

Genesis: God and the Originals

THE CONTINUUM

The Death of Abraham (25:1-11)

1. These final verses of Abraham's life probably add more questions than answers. What information is added or clarified about Abraham's life and what causes more questions?

Keturah probably means “_____,” thus reminding the Israelites of their familial relationship with many of their _____.

2. One thing is for certain: to whom did Abraham leave everything he owned?

BONUS: He's called “Father Abraham” for a reason. How do these verses expand his nickname? How does Romans 4:16 expand his fatherhood?

Don't Forget Ishmael (25:12-18)

3. Why can't we just forget about Ishmael, especially according to v. 18?

BONUS: By the way, how many sons did Ishmael have? What does this say about God's promise to Abraham?

The Struggle Between Jacob and Esau (25:19-34)

Vv. 19-28

4. How did Rebekah come to be pregnant according to v. 21? How is this in contrast to previous stories of infertility?



5. Be careful what you pray for! What's going on in Rebekah's womb and what does it mean?

The story of Rebekah “_____” of the Lord is the first instance of this in the Bible. “As Hagar is the Bible's first person to make a theological _____, Rebekah is the first to ask a theological _____.” - John Goldingay

6. What do the boys' names tell us about their future occupation and vice versa in vv. 24-28?

Vv. 29-34

7. What is the value of a birthright?

8. What do we learn about Jacob and Esau's perspective on the birthright? How does this reflect what we know of God's providence going forward?

A Theological Excursus on Romans 9

1-5 Chosen Israel

6-9 Children of the Promise

10-18 God's Providential Mercy

19-21 An Argument of Injustice

22-26 The Answer of Mercy and Mission

27-29 Merciful Remnant

30-32 Children Through Faith

33 Chosen Jesus

Abimelek - Same Song, Different Verse (26:1-33)

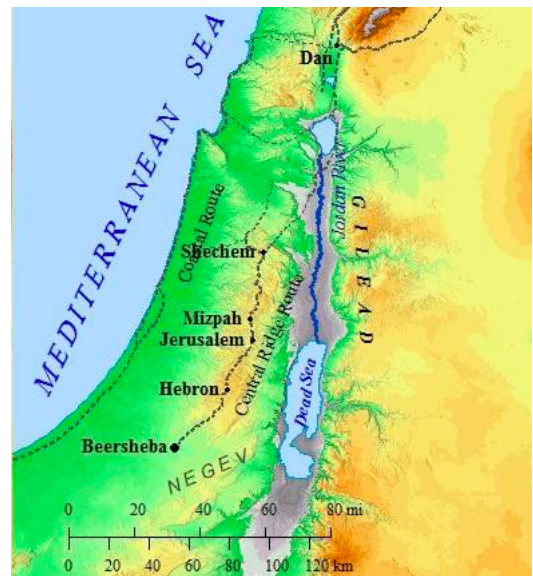
Vv. 1-11

9. Read verses 1-11. What are the similarities and differences with Abraham's same experiences in Genesis 12 and 20?

Vv. 12-33

10. Read verses 12-33. How do these verses confirm in their unique ways that the covenant with Abraham continues to Isaac?

11. Why are wells important and how do they symbolize prosperity and stability?



Verse 24 contains the first instance of a common Biblical title for God: "_____."

BONUS: Read John 8:56-59. What does Jesus say about his relationship with "father Abraham" and why was it so offensive to the Jews, and theologically so important for Christians?