

- I) V20 INTRO: By faith **Isaac blessed Jacob** and **Esau** concerning things to come
When last we were together, we looked at the Sacrifice of Isaac
REVIEW
- II) V17-19 The writer had written that **Abraham when tested had offered up Isaac**
His action was considered by God as **completed**, though Isaac was not killed
- III) God viewed Abraham's **resolve** and **obedience** as the completion of the sacrifice
- IV) What strengthened Abraham to do this: Abraham took God at His word
God had promised Abraham that Isaac would have children
When he took Isaac to Moriah, at that time he had none (V18)
- V) Isaac was made an offering to God prior to getting married and having children
This tells us that Abraham believed in **resurrection** (V19)
- VI) **Remember**: Faith is always **tested** but **true faith** survives the testing
We also need to remember being **tested** is not the same as being **tempted**
- VII) **Tempt**: When used in a bad sense, means to test maliciously, or craftily; to put to the proof feelings or judgments; to try someone's faith, virtue, or character by an enticement **to sin**
- VIII) God does not tempt us.
Jas 1:13-15 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempts he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it brings forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, brings forth death.
- IX) Though He does not tempt, He does **test** our faith
Test: To examine or scrutinize in order to ascertain the **quality** of something
Ps 66:10 For You, O God, have proved us: You have **tried us**, as silver is tried.
1 Pe 1:7 These have come so that your faith --of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire --may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.
Jer 17:10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings

- I) To test Abraham's quality of faith he was ordered to give **Isaac back to the Lord**
V19 tells us that Abraham had **received** Isaac from the Lord
- II) **Again**: He had obtained the promised son by trusting God's promise
God had promised **in Isaac** His blessings would be fulfilled (V18)
- III) The proof of his faith was his willingness to give his son Isaac back to God
He gave Him **what already belonged to Him**, though it was supremely difficult
- IV) This was Abraham's road to mature faith: The trusting of God in everything
This occurs when we go through deep trials
ILLUSTRATION
- V) This is what Paul taught us when he dealt with **his thorn in the flesh** in 2 Co 12
Paul wrote that he knew a man who had had incredible revelation from God
He would have been speaking of himself
- VI) He wrote that, to keep him from boasting, a thorn was given to him
It was so severe that he prayed three times for it to be taken away, to no avail
- VII) In the end, he received it because it was God's means of keeping him humble
2 Co 12:9-10 He said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, **then I am strong**.
- VIII) V20 By faith **Isaac** blessed Jacob and Esau **concerning things to come-their future**
When Abraham died, he left behind a line of descendants as imperfect as him
- IX) Tonight we will look at his son of promise, Isaac
SOME INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION
- X) Isaac had a long life compared to others (Abraham 175, Jacob 147, Joseph 110)
Gen 35:28 He was 180 when he died, yet less space is given to him in the Bible
- XI) Abraham, Jacob and Joseph have around 12 chapters **giving details** of their lives
Isaac only has 2 1/2: The second half of Ch 25 to Ch 27 give most of the specifics

- I) According to Gen 23:1 Isaac was around 37 years old when his mother Sarah died
He was unmarried at that time so his father Abraham decided **to give him a wife**
- II) Why: Because Abraham was concerned for him to marry **the right woman**
TURN TO GEN 24
- III) In Gen 24:1-8 Abraham commanded his chief servant to go get a wife for his son
WHY?
- IV) Abraham was too old to make the 500 mi. journey himself so he sent his servant
Also, it was customary for wealthy families to make arrangements in this way
- V) V2-4 Abraham said to the oldest servant of his house who ruled over all that he
He took his most trusted servant and made him swear a solemn oath
- VI) V4 You shall **go to my country** and to **my kindred** and take a wife **for my son Isaac**
- VII) This is important because it is a way of continuing **Abraham's godly line**
He was not to take a wife from among **unbelieving pagans**
- VIII) This is still a practice that continues in the church
2 Co 6:14-16 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do
righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with
darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have
in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and
idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and
walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people".
- IX) V5-9 The servant said to him Perhaps the woman will not be willing to follow me to
What is she is unwilling to leave her country?
- X) Abraham makes it clear: do not bring my son back there
This is because we have left the old way of life behind
2 Co 6:17-18 Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the
Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you." I will be a Father to you, And
you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."

- XI) V7 God will send His angel before you, so you have no need to fear
- I) V10 The servant took ten of his master's camels and departed for all his master's
He equipped a caravan for the long journey, taking a large quantity of goods
- II) Included in the goods would be presents for the bride and her family
- III) He went to the city his brother Nahor lived in, in ancient Mesopotamia
Gen 11:27 says Nahor was Abraham's brother, so there would be relatives there
- IV) V11-14 He made his camels kneel down outside the city by a well of water at
As the camels rested, the servant began praying that the Lord would bless
He knew the women of the town would come for water, so he waited and prayed
- V) V12 He said O Lord God of my master Abraham **please give me success** this day
Notice his prayer: What a loving and faithful servant
His prayer reveals his heart: A desire for the best for his master
- VI) V13-14 Behold I stand here by the well of water and the daughters of the men of
He asks the Lord to lead him **to the right young woman** (a great prayer!)
- VII) V14 The right young woman would need to be **one of character**
She must be of Abraham's people, godly, virtuous, and hopefully, pretty
THE IMPORTANT THINGS
- VIII) She should be in good health, a hard worker (unspoiled), gracious, compassionate
This is character, and it requires character to represent God's kingdom properly
NOTICE
- IX) Any person could show common courtesy and offer someone some water
If she goes **beyond common courtesy**, this would be a sign
A camel can drink 25 gallons of water: this is an incredible task for one woman
- X) V15-16 As it happened before he had finished speaking that behold **Rebekah** who
As he prayed, a beautiful young virgin came to the well to fill her pitcher
- XI) His prayer is answered almost immediately
This was the **perfect timing** of the Lord

Is 65:24 It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer and while they are yet speaking I will hear

- I) V17-21 The servant ran to meet her and said Please let me drink a little water from
She looks past him, and sees that he has camels in need of care and waters them
- II) Obviously, she has a tender heart in that she had concern, even for animals
Pr 12:10 A righteous *man* regards the life of his animal
- III) V22 So it was when the camels had finished drinking that the man took a golden
This is a picture of generous gifts
- IV) V23-28 Whose daughter are you?
It turns out that she was the second cousin of Isaac
- V) V26-27 Response: Praise to God for leading him to her, in answer to his prayer
Pr 16:9 A man's heart devises his way: but the LORD directs his steps
Ro 8:14 for as many as are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God.
- VI) Ultimately Isaac married Rebekah (V61-67)
- VII) CH 25:19-34 The stealing of the birthright (Sibling rivalry)
- VIII) V27 Gives us a description of the two sons
Esau: Appealing to Isaac, a hunter, a man's man
Jacob: Appealing to Rebekah, a momma's boy, played house, Hallmark TV
- IX) Most men would like Esau, but why
His love for the field and hunting was only matched by his **unconcern for the things of God**
- X) Jacob was **mild**: This word is used of Job in Job 1:8 speaking of his righteousness
It means undefiled, upright, complete, wholesome, **morally innocent**
IMPORTANT
- XI) Esau did not value his **birthright** as the firstborn son, and Jacob did

Double portion: Dt. 21:17 He must acknowledge the son of his unloved wife as the firstborn by giving him a double share of all he has. That son is the first sign of his father's strength. The right of the firstborn belongs to him.

Headship of the family: Gen 27:29

- I) Isaac and Rebekah may have been concerned that Esau would get the birthright
He so disdained the blessings as firstborn that he sold it for red pottage
- II) Gen 26:1-6 There was a famine in the land besides the first famine that was in the
SUMMARIZE CHAPTER 26
- III) Because of a famine, Isaac had moved his family to Gerar (Philistine country)
God appeared to him, saying He would honor His promises made to Abraham
- IV) This alone should have guarded his heart from fear
God said: **I will be with you** (Even as Jesus promised to be with us)
Is 26:3-5 You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD, is the Rock eternal. He humbles those who dwell on high, he lays the lofty city low; he levels it to the ground and casts it down to the dust.
- V) At the first sign of danger Isaac lied about his wife (like his father did)
The men of Gerar began to show interest in Rebekah
V7 He called her his sister: He did not trust the Lord for protection
- VI) V8 Abimelech discovered they were married and gave an order for protection
Ultimately: God did bless him, and he became very prosperous
- VII) V27-30 Which leads us to Isaac's blessing
SUMMARIZE
- VIII) Ch 27:1-40, 28:1-5 Rebekah makes a stew for Isaac to get the blessing for Jacob
Isaac insisted on giving the blessing to the son not intended to receive it, and Rebekah was insistent on giving to the son intended to receive it
- IX) Ultimately: The irreversibility of the blessing became obvious, and Isaac gave his blessing to his son Jacob

- X) As he faced death he gave the blessing to receive what neither he nor his sons would ever receive personally
- XI) He blessed Jacob in faith, knowing that God would fulfill the promises in His own way, in His own time