

The Genesis Bible Study

thoughts by Lori Ann Sparks for
Genesis: The Promise Begins Ballet

PART1 Creation: Promise of the Last Adam

A.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

In the ballet, God is represented by three dancers for the Trinity:

Father God (to be a presence onstage and yet to be undistinguishable by his face not showing), Jesus Christ, (Son of God, who in future will become flesh to save us all from our sins), and Holy Spirit (that part of God who resides within us). Because God is a Trinity, Jesus and Holy Spirit had as much say about Creation and Promises as Father God. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made..." (John1:1-3) And the Word is Jesus Christ who has fulfilled all the prophecies and Genesis promises (among many others) and paid the sin debt, the Lamb that was Slain, and who will come again. Amen.

Genesis 1:1- 2



Day 1: LIGHT

On Day 1, God created light. God is Light, but I believe that when the Bible says, on day one, He created light, He was creating energy, waves, substance, and physical properties. Remember God the Trinity is Spirit. Jesus had to put on flesh when He came to earth. Before Light, the earth was without form and void. God separated light from darkness and gave us day and night.

Genesis 1:3-5

Day 2: HEAVENS

On Day 2, God created the Heavens. Now that He has hydrogen and oxygen, He combined it to make water. He moved waters around and made the three atmospheres: first heaven is the earth's atmosphere, the second is the heaven of our solar system, and the third heaven is where God's throne resides.

Genesis 1:6 8



Day 3: SEAS & EARTH

On Day 3, God made the Seas and Land. He separated the waters to allow Land to be formed. The waters He called Seas, and the Land He called Earth. But He was not finished yet. He made the Earth sprout plants, trees, and flowers. Isn't it funny that the Earth grew plants before the Sun was made? God can do anything.

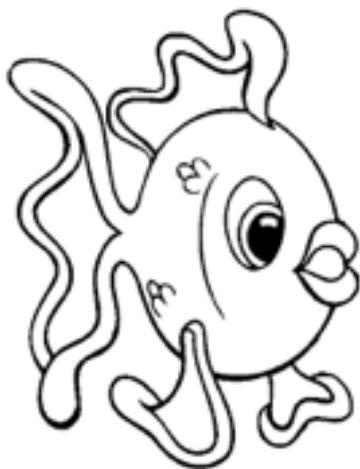
Genesis 1:9-13

Day 4: THE LIGHTS IN THE HEAVENS

On Day 4, God created "lights in the expanse of the heavens." I believe it possible that it was this day that He created angels, ones to minister to humans, ones to be messengers, and ones orchestrated to worship God. Angels may have been created before God began creating our physical world. But He definitely created the Sun "to rule the Day," the Moon "to rule the night," and the Stars to create seasons, days, and years. Perhaps this is the day He set the planets in orbit.

Genesis 1:14 - 19

Day 5: FISH / SEA CREATURES, FOWL



Bird Coloring Pages



On Day 5, God created the sea animals and the birds of the air. I look at the colors of the animals that He created and love how "creative" He is.

Genesis 1:20 - 23

Day 6: BEASTS & CREEPING THINGS / MAN

On Day 6, God created "livestock, creeping things, and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." I tend to think of livestock as God-made lawnmowers. He was having fun when He made creeping things. The beasts would have been like lions, tigers, and bears - oh my! They all have certain jobs on this earth. And aren't we all glad to have our puppies, kittens, chickens, bunnies, and guinea pigs? God created each kind of animal. They were so different that there is not a chance that they could have evolved. Giraffes have special heart pumps to make blood flow from the toes of their long legs up to the head through that very long neck. How could a frog come from a giraffe? Or an elephant from a lizard? It takes much more faith to believe in evolution than in Creation. Plus, death did not enter into the world until Adam ate of the forbidden fruit.

Genesis 1:24 - 27

Now, After all of this, God created His Masterpiece, Man, made in God's likeness. "**So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them,**" (*Genesis 1:27*). I don't know about you, but I'm glad I'm haven't evolved from a cockroach (or anything else)!! Truly that is an insult as mankind was created in the image of God, the Trinity.

Now I have a few questions. First the beasts and creeping things were made. God mixed mud and water from the mist of the earth to make Adam. And Adam was told to name all the animals. I wonder how long after Adam was created before God made Eve?

*Was time formed after the fall so that man would not have to live in an eternally sinful state?

*Was the 6th day like a thousand years where Adam had lots of time to explore the Garden first so he would know that he did not have someone to be like him, to understand that he would want a relationship with someone just like God wanted a relationship with humans.

*All the other living creatures were made male and female so they could reproduce. I am sure Adam wondered if he was going to be the only human.

I do not in any way believe in evolution, which the above paragraph sounds like. Creation is exactly that. But these are valid questions that I wanted to pose to make people think and search the bible for answers.

In the ballet, I have Eve created right away. But Eve was not made from mud and water or any other substance God created. God used Adam's rib. She was the first creation made from another living creation, and without Eve, Adam could not have offspring. So Eve was made from Adam's rib, and people were birthed from Eve. Adam named Eve, meaning Mother of all living, (Genesis 3:20).

Day 7: GOD RESTED

God rested because He had finished His work. He put Adam in a finished work, which is a picture of Christ, the finisher of our faith. When we rest in what He has done, there is peace. Obviously, rest is very important, both the spiritual and the physical. Our bodies are designed to need rest so we can restore and work in peace with God at our side.

B.

THE FIRST STRUGGLE:

First was the fall of Lucifer and his minions. Lucifer was created in splendor. His description is "You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared. You were an anointed guardian cherub, I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you." (Ezekiel 28: 11 - 15).

What was the unrighteousness found in Lucifer? He was an anointed guardian cherub, an archangel who I think was formed to create beautiful sound in worship of God. I think he was placed in the garden of Eden to guard and take care of Adam and Eve. But, Lucifer was so beautiful and the most glorious angel in heaven, and that made him prideful, and jealous of this human being that God created and he had to take care of. Lucifer did not want to worship God. He wanted to BE God. I bet Michael, the military leader of all Heaven, and Gabriel, the Minister to God Himself, were very disappointed when Lucifer decided to play god.

"How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit," (Isaiah 14:12 - 15). This is a description in history of the King of Tyre, but it also describes Lucifer. Just as the Ram that takes Isaac's place on the altar, Jesus is not called a Ram but is represented by one, so Isaiah 14 would be a good description of Lucifer.

THE FALL OF MAN:

God gave Man, Adam, a job — to take care of the Garden of Eden, in bible words to “dress” and “keep” it (Genesis 2:15). To “dress” the garden means that Adam was to work, serve, be a husbandman and a worshipper. To “keep” means to hedge, guard, protect, attend, and save, (both terms from Strong’s Concordance). And God gave Adam only one rule — don’t eat the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.



Now, you know that the serpent (which I think the Fallen Lucifer entered into) told Eve to eat that fruit because God was holding out GOOD to her. Why did Lucifer go to Eve when Adam is the one held accountable for eating the fruit? I believe that Lucifer knew the way to Adam’s heart was through Eve. Eve was deceived by Lucifer, and Adam did NOT protect her from him. Poor Eve, she gets the bad wrap from all of us blaming her, (though painful childbirth can be a really good reason LOL). But Adam loved her so much he ate the fruit too, even though he knew it was wrong. It’s sad to think that maybe our lives would be different now if this event had not happened. However, God already knew what was going to happen — He was already there in the future even before Adam and Eve were created, and Jesus was already willing to give his life for atonement.



Because God had spoken directly to Adam and because Adam was the one accountable for the family, it was Adam, not Eve, who disobeyed God and that counted as sin. Although God called out to Adam asking where he was, God knew. I’m sure He was sad, but He knew ahead of time that Adam would disobey. That’s why there is Jesus, the Last Adam, the Adam who did not sin but who completely obeyed and fulfilled all Scripture. . .Jesus, the Lamb that was slain for the world. And Father God gave Adam and Eve a coat of animal skins, **the first death in the world**. (remember God said “but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die,” Genesis 2:17) The death of an animal. Life blood slain for the sin of Adam. An animal’s life to cover up man’s body, and animal blood to represent the Blood of Jesus. And thus the process of life and death began for all.

With the fall of Adam came the understanding of guilt and condemnation — or in other words, shame — (Genesis 3:7 - 11) as well as consequences.

The Three Curses from the Fall of the First Adam are:

- 1) The serpent is cursed above all livestock & beasts of the field and will crawl on his belly. Also, Woman's offspring (Jesus Christ) will bruise your head (crush & destroy the curse from the serpent), and the serpent will bruise his heel. (The prophecy of Jesus Christ.) Genesis 3:14-15

- 2) Part A: Women shall have pain in bearing children.
Part B: Your husband shall rule over you. Eve's desire was to rule over Adam. Women became domineering at this point, wanting to be in control.

Genesis 3:16

- 3) The earth is now fallen and will grow thorns and thistles, and man will have to toil to work the earth until you return to it as dust (death) Genesis 3:18-19

Let's talk a bit about the serpent's curse. In the ballet, this is the important curse. It is the first gospel presentation. God foretold that Jesus would be born to bruise Lucifer's head while Lucifer would bruise Jesus' heel. Looking back at Revelation 12:1 - 4, we can see that Satan tried to "devour" Jesus several times. First, King Herod killed all the male babies two years and under in the town of Bethlehem because the magi told him Jesus would be born there (Matt 2:16). Second, Satan tried to make Jesus fall by tempting Him when He'd fasted for 40 days / nights (Matt 4:1-11). Third, Satan used Peter to tell Jesus not to go to the cross (Matt 16:22). When Jesus declared Himself God's Son, the people tried to throw Him off a mountain (Luke 4:21) or stone Him (Luke 4:25-27). Then we see in Rev 12 that the Woman dressed in the Sun, standing on the Moon, with 12 stars on her crown (representing Israel; We see this in Joseph's second dream) birthed a baby that Satan tried to devour. — please note this information from this whole paragraph comes from "The Continuing Conflict" by David M. Levy from July/August 2022 *Israel My Glory*.

When you consider what Satan got the crowd to do to Jesus the two days of His death, you can see Satan was going to all extremes to wound and destroy Him. Jesus sweat blood in the Garden of Gethsemane, people plucked His beard out, pushed a crown of thorns on His head, beat and spat upon Him, whipped Him until He had no skin left, made Him carry the cross until He couldn't, nailed Him to the wood, crucified Him, and even after He'd dismissed His Spirit they punctured Him with a sword. Dead, dead, and more dead. But was He dead? No, Lucifer had only bruised His heel. The prophecy was deeper than Lucifer ever knew. Jesus rose again to live and give us life through His blood. Indeed, Jesus was the Last Adam. "The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God," (Romans 6:11).

In the ballet, we do not cover Cain & Abel, nor do we talk about Seth who is the ancestor of Noah, but you may read more about them in Genesis 4.



PART 2: Noah's Ark: The Promise of a New Generation

WHY NOAH?

Genesis covers the topic of Noah and the Ark. It also covers the reason why God decided to destroy the inhabitants of the earth.

Once Adam and Eve were sent from the Garden of Eden, they had children, lots of them. And “when man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. ... The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown,” (Genesis 6:1 - 4). Now many people try to say that the sons of God were just regular men, but if you look at some verses in the bible and study this topic deeply, you realize that these sons of God were more likely fallen angels or demons. Lucifer, now satan, decided that if he could corrupt the blood line of mankind with his seed, then Jesus could not be born to save mankind. Read about the Nephilim in the Genesis 6:1-6, Numbers 13:33, Job 1:6 & 38:7, Jude 1:6-7, Genesis 14:5, Deuteronomy 2:20-21.

This corruption was very prevalent. “The Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. So the Lord said, ‘I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.’ BUT Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord,” (Genesis 6:6 - 8).

So Noah was this great guy who was perfect, and God loved him because he did all the right things and sought after God all the time, like King David, and the prophet Elijah, and the warrior Gideon, right (Note: I'm being sarcastic here)? Wrong! God chose Noah because Noah's blood line was still clean and not corrupted from the demonic activity, not because he was this perfect guy. Who's perfect? Only Jesus!

THE ARK

Lamech prophesied over Noah saying, “Out of the ground that the Lord has cursed, this one shall bring us relief from our work and from the painful toil of our hands,” (Genesis 5:29).

The Ark was made from gopher wood and covered with pitch inside and out. The instructions to build the ark were very specific, but to me the important information is the representation made by the gopher wood and pitch. According to Strong's Concordance, “gopher” means to house. According to Bible Study Tools online, Paul de “Lagarde considered that it (gopher wood) was connected with *gophrith*, meaning ‘brimstone,’ or ‘pitch’...” In answersingenesis.org, the article “Gopher Wood: The Mystery of the Ark’s Timber” states “a creationist publication repeated ...; *Gopher* is actually a root of the word *gophrith*, which is translated seven times in the Old Testament as ‘brimstone’ in the context of God’s fiery judgment on human wickedness.” This particular article goes on to say that *gopher* is actually just a type of wood that was strong and floated and does not mean *brimstone*. However, both to *house* or *brimstone* either one makes a cool picture. The Greek word, according to Strong's Concordance, for “pitch” means *to atone for, purge, appease*. So we can look at the ark as being a house made of judgment and covered in atonement, another picture of Jesus Christ whose blood cleanses us from all sin.

GOD'S COVENANT WITH NOAH

A. When Noah and his family exited the ark, Noah offered burnt offerings of every clean animal and every clean bird on an altar. The aroma was pleasing to the Lord (Genesis 8:21).

God promises that He will never wipe away every living creature on the face of the earth again by a flood. He says, "While earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease, (Genesis 8:23). I don't know about you, but to me, the phrase, "While earth remains" is a sure sign that God is going to one day remove this earth and create a new unblemished one. That would be the New Jerusalem in Revelation.



B. God gives Noah a new food plan. All living creatures now have fear of Noah & mankind, Genesis 9:2. . "Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood," (Genesis 9:3-4).

C. God's Covenant: "And God said This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and ever living creature of all flesh, and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh," (Genesis 9:12 - 16). The rainbow God places in the sky is a sign for me that tells me God keeps His Promises. There are a lot of Promises in Genesis. I believe that God keeps them all!

In the ballet, we do not cover the topic of Ham and Canaan. Please read more about them in Genesis.

Part 3: Nimrod's Babel: The Promise of God's Intervention

According to the bible, "Ham's four sons are Cush, Egypt, Put, and Canaan. Cush fathered Nimrod who was the first on earth to be a mighty man. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD," (Genesis 10:6 and 8). From this we see a couple of issues. First, since Nimrod is

the FIRST on earth to be a mighty man, that possibly means the demonic activity began again. That also means in order for God to have a pure bloodline, He has to keep a separate group of people for Jesus to come through. Perhaps this is why He used Abraham later and choose the Hebrews as His People. Secondly, the bible says Cush fathered Nimrod, does that mean Nimrod was of his seed or of a demon and he just raised him? Third, Nimrod is a mighty hunter, of what? I think he hunted the souls of men because he developed many kingdoms including Babel, Assyria, Nineveh and others (Genesis 10:10-12).

In the ballet, we have Nimrod represented by Lucifer, and Nimrod heads the construction of the Tower of Babel. The Bible says, "The beginning of his kingdom was Babel," (Genesis 10:10). Because Nimrod was not a follower of the Lord God and was in rebellion to Him, plus was possibly of demonic seed, I feel that Nimrod was led by Lucifer. Nimrod wanted to build a tower to reach the heavens. This is similar to Lucifer's desire to be on the level of God. Nimrod also was a humanist, a believer that man is god. Thus, Nimrod is danced by the character Lucifer.

"Now the whole earth had one language and the same words...Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth," (Genesis 11:1 & 4). "And the Lord said, 'Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech,'" (Genesis 11:6-7).

This is exactly what we depict in the ballet:

- * Nimrod constructs the tower,
- * People come to work dressed all alike to represent the same language,
- * God changes their language,
- * The same people enter dressed in different clothing to represent new cultures and new languages.

God has intervened again in the life of mankind. "Intervention" means taking action to improve, protect, and prevent harm. Obviously, there was a reason man was to spread over all the earth.



Part 4: Abraham: The Promise of a Blessing to All Families

A.

The first scene we show about Abraham in the ballet is this: "Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed," (Genesis 12: 1 - 7). —Just a reminder that Abram is Abraham's name before God changed it, and I use it interchangeably. — So here is the first promise to Abraham, that ALL FAMILIES will be blessed through him. All families means yours and mine. It means Jesus' lineage would come through Abraham, down through Isaac, then Jacob, and then Judah.

To save time in the ballet, we skip Abraham and Sarah's stay in Egypt and the separation of him and Lot.

B.

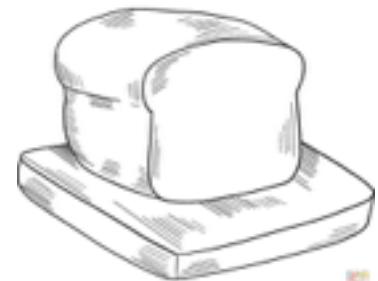
I find it very important to have the message of Melchizedek in the ballet. Abram has just returned from a battle. Melchizedek meets Abram. "And Melchizedek King of Salem brought out bread and wine (He was priest of God Most High.)," (Genesis 14:18 parenthesis from the bible).

Here is the very first communion in the bible: the presentation of bread representing Christ's body / flesh to feed us and to impart healing powers through his brokenness and stripes he bares in the future (Jesus the bread of life), and the presentation of wine representing the blood Christ will pour out upon the cross as the Lamb that was slain for all families's sins.

"And he (Melchizedek) blessed him (Abram) and said, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!" (Genesis 14:19, my parenthesis). I believe that Melchizedek is Jesus as priest appearing to Abram to remind him that God is with him and that God is the One blessing him. So then Abram brings out a tenth of everything to give back to Melchizedek, the first tithe.

These are two very important firsts in the Holy Bible that set important reminders for all Christians every where every day. Jesus is our sustenance and eternal life, and we tithe to remember that everything comes from God Most High.

Just who is Melchizedek? Is he really a King from a country called Salem just representing a picture of Jesus like Joseph does, or is he Jesus come in a similar form that God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit came to visit Abraham as three men who Abraham entertained during an prophetic visit that Sarah would be having his son next year about this time (see Genesis 18:2 when Sarah laughed about this news)? You may decide for yourself. Hebrews 7:1-3 describes this king: "For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is king of peace. He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever."



Abraham was from Mesopotamia, a town called Haran. God called him to go to a new land that He would show him. That means Sarah (Sarai at the time) did not know where she was moving to. I don't know about you, but I like to know ahead of time where I am going to live and what I am going to do. Now Haran is a bit important because Haran is where Abraham sends his servant, Eliezer, back to get a wife for Isaac so that Isaac's wife will be from his family and not a foreign wife. This was important to Abraham (Genesis 24:2 - 3). But we are ahead of the story.

So God has promised Abraham that all families would be blessed through him, yet Abraham has not had any kiddos yet. In the ballet, God reconfirms that Abram will have offspring. "'Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great. . .Your very own son shall be your heir.' And He brought him outside and said, 'Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them. So shall your offspring be.' And Abram believed the LORD, and He counted it to him as righteousness," (Genesis 15:1 - 6).

I do not have the prophecy to Abraham that Israel shall be afflicted for 400 years and will come out with great possessions. Please read Genesis 15:7 - 21 for that part of the story.



Now we have a problem. If Abraham is going to have enough offspring to number the stars, when is Sarah, who is now 76 years old, going to get pregnant? Sarah (Sarai at this time) decides to take this issue into her own hands, (you know, that old curse women want to be in control). "So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife..., and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress," (Genesis 16:3 - 4). Well, how many times have you gotten tired of waiting on God to do what you think He should and have taken the situation into your own hands? Admit it, it happens, doesn't it? Yea, me too. He's the problem solver; give it to Him. In addition, Abraham should have said No, that taking this offspring issue in their own hands would be wrong. So gentlemen, you are held accountable by Jesus to hold your family accountable to Him.

In the ballet, we see the conflict arise between Sarai and Hagar. Abram tells Sarai to handle Hagar as she sees fit, so Sarai "dealt harshly with her, and she (Hagar) fled from her," (Genesis 16:6). You can imagine what an ordeal Hagar was going through at this time. She has left her home and run away from her mistress because she is pregnant, and here she had figured she was going to be the next princess. She is in the desert in much need of water and finds a spring in the wilderness. The Lord does not abandon her but sees her and goes to visit her, refreshing her with water and with a prophecy. The angel prophesies that 1) she is having a son, 2) his name is to be Ishmael, and 3) he shall be like a wild donkey that fights all his kinsmen, (Genesis 16: 7 - 15).

Hagar obeys the Angel, swallowing her pride, and goes home to submit herself to her mistress. Abram is 86 years old when Ishmael is born. Is Ishmael the promised heir to Abraham who will extend the blessing of God to all families? No, Ishmael is not.

When Abram is 99 years old, God appears to Abraham, renames Sarai to Sarah and Abram to Abraham, and foretells of Isaac, even naming him, "But I will establish my covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this time next year," (Genesis 17:21).

In the ballet we skip from Genesis 17 to Genesis 22. There is much that happens to Hagar and Ishmael during these pages, so please read them to understand more.

A very remarkable event happens when Isaac is, we think, a teenager. God tests Abraham's faith by asking him to sacrifice Isaac. Back then, it was not uncommon for

worshippers of Baal and Molech (a god of human sacrifice in the old testament) to sacrifice their children to receive benefits from these gods. Abraham believed in God's prophecy that all families would be blessed through him and through Isaac, so he may have believed that Isaac would be raised back to life if God required this sacrifice.

Abraham sets out to the land of **Moriah** (the future place of Solomon's Temple / during Jesus time, Harrod's palace) with **wood on Isaac's back** (Jesus carried his cross at least as long as He could) and the fire and knife in his own hand. The Son follows the Father. They traveled **three days** to reach the exact place. Abraham's faith was so strong in God that when Isaac asks where is the lamb for a burnt offering, "Abraham said, 'God **will provide for himself the lamb** for a burnt offering, my son," (Genesis 22:8). In the ballet, we show that Isaac (a willing sacrifice) is upon the altar bound, with Abraham's knife raised to strike when the Holy Spirit grabs Abraham's arm to stop the motion downward as Father God tells him to stop, and Jesus, **the ram**, caught with his **head in the thorns**, is ready to be sacrificed. What a beautiful picture of what Christ did for us on that wicked cross.



Part 5: Jacob & Esau: The Promise of a Nation

A. The Sweetest Love Story

After Sarah passes away from old age, Abraham commands Eliezer, his faithful servant, to go find Isaac a wife. Remember we talked about this a little earlier. Eliezer has to go back to Haran where Abraham was from originally, BUT Eliezer is NOT to take Isaac back to Haran to live. It was very important to Abraham that Isaac dwells where they are because he believed God's covenant.

We can see how God worked to bring Rebekah to Isaac. To me, their union was the sweetest love story in the bible. God was preparing Rebekah to be Isaac's wife before Eliezer showed up. Eliezer is hoping God will be very clear, so he prays to God and asks that God would send Isaac's wife and that he would identify who she is by her giving water to him and also to his camels. Now, how would you feel if you were a young, single, beautiful woman, you offer to take care of some servant and to water his camels, and the next thing you know, you are being offered a hand in marriage to a very wealthy man (a cousin for it turns out that she is related to Abraham) in another country? Would you go for it, or would you be afraid? God

definitely was working in her heart before Eliezer arrived, and I believe that Rebekah knows who Abraham is. She sees how God is working on her behalf, to be asked of all the women in Haran, to be Abraham's daughter-in-law, a picture of how the Holy Spirit calls us.

In the ballet, there are other women around the well ignoring Eliezer, but it is Rebekah who goes to him to answer his plea for water and immediately offers to water his camels. While he is rejoicing, he showers gifts upon her and explains the complete situation. She agrees to go marry Isaac and begin a new life with him. "Then Isaac brought her into the tent of Sarah his mother and took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death," (Genesis 24:67). I just think that portrays what a lovely person Rebekah is and how she put her faith in Father God as Abraham had done, and Isaac portrays the love of Jesus in that he accepted her and "loved her."



Though it is not in the ballet, Rebekah struggles having twin boys. These boys were fighting even in her womb. Rebekah inquires of the Lord what is happening inside her. The Lord tells her "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger," (Genesis 25:23). So ahead of her time, Rebekah knows that the oldest will be under the youngest. I believe that is why she helped with the next part of the ballet.

Another part not in the ballet is Esau selling his birthright for a bowl of soup.

B. Stealing the Blessing

Isaac, much older and quite blind, wants to bless his son, Esau, because he is the oldest and the favorite of Isaac. So Rebekah helps Jacob, the youngest twin, trick his dad. She puts goat hair on him to feel and smell like Esau, who is hairy and always hunting, and cooks Isaac's favorite food, a dish that Esau usually prepares. Jacob steals Isaac's blessing with Isaac not reserving any favor or part of a blessing for his other son. He blesses Jacob, unknowingly, that he would be lord over Esau. I firmly believe that when the blessings were given over their sons, that these men prophesied over their sons because whatever was said always came true, even

if the fathers were not following God appropriately at the time. It is an example of how the spoken word comes true — so be very careful with the words you say! Esau's blessing foretold that he would move away, live by the sword, serve his brother, and finally break the yoke from his neck, meaning to break free from his brother Jacob (Genesis 27:39 - 40), which is exactly what happens later.

Some people may feel sorry for Esau, but the truth is, Esau vexed his family. He was rebellious and already married to Hittite women (Genesis 27:46), and when Jacob runs for safety from Esau to Haran, sent by Rebekah to her brother Laban to find a wife, Esau now marries an Ishmaelite. "So when Esau saw that the Canaanite women did not please Isaac his father, Esau went to Ishmael and took as his wife, besides the wives he had, Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son, the sister of Nebaioth," (Genesis 28:8 - 9). Was he trying to please his father now, or was he adding to his rebellion? I am not sure.

C. Jacob's Ladder

On the way to Haran, Jacob has a dream of angels going up and down a ladder to heaven. And at the top of the ladder is Father God who tells him that He would be with Jacob until he comes back to settle in the land on which he is sleeping and that every family would be blessed because of him. So God is continuing the blessing of Abraham through Isaac through Jacob. First, Father God identifies Himself by stating, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac," (Genesis 28:13). This is important because another spirit could have come to Jacob in a dream, but we are certain who is doing Jacob's blessing. Second, it is important that the covenant with Abraham is repeated. "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 in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed," (Genesis 28:13 - 14). This blessing is a turning point in Jacob's belief in Father God. Calling the place Bethel, "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 the LORD shall be my God,'" (Genesis 28:20- 21).

D. Finding the Family

Once in Haran, Jacob meets Rachel, Laban's daughter, at a well and weeps knowing he has found Rebekah's family. As we learn more about Laban, we can see that Rebekah, who loves God, and Laban are polar opposites. Laban is like Jacob, a trickster (though Rebekah must have learned trick lessons from her brother when growing up). Though Jacob has determined that if God holds up his side of the covenant, he will be a follower of God, Laban obviously follows gods. He has several idols that Rachel steals when she leaves Haran (Genesis 31:35). He uses divination to help him in his wealth (Genesis 30:27). We can see that Rachel was a rather spoiled daughter because she is beautiful in form and appearance (Genesis 29:17). Laban obviously has not taught his daughters to love the Lord God, and is as much if not more of a trickster than Jacob is.

E. The Bad Trick

Jacob agrees to work seven years to marry Rachel, the youngest daughter. At the end of this time (that's a very long time to wait if you ask me), Laban pulls a big trick on Jacob. Leah is the one Jacob marries, without knowing it. How, you probably ask, did he manage to marry Leah without knowing it was not Rachel? Well, I believe that in those times they wore coverings

that covered their form and their face. Since Leah had “weak eyes” which could either mean that she was more docile than Rachel, that she had a physical defect in her eyes, so that she had blue eyes (which is what I think), then Jacob probably had too much to drink on his wedding night and did not notice.

Anyway, after Laban’s trick to marry off his first born who no one wants, Jacob agrees to work seven more years for Rachel as long as he can have her now. Each daughter has a servant: Leah has Zilpah, and Rachel has Bilhah, and in the contest between Leah and Rachel to have the most children, they gave their servants to Jacob as wives as well. You can imagine that with the mess Abraham had with having children from both Sarah and Hagar that there would definitely be a mess with having four wives! And in addition to that, Jacob really only loved Rachel. How sad for Leah. She feels unloved, was made to marry a man who did not love her because her dad was not the greatest guy in the world (that’s for sure!!), but God values her as special. Leah is the one who has 6 sons and a daughter, and one of her sons, Judah, is the one whose lineage carries Christ, the Son of God. Wow! What a blessing! Then Rachel finally has a son, Joseph, and later becomes pregnant again with Benjamin.

As it happens, Jacob ends up with 11 sons, a daughter, and a lot of fighting, squabbling, and anger. It really is not a good situation. Jacob’s prosperity grows greatly, and he decides it is time to return to home.



F. The Struggles of an Unhappy Family

On his way, Jacob stays alone on one side of a stream while his family stays on the other side. He probably needed some time alone from all the squabbling, and he needed time alone to contemplate his future decisions, (since Esau was around and Jacob did not know if Esau was going to kill him or not). During that night “a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob’s hip was put out of joint,” (Genesis 32:24 - 25). Jacob, still refusing to release this man even though injured, demands a blessing before he is willing to let go. The man says, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed’ . . . and he blessed him,” (Genesis 32:28 - 29). The birth of The Nation of Israel came into existence that morning. In the ballet, we show the struggle of Jacob with the man, an angel, and his sons with one another. It was not an enjoyable but rather a very trying time in Jacob’s life.

Benjamin is not yet born at this point. Though we do not show it, Benjamin’s birth takes place in Bethlehem on the way to the land where Isaac lives. It is in Bethlehem that Rachel dies giving birth to Benjamin. And when Jacob (now Israel) arrives home, Isaac dies, and both Esau and Jacob, finally united, bury him. That must have been a sad time for Jacob.

We skip several events in Genesis that are very important in God’s story but do not pertain so much to our promises, and so we move on to Joseph.

Part 6: Joseph: The Promise of Life

Joseph, probably around seventeen years old, understands much in administration and maintains a strong sense of right and wrong. He is favored by his father since he was birthed by Rachel, the beloved wife who is gone. Every time Joseph’s brothers look at his beautiful coat of many colors, they become jealous and desire to rise against him, the second youngest who receives more favors than they! It is crazy how the eldest sons are so full of wickedness and Joseph is full of wanting to do what is right.

A. Joseph’s 2 Dreams:

Joseph has two dreams which he somewhat boastfully pronounces to his family. I suppose he needed to tell them so they would recognize these dreams had come true when they did, but I just cannot help to feel that Joseph was a little bit prideful when he told them his dreams. Maybe he was trying to ask what these dreams meant, but that is not how his father and brothers took it.

“Now Joseph had a dream and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more. He said to them, ‘Hear this dream that I have dreamed: Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf.’ His brothers said to him, ‘Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to rule over us?’ So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words,” (Genesis 37:5 - 8). The answer to their questions is YES, Joseph will.

Joseph's second dream was that "the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me," (Genesis 37:9), and when he told it, his father rebuked him saying, "Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?" (Genesis 37:10). Again the answer is YES, except it is not Rachel, his mother, but Leah who would bow as well. Also remember in Part 1: Creation, under the Three Curses, Revelation 12 was discussed. Here in the dream we see that the Sun represents Jacob who God has named Israel, one proof that the Sun represents Israel in Revelation 12.

B. The Sale of Joseph

The brothers see Joseph, the tattletale, coming to pay them a visit. They plot to kill him. Rueben decides they should just throw him in a pit so he can come back and release him. Rueben is the actual first born son that should be given the most honor, but his position in the family was displaced by an act that cost him dearly (Genesis 35:22). Perhaps Rueben understood better than the others how a sin causes consequences in life.

While Rueben is absent, Judah persuades his brothers to sell Joseph to the Ishmaelite and Midianite traders that come along. They can be rid of Joseph AND make some money. Thus, Joseph is on his way to Egypt to become the next leader over the world.

After being sold, the brothers take Joseph's coat, dip it into a slain goat's blood and present it to their father, Israel. He is heartbroken and mourns continuously Joseph's "death" until he meets Joseph approximately thirteen years later.

C. The Likeness of Joseph to Jesus

Let us stop for a moment and review the ways Joseph is like Jesus.

- 1) The number 12 pops up — 12 brothers / 12 disciples
- 2) Tells the truth and is hated for it
- 3) Knows what is wrong versus what is right
- 4) Is educated
- 5) Is sold for silver
- 6) Spends time in Egypt
- 7) Beloved of His Father
- 8) Was dead and rose to life
- 9) Was one of the brothers but stood in authority / Jesus was man yet stood in authority
- 10) Extended grace & forgiveness to mankind—
Joseph forgave his brothers / Jesus forgives us
- 11) Both saved lives
- 12) There is not a named sin of Joseph (only because he was under grace though being a man he did sin) / Jesus did not sin because in Him was no sin and He knew no sin

I'd like to touch a minute on #3 in the above list. The Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil was the beginning of the Law, which opened man's eyes and conscience to discern right and wrong. Joseph knew what Potiphar's wife proposed was evil and ran from temptation because he had a close relationship with God and knew God's favor, or grace, was on him. When Jesus came to earth, the Law was still in effect, and He kept it perfectly for us and fulfilled its demands (Romans 8:2-4), so that we could be made righteous, but He was full of grace and

truth and ministered both (John 1:17). Now we are not under Law, but under Grace through Jesus.

I'd also like to touch on #8. Joseph did not die physically but appeared that way to Jacob, and when he came back to life in Jacob's eyes, Joseph saved his family and many people at that time. This is a picture of Jesus who actually did die physically to rise back to life physically to save people eternally.

D. Preparation with Potiphar

While in Egypt, Joseph is stripped down (very humbling) and sold into slavery. He is obviously a well-bred person and chosen by one of the highest officials in Egypt, Potiphar, who puts him in charge of his household. During this time, God is teaching Joseph how to be in charge of a much larger estate and is meeting other officials. Everything Potiphar owns is run by Joseph because God blesses whatever Joseph touches. And Joseph, an honorable man, is willing to touch everything, except for Potiphar's wife (Genesis 39:7 - 10).

E. Preparation in Jail

When his wife lies to him, Potiphar is angry with Joseph, but he does not kill him; he puts him in jail. "But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison," (Genesis 39:21). You see, Joseph had to be in touch with more officials who happened to be imprisoned at this time. He is still learning how to be in charge in different ways and to understand how Egyptian politics run. I wonder what happened to Potiphar and his household after Joseph left?



Once again dreams become important to Joseph, except this time Joseph is doing the interpreting. The cupbearer has a dream involving a vine and grapes. His interpretation is a good one. The baker shares his dream involving three baskets and three black birds. His

interpretation is not a good one. (Genesis 40: 9 - 23) And Joseph asks that the cupbearer remembers him when his position is restored. Yes, Joseph did want out of jail.

F. Pharaoh's 2 Dreams

Two years later, Pharaoh has two dreams. I believe dreaming twice must mean that the event is definitely going to happen. Pharaoh dreams about cows and corn (kind of reminds me of Greeneville — lots of cows and corn here). After ALL the magicians and wise men of Egypt cannot interpret these dreams, the cupbearer FINALLY remembers Joseph.(Genesis 41)



G. Joseph's Training Yields Wise Leadership

Joseph gives God all the credit saying He would give him the interpretation. Joseph correctly tells Pharaoh that the dreams mean the same, that seven years of plenty would yield seven years of famine. Because of all his administration expertise from years of servitude, Joseph immediately advises a plan of action to protect the world. Joseph is the wisest man in Egypt. Pharaoh claims, "Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God," (Genesis 41:38), so Pharaoh sets Joseph in control, giving him a wife and commanding all to bow to him.

H. Joseph's Dreams Comes True

While "Joseph stored grain in great abundance, like the sand of the sea, until he ceased to measure it, for it could not be measured," (Genesis 41: 49), two sons are born to him, and soon the famine occurs. Joseph's brothers must go to Egypt to provide for their families. "Joseph's brothers came and bowed themselves before him with their faces to the ground....And Joseph remembered the dreams that he had dreamed of them," (Genesis 42: 6 & 9).

Joseph, pretending anger, calls them spies and puts them in jail for three days. When they come out, Joseph places Simeon back in jail saying he will stay there until they return with their youngest brother. Perhaps Joseph wants to see if his brothers have been mistreating

Benjamin like they had him. And I think he chose Simeon because Simeon would be considered the first born since Reuben's dishonor. Joseph listens to his brothers discuss how this trial has come upon them because of what they had done to Joseph long ago, (Genesis 42:17 - 25).

When the grain runs out the second time, Jacob (Israel) tells his sons to go buy more in Egypt. Judah explains that they cannot return without Benjamin. Let me ask you, have they thought about Simeon who is left in jail? I am not sure, but Jacob did NOT want Benjamin to go, so Simeon is left in the Egyptian jail for several months.

Judah makes the promise to Jacob that he will be responsible for Benjamin and will return safely with him or the blame would be on him. This time the brothers return to Egypt with Benjamin to buy grain in order to save their families from starvation. They bring gifts to pay back the gold that was put in their sacks from the first trip, (Genesis 43: 11 - 15).

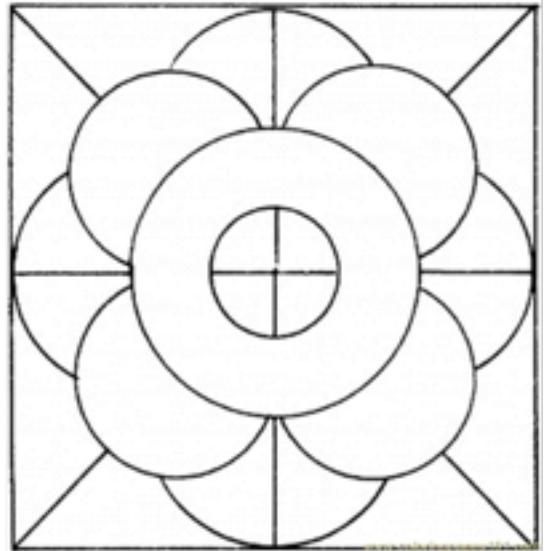
On this second trip, the brothers bow again to Joseph, Simeon is restored to his brothers, and Joseph is overcome with emotion seeing his blood brother, Benjamin. Joseph continues to hide his identity and decides to test the character of his brothers further.

Together they have a meal but must eat in separate stations for the Hebrews are an abomination to the Egyptians, (Genesis 43: 32). At their table, the brothers are seated in birth order; the brothers all believe that Zaphenath-paneah (Joseph's Egyptian name) uses divination to do this. Benjamin is given four times what the others receive, a way to show Joseph's love to Benjamin. Then Joseph commands his steward to secretly put the silver cup into Benjamin's sack on their trip home.

Once the brothers receive their grain and begin their journey home, Joseph's steward runs after them complaining that they have stolen his lord's silver cup. It is during this test that we see Judah's change of heart; he is willing to stay in place of Benjamin in order to protect their father's life (Genesis 44: 32- 34). The repentance of the brothers' hearts allows Joseph to reveal himself to them. They fear for their lives, but Joseph answers, "God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt," (Genesis 45: 7-8), showing grace and forgiveness to his brothers.

I. The Savior of Many Lives

Due to Joseph's great favor in Egypt, Pharaoh is pleased to send the brothers home to bring all their families to the land of Goshen in Egypt, that they may live through the famine. Jacob (Israel) is comforted by God and told to not be afraid to go to Egypt for he shall become a great nation, and there "Joseph's hand shall close your eyes," (Genesis 46: 4). Before Jacob dies, he blesses Joseph's two sons, and Joseph falls on his father's face and weeps over him and kisses him, (Genesis 50:1). Upon Jacob's death, Joseph's brothers ask him for forgiveness, (Genesis 50:17). Joseph



responds, "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today," (Genesis 50: 20).

Part 7: Summary of Genesis: The Promise Begins

And it is this verse that sums up the whole book of Genesis. Again and Again what was meant for evil, God turned into good to give life to all families. "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose," (Romans 8:28).

- I Lucifer's jealousy of Adam causes the fall of Man / Jesus is the last Adam
- II Demons try to destroy man's bloodline / Noah becomes the New Generation
- III Nimrod prepares the world to rebel against God / God intervenes to protect Life
- IV Sarah cannot bear children / Abraham blesses all families through his offspring
- V Jacob deceives to receive / God makes Jacob a new Nation — Israel
- VI His brothers try to destroy Joseph to be rid of him / God prepares Joseph to save lives

In the ballet we see Adam, Noah, Abraham, Jacob, and Joseph all walk together before the Lord.

From the beginning of Creation, Jesus is seen over and over. He is the Last Adam, Melchizedek the high priest forever, the Angel of the Lord, the Ram who took Isaac's place. We see Jesus in Joseph's life while that his brothers wanted to destroy him, God used him to save lives just like Jesus saves all lives of those who accept Him. Jesus is all the Promises in the Holy Word that begin in Genesis and end in Revelation.

Jesus is Immanuel (God with us), the Redeemer, the Alpha, the Omega, the Lamb that was Slain. "At the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father," (Philippians 2: 10 - 11). Amen.

