

GENESIS

¹ In the beginning God made of nought heaven and earth.

² Forsooth the earth was idle and void, and darknesse were on the face of depth; and the Spirit of the Lord was borne on the waters [*or the Spirit of God was borne upon the waters*].

³ And God said, Light be made, and the light was made.

⁴ And God saw the light, that it was good, and he parted the light from darknesse;

⁵ and he called the light, day, and the darknesse, night. And the eventide and the morrowtide was made, one day.

⁶ And God said, The firmament be made in the midst of waters, and part waters from waters.

⁷ And God made the firmament, and parted the waters that were under the firmament, from the waters that were on the firmament [*or that were above the firmament*]; and it was done so.

⁸ And God called the firmament, heaven. And the eventide and the morrowtide was made, the second day.

⁹ Forsooth God said, The waters, that be under heaven, be gathered into one place, and a dry place appear; and it was done so.

¹⁰ And God called the dry place, earth; and he called the gatherings together of waters, the seas. And God saw that it was good;

¹¹ and said, The earth bring forth green herb, and making seed, and an apple tree making fruit

by his kind, whose seed be in itself, on [*the*] earth; and it was done so.

¹² And the earth brought forth green herb and making seed by his kind, and a tree making fruit, and each having seed by his kind. And God saw that it was good.

¹³ And the eventide and the morrowtide was made, the third day.

¹⁴ Forsooth God said, Lights be made in the firmament of heaven, and part they the day and night; and be they into signs, and times, and days, and years;

¹⁵ and shine those in the firmament of heaven, and lighten they the earth; and it was done so.

¹⁶ And God made two great lights, the greater light that it should be before to the day, and the lesser light that it should be before to the night; and *God made* stars;

¹⁷ and setted them in the firmament of heaven, that they should shine on [*the*] earth,

¹⁸ and that they should be before to the day and [*to the*] night, and should part light and darkness. And God saw that it was good.

¹⁹ And the eventide and the morrow-tide was made, the fourth day.

²⁰ Also God said, The waters bring forth a reptile, *either a creeping beast*, of living soul, and a volatile, *either a bird flying above [*the*] earth*, under the firmament of heaven.

²¹ And God made of nought great whales, and each living soul and movable, which the waters have brought forth in their kinds; and God made

of nought each volatile by his kind. And God saw that it was good;

²² and blessed them, and said, Wax ye, and be ye multiplied, and fill ye the waters of the sea, and [*the*] birds be multiplied on [*the*] earth.

²³ And the eventide and the morrowtide was made, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, The earth bring forth a living soul in his kind, work beasts, and reptiles, *either creeping beasts*, and unreasonable beasts of [*the*] earth, by their kinds; and it was done so.

²⁵ And God made unreasonable beasts of the earth by their kinds, and work beasts, and each creeping beast of the earth in his kind. And God saw that it was good;

²⁶ and said, Make we man to our image and likeness, and be he sovereign to the fishes of the sea, and to the volatiles of heaven, and to [*the*] unreasonable beasts of [*the*] earth, and to each creature, and to each creeping beast or each reptile, which is moved in [*the*] earth.

²⁷ And God made of nought a man to his image and likeness; God made of nought a man, to the image of God; God made of nought them, male and female.

²⁸ And God blessed them, and said, Increase ye, and be ye multiplied, and fill ye the earth, and make ye it subject; and be ye lords to the fishes of the sea, and to [*the*] volatiles of heaven, and to all living beasts that be moved on [*the*] earth.

²⁹ And God said, Lo! I have given to you each herb bearing seed on [*the*] earth, and all trees

that have in themselves the seed of their kind, that they be into meat to you;

³⁰ and to all living beasts of *[the]* earth, and to each bird of heaven, and to all things that be moved in *[the]* earth, and in which is a living soul, that they have to eat; and it was done so.

³¹ And God saw all things which he made, and they were full good. And the eventide and the morrowtide was made, the sixth day.

CHAPTER 2

¹ Therefore heavens and earth be made perfect, and all the ornament of those *[or them]*.

² And God *[ful]* filled in the seventh day his work which he made; and he rested in the seventh day from all his work which he had made;

³ and he blessed the seventh day, and hallowed it; for in that day God ceased of all his work which he made of nought, that he should make.

⁴ These be the generations of heaven and of earth, in the day wherein the Lord God made heaven and earth,

⁵ and each little tree of *[the]* earth before that it sprang out in *[the]* earth; and he made each herb of the field before that it burgeoned. For the Lord God had not rained on the earth, and no man there was that wrought *[or might work]* the earth;

⁶ but a well went out of *[the]* earth, and moisted all the higher part of the earth.

⁷ Therefore the Lord God formed man of the slime of *[the]* earth, and breathed into his face

the breathing of life; and man was made into a living soul.

⁸ Forsooth the Lord God planted at the beginning paradise of liking *or the garden of Eden*, wherein he set man whom he had formed.

⁹ And the Lord God brought forth of the earth each tree fair in sight, and sweet to eat; also he brought forth the tree of life in the midst of paradise, and the tree of knowing of good and of evil.

¹⁰ And a river went out from the place of liking *or Eden* to moist paradise *or the garden*, which river is parted from thence into four heads.

¹¹ The name of the one river is Pishon, that it is that encompasseth all the land of Havilah, where gold cometh forth,

¹² and the gold of that land is the best, and there is found bdellium, *that is, a tree of spicery*, and the stone onyx;

¹³ and the name of the second river is Gihon, that it is that encompasseth all the land of Ethiopia;

¹⁴ forsooth the name of the third river is Tigris, that goeth against Assyrians; soothly the fourth river is that Euphrates.

¹⁵ Therefore the Lord God took man, and set him in paradise of liking, that he should work and keep it.

¹⁶ And God commanded to him and said, Eat thou of each tree of paradise;

¹⁷ forsooth eat thou not of the tree of knowing of good and of evil; for in whatever day thou shalt eat thereof, thou shalt die by death.

18 And the Lord God said, It is not good that a man be alone; make we to him an helper like to himself.

19 And therefore when all living beasts of *[the]* earth, and all the volatiles of heaven, were formed of *[the]* earth, the Lord God brought those *[or them]* to Adam, that he should see what he should call those *[or them]*; for all thing that Adam called of living soul, that is the name thereof.

20 And Adam called by their names all living things, and all volatiles *[of heavens]*, and all unreasonable beasts of *[the]* earth. Forsooth to Adam was not found an helper like him.

21 Therefore the Lord God sent sleep into Adam, and when he slept, God took one of his ribs, and filled flesh for it.

22 And the Lord God builded the rib which he had taken from Adam into a woman, and brought her to Adam.

23 And Adam said, This is now a bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; this shall be called virago, for she is taken of man.

24 Wherefore a man shall forsake *[his]* father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife, and they shall be twain *[or two]* in one flesh.

25 Forsooth ever either was naked, that is, Adam and his wife, and they were not ashamed.

CHAPTER 3

1 But the serpent was feller *or more sly* than all living beasts of *[the]* earth, which the Lord God had made. The which serpent said to the woman,

Why commanded God to you, that ye should not eat of each tree of paradise?

² To whom the woman answered, We eat of the fruit of trees that be in paradise;

³ soothly God commanded to us, that we should not eat of the fruit of the tree, which is in the midst of paradise, and that we should not touch it, lest peradventure we die.

⁴ Forsooth the serpent said to the woman, Ye shall not die by death;

⁵ for why God knoweth that in what-ever day ye shall eat thereof, your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as Gods, knowing good and evil.

⁶ Therefore the woman saw that the tree was good, and sweet to eat, and fair to the eyes, and delightful in beholding; and she took of the fruit thereof, and ate, and gave to her husband, and he ate.

⁷ And the eyes of both were opened; and when they knew that they were naked, they sewed [*together*] the leaves of a fig tree, and made breeches to themselves.

⁸ And when they heard the voice of the Lord God going in paradise at the wind after midday, Adam and his wife hid them from the face of the Lord God in [*the*] midst of the trees of paradise.

⁹ And the Lord God called Adam, and said to him, Where art thou?

¹⁰ And Adam said, I heard thy voice in paradise, and I dreaded, for I was naked, and I hid me.

¹¹ To whom the Lord said, Who showed to thee that thou were naked, no but for thou hast eaten of the tree of which I commanded to thee that thou shouldest not eat?

¹² And Adam said, The woman which thou gavest *for* fellowship to me, gave me of the tree, and I ate.

¹³ And the Lord said to the woman, Why didest thou this thing? The which answered, The serpent deceived me, and I ate.

¹⁴ And the Lord God said to the serpent, For thou didest this, thou shalt be cursed among all [*the*] living things, and unreasonable beasts of [*the*] earth; thou shalt go on thy breast, and thou shalt eat earth in all the days of thy life.

¹⁵ I shall set [*or put*] enmities betwixt thee and the woman, and betwixt thy seed and her seed; she shall break thine head, and thou shalt set ambushes to her heel.

¹⁶ Also God said to the woman, I shall multiply thy wretchednesses and thy conceivings; in sorrow thou shalt bear thy children; and thou shalt be under power of thine husband, and he shall be lord of thee.

¹⁷ Soothly God said to Adam, For thou heardest the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded to thee that thou shouldest not eat, the earth shall be cursed in thy work, *that is, for thy sin*; in travails thou shalt eat thereof in all the days of thy life;

¹⁸ it shall bring forth thorns and briars to thee, and thou shalt eat herbs of the earth;

¹⁹ in [*the*] sweat of thy cheer, [*or face*], thou shalt eat thy bread, till thou turn again into the earth of which thou art taken; for thou art dust, and thou shalt turn again into dust.

²⁰ And Adam called the name of his wife Eve, for she was the mother of all men living.

²¹ And the Lord God made coats of skins to Adam and Eve his wife, and clothed them;

²² and said, Lo! Adam is made as one of us, and knoweth good and evil; now therefore *see ye*, lest peradventure he put [*out*] his hand, and take [*also*] of the tree of life, and eat, and live without end.

²³ And the Lord God sent him out of paradise of liking *or the garden of Eden*, that he should work the earth, of which he was taken.

²⁴ And God casted out Adam, and setted before paradise of liking cherubim, *that is, gave it unto the keeping of angels*, and a sword of flame turning about to keep *charge of* the way of the tree of life.

CHAPTER 4

¹ Forsooth Adam knew Eve his wife, which conceived, and childed Cain, and said, I have gotten a man by God.

² And again she childed his brother Abel. Forsooth Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain was an earth-tiller.

³ Soothly it was done after many days, that Cain offered gifts to the Lord of the fruits of the earth*;

⁴ and Abel offered of the first engendered of his flock, and of the fatness of those [*or them*]. And the Lord beheld to Abel and to the gifts of him;

⁵ soothly he beheld not to Cain and to his gifts. And Cain was wroth greatly, and his cheer felled down.

* **CHAPTER 4:3** Not the *first* fruits, or the best, or it would have been so stated.

6 And the Lord said to him, Why art thou wroth, and why felled down thy face?

7 Whether not if thou shalt do well, thou shalt receive *well*; but if *thou doest* evil, thy sin shall be present anon in the gates? but the desire thereof, *that is, of sin*, shall be under thee, and thou shalt be lord thereof.

8 And Cain said to Abel, his brother, Go we out. And when they were in the field, Cain rose against his brother Abel, and killed him.

9 And the Lord said to Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? Which answered, I know not; whether I am the keeper of my brother?

10 And God said to Cain, What hast thou done? the voice of the blood of thy brother crieth to me from *[the]* earth.

11 Now therefore thou shalt be cursed on *[the]* earth, that opened his mouth, and received of thine hand the blood of thy brother.

12 When thou shalt work the earth, it shall not give his fruits to thee; thou shalt be unstable of dwelling, and fleeing about on *[the]* earth, in all the days of thy life.

13 And Cain said to the Lord, My wickedness is more than that I deserve forgiveness;

14 lo! today thou castest me out from the face of the earth; and I shall be hid from thy face, and I shall be unstable of dwelling, and fleeing about in earth; therefore each man that shall find me shall slay me.

15 And the Lord said to him, It shall not be done so, but each man that shall slay Cain shall be punished sevenfold. And the Lord set a sign in

Cain, that each man that should find him should not slay him.

¹⁶ And Cain went out from the face of the Lord, and dwelled fleeing about in [*the*] earth, at the east coast of Eden, *that is, of earthly paradise.*

¹⁷ Forsooth Cain knew his wife, which conceived, and childed Enoch; and Cain builded a city, and called the name thereof of the name of his son, Enoch.

¹⁸ Forsooth Enoch begat Irad; and Irad begat Mehujael; and Mehujael begat Methusael; and Methusael begat Lamech;

¹⁹ that took two wives, the name to the one wife was Adah, and the name to the other was Zillah.

²⁰ And Adah begat Jabal, that was the father of dwellers in tents, and of shepherds;

²¹ and the name of his brother was Jubal; he was the father of the singers in harp and organ.

²² And Zillah begat Tubalcain, that was an hammer-beater, and [*a*] smith on all works of brass and of iron; forsooth the sister of Tubalcain was Naamah.

²³ And Lamech said to his wives, Adah and Zillah, Ye wives of Lamech, hear my voice, and hearken *to* my words; for I have slain a man by my wounding, and a young waxing man by my violent beating;

²⁴ vengeance shall be given seven-fold of Cain, forsooth of Lamech seventy times seven times.

²⁵ Also yet Adam knew his wife, and she childed a son, and called his name Seth[†], and

[†] **CHAPTER 4:25** The name sounds like the Hebrew for 'has given'.

said, God hath put [*or set*] to me another seed for Abel, whom Cain killed.

²⁶ But also a son was born to Seth, which son he called Enos; this began to call inwardly the name of the Lord.

CHAPTER 5

¹ This is the book of the generations of Adam, in the day wherein God made man of nought. God made man to the image and likeness of God;

² God formed them male and female, and blessed them, and called the name of them Adam, in the day in which they were formed.

³ Forsooth Adam lived an hundred years and thirty, and begat a son to his image and likeness, and called his name Seth.

⁴ And the days of Adam after that he begat Seth were made eight hundred years, and he begat sons and daughters.

⁵ And all the time in which Adam lived was made nine hundred years and thirty, and he was dead.

⁶ And Seth lived an hundred and five years, and begat Enos.

⁷ And Seth lived after that he begat Enos eight hundred and seven years, and begat sons and daughters.

⁸ And all the days of Seth were made nine hundred and twelve years, and he was dead.

⁹ Forsooth Enos lived ninety years, and begat Cainan;

¹⁰ after whose birth Enos lived eight hundred and fifteen years, and begat sons and daughters.

11 And all the days of Enos were made nine hundred and five years, and he was dead.

12 Also Cainan lived seventy years, and begat Mahalaleel.

13 And Cainan lived after that he begat Mahalaleel eight hundred and forty years, and begat sons and daughters.

14 And all the days of Cainan were made nine hundred and ten years, and he was dead.

15 Forsooth Mahalaleel lived sixty years and five, and begat Jared.

16 And Mahalaleel lived after that he begat Jared eight hundred and thirty years, and begat sons and daughters.

17 And all the days of Mahalaleel were made eight hundred *[and]* ninety and five years, and he was dead.

18 And Jared lived an hundred and two and sixty years, and begat Enoch.

19 And Jared lived after that he begat Enoch eight hundred years, and begat sons and daughters.

20 And all the days of Jared were made nine hundred and two and sixty years, and he was dead.

21 Forsooth Enoch lived five and sixty years, and begat Methuselah.

22 And Enoch went with God; and Enoch lived after that he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters.

23 And all the days of Enoch were three hundred and five and sixty years.

24 And Enoch went with God, and appeared not afterward, for God took him away.

25 Also Methuselah lived an hundred and seven and eighty years, and begat Lamech.

26 And Methuselah lived after that he begat Lamech seven hundred and two and eighty years, and begat sons and daughters.

27 And all the days of Methuselah were made nine hundred and nine and sixty years, and he was dead.

28 Forsooth Lamech lived an hundred and two and eighty years, and begat a son;

29 and [*he*] called his name Noah*, and said, This man shall comfort us of the works and travails of our hands, in the land which the Lord cursed.

30 And Lamech lived after that he begat Noah five hundred [*and*] ninety and five years, and begat sons and daughters.

31 And all the days of Lamech were made seven hundred [*and*] seventy and seven years, and he was dead.

32 Forsooth Noah, when he was of five hundred years, begat Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

CHAPTER 6

1 And when men began to be multiplied on [*the*] earth, and had begat daughters,

2 the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair, and took wives to them of all which they had chosen.

* **CHAPTER 5:29** This name sounds like the Hebrew for 'rest' or 'relief'.

³ And God said, My spirit shall not dwell in man without end, for he is flesh; and the days of him shall be an hundred and twenty years.

⁴ Soothly giants were on the earth in those days, forsooth after that the sons of God entered [*in*] to the daughters of men, and those daughters begat; these were mighty of the world and famous men.

⁵ Soothly God saw that much malice of men was in [*the*] earth, and that all the thought of *their* heart was attentive, *either given*, to evil in all time,

⁶ and it repented him that he had made man in earth; and God was wary before against time to coming [*or to come*], and was touched with sorrow of heart within;

⁷ and said, I shall do away man, whom I made of nought, from the face of the earth; from man till to living things, from creeping beast till to the birds of heaven; for it repenteth me that I made them.

⁸ Forsooth Noah found grace before the Lord.

⁹ These be the generations of Noah. Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations; Noah went with God,

¹⁰ and begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

¹¹ Forsooth the earth was corrupt before God, and was filled with wickedness.

¹² And when God saw, that the earth was corrupt, for each flesh, *or man*, had corrupted his way on [*the*] earth,

13 he said to Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; the earth is filled with wickedness of the face of them, and I shall destroy them with the earth.

14 Make thou to thee a ship* of wood hewn and planed; thou shalt make dwelling places in the ship, and thou shalt anoint it with pitch within and withoutforth.

15 And so thou shalt make it. The length of the ship shall be of three hundred cubits, the breadth shall be of fifty cubits, and the highness thereof shall be of thirty cubits.

16 Thou shalt make a window in the ship, and thou shalt end the highness thereof in a cubit; soothly thou shalt set the door of the ship in the side beneath; thou shalt make solars *or upper rooms*, and places of three chambers in the ship.

17 Lo! I shall bring waters of deluge, *or great flood*, on the earth, and I shall slay each flesh in which is the spirit of life under heaven, and all things that be in [*the*] earth, shall be wasted.

18 And I shall set my covenant of peace with thee; and thou shalt enter into the ship, [*thou*], and thy sons, and thy wife, and the wives of thy sons shall enter with thee.

19 And of all living beasts of all flesh, thou shalt bring into the ship twain [*or two*] and twain, of male kind and female, that they live with thee;

20 of birds by their kind, and of work beasts in their kind, and of each creeping beast of [*the*]

* **CHAPTER 6:14** Throughout *Genesis*, whenever the “Later Version” refers to Noah’s ‘ship’, the “Early Version” refers to Noah’s ‘ark’.

earth, by their kind; twain [*or two*] and twain of all shall enter with thee, that they may live.

²¹ Therefore thou shalt take with thee of all meats that may be eaten, and thou shalt bear together at thee, and those shall be as well to thee as to the beasts into meat.

²² Therefore Noah did all things which God commanded to him.

CHAPTER 7

¹ Also the Lord said to Noah, Enter thou and all thine house into the ship, for I saw thee *alone* *were* just before me in this generation.

² Of all clean living beasts, thou shalt take by seven and by seven, male and female; forsooth of unclean living beasts, thou shalt take by twain and by twain [*or two and two*], male and female;

³ and also of [*the*] volatiles [*or fowls*] of heaven, thou shalt take, by seven and by seven, male and female, that their seed be saved on the face of all earth.

⁴ For yet and after seven days, I shall rain on [*the*] earth forty days and forty nights, and I shall do away all substance which I made, from the face of [*the*] earth.

⁵ Therefore Noah did all things which the Lord commanded to him.

⁶ And he was of six hundred years, when the waters of the great flood flowed on [*the*] earth.

⁷ And Noah entered into the ship, and his sons, and his wife, and the wives of his sons, entered with him, for the waters of the great flood.

⁸ And of living beasts clean and unclean, and of [*the*] birds of heaven, and of each beast which is moved on [*the*] earth,

⁹ by twain and by twain [*or two and two*], male and female entered to Noah into the ship, as the Lord commanded to Noah.

¹⁰ And when seven days had passed, the waters of the great flood flowed on [*the*] earth.

¹¹ In the six hundredth year of the life of Noah, in the second month, in the seventeenth day of the month, all the wells of the great sea were broken, and the windows of heaven were opened,

¹² and rain was made on the earth forty days and forty nights.

¹³ In the end of that day Noah entered, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, his sons, and his wife, and the [*three*] wives of his sons, entered with them into the ship.

¹⁴ They entered, and each beast by his kind, and all work beasts in their kind, and each beast which is moved on [*the*] earth in his kind, and each volatile by his kind; all birds and all volatiles [*or fowls*],

¹⁵ entered to Noah into the ship, by twain and by twain [*or two and two*] of each flesh in which the spirit of life was.

¹⁶ And those that entered, entered male and female of each flesh, as God commanded to him. And the Lord enclosed him from withoutforth.

¹⁷ And the great flood was made forty days and forty nights on [*the*] earth, and the waters were

multiplied, and raised the ship on high from the earth.

¹⁸ The waters flowed greatly, and filled all things in the face of the earth. Forsooth the ship was borne on the waters.

¹⁹ And the waters had mastery greatly on *[the]* earth, and all *[the]* high hills under all *of* heaven were covered;

²⁰ the water was higher, by fifteen cubits, over the hills which it covered.

²¹ And each flesh was wasted that moved on *[the]* earth, of birds, of living beasts, of unreasonable beasts, and of all reptiles or all creeping beasts that creep on *[the]* earth.

²² All men, and all things in which the breathing of life was in *[the]* earth, were dead.

²³ And God did away all the substance that was on *[the]* earth, from man till to beast, as well a creeping beast, as the birds of heaven; and those *[or they]* were done away from *[the]* earth. Forsooth Noah dwelled alone, and they that were with him in the ship.

²⁴ And the waters of the great flood over-went the earth an hundred and fifty days.

CHAPTER 8

¹ Forsooth the Lord had mind of Noah, and of all living beasts, and of all work beasts, that were with him in the ship; and *[he]* brought a wind on the earth. And *[the]* waters were decreased, *or assuaged*,

² and the wells of the sea were closed, and the windows of heaven were closed, and rains of heaven were ceased.

³ And [*the*] waters turned again from *off* the earth, and went again, and began to be decreased, *or assuaged*, after an hundred and fifty days.

⁴ And the ship rested in the seventh month, in the seven and twentieth day of the month, on the hills [*or mounts*] of Armenia.

⁵ And soothly the waters went and decreased till to the tenth month, for in the tenth month, in the first day of the month, the tops of [*the*] hills appeared.

⁶ And when forty days had passed, Noah opened the window of the ship which he had made,

⁷ and sent out a crow, which went out, and turned not again till the waters were dried on [*the*] earth.

⁸ Also Noah sent out a culver after him, to see if the waters had ceased then on the face of the earth;

⁹ and when the culver found not where her foot should rest, she turned again to him into the ship, for the waters were on all [*the*] earth; and Noah held forth his hand, and brought the culver taken into the ship.

¹⁰ Soothly when other seven days were abided afterward, again he sent out a culver from the ship;

¹¹ and she came to him at eventide, and bare in her mouth a branch of *an* olive tree with green leaves. There-fore Noah understood that the waters had ceased *or abated* on earth;

¹² and nevertheless he abode seven other days, and sent out a culver, which turned not again to him.

¹³ Therefore in the six hundred and one year of the life of Noah, in the first month, in the first day of the month, [*the*] waters were decreased on earth; and Noah opened the roof of the ship, and beheld, and saw that the face of the earth was dried.

¹⁴ In the second month, in the seven and twentieth day of the month, the earth was made dry.

¹⁵ Soothly the Lord spake to Noah; and said,

¹⁶ Go out of the ship, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and the wives of thy sons with thee;

¹⁷ and lead out with thee all living beasts that be with thee of each flesh, as well in volatiles, as in unreason-able beasts, and all reptiles or all creeping beasts that creep on [*the*] earth; and enter ye on the earth, increase ye, and be ye multiplied on earth.

¹⁸ Therefore Noah went out, and his sons, and his wife, and the wives of his sons with him;

¹⁹ but also all living beasts, and work beasts, *and birds*, and reptiles that creep on [*the*] earth, by their kind, went out of the ship.

²⁰ Forsooth Noah builded an altar to the Lord, and he took of all clean beasts and birds, and offered burnt sacrifices on the altar.

²¹ And the Lord savoured the odour of sweetness, and said to him, I shall no more curse the earth for men, for the wit and thought of man's heart be ready, *either prone*, into evil from young

waxing age; therefore I shall no more smite each living soul, as I did;

²² in all the days of *[the]* earth, seed and ripe corn, cold and heat, summer and winter, night and day, shall not rest.

CHAPTER 9

¹ And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them, Increase ye, and be ye multiplied, and fill ye the earth;

² and your dread and trembling be on all *[the]* unreasonable beasts of the earth, and on all *[the]* birds of heaven, with all things that be moved in earth; all fishes of the sea be given to your hand.

³ And all thing which is moved and liveth shall be to you into meat; I have given to you all things, as *I gave the green worts before*,

⁴ except that ye shall not eat flesh with the blood,

⁵ for I shall seek the blood of your lives, of the hand of all unreasonable beasts and of the hand of man, of the hand of man and of his brother, I shall seek the life of man.

⁶ Whoever sheddeth out man's blood, his blood shall be shed; for man is made to the image of God.

⁷ Forsooth increase ye, and be ye multiplied, and enter ye on *[the]* earth, and fill ye it.

⁸ Also the Lord said these things to Noah, and to his sons with him,

⁹ Lo! I shall make my covenant with you, and with your seed after you,

¹⁰ and to each living soul which is with you, as well in birds as in work beasts and small beasts

of [*the*] earth, and to all things that went out of the ship, and to all unreasonable beasts of [*the*] earth.

¹¹ I shall make my covenant with you, and each flesh shall no more be slain of the waters of the great flood, neither the great flood destroying all [*the*] earth shall be *any* more.

¹² And God said, This is the sign of bond of peace, which I give between me and you, and to each living soul which is with you, into everlasting generations.

¹³ I shall set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of bond of peace between me and [*the*] earth;

¹⁴ and when I shall cover [*the*] heaven with clouds, my bow shall appear in the clouds,

¹⁵ and I shall have mind of my bond of peace which I made with you, and with each soul living that nourisheth flesh; and the waters of the great flood shall no more be to do away all flesh.

¹⁶ And my bow shall be in the clouds, and I shall see it, and I shall have mind of the everlasting bond of peace, which is made between God and man, and each soul living of all flesh which is on [*the*] earth.

¹⁷ And God said to Noah, This shall be a sign of [*the*] bond of peace, which I made between me and each flesh on earth.

¹⁸ Therefore they that went out of the ship were Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth; forsooth Ham, that is the father of Canaan.

¹⁹ These three were the sons of Noah, and all the kind of men was sown of them on all [*the*] earth.

20 And Noah, an earth-tiller, began to till the earth, and he planted a vinery [*or a vineyard*],

21 and *one day* he drank wine, and was drunken; and he was naked, and lay in his tabernacle.

22 And when Ham, the father of Canaan, had seen this thing, that is, that the shameful members of his father were made naked, he told his two brethren withoutforth.

23 And Shem and Japheth putted a mantle on their shoulders, and they went backward, and covered the shameful members of their father, and their faces were turned away, and they saw not the privy members of their father.

24 And Noah waked of the wine, and when he had learned what things his lesser, *or younger**, son had done to him,

25 he said, Cursed be the child Canaan, he shall be *a servant of servants* to his brethren.

26 And Noah said, Blessed be the Lord God of Shem, and Canaan be the servant of Shem;

27 God enlarge Japheth, and dwell he in the tabernacles of Shem, and Canaan be the servant of him.

28 Forsooth Noah lived after the great flood three hundred and fifty years;

29 and all the days of him were filled nine hundred and fifty years, and he was dead.

* **CHAPTER 9:24** Most modern translations and Bible dictionaries refer to Ham as Noah's youngest son, though he is second in all the lists in the Bible. The *KJV*, like the "*Wycliffe Bible*" (both versions), uses 'younger' in this verse.

CHAPTER 10

¹ These be the generations of the sons of Noah; Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And sons were born to them after the great flood.

² The sons of Japheth were Gomer, and Magog, and Madai, and Javan, and Tubal, and Meshech, and Tiras.

³ Forsooth the sons of Gomer were Ashkenaz, and Riphath, and Togarmah.

⁴ Forsooth the sons of Javan were Elishah, and Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim;

⁵ of these sons the isles of the heathen men were parted in their countries, each by his language, and meines, in his nations.

⁶ Soothly the sons of Ham were Cush, and Mizraim, and Phut, and Canaan.

⁷ Forsooth the sons of Cush were Seba, and Havilah, and Sabtah, and Raamah, and Sabtechah. The sons of Raamah were Sheba, and Dedan.

⁸ Forsooth Cush begat Nimrod; he began to be mighty in [*the*] earth,

⁹ and he was a strong hunter, *or oppressor, of men* before the Lord; of him a proverb went out, As Nimrod, a strong hunter before the Lord.

¹⁰ Soothly the beginning of his realm was Babylon, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

¹¹ Asshur went out of that land, and builded Nineveh, and [*the*] streets of the city, and Calah,

¹² and Resen betwixt Nineveh and Calah; this is a great city.

¹³ And soothly Mizraim begat Ludim, and Anamim, and Lehabim, and Naphtuhim,

14 and Pathrusim, and Casluhim; of which the Philistines and Caphtorim came forth.

15 Forsooth Canaan engendered Sidon, his first engendered son, Heth,

16 and Jebusites, and Amorites, Girgashites,

17 Hivites, and Arkites, Sinites,

18 and Arvadites, Zemarites, and Hamathites; and *[the]* peoples of Canaanites were sown abroad by these men.

19 And the terms of Canaan were made to men coming from Sidon to Gerar, till to Gaza, till thou enter into Sodom, and Gomorrah, and Admah, and Zeboiim, till to Lasha.

20 These were the sons of Ham, in their kindreds, and languages, and generations, and lands, and folks.

21 Also of Shem were born the fathers of all the sons of Eber, and Japheth was the more, *or elder*, brother of *Shem**[or Shem was the more or elder brother of Japheth]*.

22 The sons of Shem were Elam, and Asshur, and Arphaxad, and Lud, and Aram.

23 The sons of Aram were Uz, and Hul, and Gether, and Mash.

24 And soothly Arphaxad begat Salah, of whom Eber was born.

25 And two sons were born to Eber, the name to the one son was Peleg, for the land was parted in his days; and the name of his brother was Joktan.

26 And that Joktan begat Almodad, and Sheleph, and Hazarmaveth, Jerah,

27 and Hadoram, and Uzal, and Diklah,

28 and Obal, and Abimael, Sheba,

²⁹ and Ophir, and Havilah, and Jobab; all these were the sons of Joktan.

³⁰ And the habitation of them was made from Mesha, as men goeth till to Sephar, an hill of the east.

³¹ These be the sons of Shem, by kindreds, and languages, and countries, in their folks.

³² These be the meines of Noah, by their peoples, and nations; [*the*] folks [*or Gentiles*] in [*the*] earth were parted of these after the great flood.

CHAPTER 11

¹ Forsooth the land was of one language, and of the same speech [*or the same words*].

² And when they went forth from the east, they found a field in the land of Shinar, and they dwelled therein.

³ And one said to his neighbour, Come ye, and make we tilestones, and bake we those [*or them*] with fire; and they had tile for stones, and pitch, *either strong glue*, for mortar;

⁴ and they said, Come ye, and make we to us a city and a tower, whose highness stretch till to heaven; and make we solemn our name, before that we be parted into all lands.

⁵ Forsooth the Lord came down to see the city, and the tower, which the sons of Adam builded.

⁶ And he said, Lo! the people is one, and one language is to all, and they have begun to make this; neither they shall cease of their thoughts, till they [*ful*] fill those [*or them*] in work;

⁷ therefore come ye, go we down, and shame [*or confound*] we there the tongue of them, that each man hear not the voice of his neighbour.

⁸ And so the Lord separated them from that place into all lands; and they ceased to build the city.

⁹ And therefore the name thereof was called Babel, for the language of all [*the*] earth was confounded there; and from thence the Lord scattered them on the face of all countries.

¹⁰ These be the generations of Shem. Shem was an hundred years when he begat Arphaxad, two years after the great flood.

¹¹ And Shem lived after that he begat Arphaxad five hundred years, and begat sons and daughters.

¹² Forsooth Arphaxad lived five and thirty years, and begat Salah;

¹³ and Arphaxad lived after that he begat Salah three hundred and three years, and begat sons and daughters.

¹⁴ And Salah lived thirty years, and begat Eber;

¹⁵ and Salah lived after that he begat Eber four hundred and three years, and begat sons and daughters.

¹⁶ Soothly Eber lived four and thirty years, and begat Peleg;

¹⁷ and Eber lived after that he begat Peleg four hundred and thirty years, and begat sons and daughters.

¹⁸ Also Peleg lived thirty years, and begat Reu;

¹⁹ and Peleg lived after that he begat Reu two hundred and nine years, and begat sons and daughters.

²⁰ And Reu lived two and thirty years, and begat Serug;

²¹ and Reu lived after that he begat Serug two hundred and seven years, and begat sons and daughters.

²² Soothly Serug lived thirty years, and begat Nahor;

²³ and Serug lived after that he begat Nahor two hundred years, and begat sons and daughters.

²⁴ Forsooth Nahor lived nine and twenty years, and begat Terah;

²⁵ and Nahor lived after that he begat Terah an hundred and nineteen years, and begat sons and daughters.

²⁶ And Terah lived seventy years, and begat Abram^{*}, Nahor, and Haran.

²⁷ Soothly these be the generations of Terah. Terah begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Forsooth Haran begat Lot;

²⁸ and Haran died before Terah, his father, in the land of his nativity, in Ur of Chaldees.

²⁹ Forsooth Abram and Nahor wedded wives; the name of the wife of Abram was Sarai, and the name of the wife of Nahor was Milcah, the daughter of Haran, father of Milcah, and father of Iscah.

^{*} **CHAPTER 11:26** God would later change Abram's name to Abraham.

30 Soothly Sarai was barren, and had no children.

31 And so Terah took Abram, his son, and Lot, the son of Haran, his son, and Sarai, his daughter-in-law, the wife of Abram, his son, and led them out of Ur of Chaldees, that they should go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelled there.

32 And the days of Terah were made two hundred years and five, and he was dead in Haran.

CHAPTER 12

1 Forsooth the Lord said to Abram, Go thou out of thy land, and of thy kindred, and of the house of thy father, and come thou into the land which I shall show to thee;

2 and I shall make thee into a great folk, and I shall bless thee, and I shall magnify thy name, and thou shalt be blessed;

3 I shall bless them that bless thee, and I shall curse them that curse thee; and all kindreds of *[the]* earth shall be blessed in thee.

4 And so Abram went out, as the Lord commanded him, and Lot went with him. Abram was five and seventy years when he went out of Haran.

5 And he took Sarai, his wife, and Lot, the son of his brother, and all the substance which they had in possession, and the men which they had begotten in Haran; and they went out that they should go into the land of Canaan. And when they came into it,

⁶ Abram passed through the land till to the place of Shechem, and till to the noble valley. Forsooth Canaanite was then in the land.

⁷ Soothly the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, I shall give this land to thy seed. And Abram built there an altar to the Lord, that appeared to him.

⁸ And from thence he passed forth to the hill [*or the mount of*] Bethel, that was against the east, and setted there his tabernacle, having Bethel from the west, and Hai from the east. And he builded also there an altar to the Lord, and inwardly called his name.

⁹ And Abram went going, and going forth over to the south.

¹⁰ Soothly hunger was made in the land; and Abram went down into Egypt, to be a pilgrim there, for hunger had the mastery in the land.

¹¹ And when he was nigh to enter into Egypt, he said to Sarai, his wife, I know that thou art a fair woman,

¹² and that when Egyptians shall see thee, they shall say, It is his wife, and they shall slay me, and keep thee.

¹³ Therefore, I beseech thee, say that thou art my sister, that it be well to me for thee, and that my life live for the love of thee.

¹⁴ And so when Abram had entered into Egypt, Egyptians saw the woman, that she was full fair;

¹⁵ and the princes told to Pharaoh, and praised her with him; and the woman was taken up into the house of Pharaoh.

¹⁶ Forsooth they used well Abram for her; and sheep, and oxen, and asses, and servants, and servantesses, and she-asses, and camels were *given* to him.

¹⁷ Forsooth the Lord beat Pharaoh and his house with most vengeance for Sarai, the wife of Abram.

¹⁸ And Pharaoh called Abram, and said to him, What is it that thou hast done to me? why showedest thou not to me that she was thy wife?

¹⁹ for what cause saidest thou, that she was thy sister, that I should take her into wife to me? Now therefore lo! thy wife; take thou her, and go.

²⁰ And Pharaoh commanded to men on Abram, and they led forth him, and his wife, and all things that he had.

CHAPTER 13

¹ Therefore Abram ascended from Egypt, he, and his wife, and all things that he had; and Lot went with him, to the south coast.

² Forsooth he was full rich in possessions of silver, and of gold.

³ And he turned again by the way in which he came from the south into Bethel, till to the place, in which before he had set a tabernacle, betwixt Bethel and Hai,

⁴ in the place of the altar which he made before, and inwardly called there the name of the Lord.

⁵ But also flocks of sheep, and droves of oxen, and tabernacles were to Lot, that was with Abram;

⁶ and the land might not take them, that they should dwell together, for the cattle of them was much, and they might not dwell in common.

⁷ Wherefore also strife was made betwixt the keepers of [*the*] flocks of Abram and of Lot. Forsooth Canaanites and Perizzites dwelled in that land in that time.

⁸ Therefore Abram said to Lot, I beseech thee, that no strife be betwixt me and thee, and betwixt my shepherds and thy shepherds; for we be brethren.

⁹ Lo! all the land is before thee, I beseech, depart thou from me; if thou go to the left side, I shall hold the right side; if thou choose the right side, I shall go to the left side.

¹⁰ And so Lot raised [*up*] his eyes, and saw about all the country of Jordan, which was all-moisted, before that the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, as paradise of the Lord, and as Egypt, as men come into Zoar.

¹¹ And Lot chose to him the country about Jordan, and departed from the east; and they were parted each from his brother.

¹² Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan; soothly Lot dwelled in [*the*] towns about Jordan, and abode in Sodom.

¹³ Forsooth men of Sodom were full wicked, and sinners greatly before the Lord.

¹⁴ And the Lord said to Abram, after that Lot was parted from him, Raise [*up*] thine eyes forthright, and see from the place in which thou art now, to the north and south, to the east and west;

¹⁵ I shall give all the land which thou seest to thee, and to thy seed, till into without end.

¹⁶ And I shall make thy seed as the dust of the earth; if any man may number the dust of the earth, also he shall be able to number thy seed.

¹⁷ Therefore rise thou, and pass through the land in his length and breadth, for I shall give it to thee.

¹⁸ Therefore Abram, moving his tabernacle, came and dwelled beside the valley of Mamre, which is in Hebron; and he builded there an altar to the Lord.

CHAPTER 14

¹ Forsooth it was done in that time, that Amraphel, king of Shinar, and Arioch, king of Ellasar, and Chedor-laomer, king of Elamites, and Tidal, king of folks,

² began battle against Bera, king of Sodom, and against Birsha, king of Gomorrah, and against Shinab, king of Admah, and against Shemeber, king of Zeboiim, and against the king of Bela, that Bela is Zoar.

³ All these came together into the valley of wood, which is now the sea of salt.

⁴ For in twelve years they served Chedor-laomer, and in the thirteenth year they departed from him.

⁵ Therefore Chedorlaomer came in the fourteenth year, and [*the*] kings that were with him, and they smited Rephaims in Ashteroth Karnaim, and Zuzims with them, and Emims in Shaveh Kiriathaim,

⁶ and Horites in the hills of Seir; till to the field places of Elparan, which is in wilderness.

⁷ And they turned again, and came till to the well of Mishpat; that is Kadesh. And they smited all the country of men of Amalek, and Amorites, that dwelled in Hazazontamar.

⁸ And the king of Sodom, and the king of Gomorrah, and the king of Admah, and the king of Zeboiim, also and the king of Bela, which is Zoar, went out, and [*they*] dressed battle array against them in the valley of wood,

⁹ that is, against Chedorlaomer, king of Elamites, and Tidal, king of folks *or of Goiim*, and Amraphel, king of Shinar, and Arioch, king of Ellasar; four kings against five.

¹⁰ Forsooth the valley of wood had many pits of pitch, *either strong glue*; and so the king of Sodom and the king of Gomorrah turned their backs, and felled down there; and they that *were* left fled to the hills.

¹¹ Soothly they took away all the chattel [*or substance*] of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all things that pertain[*ed*] to meat, and went away;

¹² also and they took away Lot and his chattel [*or substance*], the son of the brother of Abram, which Lot dwelled in Sodom.

¹³ And, lo! one that escaped, told to Abram the Hebrew, that dwelled in the valley of Mamre of Amorites, [*the*] brother of Eshcol, and brother of Aner; for these [*had*] made covenant of peace with Abram.

¹⁴ And when Abram had heard this thing, that is, Lot, *the son of his brother*, was taken, he

numbered his born servants made ready, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them till to Dan.

¹⁵ And when his fellows were separated, he felled on them in the night, and smote them, and pursued them till to Hobah, and Phenice, which is at the left side of Damascus.

¹⁶ And he brought again all the chattel [*or substance*], and Lot, *the son of* his brother, with his chattel [*or substance*], also women, and the people.

¹⁷ Soothly the king of Sodom went out into the meeting of him, after that he turned again from [*the*] slaying of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that were with him, in the valley of Shaveh, which is the valley of the king.

¹⁸ And soothly Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought forth bread and wine, for he was the priest of the highest God;

¹⁹ and he blessed Abram, and said, Blessed be Abram of [*the*] high God, that made heaven and earth of nought,

²⁰ and blessed be [*the*] high God, by whom defending, *thine* enemies be betaken into thine hands. And Abram gave tithes of all things to him.

²¹ Forsooth the king of Sodom said to Abram, Give thou the men to me; take thou other things to thee.

²² And Abram answered to him, I raise [*up*] mine hand to the high Lord God, Lord of heaven and of earth,

²³ that from the thread of [*the*] woof till to the lanyard of the hose, I shall not take *anything* of all

things that be thine, lest thou say, I [*have*] made Abram rich;

²⁴ except these things which the young men ate, and the parts of men that came with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; these men shall take their parts.

CHAPTER 15

¹ And so when these things were done, the word of the Lord was made to Abram by a vision, and said, Abram, do not thou dread, I am thy defender, and thy meed is full great.

² And Abram said, Lord God, what shalt thou give to me? I shall go without free children, and this Damascus, son of Eliezer, the procurator of mine house, shall be mine heir.

³ And Abram added, Soothly thou hast not given seed to me, and, lo! my born servant shall be mine heir.

⁴ And anon the word of the Lord was made to him, and said, This shall not be thine heir, but thou shalt have him heir, that shall go out of thy womb.

⁵ And the Lord led out Abram, and said to him, Behold thou heaven, and number the stars, if thou mayest. And the Lord said to Abram, So thy seed shall be.

⁶ Abram believed to God, and it was reckoned to him to rightwiseness.

⁷ And God said to him, I am the Lord, that led thee out of Ur of Chaldees, that I should give this land to thee, and thou shouldest have it in possession.

⁸ And Abram said, Lord God, where-by shall I know that I shall wield it?

⁹ And the Lord answered, and said, Take thou to me a cow of three years, and a goat of three years, and a ram of three years, and a turtledove, and a culver.

¹⁰ Which took all these things, and parted those *[or them]* by the midst *[or the middle]*, and setted *[or put]* ever either part each against other; but he parted not the birds.

¹¹ And fowls came down on the carrions, and Abram drove them away.

¹² And when the sun was gone down, dread felled on Abram, and a great hideousness and dark assailed him.

¹³ And it was said to him, Know thou *a* before-knowing, that thy seed shall be *[a]* pilgrim four hundred years in a land not his own, and they shall make them subject to servage, and they shall torment them;

¹⁴ nevertheless I shall deem the folk to whom they shall serve; and after these things they shall go out with great chattel *[or substance]*.

¹⁵ Forsooth thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace, and shalt be buried in good *[eld]* age.

¹⁶ Soothly in the fourth generation they shall turn again hither, for the wickedness of *[the]* Amorites be not yet *[full-]*filled, till to present time.

¹⁷ Therefore when the sun was gone down, a dark mist was made, and a furnace smoking appeared, and a lamp of fire, and passed through those partings.

18 In that day the Lord made a covenant of peace with Abram, and said, I shall give to thy seed this land, from the river of Egypt till to the great river Euphrates;

19 *the lands of the* Kenites, and Kenizzites, and Kadmonites,

20 and Hittites, and Perizzites, and Rephaims,

21 and Amorites, and Canaanites, and Girgashites, and Jebusites.

CHAPTER 16

1 Therefore Sarai, the wife of Abram, had not engendered [*to him*] free children; but she had a servantess of Egypt, Hagar by name,

2 and Sarai said to her husband, Lo! the Lord hath closed me, that I should not bear child; enter thou [*in*] to my servantess, if in hap I shall take children, namely of her. And when he assented to her praying,

3 she took Hagar *the* Egyptian, her servantess, after ten years after that they began to inhabit the land of Canaan, and she gave Hagar *as[a]* wife to her husband.

4 And Abram entered [*in*] to Hagar; and Hagar saw that she had conceived, and she despised her lady.

5 And Sarai said to Abram, Thou doest wickedly against me; I gave my servantess into thy bosom, which seeth that she [*hath*] conceived, and despiseth me; the Lord deem betwixt me and thee.

6 And Abram answered and said to her, Lo! thy servantess is in thine hand; use thou her as thee

liketh. Therefore for Sarai tormented her, she fled away.

⁷ And when the angel of the Lord had found her beside a well of water in wilderness, which well is in the way of Shur in desert,

⁸ he said to her, From whence comest thou Hagar, the servantess of Sarai, and whither goest thou? Which answered, I flee from the face of Sarai, my lady.

⁹ And the angel of the Lord said to her, Turn thou again to thy lady, and be thou meeked under her hands.

¹⁰ And again he said, I multiplying shall multiply thy seed, and it shall not be numbered for multitude.

¹¹ And afterward he said, Lo! thou hast conceived, and thou shalt bear a son, and thou shalt call his name Ishmael, for the Lord hath heard thy torment;

¹² this shall be a wild man; his hand shall be against all men, and the hands of all men shall be against him; and he shall set *his* tabernacles even against all his brethren.

¹³ Forsooth Hagar called the name of the Lord that spake to her, Thou God that sawest me; for she said, Forsooth here I saw the hinder things of him that saw me.

¹⁴ Therefore she called that well, The well of him that liveth and seeth me; that well is betwixt Kadesh and Bered.

¹⁵ And Hagar childed a son to Abram, which called his name Ishmael.

¹⁶ Abram was eighty years and six, when Hagar childed Ishmael to him.

CHAPTER 17

¹ Forsooth after that Abram began to be of ninety years and nine, the Lord appeared to him, and said to him, I am Almighty God; go thou before me, and be thou perfect;

² and I shall set my covenant of peace betwixt me and thee; and I shall multiply thee full greatly.

³ And Abram felled down low on his face. And God said to him,

⁴ I am, and my covenant of peace is with thee, and thou shalt be the father of many folks;

⁵ and thy name shall no more be called Abram, but thou shalt be called Abraham, for I have made thee [*the*] father of many folks;

⁶ and I shall make thee to wax full greatly, and I shall set thee in folks, and kings shall go out of thee;

⁷ and I shall make my covenant between me and thee, and between thy seed after thee, in their generations, by everlasting bond of peace, that I be thy God, and of thy seed after thee;

⁸ and I shall give to thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land of thy pilgrimage, all the land of Canaan, into everlasting possession, and I shall be the God of them.

⁹ God said again to Abraham, And therefore thou shalt keep my covenant, and thy seed after thee, in their generations.

¹⁰ This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, betwixt me and you, and thy seed after thee; each male kind of you shall be circumcised,

11 and ye shall circumcise the flesh of your man's rod, that it be into a sign of bond of peace betwixt me and you.

12 A young child of eight days shall be circumcised in you, all male kind in your generations, as well a born servant [*of your household*], as a servant bought, shall be circumcised,

13 and whoever is of your kindred, he shall be circumcised; and my covenant shall be in your flesh into everlasting bond of peace.

14 A man whose flesh of his rod shall not be circumcised, that man shall be done away from his people; for he made void my covenant.

15 Also God said to Abraham, Thou shalt not call Sarai, thy wife, Sarai, but Sarah;

16 and I shall bless her, and of her I shall give to thee a son, whom I shall bless, and he shall be into nations, and kings of peoples shall be born of him.

17 Abraham felled down on his face, and laughed in his heart, and said, Guessest thou, whether a child shall be born to a man of an hundred years, and Sarah of ninety years shall bear a child?

18 And he said to the Lord, I would that Ishmael *might* live before thee.

19 And the Lord said to Abraham, Sarah, thy wife, shall bear a son to thee, and thou shalt call his name Isaac, and I shall make my covenant with him into everlasting bond of peace, and to his seed after him;

20 also on Ishmael I have heard thee, lo! I shall bless him, and I shall increase *him*, and I shall

multiply him greatly; he shall engender twelve dukes, and I shall make him into a great folk.

²¹ Forsooth I shall make my covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah shall child to thee in this time in the tother year.

²² And when the word of the speaker with him was ended, God ascended from Abraham.

²³ Forsooth Abraham took Ishmael, his son, and all the born servants of his house, and all which he had bought, all the males of all men of his house, and circumcised the flesh of their rods, anon in that day, as the Lord commanded to him.

²⁴ Abraham was of ninety years and nine when he circumcised the flesh of his rod,

²⁵ and Ishmael, his son, had filled thirteen years in the time of his circumcision.

²⁶ Abraham was circumcised in the same day, and Ishmael his son,

²⁷ and all the men of his house, as well born servants, as *those* bought and aliens, were circumcised together.

CHAPTER 18

¹ Forsooth in the valley of Mamre the Lord appeared to Abraham, sitting in the door of his tabernacle, in that heat of the day.

² And when Abraham had raised up his eyes, three men appeared to him, and stood nigh [*to*] him. And when he had seen them, he ran from the door of his tabernacle into the meeting of them, and he worshipped on [*the*] earth,

³ and said, Lord, if I have found grace in thine eyes, pass thou not thy servant,

4 but I shall bring a little water, and your feet be washed, and rest ye under the tree;

5 and I shall set *before you* a morsel of bread, and your heart be comforted; afterward ye shall pass [*forth*]; for therefore *be* ye bowed *aside* to your servant. Which said, Do thou as thou hast spoken.

6 Abraham hasted into the tabernacle, to Sarah, and said to her, Haste thou, mix three half bushels of clean flour; and make thou loaves baken under ashes.

7 Forsooth he ran to the drove of beasts, and took thereof a calf most tender and best, and gave to a servant, which hasted, and seethed the calf;

8 and he took butter, and milk, and the calf which he had sodden, and set before them; forsooth Abraham stood beside them under the tree. And when they had eaten,

9 they said to him, Where is Sarah thy wife? He answered, Lo! she is in the tabernacle.

10 To whom the Lord said, I shall turn again, and I shall come to thee in this time, if I live; and Sarah, thy wife, shall have a son. When this was heard, Sarah laughed behind the door of the tabernacle.

11 Forsooth both were old, and of great age, and woman's terms ceased to be made to Sarah.

12 And she laughed, saying privily, After that I waxed eld [*or old*], and my lord is eld [*or old*], shall I give diligence [*or busyness*] to lust?

13 Forsooth the Lord said to Abraham, Why laughed Sarah, thy wife, saying, Whether I an eld [*or old*] woman shall bear a child verily?

14 whether anything is hard to God? By the promise I shall turn again to thee in this same time, if I live; and Sarah shall have a son.

15 Sarah was afeared for dread, and denied, saying, I laughed not. Forsooth the Lord said, It is not so, but thou laughedest.

16 Therefore when the men had risen from thence, they dressed the eyes against Sodom; and Abraham went together, leading them forth.

17 And the Lord said, Whether I may cover from Abraham what things I shall do,

18 since he shall be into a great folk and most strong, and all nations of [*the*] earth shall be blessed in him?

19 For I know that Abraham shall command his children, and his house after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, and that they do rightfulness [*or rightwiseness*] and doom, that the Lord bring for Abraham all things which he spake to Abraham.

20 And so the Lord said, The cry of men of Sodom and of men of Gomorrah is multiplied, and their sin is egregious greatly;

21 I shall come down, and see whether they have [*ful*] filled in work the cry that came to me, that I know whether it is not so.

22 And they turned them[*selves*] from thence, and went to Sodom. Abraham soothly stood yet before the Lord,

23 and nighed, and said, Whether thou shalt lose a just man [*or the rightwise*] with the wicked?

24 if fifty just [*or rightwise*] men be in the city, shall they perish altogether, and shalt thou not

spare that place for fifty just [*or rightwise*] men, if they be therein?

²⁵ Far be it from thee that thou do this thing, and slay the just [*or rightwise*] with the wicked, and that a just [*or rightwise*] man be made as a wicked man; this is not thine that deemest all [*the*] earth; thou shalt not make this doom.

²⁶ And the Lord said to him, If I shall find in Sodom fifty just [*or rightwise*] men in the midst of the city, I shall forgive to all the place for them.

²⁷ Abraham answered and said, For I began once, I shall speak to my Lord, since I am dust and ashes;

²⁸ what if less than fifty just [*or rightwise*] men by five be, shalt thou do away all the city for five and forty? And the Lord said, I shall not do away, if I shall find five and forty there.

²⁹ And again Abraham said to him, But if forty be there, what shalt thou do? The Lord said, I shall not smite for forty.

³⁰ Abraham said, Lord, I beseech, take thou not into indignation, if I speak; what if thirty be found there? The Lord answered, I shall not do, if I shall find thirty there.

³¹ Abraham said, For I began once, I shall speak to my Lord; what if twenty be found there? The Lord said, I shall not slay for twenty.

³² Abraham said, Lord, I beseech, be thou not wroth, if I speak yet once *more*; what if ten be found there? The Lord said, I shall not do away for ten.

33 The Lord went forth, after that he [*had*] ceased to speak to Abraham, and Abraham turned again into his place.

CHAPTER 19

1 And twain angels came to Sodom in the eventide, while Lot sat in the gates of the city. And when he had seen them, he rose, and went to meet them, and worshipped *or honoured* low to the earth,

2 and said, My lords, I beseech, bow ye [*down*] into the house of your servant, and dwell ye there; wash ye your feet, and in the morrowtide ye shall go into your way. Which said, Nay, but we shall dwell in the street.

3 He constrained them greatly, that they should turn *in* to him. And when they entered into his house, he made a feast, and baked therf bread, and they ate.

4 Forsooth before that they went to sleep, men of the city compassed his house, from a child till to an eld [*or old*] man, all the people together;

5 and they called Lot, and said to him, Where be the men that entered to thee tonight? bring them out hither, that we know them, *that is, by lechery against kind*.

6 And Lot went out to them behind the back, and closed the door,

7 and said, I beseech, do not ye, my brethren, do not ye do this evil.

8 I have two daughters, that knew not yet a man; I shall lead out them to you, and mis-use ye them as it pleaseth you, so that ye do none evil

to these men, for they entered under the shadow of my roof.

⁹ And they said, Go thou from hence. And again they said, Thou enteredest [*in*] hither as a comeling; whether that thou shalt deem us? therefore we shall torment thee more than these. And they did violently to Lot full greatly. Then it was nigh that they would break the doors;

¹⁰ and lo! the men put *forth their* hands, and led in Lot to them, and they closed the door.

¹¹ And they smote with blindness they that were withoutforth, from the least till to the most; so that they might not find the door.

¹² Forsooth they said to Lot, Hast thou here any man of thine, husband of thy daughter, or sons, or daughters; *if so*, lead thou out of this city all men that be thine,

¹³ for we shall do away this place, for the cry of them increased before the Lord, which sent us that we lose them.

¹⁴ And Lot went out, and spake to the husbands *to be* of his daughters, that should take his daughters, and said, Rise ye, and go ye out of this place; for the Lord shall do away this city. And he was seen to them to speak as playing.

¹⁵ And when the morrowtide was, the angels constrained Lot, and said, Rise thou, and take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which thou hast, lest also thou perish altogether in the sin of the city.

¹⁶ While he dissembled, they took his hand, and the hand of his wife, and of his two

daughters; for the Lord spared him. And they led out him, and set [*or put*]him without the city.

17 There they spake to him, and said, Save thou thy life; do not thou behold behind thy back, neither stand thou in all the country about, but make thee safe in the hills; lest also thou perish altogether.

18 And Lot said to them, My Lord, I beseech,

19 for thy servant hath found grace before thee, and thou hast magnified thy grace and mercy, which thou hast done to me, that thou shouldest save my life; I may not be saved in the hills, lest peradventure evil overtake me, and I die;

20 a little city is here beside, to which I may flee, and I shall be safe therein; whether it is not *such* a little city? and my soul shall live therein.

21 And he said to Lot, Lo! also in this I have received thy prayers, that I destroy not the city, for which thou hast spoken;

22 haste thee, and be thou saved there, for I may not do anything till thou enter [*in*] thither. Therefore the name of that city was called Zoar.

23 The sun rose on [*the*] earth, and Lot entered into Zoar.

24 Therefore the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire, from the Lord of heaven,

25 and destroyed these cities, and all the country about; *he destroyed* all the dwellers of those cities, and all green things of [*the*] earth.

26 And Lot's wife looked aback, and *she* was turned into an image of salt.

²⁷ Forsooth Abraham rising early, *went to* where he stood before with the Lord,

²⁸ beheld Sodom and Gomorrah, and all the land of that country; and he saw a dead spark going up from the earth, as the smoke of a furnace.

²⁹ For when God destroyed the cities of that country, he had mind of Abraham, and delivered Lot from [*the*] destroying of the cities in which he dwelled.

³⁰ And Lot went up from Zoar, and dwelled in the hills, and his two daughters with him, for he dreaded to dwell in Zoar; and he dwelled in a den, he and his two daughters with him.

³¹ And the more daughter said to the less, Our father is eld [*or old*], and no man is left on earth that may enter [*in*] to us, by the custom of all earth;

³² come thou, make we him drunken of wine, and sleep we with him, that we may keep the seed of our father.

³³ And so they gave to their father to drink wine in that night, and the more, *or the elder*, daughter entered, and slept with her father; and he feeled not, neither when the daughter lay down, neither when she [*a*] rose.

³⁴ And the tother day the more daughter said to the less, *or the younger*, Lo! I slept yesterday with my father; give we to him to drink wine also in this night; and thou sleep with him, that we save the seed of our father.

³⁵ And they gave to their father also in that night to drink wine, and the less daughter entered, and slept with him; and soothly he

feeled not then when she lay down, neither when she [*a*] rose.

³⁶ Therefore the two daughters of Lot conceived of their father.

³⁷ And the more daughter childed a son, and called his name Moab; he is the father of men of Moab unto *this* present day.

³⁸ And the less daughter childed a son, and called his name Benammi, *that is, The son of my people*; he is the father of men of Ammon till to [*this*] day.

CHAPTER 20

¹ Abraham went forth from thence into the land of the south, and dwelled betwixt Kadesh and Shur, and was a pilgrim in Gerar;

² and he said of Sarah, his wife, She is my sister. Therefore Abimelech, king of Gerar, sent, and took her.

³ Soothly God came to Abimelech by a sweven in the night, and said to him, Lo! thou shalt die, for the woman which thou hast taken, for she hath an husband.

⁴ Forsooth Abimelech [*had*] touched not her; and he said, Lord, whether thou shalt slay *a* folk unknowing and just [*or rightwise*]?

⁵ Whether he said not to me, She is my sister, and she said, He is my brother? In the simpleness of mine heart, and in the cleanness of mine hands, I did this.

⁶ And the Lord said to him, And I know that thou didest by simple heart, and therefore I kept thee, lest thou didest sin against me, and I suffered not that thou touchedest her;

⁷ now therefore yield thou the wife to her husband, for he is a prophet; and he shall pray for thee, and thou shalt live; soothly if thou wilt not yield *her*, know thou that thou shalt die by death, thou, and all things that be thine.

⁸ And at once Abimelech rose by night, and called all his servants, and spake all these words in the ears of them; and all men dreaded greatly.

⁹ Soothly Abimelech called also Abraham, and said to him, What hast thou done to us? what sinned we against thee, that thou hast brought in on me and on my realm *such* a great sin? thou hast done to us which things thou oughtest not to do.

¹⁰ And again Abimelech asked, and said, What thing sawest thou, that thou wouldest do this?

¹¹ Abraham answered, I thought within me, and said, In hap the dread of God is not in this place; and they shall slay me for my wife;

¹² in other manner forsooth and she is my sister verily, the daughter of my father, and not the daughter of my mother; and I wedded her into wife;

¹³ soothly after that God led me out of the house of my father, I said to her, Thou shalt do this mercy with me in each place to which we shall enter; thou shalt say, that I am thy brother.

¹⁴ Therefore Abimelech took sheep, and oxen, and servants, and handmaids, and gave to Abraham; and he yielded to him Sarah, his wife,

¹⁵ and said, The land is before you; dwell thou, wherever it pleaseth thee.

¹⁶ Forsooth Abimelech said to Sarah, Lo! I gave a thousand pieces of silver to thy brother; this shall be to thee into *a* covering of eyes, to all men that be with thee; and whither ever thou goest, have thou mind that thou art taken.

¹⁷ Soothly for Abraham prayed, God cured Abimelech, and his wife, and handmaids, and they childed;

¹⁸ for God had closed each womb of the house of Abimelech, for Sarah, the wife of Abraham.

CHAPTER 21

¹ Forsooth God visited Sarah, as he promised, and [*ful*] filled those things, that he spake.

² And she conceived, and childed a son in her eld *age*, in the time wherein God before-said to her.

³ And Abraham called the name of his son, whom Sarah childed to him, Isaac.

⁴ And Abraham circumcised him in the eighth day, as God commanded to him,

⁵ when he was of an hundred years; for Isaac was born in this age of the father.

⁶ And Sarah said, The Lord hath made laughing to me, and whoever shall hear shall laugh with me.

⁷ And again she said, Who should hear, and believe to Abraham, that Sarah should give sucking to a son, whom she childed to him, *when he is now an eld [or old] man?*

⁸ Therefore the child increased, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast in the day of his weaning.

⁹ And when Sarah saw the son of Hagar *the Egyptian*, playing, *or doing idolatry*, with Isaac her son,

¹⁰ she said to Abraham, Cast out this handmaid and her son; for the son of the handmaid shall not be heir with my son Isaac.

¹¹ Abraham took this heavily for his son;

¹² and God said to him, Be it not seen sharp to thee on the child, and on thine handmaid; all things which Sarah saith to thee, hear thou her voice, for in Isaac seed shall be called to thee;

¹³ but also I shall make the son of the handmaid into a great folk, for he is thy seed.

¹⁴ And so Abraham rose early, and took bread, and a bottle of water, and put it on Hagar's shoulder, and he betook *to her* the child*, and let go her; and when she had gone, she went out of the way in the wilderness of Beersheba.

¹⁵ And when the water in the bottle was ended, she cast away the child under a tree that was there;

¹⁶ and she went away, and she sat even against, as far as a bow may cast; for she said, I shall not see the child dying; and she sat against, and raised [*up*] her voice, and wept.

¹⁷ Forsooth the Lord heard the voice of the child, and the angel of the Lord called Hagar from heaven, and said, What doest thou, Hagar? do not thou dread, for God hath heard the voice of the child, from the place wherein he is.

¹⁸ Rise thou, and take the child, and hold his hand; for I shall make him into a great folk.

* **CHAPTER 21:14** Ishmael would be about 15 years old at this time.

19 And God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water, and she went, and filled the bottle, and she gave drink to the child;

20 and *God* was with him, and he increased, and dwelled in wilderness, and he was made a young man an archer,

21 and dwelled in the desert of Paran; and his mother took to him a wife of the land of Egypt.

22 In the same time, Abimelech, and Phicol, prince of his host, said to Abraham, God is with thee in all things that thou doest;

23 therefore swear thou by God that thou harm not me, and mine heirs, and my kindred; but by the mercy which I did to thee, do thou to me, and to the land in which thou livedest *as a comeling*.

24 And Abraham said, I shall swear.

25 And he blamed Abimelech for the well of water, which his servants took away by violence.

26 And Abimelech answered, I wist not who did this thing, but also thou showedest not to me, and I heard not except today.

27 And so Abraham took sheep and oxen, and gave to Abimelech, and both smote together a bond of peace.

28 And Abraham set seven ewe lambs of the flock asides half.

29 And Abimelech said to him, What will these seven ewe lambs *mean* to themselves, which thou madest stand asides half?

30 And he said, Thou shalt take of mine hand seven ewe lambs, that those [*or they*] be into witnessing to me, for I digged this well.

³¹ Therefore that place was called Beersheba, *that is, The Well of the Oath*[†], for ever either swore there;

³² and they made bond of peace for the well of an oath. Forsooth Abimelech rose, and Phicol, the prince of his chivalry, and they turned again into the land of Palestines.

³³ Soothly Abraham planted a wood in Beer-sheba, and inwardly called there the name of [*the*] everlasting God;

³⁴ and he was an earth-tiller, *or a comeling*, of the land of Palestines in many days.

CHAPTER 22

¹ And after that these things were done, God assayed Abraham, and said to him, Abraham! Abraham! He answered, I am present.

² God said to him, Take thine one begotten son, whom thou lovest, Isaac; and go into the land of vision, and offer thou him there into burnt sacrifice on one of the hills which I shall show to thee.

³ Therefore Abraham rose by night, and saddled his ass, and led with him two young men, and Isaac his son; and when he had hewn trees into burnt sacrifice, he went to the place which God had commanded to him.

⁴ Forsooth in the third day, he raised [*up*] his eyes, and saw a place afar;

[†] **CHAPTER 21:31** Beersheba also means ‘the Well of the Seven’.

⁵ and he said to his young men, Abide ye here with the ass, I and the child* shall go thither; and after that we have worshipped, we shall turn again to you.

⁶ And he took the wood of burnt sacrifice, and laid *it* on Isaac his son; forsooth he bare fire, and a sword in his hands. And when they twain [*or two*] went together,

⁷ Isaac said to his father, My father! And he answered, What wilt thou, son? He said, Lo! fire and wood, where is the beast of burnt sacrifice?

⁸ Abraham said, My son, God shall purvey to him the beast of burnt sacrifice. Therefore they went together,

⁹ and came to the place which God had showed to him; in which place Abraham builded an altar, and dressed [*the*] wood above; and when he had bound altogether Isaac, his son, he laid Isaac on the altar, upon the heap of wood.

¹⁰ And he held forth his hand, and took the sword to sacrifice his son.

¹¹ And lo! the angel of the Lord cried from heaven, and said, Abraham! Abraham! Which answered, I am present.

¹² And the angel said to him, Hold thou not forth thine hand on the child, neither do thou anything *of harm* to him; now I know that thou darest God, and sparedest not thine one begotten son for me.

¹³ Abraham raised [*up*] his eyes, and he saw behind him a ram cleaving by the horns among

* **CHAPTER 22:5** According to Jewish tradition, Isaac was probably 25 years old at this time (Gehman/Josephus).

briars, which he took, and offered *as* burnt sacrifice for the son.

14 And he called the name of that place The Lord seeth; wherefore it is said, till to *this* day, The Lord shall see in the hill.

15 Forsooth the angel of the Lord called to Abraham the second time from heaven,

16 and said, The Lord saith, I have sworn by myself, for thou hast done this thing, and hast not spared thine one begotten *son* for me,

17 I shall bless thee, and I shall multiply thy seed as the stars of heaven, and as the gravel, *either sand*, which is in the brink of the sea; thy seed shall wield the gates of his enemies;

18 and all the folks of [*the*] earth shall be blessed in thy seed, for thou obeyedest to my voice.

19 Abraham turned again to his young men, and they went to Beersheba together, and he dwelled there.

20 And so when these things were done, it was told to Abraham that also Milcah had borne sons to Nahor his brother;

21 Huz the first begotten, and Buz his brother, and Kemuel the father of Aram,

22 and Chesed, and Hazo, and Pildash, and Jidlaph, and Bethuel,

23 of whom Rebecca was born; Milcah childed these eight to Nahor, the brother of Abraham.

24 Forsooth his concubine, *or secon-dary wife*, Reumah by name, childed Tebah, and Gaham, and Thahash, and Maachah.

CHAPTER 23

¹ Forsooth Sarah lived an hundred and seven and twenty years,

² and died in the city of Arba, which is Hebron, in the land of Canaan; and Abraham came to bewail and bewEEP her.

³ And when he had risen from the office of the dead body, he spake to the sons of Heth, and said,

⁴ I am a comeling and a pilgrim with you; give ye to me right of [*a*] sepulchre with you, that I bury my dead body.

⁵ And the sons of Heth answered, and said,

⁶ Lord, hear thou us; thou art the prince of God with us; bury thou thy dead body in our chosen sepulchres, and no man shall be able to forbid thee, that not thou bury thy dead body in the sepulchre of him.

⁷ And Abraham [*a*] rose, and worship-ped *or honoured* the people of the land, that is, the sons of Heth.

⁸ And he said to them, If it pleaseth your soul that I bury my dead body, hear ye me, and pray ye for me to Ephron, the son of Zohar,

⁹ that he give to me the double cave, which he hath in the uttermost part of his field; for sufficient money give he it to me before you into possession of [*a*] sepulchre.

¹⁰ Forsooth Ephron dwelled in the midst of the sons of Heth. And Ephron answered to Abraham, while all men heard that entered by the gate of that city, and said,

¹¹ My lord, it shall not be done so, but more hearken thou *to* that that I say; I give to thee

the field, and the cave which is therein, while the sons of my people be present; bury thou thy dead body.

¹² Abraham worshipped before the Lord, and before the people of the land,

¹³ and he spake to Ephron, while his people stood about, I beseech, that thou hear me; I shall give money for the field, receive thou it, and so I shall bury my dead body in the field.

¹⁴ And Ephron answered,

¹⁵ My lord, hear thou me; the land which thou askest *for* is worth four hundred shekels of silver, that is the price betwixt me and thee; but how much is this? bury thou thy dead body.

¹⁶ And when Abraham had heard this, he numbered *out* the money which Ephron asked *for*, while the sons of Heth heard, four hundred shekels of silver, and of proved common money.

¹⁷ And the field that was sometime of Ephron, in which field was a double den, beholding to Mamre, as well that field, as the den, and all the trees thereof, in all the terms thereof by compass,

¹⁸ was confirmed to Abraham into possession, while the sons of Heth saw, and all men that entered by the gate of that city.

¹⁹ And so Abraham buried Sarah, his wife, in the double den of the field, that beheld to Mamre; this is Hebron in the land of Canaan.

²⁰ And the field, and the den that was therein, was confirmed of the sons of Heth to Abraham, into possession of *a* sepulchre.

CHAPTER 24

¹ Forsooth Abraham was eld [*or old*], and of many days, and the Lord had blessed him in all things.

² And he said to the elder servant of his house, that was sovereign on all things that he had, Put thou thine hand under mine hip,

³ that I conjure *or adjure* thee by the Lord God of heaven and of earth, that thou take not a wife to my son of the daughters of Canaan, among which I dwell;

⁴ but that thou go to my land and kindred, and thereof take a wife to my son Isaac.

⁵ The servant answered, If the woman will not come with me into this land, whether I owe to lead again thy son to the place, from which thou wentest out?

⁶ Abraham said, Beware, lest any time thou lead again thither my son;

⁷ the Lord God of heaven that took me from the house of my father, and from the land of my birth, which spake to me, and swore, and said, I shall give this land to thy seed, he shall send his angel before thee, and thou shalt take from thence a wife to my son;

⁸ forsooth if the woman will not follow thee, thou shalt not be holden by the oath; nevertheless lead not again my son thither.

⁹ Therefore the servant putted his hand under the hip of Abraham, his lord, and swore to him on this word.

¹⁰ And he took ten camels of the flock of his lord, and went forth, and bare with him of all the

goods of his lord; and he went forth, and came to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor.

¹¹ And when he had made the camels to rest without the city, beside a pit *or well* of water, in the eventide, in that time in which women be wont to go out to draw water,

¹² he said, Lord God of my lord Abraham, I beseech, meet with me today, and do mercy with my lord Abraham.

¹³ Lo! I stand nigh the well of water, and the daughters of the dwellers of this city shall go out to draw water;

¹⁴ therefore the damsel to which I shall say, Bow down thy water pot that I drink, and [*she*] shall answer, Drink thou, but also I shall give drink to thy camels, that it is which thou hast made ready to thy servant Isaac; and by this I shall understand that thou hast done mercy to my lord Abraham.

¹⁵ And he had not yet [*full-*]filled the words within himself, and lo! Rebecca, the daughter of Bethuel, son of Milcah, wife of Nahor, brother of Abraham, went out, having a water pot in her shoulder;

¹⁶ a damsel full comely/full shapely, and fairest virgin, and unknown of man. Soothly she came down to the well, and filled the water pot, and turned again.

¹⁷ And the servant met her, and said, Give thou to me a little of the water of thy pot to drink.

¹⁸ Which answered, Drink thou, my lord. And anon she did down the water pot on her shoulder, and gave drink to him.

19 And when he had drunk, she said, But also I shall draw water to thy camels, till all have drunk.

20 And she poured out the water pot in[to] troughs, and ran again to the pit, to draw water, and she gave water drawn to all the camels.

21 Soothly he beheld her privily, and would wit whether the Lord had sped his way, or nay.

22 Therefore after that the camels had drunk, the man brought forth golden earrings, weighing two shekels, and as many bands of the arm, in the weight of ten shekels.

23 And he said to her, Whose daughter art thou? show thou to me, is [there] any place in the house of thy father to dwell in?

24 Which answered, I am the daughter of Bethuel, son of Nahor, whom Milcah childed to him.

25 And she added, saying, Also full much of provender and of hay is at us, and a large place to dwell in.

26 The man bowed himself, and worshipped the Lord,

27 and said, Blessed be the Lord God of my lord Abraham, which took not away his mercy and truth from my lord, and led me by the right way, into the house of the brother of my lord.

28 And so the damsel ran, and told in the house of her mother all things which she had heard.

29 Soothly Rebecca had a brother, Laban by name, which went out hastily to the man, where he was withoutforth.

³⁰ And when he had seen the earrings, and bands of the arm in the hands of his sister, and had heard all the words of her, telling, The man spake to me these things, he came to the man that stood beside the camels, and nigh the well of water,

³¹ and said to him, Enter thou, the blessed of the Lord; why standest thou withoutforth? I have made ready the house, and a place to thy camels.

³² And he brought him into the inn, and unsaddled the camels, and gave provender, and hay, and water to wash the feet of the camels, and of men that came with him.

³³ And bread was set forth in his sight, the which said, I shall not eat till I speak my words. He answered to the man, Speak thou.

³⁴ And the man said, I am the servant of Abraham,

³⁵ and the Lord hath blessed my lord greatly, and he is made great; and God gave to him sheep, and oxen, silver, and gold, servants, and handmaids, and camels, and asses.

³⁶ And Sarah, my lord's wife, childed a son to my lord in his *eld age*, and *Abraham, my lord*, hath given all things that he had to that son.

³⁷ And my lord charged me greatly, and said, Thou shalt not take to my son a wife of the daughters of Canaan, in whose land I dwell,

³⁸ but thou shalt go to the house of my father, and of my kindred thou shalt take a wife to my son.

³⁹ Forsooth I answered to my lord, What if the woman will not come with me?

40 He said, The Lord, in whose sight I go, shall send his angel with thee, and shall dress thy way; and thou shalt take a wife to my son of my kindred, and of my father's house.

41 Thou shalt be innocent from my curse, when thou comest to my kins-men, and they give not her to thee.

42 Therefore I came today to the well of water, and said, Lord God of my lord Abraham, if thou hast dressed my way in which I go now,

43 lo! I stand beside the well of water, and the maid[en] that shall go out to draw water, heareth me *say to her*, Give thou to me a little of water to drink of thy pot,

44 and she say to me, And thou drink, and I shall draw water to thy camels, that is the woman which the Lord hath made ready to the son of my lord.

45 While I turned in thought these things with me, Rebecca appeared, coming with a pot which she bare in her shoulder; and she went down to the well, and drew water. And I said to her, Give thou a little to me to drink;

46 and she hasted, and did down the pot off the shoulder, and said to me, And thou drink, and I shall give drink to thy camels; I drank, and *she* watered the camels.

47 And I asked her, and said, Whose daughter art thou? Which answered, I am the daughter of Bethuel, the son of Nahor, whom Milcah childed to him. And so I hanged earrings to adorn her face, and I put bands of the arm in her hands,

48 and low-like I worshipped the Lord, and I blessed the Lord God of my lord Abraham, which God led me by the right way, that I should take the daughter of the brother of my lord to his son.

49 Wherefore if ye do mercy and truth with my lord, show ye to me; else if other thing pleaseth, also say ye this, that I go to the right side or to the left side.

50 Laban and Bethuel answered, The word is gone out of the Lord; we may not speak any other thing with thee without his pleasance [*or pleasing*].

51 Lo! Rebecca is before thee; take thou her, and go forth, and be she [*the*] wife of the son of thy lord, as the Lord spake.

52 And when the servant of Abraham had heard this, he felled down, and worshipped the Lord in earth.

53 And when vessels of silver, and of gold, and clothes were brought forth, he gave those to Rebecca for a gift, and he gave gifts to her brethren, and mother.

54 And when a feast was made, they ate and drank together, and dwelled there. Forsooth the servant rose early, and said, Deliver ye me, that I go to my lord.

55 Her brethren and mother answered, The damsel dwell namely ten days at us, and afterward she shall go forth.

56 The servant said, Do not ye hold me, for the Lord hath dressed my way; deliver ye me, that I go to my lord.

57 And they said, Call we the damsel, and ask we her will.

58 And when she was called, and came, they asked her, Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I shall go.

59 Therefore they delivered her, and her nurse, and the servant of Abraham, and his fellows,

60 and wished prosperities to their sister, and said, Thou art our sister, increase thou into a thousand thousands, and thy seed wield the gates of his enemies.

61 Therefore Rebecca and her damsels ascended [*or went up*] on the camels, and pursued [*or followed*] the man, which turned again hastily to his lord.

62 In that time Isaac walked by the way that leadeth to the pit *or well*, whose name is of him that liveth and seeth; for he dwelled in the south land.

63 And he went out to think in the field, for the day was bowed [*down*] then; and when he had raised [*up*] his eyes, he saw camels coming *from* afar.

64 And when Isaac was seen, Rebecca lighted down off the camel,

65 and said to the servant, Who is that man that cometh by the field into the meeting of us? And the servant said to her, It is my lord. And she took soon a mantle, and covered herself.

66 Forsooth the servant told to his lord Isaac all things which he had done;

67 Isaac led her into the tabernacle of Sarah, his mother, and took her to wife; and so much

he loved her; that he assuaged the sorrow which befell to him of the death of his mother.

CHAPTER 25

¹ Forsooth Abraham wedded another wife, Keturah by name,

² which childed to him Zimran, and Jokshan, and Medan, and Midian, and Ishbak, and Shuah.

³ Also Jokshan begat Sheba, and Dedan. Forsooth the sons of Dedan were Asshurim, and Letushim, and Leummim.

⁴ And soothly of Midian was born Ephah, and Ephher, and Hanoch, and Abidah, and Eldaah; all these were the sons of Keturah.

⁵ And Abraham gave all things which he had in possession to Isaac;

⁶ soothly he gave gifts to the sons of [*the*] concubines, *that is, secondary wives*; and Abraham, while he lived yet, separated them from Isaac, his son, to the east coast.

⁷ Forsooth the days of the life of Abraham were an hundred and threescore and fifteen years;

⁸ and he failed, and died in [*a*] good *eld age*, and of great age, and full of days, and he was gathered to his people.

⁹ And Isaac and Ishmael, his sons, buried him in the double den, which is set in the field of Ephron, son of Zohar *the* Hittite, even against Mamre,

¹⁰ which den he bought of the sons of Heth; and he was buried there, and Sarah his wife.

¹¹ And after the death of Abraham, God blessed Isaac his son, which dwelled beside the pit by name of him that liveth and seeth.

¹² These be the generations of Ishmael, the son of Abraham, whom Hagar Egyptian, handmaid of Sarah, childed to Abraham;

¹³ and these be the names of the sons of Ishmael, in their names and generations. The first begotten of Ishmael was Nebajoth, afterward Kedar, and Adbeel, and Mibsam,

¹⁴ and Mishma, and Dumah, and Massa,

¹⁵ and Hadar, and Tema, and Jetur, and Naphish, and Kedemah.

¹⁶ These were the sons of Ishmael, and these were the names by castles, and towns of them, *[the]* twelve princes of their lineages.

¹⁷ And the years of *[the]* life of Ishmael were made an hundred and seven and thirty *years*, and he failed, and died, and was put to his people.

¹⁸ Forsooth he inhabited from Havilah till to Shur, that beholdeth Egypt, as men entereth into *[the]* Assyrians; he died before all his brethren.

¹⁹ Also these be the generations of Isaac, the son of Abraham. Abraham begat Isaac,

²⁰ and when Isaac was of forty years, he wedded a wife, Rebecca, the daughter of Bethuel, of Syria, of Mesopotamia, the sister of Laban.

²¹ And Isaac besought the Lord for his wife, for she was barren; and the Lord heard him, and gave conceiving to Rebecca.

²² But the little children were hurtled together in her womb; and she said, If it was so to coming *[or to come]* to me, what need was it to conceive? And she went to ask counsel of the Lord,

²³ which answered, and said, Two folks be in thy womb, and two peoples shall be separated from thy womb, and one people shall overturn a people, and the more shall serve the less.

²⁴ Then the time of child-bearing came, and lo! two children were found in her womb.

²⁵ He that went out first was red, and all rough in the manner of a skin; and his name was called Esau.

²⁶ Anon the other went out, and held with his hand the heel of his brother; and therefore he called him Jacob*. Isaac was sixty years old, when the little children were born.

²⁷ And when they were waxen, Esau was a man knowing of hunting, and a man an earth-tiller; forsooth Jacob was a simple man, and dwelled in tabernacles.

²⁸ Isaac loved Esau, for he ate of the hunting of Esau; and Rebecca loved Jacob.

²⁹ Soothly Jacob seethed pottage; and when Esau came weary from the field,

³⁰ he said to Jacob, Give thou to me of this red seething, for I am full weary; for which cause his name was called Edom *or Red*.

³¹ And Jacob said to him, Sell to me the rights of the first begotten child.

³² Esau answered, Lo! I die, what shall the first begotten things profit to me?

³³ Jacob said, Therefore swear thou to me. Therefore Esau swore, and sold the first engendered things.

* **CHAPTER 25:26** The name sounds like the Hebrew for 'He who takes by the heel, or supplants'.

³⁴ And so when he had taken bread and pottage, Esau ate and drank, and went forth, and charged *or cared* little that he had sold the rights of the first begotten child.

CHAPTER 26

¹ Forsooth for hunger rose on the land, after that barrenness that befelled in the days of Abraham, Isaac went forth to Abimelech, king of Palestines, in Gerar.

² And the Lord appeared to him, and said, Go not down into Egypt, but rest thou in the land which I shall say to thee,

³ and be thou a pilgrim therein; and I shall be with thee, and I shall bless thee; for I shall give all these countries to thee, and to thy seed, and I shall [*ful*] fill the oath which I promised to Abraham, thy father.

⁴ And I shall multiply thy seed as the stars of heaven, and I shall give all these countries to thine heirs, and all folks of the earth shall be blessed in thy seed,

⁵ for Abraham obeyed to my voice, and kept my behests, and my commandments, and my ceremonies, and my laws.

⁶ And so Isaac dwelled in Gerar.

⁷ And when he was asked of [*the*] men of that place of his wife, he answered, She is my sister; for he dreaded to acknowledge that she was fellowshipped to him in matrimony, and he guessed lest peradventure they would slay him for the fairness of her.

⁸ And when full many days were passed, and he dwelled there, Abimelech, king of Palestines,

beheld by a window, and saw him playing with Rebecca, his wife.

⁹ And when Isaac was called, the king said, It is open, that she is thy wife; why saidest thou, that she was thy sister? Isaac answered, For I dreaded, lest I should die for her.

¹⁰ And Abimelech said, Why hast thou deceived us? Some man of the people might do lechery with thy wife, and thou haddest brought in grievous sin on us.

¹¹ And the king commanded to all the people, and said, He that toucheth the wife of this man shall die by death.

¹² Forsooth Isaac sowed in that land, and he found an hundredfold *increase* in that year; and the Lord blessed him.

¹³ And the man was made rich, and he went profiting and increasing, till he was made full great.

¹⁴ Also he had possessions of sheep and of great beasts, and full much of menials. For this thing Palestines had envy to him,

¹⁵ and they stopped in that time and filled with earth all the pits *or wells* which the servants of Abraham his father had digged,

¹⁶ in so much that Abimelech himself said to Isaac, Go thou away from us, for thou art made greatly mightier than we.

¹⁷ And he went away, that he should come to the strand of Gerar, and dwelled there.

¹⁸ And he digged again other wells, which the servants of Abraham his father had digged, and which the Philistines had stopped sometime,

when Abraham was dead; and he called those pits by the same names, by which his father had called before.

19 They digged in the strand, and they found quick, *or welling up*, water.

20 But also strife of [*the*] shepherds of Gerar was there against the shepherds of Isaac, and they said, The water is ours; wherefore of that strife that befelled, Isaac called the name of that well False Challenge, *or Esek, or Quarrel*.

21 And they digged another *well*, and they strived also for that, and Isaac called that well Enmities, *or Sitnah, or Enmity*.

22 And he went forth from thence, and digged another pit, for which they strived not, [*and*] therefore he called the name of that well Breadth, *either Largeness*; and said, Now God hath enlarged us, and hath made *us* to increase on [*the*] earth.

23 Isaac forsooth went up from that place into Beersheba,

24 where the Lord appeared to him in that night; and said, I am [*the*] God of Abraham, thy father; do not thou dread, for I am with thee, and I shall bless thee, and I shall multiply thy seed for my servant Abraham.

25 And so Isaac builded there an altar to the Lord; and when the name of the Lord was inwardly called, he stretched forth a tabernacle; and he commanded his servants that they should dig pits.

26 And when Abimelech, and Ahuzzath, *one of* his friends, and Phicol, [*the*] duke of knights, had come from Gerar to that place,

27 Isaac spake to them, What came ye to me, a man whom ye have hated, and putted away from you?

28 Which answered, We saw that God is with thee, and therefore we said now, An oath be betwixt us, and make we a covenant of peace,

29 that thou do not any [*thing of*] evil to us, as we touched nothing of thine, neither did that that hurted thee, but with peace we let go thee increased by the blessings of the Lord.

30 Therefore Isaac made them a feast; and after meat and drink,

31 they rose early, and swore each to other; and Isaac let go them peaceably into their place.

32 Lo! forsooth in that day the servants of Isaac came, telling to him of the pit which they had digged, and said, We have found water.

33 Wherefore Isaac called that pit Abundance *or Shebah*; and the name of the city was set Beersheba till into *this* present day.

34 Esau forsooth forty years eld [*or old*] wedded two wives, Judith*, the daughter of Beeri Hittite, and Bashemath†, the daughter of Elon, of the same place;

35 which both offended the soul of Isaac and of Rebecca.

* **CHAPTER 26:34** She is also known as Oholibamah or Aholibamah. † **CHAPTER 26:34** She is also known as Adah.

CHAPTER 27

¹ Forsooth Isaac waxed eld [*or old*], and his eyes dimmed, and he might not see. And he called Esau, his more *or older* son, and said to him, My son! Which answered, I am present.

² To whom the father said, Thou seest that I have waxed eld, and I know not the day of my death*.

³ Take thine arms, *an* arrow case, and a bow, and go out; and when thou hast taken anything by hunting,

⁴ make me a stew thereof, as thou knowest that I will *or desire*, and bring it to me that I eat, that my soul bless thee before that I die.

⁵ And when Rebecca had heard this thing, and he had gone forth into the field that he fulfill the behest of his father,

⁶ she said to her son Jacob, I heard thy father speaking with Esau, thy brother, and saying to him,

⁷ Bring thou to me of thine hunting, and make thou meats, that I eat, and that I bless thee before the Lord before that I die.

⁸ Now therefore, my son, assent to my counsels,

⁹ and go to the flock, and bring to me twain [*or two*]of the best kids, that I make meats of those to thy father, which he shall eat gladly;

¹⁰ and that when thou hast brought in those meats, and he hath eaten, he bless thee before that he die.

* **CHAPTER 27:2** Isaac would still be alive more than 20 years after this event(!).

11 To whom Jacob answered, Thou knowest that Esau my brother is an hairy man, and I am smooth;

12 if my father shall touch or draw me to him, and feel me, I dread lest he guess that I would scorn him, and he bring in cursing on me for blessing.

13 To whom his mother said, My son, this cursing be in me; only hear thou my voice, and go, and bring that that I said.

14 He went, and brought it, and gave it to his mother. She made ready meats, as she knew that his father would *have*,

15 and she clothed Jacob in [*the*] full good clothes of Esau, which she had at home with herself.

16 And she wrapped his hands about with little skins of *goat* kids, and covered the nakedness of his neck;

17 and she gave to him the stew, and betook him [*the*] loaves, which she had baked.

18 And when these were brought in, he said, My father! And he answered, I *am* here; who art thou, my son?

19 And Jacob said, I am Esau, thy first begotten son. I have done to thee as thou commandedest to me; rise thou up, and sit, and eat of my venison, that thy soul bless me.

20 Again Isaac said to his son, My son, how mightest thou find *this venison* so soon? Which answered, It was God's will, that this thing that I would, should come soon to me.

21 And Isaac said, My son, come thou hither, that I touch thee, and that I prove whether thou be my son Esau, or nay.

22 Jacob nighed to his father; and when Isaac had feeled him, he said, Soothly the voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands be the hands of Esau.

23 And Isaac knew not Jacob, for the hairy hands showed the likeness of the elder son. Therefore Isaac blessed Jacob,

24 and said *again*, Art thou my son Esau? Jacob answered, I am.

25 And Isaac said, My son, bring thou to me meats of thine hunting, that my soul bless thee. And when Isaac had eaten these meats brought, Jacob brought also wine to Isaac, and when this was drunken,

26 Isaac said to him, My son, come thou hither, and give to me a kiss.

27 Jacob nighed, and kissed him; and anon as Isaac feeled the odour of his clothes, he blessed him, and said, Lo! the odour of my son as the odour of a plenteous field which the Lord hath blessed.

28 God give to thee of the dew of heaven, and of the fatness of [*the*] earth, abundance [*or plenty*] of wheat, and of wine, and of oil;

29 and peoples serve thee, and lineages worship thee; be thou lord of thy brethren, and the sons of thy mother be bowed before thee; be he cursed that curseth thee, and he that blesseth thee, be he [*full-*]filled with blessings.

³⁰ Scarcely Isaac had filled the word, and when Jacob was gone out, Esau came,

³¹ and brought in meats sodden of the hunting to the father; and said, My father, rise thou, and eat of the hunting of thy son, that thy soul bless me.

³² And Isaac said, Who art thou? Which answered, I am Esau, thy first begotten son.

³³ Isaac dreaded with a great aston-ishing; and he wondered more than it may be believed, and said, Who therefore is he which a while ago brought to me venison taken, and I ate of all things before that thou camest; and I blessed him? and he shall be blessed.

³⁴ When the words of the father were heard, Esau roared with a great cry, and was astonished, and said, My father, bless thou also me.

³⁵ Which said, Thy brother came prudently [*or beguilingly*], and took thy blessing.

³⁶ And Esau added, Justly his name is called Jacob, for lo! he [*hath*] supplanted me another time; before he took away my first begotten things, and now the second time, he [*hath*] ravished privily my blessing. And again he said to the father, Whether thou hast not reserved a blessing also to me?

³⁷ Isaac answered, I have made him thy lord, and I have made subject all his brethren to his servage; I have stablished him in wheat, and wine, and oil; and so, my son, what shall I do to thee after these things?

³⁸ To whom Esau said, Father, whether thou hast only one blessing? I beseech *thee*, that also

thou bless me. And when Esau wept with great yelling,

³⁹ Isaac was stirred, and said to him, Thy blessing shall *not* be in the fatness of [*the*] earth, and in the dew of heaven from above;

⁴⁰ thou shalt live by sword, and thou shalt serve thy brother, and time shall come when thou shalt shake away, and unbind his yoke from [*off*] thy nolls.

⁴¹ Therefore Esau hated evermore Jacob for the blessing by which the father had blessed him; and Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning of my father shall come, and I shall slay Jacob, my brother.

⁴² These things were told to Rebecca, and she sent, and called her son Jacob, and said to him, Lo! Esau, thy brother, menaceth [*or threateneth*] to slay thee;

⁴³ now therefore, my son, hear thou my voice, and rise thou up, and flee to Laban, my brother, into Haran;

⁴⁴ and thou shalt dwell with him a few days, till the strong vengeance of thy brother rest, and his indignation cease,

⁴⁵ and till he forget those things which thou hast done against him. Afterward I shall send, and I shall bring thee from thence hither. Why shall I be made sonless of ever either son in one day?

⁴⁶ And Rebecca said to Isaac, It annoyeth *or vexeth* me of my life for the daughters of Heth; if Jacob take a wife of the kindred of this land, I will not live.

CHAPTER 28

¹ And so Isaac called Jacob, and blessed him, and commanded to him, and said, Do not thou take a wife of the kin of Canaan;

² but go thou, and walk forth into Mesopotamia of Syria, to the house of Bethuel, [*the*] father of thy mother; and take to thee from thence a wife of the daughters of Laban, thine uncle.

³ Soothly Almighty God bless thee, and make thee to increase, and multiply thee, that thou be into companies of peoples;

⁴ and God give to thee the blessing of Abraham, and to thy seed after thee, that thou wield the land of thy pilgrimage, which he promised to thy grand-sire.

⁵ And when Isaac had let go Jacob, he went forth, and came into Mesopotamia of Syria, to Laban, the son of Bethuel of Syria, the brother of Rebecca, his mother.

⁶ Forsooth Esau saw that his father had blessed Jacob, and had sent him into Mesopotamia of Syria, that he should wed a wife of thence, and that after the blessing he commanded to Jacob, and said, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan;

⁷ and that Jacob obeyed to his father and mother, and went into Syria;

⁸ also Esau proved *thereby* that his father beheld not gladly the daughters of Canaan.

⁹ And Esau went to Ishmael, and wedded a wife, without these which he had before, Mahalath*, the daughter of Ishmael, son of Abraham, the sister of Nebajoth.

¹⁰ Therefore Jacob went out of Beersheba, and went to Haran.

¹¹ And when he had come to some place, and would rest therein after the going down of the sun, he took of the stones that lay there, and he put under his head, and slept in the same place.

¹² And he saw in *[his]* sleep a ladder standing on the earth, and the top thereof touching heaven; and he saw God's angels ascending or going up and going down thereby,

¹³ and the Lord nighed to the ladder, saying to him, I am the Lord God of Abraham, thy father, and God of Isaac; I shall give to thee and to thy seed the land in which thou sleepest.

¹⁴ And thy seed shall be as the dust of *[the]* earth, thou shalt be alarged to the east, and west, and to the north, and south; and all the lineages of *[the]* earth shall be blessed in thee and in thy seed.

¹⁵ And I shall be thy keeper, whither ever thou shalt go; and I shall lead thee again into this land, and I shall not leave thee, no but I shall fulfill all *[the]* things which I have said.

¹⁶ And when Jacob had waked of *[the]* sleep, he said, Verily the Lord is in this place, and I knew not.

* **CHAPTER 28:9** Mahalath is also called Bashemath, but she is a different person than Esau's 2nd wife, who was also called Bashemath(!).

¹⁷ And he said dreading, How fearedful, *or worshipful*, is this place! Here is none other thing, no but the house of God, and the gate of heaven.

¹⁸ Therefore Jacob rose early, and took the stone which he had put under his head, and raised *it* up into a title, *or sign*, and poured out oil above.

¹⁹ And he called the name of that city Bethel, which was called Luz before.

²⁰ Also Jacob avowed a vow, and said, If God is with me, and keepeth me in the way in which I go, and giveth to me loaves to eat, and clothes to be clothed with,

²¹ and I turn again in prosperity to the house of my father, the Lord shall be into God to me.

²² And this stone, which I raised into a title, shall be called the house of God; and I shall offer tithes to thee of all things which thou shalt give to me.

CHAPTER 29

¹ Therefore Jacob passed forth, and came into the east land;

² and he saw a pit *or well* in the field, and three flocks of sheep resting beside it, for why sheep were watered thereof, and the mouth thereof was closed with a great stone.

³ And the custom was that when all the sheep were gathered together, they should turn away the stone, and when the flocks were watered, they should put it again on the mouth of the pit.

⁴ And Jacob said to the shepherds, Brethren, of whence be ye? Which answered, Of Haran.

5 And he asked them and said, Whether ye know Laban, the son of Nahor? They said, We know *him*.

6 Jacob said, Is he whole? They said, He is in good state; and lo! Rachel, his daughter, cometh with his flock.

7 And Jacob said, Yet much of the day is to come, and it is not time that the flocks be led again to the folds; soothly give ye drink to the sheep, and so lead ye them again to meat *or feeding*.

8 Which answered, We may not till all the sheep be gathered together, and till we remove the stone from the mouth of the pit, to water the flocks.

9 Yet they spake, and lo! Rachel came with the sheep of her father.

10 And when Jacob saw her, and knew *her to be* the daughter of his mother's brother, and the sheep *to be* of Laban his uncle, he removed the stone with which the pit was closed; and when the flock was watered,

11 he kissed her, and he wept with voice raised.

12 And Jacob showed to her that he was the brother of her father, and the son of Rebecca; and she hasted, and told to her father.

13 And when he had heard, that Jacob, the son of his sister, came, he ran to meet him, and he embraced Jacob, and kissed him, and led him into his house. Forsooth when the causes of the journey were heard,

14 Laban answered, Thou art my bone and my flesh. And after that the days of a month were filled,

15 Laban said to Jacob, Whether for thou art my brother, thou shalt serve me freely? say thou what meed thou shalt take.

16 Forsooth Laban had two daughters, the name of the elder was Leah, soothly the younger was called Rachel;

17 but Leah was bleary-eyed, and Rachel was of fair face, and lovely in sight.

18 And Jacob loved Rachel, and said, I shall serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter.

19 Laban answered, It is better that I give her to thee than to another man; dwell thou with me.

20 Therefore Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and the days seemed few to him for the greatness of *his* love.

21 And *at last* he said to Laban, Give thou my wife to me, for the time is fulfilled that I enter [*in*] to her.

22 And when many companies of friends were called to the feast, he made [*the*] weddings,

23 and in the eventide Laban brought in to him Leah his daughter,

24 and gave an handmaid, Zilpah by name, to his daughter.

25 And when Jacob had entered [*in*] to her by custom, when the morrow-tide was made, he saw Leah, and he said to his wife's father, What is it that thou wouldest do? whether I served not thee for Rachel? why hast thou deceived me?

²⁶ Laban answered, It is not custom in our place that we give first the younger daughter to weddings;

²⁷ fulfill thou the week of days of this wedding, and I shall give to thee also this *Rachel*, for the work in which thou shalt serve me by other seven years.

²⁸ Jacob assented to the covenant, and when the week was passed, he wedded Rachel,

²⁹ to whom her father had given Bilhah an handmaid.

³⁰ And at the last Jacob used the weddings desired, and set the love of the latter wife before the first; and Jacob served Laban seven other years.

³¹ Forsooth the Lord saw that Jacob despised Leah, *that is, loved her less than Rachel*, and he opened Leah's womb, while her sister dwelled barren.

³² And Leah childed a son conceived, and she called his name Reuben, and said, The Lord hath seen my meek-ness; now mine husband shall love me.

³³ And again she conceived, and childed a son, and said, For the Lord saw that I was despised, he gave also this son to me; and she called his name Simeon.

³⁴ And she conceived the third time, and childed another son, and she said also, Now mine husband shall be coupled to me, for I have childed three sons to him; and therefore she called his name Levi.

³⁵ The fourth time she conceived, and childed a son, and said, Now I shall acknowledge to the

Lord; and therefore she called his name Judah; and ceased to child.

CHAPTER 30

¹ Forsooth Rachel saw, that she was unfruitful, and she had envy to her sister, and said to her husband, Give thou free children to me, else I shall die.

² To whom Jacob was wroth, and answered, Whether I am for God, which have deprived thee from the fruit of thy womb?

³ And she said, I have an handmaid Bilhah; enter thou [*in*] to her that she child on my knees, and that I have sons of her.

⁴ And she gave to him Bilhah into matrimony; and when her husband had entered [*in*] to her,

⁵ she conceived, and childed a son.

⁶ And Rachel said, The Lord hath deemed to me, and hath heard my prayer, and gave a son to me; and therefore she called his name Dan.

⁷ And again Bilhah conceived, and childed another son,

⁸ for whom Rachel said, The Lord hath made me like my sister, and I [*have*] waxed strong; and she called him Naphtali.

⁹ Leah feeled that she ceased to bear child, and she gave Zilpah, her handmaid, to her husband.

¹⁰ And when Zilpah, after conceiving, childed a son,

¹¹ Leah said, Blessedly; and therefore she called his name Gad.

¹² Also Zilpah childed another son,

13 and Leah said, This is for my bliss, for all women shall say me blessed; therefore she called him Asher.

14 Forsooth Reuben went out into the field in the time of wheat harvest, and found mandrakes, which he brought to Leah, his mother. And Rachel said, Give thou to me a part of the mandrakes of thy son.

15 Leah answered, Whether it seemeth little to thee, that thou hast ravished my husband from me, no but thou take also the mandrakes of my son? Rachel said, The husband sleep with thee in this night for the mandrakes of thy son.

16 And when Jacob came again from the field at the eventide, Leah went out into his meeting, and said, Thou shalt enter *[in]* to me, for I have hired thee with hire for the mandrakes of my son. He slept with her in that night;

17 and God heard her prayers, and she conceived, and childed the fifth son;

18 and said, God hath given meed to me, for I gave mine handmaid to mine husband; and she called his name Issachar.

19 Again Leah conceived, and childed the sixth son,

20 and said, The Lord hath made me rich with a good dower; also in this time mine husband shall be with me, for I have engendered six sons to him; and therefore she called his name Zebulun.

21 After whom she childed a daughter, Dinah by name.

22 Also the Lord had mind on Rachel, and he heard her, and opened her womb.

23 And she conceived, and childed a son, and said, God hath taken away my shame;

24 and she called his name Joseph, and said, The Lord give to me another son.

25 Soothly when Joseph was born, Jacob said to his wife's father, Deliver thou me, that I turn again to my country, and to my land.

26 Give thou to me my wives, and my free children, for which I have served thee, that I go; forsooth thou knowest the service by which I have served thee.

27 Laban said to him, Find I grace in thy sight; I have learned by experience, that God hath blessed me for thee;

28 ordain thou the meed which I shall give to thee.

29 And Jacob answered, Thou knowest how I have served thee, and how great thy possession was in mine hands;

30 thou haddest little before that I came to thee, and now thou art made rich, and the Lord [*hath*] blessed thee at mine entering; therefore it is just that I purvey sometime also for mine house.

31 And Laban said, What shall I give to thee? And Jacob said, I will *or desire* nothing, *that is, of thy gift*, but if thou doest that that I ask, again I shall feed and keep thy sheep.

32 Go about all thy flocks, and separate thou all diversely-coloured sheep, and of spotted fleeces, and whatever thing shall be of dun *hue*, and spotted, and diverse of colour, as well in sheep as in goats; that shall be my meed.

³³ And my rightfulness [*or rightwise-ness*] shall answer to me tomorrow, when the time of covenant shall come before thee; and all that be not diverse, and spotted, and dunned, as well in sheep as in goats, be found at me thou shalt reprove me of theft.

³⁴ And Laban said, I have *it* acceptable that that thou askest.

³⁵ And Laban separated in that day [*the*] goats, and sheep, goat bucks, and rams, diverse and spotted. Soothly he betook all the flock of one colour, that is, of white, and of black fleece, into the hands of his sons;

³⁶ and he set the space of *a* way of three days betwixt his sons, and the husband of his daughters, that fed his other flocks.

³⁷ Therefore Jacob took green rods of poplars, and of almonds, and of planes, and in part he did away the rind of them; and when the rinds were drawn away, *either shaved*, whiteness appeared in these that were made bare; soothly those that were whole dwelled green, and by this manner the colour was made diverse.

³⁸ And Jacob put those rods in the troughs, where the water was poured out, that when the flocks should come to drink,

³⁹ they should have the rods before their eyes, and they should conceive in [*the*] sight of the rods. And it was done that in that heat of riding, *or engendering*, the sheep should behold those rods, and that they should bring forth spotted beasts, and diverse, and besprinkled with diverse colour.

⁴⁰ And Jacob separated the flock, and put the rods in the [*water*] troughs, before the eyes of the rams. Soothly all the white and [*the*] black were Laban's; soothly all the others were Jacob's; for the flocks were separated betwixt themselves.

⁴¹ Therefore when the sheep were ridden in the first time, Jacob put the rods in the water troughs before the eyes of rams, and of *ewe* sheep, that they should conceive in the sight of the rods.

⁴² Forsooth when the late mixing, *or engendering*, and the last conceivings were, Jacob put not those rods; and those that were late *engendered*, were made Laban's, and those that were of the first time *engendered*, were Jacob's.

⁴³ And Jacob was made full rich, and had many flocks, handmaids, and menservants, camels, and asses.

CHAPTER 31

¹ After that, Jacob heard the words of the sons of Laban, that said, Jacob hath taken away all things that were our father's, and of his chattel Jacob is made rich, and noble.

² Also Jacob perceived the face of Laban, that it was not against him as yesterday, and the third day ago,

³ mostly for the Lord said to Jacob, Turn again into the land of thy fathers, and to thy generation, and I shall be with thee.

⁴ Jacob sent, and called Rachel and Leah into the field, where he kept [*the*] flocks,

⁵ and he said to them, I see the face of your father, that it is not against me as yesterday, and the third day ago; but God of my father was with me.

⁶ And ye know that with all my strengths I have served your father;

⁷ but and your father hath deceived me, and changed my meed ten times; and nevertheless God suffered not him to annoy me.

⁸ If he said any time, Diversely-coloured sheep shall be thy meed, all the sheep brought forth diversely-coloured lambs; forsooth when he said, on the contrary, Thou shalt take all the white for thy meed, all the flocks brought forth white beasts;

⁹ and God took away the substance of your father, and gave it to me.

¹⁰ For after that the time of con-ceiving of sheep came, I raised [*up*] mine eyes, and saw in sleep males diverse, and spotty, and of diverse colours, going up on females.

¹¹ And the angel of the Lord said to me in sleep, Jacob! and I answered, I am ready.

¹² Which said, Raise [*up*] thine eyes, and see all [*the*] males *that be* diverse, [*and*] besprinkled, and spotty, going [*up*] on [*the*] females; for I have seen all things which Laban hath done to thee;

¹³ I am God of Bethel, where thou anointedest a stone, and madest a vow to me. Now therefore rise thou, and go out of this land, and turn again into the land of thy birth.

14 And Rachel and Leah answered, Whether we have anything residue, *or left*, in the chattels, and heritage of our father?

15 Whether he areckoned not, *or held*, us as aliens, and sold us, and ate our price?

16 But God took away the riches of our father, and gave those [*or them*] to us, and to our sons; wherefore do thou all things which God hath commanded to thee.

17 Forsooth Jacob rose, and put his free children and wives on camels, and went forth;

18 and he took all his cattle, flocks, and whatever thing he had gotten in Mesopotamia, and went to Isaac, his father, into the land of Canaan.

19 In that time Laban went to shear sheep, and Rachel stole the idols of her father.

20 And Jacob would not acknowledge to the father of his wives, that he would flee;

21 and when he had gone, as well he as all things that were of his right, and when he had passed [*over*] the water, and he went against the hill of Gilead,

22 it was told to Laban, in the third day, that Jacob fled.

23 And Laban took his brethren [*with him*], and pursued him seven days, and [*over*] took him in the hill of Gilead.

24 And Laban saw in sleep the Lord saying to him, Beware that thou speak not anything sharply against Jacob.

25 And then Jacob had stretched forth the tabernacle in the hill; and when Laban had pursued Jacob with his brethren, Laban set a tent in the same hill of Gilead;

26 and he said to Jacob, Why hast thou done so, that the while I knew not, thou wouldest drive away my daughters as captives, *either taken prisoners*, by sword?

27 Why wouldest thou flee the while I knew not, neither wouldest show to me, that I should pursue [*or follow*] thee with joy, and songs, and tympan, and harps?

28 Thou sufferedest not that I should kiss my sons and daughters; thou hast wrought follily.

29 And now soothly mine hand may yield evil to thee, but the God of thy father said to me yesterday, Beware that thou speak not any hard thing with Jacob.

30 Suppose, if thou covetedest to go to thy kinsmen, and the house of thy father was in desire to thee, why hast thou stolen my gods?

31 Jacob answered, That I went forth while thou knewest not, I dreaded lest thou wouldest take away thy daughters *from me* violently;

32 soothly that thou reprovest me of theft, at whomever thou findest thy gods, be he slain before our brethren; seek thou, whatever thing of thine thou findest at me, and take it away. Jacob said these things, and knew not that Rachel had stolen the idols.

33 And so Laban entered into the tabernacles of Jacob, and of Leah, and of ever either menial, and he found not; and when Laban had entered into the tent of Rachel,

34 she hasted, and hid the idols under the strewings of the camel, and she sat above.

³⁵ And she said to Laban, seeking *throughout* all the tent, and finding nothing, My lord, be not wroth that I may not rise before thee, for it befel now to me by the custom of women; so the busyness of the seeker was scorned.

³⁶ And Jacob swelled, and said with strife, For what cause of me, and for what sin of me, hast thou come so fiercely after me,

³⁷ and hast sought *through* all the appurtenance of mine house? What hast thou found of all the chattel of thine household? Put thou here before my brethren and thy brethren, and deem they betwixt me and thee.

³⁸ Was I *not* with thee therefore twenty years? Thy sheep and goats were not barren, I ate not the rams of thy flock,

³⁹ neither I showed to thee anything taken of a beast; I yielded all [*the*] harm; whatever thing perished by theft, thou askedest of me;

⁴⁰ I was anguished in day and night with heat and frost, and sleep fled from mine eyes;

⁴¹ so I served thee by twenty years in thine house, fourteen years for thy daughters, and six years for thy flocks; and thou changedest my meed ten times.

⁴² But if [*the*] God of my father Abraham, and the dread of Isaac had not helped me, peradventure now thou haddest left me naked; the Lord hath beheld my tormenting and the travail of mine hands, and reproved thee yesterday.

⁴³ Laban answered to Jacob, The daughters, and the sons, and the flocks, and all things which

thou seest, be mine; what may I do to my sons, and to the sons of my sons?

⁴⁴ Therefore come thou, and make we bond of peace, that it be a witnessing betwixt me and thee.

⁴⁵ And so Jacob took a stone, and raised it into a title, *either a sign*,

⁴⁶ and said to his brethren, Bring ye stones; which gathered, and made an heap, and ate on it.

⁴⁷ And Laban called it The heap of witness, and Jacob called it The heap of witnessing; ever either called it by the property of his language.

⁴⁸ And Laban said, This heap shall be witness betwixt me and thee today, and therefore the name thereof was called Galeed, *that is, The heap of witness*.

⁴⁹ And Laban added, The Lord behold, and deem betwixt us, when we shall go away from you;

⁵⁰ if thou shalt torment my daughters, and if thou shalt bring in other wives on them, none is witness of our word, except God, which is present, and beholdeth.

⁵¹ And again Laban said to Jacob, Lo! this heap, and the stone, *or the pillar*, which I have raised betwixt me and thee,

⁵² shall be witnesses; soothly this heap, and the stone be into witnessing, forsooth if I shall pass it, and go to thee, either thou shalt pass it, and think *to do* evil to me.

⁵³ God of Abraham, and God of Nahor, *[the]* God of the father of them, deem betwixt us.

Therefore Jacob swore by the dread of his father Isaac;

⁵⁴ and when slain sacrifices were offered in the hill, Jacob called his brethren to eat bread, and when they had eaten, they dwelled there.

⁵⁵ Forsooth Laban rose by night, and kissed his sons, and daughters, and blessed them, and turned again into his place.

CHAPTER 32

¹ Forsooth Jacob went forth in the way in which he began, and the angels of the Lord met him.

² And when he had seen them, he said, These be the castles of God; and he called the name of that place Mahanaim.

³ Soothly Jacob sent before him also messengers to Esau, his brother, into the land of Seir, in the country of Edom;

⁴ and he commanded to them, and said, Thus speak ye to my lord Esau, Thy brother Jacob saith these things, I have been a pilgrim at Laban, and I was till into this present day;

⁵ I have oxen, and asses, and sheep, and menservants, and handmaids, and I send now a message to my lord, that I find grace in thy sight.

⁶ And the messengers turned again to Jacob, and said, We came to Esau, thy brother, and lo! he hasteth him into thy coming, with four hundred men.

⁷ Jacob dreaded greatly, and he was afeared, and he parted the people that was with him, and he parted the flocks, and sheep, and oxen, and camels, into two companies;

⁸ and he said, If Esau shall come to one company, and shall smite it, the other company which is left *unsmitten*, shall be saved.

⁹ And Jacob said, O! God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, O! Lord, that saidest to me, Turn thou again into thy land, and to the place of thy birth, and I shall do well to thee,

¹⁰ I am less than all thy merciful doings, and than thy truth which thou hast [*ful*] filled to thy servant; with my staff I passed *over* this Jordan, and now I go again with two companies;

¹¹ deliver thou me from the hand of my brother Esau, for I dread him greatly, lest he come and smite or slay the mothers with the sons [*or with the children*].

¹² Thou spakest that thou shouldest do well to me, and wouldest alarge my seed as [*the*] gravel of the sea, that may not be numbered for muchliness.

¹³ And when Jacob had slept there in that night, he separated of those things which he had *as* gifts to Esau, his brother,

¹⁴ two hundred *she* goats, and twenty bucks of goats, two hundred sheep, and twenty rams,

¹⁵ camels full with their foals thirty, forty kine, and twenty bulls, twenty she-asses, and [*the*] ten foals of them.

¹⁶ And he sent by the hands of his servants all the flocks by themselves; and he said to his servants, Go ye before me, and a space be betwixt flock and flock.

¹⁷ And he commanded to the former *or first*, and said, If thou shalt meet my brother Esau, and

he shall ask thee, whose man thou art, or whither thou goest, or whose be these things which thou followest,

¹⁸ thou shalt answer, Of thy servant Jacob; he hath sent gifts to his lord Esau, and he cometh after us.

¹⁹ In like manner, he gave commandments to the second, and to the third, and to all that pursued [*or followed*] the flocks; and said, Speak ye by the same words to Esau, when ye find him,

²⁰ and ye shall add, Also Jacob himself thy servant pursueth [*or followeth*] our way. For Jacob said, I shall please Esau with gifts that go before, and afterward I shall see him; in hap he shall be merciful to me.

²¹ And so the gifts went before him; soothly he dwelled in that night in the tents.

²² And when Jacob had risen hastily, he took his two wives, and so many handmaids, with *his* eleven sons, and he passed *over* the ford of Jabbok.

²³ And when all things that pertained to him were led over,

²⁴ Jacob dwelled *there* alone, and, lo! a man *came*, and wrestled with him till to the morrowtide.

²⁵ And when the man saw that he might not overcome Jacob, he touched the sinew of Jacob's hip, and it dried anon.

²⁶ And he said to Jacob, Let go thou me, for the morrowtide goeth up now. Jacob answered, I shall not let go thee, no but thou bless me.

²⁷ Therefore he said, What name is to thee? He answered, Jacob.

²⁸ And the man said, Thy name shall no more be called Jacob, but Israel; for if thou were strong against God, how much more shalt thou have power against men.

²⁹ Jacob asked him, Say thou to me by what name thou art called? He answered, Why askest thou my name, which is wonderful? And he blessed Jacob in the same place.

³⁰ And Jacob called the name of that place Penuel, and said, I saw the Lord face to face, and my life is made safe.

³¹ And anon the sun rose to him, after that he had passed *over from* Penuel; forsooth he halted in the foot.

³² For which cause the sons of Israel eat not unto this present day the sinew, *like that* that dried in the hip of Jacob; for the man touched the sinew of Jacob's hip, and it dried *up*.

CHAPTER 33

¹ Forsooth Jacob raised up his eyes, and saw Esau coming, and four hundred men with him; and he parted the sons of Leah, and of Rachel, and of both the servantesses.

² And he put ever either handmaid, and the free children of them, in the beginning; soothly he put Leah, and her sons, in the second place; forsooth he put Rachel and Joseph the last.

³ And Jacob went before, and worshipped *or honoured* lowly to the earth seven times, till his brother nighed.

4 And so Esau ran against his brother, and embraced him, and Esau held his neck, and kissed him, and wept.

5 And when *Esau's* eyes were raised up, he saw the women, and the little children of them, and said, What will these *mean* to themselves? and whether they pertain to thee? Jacob answered, They be the little children, which God hath given to me, thy servant.

6 And the handmaids and their sons nighed, and were bowed.

7 Also Leah nighed with her free children; and when they had worshipped in like manner, Joseph and Rachel last worshipped.

8 And Esau said, What be these companies, which I met? And Jacob answered, That I should find grace before my lord.

9 And he said, My brother, I have full many things, thy things be to thee.

10 And Jacob said, I beseech thee, do not thou so, but if I have found grace in thine eyes, take thou a little gift of mine hands; for I saw so thy face as *if* I had seen the cheer of God; be thou merciful to me,

11 and receive the blessing which I have brought to thee, and which blessing God giving all things gave to me. Scarcely *desiring it*, while the brother compelled, he received,

12 and said, Go we together, and I shall be a fellow of thy way.

13 And Jacob said, My lord, thou knowest that I have little children tender, and sheep, and kine with calves with me, and if I shall make them for

to travail more in going, all the flocks shall die in one day;

¹⁴ my lord go before his servant, and I shall pursue [*or follow*] little and little his steps, as I see that my little children be able, till I come to my lord, into Seir.

¹⁵ Esau answered, I pray thee, that of the people which is with me, dwell they namely fellows of thy way. Jacob said, It is no need; I have need to this one thing only, that I find grace in thy sight, my lord.

¹⁶ And so Esau turned again in that day in the way by which he came, into Seir.

¹⁷ And Jacob came into Succoth, where when he had builded an house, and had set tents, he called the name of that place Succoth, *that is, taber-nacles*.

¹⁸ And Jacob passed into Shalem, a city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, after that he turned again from Mesopotamia of Syria, and he dwelled beside the city.

¹⁹ And he bought for an hundred lambs a part of the field, in which he set tabernacles, of the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem.

²⁰ And when he had raised an altar there, he inwardly called on it the full strong God of Israel.

CHAPTER 34

¹ Forsooth Dinah, the daughter of Leah, went out to see the women of that country.

² And when Shechem, the son of Hamor *the* Hivite, the prince of that land, had seen her, he

loved her, and he ravished her, and slept with her, and oppressed the virgin by violence.

³ And his soul was bound fast with her, and he pleased her sorry with flatterings.

⁴ And he went to Hamor, his father, and said, Take to me this damsel *for* a wife.

⁵ And when Jacob had heard this thing, while his sons were absent, and occupied in the feeding or the pasturing of [*the*] sheep, he was still, till they came again.

⁶ Soothly when Hamor, the father of Shechem, was gone out to speak to Jacob,

⁷ lo! his sons came from the field. And when this thing that befelled was heard, they were wroth greatly; for he had wrought a foul thing in Israel, and he had done a thing unleaveful in the defouling of the daughter of Jacob.

⁸ And so Hamor spake to them, The soul of my son Shechem hath cleaved to your daughter; give ye her a wife to him,

⁹ and join we weddings together; give ye your daughters to us, and take ye our daughters,

¹⁰ and dwell ye with us; the land is in your power; till ye, and make ye merchandise, and wield ye it.

¹¹ But also Shechem said to the father and brethren of her, Find I grace before you, and whatever things ye ordain I shall give;

¹² increase ye the dower, and ask ye *for* gifts, and I shall give willfully that that ye ask; only give ye this damsel a wife to me.

¹³ The sons of Jacob answered in guile to Shechem and *to Hamor*, his father, and *they* were

made fierce for the defouling of the maidenhood of their sister,

14 We may not do this that ye ask, neither we may give our sister to a man uncircumcised, which thing is unleaveful and abominable with us.

15 But in this we shall be able to be bound in peace, if ye will be like us, and each of male kind be circumcised in you;

16 then we shall give and take together our daughters and yours; and we shall dwell with you, and we shall be one people.

17 Forsooth if ye will not be circumcised, we shall take our daughter, and we shall go away.

18 The proffering of them pleased Hamor, and Shechem, his son,

19 and the young waxing man delayed not, that not he fulfilled anon that that was asked; for he loved the damsel greatly, and he was *the most* noble in all the house of his father.

20 And they entered into the gate of the city, and spake to the people,

21 These men be peaceable, and will dwell with us; make they merchandise in the land, and till they it, which is large and broad, and hath need to tillers; we shall take their daughters to wives, and we shall give our daughters to them.

22 One thing is, for which so great good is delayed; if we circumcise our males, and follow the custom of the folk,

23 both their substance, and sheep, and all things which they wield, shall be ours; only

assent we in this, that we dwell together, and make one people.

²⁴ And all men assented, and all [*the*] males were circumcised.

²⁵ And lo! in the third day, when the sorrow of [*the*] wounds was most grievous, two sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, [*the*] brethren of Dinah, took swords, and entered into the city boldly; and when all [*the*] males were slain,

²⁶ they killed Hamor and Shechem together, and took Dinah, their sister, from the house of Shechem. And when they were gone out,

²⁷ [*the*] other sons of Jacob felled in on the slain men, and rifled the city, for the vengeance of [*the*] defouling of the virgin.

²⁸ And they wasted the sheep of those men, and droves of oxen, and asses, and all things that were in the houses and fields,

²⁹ and led *away as* prisoners the little children, and [*the*] wives of those men. And when these things were done hardily,

³⁰ Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, Ye have troubled me, and have made me hateful to Canaanites and Perizzites, [*the*] dwellers of this land; we be few, [*and*] they shall be gathered together *against me*, and shall slay me, and I shall be done away, and mine house.

³¹ Simeon and Levi answered, Whether they ought to mis-use our sister as a whore?

CHAPTER 35

¹ In the meantime the Lord spake to Jacob, Rise thou, and go up to Bethel, and dwell there; and

make thou an altar to the Lord, that appeared to thee when thou fleddest Esau, thy brother.

² Soothly Jacob said, when all his house was called together, Cast ye away alien gods, that be in the midst of you, and be ye cleansed, and change ye your clothes;

³ rise ye, and go we up into Bethel, that we make there an altar to the Lord, which heard me in the day of my tribulation, and was fellow of my way.

⁴ Therefore they gave to Jacob all the alien gods which they had, and [*the*] earrings, that were in their ears; and Jacob delved them under a terebinth tree, which is behind the city of Shechem.

⁵ And when they went *forth*, dread assailed all men by compass of the city, and they were not hardy to pursue them going away.

⁶ Therefore Jacob came to Luz, which is in the land of Canaan, by the sire-name Bethel, he and all his people with him.

⁷ And he builded there an altar to the Lord, and called the name of that place The house of God, for God appeared there to him, when he fled his brother.

⁸ Deborah, the nurse of Rebecca, died in the same time, and she was buried at the root[s] of Bethel, under an oak, and the name of the place was called The Oak of Weeping.

⁹ Forsooth God appeared again to Jacob, after that he turned again from Mesopotamia of Syria, and came into Bethel, and blessed him,

¹⁰ and said, Thou shalt no more be called Jacob, but Israel shall be thy name. And God called him Israel,

¹¹ and said to him, I am God Almighty; increase thou, and be thou multiplied, folks and peoples of nations shall be of thee, kings shall go out of thy loins;

¹² and I shall give to thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land which I gave to Abraham and Isaac.

¹³ And God departed from him.

¹⁴ Forsooth Jacob raised a title, *or a memorial*, of stones, in the place wherein God spake to him, and he sacrificed thereon flowing sacrifices, and shedded out oil,

¹⁵ and he called the name of that place Bethel.

¹⁶ Soothly Jacob went out from thence, and he came in the beginning of summer to the land that leadeth to Ephratah; in which land when Rachel travailed in child bearing,

¹⁷ she began to be in peril for the hardness of childbearing; and the mid-wife said to her, Do not thou dread, for thou shalt have also this son.

¹⁸ Forsooth while the soul passed *from her* for sorrow, and death nighed then, she called the name of her son Benoni, *that is, the son of my sorrow*; forsooth his father called him Benjamin, *that is, the son of the right side*.

¹⁹ Therefore Rachel died, and was buried in the way that leadeth to Ephratah, that is Bethlehem.

²⁰ And Jacob builded a memorial upon the sepulchre of her; this is the memorial of the burial of Rachel unto this present day.

²¹ Jacob went from thence, and setted a tabernacle over the tower of the flock.

²² And while he dwelled in that country, Reuben went, and slept with Bilhah, the secondary wife of his father, which thing was not hid from him. Forsooth the sons of Jacob were twelve;

²³ the sons of Leah were, the first begotten Reuben, and Simeon, and Levi, and Judah, and Issachar, and Zebulun;

²⁴ the sons of Rachel were Joseph, and Benjamin;

²⁵ the sons of Bilhah, the handmaid of Rachel, were Dan, and Naphtali;

²⁶ and the sons of Zilpah, [*the*] handmaid of Leah, were Gad, and Asher. These were the sons of Jacob, that were born to him in Mesopotamia of Syria.

²⁷ Also Jacob came to Isaac, his father, into Mamre, the city of Arbah, this is Hebron, in which *Mamre* Abraham and Isaac was a pilgrim.

²⁸ And the days of Isaac were filled an hundred and fourscore of years;

²⁹ and he was wasted in age, and died, and he was put to his people, and was eld [*or old*], and full of days; and Esau and Jacob his sons buried him.

CHAPTER 36

¹ Forsooth these be the generations of Esau; he is Edom.

² Esau took wives* of the daughters of Canaan; Adah, the daughter of Elon *the* Hittite, and Oholibamah, the daughter of Anah, the son of Zibeon *the* Hivite;

³ also Bashemath, the daughter of Ishmael, the sister of Nebajoth.

⁴ And Adah childed Eliphaz; Bashemath childed Reuel;

⁵ Oholibamah childed Jeush, and Jaalam, and Korah. These were the sons of Esau, that were born to him in the land of Canaan.

⁶ Soothly Esau took his wives, and his sons, and daughters, and each soul of his house, and his cattle, and sheep, and all things which he had in the land of Canaan, and went into another country, and departed from his brother Jacob;

⁷ for they were full rich, and they might not dwell together, and the land of their pilgrimage sustained not them, for the multitude of flocks.

⁸ And Esau dwelled in the hill of Seir; he is Edom.

⁹ Forsooth these were the genera-tions of Esau, father of Edom, in the hill of Seir,

¹⁰ and these were the names of his sons; Eliphaz, the son of Adah, wife of Esau, also Reuel, the son of Bashemath, wife of Esau.

¹¹ And the sons of Eliphaz were Teman, Omar, Zepho, and Gatam, and Kenaz.

¹² Forsooth Timna was the secondary wife of Eliphaz, Esau's son, which *Timna* childed to him

* **CHAPTER 36:2** Each of Esau's three wives were known by two names: Adah, also known as Bashemath; Judith, also known as Oholibamah or Aholibamah; and another Bashemath, also known as Mahalath.

Amalek. These were the sons of Adah, Esau's wife.

¹³ Forsooth the sons of Reuel were Nahath, and Zerah, and Shammah, and Mizzah. These were the sons of Bashemath, Esau's wife.

¹⁴ And these were the sons of Oholibamah, the daughter of Anah, son of Zibeon, Esau's wife, which she childed to him; Jeush, and Jaalam, and Korah.

¹⁵ These were dukes of the sons of Esau; the sons of Eliphaz, the first engendered of Esau; duke Teman, duke Omar, duke Zepho, duke Kenaz,

¹⁶ duke Korah, duke Gatam, and duke Amalek. These were the sons of Eliphaz, in the land of Edom, and these were the sons of Adah.

¹⁷ Also these were the sons of Reuel, Esau's son; duke Nahath, duke Zerah, duke Shammah, duke Mizzah; forsooth these dukes were of Reuel, in the land of Edom. These were the sons of Bashemath, Esau's wife.

¹⁸ Forsooth these were the sons of Oholibamah, Esau's wife; duke Jeush, duke Jaalam, duke Korah; these were [*the*] dukes of Oholibamah, the daughter of Anah, Esau's wife.

¹⁹ These were the sons of Esau, and these were dukes of them; he is Edom.

²⁰ These were the sons of Seir *the* Horite, inhabitants of the land; Lotan, and Shobal, and Zibeon, and Anah,

²¹ and Dishon, and Ezer, and Dishan; these dukes were of Horites, the son[s] of Seir, in the land of Edom.

²² Forsooth the sons of Lotan were Hori, and Hemam; soothly the sister of Lotan was Timna.

²³ And these were the sons of Shobal; Alvan, and Manahath, and Ebal, Shepho, and Onam.

²⁴ And these were the sons of Zibeon; Ajah, and Anah; this is Ahan that found hot waters in the wilderness, when he kept the asses of Zibeon, his father;

²⁵ and he had a son, Dishon, and a daughter, Oholibamah.

²⁶ And these were the sons of Dishon; Hemdan, and Eshban, and Ithran, and Cheran.

²⁷ Also these were the sons of Ezer; Bilhan, and Zaavan, and Akan.

²⁸ And Dishon had sons; Uz, and Aran.

²⁹ These were the dukes of Horites; duke Lotan, duke Shobal, duke Zibeon, duke Anah,

³⁰ duke Dishon, duke Ezer, duke Dishan; these were the dukes of Horites, that were lords in the land of Seir.

³¹ Forsooth [*the*] kings that reigned in the land of Edom, before that the sons of Israel had a king, were these;

³² Bela, the son of Beor, and the name of his city was Dinhabah.

³³ Forsooth Bela died, and Jobab, the son of Zerah of Bozrah, reigned for him.

³⁴ And when Jobab was dead, Husham of the land of Temani reigned for him.

³⁵ And when he was dead, Hadad, the son of Bedad, that smote Midian in the land of Moab, and the name of his city was Avith, reigned for him.

³⁶ And when Hadad was dead, Samlah of Masrekah reigned for him.

³⁷ And when he was dead, Saul of the flood [*of*] Rehoboth reigned for him.

³⁸ And when he was dead, Baal-hanan, the son of Achbor, was successor into the realm.

³⁹ And when he was dead, Hadar reigned for him, and the name of the city of Hadar was Pau, and the name of his wife was Mehetabel, the daughter of Matred, the daughter of Mezahab.

⁴⁰ Therefore these were the names of the dukes of Esau, in their kindreds, and places, and names; duke Timnah, duke Alvah, duke Jetheth,

⁴¹ duke Oholibamah, duke Elah, duke Pinon,

⁴² duke Kenaz, duke Teman, duke Mibzar,

⁴³ duke Magdiel, duke Iram; these were the dukes of Edom, dwelling in the land of his lordship; he was Esau, the father of Idumeans.

CHAPTER 37

¹ Forsooth Jacob dwelled in the land of Canaan, in which his father was a pilgrim;

² and these were the generations of him. Joseph when he was of sixteen years, yet a child, kept a flock with his brethren, and he was with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, the wives of his father; and he accused his brethren at the father of the worst sin.

³ Forsooth Israel loved Joseph above all his sons, for he had begotten him in his *eld age*; and he made to Joseph a coat of many colours.

⁴ Forsooth his brethren saw that he was loved of the father more than all *they*, and they hated him, and might not speak anything peaceably to him.

⁵ And it befel that he told to his brethren a sweven that he saw, which cause was the seed of more hatred.

⁶ And Joseph said to his brethren, Hear ye the sweven which I saw,

⁷ I guessed that we bound together sheaves, *or handfuls, [in the field]*, and that as mine handful rose up, and stood *upright*, and that your handfuls stood about, and worshipped *or honoured* mine handful.

⁸ His brethren answered, Whether thou shalt be our king, either we shall be made subject to thy lordship? Therefore this cause of dreams and words ministered the nourishing of envy, and of hatred.

⁹ Also Joseph saw another sweven, which he told to his brethren, and said, I saw a dream that as the sun, and the moon, and the eleven stars worshipped me.

¹⁰ And when he had told this dream to his father, and his brethren, his father blamed him, and said, What will this dream *mean* to itself that thou hast seen? Whether I, and thy mother, and thy brethren, shall worship thee on earth?

¹¹ Therefore his brethren had envy to him. Forsooth the father beheld privily the thing,

¹² and when his brethren dwelled in Shechem, about [*the*] keeping of [*the*] flocks of their father,

¹³ Israel said to Joseph, Thy brethren keep sheep in Shechem; come thou, I shall send thee to them. And when Joseph answered, I am ready,

¹⁴ Israel said, Go thou, and see whether all things be welsome with thy brethren, and the sheep; and *then* tell thou to me what is done.

And so he was sent from the valley of Hebron, and came into Shechem;

¹⁵ and a man found him erring in the field, and the man asked him, what he sought.

¹⁶ And he answered, I seek my brethren; show thou to me where they keep *their* flocks.

¹⁷ And the man said to him, They went away from this place; forsooth I heard them saying, Go we into Dothan. And Joseph went after his brethren, and found them in Dothan.

¹⁸ And when they had seen him afar, before he nighed to them, they thought to slay him,

¹⁹ and they spake together, Lo! the dreamer cometh,

²⁰ come ye, slay we him, and put we him into an eld [*or old*] cistern, and we shall say, A wild beast full wicked hath devoured him; and then it shall appear what his dreams profit to him.

²¹ Soothly Reuben heard this, and enforced *or endeavoured* to deliver him from their hands, and said, Slay we not the life of him,

²² neither shed we out his blood, but cast ye him into an eld [*or old*] cistern, which is in the wilderness, and keep ye your hands guiltless. Forsooth he said this, willing to deliver him from their hands, and to yield *him* to his father.

²³ Therefore anon as Joseph came to his brethren, they despoiled him of his coat, *that went* down to the heel, and *was* of many colours,

²⁴ and they put him in[*to*] an eld [*or old*] cistern, that had no water.

²⁵ And they sat to eat bread; and they saw that Ishmaelite way-goers came from Gilead, and that

their camels bare sweet smelling spiceries, and resin, and stacte, into Egypt.

²⁶ Therefore Judah said to his brethren, What shall it profit to us, if we shall slay our brother, and shall hide his blood?

²⁷ It is better that he be sold to Ishmaelites, and our hands be not defouled, for he is our brother and our flesh. His brethren assented to these words;

²⁸ and when [*the*] merchants of Midian passed thereforth, they drew Joseph out of the cistern, and sold him to Ishmaelites, for twenty pieces of silver; which led him into Egypt.

²⁹ And Reuben turned again to the cistern, and found not the child; and he rent his clothes,

³⁰ and he went to his brethren, and said, The child appeareth not, and whither shall I go?

³¹ Forsooth they took his coat, and dipped it in the blood of a kid, which they had slain;

³² and they sent men that bare it to their father, and said, We have found this coat; see thou, whether it is the coat of thy son, or nay.

³³ And when their father had known it, he said, It is the coat of my son; a wild beast full wicked hath eaten him; a beast hath devoured Joseph.

³⁴ And he rent his clothes, and he was clothed with an hair-shirt, and bewailed his son in much time.

³⁵ Soothly when his free children were gathered together, that they should appease the sorrow of their father, he would not take comfort; but said, I shall go down into hell, and shall bewail my son. And while Jacob continued in weeping,

³⁶ Midianites sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar, a chaste and honest servant [*or the gelding*] of Pharaoh, master of the chivalry.

CHAPTER 38

¹ In the same time, Judah went down from his brethren, and turned to a man of Adullam, Hirah by name;

² and he saw there a daughter of a man of Canaan, Shuah by name. And when he had taken her to wife, he entered [*in*] to her,

³ and she conceived, and childed a son, and *he* called his name Er.

⁴ And again when another child was conceived, she named the child *that was* born Onan.

⁵ And she childed the third son, whom she called Shelah, and when he was born, she ceased to bear child more.

⁶ Soothly Judah gave a wife, that was called Tamar, to his first begotten son Er.

⁷ And Er, the first begotten son of Judah, was wayward in the sight of the Lord, and therefore he was slain of the Lord.

⁸ Therefore Judah said to Onan, his son, Enter thou [*in*] to the wife of thy brother, and be thou fellowshipped to her, that thou raise seed to thy brother.

⁹ And he knew that sons should not be born to him; and he entered [*in*] to the wife of his brother, and shedded his seed into the earth, lest the free children should be born by the name of the *dead* brother;

¹⁰ and therefore the Lord smote him, for he did abominable thing.

¹¹ Wherefore Judah said to Tamar, his son's wife, Be thou a widow in the house of thy father, till Shelah my son waxed; for he dreaded lest also he should die as his brethren. And she went, and dwelled in the house of her father.

¹² Forsooth when many years were passed, the daughter of Shuah, Judah's wife, died; and when comfort was taken after mourning, Judah went up to the shearers of his sheep; he and Hirah of Adullam, *that was[the] keeper of the flock, went up into Timnath.*

¹³ And it was told to Tamar, that her husband's father went up into Timnath, to shear sheep.

¹⁴ And she did away the clothes of widowhood, and she took a rochet cloth *or veil with many wrinkles*, and when the clothing was changed, she sat in the way-lot that leadeth to Timnath; for Shelah had waxed, and she had not taken him into husband.

¹⁵ And when Judah had seen her, he supposed her to be a whore; for she had covered her face, lest she was known.

¹⁶ And Judah entered to her, and said, Suffer me that I lie with thee; for he knew not that she was the wife of his son. And when she answered, What shalt thou give to me, that thou lie with me?

¹⁷ he said, I shall send to thee a kid of the flocks. And again when she said, I shall suffer that that thou wilt, if thou shalt give to me a wed, till thou send that that thou promisest.

¹⁸ Judah said, What wilt thou that be given to thee for a wed? She answered, Thy ring, and thy band of the arm, and the staff which thou holdest

in thine hand. Therefore the woman conceived at one lying-by,

¹⁹ and she rose, and went [*away*]; and when the cloth *or veil* was put away which she had taken, she was clothed in the clothes of widowhood.

²⁰ Forsooth Judah sent a kid by his shepherd of Adullam, that he should receive the wed which he had given to the woman; and when he had not found her,

²¹ he asked men of that place, Where is the woman that sat in the way-lot? And when all men answered, A whore was not in this place;

²² he turned again to Judah, and said to him, I found not her, but also the men of that place said to me, that a whore sat never there.

²³ Judah said, Have she *those things* to herself, that we be not despised, certainly she may not reprove us of a leasing; I sent the kid which I promised, and thou foundest not her.

²⁴ Lo! soothly after three months they told to Judah, and said, Tamar, thy son's wife, hath done fornication, and her womb seemeth to wax great. Judah said, Bring her forth, that she be burnt.

²⁵ And when she was led to *her* pain, she sent to her husband's father, and said, I have conceived of the man, whose these things be; know thou whose is the ring, and the band of the arm, and the staff?

²⁶ And when the gifts were known, Judah said, She is more just [*or rightwise*] than I, for I gave not her to Shelah, my son; nevertheless Judah knew her no more fleshly.

²⁷ Soothly when the childbearing nighed, two children appeared in the womb,

²⁸ and in that birth of the children, one put forth the hand, in which *hand* the midwife bound a red thread, and said, This shall go out before.

²⁹ Soothly while he withdrew the hand, the tother went out, and the woman said, Why, was the skin in which the child lay in the womb parted for thee? And for this cause she called his name Perez.

³⁰ Afterward his brother went out, in whose hand was the red thread, whom she called Zarah, *that is, Redness*.

CHAPTER 39

¹ Therefore Joseph was led into Egypt, and Potiphar, a gelding of Pharaoh, prince of the host, a man of Egypt, bought him of the hand of Ishmaelites, of which he was brought *thither*.

² And the Lord was with him, and he was a man doing with prosperity in all things. And Joseph dwelled in the house of his lord,

³ which knew full well that the Lord was with Joseph, and that all things which he did, were dressed of the Lord in his hand.

⁴ And Joseph found grace before his lord, and he served him, of whom Joseph was made sovereign of all things, and he governed the house betaken to him, and all things that were betaken to him.

⁵ And the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph, and multiplied all his chattel [*or substance*], as well in houses, as in fields;

⁶ neither he knew any other thing, but [*the*] bread which he ate. Forsooth Joseph was fair in face, and shapely in sight.

⁷ And so after many days the lady *of his lord* cast her eyes into Joseph, and said, Sleep thou with me;

⁸ which assented not to the unleave-ful work, and said to her, Lo! while all things be betaken to me, my lord wot not what he hath in his house,

⁹ neither anything is, which is not in my power, either which he hath not betaken to me, except thee, which art his wife; how therefore may I do this evil, and do sin against my lord?

¹⁰ They spake such words by all days or by long time, and the woman was dis-easeful to the young man, and he forsook the adultery.

¹¹ Forsooth it befelled in a day, that Joseph entered into the house, and did some work without witnesses.

¹² And she took the hem of his cloth, and she said, Sleep thou with me; and he left the mantle in her hand, and he fled, and went out.

¹³ And when the woman had seen the cloth in her hands, and that she was despised,

¹⁴ she called to her the men of her house, and said to them, Lo! *my lord* hath brought in an Hebrew man, that he should scorn us; he entered to me to do lechery with me, and when I cried,

¹⁵ and he heard my voice, he left the mantle which I held, and he fled out.

¹⁶ Therefore into proving of the truth, she showed the mantle, that she held, to her husband turning again home.

17 And she said, The Hebrew servant, whom thou broughtest in, entered to me to scorn me;

18 and when he saw me cry, he left the mantle that I held, and he fled out.

19 And when these things were heard, the lord believed over much to the words of the wife, and he was full wroth;

20 and he betook Joseph into prison, where the bound *men* of the king were kept, and he was enclosed there.

21 Forsooth the Lord was with Joseph, and had mercy on him, and gave grace to him, in the sight of the prince of the prison,

22 which betook in the hand of Joseph all the prisoners that were holden in keeping, and whatever thing was done, it was *done* under Joseph,

23 neither the prince knew anything, for all things were betaken to Joseph; for the Lord was with him, and dressed all his works.

CHAPTER 40

1 When these things were done, it befelled that two geldings, the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt, sinned to their lord.

2 And Pharaoh was wroth against them, for the one was master butler, and the tother was master baker.

3 And he sent them into the prison of the prince of knights, in which also Joseph was bound.

4 And the keeper of the prison betook them to Joseph, which also served, *or kept*, them.

Somewhat of time passed, and they were holden in keeping,

⁵ and both saw a dream in one night, by covenable expounding to them.

⁶ And when Joseph had entered to them early, and had seen them sorry,

⁷ he asked them, and said, Why is your cheer heavier today than it is wont *to be*?

⁸ Which answered, We *each* saw a dream, and there is no man that expoundeth it to us. And Joseph said to them, Whether the expounding is not of God? Tell ye to me what ye have seen.

⁹ The master butler told first his dream; I saw before me that a vine,

¹⁰ in which were three scions, waxed little and little into burgeonings, and that after the flowers, the grapes waxed ripe,

¹¹ and the cup of Pharaoh was in mine hand; therefore I took the grapes, and pressed them out into the cup that I held, and I gave drink to Pharaoh.

¹² Joseph answered, This is the expounding of the dream; three scions be yet three days,

¹³ after which Pharaoh shall have mind of thy service, and he shall restore thee into the first degree, and thou shalt give to him the cup, by thine office, as thou were wont to do before.

¹⁴ Only have thou mind of me, when it is well to thee, and thou shalt do mercy with me, that thou make suggestion to Pharaoh, that he lead me out of this prison;

¹⁵ for thieflly, *that is, by thievery*, I am taken away from the land of Hebrews, and here I am sent innocent into prison.

¹⁶ The master baker saw that Joseph had declared prudently the dream, and he said, And I saw a dream, that I had three baskets of meal on mine head,

¹⁷ and I guessed that I bare in one basket, that was highest, all meats or *baked foods* that be made *for Pharaoh* by the craft of bakers, and that birds ate thereof.

¹⁸ Joseph answered, This is the expounding of the dream; three baskets be yet three days,

¹⁹ after which Pharaoh shall take away thine head, and he shall hang thee in a cross, and birds shall draw thy flesh.

²⁰ From thence the third day was the day of the birth of Pharaoh, which made a great feast to his servants, and he had mind among the meats *or during the meal*, of the master butler, and of the prince of bakers;

²¹ and he restored the one into his place, that he should dress the cup, *either drink*, to the king,

²² and he hanged the tother in a gibbet, that the truth of Joseph *declaring the dreams* should be proved.

²³ And nevertheless when prosperities befelled to the master butler, he forgot Joseph that declared his dream.

CHAPTER 41

¹ After two years Pharaoh saw a dream; he guessed that he stood on a river,

² from which seven fair kine and full fat went up, and [*they*] were fed in the places of marshes;

³ and another seven, foul and lean, came out of the river, and were fed in that brink of the water, in green places;

⁴ and those *foul and lean* kine devoured those kine of which the fairness and comeliness of *their* bodies were wonderful. Pharaoh waked,

⁵ and slept again, and he saw another dream; seven ears of corn, full and fair, came forth in one stalk,

⁶ and others, as many ears of corn, thin and smitten with corruption of burning wind, came forth,

⁷ devouring all the fairness of the first. Pharaoh waked after *this* rest,

⁸ and when the morrowtide was made, he was afeared by inward dread, and he sent to all the expounders of Egypt, and to all the wise men; and when they were called, he told the dream, and none was that expounded *it*.

⁹ Then at the last, the master butler bethought *to him*, and said *to Pharaoh*, I acknowledge my sin;

¹⁰ the king was wroth to his servants, and commanded me and the master baker to be cast down into the prison of the prince of knights,

¹¹ where we both saw a dream in one night, before-showing of things to come.

¹² An Hebrew child, servant of the same duke of knights, was there, to whom we told the dreams, and heard whatever thing the befalling of [*the*] thing proved afterward;

13 for I am restored to mine office, and he was hanged in a cross.

14 Anon at the behest of the king, they polled Joseph, led *him* out of the prison, and when his clothing was changed, they brought him to the king.

15 To whom the king said, I saw dreams, and none [*there*] is that expoundeth those things that I saw; I have heard that thou expoudest *such things* most prudently.

16 Joseph answered, Without me, God shall answer prosperities to Pharaoh.

17 Therefore Pharaoh told that that he saw; I guessed that I stood on the brink of the flood,

18 and seven kine, full fair, with flesh able to eating, went up from the water, which kine gathered green sedges in the pasture of the marshes;

19 and lo! seven other kine, so foul and lean, followed these, that I saw never such in the land of Egypt;

20 and when the former kine were devoured and wasted *of the lean kine*,

21 the *lean kine* gave no step, *or token*, of fullness, but were slow, *or feeble*, by like leanness and paleness. I waked,

22 and again I was oppressed by sleep, and I saw a dream; seven ears of corn, full and most fair, came forth on one stalk,

23 and another seven, thin and smitten with [*a*] burning wind, came forth of the stubble,

²⁴ which devoured the fairness of the former; I told this dream to [*the*] expounders, and no man there is that expoundeth it.

²⁵ Joseph answered, The dream of the king is one; God hath showed to Pharaoh what things he shall do.

²⁶ Seven fair kine, and seven full ears of corn, be seven years of plenty, and the same things comprehend the strength of the dream;

²⁷ and [*the*] seven kine, thin and lean, that went up after *the fair kine*, and the seven thin ears of corn, and smitten with [*a*] burning wind, be seven years of hunger to coming [*or to come*],

²⁸ which shall be fulfilled by this order.

²⁹ Lo! seven years of great plenty in all the land of Egypt shall come,

³⁰ and seven other years of so great barrenness shall pursue [*or follow*] those, that all the abundance before *shall* be given to forgetting; for hunger shall waste all the land,

³¹ and the greatness of neediness shall waste the greatness of plenty.

³² Forsooth this that thou sawest the second time *in* a dream pertaining to the same thing, is a showing of firmness, *that is, a confirming of the first*, for the word of God shall be done, and it shall be [*ful*] filled full swiftly.

³³ Now therefore purvey the king a wise man and a ready, and make the king him sovereign to the land of Egypt,

³⁴ which man ordain governors by all countries, and gather he into barns the fifth part of

fruits by [*the*] seven years of plenty, that shall come now;

³⁵ and all the wheat be kept under the power of Pharaoh, and be it kept in [*the*] cities,

³⁶ and be it made ready to the hunger to coming [*or to come*] of the seven years that shall oppress Egypt, and the land be not wasted by poverty.

³⁷ The counsel of *Joseph* pleased Pharaoh, and all his servants,

³⁸ and he spake to them, Whether we be able to find such a man which is full of God's spirit?

³⁹ Therefore Pharaoh said to Joseph, For God hath showed to thee all things which thou hast spoken, whether I may find a wiser man *than thou*, and like to thee?

⁴⁰ Therefore thou shalt be over mine house, and all the people shall obey to the behest of thy mouth; I shall pass thee only by one throne of the realm.

⁴¹ And again Pharaoh said to Joseph, Lo! I have ordained thee on all the land of Egypt.

⁴² And Pharaoh took *off* the ring from his hand, and gave it in the hand of Joseph, and he clothed Joseph with a stole of bis, *or of white silk*, and he put a golden wreath about his neck;

⁴³ and Pharaoh made Joseph to go upon his second chariot, while a beadle cried, that all men should kneel before him, and should know that he was sovereign of all the land of Egypt.

⁴⁴ And the king said to Joseph, I am Pharaoh, without thy behest no man shall stir hand either foot in all the land of Egypt.

45 And Pharaoh turned the name of Joseph, and called him by the Egyptian language, The Saviour of the World*, or *Zaphnathpaaneah*; and he gave to Joseph a wife, Asenath, the daughter of Potipherah, a priest of Heliopolis, *that is, The City of the Sun*. And so Joseph went out to the land of Egypt.

46 Forsooth Joseph was of thirty years, when he stood in the sight of king Pharaoh, and compassed all the countries [*or regions*] of Egypt.

47 And the plenty of [*the*] seven years came, and [*the*] ripe corns were bound into handfults or sheaves,

48 and *they* were gathered into the barns of Egypt, also all the abundance of ripe corns was kept in all cities,

49 and so great abundance was of wheat, that it was made even to the gravel, *or the sand*, of the sea, and the plenty passed measure.

50 Soothly two sons were born to Joseph before that the hunger came, which Asenath, the daughter of Potipherah, a priest of Heliopolis, childed to him.

51 And Joseph called the name of the first begotten son, Manasseh, and said, God hath made me to forget all my travails, and the house of my father;

* **CHAPTER 41:45** *In Hebrew, it is 'showing privates', as Jerome and Lira here say, (or it is 'The one showing secrets', or revealing mysteries, as Jerome and Nicholas of Lira say here).*

⁵² and he called the name of the second son Ephraim, and said, God hath made me to increase in the land of my poverty.

⁵³ Therefore when seven years of plenty that were in Egypt were passed,

⁵⁴ [*the*] seven years of poverty began to come, which Joseph before-said, and hunger had the mastery in all the world; also hunger was in all the land of Egypt;

⁵⁵ and when that land hungered, the people cried to Pharaoh, and asked *for* meats; to whom he answered, Go ye to Joseph, and do ye whatever thing he saith to you.

⁵⁶ Forsooth hunger increased each day in all the land, and Joseph opened all the barns, and sold *corn* to the Egyptians, for also hunger oppressed them;

⁵⁷ and all [*the*] provinces came into Egypt to buy corns, and to abate the evil of neediness.

CHAPTER 42

¹ Forsooth Jacob heard that foods were sold in Egypt, and he said to his sons, Why be ye negligent?

² I [*have*] heard that wheat is sold in Egypt; go ye down, and buy ye necessaries to us, that we may live, and be not wasted by neediness.

³ Therefore ten brethren of Joseph went down to buy wheat in Egypt,

⁴ and Benjamin was withholden of Jacob at home, that said to his brethren, Lest peradventure in the way he suffer any evil.

5 Soothly they entered into the land of Egypt, with other men that went *thither* to buy *corn*; forsooth hunger was in the land of Canaan.

6 And Joseph was the prince of Egypt, and at his will wheats were sold to [*the*] peoples. And when his brethren had worshipped *or honoured* him,

7 and he had known them, he spake harder *to them*, as to aliens, and asked them, From whence came ye? Which answered, From the land of Canaan, that we buy necessaries to *our* lifelode.

8 And nevertheless he knew his brethren, and he was not known of them,

9 and he bethought on the dreams which he saw sometime. And he said to them, Ye be spyers [*or spies*], ye came to see the feebler things of the land.

10 Which said, Lord, it is not so, but thy servants came to buy meats;

11 all we be [*the*] sons of one man, we came *hither* peaceably, and thy servants imagine not any evil.

12 To which he answered, It is in other manner, ye came to see the feeble things of the land.

13 And they said, We thy servants be twelve brethren, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan; the youngest is with our father, another is not *alive*.

14 This it is, he said, that I spake to you, ye be spyers [*or spies*],

15 right now I shall take experience or very knowing of you; by the health of Pharaoh ye shall

not go from hence, till your least brother come *hither*;

¹⁶ send ye one of you, that he bring him, forsooth ye shall be in bonds till those things that ye said be proved, whether those [*or they*] be false or true; else, by the health of Pharaoh, ye be spies.

¹⁷ Therefore he betook them into keeping three days;

¹⁸ soothly in the third day, when they were led out of prison, Joseph said, Do ye that that I said, and ye shall live, for I dread God;

¹⁹ if ye be peaceable, one brother of you be bound in prison; forsooth *the rest* go ye, and bear the wheat, which ye have bought, into your houses,

²⁰ and bring ye your youngest brother to me, that I may prove your words, and ye die not. They did as he said,

²¹ and they spake together, Worthily we suffer these things, for we sinned against our brother, and we saw the anguish of his soul, while he prayed us, and we heard *him* not; therefore this tribulation cometh on us.

²² Of which one, Reuben, said, Whether I said not to you, Do not ye sin against the child, and ye heard not me? lo! his blood is sought.

²³ Soothly they knew not that Joseph understood *them*, for he spake to them by *an* interpreter or an expounder.

²⁴ And he turned away himself a little, and wept; and he turned again, and spake to them.

And he took Simeon, and bound him, while they were present;

²⁵ and he commanded the servants, that they should fill their sacks with wheat, and that they should put all their money in their bags, and over this give *to them* meats in the way; which did so.

²⁶ And they bare [*the*] wheats on their asses, and went forth,

²⁷ and when the sack of one of them was opened that he should give meat to the work beast in the inn, he beheld the money in the mouth of the bag,

²⁸ and he said to his brethren, My money is yielded to me, lo! it is had in the bag; and they were astonied, and troubled, and said together, What thing is this that God hath done to us?

²⁹ And they came to Jacob, their father, in the land of Canaan, and told to him all things that befelled to them, and said,

³⁰ The lord of the land spake hard to us, and guessed that we were spyers [*or spies*] of the province;

³¹ to whom we answered, We be peaceable, neither we purpose any treasons;

³² we be twelve brethren, engendered of one father, one is not *alive*, the youngest dwelleth with the father in the land of Canaan.

³³ And he said to us, Thus I shall prove that ye be peaceable; leave ye one brother of you with me, and take ye meats needful to your houses, and go ye,

³⁴ and bring ye to me your youngest brother, that I know that ye be not spyers [*or spies*], and

that ye may receive this brother which is holden in bonds, and that from thenceforth ye have license to buy what things ye will.

³⁵ While these things were said, when they all poured out the wheats, they found the money bound in the mouths of their sacks. And when they altogether were afeared,

³⁶ their father Jacob said, Ye have made me to be without children; Joseph is not alive, Simeon is holden in bonds, ye shall take away from me Benjamin; all these evils have fallen in *on* me.

³⁷ To whom Reuben answered, Slay thou my two sons, if I shall not bring him again to thee; take thou him in mine hand, and I shall restore him to thee.

³⁸ And Jacob said, My son shall not go down with you; his brother is dead, he alone is left; if any adversity shall befall to him in the land to which ye shall go, ye shall lead forth mine hoar hairs with sorrow to hell.

CHAPTER 43

¹ In the meantime hunger oppressed greatly all the land,

² and when the meats were wasted *or consumed*, which they [*had*] brought from Egypt, Jacob said to his sons, Turn ye again, and buy ye a little of meats to us.

³ Judah answered, That man announced to us, under witnessing of an oath, and said, Ye shall not see my face, if ye shall not bring with you your least brother;

⁴ therefore if thou wilt send him with us, we shall go *down* together, and we shall buy necessaries to thee;

⁵ else if thou wilt not, we shall not go *down*; for as we said oft, the man announced to us, and said, Ye shall not see my face without your least brother.

⁶ Forsooth Israel said to them, Ye did this into my wretchedness, that ye showed to him, that ye had also another brother.

⁷ And they answered, The man asked us by order our generation, if our father lived, if we had another brother; and we answered pursuingly to him, by that that he asked; whether we might know that he would say, Bring ye your brother with you?

⁸ And Judah said to his father, Send the child with me*, that we go, and may live, lest we die, *and thou*, and our little children;

⁹ I *shall* take the child, require thou him *again* of mine hand; if I shall not bring him again, and betake him to thee, I shall be guilty of sin against thee in all time;

¹⁰ if *this* delay, *or tarrying*, had not been, we had come *thence* now another time.

¹¹ Therefore Israel, their father, said to them, If it is need so *to be*, do ye that that ye will; take ye of the best fruits of the land in your vessels, and bear ye gifts to the man, a little of gum, and of honey, and of storax, *that is, a precious gum*, and of myrrh, *that is, a bitter gum*, and of terebinth, *that is, best resins*, and of almonds;

* **CHAPTER 43:8** Benjamin would have been over 30 years old at this time.

12 and bear ye with you double money, and bear ye again that money which ye found in [*the*] bags, lest peradventure it be done by error, or *unwittingly, or by negligence*;

13 but also take ye your brother, and go ye to the man;

14 forsooth my God Almighty make him peaceable or pleasurable, or *queme-ful*, to you, and send he again your brother, whom he holdeth in bonds, and *also* this Benjamin; forsooth I shall be *now* as made bare without sons.

15 Therefore the men took gifts, and double money, and Benjamin; and they went down into Egypt, and stood before Joseph.

16 And when he had seen them and Benjamin together, he commanded the dispenser of his house, and said, Lead these men into the house, and slay *some* beasts, and make a feast; for they shall eat with me today.

17 He did as it was commanded or as it was bidden to *him*, and he led the men into the house;

18 and there they were afeared, and they said together, We be brought in for the money which we bare again before in our sacks, that he put challenge against us, and make subject by violence to servage both us and our asses.

19 Wherefore they nighed in the gates, and spake to the dispenser,

20 Lord, we pray, that thou hear us; we came down now before that we should buy meats;

21 when those were bought, *and we headed home*, when we came to the inn, we opened our bags, and we found the money in the mouths of

our sacks, which *money* we have brought again now in the same weight;

²² but also we have brought other silver, that we *can* buy those things that be needful to us; it is not in our knowing who put the money in our purses.

²³ And he answered, Peace be to you, do not ye dread; your God, and [*the*] God of your father, gave to you treasures in your bags; for I have the money proved, which ye gave to me. And he led out Simeon to them;

²⁴ and when they were brought into the house, he brought water, and they washed their feet, and he gave their asses meats.

²⁵ Soothly they made ready their gifts till Joseph entered at midday, for they had heard that they should eat bread there.

²⁶ Therefore Joseph entered into his house, and they offered gifts to him, and held them in their hands, and worshipped low to the earth.

²⁷ And he greeted them again meekly; and he asked them, and said, Whether your father, the eld [*or old*] man, is safe, of whom ye said to me? liveth he yet?

²⁸ Which answered, He is whole, thy servant our father liveth yet; and they were bowed, and worshipped him.

²⁹ Forsooth Joseph raised [*up*] his eyes, and saw Benjamin, his brother of the same womb, and he said, Is this your youngest brother, of whom ye said to me? And again Joseph said, My son, God have mercy on thee.

³⁰ And Joseph hasted into *another part of* the house, for his entrails were moved on his brother, and tears burst out, and he entered into a closet, and wept.

³¹ And again when *his* face was washed, he went out, and refrained himself *from weeping*, and said, Set ye forth loaves.

³² Which were set forth to Joseph by himself, and to his brethren by themselves, and to the Egyptians that ate together by themselves; for it is unleaveful to Egyptians to eat with Hebrews, and they guess such a feast unholy.

³³ Therefore they sat before him, the first begotten by right of the first begotten, and *so on down to* the youngest by his age; and they wondered greatly,

³⁴ when the parts were taken which they had received of him, and the more part came to Benjamin, so that it passed *the others* in five parts; and they drank, and were *[ful]* filled with him.

CHAPTER 44

¹ Forsooth Joseph commanded the dispenser of his house, and said, Fill thou their sacks with wheat, as much as they may take, and put thou the money of each in the height *[or the top]* of the sack;

² forsooth put thou in the sack's mouth of the youngest my silver cup, and the price of the wheat which he gave; and it was done so.

³ And when the morrowtide arose, they were delivered with their asses.

⁴ And now they had gone out of the city, and had gone forth a little; then Joseph said, when the dispenser of his house was called, Rise thou, pursue the men, and say thou when they be taken, Why have ye yielded evil for good?

⁵ The cup, which ye have stolen, is that in which my lord drinketh, and in which he is wont to divine; ye have done a full wicked thing.

⁶ He did as Joseph commanded, and when they were overtaken, he spake by order *these things*;

⁷ the which answered, Why speaketh our lord so, that thy servants have done so great a trespass?

⁸ We brought again to thee from the land of Canaan the money that we found in the height [*or the top*] of our sacks, and how is it pursuing [*or following*] that we have stolen from thy lord's house gold or silver?

⁹ At whomever of thy servants this that thou seekest is found, die he, and we shall be servants of my lord.

¹⁰ Which said to them, Be it done by your sentence; at whom it is found, be he my servant; forsooth ye shall be guiltless.

¹¹ And so they did down hastily their sacks on the earth, and all they opened *them*,

¹² the which he sought *through*; and he began at the most till to the least, and he found the cup in Benjamin's sack.

¹³ And when they had rent their clothes, and had charged again their asses, they turned again into the city.

14 And Judah entered with *his* brethren to Joseph; for Joseph had not gone yet from the place; and all they fell together on the earth before him.

15 To whom he said, Why would ye do so? whether ye wot not, that none is like me in the knowing of divining?

16 To whom Judah said, What shall we answer to my lord, or what shall we speak, either *what* may *we* justly against-say? God hath found the wickedness of thy servants; lo! all we be the servants of my lord, both we and he at whom the cup is found.

17 Joseph answered, Far be it from me, that I do so; he be my servant that stole the cup; forsooth go ye free to your father.

18 Soothly Judah nighed near, and said trustily, My lord, I pray thee, thy servant speak a word in thine ears, and be thou not wroth to thy servant; for after Pharaoh thou art my lord.

19 Thou askedest first thy servants, Have ye a father, or a brother?

20 And we answered to my lord, An eld [*or old*] father is to us, and a little child that was born in his eld *age*, whose brother of the same womb is dead, and his mother hath him alone; forsooth his father loveth him tenderly.

21 And thou saidest to thy servants, Bring ye him to me, and I shall set mine eyes on him.

22 We made suggestion to thee, my lord, the child may not forsake his father; for if he shall leave his father, his father shall die.

23 And thou saidest to thy servants, If your youngest brother shall not come *down* with you, ye shall no more see my face.

24 Therefore when we had gone up to thy servant, our father, we told to him all things which my lord spake *to us*;

25 and our father said, Turn ye again, and buy ye to you a little of wheat;

26 to whom we said, We may not go; *only* if our least brother shall go down with us, we shall go forth together; else, if he is absent, we dare not see the lord's face.

27 To which things our father answered, Ye know that my wife childed two sons to me;

28 one went out, and ye said, A beast [*hath*] devoured him, and hither-to he appeareth not;

29 if ye take also this son, and anything befall to him in the way, ye shall lead forth mine hoar hairs with mourning to hells [*or to hell*].

30 Therefore if I enter *again* to thy servant, our father, and the child fail *to be with us*, since his life hangeth of the life of the child,

31 and he see that the child is not with us, he shall die, and thy servants shall lead forth his hoar hairs with sorrow to hells [*or to hell*].

32 Be I properly thy servant, which received this child on my faith, and I promised, and said, If I shall not bring again him *to thee*, I shall be guilty of sin against my father in all time;

33 and so I shall dwell thy servant for the child into the service of my lord, and the child go up with his brethren;

³⁴ for I may not go again to my father, if the child be absent, lest I stand a witness of the wretchedness that shall oppress my father.

CHAPTER 45

¹ Joseph might no longer abstain himself, while many men stood *there* before *him*; wherefore he commanded that all men should go out, and that none alien were present in the knowing of Joseph and his brethren.

² And Joseph raised up his voice with weeping, which the Egyptians heard, and all the household of Pharaoh.

³ And he said to his brethren, I am Joseph; liveth my father yet? His brethren might not answer, and were aghast with full much dread.

⁴ To whom Joseph said meekly, Cometh nigh to me. And when they had nighed nigh, he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt;

⁵ do not ye dread, neither seem it to be hard to you, that ye sold me into these countries; for God hath sent me before you into Egypt for your health.

⁶ For it is two years that hunger began to be in the land, yet five *more* years *shall* pursue, in which men shall not be able to ear, neither reap;

⁷ and God before-sent me, that ye be kept *alive* on earth, and may have meats to live.

⁸ I was sent hither not by your counsel, but by God's will, which hath made me as the father of Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and prince in all the land of Egypt.

⁹ Haste ye, and goeth up to my father, and ye shall say to him, Thy son Joseph sendeth these things to thee; God hath made me lord of all the land of Egypt; come down *here* to me, and tarry not,

¹⁰ and dwell in the land of Goshen; and thou shalt be beside me, thou, and thy sons, and the sons of thy sons, thy sheep, and thy great beasts, and all things which thou wieldsdest,

¹¹ and there I shall feed thee; for yet five years of hunger be left, lest both thou perish, and thine house, and all things which thou wieldsdest.

¹² Lo! your eyes, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that my mouth speaketh to you;

¹³ tell ye to my father all my glory, and all things which ye saw in Egypt; haste ye, and bring ye him to me.

¹⁴ And when he had embraced, and felled into the neck of Benjamin, his brother, he wept, the while also Benjamin wept in like manner on the neck of Joseph.

¹⁵ And Joseph kissed all his brethren, and wept on *them* all; after which things they were hardy to speak to him.

¹⁶ And it was heard, and published by famous word in the king's hall, The brethren of Joseph be come. And Pharaoh joyed, and all his household;

¹⁷ and Pharaoh said to Joseph, that he should command his brethren, and say to them, Charge ye your beasts, and go ye into the land of Canaan,

¹⁸ and take ye from thence your father, and your kindred, and come ye *back* to me; and I

shall give you all the goods of Egypt, that ye eat the marrow of the land.

¹⁹ Command thou also, that they take wains of the land of Egypt to the carriage of their little children, and wives, and say thou, Take ye your father, and haste ye *in* coming soon,

²⁰ neither leave ye anything of the appurtenance of your house, for all the riches of Egypt shall be yours.

²¹ The sons of Israel did as it was commanded to them; to which Joseph gave wains, by the behest of Pharaoh, and meats in the way;

²² and he commanded two stoles to be brought forth to each; forsooth he gave to Benjamin three hundred pieces of silver, with five *of* the best stoles;

²³ and he sent to his father so much of silver, and of clothes, and he added to them ten male asses, that should bear of the riches of Egypt, and so many female asses, bearing wheat and loaves in the way.

²⁴ Therefore he let go his brethren, and said to them going forth, Be ye not wroth in the way.

²⁵ Which went up from Egypt, and came into the land of Canaan, to their father Jacob;

²⁶ and they told to him, and said, Joseph, thy son, liveth, and he is lord in all the land of Egypt. And when this was heard, Jacob waked as of a grievous sleep; nevertheless he believed not to them.

²⁷ They told on the contrary *to him* all the order of the thing; and when Jacob had seen the wains,

and all things which Joseph had sent, his spirit lived again,

²⁸ and he said, It sufficeth to me, if Joseph my son liveth yet; I shall go and see him before that I die.

CHAPTER 46

¹ And Israel went forth with all things that he had, and he came to the well of oath *or Beersheba*; and when sacrifices were slain there to [*the*] God of his father Isaac,

² he heard God by a vision in that night calling to him, and saying to him, Jacob! Jacob! To whom he answered, Lo! I am present.

³ God said to him, I am the full strong God of thy father; do not thou dread, go down into Egypt, for I shall make thee there into a great folk;

⁴ I shall go down thither with thee, and I shall bring thee turning again from thence, and Joseph shall set his hand on thine eyes.

⁵ Jacob rose from the well of oath, and his sons took him, with their little children, and wives, in the wains which Pharaoh had sent to bear the eld [*or old*] man,

⁶ and all things which he wielded in the land of Canaan; and he came into Egypt with [*all*] his seed,

⁷ his sons, and their sons, and daughters, and all the generations together.

⁸ Forsooth these be the names of the sons of Israel, that entered into Egypt; Jacob with his free children. The first begotten is Reuben;

⁹ the sons of Reuben; Hanoch, and Phallu, and Hezron, and Carmi.

¹⁰ The sons of Simeon; Jemuel, and Jamin, and Ohad, and Jachin, and Zohar, and Shaul, the son of a woman of Canaan.

¹¹ The sons of Levi; Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

¹² The sons of Judah; Er, and Onan, and Shelah, and Perez, and Zarah. Forsooth Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan; and the sons of Perez were born, Hezron, and Hamul.

¹³ The sons of Issachar; Tola, and Phuvah, and Job, and Shimron.

¹⁴ The sons of Zebulun; Sered, and Elon, and Jahleel.

¹⁵ These be the sons of Leah, which she childed *to Jacob* in Mesopotamia of Syria, with Dinah, her daughter; all the souls of his sons and daughters *by Leah*, three and thirty.

¹⁶ The sons of Gad; Ziphion, and Haggi, Shuni, and Ezbon, Eri, and Arodi, and Areli.

¹⁷ The sons of Asher; Jimnah, and Ishuah, and Isui, and Beriah; and Serah, the sister of them. The sons of Beriah; Heber, and Malchiel.

¹⁸ These were the sons of Zilpah, whom Laban gave to Leah, his daughter, and *through whom* Jacob begat these sixteen persons.

¹⁹ The sons of Rachel, Jacob's wife, were Joseph and Benjamin.

²⁰ And *two* sons were born to Joseph in the land of Egypt, Manasseh and Ephraim, which Asenath, [*the*] daughter of Potipherah, priest of Heliopolis, childed to him.

21 The sons of Benjamin were Belah, and Becher, and Ashbel, Gera, and Naaman, and Ehi, and Rosh, and Muppim, and Huppim, and Ard.

22 These were the sons of Rachel, the which Jacob begat *through her*; all the persons were fourteen.

23 The son of Dan; Hushim.

24 The sons of Naphtali; Jahzeel, and Guni, and Jezer, and Shillem.

25 These were the sons of Bilhah, whom Laban gave to Rachel his daughter. And Jacob begat these *through Bilhah*; all the souls were seven.

26 And all the men that entered with Jacob into Egypt, and went out of his thigh, without his sons' wives, were sixty and six.

27 Forsooth the sons of Joseph, that were born to him in the land of Egypt, were two men. All the souls of the house of Jacob, that entered into Egypt, were seventy.

28 Forsooth Jacob sent Judah before him to Joseph, that he should tell to him, and he meet with them in Goshen. And when Jacob had come thither,

29 Joseph went up in his chariot to meet his father at the same place. And he saw Jacob, and felled on his neck, and wept betwixt embraces.

30 And the father said to Joseph, Now I shall die joyful, for I have seen thy face, and I leave thee living.

31 And Joseph spake to his brethren, and to all his father's household, I shall go up, and tell to Pharaoh, and I shall say to him, My brethren, and

the household of my father, that were in the land of Canaan, be come to me,

³² and they be men keepers of sheep, and have busyness of flocks to be fed; they brought with them their sheep, and great beasts, and all things which they might have.

³³ And when Pharaoh shall call you, and shall say, What is your work?

³⁴ ye shall answer, We be thy servants, men shepherds, from our childhood till into this present time, both we and our fathers. Soothly ye shall say these things, that ye may dwell in the land of Goshen, for Egyptians loathe all keepers of sheep.

CHAPTER 47

¹ Therefore Joseph entered, and told to Pharaoh, and said, My father and brethren, the sheep and the great beasts of them, and all things that they wield, have come from the land of Canaan; and lo! they stand in the land of Goshen.

² And Joseph ordained five, the least, *or meekest*, men of his brethren, *to come* before the king,

³ whom he asked, What work have ye? They answered, We thy servants be keepers of sheep, both we and our fathers;

⁴ we came into thy land to be pilgrims, *that is, to dwell for a time*, for no grass is to the flocks of thy servants; for hunger waxeth grievous in the land of Canaan, and we ask that thou command us thy servants to be in the land of Goshen.

⁵ And so the king said to Joseph, Thy father and thy brethren have come to thee;

6 the land of Egypt is in thy sight; make thou them to dwell in the best place, and give thou to them the land of Goshen; that if thou knowest that witting men be in them, ordain them masters of my beasts.

7 After these things Joseph brought in his father to the king, and set him before the king, and he blessed the king;

8 and he was asked of the king, How many be the days of the years of thy life?

9 And he answered, The days of *[the]* pilgrimage of my life be few and evil, of an hundred and thirty years, and those *[or they]* have not come to the days of my fathers, in which they were pilgrims.

10 And when Jacob had blessed the king *again*, he went out.

11 Forsooth Joseph gave to his father and *[his]* brethren *a* possession in Egypt, in Rameses, the best soil of *[the]* earth, as Pharaoh commanded;

12 and he fed them, and all the household of his father, and gave meats to them all.

13 For bread failed in all the world, and hunger oppressed the land, mostly of Egypt and of Canaan;

14 of which lands Joseph gathered all the money for the selling of wheat, and brought it into the king's treasury.

15 And when price failed to the buyers, all Egypt came to Joseph, and said, Give thou loaves to us; why shall we die before thee, while money faileth?

16 To whom he answered, Bring ye your beasts, and I shall give you meats for those [*or them*], if ye have not price.

17 And when they had brought those, he gave them meats for horses, and sheep, and oxen, and asses; and he sustained them in that year for the exchange of beasts.

18 And they came in the second year, and said to him, We cover not from our lord, that the while money faileth, also *our* beasts failed altogether; neither it is hid from thee, that without bodies and land, we have nothing;

19 why therefore shall we die, while thou seest this? both we and our land shall be thine; buy thou us into the king's servage, and give thou us seeds *to sow*, lest while the tiller perisheth, the land be turned into wilderness.

20 Therefore Joseph bought all the land of Egypt, while all men sold *him* their possessions, for the greatness of hunger; and he made it and all the peoples thereof subject to Pharaoh,

21 from the last terms of Egypt till to the last ends thereof,

22 except the land of priests, that was given of the king to them, to which priests also meats were given of the common barns, and therefore they were not compelled to sell their possessions.

23 Therefore Joseph said to the peoples, Lo! as ye see, Pharaoh wieldeth both you and your land; *now* take ye seeds, and sow ye fields,

24 that ye may have fruits; ye shall give the fifth part to the king; I suffer to you the four residue

parts into seed, and into meats, to you, and to your free children.

²⁵ Which answered, Our health is in thine hands; only our God behold us, and we shall joyfully serve the king.

²⁶ From that time till to this present day, in all the land of Egypt, the fifth part is paid to the kings, and it is made as into a law, without the land of priests, that was free from this condition.

²⁷ Therefore Israel dwelled in Egypt, that is, in the land of Goshen, and wielded it; and he was increased, and multiplied full much.

²⁸ And he lived therein sixteen [*or seventeen*] years; and all the days of his life were made an hundred and seven and forty years.

²⁹ And when he saw the day of his death [*to*] nigh, he called his son Joseph *to his bed*, and said to him, If I have found grace in thy sight, put thine hand under mine hip, and *swear that* thou shalt do mercy and truth to me, that thou bury not me in Egypt;

³⁰ but I shall sleep with my fathers, and take thou away me from this land, and bury *me* in the sepulchre of my greaters. To whom Joseph answered, I shall do that that thou commandest.

³¹ And Israel said, Therefore swear thou to me; and when Joseph swore, Israel turned to the head of the bed, and worshipped God.

CHAPTER 48

¹ And so when these things were done, it was told to Joseph, that his father was sick. And he

took his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, and he disposed him to go.

² And it was said to the eld [*or old*] man, Lo! thy son Joseph cometh to thee; which was comforted, and sat up in the bed.

³ And when Joseph entered to him, he said, Almighty God appeared to me in Luz, which is in the land of Canaan, and blessed me,

⁴ and said, I shall increase thee, and multiply thee, and I shall make *thee* into companies of peoples, and I shall give to thee this land, and to thy seed after thee, into everlasting possession.

⁵ Therefore thy two sons, that be born to thee in the land of Egypt, before that I came hither to thee, shall be mine; Ephraim and Manasseh, as Reuben and Simeon, shall be areckoned to me;

⁶ forsooth the others which thou shalt beget after them shall be thine; and they shall be called by the name of their brethren in their possessions.

⁷ Forsooth when I came from Mesopotamia, Rachel was dead to me in the land of Canaan, in that way; and it was the beginning of summer; and *before that* I entered into Ephratah, and I buried her beside the way of Ephratah, which by another name is called Bethlehem.

⁸ Forsooth Jacob saw the sons of Joseph, and said to him, Who be these?

⁹ He answered, They be my sons, which God gave me in this place. Jacob said, Bring them to me, that I bless them.

10 For the eyes of Israel dimmed for great *eld age*, and he might not see clearly; and he kissed and embraced those children joined to him,

11 and he said to his son, I am not defrauded of thy sight; furthermore God hath showed to me thy seed.

12 And when Joseph had taken them from his father's lap, he worshipped *or honoured* low to the earth.

13 And he set Ephraim on his right side, that is, on the left side of Israel; forsooth he set Manasseh on his left side, that is, on the right side of his father; and he joined both to him.

14 Which held forth the right hand, and laid it on Ephraim's head, the younger brother; soothly he laid his left hand on Manasseh's head, that was the more through birth. Jacob changed his hands,

15 and blessed his son Joseph*, and said, God, in whose sight my fathers Abraham and Isaac went; God that feedeth me from my young waxing age till into this present day;

16 the angel that delivered me from all evils, bless these children, and my name be called on them, and the names of my fathers, Abraham and Isaac; and wax they in multitude on earth.

17 Forsooth Joseph saw that his father had set [*or put*] his right hand on the head of Ephraim, and he took *that* heavily, and he enforced *or endeavoured* him to raise his father's hand, and

* **CHAPTER 48:15** In blessing Ephraim and Manasseh, Jacob was in fact blessing Joseph. (*Good News Bible*)

take it from the head of Ephraim, and to bear it over upon the head of Manasseh.

¹⁸ And Joseph said to his father, Father, it accordeth not so; for this is the first begotten; set [*or put*] thy right hand on his head.

¹⁹ Which forsook *to do so*, and said, I know, my son, I know; and soothly this child shall be into peoples, and he shall be multiplied; but his younger brother shall be more than he, and his seed shall increase into *a multitude of* folks.

²⁰ And he blessed them in that time, and said, Israel shall be blessed in thee, and it shall be said, God do to thee as to Ephraim and as to Manasseh. And he set Ephraim before Manasseh;

²¹ and *Jacob* said to Joseph, his son, Lo! I die, and God shall be with you, and shall lead you again to the land of your fathers;

²² I give to thee one part over thy brethren, which I took from the hand of Amorite, in my sword and bow.

CHAPTER 49

¹ Forsooth Jacob called his sons, and said to them, Be ye gathered together, that I tell what things shall come to you in the last days;

² be ye gathered [*together*], and hear, ye sons of Jacob, hear ye Israel your father.

³ Reuben, my first begotten son, thou art my strength, and the beginning of my sorrow; *thou oughtest to be* the former in gifts, the more in lordship;

⁴ thou art shed [*or poured*] out as water; wax thou not, for thou ascend-est [*or went up*] on the bed of thy father, and defoulest his bed.

⁵ Simeon and Levi, brethren, fighting vessels of wickedness;

⁶ my soul come not into the counsel of them, and my glory be not in the congregation of them; for in their strong vengeance, they killed a man, and in their [*own*] will, they under-mined the wall;

⁷ cursed be the strong vengeance of them, for it is obstinate, and the indignation of them, for it is hard; I shall part them in Jacob, and I shall scatter them in Israel.

⁸ Judah, thy brethren shall praise thee, thine hands *shall be* in the nolls of thine enemies; the sons of thy father shall worship thee.

⁹ Judah, the whelp of a lion; my son, thou hast gone up to the prey; thou restedest, and hast lain as a lion, and as a lioness, who shall raise him?

¹⁰ The sceptre shall not be taken away from Judah, and a duke of his hip, till he come that shall be sent, and he shall be the abiding of heathen men;

¹¹ and he shall tie his colt at the vinery [*or vineyard*], and his she-ass at the vine; O! my son, he shall wash his stole in wine, and his mantle in the blood of the grape;

¹² his eyes be fairer than wine, and his teeth be whiter than milk.

¹³ Zebulun shall dwell in the brink of the sea, and in the standing of ships; and *he* shall stretch till to Sidon.

14 Issachar, a strong ass, lying betwixt *[the]* terms,

15 saw rest, that it was good, and *saw* the land, that *it was* best, and he underset his shoulder to bear, and he was made serving to tributes*.

16 Dan shall deem his people, as also another lineage in Israel.

17 Dan be made a serpent in the way, and a cerastes, *that is, an horned adder*, in the path, and bite *he* the feet of an horse, that the rider of him fall backward;

18 Lord, I shall abide thine health.

19 Gad shall be girded, and he shall fight before him, and he shall be girded behind.

20 Asher, his bread shall be fat, and he shall give delights to kings.

21 Naphtali shall be an hart sent out, and giving speeches of fairness.

22 Joseph, a son increasing, a son increasing, and fair in beholding; *[the]* daughters run about on the wall,

23 but *his brethren* wrathed *at* him, and chided him, and they had darts, and had envy to him.

24 His bow sat in the Strong, *that is, the Lord*, and the bonds of his arms and *his* hands were unbound by the hand of the mighty *God* of Jacob; of him a shepherd went out, the stone of Israel.

25 God of thy father shall be thine helper, and Almighty God shall bless thee, with blessings of heaven from above, and with blessings of the sea

* **CHAPTER 49:15** Either to rent, (Or to pay rent or taxes), as it is in Hebrew.

lying beneath, with blessings of teats, and of the womb;

²⁶ the blessings of thy father be comforted, *that is, be better than* the blessings of his fathers, till the desire of everlasting hills came; *blessings* be made on the head of Joseph, and in the noll of Nazarite, *that is, holy*, among his brethren.

²⁷ Benjamin, a ravishing wolf, shall eat the prey early, and in the eventide he shall part spoils.

²⁸ All these were in [*the*] twelve kindreds of Israel; their father spake these things to them, and he blessed them all by proper blessings,

²⁹ and he commanded to them, and said, I am *soon to be* gathered to my people; bury ye me with my fathers in the double den, that is in the land of Ephron *the* Hittite,

³⁰ *that is, in the den in the field at Machpelah*, against Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which den Abraham bought with the field of Ephron *the* Hittite, into possession of a sepulchre.

³¹ There they buried him, and Sarah his wife; also Isaac was buried there, with Rebecca his wife; there also Leah lieth buried.

³² (This verse is omitted in the original text.)

³³ And when the behests were ended, by which he taught his sons, he gathered together his feet on the bed, and died, and he was put to his people.

CHAPTER 50

¹ Which thing Joseph saw, and he fell on his father's face, and wept, and kissed him;

² and he commanded his servants, leeches, that they should anoint his father with sweet smelling spiceries.

³ While they fulfilled his behests, forty days passed, for this was the custom of dead bodies *that were* anointed; and Egypt bewept him seventy days.

⁴ And when the time of wailing was fulfilled, Joseph spake to the meine of Pharaoh, If I have found grace in your sight, speak ye in the ears of Pharaoh;

⁵ for my father charged me [*with an oath*], and said, Lo! I die; thou shalt bury me in my sepulchre which I digged to me in the land of Canaan; therefore I shall go up that I bury my father, and I shall turn again.

⁶ And Pharaoh said to him, Go up, and bury thy father, as thou art charged.

⁷ And when Joseph went up, all the elder men of the household of Pharaoh went with him, and all the greater men in birth of the land of Egypt;

⁸ *and all* the household of Joseph with their brethren, without little children, and flocks, and great beasts, which they left in the land of Goshen, *went with him*.

⁹ And he had chariots, and horse-men, and fellowship *with him*, and the company was made not little.

¹⁰ And they came to the cornfloor of Atad, which is set over Jordan, where they made the service of the dead body, with great wailing and strong, and filled seven days.

11 And when the dwellers of the land of Canaan had seen this, they said, This is a *time of* great wailing to the Egyptians; therefore they called the name of that place The wailing of Egypt.

12 Therefore the sons of Jacob did, as he had commanded to them;

13 and they bare him into the land of Canaan, and they buried him in the double den, which den with the field Abraham had bought of Ephron *the* Hittite, against the face of Mamre, into possession of a sepulchre.

14 And Joseph turned again into Egypt with his brethren and all the fellowship, when his father was buried.

15 And when their father was dead, the brethren of Joseph dreaded, and spake together, Lest peradventure he be mindful of the wrong which he suffered, and yield to us all the evil, that we did.

16 And they sent to him, and said, Thy father commanded to us, before that he died,

17 that we should say to thee these things by his words; I beseech thee, that thou forget the wickedness of thy brethren, and the sin, and [*the*] malice that they haunted against thee; also we pray *thee*, that thou forgive this wickedness *which we did* to thy father, the servant of God. When these things were heard, Joseph wept.

18 And his brethren came to him, and worshipped low to the earth, and said, We be thy servants.

19 To which he answered, Do not ye dread; whether we may against-stand God's will?

²⁰ Ye thought evil of me, and God turned it into good, that he should enhance me, as ye see in this present time, and that he should make safe many peoples;

²¹ do not ye dread, I shall feed you and your little children. And he comforted them, and spake sweetly and lightly *to them*;

²² and Joseph dwelled in Egypt, with all the house of his father. And he lived an hundred [*and ten*] years,

²³ and he saw the sons of Ephraim till to the third generation; also the sons of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were borne in the knees of Joseph.

²⁴ When these things were done, Joseph spake to his brethren, After my death God shall visit you, and he shall make you to go up from this land to the land which he swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

²⁵ And when Joseph had charged them *with an oath*, and had said, God shall visit you, bear ye out with you my bones from this place;

²⁶ he died, when an hundred and ten years of his life were filled; and he was anointed with sweet smelling spiceries, and he was kept in a bier in Egypt.

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Wycliffe's Bible with Modern Spelling, was made in response to requests from readers who wanted my Wycliffe's Old and New Testaments and Apocrypha in one volume. Printing limitations dictated the number of pages available to me and the letter size. In my previous books, Wycliffe's Bible, Wycliffe's Old Testament, Vols. 1 amp 2, Wycliffe's New Testament, and Wycliffe's Apocrypha, I have tens of thousands of rewritten verses, presented in parentheses "()", to provide help in comprehending the 14th century Middle English vocabulary and grammar. In this present volume, with space at a premium, those "helps" had to be eliminated, to make room for the text of the Apocrypha.

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