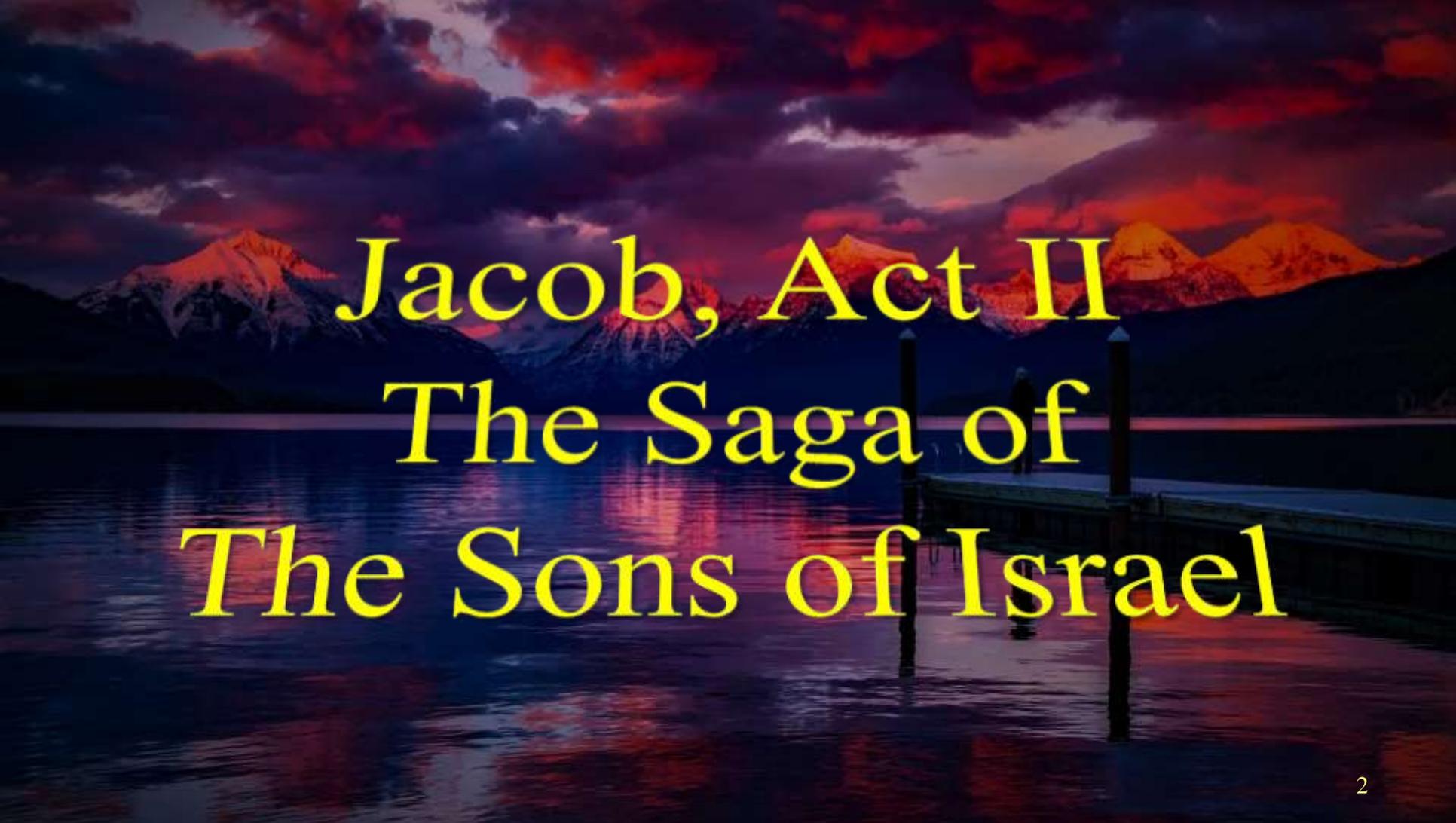


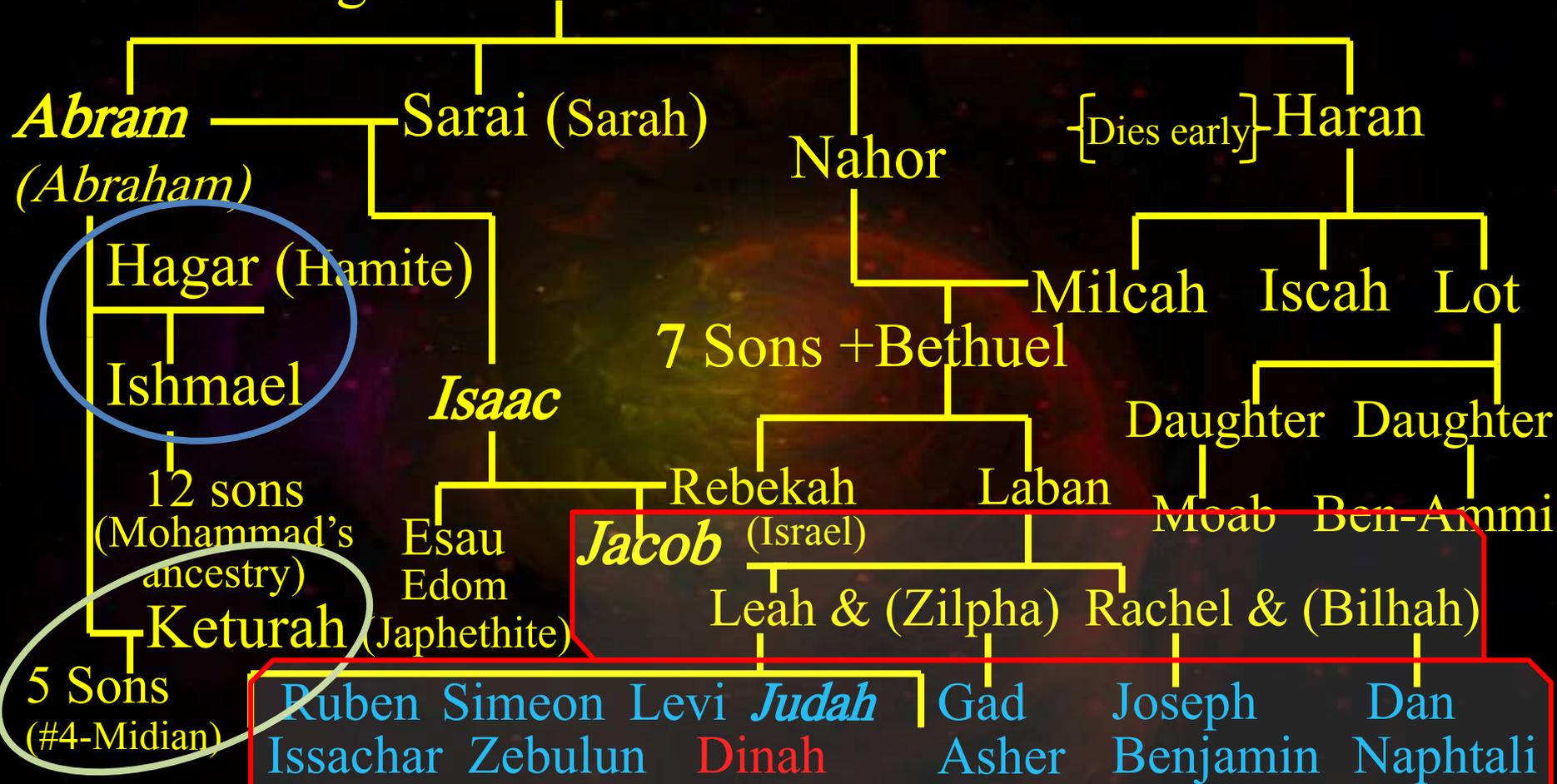
Genesis

The Story of God And Humanity

A scenic landscape at sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with dark, dramatic clouds, some of which are illuminated from below by the setting or rising sun, creating a vibrant orange and red glow. In the background, a range of mountains is visible, with the peaks and ridges catching the low light of the sun, appearing in shades of orange and red. The foreground features a calm body of water that reflects the colors of the sky and the mountains. On the right side, a wooden pier extends into the water, supported by several dark posts. A person is standing on the pier, looking out towards the water. The overall mood is serene and majestic.

Jacob, Act II
The Saga of
The Sons of Israel

The Lineage of *Terah* of the lines of Shem and Noah



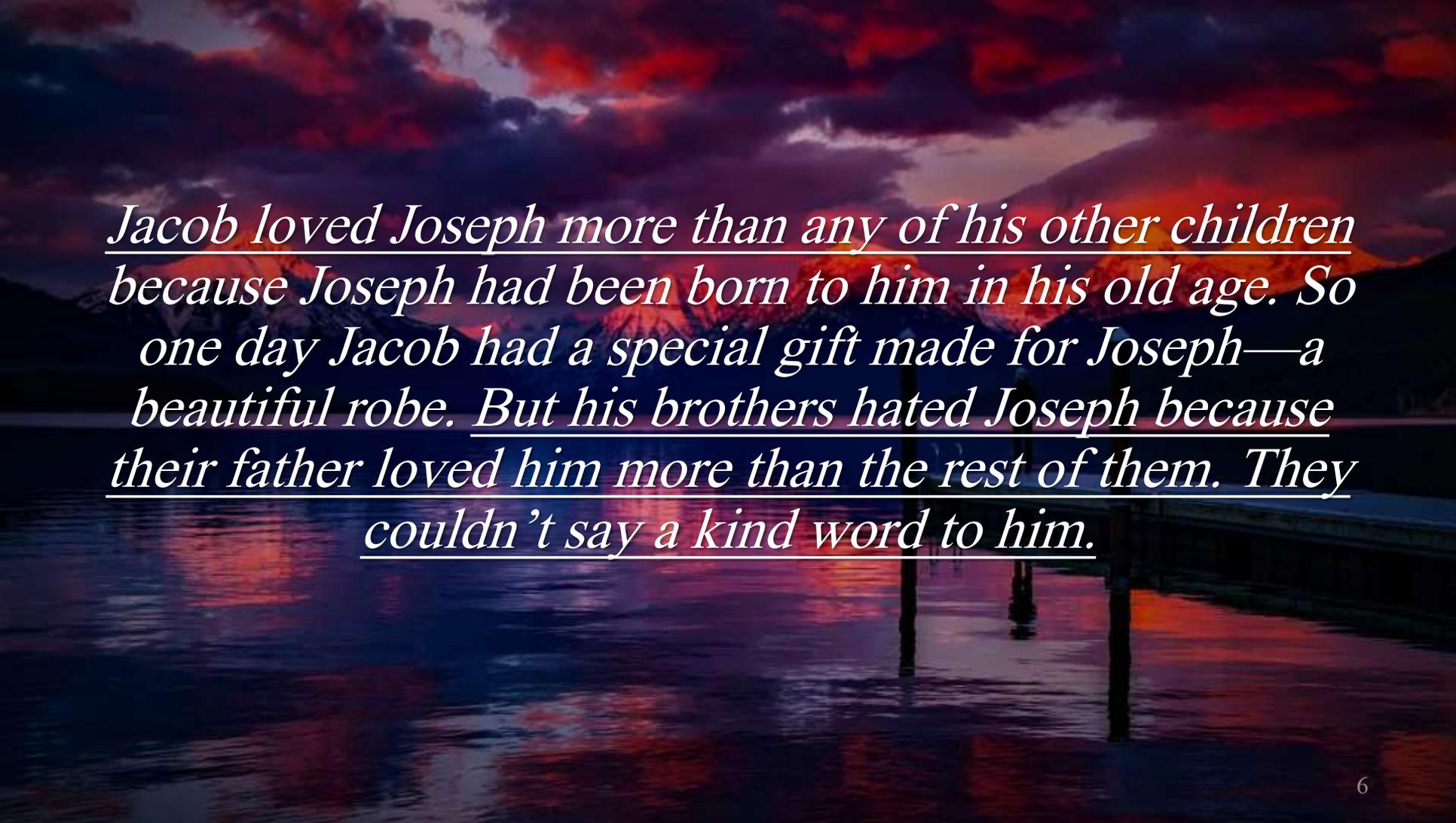
Jacob's Children With His 12 Sons In Their Birth Order



The Legacy Of Favoritism Continues

Genesis 37:1-4 (NLT2)

So Jacob settled again in the land of Canaan, where his father had lived as a foreigner. This is the account of Jacob and his family. When Joseph was seventeen years old, he often tended his father's flocks. He worked for his half brothers, the sons of his father's wives Bilhah and Zilpah. But Joseph reported to his father some of the bad things his brothers were doing.



Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other children because Joseph had been born to him in his old age. So one day Jacob had a special gift made for Joseph—a beautiful robe. But his brothers hated Joseph because their father loved him more than the rest of them. They couldn't say a kind word to him.

Joseph The Dreamer

- Bundles of Grain
- Sun, moon, and Stars

Genesis 37:10b -11 (NLT2)

“What kind of dream is that?” he asked. “Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow to the ground before you?” But while his brothers were jealous of Joseph, his father wondered what the dreams meant.



Jacob Sends
Joseph To See
About His
Brothers And
The Flocks.

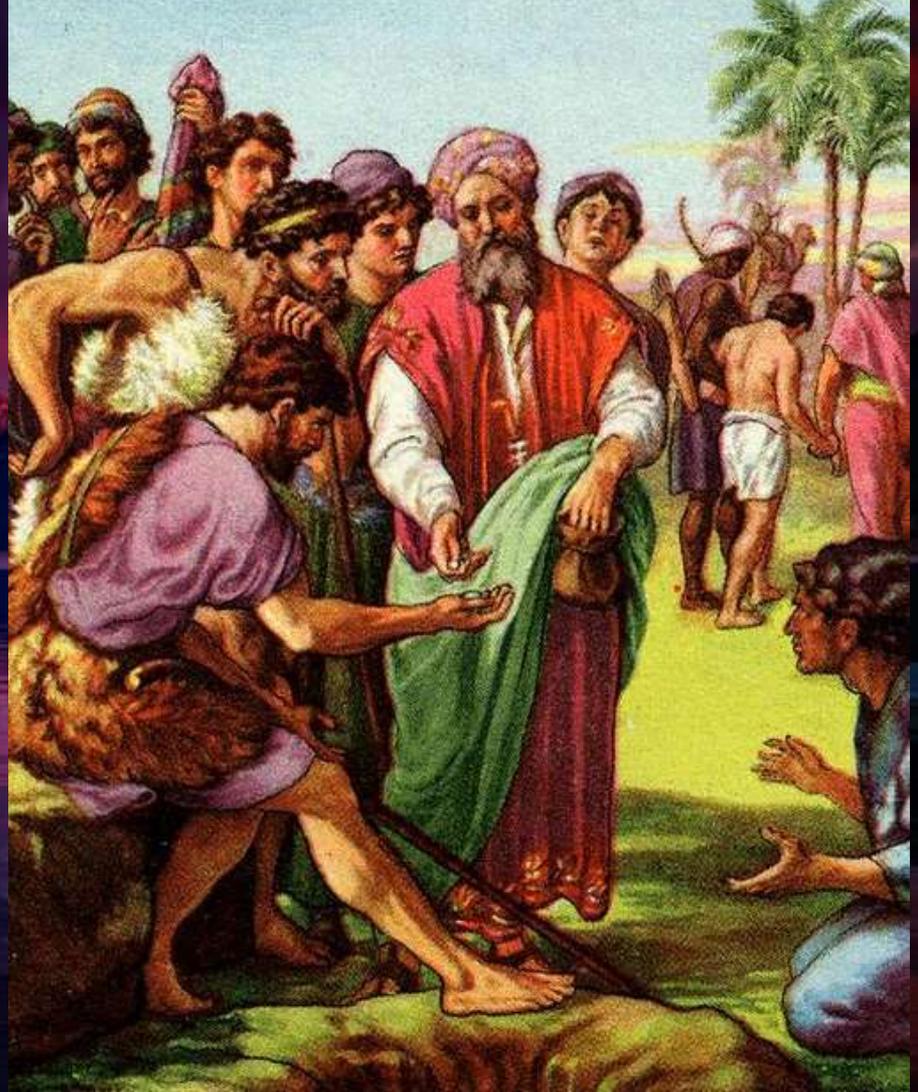


Genesis 37:18-25 (NLT2)

When Joseph's brothers saw him coming, they recognized him in the distance. As he approached, they made plans to kill him. "Here comes the dreamer!" they said. "Come on, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns. We can tell our father, 'A wild animal has eaten him.' Then we'll see what becomes of his dreams!" But when Reuben heard of their scheme, he came to Joseph's rescue.

“Let’s not kill him,” he said. “Why should we shed any blood? Let’s just throw him into this empty cistern here in the wilderness. Then he’ll die without our laying a hand on him.” Reuben was secretly planning to rescue Joseph and return him to his father. So when Joseph arrived, his brothers ripped off the beautiful robe he was wearing. Then they grabbed him and threw him into the cistern. Now the cistern was empty; there was no water in it. Then, just as they were sitting down to eat, they looked up and saw a caravan of camels in the distance coming toward them.

Joseph is sold as a slave for 20 shekels to some traders identified as Ishmaelites and Midianites, which are also descendants of Abraham through Hagar and Keturah.



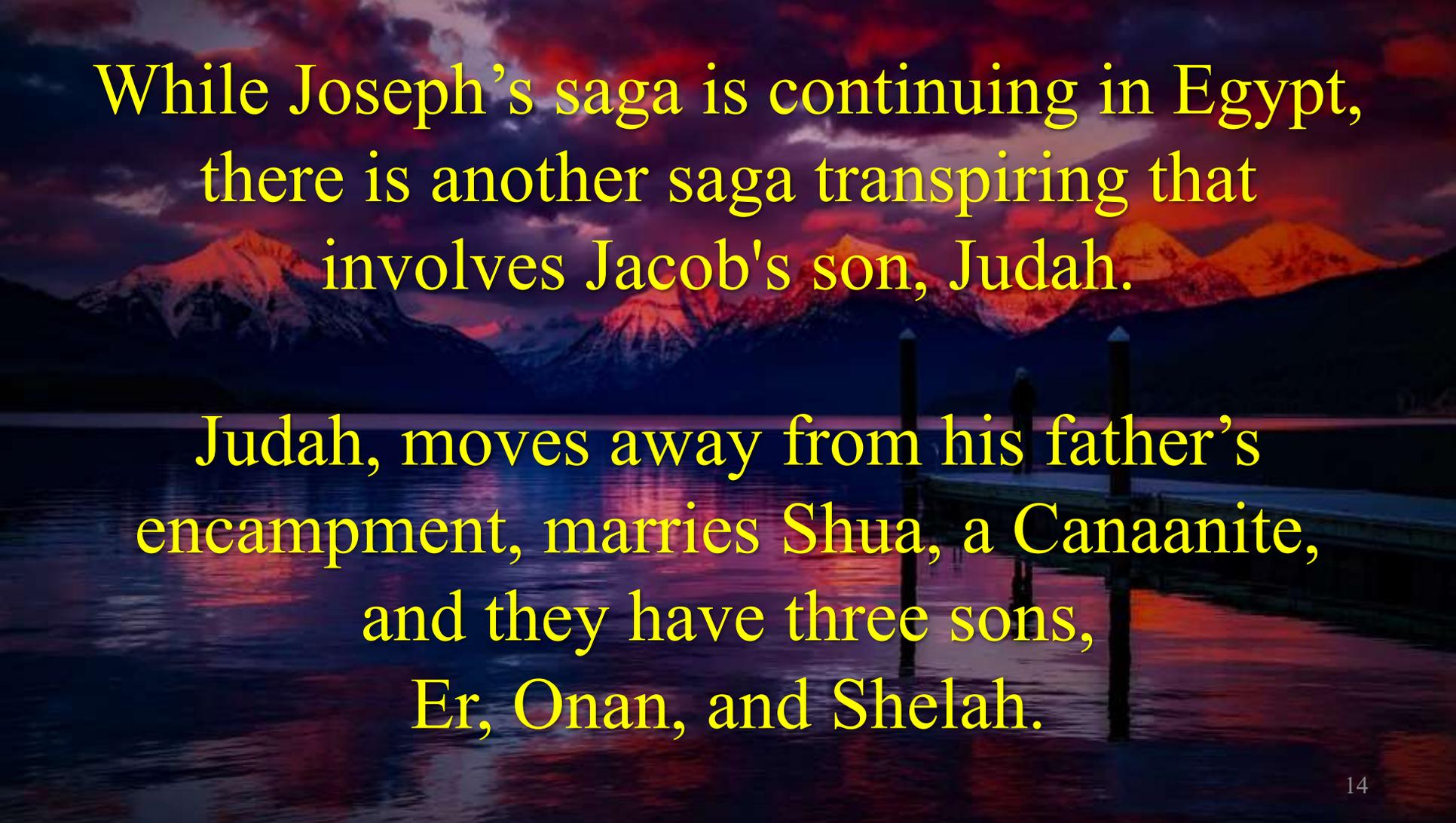
Genesis 37:31-33 (NLT2)

Then the brothers killed a young goat and dipped Joseph's robe in its blood. They sent the beautiful robe to their father with this message: "Look at what we found. Doesn't this robe belong to your son?" Their father recognized it immediately. "Yes," he said, "it is my son's robe. A wild animal must have eaten him. Joseph has clearly been torn to pieces!"

Genesis 37:34-35

Then Jacob tore his clothes and dressed himself in burlap. He mourned deeply for his son for a long time. His family all tried to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. “I will go to my grave mourning for my son,” he would say, and then he would weep.





While Joseph's saga is continuing in Egypt,
there is another saga transpiring that
involves Jacob's son, Judah.

Judah, moves away from his father's
encampment, marries Shua, a Canaanite,
and they have three sons,
Er, Onan, and Shelah.

Judah And The Law Of *Levirate Marriage*

- Er, Judah's oldest son, marries Tamar, but he such an evil and wicked man that the Lord takes his life.
- He leaves no heir to carry on his name so the Levirate Marriage law is invoked.
- Onan won't cooperate so the Lord takes his life too.
- Judah sends Tamar back to her father to wait until Shelah is old enough to marry. But, Judah has no intention of doing so because he's afraid that Shelah will die too.

A Dishonorable Man – A Woman Scorned

- Years go by and Shelah comes of age to marry but Judah does not send him to marry Tamar as promised.
- Tamar hears that Judah, who is now a widower, is heading her way to take care of some sheep.
- She disguises herself as a prostitute, covers her face, and sits where Judah will notice her. Judah notices!
- They play the R rated version of **“Let’s Make A Deal.”**
- Judah gets sex, Tamar gets a goat, Judah leaves his signet ring, cord and staff to guarantee the goat.

The Plot Thickens

- Tamar loses her disguise, dresses again as a widow but finds out she is pregnant with Judah's child.
- Judah sends the goat but no prostitute is to be found. Judah figures it is safest to, "let her keep the stuff."
- Three months later, Judah hears that Tamar has "acted like a prostitute and is pregnant. Judah does not know he is the father and demands to have Tamar burned!
- As they are taking her to be burned, Tamar sends the signet ring, cord and walking stick to Judah with the message, "The one who owns these is the father."

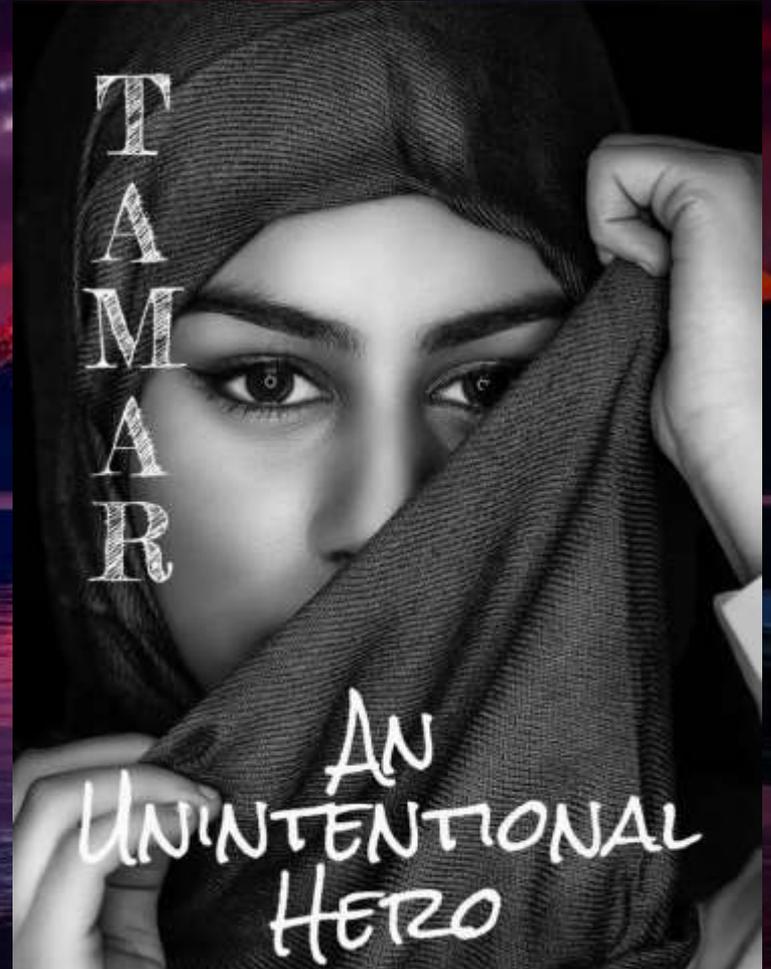
Judah Looks In Mirror

Genesis 38:26 (NLT2)

Judah recognized them immediately and said, “She is more righteous than I am, because I didn’t arrange for her to marry my son Shelah.”

And Judah never slept with Tamar again.

Tamar
Gets The Justice
She Has Been
Denied.



Why Does Scripture Include Such Sordid Stories?

- They affirm the believableness of the divine narrative. Scripture does not engage in Hagiography.
- They affirm that God's purposes can, and will, be achieved, even when his people make sinful choices.
- They remind us that we're reading God's Story about God's plan for sending God's son into God's world.
- Every story, somehow, confirms God's Sovereignty.
- God is the hero, the main character, not men such as Abraham, Isaac, or Jacob or anyone else.

Judah And Tamar?

Matthew 1:1-3 (NLT2)

This is a record of the ancestors of Jesus the Messiah, a descendant of David and of Abraham: Abraham was the father of Isaac. Isaac was the father of Jacob. Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers. Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah (whose mother was Tamar). Perez was the father of Hezron. Hezron was the father of Ram...

Matthew 1:15-16 (NLT2)

Eliud was the father of Eleazar. Eleazar was the father of Matthan. Matthan was the father of Jacob. Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Mary gave birth to Jesus, who is called the Messiah.