

At
the Point to
Die

Genesis Chapter Twenty-Five



~ In the last leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God, we examined an exquisitely beautiful picture of the return of Christ for His church as Rebekah came to Isaac's home to be his bride. If you have not read our previous safari report and, indeed, all twenty-six previous reports from Genesis, then I highly suggest you go back and do so now. The camels are back home now, and she jumped down and ran to Isaac - just like in a romance novel. I suppose Abraham saw all of this and really began to miss Sarah, even though he was "...old and stricken in age" several chapters ago - and she's only been gone two chapters now. Well, Abraham must not have been too old because he marries again in this chapter.

Abraham actually has his biggest family after Sarah's death! Someone says they thought Abraham was as good as dead even before he had Isaac; and he was. This demonstrates that, with God, all things are possible. Now, out of all the following nations only Midian crosses the path of Israel in the future. These others aren't identified and they're not important to us. Remember, Moses goes down into Midian and that's where he gets a wife! This is all given to show that, while Abraham was the father of them all, the promise of God comes ONLY through Isaac. The Godly line does not come through Ishmael, Midian or Medan. These are all no-name, nomadic desert dwellers....

1 Then again Abraham took a wife, and her name was Keturah.

2 And she bare him Zimran, and Jokshan, and Medan, and Midian, and Ishbak, and Shuah.

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

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

5 And Abraham gave all that he had unto Isaac.

~ Abraham bequeaths his entire estate to Isaac. I'm sure he gave things to his other sons - like lands and herds - and probably gold and jewels; but control over the main estate was left exclusively to Isaac. Ishmael comes home now for his father's funeral, too. Interestingly, there doesn't seem to be much in-fighting here as Isaac and Ishmael bury their dad. Everything seems peaceful enough – but then - Isaac returns to live at the well where he first encountered Rebekah....

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.

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

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.

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;

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

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

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

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,

14 And Mishma, and Dumah, and Massa,

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

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.

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.

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

~ We say good-bye to Ishmael as quickly as we are introduced to him in Scripture, friends. Make a note of that. Isaac was almost as worried as Abraham had been about not having a son at this point. I think God answered Isaac's prayer early on to ensure there wasn't a repeat performance with some maid from Egypt. I'm sure God knew that it was perfectly possible and even probable for that episode to recur with even further compounded disastrous results. See, our Spiritual Safari is in a black hole of the Bible now. These truths are simply never taught anymore. These principles are not known in society any longer. Well, I don't expect everyone to be a Bible scholar – but I think it is reasonable to expect someone who calls themselves a Christian to commit to a proper, correct and complete Bible study....

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

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.

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.

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.

~ “....and the children struggled within her” is a very interesting statement. So interesting, in fact, that we can follow this all the way through the rest of the Bible; this is THE struggle of mankind. It is THE struggle that continues today in the world between light and darkness, good and evil, spirit and flesh. Rebekah didn’t quite understand that – or did she? Here, God tells her that the elder son shall serve the younger son. She should have believed it when God told her. She didn’t. Now, Isaac and Rebekah had been married about twenty years when the two were born....

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.

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

25 And the first came out red, all over like a hairy garment; and they called his name (Red) Esau.

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.

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.

~ No set of twins have ever been as dissimilar as Jacob and Esau, that’s for sure. They have been, are – and are going to be – abjectly at odds with each other throughout the future course of world history. They have utterly

different viewpoints; altogether different philosophies of life; their thinking and their attitudes are understated to label them completely different and opposite. They have literally nothing in common. Esau, whose name means “red” – is the worldly man. I’m sure he was much more physically better looking, stronger and just plain more attractive than his brother Jacob. Esau was the athletic, outdoor type and when he went hunting he brought home the big game. Unfortunately, however attractive he is now, he had NO spiritual awareness, discernment or understanding whatsoever. Esau was a man who had no capacity and no desire for the things of God. His passion was purely physical, immediate earthly pleasure. He represents the fleshy man of the world.

Jacob was the nerd. You can call him whatever you want. Jacob dwelt indoors. I’m sure he was a momma’s boy tied to her apron strings. We’re going to see Jacob do everything momma tells him to. But deep down, Jacob has a desire for spiritual things. By the time God gets through whittling and whipping Jacob the rest of the way through his life in Genesis we’ll get to the place where we see Jacob was, indeed, Gods man! Verse twenty-eight succinctly sums up most of the problems in a typical family today. When you have these partiality circumstances you’re going to have trouble every time. This was not a happy home, my beloved; there was conflict and jealousy to the inth degree; and we’re going to see this drama unfold in an environment where circumstances are less than ideal. This incident, frankly, reveals the nature of mankind in a nutshell. Esau had been out hunting and now he gets home and he’s hungry; but he’s not starving or in danger of his life. In Isaac’s house there would have been plenty to eat. The problem is there was no food prepared at that moment that sounded good except for this nice, hot soup. Jacob was an indoor boy. I’m sure he was a superb chef....

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

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

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.

31 And Jacob said; Sell me this day thy birthright.

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

....Alright, lets' look at this birthright that Esau didn't care about and, actually, despised: In that day it meant several things. The son with the birthright was the head of the household. The birthright also indicated who the priest in the family was. In THIS case it meant that whoever held the birthright would be the lineage that will lead to Christ. Jacob knew that Esau attached no value or importance to this birthright at all. Esau wasn't interested in being the priest, that's for sure. So, naivety and gullibility in Esau meet opportunity and manipulation by Jacob. A lot of people avoid talking about God by making a statement such as, "....I'm not qualified to preach because" What they mean is: they don't even want to give the impression that they are interested in spiritual things. Esau didn't want to give that impression, either. Esau didn't care about being in the lineage of Christ. The birthright wasn't worth one meal to Esau.

Jacob isn't much better because this thing he is doing is taking the birthright in a clever and sneaky way. Jacob knew the value of this thing, but Esau didn't. God had already promised the elder would serve the younger, though – but Jacob should have believed God for it and waited on God - but Jacob did it his own way. Jacob is going to operate for a long time from here on out on the principal that if he can go ahead and get something done – then why wait on the leading of God to do it? Jacob felt thoroughly capable of seeing to his own business. He really doesn't do too badly by the worlds standards, either; except and until there comes the day when God really takes Jacob and whips him within an inch of his life. In the meantime, Uncle Laban is perfectly suited to dish out some schooling for his nephew, too - and Uncle Laban University will soon be open for business in just a chapter or two. Laban is a MASTER in worldly education; but Jacob cannot afford the tuition fees....

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

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 ~

