**SDG – Lesson #15**

**Genesis Chapters 25 & 26**

**Chapter 25**

1. “Abraham took another wife.” What was her name?

Her name was Keturah.

2. How many sons did this wife have with Abraham?

Keturah gave birth to five sons.

3. What became of these sons? Why?

Abraham gave all of them gifts or a portion of the inheritance and sent them to the east. Abraham knew that the Covenant was to continue through Isaac so he did not want his other sons to compete with him in the Promised Land.

4. A careful reading of verse 6 also sheds some light on Keturah. What do we learn about her? How does this information affect our understanding of Abraham’s actions in this verse?

Keturah was a concubine. A concubine was a wife and as a result was treated as a wife and not a slave. However, a concubine and her children had no claim to the inheritance. This tells us much about Abraham. He truly cared for his concubines and did not treat them as possessions. However, he also respected God and His covenant. So, from the very beginning, he made sure that Keturah understood the nature of their marriage.

5. What do we learn about Hagar from verse 6?

Like Keturah, she was also a concubine. Verse six speaks of Abraham’s concubines. So, Abraham did not just take Hagar as Sarah’s maidservant. He made her a concubine wife. This showed great care and respect on Abraham’s part for both Hagar but also the righteous ways of God’s people.

6. How old was Abraham when he died? What do we learn about the beliefs of the people at the time of his death?

Abraham died at the age of 175. Since he was “gathered to his people” we can see that there was a belief in life after death.

7. Who buried Abraham? What is the significance of this?

Isaac and Ishmael buried Abraham. Hagar and Ishmael had been sent away, but they did not go too far. Perhaps there was hope of additional inheritance. But Ishmael’s close proximity will cause struggles later.

8. How many sons did Ishmael have? Where did they settle?

Ishmael had 12 sons or tribes. They settled in the areas immediately to the south and east of Abraham and Isaac.

9. Where did Isaac settle? What do we know about this place? (16:7-14)

Isaac settled at Beer-lahai-roi. This is the location of the well where an angel met Hagar and Ishmael. The name means, “The well of the One Who lives and sees me.”

10. How old was Isaac when Sarah died? (Compare 17:17, 21:1-5 and 23:1) How old was he when he was married? How old was he when his sons were born?

Isaac was 37 when his mother died. Three years later at the age of 40 he was married. Twenty years later at the age of 60 his son’s were born.

11. Keeping the ages of Isaac in mind, how long did he pray for Rebekah to have children?

Isaac prayed for 20 years.

12. What lesson can we learn from Isaac’s example of prayer?

(see also Luke 18:1-8)

We are to be persistent and patient in prayer.

**Hebrew Note: The Hebrew word translated as “prayed” in verse 21 actually indicates that Isaac “pleaded” or “prayed passionately” for Rebekah. This was intense praying with a purpose.**

13. What is meant by the phrase, “The children struggled together within her?

This was before the sonogram or stethoscope. Rebekah had no way of knowing that she had twins. Both babies were very active, and she was miserable.

14. What is meant by, “she went to inquire of the Lord”?

Through the use of a sacrifice, she sought an answer from God.

15. What was her question?

Why is this happening to me?

16. What was the Lord’s answer? What is the significance of this?

The Lord told her that:

1. She had twins
2. There would be strife between the two
3. One would be stronger
4. The older would serve the younger

This sets the stage for the rest of history. The older serving the younger was unheard of at that time.

17. What does the name “Esau” mean?

Esau means hairy.

18. What does the name “Jacob” mean?

Jacob means deceiver.

19. Is there any significance to the phrase “his hand holding Esau’s heel?”

The Hebrew word for heel sounds like the Hebrew name Jacob. This phrase basically means “he grabbed hold of Esau to deceive.” It is prophetic in nature.

20. How old was Abraham when the twins were born?

Abraham was 160 when they were born.

21. Immediately following the account of the twins’ birth, the author fast forwards in time and begins to lay the foundation for conflict between the two boys. What was the base cause for this conflict?

Isaac loved Esau and Rebekah loved Jacob.

22. Again the author quickly shifts the scene and introduces us to another point of conflict between Esau and Jacob. What is this point? (vss. 29-34)

Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of stew.

23. Why did Jacob say, “Swear to me now”?

To swear is to call on God to be your witness. It is the highest form of oath or covenant. It is something that is not broken. Jacob fully realized the value of the birthright. Esau did not.

24. What is meant by the phrase, “Thus Esau despised his birthright?”

The Hebrew word for despised means, “utter contempt.” Esau had no regard for the Covenant God had made to Abraham.

**Chapter 26**

25. Why did God tell Isaac not to go to Egypt?

God told Isaac to stay in the land that He had promised to Abraham. God used the famine to pass the Covenant or reaffirm it to Isaac.

26. Carefully read verse five. What had Abraham done that was commended by God? What does this infer?

Abraham was commended for:

1. Obeying God’s voice.
2. Keeping God’s charge.
3. Keeping God’s commandments, statutes and laws.

Most people think of God delivering the Law to Moses as the first giving of the Law. However, we clearly see that Abraham already knew the commandments and/or Law. It was given before.

27. Following this commendation, the Author parallels an event in Isaac’s life to Abraham’s. Notice the names involved as you compare this account to the accounts in 21:22-34 and 20:1-17. What actions are the same? What names? How can we account for this?

In both cases they had moved and then claimed that their wives were their sisters. In both cases they dealt with Abimelech and Phicol. In both cases we are probably dealing with the father’s and then their sons.

28. What is the big difference between the accounts?

In the case of Isaac and Rebekah; Abimelech did not take Rebekah to be his wife nor did anyone else. As soon as he found out that Rebekah was Isaac’s wife he made it known to all his people and warned them.

29. What led Abimelech to know that Rebekah was not Isaac’s sister?

When Abimelech “saw Isaac laughing with Rebekah his wife,” the author uses a word play. Isaac means laughter. The Hebrew literally means “when he saw Isaac being himself with Rebekah.” He was acting as her husband and Abimelech saw it.

30. What happened while Isaac was living in Gerar? (Vss. 12-13)

God blessed Isaac and he became very wealthy.

31. What was the result of this? (Vss. 14-16)

vs. 14 - The Philistines were envious.

vs. 15 - The Philistines filled his wells, even though there was a Covenant between Abraham and Abimelech.

vs. 16 - Abimelech told him to leave.

32. In verses 17-22, Isaac left the city of Gerar, but stayed in the area or Valley of Gerar. He re-dug the wells that Abraham had dug. What did he call them? What do these name mean?

1) Esek: Contention

2) Situah: Enmity, this is a variation of the Hebrew word for Satan

3) Rehoboth: Broad places or room, there was quarrel over this well. There was room for him to settle down.

33. In verses 23-33 Isaac moves to Beersheba. What was the first thing that happened to Isaac at Beersheba? What were the three actions of response that Isaac made or took?

The Lord confirmed the Covenant with Isaac.

As a result, Isaac:

1. Built an altar and publicly worshipped God.
2. Pitched his tent there.
3. Dug a well.

34. Why did Abimelech come to Isaac?

Abimelech saw that God blessed Isaac and he came to seek peace with him by entering into a covenant with Isaac.

35. What two steps were taken to seal the Covenant between Isaac and Abimelech?

They ate together and then took oaths. These oaths were taken in the name of the Lord.

36. What is the significance of the word peace/shalom? (vs. 31)

Shalom literally means, “Things are as they ought to be between two parties.”

37. Consistent with the rest of this chapter, Isaac dug another well. What did he name it? Why?

He named it Shibah which means oath. This was where he and Abimelech entered into an oath.

38. How did Esau make life bitter for Isaac and Rebekah? Why would this make them bitter?

Esau married pagan Hittite women. Esau was unequally yoked and his children, their grandchildren, would not be raised to fear