

## Genesis Part II (Chapters 25-50)

### Lesson 1: Family of Isaac

**Reading:** Genesis 25:19-26:35

In Part I of our study on Genesis, we saw how this “book of beginnings” reveals God’s grace in his dealings with man from the origin of the universe. Throughout the book, God’s faithfulness is demonstrated in His initial promises to Abraham and in His relationship with Abraham’s descendants as the promised “seed of woman” is traced through the patriarchs. From this book, we can glean powerful applications from the lives of the patriarchs and their tremendous faith.

#### **Context**

In Chapter 23, Sarah dies, and we have the detailed account of Abraham procuring the burial place that will eventually become the gravesite for Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, and Leah (49:31). In Chapter 24, a bride is found for Isaac as Abraham’s chief servant travels to Mesopotamia and is providentially led to Rebekah; it is also in this chapter that Laban, Rebekah’s brother, is introduced. In Chapter 25, Abraham remarries and has 6 sons by Keturah. Isaac is recognized as the heir of promise (seed) as Abraham gives gifts to his other sons while living and sends them away. Abraham dies at 175 and is buried by Isaac and Ishmael. Ishmael has 12 sons (princes) and becomes the father of a multitude in keeping with the prophecy given in 16:10, 21:13, and 21:18. Ishmael dies at 137 years.

#### **Family of Isaac – Jacob and Esau (25:19-34)**

1. How was the prophecy of Jacob and Esau opposite of the culture, and how were the names of the boys demonstrated at birth (25:23-26)?
2. How was favoritism demonstrated in the family of Isaac and what was its eventual effect (25:27-28)?
3. What did the rights of the firstborn (birthright) entail (Deuteronomy 21:17; Exodus 22:29; Genesis 49:3; II Chronicles 21:3; Numbers 8:14-18)?
4. In what way did Esau “despise his birthright” (25:34; Hebrews 12:14-17)?

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5. Given the prophecy of 25:23 and the names given to the two boys, did Esau actually have a choice in his destiny, or was he an instrument of God's will?

### **Isaac and Abimelech (26:1-11)**

6. What weakness did Isaac exhibit, similar to Abraham (20:11-13; 26:7)?
7. What might Abimelech's anger in 26:10-11 indicate about how marriage was viewed by the Philistines?

### **Isaac in Gerar (26:12-22)**

8. As part of their envy of Isaac, the Philistines stopped up the wells that had previously been dug by Abraham's servants. Why is this significant (21:25-30)?

### **Isaac dwells in Beersheba (26:23-25)**

### **Covenant with Abimelech (26:26-33)**

9. What was Abimelech's motivation in requesting a covenant with Isaac (26:28-29)?

### **Esau's family (26:34-35)**

10. Who were the wives of Esau and why were they a source of grief to Isaac and Rebekah?