

# 18-19 Bible Study #29

4/23/19

# Numbers (Cont)

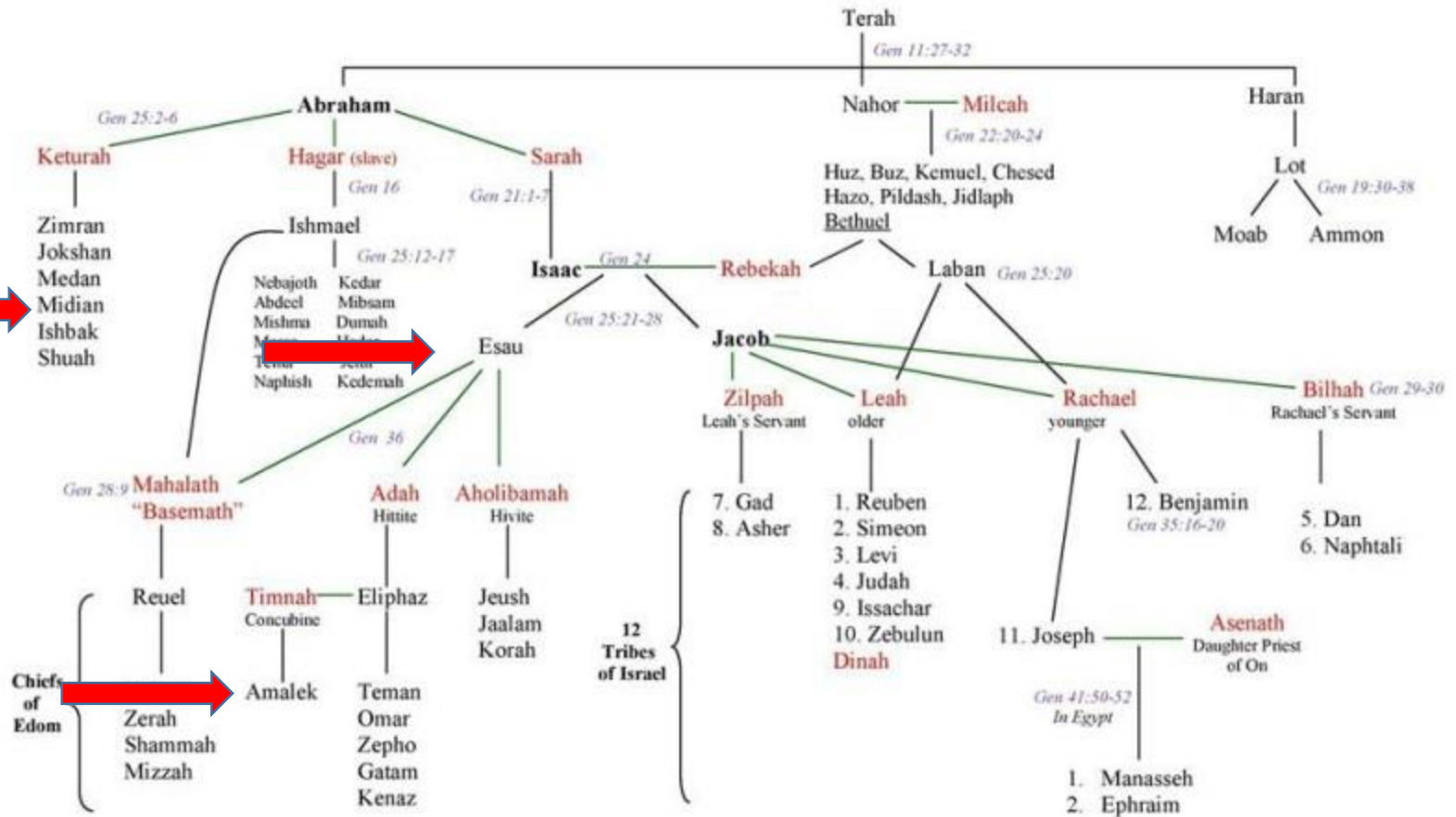
- **Numbers 20:14-21**

- *Moses* sent messengers to the ***King of Edom*** requesting permission to pass through his land via the ***King's Highway***
- The *King of Edom* refused this request so Israel turned away from him
  - **Edom** – Descendant of Esau (**Genesis 26:34; 28:9;36:1-5**)

- **Numbers 20:22-29**

- Israel left *Kadesh* and arrived at ***Mount Hor*** where the role of high priest was passed from Aaron to his son *Eleazar* followed by *Aaron's* death \*

# COMPLETE GENEALOGY OF ABRAHAM



# Numbers (Cont)

- **Numbers 21:1-3**

- The *Canaanite King of Arad* (who dwelt in the ***Negeb***) decided to fight against *Israel* as they came through his territory
- *Israel* vowed to the Lord that if He would deliver these *Canaanites* into their hands, they would destroy their cities
  - Canaan – son of Ham (**Genesis 10:6**)
- God agreed and Israel destroyed the cities and named the place *Hormath* meaning "broken rock," "banned," or "devoted to destruction" \*

# Numbers (Cont)

- **Numbers 21:4-9**

- The people of *Israel* moved from *Mt. Hor* toward the *Red Sea* by going **around the land of *Edom***
- They became impatient and rebelled against *Moses* and God
- They asked “Why did you bring us out of *Egypt* to die in the desert?”
- Once again, God became angry and this time sent poisonous snakes to bite them
- This caused the people to repent and cry out to *Moses* for help from God
- God directed that *Moses* construct a “bronze serpent,” mount it on a pole, and when those bitten looked at it, they would be saved



# Numbers (Cont)

- Jesus will use this as an image of Himself being lifted up on the cross (**John 3**)
- This meant that it was through the serpent's bite that the people were dying
- And it was through looking at the serpent (bronzed) that they were healed
- Thus, Jesus was going to conquer death by his death on the cross which will become a theme of John's gospel\*

# Numbers (Cont)

- **Numbers 21:10-20**

- At this point, the people of *Israel* began heading for the Promised Land after wandering around in a great circle for 40 years killing time (until those who were adults upon leaving *Egypt* died)
- The story of their entry into the Promised Land can be read in the **Book of Joshua**
- From ***Mt. Hor***, they moved toward the plane of *Moab*, after encamping at: *Oboth, Iye-abarim, the valley of Zered*, a location near *Arnon*, and on to the Mountain of *Pisgah*



# Numbers (Cont)

- **Moab** – Incestuous son of *Lot* and his eldest daughter (**Genesis 19:37**)
- **Amorites** – Son of *Canaan*, Grandson of *Ham*, (**Genesis 10:16**)
- **Ammonites** – Incestuous son of *Lot* and his youngest daughter (**Genesis 19:38**) \*

# Numbers (Cont)

- **Numbers 21:21-35**

- The mountain ridge on the east side of the *Jordan River* belonged to *Moab*
- *Israel* had to cross this range where they encountered the *Moabites*
- Upon leaving *Kadesh-barnea*, they met and defeated *Sihon*, King of the ***Amorites*** and *Og*, King of ***Bashan*** whom they defeated
- The defeat of these two kings will be remembered in many places in the Old Testament (**Book of Joshua, Psalm 136**) \*

# Numbers (Cont)

- **Numbers 22-24**

- At this point, *Israel* was encamped in the plain of *Moab* on the eastern side of the Jordan River facing *Jericho*
- This was a large flat plain between 10 and 20 miles long
- From *Jericho* looking east, you would see the *Mountains of Moab* with ***Mount Nebo*** in the forefront
- This will be the place where *Moses* looks to the west at the Promised Land
- Eventually, *Joshua* will lead them from the plain of Moab across the Jordan just before Jericho \*

# Numbers (Cont)

- **Numbers 22:1-6**

- When the people of *Israel* finally arrived at the plains of *Moab*, *Balak the King of Moab* was afraid
- He had seen what *Israel* had done to the *Amorites* and the *Moabites*
- Balak decided to send for ***Balaam***, a prophet, and pay him to offer a curse on the people of *Israel*
  - It was believed that whatever a prophet prophesied would come true
  - Balaam lived in **Pethor**, Babylon beyond the Euphrates River, approximately 400 miles from Moab \*

# Numbers (Cont)

- **Numbers 22:7-20**

- *Balaam* turned down the initial request to go to *Moab* after consulting overnight with God (Yahweh)
  - He may have been a believer in the true God of Israel
  - But, most likely, he was a heathen magician who sought revelation from his own god, but the response was given by Yahweh Himself
- After a second visit from the emissaries of *Balak*, God directed him to go, but to only say and do what He directed him to do \*

# Numbers (Cont)

- **Numbers 22:21-35**

- This section presents the unusual story of the interaction between the prophet and his donkey

- **Numbers 22:36-42**

- Upon his arrival at *Arnon* (which marked the boundary of *Moab* and the land of the *Amorites*), *Balaam* met *King Balak* and told him that he would only be able to say and do what God (Yahweh) told him
- They then offer several oxen and sheep in sacrifice and then retired for the night \*