

**The Patriarchs: patri (father, founder of a clan or a group of related families)**

**The four Patriarchs of the Hebrew Scriptures (the Old Testament) were: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. Through them, God chose a special family for Himself: the Chosen People**

**Matriarchs: matri (mother): Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel, and Leah.**

**ca. 1,900—1,650 B.C.**

**They lived in tents and raised flocks of sheep and goats. They were nomadic—roaming through the unoccupied territory and deserts of Caanan in western Palestine, now Israel.**

**The Caananites had a common language and culture. They had faith: a gift from God that enables us to believe in Him and accept what He has revealed.**

**“Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen.” *Heb. 11:1***

**The Patriarchs and their families, believed and trusted (faith and hope). They tried to follow God’s path for them and to be pleasing to God. God called Abram (*Gen. 12:1*).**

**Abram was old, poor, and childless, basically a loser in the eyes of the people.**

**He listened to God, believed, and trusted. He is our “Father in Faith”.**

**Covenant relationship: an agreement between God and humans.**

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**“I will make of you a great nation.” God**

**The baby, then the test!!! Good day, bad day!!!! Isaac: she laughed.**

**Isaac married Rebekah, and they had twins: Esau and Jacob.**

**Read *Genesis 25:27—34*. Jacob married Rachel. They had twelve sons.**

**Problems, escape, dreams, exile, return,...happily ever after.**

**Jacob became Israel, and the people were known as Israelites.**

**Joseph. Watch out kid!!**

**What is Divine Providence?**