

# **FINAL STUDY NOTES - GENESIS CHAPTERS 25 & 26**

## **7/8-9/2024**

### **CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:**

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**PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!**

**MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada)**  
**THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!**

**MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484**

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**TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada).**

- Beginning Tuesday, June 4, 2024, TUES MORNING MTG PLACE:
- 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions from your starting point, Suggest using *WAZE* ([waze.com/live-map](http://waze.com/live-map)) or *MapQuest* ([mapquest.com](http://mapquest.com)),
- AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!

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### **OPENING PRAYER**

***Genesis Chapter 25 – Abraham and Keturah (vs. 1-6); Abraham's Death and Burial – (vs. 7-11); The Families of Ishmael and Isaac (vs. 12-28); Esau Sells His Birthright – (vs. 29-34)!***  
***Genesis Chapter 26 – (vs. 1-34) Isaac and Abimelech!***

### ***Abraham and Keturah (vs. 1-6)***

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

- **She bore him six sons.** We see the descendants of some of the sons, following the line of Keturah just to a second generation, but perhaps just enough to let us observe that these names Midian, Sheba, and Dedan are names that are prominent as far as the Arab heritage is concerned. It would seem that a part of the Arab (Saudi Arabia) people came from this union of Abraham with Keturah.
- **Abraham sent the sons of Keturah towards the country of the east.** Up until recently, when oil and gas deposits have been found off the coast of Israel, the Jews till the present day felt that was a tremendous mistake.

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

***Gen 25:3 Jokshan begot Sheba and Dedan (Saudi Arabia). And the sons of Dedan were Asshurim, Letushim, and Leummim.***

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

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

- **It is interesting that Keturah, and likely Hagar, are classified as concubines** (lower status than a wife) **of Abraham.** When God heals, He heals them pretty well. When he was a hundred years old, he was impotent. God restored his capacities and his wife Sarah had a son. Now he is a hundred forty years old or so when he takes as his wife Keturah, and now he has six more sons! God did a good job of rejuvenation on Abraham..
- **All that he has goes to Isaac, the son of the promise.** Gifts, yes, to the sons of the concubines, but Isaac really is the heir, as the children of faith are the heirs of God.

***Gen 25:6 But Abraham gave gifts to the sons of the concubines (second level wives) which Abraham had; and while he was still living he sent them eastward, away from Isaac his son, to the country of the east.***

- **Probably to stop any kind of rivalry that might rise** and their endeavor perhaps to overthrow Isaac. While Abraham is still alive he sends *them away to the country of the east.*

### ***Abraham's Death and Burial – (vs. 7-11)***

***Gen 25:7 This is the sum of the years of Abraham's life which he lived: one hundred and seventy-five years.***

***Gen 25:8 Then Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full (satisfied, 100 years in the land) of years, and was gathered to his people.***

- **Now that "gathered to his people" would have to have a spiritual connotation,** because Sarah was the only one that preceded him in death--buried at Machpelah. But gathered to his people would have to refer to that place where it later became known as "the place of comfort in Abraham's bosom," the place of waiting for the fulfillment of the promises of God. Gathering with those people of faith who were waiting for the fulfillment of God's promise of redemption through Jesus Christ.
- **We are told in (Psa 1:1-3)** *Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path 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 its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.* As you look at Abraham's life, surely that Psalm is applicable to him. His leaf did not wither, a hundred and seventy-five years old, whatsoever he does will prosper, and how God prospered Abraham. In **(Psa 91:14-16)** *"Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name. [15] He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. [16] With long life I will satisfy him, And show him My salvation."* Abraham the fulfillment, he had made his place of refuge the God of the universe, the eternal living God. As the result, God blessed him!

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

- **Though earlier there was a breach between Isaac and Ishmael,** they are brought together by death and they are together in the burying of their father Abraham there in the cave of Machpelah,

*Gen 25:10 the field which Abraham purchased from the sons of Heth. There Abraham was 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 at Beer Lahai Roi.*

- **We remember that this well was named by Hagar.** This is the well that she spotted when she was about to die. It is the well of the "God who sees." It is in the Negev desert.
- **Isaac seemed to like the wilderness, the Negev, the solitude of the wilderness.** He had been there at Beer Lahai Roi when Rebekah was returning, and he had just come from this area. So evidently it was an area that was sort of special to Isaac, and after the death of his father, he went down to dwell there.
- **We are given just a short look at the descendants of Ishmael.** God had promised Abraham that He would bless Ishmael and that He would make of him nations. There were twelve sons of Ishmael, and they also became twelve tribes and were again the progenitors of the Arab people.

*The Families of Ishmael and Isaac (vs. 12-28)*

*Gen 25:12 Now this is the genealogy of Ishmael, Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's maidservant, bore to Abraham.*

*Gen 25:13 And these were the names of the sons of Ishmael, by their names, according to their generations: The firstborn of Ishmael, Nebajoth; then Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam,*

*Gen 25:14 Mishma, Dumah, Massa,*

*Gen 25:15 Hadar, Tema (7X in Job, Eliphaz the Temanite), Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah.*

*Gen 25:16 These were the sons of Ishmael and these were their names, by their towns and their settlements, twelve princes according to their nations.*

*Gen 25:17 These were the years of the life of Ishmael: one hundred and thirty-seven years; and he breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people.*

- **Now, if Abraham's being gathered to his people means gathered in death** with those saints that were awaiting the promises of God, the indication is that Ishmael also believed in the God of his father, Abraham. There is no reason to doubt anything other than that that Ishmael, indeed, had faith and believed in the God of his father Abraham.

*Gen 25:18 (They dwelt from Havilah as far as Shur, which is east of Egypt as you go toward Assyria.) He died in the presence of all his brethren.*

*The Birth of Esau and Jacob*

*Gen 25:19 This is the genealogy of Isaac, Abraham's son. Abraham begot Isaac.*

- **Up until this point we have the record, which probably was kept by Isaac.** It could be that at this point we enter into another section of the book and this portion of the record is probably kept by Jacob.

*Gen 25:20 Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah as wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Padan Aram, the sister of Laban the Syrian.*

*Gen 25:21 Now Isaac pleaded with the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his plea, and Rebekah his wife conceived.*

- **It was considered a cultural curse in those days not to be able to bear children.** Rebekah had not been able to bear children and Isaac pleaded with the Lord. *God heard his prayer and Rebekah conceived.*

*Gen 25:22 But the children struggled together within her; and she said, "If all is well, why am I like this?" So she went to inquire of the LORD.*

- **We see that both Isaac in pleading and Rebekah in inquiring, were committed to prayer!**
- ***How quickly and how long am I willing to plead, to inquire of the LORD?***

*Gen 25:23 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."*

- **So she was having a pretty miserable pregnancy** and there was just an awful lot of activity. Talk about kids kicking and moving. These little guys were going at it. They were fighting twins, but they were going at it in the womb with each other. Rebekah was having this really terrible pregnancy. She

said something must be wrong, all of this activity and all, so she inquired of the Lord. The Lord responded to her telling her there were actually two nations. They were different from each other and the one would be stronger than the other.

- **The older shall serve the younger.** Paul uses this as a classic example of divine election, how that while they were still in the womb, God chose Jacob. How it is by God's choosing, by God's election. (**Rom 9:11-13**) *(for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls), [12] it was said to her, "THE OLDER SHALL SERVE THE YOUNGER."* [13] *As it is written, "JACOB I HAVE LOVED, BUT ESAU I HAVE HATED."*
- **Divine election is a subject that we sometimes try to skirt because we can't understand it fully.** Many people draw false conclusions from divine election. But divine election, if it were never brought up in the scriptures would still be a logical presumption from the foreknowledge of God. The fact that God has foreknowledge puts Him in a different category than us, so we can't even think how God thinks.
- **God not only has foreknowledge, but is what we call omniscient. God knows everything.** Anything that can ever be known, God already knows! From the beginning God has known everything. So if you already know everything, you can't learn anything. For if you can learn anything, you didn't know everything. So it precludes everything. If God is ever going to know who is going to be saved then He has always known, because He can't learn anything new. (**Rom 8:29**) *For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.*
- **The divine election is never spoken of in the scripture apart from the foreknowledge of God.** God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world. That means that He chose us according to His omniscience, His foreknowledge. Again, we have problems with that because there is no way that we can think in that dimension. There is no way that I can put myself in God's place in the capacity of thinking, because I know so little. I learn so much. Every day I learn something new, but not with God. He knows and has known and will always know all that is to be known. He can learn nothing new.
- **So on the basis of what He knows and what He knew, He chose! The exciting thing to me is He chose me! I love it!** I don't argue with that. I might argue if He didn't choose me, but He chose me. He chose me in Christ before the foundations of the world. He chose Jacob over Esau before they were ever born, and this is used as a classic example of God's sovereignty in election. "I will have mercy upon whom I will have mercy." God's sovereignty in election. You say, "But if God didn't choose me, that isn't fair." What makes you think that God didn't choose you? "Well, I'm not a Christian." Well, why aren't you a Christian? "I don't know." I'll tell you a good way to find out whether or not God chose you. Ask Jesus Christ to come into your heart and take over your life. The minute you do, you'll discover God chose you!
- **Jesus said to His disciples, (Joh 15:16a) You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain.** The minute you receive Jesus Christ, you discover the glorious truth: God chose you, chosen in Him before the foundation of the earth!
- **You know, when you accept Jesus Christ, God doesn't go down the list** and say, "Well, let Me see, I can't find your name. Let's go over it again." You shouldn't worry about predestination, because it doesn't exclude anyone. No one who has come to God through Jesus Christ has been turned away. Jesus said, (**Joh 6:37**) *All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.* You might say, I really don't see the necessity of Jesus Christ. I would just as soon get by on my own merits." Well, tough you weren't chosen, I guess, and you're in a bad way. Don't blame God, because all you have to do is surrender to Jesus Christ and you will find you have been chosen in Him!
- **So, in a strange mystical way, I've been chosen by God and yet, my choice** is somehow mystically also involved. There is that human responsibility side to it! Called, but we must respond and yet, I can't respond unless the Spirit can respond in me, helps me!
- **Now, the other interesting thing about being chosen in Him, and this is quite logical** for us to figure out. If we had the capacity of choice with the same omniscience that God has, foreknowledge,

knowing in advance everything, if you had this kind of knowledge and you could make your choices on the basis of this kind of knowledge. Would you pick a winner or would you pick a loser? You could clean up. Then would it make sense that God would pick a loser? No, God doesn't choose any losers. He only has chosen and chooses winners! The fact that He has chosen me puts me in the winner circle, and that's why I'm so thrilled that I've been chosen by Him!

- **This sovereignty of God in choice and election is demonstrated when Rebekah prayed** unto the Lord. While the twins were still in the womb, the LORD declares of them that one will be stronger than the other and that the older would serve the younger!

**Gen 25:24** *So when her days were fulfilled for her to give birth, indeed there were twins in her womb.*

**Gen 25:25** *And the first came out red. He was like a hairy garment all over; so they called his name Esau.*

- **In Hebrew, Esau literally means hairy.** It's because the little kid was hairy like a garment. He looked like a little fur rug or something, covered with hair.

**Gen 25:26** *Afterward his brother came out, and his hand took hold of Esau's heel; so his name was called Jacob* (heel catcher). *Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.*

- **They had been wailing away inside of the womb.** Now they get out and Jacob is still ready to go with the battle. He reaches out as he is born and grabs hold of the heel of his brother Esau. Jacob was called Heel Catcher! Literally, *Jacob* is *heel catcher*. It came to mean supplanter, but literally the word is *heel catcher*. That is quite a name to be tagged with, heel catcher. Think of him at school as the teacher is calling the roll, "Heel catcher." Here! *Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.* He was married when he was forty. So she was barren for twenty years. Sixty years old now when the children were born.

**Gen 25:27** *So the boys grew. And Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field; but Jacob was a mild* (*tam* - translated in Job as blameless, perfect) *man, dwelling in tents.*

- **So though they are twins, they are extremely diverse.** One is a hairy, rugged outdoor man, and the other is more of a mama's boy, in a sense, *dwelling in tents* and is very mild-mannered. (**Job 2:3a**) *Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless (tam) and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?"*

**Gen 25:28** *And Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.*

- **That's quite a reason to love a son, isn't it?** Because he's a good hunter and brings in venison. Isaac liked that, and he liked this outdoor type of boy. Rebekah loved Jacob because he was closer to her.
- **Esau may be more attractive than Jacob.** He seems to be a more wholesome boy. Jacob is cunning; he tries to be clever. He doesn't mind stooping to do things that are absolutely wrong. (And God will deal with him for this.) The interesting thing is that although Esau was very attractive on the outside, down underneath he really had no capacity for God whatsoever. He is just a physical man and that is all. That is all that he lived for. Down underneath in Jacob there was a desire for the things that are spiritual.
- **Problems of parental partiality.** Jacob will also have such problems with partiality shown to Rachel and toward Joseph. (**Rom 2:11**) *For there is no partiality with God.*
- **How much of a problem do I have with partiality?**

**Esau Sells His Birthright – (vs. 29-34)!**

**Gen 25:29** *Now Jacob cooked a stew; and Esau came in from the field, and he was weary.*

- **Jacob was a gourmet! He was a man around the tent.** The kind of fellow you would find around the kitchen.

**Gen 25:30** *And Esau said to Jacob, "Please feed me with that same red stew, for I am weary." Therefore his name was called Edom.*

- **Edom means red, because he desired the red stew.** Later the nation that came from him was known as the Edomites. It all goes back to this red stew.

**Gen 25:31** *But Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright as of this day."*

- **Taking advantage of another's' weakness! Am I? How often?**

*Gen 25:32 And Esau said, "Look, I am about to die; so what is this birthright to me (no spiritual awareness or appreciation)?"*

- *What is this birthright to me?* Notice Esau has no appreciation or identification with the spiritual aspects of a birthright!

*Gen 25:33 Then Jacob said, "Swear to me as of this day." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob.*

- *It could be that Jacob just sort of said the thing in jest, or was just throwing out something.* He was a man that was ready to take advantage of the situation. He was sharp. He was cunning. His brother comes in. He's famished. He's been out in the field. He's weary and he smells this delicious stew. Jacob, seizing on the opportunity says, "Swear to me that you will." *So he swore to him, and sold his birthright.* He took an oath. I'll trade you the birthright for the stew.

*Gen 25:34 And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils; then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.*

- *He just ate, drank, and went on his way. He didn't care anything about his birthright.* He was not interested in it. He despised it. He didn't really consider it anything of any worth to him! Later on he regretted it.
- *Esau despised his birthright! In (Heb 12:16-17) lest there be any fornicator or profane (godless) 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.* He didn't seek repentance diligently with tears, he sought the blessing diligently with tears. But he despised the birthright. The blessing goes with the birthright.
- *Many of those in the lineage of Christ were not the firstborn.* Seth was not the firstborn. Jacob was not the firstborn. Isaac wasn't the firstborn. David wasn't the firstborn. It always didn't follow with the birthright, which usually went to the eldest son.
- ***My value of the fleshly versus spiritual. Which is more valuable to me? Fleshly or spiritual things?***

*Genesis Chapter 26 – (vs. 1-34) God's Promise to Isaac; Isaac and Abimelech!*

*Gen 26:1 There was a famine in the land, besides the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines, in Gerar.*

- *This is about a hundred years after Abraham experienced a famine in the land.* Now another famine comes. This is maybe one of those hundred-year floods that they talk about here in California only on the reverse. The hundred-year famine.
- *And Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines in Gerar.* The same thing that Abraham his father had done a hundred years earlier. They were living in the interior, the Negev, and over on the coastal plains where the Philistines were living, the famine wasn't as bad. So, as he was on his way to Gerar, the area of the Philistines, it was "Like father, like son" – going toward Egypt – lying about his wife to save his own skin!
- ***A good reminder to look at myself, recognizing that my children and others will look at me, to model what I do more than what I say!***

*Gen 26:2 Then the LORD appeared to him and said: "Do not go down to Egypt; live (stay permanently) in the land of which I shall tell you.*

*Gen 26:3 Dwell (abide, remain) in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father.*

- *God warned Isaac not to go any further as he journeyed toward Gerar.* Isaac was always to live in the land that God told him to live in. As the Son of Promise, he was always to live in the land of promise, which if he did, God promised to be with him and to bless him.
- *I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father:* It may have been possible for the covenant to end with the passing of Abraham, but God was true to His word! The covenant God made with Abraham was not only unto Abraham, but unto his chosen descendants also (*Gen 17:7-8*). This fulfilled a specific promise made in (*Gen 17:19*).

*Gen 26:4 And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed;*

- **In your seed, the Messiah, Jesus Christ.** So, the repeated promises of blessings to Isaac that were given to his father Abraham by God and now passed on. God affirms to Isaac the same promises that He had made to his father!
- **As we think of what God gives Isaac and his descendants here, how thankful am I for what He has given me?**

*Gen 26:5 because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws."*

- **Why did he do it? Abraham was obedient to God and kept the charge.** He kept the commandments. He kept the statutes. He kept the laws of God. This was long before the law was ever given, about four hundred years later. Abraham kept the law, the statutes, the commandments, the charge of God.

### *Isaac and Abimelech*

*Gen 26:6 So Isaac dwelt in Gerar.*

*Gen 26:7 And the men of the place asked about his wife. And he said, "She is my sister"; for he was afraid to say, "She is my wife," because he thought, "lest the men of the place kill me for Rebekah, because she is beautiful to behold."*

- **He disobeyed God in settling down in the area and the next thing we find him doing is lying, sinning.** But the sin was actually provoked by the disobedience, the fact that he started to dwell in the land instead of just staying there temporarily, starting to dwell there, which led him to the sin of denying his wife.
- **There are places where you as a child of God have no business going.** If you go there, you are only exposing yourself to temptation. There are places where as a child of God I have no business being. He had no business dwelling in Gerar, and as a result of his trying to dwell there, the men of the area began to ask about his wife. He said, "Well, she's my sister," because he was afraid.
- **Fear is a sign of lack of faith. He had the same lapse of faith as his father Abraham,** fearing that they might kill him in order to get his wife. (*Pro 29:25*) *The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.* The fear of man was a trap. He fell into it. He was caught by it, which led him to lie concerning his wife. In reality he was only following an established pattern which had been set by his father a hundred years earlier. In the same place, in the same conditions, with the same lapse of faith, Abraham did exactly the same thing. Here is the son committing the very same sin as his father.
- **Like father, like son, except Isaac's was a little worse.** When Abraham said she is my sister there was a half-truth there, for Sarah was the daughter of Abraham's father, though they had a different mother. Isaac's was more complete. But no way was Rebekah his sister! It was just a blatant lie! So he followed the sin of his father.
- **It is interesting that Esau and Jacob did not come to Gerar with their dad.** They were probably left back with a part of the herds and the goods. So it would be very logical to assume that Rebekah is at least sixty years old at this point, and yet so beautiful that the men of the area are inquiring about her. His estimation of her is that she is beautiful to behold! Isn't **that great for a husband to have that estimation of his wife?** She is beautiful to behold. She should always be beautiful in your eyes!

*Gen 26:8 Now it came to pass, when he had been there a long time, that Abimelech king of the Philistines looked through a window, and saw, and there was Isaac, showing endearment (caressing) to Rebekah his wife.*

- **Now it came to pass, when he had been there a long time.** He didn't just sojourn. He was dwelling.
- **That Abimelech the king of the Philistines looked through a window.** This is not the same Abimelech that Abraham met over a hundred years early. Abimelech is the title for the kings of the Philistines. Like the Pharaoh is just the title of the ruler. Abimelech saw Abraham caressing Rebekah !

*Gen 26:9 Then Abimelech called Isaac and said, "Quite obviously she is your wife; so how could you say, 'She is my sister'?" Isaac said to him, "Because I said, 'Lest I die on account of her.'"*

*Gen 26:10 And Abimelech said, "What is this you have done to us? One of the people might soon have lain with your wife, and you would have brought guilt on us."*

- The story of Abraham a hundred years earlier had no doubt passed down to the people. Now similarly. "What have you done to us? Don't you realize that one of the men might have just taken your wife? (*Gen 20:9a*) And Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, "What have you done to us?" And in (*Gen 26:10a*) And Abimelech said, "What is this you have done to us?" One of the people might soon have lain with your wife, and you would have brought guilt on us."
- It is **tragic when a man of God is rebuked by the world, when his standards are beneath those of the world around him!** It should be the opposite always. Our standards should be higher than those of the world. The Bible says that they that bear the vessels of the Lord must be clean, must be holy. But tragically, here Isaac's standards were less and he is rebuked by this pagan king, Abimelech!

*Gen 26:11 So Abimelech charged all his people, saying, "He who touches this man or his wife shall surely be put to death."*

- He made it a capital offense if anyone should touch this man or his wife, because, again, knowing what happened earlier when Abraham was among them.

*Gen 26:12 Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold (1st of six times in the Bible); and the LORD blessed him.*

- Isaac was now the only surviving link in the Messianic line. He was Abraham's heir and, as God had blessed Abraham, so He now begins to prosper Isaac! God gave him a bumper crop. He reaped a hundredfold!

*Gen 26:13 The man began to prosper, and continued prospering until he became very prosperous;*

*Gen 26:14 for he had possessions of flocks and possessions of herds and a great number of servants. So the Philistines envied him.*

- We should not miss the fact that Isaac is greatly blessed! His field brings forth an hundredfold! The impression some of us have is that Abraham was outstanding, and Jacob was also, but not Isaac. But we see that Isaac is also outstanding!

*Gen 26:15 Now the Philistines had stopped up all the wells which his father's servants had dug in the days of Abraham his father, and they had filled them with earth.*

*Gen 26:16 And Abimelech said to Isaac, "Go away from us, for you are much mightier than we."*

- The Philistines were actually from the island of Crete. They had begun to settle there in the southernly shores of Israel. When Joshua came to conquer the land, the Philistines were strong. They inhabited the coastal plains and were a powerful and formidable foe to Israel. At this point there was just a few inhabitants. Isaac became stronger, greater than they were, as he was prospered and blessed of God. So he is asked to leave, to get out of there. The men were envious.

*Gen 26:17 Then Isaac departed from there and pitched his tent in the Valley of Gerar, and dwelt there.*

*Gen 26:18 And Isaac dug again the wells of water which they had dug in the days of Abraham his father, for the Philistines had stopped them up after the death of Abraham. He called them by the names which his father had called them.*

- Isaac began re-digging the wells and naming them after the historical names given to them by his father Abraham.

*Gen 26:19 Also Isaac's servants dug in the valley, and found a well of running water there.*

- A spiritual application for us here! When we find the enemy filling up or stopping up our spiritual wells, we need to do two things. **We need to dig new wells! His ever present and new sources of the power of His spirit. Also we need to reclaim the lost wells** by restoring the connection with God and revitalizing our faith; Spending time with Him in prayer and in His word!

*Gen 26:20 But the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with Isaac's herdsmen, saying, "The water is ours." So he called the name of the well Esek, because they quarreled with him.*

- The well of Esek. It's the well of quarrel, because they quarreled with him.

*Gen 26:21 Then they dug another well, and they quarreled over that one also. So he called its name Sitnah.*

- Sitnah, which means hatred or enmity.
- Notice Isaac is a man of peace and patience, choosing to move on and dig more wells!



- ***In such a situation would I be more likely to fight for the well that I have dug? Or would I be willing to dig more?***

*Gen 26:22 And he moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it. So he called its name Rehoboth (spaciousness), because he said, "For now the LORD has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land."*

*Gen 26:23 Then he went up from there to Beersheba.*

*God gives Abrahamic Covenant to Isaac!*

*Gen 26:24 And the LORD appeared to him the same night and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham; do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for My servant Abraham's sake."*

- The LORD appeared again to him. God appeared to him when he started in the land, telling him to just dwell there temporarily. He disobeyed God, getting into problems. Now he comes back to the area of Beersheba where God had really told him to dwell. Once again God speaks to him when he comes back to Beersheba. The Lord appeared to him in the same night that he came back, as though God were waiting for him to get back on track!
- ***Do not fear, for I am with you.*** That is always the answer that dispels fear--the presence of God with me always dispels fear! David said, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me." "*Do not fear, for I am with you.*" What words of strength and comfort!
- ***I will bless you, and multiply your descendants for my servant Abraham's sake.*** It's all for Abraham's sake that God is doing these things.
- ***How aware am I of the connection of my obedience to the nearness of God with His appearing to me?***

*Gen 26:25 So he built an altar there and called on the name of the LORD, and he pitched his tent there; and there Isaac's servants dug a well.*

*Gen 26:26 Then Abimelech came to him from Gerar with Ahuzzath, one of his friends, and Phichol the commander of his army.*

*Gen 26:27 And Isaac said to them, "Why have you come to me, since you hate me and have sent me away from you?"*

- So he doesn't greet them too cordially, just with a question, "Why would you come here? You guys hate me, sent me away. What are you doing?"

*Gen 26:28 But they said, "We have certainly seen that the LORD is with you. (Can that be said of me?) So we said, 'Let there now be an oath between us, between you and us; and let us make a covenant with you,*

*Gen 26:29 that you will do us no harm, since we have not touched you, and since we have done nothing to you but good and have sent you away in peace. You are now the blessed of the LORD!*

- So we want to make a treaty. We want to make a covenant. We won't hurt you. We don't want you to hurt us. Obviously you've been blessed of the Lord and we don't want any trouble with you.

*Gen 26:30 So he made them a feast, and they ate and drank.*

*Gen 26:31 Then they arose early in the morning and swore an oath with one another; and Isaac sent them away, and they departed from him in peace.*

- Now, earlier a similar thing happened to Abraham. It was at Beersheba, that there Abraham said, "Now look, I dug some wells and your servants tried to claim them." And he rebuked Abimelech, who said, "I'm sorry. I didn't know about this." Abraham said, "Okay, I want to make this covenant, giving you these lambs as proof that I dug the well."

*Gen 26:32 It came to pass the same day that Isaac's servants came and told him about the well which they had dug, and said to him, "We have found water."*

- Finding water in an area like Beersheba is such an important thing. It's the edge of the desert. Water is essential for survival in that area, so it's really exciting news! We have found water!

*Gen 26:33 So he called it Shebah. Therefore the name of the city is Beersheba to this day.*

- **Even to the present day, four thousand years later,** it's still called Beersheba. The name has passed on down, and you can go to Beersheba today there on the edge of the Negev Desert.
- **The word *Shebah* means an oath, and so they had just made this oath** and then the servants come and they say we have found water, and so he called it "the well of the oath." *Shebah* can also mean *seven*, and so there are some who translate that "the well of seven."

**Gen 26:34** *When Esau was forty years old, he took as wives Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite.*

- **Esau, forty years old, married a couple of women among the people** in which they dwelt, the Hittites.

**Gen 26:35** *And they were a grief of mind to Isaac and Rebekah.*

- **These daughters-in-law that Esau had taken were just a real problem,** a real grief to Isaac and Rebekah. Esau's choice shows his tolerance of the carnal, and his indifference to the spiritual!
- **This brings us to chapter 27, where we will get into the deception now of Isaac by Jacob and the flight of Jacob** from his brother. What great stories in the next two chapters! Read them in advance!

## SUMMARY

- **The importance of prayer! (Gen 25:21-22)** *Now Isaac pleaded with the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his plea, and Rebekah his wife conceived. [22] But the children struggled together within her; and she said, "If all is well, why am I like this?" So she went to inquire of the LORD.*
- **Problems of parental partiality. (Gen 25:28)** *And Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.* Jacob will also have such problems with partiality shown to Rachel and toward Joseph.
- **Importance of Spiritual things. (Gen 25:32)** *And Esau said, "Look, I am about to die; so what is this birthright to me?"* Esau has no interest or understanding of spiritual things.
- **Like father, like son! Our witness is what we do, not so much, what we say! (Gen 26:9)** *Then Abimelech called Isaac and said, "Quite obviously she is your wife; so how could you say, 'She is my sister'?" Isaac said to him, "Because I said, 'Lest I die on account of her. Going down toward Egypt! Lying about his wife to save his own skin!"*
- **Isaac's peace and patience! (Gen 26:22a)** *And he moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it.* Notice Isaac, a man of peace and patience, chooses to move on and dig more wells, rather than fight for the ones he had already dug!
- **Connection of obedience with God's appearance. (Gen 26:23,24)** *Then he went up from there to Beersheba. [24] And the LORD appeared to him the same night and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham; do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for My servant Abraham's sake."* Note the connection of obedience to God with His appearance, now giving the same Abrahamic promise to Isaac! As we think of what God gives Isaac and his descendants here, how thankful am I for what He has given me?

## CLOSING SONG

**GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS!** *Chisholm; Runyan – Fetke (2:52?2:55)*

*Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not; as Thou hast been Thou forever will be.*

*Refrain:*

*Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed Thy hand hath provided; great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!  
Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth. Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Refrain*

## CLOSING PRAYER

**NEXT WEEK: Read and study Genesis Chapters 27 & 28!**