Genesis Chapter 25

V: 1-4 Abraham takes a new wife after Sarah passes away.

"Wife" (H-802) "issah" - woman, wife, female.

1 Chronicles 1:32 "Now the sons born to Keturah, Abraham's concubine:…"

- 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!
- 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 you, and you shall be a father of many nations."

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

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 I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year."

Another similarity with Jesus:

John 16:15 "All things that the Father has are mine: therefore said I, that He will take of mine, and declare it to you."

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

Genesis 24:36 "And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old: and to him has he given all that he has."

- This could also be partly that Abraham was honoring the wishes of Sarah, his beloved wife.

Genesis 21:10 "Therefore she said to Abraham, cast out this bondwoman and her son; for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, namely with Isaac."

V: 6 Abraham still blessed his other sons, generously – but he sent them away from Isaac, just as he did with Hagar and Ishmael. They were sent to the East, towards what today is Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE, Kuwait, etc.



- 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 A life well lived, full of years. 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 "[1]Blessed is the man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; [2]but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. [3]He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth his fruit in his season, his leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper."

Genesis 22:17 "Blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants…"

Psalm 91 - *turn to*:

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

Genesis 15:15 "Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age."

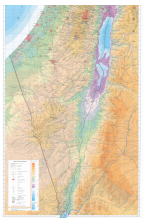
V: 9-10 No mention of the other sons who had been sent away.

- 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 "[19]Then God said, no, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him. [20]And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will

multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, 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 possibly 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.

Matthew 1:1-2 "[1]The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: [2]Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers."

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.

- He would wait another 20 years to have a child, but he didn't waver at God's promises, he didn't take another wife, concubine, or surrogate - he waited faithfully on the LORD.

- Those that wait on the Lord will not be ashamed.

Psalm 119:116 "Uphold me according to Your Word, that I may live; and do not let me be ashamed of my hope."

V: 21 *"Isaac pleaded with the Lord for his wife,…"*

- Isaac prayed for his wife.

1 Peter 3:7 "Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be 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 who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us."

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

- Rebekah like other chosen women in the Bible she 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 granted his plea, and Rebekah his wife conceived."

James 5:16 "…The effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

Psalm 34:15 "The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry."

- 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! (Be careful what you pray for!)

Ephesians 3:20 "Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works 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 lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary to one another: so that you cannot do the things that you wish."

Romans 8:4-6 "4That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to 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, who gives to all men liberally, and without reproach; and it will be given to him."

- This woman 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 The Lord responds to her prayer:

Psalm 34:17 "The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears…"

- 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 "[1]The burden of the word of the Lord to Israel by Malachi. [2]I have loved you, says the Lord. Yet ye say, in what way have You loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother says the LORD. Yet Jacob I have loved; [3]But Esau I have hated, and laid waste his mountains and his heritage for the jackals of the wilderness."

V: 24 Twins – double the blessing in fulfillment of God's Word.

Joshua 21:45 "Not a Word failed of any good thing which the LORD had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass."

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

- Esau = hairy

V: 26 2nd born: Jacob = heel catcher, supplanter. He would later live up more fully to that name:

Genesis 27:36 "And Esau said, "is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright, and now look, he has taken away my blessing!"

- 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 skillful hunter.

- Jacob was a "mild man" / "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; secure, integrity, moral, pious; perfect, undefiled, upright.
- Possibly implying by comparison that Esau was none of these things.

- They appeared to be brotherly opposites.

1. Esau: a physical man, lacking character as we'll see, having no capacity for God.
2. Esau didn't need to hunt, they had flocks and herds, it was recreational to him.
3. 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.
4. Esau is described as being sexually immoral & Godless, hated by God.

Hebrews 12:16-17 "16Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. 17For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears."

- Jacob: dwells in tents, might have been a mama's boy, deceitful, yet he has a capacity for the things of God who 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:"

1 Timothy 5:21 "I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality."

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 "[7]Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap. [8]For he that sows to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that sows 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.