

## GENESIS 26

### *Isaac and Abimelech*

*“The Lord appeared to him the same night and said, ‘I am the God of your father Abraham; do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you, and multiply your descendants, for the sake of My servant Abraham’” (Genesis 26:24).*

#### **Isaac in Gerar (26:1-17)**

- Isaac goes to Gerar on account of a famine in the land (26:1)
- The Lord warns Isaac not to go to Egypt (26:2)
- God promises to bless Isaac (26:3-4)
- God’s kindness to Isaac is because of the obedience of Abraham (26:5)
- Isaac claims that Rebekah is his sister (26:6-11)
- Isaac prospers and the Philistines become jealous (26:12-14)
- The Philistines stop up the wells that had been dug by Abraham (26:15)
- Abimelech orders Isaac to leave that place (26:16-17)

#### **Dispute Over the Wells (26:18-25)**

- Isaac again digs the wells of Abraham that the Philistines had stopped up (26:18)
- Isaac’s servants and the herdsmen of Gerar quarrel over the wells (26:19-21)
- Isaac digs a well and there was no quarrel over it (26:22)
- God appears to Isaac at Beersheba and promises to bless him (26:23-24)
- Isaac builds an altar there and his servants dig a well (26:25)

#### **Isaac’s Covenant with Abimelech (26:26-33)**

- Abimelech comes to Isaac seeking to make a covenant with him (26:26-30)
- Isaac and Abimelech exchange oaths (26:31)
- Isaac’s servants dig another well (26:32-33)

**Esau's Wives (26:34-35)**

- Esau marries two wives, the daughters of two Hittites (26:34)
- These women bring grief to Isaac and Rebekah (26:35)

***Questions on Genesis 26:***

Where does God prohibit Isaac from going?

Why did God say He was going to bless Isaac?

What are some similarities and differences between Abraham's first encounter with Abimelech in Genesis 20 and Isaac's first encounter with him in this chapter?

Why did Abimelech want to make a covenant with Isaac?

## GENESIS 27

# *Jacob Steals Esau's Blessing*

*“Now may God give you of the dew of heaven, and of the fatness of the earth, and an abundance of grain and new wine; may peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you; be master of your brothers, and may your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be those who curse you, and blessed by those who bless you” (Genesis 27:28-29).*

### **Jacob Deceives Isaac (27:1-29)**

- Isaac makes a last request of Esau before his death (27:1-4)
- Rebekah overhears Isaac's conversation with Esau (27:5)
- Rebekah tells Jacob of the conversation (27:6-7)
- Rebekah plans to trick Isaac into blessing Jacob (27:8-17)
- Jacob convinces Isaac that he is Esau (27:18-27)
- Isaac blesses Jacob (27:28-29)

### **Esau's Blessing (27:30-40)**

- Esau comes to Isaac to receive the blessing (27:30-31)
- Isaac and Esau learn that Jacob had received the blessing (27:32-35)
- Esau asks if there was a blessing for him (27:36)
- Isaac explains the blessing that Jacob received (27:37)
- Esau weeps over the blessing (27:38)
- Isaac gives an inferior blessing to Esau (27:39-40)

### **Rebekah's Plan to Save Jacob (27:41-46)**

- Esau plans to kill Jacob because of the blessing (27:41)
- Rebekah plans to send Jacob to her brother Laban to keep him safe (27:42-45)
- Rebekah complains to Isaac about the daughters of Heth (27:46)

***Questions on Genesis 27:***

What was Isaac's last request of Esau?

What was included in the blessing Jacob received?

This chapter describes Isaac blessing Jacob after being deceived. But according to Hebrews 11:20, Isaac blessed Jacob “*by faith.*” How do we harmonize these passages?

Who were the “*daughters of Heth*” that Rebekah complained about?

## GENESIS 28

### *God's Promise to Jacob*

*“And behold, the Lord stood above it and said, ‘I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your descendants. Your descendants will also be like the dust of the earth... and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed’” (Genesis 28:13-14).*

#### **Jacob Sent Away to Find a Wife (28:1-9)**

- Isaac sends Jacob to Paddan-aram to find a wife (28:1-5)
- Esau becomes aware of Isaac’s instruction to Jacob (28:6-7)
- Esau learns that the daughters of Canaan displeased his father (28:8)
- Esau marries the daughter of Ishmael (28:9)

#### **Jacob’s Dream (28:10-22)**

- On his journey, Jacob dreams of a ladder that reached up to heaven (28:10-12)
- God appears and promised to bless Jacob (28:13-15)
- Jacob awakes, names the place Bethel (28:16-19)
- Jacob makes a vow to God (28:20-22)

#### ***Questions on Genesis 28:***

Why did Esau marry Ishmael’s daughter?

Following his dream, what promise does Jacob make?

## GENESIS 29

### *Jacob Marries*

*“Now Jacob loved Rachel, so he said, ‘I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.’” “So Jacob served seven years for Rachel and they seemed to him but a few days because of his love for her” (Genesis 29:18, 20).*

#### **Jacob Meets Rachel (29:1-20)**

- Jacob meets shepherds who tell him of Laban (29:1-8)
- Jacob meets Rachel (29:9-12)
- Laban comes out to meet Jacob (29:13-14)
- Jacob agrees to serve Laban seven years for Rachel (29:15-20)

#### **Laban Deceives Jacob (29:21-30)**

- After seven years, Jacob asks for his wife (29:21)
- Laban hosts a feast and deceives Jacob into marrying Leah (29:22-24)
- Jacob confronts Laban for his deception (29:25)
- Laban agrees to give Rachel to Jacob for another seven years of service (29:26-30)

#### **Leah Bears Four Sons (29:31-35)**

- The Lord blesses Leah with sons while Rachel is barren (29:31)
- Leah bears four sons: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah (29:32-35)

#### ***Questions on Genesis 29:***

According to the original agreement, how long did Jacob plan to work for Rachel?

How long did Jacob have to wait before receiving Rachel in marriage?

Judging by her response following the birth of each son, what change in attitude do we see in Leah after Judah's birth?

## GENESIS 30

### *Sons of Jacob*

*“Now it came about when Rachel had borne Joseph, that Jacob said to Laban, ‘Send me away, that I may go to my own place and to my own country’”* (Genesis 30:25).

#### **More Sons and a Daughter (30:1-24)**

- Rachel's maid Bilhah bears two sons: Dan and Naphtali (30:1-8)
- Leah's maid Zilpah bears two sons: Gad and Asher (30:9-13)
- Rachel and Leah make a bargain over Reuben's mandrakes (30:14-16)
- Leah bears two more sons and a daughter: Issachar, Zebulun, and Dinah (30:17-21)
- Rachel bears a son: Joseph (30:22-24)

### **Jacob Becomes Prosperous (30:25-43)**

- Jacob requests permission to leave Laban (30:25-26)
- Laban tries to get Jacob to stay (30:27-28)
- Jacob acknowledges God as the source of his success (30:29-30)
- Jacob agrees to serve Laban for certain sheep and goats of the flock (30:31-34)
- Laban put certain sheep and goats in the care of his sons, seemingly to limit the size of the flock that Jacob would receive (30:35-36)
- Jacob seeks to breed the flock in such a way as to increase the number that would constitute his wages (30:37-42)
- As a result, Jacob becomes “*exceedingly prosperous*” (30:43)

### ***Questions on Genesis 30:***

Who was the one daughter of Jacob and which woman was her mother?

What was Rachel looking forward to after the birth of Joseph?

Did Jacob somehow trick Laban in gaining his wages from among the flock?



## GENESIS 31

### *Jacob Flees From Laban*

*“I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar, where you made a vow to Me; now arise, leave this land, and return to the land of your birth” (Genesis 31:13).*

#### **Jacob Flees for Canaan (31:1-21)**

- Jacob learns of the attitude of Laban and his sons toward him (31:1-2)
- God tells Jacob to return to Canaan (31:3)
- Jacob explains the situation to Rachel and Leah (31:4-8)
- Jacob acknowledges God’s work in blessing him (31:9-13)
- Rachel and Leah agree to depart from their father (31:14-16)
- Jacob leaves for Canaan (31:17-18)
- Rachel steals her father’s household idols (31:19)
- Jacob flees from Laban (31:20-21)

#### **Laban Pursues Jacob (31:22-42)**

- After three days, Laban learns that Jacob had fled and pursues him (31:22-23)
- God warns Laban to be careful in dealing with Jacob (31:24)
- Laban confronts Jacob for leaving (31:25-30)
- Jacob explains his actions, defends his innocence (31:31-32)
- Laban searches for the stolen idols (31:33-35)
- Jacob confronts Laban for how he has treated him (31:36-41)
- Jacob recognizes God’s role in blessing him (31:42)

#### **Covenant Between Jacob and Laban (31:43-55)**

- Laban invites Jacob to make a covenant with him (31:43-44)
- Jacob agrees to enter into a covenant with Laban (31:45-53)
- Jacob offers a sacrifice on the mountain (31:54)
- In the morning, Laban departs (31:55)

***Questions on Genesis 31:***

What did Laban's sons think about Jacob's actions?

Why were Rachel and Leah not hesitant to leave their father?

What did Rachel steal from her father?

How many years had Jacob served Laban?

## GENESIS 32

### *Jacob's Fear of Esau*

*“The messengers returned to Jacob, saying, ‘We came to your brother Esau, and furthermore he is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him.’ Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed....”* (Genesis 32:6-7).

#### **Jacob Prepares to Meet Esau (32:1-23)**

- Angels of God meet Jacob on his journey (32:1-2)
- Jacob sends messengers to Esau to make peace (32:3-5)
- The messengers return, tell Jacob that Esau is coming (32:6)
- Jacob makes preparations for a possible attack (32:7-8)
- Jacob prays to God for deliverance from Esau (32:9-12)
- Jacob prepares gifts for Esau (32:13-21)
- Jacob sends everything he has across the Jabbok stream (32:22-23)

#### **Jacob Wrestles with God (32:24-32)**

- Jacob was left alone and wrestled with a man that night (32:24-25)
- Jacob demands a blessing (32:26)
- The man blesses Jacob (32:27-29)
- Jacob names the place Peniel (32:30)
- Reason given for the sons of Israel not eating the sinew of the hip (32:31-32)

#### ***Questions on Genesis 32:***

Who did Esau have with him when he came to meet Jacob?

Who was the man that Jacob wrestled?

## GENESIS 33

### *Jacob and Esau*

*“Now Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Paddan-aram, and camped before the city” (Genesis 33:18).*

#### **Jacob Meets Esau (33:1-17)**

- Jacob comes to Esau (31:1-3)
- Esau embraces Jacob (31:4)
- Esau sees Jacob’s family (31:5-7)
- Jacob urges Esau to accept his gifts (31:8-11)
- Esau offers to go before Jacob in their journey; Jacob declines (31:12-14)
- Esau offers to leave some of his people with Jacob; Jacob again declines (31:15)
- Esau returns to Seir (31:16)
- Jacob journeys to Succoth (31:17)

#### **Jacob Settles in Shechem (33:18-20)**

- Jacob arrives at Shechem (33:18)
- Jacob buys a piece of land there (33:19)
- Jacob builds an altar there (33:20)

#### ***Questions on Genesis 33:***

Does Esau appear to still be upset over the stolen blessing?

Where did Jacob settle and buy a piece of property?

## GENESIS 34

### *Simeon and Levi Avenge Their Sister*

*“They said to them, ‘We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one who is uncircumcised, for that would be a disgrace to us’ (Genesis 34:14).*

#### **Dinah and Shechem (34:1-24)**

- While Dinah is visiting the daughters of the land, Shechem “took her and lay with her by force” (34:1-2)
- Shechem loves Dinah and wants to marry her (34:3-4)
- Jacob and his sons learn of what has happened (34:5-7)
- Hamor asks that Dinah be allowed to marry his son, and that his people and Jacob’s people intermarry with each other (34:8-10)
- Shechem offers to give any bridal payment to be able to marry Dinah (34:11-12)
- Jacob’s sons respond deceitfully, saying that they will agree to Hamor and Shechem’s request if every male among them is circumcised (34:13-17)
- Hamor and Shechem convince their men to agree to this condition (34:18-24)

#### **Simeon and Levi’s Slaughter of the People (34:25-31)**

- The third day after the circumcision, Simeon and Levi come and slaughter the men and plunder the city (34:25-29)
- Jacob protests the actions of Simeon and Levi (34:30)
- Simeon and Levi justify their actions because of the way their sister had been treated (34:31)

***Questions on Genesis 34:***

Did Shechem rape Dinah, or does the text indicate something else?

Besides a wife for Shechem, what did the men of Hamor hope to gain in their agreement with the sons of Jacob?

Why did Jacob protest Simeon and Levi's actions?

**GENESIS 35**

***Jacob Becomes Israel***

*“God said to him, ‘Your name is Jacob; you shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name.’ Thus He called him Israel” (Genesis 35:10).*

**Jacob Moves to Bethel (35:1-8)**

- God calls Jacob to go to Bethel and build an altar (35:1)
- Jacob calls his household to put away their foreign gods and follow him to Bethel (35:2-4)
- A great terror upon the cities keeps them safe (35:5)
- Jacob arrives at Bethel and built an altar (35:6-7)
- Rebekah's nurse dies (35:8)

### **Jacob's Name Changed to Israel (35:9-22)**

- God appears to Jacob, changes his name to Israel (35:9-10)
- God promises to bless Jacob and give his descendants the land (35:11-12)
- Jacob sets up a pillar at Bethel (35:13-15)
- On the journey to Ephrath, Rachel gives birth to Benjamin (35:16-18)
- Rachel dies and is buried on the way to Ephrath (35:19-20)
- Israel pitches his tent beyond the tower of Eder (35:21)
- Reuben lays with his father's concubine, Bilhah (35:22)

### **Twelve of Israel (35:23-29)**

- Six sons of Leah: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun (35:23)
- Two sons of Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin (35:24)
- Two sons of Bilhah, Rachel's maid: Dan and Naphtali (35:25)
- Two sons of Zilpah, Leah's maid: Gad and Asher (35:26)
- Jacob comes to Isaac at Mamre (35:27)
- Isaac dies and is buried by Jacob and Esau (35:28-29)

### ***Questions on Genesis 35:***

What did Jacob tell his household to do in order to prepare to worship God in Bethel?

Where was Jacob when God changed his name to Israel?

How old was Isaac when he died?

## GENESIS 36

### *The Family of Esau*

*“Then Esau took his wives and his sons and his daughters and all his household, and his livestock and all his cattle and all his goods which he had acquired in the land of Canaan, and went to another land away from his brother Jacob” (Genesis 36:6).*

#### **Esau Moves to the Hill Country of Seir (36:1-8)**

- The wives of Esau (36:1-3)
- The sons of Esau (36:4-5)
- Esau departs from Jacob because the land cannot sustain them (36:6-7)
- Esau settles in the hill country of Seir (36:8)

#### **Esau’s Descendants (36:9-43)**

- The sons and grandsons of Esau (36:9-14)
- The chiefs of the sons of Esau (36:15-19)
- The sons of Seir (36:20-30)
- The kings of Edom (36:31-39)
- Summary of the descendants of Esau (36:40-43)

#### ***Questions on Genesis 36:***

Esau and Jacob had to separate because the land could not sustain them. What two men had to do the same thing earlier in Genesis?

What would the descendants of Amalek later do to the people of Israel? (See Exodus 17:8-16)



## GENESIS 37

# *Joseph and His Brothers*

*“Then some Midianite traders passed by, so they pulled him up and lifted Joseph out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. Thus they brought Joseph into Egypt” (Genesis 37:28).*

### **Joseph’s Dreams (37:1-17)**

- Jacob is living in the land of Canaan (37:1)
- Joseph brings back a bad report to his father about his brothers (37:2)
- Joseph is the favorite son and his brothers hate him for it (37:3-4)
- Joseph’s dream about the sheaves (37:5-8)
- Joseph’s dream about the sun, moon, and stars (37:9-11)
- Israel sends Joseph to check on his brothers in Shechem (37:12-14)
- Joseph finds his brothers in Dothan (37:15-17)

### **Joseph’s Brothers Plot Against Him (37:18-36)**

- Joseph’s brothers plan to kill him (37:18-20)
- Reuben suggests they throw him into a pit instead, hoping to come back later and save him (37:21-24)
- Joseph’s brothers decide to sell him to some Midianite traders who bring him to Egypt (37:25-28)
- Reuben returns to the pit to rescue Joseph and finds that he is not there (37:29-30)
- Joseph’s brothers deceive their father into thinking that he had been killed by a wild animal (37:31-33)
- Jacob mourns the loss of Joseph (37:34-35)
- Joseph is sold to Potiphar in Egypt (37:36)

***Questions on Genesis 37:***

What did Jacob give to Joseph that showed that he favored him?

What did Joseph's two dreams prophesy about?

Which one of Joseph's brothers planned to save him?

How did Joseph come to be in Egypt?

## GENESIS 38

### *Judah and His Sons*

*“Now Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, and her name was Tamar. But Er, Judah’s firstborn, was evil in the sight of the Lord, so the Lord took his life” (Genesis 38:6-7).*

#### **Judah’s Sons (38:1-11)**

- Judah departs from his brothers and marries a Canaanite woman (38:1-2)
- Judah has three sons: Er, Onan, and Shelah (38:3-5)
- Judah takes a wife for Er: Tamar (38:6)
- Er is evil so the Lord kills him (38:7)
- Judah instructs Onan to take Tamar and raise up offspring for his brother (38:8)
- Onan refuses to fulfill his responsibility so the Lord kills him (38:9-10)
- Judah tells Tamar to remain a widow until Shelah is old enough to marry her (38:11)

#### **Judah and Tamar (38:12-30)**

- After his wife dies, Judah goes with Hirah to Timnah (38:12)
- Tamar hears of it and goes to deceive Judah because she had not be given to Shelah as a wife (38:13-14)
- Thinking she is a harlot, Judah has sexual relations with her and she conceives (38:15-19)
- Judah sends the young goat as payment for the prostitute, but she cannot be found (38:20-23)
- Judah learns Tamar is pregnant, calls for her death (38:24)
- Tamar reveals that the child is Judah’s (38:25)
- Judah acknowledges his own sin in the matter (38:26)
- Tamar gives birth to twins (38:27-30)

***Questions on Genesis 38:***

Where did Judah find his wife, and what role might this have played in the trouble that comes to him in this chapter?

Why was Onan to take the wife of his deceased brother?

Why did Judah not give Tamar to his son Shelah?

Which of Judah's twin sons would be part of the genealogy of Christ? (See Matthew 1:3)