

CORNERSTONE WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY - MARCH 10, 2010

Embracing the Future While Remembering the Past

Genesis 33: 18-20 (NLT): [Jacob had just been reconciled to his brother Esau, from whom he had stolen his father's (Isaac) birthright]...Later, having traveled all the way from Paddan-aram [near Haran], Jacob arrived safely at the town of Shechem, in the land of Canaan. There he set up camp outside the town. ¹⁹Jacob bought the plot of land where he camped from the family of Hamor, the father of Shechem, for 100 pieces of silver. ²⁰And there he built an altar and named it El-Elohe-Israel [God, the God of Israel].

Genesis 50: 24-25 (NLT): "Soon I will die," Joseph told his brothers, "but God will surely come to help you and lead you out of this land of Egypt. He will bring you back to the land he solemnly promised to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob." ²⁵Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear an oath, and he said, "When God comes to help you and lead you back, you must take my bones with you." ²⁶So Joseph died at the age of 110. The Egyptians embalmed him, and his body was placed in a coffin in Egypt.

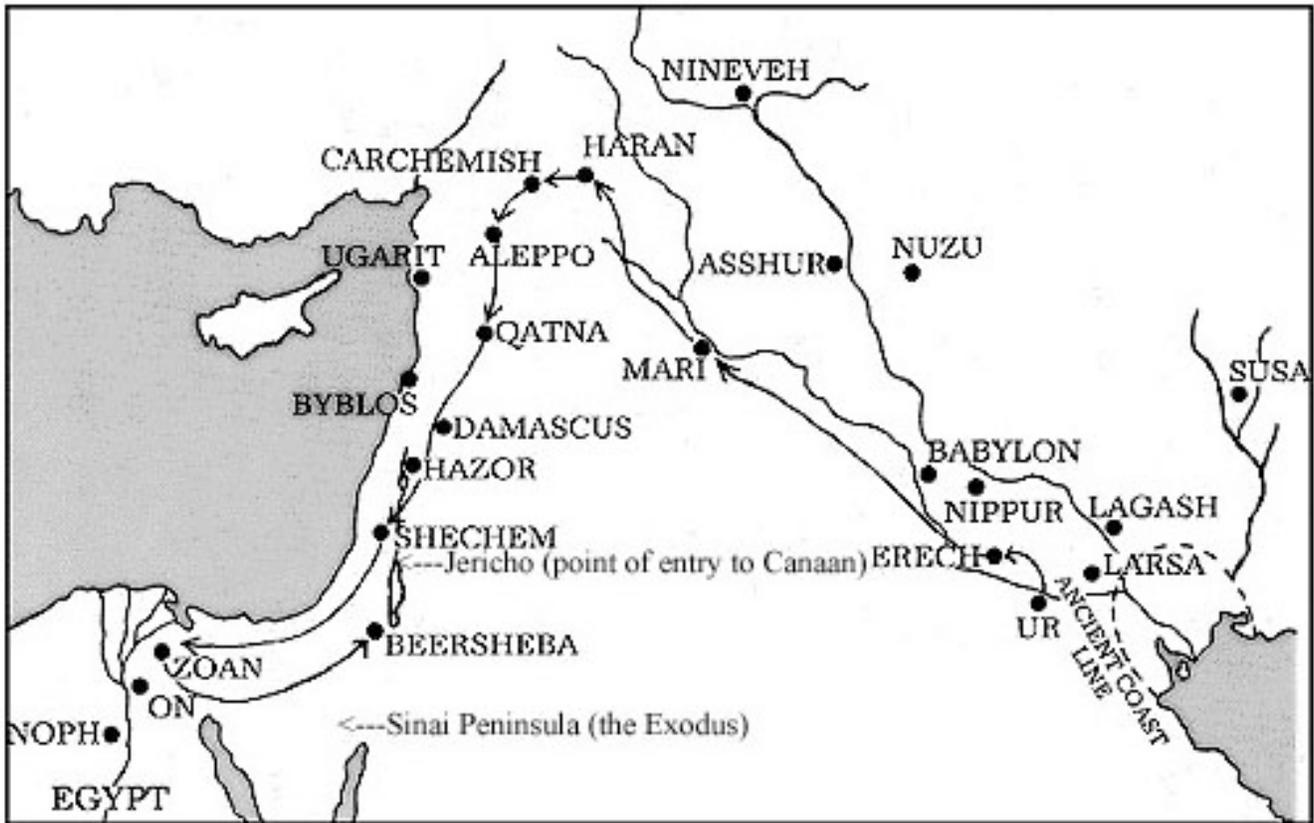
Exodus 13:19 (NLT): Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for Joseph had made the sons of Israel swear to do this. He said, "God will certainly come to help you. When he does, you must take my bones with you from this place."

Joshua 24:32 (NLT): The bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel had brought up out of Egypt, they buried at Shechem, in the plot of ground which Jacob had bought from the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for one hundred pieces of silver, and which had become an inheritance of the children of Joseph.

PERSONAL REFLECTION: Think back on your past. Have you seen this type of cycle in your own life? Or have you experienced specific events that set the stage for something that subsequently happened (in the future)? If it's helpful, write down your thoughts.

SMALL GROUP TIME: Focus on listening to one another without interruption. Our intention is to be inspired and to learn from one another's unique experiences and perspectives.

- Each person should describe what he or she thought about during the personal reflection period.
- Question for group discussion: Are there things that stand in the way of integrating or linking the past and future in your life? What are they? How might we deal with them?



TIMELINE FROM ABRAHAM'S CALL TO THE BURIAL OF JOSEPH'S BONES IN CANAAN

- ~2092 BC: Abraham (Abram) called by God out of Ur
- ~2067 BC: Abraham's son Isaac is born
- ~2030 BC: God calls upon Abraham to sacrifice Isaac
- ~2007 BC: Jacob is born to Isaac
- ~1877 BC: Jacob and his family migrate to Egypt under the protection of Joseph
- ~1447 BC: The Exodus
- ~1407 BC: The people of Israel enter Canaan
- ~1380 BC: Joseph's bones are buried in Canaan

The entire cycle, spanning from promise to final fulfillment was over **700 years**.

NOTES: