

January 20

Genesis 25

Verses 1-5

- Abraham married again after Sarah died. What was the new wife's name?
- Did you know Abraham had more sons?
- Who inherited all of Abraham's possessions? What did he give the others? When?
- In which direction were the other sons sent? Do you remember this implication from before?

Verses 7-11

- How old was Abraham when he died? So, Sarah had been dead how long? Do you remember how old Abraham was when Sarah died?
- What does the passage say about how Abraham felt about life by the time he died?
- Where does it say he went when he died?
- Who buried him? So, apparently, Ishmael kept in touch or they at least knew where to find him in an emergency.
- Where was he buried? Do you remember this from before?
- What did God do to Isaac after the death of Abraham?

Verses 12-18

- Ishmael's descendants. Notice it says by their villages, by their camps, and according to their tribes.
- How many princes descended from Ishmael?
- How old was Ishmael when he died?
- Where did his people settle? What does the last phrase say?

Verses 19-22

- Isaac's descendants.
- How old was Isaac when he and Rebekah married? We didn't know that yesterday, did we?
- What more do we find out about Rebekah's father and brother today?
- What more do we find out about Rebekah today? Who else had been barren in relation to Isaac? If God's promise for descendants was through Isaac, what would have to happen with Rebekah?
- Did God answer when Isaac prayed?
- What does verse 22 imply in regard to her conception? There were no ultrasound machines in these days, so how did she find out?

Verse 23

- What did the LORD tell Rebekah about her pregnancy?
- Who will serve whom?

Verses 2-26

- What did the first baby look like? Esau means “hairy”.
- What was the younger brother doing when he came out? Jacob means “supplanter”, which means to super-cede or replace.
- How old was Isaac when they were born?

Verses 27-34

- How does this passage describe the personalities of the twins?
- Why did Isaac prefer Esau? Whom did Rebekah love?
- Does playing favorites benefit the family? Romans 2:11 says, “For there is no partiality with God.” Some versions translate this, “God does not show favoritism.” You may disagree and tell me, *But Israel is God’s chosen people*. This is true, but God didn’t choose them just for the sake of choosing them, or because he liked them best, or because they did anything to deserve it, but when God chooses it’s for a purpose. Do you know why God chose Israel? What their purpose was? If not, we will see it later.
- What had Jacob done that Esau desired?
- Esau was also known as Edom. Edom means “red”. Remember this for later when we see the Edomites. From whom do you think they descended?
- Did Jacob use this opportunity to take advantage of his brother?
- A birthright was an honor. It was special privileges for being the first-born, usually a double-portion of the inheritance and they became a sort of power-of-attorney for the family. What does the end of the passage say Esau thought about his birthright?
- For what did Esau sell his birthright?
- If you know anything about lentils, they are full of protein so they are a good substitute for meat. I think this is quite symbolic. Esau was a hunter but he sold his birthright for a substitute. Think about it.

Genesis 26

Verses 1-5

- Do you remember where Abraham went when there was a famine in his time? How much trouble did this cause?
- On his way to Egypt, where did Isaac stop? Remember, Abimelech, is like a title. I’m not sure if this was the same Abimelech or a different one. It’s been many years, though due to their lifespans back then, he is quite possibly the same Abimelech.
- What did the LORD instruct Isaac? How did He tell him this?
- What promise did God give Isaac in regard to the land of the Philistines?
- Side-note: The Philistines were allies with the Phoenicians. The word “phonics” comes from their name. They were known to have an early written language.

- God reiterated the covenant with Isaac He had made with his father Abraham.
- Why does God say He will do this for Isaac's descendants according to verse 5? So, was God's covenant with Abraham that God initiated conditional? It's okay if you're not sure. I want you to think.

Verses 6-11

- What does Isaac do in regard to Rebekah that we saw Abraham do in regard to Sarah? Why did he do this?
- Have you ever noticed your kids repeating things you did?
- What do we know about Rebekah from verses 10 & 11?

Verses 12-17

- How did God bless Isaac in Gerar of the Philistines?
- How did the people feel about this?
- What did they do in their envy? Envy compares and resents others and the things they possess; material things, qualities, looks, education, good things happening for them...

Verses 18-22

- What did Isaac do with the wells?
- What happened when he dug other wells?

Verse 23

- Where did Isaac go after he left Gerar? Have we seen this place before?

Verse 24

- What does God do here again?
- Do we sometimes need God to remind us about His promises toward us?

Verse 25

- What did Isaac do here? This is the first time we have seen him do this. Would he have known about this though? Think back.

Verses 26-33

- More evidence this was probably the same Abimelech, he has the same army commander. There was an army in the beginning.
- What did Abimelech want to do with Isaac since he noticed God was blessing him?

- Are we witnessing the first documented covenant meal here? Melchizedek brought out bread and wine when he blessed Abraham in chapter 14, but they weren't making a covenant together.
- Ever take communion? It's a picture of a covenant meal. We will see more on this.

Verses 34-35

- How old was Esau when he married? Whom did he marry? Where did these women come from? Do you remember how specific Abraham was that he wanted Isaac to marry someone from his extended family and how he sent the servant to find Rebekah?
- What does the passage say about the daughters-in-law and their relationship with Isaac and Rebekah?
- Think back to creation. Did God give specific instructions about marriage in the beginning. Observe Genesis 2:18-25 as a reminder:

“Then the LORD God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.’ Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought *them* to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.

The man said,
 ‘This is now bone of my bones,
 And flesh of my flesh;
 She shall be called Woman,
 Because she was taken out of Man.’

For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed”.

- According to the Scriptures, did God allow men to take multiple wives in the beginning? The culture around them took multiple wives, but this was not God's plan from the beginning.

See you tomorrow.