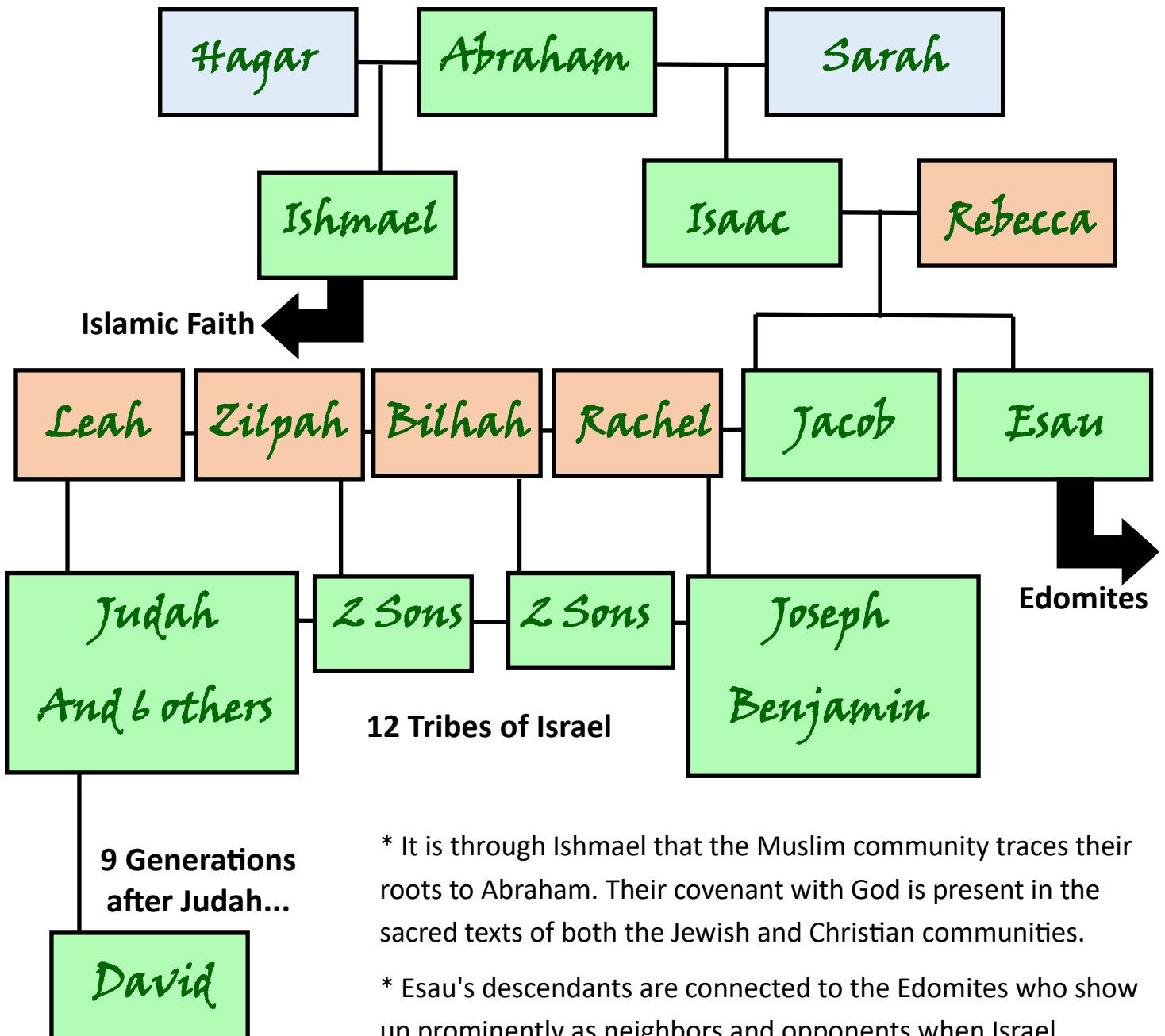


Abraham's Family

Genesis 12: 1-3 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."



* It is through Ishmael that the Muslim community traces their roots to Abraham. Their covenant with God is present in the sacred texts of both the Jewish and Christian communities.

* Esau's descendants are connected to the Edomites who show up prominently as neighbors and opponents when Israel becomes a nation-state.

* Hagar, Zilpah, and Bilhah were "hand maids" rather than wives. Rachel and Leah were sisters, and both married to Jacob.

Covenants and Community

What communities or relationships are you bound to by your birth?

What communities or relationships are you bound to by personal choice?

What is different about a relationship bound by a covenant?

When do you think it is acceptable to end a covenantal relationship?

What covenantal relationships are part of your life?

How were each formed?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

If you wrote a job description for each of these covenants, how would they read?