

## J: Gen 22-24, Mat 24-25



### **Genesis 22**

1. God will bring trials (even extreme trials) to test and determine our trust and loyalty to Him above all others (1-12).
2. God's testing/trials can (and often does) relate to our children (2)
3. The proper response to God's tests/trials is quick obedience and never questioning (3).
4. Possessing the proper response to trials/testing is key to receiving God's mercy or deliverance from such trials/testing as well as future blessings – especially those related to our children (13-19).
5. If we care about God blessing our children then we should be super careful in the way we respond to God's trials/testing in relation to our children (3 w/16-18).
6. God gave His Son to us in the same way Abe gave his son to God (2 w/Joh 3:16).
7. God can use the blessings given to other family members to produce blessings in our children's lives (when we are faithful) (20-24 w/24:15).

### **Genesis 23**

1. Never take - as free, favors from others – including friends/family, for things/services you need, when you have the money to pay for them (1-16; Pro 3:27).
2. Always get in writing important promises/agreements – even among friends/family (17-20).

### **Genesis 24**

1. Never are God's people to take as a spouse someone who is not part of our family (1-4).
2. We can be confident that God will provide a spouse from our people for those who are faithful among His people (5-61, 31 – “Come in, O blessed of the LORD”, 50-51 – “LORD” = Laban and his family respected Abe's God and were willing to let Rebekah become one of His followers as the wife of Isaac).
3. Our commitment to the covenant of marriage is why we should be faithful in loving our spouses, not circumstances or their looks (62-67a).
4. The familial love/loyalty once shared w/a person's parents is to be replaced w/the love/loyalty gained thru their marriage to their spouse (Gen 2:24 w/67b – “comforted” = Made complete in love thru his wife as the replacement for that once experienced as a child w/his parents).

### **Matthew 24**

1. Jesus proves He was no normal human-being by predicting the destruction of Jerusalem: 1) including specific details regarding the Temple (1-2), 2) including a specific timeframe (34 – “this generation will not pass away”; spoken 33/34 A.D., took place, 70 A.D.), 3) in confirmation and fulfillment of prior prophecy (15 w/Dan 9:27, 11:31, 12:11).
2. Jesus prophesies in regard to two returns: one for the destruction of Jerusalem (15-34 – “this generation”), the other for the destruction of the whole world (4-14, 35 – “heaven and earth will pass away”).
3. Jesus' place on the Mount of Olives serves as a sign of Israel's rejection of Him as their Messiah (or Davidic King) (3a w/2Sa 15:30).
4. Jesus' first return to Jerusalem (as Davidic King versus as suffering servant) would signal its destruction and the “close of the (Old Covenant) age” (or dispensation) (3b w/Heb 9:8-9, 14 w/Rev 14:6-7; 15-33 w/Rev 5-19).
5. Many false Christs, teachers, terrible disasters, wars, persecutions and lots of people following lawless forms of Christianity must come before Jesus' final return (4-14).
6. Jesus' final return will be unmistakable (26-28).
7. Without the law, love cannot/will not exist (12 = W/O the Law, love grows cold).
8. Only those Christians who remain lawful and loving (according to the Law) until the end will be saved (12-13).
9. The day of Jesus' final return will be an ordinary/happy (day) and as a result surprise and condemn many Christians whose faithfulness was only associated – or activated, during times of fear (36-41 – “eating and drinking [and] marrying”).
10. Being ready (or “awake”) for Jesus' final return means maintaining through faithful obedience the salvation (or saving covenant relationship) you gained by faith (42-51).

### **Matthew 25**

1. Maintaining through faithful obedience the salvation we gained by faith requires making decisions in the present that will not affect our ability to be faithful in the future (1-13).
2. Maintaining through faithful obedience the salvation we gained by faith requires that we invest the gifts and abilities He has given us in the advancement of His kingdom (14-30).
3. Maintaining through faithful obedience the salvation we gained by faith requires being committed to and caring for those in the covenant community – especially those less fortunate (31-46).