

LESSON 23
Genesis 25:1-11 & Review

Fellowship question: How do you want to be remembered by the generations that come after you; what legacy are you hoping to leave?

OBSERVATION – Lord, help me to discover it!

Read Genesis 25:1-11.

1. In just a few sentences, summarize what takes place in Genesis 25:1-11:

2. Looking back through the Genesis chapters that we have studied and/or the lessons you have completed, capture the major events and what you learned about God and Abram/Abraham. (The first couple are done for you to get you started.) The chapters marked with a ★ will be key for questions in the Interpretation and Application sections of this lesson.

Genesis 1-3 (Lessons 1 & 2)

- Creation, The Fall (mankind wants to decide good/evil for themselves)
- The Curse – But God promises to put enmity between the serpent and the woman, between his seed and her seed. Her seed shall bruise the serpent's seed's head, and his shall strike the heel of hers. Eve = "mother of all the living"

Genesis 11 (Lesson 3)

- Tower of Babel – God confuses mankind's language to scatter them throughout the earth
- Descendant of Noah's son Shem, Terah had 3 sons: **Abram**, Nahor, and Haran – lived in Ur
- Haran died in Ur, others left for land of Canaan; Terah died in Haran (1/2 way)

★ Genesis 12 (Lessons 4 & 5)

★ Genesis 13 (Lesson 6)

Genesis 14 (Lesson 7)

★ Genesis 15 (Lesson 8)

Genesis 16 (Lesson 9)

★ Genesis 17 (Lessons 10 & 11)

★ Genesis 18 (Lesson 12 & 13)

Genesis 19 (Lessons 14 & 15)

Genesis 20 (Lesson 16)

★ Genesis 21 (Lessons 17 & 18)

★ Genesis 22 (Lesson 19)

Genesis 23 (Lesson 20)

Genesis 24 (Lessons 21 & 22)

Genesis 25:1-11 (Lesson 23)

3. Now that you have refreshed your memory, what would you include if you were writing a eulogy for Abraham? (If you're feeling creative, write out a eulogy or an obituary for Abraham.)

INTERPRETATION – Lord, help me to understand it.

Re-read Genesis 25:5,6, and 9.

4. What happens to Isaac's half-brothers and why? (Look back at Genesis 17:15-22, if needed.)

Abraham is one of the most frequently mentioned patriarchs in the New Testament. (Only his descendant Moses is mentioned more often.) Consider how Abraham lived 400 years before God gave the Law to

Moses. (Exodus 24:3-8) Both men were held in the highest regard in the Jewish culture of Jesus' day.

Why is Abraham such a key figure to both Jews and Christians? For Christians, is it only because of Abraham's place in Jesus' human lineage? Can Abraham's life help us to better understand Jesus' sacrifice on the cross? Let's take a look.

Read Romans 3:28 – 5:6.

5. Explain how Abraham could be declared righteous before God's Law was given. How is this tied to a Christian's salvation through Jesus Christ?

Skill Builder

6. Identify Spiritual Principles: (Refer to p.11- 4 to review the concept.)
 - a. What statements of truth about the themes and main ideas of the life of Abraham can be declared?

b. What does the story of Abraham reveal about God's character?

c. What do you know to be true according to God's Word that is applicable across time and culture?

what do I know
to be true? ✓

APPLICATION – Lord, help me to live it!

7. Looking back on Abraham's life and story, what life lessons do you want to apply to your own walk of faith?

8. In what current life situation is God asking you to trust Him? Is there anything hindering your faith in the situation? What steps are you taking (or will you take) to feed and strengthen your faith?

Skill Builder

Further Applications:

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OR CONTEMPLATION:

- I) Abraham died with only a sliver of God's promises about land and descendants to Him realized. The only part of the land of Canaan legally his was the field containing the cave where Sarah was laid to rest. Abraham's son Isaac and Rebekah were married twenty years before twin sons Esau and Jacob were born. (Abraham lived about 15 years after their birth.) Genesis 25:8 tells us Abraham "died in a ripe old age, an old man and satisfied with life." Think about Abraham's journey of faith and its ups and downs. How do you imagine he (near his life's end) would have responded if someone had suggested that God was coming up short in the promise keeping department?
- II) How does God's promise that through Abraham all nations of the earth would be blessed manifest itself today?

 *Cole Women's Bible Study Writing Team, 2019*

Cross References for Lesson 23

Exodus 24:3-8 (NASB)

³ Then Moses came and recounted to the people all the words of the LORD and all the ordinances; and all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words which the LORD has spoken we will do!" ⁴ Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. Then he arose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain with twelve pillars for the twelve tribes of Israel. ⁵ He sent young men of the sons of Israel, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as peace offerings to the LORD. ⁶ Moses took half of the blood and put *it* in basins, and the *other* half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. ⁷ Then he took the book of the covenant and read *it* in the hearing of the people; and they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient!" ⁸ So Moses took the blood and sprinkled *it* on the people, and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."

Romans 3:28-31 (NASB)

²⁸ For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law. ²⁹ Or is God *the God* of Jews only? Is He not *the God* of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, ³⁰ since indeed God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith is one.

Notes:

³¹Do we then nullify the Law through faith? May it never be! On the contrary, we establish the Law.

Romans 4 (NASB)

What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the Scripture say? "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS." ⁴Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. ⁵But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness, "just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

⁷"BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE LAWLESS DEEDS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN,
AND WHOSE SINS HAVE BEEN COVERED.

⁸"BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE LORD WILL NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT."

⁹Is this blessing then on the circumcised, or on the uncircumcised also? For we say, "FAITH WAS CREDITED TO ABRAHAM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS." ¹⁰How then was it credited? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised; ¹¹and he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while uncircumcised, so that he might be the father of all who believe without being circumcised, that

righteousness might be credited to them, ¹²and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also follow in the steps of the faith of our father Abraham which he had while uncircumcised.

¹³For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴For if those who are of the Law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise is nullified; ¹⁵for the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, there also is no violation.

¹⁶For this reason *it is* by faith, in order that *it may be* in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, ¹⁷(as it is written, "A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS HAVE I MADE YOU") in the presence of Him whom he believed, *even* God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist. ¹⁸In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, "SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE." ¹⁹Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb; ²⁰yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving

glory to God, ²¹and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform. ²²Therefore IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS. ²³Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him, ²⁴but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵*He* who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.

Romans 5:1-6 (NASB)

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. ³And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; ⁴and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; ⁵and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

⁶For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

