# Genesis 22-30

Study Notes

## Overview

After seeing God’s promise of a son to Abraham fulfilled in chapter 21 through Isaac, this week we look at the life of Isaac and his son Jacob. We will see not only God at work fulfilling his promises to the patriarchs, but also their responses to Him. Let’s start by reading Hebrews 11:8-20 to see an overview of this week’s passage.

## Themes

### God’s Unchanging Promise

* **To Abraham** “By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore.” [22:16-17]
* **To Isaac** “I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands.” [26:4]
* **To Jacob** “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 all the families of the earth be blessed. 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.” [28:14-15]

### Sojourning/Being Separate

* **Abraham to the Hittites** “I am a sojourner and foreigner among you; give me property among you for a burying place, that I may bury my dead out of my sight.” [23:4]
* **God to Isaac** “Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you” [26:3]
* **Isaac to Jacob** “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 sojournings that God gave to Abraham!” [28:4]

### Trust

* **Abraham** “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering” [22:8]
* **Abraham to his servant** “…he will send his angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there.” [24:7]
* **Abraham’s servant** “As for me, the Lord has led me in the way to the house of my master's kinsmen.” [24:27]
* **Jacob** “If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God” [28:20-21]

### Laughter

* Abraham and Sarah’s laughter in chapters 17, 18, and 21 (last week)
* Isaac’s name means laughter
* “Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out of a window and saw Isaac laughing with Rebekah his wife.” [26:8]

## Passage Overview

| Verses | Details | Notes |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 22:1-19 | The sacrifice of Isaac | Abraham displays complete trust in God |
| 22:20-24 | Other relatives of Abraham | God is not yet done with Abraham’s siblings |
| 23:1-20 | Sarah’s death and burial | Abraham purchases a part of the promised land |
| 24:1-9 | Abraham seeks a wife for Isaac | Abraham trusts in God’s providence for his son |
| 24:10-67 | “This is from the Lord” [24:50] | Abraham’s servant and whanau see God’s work |
| 25:1-18 | The genealogy of Arabia | Not inheritors of the promise [25:5, Rom 9:7] |
| 25:19-28 | Isaac’s family | God’s promises will be fulfilled through Jacob |
| 25:29-34 | Esau sells his birth right | His people will not inherit the promise [Mal 1:2-4] |
| 26:1-5 | God affirms his promise | “Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you” [25:3] |
| 26:6-35 | God is with Isaac | God blesses him despite his fears and struggles |
| 27:1-29 | Isaac blesses Jacob | Despite Isaac’s favouring Esau |
| 27:30-40 | Isaac blesses Esau | Esau will serve Jacob, but break free [2 Kings 8:20] |
| 27:41-28:5 | Isaac sends Jacob off for a wife | Instigated by Rebekah. Isaac now favours Jacob |
| 28:6-9 | Esau attempts to please Isaac | In an effort to regain favour, he marries a cousin |
| 28:10-22 | Jacob’s ladder | Promises to follow God if God provides for him |
| 29:1-20 | Jacob falls in love with Rachel | He works for 7 years as a bride price |
| 29:21-30 | Laban tricks Jacob | Jacob meets his match after tricking Isaac and Esau |
| 29:31-35 | The Lord favoured Leah | Especially since Jacob hated her |
| 30:1-24 | Rachel and Leah’s rivalry | The Lord in the end remembers Rachel [30:22] |
| 30:25-34 | Jacob pines for home | The Lord had blessed Laban because of Jacob |
| 30:35-36 | Laban tricks Jacob again | Laban removes Jacob’s flock |
| 30:37-43 | Jacob overcomes Laban’s trick | Jacob makes sure he has the strongest flock |

## Key People

| Name | Meaning | Notes |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Abraham | Father of many | Died age 175 |
| Sarah | Princess | Died age 127 |
| Keturah | Incense | Abraham’s second wife. Mother of Midian |
| Isaac | He will laugh | Died age 180 (oldest patriarch) |
| Rebekah | To bind/captivate | Possibly quite young when she married Isaac |
| Jacob | He takes by the heel/cheats | Rebekah’s favourite. Man of great strength |
| Esau | Rough/Hairy | Also called Edom (Red). Isaac’s favourite |
| Rachel | Ewe | Favoured by Jacob. Younger than Leah |
| Leah | Cow | Weak eyes (could mean blindness, or their colour) |
| Abimelech | My father is king | Philistine. Could be a title for a prince, or his name |

## Peoples and Places

| Name | Notes |
| --- | --- |
| Philistines | Live in what we call the Gaza Strip. Came from Caphtor [Amos 9:7] (Cyprus or Crete) |
| Hittites | Tribe of people from Anatolia (Turkey). Possibly a large empire |
| Haran | Place Abraham and Lot migrated from, where Abraham’s whanau resided (Nahor) |
| Padanaram | Or Paddan-Aram. The region that Haran was in. Means field of Aram |