Berwyn Church of Christ: Genesis Study

Date: November 4th, 2026	
Connecting Scriptures/Thoughts	
As Abraham was 137 years of age at Sarah's death, and lived to be 175, it is quite possible that, left solitary by Isaac's marriage, he took Keturah to wife, and had by her six sons." (Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers) I personally favor this view, and as we know, all things are possible with God! V5 Abraham left His inheritance, but he did care for and gave gifts to the sons born through concubines. Esau and Jacob were born when Isaac was sixty years of age (Genesis 25:26), they would be fifteen at Abraham's death. V8 Eccl 12:7/ Genesis 15:15 Promise "Gathered to his people" ....This phrase is constantly distinguished from departing this life and being buried. It denotes the reunion in Sheol with friends who have gone before. Abraham (Genesis 25:8); Ishmael (Genesis 25:18); Isaac (Genesis 35:29); Jacob (Genesis 49:29-33); Aaron (Numbers 20:24); and Moses (Deuteronomy 32:50). V9 Buried with his wife Sarah. Notice who comes together. V12-18 Certainly included to show that God fulfilled His promise to Ishmael, his mother and Abraham. Ishmael was blessed with a long life, especially for "a wild donkey of a man" who had "everyone's hand...against him" (Genesis 16:12) V19-21 Notice How Isaac approached his wife being barren	[1] Abraham took another wife, whose name was Keturah. [2] She bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah. [3] Jokshan fathered Sheba and Dedan. The sons of Dedan were Asshurim, Letushim, and Leummim. [4] The sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abida, and Eldaah. All these were the children of Keturah. [5] Abraham gave all he had to Isaac. [6] But to the sons of his concubines Abraham gave gifts, and while he was still living he sent them away from his son Isaac, eastward to the east country.[7] These are the days of the years of Abraham's life, 175 years. [8] Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people. [9] Isaac and Ishmael his sons buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite, east of Mamre, [10] the field that Abraham purchased from the Hittites. There Abraham was buried, with Sarah his wife. [11] After the death of Abraham, God blessed Isaac his son. And Isaac settled at Beer-lahai-roi.[12] These are the generations of Ishmael, Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's servant, bore to Abraham. [13] These are the names of the sons of Ishmael, named in the order of their birth: Nebaioth, the firstborn of Ishmael; and Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam, [14] Mishma, Dumah, Massa, [15] Hadad, Tema, Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah. [16] These are the sons of Ishmael and these are their names, by their villages and by their encampments, twelve princes according to their tribes. [17] (These are the years of the life of Ishmael: 137 years. He breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people.) [18] They settled from Havilah to Shur, which is opposite Egypt in the direction of Assyria. He settled over against all his kinsmen.[19] These are the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham fathered Isaac, [20] and Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, the sister of Laban the Aramean, to be his wife. [21] And Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren. And the LORD granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife conceived. [22] The children

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Isaac is the only patriarch to engage in agriculture and the only one never to leave the promised land." (Nahum Sarna)

V22 indicates just how difficult the pregnancy was for her

Not only is the report of the difficult pregnancy unique in the biblical literature, but the Hebrew also uses an unusual verb (va-yitrotsetsu), which literally means 'they crushed, thrust, one another,' and which foretokens the future hostile relationship between the children who are about to be born." (Nahum Sarna)

Hosea 12:3—"In the womb he took his brother by the heel, and in his maturity he contended with God."

The two take two entirely different pathways and vocations. Esau a hunter and Jacob A herdsmen living in tents, peaceful, home abiding man.

Rivalry in the womb was made worse by parents who took sides as well.

Why did Isaac love Esau? What can we infer why Rebekkah loved Jacob?

Hebrews 12:15-16

However to me it is clear that both brothers behaved poorly in this situation.

The scriptures indicate that Esau knowing the promises of the birthright told to his grandfather did not think much of it and was willing to part with it, and God obviously understood this and informed Rebekkah at birth.

V1-2Famine strikes- hmmm similar circumstances. Go to Egypt sounds like a plan until God intervenes and says NO.

struggled together within her, and she said, "If it is thus, why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. [23] And the LORD said to her,"Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other,the older shall serve the younger."
[24] When her days to give birth were completed, behold, there were twins in her womb. [25] The first came out red, all his body like a hairy cloak, so they called his name Esau. [26] Afterward his brother came out with his hand holding Esau's heel, so his name was called Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.[27] When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, dwelling in tents. [28] Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.[29] Once when Jacob was cooking stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was exhausted. [30] And Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stew, for I am exhausted!" (Therefore his name was called Edom.) [31] Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright now." [32] Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" [33] Jacob said, "Swear to me now." So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. [34] Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright. (ESV)

Genesis 26
[1] Now there was a famine in the land, besides the former famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Gerar to Abimelech king of the Philistines. [2] 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."[6] So Isaac settled in Gerar. [7] When the men of the place asked him about his wife, he said, "She is my sister," for he feared to say, "My wife," thinking, "lest the men of the place should kill me because of Rebekah," because she was attractive in appearance. [8] When he had been there a long time, Abimelech, king of the Philistines, looked out of a window and saw Isaac laughing with Rebekah, his

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This is, no doubt, a different Abimelech than the one that Abraham encountered over three quarters of a century earlier. “Abimelech” was likely either a title, such as “Pharaoh” or “Caesar,” or a recurring “royal name”

V5 destroys a faith only narrative

V7 Like father like son....

Romans 3:4 But don’t think you are any different. All of us have lied at one time or another.

V9-11 Isaac is busted, the heathen king apparently knows marriage expectations, much like previous Abimilech and threatens the people not to touch Rebekkah!

V12-16 God blesses Isaac even during a drought with sowing and reaping. Wealth increases

Destroyed the wells Abraham had dug, and kicked Isaac out because his wealth and influence grew. Isaac will re-dig wells and restore them. Inhabitants of the land fought over the wells claiming ownership until Isaac dug one they did not contend with.

V24 God appears to Isaac and reminds him of a covenant made to his father and promises to be with him.

V26-31 Abimilech and Phicol go meet Isaac where he camped, because they knew God was with Him and they had kicked him out of their land but did not want the wrath of God against them?

What might they know from History?

wife. [9] So Abimelech called Isaac and said, “Behold, she is your wife. How then could you say, ‘She is my sister’?” Isaac said to him, “Because I thought, ‘Lest I die because of her.’” [10] Abimelech said, “What is this you have done to us? One of the people might easily have lain with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us.” [11] So Abimelech warned all the people, saying, “Whoever touches this man or his wife shall surely be put to death.”[12] And Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold. The LORD blessed him, [13] and the man became rich, and gained more and more until he became very wealthy. [14] He had possessions of flocks and herds and many servants, so that the Philistines envied him. [15] (Now the Philistines had stopped and filled with earth all the wells that his father’s servants had dug in the days of Abraham his father.) [16] And Abimelech said to Isaac, “Go away from us, for you are much mightier than we.”[17] So Isaac departed from there and encamped in the Valley of Gerar and settled there. [18] And Isaac dug again the wells of water that had been dug in the days of Abraham his father, which the Philistines had stopped after the death of Abraham. And he gave them the names that his father had given them. [19] But when Isaac’s servants dug in the valley and found there a well of spring water, [20] the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with Isaac’s herdsmen, saying, “The water is ours.” So he called the name of the well Esek, because they contended with him. [21] Then they dug another well, and they quarreled over that also, so he called its name Sitnah. [22] And he moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it. So he called its name Rehoboth, saying, “For now the LORD has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land.”[23] From there he went up to Beersheba. [24] And the LORD appeared to him the same night and said, “I am the God of Abraham your father. Fear not, for I am with you and will bless you and multiply your offspring for my servant Abraham’s sake.” [25] So he built an altar there and called upon the name of the LORD and pitched his tent there. And there Isaac’s servants dug a well.[26] When Abimelech went to him from Gerar with Ahuzzath his adviser and Phicol the commander of his army, [27] Isaac said to them, “Why have you come to me, seeing that you hate me and have sent me away from you?” [28] They said, “We see plainly that the LORD has been with you. So we said, let there be a sworn pact between us, between you and us, and let us make a covenant with you, [29] that you will do us no harm,

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V34-35 Esau takes wives and they make life bitter for Isaac and Rebekah. HIs mother and father, didn't follow in the footsteps of how Abraham made sure his son married among kinsmen, and was a part of the process. More trouble to come...	just as we have not touched you and have done to you nothing but good and have sent you away in peace. You are now the blessed of the LORD." [30] So he made them a feast, and they ate and drank. [31] In the morning they rose early and exchanged oaths. And Isaac sent them on their way, and they departed from him in peace. [32] That same day Isaac's servants came and told him about the well that they had dug and said to him, "We have found water." [33] He called it Shibah; therefore the name of the city is Beersheba to this day.[34] When Esau was forty years old, he took Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite to be his wife, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite, [35] and they made life bitter for Isaac and Rebekah. (ESV)