

THE BOOK OF BEGINNINGS

Studies in Genesis

The Blessing of the LORD

Lesson 10

Genesis 26-27

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School

November 5, 2017

Genesis

- ▶ Major divisions in Genesis
 - Genesis 1-11 – the unsolvable dilemma of the human race
 - Genesis 12-50 – beginning of revelation of salvation
- ▶ Two themes of Genesis (and the Bible)
 - Divine perspective: promise of salvation
 - Human perspective: the just shall live by faith
- ▶ God's Covenant
 - Noah – man, animals, earth
 - Abraham – Blessing; great nation; nations; Seed

Genesis at a Glance

FOCUS	FOUR EVENTS				FOUR PEOPLE			
REFERENCE	1:1 — 3:1 — 6:1 — 10:1 — 12:1 — 25:19 — 27:19 — 37:1 — 50:26							
DIVISION	CREATION	FALL	FLOOD	NATIONS	ABRAHAM	ISAAC	JACOB	JOSEPH
LOCATION	FERTILE CRESCENT (Eden – Haran)				CANAAN (Haran – Canaan)			EGYPT (Canaan – Egypt)
TIME	c. 2000 years c. 4004 – c. 2166 B.C.				281 years c. 2166 – 1885 B.C.			81 years (1885 – 1804 B.C.)

Genesis 12-50 – 4 Men

- ▶ Abraham (12:1-25:18)
 - waiting for the Promise
 - Key revelations: Melchizedek; the LORD will provide
 - A bride for Isaac – stay in the land; be separate
- ▶ Isaac (25:19-28:9)
 - Birth of the twins
 - Sojourn in the land of the Philistines
 - Isaac blesses Jacob and sends him away
- ▶ Jacob (28:10-36:43)
- ▶ Joseph (37:1-50:26) – the move into Egypt

Lesson 10: The Blessing of the LORD

- ▶ Sojourn in Gerar – land of the Philistines (26)
 - Repeat famine
 - Repeat of Abraham's fear for safety in the land
 - Re-appearance of Abimelech and Phicol
 - Repeat dispute over wells
 - Repeat of covenant making
- ▶ Isaac blesses Jacob (27)
 - Sequel to sale of birthright (25:29-34)
 - Rebekah and Jacob plot against Isaac and Esau
 - Bookends:
 - Marriages of Esau (26:34-36) – displeasing parents
 - Marriages of Esau (28:6-9) – seeking to please parents

The Sojourn in Gerar (26)

- ▶ Famine in the land
 - Reference to Abraham's experience when he went to Egypt
- ▶ The LORD appeared to Isaac
 - Do not go to Egypt
 - Stay in the land – Abimelech and Phicol
- ▶ The Promise (26:3-4)
 - Presence of God
 - Blessing
 - Possession of the land
 - Many descendants
 - Blessing to all nations

The Sojourn in Gerar (26)

- ▶ The obedience of Abraham
- ▶ My charge, My commandments, My statutes, My laws
- ▶ Command his children after him (8:20); obeyed My voice (22:18)
- ▶ Law of Moses (Deut. 11:1)
- ▶ The law written on his heart (New Covenant, Jer 31:31-34)
- ▶ Secondary obedience – from a new heart and imputed righteousness
- ▶ Promise fulfillment based upon God's oath to Abraham (26:3)

The Sojourn in Gerar (26)

- ▶ Personal fear – despite the Promise of verse 3
- ▶ Low risk – “. . . been there a long time . . .” (26:8)
- ▶ Discovery of deception by Abimelech
- ▶ The blessing of the LORD (v.12-14)
- ▶ Expulsion because of envy and fear

Sojourn in the Wadi of Gerar

- ▶ The search for water in the wadi (dry river bed)
- ▶ The well at Rehoboth – The LORD made room for us
- ▶ Beersheba – the place of Abraham’s covenant with Abimelech
- ▶ The LORD appeared again to Isaac
 - Repeat promise “for the sake of My servant Abraham”
 - Isaac built an altar and called on the name of the LORD
- ▶ The Covenant with Abimelech and Phicol
 - “We see plainly that the LORD has been with you”
 - “You are now the blessed of the LORD”
- ▶ The grief of Isaac and Rebekah from Esau’s marriages

Isaac Blesses Jacob (27)

- ▶ Isaac and Esau (27:1-4)
- ▶ Rebekah and Jacob (27:5-17)
- ▶ Isaac and Jacob (27:18-29)
- ▶ Isaac and Esau (27:30-40)
- ▶ Rebekah and Jacob (27:41-45)
- ▶ Rebekah and Isaac (27:46)
- ▶ Isaac and Jacob (28:1-5)

Isaac Blesses Jacob (27)

- ▶ What did they know?
- ▶ Parental preference guided their actions
- ▶ Rebekah's revelation (25:23)
- ▶ No revelation to Isaac – reliance on natural ability
 - Taste (25:28; 27:4)
 - Sight (27:1)
 - Touch (27:21, 22)
 - Hearing (27:22)
 - Smell (27:27)
- ▶ The outcome was ordained by the LORD
 - Malachi 1:1-5
 - Romans 9:6-13
- ▶ No rebuke of Isaac, Rebekah or Jacob

Isaac Blesses Jacob (27)

▶ Isaac

- Relied on the flesh to make decision
- Showed faith in blessing Jacob and Esau (Heb 11:20)
- Accepted the outcome - “trembled violently” (27:33)

▶ Rebekah

- Did not submit to the LORD or pray (cf. 25:22)
- Did not entreat her husband (cf. 27:46) – see Genesis 48

▶ Jacob

- Wanted both the birthright and blessing
- Did not seem to understand (cf 28:18)

Isaac Blesses Jacob (27)

► Esau

- God hated Esau (Mal 1:1-5; Rom 9:13)
- Esau despised his birthright (25:34)
- An immoral and godless person (Heb 12:16-17)
 - Sold birthright for a single meal
 - Violated oath (25:33)
 - Desired the blessing (afterward) with tears, but rejected by God
 - Intent to kill Jacob shows no concern for the blessing
 - Rejected by God
- Future story of Esau
 - Esau had “plenty” without Jacob (33:9)
 - Esau later moved away from Canaan (36:6)

Isaac's Blessing for Jacob (27)

- ▶ The dew of heaven, fatness of the earth, grain and new wine
- ▶ May peoples and nations serve you
- ▶ May your mother's sons bow down to you
- ▶ Cursed be those who curse you and blessed be those who bless you

Isaac's Blessing for Esau (27)

- ▶ Away from the dew of heaven and fatness of earth
- ▶ Live by the sword – no divine help
- ▶ Serve your brother
- ▶ You will break his yoke – future escape from Israel
- ▶ Kidner “So Isaac pronounces over Esau the appropriate destiny of the ‘profane person’ – the freedom to live unblessed (39) and untamed (40).”

Lessons from Isaac

- ▶ We have this treasure in earthen vessels (2 Cor. 4:7)
- ▶ The righteousness of God, from faith to faith (Rom 1:17)
- ▶ God is not a respecter of persons