

Genesis Chapter 25: Spirit vs. Flesh: Learning War

Genesis Chapter 24 Review: Father, Son, Holy Spirit and the Bride

Genesis Chapter 25 *I have loved Jacob; but I have hated Esau...* [Malachi 1]

1Now **Abraham took another wife**, whose name was Keturah. 2 She bore to him Zimran and Jokshan and Medan and Midian and Ishbak and Shuah. 3Jokshan became the father of Sheba and Dedan. And the sons of Dedan were Asshurim and Letushim and Leummim. 4The sons of Midian were Ephah and Epher and Hanoah and Abida and Eldaah. All these were the sons of Keturah.

1 Chronicles 1:32 The sons of Keturah, Abraham's **concubine...**

- **Wife/Concubine?** Abraham had 6 more sons

5 Now Abraham gave **all that he had to Isaac**; 6 but to the sons of his concubines, Abraham gave gifts while he was still living, and sent them away from his son Isaac eastward, to the land of the east.

- Typology of God the Father and Son continues: **Inheritance**

Matthew 11:27 " **All things** have been handed over to Me by My Father [cf. Luke 10:22]

John 3:35" The Father loves the Son and has given **all things** into His hand.

- **We will share** the inheritance of Christ as adopted sons and daughters:

Matthew 25:34 "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, **inherit the kingdom** prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

- **Encouragement in Trials:** Keeping an Eternal Perspective

1 Peter 1:3 (Read) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to obtain an **inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you**, 5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials...

- Exhortation to **Walk in a Worthy manner Worthy of your Calling**

Colossians 1: 8 (Read) [We were informed] of your love in the Spirit. 9For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be **filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and**

understanding, 10 so that you will **walk in a manner worthy of the Lord**, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 **strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might**, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously 12giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to **share in the inheritance of the saints in Light**. 13For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

- Only those who have been redeemed will receive the inheritance:

1 Corinthians 6:9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 **Such were some of you**; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

- **"Such were some of you..."** Paul was a Murderer and Covetous [Romans 7:7]

7These are all the years of Abraham's life that he lived, one hundred and seventy-five years. 8Abraham breathed his last and died in a ripe old age, an old man and **satisfied with life; and he was gathered to his people**.

Proverbs 12:14 A man will be **satisfied with good by the fruit of his words**, And the deeds of a man's hands will return to him.

Proverbs 19:23 The **fear of the LORD** leads to life, So that one may sleep satisfied, untouched by evil.

Matthew 5:6 "Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst for righteousness**, for they shall be satisfied.

- **Gathered** to his people in "death":

Psalms 17:15 As for me, I shall behold Your face in righteousness; I will be satisfied **with Your likeness** when I awake.

Matthew 22:31 "But regarding the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God: 32' **I AM THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB**'? [Exodus 3:6] He is not the God of the dead but of the living."

- **Abraham first went to Paradise, not heaven** ; a place named after him; We get the feeling God dug Abraham:

Luke 16:19 (Read) "Now there was a rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, joyously living in splendor every day. 20"And a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, 21and **longing to be fed** with the crumbs which were falling from the rich man's table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores. 22"Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to **Abraham's bosom**; and

the rich man also died and was buried. 23"In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom. 24"And he cried out and said, ' Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.' 25"But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony. 26'And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us.' 27"And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, that you send him to my father's house-- 28 for I have five brothers--in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' 29"But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' 30"But he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!' 31"But he said to him, 'If they do not listen to **Moses and the Prophets**, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.'"

- Abraham was still there after Moses and the Prophets lived and died
- Note: Abraham would greet Sara in paradise

9Then his sons **Isaac and Ishmael** buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite, facing Mamre, 10 the field which Abraham purchased from the sons of Heth; there Abraham was buried with Sarah his wife.

- Isaac and Ishmael reconciliation?

11 It came about after the death of Abraham, that God blessed his son Isaac; and Isaac lived by Beer-lahai-roi.

- **Beer-lahai-roi**: Well of the Living One that sees...me!

12Now these are the records of the generations of Ishmael, Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's maid, bore to Abraham;

1 Chronicles 1:29 These are their genealogies: the firstborn of Ishmael was Nebaioth, then Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam, 30Mishma, Dumah, Massa, Hadad, Tema, 31Jetur, Naphish and Kedemah; these were the sons of Ishmael.

- Evidence suggests these genealogies were kept by...**Ishmael**

13and these are the names of the sons of Ishmael, by their names, in the order of their birth: Nebaioth, the firstborn of Ishmael, and Kedar and Adbeel and Mibsam 14and Mishma and Dumah and Massa, 15Hadad and Tema, Jetur, Naphish and Kedemah. 16These are the sons of Ishmael and these are their names, by their villages, and by their camps; **twelve princes** according to their tribes. 17These are the years of the life of

Ishmael, one hundred and thirty-seven years; and he breathed his last and died, and **was gathered to his people**. 18 They settled from Havilah to Shur which is east of Egypt as one goes toward Assyria; **he settled in defiance of all his relatives**.

- **Ishmael also Gathered to his people:** Believer...probably
- **12 Princes:** Careful what you pray for:

Genesis 17:20 "As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I will bless him, and will make him fruitful and will multiply him exceedingly He shall become the **father of twelve princes**, and I will make him a **great nation**

- [Descendants of Ishmael] settled in "defiance of all his relatives"; some translations "to the east of his relatives" i.e. the **Arab nations**
- Why does God allow His people constantly to be surrounded by enemies?

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

- Sword here: Rama; that is exacting smaller sword not Logos

Judges 3:1 Now these are the nations which the LORD left, to test Israel by them (that is, all who had not experienced any of the wars of Canaan; 2 only in order that the generations of the sons of Israel **might be taught war**, those who had not experienced it formerly).

- Key to transporting fish: **Throw in a predator**

19 Now these are the records of the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham became the father of Isaac; 20 and Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, the sister of Laban the Aramean, to be his wife. 21 **Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife**, because she was barren; and the LORD answered him and Rebekah his wife conceived.

- Husband is priest of his home; Isaac prayed and God answered **by acting**

1 Samuel 1:17 Then Eli answered [Hanna] and said, "Go in peace; and may the God of Israel grant your **petition** that you have asked of Him."

1 Chronicles 5:20 They were helped against them, and the Hagrites and all who were with them were given into their hand; for they cried out to God in the battle, and **He answered their prayers because they trusted in Him**.

2 Chronicles 33:13 When he prayed to Him, He [God] was **moved by his entreaty** and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem to his kingdom Then Manasseh knew that the LORD was God.

Ezra 8:23 So we fasted and sought our God concerning this matter, and **He listened to our entreaty.**

- "We pray to align ourselves with God's will" Yes but not just

Matthew 6:9 "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10' Your kingdom come Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. 11' Give us this day our daily bread.

- God's will of course; then **ask boldly**

Hebrews 4:16 Therefore let us **draw near with confidence [boldness]** to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 11:6 ... without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Matthew 17:20 ...truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.

- Isaac may have thought he would wait as long as Abraham!

Psalms 127:3 Behold, **children are a gift** of the **LORD**, The fruit of the womb is a **reward**.

22 But the children **struggled together** within her; and she said, "If it is so, **why** then am I this way?" So she went to **inquire of the LORD**.

- Rebekah asked God **"What's going on in there?"**
- **Inquiring of God:** Prophets first called seers, Urim and Thummim in the Ephod [part of High Priests garment], or just asking:

23The LORD said to her, "**Two nations** are in your womb; And two peoples will be separated from your body; And **one people shall be stronger** than the other; And the older shall serve the younger."

- **Two Nations: Spirit/Flesh;** One will be stronger in our life

24When her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb. 25Now the first came forth red, all over like a hairy garment; and they named him **Esau**. 26Afterward his brother came forth with his hand holding on to Esau's heel, so his name was called **Jacob**; and Isaac was sixty years old when she gave birth to them.

- **Esau:** Picture of the flesh; Esau means hairy; later people of **Edom, or, "Red"**
- Remember what God thought of Agag: Amalekites close ties with Edom

Malachi 1:2 "I have loved you," says the LORD But you say, "How have You loved us?" "Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" declares the LORD "Yet I have loved Jacob; 3but **I have hated Esau**, and I have made his mountains a desolation and appointed his inheritance for the jackals of the wilderness."

- **God Hates Esau:** the Flesh; Godlessness
- **Jacob:** "He grasps the heel" or "he deceives"; Later God changes Jacob to "Israel" meaning "he struggles with God"

27When the boys grew up, Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the field, but Jacob was a peaceful man, living in tents. 28Now Isaac loved Esau, because he had a taste for game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

- **Isaac:** Type of Christ breaks down; later tries to give Birthright to Esau his favorite
- **Skillful Hunter:** Why? They had more game than they could ever eat!

Genesis 10:9 He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the LORD." [Lit. "Hunter of men's souls"; also founder of Babylon]

29 When Jacob had cooked stew, Esau came in from the field and he was famished; 30and Esau said to Jacob, "Please let me have a swallow of that red stuff there, for I am famished." Therefore his name was called Edom. 31But Jacob said, "First **sell me your birthright**."

- **Birthright:** i.e. Inheritance; Spiritual and Physical

32Esau said, "Behold, I am about to die; so of **what use then is the birthright to me?**" 33And Jacob said, "First swear to me"; so he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob.

- **"What use..."** Instant Gratification; No use for God or Spiritual things

34Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew; and he ate and drank, and rose and went on his way. **Thus Esau despised his birthright.**

Despise: *to regard with loathing and contempt: to dislike somebody or something intensely and with contempt; from Latin despiciere, lit. "To look down on,"*

Hebrews 10:29 How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has **insulted the Spirit of grace?**

- **Flesh Definition:** Insulting the Spirit of Grace
 1. Godlessness [no thought or consideration]
 2. Religion
 3. False philosophies [Evolution, etc.]
 4. Licentiousness/Legalism [two sides of same coin]
 5. Atheism
 6. IDUNKNOW [Intentional lack of considering the claims of Christ]
- The struggle between the Flesh and the Spirit is **exemplified physically in Esau's [Edom's] antagonism toward Jacob [Israel]**

Numbers 20:18 Edom, however, said to [Moses], "**You shall not pass through us, or I will come out with the sword against you.**"

- **Amalek**, descendants of Edom, **would "pick off" the weak** and stragglers; reason for us to **"learn war"**

Deuteronomy 25:17 "Remember what Amalek did to you along the way when you came out from Egypt, 18how he met you along the way and attacked among you all the stragglers at your rear when you were faint and weary; and he did not fear God. 19"Therefore it shall come about when the LORD your God has given you rest from all your surrounding enemies, in the land which the LORD your God gives you as an inheritance to possess, you shall blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven; you must not forget.

Ezekiel 35:4 I will lay your cities waste, and you shall become a desolation; and you shall know that I am the LORD. Because you **cherished perpetual enmity**, and gave over the people of Israel to the power of the sword at the **time of their calamity**, at the time of their final punishment; therefore, as I live, says the Lord GOD, I will prepare you for blood, and blood shall pursue you; because you are guilty of blood, therefore blood shall pursue you.

- Esau sided with *whoever* fought against Israel
- Between Testaments, the people of Edom were forced by Israel become Jews.
- In **Luke 23:9**, Jesus was silent before Herod, hated by the Jews, a product of that forced conversion, and one of the last **Edomites**
- *We also are to give no attention to fleshly desires*

FLESH AND SPIRIT

Romans 7:14 (Read) ...we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin. 15For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate. 16But if I do the very thing I do not want to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that the Law is good. 17So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. 18For I know that **nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh**; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. 19For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. 20But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me 21I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. 22For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, 23but I see a

different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? 25 **Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!** So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.

- **Spirit of the Flesh?:** Feed the white dog [pray, read, meditate, submit...listen]

Hebrews 12:15 See to it that no one comes **short of the grace of God**; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled; 16 that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal. 17 For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, [I never knew you] for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.

- **Esau went too far:** No place for repentance; i.e. "I'll accept Christ just before..."
- **Short of the Grace of God:** "I will do it without God, no interest in Spiritual things"
2 Chronicles 25:1 [For you Bible Scholars]
- **Esau=Edom=Flesh=Immediate gratification of worldly/fleshly desires=no faith in a future inheritance= "evaluate your desires...now"**

Galatians 5:4 (Read) You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. 5 For **we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness.**

Galatians 5:16 (Read) ...walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. 17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. 19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. 26 Let us not become **boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.**[Key]

- **Walking in the Spirit:**

Colossians 1: 8 ...we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be **filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding**, 10 so that you will **walk in a manner worthy of the Lord**, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 **strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might...**

SUMMARY:

- **Abraham leaves everything to Isaac;** goes to Abrahams bosom ;i.e. Paradise
- **Isaac prays and Rebekah** has struggling twins, Flesh and Spirit
- We struggle within as well...**but** thanks be to God through Jesus Christ

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...**but** you were washed, **but** you were sanctified, **but** you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God. [1 Corinthians 6:11]

THEMATIC OUTLINE

Genesis Chapters 1-25: Review

- 1) **Creation** (1:1-2:3)
- 2) **Ancient History** (2:4-11:26)
 - i) Adam and Eve in Eden (2:4-25)
 - ii) Fall and Consequences (3)
 - iii) Sins Progression (4:1-16)
 - iv) Genealogy of Cain (4:17-26)
 - v) Genealogy of Seth (5)
 - vi) God Response to Human Depravity [Judgment] (6:1-8)
 - vii) Great Flood (6:9-9:29)
 - (a) Preparing for the Flood (6:9-7:10)
 - (b) Judgment and Redemption (7:11-8:19)
 1. Rising Waters (7:11-24)
 2. Receding Waters (8:1-19)
 - (c) Flood Aftermath (8:20 -9:29)
 1. New Promise (8:20-22)
 2. Renewed Benediction and New Ordinances (9:1-7)
 3. New Relationship (9:8-17)
 4. New Temptation (9:18-23)
 5. Final Word (9:24-29)
 - (d) Spread of Nations (10:1-11:26)
 1. Diffusion of Nations (10)
 2. Confusion of Languages (11:1-9)
 3. First Semitic Genealogy (11:10-26)
- 3) **Patriarchs** (11:27 - 50:26)
 - i) Abraham (11:27-25:11)
 - (a) Background (11:27-32)
 - (b) Call and Response (12-14)

- (c) Faith and God's Covenant (15-22)
- (d) Final Acts (23:1-25:11)

Genesis Chapters 25-50: Preview

1) Patriarchal History (Continued)

- i) Isaac and Rebekah (26:1-27:45)
 - (a) Abimelech (26:1-33)
 - (b) Isaac: Inheritance Manifested (26:23-25)
 - (c) Isaac: Faith of his Own (Continuous)
 - (d) Blessing on sons (27:1-45)

2) Jacob and Esau (27:46-36:43)

- i) Jacob and Laban (27:46-28:5)
- ii) Esau marries daughter of Ishmael (28:6-9)
- iii) Jacob's Ladder (28:10-22)
- iv) Jacob's Family (29:1-30:24)
- v) Jacob/Esau Reconciliation (32:1-33:20)
- vi) Dinah (34:1-31)
- vii) Jacob's Last Days (35:1-29)
 - (a) Jacob Returns to Bethel (35:1-8)
 - (b) Renewal of Abrahamic Covenant with Isaac (35:9-15)
 - (c) Death/Burial of Rachel (35:16-20)
 - (d) Jacob's 12 Sons (35:23-26)
 - (e) Death/Burial of Isaac 35:27-29

3) Esau Family Records (36:1-43)

4) Joseph (37:1-50:26)

- i) Dreams (37:1-36)
- ii) Judah and Tamar (38:1-30)
- iii) Joseph perfected in Egypt (39:1-40:23)
- iv) Joseph Exalted in Egypt (41:1-57)
- v) Joseph Family Reunion (42:1-47:31)
- vi) Jacob's Last Days (48:1- 50:14)
- vii) Joseph's Last Days (50:15-26)