

GENESIS

F O U N D A T I O N S

Chapter 25 - 27 Study Guide

June 27, 2004

GENESIS

F O U N D A T I O N S

Genesis 25

1. BACKGROUND, CULTURE & EXEGESIS

As you read this chapter remember God's promise to Abraham ... I will make you the Father of many nations. Most people are unaware of Keturah, Abraham's third wife. Here we read that she bore Abraham six more sons. When Abraham dies note that he is buried with his beloved Sarah and he gives his inheritance to Isaac alone.

The rest of this chapter introduces us to a new cast of characters. Jacob ultimately will take center stage but along the way we learn a lot about Isaac, Rebecca and Esau. Names have meaning and although Jacob's name can be interpreted as either "heel-grabber", or "deceitful" – stay tuned for a name change because Jacob is destined to become Israel.

Esau is an interesting study, in Romans 9:13 we read that God hated Esau ... pretty strong words! The reason for that reaction undoubtedly has to do with his disregard of his birthright. Everything we read about Esau points to the fact that he was a worldly earthy sort of guy with no spiritual concern at all, that nature is what prompted God's response as seen in the fore mentioned verse.

Note that the massive problems between Jacob and Esau begin with parental preferences.

Soul-Winner So What

God changed a deceiver into one favored – if he did this for Jacob can he do this for you?

Small Groups Question

In what ways was Esau carnal and in what areas of your life can you see a bit Esau in you?

God chose the younger over the older what other biblical examples of this can you recount?

2. THEME & AUTHORSHIP

Themes

A couple predominate themes are found in Genesis. First is fact that this is a Book of Beginnings, the great introduction to the drama of redemption.



GENESIS

F O U N D A T I O N S

Second, we see God preparing a people – here we have God choosing and then testing. Whether it is Abraham, Isaac, Jacob or Noah for that matter God chooses and then begins to winnow and purge. Remember the goal is to create a people who would fulfill Genesis 3:15. It will be here that the initial step will be taken for man's redemption by a divine covenant made with a chosen race whose early history is here portrayed.

Author – Moses / **Date** - 1450 – 1410 BC

3. Theology

Chapter 25 is a story of two brothers who were very different. Jacob and Esau were born as twins but after the womb they didn't hang out much. Esau was a hunter who lived on the land, he was a tough guy who killed his own food. Jacob was kind of a mama's boy. The Bible says it this way, "Jacob was a mild man, dwelling in tents" I think that says a lot, any guy that "dwells in tents" is probably not the manliest of men. Jacob was the favorite of his mother while Esau was much closer to his father. In those days when the father passed away his estate was split between the sons, with the older son receiving a double portion as his birthright. You can no doubt see Rebekah and her son Jacob conspiring against Esau because he was probably a crude man and she wanted to see her favorite son receive the benefits of the birthright. So in a plot to undermine this right Jacob sold some stew to his famished brother in exchange for his birthright. Now we shouldn't completely remove blame from Esau, he was the one stupid enough to make this decision, and forever relegate his line to second status. So what can we learn? A couple of things, first God is going to play by the rules that he has set in place. He could have very easily stepped in and restored order, but he honored the law that he set forth and technically Jacob stayed within the law. Secondly we see a pattern throughout scripture of the younger son being elevated to first son status. God uses the weak to show that he is strong. 1 Corinthians tells us that in our weakness, God is made strong. We also see this theme throughout scripture. This story is one of deception and trickery, but also one of God's sovereignty and grace.

Soul-Winner So What

Don't be quick to "sell off" your birthright in exchange for the pleasures of the moment. God has blue plans for you, don't let Satan steal them.

Small Groups Question

What birthright have you sold off?

4. WORD STUDIES

Word: Vs. 21 "Isaac prayed on the lord on behalf of his wife, because she was barren."



GENESIS

F O U N D A T I O N S

After Isaac got married at forty years old he waited twenty years for his prayer for a child to be answered. God's promise came true but it definitely took a little while to test the faith and perseverance of Isaac. That Isaac did not go about obtaining a child through a maidservant servant like Abraham or Jacob after him shows the love he had for Rebekah.

Soul-Winner So What

God's promises must be prayed for and not superseded!. We must pray always and continue to knock on the door until He answers us, not getting discouraged but having our faith built upon. Isaac prayed *for* his wife and some read it *with* his wife. Note, Husbands and wives should pray together. That their *prayers be not hindered*, 1 Pt. 3:7.

Small Groups Question

- 1) What has God promised you that you have given up praying for?
- 2) Married Couples: Do you pray with each other? How often? How has it affected your marriage?
 - a) What examples of praying for our spouse do we find in the Bible?

5. Attributes of God

God sometimes grants our pleas-

²¹Now Isaac pleaded with the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his plea, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

God knows the future-

²³And the LORD said to her:

*"Two nations are in your womb,
Two peoples shall be separated from your body;
One people shall be stronger than the other,
And the older shall serve the younger."*

6. BIBLE DIFFICULTIES / PROBLEM PASSAGES

- 1) What is a birthright and why is it so important?

A birthright was a special honor given to the firstborn son. It included a double portion of the family inheritance along with the honor of one day becoming the family's leader. The oldest son could sell his birthright or give it away if he chose, but in doing so, he would lose both material goods and his leadership position. Esau showed complete disregard for the spiritual blessings that would have come his way had he kept it.

Soul-Winner So What



GENESIS

F O U N D A T I O N S

Never sacrifice what you want most for what you want for the moment. Esau like many of us traded his lasting benefits for immediate pleasure. He acted on impulse, satisfying his desires without pausing to consider the long-range consequences of his decision. One of the enemies greatest weapons is, the lust of the eyes and flesh,(I see it, I want it, I gotta have it). The enemy also has a way of making this desire appear to be a life and death or far more of need than it really is. The next time you're faced with a decision, stop and consider the repercussions, this will allow you to see the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Remember the old saying: "what looks to you is not always good for you". (Prov 14:12)

Small Groups Question

- 1) What was the desire that caused Esau to trade his birthright? NOTE, this is a desire we also fall prey to...(flesh)
- 2) Can the desire of our flesh really be so strong that you would give up blessings for the rest of your life...for some stew?
- 3) How do you battle the desires of our flesh?
- 4) How do we know when it is our flesh, and when it is an actual need we need to fulfill?

GENESIS

F O U N D A T I O N S

Genesis 26

2. BACKGROUND, CULTURE & EXEGESIS

If Abraham could be classified as an Altar-builder then Isaac would be a “Well-digger”. Although this is a difference there does seem to be quite a few parallels. Let’s look at some of them in this chapter:

Parallels to Abraham

1. Both experience a famine
2. Both have a plan to go to Egypt
3. Both dwell in Gerar
4. Both call their wives their sisters
5. Both wives were apparently gorgeous
6. Both had kings concerned about the ramifications if they had committed adultery
7. Both had kings rebuke them

Throughout this chapter one cannot miss the shadow of Abraham. God’s unconditional promises to Abraham guarantee Isaac’s blessings. He inherits all the promises and is simply told to not go down to Egypt and to live and dwell in the land.

One could say that all of his blessings and prosperity is due to someone else’s righteousness – that being his Father Abraham.

Soul-Winner So What

I am not saved according to my works – my salvation is made secure by His work. This week share the blessing of this concept (by the way it’s the GOSPEL) with someone who has yet to receive Christ.

Small Groups Question

- 1) What parallels can you see in relationship to the blessings both of them received?
- 2) Can you see any parallels to the blessings in your life, with the promises and blessings in Abraham and Isaac’s life?

2. THEME & AUTHORSHIP

Themes

A couple predominate themes are found in Genesis. First is fact that this is a Book of Beginnings, the great introduction to the drama of redemption.



GENESIS

F O U N D A T I O N S

Second, we see God preparing a people – here we have God choosing and then testing. Whether it is Abraham, Isaac, Jacob or Noah for that matter God chooses and then begins to winnow and purge. Remember the goal is to create a people who would fulfill Genesis 3:15. It will be here that the initial step will be taken for man's redemption by a divine covenant made with a chosen race whose early history is here portrayed.

Author – Moses / **Date** - 1450 – 1410 BC

3. Theology

The Covenant made between God and Abraham continues through Abraham's line to Isaac. God makes it very clear in this chapter that Isaac is being blessed because of the faithfulness of his father Abraham. Verses 4-5 God says, I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes and My laws." God isn't making a new covenant with Isaac, he is simply reminding him of the covenant God made with his father and promising that he will see it through to completion. This serves as a reminder to us that God will fulfill all of his promises to us. We can look at the promises and prophecies throughout the Bible and know that they will be fulfilled. God reminds us time and time again throughout scripture that He is sovereign and all things are under his control.

Soul-Winner So What

God will fulfill all his promises, live in such a way that shows faith that these things will be fulfilled.

Small Groups Question

- 1) What promises did God fulfill in Isaac's life?
- 2) How did these promises affect Isaac's life?
- 3) What promises can you hold onto everyday that will cause you to act in faith?

4. WORD STUDIES

Vs. 7 When the men of that place asked him about his wife, he said she is my sister, because he was afraid to say she is my wife. "He thought the men of this place might kill me on account of Rebekah, because she is beautiful."

It seems odd that these great men might sin in such a way that might show their lack of faith. It shows that great men are often guilty of great follies. To those that stand take heed lest you fall and to those who have fallen know that you'll be drawn up again and restored.



GENESIS

F O U N D A T I O N S

Soul-Winner So What

A lying tongue lasts a moment but truth endures time. Often one lie opens the door for a lot of trouble. We also see that God often protects those that may have caused a reason to get in trouble. He lets those know that messing with God's anointed could be even worse trouble for themselves

Small Groups Question

Explain a time when you made an excuse that came back to bite you...but God somehow let you off real easy.

5. Attributes of God

God provides for His people-

*22And he moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it. So he called its name Rehoboth, because he said, "For now **the LORD has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land.**"*

God sometimes appears to men-

*24And **the LORD appeared to him** the same night and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham; do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for My servant Abraham's sake."*

God doesn't want us to be afraid-

*24And the LORD appeared to him the same night and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham; **do not fear, for I am with you.** I will bless you and multiply your descendants for My servant Abraham's sake."*

God is with people-

*24And the LORD appeared to him the same night and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham; do not fear, for **I am with you.** I will bless you and multiply your descendants for My servant Abraham's sake."*

God sometimes blesses people's descendants because of their faithfulness-

*24And the LORD appeared to him the same night and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham; do not fear, for I am with you. **I will bless you and multiply your descendants for My servant Abraham's sake.**"*

6. BIBLE DIFFICULTIES / PROBLEM PASSAGES

In between the lines

Like father, like son. – Here Isaac is, a Godly man, on fire for God, faced with a decision to trust God, and fails. Where did he learn this trick? Can you say his daddy, Abraham. For some reason, him and his daddy alike trusted God in all other areas except with their wives.



GENESIS

F O U N D A T I O N S

Soul-Winner So What

Parents: Your children are more apt to do what you do, not what you say. Parents we help shape the world's future by the way we help shape our children's values. The first step to in raising Godly kids is being Godly parents. Our children need to see us praying, reading, being an example of the love of Christ and living an obedient life according to the word of God.

Mature Christians we also are helping shape the world's future by the way we help shape younger Christians values. We hear all the time the church is full of hypocrites, and that's true. Therefore more of a reason why we need to step up and be lights directing our younger (spiritually) brothers and sisters, to Christ. The most effective vehicle we can use is an obedient life to Christ. Matthew 7:21

Small Groups Question

Does your life, line up with your mouth? Does your mouth line up with the Word of God. Check your life and what kind of examples are you setting for either your kids or those around?

GENESIS

F O U N D A T I O N S

Genesis 27

1. BACKGROUND, CULTURE & EXEGESIS

Here is the WORD of the Lord; the prophetic prophesy of the fate of both Jacob and Esau:

Genesis 25

²³And the LORD said to her:

"Two nations are in your womb,
Two peoples shall be separated from your body;
One people shall be stronger than the other,
And the older shall serve the younger."

Here in this chapter we again have a classic case of what happens when people try to help God out. (Remember Hagar?) Rebecca was given this word but throughout this chapter it appears that for some reason she has to resort to manipulation in order to see this prophecy fulfilled ... you can imagine the results!

Let's first of all look at what's at stake. The rite of the firstborn included the following;

when the Father imparted "The BLESSING", he was officially then making that particular son the High priest of the family as well as giving him a double portion of the inheritance. As you can see this "blessing" included both a spiritual and a material reward.

God had already preordained that Jacob would be the leader of the Family but that word apparently was not enough and look at the messed that followed. By the way, please note that all participants in this narrative were at fault.

Isaac – attempted to thwart God's plan by blessing Esau

Esau – broke the oath he had made with Jacob

Rebecca and Jacob – tried to achieve God's blessing by deception

 Their victory would reap hatred and separation

 Rebecca never saw Jacob again

Jacob alone did not destroy the family – parental preference did

Other Lessons

Parental Favoritism – this is what tore the family apart

Spiritual Insensitivity – Reliance on senses vs. spiritual discernment

Deception – Jacob's only hesitancy was that he might get caught

Jacob would later learn that blessings are given by God, not gained by deceit



GENESIS

F O U N D A T I O N S

One Final Note for those who like to dig a bit!

Jacob receives a blessing from his father by hiding behind the name and wearing the garments of his beloved first born son.

Soul-Winner So What

God keeps his promises! What has God promised you? Can you be patient and wait for his timing or are you a manipulator?

Small Groups Question

1. What does it mean to be a manipulator? Have you ever tried to manipulate God?
2. What other biblical examples of parental favoritism can you think of, and what were the results?

2. THEME & AUTHORSHIP

Themes

A couple predominate themes are found in Genesis. First is fact that this is a Book of Beginnings, the great introduction to the drama of redemption.

Second, we see God preparing a people – here we have God choosing and then testing. Whether it is Abraham, Isaac, Jacob or Noah for that matter God chooses and then begins to winnow and purge. Remember the goal is to create a people who would fulfill Genesis 3:15. It will be here that the initial step will be taken for man's redemption by a divine covenant made with a chosen race whose early history is here portrayed.

Author – Moses / **Date** - 1450 – 1410 BC

3. Theology

This to me is one of the best stories in the Bible. You may think that's kind of strange that a pastor would like a story about deception and lies (or maybe you don't think that's strange at all), and you would be right, it is sort of strange. But nonetheless I like it and this is why, its real. See if the Bible were really a big hoax thought up by the disciple so that they could make some money and be forever known, this is exactly the kind of story that they would leave out. This is the kind fo story that would make them look really bad, who would want to acknowledge the fact that they come form a long line of liars and cheats? The fact is, this is real life. Sometimes people do lie and sometimes they do cheat, even Christians. One of the cool parts to me is the reaction of the father, Isaac once he figures it out. He is angry of course, but he doesn't try to change it. Why is this? If I was the dad I would just get mad and tell



GENESIS

F O U N D A T I O N S

Jacob he was a bum and make the necessary atonements to give back the birthright. But he doesn't and this is for a very important reason. He believes in the system. He knew that this was the system that God put in place and he was going to honor that, not complain about it. You may think this is silly, but its not, I promise. So many times we whine and complain about the way things are, feminists complain that women can't be pastors, homosexuals complain that they can't be homosexuals, and young, horny, college guys complain that they can't sleep with their girlfriends. But God set it up the way he set it up and that's that. He has done it for our own good and besides that, HE IS GOD. And that answer should be good enough.

4. WORD STUDIES

Word: Jacob יַעֲקֹב Ya`aqob

Jacob = "heel holder" or "supplanter". Son of Isaac, grandson of Abraham, and father of the 12 patriarchs of the tribes of Israel. The Hebrew word that means "heel" sounds similar to the name "Jacob" "He who grasps at the heel (of another). Eventually God gave him a new name "Israel" (32:28).

We see through the life of Jacob a brother grasping at the heel of his older brother Esau. Grasping for and never giving up on getting what God had promised him- that He would have the blessing of his father, rule over his older brother as promised in (27:23). We see Jacob the heel grasper struggling with the Angel of the Lord in Chapter 32:24 when Jacob wrestles with a Man, whom was possibly a preeminence of Jesus Christ. Jacob clearly worked hard to strive with man and God, possibly the reason why the Lord chose to bless him and his line instead of what customarily belonged to the firstborn Son.

Soul-Winner So What

Often the blessings of God are given to those wrestle for them. Live your day in urgency to do his will, prepared before hand to get up and go or get up and grab a hold of what He has promised. Don't be like Esau and foolishly forfeit blessings for immediate gratification.

Small Groups Question

How are you striving for God and his promises? What are those promises? Have you been trading your blessings for instant oatmeal? How can you help others strive for God?

5. Gospel/ Prophecy/ Pictures of Christ

Gen 27:20

And Isaac said unto his son, How is it that thou hast found it so quickly, my son? And he said, Because the LORD thy God brought it to me.

Even though Isaac was well advanced in years, and very near his death, he still had the mind to realize the amount of time it takes to kill and prepare a meal. It certainly could not come as quickly as did the meal that a *supposed Esau* had made. Isaac's



GENESIS

F O U N D A T I O N S

question to his son was one that had given Jacob full opportunity of escape from his deceptive sin.

What promise was given to Rebekah from God regarding her sons in Gen. 25:23?

- How trusting of God are you in waiting for His promises?
- Do you or have you attempted to cause or manipulate the “hand of the Lord?”
- The ugly reality of attempting to manipulate the “hand of God” is one that causes great deception, to others as well as self.

Read: James 1:13-15

- Where is sin birthed in an individual’s life? Look at some verses that communicate this truth: Job 15:35; Psalm 7:14; Isaiah 59:4; Micah 2:1-3
- How is the sin of Rebekah (Genesis 27:5-13) infectious to the conduct of Jacob?
- What type of influence are your words and behavior having on those around you?

Read: Genesis 25:27-33

- In what ways did the differences in Jacob and Esau manifest themselves, personally and nationally?
- Notice also: Numbers 20:14-21 and the book of Obadiah

If a Christian falls into certain patterns of sin, it is likely that there was a point in time in which he/she allowed the conscience to be violated.

Read: Matthew 6:22-23

- Conscience witnesses to the highest standard we have.
- Jesus likens the eye to a lamp or window, not as a manufacturer of light, but a receiver of light. What would happen if every time I sinned or violated my conscience I became partially blind? How often would you violate conscience?
- What is the consequence of violating conscience? Do you?

Conscience is in place to be our “friend” assisting us out of the path of potential iniquity.

With the Holy Spirit indwelling us as believers, we have the ability not to sin, as well as the way of escape when temptation comes. Jacob chose to do that which was wrong, and chose not to tell the truth when given opportunity leading to more lies and deception.

Soul-Winner So What

The Bible certainly does not hide the sins of great men. How is that fact helping you to share with skeptics the fact that the Bible is divinely inspired?



GENESIS

F O U N D A T I O N S

6. Attributes of God

God fulfils His promises, despite our shortcomings-

¹⁹**Jacob said** to his father, **"I am Esau** your firstborn; I have done just as you told me; please arise, sit and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me."

²⁶Then his father Isaac said to him...

²⁸Therefore may God give you
Of the dew of heaven,
Of the fatness of the earth,
And plenty of grain and wine.

²⁹Let peoples serve you,
And nations bow down to you.
Be master over your brethren,
And let your mother's sons bow down to you.
Cursed be everyone who curses you,
And blessed be those who bless you!"

³⁵But he said, "Your brother came with deceit and has taken away your blessing."

Soul-Winner So What

God had already promised the blessing (chapter 25:23). God didn't need Rebekah or Jacob's help. Even though their lack of faith caused them to be dishonest, God was still faithful to His word.

²³And the LORD said to her: (Rebekah)
"Two nations are in your womb,
Two peoples shall be separated from your body;
One people shall be stronger than the other,
And the older (Esau) shall serve the younger (Jacob)."

God loves us even though we fall short.

Small Groups Question

What are some of God's promises today? In what ways do we try to manipulate & take control to "help" God fulfill them?

7. BIBLE DIFFICULTIES / PROBLEM PASSAGES

How could God bless a liar like Jacob, who used deceit and fraud to cheat his brother of his rightful inheritance?



GENESIS

F O U N D A T I O N S

First, we need to remember that God did not bless Jacob because he lied and used deceit but in spite of it. Since “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Rom 3:23, the only people God can bless are sinners. You and I can take our place alongside Jacob and be humbly grateful that God loves and blesses us despite our faults.

Did Jacob get away with his fraud without paying a price? His action so provoked his brother that he had to flee for his life to his mother’s relatives. There he himself was cheated by his uncle, learning how it felt to be the defrauded one rather than the defrauder. And his mother, who plotted with him, was deprived of her son’s company for the rest of his life. It was all unnecessary. God had told Rebekah that he intended Jacob to inherit the covenant promises (Gen 25:23). If she and Jacob had only waited, God would have worked it all out for them, and their lives might have been very different.

Soul-Winner So What

There are consequences to our sin no matter if we are saved or not. Many unsaved people blame God for there messed up life but do not realize that it is the consequences of there actions.

Small Groups Question

What are you waiting for? Are you waiting passionately or are you trying to manipulate the situation. Is it your lack of trust and faith in God? God always has the best plan and many times we don’t receive it because we move before He tells us to.