

Chinese Simplified

创世记

导言

《创世记》这个名字源自这本书的第一句话：“在起初……”。我们可以把这部书分成三个重要部分：

神学作品。它们描述了有关世界的起源、天堂和原罪。这些描述都是故事，它们不是历史记载，而是神学作品。它们并不必然描述事实，而是表达人类的本质，及他们与上帝的关系，以及罪恶的问题。

古老的传承。这一部分包括加音和亚伯尔的故事，以及洪水灭世和巴别塔的故事。这些都是中东地区古老的传说，即使在以色列的史前时代，这些故事已经广为流传。伟大的以色列史学家发现了它们，并把这些古老的传说收编在圣经中，作为他们“历史的起源”，并赋予它们深刻的宗教内涵。

族长的历史。亚巴郎、依撒各和雅各伯是“以色列子民的祖先”。这些故事也来自古老的传说。这些故事对我们来说有着深刻的象征意义，而且圣经作者们更注重这些传说的宗教意义，其次才是历史事实。这些传说以颇具传奇色彩的“若瑟的故事”作为结尾，成为整篇圣经中最美丽的篇章。

创造天地

- 1 1 元始之初，天主创造天地时，
2 大地一片混沌，无形无样，深渊之上是一片漆黑，天主的神弥漫在水面之上。
3 天主说：
“要有光！”
光就有了。
4 天主看见光好，就把光与黑暗分开。 5 天主称这光叫昼，称黑暗叫夜。

English

GENESIS

Introduction

Its name derives from the book's first words: "In the beginning...". We can distinguish three important divisions in the book:

Theological writings. They refer to the Creation of the world, Paradise, and the First Sin. These are stories, they are not history but theology. They do not relate events that happened, but are fundamental messages about human beings, their relationship with God, and sin.

Very old traditions. The famous stories about Cain and Abel, the Flood, the Tower of Babel. These are very old traditions, previous even to the history of Israel. The great history compilers of Israel found them, and they included them as a "history of the origins", more legendary than historic, giving them a strong religious meaning.

The history of the Patriarchs. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are the "fathers of the people". The origin of these stories is also rooted in legend. They have for us a symbolic value and the authors were more interested in their religious messages than in the historical events in themselves. This "history" ends with the marvelous "history of Joseph", one of the most beautiful stories of the whole Bible.

Creation

- 1 ¹In the beginning, God began to create the heavens and the earth.
2The earth had no form and was void; darkness was over the deep and the Spirit of God hovered over the waters.
3God said:
—Let there be light.
And there was light.
4God saw that the light was good and he separated the light from the darkness.
5God called the light 'Day' and the darkness 'Night'.

晚上过去，清晨来临，这是第一天。

6 天主说：

“在水与水之间要有穹苍，将水上下分开！”事就这样成就了。7 于是天主造了穹苍，把穹苍下的水和穹苍上的水分开。

8 天主称这穹苍叫天。

晚上过去，清晨来临，这是第二天。

9 天主说：

“让天空下的水聚在一起，好让大地出现！”

事就这样成就了。

10 天主称这地为陆地，称这聚在一起的水为海。

天主看了，认为很好。

11 天主说：

“让陆地长出青草，长出结种子的稻麦蔬菜；让果树结满带核的果实，每种植物在地上各得其所！”

事就这样成就了。

12 于是，大地长出蔬菜、五谷、果树，每种蔬菜各有其收获，每种树各结其果实。

天主看了，觉得很好。

13 晚上过去，清晨来临，这是第三天。

14 天主说：

“让苍穹的亮光把白昼和黑夜分开，而且划分出季节和年日；15 让闪耀在苍穹的光，照亮大地！”

事就这样成就了。

16 于是天主造了两个大亮光，较大的亮光管着白天，较小的亮光管着黑夜，天主又造了群星。17 天主将群星安放在天空，好照耀大地，18 区分昼夜和明暗。

天主看了，觉得很好。

19 晚上过去，清晨来临，这是第四天。

20 天主说：

“让水里滋生各式各样的动物，任鸟儿飞翔在大地之上，天空之下。”

21 于是天主造了海中的大海兽和动物，这些动物按照它们的种类，在水里生长。天主又创造了各种有翼的飞鸟。

There was evening and there was morning: the first day.

⁶God said:

—Let there be a firm ceiling between the waters and let it separate waters from waters. ⁷So God made the ceiling and separated the waters below it from the waters above it. And so it was.

⁸God called the firm ceiling ‘Sky’.

There was evening and there was morning: the second day.

⁹God said:

—Let the waters below the sky be gathered together in one place and let dry land appear.”

And so it was.

¹⁰God called the dry land ‘Earth’, and the waters gathered together he called ‘Seas’.

God saw that it was good.

¹¹God said:

—Let the earth produce vegetation, seed-bearing plants, fruit trees bearing fruit with seed, each according to its kind, upon the earth.

And so it was.

¹²The earth produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kind and trees producing fruit which has seed, according to their kind.

God saw that it was good.

¹³There was evening and there was morning: the third day.

¹⁴God said:

—Let there be lights in the ceiling of the sky to separate day from night and to serve as signs for the seasons, days and years; ¹⁵and let these lights in the sky shine above the earth.

And so it was.

¹⁶God therefore made two great lights, the greater light to govern the day and the smaller light to govern the night; and God made the stars as well. ¹⁷God placed them in the ceiling of the sky to give light on the earth ¹⁸and to separate the light from the darkness.

God saw that it was good.

¹⁹There was evening and there was morning: the fourth day.

²⁰God said:

—Let the water teem with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth under the ceiling of the sky.

²¹God created the great monsters of the sea and all living animals, those that teem in the waters, according to their kind, and every winged bird, according to its kind.

天主看了，觉得很好。

22 就祝福这一切，说：

“要繁衍生殖，充满海洋，飞鸟也要在陆地上增多。”

23 晚上过去，清晨来临，这是第五天。

24 天主说：

“让大地生出活物来，各从其类：牲畜、昆虫及野兽。”

事就这样成就了。

25 天主创造了各种野兽、各种昆虫和各种牲畜，各从其类。

天主看了，觉得很好。

26 天主说：

“让我们照自己的肖像，按我们的模样来造人。叫他管理水中的游鱼，空中的飞鸟，还有各种牲畜、野兽和各类昆虫。”

27 于是天主按自己的肖像造了人，天主造了他们：男人和女人。

28 天主祝福他们说：

“你们要在地球上生育繁衍，并充满大地，治理大地，管理海中的鱼、空中的飞鸟、及陆上行走的动物。”

29 天主说：

“我把地上结种子的五谷蔬菜，和一切结果子的树都交给你们，作为你们的食物。30 至于地上的各种野兽，天空的各种飞鸟和爬行在地上的众生灵，我要将草赐给他们作食物。”

事就这样成就了。

31 天主看到他所创造的一切，觉得很好。

黑夜过去，清晨来临，这是第六天。

2 1 天地和它们之间的万物就这样造成了。

2 到第七天，天主已完成了工作，他便在这天休息，停止一切工程。

3 天主祝福这第七天，定为圣日，因为他在这天停止了所有的创造工程。

God saw that it was good.

22 God blessed them saying:

—Be fruitful and increase in number, fill the waters of the sea, and let the birds increase on the earth.

23 There was evening and there was morning: the fifth day.

24 God said:

—Let the earth produce living animals according to their kind: cattle, creatures that move along the ground, wild animals according to their kind.

So it was.

25 God created the wild animals according to their kind, and everything that creeps along the ground according to its kind.

God saw that it was good.

26 God said:

—Let us make man in our image, to our likeness. Let them rule over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, over the cattle, over the wild animals, and over all creeping things that crawl along the ground.

27 So God created man in his image; in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them and said to them:

—Be fruitful and increase in number, fill the earth and subdue it, rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the sky, over every living creature that moves on the ground.

29 God said:

—I have given you every seed-bearing plant which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree that bears fruit with seed. It will be for your food. 30 To every wild animal, to every bird of the sky, to everything that creeps along the ground, to everything that has the breath of life, I give every green plant for food.

So it was.

31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

There was evening and there was morning: the sixth day.

2 1 That was the way the sky and earth were created and all their vast array.

2 By the seventh day the work God had done was completed, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work he had done.

3 And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on that day he rested from all the work he had done in his creation.

4 这些就是天主创造天地过程。

在这两章中，我们看到了两个截然不同的创世故事。解释这种现象的原因，是因为这些描述并非向我们显示天主如何创造了世界和人类（因为作者也不知道），而是向我们展示天主是宇宙的创造者（统治者和君王），以及人类与他的关系。圣经中有很多描述天主创造智慧和力量的圣咏，

大家不妨参照：

1，箴言 8：11，23-32：直观描述天主的创造工程。

2，训导篇 43：1-33：这是一首描述大自然的美妙诗篇，是对圣咏第一百四十八篇的解释和反省。

3，约伯传 38-39：天主回答约伯在急难中的哭诉与责问。

在圣咏中，作者运用抒情诗的形式，在赞颂的祈祷中颂扬并感谢天主。圣咏诗以色列子民的独特祈祷。它是人类归向天主的经验。它是人在生活中与天主同行的体验。圣咏可以反复咏唱，因为它既不是作者一个人的情感表达，也并非历史的经验。它是人对天主永恒的祈祷。

您还可以参阅：

圣咏 8，24，104，136 和 140 篇，这些都是有关天主创造的记载。

天堂和罪恶

天主创造天地的时候，⁵地上还没有灌木，也没有长出任何植物，因为雅威天主还没有把雨降到大地上，也没有人在土地上耕种。⁶但有水从地下涌出，滋润所有地面。

⁷雅威天主用地上的泥土造人，把生命的气息吹进他的鼻孔，他就成为有灵、有生命的人。

⁸雅威天主在东方的伊甸开辟了一个园子，将造好的人安置在那里。

⁹雅威天主使地上长出各种好看又好吃的果树，又在园中央栽种生命树和能使人分辨善恶的树。

¹⁰有一条河从伊甸流出，灌溉那园子。又在那里分成四条主要的支流。¹¹第一条支流叫丕雄，环绕产金的哈威拉，¹²那地方的金子很好，

^{4a}These are the successive steps in the creation of the heavens and the earth.

In these two chapters we see two different stories about the creation of the world and of human beings that, evidently, contradict each other. The explanation is that the intention is not to try to explain how things happened (this was unknown to the authors, and even to us), but explain who God is (the Ruler, the Lord) and how humans relate to Him. These are also a beautiful hymn to the wisdom and power of God.

You can also read:

Proverbs 8:11,23-32. Good sense is the first of the creative tasks of God.

Ecclesiasticus 43:1-33. It is a great hymn to nature that is presented as a commentary to Psalm 148.

Job 38 and 39. God answers Job, who blames Him for the evil in his life.

And making use of lyrical genre addresses God in prayer of praise and thanksgiving in the Psalms. Psalms are the prayer of Israel. They are the expression of human experience turned towards God. They are the expression of the life of a people dragged along by God.

Psalms were composed for repeated use: they are not to become exhaust by the first person who composes or orders it, nor by the first historical experience of the people.

You can also see:

Psalms 8, 24, 104, 136, 148. All of them talk about the creation of God.

Paradise and Sin

^{4b}On the day that Yahweh God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵there was not yet on the earth any shrub of the fields, nor had any plant yet sprung up, for Yahweh God had not made it rain on the earth, and there was no man to till the earth, ⁶but a mist went up from the earth and watered the surface of the earth.

⁷Then Yahweh God formed Man, dust drawn from the clay, and breathed into his nostrils a breath of life and Man became alive with breath.

⁸God planted a garden in Eden in the east and there he placed Man whom he had created.

⁹Yahweh God caused to grow from the ground every kind of tree that is pleasing to see and good to eat, also the tree of Life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

也出产珍珠和玛瑙。 13 第二条支流叫基训，环绕摩押全境。14 第三条支流叫底格里斯，流到亚述的东面。第四条支流叫幼发拉底。

15 雅威天主让人安居在伊甸园里，叫他耕种，照顾乐园。16 雅威天主对人下令说：

“你可以吃园里任何树上的果子，17 唯有从善恶树长出的果子不可以吃，你若吃了，你就会死。”

18 雅威天主说：

“一个人单独并不好，我要给他造一个合适的伴侣。” 19 雅威天主就用尘土造了田野里的各种动物和空中的飞鸟，把它们带到人那里，好看人怎么给它们取名。凡人给这些动物命的名，就成了这些动物的称呼。

20 于是人为牲畜、天空飞鸟和所有的野兽取了名字。但是他在它们当中，没有找到合适的伴侣。

21 雅威天主便让人进入深深的睡梦中。在他睡着的时候，天主从他的身上取出一条肋骨，然后又用肉把原处和好。22 雅威天主就用从那人身上取出来的肋骨造了一个女子，把她带到这人身边。

23 这人说：

“这才是我骨中的骨，肉中的肉。她要被称为女人，因为她是从男人身上取出而成。”

24 为此男人要离开自己的父母，去依附他的妻子，与妻子结合为一体。

25 这男人和他妻子都是赤身裸体，却并不感到羞耻。

诱惑和违命

天主创造的一切都是美好的、纯洁和完美的。但是人类却非如此，他们需要经历痛苦、劳动和死亡。本书的作者想解释为什么世界有这么多的罪恶。和创世的故事一样，作者写这个故事的动机并非历史记载，而只是用生动和象征的手法，表达宗教的内涵。书中运用巧妙的描写手法向人们展示了诱惑的本质。对于和天主的关系而言，人类更喜欢渺小且直接的利益。这就是人们本性最原始的问题。这种倾向、无知和顺从是所有罪恶的根源，也就是我们所说的“原罪”。称之为原罪，并非因为它发生在人类的起源时期，而是因为它就是我们所有错误和罪恶根本原因。

3 1 蛇是雅威天主创造的野兽当中最狡猾的动物。

15 Yahweh God took Man and placed him in the garden of Eden to till it and take care of it. 16 Then Yahweh God gave an order to Man saying:

—You may eat of every tree in the garden, 17 but of the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, you will not eat, for on the day you eat of it, you will die.

18 Yahweh God said:

It is not good for Man to be alone; I will give him a helper who will be like him.

19 Then Yahweh God formed from the earth all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air and brought them to Man to see what he would call them; and whatever Man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 So Man gave names to all the cattle, the birds of the air and to every beast of the field. But he did not find among them a helper like himself.

21 Then Yahweh God caused a deep sleep to come over Man and he fell asleep. He took one of his ribs and filled its place with flesh.

22 The rib which Yahweh God had taken from Man he formed into a woman and brought her to the man.

23 The man then said:

—Now this is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh. She shall be called woman because she was taken from man.

24 That is why man leaves his father and mother and is attached to his wife, and with her becomes one flesh.

25 Both the man and his wife were naked and were not ashamed.

God has created everything good, innocent, perfect. But humanity is not like that: there is pain, work, death. In what follows the author of the book explains why there is so much evil in the world. Once again, the intention is not to tell what happened. The characters and actions are symbolic. It is a presentation, marvelously described, about the essence of temptation. Human beings prefer a small and immediate good to friendship with God. That is in the origin of humanity's problems. This tendency, ignorant and slaving, origin of all evils, is what we call "original sin". Not because it happened at the historical origin of humanity, but because it is at the deep root of all our mistakes, of all our sins.

3 1 Now the serpent was the craftiest of all the wild creatures that Yahweh God had made.

蛇对女人说：

“天主是不是真的说过，你们不能随便吃园内树上的果子？”

2 女人对蛇说：“我们可以吃园里树上的果实，

3 只有园子中央那棵树上的果实，天主说过：你们不能吃，你们不能碰，否则你们会。”

4 蛇对女人说：“你们不会死的，

5 因为天主知道，如果你们吃了这果实，你们的眼就会开了，就可以像天主一样知道什么是善恶了。”

6 女人觉得这棵树的果子既好看，又好吃，又能使人得到智慧，便摘下果子来吃了，又给她丈夫吃。她丈夫也吃了。

7 他们的眼睛立刻开了，两人都发觉自己是赤裸的，于是他们用无花果的叶子编成裙子，把身子围起来。

8 那天的黄昏，他们听见雅威在园子里散步的声音，男人和他的妻子便藏在花园的树丛里，躲避天主。

9 雅威天主呼唤男人，对他说：

“你在哪里？”

10 他说：

“我在园子里，听见你走动的声音，感到害怕，因为我赤裸着身体，就躲起来了。”

11 天主说：

“谁跟你说的，你赤裸着身体？是不是你吃了我禁止你吃的果子？”

12 那人回答：

“你给我作伴的那女人把果子给我吃，我就吃了。”

13 天主就问那女人：

“你为什么这样做呢？”

她回答说：

“那蛇诱惑我，我就吃了。”

14 雅威天主对蛇说：

“你既然做了这事，在所有的牲畜和野兽中，要受到诅咒！你要靠着腹部爬行，终生吃泥土。

15 我要使你和女人互相仇恨，你的后代和她的后代互相为敌。她的后代要攻击你的头颅，你要攻击他的脚跟。”

He said to the woman:

—Did God really say: You must not eat from any tree in the garden?

2The woman said to the serpent:

3—We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden, but of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden God said:

—You must not eat, and you must not touch it or you will die.

4The serpent said to the woman:

5—You will not die, but God knows that the day you eat it, your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.

6The woman saw that the fruit was good to eat, and pleasant to the eyes, and ideal for gaining knowledge. She took its fruit and ate it and gave some to her husband who was with her. He ate it.

7Then their eyes were opened and both of them knew they were naked. So they sewed leaves of a fig tree together and made themselves loincloths. 8They heard the voice of Yahweh God walking in the garden, in the cool of the day, and they, the man and his wife, hid from Yahweh God among the trees of the garden.

9Yahweh God called the man saying to him:

—Where are you?

10He said:

—I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid.

11God said:

—Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree I ordered you not to eat?

12The man answered:

—The woman you put with me gave me fruit from the tree and I ate it.

13God said to the woman:

—What have you done?

The woman said:

—The serpent deceived me and I ate.

14Yahweh God said to the serpent:

—Since you have done that, be cursed among all the cattle and wild beasts! You will crawl on your belly and eat dust all the days of your life.

15I will make you enemies, you and the woman, your offspring and her offspring. He will crush your head and you will strike his heel.

16 天主对女人说：“我会增加你怀孕的痛苦，你将在痛楚当中，生下你的儿女。你会依赖你的丈夫，他将管辖你。”

17 天主对男人说：

“因为你听妻子的话，吃了我所禁食的果子，这块地将因你而受到诅咒。你一生要辛劳地耕种，才能得到食物。18 这土地将长出荆棘和蒺藜，你将吃田里的蔬菜。19 你必须汗流满面，才有饭吃，直到你归于尘土的那天，因为你来自于土。你既是尘土，你还要回归到尘土里去。”

20 这男人称他的妻子为厄娃，因为她是众生的母亲。21 雅威天主为男人和他妻子做了皮外衣，给他们穿上。

加音和亚伯尔

这是一个非常古老的有关农夫和牧羊人的传说，展示了这两种人的不同特色。而作者利用这个传说表达了本书最重要的一个主题，那就是：“不可杀人”。在阅读的时候，请特别注意最后一段，第15节。

4 1 亚当和他的妻子厄娃同房后，她便怀孕生下一个孩子，取名叫加音，因为她说：

“雅威使我得到一个男子。”

2 后来她又生下加音的弟弟亚伯尔。

亚伯尔是个牧人，看守羊群，而加音则耕田种地。

3 过一些时候，加音把地上出产的果实奉献给雅威。4 亚伯尔则拿羊群中的头胎羊和一些油脂作祭献。雅威很喜欢亚伯尔和他的祭品，5 但却不满意加音和他的祭品。加音为此很恼怒，垂头丧气。6 雅威对加音说：

“你为什么沮丧生气呢？7 如果你做得好，为什么不抬起头来？如果你做得不对，罪恶就藏在你门边，企图接近你，但你必须制服它。”

事后，

8 加音对他弟弟亚伯尔说：

“我们到田里去。”

9 到了那里，加音攻击弟弟亚伯尔，把他杀了。

10 雅威问加音说：

“你弟弟亚伯尔在哪里？”

他回答：“

17 To the man, He said:

—Because you have listened to your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I forbade you to eat, cursed be the soil because of you! In suffering you will provide food for yourself from it, all the days of your life.

20 The man called his wife by the name of Eve, because she was the mother of all the living.

21 Yahweh God made garments of skin for the man and his wife, and with these he clothed them.

Cain and Abel

It is a very, very old legend about grudges between farmers and cattlemen, represented by two typical personages. But the author has used it to portray what is perhaps the most important message of the whole book: YOU SHALL NOT KILL. Not even the killer. Pay special attention to the final passage, versicle 15.

4 1 Adam had intercourse with Eve his wife; she became pregnant and gave birth to a child. She named him Cain, for she said:

—I have got a man with help from Yahweh.

2 She later gave birth to Abel, his brother. Abel was a shepherd and kept flocks, and Cain tilled the soil. Cain was downcast. 6 Then Yahweh said to Cain:

—Why are you angry and downcast? 7 If you do right, why do you not look up? But if you are not doing what is right, sin is lurking at the door. It is striving to get you, but you must control it.

8 Cain said to his brother Abel:

—Let's go to the fields.

Once there, Cain turned on his brother Abel and killed him.

9 Yahweh said to Cain:

—Where is your brother, Abel?

He answered: “

我不知道，难道我是弟弟的守护人吗？”

10 雅威问他：

“你做了什么事？你弟弟的血从地上向我哀号！¹¹现在你是地上受咒骂的人，大地张开口接受了你弟弟的鲜血，从此大地将驱逐你。¹²你耕种的土地，再也不会出产作物。你将在大地上成为流离失所的人。”

13 加音对雅威说：

“你给我的责罚太重，我无法承担。¹⁴你看，今天你把我从这块土地上赶走，从此我必须躲避你，到处流浪，看到我的人都会杀我。”

15 雅威对他说：

“这样吧，如果有谁杀害加音，他要受到七倍的报应。”雅威给加音作个记号，使得遇见他的人不杀害他。

16 加音离开了天主，在伊甸园东边的诺得定居下来。

罪恶：洪水

作者运用历史上发生的特大洪水的传说，向以色列子民发表了一篇鼓励忏悔的讲道，向人们展示了罪恶的严重性，及天主对罪恶的厌恶和惩罚。

6 ⁴当神的儿子与人的女儿结婚生子时，地上已有巨人，（以后也有）。他们是古代的英雄，著名的人物。

⁵雅威看到大地上的人们罪恶深重，心中装满邪恶念头，⁶就后悔在地上造了人。他感到伤心。⁷于是他说：

“我要把我所造的人、野兽、爬虫和飞鸟，都从地上消灭掉，因为我后悔造了他们。”

⁸只有诺厄得受雅威的喜爱。

—I don't know; am I my brother's keeper?

¹⁰Yahweh asked:

—What have you done? Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground.

¹¹Now be cursed and driven from the ground that has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood that your hand has shed. ¹²When you till the soil, it will no longer yield you its produce. You will be a fugitive wandering on the earth.”

¹³Cain said to Yahweh:

—My punishment is greater than I can bear. ¹⁴See! Today you drive me from this land. I must hide from you and be a wanderer and a fugitive on the earth, and it will so happen that whoever meets me will kill me.

¹⁵Yahweh said to him:

—Well then, whoever kills Cain, will suffer vengeance seven times.

And Yahweh put a mark on Cain to prevent anyone who met him from killing him.

¹⁶Cain then went from Yahweh's presence and settled in the land of Nod, to the east of Eden.

Sin: Flood

Historical data of terrible past floods, made bigger by legends, is used by the author to make an important penitential sermon, showing the graveness of sin and its consequences.

6 ⁴At that time there were giants on the earth, and afterwards as well, when the sons of God went to the daughters of men and had children by them. These were the heroes of old, men of renown.

⁵Yahweh saw how great was the wickedness of man on the earth and that evil was always the only thought of his heart. ⁶Yahweh regretted having created man on the earth and his heart grieved. ⁷He said:

—I will destroy man whom I created and blot him out from the face of the earth, as well as the beasts, creeping creatures and birds, for I am sorry I made them.

⁸But Noah was pleasing to God.

若厄方舟

6 9 以下是诺厄的故事。他是那时代唯一有正义感和光明磊落的人，常与天主来往。**10** 诺厄有三个儿子：闪、含和耶斐特。

11 大地在天主的眼中，变得腐败了，处处充满暴力。**12** 天主觉得大地是完全败坏了，因为地上的人都走入了歧途。

13 天主就对诺厄说：

“我决定要毁灭所有的人，因为他们使大地充满了暴力。因此我要把他们从地上消除掉。**14** 至于你，你要建造一艘香柏木的方舟，在方舟内盖舱房，里外都涂上沥青。**15** 你要这样造方舟：方舟长宽各五十肘，高三十肘。**16** 方舟上面做一层顶，在两边与上顶之间要留大约一肘的空间。方舟侧面安一扇门，再做上、中、下三层舱面。**17** 我要使洪水泛滥，摧毁大地，要把天空下的所有生命和地上凡有气息的活物，完全摧毁。**18** 但我要与你订立盟约。你、你的妻子、你的儿子和媳妇们都要进入方舟。**19** 你要从一切有气息血肉的生物中，每种选雌雄一对，带到方舟里，好使它们在你身边活下去。**20** 各种飞鸟、各种家畜和各种爬虫，按照它们的种类，每种各选两只，和你一同进入方舟，以保存性命。**21** 带各种食物进去，储存起来，作为你和它们的粮食”。

22 诺厄按照天主所吩咐的做了。

若厄进入方舟

7 7 诺厄带着他的孩子们、妻子、媳妇们，进到方舟里，躲避洪水。**8** 洁净和不洁净的动物、鸟和地上的爬虫，都跟随诺厄进入方舟。**9** 它们照天主的吩咐，一雄一雌，成双成对地进入方舟。

10 七天以后，洪水淹没了大地。**11** 诺厄六百岁那年，二月十七日那一天，所有深渊里的泉水汹涌而出，天上的水闸都开放了，

12 大雨在地上下了四十昼夜。

24 洪水在大地上泛滥了一百五十天。

Noah and the arc

9^bNoah was a just man, blameless among the people of his time, a man who walked with God. **10**Noah became the father of three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.

11The earth became corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. **12**God saw the earth and saw it was corrupt, for corrupt, indeed, was the way of all mortals.

13Yahweh said to Noah:

—I have in mind to destroy all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. This is why I will destroy them and with them the earth. **14**As for you, build an ark of cypress wood. You will make rooms in the ark and coat it with pitch inside and outside. **17**I am about to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy the earth, to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life. Everything on earth will perish, **18**but I will establish my covenant with you. You shall come into the ark, you, your wife, your sons and your sons' wives with you. **19**You shall bring into the ark two of every kind of living thing, male and female, to keep them alive with you. **20**Of the birds, the animals and all creeping things on the ground, according to their kind, two of every sort shall come in to be kept alive with you. **21**Take with you every sort of food that is eaten. Make a store of it and it will be food for you and them.

22And Noah did all as God had commanded him.

Noah enters the arc

7 7So Noah went into the ark with his children, his wife and his sons' wives to escape the waters of the flood. **8**Clean animals and also unclean, birds, and all that crawls on the earth went into the ark with Noah; **9**they went two and two, male and female, as God had commanded Noah.

10And after seven days the waters of the flood were over the earth. **11**In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month and on the seventeenth day of the month, all the fountains of the great deep burst forth.

12And there was a downpour on the earth lasting forty days and forty nights.

24The waters flooded the earth for one hundred and fifty days.

洪水退去

8 1 天主想起了诺厄，和同他在方舟里的一切动物和牲畜。天主在大地上吹过一阵风，水就开始退落。4 七月十七日方舟停在阿辣辣特山上。

6 四十天过去了，诺厄打开他方舟上的窗子，7 放出一只乌鸦。乌鸦飞去又飞回，直到地上的水完全退去。8 诺厄又放出一只鸽子，看看水是否已从地面上退下。9 鸽子找不到落脚的地方，便又飞回方舟，因为水仍然盖住地面。于是诺厄伸出手，接住鸽子，带回到方舟里。10 他又等了七天，再把鸽子从方舟里放出去。11 这一次，鸽子直到晚上才回来，口中含着一枝鲜绿的橄榄枝。诺厄知道水已从地面退了。12 他又等了七天，再放出一只鸽子，鸽子没有再回来。

若厄离开方舟

15 天主对诺厄说：

16 “你和你妻子、儿子及媳妇都出来吧。17 把与你在一起的动物、飞鸟、牲畜和地上的昆虫，也都带出来。让它们在地上生育繁殖！”

18 于是诺厄与妻子、儿子、媳妇一同走出方舟。19 所有的动物、飞鸟和地上的昆虫，也都一一地出了方舟。

20 诺厄为雅威建造了一座祭坛。他把一些洁净的动物和鸟，在祭坛上焚烧作为全燔祭。

21 雅威闻到这好闻的香味，就对自己说：

“我再也不会因为人的缘故而诅咒大地了，即使人们的心从小就怀着恶念，我也不会再像过去那样毁灭一切生物了。”

End of the flood

8 1 Then God remembered Noah and all the animals and cattle that were with him in the ark. God made a wind blow over the earth and the waters subsided. 4 In the seventh month, in the seventeenth day of the month, the ark rested on Mount Ararat.

6 At the end of the forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had built 7 and let the raven out. This went off and kept flying to and fro until the waters had dried up from the earth. 8 Then Noah let out the dove to see if the waters were receding from the earth. 9 But the dove could not find a place to set its foot and flew back to him in the ark for the waters still covered the surface of the whole earth. So Noah stretched out his hand, took hold of it and brought it back to himself in the ark. 10 He waited some more days and again sent the dove out from the ark. 11 This time the dove came back to him in the evening with a fresh olive branch in its beak. 12 He waited seven more days and let the dove loose, but it did not return to him any more.

Noah goes out of the ark

15 Then God said to Noah:

16 “Come out of the ark, you and your wife, your sons and their wives with you. 17 Bring out with you all flesh, that is, all the animals who are with you, all things of flesh; birds, cattle and all that crawls on the earth. Let them abound on the earth, be fruitful and increase in number.

18 So Noah went out, with his sons, his wife and his sons' wives with him. 19 All the animals, all the birds, all that creeps on the earth, came out of the ark, one kind after another.

20 Noah built an altar to Yahweh and, taking some of all the clean animals and all the clean birds, he offered burnt offerings on it.

21 Yahweh smelled the pleasing aroma and said to himself:

—Never again will I curse the earth because of man, even though his heart is set on evil from childhood; never again will I strike down every living creature as I have done.

天主与若厄订立盟约

9 1 天主祝福诺厄和他的儿子们，对他们说：

“你们要繁衍子孙，滋生人口，充满世界。

2 地上的走兽和天上的飞鸟，大地上的各种爬虫连同海里的游鱼，都会对你们表示敬畏，这一切都交到你们手中。

3 凡会走动的活物都将成为你们的食物，就像我已赐给你们绿色的蔬菜一样，现在我要将这一切都赐给你们。4 只是不能吃带血的肉，那是动物的生命。

5 我要追讨杀害你们生命的血债，向每只野兽、每个人追讨血债，甚至连人对他兄弟的血债也不放过。

6 因为天主用他的形象造人，所以倾流别人鲜血的，他自己也要用鲜血去赔偿。

7 你们要繁衍子孙，增多人口，充满世界，做世界的主人。”

8 天主对诺厄和他的儿子说：

12 “以下便是这盟约的记号，这盟约是我与你们及与你们在一起的动物所订立的永久约定。13 我把彩虹放在云层中，作为我和世界的盟约。

14 当云层遮盖大地，彩虹在云里露出时，15 我就会想起我与你们，以及与你们在一起的动物所定的盟约，那样就再也不会再有洪水毁灭有生灵的万物了。16 当彩虹出现在云端时，我看到了，就会想起天主与地上每一种生物所订立的永久之约。”

17 天主对诺厄说：

“这是我与地上一切生物所订立的盟约记号。”

通过阅读这段经文，我们很清楚地看到一个深刻而切实的宗教信仰：就是宇宙的创造者天主，把世界交给了人类居住，人类必须照顾自己所生存的环境。天主是人类的审判者，如果人们作恶，天主将惩罚他们，所以他们才可以改变。然而天主的惩罚并非要治人于死地，而是为了他们的悔改。天上的彩虹是天主的战舟，它永远悬挂在天空，作为和平的象征。这是天主在旧约中赐给人类的礼物。

Covenant between God and Noah

9 ¹God blessed Noah and his sons and he said to them:

—Be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth.

³Everything that moves and lives shall be food for you; as I gave you the green plants.

⁵And from man I will demand a reckoning for the life of his fellow man.

⁶For in the image of God has God made man.

⁷As for you, be fruitful and increase. Abound on the earth and be master of it.

⁸God spoke to Noah and his son:

—This is the sign of the covenant I make between me and you, and every animal living with you for all future generations. ¹³I set my bow in the clouds and it will be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth, ¹⁶when the rainbow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of every kind that exists on the earth.

¹⁷God said to Noah:

—This is the sign of the covenant I have made between me and all that has life on the earth.

We have seen in this text a very deep and valid religious conception: God, the Lord, gives the earth to humans, as their house, and humans will have to render account of it. God is an Ally of humans: if they behave bad, He will punish them so they can change, but never looking for death but for their conversion. The rainbow is God's arch of war, hanging in the firmament for ever, as a sign of peace. This will be a permanently present throughout the Old Testament.

巴贝尔塔

巴贝尔塔的故事是在人们看到雄伟的巴比伦金字塔以及巴比伦帝国的傲慢之后，有感而发的故事和传说。

11 ¹那时全世界只有一种语言，说一样的话。²当人们向东迁移的时候，在史纳尔地方找到一块平原，他们就在那里定居下来。

³他们互相说道：

“来吧！我们做砖头，再用火把它烧硬”。

他们拿砖当石块，沥青代替灰泥。

⁴他们又说：

“让我们为自己建造一座城和一座塔，塔顶要通到天际，使我们成为一个伟大的民族，不会分散到各地！”

⁵雅威下来，看看人们所建造的城市和高塔。⁶雅威说：

“他们是一个民族，说一种语言。如果他们继续下去，从此不论他们决定做什么事，都会成功。⁷来，让我们下去，混乱他们的语言，使他们再也不能明白彼此的话。”

⁸于是雅威把他们驱散到世上各地，他们就不再建造这城。⁹人称那地为“巴贝耳”，因为雅威在那里混乱了全地的言语，并把他们驱散到各地去。

族长时期：亚巴郎

我们现在由人类“历史起源”进入了以色列民族的历史。具有浓郁渲染的传说使得这些祖先的经历充满了神秘主义色彩，而且成为民族宗教的领袖。

天主多次参与人类的历史，为了召叫人追随更好的命运，尽管这个命运是未知的，但是天主希望人走的道路。亚巴郎就是天主召叫的第一人，他相信了天主的召叫，离开了自己的家乡。他相信天主对他的预许：“我要把这块土地赐给你，我要让你成为万民之父。”

然而，亚巴郎的子孙并非都是圣贤，他们的生活充满着阴暗面。但是作者并没有掩饰他们的罪恶，反而借此展示天主就是利用人类的软弱来实现自己的救恩计划。

The Babel Tower

The tower of Babel gets its inspiration in the pyramidal constructions of Babylon and its imperialists pretensions.

11 ¹The whole world had one language and a common speech. ²As people moved from east, they found a plain in the country of Shinar where they settled.

³They said to one another:

—Come, let us make bricks and bake them in fire.

They used brick for stone and bitumen for mortar.

⁴They said also:

—Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top reaching heaven; so that we may become a great people and not be scattered over the face of the earth!

⁵Yahweh came down to see the city and the tower that the sons of man were building, ⁶and Yahweh said:

—They are one people and they have one language. If they carry this through, nothing they decide to do from now on will be impossible. ⁷Come! Let us go down and confuse their language so that they will no longer understand each other.

⁸So Yahweh scattered them over all the earth and they stopped building the city. ⁹That is why it was called Babel, because there Yahweh confused the language of the whole earth and from there Yahweh scattered them over the whole face of the earth.

PATRIARCHAL CYCLE: ABRAHAM

We now shift from the “history” of all humanity to the history of the people of Israel. Their great ancestors are presented, figures aggrandized by legends, who became religious types.

God intervenes in history and He always does it to call humans to a better destiny, although apparently more demanding and unknown. Abraham will be, first of all, “the one who trusted in God”, thus he left his land, trusting in God’s promise: “I will give you this land, I will make you father of a great people.”

His descendants were more mediocre. There are many dark stops in their lives. The author does not hide them; he also chronicles their sins, showing that God uses human frailty to carry on with his plan of salvation.

召叫亚巴郎

12 1 雅威对亚伯郎说：

“你要离开你的故乡、你的族人和你父亲家，到我指示你的地方去。

2 我要使你成为一个强大的民族。

我会祝福你，使你名声显赫，人们因你而得蒙祝福。

3 我要祝福那些祝福你的人，我要诅咒那些诅咒你的人，世上万民都将因你而蒙受祝福。”

4 于是亚伯郎按照雅威的指示，启程动身。

罗特跟随着他。亚伯郎离开哈兰时七十五岁。

5 他带着妻子莎拉依、侄儿罗特，和他们积蓄的财物，以及在哈兰所获得的人口，向迦南地前进。他们到了迦南。

6 亚伯郎经过这地方又到了舍根地，摩勒橡树那里，当时迦南人还住在那里。

7 雅威显现给亚伯郎，说：

“我要把这土地赐给你的子孙。”亚伯郎就在那里，为向他显现的上主建了一座祭坛。

8 从那里亚伯郎又继续前行，来到贝特耳东面的山区，便在那里扎营。贝特耳在他的西面，哈依在他的东面。他也在那里筑一座祭坛，献给雅威，并且呼求雅威的圣名。

亚巴郎和罗特

13 1 亚伯郎从埃及往乃革布去，带着他的妻子和随身财物，罗特也跟着他同去。

12 亚伯郎定居在迦南地，而罗特住在河谷平原的城镇中，并且逐渐向索多玛游牧迁移。13 索多玛人非常邪恶，在雅威面前是大罪人。

14 罗特离开亚伯郎之后，雅威对亚伯郎说：

Vocation of Abram

12¹Yahweh said to Abram:

—Leave your country,
your family and your father's house,
for the land I will show you.

²I will make you a great nation.

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

³I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you,
I will curse, and in you
all peoples of the earth will be blessed.

⁴So Abram went as Yahweh had told him, and Lot went with him.

Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran.

⁵Abram took Sarai, his wife, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran. They set out for the land of Canaan.

⁶Abram traveled through the country as far as Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land.

⁷Yahweh appeared to Abram and said:

—To your descendants I will give this land.

There he built an altar to Yahweh who had appeared to him.

⁸From there he went on to the mountains east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel to the west and Ai to the east. There also he built an altar to Yahweh and called on the name of Yahweh.

Abram and Lot

13¹Abram went up from Egypt to the Negeb, he and his wife, with all he had and Lot with him.

¹²Abram settled in the country of Canaan while Lot lived among the towns of the plain and moved his tent as far as Sodom.

¹⁴Yahweh said to Abram after Lot had left him:

“请你举目巡视这里，眼观东西南北地方，¹⁵我要把你视力所及的土地，永远赐给你和你的子孙。¹⁶我要使你的子孙多如地上沙粒，若谁能数得清地上的沙粒，他也许能数得清你的子孙后人。¹⁷起来吧，纵横走遍这片土地，因为我要把它赐给你。”

天主和亚巴郎立约

15 ¹这事之后，雅威在一个异象中对亚伯郎说：

“亚伯郎，不要害怕，我是你的盾牌，我要给你丰厚的赏报！”

⁵于是雅威把他带到帐篷外面，对他说：

“抬头看看天空，你能数得清天上的星星吗？你的子孙将会像这天上的星星一样多。”

⁶亚伯郎相信了雅威。因着他的信德，雅威嘉许他为义人。

⁷他说：

“我是雅威，是我把你从加色丁人的乌尔带出来，我要把这地方赐给你，作为你的封邑和产业”。

17 ¹亚伯郎九十九岁时，雅威显现给他，对他说：

“我是全能的主。你当在我面前努力，做个诚实正直的人！²我要和你订立盟约，使你家族日益繁盛。”

³亚伯郎俯伏在地，天主又对他说：

⁴“这是我与你立的约：你将成为万民之父。⁵你不再叫亚伯郎，而要叫亚伯拉罕，因为我将使你成为万民之父。

⁶你会声名卓著，子孙繁多，发展成很多很多邦国，许多邦国的君王将从你的部落产生。⁷我要在我和你以及你的子孙之间，订立盟约，世代代永久的盟约。我是你的天主，也是你子孙后代的天主。⁸我会把你现今侨居的地方，就是迦南全境，赐给你和你的子孙，当做永久的产业，我将是你子孙后代的天主。”

¹⁵天主对亚伯郎说：“

至于你的妻子莎拉依，你不要再叫她莎拉依，而要称她莎拉。¹⁶我会祝福她，赐给你一个由她而生的儿子。我会祝福她，使万国由她而兴起，她的后代将出君王。”

—Raise your eyes and look from where you are, towards the north, the south, the east and the west; ¹⁵all the land you see I will give to you and your descendants forever. ¹⁶I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; if the grains of the dust can be counted, then your descendants may be counted.

Covenant of the Lord with Abram

15 ¹After this the word of Yahweh was spoken to Abram in a vision:

—Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great!

⁵Then Yahweh brought him outside and said to him:

—Look up at the sky and count the stars if you can. Your descendants will be like that.

⁶Abram believed Yahweh who, because of this, held him to be an upright man.

⁷And he said:

—I am Yahweh who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as your possession.

17 ¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, Yahweh appeared to him and said:

—I am God Almighty. Walk in my presence and be without blame! ²I will make a covenant between myself and you, and I will multiply your race.

³Abram fell face down and God said to him:

⁴—This is my covenant with you: you will be the father of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer will you be called Abram, but Abraham, because I will make you the father of a multitude of nations. ⁷And I will establish a covenant, an everlasting covenant between myself and you and your descendants after you; from now on I will be your God and the God of your descendants after you, for generations to come. ⁸I will give to you and your descendants after you the land you are living in, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession and I will be the God of your race.

¹⁵God said to Abraham:

—As for Sarai, your wife, no longer are you to call her Sarai, but Sarah. ¹⁶I will bless her, and I will give you a son by her.

亚巴郎的代祷

18 17 雅威说：

“我要做的事，怎么能瞒着亚伯郎？亚伯郎必将成为一个强大的民族，18 因着他，普天之下所有的邦国将受到祝福，19 因为我已经拣选了他，要他训导自己的子孙和未来的家族，遵守雅威的道，伸张正义。果真如此，我就可在亚伯郎身上实现自己的诺言。”

20 雅威说：

“索多玛和哈摩辣的罪恶深重，要求伸张正义的呼声很高。21 我要下去看看对他们的控诉是否真实，把事情弄清楚，看到底是不是那样。”

23 亚伯郎走上前说：

“你真的要让义人和恶人一同毁掉吗？24 这城或许还有五十个好人，你真的想毁灭他们吗？你不会因这五十个义人的缘故，而赦免这地方吗？25 你不能让好人和坏人一同毁灭，你也不能让坏人和好人一起受罚。你不能做那样的事！审判大地的天主一定是公正的！”

26 雅威说：

“如果我在索多玛找到五十个好人，我会因着他们而赦免整个城。”

27 亚伯郎又说：

“我知道，我这样对主说话，实在是胆大妄为，我卑微如土！28 假如还差五个才能凑成五十个义人，你会因为少了这五个而毁灭这城吗？”

雅威回答：

“如果我找到四十五个义人，我也不会毁灭这城。”

29 亚伯郎又对他说：

“如果只有四十个义人呢？”

雅威回答：

“为了这四十个义人，我不会毁灭这城。”

30 亚伯郎又继续说：

Intercession of Abraham

18 ¹⁷Yahweh said:

—Can I conceal from Abraham what I am about to do? ¹⁸Abraham, in fact, is going to become a great and powerful nation and through him all the nations of the earth will be blessed, ¹⁹for I have chosen him to command his sons and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that Yahweh may bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.

²⁰Then Yahweh said:

—How great is the cry for justice against Sodom and Gomorrah! And how grievous is their sin! ²¹I am going down to see if they have done all that they are charged with in the outcry that has reached me. If it is not so, I will know.

²³Abraham went forward and said:

—Will you really let the just perish with the wicked? ²⁴Perhaps there are fifty good people in the town. Are you really going to let them perish? Would you not spare the place for the sake of these fifty righteous people? ²⁵It would not be at all like you to do such a thing and you can't let the good perish with the wicked, nor treat the good and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the judge of all the earth be just?

²⁶Yahweh said:

—If I find fifty good people in Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake.

²⁷Abraham spoke up again:

—I know that I am very bold to speak like this to my Lord, I who am only dust and ashes! ²⁸But perhaps the number of the good is five less than fifty. Will you destroy the town because of five?

Yahweh replied:

—I will not destroy the town if I find forty-five good people there.

²⁹Again Abraham said to him:

—Perhaps there will be only forty.

He answered:

—For the sake of forty I will not do it.

³⁰Abraham went on, saying:

“愿我的主不要生气，让我再跟你说。如果城里只有三十个义人呢？”

雅威回答：

“如果我在这里找到三十个义人，我也不会毁灭这城。”

31 亚伯郎接着又说：

“现在我非常大胆地对我主说，如果只能找到二十个义人呢？”

雅威说：

“为了这二十个义人，我也不毁这城。”

32 但是亚伯郎坚持说：

“愿我的主不要动怒，请让我再说一次。如果只能找到十个义人你怎么办呢？”雅威回答：“仅为了这十个义人，我也不会毁灭索多玛。”

33 雅威对亚伯郎说完，便离开了。亚伯郎就回家了。

根据以色列的传统，他们认为亚巴郎是“天主的朋友。”在这篇记载中，作者巧妙的描写方式描述了亚巴郎为索多玛向天主哀求。

19 29 当天主毁灭这平原上的城市时，他想起了亚伯郎，于是在他要毁灭罗特所住的城市时，先救罗特逃离这场灾难。

依撒各诞生

21 2 莎拉怀孕了，在亚伯郎年纪很大的时候，为他生下一个儿子，孩子在雅威指定的时间出生。3 亚伯郎将莎拉生的儿子取名为依撒格。并按照天主的吩咐，4 在儿子生下第八天举行割礼。

34 亚伯郎在非利士人的土地上住了很长一段时间。

—May my Lord not be angry, but let me speak. Maybe only thirty good people will be found in the town.

Yahweh answered:

—I will not destroy it if I find thirty there.

³¹Abraham said:

—Now that I have been so bold as to speak to my Lord, what if only twenty can be found?

He said:

—For the sake of twenty I will not destroy the place.

³²But Abraham insisted:

—May my Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found?

And Yahweh answered:

—For the sake of ten good people, I will not destroy Sodom.

³³When Yahweh had finished speaking with Abraham, he left and Abraham went home.

Israel's tradition has always seen Abraham as "the friend of God". In its ingenuity and deepness, it is moving the image of Abraham bargaining with God to save the just of Sodoma.

19 ²⁹So when God destroyed the towns of the plain he remembered Abraham and made Lot escape from the catastrophe while he destroyed the cities where Lot had lived.

Birth of Isaac

21 ²Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time Yahweh had promised. ³Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son that Sarah bore him ⁴and circumcised him when he was eight days old, as Yahweh had commanded.

³⁴And Abraham stayed in the land of the Philistines for a long time.

祭献依撒各

这个故事令人迷惑，天主对亚巴郎的命令似乎有些血腥和不尽人情。事实上，作者这里引述了以色列子民之前有关祭献活人的故事，并以动物代替孩子祭献天主的传统。作者用这个充满传奇色彩的传说表达了亚巴郎对天主的绝对信赖。皆大欢喜的结局显示出天主可以从坏事中生出好事来，人即使在最困惑的时候，也应该信赖天主。

22 1 过了一些时候，天主想试探亚伯郎，便对他说：

“亚伯郎！”

他回答：

“我在这儿。”

2 天主说：

“带着你心爱的独子依撒格，到摩黎雅去，在我指给你的一座山上，将他做全燔祭献给我。”

3 第二天早上，亚伯郎起来，套好驴子，带了两个年轻仆人和他儿子依撒格；劈好烧全燔祭用的木柴，动身往天主指示他的地方去。4 第三天，亚伯郎抬头远远看到那地方，5 便对仆人们说：

“你们和驴子留在这里，我和孩子要到那儿去朝拜，然后再回到你们这儿。”

6 亚伯郎把全燔祭用的木材，背在孩子肩上。他手中拿着火和刀，两人一同走去。

7 依撒格对父亲亚伯郎说：

“爸爸！”

8 亚伯郎回答：

“孩子，什么事？”

依撒格就问：

“火和木柴都有了，可是燔祭的羔羊在哪里呢？”

亚伯郎说：

“天主会亲自预备全燔祭的羔羊。”

他们两人一起往前走，9 来到天主指示他们的地方。亚伯郎搭好祭坛，把木柴堆在上面，将儿子依撒格捆好，放在堆着木柴的祭台上，10 然后他伸手拿刀，正要宰献自己的儿子时，11 忽然听见雅威的天使从天上呼

The Sacrifice of Isaac

This story is confusing. It seems a cruel actuation of God. In reality, the writer has taken a very old story, previous to Israel, of human sacrifices, and cancelled it by substituting children with animals. As a result a kind of fable is created that magnifies the great obedience of Abraham. The happy ending shows that even in the worst scenarios one can still trust in God.

22 ¹Some time later God tested Abraham and said to him:

—Abraham!

And he answered:

—Here I am.

²Then God said:

—Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I shall point out to you.

³Abraham rose early next morning and saddled his donkey and took with him two of his young men and his son Isaac. He chopped wood for the burnt offering and set out for the place to which God had directed him. ⁴On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance, ⁵and he said to the young men:

—Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go over there to worship and then we will come back to you.

⁶Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. He carried in his hand the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together,

⁷Isaac spoke to Abraham, his father:

—Father!

⁸And Abraham replied:

—Yes, my son?

Isaac said:

—The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for the sacrifice?

Abraham replied:

—God himself will provide the lamb for the sacrifice.

They went on, the two of them together, ⁹until they came to the place to which God had directed them. When Abraham had built the altar and set the wood on it, he bound his son Isaac and laid him on the wood placed on the altar. ¹⁰He then stretched out his hand to seize the knife and slay his son. ¹¹But the Angel of Yahweh called to him from heaven:

叫他：

“亚伯郎！亚伯郎！”

他说：

“我在这里。”

12 天使说：

“不要对这孩子下手，不要伤害他，因为现在我知道你敬畏天主，为了我，你没有顾惜你的独子。”

13 亚伯郎四处观望，看到身后有只公羊，羊角正被灌木缠住，他便宰杀了这羊，替代自己的儿子做全燔祭。14 亚伯郎遂称摩黎雅这地方为“雅威自会预备”。一直到今天，人们还说：“在山上，雅威自会预备”。

15 雅威的天使从天上再次呼唤亚伯郎。

16 对他说：“我用我自己的名雅威发誓，是我在说话，因着你不曾顾惜你的独子这件事，17 我定要给你赏报，使你的后代子孙如天上的繁星，又如海边的沙粒一样不可胜数。你的子孙会征服并拥有敌人的土地。18 地上所有的邦国都会因你的子孙蒙受祝福，因为你遵从了我的话。”

19 亚伯郎于是回到他仆人那里。他们一同回到贝尔舍巴，就此定居在贝尔舍巴。

族长时代：依撒各

在下面的章节里，我们就会发现很重要的宗教信息。这些古老的传说表达了以色列子民的传统和其他临近民族的起源，作者试图表达的，就是确定的宗教意义。

25 19 下面是亚伯郎的儿子依撒格的小史。

20 依撒格与黎贝加成亲时已四十岁。黎贝加就是帕丹阿兰的阿兰人贝突耳的女儿。她还有个哥哥叫拉班。21 依撒格替黎贝加向雅威祷告，因为她没有生育。雅威垂听了依撒格的祈求，他妻子黎贝加怀孕了。22 当孩子在她腹中互相挤压时，她说：

“如果孩子这样彼此相争，我活下去还有什么意思？”

—Abraham! Abraham!

And he said:

—Here I am.

¹²Yahweh told him:

—Do not lay your hand on the boy; do not harm him, for now I know that you fear God, and you have not held back from me your only son.

¹³Abraham looked around and saw behind him a ram caught by its horns in a bush. He offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son. ¹⁴Abraham named the place ‘The Lord will provide.’ And the saying has lasted to this day.

¹⁵And the Angel of Yahweh called from heaven a second time:

¹⁶—By myself I have sworn, it is Yahweh who speaks, because you have done this and not held back your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the lands of their enemies. ¹⁸All the nations of the earth will be blessed through your descendants because you have obeyed me.

¹⁹So Abraham returned to his servants, and they set off together for Beersheba and it was there that Abraham stayed.

PATRIARCHAL CYCLE: ISAAC

In the following passages little we will find about important religious messages. These are old stories, present in the tradition on the origin of these people as well as other neighbor peoples; the authors try to give a certain religious meaning.

25 ¹⁹This is the story of Isaac, son of Abraham.

²⁰Isaac was forty when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel, the Aramean from Paddan-aram, the sister of Laban the Aramean. ²¹Isaac prayed to Yahweh for his wife, because she could not have children. Yahweh heard Isaac's prayer and Rebecca, his wife, conceived. ²²As the children struggled together within her, she said:

—If it is like this, why do I continue to live?

于是她去祈求雅威，²³雅威对她说：

“你腹中孕育了两个民族，一族会比另一族强盛，将来大的要侍奉小的。”

²⁴当她分娩时，果真生了一对双胞胎。

²⁵首先生下来的身体发红，全身有毛，像穿了毛绒外衣一样，所以叫他厄撒乌（希伯来文即指多毛之意）。²⁶弟弟接着出生，他的手抓着厄撒乌脚跟，所以叫他雅各伯（就是脚跟的意思）。他们出生时，依撒格已经六十岁了。

²⁷这对男孩渐渐长大，厄撒乌成了熟练的猎手，喜欢野外生活，而雅各伯性格内向安静，喜欢待在帐篷里。²⁸依撒格因为爱吃猎物，所以喜欢厄撒乌，但是黎贝加则偏爱雅各伯。

²⁹有一天雅各伯正在炖汤，厄撒乌从田野回来，肚子很饿，³⁰便对雅各伯说：

“给我吃点这红的浓汤吧，因为我饿的很。”因此厄撒乌又叫厄东（希文指红的意思）。

³¹雅各伯说：

“你得先把长子的名份卖给我。”

³²厄撒乌说：

“我都快饿死了，这长子的名份对我有什么用呢？”

³³雅各伯说：

“那你得先对我发誓。”

于是厄撒乌对他发誓，把长子的名份卖给了雅各伯。³⁴雅各伯才把面包和煮好的扁豆汤给他吃。厄撒乌吃饱了后，就起身离开。厄撒乌就这样放弃了他长子的名份。

依撒各降福雅各伯

27 ¹依撒格年老了，双目几乎失明，看不见了，他把长子厄撒乌叫来，对他说：

“孩子！”

厄撒乌回答：

“我在这里。”

She went to consult Yahweh, ²³and Yahweh said to her:

—Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples will be born of you; one nation will be stronger than the other, and the elder shall serve the younger.

²⁴When the time came for her to give birth, there were twins in her womb.

²⁵The first to be born was red and his whole body was like a hairy garment, so they called him Esau. ²⁶Then his brother was born and his hand had gripped Esau's heel so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty at the time of their birth.

²⁷When the boys grew up, Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country; Jacob was a quiet man living in tents. ²⁸Isaac who had a liking for game loved Esau, but Rebecca loved Jacob.

²⁹Once when Jacob was making a stew, Esau came back from the country and he was famished; ³⁰and he said to Jacob:

—Let me have some of that red stew, for I am famished. That is why he was also called Edom.

³¹Jacob said:

—First sell me your right as the firstborn.

³²Esau said:

—Since I am to die soon, what good is my right as the firstborn to me?

³³Then Jacob said:

—Give me your oath first.

So he swore to him and sold his firstborn right to Jacob. ³⁴Then Jacob gave him bread and the lentil stew. Esau ate and drank and then got up and went his way. So it was that Esau thought nothing of his right as the firstborn.

Isaac blesses Jacob

27 ¹When Isaac was old and his eyes so weak that he could no longer see, he called Esau, his older son, and said to him:

—My son!

He answered:

—Here I am.

2 依撒格又说：

“你看，我已老了，不知道什么时候就会死了。3 拿着你的武器：弓和箭，到田里去打一些猎物来给我。4 再做成我喜爱的口味，端给我吃，好让我在去世之前祝福你。”

5 依撒格对儿子厄撒乌说的话，让黎贝加听见了。趁厄撒乌去田里打猎时，6 黎贝加对她小儿子雅各伯说：

“我听见你爸爸对你哥哥厄撒乌说：7 ‘打些猎物回来，煮好了让我吃，我要在死之前，当着雅威的面祝福你。’ 8 现在，孩子呀！照我吩咐你的话去做。9 到羊群里捉两只肥美的小山羊回来，我要为你父亲准备好他喜欢的口味。10 你端去给父亲吃，他吃了，会在死之前祝福你。”

11 雅各伯对黎贝加说：

“我哥哥厄撒乌全身长毛，而我皮肤光滑。12 爸爸如果摸我，知道了我是在骗他，我招来的不是祝福，而是咒骂。”

13 但是他母亲说：

“让咒骂归我身上吧！我儿，你只管照我的话去做，把小山羊带来。”

14 于是他把小山羊带来交给母亲，他母亲做好了父亲喜欢的口味。15 黎贝加又把厄撒乌留在家里最好的衣服，给她小儿子雅各伯穿上，16 再用山羊皮盖他双手和脖子上露出来的部分，17 并把做好的面包和食物交给他。

18 雅各伯到父亲那里说：

“爸爸！”

父亲回答：

“我在这里，孩子，你是哪个？”

19 雅各伯对他爸爸说：

“我是你的长子厄撒乌。我已照着你的话去做了。坐起来，吃下我猎回来的东西，这样你便可以祝福我了。”

20 依撒格说：

“你怎么这么快就打回来了？孩子！”

雅各伯说：

“因为雅威，你的天主帮我带路啊。”

21 依撒格对雅各伯说：

2 Isaac continued:

—You see I am old and I don't know when I shall die; ³so take your weapons, your bow and arrow, go out into the country and hunt some game for me. ⁴Then prepare some of the savory food I like and bring it to me so that I may eat and give you my blessing before I die.

⁵Now Rebecca was listening when Isaac spoke to his son Esau. When Esau went into the country to hunt game and bring it back, ⁶Rebecca said to her son Jacob:

—I heard your father saying to your brother Esau: ⁷'Bring me some game and prepare food for me that I may eat and bless you before Yahweh before I die.'
⁸Now my son, listen and do what I command you. ⁹Go to the flock and bring me two fine kids so that I can prepare for your father the food that he likes. ¹⁰You will bring it to your father and he will eat it and give you his blessing before he dies.

¹¹Jacob said to Rebecca:

—My brother Esau is a hairy man and I am smooth-skinned. ¹²Perhaps my father will feel me and I will seem to be tricking him and so bring a curse on myself instead of a blessing.

¹³But his mother said:

—Let the curse fall on me, my son! Only do what I tell you; go and get the kids for me.

¹⁴So he went and got them and took them to his mother to prepare food that his father liked. ¹⁵Then Rebecca took the best clothes of her elder son Esau that she had in the house and put them on Jacob, her younger son. ¹⁶With the goatskin she covered his hands and the smooth part of his neck, ¹⁷and she handed to him the bread and food she had prepared.

¹⁸He went to his father and said:

—Father!

He answered:

—Yes, my son, who is it?

¹⁹and Jacob said to his father:

—It is Esau, your firstborn; I have done what you told me to do. Come, sit up and eat my game so that you may give me your blessing.

²⁰Isaac said:

—How quick you have been my son!

Jacob said:

—Yahweh, your God, guided me.

²¹Isaac said to Jacob:

“走近些，让我摸摸你，孩子，让我弄清楚，你是不是我儿子厄撒乌。”

22 雅各伯走近依撒格，让父亲摸摸他。父亲说：

“你的声音听起来像是雅各伯，但是你的手却像哥哥厄撒乌的手，有很多毛。”

23 依撒格没有分辨出来，就祝福了他。24 依撒格问：

“你真的是我的大儿子厄撒乌吗？”

” 雅各伯回答：

“我真的是！”

25 依撒格说：

“孩子，把食物端给我，我要吃儿子猎回来的野味，吃完我好祝福你。”

于是雅各伯侍候他父亲吃做好的食物，还拿酒给他。26 父亲依撒格对他

说：“孩子，走近亲吻我。”

27 雅各伯就走过去亲吻父亲。

依撒格闻到雅各伯衣服的气味，就祝福他说：

“我儿身上的香味，
如同雅威祝福的大地所发出的清香。

28 愿天主赐你天降甘霖，地产富饶；
愿天主赐你五谷丰收，
新酒芳醇。

29 让人们服侍你，
让诸邦叩拜你。

愿你成为兄弟的大家长，
愿同母的兄弟屈膝于你。
凡咒诅你的，将被咒诅；
凡祝福你的，将被祝福！”

30 依撒格祝福完了雅各伯。雅各伯刚离开父亲的房间，厄撒乌就打猎回来了。31 他也煮好了猎物，端给父亲吃，对父亲说：

“爸爸，坐起来，吃你儿子煮的猎物，这样你便可以祝福我了。”

32 依撒格问：

—Come near and let me feel you, my son, and know that it is you, Esau my son, or not.

22 When Jacob drew near to Isaac, his father felt him and said:

—The voice is the voice of Jacob but the hands are the hands of Esau.

23 He did not recognize him, for his hands were hairy like the hands of Esau his brother and so he blessed him. 24 He asked:

—Are you really my son Esau?

And Jacob answered:

—I am.

25 Isaac said:

—Bring me some of your game, my son, so that I may eat and give you my blessing.

So Jacob brought it to him and he ate. And he brought him wine and he drank. 26 Then his father Isaac said to him:

—Come near and kiss me, my son.

27 So Jacob came near and kissed him.

Isaac then caught the smell of his clothes and blessed him, saying:

—The smell of my son
is like the smell of a field
which the Lord has blessed.

28 May God give you of the dew of heaven;
and of the richness of the earth;
and abundance of grain and wine.

29 Let peoples serve you
and nations bow down before you.
Be lord over your brothers,
and let your mother's sons bow down to you.
Cursed be everyone that curses you
and blessed be everyone
that blesses you!

30 When Isaac had finished blessing him and Jacob had just left Isaac's room, Esau came in from hunting. 31 He also prepared food and brought it to his father and said to him:

—Father, sit up and eat the game your son has prepared, so that you may give me your blessing.

32 Isaac said:

“你是谁呀？”

“我是你的长子厄撒乌啊。”

33 依撒格浑身颤抖，说：

“那么刚才把猎物送来给我吃的是谁？在你回来之前，我已吃了那猎物且已祝福了他，那祝福将永远属于他。”

34 厄撒乌一听这话，非常难过，就大声痛哭说：

“爸爸，请你也祝福我。”

35 但是依撒格说：

“你弟弟进来欺骗我，已抢走了你的祝福。”

36 厄撒乌说：

“难怪他叫雅各伯，他已骗了我两次。前次他骗去了我长子的名份，现在又抢走我的祝福。”

他又问父亲：

“你难道没有留些祝福给我吗？”

37 依撒格回答厄撒乌说：

“我已立他为一家之主，其他的兄弟都要做他的仆人，我已赐给他五谷和美酒。孩子，我现在还能为你做什么呢？”

38 厄撒乌对他父亲说：

“您难道只有一个祝福吗？爸爸，也祝福我吧！”厄撒乌放声大哭起来，

39 依撒格遂答道：

“你的住处将远离肥沃的土地，
将远离天上的甘露；

40 你要依靠刀剑度日，

你要服侍你的弟弟。

然而将有那么一天，

你从颈项上挣脱他的轭。”

雅各伯逃往拉班家

41 厄撒乌现在更加痛恨弟弟，因为父亲将祝福给了他。厄撒乌心想：

“为父亲服丧的日子近了，到时候，我要杀掉弟弟雅各伯。”

42 有人把长子厄撒乌的话告诉黎贝加，她便派人把幼子雅各伯叫来，对他说：

“你哥哥想报仇杀了你。”

43 现在，孩子，听我说，快逃到哈兰我哥哥拉班那里。44 留在他那边

—Who are you?

—I am your son, your firstborn, Esau.

33 Isaac trembled violently and said:

—Who was it then that hunted game and brought it to me? I ate it all before you came and I blessed him and he will be blessed.

34 On hearing his father's words, Esau gave a loud and bitter cry and said:

—Bless me, too, father.

35 But Isaac said:

—Your brother came deceitfully and took your blessing.

36 Esau said:

—Is it because he is called Jacob that he has supplanted me twice? First he took my birthright and now he has taken my blessing.

Then he asked:

—Haven't you kept a blessing for me?

37 Isaac answered Esau:

—I have made him your lord. I have given him all his brothers as servants; I have provided him with grain and wine. What can I do for you, my son?

38 Esau said to his father:

—Have you only one blessing? Father, bless me, too. Then Esau wept aloud.

39 Isaac then gave him this answer:

—Your dwelling place shall be far away
from the richness of the earth,
away from the dew of heaven above.

40 You shall live by your sword,
and you shall serve your brother;
but when you win your freedom
you will throw off his yoke from your neck.

41 Now Esau continued to hate his brother because of the blessing his father had given him and he thought to himself:

—The time of mourning for my father is near; I shall then kill my brother Jacob.

42 When Rebecca was told what her elder son had said, she sent and called her younger son, Jacob, and said to him:

—Your brother Esau is consoling himself with the thought of killing you.

43 Now my son, listen to me and flee to Laban, my brother, in Haran. 44 You will

一段时间，⁴⁵直到你哥哥怒气消了，忘掉你曾做过的事，我再派人把你接回来。为什么我该在同一天失去你们两人？”

族长时代：雅各伯

朝圣者——雅各伯

28 ¹依撒格把雅各伯叫来，祝福他，嘱咐他说：

“不要和迦南女子结婚。²到帕丹阿兰你母亲的爸爸贝突耳家去，再从拉班的女儿当中，为自己选一位妻子。³愿全能的天主祝福你，使你子孙繁衍增多，成为一个大家族。

雅各伯在贝尔舍巴

¹⁰雅各伯离开了贝尔舍巴，到哈兰去。¹¹他来到一个地方，太阳已下山，他就在那里过夜。雅各伯搬了一个石块当枕头，躺下来就睡着了。

¹²雅各伯睡梦中看见一个梯子立在地上，阶梯顶端与天相接，天主的天使在阶梯上往来。¹³雅威正站在他旁边，对他说：

“我是雅威，是你祖父亚伯郎的天主，也是依撒格的天主。我要把你现在睡觉的地方赐给你和你的子孙。

¹⁴你的子孙会多如地上尘沙，扩张到四面八方。地上万民诸邦将因你和你的子孙而蒙受祝福。¹⁵看，我与你同在，不论你到那儿去，我都会保佑你。我会把你再带回这里，我绝不会遗弃你，直到我实践了自己的承诺为止。”

¹⁶雅各伯从梦里醒来，说：

“雅威真的在这地方，我竟不知道。”

¹⁷他怀着敬畏，说：

“这地方多么可畏！这里一定是天主的殿宇，通往天堂的门！”

¹⁸雅各伯一大早起来，把当枕头用的那块石头竖起来，并从顶端浇下一些油。

stay with him for a time ⁴⁵until your brother's fury has cooled; and when he has forgotten his anger and what you did to him, I will send someone to bring you back. Why should I lose both of you on the same day?

PATRIARCHAL CYCLE: JACOB

Jacob a Pilgrim

28 ¹Isaac summoned Jacob and blessed him and commanded him:

—Do not marry a Canaanite woman. ²Go to Paddan-aram, to the house of Bethuel, your mother's father, and choose a wife for yourself from the daughters of Laban, your mother's brother. ³May God Almighty bless you and make you increase to become a group of nations.

Jacob at Bethel

¹⁰Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran. ¹¹When he reached a certain place the sun had set and he spent the night there. He took one of the stones that were there and using it as a pillow, he lay down to sleep.

¹²While Jacob was sleeping, he had a dream in which a ladder stood on the earth with its top reaching to heaven and on it were angels of God going up and coming down. ¹³And Yahweh was standing there near him and said:

—I am Yahweh, the God of your father, Abraham, and the God of Isaac. The land on which you sleep, I give to you and your descendants.

¹⁴Your descendants will be numerous like the specks of dust of the earth and you will spread out to the west and the east, to the north and the south. Through you and your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed. ¹⁵See, I am with you and I will keep you safe wherever you go. I will bring you back to this land and not leave you until I have done what I promised.

¹⁶Jacob woke from his dream and said:

—Truly, Yahweh was in this place and I was not aware of it.

¹⁷He was afraid and said:

—How full of awe is this place! It is nothing less than a *House of God*; it is the Gate to Heaven!

¹⁸Then Jacob rose early and took the stone he had put under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on the top of it.

依撒各逝世

35 ²³ 雅各伯共有十二个儿子：由肋阿生的有：雅各伯的长子勒乌本，其次是西默盎、肋未、犹大、依撒加尔和则步隆。

²⁴ 由辣黑耳生的有：若瑟和本雅明。

²⁵ 由辣黑耳的女仆彼耳哈生的有：丹和纳斐塔里。

²⁶ 由肋阿的女仆齐耳帕生的有：加得和阿协尔。这些都是雅各伯在帕丹阿兰生的儿子。

²⁷ 雅各伯来到克黎雅特阿尔巴（又叫赫贝龙），就是玛默勒他父亲依撒格那里，亚伯郎和依撒格曾住过的地方。²⁸ 依撒格活了一百八十岁。²⁹ 他享尽天年，咽下最后一口气，归依到先祖那里去。他儿子厄撒乌和雅各伯将他埋葬。

若瑟的故事

若瑟的故事是整部旧约中最优美的故事之一。这段记载的历史性值得怀疑，它看起来更像是一个具有伦理教育意义的历史小说。

这个故事表达的信息非常明显，那就是天主永远保持对正义者的信实。不管发生了什么不幸，天主永远和信赖他的人在一起，保持信实，并降福保有信赖他的人。

信赖天主的人遭遇不幸的事件在旧约中出现了多次，但是每一次的结局并非都是皆大欢喜。其中表达最为生动的，当属旧约中的《约伯传》。

若瑟的梦

37 ¹ 雅各伯在他祖先定居的迦南地生活。

² 下面是雅各伯家族的小史。若瑟年方十七，与哥哥们一同放羊，就是父亲的两个妾室比拉和齐耳帕所生的儿子们。若瑟常将哥哥们所做的坏事报告给父亲。³ 以色列喜爱若瑟甚于其他的孩子，因为若瑟是他老年

Death of Isaac

35 ²²Jacob had twelve sons. ²³By Leah: Reuben, Jacob's eldest son, then Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar and Zebulun.

²⁴The sons by Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin.

²⁵The sons by Bilhah, Rachel's slave girl: Dan and Naphtali.

²⁶The sons by Zilpah, Leah's slave girl: Gad and Asher. These were the sons born to Jacob in Paddanaram.

²⁷Jacob came home to his father Isaac at Mamre or Kiriatharba (that is, Hebron) where Abraham and Isaac had lived. ²⁸After living a hundred and eighty years ²⁹Isaac breathed his last and was gathered to his people at a good old age. His sons Esau and Jacob buried him.

CYCLE OF JOSEPH

The history of Joseph is one of the most beautiful and known of the whole Old Testament. It is doubtful that it is historical, or even a legend. It seems rather a historical novel with a moralizing intention.

The message is heartbreaking: the fidelity of God that never fails the just person who remains faithful. In spite of all the calamities, God is there and the patience and fidelity of man will come back as blessing for him and his brothers.

This issue about the misfortunes of the just will occur many times, but not always with a "happy ending." The deepest expression of misfortunes will be found in the Book of Job.

Joseph's dreams

37 ¹Jacob lived in the land where his father had settled, in the land of Canaan. ²This is the history of Jacob's family.

²Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was shepherding the flock with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives. Joseph informed his father of the bad reputation they had. ³Now Israel loved Joseph more

才生下的孩子。他还为这孩子缝制一件彩色长袖衣袍。4 哥哥们看到自己的父亲如此宠爱若瑟，更甚于爱他们，就忌恨起若瑟来，不再友善地和若瑟说话。

5 若瑟做了一个梦。他把梦境告诉给哥哥们，却使他们更恼恨他。

6 若瑟说：“请听我的梦。7 我梦见我们正在田园捆麦子。我的麦捆站了起来，而你们的麦捆围绕着我的麦捆，向我的麦捆行礼致敬。”

8 哥哥们就对他说：

“难道你想治理我们？做我们的王吗？”

他们因为若瑟的梦和他的话，更加忌恨讨厌若瑟。

9 若瑟又做了另一个梦：

“我看到太阳、月亮和十一颗星星向我行礼。”

10 他把这梦告诉父亲和哥哥们，他父亲斥责他说：

“你做的是什么梦呀？难道我们大家，包括我自己、你母亲和你哥哥们都要向你鞠躬跪拜吗？”

11 他的哥哥们忌妒他，父亲却将他的话记在心中。

若瑟被哥哥们出卖

12 有一次，他的哥哥们到舍根去牧放父亲的羊群，13 以色列对若瑟说：

“你哥哥们正在舍根放羊。来，我要派你到他们那儿去。”

若瑟回答：

“我在这儿。”

14 他父亲说：

“你去看看兄长们和羊群是否平安无恙，然后回来向我报告。”

以色列打发若瑟从赫贝龙山谷出发，到舍根去。

15 他在田间迷了路，有个人碰见他，问他：“你在找什么？”16 他说：“我在找我的哥哥们，请告诉我；他们在哪里牧羊。”17 这人说：“他们已经离开这儿了，我听说他们要到多堂去！”于是若瑟又继续找哥哥们，在多堂找到了他们。

18 他们老远就看到了他，趁他走近之前，大家就计划谋杀他。19 他们互相说道：

“那个做梦高手来了。20 这正是好时候，我们杀了他，把他丢到井

than any of his other children, for he was the son of his old age and he had a coat with long sleeves made for him. 4His brothers who saw that their father loved him more than he loved them, hated him and could no longer speak to him in a friendly way.

5Joseph had a dream which, when he told it to his brothers, made them hate him the more:

6—Listen to the dream I had. 7We were binding sheaves in the field when my sheaf rose and stood up and your sheaves gathered round and bowed down to my sheaf.

8His brothers said to him:

—So you want to rule us or lord it over us!

They hated him even more because of his dreams and what he said.

9Joseph had another dream which he told to his brothers:

—I saw the sun, the moon and seven stars bowing down before me.

10When he told this to his father and brothers, his father rebuked him:

—What is this dream of yours? Are all of us, myself, your mother and your brothers to bow to the ground before you?

11His brothers were jealous of him but his father kept in mind what he had said.

12His brothers had gone to pasture their father's flock at Shechem, 13and Israel said to Joseph:

—Your brothers are pasturing the flock at Shechem; come along, I'll send you to them.

Joseph replied:

—Here I am.

14Then his father said:

—Go and see if all is well with your brothers and with the flock; then come back and tell me.

Jacob sent him from the valley of Hebron and Joseph arrived at Shechem.

18They saw him in the distance and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him. 19They said to one another:

—Here comes the specialist in dreams! 20Now's the time! Let's kill him and

中。然后我们说是野兽把他吃掉了。看看他的梦还有什么用！”

21 勒乌本听到了，就想办法从他们手中救他，22 他说：

“我们不要杀他，否则会负血债！只把他丢进旷野的井中，不要伤害他。”

他这样说，是想从他们手中救若瑟的命，然后把他送还给父亲。

若瑟被弟兄出卖

23 若瑟来到近前，他们就撕下他身上穿的那件彩色长袖衣袍，24 抓住他，把他丢到井里。这井是空的，没有水。25 他们坐下来吃饭时，抬头看到从基肋阿得来的依市玛耳商队。他们的骆驼载着香料、香脂和剂药，往埃及去。26 犹大对众兄弟说：“我们若杀自己的弟弟，手上就沾了他的血迹，究竟能得到什么好处？27 不如把他卖给依市玛耳人，我们不该杀他，因为他到底是我们的弟弟，我们的血亲！”

兄弟们同意了。

28 所以，当米德杨的商人经过时，他们把若瑟从井里拉上来，以二十个钱币卖给了米德杨人，这些商人就把若瑟带到埃及去了。29 勒乌本回到井边，发现若瑟已不在里面了。他撒裂自己的衣服，30 回到他兄弟那儿，说：

“这孩子不见了，我们怎么办？”

31 他们拿起若瑟的衣服，宰杀一只公羊，把若瑟的衣服浸在羊血里。32 再派人把那彩色的长袖衣袍送到父亲那里，说：“这是我们找到的东西，你看看是不是你儿子的衣服？”

33 雅各伯认出了这东西，就说：

“这是我儿子的外衣。若瑟遭到野兽的攻击，已被野兽撕成碎片了。”

34 雅各伯就撕裂他自己的外衣，穿上粗麻衣，哀悼儿子，服丧好长一段日子。35 虽然他的儿子、女儿都来安慰他，他却不肯接受，他说：

“我要悲痛地下到阴间，到我儿子那里。”

他为失去若瑟如此悲痛不已。

throw him into a well. We'll say a wild animal devoured him. Then we'll see what his dreams were all about!

21 But Reuben heard this and tried to save him from their hands 22 saying:

—Let us not kill him; shed no blood! Throw him in this well in the wilderness, but do him no violence.

This he said to save him from them and take him back to his father.

Joseph sold by his brothers

23 So as soon as Joseph arrived, they stripped him of his long-sleeved coat that he wore 24 and then took him and threw him in the well. Now the well was empty, without water. 25 They were sitting for a meal when they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, their camels laden with spices, balm and myrrh, which they were taking down to Egypt. 26 Judah then said to his brothers:

—What do we gain by killing our brother and hiding his blood? 27 Come! We'll sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother and our own flesh!”

His brothers agreed to this.

28 So when the Midianite merchants came along they pulled Joseph up and lifted him out of the well. For twenty pieces of silver they sold Joseph to the Midianites, who took him with them to Egypt. 29 When Reuben went back to the well, Joseph was no longer there. He tore his clothes 30 and returned to his brothers and said:

—The boy has disappeared, and what am I to do?

31 They then took Joseph's coat, killed a goat and dipped the coat in its blood.

32 They sent the long-sleeved coat and had it taken to their father, saying:

—This we have found; see if it is your son's coat or not.

33 He recognized it and said:

—It is my son's coat. Joseph has been attacked by a wild animal and torn to pieces.

34 Jacob then tore his garments, put on sackcloth and mourned his son for a long time. 35 All his sons and daughters came to comfort him but he refused to be consoled saying:

—No, I shall go down to the land of Shadows, mourning for my son.

Thus his father wept for him.

36 米德杨人后来在埃及把若瑟卖给了法老的官员，侍卫长普提法尔。

若瑟成为埃及长老的仆役

39 1 若瑟被人带到埃及。有个埃及人普提法尔，是法老的官员，兼侍卫长。他从带若瑟来的依市玛耳人手中，买下若瑟。

2 若瑟住在他的埃及主人家中，因着雅威的祝福，他凡事顺利。3 这埃及人注意到天主与若瑟同在，使他事事如意。4 为此，主人深深喜欢并信任若瑟，要他看管自己家中的大小事务及全部财产。5 从那时开始，雅威因着若瑟之故而祝福这家埃及人，使得埃及人拥有一切，连同他的家庭和土地都蒙受祝福。6 埃及人把他所有的财产都交给若瑟管理，在若瑟悉心安排下，埃及主人除了自己吃喝外，其他什么也不用操心了。若瑟是个容貌俊美，体态健壮的青年男子。

受诱惑、被毁谤并下入监狱

7 不久，他主人的妻子就向他频送秋波，对他说：

“请和我同床吧。”

8 但若瑟拒绝了，对她说：

“我现在管理这家，主人就不用过问家中诸事，他把自己的全部产权都交到我手里。

9 我实际上比他更像这家中的主人，他给我权力管理所有的事，除你之外。因为你是他的妻子。我怎能做这种丑事而得罪天主呢？”

10 虽然她每天都挑逗若瑟，但若瑟仍然不理睬她。

11 有一天，若瑟进屋里去办事，那时正巧其他仆人都不在。12 普提法尔的妻子就抓住若瑟的外衣，说：“和我上床去。”若瑟丢下她手中的外衣，跑到外面去了。

13 这女人一见若瑟把自己的外衣舍在手中，14 就大叫仆人来，对他们说：

³⁶Meanwhile the Midianites sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and the commander of the guard.

Joseph, steward of Potiphar

39¹Now Joseph was taken down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, commander of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him there.

²Yahweh blessed Joseph while he lived in the house of his master, the Egyptian, and everything went right for him. ³The Egyptian could see that God was with him and everything worked well for him. ⁴So Joseph pleased his master who made him overseer of his house and of all that he owned, ⁵and from that time God blessed the Egyptian's house because of Joseph; he blessed all that the Egyptian owned, his household and his land. ⁶The Egyptian left all he had to the care of Joseph and, with Joseph fully in charge, he concerned himself with nothing except the food that he ate. Joseph was a handsome man and well-built.

Temptation, calumny and jail

⁷After some time his master's wife kept noticing him and said:
—Sleep with me.

⁸But he refused and said to her:

⁹—How can I do such an evil thing and sin against God?

¹⁰Although day after day she spoke to Joseph, he would not agree to sleep with her or give himself to her.

¹¹It happened that one day, when he entered the house to attend to his duties, none of the servants were in the house. ¹²Then Potiphar's wife caught hold of Joseph by his cloak. But Joseph left his cloak in her hands and ran out of the house.

¹³As soon as he had run out of the house, ¹⁴she called her servants and said:

“看，这个希伯来人来到我们这里，竟敢调戏我。他刚才来要与我同床，所以我才大叫，¹⁵ 他听见我大叫，就留下衣服，逃出这房间。”

¹⁶ 她将若瑟的衣服保留起来，直到主人回来。¹⁷ 对他如此说：“你的希伯来奴仆竟敢调戏我，¹⁸ 我高声大叫，他才赶快逃走，却把他的外衣留在我的手上了。”

¹⁹ 若瑟的主人听到他妻子的话：

“你的仆人竟这样待我。”就勃然大怒，²⁰ 把若瑟抓起来，关到皇宫的监狱中，这监狱囚禁着触怒国王的犯人。

²¹ 虽然若瑟囚在监狱中，但雅威与他同在，仁慈地帮助他，使得狱长喜欢他。²² 狱长要他管理所有的犯人，负责狱中大小事务。²³ 凡若瑟管理的事情，狱长都不加干涉，因为雅威与若瑟同在，使他事事成功。

40 ¹ 事隔不久，有个替埃及法老倒酒的酒保，和厨师一同冒犯了他们的主人。² 法老对这两位臣仆发怒，³ 把他们囚禁在卫队长的牢房中，也就是若瑟被囚的地方。⁴ 卫队长指派若瑟照应他们生活所需，他们在狱中呆了段时间。

²⁰ 果然三天后，恰逢法老生日，他举行宴会招待群臣，他想到了酒保和厨师。²¹ 就让酒保回到原来的职位上，置酒杯于法老手中，²² 但是厨师却被吊死了，正如若瑟给他们解释的那样。²³ 但这酒保却不记得若瑟，竟把他完全忘了。

法郎的梦

41 ¹ 两年过去，一天法老梦见自己站在尼罗河边，² 看见七只肥壮的母牛，从尼罗河上来，吃岸边的芦苇草。³ 随后，另有七只枯瘦的母牛，站在这些肥壮的母牛身边。⁴ 七只枯瘦的母牛竟吞食了那七只肥壮的母牛。法老被惊醒了。

⁵ 他再度睡去，又做了一个梦。他梦见一个麦茎上，长出七枝成熟饱满的麦穗。⁶ 然后，又长出七枝瘦小，而且被东风吹枯的麦穗。⁷ 但这七只瘦小的麦穗竟把那肥美的麦穗吞了下去。法老惊醒了，原来是一场梦。

—Look, a Hebrew has been brought here to make fun of us; he came here to lie with me, so I screamed ¹⁵and he left his cloak with me and run out of the house.

¹⁶Then she kept the cloak by her until the master came home. ¹⁷She then told her story

¹⁹When his master heard what his wife told him, “This is how your servant treated me,” he blazed with anger. ²⁰He took Joseph and put him in the Royal Prison where the king’s prisoners were kept.

But while Joseph was in prison ²¹Yahweh was with him and showed him kindness so that he was well-liked by the warden of the prison.

40 ¹Some time after this, it happened that the cupbearer of the king of Egypt, who prepared the drinks for Pharaoh, and his chief baker offended their lord. ²Pharaoh was angry with his two officers ³and put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the prison where Joseph was kept. ⁴So the captain of the guard appointed Joseph to attend to their needs, for they were under arrest for some time.

²⁰It so happened that on the third day, Pharaoh’s birthday, he made a feast for all his officers and remembered the chief cupbearer and the chief baker. ²¹The cupbearer was restored to his office and placed the cup in Pharaoh’s hand; ²²but the chief baker was hanged, as Joseph had interpreted to them. ²³Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.

The dreams of Pharaoh

41 ¹After two whole years Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing by the Nile ²when seven cows, sleek and fat, were coming up from the Nile and beginning to feed among the rushes. ³Behind them came seven other cows, lean and scraggy that stood beside the cows already there. ⁴These devoured the sleek and fat cows. Then Pharaoh awoke.

⁵He fell asleep again and had a second dream. He saw growing on one stalk seven ears of corn that were full and ripe. ⁶And after these, there sprouted seven more ears of corn that were small and scorched by the east wind. ⁷Now the small ears of corn swallowed the plump and ripe ones. Then Pharaoh awoke.

8 到了早上，他觉得心烦意乱，就把埃及的所有术士和贤人都请来，给他们讲了自己的梦，但无人能解。9 这时酒保对法老说：

“这让我想起自己做错了一件事。10 有一次法老你对仆人发怒，把我囚禁在卫队长的牢房里，与我同囚的还有厨师。11 有一天晚上，我们各做了一个梦，每个人的梦各有其意。12 有个年轻的希伯来人，同我们在一起，是卫队长的仆人。我们将梦讲给他，他就释梦，两个梦各有不同的含义。13 他的解释后来真的都实现了。我的确恢复了职位，而厨师被吊死了。”

若瑟解梦

14 法老立刻叫人把若瑟带来。他们赶快把他从狱中提出来，帮他刮脸、换衣服，把他带到法老面前。

15 法老对他说：

“我做了一个梦，无人能解这梦。我听见人说你听到梦，就能解释。”

16 若瑟回答：

“不是我，是天主会给法老一个美好的解释。”

17 法老便将他的梦境讲了出来。

“我站在尼罗河边，18 看见七只肥美的母牛从河上来，吃芦苇丛中的草。19 另外又有七只母牛，随后上来，那是七只瘦弱的母牛。我在整个埃及从来没有见过这么丑陋的母牛。20 然而这又瘦又丑的母牛竟把那七只肥美的母牛吞了下去。21 吃了后，这七只瘦牛好像未曾吞吃过东西一般，因为它们还是和从前一样又瘦又丑。我就醒了。22 我又梦见一根麦茎上长出七支成熟饱满的麦穗，23 随后又长出七枝坚硬、瘦小，而且被东风吹干的麦穗。24 但枯萎的麦穗竟然吞吃了好的麦穗。我把这梦讲给术士，但是没有人能解释它。”

25 若瑟说：

“法老做的两个梦其实是同一个意义。天主已将他的计划显示给法老了。26 这七只肥牛和七枝好的麦穗表示七年的时间。其实都是一个梦！27 随后上来七只瘦牛，表示七年，就像七枝被东风吹干的麦穗，表示七年饥荒一样。28 正如我对法老说的：天主正在向你显示他的计划。29 在全埃及将有七年的丰年，30 但随后将有七年饥荒。人们会忘记丰年是什

8 In the morning he was uneasy and called all the magicians and wise men in Egypt. He told his dreams to them but not one among them was able to interpret his dreams. 9 Then the chief cupbearer spoke to Pharaoh:

—This reminds me of my wrongs. 10 Pharaoh was angry with his servants and had me put in custody in the house of the captain of the guard and with me the chief baker. 11 Once on the same night we both had a dream, each with its own meaning. 12 With us was a young Hebrew, a servant of the captain of the guard. When we told him our dreams he interpreted them giving to each one its own meaning. 13 What he interpreted for us happened. I was restored to my office and the chief baker was hanged.

Joseph interprets the dreams

14 Pharaoh then had Joseph summoned. They took him quickly from the prison, shaved him, changed his clothes and he presented himself to Pharaoh.

15 Then Pharaoh addressed him:

—I have had a dream which no one can explain; now I have heard that when you hear a dream you are able to interpret it.

16 Joseph replied:

—It's not I but God who will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.

17 Pharaoh then began telling his dream.

—I was beside the Nile 18 when seven fine cows, sleek and fat, came up from the river and began to feed in the rushes. 19 Then seven other cows came up behind them. These were poor, scraggy and lean. I had never seen any so ugly in all the land of Egypt. 20 The thin, gaunt cows ate up the seven fat cows, 21 but after eating them, it was as if they had not eaten them at all because they remained as lean and scraggy as they were before. And then I woke. 22 I also saw in my dream seven ears of corn growing on one stalk, full and ripe. 23 Then, after them, there sprouted seven ears of corn that were hard and small and withered by the east wind. 24 The withered ears of corn swallowed the good ears. I told this to the magicians but none of them could explain its meaning.

25 Then Joseph said:

—Pharaoh's dream is one and the same. Yahweh has just revealed to Pharaoh what he will do. 26 The seven fat cows are seven years and the seven good ears as well. It's one dream! 27 The seven lean cows coming after them are seven years as are the seven withered ears of corn scorched by the east wind, and they are seven years of famine. 28 As I said to Pharaoh, God is revealing to him what he is about to do. 29 There will be seven years of plenty throughout the land of Egypt, 30 but

么样了，饥饉将吞噬大地。31 人们将不再记得丰收的时候，因为随之而来的饥荒将是非常严重的。

32 这个梦重复出现两次，是因为天主坚决要实行他的计划。33 所以，现在法老应选一位贤明有智慧的人，派他治理整个埃及。34 派人督促埃及各地方，在丰收的七年里，征收地方出产的五分之一的粮食。35 官吏必须搜集未来丰年的粮食，在法老的权下，把麦子贮存在城中，收藏好，36 这粮食将应付那将在埃及出现的饥荒，人们就不会饿死。”

若瑟成为埃及的宰相

37 法老和他的群臣都十分满意若瑟的主张。法老对他说：

38 “我们到哪里去找这样一位拥有天主神能的人？”

39 法老对若瑟说：“既然天主把这些事情预先告知了你，恐怕再也没人能如你一样的贤能。

40 你将掌管我的宫廷，我的人民要听从你的命令。你只在我一人之下，万人之上，惟有我自己的权位比你大。”

41 法老对若瑟说：“看，我要你掌管全埃及，” 42 就从自己手上取下打印的戒指，戴在若瑟的手上。又给若瑟穿细麻长袍，在若瑟颈上戴金链。43 他叫若瑟坐他的副车，人们在他面前喊着：“跪下行礼。”若瑟就这样掌管了全埃及地的事务。44 法老对若瑟说：“我是法老！没有你的同意，全埃及人都不能轻易行动。” 45 法老给若瑟取名匝斐纳特帕乃亚，又将翁城的司祭颇提斐辣的女儿阿斯纳特嫁给他。若瑟便到埃及各地去巡察。

46 若瑟被召叫到埃及法老面前时，已经三十岁了。他辞别法老，到全埃及地去巡视。

47 在富裕的七年中，大地丰收。48 若瑟征收了在那七年丰收所出产的粮食，把粮食储放在各城中；把从城郊田野运来的粮食，也囤积在各城里。49 若瑟积存了大量的麦子，真像海边沙粒一样，多得无法胜数。饥荒来临之前，50 阿丝纳特生了两个儿子。若瑟称长子为默纳协，51 因

they will be followed by seven years of famine. Then the time of abundance will be forgotten and famine will exhaust the land. ³¹So severe will the famine be that no one will remember the time of plenty.

³²If the dream has been repeated twice for Pharaoh it is because God has so determined and will soon make it happen. ³³Now it is for Pharaoh to choose an intelligent and wise man and set him over the land of Egypt. ³⁴Pharaoh could have supervisors in the land and could levy a tax of one fifth of the produce of the land during the seven years of plenty. ³⁵They must gather all the food of these productive years that are coming and, by the authority of Pharaoh, store grain for food in the towns and keep it. ³⁶This food will be a reserve for the seven years of famine coming to the land of Egypt so that the people will not die of hunger.

Joseph, the head minister

³⁷The proposal of Joseph pleased Pharaoh and his ministers, and Pharaoh asked them:

³⁸—Where shall we find such a man possessed with the spirit of God?

³⁹And to Joseph he said:

⁴⁰—You shall be over my house, and all my people will obey your orders.

⁴⁶Joseph was thirty years old when he was summoned to the presence of Pharaoh, King of Egypt. After taking his leave of Pharaoh he journeyed through the entire land of Egypt.

⁴⁷During the seven years of plenty the land produced abundantly. ⁴⁸So Joseph gathered up all the food that was produced during these years, storing in each town the food from the fields around it. ⁴⁹Joseph stored huge quantities of wheat, like the sand from the sea, so much that they lost count of the amount.

为他说：“天主使我忘记一切苦难和我父亲的老家。”给次子起名为厄弗辣因，⁵² 因为他说：“天主在我受苦的地方，使我有了子息。”

⁵³ 埃及地的七个丰年一过，⁵⁴ 随之而来的是七个荒年，正如若瑟曾预言的。各地都发生饥荒，唯有埃及国还有粮食。⁵⁵ 等到埃及也开始闹饥荒时，人们就到法老面前要粮食。于是法老通告所有的埃及人说：

“到若瑟那儿去，按照他说的去做。”饥荒蔓延至全国各地，若瑟就命人打开所有的粮仓，⁵⁶ 把粮食卖给埃及人，因为这地方的饥荒实在非常严重。

⁵⁷ 埃及之外各地都大闹饥荒，从其他国家来的人都向若瑟买粮食。

若瑟首次接见弟兄

42 ¹ 雅各伯知道埃及还有粮食，便对他的儿子们说：

“你们为什么还站着互相观望？² 我听说埃及有谷麦，你们往埃及去买一些麦子，这样我们才能活下去，不然就都饿死了。”

³ 若瑟的十个哥哥就往埃及去买粮谷。⁴ 雅各伯没有派若瑟的弟弟本雅明去，因为他说：“不要让本雅明遭到什么意外。”

⁵ 以色列的儿子们随着人群一齐去买粮谷，因为迦南也在闹饥荒。⁶ 那时若瑟是埃及地方的宰相，他有权下令把粮谷卖给百姓。他的哥哥们来到这里，都俯首至地向他行礼。

⁷ 若瑟认出了自己的哥哥们，却没让他们发觉。反而严厉地对他们说：

“你们从哪儿来？”

他们回答：

“我们从迦南地来买谷麦，为了充饥。”

⁸ 若瑟已经认出自己的哥哥们，但是他们却没有认出若瑟。⁹ 若瑟还记得他做过的有关自己哥哥们的梦。于是，他说：

“你们是奸细，你们来，是为了打探这里的虚实。”

¹⁰ 他们着急地回答说：

“不，我的大人，你的仆人们是来买谷麦作口粮的。¹¹ 我们是一个父亲的孩子，我们是诚实的人。我们绝对不是奸细。”

¹² 若瑟又说：

⁵³ When the seven years of plenty throughout the land of Egypt came to an end, ⁵⁴ the seven years of famine began as Joseph had foretold. There was famine in all the countries but in every part of Egypt there was bread. ⁵⁵ When the land of Egypt began to suffer from the famine, the people came to Pharaoh for bread. But Pharaoh told all the Egyptians:

—Go to Joseph and do as he tells you.

⁵⁷ As the famine had worsened throughout the whole world, people came from other countries to buy grain from Joseph.

Joseph's brothers: First encounter

42 ¹ When Jacob heard there was wheat in Egypt he said to his sons:

—Why do you stand looking at one another? ² I've heard there is grain in Egypt, so go down and buy some for us so that we may stay alive and not die!

³ Joseph's brothers—ten of them—went down to Egypt to buy wheat. ⁷ Joseph recognized his brothers but did not make himself known and, instead, said harshly to them:

—Where do you come from?

And they answered:

—We come from the land of Canaan to buy grain for food.

⁸ Joseph recognized his brothers but they did not recognize him. ⁹ And he remembered the dreams he once had concerning them. He told them:

—You are spies, and it is to discover the weak points of the land that you have come.

¹⁰ They said:

—No, my lord, your servants have come to buy grain for food. ¹¹ We are all sons of the same man. We are honest men; your servants are not spies.

¹² Joseph replied:

“不，你们来的确是为了打探这里的虚实。”

13 他们齐声回答：

“你的仆人们本是十二位兄弟，最小的正和我们的父亲在一起，另外一个已经不在。”

14 但若瑟仍坚持着说：

“我说的没错，你们就是奸细！15 事实有待证实。我以法老的性命发誓，你们不准离开这里，除非你最小的弟弟也来到这里。16 你们中间一人快去把弟弟带来，回来之前，其他的人要留在狱中，对证你们说的是不是实话。如果不是真的，我指着法老的性命起誓，你们必是奸细。”

17 于是他把他们关了三天。

18 到了第三天，若瑟对他们说：

“我会帮你们救自己，因为我是敬畏天主的人。19 如果你们讲的是实话，就让其中一个兄弟留在牢房中，其余的人带粮谷回去救家人的饥荒。20 然后把最小的弟弟带回来，证明你们所说的是实话，免于一死。”

他们按照若瑟的命令去做了，21 互相说道：

“唉！我们必须赎回所犯下的罪，因为我们那样对待自己的弟弟，他向我们求情，我们并没有答应他，所以我们才遭到这个苦难。”

22 勒乌本回答他们：

“我不是警告过你们，不要伤害那孩子吗？可是你们不肯听，现在我们要为他的血债付出代价。”

23 他们并不知道若瑟听得懂，因为有一个翻译来跟他们说话。

24 若瑟就转身退出去，暗自痛哭流涕。他又回来跟他们说话，当着他们的面，令人把西默盎捆绑下狱。

回到加南

25 若瑟命人把他们的布袋装满干粮，又把他们所付的钱放回每人的布袋中，还为他们预备行程中所需的口粮。这些事处理完毕，26 他们把粮谷驮在驴背上，动身出发了。

27 当晚憩在客栈中，他们中的一个人，打开布袋喂驴子时，看见钱还留在口袋里，就说：

“28 我的钱退回来了，仍在我的布袋里。” 他们提心吊胆，战战

—No, it is to find out the weak points of the country that you have come.

13 They said:

—Your servants are twelve brothers, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan; the youngest is today with our father and the other is no more.

14 But Joseph insisted:

—It's just as I said, you are spies! 15 And this will be proved. By the life of Pharaoh you will not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here. 16 One of you is to go and fetch your brother. The others will be imprisoned while I verify whether you are telling the truth. If not, then as true as Pharaoh lives, you are spies.

17 And so he put them all in prison for three days.

18 On the third day Joseph said to them:

—I will help you to save yourselves, for I am a man who fears God. 19 If you are sincere, let one of your brothers remain prisoner in the house of the guard where you now are, and the rest of you take the grain to save your families from famine. 20 Then you will bring back your youngest brother, so the truth of what you say will be proved and your lives spared.

They did as they were ordered 21 and said among themselves:

—Alas! We are guilty because of the way we treated our brother when he pleaded with us for mercy, but we didn't listen. That is why this trouble has come upon us.

22 Reuben answered them:

—Didn't I tell you not to sin against the boy. But you did not listen and now we are brought to account for his blood.

23 Now they did not know that Joseph understood them as there was an interpreter between them.

24 As for Joseph, he withdrew and wept. When he came back, he spoke to them and took Simeon and had him bound and put in prison while they looked on.

Return to Canaan

25 Joseph ordered their sacks to be filled with wheat and their money replaced in the sack of each one and provisions be given them for the journey. All this was done; 26 they loaded the grain on their donkeys and set off.

27 But in the evening one of them emptied his sack to feed his donkey at the lodging place, and he saw his money at the mouth of the sack, so he said:

28—My money has been put back: here it is in my sack! Their hearts failed

兢兢地彼此说：

“天主要对我们做什么啊？”

29 他们回到了迦南地，回到父亲雅各伯那里，把所发生的事告诉了他：

30 “那地方的主人严厉地对我们说话，把我们当做奸细。

31 不过我们说：

‘我们是诚实的人，不是奸细。32 我们是同一个父亲所生的十二个兄弟，其中一个不在了，最小的和父亲留在迦南地。’ 33 那地方的宰相说：‘我这样做，是要试看你们是否诚实。你们要把一个兄弟留在这里，把粮谷带回去解救家人，免于饥荒。34 再把最小的弟弟带来，好让我明白你们不是奸细，是诚实的人，我就会释放你们的弟弟，你们就可在这地方自由活动。’ ”

35 他们倒空自己的口袋，每人都发现他的钱包和钱依旧在口袋中。他们看事情如此，就害怕起来。他们的父亲也害怕了。36 雅各伯对他们说：

“你们总是使我失去儿子。若瑟已经走了，西默盎也不在了，现在你们又要带走本雅明。这些不幸都落在我头上。”

37 勒乌本对他父亲说：

“如果我不带他回家，你就拿我的两个儿子抵命。把本雅明交给我，我会使他平安地回到你身边。”

38 但是雅各伯说：

“我儿子不能跟你走，他哥哥已经死了，现在只剩下他一人。如果他半路上有什么意外，那我这白发老人，就该在忧苦中下阴间地府了”。

若瑟第二次接见弟兄

43 1 迦南地饥荒仍然很严重，2 他们吃完了从埃及买回来的粮食后，父亲对他们说：

“再往埃及去吧，买一点粮食回来。”

3 但是犹大对他说：

“那人已严正地警告过我们，要弟弟和我们一起去。4 如果你让弟弟和我们一起去，我们就去埃及给你买粮食，5 如果你不让他去，我们就不敢去埃及。因为这人说：如果你们的弟弟没有和你们一起来，你们就不要来

them and they trembled and turned to each other and said:

—What is this that God has done to us!

29 When they came back to Jacob in the land of Canaan, they told him about all their adventures:

30—The man who is governor of the country spoke harshly to us and treated us as spies.

31 But we said:

—We are honest men, not spies. 32 We were twelve brothers, sons of the same father; one is no more and the youngest is with our father in the land of Canaan.

33 Then the man who is lord of the land said: By this I will know if you are honest. Leave one of your brothers here; take grain to save your families from the famine and go. 34 Bring back your youngest brother and let me see you are not spies but honest men. Then I shall release your brother and you can trade in the land.

35 Now, when they emptied their sacks, each one found his money bag in his sack. When they saw this, they were afraid and their father as well. 36 Jacob their father said to them:

—You are taking my children from me. Joseph has gone; Simeon has gone and now you are taking Benjamin. I have all this to bear!

37 Then Reuben said to his father:

—You may have the lives of my two sons if I do not bring him back to you. Entrust him to me and I shall see that he comes back.

38 But Jacob said:

—My son will not go with you, for his brother is dead and he alone is left. If he were to meet with some misfortune on the way, you would send my gray head to the land of Shadows in sorrow.

Second encounter

43 1 The lack of food was severe in the land, 2 and when they had eaten the grain they brought from Egypt, their father said to them:

—Go down again and buy us a little food.

3 But Judah said to him:

—The man solemnly warned us that our brother had to come with us. 4 If you send our brother with us, we will go down and buy food for you; 5 but if you don't send him, we will not go, for the man said: You will not be admitted to my presence if your brother is not with you.

见我的面。”

6 以色列说：

“你们为什么要害我，让那人知道你们还有一个弟弟？”

7 他们回答：“

那人仔细地询问有关我们和家庭的事，他问：‘你们的父亲还活着吗？你们还有其他的兄弟吗？’我们就答了这些问题。哪里知道他会说：‘把你们的弟弟带来？’”

8 犹大对他父亲以色列说：

“让这孩子跟着我吧！好让我们启程去埃及，这样，你、我们还有我们的孩子才能活下去，不至于饿死。9 我会保证他的安全。如果我不能带他回来，把他还给你，我愿终身受谴责。10 假使没有耽误这么久，我们恐怕早已回来两次了。”

11 他们的父亲以色列对他们说：

“如果事情必须如此，你们就这样做：带些本地最好的土产放在袋中；一些香液、蜂蜜、乳香、香脂、没药、榧子和杏仁，当做礼物送给那人。12 再带双倍的钱，把放在你们袋中的钱归还给那人，他可能是弄错了。13 带着你弟弟回到那人身边去。14 愿全能的天主使你们在那人面前蒙恩，准许你们带回自己的弟弟和本雅明。至于我，如果我不得不失去孩子，就让我失去吧！”

15 这些人就拿了礼物和双倍的钱，带着本雅明往埃及去了。他们去见若瑟。16 若瑟看到他们和本雅明一块儿来了，就对他的总管家说：

“把这些人带到我家去。你去宰杀牲畜，准备筵席，因为我要和这些人一起吃饭。”

17 管家遵照若瑟的话去做，把这一伙人带到若瑟的家中。18 他们一进若瑟的家，心中就害怕起来。互相说道：

“就是因为上次有人把钱放回我们的袋中，所以我们被带到这里。有人要加害我们，或者强制我们去做奴隶，抢走我们的驴子。”

19 于是他们走近若瑟的管家，在房门口对他说：

“20 先生，承蒙您的允许，为买粮食已经来过一次，21 可是我们晚上回到客栈休息时，打开袋子一看，才发现各人的钱仍在口袋里，我们现在把这钱带回来了，22 我们不知道是谁把这钱放在我们的口袋里的，另外我们还带了钱再买些食粮。”

23 这管家说：

“放心，不要害怕。你的天主，你们祖先的天主，在你们装粮谷的口袋

6 Israel then said:

—Why did you bring this misery on me by letting the man know you have another brother?

7 They replied:

—The man questioned us carefully about ourselves and our kinsfolk saying: ‘Is your father still alive? Have you another brother?’ And so we answered these questions. Could we have known that he would tell us to bring our brother?

8 Judah then said to Israel his father:

—Send the boy with me. Let us go so that we, you and our children may live and not die. 9 I will guarantee his safety. If I do not bring him back and set him here before you, I will bear the blame forever. 10 If we hadn’t delayed for so long we could have been there and back twice over.

11 Israel their father said to them:

—If it must be so, then do this: take some choice products of the land in your bags and a gift for the man—some balm, a little honey, gum, myrrh, pistachio nuts and almonds. 12 Take double the money with you and you will repay what was put in your sacks; it may have been a mistake. 13 Take your brother and go back to the man. 14 May God Almighty grant you mercy in his presence, so that he will allow you to bring back your other brother and Benjamin. As for myself if I am bereaved of my children, then bereaved I shall have to be.

15 Taking Benjamin, they set off and went down to Egypt and were admitted to the presence of Joseph. 16 When Joseph saw that Benjamin was with them, he said to his steward:

—Bring these men to my house. Have an animal slaughtered and a meal prepared, for these men will eat with me at noon.

17 The steward did as Joseph directed and brought the men to Joseph’s house.

18 They were afraid and said to each other:

—It’s because of the money that was placed in our sacks the last time, that we are brought in. He wants to attack and overpower us and have us as slaves and take our donkeys.

19 So they approached Joseph’s steward and spoke to him at the door of the house:

20 —Oh my Lord, we came down here the first time to buy food, 21 and when we reached a lodging place and opened our sacks, we found in the mouth of the sacks each one’s money to the full weight. We have brought it back with us 22 as well as additional money to buy food. We don’t know who put the money in our sacks.

23 The steward said:

—Be at peace! Don’t be afraid. Your God, the God of your father, put a

中放了财宝。你们的钱我已经全部一文不差的收过了。”

然后他把西默盎带出来，交给他们。²⁴这管家把他们带到若瑟的家中，先拿水给他们洗脚，又拿粮草喂他们的驴子。²⁵他们准备好礼物，等着若瑟中午回来，因为听说他们要在这家中吃午饭。

²⁶若瑟回到家时，他们就把带来的礼物献给他，俯首至地向他行礼。

²⁷若瑟问候他们，说：

“你们的父亲好吗？就是你们说的老人家，他还健在吗？”

²⁸他们回答：

“大人，我们的父亲很好，还健在。”

²⁹他抬头看他弟弟，就是与他同一母亲的弟弟本雅明，说：

“他就是你们跟我讲过的小弟弟吗？”

继而说：

“孩子，愿天主保佑你！”

³⁰若瑟一看见弟弟，情动欲哭，就赶快出去，到他私人的房间去哭了一阵。³¹然后他洗洗脸，走出来，强忍着说：

“上菜吧！”

³²他坐一席，他的兄弟另坐一席，埃及客人也另坐一席，因为埃及人不能和希伯来人共餐，他们觉得那是耻辱。³³他的兄弟们按照年纪，从长到幼坐在若瑟的对面。他们彼此看着，惊讶不已。³⁴若瑟拿起盘子里的菜分给他们，可是分给本雅明的是其他人的五倍。他们就放心地与若瑟共进餐。

本雅明的过失

44 ¹若瑟吩咐自己的管家说：“将粮食装满这些人的口袋。能带多少就带多少。然后把他们的钱放回他们的袋子里。²还有，把我的银杯和买粮谷的钱，放在年纪最小的那人口袋中。”

管家按若瑟的指示去做了。

³第二天天刚亮，这十一个兄弟和他们的驴子都上路出发了。⁴他们刚走出离城不远的地方，若瑟就对他的管家说：

“赶快去追那些人。追上他们，对他们说：你们为什么要以怨报善？⁵为什么要偷去我的银杯？那是我主人饮酒占卜的银杯，你们做得实在不

treasure in your grain sacks. Your money reached me safely.

He then brought Simeon out to them. ²⁴The steward took them into Joseph's house, gave them water to wash their feet and fodder for their donkeys. ²⁵They prepared their present and waited for Joseph's arrival at midday, for they heard they were to dine there.

²⁶When Joseph came into the house, they offered him the gift they had with them and bowed to the ground before him. ²⁷He asked them how they were and said:

—Is your father well, the old man you spoke about? Is he still alive?

²⁸They answered:

—Your servant our father is well and is still alive. ²⁹He looked up and saw his brother Benjamin, the son of his own mother, and said:

—Is this your youngest brother, the one you told me about?

And he added:

—God be good to you, my son!

³⁰So deeply moved was Joseph, on seeing his brother that he wanted to cry and went out quickly and wept in his own private room. ³¹After he had washed his face and come out, controlling himself, he said:

—Serve the meal.

³²He was served separately and so were they, and the Egyptians as well, for the Egyptians cannot share a meal with Hebrews; for the Egyptians this would be a shame. ³³They were seated opposite him in the order of their ages from the eldest to the youngest and they looked at each other in astonishment. ³⁴Joseph had portions from his own dish taken to them and Benjamin's portion was five times more than that of the others. So they drank freely with him.

Benjamin guilty

44 ¹Now Joseph gave this order to his steward:

—Fill the men's sacks with as much food as they can carry and put back each man's silver in the mouth of his sack, ²and put my cup, the silver cup with the money for the grain in the sack of the youngest.

The steward did as Joseph had directed.

³As soon as it was light next morning the men were sent away with their donkeys. ⁴When they had gone but were still not far from the city, Joseph said to his steward:

—Go quickly after those men and when you have caught up with them, say this: 'Why have you repaid good with evil?' ⁵Isn't this the cup my master drinks

对。”

6 管家果然追上了他们，并且重复了这些话。7 他们说：“大人，您为什么说这样的话呢？我们绝不敢做那样的事。8 我们已把上次在粮袋发现的钱，从迦南地带来还给你！我们又怎么会从你主人家中，偷走金银财物呢？”9 如果你发现在我们当中谁偷了这东西，那么这人一定该死。我们也愿做大人你的奴仆。”

10 他说：“很好，就照你的誓言去做。谁被我查出偷了酒杯，谁就要做我家主人的奴仆，其余的人可以自由地离去。”

11 于是每个人马上把粮袋放在地上，打开袋口。12 这管家从年长的到年幼的，一一搜查。结果他发现酒杯在本雅明的袋子里。13 他们兄弟羞辱地撕裂衣服，重新把东西放上驴背，回到城中。

若瑟第三次接见弟兄

14 犹大和弟兄们进入若瑟的家，若瑟还在家中，他们在他面前跪地行礼。15 若瑟对他们说：

“你们做了什么事？你们难道不知道，像我这样的人会未卜先知吗？”

16 犹大说：“

我们能对大人说什么呢？如何才能证明我们是无辜的呢？天主已经查出我们的罪过，我们和由他手中找出银杯的人都愿做大人你的奴仆。”

17 但是若瑟说：

“天主不让我这么做！只有偷藏银杯的人才做我的奴仆。其余的人，都可平安地回到你们父亲家里吧！”

18 犹大走上前说：

“请求你，大人，请听我说句话。你与法老同样权威，请不要对我们发怒。19 上一次你曾问我们：‘我们有没有父亲或弟弟？’20 我们对大人说：‘我们有年迈的父亲，他老来生得一子。这儿子是他母亲仅有的孩子了。因为这孩子的哥哥已经死了，所以我们的父亲十分疼爱他。’21 然后你对我们说：‘把他带来，让我见见他。’22 我们告诉你，大人，这孩子是不能离开父亲的，如果他有不测，我们的父亲必会死去。

23 然后你告诉我们：如果我们的弟弟不跟我们一起来，你就不见我们。24 我们回到家，把这事告诉了父亲。25 过了不久，他要我们再来买一点粮食，26 我们又跟他提过：‘我们不能再往埃及去了，除非小

from and uses for divination? You have done a wicked thing.’

⁶When he caught up with them he repeated these words. ⁷They said to him:

—Why does my lord speak like that? Far be it from your servants to do such a thing. ⁸The money we found in the mouths of our sacks, we brought back to you from the land of Canaan! How then could we have stolen silver or gold from your lord’s house? ⁹If one of your servants is found with the object, he will die and we too will become my lord’s slaves.

¹⁰—Very well then, he said, it will be as you say. The one who is found to have the cup will become my master’s slave; the rest of you will go free.

¹¹Then each one quickly lowered his sack to the ground and opened it. ¹²And he searched, beginning with the eldest and ending with the youngest. And the cup was found in Benjamin’s sack. ¹³Then they tore their clothes and, reloading their donkeys, they returned to the city.

Third encounter

¹⁴Joseph was still in the house when Judah and his brothers returned and they threw themselves on the ground before him. ¹⁵Joseph said to them:

—What have you done? Didn’t you know that a man such as I am is able to practice divination?

¹⁶Then Judah said:

—What shall we say to my lord? How can we prove our innocence? God has uncovered your servant’s guilt; we are my lord’s slaves, we and the one who has been found with the cup.

¹⁷But Joseph said:

—Far be it from me to do that. Only the man found to have the cup will be my slave. As for the rest, go back in peace to your father.

¹⁸Judah then went forward and said:

—My lord, allow your servant to speak. Do not be angry with your servant, although you are equal to Pharaoh himself. ¹⁹The last time you questioned your servants saying: ‘Have you a father or a brother?’ ²⁰We said to my lord: ‘We have an aged father who had a child in his old age. His brother is dead and he is the only one left of his mother’s children. And his father loves him.’ ²¹Then you said to us: ‘Bring him down so that I can see him for myself.’ ²²We told my lord that the boy could not leave his father, for if he did, his father would die.

²³You then told us that if our youngest brother did not come with us, we would not be admitted to your presence. ²⁴All this we said to our father on returning there. ²⁵So when he told us to come back and buy a little food, ²⁶we said: ‘We

弟和我们一起走；我们不能见主人，除非小弟和我们一起。’ 27 我们的父亲说：‘你们知道我那位叫辣黑耳的妻子为我生了两个孩子。28 一个已经离开，而且一定是被野兽撕成碎片了，因为我一直没有再看到他。29 如果你们再把我幼儿带走，要是他遭到什么不幸，你们就等于把我这白发老人送进阴府啦！’ 30 现在，没有这孩子，我们怎能回到父亲身边？因为我父亲非常疼爱他。如果他看到这孩子不在了，31 他会活不下去，我们就等于把这悲痛的白发父亲，送进坟墓里啦。

32 我曾在父亲面前为这孩子的安全担保，对父亲说：‘如果我不能带他回来，我一生都会在你面前负罪’ 33 现在让我代替小弟留在这里做你的奴仆，让这孩子随他的哥哥们回家吧。34 因为没有这孩子，我不能回到父亲那里去。请不要让我看到这不幸的事，那对我父亲来说，太悲惨了。”

若瑟表明身份

45 1 若瑟在众人面前，再也不能抑制自己了，就下令：

“你们都退下去吧！”

只有兄弟们和他在一起。若瑟遂向他们表明了自己的身份。2 他放声大哭，连厅外的埃及人都听见了，于是这消息传遍整个法老的宫廷。

3 若瑟对他兄弟说：

“我就是若瑟。父亲他老人家还健在吗？”

他的兄弟们一听这话，都吓呆了。

4 若瑟接着又说：

“靠过来一点！”

他们走近些。若瑟说：

“我就是你们的弟弟若瑟，那个被你们卖到埃及的弟弟。5 现在，你们不要再为了出卖我的事，而难过自责了，因为天主已经派我先来到这里，为拯救你们的性命。6 这地方遭受饥荒已经两年了，还要有五年的光景，不能耕种，也不能收成。7 天主派我先来到这里，使我们的种族能活下去，要我拯救你们大家。8 所以，不是你们，而是天主他亲自派我来这里，使我成为法老之父，他宫廷的主人，以及埃及的宰相。9 你们快回到我父亲那里，对他说：‘你儿子若瑟带给你消息了。他说：天主使我成为全埃及的宰相，所以马上来我这里，不要在路上耽误。10 你老人家和你的孩子、孙子、羊群、牛群，全家上上下下，你所有的，都要迁往哥

cannot go down again unless our youngest brother is with us. We shall not be admitted to the lord's presence unless our brother is with us.’ 27 Then my father said: ‘You know that my wife had two children. 28 One went away from me and has surely been torn to pieces since I have not seen him anymore. 29 If you take this one from me and something happens to him you will bring my gray hair in sorrow to the grave.’ 30 Now I can't return to my father without the boy, for my father loves him very much. If he sees that the boy is not there, 31 he will die and we will have sent the gray hairs of our father in sorrow to the grave.

32 Now I, your servant, guaranteed the boy's safety and said to my father: ‘If I do not bring him back, I will bear the blame before you all my life.’ 33 So now let me take the place of the boy and stay here as slave and let the boy go with his brothers, 34 for I can't return to my father without the boy. Do not let me see the misery that would be too much for my father.

Joseph reveals himself

45 1 Now Joseph could no longer control his feelings in the presence of all those standing by and he called out:

—Leave my presence, everyone!

And only his brothers were with him when Joseph made himself known to them. 2 He wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard and the news spread through Pharaoh's house.

3 Joseph said to his brothers:

—I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?

And his brothers could not answer because they were terrified at seeing him.

4 Joseph said:

—Come closer.

And they drew nearer.

—I am Joseph your brother, yes, it's me, the one you sold to the Egyptians.

5 Now don't grieve and reproach yourselves for selling me, because God has sent me before you to save your lives. 6 It's two years since famine has been in the land and there will be another five years without tilling and without harvest. 7 God has sent me ahead of you to make our race survive there and to save many of you. 8 So it was not you but God who sent me here, and made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of his household, and ruler also of all the land of Egypt. 9 Go back quickly to my father and say to him: ‘Joseph your son sends you this message: God has made me lord of all Egypt; so come down to me without delay, 10 you shall live in the land of Goshen and you shall be near me, you, your children and grandchildren,

筓，离我不远的地方。11 我要供养你们，因为还有五年的饥荒，免得你，你们家人和眷属陷于饥荒。’ 12 现在你们亲眼看见了，我弟弟本雅明也看到了；是我亲自对你们说话。13 你们要详实地告诉父亲，我在埃及所享有的荣耀，也告诉他你们所看到的一切。快去把父亲带到这里来。”

14 若瑟搂住本雅明，痛哭流涕。本雅明也搂着若瑟哭起来。15 若瑟又亲吻、拥抱其他的兄弟，他们才敢与他交谈。

16 这消息传遍法老的宫廷，人们说：“若瑟的兄弟在这里。” 这消息使法老和他的臣仆高兴万分。17 法老建议若瑟说：“叫你的兄弟们把牲口载满货物，回到迦南地，18 再把你们的父亲和全家人都带到我这里来。我要把埃及最好的土地送给你们，让你们享用这块地方的富饶！19 你自己要这样对他们下令说：从埃及赶一些马车回去接你们妻小，也把你们的父亲接来！20 不要眷恋留在迦南的产业，因为在埃及还有更好的东西将属于你们！”

21 就这样以色列的儿子们照做了。若瑟按法老的命令，交给他兄弟们一些马车和旅途所需的口粮。22 他给每人路上洗换的衣服，他还给本雅明三百银币和五件衣服。23 他给自己的父亲带去十匹公驴，驮载着埃及最好的货品，以及十匹母驴，也载着麦谷、面包，以及他父亲旅途所需的口粮。

24 就这样，他送自己兄弟们上路了，临走前，他对他们说：

“在路上不要吵架，安心回家吧！”

25 他们从埃及回到迦南地，回到父亲雅各伯身边。26 他们告诉他：

“若瑟还活着，他是埃及的宰相！”

雅各伯十分惊讶，简直不敢相信他们的话。27 但是他们一一转述了若瑟说的话，并指给他看若瑟交给他们的马车，为来接他。雅各伯的心神恢复过来。他说：

“28 只要我知道儿子若瑟还活着，就心满意足了，我要在死前去看看他。”

your flocks and your herds, all that you have. ¹¹And there I will provide for you (for there will be five more years of famine) lest you and your household and all who belong to you, be in need. ¹²Now you can see for yourselves, and your brother Benjamin can see that it is I myself who speak to you. ¹³You will tell my father of the glory I have in Egypt and of all that you have seen. Go quickly and bring my father down here.

¹⁴Joseph then threw his arms around Benjamin and wept. ¹⁵Then weeping he kissed and embraced his brothers and they began to talk with him.

²⁴Then he sent his brothers away and as they left he said:

—Don't quarrel on the way.

²⁵They returned from Egypt and came back to Jacob their father in Canaan.

²⁶They told him:

—Joseph is alive and he is the ruler of all Egypt!

Jacob was stunned for he could not believe them. ²⁷But they told him all that Joseph had said and showed him the wagons that Joseph sent to carry him. Then Jacob's spirit revived and he said:

²⁸—It's enough, my son Joseph is alive; I will go and see him before I die.

雅各伯下到埃及

46 ¹以色列带着他所有的东西，离开迦南，来到贝尔舍巴，向他父亲依撒格的天主奉献祭品。²当晚天主在异象中对以色列说：“雅各伯！雅各伯！”

他回答：

“我在这里。”

³天主又说：“我是天主，你父亲的天主。不要怕到埃及去，因为我在那里使你发展成一个强大的民族。⁴我会和你同去埃及，然后再把你带回来。若瑟将亲手合上你的双眼。”

⁵雅各伯离开贝尔舍巴。以色列的儿子们带着他们的父亲雅各伯，和他们的妻小，乘着若瑟派来接雅各伯的马车。

⁶他们也带着所有牲口，以及在迦南所积聚的财物。就这样雅各伯和他家人；⁷儿子、女儿、孙子、孙女及所有随从来到了埃及。

雅各伯见到若瑟

²⁸雅各伯派犹大先去，让若瑟知道他来了，马上会到哥笙地。

²⁹若瑟立刻备好马车，动身往哥笙去迎接他父亲。他一看见父亲，就扑进父亲怀中，在他肩上大哭了一阵。³⁰以色列对若瑟说：“我死可瞑目了，因为我看到了你，知道你还好活着。”

雅各伯在埃及

47 ¹¹若瑟遵照法老的吩咐，把他父亲和他兄弟们安顿在辣默色斯地区，将全埃及最好的土地送给他们。¹²若瑟照顾着自己的父亲、兄弟们的和他们的全家大小，并依他们人口的多寡供给足够的粮食。

Jacob goes down to Egypt

46 ¹Israel left with all he owned and reached Beersheba where he offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. ²God spoke to Israel in visions that he had during the night:

—Jacob! Jacob!

He said:

—Here I am.

³—I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go to Egypt, for there I will make you into a great nation. ⁴I will go with you to Egypt and I will bring you back again and Joseph's hand will close your eyes.

⁵Jacob left Beersheba and the sons of Israel carried Jacob their father with their little children and their wives in the wagons that Joseph had sent to fetch him.

⁶They also took their flocks and all that they had acquired in Canaan. And so it was that Jacob came to Egypt and with him all his family, ⁷his sons and his grandsons, his daughters and his granddaughters, in short all his children he took with him to Egypt.

Jacob meets Joseph

²⁸Jacob sent Judah ahead to let Joseph know he was coming and that he would soon arrive in the land of Goshen.

²⁹Joseph got his chariot ready in order to meet Israel his father in Goshen. He presented himself, threw his arms around his father and wept on his shoulder for a long time.

Jacob in Egypt

47 ¹¹ So Joseph had his father and brothers settled, giving them property in the best part of Egypt, in the land of Rameses as Pharaoh had commanded. ¹² Joseph provided his father, his brothers and his father's entire household with food according to the number of their dependents.

雅各伯去世

48 ¹ 过些时候，有人告诉若瑟：“你父亲生病了！”若瑟便带着他的两个孩子默纳肋和厄弗辣因去看父亲。² 有人告诉雅各伯说：“你儿子若瑟来看你了。”于是以色列打起精神坐在床上，³ 对若瑟说：

“全能的天主在迦南地的路次显现给我，并且祝福我说：‘⁴ 我会使你子孙众多，人丁兴旺，使你家族成为一个大民族。我会把这土地赐给你和你的子孙，当做永久的产业。’⁵ 在我来你这儿之前，你两个在埃及出生的儿子，我现在要把他俩当作我的儿子：厄弗辣因和默纳肋要归于我子孙行列，就像勒乌本和西默盎是我的孩子一样。⁶ 你的孩子，就是指在他俩之后所生的孩子，才能算是你的。不过，你的这些孩子仍然要以厄弗辣因和默纳肋的名份继承他们份内的产业。

49 ³³ 当雅各伯向他的儿子交待完这些遗嘱后，就躺下，咽了最后一口气，回到了他的先祖那里。

50 ¹⁵ 父亲过世后，若瑟的兄弟们起疑心说：

“如果若瑟因我们从前对他所做的坏事，怀恨报复我们，怎么办呢？¹⁶ 于是他们叫人传话给若瑟说：

“父亲死前，要我们对你说：¹⁷ ‘请你原谅兄弟们的过失和罪行，他们曾经陷害你。请原谅你父亲天主的仆人所犯的罪。’”

若瑟听到这些话，就哭了。¹⁸ 他的兄弟们来见他，俯伏在他面前说：“我们愿是你的奴仆。”

¹⁹ 但是若瑟向他们保证，说：

“不要怕！我怎能代替天主行事呢？²⁰ 你们曾想害我，但是天主化凶为吉，才有今天你们所见的成就，保全这么多人的性命。²¹ 所以，不要再担心！我一定会照顾你们和你们孩子的生活。”

他用这些话安慰他们，使他们放心。

Death of Jacob: Manasseh and Ephraim

48 ¹ Some time later, when Joseph was told that his father was ill, he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. ² So they told Jacob that Joseph his son had come. Then Israel, mustering his strength, sat up in bed. ³ And he said to Joseph:

—God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me ⁴ saying, ‘I will make you fruitful and increase your number, and I will make of you a group of nations, and I will give this land to you and to your descendants after you as an everlasting possession.’ ⁵ From now on your two sons who were born in Egypt, before I came to you here, are mine! Ephraim and Manasseh shall be mine just as Reuben and Simeon are mine. ⁶ Only the children born after them will be yours and the land they inherit shall be known by the names of Ephraim and Manasseh.

49 ³³ When Jacob had given these instructions to his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed; he breathed his last and was gathered to his people.

50 ¹⁵ When Joseph’s brothers realized that their father was dead they said:

—What if Joseph turns against us in hate because of the evil we did him?

¹⁶ So they sent word to Joseph saying:

—Before he died your father told us to say this to you: ¹⁷ Please forgive the crime and the sin of your brothers in doing evil to you. Forgive the crime of the servants of your father’s God.

When he was given the message, Joseph wept. ¹⁸ His brothers went and threw themselves down before him, and said:

—We are your slaves.

¹⁹ But Joseph reassured them:

—Don’t be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You intended to do me harm, but God intended to turn it to good in order to bring about what is happening today—the survival of many people. ²¹ So have no fear! I will provide for you and your little ones.

In this way he touched their hearts and consoled them.

若瑟去世

22 若瑟和他父亲的家人留在埃及，他活了一百一十岁，²³ 他见到了厄弗辣因的曾孙。而默纳协的儿子玛基尔的孩子，也都在若瑟的膝下出生。

24 若瑟对他的兄弟说：

“我快死了，但是天主一定会照顾你们，把你们从这地方，带回到他誓许给亚伯郎、依撒格、和雅各伯的土地。”

25 若瑟要以色列的儿子们发誓，说：

“当天主带领你们离开这地方时，把我的骨骸一起带走。”

26 若瑟死时一百一十岁。人们用香料包殓他，在埃及将他安殓入棺。

这里整部《创世纪》全部结束。在这部书中，作者通过历史传说和神话等形式介绍了以色列子民的宗教和历史起源。然而，所有这些历史描述都是表达以色列的宗教信息。圣经中的描述并非单纯记述历史事件，反而运用历史事件表达宗教信息，这些宗教信息就是《创世纪》的主题。

您可以参阅：

圣咏第二十三篇。这篇圣咏表达了天主是以色列子民的救主和牧者，万民应该信赖他。也可参阅圣咏第一百零五篇。

Death of Joseph

22 Joseph remained in Egypt together with all his father's family. He lived for a hundred and ten years, ²³ long enough to see Ephraim's great-grandchildren, and also to have the children of Machir, the son of Manasseh, placed on his knees after their birth.

24 Then Joseph said to his brothers:

—I am going to die, but God will surely remember you and take you from this country to the land he promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

25 Joseph then made the sons of Israel swear, saying:

—When God comes to bring you out from here, carry my bones with you.

26 Joseph died at the age of one hundred and ten; they embalmed him and laid him in a coffin in Egypt.

Here ends the Book of Genesis. A "history of the origins" in which religious messages, traditions and legends, events of history are interwoven. But absolutely all these stories are written as religious messages. The Bible was never interested in telling these things as pure historical curiosities; rather it uses history, or invents it, to transmit a religious message. This religious message is the true argument of all these stories.

You can also see:

Psalm 23. It is a Psalm of trust with the image of God as a shepherd and as host. See also Psalm 105.