, but not the Birthright Blessing, because he despised it earlier.

Genesis 27:39-40

And Isaac his father answered and said unto him, Behold, thy dwelling shall be the fatness of the earth, and of the dew of heaven from above; 40 And by thy sword shalt thou live, and shalt serve thy brother; and it shall come to pass when thou shalt have the dominion, that thou shalt break his yoke from off thy neck.

The promises to Esau were: Dwell in the fatness of the earth and with the dew of heaven from above; He shall live by his sword; Serve his brother (Jacob); Break his yoke from his neck.

God foresaw, even in the womb, that Esau would despise his birthright and so the Birthright Blessing of Abraham came upon Jacob. Jacob marries two sisters: Leah and Rachel. From them and their two maidservants, Bilhah and Zilpah, Jacob has 12 sons. The Birthright Blessing begins to unfold.

Genesis 35:23-26

The sons of Leah; Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, and Simeon, and Levi, and Judah, and Issachar, and Zebulun: 24 The sons of Rachel; Joseph, and Benjamin: 25 And the sons of Bilhah, Rachel's handmaid; Dan, and Naphtali: 26 And the sons of Zilpah, Leah's handmaid: Gad, and Asher: these are the sons of Jacob, which were born to him in Padanaram.

These are the sons listed in order from oldest to youngest: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin.

God changes Jacob's name to Israel.

Genesis 35:10

And God said unto him, Thy name is Jacob: thy name shall not be called any more Jacob, but Israel shall be thy name: and he called his name Israel.

Most people recognise the Birthright Blessing being passed from Abraham to Isaac to Jacob. However, the blessing can be traced further as we shall see. God gives Joseph, the eldest son of Rachel, dreams of greatness.

Genesis 37:5-11

And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more. 6 And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: 7 For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf. 8 And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words. 9 And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. 10 And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth? 11 And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.

Joseph is sold into slavery by his brothers.

Genesis 37:28

Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt.

However, God exalts Joseph to the highest rank in Egypt.

Genesis 41:39-40

And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art: 40 Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou.

In Egypt Joseph had two sons: Ephraim and Manasseh.

Genesis 41:50-52

And unto Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came, which Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On bare unto him. 51 And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: For God, said he, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house. 52 And the name of the second called he Ephraim: For God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.

Jacob then conveys the Birthright Blessing through Joseph to Ephraim and Manasseh. Ephraim is given the greater blessing.

Genesis 48:5

And now thy two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, which were born unto thee in the land of Egypt before I came unto thee into Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine.

Genesis 48:12-20

And Joseph brought them out from between his knees, and he bowed himself with his face to the earth. 13 And Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near unto him. 14 And Israel stretched out his right hand, and laid it upon Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand upon Manasseh's head, guiding his hands wittingly; for Manasseh was the firstborn. 15 And he blessed Joseph, and said, God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac did walk, the God which fed me all my life long unto this day, 16 The Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.

17 And when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand upon the head of Ephraim, it displeased him: and he held up his father's hand, to remove it from Ephraim's head unto Manasseh's head. 18 And Joseph said unto his father, Not so, my father: for this is the firstborn; put thy right hand upon his head. 19 And his father refused, and said, I know it, my son, I know it: he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great: but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations. 20 And he blessed them that day, saying, In thee shall Israel bless, saying, God make thee as Ephraim and as Manasseh: and he set Ephraim before Manasseh.

The significance of that statement in Genesis 48:19 from the above passage is completely overlooked by most Christians. This promise that was given to Ephraim, concerning his seed becoming a multitude of nations, is the key that unlocks the door to understanding God's plan for the latter days.

Genesis 48:22

Moreover I have given to thee one portion above thy brethren, which I took out of the hand of the Amorite with my sword and with my bow.

Genesis 49:22-26

Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall: 23 The archers have sorely grieved him, and shot at him, and hated him: 24 But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel:) 25 Even by the God of thy father, who shall help thee; and by the Almighty, who shall bless thee with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lieth under, blessings of the breasts, and of the womb: 26 The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren.

Joseph's sons get the Birthright Blessings, but the Sceptre went to Judah who is also likened unto a lion in this prophecy of Jacob.

Genesis 49:8-10

Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall bow down before thee. 9 Judah is a lion's whelp:

from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? 10 The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.

This separation of the Sceptre from the Birthright is also recorded later in Chronicles.

1 Chronicles 5:1-2

Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel, for he was the firstborn; but forasmuch as he defiled his father's bed, his birthright was given unto the sons of Joseph the son of Israel: and the genealogy is not to be reckoned after the birthright. 2 For Judah prevailed above his brethren, and of him came the chief ruler; but the birthright was Joseph's.

Judah was to bring forth the "chief ruler" otherwise known as the Messiah and as we saw above, the Sceptre would not depart from Judah. However, the Scripture says plainly that the Birthright belongs to Joseph. Here we have Moses who also prophecies concerning the sons of Joseph.

Deuteronomy 33:16-17

And for the precious things of the earth and fulness thereof, and for the good will of him that dwelt in the bush: let the blessing come upon the head of Joseph, and upon the top of the head of him that was separated from his brethren. 17 His glory is like the firstling of his bullock, and his horns are like the horns of unicorns: with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth: and they are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and they are the thousands of Manasseh.

Moses likens the sons of Joseph to horns of unicorns, and prophecies the "blessing upon the head of Joseph". For more on unicorns, see the article: I Believe in Unicorns in the Appendix.

Ephraim and Manasseh were also given the privilege to be named Israel/Jacob, Abraham and or Isaac, so that throughout the Scriptures we often find Joseph or Ephraim referred to as Israel or Jacob and vice versa.

Genesis 48:16

The Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.

The destiny of the sons of Joseph and the destiny of Judah were established forever in these passages from Genesis. **It is God Himself who has spoken through the Patriarchs who watches over His Word to see to it that it does not return to Him void.** (Isaiah 55:11) What He has said He will perform. As we continue in this study, we will see the kiss of history upon these words of prophecy.

Though there were later promises that were associated with the giving of the Law (with the Covenant that was made through Moses) which were conditional upon the obedience of the children of Israel, the Birthright Blessings and the Promise of the Sceptre given through Jacob were not conditional and are guaranteed by God Himself and for this we are to be thankful. Had it depended upon the righteousness of the descendants for these prophecies to be fulfilled, the promise of the coming King through Judah would never have come to pass.

Galatians 3:15-18 NKJV

Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though *it is* only a man's covenant, yet *if it is* confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it. 16 Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ. 17 And this I say, *that* the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect. 18 For if the inheritance *is* of the law, *it is* no longer of promise; but God gave *it* to Abraham by promise.

A word of caution: The Holy Spirit is the only one with the prerogative to inject hidden meanings into the original text as He has done through Paul with this passage from Galatians. We are not to take it as a cue to use our own initiative and make a practice of taking verses out of context for ourselves. Amen.

Whilst the above passage is speaking of one particular promise (that of Christ), Galatians 3:16 encourages us to believe that all the promises of God made before the law will surely come to pass, including those given to Ephraim.

Unfortunately, this very same verse has been seriously misused and has become the foundation for a theory now known as Replacement Theology. This theory espouses the idea that all the promises to Abraham are fulfilled in Christ and that they are now to be applied to Spiritual Israel (the Church) and not to Natural Israel. Whilst there are promises that are applied to a Spiritual Israel, this theology fails to account for the fact that the Birthright Blessings of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were given to the sons of Joseph, and are consequently completely separate from the Sceptre promises concerning Christ that were given to Judah. Replacement Theology overlooks the fact that the Seed that came through Judah has nothing to do with the seed that was to come through Ephraim, just as it has nothing to do with seed that came through Ishmael. Praise be to our God who fulfils ALL His promises to all the seed. Hallelujah!

Romans 11:29 NKJV

For the gifts and the calling of God *are* irrevocable.

Most scholars have no problem believing that the promises to Ishmael have most certainly come to pass. They look at the situation in the Middle East and commiserate among themselves about what Abraham and Sarah's decision has brought forth. By way of reminder, here are the promises made to the three different seeds. First we have the promise concerning the seed of Hagar, her son Ishmael.

Genesis 16:10-11

And the angel of the Lord said unto her, I will multiply **thy seed** exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude. 11 And the angel of the Lord said unto her, Behold, thou art with child and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the Lord hath heard thy affliction. (Emphasis mine)

Then, in the passage from Galatians we have the hidden promise of the Seed that was to come through Judah which we all appreciate as being fulfilled in Christ.

Galatians 3:16 NKJV

Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to **your Seed**," who is Christ. (Emphasis mine)

And then we have the promises concerning the seed that was to come from Ephraim.

Genesis 48:17-19

And when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand upon the head of Ephraim, it displeased him: and he held up his father's hand, to remove it from Ephraim's head unto Manasseh's head. 18 And Joseph said unto his father, Not so, my father: for this is the firstborn; put thy right hand upon his head. 19 And his father refused, and said, I know it, my son, I know it: he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great: but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, **and his seed** shall become a multitude of nations. (Emphasis mine)

It needs to be emphatically stated that the seed of Ephraim is not the Seed fulfilled in Christ; that Seed came through Judah. The importance and significance of the Birthright Promise is absolutely critical for us to acknowledge, for without the awareness of the Promises of God regarding the Birthright, one simply cannot get an accurate understanding of the Latter Days. This truth will become increasingly apparent as this study continues.

And so we have the Patriarchal Prophecies wherein we find assurance from God concerning both the Sceptre and the Birthright. We have the birth of the Lion and the birth of the Unicorn and the promises of God for them both. The Lion being Judah and the Unicorn being Joseph, in particular the horns being his sons. The Sceptre was granted to Judah and the Birthright Blessing of greatness and fruitfulness was granted to Joseph's sons: Manasseh was promised to become a great nation and Ephraim was to become greater by becoming a multitude, or company of nations.

THE PATRIARCHAL PROMISES

