Studies in Genesis Candy Seale

Lesson 14 Genesis 25-26
God's Chosen Family?

Read Genesis 25:1-20. *(Remember, pray before you start. Let this not just be an intellectual assignment. Only through God's Spirit can we even begin to understand God and his Word that He chooses to reveal to us. Pray with the Psalmist, "Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from your law." Psalm 119:18*

Following the Godly Seed

In the last chapter, Abraham was feeling old and had an urgency to get a wife for his son. Reading ahead, we see that Abraham was how old at that time? (Genesis 25:20) _____

How old is Abraham when he dies? (Genesis 25:7) _____

Abraham has thirty-five more years ahead. Wow! And what does he do during those years? (Genesis 25:1-6)

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God has revealed that Abraham will be the father of many nations. Besides Isaac, God's chosen nation, there will be other nations from the twelve sons of Ishmael (Genesis 25:13-15) and from the six sons of Keturah, the wife of Abraham's old age. (Genesis 25:2)

What has Abraham learned from the past? (Genesis 25:6 and Genesis 21:14)

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Isaac is the son of the promise. All that Abraham has will go to Isaac. I believe Keturah is only called a concubine because she could never be considered one that can fill Sarah's place. Surely Keturah was not around while Sarah was still alive. After the incident with Hagar, I do believe Abraham had learned that lesson.

Nevertheless, Abraham lives thirty-five more years, marries and has six more sons. He treats them well and sends them off with nice valuable gifts. But they have to move on. Abraham wants no contentions among the brothers. Isaac is to be the one and only heir.

GENERATIONS

Earlier in Genesis, mention is made of Cain's family (Genesis 4:17-24) and that is it. Then Cain's brother, Seth, is introduced. It is the line of Seth that will continue to be followed in the Scriptures. It is through Seth's generations that the promised seed will come.

Next mention is made of Ham's and Japheth's families (Genesis 10:2-20) and that is it. Then Shem's family (a continuation of Seth's family) is given and his line continues and is the focus of the generations that are to come.

Now Abraham's family through his sons, Ishmael, Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah is given (Genesis 25:2-4, 12-18) and that is it. Then Isaac's family is given, starting at Genesis 25:19 and continuing for the rest of this book. And as we shall see, his line is to continue and is the focus of the generations that are to come. It is through Abraham's line through Isaac that the promised Deliverer is to come.

ISAAC'S FAMILY

READ GENESIS 25:21-34.

Why does Isaac entreat the LORD in Genesis 25:21?

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How old is Isaac at this time? (Genesis 25:26) _____

Isaac has been married 20 years. He is now 60 years old. Abraham had to wait 25 years for Isaac from when God first gave the promise to him. So it has now been 85 years since God's promise was first given! It is very apparent that God is not in any hurry as we people look at time. I do believe that waiting on God is the hardest lesson of all.

Finally Rebekah conceives. What problem does she deal with during her pregnancy? And what does God tell her? (Genesis 25:22-23)

Rebekah does not just have twins in her womb. She has two nations and they are already struggling. This is a struggle that will never stop throughout history. It is the difference between light and darkness, between spirit and flesh. One son is a lover of heaven; one a lover of the world. One is of the seed of woman; one of the seed of the serpent.

How is the firstborn, Esau, described? (Genesis 25:25-28)

How is Jacob described? (Genesis 25:25-28)

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What does Rebekah know about them from the very beginning, from the time when they are still in the womb? (Genesis 25:23)

This is important to keep in mind as we follow this family. She has twins all right. But they are not identical. In fact, there cannot be two more completely different people around; in their looks, in their demeanor, in their thinking, and in their attitudes.

THE BIRTHRIGHT

Esau, being the firstborn, even if it is only in minutes, has the birthright. This means that he is the head of the house, the family priest. He should be the one in the line of the promised Deliverer. What does Esau think of his birthright? (Genesis 25:29-34)

Oh please. He is not starving as in "at the point of death". This is a very wealthy family. Isaac inherits everything that Abraham has. All that Esau needs is provided. It's just that Esau was hungry right then. He lives as "of the world", "satisfying the lusts of the flesh". His stomach is empty and he wants it satisfied. He cares nothing for the things of God or of God's promises of a future Deliverer.

Another key thing to note is Genesis 25:28. What does this reveal?

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Each parent has their favorite. That right there does not produce a very happy home. And remember what has God also revealed to Rebekah about her younger son?

Rebekah is probably confused when she sees Isaac favoring Esau. And I imagine, being close to Jacob, there were times when she and her son were home alone talking about God and his promises and the promised Deliverer and grandpa Abraham and then most recently about what God himself had told her about her younger son while he was yet in the womb.

God knows the heart of Jacob. He knows that Jacob longs after the things of God. But Jacob has a lot to learn in his faith journey. Jacob knows Esau doesn't care about that birthright and he probably hears from his mom that it is supposed to be his anyway. Jacob probably figures his dad is all messed up and that he knows more on the matter. So what does Jacob do?

Oh we have so much to learn from this man! God does not need Jacob's help! That birthright will come to Jacob in God's time. Deep down, Jacob has a desire for the things of God but he goes about it all the wrong way. This seems to be a recurring lesson for mankind. Can we trust and obey. Can we wait on the LORD? That is what God asks of us all. God is patient. He will continue to show and teach. I pray Jacob's lessons can be lessons for us all.

ISAAC, ABRAHAM'S SON

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READ GENESIS 26:1-11. COMPARE THIS TO GENESIS 12:10-20 AND GENESIS 20.

Do we have a rerun here? Give the similarities and the differences between Abraham and his son Isaac.

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We definitely see Isaac is a son of his father.

What other similarity do we see in this narrative? (Genesis 26:3-5)

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This might seem a bit redundant to us. But I am sure this is an exciting confirmation to Isaac that what God has promised his dad, he is now personally promising to Isaac.

READ GENESIS 26:12-33.

When the famine comes to the land, it looks like Isaac is on his way to Egypt. But God intervenes and tells Isaac not to go but that he would tell Isaac where he was to dwell (Genesis 26:2) God directs Isaac in a very odd way. Many times God directs our ways through adversity and opposition.
How is Isaac directed?

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OH, ESAU

READ GENESIS 26:34-35.

This chapter concludes with a good picture of what Esau's heart is like. What does he do? And what does he become to his mom and dad?

Esau continues to show how unfit he is for God's blessing. He seems to show interest only in the things of this world. Seeking whom he would marry was not a matter to consult the advice of his parents or even more importantly how the LORD would lead him in this area.

As we continue to read, we will see that in spite of this family and all of their blunders, God will work out his sovereign purpose and remain merciful to them. It is his plan. It is his promises. He will bring it all to pass. Every time.

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