**Walk Through the Bible**

**Lesson Number Twenty One**

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**Abraham remarries and has six more children – Abraham dies – Ishmael dies – God makes Isaac very wealthy – Prosperity Gospel**

After Sarah died, Abraham remarried. He married Keturah and had six sons with her. Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak and Shuah. So, including Ishmael and Isaac, Abraham fathered eight children that we know of. It could be that Abraham had more sons through his concubines. Since Isaac was the son of promise, Abraham sent all of his other sons away from Isaac. I believe Abraham loved all of his sons and we see in Genesis chapter 25 that he gave gifts to all of his sons.

**Genesis 25:5,6 ESV**

**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. Abraham died when he was 175 years old. Isaac and Ishmael buried him next to Sarah.

Ishmael had twelve sons and died at 137 years old.

Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah. Isaac and Rebekah had a problem though. They weren’t able to have children. Isaac prayed and God answered his prayer. Rebekah became pregnant but was having trouble. The twins in her womb were unsettled. Rebekah prayed about it.

**Genesis 25:22,23 ESV**

**22**The children 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.”

**Malachi 1:2,3**

“I have loved you,” says the LORD. But you say, “How have you loved us?” “Is not Esau Jacob’s brother?” declares the LORD. “Yet I have loved Jacob but **Esau I have hated**. I have laid waste his hill country and left his heritage to jackals of the desert.”

**Romans 9:13 ESV**

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

The Hebrew word for “hate” used here means and “utter hatred.” People try to make the Word of God say what it doesn’t sometimes. I have read commentaries where people say, “Well God didn’t really hate Esau, He just didn’t like him as much as He did Jacob.” Baloney! There are some times that the translators got things wrong but not in this case. We have the ability to go back and look at the Greek and the Hebrew that the Bible was written in so we can know exactly what God is saying!

God’s hatred is righteous! As Followers of Christ, there are things we should hate and despise.

**Ephesians 4:26 (KJV)**
26  Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

**Proverbs 6:16-19 (KJV)**
16  These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him: 17  A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18  An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, 19  A false witness *that* speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

**Why did God hate Esau?** **Why did God choose Jacob, the second son over Esau?** The Calvinists will tell you it is all a part of God’s scheme of election or predestination. The doctrine of election says God put some people here who are cursed and His grace is NOT extended to. While there are others whose God’s grace IS given too and they can be saved.

Once we get finished with the teaching of the book of Genesis, we are going to talk about the **doctrine of election** and some other doctrines that are not Biblical like the “all inclusion” or “universalist” doctrine. We will talk about Mormonism and the Jehovah’s Witnesses and talk about what they believe and teach. We are going to take an in depth look at the words “election” and “predestination” to see what God really says. You see, **we ARE all “predestined” and “elected”** by God to go to heaven when we accept Christ as our Savior. There are many, many scriptures that show God gave us all a free will in the matter. When a man chooses to accept Christ and when a man chooses to not accept Christ, God gets the GLORY! We will talk about all of that later on.

**The birthright was an incredibly important thing!** The first son was the one to whom a man would give everything he had!

God knows the hearts of men and I believe **He knew** that **Esau would flippantly give away his birthright** for a bowl of stew! Both sons did things that were not honoring to God! Jacob and Rebekah schemed together and stole Esau’s birthright.

**There are people God hates!** Why? Because they harden their hearts against everything God does. God sent Jesus to die for them and yet they continually refuse the great gifts God has for them and they become the enemies of God, by their own choosing.

**Genesis 25:29-34 ESV**

**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.**

**In Genesis 26:6-11** Isaac does the same thing Abraham did with Sarah. He told people that she was not his wife because he was afraid someone would kill him because Rebekah was so pretty! **Like father like son!**

God’s blessings continued on down to Isaac.

**Genesis 26:12-14 (GW)**
12  Isaac planted {crops} in that land. In that same year he harvested a hundred times as much as he had planted **because the LORD had blessed him.** 13  He continued to be successful, **becoming very rich**.
14  Because he owned so many flocks, herds, and servants, the Philistines became jealous of him.

**I frequently hear people blasting the “Prosperity Gospel.” What do you think of when you hear the phrase “Prosperity Gospel?”**

There may have been excesses taught but I believe that when there was a problem with the teaching, it was probably that something was taken out of context.

**I have told you the story about where I went to Bible School. At the first of the school year, they have orientation and during that time, they have some teaching on faith. The minister that was teaching told how God had told him to give away a very nice twin engine airplane he had.**

**He was obedient to give the airplane away. Within a couple of weeks, someone called him and said that God was telling them to give their airplane to him and it was a much nicer, much more expensive airplane.**

**There were a couple of students at school who heard this teaching. Their cars were junk so they went and gave their cars away and ended up walking the rest of the school year! LOL. Why didn’t God give them much nicer cars? God didn’t tell them to give their cars away!**

**When God leads you to do something, do what He says. Don’t do what someone else did without hearing from God first!**

I think people attribute the prosperity gospel to Kenneth Copeland. I’m not sure. I have never heard it taught as some people say it is. I’ve heard it called the “Name it and Claim it Gospel” and the “Blab it and Grab it Gospel.” People tend to get in ditches on both sides of the road. Some may be in the ditch of searching for riches too much while others may be in the ditch of thinking you must be poor to be a Christian.

**EVERY person that served God in the Old Testament was made wealthy!** I challenge you to find someone that was God’s person that was NOT blessed financially!

Job lost everything **but in the end, God blessed with twice what he had to begin with** and he was very wealthy to begin with.

God has a special place in His heart for the poor but I don’t believe He wants them to stay that way.

**Matthew 5:3 NLT**

"God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

Some people are poor because of their situation. We have a completely different situation, living in the United States, than most people around the world do. Our country has a LOT of problems but people in this country can still make a goal and hit that goal. They can start a company and make that company prosper. There are other countries where you don’t have as much freedom but God can still bless you and make you wealthy!

Some people are poor because of a lack of education. Some are poor because of pure laziness.

**RICH or WEALTHY is a relative term!** **What is poor to one person may be rich to another and what is rich to one, may be poor to another.**

Paul said we need to **learn to be content**, no matter what state we are in but that does not mean we need to be satisfied with being poor or doing without. That means, no matter what our situation, we need to be thankful! Believe me, it can always be worse!

**Philippians 4:10,11 NLT**

How I praise the Lord that you are concerned about me again. I know you have always been concerned for me, but you didn't have the chance to help me. Not that I was ever in need, for **I have learned how to be content with whatever I have.**

It used to be the mindset of Christians that if you weren’t poor then you weren’t humble. **It was the poor who were saying that.**

**Deuteronomy 8:18 ESV**

You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you **power to get wealth**, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

**Deuteronomy 28:1-14 ESV**

“And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. **2**And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God.**3**Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. **4**Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. **5**Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. **6**Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out. **7**“The Lord will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before you. They shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.**8**The Lord will command the blessing on you in your barns and in all that you undertake. And he will bless you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. **9**The Lord will establish you as a people holy to himself, as he has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk in his ways. **10**And all the peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they shall be afraid of you. **11**And the Lord will make you abound in prosperity, in the fruit of your womb and in the fruit of your livestock and in the fruit of your ground, within the land that the Lord swore to your fathers to give you. **12**The Lord will open to you his good treasury, the heavens,to give the rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hands. And you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow. **13**And theLord will make you the head and not the tail, and you shall only go up and not down, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you today, being careful to do them, **14**and if you do not turn aside from any of the words that I command you today, to the right hand or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

Hebrews 7:22 tells us that we live under an even BETTER covenant than our Old Testament brothers and sisters did and that Jesus Himself is the guarantor and the surety of this better covenant! If God poured this kind of blessing on the people in the Old Covenant, HOW MUCH BETTER blessings and gifts will He bestow upon us?

**I want to assign some homework for you:**

**I want to ask you to meditate on this ALL WEEK. Every morning, when you wake, Thank God that Jesus guarantees us a BETTER COVENANT. Read Deuteronomy 28:1-14 every morning and then REALIZE that you live under a BETTER covenant! Read it at night before you go to bed and thank your Heavenly Father for His many blessings!**

**To be poor is a curse.** Read the rest of Deuteronomy 28. Now, let me say there is nothing wrong with being poor. But follow God’s principles, tithe, give offerings, **EXPECT God to do what He says He will!** Expect God to pour out His blessings and that also means **MONEY, HEALTH, WHATEVER YOU NEED**, to you! **EXPECT** God to influence people to give unto your bosom!

**Zech 4:10 says not to despise the day of small beginnings. God is AGAINST get rich quick schemes. God will grow your wealth as He grows you spiritually!**

**3 John 1:2 KJV**

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even **as thy soul prospereth.**

**Luke 6:38**

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall **men give into your bosom.** For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

**Proverbs 22:4**True humility and fear of the Lord **lead to riches, honor, and long life.**

**Proverbs 8:18-21**I [wisdom] have riches and honor, as well as enduring wealth and justice. My gifts are better than gold, even the purest gold, my wages better than sterling silver! I walk in righteousness, in paths of justice. **Those who love me inherit wealth**. **I will fill their treasuries**.

**Proverbs 3:9, 10**Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine.

**Proverbs 13:11**Wealth from get-rich-quick schemes quickly disappears; wealth from hard work **grows over time**.

**IT IS A PROCESS!**

**Proverbs 13:4**Lazy people want much but get little, but those who work hard will prosper.

**Proverbs 30:7-9**O God, I beg two favors from you; let me have them before I die.  First, help me never to tell a lie. Second, give me neither poverty nor riches! Give me just enough to satisfy my needs. For if I grow rich, I may deny you and say, “Who is the Lord?” And if I am too poor, I may steal and thus insult God’s holy name.

**Proverbs 11:24**

Give freely and become more wealthy; be stingy and lose everything.

**Proverbs 10:22**

The blessing of the LORD makes a person rich, and he adds no sorrow with it.

I could give you many more scriptures and examples of those God has blessed and made rich but I think you get the picture.

**If you will follow God’s principles, He will bless you financially.**

First of all, learn to be content at whichever state you are in.

Deal honestly and fairly in all your doings.

Work at your job like you are working for the Lord.

One of the biggest things is to be faithful in giving your tithe and offerings. Develop a lifestyle of giving!

Don’t despise a slow beginning.

God’s wealth comes through a process.

**Malachi 3:8-12 ESV**

**8**Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions. **9**You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. **10**Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. **11**I will rebuke the devourer[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Malachi%203&version=ESV#fen-ESV-23132b)] for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the Lord of hosts. **12**Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the Lord of hosts.

**Let me give this warning to those that God has blessed and have become rich. Make sure that your trust does not lie in the wealth and goods that God has blessed you with!**

**1 Timothy 6:17 NLT**

Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment.

**1 Timothy 6:10 (KJV)**
10  For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

**Money is NOT the root of all evil.** The LOVE OF MONEY is. You can have the love of money without having a dime in your pocket!

**Matthew 19:23-24 (KJV)**
23  Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. 24  And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

[**Eye of a needle**] A Jewish proverb commonly used to express great difficulty or impossibility. In the large gates in the city walls were small narrow ones, each called the needle's eye, through which a camel might enter kneeling down if he were unloaded.
Dake's Annotated Reference Bible: Containing the Old and New Testaments of the Authorized or King James Version Text.

**Matthew 6:19-21 (GW)**
19  “Stop storing up treasures for yourselves on earth, where moths and rust destroy and thieves break in and steal. 20  Instead, store up treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moths and rust don't destroy and thieves don't break in and steal. 21  Your heart will be where your treasure is.

God has just made you a STEWARD over the things you have. You can’t take any of it with you when you die. Be good stewards! Protect and care for the things He gives you.

God blessed Abraham. He was a wealthy man. God also blessed Isaac and Jacob! **Why wouldn’t God want to bless you?** The Bible says God owns the cattle on a thousand hills. (Ps. 50:10).

Next week we will talk about when the Lord wrestled with Jacob and how He changed his name to Israel.

Before Isaac died, Rebekah had Jacob (when he was seventy years old) put on animal skins and deceive Isaac into giving him the blessing instead of Esau.

It amazes me at what stinkers the people of God were but God blessed them in spite of it. Thank God for that because WE, as followers of Christ, don’t always make the best choices! God’s mercy and grace are unending and we all need to be very thankful for that!