

Genesis 25.12-28 Justice for All, Mercy for Some, Surprises Forever
 Kids ZEALOUS Concern FAIRNESS: Bro or Sis SHARE Toy, Cookie, Present
 Parents Complain ANOTHER Child Favored: Classroom Teacher, Youth Ldr

4th Study of Genesis in my 5 yrs @ ZGC – Chs 1-3, 4-11, 12-25 > Now 25-36

1st FAMILY: GOD seems UNFAIR: Cain Rejected, Abel Killed, SETH Favored

Ch 5 – Lots of People Named > Only ENOCH called to WALK into Heaven

Ch 6 – Whole World Guilty INCL NOAH – but Noah found FAVOR w/ God

3 Sons of Noah – 1 Cursed, 2 Blessed > Salvation comes thru SON SHEM!

Before Long Whole World GUILTY Again – ABE Received Blessing of God

6 Sons > 7 Grandsons > 3 Great Grandsons >> Many unnamed Daughters

Abraham *gave all he had to Isaac*. But to the sons of his concubines Abraham gave gifts, and while he was still living *he sent them away from his son Isaac*, eastward to the east country. Genesis 25.5,6

1. Promises Delivered

a. Blessings

v. 12 Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's servant, bore to Abraham

Abe PROMISED a Son – Wife Sarah OLD BARREN > Abe & Sarah HELP God

Follow Cultural Pattern, Socially Acceptable: Wife's Maid bear Child FOR HER

God does not bend His RULES to Changing CULTURES & SOCIETIES

FOOLISHNESS / Sinfulness of Abe & Sarah – Pain & Suffering 4000 yrs

PAIN > Abandoned Woman HAGAR, Son Sent Away ISHAMAEL

ARAB – ISRAELI Conflicts – for MILLENIA – Traced to SELFISHNESS

God of Mercy & Grace BLESSES Some Messes > Came to Helpless HAGAR

As Pregnant Hagar was DRIVEN Out to Desert by JEALOUS SARAH....

The angel of the LORD found her... “I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude...(you) shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, because the LORD has listened to your affliction...she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, “You are a God of seeing” Genesis 16.7-13

Father Abe INTERCEEDS for Ishmael – and God HEARS...

As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I have blessed him and will make him fruitful and multiply him greatly. He shall father twelve princes, and I will make him into a great nation. Genesis 17.20

Even into his OLD AGE > God keeping PROMISES for Abe’s Son ISHMAEL

He was NOT the CHOSEN Son but MERCY of God was Extended to him

b. Boundaries



vs. 13-18 These are the names of the sons of Ishmael... Nebaioth, the firstborn of Ishmael; and Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam, Mishma, Dumah, Massa, Hadad, Tema, Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah...their villages and by their encampments, twelve princes according to their tribes...They settled from Havilah to Shur, which is opposite Egypt in the direction of Assyria.

Blowing SANDS of ARABIA Changed Landscape Significantly in 4000 yrs

Cannot be DOGMATIC about links 12 SONS & Today’s Arab People Group

SOVEREIGN God has ordered steps of THESE Sons of Abraham TOO!

Paul declares TRUE GOD to ATHENIANS: “He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place” Acts 17.26

NOT by Accident brought YOU & ME to BEIJING here in September 2014

c. Buried

v. 17 (These are the years of the life of Ishmael: 137 years. He breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people.)

DIGNITY shown to Ishmael in LIFE and in DEATH > Same PHARASE Abe
 “gathered to his people” Died FAR from Abe/Isaac, Gathered to Different People
 d. Battles v. 18 He settled over against all his kinsmen.

ANGEL’S Message to HAGAR when Pregnant with Ishmael:

“He shall be a wild donkey of a man, *his hand against everyone and everyone's hand against him*, and he shall dwell over *against all his kinsmen*” Genesis 16.12

4000 yrs of CONFLICT in Middle East – Probably until Jesus Comes Again

Arab v Arab, – v Persians – v Turks – v Kurds – Sunni v Shia – v. Sufi – v Bahia

Add all the NATION States – Egypt, Syria, Saudi, Iran into VOLATILE MIX!

e. Book: Genesis

AUTHOR: Moses – Name not Occur, NOT Yet BORN > Claim OT, Lord Jesus

IF Moses NOT Born – How TELL Story of BEGINNINGS – Found in Genesis?

12 These are the generations of Ishmael // 19 These are the generations of Isaac

10 X’s SAME Phrase Repeated in 50 Chapters of Genesis....

The Books of Generations of Genesis (Toledoths)

Heaven and Earth (2.4 – 4.26) These are the generations of the heavens and the earth

Adam (5.1 – 6.8) This is the book of the generations of Adam.

Noah (6.9 – 9.29) These are the generations of Noah.

Sons of Noah (10.1 – 11.9) The generations of the sons of Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Shem (11.10 – 11.26) These are the generations of Shem.

Terah (11.27 – 25.11) Now these are the generations of Terah.

Ishmael (25.12 – 25.18) These are the generations of Ishmael, Abraham's son,

Isaac (25.19 – 35.29) These are the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son

Esau (36.1 – 37.1) These are the generations of Esau (that is, Edom).

Jacob (37.2 – 50.26) These are the generations of Jacob.

Did MOSES Check 10 Books out of LIBRARY of PHAROAH in EGYPT?

Moses Serves BOTH Author AND EDITOR of Book of God/ Using these Books

For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1.21

INSPIRATION of Holy Spirit > Like LUKE who Researched & WROTE Gospel

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account...that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught. Luke 1.1-4

SPIRIT of God who guided Luke write More of NT than ANY Other Writer

Also led Moses so *“that we may have certainty concerning the beginnings”*

2. Promise Delayed

PROMISES for the CHOSEN Son of Abe...

a. Waiting in Prayer

vs. 20,26 Isaac was forty years old...Rebekah his wife conceived...Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them

20 years of BARRENNESS – 240 Menstrual Cycles – Each One Disappointment

PAIN Not Elaborated On – Just 1 Verse – 9 ch Sarah’s Struggle Barrenness

NOT get a CONCUBINE – Endured that PAIN!! – Not going to EXTEND IT!

People have ENCOURAGED Me MOST to Speak against DIVORCE

Christian Friends who have SUFFERED thru Divorce, Want to Save some Pain!

Isaac does NOT PLAY Around he PRAYS – Only Monogamous Patriarch

v. 21 Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren. And the LORD granted his prayer

Isaac’s Life > Picture INSIGNIFICANCE & FAILURE compared to Father Abe

Here is BRIGHT Spot in ISAAC – NOBLE Example PERSEVERING Prayer
 Strong WORD Intercession - MOSES prayer to SAVE Israel from Destruction
 By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. Hebrews 11.20

...are you going through a barren period...Has your career reached a dead end?
 Has it been years since God moved in your life in any dramatic way?...This does
 not mean God has abandoned you...God is teaching you to depend on Him.

James Boice

OLD MAN finally Laughed (ISAAC Means) REJOICED Deeply with WIFE!

PRAYER Based on PROMISE "...in you all the families of the earth shall be
 blessed" Genesis 12.3 > Eternal Promise for World > Now thru ISAAC

Prayer is asking God for what He has already promised. Martin Luther

Take God's Promises BACK to Him – For Kids, Provision, Ministry, Life

Genesis Original Audience – Gen X in Jordan Wilderness – Mom's Dad's DIED
 THEY & Old Man Moses & Joshua SAW & HEARD God Directly

Plagues in Egypt – Crossed Red Sea – Meeting at Sinai – Miracles on Journey

NOW 2nd Generation: Is this ANCIENT God of Parents FOR them, WITH Them

God of ABRAHAM is ALSO the God of Isaac > Covenant Promise for him Too!

YOU – Far from Home, Home Church, Xtian Friends – Will you find God in BJ?

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and
 not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and
 come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when
 you seek me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29.11-13

PROMISE to EXILES – Promise to you EXILED here in Beijing, China

SEEK God with All your Heart – Pray to Him – Gather, Grow, Go in ZGC

b. Warfare Pregnancy When DOES get Pregnant, WOMB is BATTLEground

v. 22 The children struggled together within her, and she said, “If it is thus, why is this happening to me?”

Pregnancy NOT What she EXPECTED or WANTED

FIRST MOTHER – EVE – MOTHER of all the LIVING...

To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children...” Genesis 3.16

Hebrew word “Struggle” – “Children SMASHED Themselves INSIDE of HER!”

As always happens in Africa, when the younger asserts himself or herself over the older, there is conflict, and that conflict was beginning in Rachel’s womb.

Samuel Ngewa, Kenya

STRUGGLE!! WRESTLEMANIA in her WOMB - Head Butts & Strangleholds

PRELUDE for How 2 Boys would LIVE OUTSIDE of the Womb

c. Wondrous Plan

vs. 22-24 So she went to inquire of the LORD. And the LORD said to her, “Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger.” When her days to give birth were completed, behold, there were twins in her womb.

Many times THINK – Sometimes SAY – “God does not give me what I deserve”

HOW can God PREFER Jacob, NOT Fair for ESAU --- More Important ME!!

The oracle is against all conventional wisdom. It makes a profound theological claim. It affirms we do not live in a world where all possibilities are kept open and we may choose our posture as we please. It does not deny freedom. But it requires us to speak also about destiny. W. Brueggemann

When YOU make a UNIVERSE you can SET UP your OWN RULES!

Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases. Psalm 115.3

3. Parental Dysfunction

a. Labels – Names of the Twins Poke Fun at Both of them

vs. 25,26 The first came out red, all his body like a hairy cloak, so they called his name Esau. Afterward his brother came out with his hand holding Esau's heel, so his name was called Jacob. – NAMES “Hairy” and “Heel”

Cute, Labels, Not a Destiny > NAME should reflect your HOPE for Children!

Sticks & Stone can Break my Bones – But NAMES will NEVER HURT Me!!

That's a BIG LIE – Hurtful Words can CAUSE PAIN longer than Broken Bones

b. Love Distortion

v. 28 Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Scripture is SILENT about THOUGHTS of Isaac & Rebekah

DANGER of Applying Modern Psychology to ANCIENT Text & PEOPLE

A man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. Genesis 2.24

CLEAR TEACHING from First Marriage > Formula for Health in All Marriage

Having Favorites among Kids – Loving Kids more than Spouse > WRONG!

Director of Sem in Central Asia – Interviewed Couples, Young Christians

TO Wife: “Who do you love MORE – Husband or Mother?” Usually MOTHER!

Deep Social Dysfunction that Part of World – High Rates Divorce, Drunkenness

v. 27 When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, dwelling in tents.

Children VALUED for What they could DO for PARENTS!

Lots of Pressure on Kids – GUILT when they LEAVE Home, DEPENDENCY

ISAAC loved Esau's MEAT / Rebekah loved to Watch Cooking Shows w/ Jacob

ESAU was HUNTER / ISAAC busy in the HOUSE > Video Games on Couch!

BOTH PARENT Should LOVE & Raise BOTH Sons

And HONOR God's DECREE > PROMISED Future Blessing thru JACOB

Jacob CHANNEL of Blessing > Dysfunction may have CUT Esau from Blessing

c. Lonely

ISAAC Quiet, Colorless, HARDLY Noticed in BIBLE, and in FAMILY Life

LAST WORDS of Rebekah in BIBLE...

Rebekah said to Isaac, "*I loathe my life* because of the Hittite women. If Jacob marries one of the Hittite women like these, one of the women of the land, *what good will my life be to me?*"

Genesis 27.46

FINAL Words of Once Beloved, Beautiful BRIDE – MY LIFE STINKS!!

4. Providential Decree

a. Sovereign Grace

But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. For this is what the promise said: "About this time next year I will return, and Sarah shall have a son." 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."

Roman 9.6-12

ROMANS > God's GOSPEL – PROMISE of SALVATION for Whole World

PROBLEM – God's SAVING Promises to Jews seem to have FAILED

MANY Jews REJECTED Jesus of Nazareth who is SAVIOR of the WORLD

PROMISES NOT for All Israel – ELECT People even among Chosen People

PROMISE: ISAAC Not Ishmael – JACOB Not Esau – of 12 Sons > JUDAH!

NEW ISRAEL in NEW COVENANT – Jews & Gentiles ONE in JESUS!

Jews who OPPOSED Jesus claimed ABE was Father > DESERVING FAVOR

They answered him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works Abraham did... You are doing the works your father did... You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him... But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me... Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.” John 8.39-47

NATURAL ORDER of World, Nature, Society, Church NOT Determine Grace

Without LIVING, ACTIVE, WORKS PRODUCING FAITH you are LOST!

b. Humble Thanks

“...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.” Roman 9.10-12

Examples of SARAH and REBEKAH both IMPORTANT TEACHING

SARAH – Giving BIRTH DEFIES NATURE, beyond our EXPECTATION

REBEKAH – Right Family Line (Not Slave Hagar) – Husband Chosen SON

Fully EXPECT BOTH Twin Sons to be EQUALLY Favored CO-REGENTS!

God does UNEXPECTED > NOT by Merit – We'll see Both UNWORTHY!

Why would HOLY, ALMIGHTY, ETERNAL, SOVEREIGN Chose Anyone?!

God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in

the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. 1 Corinthians 1.27-29

No room for BOASTING – No room for BACKSLIDING!

DARE Not walk away from God who Saves by Sovereign Grace

No Guarantee Call will be Extended to you Again – Esau wept Bitterly LOST!

Jesus: “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide.” John 15.16

c. Zealous Evangelism

For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and *that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.*”
Roman 9.17

Great Misunderstanding: God has PLAN & PEOPLE No Need to Pray & Preach

Wm. Carey preach Christ in India – Fellow Reformed Baptist minister Disagreed

“If God WANTS to Save THOSE People He does not Need you to do so”

GRAIN of Truth > God does NOT NEED Wm. Carey, You, or Me to Serve Him

BIBLICAL Truth > Roman 10 – God of Election is God of Evangelism

God who Predestines is God who sends Preachers and commands PRAYER

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, *that you may proclaim* the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
1 Peter 2.9

Genesis 25¹²These are the generations of Ishmael, Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's servant, bore to Abraham. ¹³These are the names of the sons of Ishmael, named in the order of their birth: Nebaioth, the firstborn of Ishmael; and Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam, ¹⁴Mishma, Dumah, Massa, ¹⁵Hadad, Tema, Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah. ¹⁶These are the sons of Ishmael and these are their names, by their villages and by their encampments, twelve princes according to their tribes. ¹⁷(These are the years of the life of Ishmael: 137 years. He breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people.) ¹⁸They settled from Havilah to Shur, which is opposite Egypt in the direction of Assyria. He settled over against all his kinsmen. ¹⁹These are the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham fathered Isaac, ²⁰and Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, the sister of Laban the Aramean, to be his wife. ²¹And Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren. And the LORD granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife conceived. ²²The children struggled together within her, and she said, "If it is thus, why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. ²³And the LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger." ²⁴When her days to give birth were completed, behold, there were twins in her womb. ²⁵The first came out red, all his body like a hairy cloak, so they called his name Esau. ²⁶Afterward his brother came out with his hand holding Esau's heel, so his name was called Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. ²⁷When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, dwelling in tents. ²⁸Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.