

Genesis – 25-26

Genesis 25:1-11 *“Abraham dies”*

This passage tells about Abraham’s other wife Keturah and their children. Isaac is maintained as the heir of the birthright and of God’s promises.

Genesis 25:12-18 *“Ishmael’s sons”*

We read of Ishmael’s sons, who, as God had promised, were “princes according to their tribes.” Many are Arab names, giving support to the Arab tradition that Ishmael is their ancestor.

These two accounts of the children of Abraham record the tribes that trace their ancestry to Abraham.

Genesis 25:19 *“Now these are the records of the generations of Isaac, Abraham’s son.”*

This verse marks the beginning of the story of Isaac which continues until Chapter 35. It tells how God’s promises and blessings to Abraham are transferred to Isaac and then to Jacob. Its theme is human conflict, those between Jacob and Esau, Jacob and Rachel, and Leah and Rachel, and how God’s revelations and interventions preserve the blessings.

Genesis 25:19-26 *“Isaac’s Sons”*

Rebekah is barren. God’s provision of children to the barren woman is a recurring theme in the OT. The child born to a barren woman is to be considered a provision of the Lord, men of destiny.

How does Isaac’s response compare to Abraham and Sarah’s?

Prayer is the means by which God provides blessings, including blessings He has already planned.

Vs. 21: “and the Lord answered him.” How long did it take for the Lord’s answer to come? (v. 20, 26)

Vs 23 “and the older shall serve the younger” Ancient law provided that the younger of two sons was subservient to the older. God’s election of the younger highlights his sovereignty over His people. God’s ways are not our ways. Read Romans 9:11-12; 1 Corinthians 1:27-29.

Conflict between the two sons started in the womb, and foretold the hostility that would continue between the two nations who would be born to them, the Israelites (Jacob) and the Edomites (Esau). In this chapter and Chapter 27, Jacob and Rebekah scheme to obtain what God had promised.

How do the parents add to the tension?

Genesis 25:27-34 *“Sale of the Birthright”*

Jacob is a peaceful man, civilized, stable, quiet, and thoughtful, “living in tents”

Esau is a skillful hunter, a man of the field, boisterous, wild, and free.

Neither man, however, appears honorable in this anecdote. “Jacob,” a name that came to be proverbial for deceptiveness, shows his scheming side.

Esau, on the other hand, shows his impulsive nature and short-sightedness. The hunter was prey to his own appetites as much as to his brother’s schemes. “Esau despised his birthright.”

Genesis 26:1-5 *“Isaac and Abimelech”*

This probably happened before the children were born, but is placed here to show us the “birthright” that Jacob has obtained and which Esau disdained. God instructs Isaac not to go to Egypt, and to stay in the Promised Land despite the famine, and repeats the promises and blessings to Isaac He had made to Abraham.