

Genesis 25-26

An overview of Chapter 25

After the death of his wife Abraham gets married again and has several other children. We find out that he had multiple concubines and had children with them. To set his son Isaac apart he gives these children gifts and sends them away. The rest of what he has he gives to his son Isaac.

Abraham died at the age of 175, and he was satisfied with his life. Two of his sons Isaac and Ishmael bury him in the same cave that his wife Sarah was buried in.

Ishmael settles East of Egypt in “*defiance of his relatives,*” and has 12 sons who become princes.

Isaac’s wife Rebekah was barren, but Isaac prays for her and the Lord helps them conceive twins. The pregnancy was difficult so Rebekah asks God why this blessing was so painful. He tells her that the two sons in her womb will become two nations and the older will serve the younger (the earliest known case of sibling rivalry).

Rebekah gives birth to Esau (red) and Jacob (heel snatcher). Esau becomes a skillful hunter and is the favorite of his father Isaac. Jacob is a mamma’s boy and the favorite of Rebekah.

One day Jacob makes some stew. When Esau returns from his hunt he is starving and trades his birthright as the firstborn to his brother for some of the stew. It turns out he was a bad “stew-ard” of his birthright.

An overview of Chapter 26

A famine came upon the land that Isaac and his family were living so he moves them, as his father had during an earlier famine, to the land of Gerar. The Lord appeared to Isaac and warned him to stay in the land of Gerar and not go further to the land of Egypt.

Isaac repeats the sins of his father by telling the men of the land the Rebekah is his sister. The king sees that they are closer than that and confronts Isaac, who confesses to his lie. Abimelech then warns the people of the land to not touch Isaac or his wife.

As God had promised, Isaac is blessed and prosperous in the land of Gerar. His success causes the Philistines to envy him, and they fill his wells full of dirt. Isaac digs these wells again, and digs several others. When the herdsmen see these new wells they fight with Isaac about them, so he moves on and keeps digging wells until he gets one that nobody quarrels with him over, where this well is becomes his families home.

Abimelech sees the success of Isaac and decides that he needs to make a peace covenant with him as he had with his father.

Isaac’s oldest son Esau marries two women, both of which are Hittites. This upsets both Isaac and Jacob because they wanted him to marry within the family.

Reflection

If you died today, are you satisfied with your life? When you find yourself sick to you pray for God to bring you healing? When God answers your prayers do you question the way that he answers them? What would you trade to fulfill the desires of your flesh? Do you often find yourself repeating the mistakes of your parents? How can you help your children not repeat your mistakes? Are you willing to give up something that is yours so that you can avoid a quarrel? Is it important to you that your children marry within the “family” of God? Do they know that?

For Further Study

Satisfaction: Psalm 63:1-5, Proverbs 12:14, Proverbs 19:23

Peacemakers: Proverbs 12:20, Matthew 5:9, Romans 12:18