

A Daily Devotional Study Guide

The Book of Genesis

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth - Genesis 1:1

WEEK 7

“God Will Provide”

Study: Genesis 22:1-14

Reading: Ephesians 3:14-21, Jeremiah 32:16-35

Memory: Matthew 5:45

What Does the Bible Say?

Abraham had experienced many blessings in his life and God was good to him, but his life wasn't without trials. We have read about times where food was scarce and they had to travel from the land. We also have read about the long trial he and Sarah faced while waiting for their child to be born. These were all difficult. But today you read about one of the biggest trials that Abraham was asked to go through. We are told that God wanted to “test” Abraham by this trial. God already knew what Abraham would do, just as God knows what you will do, but the tests that God brings into the lives of His followers strengthen our faith and are used by God to teach us lessons. Why was this test so hard? It was because God was asking Abraham to take his only son Isaac and offer him as a sacrifice to the Lord. This may sound very strange to us and it probably did to Abraham, but you have to realize that the culture in that day was much different than today. They did not have the Bible to direct them, and, most likely, pagan nations around Abraham practiced child sacrifice. (The Bible records this practice taking place later on in the history of the Caananite nations.) It is interesting to note that Abraham did not argue with God, but got up early in the morning (it appears that it was the next morning), and led Isaac out into the direction that God was asking him to go. He saddled up his donkey and took wood and two of his young servants with him (vs 1-3).

They traveled for two days, and, on the third day, God directed Abraham to the place where He wanted Isaac to be offered. Abraham instructed the men to stay with the donkey and he put the wood on Isaac and started heading to the top of the hill where the sacrifice was to be made. (Note that the “mountains” of Israel are not like the Rocky Mountains, but we would describe them today more like large hills.) On the way to the top, Isaac began to wonder where the sacrifice was. He saw the wood, the fire and the knife, but it was obvious that there was no animal. Abraham simply responded by saying that God would provide a

lamb. Through this we see the trust of Abraham, though I have a feeling that Abraham was being torn inside (vs 4-8).

They reached the place where God had directed them to go and Abraham built an altar, laid down the wood and began to tie Isaac up, just like he would one of the animals that was being sacrificed. How this must have caused great confusion among both of them. The trust that Isaac had in his father appears to reflect the trust that Abraham had in God. We are not told what their discussion was like or if they really thought God would have them go through with this. I am wondering if they kept waiting and waiting for God to step in. They went through the motions, even to the point where Isaac was laying on the altar and was about to be cut by the knife of Abraham. When Abraham raised his arm, a voice from heaven told Abraham to stop. The voice declared that Abraham had passed the test and had proven that he feared God and held God in higher esteem than anything on the earth. Just then, Abraham saw a ram that was caught in the bushes and Abraham offered the ram up to God instead (vs 9-13).

Just as Abraham did at other places, Abraham named this mountain “Yahweh Yir’eh” (Jehovah Jirah) which meant “the Lord will provide,” since God had provided a sacrifice in place of Isaac (vs 14).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Trusting God to provide something that He promised is one of the hardest things to do. There are times when God calls you to give up something that is special to you or to sacrifice it to Him, not knowing if you will get to keep it or not. No, God doesn’t instruct us to physically sacrifice our children, but there are things or people that He wants you to give up or be willing to give up for Him. If you knew how it all would work out in the end, it would be easy to give certain things up, but many times you don’t know how it will work out. You simply have to trust and obey and wait for God to work. Sure, this sounds easy when you are reading about someone else and it is easy to instruct others, but when you are involved and your emotions constantly creep up and cause you to fear and doubt, this is tough. Rest assured that trials in your life are for your good and for God’s glory. You can trust God to provide what you need, when you need it. Often, He will provide more than you could ever imagine and in ways that you would have never dreamed of. Choose to trust God, even when it is tough. Recall stories like this and others to help encourage you that God is in control.

What did God do to Abraham (vs 1)?

Why do you think God chose to test Abraham (vs 1)?

Why do you think God emphasized that Isaac was Abraham’s “only son” (vs 2)?

Why do you think God said that He knew Abraham loved Isaac (vs 2)?

Where was Abraham instructed to go (vs 2)?

What was Abraham told to do (vs 2)?

What did Abraham do in response to God (vs 3)?

What did Abraham see on the third day (vs 4)?

Where was Mount Moriah?

****2 Chronicles 3:1 states that Mount Moriah was at the threshing floor of Ornon. The place where Solomon would eventually build the temple.*

What did Abraham say he would do (vs 5)?

What did Isaac carry (vs 6)?

What did Isaac want to know (vs 7)?

How did Abraham respond (vs 8)?

What did Abraham prepare to do (vs 9)?

What happened when Abraham prepared to slaughter his son (vs 10-11)?

What did God declare (vs 12)?

What did Abraham see (vs 13)?

What did Abraham call the place (vs 14)? Why?

“A Man of Integrity”

Study: Genesis 22:15-23:20

Reading: --

Memory: Matthew 5:45

One of the greatest influences on my life as a young man was my college soccer coach, Jim Phillips. I made the practice squad my freshman year of college and sat under his leadership and teaching that year. My last two years of college, I worked as a manager (ball boy) and listened to hours of his soccer instruction and personal passion for Christ. He changed many of my views about God and athletics that I carry with me until this day. The amazing thing was that he had the same effect on almost every young man who went through his soccer program. As I live my life and minister to others, it is my great desire to walk as a man of integrity, just as Coach Phillips walked.

Today, we are going to see how Abraham was a man of integrity. Because of this, it made a powerful difference on people in the land which he lived and all those who lived around him.

What Does the Bible Say?

After Abraham had sacrificed the ram unto God, the angel of the Lord spoke to him again. The angel declared that Abraham had been faithful and obedient to God and then reiterated the part of the covenant that God had made with Abraham. Once again, he was told that he would be blessed and that his seed would possess the land and become a powerful nation. Abraham must have been thrilled to hear this once again and must have been thankful for his choice to obey, even when things did not make sense (vs 15-18).

Abraham traveled back home and chose to dwell in the area of Beersheba, where he had dug and paid for the well. After a while, it was revealed to Abraham that his brother had some children. At first, describing the descendants of Abraham's brother may seem out of place since they were many miles away, but the reference in verse 23 to Rebekah reveals the importance of this. Rebekah is the woman that would soon become the wife of Isaac (vs 19-24).

Sarah lived to be 127 years old and died when Isaac was around 37

years old. She died at Hebron, indicating that Abraham had probably moved back to that region. Of course, herding flocks meant that Abraham would have moved his family regularly to follow the food. The death of his wife caused great sadness in the heart of Abraham and he mourned for his wife. He went to the Hittites who dwelled in the land and asked them if he could buy a piece of property to provide a place to bury Sarah. The Hittites liked having Abraham in the land because God blessed them for allowing him to live there. They didn't want him to pay for a piece of land, but instead they wanted to give it to him. In fact, they wanted him to pick the best part of the land and it would be his. Abraham appreciated their offer, but didn't want to take the land. He wanted to pay full price for it. This was most likely a move of wisdom so that the Hittites could not come back later and take the land back from him or his children. He chose the cave of Machpelah, near Hebron, as the place for Sarah to be buried. It became the place where he and many of his descendants would be buried as well. You can still travel to this place today and visit monuments to Abraham and Sarah, though there is not access to the actual caves since they are on a lower level of the monument. It is a place that is still revered today by Jews and Muslim who share custody of the area (23:1-20).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Once again you read today about the great blessings that God placed on the life of Abraham because He chose to be obedient to God. The fact that God was with him not only helped Abraham, but blessed those around him. They wanted Abraham to stay in the land and they liked being around Abraham. The character of Abraham can even be seen in his dealings with the Hittites by his refusal to accept the free land. This does not mean that accepting free things is against God, but Abraham was rich. He didn't need free land, nor did he want to subject the land to disputes later on. It was choices and decisions like this that caused him to be liked so much among the people he shared land with. This would be described today as integrity. As a believer, your life should be marked by this. It is not something that you create on your own, but it is developed as a result of spending time with God, knowing what God desires and obeying God. It doesn't come from you as a human, but it is a result of the working of God in your life. Your obedience to God and love for God will not only affect you in a powerful way, but will make a difference in the lives of those around you.

What did God say He would do (vs 15-18)?

What do you think God meant by telling Abraham “your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies” (vs 17)?

****This was a prediction that was fulfilled when the Israelites came into the land and conquered the cities of those who opposed them.*

Who would be blessed because of the offspring of Abraham (vs 18)?

What do you think this was referring to?

****Peter quoted this verse in Acts 3:25 when talking about the salvation that Christ brought to the people. Jesus was the offspring of Abraham and it is through Him that all the nations of the world can find hope.*

Where did Abraham live for awhile (vs 19)?

Why do you think we were given verses 20-24?

How old was Sarah when she died (vs 1)?

What did Abraham ask for (vs 3-4)?

What did the Hittites offer Abraham (vs 6)?

Why do you think they offered this?

What did Abraham ask for (vs 8-9)?

Why do you think Abraham wanted to pay the full price?

What did Abraham insist on (vs 10-13)?

What did Abraham do (vs 14-16)?

Why do you think the location of this cave was emphasized in verses 17-20?

“Asking God for Wisdom”

Study: Genesis 24:1-21

Reading: James 1:1-27

Memory: Matthew 5:45

A spiritual discipline that is often lost in our culture today is one of waiting on God and going to him in prayer and fasting. Many people will often say a quick prayer to God and then act on what they think is best. Yet, over and over in Scripture we are given the example of praying for wisdom and waiting on God. Sometimes, that prayer is answered right away. Other times, it is answered in a process. Today, we are going to see the importance of going to the Lord in prayer.

What Does the Bible Say?

Abraham knew it was now time for Isaac to have a wife. Finding a wife in those days was a little different than today. It also appears that the age that people were married was often much later than it is today. Some have suggested that the rate of growth and maturity was a little slower in those days than it is today. Whatever the case, we know that Abraham desperately wanted to find the proper bride for his son. He called his trusted servant Eliezer and asked him to go find a wife for Isaac. He made Eliezer swear that he would not get a wife from the land of Canaan, but would go back to his kindred and find a wife from the land where Abraham was from (vs 1-4).

Eliezer was a little concerned about doing this and feared that there would be no woman willing to leave her home to come marry Isaac in such a far away place. He wondered if it would be okay to take Isaac back to the land of Abraham’s birth so that he could find a proper wife and dwell there. Abraham was completely against that idea and insisted that Isaac not travel back to that region but that his wife come to live with him in the land of Canaan. This was the land that God had promised and Abraham wanted his son to keep the covenant he made with God and stay in the land. If no woman was willing to come, then Eliezer would be free from his oath to find a wife for Isaac. Abraham was far more concerned about Isaac leaving the land than he was about finding a wife from the land of his birth. Eliezer agreed to Abraham’s wishes and made preparations to set out to find a wife for Isaac (vs 5-9).

As a gift for the family of Isaac’s wife-to-be, Eliezer took ten camels and several gifts with him and headed out for Mesopotamia and the city of

Nahor. This journey would have taken several days. Eliezer must have been thinking of many different ways to try to find the right woman for Isaac and convince her to come back to Canaan. When he arrived at a well in Mesopotamia, he called out to God and asked God to lead him to the correct woman. He asked God to have the correct woman give him a drink of water and to offer to water his camels as well. The response of the woman would give Eliezer clear indication of which woman God would want for Isaac's wife (vs 10-14).

Even before Eliezer had finished asking this of God, Rebekah (Abraham's niece) came out with a jar upon her shoulder. Rebekah was not an average girl, but a young woman who was very attractive, and she was also a virgin who had never been married. After looking at her, Eliezer must have had a suspicion that she was the one because it says he ran to her and asked her for a drink. She agreed to give him a drink and after he drank, she offered to water his camels as well. She didn't do this grudgingly, but did it wilfully and quickly. Eliezer watched to make sure she was "the one," and he must have also watched in amazement because of the way God had answered his request (vs 15-21).

How Does this Apply to Me?

James 1:5 says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him." (ESV) Eliezer gave us a great example today of this verse in action. He was really unsure of how to pick the right woman and his decision was a very important one. He knew he needed the help of God and God revealed exactly what he should do. This should be a great reminder and lesson for you to seek after God for wisdom. Too often, we wait until we can't solve things on our own before we ask God for help, but God wants us to seek Him first. His answer may not come as quickly as it did for Eliezer (though Eliezer had probably been mulling this over for several days), yet He will answer when you need it.

Another great lesson can be seen from the obedience of Abraham and his desire to see his children obey God. He knew the great dangers of Isaac moving back to his homeland and did what he could to avoid Isaac making a mistake by keeping him in the land of Canaan. The respect for God's commands and desire to obey Him are evident in the life of Abraham. This is a character trait that you should learn from and choose to pattern your life after.

What does verse 1 state about Abraham?

What did Abraham make Eliezer promise (vs 2-3)?

Why do you think that Abraham did not want a Canaanite son for Isaac?

Where did Abraham want a wife from (vs 4)?

What was Eliezer thinking he might have to do (vs 5)?

What did Abraham not want done (vs 6)?

Why didn't he want this to take place (vs 7-8)?

Why did Eliezer agree to this instruction (vs 9)?

What did Eliezer take with him (vs 10)?

Where did he travel (vs 10)?

****Abraham's grandfather and his brother were both named Nahor so this likely was a city that was founded by one of them.*

What did Eliezer do when he arrived at the city (vs 11)?

What did Eliezer ask God (vs 12)?

What sign did Eliezer ask God to show him (vs 13-14)?

Why do you think he chose this sign?

Who did Eliezer see while he was still speaking to God (vs 15)?

How is she described (vs 16)?

What did Rebekah offer to do (vs 17-20)?

What was Eliezer careful to do (vs 21)? Why do you think he was so cautious about this?

“Thankful People”

Study: Genesis 24:22-59

Reading: I Thessalonians 5:12-24, Psalm 100

Memory: Matthew 5:45

Some of the most fulfilling times in my life as a parent were times when my children gave me a heartfelt thank you. Sometimes, this was after something that I thought was very little, and, at other times, it was after a day of great fun. The joy that I experienced when my children would express unprompted thanksgiving for some sacrifice that I had made was a joy that can never be fully described.

As I think of how I felt when my children offered thanks, it causes me to think of the importance of giving thanks to God. Today, we are going to be reminded from the example of Eliezer because he felt it important to give thanks to God.

What Does the Bible Say?

Once Rebekah had finished watering Eliezer’s camels, he gave her a gold ring and some bracelets. He wanted to know more about who she was and asked if there was any chance that her family could house him for the night. She revealed to him that she was Nahor’s granddaughter (great niece of Abraham) and that they had plenty of food for the camels and a place for them to stay for the night. In response to this, Eliezer bowed his knees to God and thanked Him for the miraculous way that He had worked out the whole situation (vs 22-27).

Rebekah ran home to tell her family what had happened and showed them the ring and bracelet that was given to her. When her brother Laban heard what she was saying, he ran out to meet Eliezer. Laban invited Eliezer to come stay at their house, and when he arrived at Rebekah’s home, he was treated with great honor and respect. They prepared a meal for Eliezer, but he said he would not eat until he had a chance to tell them what he came for. Eliezer described how he was the servant of Abraham and that God had abundantly blessed Abraham with great wealth and with one child from Sarah. He recounted Abraham’s desire to find a wife from his own family for Isaac and that is why he had come (vs 28-41).

Eliezer then told about his prayer to God for wisdom and described how Rebekah was the answer to that prayer (vs 42-49). When Rebekah’s family heard this, they knew that this was from God and they told Eliezer that he could take Rebekah back with him to be the wife of Isaac. Eliezer gave the gifts that he had brought to the family and stayed the night at their house. In the morning, Eliezer was ready to go back to Abraham with Rebekah, but her family wanted them to stay at least ten more days so they could cherish their last days with her. Eliezer knew the emotional attachment, yet at the same time he knew the importance of his mission and he must have already been gone for several days. They decided to consult Rebekah about this decision and she agreed to go with Eliezer right away. Rebekah and her nurse packed up and prepared to go back with Eliezer. Rebekah’s nurse was probably appointed to her when she was born. These servants helped watch over young women to help them grow and mature. Nurses were to younger women like handmaids were to older women. They often became personal friends and would help guide those they were responsible for through life (vs 50-59).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you respond in thankfulness when God works things out for you or do you get so excited about what He has done that you forget to thank Him?

Eliezer must have been so excited upon meeting Rebekah, and, I am sure he was anxious for the next step. Yet he set a great example for you to follow and took the time right then and there by the well to kneel down and give thanks to God for what God had done. Even when he was talking to Rebekah’s family, his speech was full of gratitude and thankfulness to God. Most likely, this character he had developed came from the influence of Abraham. Eliezer would have spent hours with Abraham throughout his life and the character of his master came shining through his life when he was on this adventure of his own. The challenge for you today is to have a heart full of humility and thanksgiving. When you live this way, your character will easily pass down to others around you.

Thought for the day

What did Eliezer give to Rebekah (vs 22)?

What did Eliezer ask (vs 23)?

How did Rebekah respond (vs 24-25)?

What did Eliezer do after all of this had taken place (vs 26)?

What can you see about his character from this?

What did Eliezer declare about God (vs 27)?

How did Rebekah respond (vs 28)?

Who are we introduced to in verse 29?

****He will play an important role in the Genesis narrative in a few chapters.*

How was Eliezer welcomed by Rebekah's family (vs 30-33)?

What did Eliezer want to do before he ate (vs 33)?

How did Eliezer describe Abraham (vs 34)?

What story did Eliezer recount (vs 35-48)?

What question did Eliezer ask (vs 49)?

What did Laban and Bethuel declare about God's way (vs 50)? What do you think they meant?

What did these men agree to (vs 51)?

What was given to Rebekah's family (vs 52-53)?

What did Rebekah's family desire (vs 55)?

What was the final outcome (vs 57-60)?

“Proper Authority”

Study: Genesis 24:59-67

Reading: Ephesians 5:24-6:9

Memory: Matthew 5:45

When I was in college, I was asked to come to school a week early to help with a soccer camp that was taking place. One of the boys in my cabin was being a little lazy and I challenged him to get up and run several miles in the morning. He did this and I was quite amazed that he did, but the soccer coach wasn't thrilled with me for having this boy run so far in the morning. My soccer coach knew something that I didn't think of. Because this boy ran several miles in the morning, he was too tired to give his full effort to the drills and scrimmages the rest of the day. Though initially I had thought I was doing something good, I took the authority on myself to lead rather than to be submissive to what the coach wanted. Needless to say, the whole situation didn't turn out the way I expected it to.

Today, we are going to see how doing things God's way and submitting to His plan will work out far better for us than when we attempt to take control and do things on our own.

What Does the Bible Say?

Rebekah chose to go with Eliezer, and, though her family wanted her to be around longer, they knew that God had something special for her. They blessed her by declaring how she would become the mother of thousands upon thousands of people and how her family would be great and powerful. Rebekah must have appreciated this and probably thought back to it often as she started out on her journey back with Eliezer. She was not alone on this trip. We read yesterday how her nurse went with her, but she also had other women attendants who went with her. These young women were most likely in charge of helping take care of the needs of Rebekah and were probably real good friends with her (vs 59-61).

Isaac had been away from Abraham at Beer-lahai-roi (that is the well where Hagar first ran to when she had become pregnant). It is unclear what Isaac would have been doing at Beer-lahai-roi, perhaps the spring that was there had produced a type of an Oasis in the desert and he was checking it

out as a possible place to graze his flocks or perhaps even a place to settle with his new wife. He must have been anticipating Eliezer's return, though it is something hard for us to imagine in our culture. Husbands look forward to their wedding days with great anticipation, but the nervousness and excitement over this had to be completely different since he had no idea what his future wife would look like or be like (vs 62-63).

When Rebekah saw Isaac, she got off her camel and asked who the man was that was coming out to them. Eliezer revealed that it was Isaac so Rebekah covered her face with her veil and met her husband to be for the first time. Eliezer explained how the Lord had miraculously led him to Rebekah which must have created further excitement in the heart of Isaac. Isaac then led her to the tent that used to belong to his mother and showed her where her new dwelling place would be. Sometime after this, we are not told how long, Isaac and Rebekah were married. We are told that Isaac loved her and that having Rebekah in his life helped replace the great loss that he felt after his mother's death (vs 64-67).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Though there are no "major" lessons that seem to stick out from today's reading as many of the verses are just informational, one underlying theme that can be noticed is the obedience and submission to God's plan and to the authority of others. The idea of having someone else pick out your spouse seems extremely foreign to us today, though in different cultures it has been practiced for thousands of years. Often, the man would have a say in who he would marry and sometimes the woman would as well. Yet, in this scenario, there was a trust in God and a submission to the plan of Abraham. A great responsibility was placed on Eliezer for this whole event, but in placing their trust in him they were really trusting in God. When you choose to place yourself under the proper chain of authority that God has given you, you are choosing to place yourself under the authority of God. Doing this is very wise and will often be rewarded in a great way. This means that in your workplace it is wise to submit to the authority of your manager or boss. In school, you should submit to your teachers and principals. In society, you need to submit to your government. Choose today to submit to the authorities God has placed in your life.

Suggestions for Prayer

* Ask God to help you to trust Him to do what is right for you.

What had Rebekah agreed to (vs 58)?

What did Rebekah's relatives do (vs 59)?

Why do you think Eliezer had men with him (vs 59)?

****This was not mentioned earlier, but it appears that Eliezer didn't travel alone, but with a group of other servants of Abraham. This was probably for protection as well as companionship. It was well over 600 miles and if they traveled 20 miles a day, that would have taken them more than 30 days to get there.*

What did they say in their blessing to Rebekah (vs 60)?

How do you think they knew she would be the mother of a great nation?

Who did Rebekah travel with (vs 61)?

What does this reveal about the social status of Rebekah?

****The wealthy people of the day would have servants and attendants to help take care of their personal needs.*

Where were Abraham and Isaac dwelling at this time (vs 62)?

****It should be noted that though they lived in the promised land, they traveled around the land since they were living in territory that had been claimed by other groups of people. The Negeb would be a less populated area since much of it is desert land.*

What did Isaac see (vs 63)?

What did Rebekah do when she saw Isaac (vs 64-65)?

What did Eliezer explain to Isaac (vs 66)?

Where did Isaac take Rebekah (vs 67)? Why?

What did Isaac and Rebekah choose to do (vs 67)?

“In God’s Timing”

Study: Genesis 25:1-26

Reading: Romans 8:12-39

Memory: Matthew 5:45

I can’t tell you how many times while we were building our guest house for pastors that I found myself in a financial panic. We were investing much of our income into our project, causing us to be in a financial crunch. The financial stress would hit me in waves and caused me at times to be overwhelmed with all the needs. There were other times when I experienced great trust in God’s provision. The times when I felt great anxiety were normally a result of looking at the despair of my current situation rather than looking at things as an opportunity for God to work miracles. When I viewed things from a faith perspective, life was so much easier. I often had to remind myself that I was in this for the long haul and that God’s timing was much slower than mine. God was faithful.

Today, we are going to read about God’s work in the life of Abraham and Isaac. We will see how patience is required as children of God.

What Does the Bible Say?

After the death of Sarah and after a wife was found for Isaac, Abraham found another woman to marry whose name was Keturah. Though he was over 140 years old, he was still able to have children, which indicates that Keturah would have been quite a bit younger than he was. (Aging in those days must have been a little different than it is today.) She was able to give birth to six children, but Abraham did not leave any of his wealth or possessions to these children. Instead, he gave all he had to Isaac. This wasn’t to say that Abraham didn’t love his other children. He gave Ishmael and the sons of Keturah gifts and sent them away from Isaac towards the east so they or their families would not battle with Isaac and his descendants (vs 1-6).

Abraham lived to be 175 years old before he died, and we are told that he lived a full life for those years and had been greatly blessed by God. After he passed away, Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah next to Sarah. Isaac continued to live in the land just as God and Abraham had desired and he settled in the area of Beer-lahai-roi (vs 7-11).

Ishmael lived to be 137 years old and gave birth to twelve sons just as was predicted. These twelve sons were the beginning of a large nation and each established their own village. He ended up settling in a large area that we now call Saudi Arabia (vs 12-18).

Isaac was 40 years old when he married Rebekah, and, after a short time, it became evident that Rebekah was barren. Isaac must have heard over and over the story of his miraculous birth, which would have given him hope, so he prayed to God for children. God heard his requests and chose to answer by giving Isaac twins. Rebekah felt something that didn’t seem to be normal inside of her, as if the twins were fighting. When she asked the Lord about this, God told her that she had the fathers of two nations inside of her. One of them would be stronger than the other and the older one would serve the younger one. When she gave birth to her sons, one of them had red hair and was quite hairy. This one they named Esau. His brother Jacob came out holding the heel of Esau. Isaac had his children when he was sixty years old. Again, we have seen in the genealogies that this was not uncommon for people to get married after the age of forty and have children later in life (vs 19-26).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you trust God to keep His Word? As we have seen before, it is easy to forget that the events we read about in a few minutes took many years to take place. Even when it says that Rebekah was barren but then gave birth, it gives the idea that one day she found out she was barren, then prayed and became pregnant the next day. Yet, they didn’t have children for 20 years after they were married. God did promise that Isaac would have children and that he would carry on the promise God had given to Abraham. Isaac had to wait to see the promise fulfilled and that waiting must not have always been easy. Remember this the next time you go through difficulties and start to think that God doesn’t care. God knows your needs and desires and knows what you are going through. You must choose to be patient and trust that he will work it out in His time and His way. Remember that your timing is much different than God’s. He is often willing to wait much longer than you are. Remember this the next time you want to panic about your situation or worry about the future. God is at work and is often doing things that you don’t realize He is doing. Though at times it is hard to trust Him, reading the examples that are found in the Bible will be a great reminder of the faithfulness of God.

What did Abraham do after the death of Sarah (vs 1)?

****According to 1 Chronicles 1:32, Keturah was a concubine of Abraham. In that society, concubines were considered wives, but with a lower status as a wife.*

What notable names do you see as sons of Keturah (vs 2-4)?

****We are not told if this is the same Sheba, but later on during the reign of Solomon we read about the Queen of Sheba. The most familiar name found in this passage is Midian, who was the father of the Midianites.*

What did Abraham do with all of his possessions (vs 5)?

Why do you think he did not pass his possessions down to his other children?

What did Abraham do for his other children (vs 6)?

Why do you think he did not want them in the land of Canaan?

What was said about the life of Abraham (vs 8)?

Where did they bury Abraham (vs 9)?

Why do you think it mentions that Isaac and Ishmael buried Abraham, but the other sons are not mentioned?

What did God do for Isaac (vs 11)?

How many sons did Ishmael have (vs 12-16)?

How old was Ishmael when he died (vs 17)?

Where did Ishmael and his family settle (vs 18)?

Why do you think we are given this information about the sons of Abraham and where they settled?

Matthew 5:25 Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. 26 Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. 27 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ 28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell. 31 “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ 32 But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. 33 “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ 34 But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, 35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36 And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil. 38 “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ 39 But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. 41 And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. 42 Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you. 43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.