

Genesis - Lesson 25

Genesis Chapter 25

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Memory verses for this week: *Psa 72:4 He shall judge the poor of the people, he shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor.*

Introduction: We continue our study on the book of Genesis this week as cover the death of Abraham.

I. Abraham's Family and his Death

Gen 25:1 *Then again Abraham took a wife, and her name was Keturah.*

Gen 25:2 *And she bare him Zimran, and Jokshan, and Medan, and Midian, and Ishbak, and Shuah.*

Gen 25:3 *And Jokshan begat Sheba, and Dedan. And the sons of Dedan were Asshurim, and Letushim, and Leummim.*

Gen 25:4 *And the sons of Midian; Ephah, and Epher, and Hanoch, and Abida, and Eldaah. All these were the children of Keturah.*

Gen 25:5 *And Abraham gave all that he had unto Isaac.*

Gen 25:6 *But unto the sons of the concubines, which Abraham had, Abraham gave gifts, and sent them away from Isaac his son, while he yet lived, eastward, unto the east country.*

Verse 1 speaks of Abraham taking Keturah for a wife. They had several sons born from the marriage. Little is known of them with the exception of Midian. Moses married into this tribe.

Exo 2:16 *Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters: and they came and drew water, and filled the troughs to water their father's flock.*

Exo 2:17 *And the shepherds came and drove them away: but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock.*

Exo 2:18 *And when they came to Reuel their father, he said, How is it that ye are come so soon to day?*

Exo 2:19 *And they said, An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds, and also drew water enough for us, and watered the flock.*

Exo 2:20 *And he said unto his daughters, And where is he? why is it that ye have left the man? call him, that he may eat bread.*

Exo 2:21 *And Moses was content to dwell with the man: and he gave Moses Zipporah his daughter.*

Abraham's offspring by Keturah typifies the millennial nations. It took place after the marriage of Isaac (which is typical of the marriage of the Lamb, that is, after the church

is completed and this dispensation closes). Israel will be restored. The church will rule with Christ and then the blessings will come to "all the families of the earth."

Verse 5 tells of Isaac receiving the inheritance. This was the heir that was to receive the blessings, and the inheritance fell to him. The other sons received gifts.

Remember that God had promised Abraham that he would be the father of many nations.

Gen 17:5 Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee.

Gen 17:6 And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee.

God's plan was for him to marry to fulfill that promise.

Matthew Henry said this about Abraham marrying Keturah.

Abraham lived, after the marriage of Isaac, thirty-five years, and all that is recorded concerning him during the time lies here in a very few verses. We hear no more of God's extraordinary appearances to him or trials of him; for all the days, even of the best and greatest saints, are not eminent days, some slide on silently, and neither come nor go with observation; such were these last days of Abraham. We have here,

An account of his children by Keturah, another wife whom he married after the death of Sarah. He had buried Sarah and married Isaac, the two dear companions of his life, and was now solitary. He wanted a nurse, his family wanted a governess, and it was not good for him to be thus alone. He therefore marries Keturah, probably the chief of his maid-servants, born in his house or bought with money. Marriage is not forbidden to old age. By her he had six sons, in whom the promise made to Abraham concerning the great increase of his posterity was in part fulfilled, which, it is likely, he had an eye to this marriage. The strength he received by the promise still remained in him, to show how much the virtue of the promise exceeds the power of nature.

II. The Death Of Abraham.

Gen 25:7 And these are the days of the years of Abraham's life which he lived, an hundred threescore and fifteen years.

Gen 25:8 Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years; and was gathered to his people.

Gen 25:9 And his sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite, which is before Mamre;

Gen 25:10 The field which Abraham purchased of the sons of Heth: there was Abraham buried, and Sarah his wife.

Gen 25:11 And it came to pass after the death of Abraham, that God blessed his son Isaac; and Isaac dwelt by the well Lahairoi.

Abraham died at the age of 175. Many today feel like they have had a full life if they live 75 years, but this man lived 100 years longer than 75. Verse 8 says he "was gathered to his people." This is said of six people including, Abraham, Ishmael,

Isaac, Jacob, Aaron, and Moses. Verses 9 and 10 record his burial. Isaac is blessed as he dwells by a well of the name of Lahairoi. "Lahai-roi" means "the living and seeing one."

John Wesley in his commentary said this about the sons of Isaac and Ishmael.

And God blessed Isaac - The blessing of Abraham did not die with him, but survived to all the children of the promise. But Moses presently digresseth from the story of Isaac, to give a short account of Ishmael, for as much as he also was a son of Abraham; and God had made some promises concerning him, which it was requisite we should know the accomplishment of. He had twelve sons, twelve princes they are called, Gen 25:16, heads of families, which, in process of time, became nations, numerous and very considerable. They peopled a very large continent that lay between Egypt and Assyria, called Arabia. The names of his twelve sons are recorded: Midian and Kedar we oft read of in scripture. And his posterity had not only tents in the fields wherein they grew rich in times of peace, but they had towns and castles, Gen 25:16, where in they fortified themselves in time of war. Their number and strength was the fruit of the promise made to Hagar concerning Ishmael, Gen 16:10. and to Abraham, Gen 17:20, Gen 21:13.

III. The Generations Of Ishmael.

Gen 25:12 Now these are the generations of Ishmael, Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's handmaid, bare unto Abraham:

Gen 25:13 And these are the names of the sons of Ishmael, by their names, according to their generations: the firstborn of Ishmael, Nebajoth; and Kedar, and Adbeel, and Mibsam,

Gen 25:14 And Mishma, and Dumah, and Massa,

Gen 25:15 Hadar, and Tema, Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah:

Gen 25:16 These are the sons of Ishmael, and these are their names, by their towns, and by their castles; twelve princes according to their nations.

Gen 25:17 And these are the years of the life of Ishmael, an hundred and thirty and seven years: and he gave up the ghost and died; and was gathered unto his people.

Gen 25:18 And they dwelt from Havilah unto Shur, that is before Egypt, as thou goest toward Assyria: and he died in the presence of all his brethren.

Ishmael was the son Abraham had by Sarah's handmaid Hagar. His many sons are named. Ishmael also lives a long life and dies at 137 years of age. They lived from Havilah unto Shur and this was their dwelling place.

IV. Isaac and his Sons.

Gen 25:19 And these are the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham begat Isaac:

Gen 25:20 And Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah to wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Padanaram, the sister to Laban the Syrian.

Gen 25:21 And Isaac intreated the LORD for his wife, because she was barren: and the LORD was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

Gen 25:22 And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to enquire of the LORD.

Gen 25:23 And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.

Gen 25:24 And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb.

Gen 25:25 And the first came out red, all over like an hairy garment; and they called his name Esau.

Gen 25:26 And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau's heel; and his name was called Jacob: and Isaac was threescore years old when she bare them.

The birth of Jacob and Esau is quite a story. As we learned in last week's lesson, Isaac married at the age of 40. Having children was important and Isaac prays for a child. Since Rebekah was barren, Isaac had to exercise faith and to cast himself upon the Lord, in order to receive help. God blesses faith, and without it, we can not please God. He prayed, God heard his request, and answered his prayer. The children were born after Isaac and Rebekah had been married 20 years.

Even as Rebekah was pregnant, the conflict between the natural and the spiritual began. Verse 22 says that the children struggled together within her. These two infants represent two nations. Esau means "hairy" while Jacob means "supplanter."

V. The Birthright Sold.

Gen 25:27 And the boys grew: and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents.

Gen 25:28 And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob.

No two children are alike, and we have record here of the diverse natures of the two sons. Esau was the cunning hunter and Isaac loved eating the meat that he brought home from the hunts. Jacob was the plain man of the tent and was loved more by Rebekah.

Gen 25:29 And Jacob sod pottage: and Esau came from the field, and he was faint:

Gen 25:30 And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage; for I am faint: therefore was his name called Edom.

Esau apparently came home and was not successful hunting one day. Esau has a desire for Jacob's pottage. The red pottage was lentils which might be compared to our red beans. Esau's hunger for the food reveals his fleshly appetite and lack of concern for spiritual things. We must remember that while we must feed the physical man to live, we must also feed the spiritual man which is even more important.

Mat 4:1 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the

devil.

Mat 4:2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.

Mat 4:3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

Mat 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

VI. Jacob Takes the Birth Right

Gen 25:31 And Jacob said, Sell me this day thy birthright.

Gen 25:32 And Esau said, Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me?

Gen 25:33 And Jacob said, Swear to me this day; and he sware unto him: and he sold his birthright unto Jacob.

Gen 25:34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentiles; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau despised his birthright.

Jacob's desire for the birthright. Although he may have driven a hard bargain, nevertheless he realized and appreciated the value of the birthright. Esau is very hungry and says that is no value to him if he perishes from hunger. So, the bargain made. Verse 34 shows that Esau despised the birthright. In like manner, when delivered out of the bondage of Egypt, Israel despised the pleasant land.

Psa 106:24 Yea, they despised the pleasant land, they believed not his word:

Psa 106:25 But murmured in their tents, and hearkened not unto the voice of the LORD.

Psa 106:26 Therefore he lifted up his hand against them, to overthrow them in the wilderness:

Psa 106:27 To overthrow their seed also among the nations, and to scatter them in the lands.

When Christ came first to the Jews as Messiah, the priests despised the name of the Lord,

Mal 1:5 And your eyes shall see, and ye shall say, The LORD will be magnified from the border of Israel.

Mal 1:6 A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?

Mal 1:7 Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD is contemptible.

Judah despised the law of the Lord we find over in the book of Amos.

Amo 2:4 Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Judah, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have despised the law of the LORD, and have not kept his commandments, and their lies caused them to err, after the which their fathers have walked:

The same type of people today despise the invitation to the marriage of the lamb.

Mat 22:2 The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,

Mat 22:3 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.

Mat 22:4 Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage.

*Mat 22:5 **But they made light of it, and went their ways**, one to his farm, another to his merchandise:*

Mat 22:6 And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them.

The New Testament declares Esau's sin over in the book of Hebrews.

Heb 12:16 Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.

Heb 12:17 For 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.

There came blessings of the birthright to one who owned it.

- a. He received the father's blessing and the place of the firstborn as head of the family.
- b. The honor of being in the Messianic line of the promised One: as Shem, Abraham and Isaac.
- c. The place of domestic priesthood, being the first-born in the patriarchal family.

It seems that Jacob was always running ahead of God, or trying to help God out. Jacob bargained for the birthright and tricked Isaac to get the blessing (Gen. 27). All of this seems so foolish in the light of Gen. 25:23.

Gen 25:23 And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.

God promised that Esau would serve Jacob before they were born, and before Jacob had bought the birthright or stolen the blessing. How foolish, in view of God's sovereign election.

Rom 9:6 Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all

Israel, which are of Israel:

Rom 9:7 Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.

Rom 9:8 That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.

Rom 9:9 For this is the word of promise, At this time will I come, and Sara shall have a son.

Rom 9:10 And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac;

Rom 9:11 (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;)

Rom 9:12 It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger.

Rom 9:13 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Name the woman that Abraham married after the death of Sarah?

Keturah

2. What prophet of God married one of the descendants of this union?

Moses

3. How old was Abraham when he died?

175

4. What is the meaning of "Lahai-roi"?

"Lahai-roi" means "the living and seeing one."

5. How many sons did Ishmael have?

12

6. How old was Ishmael when he died?

137

7. How old was Isaac when he married Rebekah?

40

8. What were the names of the two sons of Isaac and Rebekah?

Esau and Jacob

9. Give the meaning of each of their names?

Esau means "hairy" while Jacob means "supplanter."

10. What do these two men represent?

Spiritual and Physical man.

11. Give the nature of Esau? Of Jacob?

Esau was a hunter while Jacob leaned to the plainsman and dwelt in tents.

12. Tell the story of Jacob obtaining the birthright.

Esau came in and sold or traded the birthright for some red pottage which was lintels.

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Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

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Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.