

NOTE: For exceptional students, I have created links online to other material related to this chapter. Go to <http://LemmonsAid.WordPress.com> and type in the SEARCH BOX: Genesis 25 Links

## Isaac—Genesis 25

### Birth of Jacob & Esau

#### I. Additional Scriptures/Notes...

- 25:1...** KETURAH—“Incense, the wife of Abraham, whom he married probably after Sarah's death ([Gen 25:1-6](#)), by whom he had six sons, whom he sent away into the east country. Her nationality is unknown. She is styled 'Abraham's concubine' ([1Ch 1:32](#)). Through the offshoots of the Keturah line Abraham became the 'father of many nations'” [*Easton's Bible Dictionary*].
- 25:5...** GATHERED TO HIS PEOPLE—“The normal expression for this thought is, 'gathered to his fathers'; but since Abraham's burial was not with his fathers, but with his posterity, the Holy Spirit used a different expression here. However, even more is meant than merely being buried where they were interred. As Keil expressed it: 'This phrase is constantly distinguished from departing this life and being buried. It denotes the reunion in Sheol with friends who have gone before, and therefore presupposes faith in the personal continuance of a man after death.<10> Unger pointed out this expression is used of only six persons: Abraham (*Gen. 25:8*); Ishmael (*Gen. 25:18*); Isaac (*Gen. 35:29*); Jacob (*Gen. 49:29-33*); Aaron (*Num. 20:24*); and Moses (*Deut. 32:50*)” [*Coffman*]. Cf., Luke 16:22.
- 25:12-18...** ISHMAEL'S DESCENDANTS—“These seven verses are all that are devoted to Ishmael's posterity, the chief focus of the sacred narrator's concern being, not the posterity of Ishmael, but that of Isaac, to which he turned at once. The information here was given to show how God fulfilled His promise to Abraham that Ishmael would be blessed, and even that he would dwell 'over against,' that is, adjacent to the Israelites, a phenomenon that has continued to the present day” [*Coffman*].
- 25:29...** SOD—“Past tense of seethe; also the passive participle” [*Webster's 1828 Dictionary*]. ESV, et.al., here use “was cooking.”
- 25:30...** POTTAGE—“Heb. *nazid*, 'boiled,' a dish of boiled food, as of lentils ([Gen 25:29](#); [2Ki 4:38](#))” [*Easton's Bible Dictionary*]. ||| EDOM—“**E'dom**. (*red*). The name Edom was given to Esau, the first-born son of Isaac and twin brother of Jacob, when he sold his birthright to the latter for a meal of lentil pottage. The country which the Lord, subsequently, gave to Esau was, hence, called 'the country of Edom,' [Gen 32:3](#), and his descendants were called Edomites. Edom was called *Mount Seir* and *Idumea* also. Edom was wholly a mountainous country. It embraced the narrow mountainous tract (about 100 miles long by 20 broad) extending along the eastern side of the Arabah from the northern end of the Gulf of Elath to near the southern end of the Dead Sea. The ancient capital of Edom was Bozrah (*Buseireh*). Sela (*Petra*) appears to have been the principal stronghold in the days of Amaziah (B.C. 838). [2Ki 14:7](#). Elath and Ezion-geber were the seaports. [2Sa 8:14](#); [1Ki 9:26](#)” [*Smith's Bible Dictionary*].
- 25:32...** I AM AT THE POINT TO DIE—“The only thing of value to him was the sensual enjoyment of the present; the spiritual blessings of the future his carnal mind was unable to estimate. In this he showed himself to be βέβηλος ([Heb 12:16](#)), a profane man, who cared for nothing but the momentary gratification of sensual desires, who 'did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way, and so despised his birthright' ([Gen 25:34](#)). With

these words the Scriptures judge and condemn the conduct of Esau" [Keil & Delitzsch  
Commentary on the Old Testament]

## II. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: **Patriarchy.**

## III. Summary.

After Sarah's death, Abraham had more children with Keturah. These children were sent away from Isaac and into the east country. Abraham would leave all that he had to Isaac. We read in this chapter of the sad duty of Isaac and Ishmael to bury their father, Abraham. Just as God had promised, Ishmael also headed a great nation and the twelve princes are listed in this chapter. At first Rebekah was unable to bear children, but after Isaac's prayer to the Lord on her behalf, the Lord blessed them with twin sons. The Lord told Rebekah that the elder would serve the younger. Esau was a hunter and especially loved by his father; Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents and, especially loved by his mother. Esau is later referred to in Scripture as a PROFANE man (Heb 12:16), the demonstration of which is found in this chapter when he sold his birthright for a bowl of lentils.

## IV. Outline.

1. Children of Abraham and Keturah (Gen 25:1-4).
2. Separation between Isaac and Abraham's offspring through Keturah (5-7).
3. Death of Abraham (8-11).
4. The twelve princes and their territory (12-18).
5. Jacob and Esau are born (19-28).
6. Esau sells his birthright to Jacob (29-34).

## V. Questions.

### True or False

01. \_\_\_\_\_ Isaac and Rebekah had two sons before the birth of Esau and Jacob.
02. \_\_\_\_\_ Esau despised his birthright.
03. \_\_\_\_\_ Ishmael did not live as long as did his father.
04. \_\_\_\_\_ Jacob is described here as a "cunning hunter."
05. \_\_\_\_\_ Hagar was an Egyptian.

### Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)

06. \_\_\_\_\_ The name EDOM has something to do with this color: (a) black; (b) red; (c) grey.
07. \_\_\_\_\_ Abraham lived to be: (a) 175; (b) 600; (c) 120.
08. \_\_\_\_\_ The name of the firstborn son of Ishmael is: (a) Tema; (b) Jetur; (c) Nebajoth.
09. \_\_\_\_\_ The mother of Zimram was: (a) Rebekah; (b) Hagar; (c) Keturah.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Abraham gave to the sons of the concubines gifts and then he: (a) gave them each a blessing; (b) sent them away; (c) wept bitterly.

### Fill in the Blanks

11. Isaac and Ishmael buried their father, Abraham, in the cave of \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Jacob said to his brother: "\_\_\_\_\_ me this day thy \_\_\_\_\_."
13. "And Isaac \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord for his wife, because she was \_\_\_\_\_."
14. After the death of Abraham, "God \_\_\_\_\_ his son Isaac; and Isaac \_\_\_\_\_ by the \_\_\_\_\_ Lahairoi."
15. The Bible identifies Esau as a \_\_\_\_\_ person in Hebrews \_\_\_\_:16.

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: \_\_\_\_\_

Answers will be found on next week's handout

**ANSWERS to Genesis 24 Questions...** [01—False, Gen 24:29; 02—False, Gen 24:6; 03—True, Gen 24:17-19, 44; 04—True, Gen 24:12, 27; 05—True, Gen 24:67; 06—c, Gen 24:55; 07—d, Gen 24:12-14; 08—b, Gen 24:31; 09—a, Gen 24:34-41; 10—a, Gen 24:50; 11—old, age, blessed, Gen 24:1; 12—Abraham's, servant, Gen 24:34; 13—Bethuel, Milcah, Nahor, Gen 24:24; 14—swear, Gen 24:37; 15—kindly, truly, right, hand, Gen 24:49.]

## VI. Lessons & Applications.

1. **But unto the sons of the concubines, which Abraham had, Abraham gave gifts, and sent them away from Isaac his son...** (Gen 25:6). Obviously Abraham was aware that it was God's plan to use Isaac as the one through whom a blessing would come to all nations. From the description of Abraham's relationship with Ishmael (21:11), it would have to be the case that Abraham loved these sons he had with Keturah. However, he also knew that he needed to yield to the Lord's plan. It was not his desire that there be any conflict with the son of promise so he sent away his other offspring to avoid such. We need to be like Abraham and conform our own will to the will of the Lord. If Jesus Christ is truly our Lord, then He is in control of every aspect of our lives and we do not maintain control of any part of it (Mt 6:24).
2. **Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age...** (Gen 25:8). Abraham lived to be 175. Some of the qualities of his life include...
  - 1) Obedience--left home and friends at the call of God (Genesis 12:4);
  - 2) Unselfishness--gave Lot the first choice of the land (Genesis 13:9);
  - 3) Courage--defeated the robber kings (Genesis 14:14);
  - 4) Benevolence--gave tithes to Melchizedek, The Priest (Genesis 14:20);
  - 5) Incorruptibility--refused to receive gifts for service rendered (Genesis 14:23);
  - 6) Mighty in prayer (Genesis 18:23-33);
  - 7) Wonderful in faith--was willing to offer up his only son, Isaac (Hebrews 11:17)" [Thompson Chain Reference Bible].
3. **Now these are the generations of Ishmael...** (Gen 25:12). In giving comfort to Abraham over Sarah's desire to dismiss Ishmael, the Lord had promised to make of Ishmael a nation (21:13), BECAUSE he was of Abraham's seed. The keeping of this promise is seen in 25:12-18—the twelve princes. As we read these things we ought to rejoice that we serve a PROMISE-KEEPING God. Promises made by God will be kept. There are some of God's promises made with conditions attached. We can be assured that if we fulfill the conditions, the Lord will keep His promise. We appreciate the description Peter gives God's promises in 2 Peter 1:4. They are indeed exceeding, great, and precious.
4. **And Isaac entreated the Lord for his wife, because she was barren...** (Gen 25:21). Nineteen years of married life with Rebekah (25:20 + 25:26) had brought forth no children. Isaac takes his plea for children to the Lord. The word ENTREATED indicates Isaac was earnest and persistent in his prayer to the Lord for children. Our Lord teaches us to be persistent in prayer (Lk 18:1-8).
5. **...what profit shall this birthright do to me?** (Gen 25:32). Here is the attitude expressed of a man living for the pleasures of this life. Esau shows no care about the blessings attached to being firstborn. He is thus labeled by the Holy Spirit to be a PROFANE person (Heb 12:16). As Coffman puts it, part of what Esau was giving up

was: “The right of custodianship of the sacred promises regarding Messiah and the promised ‘seed’ of Abraham.” To have such little regard for spiritual concerns sets Esau before us as one NOT TO IMITATE. The text in Hebrews which refers to this incident, is seeking to teach those Christians that they do not want to be as foolish as Esau was. They do not want to barter away the BETTER way for the old system as many of them were tending toward.

### VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

B P O L I K M J U Y H N B G T R F V C D  
 A E S T R U G G L E D W S X Z A Q W S X  
 R C D E R F V B G T Y C O N C E I V E D  
 R T H N M J U I K O E L D E R O P I K C  
 E M W J U Y H N B G S T R F V C D E W H  
 N R S O X S W E D C R H V F R T G B N I  
 N Y E U N J M K I O E Y A H N B G T R L  
 F V C B D A E W S X G Z A L Q W S X C D  
 C D E R E F T V B G N T Y H L N H Y U R  
 M J U I K K O I M J O Y H B D S G T R E  
 V F R E D C A X O S R W Q E A Z E X S N  
 T S W E D C V H F N T R T T G B N R H Y  
 U W J M J U Y H N B S A B G T R F V V C  
 D E I W S X Z A Q W E S X C D E R F V E  
 B G T N Y H N M J R T H E Y O U N G E R  
 B G T R S F V C T D E W S X Z A Q W S X  
 C D E R F V B N F O R H I S W I F E B G  
 T Y H N J U E Y H N B G T R F V C D E Q  
 A I S A A C X C D E R F V B G T Y H N U  
 M J U Y H N B G T R F V C D E W S D R L

[The highlighted words can be found above. They may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. DRL]

**Genesis 25:21-24...** <sup>21</sup> And **Isaac entreated** the LORD **for his wife**, because she was

**barren**: and the LORD was entreated of him, and **Rebekah** his wife **conceived**.

<sup>22</sup> And the **children struggled** together within her; and she said, If *it be so*, why *am I* thus? And she went to inquire of the LORD. <sup>23</sup> And the LORD said unto her,

**Two nations** are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and *the one* people shall be **stronger** than *the other* people; and the **elder**

**shall serve the younger**. <sup>24</sup> And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, *there were* **twins** in her womb.