

W030112a – 04/15/26

Genesis 25-27

“Contrasts”

Introduction

- Tonight we will continue our study of the Old Testament and the Book of Genesis, remember

The word Genesis means “beginnings”.

- And truly so many things in scripture have their beginning in the book of Genesis
 - The universe, life in general
 - Man, marriage
 - Sin and evil, Language, government, nations
 - And specifically, we will see the nation of Israel
- In fact, understanding what this book is about is the beginning is really a good way to divide up our look at this book

Outline for the Book of Genesis

#1 – The Beginning of All Nations – Genesis 1-11

The Creation – Genesis 1-2

The Fall – Genesis 3-5

The Flood – Genesis 6-9

The Tables of Nations – Genesis 10-11

#2 – The Beginning of the Jewish Nation – Genesis 12-50

Abraham – Genesis 12-23

Isaac – Genesis 24-27

Jacob – Genesis 28-36

Joseph – Genesis 37-50

- And tonight we are going to begin our look at the life of Isaac, the second patriarch on our list there
 - And what we are going to see tonight as we do is a series of contrasts between people and the directions to take in life
- It is amazing how one choice will affect another

Of course we have all experienced that when we choose to go this direction in our lives and we experienced the results and another time we went this direction and something totally different happened

- Well what is true in our physical lives is also true in our spiritual lives as well, the direction we take really does matter
 - We usually have two ways spiritually before us in all of our decisions and unlike in our physical lives where we really don't know how the choice will end up, we can know Biblically how our decision spiritually will end up

We can choose to walk after the Lord

- where Psalm one promises we will be filled with joy, established, fruitful and lasting in our lives

We can choose to walk after the way of the World

- where we are told we will be frustrated, tossed to and fro, unfruitful and what we do will wither away

The choice is ours

- And tonight as we look at chapter 25, 26, and 27 we will see these two ways of life and their consequences exemplified in 5 different contrasts

Genesis 25-27 – Contrasts

#1 – Two Deaths – Genesis 25:1-18

#2 – Two Nations – Genesis 25:19-28

#3 – Two Brothers – Genesis 25:29-34

#4 – Two Kingdoms – Genesis 26:1-35

#5 – Two Parents – Genesis 27:1-46

- Let's look at these one at a time starting with...

Genesis 25-27 – Contrasts

#1 – Two Deaths – Genesis 25:1-18

- The first contrast we notice tonight is the contrasts between two deaths, the deaths of Abraham and Ishmael

Abraham at 140 remarries and goes on to have 6 more kids which lets us know when God heals a body, He really heals a body

- Now we are told multiple times in the scripture that Keturah, Abraham's new wife was Abraham's concubine before she was his wife (I Chronicles 1:32-33)
 - I know again in our culture we can't imagine having a wife and then a lady on the side that is totally acceptable practice by your wife, but that was the culture they lived in
- You provided for this gal, you were intimate with her but her children were not heirs like your wife's children

Well after the death of Sarah, Abraham makes his concubine his next wife

- And I just mention this because what Abraham is not doing is hitting the dating scene at 140 years old, he is moving his concubine Keturah to a more prominent status and her children would then be heirs as well
 - So here in the text the names of Abraham's other kids, plus the names of Ishmael's children are listed, not to just give me trouble in pronouncing names, but to show God's Word has once again come to pass – nations are coming from Abraham

Abraham then lives another 35 years and dies at 175

- Abraham's other son, Ishmael as God promised was the father of 12 nations

Most of which became the Arab people we know today

- Then Ishmael died and was buried at 137 years old

Both of these men were fathers of nations, both were very wealthy when they died

- But these were two very different men

Abraham is described as the friend of God

- oh we know that he was a sinner – but at the same time he was the one who was looking for a city whose builder and maker was God – one who was building alters in his heart

Ishmael is described in Genesis 16 as a wild man – a man whose hand was against every man

- In the New Testament he is pictured as a type of the flesh
 - The way they lived their lives were very different, and I want you to notice some things about their death.

Genesis 25 says of Abraham's Life

#1 – “The sum of the years” – Genesis 25:7

- And this is translated in KJV as “these are the days of the years” and that is spoken of Abraham but not Ishmael

What it speaks of is more than just a quick passing along of a lifetime

- But of much accomplishment day by day

You know the difference in a day off when maybe you get a chance to sleep a little more, or take some time with the family or just watch a game or a movie, compared with your normal work day

- one seems to flash by/ one seems to last forever
 - they are both important, but a work day where you get things done just always seem more fruitful
 - Abraham life was not a quick flash and gone, but a life with much lasting accomplishment

Genesis 25 says of Abraham's Life

#1 – “The sum of the years” – Genesis 25:7

#2 – “He lived” – Genesis 25:7

- Now I don't want to make too much of this, but when you accompany that with the fact that it also says

Genesis 25 says of Abraham's Life

#1 – “The sum of the years” – Genesis 25:7

#2 – “He lived” – Genesis 25:7

#3 – He died “full” – Genesis 25:8

- “of years” is italicized meaning it is not there in the text, translators do that to help you but it rarely does – the original text just says He died “full” - and that itself means satisfied and I see such a contrast

Abraham not only lived a life that was full of accomplishment, but he truly lived, and at the end of his life he was satisfied.

➤ And friends we need to see this - Life is more than just breathing, it is about living and being satisfied. Dying full
It is like going to the movies. It is not just about sitting in the dark and eating popcorn. (well actually I kind of like that part too) but really it is about seeing a story and getting into the plot and the characters. But have you ever seen a really bad movie, hopefully not morally bad, but I just wasted 2 hours of my life on that kind of a movie bad - I remember Christy and I had been married just a few months and Godzilla 2000 came out – I thought that will be great, all these movies in my youth where their mouths would move. But what a let down, that was not fun, I was not satisfied – And I'm not hard to please movie wise, I understand it's a couple hours of escape, but this was really bad, really a waste of time

- And I don't want that to be the story of my life. – Jason was here, not much to say, well no one will say that about me, I always have a lot to say, but I don't want my testimony to be “always unsatisfied with life”
 - And the point is we don't have to be that way. We can choose the way of the righteous.

Now you contrast Abraham with Ishmael

- Abraham died, Ishmael – verse 18, the word translated “died” there is fell, or cast down – it speaks of a violent death
 - And there is, make no mistake about it, a difference between the death of one following the Lord, and the death of one who has rejected Him
 - One to heaven, one to hell

I don't know if you have been there at the last moment of someone's life – as a pastor I have many times and it is amazing to me the difference between someone who has known the Lord and walked with God as they step into eternity – there is peace, compared with the fear and fight of someone who has not, its really scary to witness and I say that not to scare you, but to warn, what path are we heading down? - we will all be there someday!

Abraham died, Ishmael was cast down

- Many, many differences but one thing was the same.

They were both gathered to their people.

- This isn't speaking of burial, because Abraham was not buried in his homeland, but in the cave containing only his wife at the time
 - This is speaking about life after death

And as I was thinking about this passage, the Lord laid upon my heart "we will all be gathered to our people"

- The question is, who are your people?

Do you ever feel funny at huge family gatherings. Not just mom and dad, but 2nd cousin helga, and uncle Randy. You are in your 40's but you are still getting – "I remember when you were this big." And you feel uncomfortable. You might be related to them, but they are not your people. But when I come here and worship with you guys, I feel right at home.

- Who are your people??
 - Oh - I'm not part of the church crowd - I fit in at the party – really???
- Well someday we will all breathe our last and we will be gathered to our people – so it is important to ask, who are your people? – which way of life will you choose?

Genesis 25-27 - Contrasts

#1 – Two Deaths – Genesis 25:1-18

#2 – Two Nations – Genesis 25:19-28

- Now moving on, we now notice not just a contrast in two deaths, but now in two nations

God's workman Abraham dies, but the work continues

- God blesses Isaac and Rebekah
 - But the only problem is she is barren, unable to have children – but notice how they deal with this problem

They call out to the Lord – notice they don't deal with this like Abraham and Sarah did

- Maybe you remember – Sarah, Abraham's wife was also barren, but instead of just praying and trusting, Sarah says to Abraham, why don't you have relations with my handmaiden, and she will provide me with a child to raise

And of course, Abraham said, well okay hon, if that is what you need to make this marriage work, I will follow your plan

- But Isaac doesn't do that – Isaac prays for his wife

What a great lesson for you who are husbands – we can agonize over our wife, we can be irritated with our wives, but I think we are crazy to do either until we have prayed for our wives

- I mean listen guys if she is going through a trial – I know it is hard, there is not much worse than when the enemy attacks our families
 - I would much rather go through sickness, pain, heartache then watch my wife or my kids go through those things
 - I can't stand it – and it's normal to worry
- But what does worry add to the equation? – Jesus said nothing? – Matthew 6

“Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?” – Matthew 6:27

- Worry doesn't make you taller, I would be a giant if I did, and I'm not
 - Worry doesn't not make you live longer, in fact the opposite is true
 - So why not instead of worry, pray for your wife?

Some of you are not worried about your wife, but frustrated with your wife

- Why does she act this way? Why does she have this attitude?
 - As I have said before, I love it when guys tell me that about their wives, because it gives me an opportunity to flip open the Bible to I Corinthians 11 and say

“woman is the glory of man” – 1 Corinthians 11:7

- Yeah pastor - she is not being very glorious
 - Oh well, do you know what that word glory really means in Greek, it means “reflection”

She is your reflection

- Not physically, praise God, but often time spiritually
 - she is a reflection of you
 - So pray for her, and maybe you will grow too so she can reflect something godly

This couple prayed

- Then when she gets pregnant, and is having trouble, notice she also cries out to the Lord (Isaac is rubbing off)

Now my question is this, when things begin to get difficult in our lives, when we are in trouble

- Do we call on our friends, do we call on our parents, or are we learning to call upon the Lord?
 - We so often think, I got this, I don't need any help – oh yes you do friend – so call on the Lord!

She cries out to God and God tells her the problem

- You have two nations in your womb – that would be painful!
 - God tells her that these two kids will become two nations, very different than each other
- And we see this as these kids grow up.

Esau – comes out all covered in red hair –

- we actually have an ancient baby photo of Esau

Picture of Elmo

- amazing, he was a red hairy little baby, but he would grow up to be a man's man. goes out to hunt in the woods –

Jacob is more, well a mama's boy, - drives a cabriolet, has the complete Mariah Carey collection, wears lots of pastels – just not a man's man – in fact we have picture of young Jacob as well – Justin Bieber

- I know it looks like Justin Bieber but that is a picture of Jacob, smooth skinned mama's boy
 - Esau and Jacob looked different and they had different priorities as we will see in a moment

That was not just true of the individuals but the nations that would come from them as well

Esau would go on to be the father of the Edomite people – and they would constantly be against the nation of Israel

- Jacob would become the father of the Jewish people
 - These two very different nations have their beginnings right here

But what I find interesting about this section of scripture is the picture it gives for us of our lives

- Remember there are pictures being draw, these are true stories but pictures as well - Abraham a picture of God the Father, Isaac a picture of God the son – after he is offered on Mount Moriah he does not appear on the scene again until He is given a bride – just like Jesus will be united with us

Which means Rebecca is a picture of us, the bride of Christ – the church, a gentile bride

- So see the picture, she was a pagan before being joined to Isaac, then she was barren, but now she has this war going on inside her.

And I look at my life

- I was once a pagan, living for me, no thought for God
 - I then was joined to Christ, but still barren

Now praise the Lord, God is building my spirit and my walk is deepening - But oh what is that inside me?

- It seems like there is a war going on inside me

As I cry out to Lord, and look to His scriptures

- I learn that I have two natures inside me as we saw a few Sundays ago – we have
 - The old man, the flesh – wanting to rule again, working with the world and the devil to bring about my destruction
 - The new man – very different, a very different Jason that cares about the things of the Lord
- and so this battle rages, but do you know a sure way to a painful Christian walk, feed and take care of both of them

Church on Sunday, and Wednesday

- The world on Friday and Saturday
 - Then the Spirit starts to grow, the flesh begins to grow and the war is on!

I have heard it said that a carnal Christian has it the worst. A Christian is blessed and happy, but a carnal Christian has too much of God to enjoy the world, and too much of the world to enjoy God.

- Christians, I ask you which nature are you going to feed?
 - Which road are you going to take?
 - One leads to countless heartache
 - One leads to true life
- The Bible says choose this day, whom you will serve!

Genesis 25-27 - Contrasts

#1 – Two Deaths – Genesis 25:1-18

#2 – Two Nations – Genesis 25:19-28

#3 – Two Brothers – Genesis 25:29-34

- Now we covered this extensively on Sunday morning and if you missed the study I encourage you to check it out on line or on our app
 - But basically so we are all on the same page tonight, we see such a contrast here between these two brothers
 - One cares for the things of the flesh, and one is interested at least at this point in the things of the Spirit
- And Esau comes in from the field – hungry and says to his brother, the mama's boy – feed me
 - And Jacob says sure, just sell me your birthright

And the birthright, as we saw on Sunday was more than just a double inheritance

- It was the spiritual responsibility for the family
 - Specifically for them it was the promises of the line of Messiah and the Hebrew nation

And Esau who cares only for the things of the flesh, trades away his birthright – the place, the promise and spiritual leadership of the family for what is essentially a bowl of beans

- But before we are too hard on Esau, the question we asked this last Sunday was – what are you willing to trade all you have in Christ for?
 - All the promises as a child of the King?
 - All the opportunities and blessings as an ambassador for Christ – all the fruits of the spirit, walking in fellowship with Christ?
- What are you willing to trade all that away for?
 - Feeling justified about your bitterness?
 - A sexual experience?
 - An advancement in your workplace?
- What are you willing to trade what you have in Jesus for?

Because I am telling you as your pastor that loves you

- Compared to the riches we have in Christ – you are trading it away for nothing more than a bowl of beans
 - And we can avoid this by not being profane
- The word “profane” remember means outside the sanctuary, one who does not have a secret place in his heart - So build those alters and where you can meet with God and He can meet with you – and transform you from the inside out into one who is not profane, one who sees the bowl of beans that stuff in the world really is

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➤ **Read Genesis 26:1-6**

God says to Isaac, stay in the land I have provided for you – I will bless you, I will take care of you – don't go to Egypt, stay in the promised land Isaac

And what do we read in verse 6 – Isaac goes to Gerar? – What? What are you doing?

- Now a little bit of understanding on where Gerar is – Gerar is as close to Egypt as you can get while still technically being in the promise land
 - And I bring this up, I want you to see you can say I choose the path of life, I don't want to sell out, I will obey the Lord, and then we see how close we can get to the world, and still serve the Lord

That type of life, how close can I get to sin will bring about constant failure.

➤ See what happens with Isaac – **read Genesis 26:6-11**
If this story sounds familiar there is a reason for that – Isaac's dad, Abraham, years before this, did the exact same thing in the exact same place

- Abraham went down to Egypt and lied about his wife – and God had to bail him out
 - And then a few years later he went to this very same city that his son is now in, Gerar, and he does the exact same thing – worried they would kill him to get her

Now there are some important things we need to note about this, especially for us who are parents

- and what I am about to say, may hurt a little bit, it may wound - but remember what Proverbs says

“Faithful are the wounds of a friend” – Proverbs 27:6

- I say this to help you, not to hurt you
 - But who we are as parents is going to transfer in some capacity to our children – for good or for evil
- This is one of the reasons it is so important to open up this book, believe what it says, and by God's grace, try to live it out every day

We think, well my sin only affects me and I can take the effects – and that is dumb to think that way – you cannot take the effects, Jesus had to take them for you, you can't take the effects

That is dumb

- But living in sin is double dumb because who you are and what you do, is passed on to those around you, it doesn't just affect you
 - And I know our kids have their own free will and often times they do things against what we have taught them
 - But sometimes the apple just doesn't fall that far from the tree does it?

And some of you are thinking, well I don't have kids, so I don't have to worry about this

- oh contre
 - have you ever considered how old Isaac was when Abraham lied about Sarah being his sister?

How old was that young man that was affected and carried on the same sins as his dear old dad?

- The answer is, Isaac wasn't born yet
 - He wasn't there to see his dad do this and it still affected him, transferred to him
 - We see this kind of thing all throughout the Bible
- We see it with King David, we see it with King Jehoshaphat, we see it with King Solomon

I pray that you would realize that, you are passing things off to the next generation, what are you passing them?

- and decide tonight

I am done with those things that have not only ripped me off, they will rip off the next generation, so Lord by your grace and by your Spirit, I want them gone!

- You see I believe the Lord is gracious
 - But if we just continue down the road of rebellion, thinking, well no one knows and no one is hurt
- In love, I'm here to tell you, you are being a fool! – so instead repent, embrace the love and forgiveness of Jesus and start modeling something else for the next generation

Isaac does just what his father had done, but this time, the bible says that Abimelech sees Isaac “showing endearment” to Rebekah

- obviously this is Bible speak for something else – for it was obviously more than, “hey sis, love you”
 - I show endearment to my sister and no one would bat an eye – so Isaac was really showing endearment – and Abimelech says, obviously she is your wife, right? Come on bro?
- And Abimelech just like happened between their fathers
 - Abimelech was the name of the ruler of Gerar, like Pharaoh in Egypt, this wasn't the same guy Abraham was dealing with 60 years earlier
- Well Isaac takes his rebuke and move on
 - Read - [Genesis 26:12-35](#)

The rest of the chapter could be entitled, “oh well” because it is just an account of some hard times that Isaac faced dealing with wells

- starting with the servant of Abimelech stopping the wells that Abraham, Isaac's dad had built and the names of the well kind of tell the story of what is happening

Names of Wells

“Esek” – “Contention”

“Sitnah” – “Hostility”

“Rehoboth” – “Room”

- Isaac calls one well Contention, the next well he names hostility

And finally, after some time they get tired of harassing him and he names the next well “Room” as in finally there is room for me here

- Isaac has the trial with the wells, then he has a trial with his son Esau who marries not one but two very pagan girls

So not only is Isaac having trouble at work, but his son marries two girls who makes Thanksgiving very uncomfortable

That's Isaac life at the moment

- And I think something it teaches us is that trials come, even when we are trying to do the right thing
 - We made some earlier mistakes, but we have repented, we are trying to live for the Lord
 - So why are there trials???
- Because we live in a fallen world where people sin
 - And at the same time, God is trying to then use those things to shape character into your life and make you a witness to the lost world around you
 - Anyway we move on to the last chapter tonight

Genesis 25-27 - Contrasts

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#5 – Two Parents – Genesis 27:1-46 - [Read Chapter 27:1-4](#)

- We have in these verses Isaac, who has God's word, the promises are going through Jacob, but he ignores it.

To set the picture in your mind

- Isaac thinks that he is about to die
 - Reasonable assumptions – he was old, he was the same age as when he older brother Ishmael had died
 - However Isaac will go on to live for another 43 years.

Now, at what he thinks is the end of his life, Isaac wants to give Esau the blessing.

- So he tells his boy to go out and get some food
 - But oh no, what had God spoken?

In chapter 25, before these two men were born, God had said the older (Esau) would serve the younger (Jacob)

- But Isaac loves Esau – his boy – he brings home meat

So Isaac sets this up to bestow the blessing not on Jacob but Esau

- Even though Isaac had the Word of the Lord, he chooses to ignore it and do his own thing.

What Isaac doesn't know, or what he may know, but doesn't want to see, is there are two nations being formed here.

- Jacob's name will be changed to Israel
 - His 12 sons will become the 12 tribes of Israel
- Esau, because he wanted the stew was called Edom or red, and will become the father of the Edomites.
 - Their history is one of constant killing of the Jews and in reality, being used by Satan to try and destroy Christ's coming

From Edom came the Amalekites, one of which would go on to have a hand in the killing of King Saul

- also Haman from the book of Esther was also from Edom, and even Herod who killed all the little babies in Bethlehem was also a descendant of Esau

That is their history, a nation that would want to destroy the people of God

- Now, to be fair to Isaac, he didn't know that, he just liked his boy, so he was trying to do what he thought best.
 - But here is the point – Isaac didn't know what would happen, but God did, and so He gave His Word
 - A Word that was ignored by Isaac.

But don't we do the same thing?

- God has given us the Word, and he tells us what is best for us

But then we reason with ourselves and we can't understand why God hasn't benefited from our wisdom

- So we have the tendency to ignore what God is telling us, and do what we want

We need to understand, what Isaac seems to not

- God knows what the future holds
 - He sees the end
 - So He declares His Word

He has declared His word toward you, be it for that relationship, that circumstance that you have been praying about

- Now, are you going to believe that God knows best?
 - Or are you going to ignore it?

We see God's word is ignored by one parent, Isaac, but it is also not trusted by another - Rebekah

- [Look at verse 5... Read Genesis 27:5-29](#)

We see her doing all these things, and yet the point is, she is not trusting in the Word of God

- Isaac was ignoring, she is not trusting.

God promised He would bless Jacob - But she looks at the circumstances, and will not trust

- So she has Jacob go get a goat, and she makes it taste like venison, what a cook she must have been (goat vs venison)
 - She has Jacob put on Esau's smelly clothes and then she starts to glue on him animal hair because he was smoothed skin
- And his brother – well not only do we have baby pictures, but this was taken of Esau right before his wedding – **picture of a wookiee getting married**

So you see the problem

- That is why Rebekah is gluing all the hair on Jacob

It boils down she doesn't trust that God is able to keep His word

- And this decision will cost her deeply
 - At the end of the chapter she sends Jacob away, for a few days she says, just until your brother calms down, but it turns into 22 years, and she will never see her son again, for she would die in that time

Everything she worked for, everything she orchestrated

- gone, she would never enjoy the fruit of her plotting.

I don't know about you, but this speaks to me.

When it comes to the plans of my life, of your life, it is time we learn to trust the Lord, and stop trying to manipulate circumstances for our benefit.

- I won't even go into examples, let the Holy Spirit make application to our hearts.
 - God has given you His word

Isaac ignored it, Rebekah didn't trust it, and now we see the consequences. – verse 30...

- [Read Genesis 27:30-46](#)

Esau when he finds out he has been bamboozled

- to say he is mad would be an understatement
 - he wants to kill
- But what I want you to see in this, is he was told the results of living the way he did

He knew what the birthright entailed

- and he sold it for a bowl of beans
 - He knew not to marry girls not of his people
 - But he did it anyway, and was a burden to his mother

He knew all these things, he had the Word of the Lord

- But he failed to believe the consequences.

Now, listen to me. Those of you who in your heart would wish I would stop talking about living full on for the Lord. Those of you who can't wait to leave.

- God has laid down principals in His Word

We have gone over them, you know them

- You can either choose to follow them and be blessed, or rebel against them, and suffer the consequences
 - That choice is up to you

But please don't believe, the consequences won't arrive.

- God's word has been given
 - It will come to pass – because I said so? – no way!

Are we going to ignore, not trust in, or believe the Word of God

- or are we going to submit ourselves to it, and become its student and follower? – Amen? Amen!