

# GENESIS

## 25:1-34

An expositional study taught by  
Harry Morgan

AN EXCITING 10 WEEK SEMINAR

NOTTINGHAM

# The Generations of Terah, Ishmael & Isaac



For those of you online post your comments or questions in the “comment section” on your screen. As time affords, they may be read to the class.

# CHAPTER OUTLINE

Man in the Tomb (25:1–8)

Man in the Womb (25:9–26)

Man in the Middle (25:27–34)

Briscoe, D. S., & Ogilvie, L. J. (1987). [\*Genesis\*](#) (Vol. 1, p. 203). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Inc.



## THEME

בְּרָכָה (bĕ·rĕk)

**Genesis 12:2** I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing.

**Genesis 22:17–18** blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which *is* on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. <sup>18</sup> In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”

Blessings

THEME

בְּרָכָה (bĕ·rĕk)

**Genesis 25:11** And it came to pass, after the death of Abraham, that God blessed his son Isaac. And Isaac dwelt at Beer Lahai Roi.

1. There 10 genealogical records in Genesis, each introduced with the Hebrew word *Toledot*, translated “generation”. What 3 generations are mentioned in chapter 25?

11:27 Terah

25:12 Ishmael

25:19 Isaac

# The 10 Generations in Genesis

## תולדות (tô·lē·dôt)

<b>2:4-4:26</b>	<b>Heaven &amp; Earth</b>	This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created (2:4)
<b>5:1-6:8</b>	<b>Adam</b>	This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day when God created man (5:1)
<b>6:9-9:29</b>	<b>Noah</b>	These are the records of the generations of Noah (6:9)
<b>10:1-11:19</b>	<b>Sons of Noah</b>	These are the records of the generations of Shem, Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah (10:1)
<b>11:10-26</b>	<b>Shem</b>	These are the records of the generations of Shem (11:10)
<b>11:27-25:11</b>	<b>Terah</b>	These are the records of the generations of Terah (11:27)
<b>25:12-18</b>	<b>Ishmael</b>	These are the records of the generations of Ishmael, Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's maid, bore to Abraham (25:12)
<b>25:19-35:29</b>	<b>Isaac</b>	Now these are the records of the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son (25:19)
<b>36:1-37:1</b>	<b>Esau</b>	Now these are the records of the generations of Esau (36:1)
<b>37:2-50:26</b>	<b>Jacob</b>	These are the records of the generations of Jacob (37:2)

## 2. What is the context for the word “now” in verse 1?

**25:1** Abraham again took a wife, and her name *was* Keturah.

וַיַּשְׁאֵר (w yā·săp) = “Then, and, even so + again, continue to do”



**24:67** Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent; and he took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s *death*.



### 3. Why do you think Abraham took “another wife”?

**Genesis 25:1** Abraham again took a wife, and her name *was* Keturah.

❑ He was lonely.

“wife” - אִשָּׁה ( 'iš·šāh ) = woman, female

**Romans 4:19** And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb.

### 3. Why do you think Abraham took “another wife”?

**Genesis 25:1** Abraham again took a wife, and her name *was* Keturah.

- He was lonely.
- He wanted more children (sons).

Abraham's age when Sarah died: 137

Abraham's age when he died: 175

Abraham's years with Keturah: 38

Abraham's sons by Keturah: 6

## 4. How many wives did Abraham have?

**Sarah** } Primary, legal wife without qualification

**Hagar** }  
**Keturah** } Secondary wife, a concubine, without legal rights

**1 Chronicles 1:32** Now the sons born to Keturah, Abraham's concubine, *were* Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah. The sons of Jokshan *were* Sheba and Dedan.

## 5. What does Keturah mean?

**Genesis 25:1** Abraham again took a wife, and her name *was* Keturah.

"Keturah" = incense

**Rashi** suggested that Keturah is Hagar: "She was called Keturah because her deeds were as pleasing as incense and because she tied up her opening [explanations emerging from two rabbinic folk etymologies on her name]; from the day she left Abraham, she did not couple with any man."



## 6. What were Abraham's sons' names by Keturah? What did their names mean?

**Genesis 25:2** And she bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah.

**Zimran** = “antelope”

**Jokshan** = ? The father of Sheba and Dedan. They started the Sabaean and Dedanites (Arabs).

**Midian** = “strife or contention” Midianites may be his descendants.

**Ishbak** = “abandon” or “set free” The father of some of the northern Arab tribes.

## 7. How many sons did Abraham have in total?

**25:2** And she bore him Zimran, Jokshan,  
Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah. **6**

**25:12** Now this *is* the genealogy of  
Ishmael, Abraham's son, whom Hagar  
the Egyptian, Sarah's maidservant, bore  
to Abraham. **1**

**25:19** This *is* the genealogy of Isaac,  
Abraham's son. Abraham begot Isaac. **1**

Total **8**

# Abraham's 21 Grandsons in Genesis 25

## **Sons of Jokshan (3):**

1. Sheba
2. Dedan

## **Sons of Midian (4):**

3. Ephah
4. Ephher
5. Hanoch
6. Abida
7. Eldaah

## **Sons of Ishmael (13-15):**

8. Nebaioth
9. Kedar
10. Adbeel
11. Mibsam
12. Mishma

## **Sons of Ishmael (cont'd)**

13. Dumah
14. Massa
15. Hadad
16. Tema
17. Jetur
18. Naphish
19. Kedemah

## **Sons of Isaac (24-26):**

20. Esau
21. Jacob

# Abraham's 3 Great-grandchildren in Genesis 25

## Sons of Dedan (3):

1. Asshurim
2. Letushim
3. Leummin



*Queen Elizabeth II*

*Grandchild: Prince William & his wife, Kate Middleton*

*Great Grandchildren: Prince George & Princess Charlotte*



## 8. Why were only the generations of Jokshan and Midian listed?

**Genesis 25:3-4** Jokshan begot Sheba and Dedan. And the sons of Dedan were Asshurim, Letushim, and Leummim. <sup>4</sup> And the sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abidah, and Eldaah. All these *were* the children of Keturah.



# 9. Who were the sons and grandsons of Jokshan? What are the meanings of their names?

**Genesis 25:3** Jokshan begot Sheba and Dedan. And the sons of Dedan were Asshurim, Letushim, and Leummim.

**Sons of Jokshan**

{ Sheba = "oath"  
Dedan = ?

**Sons of Dedan**

{ Asshurim = "mighty ones"  
Letushim = "hammered" (i.e., oppressed ones)  
Leummim = "nations" or "peoples"



# 10. What part will Sheba and Dedan have in future events?

**Ezekiel 38:13** Sheba, Dedan, the merchants of Tarshish, and all their young lions will say to you, ‘Have you come to take plunder? Have you gathered your army to take booty, to carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, to take great plunder?’ ”



# 11. Who were the sons of Midian? What are the meanings of their names?

**Genesis 25:4** And the sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abidah, and Eldaah. All these were the children of Keturah.

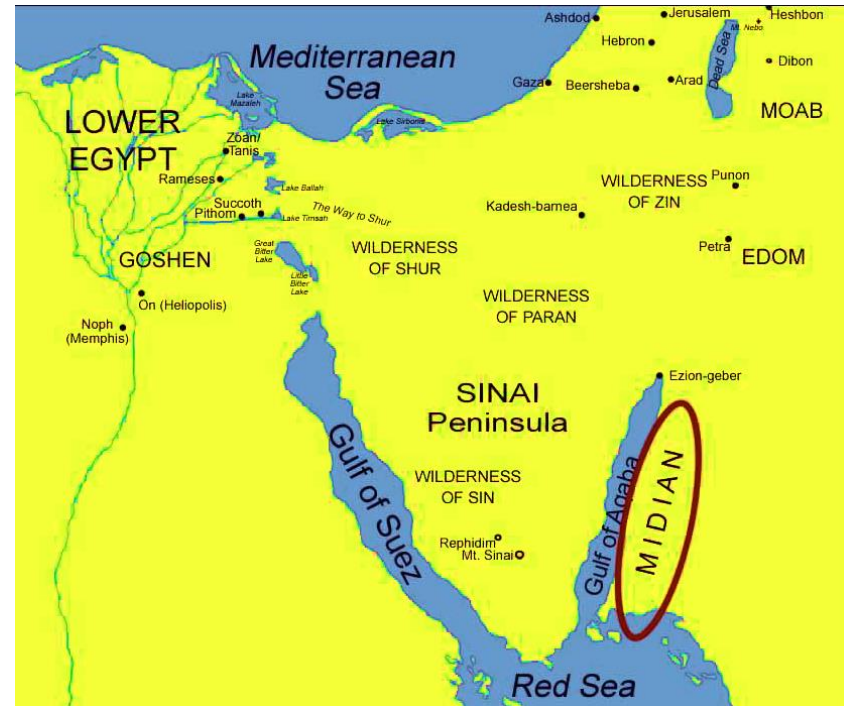
Ephah = “gloom”

Epher = “gazelle”

Hanoch = “initiated”

Abidah = “father of knowledge”

Eldaah = “God of knowledge”



## 12. Where in later history are the descendants of Midian mentioned?

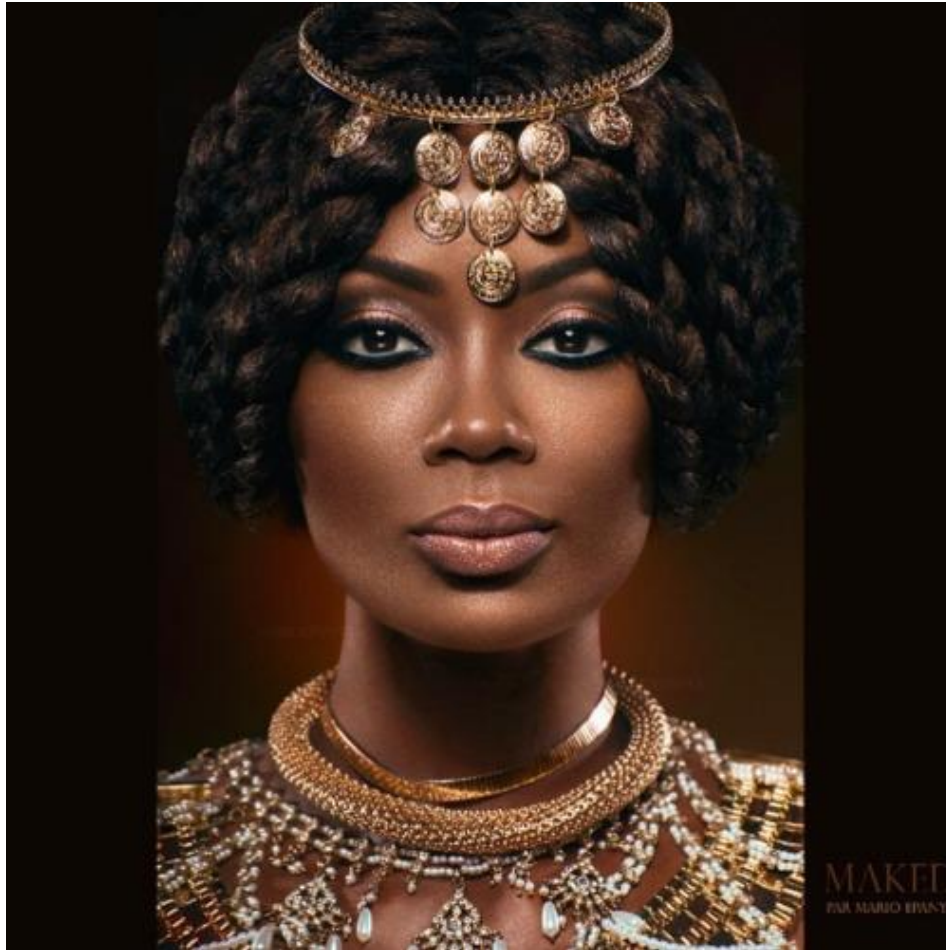
**Genesis 37:28** Then Midianite traders passed by; so *the brothers* pulled Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty *shekels* of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

**Exodus 2** – Moses fled to Midian

**Numbers 22** – Elders of Moab and Midian hired Balaam to curse Israel

**Judges 6-8** – Midianites were used of God to discipline Israel for their wickedness; later Gideon defeated the Midianites

# 13. Where in later history are the descendants of Sheba mentioned?



**1 Kings 10:1** Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD, she came to test him with hard questions.

Isabelle Beke as Queen of Sheba by Mario Epanya  
2016

# 14. To which of his sons did Abraham leave his estate? Why?

**Genesis 25:5** And Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac.

**Genesis 17:18–19** And Abraham said to God, “Oh, that Ishmael might live before You!” <sup>19</sup> Then God said: “No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, *and* with his descendants after him.

**Genesis 21:10** Therefore she said to Abraham, “Cast out this bondwoman and her son; for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, *namely* with Isaac.”

# 14. To which of his sons did Abraham leave his estate? Why?

**Genesis 25:5** And Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac.

**Genesis 22:2** Then He said, “Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah...”

**Galatians 4:28–31** Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise. <sup>29</sup> But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him *who was born* according to the Spirit, even so *it is* now. <sup>30</sup> Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? “*Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.*” <sup>31</sup> So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.



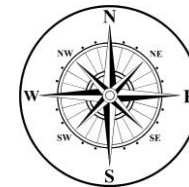
# 15. Why did Abraham send “the sons of his concubines...away from his son Isaac” while he was still alive?

**Genesis 25:6** But Abraham gave gifts to the sons of the concubines which Abraham had; and while he was still living, he sent them eastward, away from Isaac his son, to the country of the east.

- To confirm the will of God through Abraham
- To definitively separate the sons of his concubines from the son of promise
- To minimize dispute or conflict

# 16. Where would “the sons of his concubines” have gone?

**Genesis 25:6** But Abraham gave gifts to the sons of the concubines which Abraham had; and while he was still living, he sent them eastward, away from Isaac his son, to the country of the east.



# 17. How long did Abraham live?

**Genesis 25:7** This *is* the sum of the years of Abraham's life which he lived: one hundred and seventy-five years.

Abraham – 175 years old

Isaac – 75 years old



# 18. How old were Jacob and Esau at the time of Abraham's death?

**Abraham** – 175 years old; 100 years sojourning (Gen. 12:4)

**Isaac** – 75 years old; 60 years old (Gen. 25:26) when his sons were born

**Ishmael** – 89 years old

**Jacob & Esau** – 15 years old



*The opening to the  
Cave of the Patriarchs  
in Hebron.*

# 19. What is meant by the phrase “and he was gathered to his people”?

**Genesis 25:8** Then Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full *of years*, and was gathered to his people.

- (1) A euphemism for death
- (2) A reference to a multiple burial
- (3) A reference to immortality, a witness to life after death
- (4) A reunion with previously departed friends (1900 B.C.; Matt. 8:11; Luke 16:22-23).

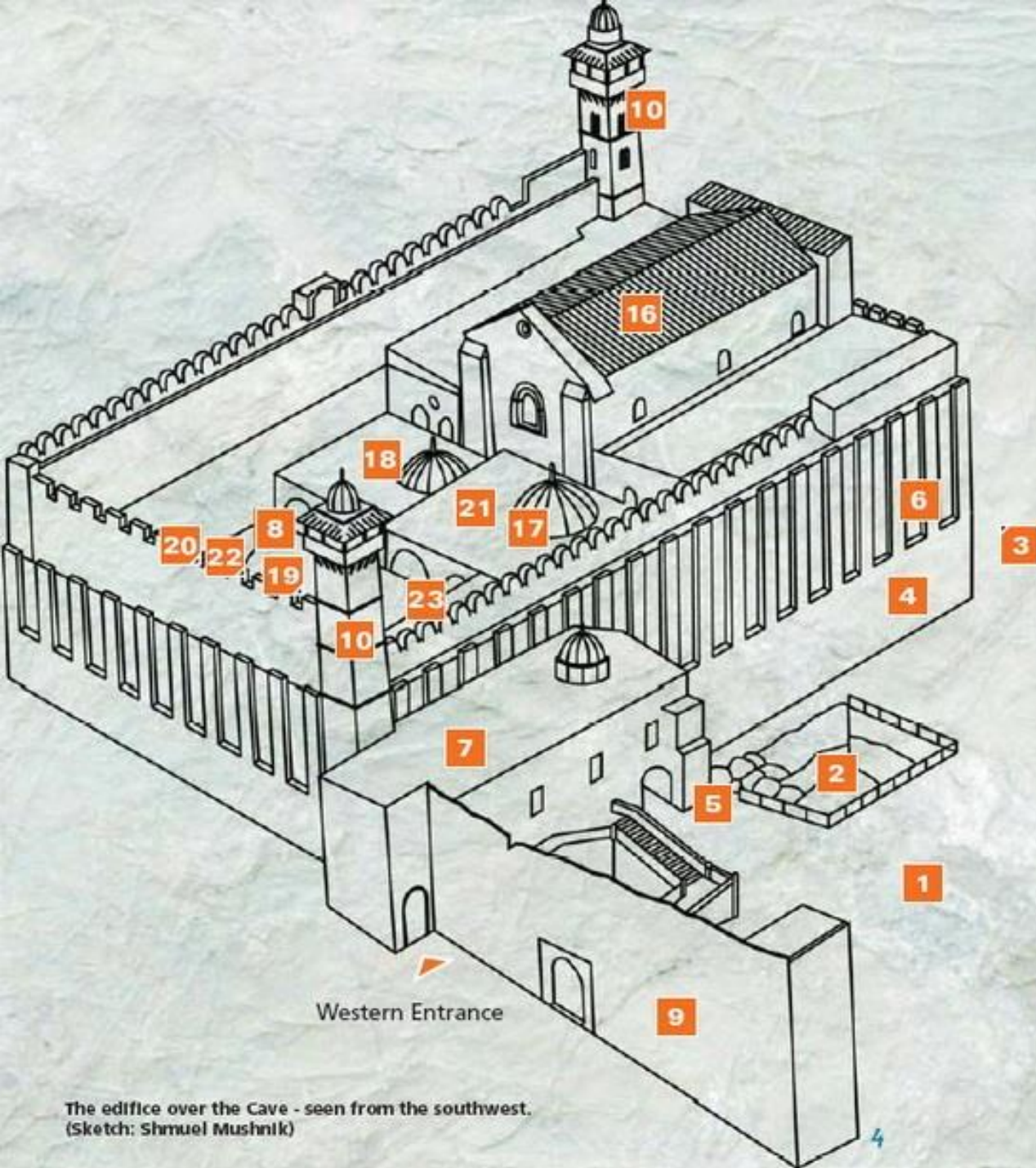
## 20. Where was Abraham buried?

**Genesis 25:9** And his sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah, which *is* before Mamre, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite,



Abraham was buried in the place he had purchased at Hebron (cf. Genesis 23:17-20; 25:10).

<http://watchermeet-up.forumotion.com/t15529-secrets-of-the-tomb-of-the-patriarchs-in-hebron-video>



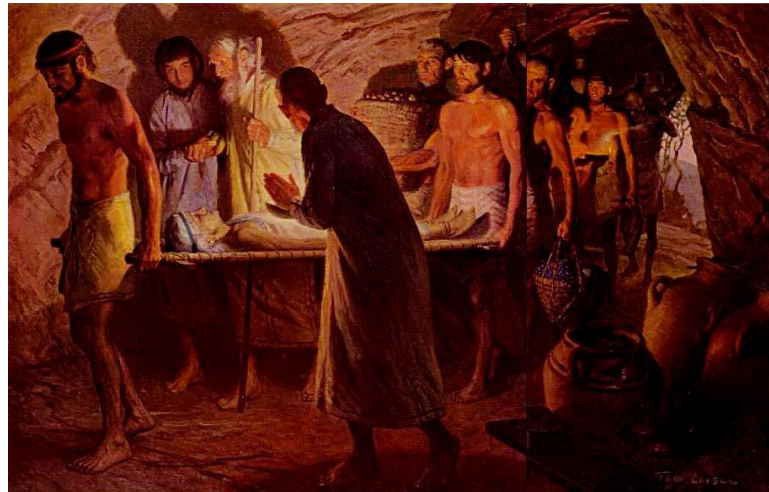
1. Machpela Field - The large square the edifice
2. The Outside Cave
3. The Seventh Step
4. The Foundation, built during the Second Temple Period
5. The Arabic Annex - "Joseph's Tomb"
6. Second Temple Construction: "Cornrows" on the second floor
7. The Hall used for religious celebrations, study and prayer; Jewish entrance to the site
8. The Courtyard - Main Jewish prayer
9. Crusader fortress wall
10. Minaret from the Mameluk period (14th century)
16. Isaac's Hall
17. Abraham's Chamber
18. Sarah's Chamber
19. Jacob's Chamber
20. Leah's Chamber
21. Synagogue - Abraham's Hall
22. Synagogue - Jacob's Hall
23. "Yeshenei Hebron" Synagogue
24. "Ja'ulia" mosque
28. Line connecting the wall with the synagogue tiled roof
29. Baruch Nachshon's Artist Gallery & Rabbi Ashlag's yeshiva
30. The Tomb of Abner ben Ner
32. Gutnick Center

The edifice over the Cave - seen from the southwest.  
(Sketch: Shmuel Mushnik)

## 21. Who buried Abraham? Why is this important?

**Genesis 25:9** And his sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah, which *is* before Mamre, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite,

Abraham's funeral brought together Isaac and Ishmael who would have, most likely, remained somewhat estranged from each other (35:29).





## 22. Why does Moses reiterate Abraham's purchase of the gravesite?

**Genesis 25:10** the field which Abraham purchased from the sons of Heth. There Abraham was buried, and Sarah his wife.

The land was purchased from Ephron, the rest of “the sons of Heth” were witnesses (Genesis 23:16).

Sarah had been buried in the cave of Machpelah 38 years before, which was the reason why his sons buried him there.

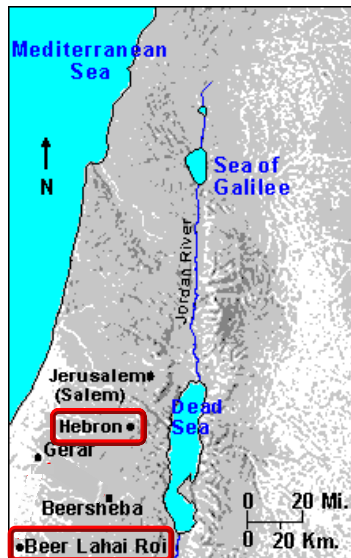
If he died in Beersheba, as seems probable (cf. Genesis 24:62); then Hebron was 16 miles away.

<https://israelunwired.com/the-most-ironic-thing-about-the-ancient-city-of-hebron-and-apartheid/>

## 23. What happened to Isaac after Abraham died?

**Genesis 25:11** And it came to pass, after the death of Abraham, that God blessed his son Isaac. And Isaac dwelt at Beer Lahai Roi.

Lahai-roi is near the wilderness of Beersheba and Paran, where Ishmael dwelt. So that they were not far from one another (cf. Genesis 16:14).



Lahai-roi  
today

## 24. What does Beer-lahai-roi mean?

**Genesis 25:11** And it came to pass, after the death of Abraham, that God blessed his son Isaac. And Isaac dwelt at Beer Lahai Roi.

"Lahai-roi" = the well of Him who lives and sees me, or the well of the vision of life.



## 25. How many sons did Ishmael have?

**Genesis 25:12-18** Now this *is* the genealogy of Ishmael, Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's maidservant, bore to Abraham. <sup>13</sup> And these *were* the names of the sons of Ishmael, by their names, according to their generations: The firstborn of Ishmael, Nebajoth; then Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam, Mishma, Dumah, Massa, Hadai, Tema, Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah. <sup>16</sup> These *were* the sons of Ishmael and these *were* their names, by their towns and their settlements, twelve princes according to their nations.

# **Genesis 25:13 "And these [are] the names of the sons of Ishmael"**

**"The firstborn of Ishmael, Nebajoth":** Mentioned (in Isaiah 60:7); and from whence a people of the Arabs are called Nabathaeans, and their country Nabataea. Josephus says that all the country from Euphrates to the Red sea is called the Nabatean country. The posterity of this man inhabited part of Arabia Desert and of Arabia Petraea, even to the entrance of Arabia Felix.

**"And Kedar is the second son of Ishmael":** And the posterity of this man and their country are reckoned in Arabia by Isaiah (Isa. 21:13). They are so well known to be Arabians that the Arabic language is most frequently, in Jewish writings, called the language of Kedar.

These are the people whom Pliny names Cedrei, and mentions them along with the Nabathaeans, as near unto them, and indeed they dwelt in the same country, Arabia Petraea, and in tents, living by pasturage, hence they are sometimes called Scenites; and mention is made of the tents of Kedar; these are the Scenite Arabs, called Saracens by Ammianus Marcellinus.

**"And Adbeel and Mibsam":** Of whom no mention is made elsewhere, nor are there any traces of their names, unless the Agubeni, placed by Ptolemy near Arabia Felix.

## **Genesis 25:14 "And Mishma, and Dumah, and Massa,"**

**"And Mishma, and Dumah, and Massa":** Of Mishma and Massa, and of their posterity, there is not anything said elsewhere, unless the Masani, Ptolemy places near Arabia Felix, came from Massa.

Dumah seems to be the same Isaiah speaks of in Genesis 21:11; and in Arabia Desert, where some of Ishmael's posterity settled, is a place called Dumaetha, by Ptolemy, which perhaps had its name from this son of his.

The Targum of Jonathan translates these three names "hearing, silence, and patience", which the Jews use as a proverb, when they would signify that there are some things to be heard and not spoken of and to be patiently borne. If Ishmael had in view to teach such lessons by the names he gave his children, he will seem to be a better man than he is usually thought to be.

## **Genesis 25:15 "Hadar, and Tema, Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah:"**

**"Hadar and Tema"**: From the first of these the city Adra in Arabia Petraea, and from the other the city Themma in Arabia Desert, both mentioned by Ptolemy, may be thought to have their names. Or the city Adari and the Athritae in Arabia Felix, and the inhabitants of the land of Tema are mentioned as Arabians (Isaiah 21:13).

Pliny speaks of a people called Thimaneans, whom he says the ancients joined to the Nabathaeans. The troops of Tema mentioned in Job were of this people (Job 6:19); and Eliphaz the Temanite (Job 2:11), is thought by some not to be the descendant of Teman the grandson of Esau, but to be of this man's people and country.

## **Genesis 25:15 "Hadar, and Tema, Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah:"**

**"Hadar, and Tema":** are reckoned among the Hagarites, as the Ishmaelites were sometimes called (1 Chronicles 5:19).

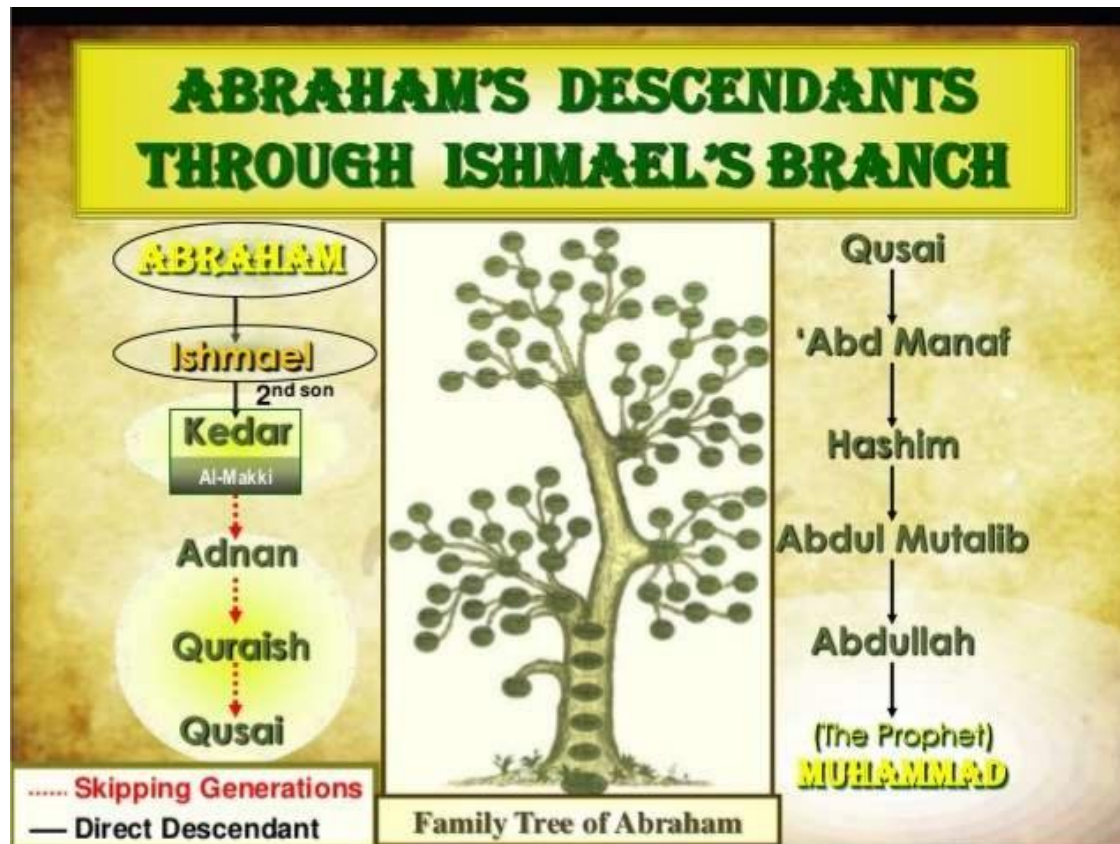
**"Jetur":** from whom came the Itureans, whom Pliny places in Coelesyria; and their country Iturea is reckoned by Strabo along with Arabia; and the Ithyreans with Virgil are famous for their bows, as Ishmael and his posterity were for archery in all ages, and still are (see notes on Gen. 21:20).

**"Naphish, and Kedemah":** we have no account elsewhere, nor any traces of their names, unless those of the latter should be meant by the men of the east, or the men of Kedem (Jeremiah 49:28), which is not improbable, since they are mentioned with the posterity of Kedar the second son of Ishmael; and the Nubaeans by Lebanon may be from Naphish.



## 26. Outline the genealogy of Abraham through his son Ishmael.

**Genesis 25:16** "These [are] the sons of Ishmael, and these [are] their names, by their towns, and by their castles; twelve princes according to their nations."



## 26. Outline the genealogy of Abraham through his son Ishmael.

These sons had Egyptian ancestry and were Arabs.

"Egypt" = of the world.

"Kedar" = to be dark, or to be able, mighty.

"Adbeel" = servant of God.

"Mibsam" = balsom, or sweet odor.

"Mishma" = hearing.

"Dumah" = silence.

"Massa" = burden.

"Hadar" = chamber.

## 27. How long did Ishmael live?

**Genesis 25:17** These *were* the years of the life of Ishmael: one hundred and thirty-seven years; and he breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people.

- 137 years old.
- Ishmael lived 48 years after the death of Abraham (25:8).
- Though Ishmael did not live to be so old as Abraham, he still attained a considerable age (25:7).

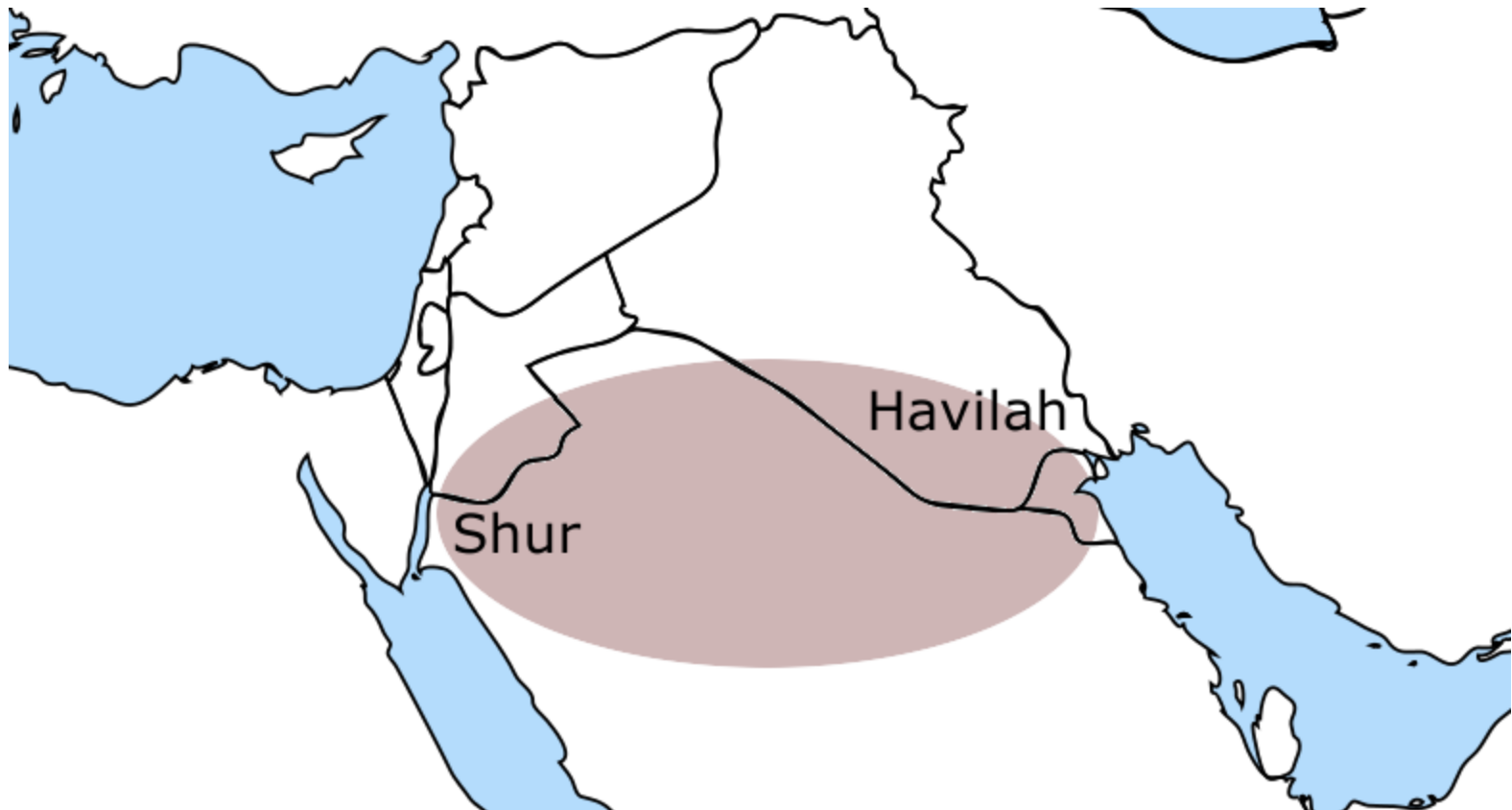
## 28. How are the deaths of Abraham and Ishmael described differently? How is this difference a fulfillment of prophecy?

<sup>17</sup> These *were* the years of the life of Ishmael: one hundred and thirty-seven years; and he breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people. <sup>18</sup> (They dwelt from Havilah as far as Shur, which *is* east of Egypt as you go toward Assyria.) He died in the presence of all his brethren.

**Genesis 25:8** Then Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full *of years*, and was gathered to his people.

## 29. Where did Ishmael's descendants dwell?

**Genesis 25:18** (They dwelt from Havilah as far as Shur, which is east of Egypt as you go toward Assyria.) He died in the presence of all his brethren.

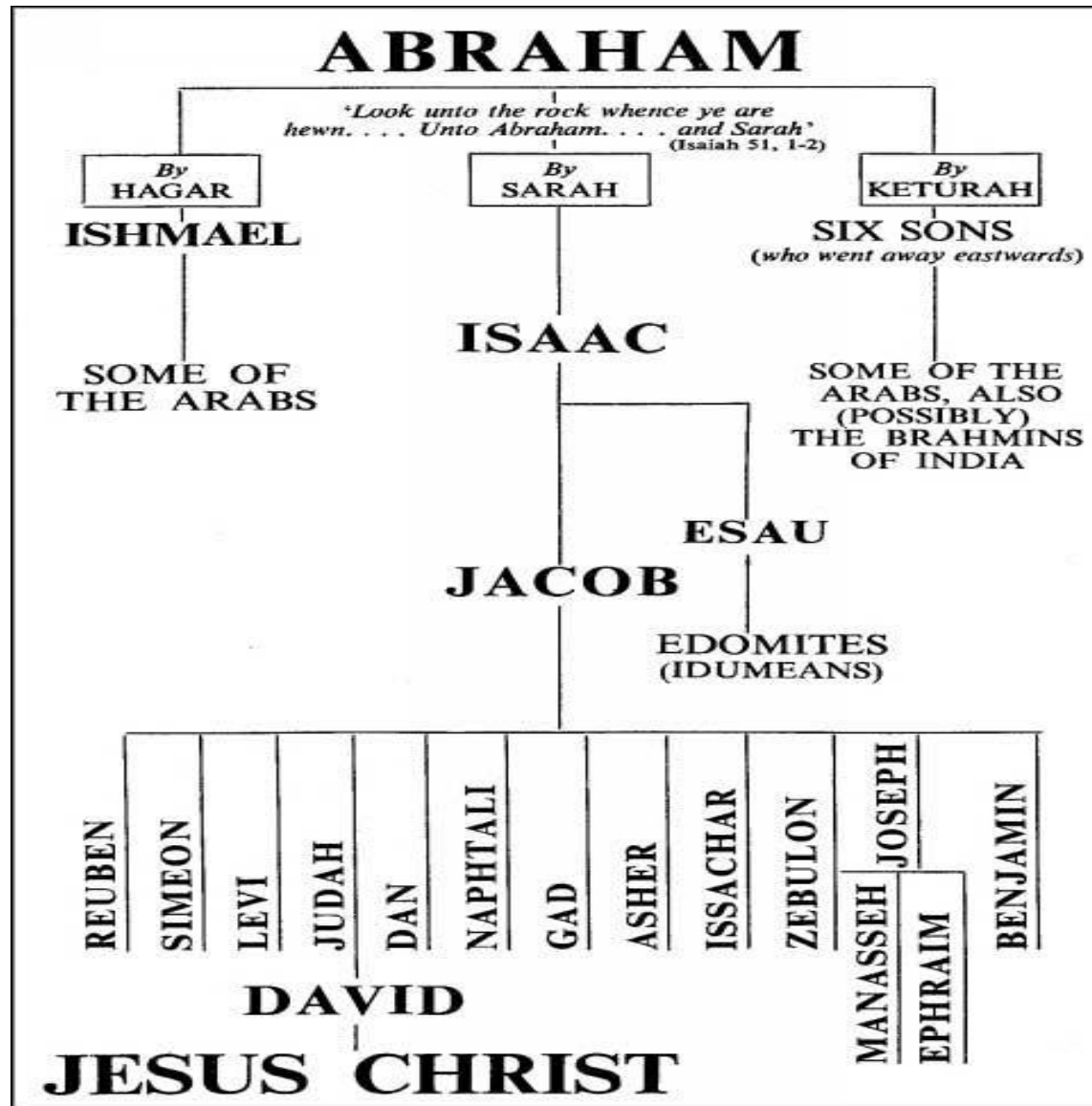


## 30. Outline the genealogy of Abraham through his son Isaac.

**Genesis 25:19-26** This *is* the genealogy of Isaac, Abraham's son. Abraham begot Isaac. <sup>20</sup> Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah as wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Padan Aram, the sister of Laban the Syrian. <sup>21</sup> Now Isaac pleaded with the LORD for his wife, because she *was* barren; and the LORD granted his plea, and Rebekah his wife conceived. <sup>22</sup> But the children struggled together within her; and she said, "If *all is well, why am I like this?*" So she went to inquire of the LORD.

<sup>23</sup> And the LORD said to her: “Two nations *are* in your womb, Two peoples shall be separated from your body; *One* people shall be stronger than the other, And the older shall serve the younger.” <sup>24</sup> So when her days were fulfilled *for her* to give birth, indeed *there were* twins in her womb. <sup>25</sup> And the first came out red. *He was* like a hairy garment all over; so they called his name Esau. <sup>26</sup> Afterward his brother came out, and his hand took hold of Esau’s heel; so his name was called Jacob. Isaac *was* sixty years old when she bore them.

# 30. Outline the genealogy of Abraham through his son Isaac.





31. Why is Ishmael's genealogical record so short, compared to Isaac's, even though he had many more sons?

- Both Ishmael and Jacob had 12 sons.
- 7 verses are attributed to Ishmael.
- 13 chapters are attributed to Isaac.
- 10 chapters are attributed to Jacob.

Notice the significant closing words describing Ishmael:  
*"He settled in defiance of all his relatives"* (25:18)

## 32. How old was Isaac when he married Rebekah?

**Genesis 25:20** Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah as wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Padan Aram, the sister of Laban the Syrian.



### 33. Why is there so much detail given about Rebekah's relations and residence?

**Genesis 25:20** Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah as wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Padan Aram, the sister of Laban the Syrian.

- She was the daughter of Abraham's brother, his niece
- She was not a Canaanite



### 33. Why is there so much detail given about Rebekah's relations and residence?

**Genesis 25:20** Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah as wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Padan Aram, the sister of Laban the Syrian.

“Padan-aram”: The “plain of Aram” in upper Mesopotamia near Haran to the north northeast of Canaan.

“The Syrian”: is translated best by “Armenia” and does not refer to the Syria of which Damascus was the capital. It was called Mesopotamia (in 24:10) and lay north and east of Palestine. Its chief city was Haran.

# 33. Why is there so much detail given about Rebekah's relations and residence?



## 34. How long after their marriage was Rebekah barren?

**Genesis 25:20-21** Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah as wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Padan Aram, the sister of Laban the Syrian.  
<sup>21</sup> Now Isaac pleaded with the LORD for his wife, because she *was* barren; and the LORD granted his plea, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

**Genesis 25:26** Afterward his brother came out, and his hand took hold of Esau's heel; so his name was called Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

19 years

# 35. Who in the Bible was childless or barren?

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Sarah          | Isaac             |
| 2. Rebecca        | Esau and Jacob    |
| 3. Rachel         | Joseph & Benjamin |
| 4. Wife of Manoah | Samson            |
| 5. Hannah         | Samuel            |
| 6. Michal         | -----             |
| 7. Elizabeth      | John the Baptist  |

## 36. Describe at least 5 similarities between Sarah and Rebekah, Abraham and Isaac.

Genesis 12:10-20; 20:1-18; 26:1-11

- Both involve the same king, Abimelech.
- Both Abraham and Isaac tell their wives they must act as a sister, and not a wife.
- Both times Abimelech becomes aware of their deceit he is overcome with guilt and promises to protect both Abraham and Isaac.
- Both couples are barren and have a miraculous birth.



# 37. How did Isaac respond to being childless? What happened? (cp. Exodus 8-10)

**Genesis 25:21** Now Isaac pleaded with the LORD for his wife, because she *was* barren; and the LORD granted his plea, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

Isaac  
“pleaded” עָתַר (*‘ā·tār*) = prayed, entreated,  
supplicated

Rebekah  
“conceived” הָרָה (*hā·rāh*) = conceived, became  
pregnant

## 38. Explain the condition of Rebekah's pregnancy?

**Genesis 25:22** But the children struggled together within her; and she said, "If *all is well*, why *am I like this*?" So she went to inquire of the LORD.

**"struggled together"** רָצַץ (*rā·ṣāṣ*) = oppress, i.e., cause the trouble, hardship, and harassment of an opponent or enemy, even conveying the sense of a crushing battle



## 39. How did Rebekah respond?

**Genesis 25:22** But the children struggled together within her; and she said, “If all is well, why am I like this?” So she went to inquire of the LORD.

“well” כֵּן (*kēn*) = *upright, erect; metaph. honest*

Gesenius, W., & Tregelles, S. P. (2003). Gesenius' Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon to the Old Testament Scriptures (p. 402). Bellingham, WA.



“thus” = pertaining to a sequence of events, referencing to that which precedes

## 40. What did the Lord say to Rebekah?

1

**Genesis 25:23** And the LORD said to her: Two nations *are* in your womb, two peoples shall be separated from your body; *one* people shall be stronger than the other, and the older shall serve the younger.”

שְׁנֵי גוֹיִם בְּבֶטְנֶךָ (sheme goyim be-vitnekh)

“two kinds of people  
within your womb”



# TWIN SONS OF ISAAC & REBEKAH



## Esau

*Father of the Edomites*

## Jacob & Esau

**Genesis 25:21-26**



## Jacob

*Father of the Israelites*

As it is written,  
*“Jacob I have loved,  
but Esau I have hated.”*

**Romans 9:13**

**Genesis 27:39–40** Then Isaac his father answered and said to him: “Behold, your dwelling shall be of the fatness of the earth, and of the dew of heaven from above. <sup>40</sup> By your sword you shall live, and you shall serve your brother; and it shall come to pass, when you become restless, that you shall break his yoke from your neck.”

**Genesis 27:28–29** Therefore may God give you of the dew of heaven, of the fatness of the earth, and plenty of grain and wine. <sup>29</sup> Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be master over your brethren and let your mother’s sons bow down to you. Cursed *be* everyone who curses you and blessed *be* those who bless you!”

## 40. What did the Lord say to Rebekah?

**Genesis 25:23** And the LORD said to her: “Two nations *are* in your womb, two peoples shall be separated from your body; one people shall be stronger than the other, and the older shall serve the younger.”

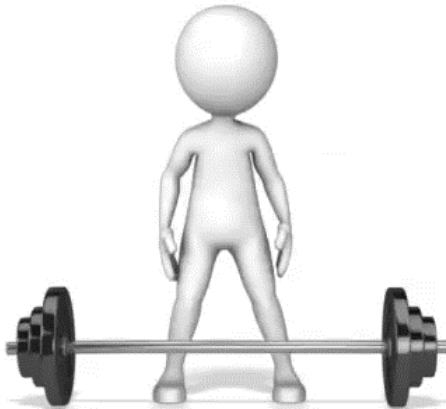
“separated” פָּרַד (pā·răḏ) = separated, scattered



## 40. What did the Lord say to Rebekah?

**Genesis 25:23** And the LORD said to her: “Two nations *are* in your womb, two peoples shall be separated from your body, one people shall be stronger than the other, and the older shall serve the younger.”

“stronger” אָמֵץ ( 'ā·mēṣ ) = strong, victorious, courageous, established, determined



## 40. What did the Lord say to Rebekah?

**Genesis 25:23** And the LORD said to her: “Two nations *are* in your womb, two peoples shall be separated from your body: *one* people shall be stronger than the other, and the older shall serve the younger.”

“older” רב (*răb*) = great, many, numerous, abundant

“younger” צעיר (*ṣā·îr*) = younger, smaller, least, insignificant





# 41. Where else do we find twins mentioned in the Bible?

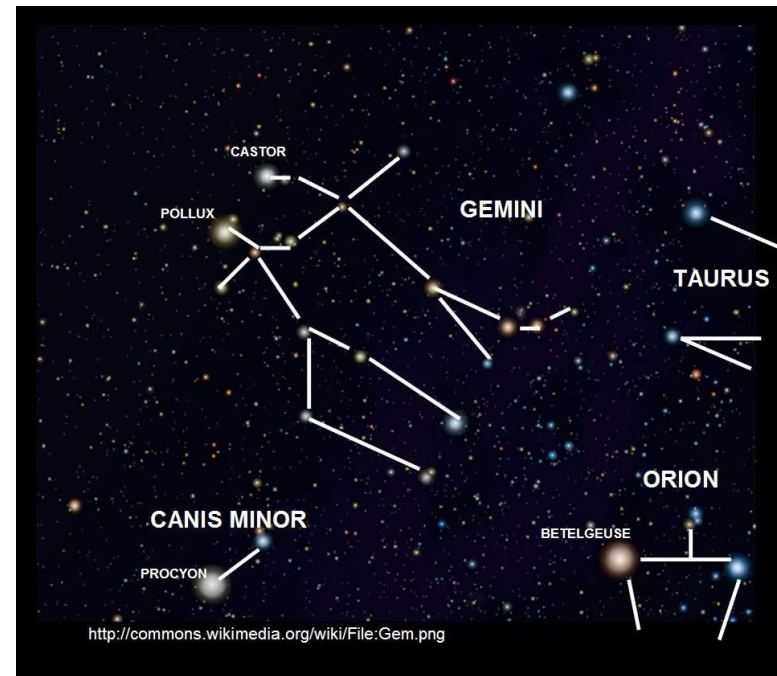
**Genesis 25:24** So when her days were fulfilled *for her* to give birth, indeed *there were* twins in her womb.

**Cain & Abel** (Genesis 4:1-2)

**Perez & Zerah** (Genesis 38)

**Thomas or Didymus** (John 11:16)

**Castor & Pollux** (Acts 28:11)



## 42. Describe the characteristics of Rebekah's first born.

**Genesis 25:25** And the first came out red. *He was* like a hairy garment all over;

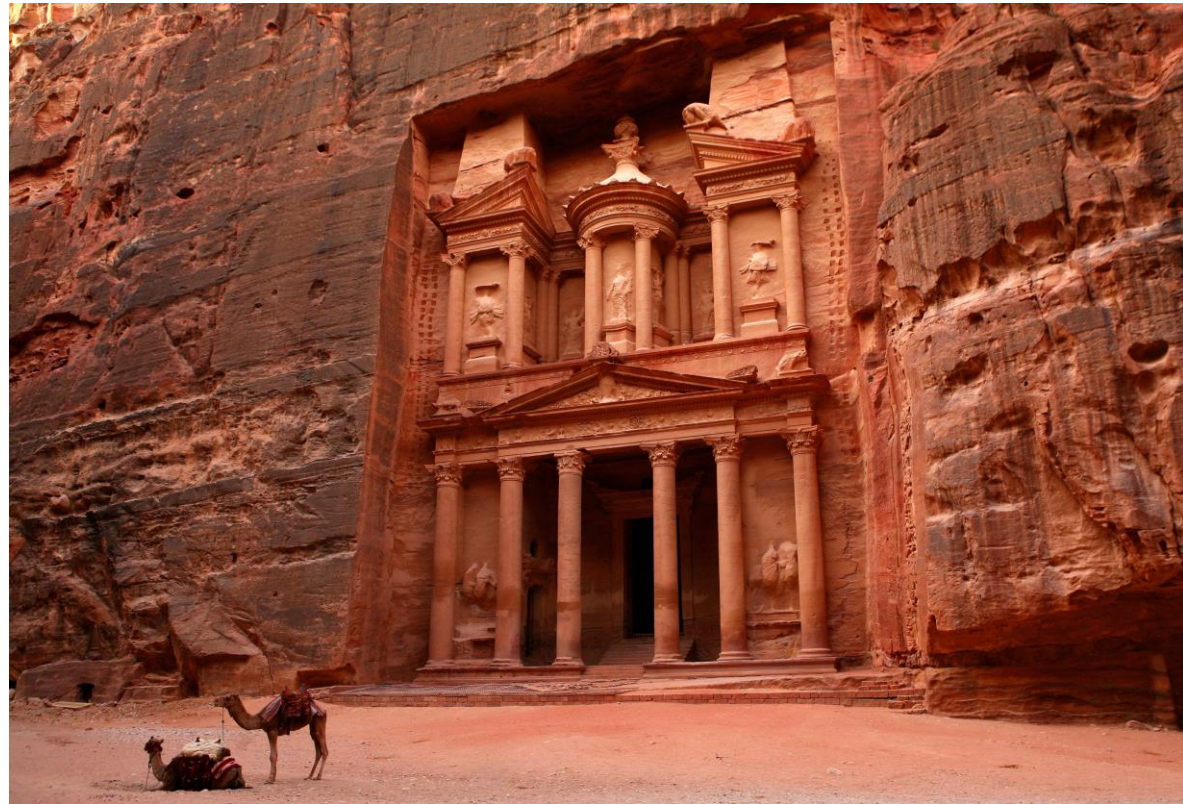
אֲדָמוֹנִי ( 'ăḏ·mô·nî) = ruddy, red, reddish

אָדָם ( 'ā·ḏām) = mankind, people

אֲדָמָה ( 'ăḏā·māh) = dust, clay, earth

# 43. Who were Esau's descendants?

## Edomites



# History of the Edomites

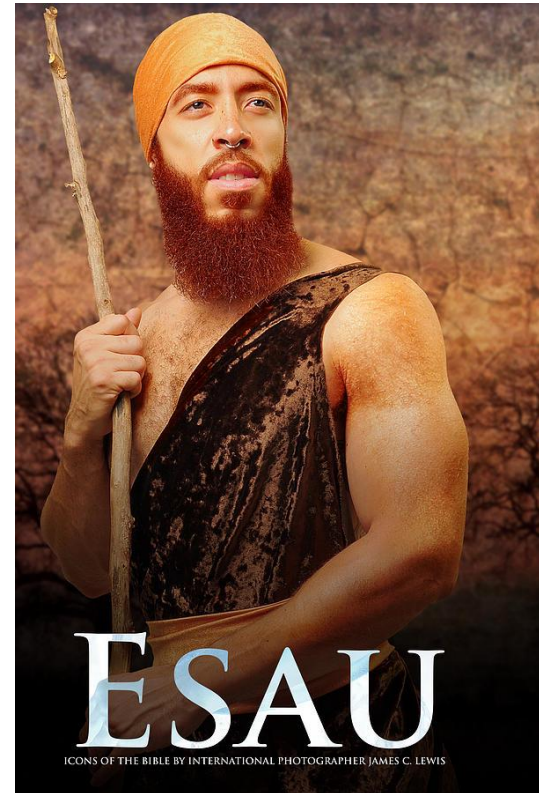
- The region has much reddish sandstone, which lends to the name “Edom”.
- Archeological evidence indicates that the nation of Edom existed at least during the 8<sup>th</sup> and possibly 9<sup>th</sup> century BC. The Bible reveals a much older history.
- The nation of Edom had kings prior to the existence of Israel. (Genesis 36:31)
- Herod was an Idumean (Greek for Edomite).
- During Herod’s reign Edom was a conquered nation.
- By 70AD the Edomites slowly disappeared.

# 44. What did they name their firstborn? What does his name mean?

**Genesis 25:25** And the first came out red. *He was* like a hairy garment all over; so they called his name Esau.

שְׂעָר (śē·'ār) = hairy garment

עֵשָׂו (ē·śāw) = hairy



# 45. What did they name their second born? What does his name mean?

**Genesis 25:26** Afterward his brother came out, and his hand took hold of Esau's heel; so his name was called Jacob.



עֵשָׂו      בְּעֵקֶב      אֲחִזָּתָהּ  
Esau      in heel of      holding

יַעֲקֹב      שְׁמוֹ      וַיִּקְרָא  
Jacob      name of him      and he is calling

יַעֲקֹב (yǎ·<sup>ǎ</sup>qōb) = one who graps at the heel

## 46. Describe the characteristics of Rebekah's second born.

**Genesis 27:36** And *Esau* said, “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!”

וַיֵּקְבֹּלְנִי

has come from behind

יַעֲקֹב

Jacob

**Genesis 3:15** And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”

“heel” עֶקֶב (‘ā·qēb)

## 46. Describe the characteristics of Rebekah's second born.

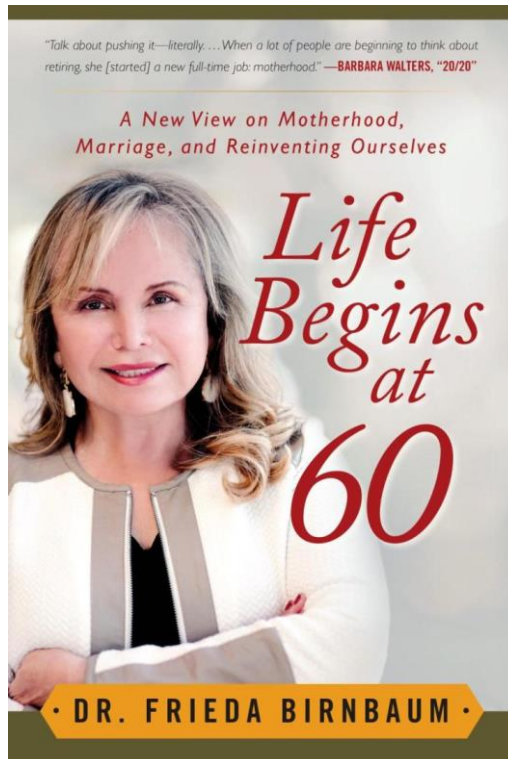
1. grabbed Esau's heel at their birth:  
Jacob = "one who grabs the heel"
2. supplanted his brother:  
Jacob = "supplanter"
3. was ensnared by his mother's insistence:  
Rebekah = "ensnarer"
4. deceived his blind father:  
Jacob = "deceiver"

**Proverbs 22:1** A *good* name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favor rather than silver and gold.



# 47. How old was Isaac when his twin sons were born?

**Genesis 25:26** Afterward his brother came out, and his hand took hold of Esau's heel; so his name was called Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.



## 48. What were Esau's traits?

**Genesis 25:27** So the boys grew. And **Esau** was a skillful hunter, a man of the field; but Jacob was a mild man, dwelling in tents.

Esau – שׂוֹיֵד (šă·yīd) = wild game hunter



## 49. Who else was a hunter in Genesis?

**Genesis 25:27a** So the boys grew. And Esau was a skillful **hunter** (*ṣă·yid*) a man of the field;

**Genesis 10:9** He (Nimrod) was a mighty hunter (*ṣă·yid*) before the LORD; therefore it is said, “Like Nimrod the mighty **hunter** before the LORD.”

**Esau** built kingdom of Edom which was destroyed (Isaiah 34)

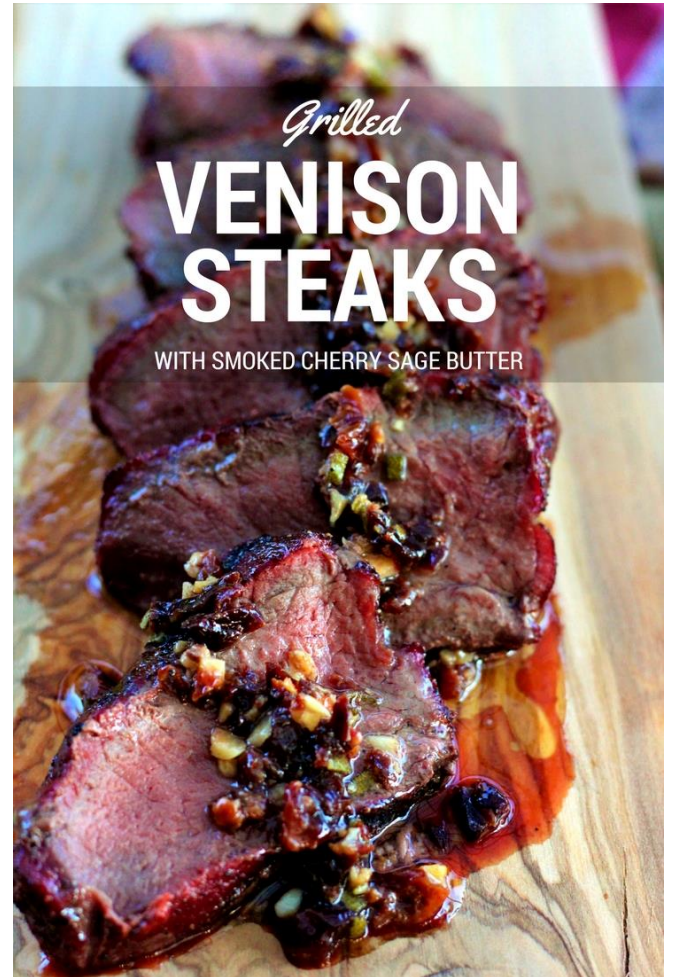
**Nimrod** built Babylon & will be destroyed (Revelation 18)



# 50. Which son did Isaac favor? Why?

**Genesis 25:28** And Isaac loved Esau because he ate *of his game*,

**Philippians 3:18–19** For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ: <sup>19</sup> whose end *is* destruction, whose god *is their belly*, and *whose glory is* in their shame— who set their mind on earthly things.



# 51. What was another of Esau's traits?

**Genesis 25:27a** So the boys grew. And **Esau** was a skillful hunter, a man of the field;

שָׂדֵה (śā·dēh) = cultivated field, open country, woods

**Genesis 25:29** Now Jacob cooked a stew; and Esau came in from the field, and he *was* weary.



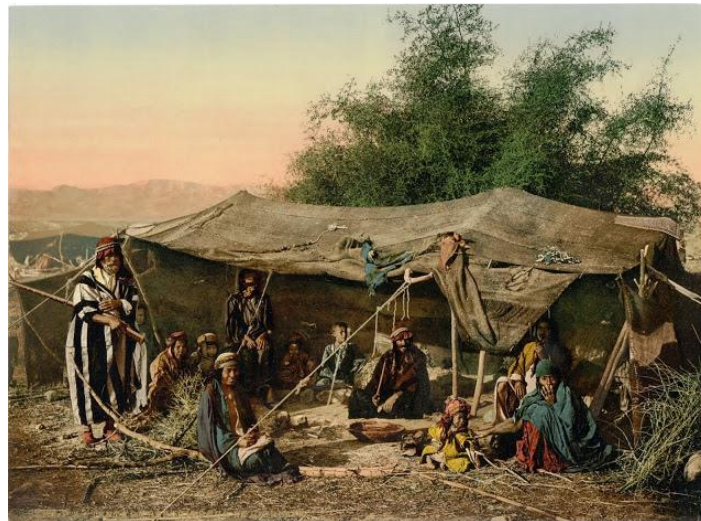
**Genesis 4:8** Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field (śā·dēh), that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

## 52. What were Jacob's traits?

**Genesis 25:27** So the boys grew. And Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field; but **Jacob** was a mild man, dwelling in tents.

Jacob – תָּמַם (*tām*) = blameless, upright, peaceful

אֹהֶל (*'ō·hēl*) = a portable shelter, usually made of fabric or animal skins



## 53. Which son did Rebekah favor? Why?

**Genesis 25:28** And Isaac loved Esau because he ate *of his* game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

- “**mild man**” – rabbinic literature interpreted *tām* as *tzadik tamim* (the guileless righteous person) and viewed Esau as the personification of wickedness.
- “**dwelling in tents**” – Jacob was a homebody, probably a ‘momma’s boy’, studious, and quiet, while Esau was physically agile, skilled in the use of weapons, and clever as a wilderness survivor/hunter.

# 54. Is favoritism within a family wise?

**Genesis 25:28** And Isaac loved Esau because he ate *of his game*, but Rebekah loved Jacob.



Jill Sutor, sociologist, noted that parental favoritism occurs in one-to two-thirds of American families and listed the following causes:

- Birth order:
- Child's personality
- Parental stress & dysfunction

*Psychology Today*, Jan. 10, 2009

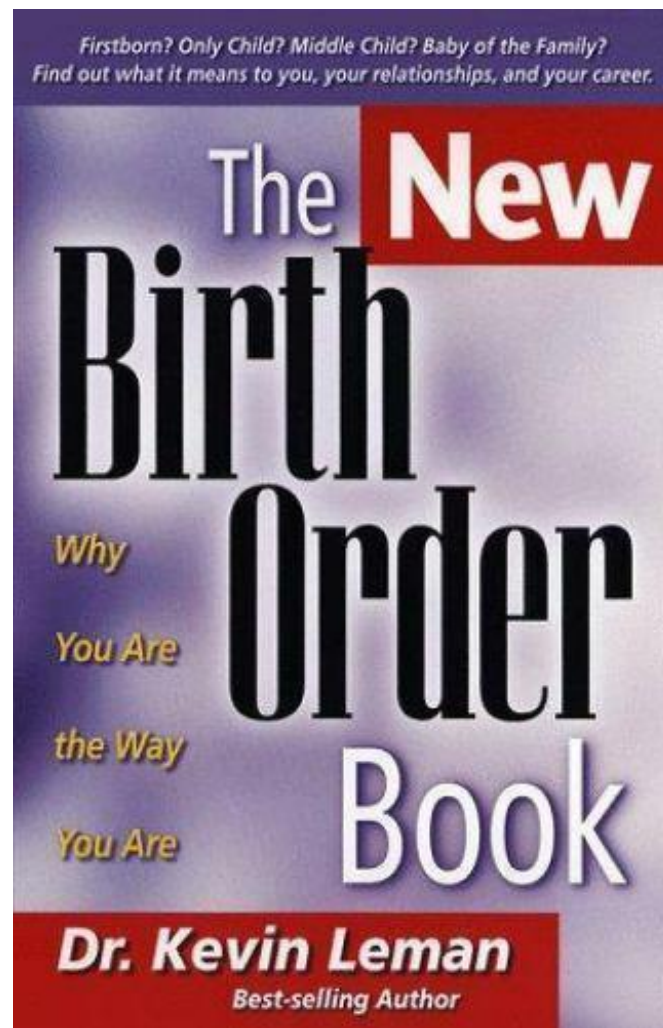


# 55. How does the “birth order” of these two sons illustrate the general principal of “birth order” in families?

Nancy Segal, PhD, twins expert and author of *Indivisible by Two: Lives of Extraordinary Twins* (Harvard University Press).

“When twins are born vaginally, the firstborn is usually bigger, and the second-born has a greater risk for health problems. In these cases, parents may unconsciously treat the first twin more like a firstborn.”

*Parents*, Sept. 18, 2019



# 56. What do you learn about the activities of these two sons in verse 29?

**Genesis 25:29** Now Jacob cooked a stew; and Esau came in from the field, and he *was* weary.



Jacob's Lentil Stew



# 57. What did Esau want? Why is it ironic that Esau asked Jacob for this?

**Genesis 25:30** And Esau said to Jacob, “Please feed me with that same red *stew*, for I *am* weary.” Therefore his name was called Edom.

Esau had been out hunting, he was tired, and very hungry. He begged food of his brother, Jacob, who had a garden. Jacob’s stew may have been a beef stew. For certain, it was red in color. As a result Esau became the father of the Edomites.



## 58. What condition caused Esau to ask?

**Genesis 25:29-30** Now Jacob cooked a stew; and Esau came in from the field, and he was weary. And Esau said to Jacob, “Please feed me with that same red stew, for I am weary.”

עָיֵף (‘ā·yēp̄) = **weary**, faint, i.e., pertaining to being a weakened physical condition, requiring food, drink and rest to recuperate

**Jeremiah 31:25** For I have satiated the weary (‘ā·yēp̄) soul, and I have replenished every sorrowful soul.”

**Matthew 11:28** Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

## 59. What did Jacob want? Why?

**Genesis 25:31** But Jacob said, “Sell me your birthright as of this day.”



**Genesis 25:23** And the LORD said to her: “Two nations *are* in your womb, two peoples shall be separated from your body; *one* people shall be stronger than the other, and the older shall serve the younger.”

## 60. What is a Birthright?

- The inherent right of the eldest son
- Additional privileges & advantages
- Double portion of the father's property (Deut. 21:15-17)
- Succeed the father in all official authority & responsibility (2 Chron. 21:3)

# 61. Why did Esau sell his birthright?

**Genesis 25:31–33** But Jacob said, “Sell me your birthright as of this day.” <sup>32</sup> And Esau said, “Look, I *am* about to die; so what is this birthright to me?” <sup>33</sup> Then Jacob said, “Swear to me as of this day.” So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob.



## 62. What is the difference between the “birthright” Esau sold and the “blessing” Jacob stole? (27:1-40)

- “**Birthright**” = a double portion of the inheritance (Deut. 21:17) and the right to be family chief and priest (Exodus 4:22).
- “**Blessing**” = a spiritual, supernatural, and often prophetic



63. Why does Hebrews 12:16 declare that Esau was immoral and irreverent or unholy because he sold his birthright?

**Hebrews 12:16** lest there *be* any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.

Latin profānus: prō, *before, outside* + fānum, *temple*



# 64. How is today's American culture like Esau?

**Hebrews 12:15–17** looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; <sup>16</sup> lest there *be* any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. <sup>17</sup> For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.



for the Kingdom of  
Heaven is at hand!

## 65. Does God “hate” Esau?

**Romans 9:10–13** And not only *this*, but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, *even* by our father Isaac<sup>11</sup> (for *the children* not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls),<sup>12</sup> it was said to her, “*The older shall serve the younger.*”<sup>13</sup> As it is written, “*Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.*”

Esau = flesh

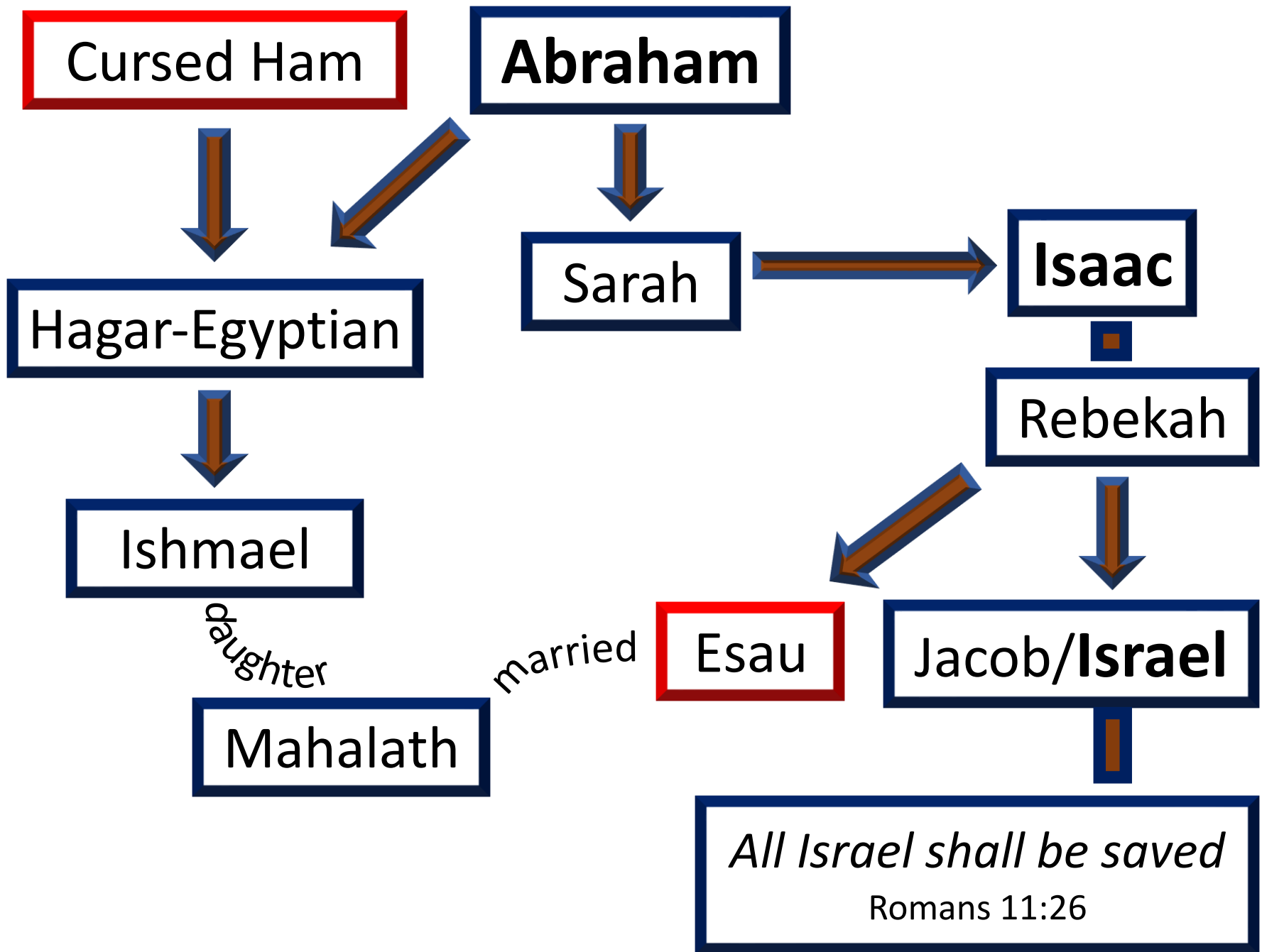
Jacob = spirit

## 66. Does God “hate” Esau?

**1 John 2:15–17** Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. <sup>17</sup> And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Esau = world

Jacob = will of God



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