

Genesis 25

The Death of Abraham

25 Abraham had taken another wife, whose name was Keturah. ²She bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak and Shuah. ³Jokshan was the father of Sheba and Dedan; the descendants of Dedan were the Ashurites, the Letushites and the Leummites. ⁴The sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher, Hanok, Abida and Eldaah. All these were descendants of Keturah. ⁵Abraham left everything he owned to Isaac. ⁶But while he was still living, he gave gifts to the sons of his concubines and sent them away from his son Isaac to the land of the east

⁷Abraham lived a hundred and seventy-five years. ⁸Then Abraham breathed his last and died at a good old age, an old man and full of years; and he was gathered to his people. ⁹His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah near Mamre, in the field of Ephron son of Zohar the Hittite, ¹⁰the field Abraham had bought from the Hittites.^[a] There Abraham was buried with his wife Sarah. ¹¹After Abraham's death, God blessed his son Isaac, who then lived near Beer Lahai Roi.

Ishmael's Sons ¹²This is the account of the family line of Abraham's son Ishmael, whom Sarah's slave, Hagar the Egyptian, bore to Abraham. ¹³These are the names of the sons of Ishmael, listed in the order of their birth: Nebaioth the firstborn of Ishmael, Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam, ¹⁴Mishma, Dumah, Massa, ¹⁵Hadad, Tema, Jetur, Naphish and Kedemah. ¹⁶These were the sons of Ishmael, and these are the names of the twelve tribal rulers according to their settlements and camps.

¹⁷Ishmael lived a hundred and thirty-seven years. He breathed his last and died, and he was gathered to his people. ¹⁸His descendants settled in the area from Havilah to Shur, near the eastern border of Egypt, as you go toward Ashur. And they lived in hostility toward^[b] all the tribes related to them.

Jacob and Esau ¹⁹This is the account of the family line of Abraham's son Isaac. Abraham became the father of Isaac, ²⁰and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah daughter of Bethuel the Aramean from Paddan Aram^[c] and sister of Laban the Aramean.

²¹Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was childless. The LORD answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant. ²²The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, "Why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. ²³The LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger."

²⁴When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. ²⁵The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau.^[d] ²⁶After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob.^[e] Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth to them. ²⁷The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was content to stay at home among the tents. ²⁸Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

²⁹Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. ³⁰He said to Jacob, "Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I'm famished!" (That is why he was also called Edom.^[f]) ³¹Jacob replied, "First sell me your birthright." ³²"Look, I am about to die," Esau said. "What good is the birthright to me?" ³³But Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob. ³⁴Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left. So Esau despised his birthright.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

- Abraham 'had taken another wife' suggests Abraham took Keturah as his wife sometime earlier, after Sarah's death.
- Even Godly men such as Abraham practised polygamy in these days. Abraham also had concubines.
- Was polygamy God's divine plan in the beginning?
- Keturah bears Abraham six more sons
- Their descendants become the Ashurites, the Letushites and the Leummites
- Abraham is indeed the 'Father of many nations'
- Isaac was Sarah and Abraham's only son.....Is this why he left everything he owned to him?
- Why did Abraham send all his sons from the concubines away from Isaac?
- Would this make Isaac's life easier after Abraham's death?
- Abraham was 175 years old when he died
- He had lived 100 years in the Promised Land
- What does it mean to be gathered to his people?
- Isaac and Ishmael bury their father with Isaac's mother Sarah
- How might Ishmael have felt about that?
- God then blesses Isaac
- How might Ishmael have felt about that?
- Ishmael has twelve sons....twelve tribal rulers
- These tribes lived in hostility towards all other tribes related to them
- Ishmael lived to be 137
- Isaac intercedes on behalf of Rebekah because she is barren
- Why do you think Rebekah doesn't pray?
- God answers his prayers and fulfils His covenant promise
- The babies jostled within Rebekah, the struggle between Esau and Jacob began in the womb
- This time Rebekah inquires of the Lord
- The struggle between Esau and Jacob began in the womb
- Do you enquire of the Lord when you are troubled?
- The Lord answers Rebekah and reveals why the babies are jostling
- The answer is very prophetic
- Rebekah gives birth to twin boys, Esau and Jacob
- They were very different from birth
- Isaac loved Esau
- Rebekah loved Jacob
- How do you feel about family favouritism?
- Esau, the older twin easily gives up his birthright for a bowl of stew
- Have you ever given up something important too easily?
- Is Jacob being deceitful by buying the birthright.
- The text says Esau despised his birthright.....why would he be so disinterested in something of such importance?