Genesis 12-27 **How Did Jacob Obtain the Abrahamic** Covenant Blessings?

Introduction

- In today's message we will briefly <u>summarize</u> the "toledot" which focused on **Terah's** descendant: **Abraham**.
- After that we will examine the "toledot" of Ishmael which in turn is followed by the "toledot" of Isaac.

- First the "toledot" of Terah.
- This "toledot" put the spotlight on Terah's son Abraham.
- This section of Genesis has **24 chapters**.
- Gen 11:27- God calls Abram in Ur of Chaldees to go to the land of Canaan (11:31)

 Gen 12:1-7 – God initiates the **Abrahamic Promises: 1) God will bless** Abraham and make his name great; 2) through Abraham all the families of the earth will be blessed - (Jesus); 3) God will give Abraham and his descendants the land of Canaan.

- Gen 15:4 God promises Abraham that his heir will be a child that he sires.
- Gen 15:13 God says Abraham cannot inherit the land until 400 years in the future.

 Gen. 16 – Abraham and Sarah try to help God fulfill the promise of Gen. 15:4. Result: Hagar gives birth to Ishmael (the father of the Arabs). Ishmael is not the promised heir.

 Gen. 17 – God changes Abram's name to Abraham; Sarai to Sarah; circumcision instituted as the sign of the Abrahamic covenant promises; conditions for participating in the covenant (17:9); prediction of the birth of Isaac ("laughter"); the Abrahamic covenant promises will be given to Isaac (17:19).

- Gen. 18-19 origin of Moabites and Ammonites (Lot and his two daughters).
- Gen. 21 birth of Isaac; Abraham 100,
 Sarah 90).
- Gen. 22 God tests Abraham's faith

- Gen. 23 Sarah dies (127); Abraham buys a burying place (Machpelah) – near Hebron.
- Gen 24 Abraham finds a wife for Isaac:
 Rebekah (longest chap. In Genesis)
- Gen 25: Abraham died (175)





Toledot of Ishmael: 25:12-18

- Ishmael get 7 verses.
- God fulfills His promise to Hagar (17:20): Ishmael has 12 sons who become "princes" over their own clans.
- Ismael dies: (137)

- 10 chapters
- Gen 25 Isaac and Rebecca: no children for 20 years. Isaac prays, Rebecca conceives: God tells her two "nations" are in her womb. The oldest (Edomites) will serve the youngest (Israelites). Esau (the oldest twin) never served his younger twin Jacob.

- God is prophesying the future relationship of the two nations: the Edomites vs the Israelites.
- Gen. 25:28 Parental favoritism: Isaac loved Esau; Rebecca loved Jacob.
- Gen 25:29-34 Esau sells Jacob his "birthright" for some bread and some red stew.

- By <u>birthright</u>, the firstborn son inherited the leadership of the family and the judicial authority of his father.
 - **Deuteronomy 21:17** states that he was also entitled to a double portion of the paternal inheritance.
- This has <u>nothing</u> to do with the Abrahamic promises.

• Gen. 26:2-5 <u>God</u> personally gives the Abrahamic Covenant promises to <u>Isaac</u>.

Genesis 26:2-5 And the LORD appeared to him and said, "Do not go down to Egypt; dwell in the land of which I shall tell you. ³ Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your

offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father. ⁴ I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, ⁵ because Abraham

obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws."

 Isaac was a man of peace (as seen by the "water / well-" confrontations with the Philistines in Gerar).

 Gen 27 – gives a glimpse into the essential character of Jacob and Esau. Jacob = a "heel grasper" (deceitful, selfcentered, conniving); Esau = "hairy" an "outdoors" man, who is strong, active, and insensitive to spiritual realities and to the feelings of his parents.

 Jacob does not "<u>steal</u>" the Abrahamic Covenant blessing. What he "stole" was his Father's blessing.

Genesis 27:28-29: (This is a prayer-request). May God give you of the dew of heaven and of the fatness of the earth and plenty of grain and wine. ²⁹ Let

peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers, and may your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you, and blessed be everyone who blesses you!"

When Esau found out that Jacob has stolen his father's blessing, Esau was greatly distressed and said:

Gen. 27:36 "Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright, and now look, he has taken away my blessing!" And he said, "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?"

- Esau hated Jacob for his deceit and treachery, and purposed to kill Jacob as soon as Isaac died. (Gen. 27:41)
- Gen. 27:43-45: Jacob is sent to Haran in Padan-aram by Rebecca to her brother Laban for safety.





 Before Jacob leaves his father Isaac offers him (Jacob) "best wishes."

Genesis 28:3-4: May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may become a company of peoples. ⁴ May he give the blessing of Abraham to you and to your offspring

with you, that you may take possession of the land of your sojourning's that God gave to Abraham!"

This is not a prophecy. This is a prayer request. God answers Isaac's prayer in 28:13-15. God Himself will personally choose Jacob as the recipient of the Abrahamic Covenant promises.

 As Jacob traveled toward Padan-aram, he camped overnight. That night Jacob had a dream in which God grants to Jacob the Abrahamic Covenant blessings.

Genesis 28:12-15: And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! 13 And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the

God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. 14 Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and

your offspring shall <u>all the families of</u> the earth be blessed. ¹⁵ Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

- Abraham did <u>not</u> bestow the promises God made to him upon <u>Isaac</u>. God granted Isaac the Covenant promises.
- Isaac did <u>not</u> bestow the Abrahamic covenant promises to <u>Jacob</u>. God did it.
- Jacob awoke, set up a monument, and named the place: "Beth-el" = "the house of God."

Next Time

We will learn how God guided Jacob and eventually gave Jacob twelve sons who became the founders of the 12 tribes of Israel.

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