

GENESIS

Lesson 11

take a wife for my son Isaac . . .

THE BIRTH OF ISAAC

Genesis 21:1-7

God does exactly as he had promised to Abraham and Sarah bore a son in her old age. The son was named Isaac (meaning laughter) as God had instructed.

GOD PROTECTS HAGAR AND ISHMAEL.

Genesis 21:8-21

1. Why did Hagar and Ishmael leave the home of Abraham?



Ishmael tormented or persecuted Isaac (Galatians 4:19). Perhaps he doubted the promises of God or he was jealous of the attention that Isaac received. Isaac was probably about three when he was weaned. This would have made Ishmael about 17 years old.

2. How did God provide care for Hagar and Ishmael?

A TREATY WITH ABIMELECH

Genesis 21:22-34

Abimelech has been able to see that God is with Abraham in all that he does. Because of this, he desires to have a treaty with Abraham. This is agreeable to Abraham, except that Abraham wants two wells that had been seized from him by Abimelech's servants.

THE SACRIFICE OF ISAAC

Genesis 22:1-24



This passage contains one of the best known examples of faith in the Bible. Abraham had waited a lifetime for a son and now that that son who is to be the heir of promise is to be sacrificed to God. Genesis 22:1 says that God is testing Abraham. God was testing the obedience of Abraham.

The command must have seemed almost incomprehensible as God tells Abraham to take his son Isaac and to sacrifice him. Abraham did exactly as God commanded and set out on a three day journey to Moriah. This period of three days gave Abraham time to contemplate this command. He and Isaac must have talked as they traveled.

While we do not know the age of Isaac, Josephus says he was aged 25 while other Jewish tradition says Isaac was 37. Dave Miller says that linguistic data points to an age more than 20.¹ As Abraham drew the knife to kill his son, the angel of the Lord stopped him and said provided a ram to sacrifice in place of Isaac.

3. What promise is made to Abraham in Genesis 22:16-18?

4. Why does God swear by himself in Genesis 22:16?

SARAH'S DEATH AND BURIAL

Genesis 23:1-20

Sarah was 127 years old when she died. Abraham needed a burial spot and appealed to the Hittites. Abraham asked to purchase the cave of Machpelah from Ephron. It appears at first glance that Ephron wanted to give the property away to Abraham, but this is simply the customary form of a business transaction in those days. The price of four hundred shekels of silver has an extremely high price judging by contracts found in archeological digs.² Abraham accepted the price and buried Sarah in the cave of Machpelah. Abraham had been promised the land of Caanan by God, but here he paid to purchase a piece of property to bury his wife.

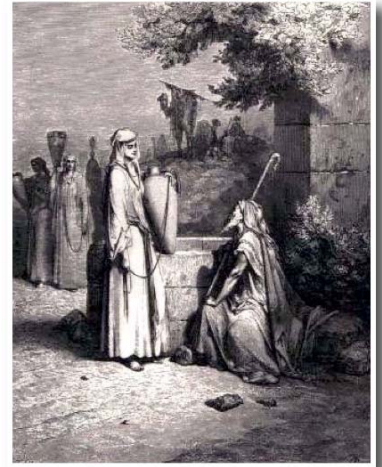
¹ <http://www.apologeticspress.org/articles/2319>

² Smith, James E. *Old Testament Survey Series: The Pentateuch*. Joplin, Missouri: College Press, 1992.

ISAAC AND REBEKAH

Genesis 24:1-67

Three years after the death of Sarah, Abraham became involved in finding a wife for Isaac. Abraham brings in his oldest servant and has him place his hand under his thigh. This was apparently a common way to give an oath. Abraham wanted to make sure that Isaac's wife came from his own kindred, and not from the Canaanites who were very wicked. So his servant headed out to Nahor in Mesopotamia.



5. **What was the prayer of Abraham's servant in Genesis 24:12-14?**
6. **How did Rebekah respond to Abraham's servant? (Genesis 24:15-28)**
7. **Who was Laban and Bethuel and how did they respond to Abraham's servant? (Genesis 24:29-51)**
8. **What did Abraham's servant give Rebekah and her family in Genesis 24:52-53?**

Rebekah's family wanted her to stay with them for ten days to say goodbye, but Abraham's servant wished to leave for home immediately. The choice was given to Rebekah who agreed to go. When Isaac saw the group coming, he began walking towards them. Rebekah enquired about who the man was and upon learning it was Isaac, she took her veil and covered herself to show modesty and respect for the man who would become her husband. Isaac showed great courtesy to Rebekah as he took her to stay in the tent that had belonged to his mother. Even though they had not even met before the decision to marry, Genesis 24:67 tells us that Isaac loved her.

ABRAHAM'S DEATH AND HIS DESCENDANTS

Genesis 25:1-18

Sarah died when Abraham was 137 years old and he married Keturah. She bore him six sons. Before his death Abraham gave gifts to the sons of his concubines and sent them away. He showed his love and concern for them, while understanding that Isaac was the son of promise. Abraham then died at the age of 175. He was buried in the cave of

Machpelah where his wife Sarah had been buried 38 years before. Ishmael died at the age of 137 years. Isaac would have been 75 when his father died and 123 when Ishmael died.

THE BIRTH OF ESAU AND JACOB

Genesis 25:18-28

Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah. Like his mother, his wife also was barren and bore Isaac no children for twenty years. Isaac prayed for her to conceive and she did; with twins. The Lord told Rebekah that 1) She would bear twins. 2) They would give rise to two nations. 3) One will be stronger than the other. 4) The older will serve the younger.

9. What was the name of Isaac and Rebekah's first son and how is he described? (Genesis 25:25-28)

10. What was the name of the second twin and how is he described? (Genesis 25:26-28).

ESAU SELLS HIS BIRTHRIGHT

Genesis 25:29-34

With incredibly poor judgment, Esau sells his birthright to Jacob after he comes in from the field tired and hungry. The birthright would have involved: 1) Headship of the family; 2) Family priesthood; 3) A double portion of the inheritance; 4) The designation as the one through whom the covenant would be fulfilled.



Jacob obtains this birthright through means that might be described as under-handed as he took advantage of his brother while he was vulnerable. Esau however was very short-sighted and acted foolishly.

11. Genesis 25:34 says that Esau despised his birthright. Why might this have been so?