

# **GENESIS 25: THE NEXT GENERATION**

## **I. OVERVIEW**

- A. Two halves
  - i. First half – genealogies of Abraham’s other children
  - ii. Second half – Isaac’s family
- B. Abraham married Keturah
  - i. They had six children
  - ii. Abraham sent them away from Isaac to the east
- C. Abraham died at the age of 175
  - i. Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah
    - a. Where Sarah was buried
  - ii. Isaac lived in Beer-lahai-roi and was blessed by God
- D. Ishmael had twelve sons
  - i. He died at the age of 137
  - ii. His sons settled between Havilah and Shur
- E. Isaac married Rebekah at age 40
  - i. She was barren
  - ii. But Isaac prayed for her and she conceived
    - a. God spoke to her and told her she would have twins
    - b. But the older would serve the younger
  - iii. The twins were born
    - a. Esau was born first
    - b. Jacob was born grabbing Esau’s heel
    - c. Esau became a hunter and Jacob became a quiet man
- F. One day while Jacob was cooking stew, Esau entered the tent and asked for some stew
  - i. Jacob asked for his birthright in return
  - ii. Esau was so hungry he gave it away instantly

## **II. GAVE ALL HE HAD TO ISAAC – V. 5**

- A. Same phrase as chapter 24
- B. Doesn’t mean literally every penny
  - i. Isaac was his only heir

### **III. THE SONS OF HIS CONCUBINES – V. 6**

- A. Keturah was probably a concubine rather than a wife
  - i. Which is why Abraham could send her sons away without an inheritance

### **IV. HE SENT THEM AWAY – V. 6**

- A. Just like he did with Ishmael
  - i. Eastward into exile
- B. To ensure Isaac's position as sole heir

### **V. HAVILAH – V. 18**

- A. Land full of riches
  - i. Genesis 2:11-12 ***The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there.***

### **VI. SHUR – V. 18**

- A. Where Hagar was found by God when she ran away from Sarah

### **VII. ISAAC PRAYED – V. 21**

- A. For 20 years before his sons were born
  - i. Shows consistency and persistence in prayer
  - ii. Different from Abraham's response
- B. Why did God make Isaac and Rebekah wait so long before He answered their prayer?
  - i. Abraham went through a journey of growing in faith in God
  - ii. But that faith doesn't pass to his son
    - a. Isaac needed his own journey of faith

### **VIII. GOD'S FOURFOLD RESPONSE TO REBEKAH – V. 23**

- A. Two nations are in your womb
  - i. Esau would be father of Edomites
    - a. Settled south of Israel
    - b. Capital was probably Bozrah<sup>1</sup>
      - i. Amos 1:12 ***“So I will send a fire upon Teman, and it shall devour the strongholds of Bozrah.”***
    - c. Modern day Jordan

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<sup>1</sup>American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise. (1998). *Edom*. Jewish Virtual Library. <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/edom>

- ii. Jacob would be father of Israelites
- iii. Abraham had two sons with the younger being the chosen son
  - a. But he got the first son by taking matters into his own hands
  - b. Isaac and Rebekah both turned to the Lord in prayer for one son
    - i. God rewarded them with two<sup>2</sup>
- B. Two peoples... shall be divided
  - i. Just like the sons of Eber, Joktan and Peleg in Genesis 10
- C. The one shall be stronger than the other
  - i. Israel remains to this day
  - ii. Edom no longer exists
    - a. Originally stronger than Israel
    - b. Genesis 36:31 **These are the kings who reigned in the land of Edom, before any king reigned over the Israelites.**
- D. The older shall serve the younger
  - i. Went against the culture of the day
    - a. Firstborn had first rights to inheritance and prominent position in the family
  - ii. We don't know why God chose Jacob over Esau
    - a. But we know it's not because anything they did
      - i. Romans 9:10-12 **And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad – in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls – she was told, “The older will serve the younger.”**

#### **IX. HOLDING ESAU'S HEEL – V. 26**

- A. Like the serpent
  - i. Genesis 3:15 **“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”**
- B. Jacob means “He takes by the heel”
  - i. Meant something like “trickster” or “con-man”<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Armstrong, S. (2012, April 23). Genesis 2011 - Lesson 25B. Verse By Verse Ministry International.

[https://versebyversemministry.org/lessons/genesis\\_2011\\_lesson\\_25b](https://versebyversemministry.org/lessons/genesis_2011_lesson_25b)

<sup>3</sup> Guzik, D. (2018). Study Guide For Genesis 25. Blue Letter Bible. [https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik\\_david/study-guide/genesis/genesis-25.cfm](https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik_david/study-guide/genesis/genesis-25.cfm)

- ii. He is a deceiver and grabber of heels
- iii. Serpent-like

#### **X. SIXTY YEARS OLD – V. 26**

- A. Number 60 refers to the final stage of a person's life<sup>4</sup>
  - i. Paul told Timothy that widows under 60 should be able to provide for themselves (1 Timothy 5:3-11)
  - ii. The price to end service to the Lord in the temple was less once a person turned 60 (Leviticus 27:1-7)
- B. Isaac waited 20 years
  - i. 20 refers to period of waiting<sup>5</sup>
    - a. Jacob waited for 20 years for Rachel (Genesis 31:38-41)
    - b. Israel waited for 20 years to be freed from Jabin king of Canaan (Judges 4-5)
    - c. Israel waited for 20 years to move the ark from Kirjath-jearim to Jerusalem (1 Samuel 5-7)

#### **XI. SKILLFUL HUNTER – V. 27**

- A. Like Nimrod
  - i. Who was like the Nephilim
  - ii. Descended from fallen angels
  - iii. Esau relied on his own strength, arrogance<sup>6</sup>
- B. Hebrews 12:15-16 ***See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal.***

#### **XII. QUIET MAN – V. 27**

- A. Hebrew *tam* can also be translated “blameless”
  - i. Psalm 37:37 ***Mark the blameless and behold the upright, for there is a future for the man of peace.***
- B. Jacob lived a quiet, peaceful life compared to the violent and chaotic life of Esau

#### **XIII. DWELLING IN TENTS – V. 27**

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<sup>4</sup> *Meaning of the Number 60 in the Bible.* Biblestudy.org. (n.d.). <https://www.biblestudy.org/bibleref/meaning-of-numbers-in-bible/60.html>

<sup>5</sup> *Meaning of the Number 20 in the Bible.* Biblestudy.org. (n.d.-a). <https://www.biblestudy.org/bibleref/meaning-of-numbers-in-bible/20.html>

<sup>6</sup> Armstrong, S. (2012, April 29). *Genesis 2011 - Lesson 25C. Verse By Verse Ministry International.* [https://versebyversemministry.org/lessons/genesis\\_2011\\_lesson\\_25c](https://versebyversemministry.org/lessons/genesis_2011_lesson_25c)

- A. Jacob chose the nomadic lifestyle of his father and grandfather

#### **XIV. REBEKAH LOVED JACOB – V. 28**

- A. She received promise from God regarding the younger son
- B. Foreshadows significant family drama

#### **XV. THE PROBLEM OF ISAAC'S TWO SONS**

- A. Both sons are serpent-like figures
  - i. How will the promised Seed come through Isaac's family if they are both sons of the serpent?

#### **XVI. BIRTHRIGHT – V. 31**

- A. Included a double portion of the inheritance
  - i. The firstborn received double what the other children received
  - ii. Deuteronomy 21:17 ... ***but he shall acknowledge the firstborn, the son of the unloved, by giving him a double portion of all that he has, for he is the firstfruits of his strength. The right of the firstborn is his.***
- B. The one with the birthright would be the one to inherit the promise of the covenant
- C. Like giving your neighbor a bowl of stew in return for his house<sup>7</sup>
  - i. Jacob must have had some indication this would work

#### **XVII. I AM ABOUT TO DIE – V. 32**

- A. Probably sarcasm
  - i. He had been working or hunting in the field that day
  - ii. No indication he had gone several weeks without food

#### **XVIII. SWEAR TO ME NOW – V. 33**

- A. Jacob took advantage of his brother's weakness
  - i. He tried to trick his way into getting something that God had already promised him<sup>8</sup>
    - a. Like Abraham and Hagar

#### **XIX. SOLD HIS BIRTHRIGHT – V. 33**

- A. Esau thought little of the covenant promises that could be his<sup>9</sup>
- B. The chapter starts with securing Isaac's birthright
  - i. It ends with Jacob stealing Esau's birthright

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<sup>7</sup> Armstrong, S. (2012, May 6). *Genesis 2011 - Lesson 25D*. Verse By Verse Ministry International.  
[https://versebyversem ministry.org/lessons/genesis\\_2011\\_lesson\\_25d](https://versebyversem ministry.org/lessons/genesis_2011_lesson_25d)

<sup>8</sup> Guzik

<sup>9</sup> Guzik

## **XX. DESPISED HIS BIRTHRIGHT – V. 34**

- A. Esau valued a meal over his birthright
  - i. Isaac owned very little land
    - a. Esau was a hunter so land was more valuable to him than servants and flocks
  - ii. He didn't believe God's promises regarding the land

## **XXI. POINTS TO JESUS**

- A. Jacob obtained the birthright to Abraham's promise
  - i. The coming Seed would now come through his descendants

## **XXII. QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION**

- A. What is the proper response when God doesn't provide something that we need?  

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- B. Do you think it was fair for God to choose Jacob before Esau even had a chance to prove himself? Why or why not?  

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- C. Why does God choose certain people over others? See Romans 9:11-18.  

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- D. Specifically, why do you think God keeps choosing the younger brother over the older?  

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- E. What value do you place on your future inheritance? How does this affect the decisions you make right now?

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### **XXIII. FURTHER STUDY**

A. Why are two sons of Ishmael listed in the prophecy in Isaiah 60:7? In context to the rest of the chapter, what does this say about the Arab peoples in relation to Israel?

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B. What is does the book of Obadiah say about the future of Edom? What are the reasons Obadiah provides for this happening? How does the story end?

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C. Who does the prophet Isaiah see coming up from Edom clothed in garments dipped in blood? What do you think the prophet is trying to communicate here?

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D. Why do you think the comparison is made between Jacob and Esau in this chapter and Eber's sons in Genesis 10?

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E. In what ways are Jesus's words in Matthew 13:44 an inversion of this transaction between Jacob and Esau? How can we use this knowledge to guide our decisions?

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F. Romans 9:10-12 refers to the story in this chapter. Read all of Romans 9. Do you think it is evidence of individual divine election? Why or why not?

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