

Genesis 25

Scriptures:

Notes:

Scriptures:

¹ Abraham again took a wife, and her name was

Notes:

Abraham was 137 when Sarah, his princess died. We do not know how much time has passed between chapters 23 and 25.

Keturah.

Scriptures:

Genesis 13:16 - And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered.

² And she bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan,

Notes:

Genesis 25 begins with Abraham's death. It is bookended by two genealogies: one of his sons through Keturah and the other the sons of his son Ishmael. Reminds us of God's promise to give him countless descendants ([Gen. 13:16](#)).

Abraham's descendants more than the Jews, though only the descendants of Isaac and Jacob inherited the promises.

Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah.

'Midian' – Midianites will be future enemies of Israel.

Scriptures:
Ezekiel 38:10-13 - 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "On that day it shall come to pass that thoughts will arise in your mind, and you will make an evil plan: 11 You will say, 'I will go up against a land of unwallled villages; I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates'— 12 to take plunder and to take booty, to stretch out your hand against the waste places that are again inhabited, and against a people gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and goods, who dwell in the midst of the land. 13 Sheba, Dedan, the merchants of Tarshish, and all their young lions will say to you, 'Have you come to take plunder? Have you gathered your army to take booty, to carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, to take great plunder?' " "

³ Jokshan begot Sheba and Dedan. And the sons of

Notes:
'Sheba and Dedan' – verbal stand with Israel in Gog/Magog war ().

Dedan were Asshurim, Letushim, and Leummim.

Scriptures:

⁴ And the sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher,

Notes:

Hanoch, Abidah, and Eldaah. All these were the

children of Keturah.

Scriptures:

Hebrews 1:1-2 - God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

⁵ And Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac.

Notes:

Abraham didn't want his sons fighting over his stuff. This was a wise thing for Abraham to do. He determined what would happen to his stuff before he died. One of the death difficulties of death is the distribution of worldly possessions and wealth. The loss of a loved one is often compounded with quarreling over who gets what after they are gone.

Isaac is a picture of Christ ([Heb. 1:2](#)).

Scriptures:
Philippians 2:9-11 -
Therefore God also has
highly exalted Him and
given Him the name which
is above every name,
10 that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow, of
those in heaven, and of
those on earth, and of those
under the earth, 11 and that
every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord, to
the glory of God the Father.

⁶ But Abraham gave gifts to the sons of the

4979 -

Notes:
Abraham also didn't want his sons
fighting over the land.

Isaac stands alone in the land as heir
of all that his father possessed. Again
this is a picture of Christ ([Phil. 2:9-11](#)).

concubines which Abraham had; and while he

6370 – “A concubine in a
formal (possibly marital)
relationship with a man
(husband), with less rights
than a wife; sometimes
associated with status and
intended for sexual pleasure.”

was still living he sent them eastward, away from

Isaac his son, to the country of the east.

Scriptures:

⁷ This *is* the sum of the years of Abraham's life

Notes:

Abraham was seventy-five when he left his former home to come into the land showed him. He lived one hundred years as a pilgrim.

Now Isaac is seventy-five and his sons Esau and Jacob are fifteen.

Abraham finished his life well. He had some bumps along the way but finished well.

which he lived: one hundred and seventy-five

years.

Scriptures:

⁸ Then Abraham breathed his last and died in a

Notes:

A 'good old age' is the result of a good life, lived with God in His presence and in obedience to His Word. You cannot live to a good old age if you will not live a good life with God.

'full of years' – 'of years' inserted by translators. Not a great interpretation. NASB – 'satisfied with life' = better translation.

good old age, an old man and full of years, and

7649 – "sabe"
(saw-bay) – from
7646 = satiated

was gathered to his people.

Scriptures:

⁹ And his sons ^A [♂] ^I Isaac and Ishmael ^A buried him in the

Notes:
Isaac, the younger, is named first pointing to the fact that he was the son of promise.

cave of Machpelah, which ^{is} before Mamre, in the

field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite,

Scriptures:

¹⁰ the field which ^A Abraham purchased from the

Notes:

sons of Heth. There ^A Abraham was buried, and

^S ^A ^P Sarah his wife.

Scriptures:

¹¹ And it came to pass, after the death of Abraham,

Notes:

that God blessed his son Isaac. And Isaac dwelt at

Beer Lahai Roi.

Scriptures:

Genesis 16:10 - Then the Angel of the LORD said to her, "I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude."

¹² Now this ^{is} the genealogy of Ishmael,

Notes:

God had promised to multiply the descendants of Hagar through Ishmael (Gen. 16:10). God is always faithful to His Word.

Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian,

Sarah's maidservant, bore to Abraham.

Scriptures:

¹³ And these ~~were~~ the names of the sons of

Notes:

Many of the Arab nations descended from Ishmael. The spiritual darkness of Islam also came from the descendants of Ishmael. To this day some of Israel's bitterest enemies are descended from Ishmael.

Ishmael, by their names, according to their

generations: The firstborn of Ishmael, Nebajoth;

then Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam,

Scriptures:

¹⁴ Mishma, Dumah, Massa,

Notes:

Scriptures:

¹⁵ Hadar, Tema, Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah.

Notes:

Scriptures:

¹⁶ These ~~were~~ the sons of [♂] Ishmael and these ~~were~~

Notes:

their names, by their towns and their settlements,

twelve [👑]princes according to their nations.

Scriptures:

17 These *were* the years of the life of Ishmael: one

Notes:

Ishmael would have been about fifty when his father Abraham died.

There is no sign that he ever yielded his heart to God – he lived and died in unbelief.

hundred and thirty-seven years; and he breathed

his last and died, and was gathered to his people.

Scriptures:

18 (They dwelt from Havilah as far as Shur, which

Notes:

Egypt and Assyria both types of the world.

“Ishmael lived neither in Egypt nor Assyria, but his desires were toward both.” (Phillips, 1980) page 205

is east of Egypt as you go toward Assyria.) He

died in the presence of all his brethren.

Scriptures:

¹⁹ This *is* the genealogy of Isaac, Abraham's son.

Notes:

The story returns to the redemptive plan of God through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This story flows toward Bethlehem and Calvary.

Abraham begot Isaac.

Scriptures:

²⁰ Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah

Notes:

as wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of

Padan Aram, the sister of Laban the Syrian.

Scriptures:
Genesis 24:60 - And they blessed Rebekah and said to her:

“Our sister, may you become

The mother of thousands of ten thousands;

And may your descendants possess

The gates of those who hate them.”

John 15:4-8 -
Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

5 “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

21 Now Isaac pleaded with the Lord for his wife,

6279 – prayed, interceded

because she was barren; and the Lord

granted his plea, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

6279 – answered prayer

Notes:

Isaac was the miracle-born child of barren and aged Sarah. Rebekah had heard the story of his conception and birth. She knew of God’s promise to raise up a multitude of descendants through Isaac. She remembered the blessing sang over her as she left her home (Gen. 24:60). We can imagine that she expected to be pregnant right away. Twenty years have passed – how long will she have to wait. Why did God wait before allowing her to become pregnant?

“God was teaching His people that the promised blessing through the chosen seed of Abraham could not be accomplished by mere human effort.” (Hughes, 2004) page 332

All of God’s promises require God’s sovereign, providential power.

Isaac did not repeat his father’s mistake and try to fulfill God’s promise through a surrogate.

How long did Isaac pray? Probably for most of twenty years. It is always too soon to quit praying. As long as there is life, there is hope.

“The fact that she had given herself to Isaac did not guarantee fruitfulness any more than accepting Christ as Savior guarantees spirituality and fruitfulness for God.” (Phillips, 1980) page 210

The problem was in Rebekah, not in Isaac. As Isaac is a picture of Christ, we must see that if there is barrenness in our lives it is not in Christ, but in us. Just as Rebekah was barren, not through any fault of her own, we are spiritually barren – it is an inherited trait. Any fruitfulness in us must come from the Spirit of God (John 15:4-8).

Scriptures:

Romans 7:13-25 -

Has then what is good become death to me?

Certainly not! But sin, that

it might appear sin, was

producing death in me

through what is good, so

that sin through the

commandment might

become exceedingly sinful.

14 For we know that the

law is spiritual, but I am

carnal, sold under sin.

15 For what I am doing, I

do not understand. For what

I will to do, that I do not

practice; but what I hate,

that I do. 16 If, then, I do

what I will not to do, I

agree with the law that it is

good. 17 But now, it is no

longer I who do it, but sin

that dwells in me. 18 For I

know that in me (that is, in

my flesh) nothing good

dwells; for to will is present

with me, but how to

perform what is good I do

not find. 19 For the good

that I will to do, I do not do;

but the evil I will not to do,

that I practice. 20 Now if I

do what I will not to do, it is

no longer I who do it, but

sin that dwells in me.

21 I find then a law, that

evil is present with me, the

one who wills to do good.

22 For I delight in the law

of God according to the

inward man. 23 But I see

another law in my

members, warring against

the law of my mind, and

bringing me into captivity

to the law of sin which is in

my members. 24 O

wretched man that I am!

Who will deliver me from

this body of death? 25 I

thank God—through Jesus

Christ our Lord!

So then, with the mind I

myself serve the law of

God, but with the flesh the

law of sin.

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

do not do the things that

you wish.

²² But the children struggled together within her;

7533 -

and she said, “If all is well, why am I like this?”

So she went to inquire of the Lord.

1875 -

Notes:

First mention of twins. They are not identical – couldn’t be more different.

The sordid account that follows dramatizes the human predicament.

“Both the elect and non-elect are hopelessly self-centered and incapable by themselves of doing consistent good.” (Hughes, 2004) page 331

Paul said something similar about himself (Rom. 7:13-25).

‘struggled together’ – sense of warring in her womb – so much that she despaired of life. In some ways they are a picture of the battle between the flesh and the Spirit (Gal. 5:17). Within every believer a struggle is taking place. The more spiritual we are, the more aware we are of this struggle.

“Those whose lives are most fruitful for God are most aware of the struggle between two opposing natures within.” (Phillips, 1980) page 211

As long as someone is content to live carnal, worldly lives there will be no sense of an internal conflict.

Scriptures:

1 Corinthians 1:27-29 - But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence.

23 And the Lord said to her:

“Two nations *are* in your womb,

Two peoples shall be separated from your body;

One people shall be stronger than the other,

And the older shall serve the younger.”

Notes:

‘older – younger’ – this was not the cultural norm. The eldest, even if only by minutes, was accorded certain rights and favors.

“...the order of nature does not determine the order of grace.”
(Hughes, 2004) page 334 (1 Cor. 1:27-29)

Jacob was chosen by God’s grace – he was elected to be the one through whom the blessings would pass. It was not based on merit, or giftedness, or moral character, or good works, or any human characteristic, but on the unmerited favor of God.

‘the older’ = our old nature. The ‘younger’ = new nature from the new birth at salvation.

Scriptures:

²⁴ So when her ^R days [Ⓢ] were fulfilled *for her* to give

Notes:

birth, indeed *there were* twins in her ^R womb.

Scriptures:

²⁵ And the first came out red. *He was* like a hairy

Notes:

Esau was a man of the earth, while
Jacob was a man of the tent.

garment all over; so they called his name ^E Esau.

Scriptures:
Romans 6:5-6 - For if we
have been united together in
the likeness of His death,
certainly we also shall be in
the likeness of His
resurrection, 6 knowing
this, that our old man was
crucified with Him, that the
body of sin might be done
away with, that we should
no longer be slaves of sin.

26 Afterward his brother came out, and his hand

Notes:
'took hold of Esau's heel' = picture
of God's call to all believers to
maintain control over the flesh. Also
a picture of God's ultimate victory
over the flesh at Calvary ([Rom. 6:6](#)).

took hold of Esau's heel; so his name was called

Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore

them.

Scriptures:

27 So the ^{E+S}boys grew. And ^EEsau was

Notes:

a skillful hunter, a [♂]man of the field; but ^JJacob was

3045/6718 -

a mild [♂]man, dwelling in tents.

8537 – peaceful,
innocent

Scriptures:

28 And ^IIsaac [♂]loved ^EEsau because he ate ^Iof his

Notes:

157 -

game, but ^RRebekah [♀]loved ^JJacob.

157 -

Scriptures:

29 Now Jacob cooked a stew; and Esau came in

Notes:

from the field, and he was weary.

5889 - faint

Scriptures:

30 And Esau said to Jacob, “Please feed me with

Notes:

that same red stew, for I am weary.” Therefore his

name was called Edom.

Scriptures:
Galatians 3:3 - Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?

31 But Jacob said, “Sell me your birthright as of

1062 -

Notes:
‘birthright’ = double portion of inheritance

Jacob’s behavior here has little to commend. He desired what God had promised but he is using human means to get it ([Gal. 3:3](#)).

this day.”

Scriptures:
1 Corinthians 2:14 - But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

32 And Esau said, “Look, I am about to die; so

4191 -

Notes:
Esau was not about to die, but his focus is solely on his flesh. Jacob also is focused on his flesh but from a different perspective.

Esau was a foolish, worldly man ([1 Cor. 2:14](#)). He did not think beyond his present need or desire.

what is this birthright to me?”

Scriptures:

33 Then Jacob said, “Swear to me as of this day.”

Notes:

7650 -

So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to

4376 -

Jacob.

Scriptures:
Romans 3:9-17 -
What then? Are we better
than they? Not at all. For
we have previously charged
both Jews and Greeks that
they are all under sin.
10 As it is written:

“There is none righteous,
no, not one;

11 There is none who
understands;

There is none who seeks
after God.

12 They have all
turned aside;

They have together
become unprofitable;

There is none who does
good, no, not one.”

13 “Their throat is an
open tomb;

With their tongues they
have practiced deceit”;

“The poison of asps is
under their lips”;

14 “Whose mouth is
full of cursing and
bitterness.”

15 “Their feet are
swift to shed blood;

16 Destruction and
misery are in their ways;

17 And the way of
peace they have not
known.”

Hebrews 12:14-17 - Pursue
peace with all people, and
holiness, without which no
one will see the Lord:
15 looking carefully lest
anyone fall short of the
grace of God; lest any root
of bitterness springing up
cause trouble, and by this
many become defiled;
16 lest there be any
fornicator or profane person
like Esau, who for one
morsel of food sold his
birthright. 17 For 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.

³⁴ And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils;

then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way.

Thus Esau despised his birthright.

959 – to look
down on with
contempt

Top of chapter

Notes:
Both Esau and Jacob knew what God
had promised to Abraham and
Isaac’s descendants. Esau either
didn’t believe it or he didn’t care.
Jacob believed in God’s promises but
felt he had to make it happen.

“...the stumbling in Jacob’s life
came because though he believed in
the promise, he did not believe that
God’s promise could be his apart
from his own sinful manipulation of
Esau.” (Hughes, 2004) page 337

Before we judge Esau or Jacob too
harshly, we need to examine our own
hearts ([Rom. 3:9-17](#)). Thankfully,
God’s grace does not depend upon
our worthiness.

Christ was a descendant of Jacob –
Herod was a descendant of Esau
(Edomite).

Esau and Jacob teach us of the
unending struggle between the flesh
and the Spirit. God calls us to stand
in the victory of Christ. Esau is a
warning to us to be faithful to resist
the flesh ([Heb. 12:15-16](#)).