

# A Very Simple Survey of the Old Testament

## Study Overview

### Block #2 — Lessons 9–16

Block #2 • Lessons 9–16 | Keith R. Blades | Enjoy the Bible Ministries®

## About This Block

Block #2 continues God's covenant program with Abraham and traces the history of the patriarchs through Genesis 17–41. Eight lessons cover Abraham's visitors and the confirmation of the covenant, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, Abraham's supreme test with Isaac, the election of Jacob over Esau, Jacob's dreams and his twelve sons, and the beginning of Joseph's story. Keith R. Blades keeps the focus throughout on God's sovereign purpose: He is not merely dealing with individuals but is forming and protecting the nation through which He will repossess the earth. Every person and every event is shown to be a purposeful chapter in that single great story. The block closes with Joseph in Pharaoh's court — positioned by God for the next great stage in Israel's development.

## Lessons at a Glance

Lesson	Title — Scripture Reference
Lesson 9	Abraham's Visitors — Genesis 17–18
Lesson 10	Angels Visit Lot — Genesis 19
Lesson 11	Abraham's Faith — Genesis 21–22
Lesson 12	The Twin Brothers — Genesis 25–27
Lesson 13	Jacob's Dream — Genesis 28–33
Lesson 14	The Story of Joseph — Genesis 37
Lesson 15	Joseph Becomes a Slave — Genesis 39–40
Lesson 16	King Pharaoh's Dreams — Genesis 41

## Lesson Summaries

L9

**Abraham's Visitors** *Genesis 17–18 • Covenant Confirmed and Kingdom Announced*

- God appears to Abraham and reaffirms His covenant: the great nation will come; the land of Canaan is theirs; Abraham and Sarah will have a son within

the year

- The children are reminded that the Gospel accounts record the Lord Jesus proclaiming to Israel that the time for fulfilling this covenant had arrived — the “gospel of the kingdom” in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John is Israel’s program, not ours today
- God’s covenant with Abraham was not a private arrangement but the foundational declaration of His plan to repossess the earth through Israel
- This underscores the critical principle of right division: the four Gospel accounts continue Israel’s prophetic program, not the present dispensation of Gentile grace revealed through Paul

L10

### **Angels Visit Lot** *Genesis 19 • Sodom and Gomorrah and the Cleansing of the Promised Land*

- Satan’s strategy continues: corrupt the very land God has promised to Abraham as thoroughly as possible with vile wickedness and abomination, especially homosexuality
- God’s judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah is not arbitrary wrath but a necessary cleansing of the land He has claimed for His holy purposes and His righteous kingdom
- God’s mercy to Lot: the angels urgently deliver Lot and his family before the destruction falls — a testimony to God’s care for those who fear Him even in the midst of His judgment
- Lot’s wife looks back and becomes a pillar of salt — a warning against turning back toward what God has judged and condemned

L11

### **Abraham’s Faith** *Genesis 21–22 • Isaac’s Miraculous Birth and Abraham’s Supreme Test*

- God fulfills His promise: Isaac is born to Abraham and Sarah miraculously, despite their great age — God is called Israel’s “father” and “Creator” because He directly made the nation (Isa. 43:1; 63:16)
- God’s supreme test of Abraham (Gen. 22): God commands Abraham to offer Isaac as a burnt offering — the very son through whom the promise was to be fulfilled
- Abraham’s response demonstrates implicit faith: he obeys without wavering, reasoning that God would raise Isaac up from the dead if necessary (Heb. 11:17–19)
- God provides a ram as a substitute and reaffirms His covenant — “In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed” (Gen. 22:18) — pointing to Christ as the ultimate fulfillment

L12

### **The Twin Brothers** *Genesis 25–27 • Esau and Jacob — Election and the Birthright*

- God reveals to Rebekah before their birth: “The elder shall serve the younger” (Gen. 25:23) — God’s sovereign election is at work; Jacob not Esau will carry on the covenant line
- Esau despises his birthright, selling it to Jacob for a single meal — Esau

manifests his disregard for God's covenant and his own place in God's plan

- Jacob receives Isaac's blessing by deception — though Jacob's conduct was wrong, God's purposes are not thwarted; He works through and despite human failures
- The lesson establishes the principle that God's sovereign plan proceeds on the basis of His grace and foreknowledge, not human merit or natural birth order

## L13

### **Jacob's Dream** *Genesis 28–33 • Jacob at Bethel and the Formation of the Twelve Tribes*

- Jacob's dream at Bethel (Gen. 28): a ladder to heaven with angels ascending and descending; God stands above and reaffirms to Jacob the covenant made with Abraham and Isaac
- Jacob's vow at Bethel: if God will be with him, this stone will be God's house and Jacob will give God a tenth — a moment of personal commitment to the God of his fathers
- Jacob has twelve sons with Leah, Rachel, and their handmaids — these twelve sons are the patriarchs and heads of the twelve tribes of the nation of Israel
- Jacob's wrestling with God at Peniel (Gen. 32): God changes his name to Israel — “one who wrestles with God” — marking the transition to the national identity God is building

## L14

### **The Story of Joseph** *Genesis 37 • Joseph's Dreams and the Wickedness of His Brothers*

- God's earlier word to Abraham (Gen. 15:13–16): Abraham's seed will sojourn in a strange land and be afflicted for four hundred years before being brought out with great substance
- God gives Joseph two dreams depicting his future ascendancy over his brothers and family — not understood at the time, but a clear declaration of what God is going to do
- Joseph's brothers are envious and conspire to kill him; at Judah's suggestion they sell him to Ishmaelite traders for twenty pieces of silver — the beginning of God's providential plan
- Key principle established: God will overrule the evil intentions of men to accomplish His own good purposes — a theme Joseph himself will articulate in Gen. 50:20

## L15

### **Joseph Becomes a Slave** *Genesis 39–40 • God Overrules Evil for Good*

- Joseph is taken to Egypt and purchased by Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh — “the LORD was with Joseph” (Gen. 39:2); Joseph prospers and is put over Potiphar's entire household
- Potiphar's wife falsely accuses Joseph; he is cast into prison — yet even in prison “the LORD was with Joseph” and gave him favor with the keeper of the prison
- Joseph interprets the dreams of the butler and baker in prison — God is

preparing him step by step for the position of ascendancy He has designated for him

- “As for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive” (Gen. 50:20) — Joseph’s own summary of these events

## L16

### **King Pharaoh’s Dreams** *Genesis 41 • Joseph Exalted and Israel’s Provision Secured*

- Two years after the butler’s release, Pharaoh is troubled by two dreams that none of his magicians can interpret — the butler now remembers Joseph
- Joseph interprets Pharaoh’s dreams: seven years of great abundance followed by seven years of severe famine — the dreams are one and the same; the doubling signifies that the matter is established by God
- Pharaoh recognizes Joseph as one “in whom the Spirit of God is” (Gen. 41:38) and elevates him to second-in-command over all Egypt — fulfilling exactly what God had shown in Joseph’s dreams
- Joseph at 30 years old is given Pharaoh’s ring, fine linen, and a gold chain — positioned by God to provide for his family’s sojourn in Egypt exactly as God had declared to Abraham

## Key Doctrinal Distinctions

### God’s Sovereign Election vs. Human Merit

Throughout Block #2, God consistently chooses the unexpected: Isaac over Ishmael, Jacob over Esau, Joseph the rejected brother over the others. God’s covenant program advances on the basis of His sovereign grace, not human worthiness or natural advantage.

### The Covenant Line vs. the Nations

Block #2 constantly distinguishes between the covenant line (Abraham → Isaac → Jacob → the twelve sons) and the surrounding nations. God’s exclusive focus on this one family is the foundation for understanding why Israel’s program in Scripture is distinct from what God does through Paul for the Body of Christ today.

### God’s Overruling Providence

The Joseph narrative (Lessons 14–16) demonstrates that God overrules even wicked human actions to accomplish His own purposes. This is not fatalism but the comfort of knowing that nothing can thwart God’s declared plan.

## Suffering as God's Tool

Joseph's unjust suffering — betrayal, slavery, false accusation, imprisonment — is presented not as a breakdown of God's plan but as the very means God uses to position His servant. This foreshadows the category of suffering that comes from the world's opposition to God's people.

## The Four-Hundred-Year Sojourn Foretold

God told Abraham in Gen. 15:13–16 that his seed would sojourn and be afflicted in a strange land for four hundred years. Block #2 shows the beginning of the fulfillment of that specific prophecy — God's word is always precise and will always be fulfilled exactly as stated.

## Scripture Reference Index

Reference	Key Statement or Theme
<b>Gen. 15:13–14</b>	Thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs... and afterward shall they come out
<b>Gen. 22:18</b>	In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed
<b>Gen. 25:23</b>	The elder shall serve the younger
<b>Gen. 41:38</b>	Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is?
<b>Gen. 50:20</b>	Ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good
<b>Isa. 43:1</b>	He that created thee, O Jacob... he that formed thee, O Israel
<b>Isa. 63:16</b>	Thou art our father... thou, O LORD, art our father, our redeemer
<b>Heb. 11:17–19</b>	By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac
<b>Rom. 9:11–12</b>	That the purpose of God according to election might stand
<b>John 1:45</b>	We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write