

SALT Church

Genesis 25

“Death”

May 6, 2026

“In the Beginning”

Recap Genesis 24

- Last week we witnessed the sovereign hand of God in the provision and selection of Isaac’s wife Rebekah.
- We saw God in answer prayers before they were prayed.
- We saw God work in the hearts of all that were involved so that His will would be completed.
- God the Father was the hero of last week’s study
 - But we witnessed the mature faith of Abraham and his most trusted servant.
 - We left last week with a truer understanding of God’s will for those He loves:
 - He is at work and what is required by those that belong to Him is belief and obedience.
 - When faith and obedience are coupled together the children of God become an unstoppable force for the glory of God.

Setting the tone:

Psalms 139:16

¹⁶You saw me before I was born.

Every day of my life was recorded in your book.

Every moment was laid out

before a single day had passed.

Psalms 90:12

¹²Teach us to number our days,

that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Psalms 39:4

⁴“Show me, Lord, my life’s end

and the number of my days;

let me know how fleeting my life is.

Things to keep in mind:

- Abraham was 10 years older than Sarah and we know that Sarah died at age 127, therefore Abraham was 137
- If Abraham waited a year before he remarried he could have been married to his second wife Keturah 37 years.

Things to pay attention to:

- The structure of this historical record matters
 - Abraham’s death is “bracketed” by two genealogical records (why?)
 - The order in which Isaac name is presented matters

Genesis 25

25 Abraham married another wife, whose name was Keturah.

- Her name means spices
 - Her son's names are names that originate in Arabia thus scholars believe that she may have come from that region.

²She gave birth to Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah. ³Jokshan was the father of Sheba and Dedan. Dedan's descendants were the Asshurites, Letushites, and Leummites. ⁴Midian's sons were Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abida, and Eldaah. These were all descendants of Abraham through Keturah.

- Can you imagine starting a family at age 138?
 - I am sure that the fact that he was very wealthy (King like) helped.
- Also, Keturah had to be fairly young to give birth to six sons.
 - Nothing has changed in 4,000 years

⁵Abraham gave everything he owned to his son Isaac.

- This is not to say that Abraham was penniless, what this means is that everyone knew upon his death Isaac was the sole heir.

⁶But before he died, he gave gifts to the sons of his concubines and sent them off to a land in the east, away from Isaac.

- Concubines?
 - What in the world Abraham?
 - It's clear that Abraham believed in the promises of God!

- This also insinuates that there were more than the eight sons that are listed in this chapter.
 - It does say something about the importance of marriage and children.

7 Abraham lived for 175 years, 8 and he died at a ripe old age, having lived a long and satisfying life.

- Abraham left his homeland at the age of 75 which means that for a century he lived in the land that was promised to him but not given.
- The fact that his years were long and satisfying is a testimony to his satisfaction in the promises of God.
- At the time of his death, he was very wealthy, powerful, and had the respect of the Kings around him.
 - Process that for a second.
 - Only God could take a man and his family, have him wonder around in the desert and make him one of the wealthiest most powerful men in the world.

He breathed his last and joined his ancestors in death.

- The NLT does not translate this well.
 - In the Hebrew it says that “he breathed his last and was gathered to his people.”
 - That’s important when you understand who wrote this:
 - Moses is writing this as the Holy Spirit is telling him what to put on paper.
 - Abraham didn’t join his ancestors in the tomb he was “gathered to his people.”

This is important to me because there are false doctrines out there that teach what the 7th Day Adventist believe the false doctrine of “soul sleep.”

- **Seventh-day Adventists** believe that death is an unconscious state, often referred to as "soul sleep," where the dead remain in a resting state in the grave, unaware of time, until the resurrection.
- Based on conditional immortality, they teach that humans are an indivisible unit (body, mind, spirit) and do not have a conscious soul that survives the body.

How do we know that this is not true?

2 Corinthians 5

5 For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. 2 Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, 3 because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. 4 For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. 5 Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

6 Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. 7 For we live by faith, not by sight. 8 We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 9 So

we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

Okay Pastor, was that true as it relates to the Old Testament saints?

- If Jesus had not paid for their sins on the cross were they allowed in to Heaven?
 - This is a great question!
 - Let's allow Jesus to explain the answer.

Luke 16

¹⁹“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

²²“The time came when the beggar died, and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side.

- I love that phrase, “the angels carried him to Abraham’s side.”
 - Keep in mind Abraham himself was gathered to his people according to Genesis 25.
 - Now listen to the contrast of the non-believers death

The rich man also died and was buried.

- No gathered to his people, no angels taking him to Abraham.

²³ In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side.

- Hades mean place of the dead.
 - So, we must consider that Hades includes both the place of torment and Abraham's location in which Jesus calls it paradise.
 - We must also keep in mind that this was the way it was before the cross and I'll explain this further in just a moment.
 - But for now, Hades is divided into, one side paradise and the other the place of torment.

²⁴ So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'

- It is very important that we understand that Hades is not Hell.
- How do we know?

Revelation 20:10

¹⁰ And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

How do we know that Satan, the beast, and the false prophet were the 1st inhabitants of Hell?

Revelation 20:11-15

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

So, we conclude based upon scripture that this rich man is in torment in Hades.

- **The same Hades that gives up its dead in Revelation 20**

Back to Luke 16

²⁴ So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’

- This tells us a few things about the people in Hades
 - They remember!

- Their hearts have not changed despite the pain
 - The rich man is still acting as if Lazarus is beneath him and calls him to serve him.

Pastor, are we going to be able to see those in Hades when we die?

- No, and I will explain why soon.

²⁵“But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony.

- The fact that Abraham calls him son tells us that he is a Jew.

²⁶And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’

- This must have been very difficult to see if you were in Paradise.

²⁷“He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, ²⁸for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’

- In Hades they remember.
 - This is part of the torment, knowing that loved ones will soon be joining them.

Listen to Abraham’s response:

29 “Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’

- How would we say this today?
 - There is a church on every corner
 - The Bible can be accessed anywhere at any time
 - There are more copies of the Bible on the earth than any other book.
 - “They have Moses and the Prophets” is the same as saying “they have the Bible and the Bible is enough.”

(side note)

- Abraham has a job in Paradise
 - Meaning that Heaven will not be boring.
 - Our work will be the most fulfilling thing we have ever done.
 - It will be completed with great joy and energy.
 - In fact we will be incredibly satisfied because our work will be an act of worship.
 - (By the way) you have to wait to get to Heaven to make your work an act of worship.
 - Especially if no one sees your work except God the Father.

30 “No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

- Jesus knows He will return from the dead and still His own disciples will doubt.

31 “He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

- You have the Bible and the Bible is enough.
 - Stop thinking that miracles lead people to salvation, they do not.
 - The Bible is truth, Jesus is truth, and the Truth shall set you free.

So, what have we learned?

- The phrase “gathered to his ancestors” literally means that Abraham was taken to where his believing family were.
- It was there that he was reunited with Sarah
- It was there that he met his great, great, great grandfather Noah.
 - And all of those that preceded him in death.

Yea but Pastor,

Wasn't this just a story that Jesus was telling?

- Is there any proof that this actually happened?
 - Jesus doesn't lie, He is the way and the truth.

Another observation is this:

- Jesus uses Lazarus' name
 - In His parables He uses no names.

Yea but Pastor is there any proof that Hades actually existed this way?

1st there is Jesus' story about Lazarus and the rich man.

2nd There is prophecy

Psalms 16:8-11

⁸ I keep my eyes always on the Lord.

With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;

my body also will rest secure,

¹⁰ because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,

nor will you let your faithful one see decay.

¹¹ You make known to me the path of life;

you will fill me with joy in your presence,

with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

We know King Davids bones did see decay because he was buried in Jerusalem. (2 Kings)

- “Nor will your faithful one see decay is a reference to King Jesus”
 - This verse was sited in Acts 2

Acts 2:29-32

²⁹ “Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. ³⁰ But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. ³² God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.

3rd is the thief on the cross

Luke 23:42-43

4² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

4³ Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.” (NOT HEAVEN)

4th There is the resurrection of Jesus

John 20:11-17

11 Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

13 They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”

“They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.”¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

15 He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?”

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”

16 Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).

17 Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am

ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.”

- Where did He go for three days?

2 Peter 3:18-22

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. ¹⁹ After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits— ²⁰ to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, ²¹ and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

4th is Jesus’ divine mission

Luke 4:16-19

¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

**¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me**

to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners

and recovery of sight for the blind,

to set the oppressed free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Paul makes mention of this

Ephesians 4:8-10

⁸ This is why it says:

**"When he ascended on high,
he took many captives
and gave gifts to his people."**

⁹ (What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰ He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)

In Revelation 1:18 Jesus says:

¹⁸ I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! **And I hold the keys of death and Hades.**

Our conclusion is this:

- Before the cross of Christ all people descended into Hades the place of the dead because the penalty for their sin had not yet been paid.
- Hades was divided by a great chasm that separated the righteous from the unrighteous.

- The righteous went to Paradise like Abraham, Jesus, the thief on the cross, Lot, Noah, etc...
- Jesus proclaimed the truth to everyone in Hades
 - Those who were in Paradise were set free to ascend to Heaven and the others remained in more torcher than before because they heard and saw their redeemer say that they had rejected Him and therefore all hope was lost on them.
- All of this screams at those who believe in non-sense like “soul sleep” that they do not know their Bible.
- This also breaths peace in the soul of the believer for we know that to be absent from the body is to be in the presence of the Lord.
 - Where is our Lord and King at this very moment?
 - In Heaven sitting at the right hand of the Father on His throne.

Back to Genesis 25

⁹ His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah, near Mamre, in the field of Ephron son of Zohar the Hittite. ¹⁰ This was the field Abraham had purchased from the Hittites and where he had buried his wife Sarah. ¹¹ After Abraham’s death, God blessed his son Isaac, who settled near Beer-lahai-roi in the Negev.

¹² This is the account of the family of Ishmael, the son of Abraham through Hagar, Sarah’s Egyptian servant. ¹³ Here is a list, by their names and clans, of Ishmael’s descendants: The

oldest was Nebaioth, followed by Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam, ¹⁴ Mishma, Dumah, Massa, ¹⁵ Hadad, Tema, Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah. ¹⁶ These twelve sons of Ishmael became the founders of twelve tribes named after them, listed according to the places they settled and camped. ¹⁷ Ishmael lived for 137 years. Then he breathed his last and joined his ancestors in death.

- In the Hebrew it is the same as Abraham,
 - He was gathered to his people which leads me to believe that he also was credited with righteousness, but we can't say for sure.

¹⁸ Ishmael's descendants occupied the region from Havilah to Shur, which is east of Egypt in the direction of Asshur. There they lived in open hostility toward all their relatives.

Closing thought

- Abraham's death was sandwiched between two lineages.
 - God's promise to Abraham was that he would be blessed with an incredible number of children.
 - Keep in mind we haven't gotten to Isaac yet.
 - God is good and He keeps His word always.