



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Jacob - God Called Him Israel (Genesis 35:10)

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God has a plan for you! Our Bible studies this session have a focus on the future of our state, nation, and greater world. You are being shaped for both small and large roles in life and eternity. We become aware of the unseen forces by looking at the history of others and reflecting on our own journey. What were a couple of grand surprises in your life?

INTRODUCTION

The Book of Genesis reveals how God created the earth as an environment for His ultimate masterpiece, man and woman. Their relationships faltered when evil entered the scene, and humans shifted their focus to self-made idols. The provision for eternal life was removed and God started a new generation through a faithful man named Noah. Alas, many of Noah's descendants also failed to foster a relationship with God.

Can you describe how prayer draws you closer?

GOD CALLS OUT A PEOPLE

Genesis 17:1,2 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. I will confirm my covenant between Me and you and will greatly increase your numbers." (NIV)

His new name was Abraham, father of nations.

Sarah's name became Sarah, mother of nations. God's covenant included their generations to come. He would be the God of their descendants, and the land of their sojourning would be theirs everlasting. **Please reflect on when you, like Abraham, responded to the call and were adopted. (Ephesians 2:11-22)**

DESCENDANTS OF ABRAHAM

Ishmael, the eldest, had twelve sons, princes who gathered tribes settling near the border of Egypt near Assyria. This was in defiance of relatives. Arab tradition calls these their earliest ancestors, lost relatives.

Isaac the younger son, grazed herds on the plains NNE of Canaan. His sons were Esau and Jacob. The sons quarreled; Esau settled in Edom and did not follow God. Jacob went north to raise herds with Abraham's relatives in Haran, the Plains of Paddan Aram.

GOD CHANGED JACOB'S NAME

Genesis 35:9-12 After Jacob returned from Paddan Aram, God appeared to him again and blessed him. God said to him, "Your name is Jacob, but you will no longer be called Jacob; your name will be Israel." So He named him Israel. And God said to him, "I am God Almighty; be fruitful and increase in number. A nation and a community of nations will come from you, and kings will come from your body. The land I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will also give to you, and I will give this land to your descendants after you." (NIV)

Please reflect on how God has shown favor to you.

JACOB HAD TWELVE SONS

Genesis 35:23-26 The sons of Leah: Reuben, the firstborn of Jacob, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar and Zebulun. The sons of Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin. The sons of Bilhah, Rachel's maid: Dan and Naphtali; The sons of Zilpah, Leah's maid: Gad and Asher. (NIV)

Joseph was the seventeen-year-old son of Jacob's deceased wife Rachel. Jacob loved the boy and had given him a coat of many colors. The older brothers hated Joseph even more when he told of dreams, one where their eleven sheaves of grain bowed down to his bundle. The brothers thought to kill Joseph out in a distant field and report it was done by a wild beast. Reuben, the oldest, planned a rescue. Judah urged them instead, to sell him to a group of traders caravanning through to Egypt. The brothers hid their guilt by returning a blood-stained coat to their father. **Can you share an experience where God allowed evil and brought in a blessing?**

A PRAYER

Almighty God, thank You for revealing how my life fits into Your plan for the remainder of time. Please keep my name in Your family line. Help me to increase fellowship with other relatives and to draw closer to You. I pray in the Name of Jesus. Amen!