



QUARTER 1: SHADOWS

STEP INTO SCRIPTURE

WEEK 4:
GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY OVER SIN

Welcome

Brothers from

Ekklesia Online in various locations

Eleven 22 in Florida

Bay Shore Community Church in Delaware

Branchville Christian Church in South Carolina

Crossroads North River Church in Ohio

Holmes Avenue Baptist Church in North Carolina

Little Lamb Pentecostal Holiness Church in South Carolina

Renaissance Church of Christ in Georgia

The Rock Church in South Carolina

Welcome

Sisters from

**Ekklesia Online in various locations
Callao Christian Church in Missouri
Clay Pool Church of Christ in Virginia
First Free Will Baptist Church in Tennessee
Kingsboro Church in New York
Kingsley Terrace Church of Christ in Indiana
Live Oak Community Church in Texas
Mountain Christian Church in Maryland
Northline Church in Michigan
North Ridge Church in Wisconsin
Oak Grove Church of Christ in Pennsylvania
Plymouth Church of Christ in North Carolina
Renaissance Church of Christ in Georgia
Rivers Edge Church in South Carolina
Spring Creek Church of the Nazarene in Virginia
Vansant Church of Christ in Virginia
Walnut Hill Church in Connecticut
Wellspring Church in Connecticut**

Bible Reading Plan



This Week's Reading

DAY 22 Wed, Jan 29: Genesis 30—31

DAY 23 Thu, Jan 30: Genesis 32—34

DAY 24 Fri, Jan 31: Genesis 35—37

DAY 25 Sat, Feb 1: Genesis 38—40

DAY 26 Sun, Feb 2: Genesis 41—42

DAY 27 Mon, Feb 3: Genesis 43—45

DAY 28 Tue, Feb 4: Genesis 46—47

Weekly Gatherings

30 MINUTES

Arrival, Fellowship, and Reading

30 MINUTES

Teaching

30 MINUTES

Table Discussion and Announcements



Today's Reading

Genesis 30--31

Day 22 in Step Into Scripture





**God's Promise:
A Blessed Nation,
and a Blessing for
All Nations**

GENESIS 12:2—3

**2 “I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;**

**I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.**

**3 I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”**

MATTHEW 1:1

“Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham”

The background is a solid teal color. It features several decorative white wavy lines. In the top left, a line curves downwards and then back up. In the top right, there are several concentric, overlapping wavy lines that resemble a stylized sun or a ripple effect. In the bottom left, there are several overlapping, curved lines that look like a stylized leaf or a wave. In the bottom right, a single wavy line curves across the width of the page.

God's Promise: Land Inheritance in Canaan

GENESIS 12:6—7

6 Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. 7 The Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.”



God's Promise: Innumerable Descendants

GENESIS 15:5

5 He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

GENRE MATTERS

Genesis is a historical narrative.

We shouldn't read Genesis as prescriptive, but rather as an accounting of past events in story form with characters, plots, settings, scenes, dialogue—stories told in an order to help us understand how God is advancing his plan for the restoration of mankind through one family.

GENESIS 25:24-26

“When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau. After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau’s heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth to them.”

**Jacob means he grasps
the heel, a Hebrew
idiom for he deceives.**

**We see deception as a
running theme in
Abraham's family.**

**There's also the issue
of polygamy.**

DEUTERONOMY 17:17

“He must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray.”

1 TIMOTHY 3:1-2

The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. 2 Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife*, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

***Literally: a man of one woman**

GENESIS 2:24

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Wife, not wives

EPHESIANS 5:33

However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Wife, not wives

**Why were people who
did bad things
blessed?**

A covenant is a legally binding agreement between two parties. It is often solemnized or ratified by an oath or other means and usually places demands on one or both parties.

God's Promises to Abraham:

- **Bless him and bless all peoples through him**
- **Give his descendants the land of Canaan**
- **Multiply his descendants into a great nation**

God's Commands to Abraham:

- **Believe God and follow him fully**
- **Circumcise his descendants as an entry point into the covenant**

ROMANS 9:6-7

6 It is not as though God's word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. 7 Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children. On the contrary, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned."

ROMANS 9:8-13

8 In other words, it is not the children by physical descent who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring. 9 For this was how the promise was stated: "At the appointed time I will return, and Sarah will have a son."

ROMANS 9:8-13

10 Not only that, but Rebekah's children were conceived at the same time by our father Isaac. 11 Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that God's purpose in election might stand: 12 not by works but by him who calls—she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” 13 Just as it is written: “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

MALACHI 1:1-3

A prophecy: The word of the Lord to Israel through Malachi. 2 “I have loved you,” says the Lord. “But you ask, ‘How have you loved us?’ “Was not Esau Jacob’s brother?” declares the Lord. “Yet I have loved Jacob, 3 but Esau I have hated, and I have turned his hill country into a wasteland and left his inheritance to the desert jackals.”



'ARUR

**Cursed: separation from God and the
community of faith**

ROMANS 9:22-24

22 What if God, although choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath—prepared for destruction? 23 What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory— 24 even us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles?

God wasn't blessing Abraham and Jacob for their polygamy and deception. He was blessing all of humanity in spite of Abraham and Jacob's shortcomings.

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**God loves humanity that much.
He is a God of grace.
He never breaks his promises.**

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Deception begets deception.

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**God accomplishes his plan for
his glory, whether we choose
to participate or not.**

2 TIMOTHY 2:11-13

**11 Here is a trustworthy saying:
If we died with him, we will also live with
him; 12 if we endure, we will also reign
with him. If we disown him, he will also
disown us; 13 if we are faithless, he
remains faithful, for he cannot disown
himself.**