

Genesis Ch. 25

V: 1-5 Abraham takes a new wife after Sarah passes away.

- Keturah: “Perfumed” / “Covered with incense”
- Keturah bears Abraham 6 sons, which added to Isaac and Ishmael equals 8 sons, a new beginning.
- At 140 years and going strong. When God heals, He heals!

1 Chronicles 1:32 “Now the sons of Keturah, Abraham’s concubine: she bare...”

- As a concubine Abraham probably owned her, and later married her but because of his love for Sarah, and the lessons learned via Hagar did not have a relationship with her until after Sarah’s death.

Genesis 17:4 “As for Me, behold, My covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations.”

- The nation of Israel, through Isaac, the Arabs of various kinds through Ishmael and his various ½ brothers.

V: 5 Abraham left everything to Isaac, the son of promise, the “anointed” son in whom God’s covenant was to be established.

God is very specific:

Genesis 17:21 “But My covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year.”

Another similarity with Jesus:

John 16:15 “All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, the He shall take of mine, and shew it unto you.”

- The Father is still alive, yet He has given all things:

Genesis 24:36 “And Sarah my master’s wife bare a son to my master when she was old: and unto him hath he given all that he hath.”

V: 6 Abraham still blessed his other sons, generously – but he sent them away from Isaac, just as he did with Hagar and Ishmael.

- There was to be a distinction and a division or separation.

- Hagar & Keturah were considered “concubines” because they didn’t have the same rights as his true wife Sarah.

V: 7-8 175 years old: 7 X 5 X 5.

- Abraham’s life was one of incredible blessing, and is reflected in the Psalms.

Psalm 1: 1-3 “¹Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. ²But his delight is in the law of the Lord: and in his law doth he meditate day and night. ³And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”

Psalm 91 - *turn to:*

- Abraham died at a good old age, just as God had promised:

Genesis 15:15 “And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age.”

V: 9-10 No mention of the other sons who had been sent away.

- Abraham is buried in the cave of Machpelah, at Hebron near Mamre with his wife Sarah.
- Abraham’s pilgrimage ends in “richness and communion” with the Lord.

V: 11 God now turns His focus and pours out His blessing upon Isaac.

Genesis 17:19-20 “¹⁹And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him. ²⁰And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation.”

- Isaac dwells at the well, Lahai-roi – where the angel of the Lord first appeared to Hagar and sent her back to Abraham’s household (Genesis 16:14).
- Isaac is now the only surviving link to the Messianic line, as God had blessed Abraham so He now begins to bless and prosper Isaac.

V: 12-16 These verses contain the “generations of Ishmael”, listing his sons.

- The “rejected” line is always given first, and then forgotten, and then the line leading to Christ is given and followed.
- Some of these names can be made out in Biblical history and identified with certain parts of the east in Arabia.
- Some of the names are the same as those given to the sons of Cush & Ham in chapter 10, and are hard to distinguish in later mentions in the Bible.
- For the most part they are assimilated into each other and the other peoples in the area like the Edomites and essentially become “Arabs” in the generic sense.
- To this day, the descendants of Ishmael have fulfilled God’s prophecy about his descendants living in hostility with all those around them. (Genesis 16:12)

V: 17-18 Ishmael dies and is gathered unto his peoples.

- 137 years old – not bad.
- Because of what Ishmael’s descendants have become today we sometimes forget that Ishmael was circumcised, that God heard his cry / prayers even from his youth, that he had God’s blessings and was a part of God’s covenant.
- He wasn’t the heir of promise, but certainly a beneficiary and apparently a believer.
- Things kind of went full circle as Ishmael and his descendants settled near or returned near to the land of Abraham’s failures & sin.

V: 19 Now the focus turns back to the Messianic line, to Isaac – the son of promise.

V: 20 Isaac was 40 years old when he received his bride.

- 40 is symbolic of judgment or trials:
 1. It rained for 40 day and 40 nights during the great flood of Noah.
 2. Moses was 40 years in Pharaoh’s court before being sent into the wilderness to tend sheep for 40 years, prior to becoming the shepherd of Israel.
 3. Moses was up on Mt. Sinai for 40 days and 40 nights without food or water receiving the 10 commandments.
 4. The spies went out from Israel to spy out the land for 40 days.
 5. Caleb, one of the spies for Israel was 40 years old when he was sent out to spy out the land.
 6. The nation of Israel would later wander for 40 years in the wilderness.
 7. An evil man could be punished with up to 40 stripes, but no more.

- Isaac had waited and prayed until he was 40 years old, then he received his bride.

V: 21 Isaac “entreated the Lord for his wife,…”

- Isaac prayed for his wife.

1 Peter 3:7 “Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.”

- We follow Jesus’ example in this:

Ephesians 3:25 “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;”

Romans 8:34 “Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.” Hebrews 7:25

2 Corinthians 10:3-4 “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: ⁴(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;)

- Rebekah like the other chosen women in the Bible was barren until God’s appointed time.
- Isaac may have been thinking about his parents experience and immediately started crying out to God.

“...and the Lord was entreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived.”

James 5:16 “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

- Even though God had promised His blessings and favor, it is still the subject of prayer.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 “Pray without ceasing.”

- Isaac prayed for 20 years, he was 60 years old when Rebekah bore their sons.
- The Lord answered Isaac’s prayer with twins!

Ephesians 3:20 “Now unto Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,”

V: 22 Esau and Jacob would come to represent the struggle between the Spirit and the flesh.

Galatians 5:17 “For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”

Romans 8:4-6 “⁴That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. ⁵For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. ⁶For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”

- Rebekah is confused about what is going on within herself – so she inquires of the Lord.

James 1:5 “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”

- This girl is impressive! In chapter 24 she shows that she is a willing servant, that she’s willing to step out in faith, she joyfully joins herself to her husband.
- They’ve been together for 20 years and up to this time they’ve been unable to have children.
- We don’t read about any foolish plans to help God, or any complaining – she and they both trusted in God’s promise to them through Abraham.
- The first thing we actually know is that she inquired of God.

V: 23 God prophesies about the two sons and the two nations, the older serving the younger.

- The younger, Jacob – would be blessed, inheriting Abrahams covenant and through whom the Messianic line would be continued.

Malachi 1:1-3 “¹The burden of the word of the Lord to Israel by Malachi. ²I have loved you, saith the Lord. Yet ye say, wherein hast thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob’s brother? Saith the Lord: yet I loved Jacob, ³and I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness.”

Romans 9:10-13

V: 24 Twins – double the blessing.

V: 25 Firstborn: Esau came our red & hairy all over.

- Esau = hairy

V: 26 2nd born: Jacob = heel catcher, supplanter.

- Isaac was 60 years old when his boys were born.

V: 27 Nothing is said about their childhood years, we assume they were circumcised, weaned, and grew up as ordinary kids.

- Esau became a hunter.
- Jacob was a “plain” man. Some have inferred that he was a mama’s boy, a cook, a sissy compared to his brother.
- “Plain” man: (H 8535). tam, tawm; complete; usually moral, pious; perfect, plain, undefiled, upright.

They appeared to be brotherly opposites.

- Esau: a physical man, lacking character as we’ll see, no capacity for God.
- Esau didn’t need to hunt, they had flocks and herds, it was recreational to him.
- No mention of Esau being a herdsman or tending to the flocks.
- The only other hunter mentioned in the Bible thus far was Nimrod, a mighty hunter against God.
- Esau is described as being sexually immoral & Godless, hated by God.

Hebrews 12:16-17 “¹⁶Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. ¹⁷For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.”

- Jacob: dwells in tents, might have been a mama’s boy, deceitful, yet God transforms him and uses him.
- Staying close to the house may also imply that he tended to the flocks and duties of the household.
- Later he is employed by Laban doing just that.

V: 28 Favoritism that fueled the battle between the two.

Acts 10:34 “... of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:”

V: 29 Setting the scene. Jacob is cooking and Esau comes in from the field very hungry.

V: 30-34 Red & hairy, red stew, Edom = red, his new nick name.

- Examples of how both these young men lacked character in their own ways.
- Esau cares only for the things of the flesh, fleshly appetite – his hunger and a need for immediate gratification.

Galatians 6:7-8 “⁷Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. ⁸For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”

- Jacob’s lack of faith: he knew from the previous prophecy that God had given him the advantage over his brother, that the older would serve the younger.
- Jacob used deceit to gain advantage over his brother to obtain the desired “status” with the “birthright”.
- Esau attached no value to the birthright which along with being head of the household meant fulfilling the family priesthood, spiritual leadership.
- This was seemingly distasteful to Esau, but greatly desired by Jacob.
- That is why Esau despised his birthright; he traded it for a bowl of soup!
- Jacob sought to gain by trickery what God was already going to give him had he waited.

Galatians 3:1a, 3 “Oh foolish Galatians,... are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?”

- Esau had no capacity for spiritual things, Jacob did – but would need some training, refining.

Luke 16:1-8 The unjust steward commended by the Lord.

- Many consider Jacob at fault in this transaction, yet the Bible never once condemns him or criticized him for what he did. Esau on the other hand is left with the last words of this chapter – “thus Esau despised his birthright.”
- God has just the thing in mind – someone just like Jacob – uncle Laban’s school of chicanery.