

Genesis

Chapter 25:12-21

Last week we came to the end of Abraham's life and learned that we studied 100 years of Abraham's life starting with Abram (So he was called until God changed his name to Abraham.) at 75.

† **Gen 12:4** *So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.*

Up to Abraham's death at 175.

† **Gen 25:7** *This is the sum of the years of Abraham's life which he lived: one hundred and seventy-five years.*

175 years, now that's pretty old, but not the oldest person mentioned in the Bible. Do you remember who the oldest person in the bible was? A hint: he was mentioned in Genesis.

† **Gen 5:25-27 (NLT)** *²⁵ When Methuselah was 187 years old, his son Lamech was born. ²⁶ After the birth of Lamech, Methuselah lived another 782 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ²⁷ He died at the age of 969.*

That's right, Methuselah who lived to be 969 years old. But you know what, he was not the oldest person or human mentioned in the bible. Did you know that Methuselah's father Enoch, is older than him. I say this because he never died. That's right Enoch never died, God took him to heaven before he died.

† **Gen 5:23-24** *²³ So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. ²⁴ And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.*

There is one other person who never died and was taken into heaven. Do you know who this was?

† **2 Kings 2:11** *Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.*

If you said Elijah you were right.

But still 175 years is a long time to live. Most people today may live to be 75, but we didn't really start learning about Abraham until he was 75 years old. And the remaining 100 years of Abraham's life that we studied, revealed God doing some pretty amazing things.

Like God's promise and fulfillment of that promise to an old man of 75 and it coming to pass when he was 100.

† **Gen 15:4-6** ⁴ *And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir."* ⁵ *Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."* ⁶ *And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.*

† **Gen 21:1-5** ¹ *And the LORD visited Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had spoken.* ² *For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.* ³ *And Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him--whom Sarah bore to him-- Isaac.* ⁴ *Then Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him.* ⁵ *Now Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.*

Not to mention even before this that God told Abraham to leave his family, and even his home to go somewhere out in the desert that Abraham may have never been and really didn't know where he was going to.

† **Gen 12:1** *Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you."*

Or what about the time Abraham thought he was a dead man, but God protected him and his family.

† **Gen 12:11-12** ¹¹ *And it came to pass, when he was close to entering Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, "Indeed I know that you are a woman of beautiful countenance.* ¹² *"Therefore it will happen, when the Egyptians see you, that they will say, 'This is his wife'; and they will kill me, but they will let you live.*

† **Gen 12:17** *But the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife.*

What about when God tested Abraham's faith by asking Abraham to offer his only son, the son of promise, to God?

† **Gen 22:1-2** ¹ *Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."* ² *Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."*

But still Abraham believed in God and His promise to Abraham.

† **Gen 22:7-8** ⁷ *But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"* ⁸ *And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together.*

And as we saw, God did keep his promise to Abraham.

† **Gen 22:11-14** ¹¹ *But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am."* ¹² *And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."* ¹³ *Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son.* ¹⁴ *And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-WILL-PROVIDE; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of The LORD it shall be provided."*

Then Sarah finally died at the age of 127.

† **Gen 23:1** *Sarah lived one hundred and twenty-seven years; these were the years of the life of Sarah.*

And finally we saw as Abraham's servant was instructed to find a wife for Isaac, Abraham's son. And he was lead by God to Rebekah, which we just studied about a few weeks ago.

We learned a lot through studying Abraham's life for the last 100 years. We learned about trusting in God, Gods provisions and that God always keeps His promises. We learned of God's judgment upon the wicked cities, and God's love and compassion for His children. And something important, we also saw is that God will use anyone at any age, whether they are 5 or 175. We learned that it's not us doing the work, but rather it's God doing with age not being an issue with God.

But we have come to the end of Abraham's life and we should move on.

† **Gen 25:8-9** ⁸ *Then 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 *And his sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah, which is before Mamre, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite,*

Thank you God for teaching us through your servant Abraham. May we be strengthened by Abraham's life and the knowledge of you being with Abraham those 175 years. And may we always remember that just as you were with Abraham, so are You with us too. Thank you Father God! In Jesus Name, AMEN!

✧ **Gen 25:11** *And it came to pass, after the death of Abraham, that God blessed his son Isaac. And Isaac dwelt at Beer Lahai Roi.*

Beer Lahai Roi, this must have been a very special place to Isaac. Remember that when he met his wife Rebekah for the first time he came from Beer Lahai Roi.

✧ **Gen 24:62-64 (NLT)** *⁶² Meanwhile, Isaac, whose home was in the Negev, had returned from Beer-lahairoi. ⁶³ One evening as he was taking a walk out in the fields, meditating, he looked up and saw the camels coming. ⁶⁴ When Rebekah looked up and saw Isaac, she quickly dismounted.*

The meaning of Beer Lahai Roi is “*The well of him that liveth and seeth me.*”

Just the name itself would imply God watching over you there. So why wouldn't Isaac want to live there? After all, wouldn't you if you knew that you were in a place where God was watching over you?

But then God is watching over you all the time and knows everything about you.

✧ **Luke 12:6-7 (NLT)** *What is the price of five sparrows? A couple of pennies? Yet God does not forget a single one of them. And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to him than a whole flock of sparrows."*

Throughout the bible, we read of people who doubted God, but that never stopped God from His promises to anyone. Not even you.

Have you been doubting your salvation lately? Have you been wondering if God has really forgiven you? Have you been doing without and wonder where God is, asking how come He's not taking care of you? What about your lost family, friends or co-workers that you have been praying for, for years? Have who started to doubt God and wonder if He evens hears your prayer for others?

Read Luke 12:6-7 again.

Your hairs are numbered as well as the hairs of the one's you are praying for. God knows and loves them just as He does you. Still not convinced? Read the following verses.

✧ **Psalms 125:2** *As the mountains surround Jerusalem, So the LORD surrounds His people From this time forth and forever.*

Are you one of God's people?

✧ **Isaiah 41:10** *Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'*

God says as one of His people that He is your God. And if He is your God He says that He will help you!

† **Isaiah 43:1-3** ¹ *But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine. ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you. ³ For I am the LORD your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I gave Egypt for your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in your place.*

God knows your name. He created you. He has also redeemed you through the blood of His Son Jesus Christ. God says here in Isaiah that no matter what you are going through He WILL be with you!

I want to encourage you that God is always with you even when you don't feel like He is, or it doesn't seem like He is. Let God tell you from His own words from both the Old Testament and the New Testament.

† **Deut 31:6** *"Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."*

† **Heb 13:5** *Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."*

God will never leave you or forsake you. Now you may leave Him or at least try to, If you try to, God will bring you back to Himself. How do I know this? Because I personally, have left the Lord in the past. But the one thing that brought me back was God's never-ending love for me. He was patient and knew I would come back.

† **Prov 22:6 (NLT)** *Teach your children to choose the right path, and when they are older, they will remain upon it.*

We love to use this verse concerning our children. But this verse also applies to us as believers. As believers we start out as little children and we grow in our walk with the Lord. Like me, the Lord taught me as a young Christian, even though I walked away as I continued to grow, the remembrance of God's teachings drew me back to where I am right now, a teacher of God's word.

So just:

† **Prov 3:5-6** *Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.*

One last word on trusting the Lord; if God's word says it, then believe that it's true. If you don't believe God's word or what He says is true, then you are calling God a liar!

✦ **Titus 1:2** *in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,*

✦ **Gen 25:12-18** ¹² *Now this is the genealogy of Ishmael, Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's maidservant, bore to Abraham. ¹³ And these were the names of the sons of Ishmael, by their names, according to their generations: The firstborn of Ishmael, Nebajoth; then Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam, ¹⁴ Mishma, Dumah, Massa, ¹⁵ Hadar, Tema, Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah. ¹⁶ These were the sons of Ishmael and these were their names, by their towns and their settlements, twelve princes according to their nations. ¹⁷ These were the years of the life of Ishmael: one hundred and thirty-seven years; and he breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people. ¹⁸ (They dwelt from Havilah as far as Shur, which is east of Egypt as you go toward Assyria.) He died in the presence of all his brethren.*

Ishmael's sons basically lived in Arabia and where know as the Arabians. They are the people we now call the "Arab Nation". So as you hear of the wars and fighting of the Arab Nations and Israel, remember that it all started with Ishmael and Isaac, from whom came the Arab Nations and Israel.

Ishmael lived 47 years after the death of Abraham. Isaac was 122 years old when his brother Ishmael died. So they lived as brothers for 122 years only in different area's as we saw last week where Abraham sent away the son's of Hagar and Keturah.

✦ **Gen 25:5-6** ⁵ *And Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac. ⁶ But Abraham gave gifts to the sons of the concubines which Abraham had; and while he was still living he sent them eastward, away from Isaac his son, to the country of the east.*

So Abraham has died and Isaac is married, so does Isaac have any children yet?

✦ **Gen 25:19-21** ¹⁹ *This is the genealogy of Isaac, Abraham's son. Abraham begot Isaac. ²⁰ Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah as wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Padan Aram, the sister of Laban the Syrian. ²¹ Now Isaac pleaded with the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his plea, and Rebekah his wife conceived.*

Isaac was 60 years old when his twin sons were born. "Twins, you mean he had twins sons?" Yes I gave it away, but we will see this next week.

So if Isaac was 60 when these sons were born, then that means that they got to spend time with their grandpa Abraham for 15 years.

Doing the math, remember that Isaac was born when Abraham was 100 years old and Abraham lived to be 175 years old, making Isaac 75 when Abraham died. And if the children were born when Isaac was 60; then 60 from 75 equals 15 years. Whew!

We also see sort of a pattern here with Isaac and Abraham. Remember that God came to Abraham and Sarah who was barren and allowed her to have children. Here Rebekah was barren also and as the Lord had mercy and a plan for Abraham's family, it's to continue on through his son Isaac.

I believe that Abraham taught Isaac about God's promise of multiplying his seed to the numbers of the grains of sand on the seashore or stars in the sky. And Abraham would have told Isaac that he was the son through whom this promise would continue.

So why would Isaac have to ask or plead with the Lord to have children? I don't think Isaac really had to, because the Lord had a plan. But still, even though God has a plan for everyone's life, God wants him or her to be a part of this plan too.

God has a plan for your life too. God knows what the end result will be for your life, but He still wants you to be a part of your life too. Think of your children. You don't give them everything without them ever having to ask. Sure as parents we know what they need before they ask us. But still we want to teach them and have them be a part of the decisions of their life. God wants us to have decisions in our life too. God did not create us as robots or puppets to control. God gave us the free will to ask of Him. And I believe God enjoys when we come to Him and ask. Just don't make that the only time to speak to God!

Well, that's it for this week. Next week we will get to read about the birth of the twins.