Genesis Chapter 25 Verses 1 – 6

* Everything *really* went to Isaac. Abraham gives **gifts** to his other sons but *“all that he had”* was in Isaac’s hand. And so these names are mentioned, the sons of Keturah are written, and in a minute we will read of the sons of Ishmael and then we will be introduced to a grandson of Abraham named Esau but for the most part these will be just *namings* because the story, the rest of the Bible, will center and concentrate on the line through which comes the ***Messiah.***
* There is a good lesson in that too because there are perhaps ***endless***, ***countless topics*** and ***details*** and ***things*** that can take us into all kinds of debates and studies and conversations and distractions but it’s wise to remember that ***history*** is all about ***His story***…and the topic of focus should always be and remain Jesus Christ!
* And here folks may get a little *bent out of shape* or *weirded out* or at least a bit uncomfortable at the mention of Abraham’s **concubines.** And check it out, ***rightfully so.*** A concubine was a wife for the purpose not of relationship necessarily but rather for the purpose of children…and it could even be that Keturah was a concubine.
* And folks ***sharpen their pitch forks and light their torches*** and scream against the Bible and God because of this sort of arrangement but look, ***nowhere did God instruct this or approve of this.*** The Bible is like that, that’s what makes it such a reputable and trustworthy historical document…it doesn’t leave out the ***scandalous***, it simply reports…
* This scenario, this fact is actually a validation point for the text. If the writers were writing this ***politically charged*** or with some sort of agenda…***they’d leave the skeletons in the closet***…but the Bible is not written for earthly profit or for the approval of man…*politics*…its purpose is eternal…to present truth and ultimately to introduce the reader to **the** Truth, the Way and the Life…

Genesis Chapter 25 Verses 7 – 8

* I like that phrase, *“He was gathered to his people.”* Abraham was given a most important task of ***master comforter of the righteous dead in hell.*** *WHAT!?* He was *gathered to his people.* Where did he go? Abraham and all of the Old Testament saints died before Jesus Christ opened the doors of heaven to men…so Abraham did not go to heaven…
* He went into what the Bible refers to as the *“grave.”* He went to Hades where he was *gathered to his people* to await the promise of God. *Stuck there*, really…and so in Luke Chapter 16 we find Abraham comforting Lazarus who had recently died and Abraham is there even talking. Still confused? When Jesus died on the cross, for three days He wasn’t in that tomb…that was just His body….where was He?
* Ephesians Chapter 4 verses 7 – 9 says, *“But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore He says, ‘When He ascended on High, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.’ (Now this, ‘He ascended’ – what does it mean but that He also first* ***descended*** *into the lower parts of the earth?”* When Jesus died He descended into the lower parts of the earth…for what? To announce and proclaim the end of captivity to the souls that were imprisoned in *“Paradise”* – a compartment of Hades that today is empty…separated from the torture of hell by some sort of vast gulf (all in Luke 16)…
* This place *“Paradise”* (Jesus said to the thief on the cross *“TODAY, you will be with Me in Paradise,”* is also called *“Abraham’s Bay”* in the Bible and is referred to as the *“Comfort of Abraham.”* And so Jesus descended into the lower parts of the earth, **led the captives from their captivity** and walked them right into the presence of God the Father who was SO overjoyed and elated to see them!!! Can you imagine!? *“Abraham!!!!! WELCOME HOME!”* And then, the resurrection…to complete the Gospel on earth! I just love this phrase because it makes perfect sense in the context of the rest of the Bible, *“He was gathered to his people…”*

Genesis Chapter 25 Verses 9 – 16

* Now this is interesting because Ishmael is the patriarch looked to in Islam and Islam today has 12 *“princes”* or *12 Imams* of Shia Islam but this is not the same thing. Islam teaches that Muhammad was a direct descendent of Ishmael and from Muhammad, his line, came the 12 Imams…so the 12 princes and the 12 Imams of today are not the same thing.

Genesis Chapter 25 Verses 17 – 18

* Notice, this is interesting, *“He died in the presence of all his brethren.”* Compare that to what is said of Abraham. *“He died in a good old age, an old man and full…”* There is a whole study here but just one thing I want to point out. Abraham died ***full***…Ishmael just died. I like what Courson says. Jon Courson talks about how people put off the things of God because they have so many other things going on…
* And yet the thought is, *“When I am old, then I will be wise, I’ll be full of wisdom.”* But here’s the thing, **wisdom doesn’t come with age**…wisdom comes from walking with and being led by God…There are many that will find themselves *quite empty* and *quite in want* late in life and simply perish and yet there are others who will find themselves full…***full of years, full of wisdom, full of joy***…not empty and regret and loss…but that has everything to do with **today**…what is your priority TODAY!....Now onto Isaac…

Genesis Chapter 25 Verses 19 – 22

* Jewish *legend* says that Jacob and Esau tried to kill each other in the womb…so this must have been pretty intense but I love what Rebekah does…**she takes her confusion and her issue to the Lord.** Why are so many issues not settled for folks…they haven’t been taken to the Lord…God gives her a clear answer…

Genesis Chapter 25 Verses 23 – 26

* Their names were quite literal to reality. Esau literally means, *“Hairy,”* while Jacob literally means, *“Supplanter.”* *(One who trips others up or overthrows or undermines)*

Genesis Chapter 25 Verses 27 – 34

* This is a ***crazy scene!!*** You almost process this sense like it’s not serious, *like it’s all a joke* or Jacob is just kidding but it turns out to be quite real and cause quite an issue between the boys in the future. Esau literally is conned into handing over his birthright for a bowl of soup and some bread!
* Now a birthright is more than just being the *man of the house* once the patriarch passes away. The birthright meant that you were to be ***double blessed***, receive a double portion of inheritance than any of your siblings…and that upon the death of your father, you would become the head of the family but also the ***spiritual leader*** of the family. Esau sold this for a bowl of soup. Here’s the thing, Esau must have **felt like a fool after he was full…**
* Sin has a way of doing that doesn’t it…? Once you get tempted and trapped…and it’s all over…***sin leaves you so condemned.*** **Don’t forget that feeling. Don’t forget that regret**…remind yourself of it when that temptation comes knocking again…but switch gears…Jacob was already promised this wasn’t he? God already told Rebekah that the blessing would be upon Jacob…that was his **calling**…but watch this…***Jacob used his calling to harm his brother.***  Horrible. Why not just wait, serve him, serve the Lord, the blessing would have come, just as God promised but instead, Jacob ran out in front of God, *shamed* his brother and drove a forever wedge between them!
* But Esau is certainly to blame too. He sold out for so little. Do you? Barnhouse said it like this, *“History shows that men prefer illusions to realities, choose time rather than eternity, and the pleasures of sin for a season rather than the joys of God forever. Men will read trash rather than the Word of God, and adhere to a system of priorities that leaves God out of their lives. Multitudes of men spend more time shaving than on their souls; and multitudes of women give more minutes to their makeup than to the life of the eternal spirit. Men still sell their birthright for a mess of pottage.”*
* Here’s the thing, folks outside of the faith and even unfortunately folks inside of the faith will *at times allow themselves to be used to tempt you to sell out and deny what God has for you…***No.** It’s a simple answer, a simple decision, a simple resolution but so **extremely entirely rare**…**No.** I would rather my flesh go hungry then fall…or maybe you’re the Jacob…just that chip on your shoulder, that power that you yield over someone else…you can use it to gain for yourself…**No.** It’s a simple answer, a simple decision, a simple resolution but **so extremely entirely rare**…No. Choose today who you will serve…