

*Read Genesis 12 and 15 through 22 and answer the following questions:*

1. Which two chapters in this material contain stories in which Abraham claims that Sarah is his sister?
2. Identify the authors of these chapters and provide evidence for your identification.
3. a) Look up and define the words “epiphany” and “theophany”:  
epiphany:  
theophany:  
  
b) How do these words apply to the beginning of chapter 12?
- 4a. What does God promise to Abram in chapter 12?
- 4b. Be prepared to locate the following places on a map: Ur, Haran, Canaan, Nile River.
5. Describe the “cutting of the covenant” or the “covenant ceremony” in chapter 15.
6. Quote the passage in chapter 15 that hints at the future bondage in and exodus from Egypt.
7. Read chapters 16 and 21. Compare and contrast Hagar and Sarai/Sarah. Do these characters change?
8. How old is Abram when Ishmael is born? (Which chapter and verse tells you this?)
9. How old is Abraham when Isaac is born? (Which chapter and verse tells you this?)
10. How old is Ishmael when Isaac is born and how is this fact inconsistent with events in chapter 21?  
How do you explain this inconsistency?

11. What perspective regarding theophanies is expressed by Hagar in 16:13? Do you think you would be as surprised as she is if you had experienced a theophany?

12. You are not responsible for chapter 19. But, if you read it,  
a) explain why Sodom and Gomorrah are destroyed (use quotes and evidence from the chapter) – In their treatment of Lot and his guests, what *two* “sins” do the inhabitants of Sodom commit?  
  
b) explain how the author deliberately prejudices his readers against the rivals of the Israelites: the Moabites and Ammonites.

13. Scholars agree that chapter 20 is written by the Elohist partly because God appears to people in dreams. Other evidence for E’s authorship is the emphasis on morality (which does not appear in the similar story in chapter 12). Explain how moral condemnation comes up in this version of the story.

14. Immanuel Kant had this to say of the sacrifice of Isaac: “There are certain cases in which man can be convinced that it cannot be God whose voice he thinks he hears; when the voice commands him to do what is opposed to the moral law, though the phenomenon seems to him ever so majestic and surpassing the whole of nature, he must count it a deception.” (*New Jerome Biblical Commentary*, p. 25) To what does this refer and do you agree?

15. What does “burnt offering” in 22:2 mean?

16. How do you think Abraham felt when he responded to his son’s question about where the lamb for the burnt offering was? (v. 7 and 8)

17. Does Abraham’s willingness to put his faith in God have anything to do with his previous experiences? Does it seem consistent with his attitude toward God’s judgment in Genesis 19?