

Lesson 30

7.7 Isaac and Jacob

- After Abraham was tested by God by offering his son Isaac, the following happened:

➤ Sarah's death; ⇒ **Genesis 23:1~2**

➤ Abraham sent his servant to fetch a wife for Isaac from his family, so that he wouldn't marry a Canaanite woman:

⇒ **Genesis 24:1~9;**

The servant swore to Abraham that he would do so and that he would not allow Isaac to return to the land of Ur of the Chaldees.

⇒ **Genesis 24:10~14;**

The servant went to Mesopotamia and asked God to find a wife for Isaac.

⇒ **Genesis 24:15~27;**

The servant's meeting with Rebekah and God's response to the servant's request.

⇒ **Genesis 24:58~67;**

Rebekah agrees to marry Isaac and meets him.

➤ Abraham remarries and has other children, Abraham's death:

⇒ **Genesis 25:1~6;**

Abraham marries Keturah.

⇒ **Genesis 25:7~11;**

Abraham dies, and Isaac is blessed by God.

➤ Descendants of Ishmael:

⇒ **Genesis 25:12~18;**

The twelve sons of Ishmael and their tribes which gave rise to Arab descent.

➤ Descendants of Isaac:

⇒ **Genesis 25:19~23**

- **V.21:** Rebekah was also barren; Isaac prayed to God and Rebekah bore children.
- **V.22:** they were twin sons and were already struggling in Rebekah's womb, who prayed to God to understand why.
- **V.23:** and the Lord confirmed that they were twins and said: '*And the older shall serve the younger*'.

⇒ **Genesis 25:24~26;**

The birth of Esau the elder and Jacob the younger. Jacob means 'supplanter'. From the womb, Jacob wanted to supplant Esau.

- God goes on to form the nation and we will see that in Abraham's descendants, faith in God decreases, it is no longer that faithfulness that it was in Abraham. Abraham didn't 'blink' to obey God. Isaac didn't; we'll see that he put his preferences before God.
- When Rebekah was expecting twins, God gave her a word: '*the greater will serve the lesser*'. Jacob would be the lesser, and what did what God had said mean? What did God mean? That the heir to the promise would be Jacob. God was going to pass on the promise made to Abraham and Isaac to the younger son, because he said here that the greater would serve the lesser.

⇒ **Genesis 25:23;** 'And the older shall serve the younger'.

- If Isaac and Rebekah had any doubts, they should ask God. Isn't that what they did in **V.21** and **V.22**? Jacob's very name, supplanter, given to the younger, and the way he was born holding Esau's heel, were God's signs of what he had spoken to the couple; but they didn't believe.
- Why did God choose the least to pass on the promise? God's sovereignty! Neither Jacob nor Esau had God's preference, He just chose one of the two. God had already made his plan.

⇒ **Romans 9:6~16;** It is God's sovereignty to call, to make a purpose with whomever He wants.

- Then comes the proof of the decline of faith in God in Abraham's descendants. Did Isaac know God's will? We have seen that he did. And what did Isaac do? He wanted to force the blessing on Esau. Why?

⇒ **Genesis 25:28;** Divided couple! They were supposed to love both sons equally and follow God's command.

- Isaac wanted to give Esau the blessing, bypassing God's command:

⇒ **Genesis 25:29~34;** First Esau sells Jacob his birthright; he was the eldest.

⇒ **Genesis 26:1~6;** God confirms Abraham's blessing on Isaac.

⇒ **Genesis 27:1~4;** Isaac wanting to bless, wanting to pass on the promise to Esau.

⇒ **Genesis 27:5~29**

- Rebekah and Jacob deceived Isaac and Jacob received the blessing. What moved Rebekah to do this? It's what we read in ⇒ **Genesis 25:28**, she liked Jacob better. There was no need for any of that, because the couple knew that the blessing was Jacob's. That was God's will, and Jacob's will. That was God's will, and with God you don't argue, you obey. Isaac wanted to force the blessing on Esau, because he was the most showy of the family, he was the hunter. Jacob was quieter, but he was Rebekah's favorite.

⇒ **Genesis 25:27;** 'Esau was a skillful hunter'.

- So, Rebekah puts on a 'show! 'Isaac could no longer see, Esau had sold out, he had despised his primogeniture; none of this was necessary, everything was wrong, faith in God had diminished! The whole family was wrong, there should be no preference for one son or another, the principle was wrong. And yet Jacob received the blessing. Rebekah, as a suitable helper (*remember the principle from Adam*), should have reminded Isaac of what God had determined, reminded him of God's Word that Jacob was the chosen one. Rebekah should have prayed, cried out to God for the promise to be fulfilled, but she did everything in the flesh. So, we see faith decreasing in Abraham's family, but the covenant remained forever.

⇒ Genesis 27:30~45

- Esau and Isaac find out what has happened, and Esau tries to somehow be blessed too. However, his arguments were out of touch with reality. Esau had sold his primogeniture, and God already knew that this would happen. God did everything for Isaac to believe, He always warns us beforehand.
 - **V.36**; Jacob = supplanter.
 - **V.37**; Isaac bends to God's will.
 - **V.38~40**; God determined that Isaac should speak to Esau like this, even though Esau was his favorite. God's will is sovereign.
- So, Jacob was blessed, God's will prevailed. Isaac sends Jacob to the land of his mother Rebekah (*Paddan-Haran is the same land as Abraham's family*), to take a wife for Jacob, and Isaac confirms the blessing on him.
 - ⇒ **Genesis 27:46**; Rebekah is now a suitable helper.
 - ⇒ **Genesis 28:1~5**