



A Study of the Book of GENESIS



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WEEK TEN

Isaac, Jacob, & Esau (Genesis 25-33)

We often hear about the faith of Abraham, but his faith did not live in a vacuum. It was passed down from one generation to the next. As we have discussed, throughout both testaments, God is called the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—a reminder that He is the God of the Covenant. This also implies that Abraham and Sarah had the responsibility of passing down to Isaac the teachings of this covenant and the faith it demanded. While the story of Abraham's faith have been highlighted, what about the faith of Isaac and Rebekah? This is where we pick up in tonight's study.

GENESIS 24 – Isaac & Rebekah Meet & Marry

The story of Isaac pursuing Rebekah unfolds in the longest chapter in the Book of Genesis. This chapter reveals the heartwarming story of Abraham sending out his servant to find a wife for Isaac. The obedience of the servant and the courage of Rebekah are the highlights of the chapter.

- **24:1-10 – The Servant's _____ to Abraham**

Chapter 23 records the death and burial of Sarah, Abraham's wife. After Sarah's death, Abraham sent out his servant to his hometown of Nahor to select a bride for their son Isaac. The servant was loaded with clothing, jewelry, and gifts for the bride and her family.

An oath is always sworn in the name of a god, placing a heavy _____ on the one who swears the oath to carry out its stipulations. Not only human but divine retribution would await such a person who fails to carry out the oath. Sometimes, such as in this case, a symbolic gesture is added to the oath.

The thigh (*yarek*, “_____”) was viewed as the seat of the procreative powers. By placing the hand beneath the procreative area of the body was symbolic of the solemnity of the oath and its far-reaching effects.¹

- **24:11-53 – The Servant’s _____ and the Lord’s _____**

Abraham commanded the servant to find a wife for Isaac from his _____ rather than the local people of Canaan. During the journey, he prayed to God to make him successful and show kindness to his master. He then asked God to lead him, asking for a _____ to _____ the wife He had chosen for Isaac. Before the servant even finished his prayer, a young woman appeared with a jar on her shoulder and went down to the spring to draw water. The woman was Rebekah, and the servant spoke with her. She meets the requirements for which the servant had prayed. In fact, she did more than she was asked, and she did so with honor to her house and respect for the servant.

- **24:54-60 –Rebekah makes the _____**

Marriage contracts of this general period showed a great concern for preserving the woman’s _____ within her husband’s family. It is likely that she was consulted because of the _____ that was involved in leaving the family protection under such unusual circumstances.

- **24:61-60 – Isaac _____ Rebekah**

When Rebekah reached Abraham’s home, she saw him meditating in the afternoon. He captured her attention, and before long, it was revealed that he was indeed her husband-to-be! The two married soon after in his mother’s tent. It is interesting to note that verse 67 records the first time a woman in the Bible whom marital love is _____.

Some Take-Aways from Isaac & Rebekah’s Love Story

1) *Marriage is _____ not just on love but on _____.*

2) *God _____ hurt places with new _____.*

GENESIS 26 – Isaac, Abimelech, and a _____ of the Father’s _____

This chapter presents several striking parallels between Abraham and Isaac.

- ✓ The famine and temptation to flee to _____.
- ✓ The “_____ - _____” lie.
 - ❖ **Rebekah** (*ribqâ*) means “to tie firmly” or “a noose.” Related to a female, the name can also mean “_____,” suggesting that her beauty is a means by which men are _____.

Rebekah was so beautiful that Isaac tried to pass her off as his sister at a time because he was worried that other men might be jealous and kill him to claim Rebekah as their own. Here Isaac repeated the sin of his father (Gen. 12:13; ch. 20).

- ✓ The reminder of God’s _____.
- ✓ An agreement with _____ (Gen. 21:22-34).

GENESIS 25:19-34; 27-28 – Jacob & Esau

- **25:19-28 Rebekah’s _____ and God’s _____**

When Rebekah failed to become pregnant after ___ years of marriage, Isaac prayed for a child, and God heard his prayer. When Rebecca became pregnant with twins, she was concerned because “_____ together within her... So she “went to inquire of the LORD” (v 22). The oracle of God addresses her when she’s pregnant, and He states that _____ will contend with each other in the womb. This prophecy foreshadows the tensions that will represent the relationship between Rebekah’s sons, Jacob and Esau, throughout their lives. The brothers would become ancestors of _____ and _____.

- **25:29-34; 27:1-40 – The Stolen Birthright & Blessing**

Esau, the firstborn son, was to receive his father's birthright, which bestowed the future _____ of the family plus a _____ share of the inheritance (Deuteronomy 21:17). According to archaeological discoveries (e.g., the Nuzi tablets in modern Iraq, @1450 BC), the birthright could be sold or transferred by the father.

- Regarding the birthright, was what Jacob did legally right? Why or why not?
- Does Esau bear some responsibility in this? If so, why?

Isaac was of elderly age; scholars estimated between the age of 132 and 137 and wanted to bestow the blessings to his sons before his death.

- Why didn't Isaac simply rescind his blessing from Jacob, since it was given under false pretenses?

➤ **Genesis 28:10-22** – In light of Jacob's life at this point, what is the significance of Jacob's Dream?

➤ **John 1:51** – Jesus claims the ladder of Jacob's dream was a shadow of Himself. What do you think Jesus meant by this?

- **Genesis 29-31 – Jacob & Laban**

Rebekah felt she had to protect Jacob because of Esau wanted to kill him. She sent him to Haran to live with her brother, _____; and he stayed there ___ years. It is unclear whether Jacob ever saw his mother again. Ironically, Jacob the swindler became the victim of Laban's trickery, and Jacob's wives (_____ and _____) carry on his example of competition and divisiveness that resulted in the birth of eleven sons from four different women.

- Ch. 31 – Jacob flees (and Rachel steals) from Laban

- **Genesis 32-34 – Jacob’s Repentance and Reconciliation**

After 20 years in northern Mesopotamia, Jacob returns to Canaan. On the way, he hears a report that his brother, _____, is coming to meet him. In fear, he divides his family up so not to have all of them slaughtered, and he prepares an abundance of _____. The night prior to his meeting with Esau, Jacob first meets with the _____ of the _____ (Hosea 12:4).

- **Genesis 32:22-32** – What was the point of Jacob’s wrestling match with God? In the end, what about Jacob had changed?

- Notice the progression in Jacob’s life:

- 20 years ago his dad asked him who he was and he said, “_____,” showing who he _____ to be.
- Here God asks him who he is and he admits, “_____,” confessing who he __: swindler, deceiver, conniver.
- Now God tells him who he _____: “_____,” literally meaning “Contending with God,” “God _____,” and “_____ of God.”
- *What Jacob did not know was that Esau had also changed!*

- **Gen. 27:41** –

- **Gen. 33:4** –

ⁱ W. A. Criswell, *The Believer’s Study Bible: NKJV* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1991), 39.