

THE ORIGINS OF IT ALL!: A STUDY OF GENESIS XXVII.) A NEW GENERATION OF PROMISE Part 1 GENESIS 25:1-26

Q: How is such a Great Promise as that given to Abraham, to be preserved and fulfilled in a world such as this and against the tides of time?

Q: Read vv. 1-6. Here we go again, yet another genealogy of names we can't pronounce. What's the point this time?

A.) GOD'S BLESSING NEEDS TO BE REPRODUCED (vv. 1-6)

- Even with the death of his beloved Sarah, God made sure that Abraham would indeed be the father (and not just grandfather) of many nations.
- Despite the varying circumstances and prophetic futures, Abraham loved and blessed each and every one of his children. Yes, Isaac received the Promise and the 'Mantle' but all were blessed.
- It is never enough just for us to hold on to God's promises for ourselves, so long as it remains with and through us, or makes us important or remembered, benefits or pleases ourselves.
- God's promises are given us in order that we may nurture and grow them as good stewards and then see that they are multiplied in others and for many generations.
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B.) DEATH DOES NOT HALT THE PROMISE (vv. 7-11)

- As we saw earlier with the death of Sarah, so the principle remains true even with the death of the patriarch, Abraham.

Q: What about the description of Abraham's death and burial 'strikes' you?

- Even after death, “*he was gathered to his people.*” Perhaps, indicating that others had died with faith in the True God and preserved by His grace for eternity.
- Isaac & Ishmael, despite their differences, buried him together at the place of Sarah (Isaac's mom)'s tomb. Presumably, they stayed in touch and on at least amicable terms.
- God blessed Isaac. Abraham's blessing was not merely symbolic nor void with his death. Rather, it was truly an indication of God's coming blessing.
- Interesting that after Abraham's death, Isaac settled in Beer-Lahai-Roi. **Why?** This is the same place where God heard Hagar after she and Ishmael were sent away for Isaac (and more importantly the Promise)'s sake. It is also where Isaac had earlier come to meditate before the LORD while waiting for his wife, Rebekah. Obviously, he considered this to be a place of effectual prayer and wanted to be sure to dwell in such a place before the power and provision of Almighty God!
- Isaac is now the only living heir of the Messianic line.

C.) EVEN THE **ILLEGITIMATE** ARE REMEMBERED (vv. 12-18)

Q: Why?

- Evidence of God's faithfulness and love.
- Even though not all may be elected to a uniquely special role, all may be blessed and watched over by God according to their faith and devotion.
- Ishmael was also “*gathered to his people.*” Could this mean he too died with a 'saving faith'?

D.) THE PROMISE CONTINUED THROUGH **ELECTION & SEPARATION** (vv. 19-26)

1.) From **God Alone** (vv. 19-21)

Q: Why is knowing all of this important to us?

- Like Abraham and Sarah before them, Isaac and Rebekah struggled with infertility for many years until they determined to give it up to God through special prayer.
- The 'seed' of the Promise are born not of physical means but spiritually.
- The people of God are born not simply by physical birth, but a spiritual birth. His people of His Promise exist only because He has brought them into existence.
- Thus, there had to be no question that the direct descendants of Isaac were the work of God alone!
- **But, why, do you think Isaac & Rebekah took so many years before entreating God?**
- Scripture doesn't say but, perhaps, they figured it wasn't or shouldn't be necessary since they already had the Promise that could only be fulfilled through their progeny. Perhaps, also, they even thought it would somehow be not only unnecessary, but wrong and unfaithful for them to pray for that which God had already promised.
- **How often do we make that same mistake?**
- **Matthew 6:11**
- **Matthew 7:11**
- **Philippians 4:19**
- **Ephesians 3:20-21**
- **2 Peter 2:3-11**

2.) According to **His** Election (vv. 22-23)

Q: What is the perceived problem?

- God answered their prayer, but this is no ordinary pregnancy.
- Rather than one child (and clear heir to the Promise), there are two.

- Even in the womb, the potential heirs are struggling for supremacy. According to the vocabulary used, it is not just a mild struggle Rebekah feels, but involves a crushing or oppressing.
- Again, the proper and necessary recourse is PRAYER: to inquire of the LORD and trust in His Plan!

Q: What is the significance of the LORD's answer?

- There's no surprise, it's all according to His Plan.
- The struggle which has begun in the womb will continue beyond the womb and throughout history. This, too, is part of His Plan.
- The heir would be determined not by human convention (first-born son, strength), but by God's divine election.
- This upsetting of the natural order of human society, however, would yet result in lasting conflict, animosity, and contest.
- Because one is the elect of God does not mean that he or she will be well received by the world. To the contrary, it ensures jealousy and opposition. **John 15:18-19.**

Q: How is it fair or necessary for the LORD to determine this before they are even born?

- It is His Plan and He takes full responsibility. Each is directed by His sovereign will and judged according to their actions within that will.

3.) Formed By His Distinct Separation (vv. 24-26)

- Though twins, they are clearly fraternal rather than identical.
- The two are distinctly different from one another as noticed from the day of their birth.