



OCT 30 Genesis part 4 (ch. 28-35) NOV 6 Genesis part 5 (ch. 36-50) NOV 13 Job part 1 (ch. 1-2) NOV 20 Job part 2 (ch. 3-37) NOV 27 NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Moses is tracing the family tree of faith
 From **Adam** to **Noah** to **Shem** to **Abraham**
 Your roots; your lineage
Abrahamic Covenant

THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

The "backbone" of the Bible
 Genesis 12:1-3; 15:1-21; 17:1-27
 Three Promises ...
 Land, Seed, blessing
 Three characteristics. It is ...
Unilateral (Gen 15:17)
Unconditional (Gen 15:17-21)
Unending (Gen 17:7-8)

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Moses is tracing the family tree of faith
 From **Adam** to **Noah** to **Shem** to **Abraham**
 Your roots; your lineage; **God's covenant**
 Abraham

A model of walking with God by faith
 Received an eternal covenant from God
 Habit of taking matters into his own hands
 Started late and finished great!

WHATEVER BECAME OF ...

... **Terah?** (11:27-25:11) → **Abraham**
 ... **Ishmael?** (25:12-25:18)
 ... **Isaac?** (25:19-35:29)
 A son "according to promise" (Galatians 3-5)
 He begins with great advantages and great faith
 Like Abraham, he's a man of faith *and* fear
 He's also a warning against spiritual complacency

LESSON THEME: Great beginnings don't guarantee great endings

A Man Of Faith

Mt. Moriah (22)
 Isaac is obedient to his father
 He is obedient even unto death if required*
 Trusts his father for a suitable bride (24)
 Prays with his wife for an heir for 20 years
 Receives an answer to his faithful prayer
 God's oracle and promise (25:23)

➤ *Obedience brings God's blessing*

A Man Of Fear

The sojourn to the "border" town of Gerar
 In the face of a famine, fear takes matters into its own hands and runs (26:1)
 God's presence and God's promises (vv. 2-6)
 If running doesn't work, try lying (vv. 7-11)
 His fear leads to being shamed by a Gentile

➤ *Those who've been blessed by God should walk in patient obedience to His Word*

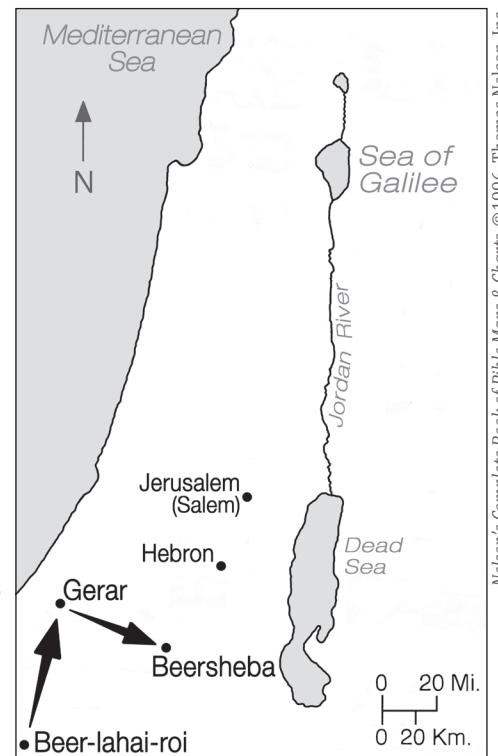
A Man Of Peace

Living in the Gerar Valley →→
 God is blessing Isaac for staying in Canaan
 But the Gentiles cover/take his wells
 In spite of conflict, Isaac pursues peace and moves on until God has given him "room" (Rom 12:18)

➤ *It's through conflict and suffering that our souls are enlarged and made ready for more* (Psalm 4)

A Man With The Covenant

God confirms that the Abrahamic Covenant had now passed to him (26:23-25)



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Isaac has become Israel's second patriarch
God continues to fulfill His covenant promises using Isaac as a conduit of blessing (26:26-33)
And He's told Isaac and Rebekah that the *next* covenant heir will be **Jacob**, not Esau (25:23)

A Man With A Weakness

Gen 27: Isaac 137; Jacob and Esau 77
He's blind; no longer sees things clearly
He's led by his stomach/senses (e.g. Esau)
He's put his agenda ahead of God's agenda
He's willfully disobeying God's Word (25:23)
He's living for himself over living for God
Living in the dark trying to gratify his appetite

A Man Who Didn't Finish Well

His family ... fractured
 Fractured from parental favoritism and secrecy
 Each is independent, self-willed and self-serving
 Lacked solid spiritual leadership; Isaac's passivity
His legacy ... decline
 "The end of life reveals the ends of life"
 This didn't happen all at once
WARNING: No one is immune to the self-destructive "slow leak" of spiritual complacency

APPLICATION: Great beginnings don't guarantee great endings

Slow Leaks Of Spiritual Decline

Are there "open gates" into your soul, inroads rooted in a lack of self-control? (Prov 25:28)
 Pleasing; pornography; prestige; comfort; security
 Gratifying fleshly appetites will never satisfy us
Do you have an independent spirit?
 Are you resistant to authority? (Heb 13:17)
 Are you resistant to counsel? (Prov 4:1)
Are you putting your agenda ahead of God's?

Stopping The Leaks Now

Close the "open gates"
 Look to Jesus first and most for your satisfaction (Phil 4:19)
Avoid isolation (Heb 10:25)
Make *your* agenda pursuing *God's* agenda for your life
Don't neglect the fundamentals (Be One, Make One, Reach One)

And So ...

God passes the covenant inheritance from **Abraham** to **Isaac**. Next stop: **Jacob**
Isaac drifts off the scene
The focus shifts to Jacob ...
... who is at the moment on the run for his life from his brother Esau

FOR NEXT TIME: _____

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VIDEO + HANDOUTS ON CCBC WEBSITE: ccbcfamily.org/sermon/old-testament-survey

VIDEO (no handouts) **ON YOUTUBE** (private link; page is not searchable):
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGhFjfAlhYpqC2XYXZJXiwut_8g7P3qhF



"Rebekah Meets Isaac By The Way" by James Tissot

"Abraham's Servant Meets Rebekah" by James Tissot



The NIV Quickview Bible

"The Mess of Pottage" by James Tissot



"Jacob Deceives Isaac" by James Tissot



"Isaac Sends Esau To Hunt" by James Tissot

Like Father, Like Son

Genesis

Isaac's life has many parallels to his father's



Digs a well at Beersheba
21:30-31; 26:23-25

Conflict between sons
21:1-21;
25:2-28; 27:1-45

Claims his wife is his sister
20:2; 26:7

Has immense wealth
13:2; 26:12-14

Second son receives blessing
21:12; 25:5; 27:1-41

Struggles to have children
18:11-14; 25:21

Relocates because of famine
12:10; 26:1

Receives God's covenant
13:14-17;
15:1-20; 26:2-4

Builds an altar to God
12:7; 26:25

Falls into conflict over disputed territory
13:5-7; 26:19-21

Lies to a king named Abimelek
20:2; 26:7-8