

GENESIS 25-50
The Biographies of Isaac and Jacob
The week of 08/05/20

The next portion of our Walk Through the Bible is Genesis 25-50.

Here's what you need to REMEMBER:

In the first part of Genesis we saw that God is eternally in charge and that the goodness that he designed into the world became marred and effaced but not erased by the presence of a destructive evil influence.

Also, our capable Lord is in the business of fixing what's wrong in our lives and world. He decided to begin the work of restoring his creation by establishing and blessing a special group of people beginning with Abraham.

Here's what you need to KNOW:

The second half of the book of Genesis continues the story of how God established a special group of people for the purpose bringing blessing and the hope of salvation into his fallen, mixed up world.

We were already introduced to Abraham's son Isaac in last week's readings. Like his father, Isaac was also an ordinary guy who was flawed, just like you and me. As you read you will notice that Isaac's kids are the same way.

Later in this week's reading you will also meet Jacob's dysfunctional family. God decided to give this family the extraordinary influence of being the starting point of the redemption of the world, not because of who they were, but in spite of who they were. God could only choose flawed people to be agents of change because the world is filled only with flawed people – He just happened to choose this family.

And, don't forget, it will eventually be a future descendent of this family who would give birth to a child who would crush the snake who tempted Eve (3:15).

Another thing to notice in Abraham's kids and grandkids is how they progress in their personal growth and relationship with God. Many of the character deficiencies they possess evolve in a positive direction, but they don't necessarily disappear. They become better versions of themselves. Which is exactly what we can hope for in our personal lives. By God's goodness and power, we, too, can be transformed into better versions of ourselves. A pointed example of a breakthrough, transformative experience in Jacob's life happens in Genesis 32 – don't miss it. In this life, we will never become perfectly righteous but we trust that if "*Abram believed the Lord, and the Lord credited it to him as righteousness*"(15:6), the same will be true for us!

Key OBSERVATIONS –

A key takeaway from the biographies of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is that God worked in and through them, in spite of their imperfections and failures. The 'fathers of our faith' teach us that, in this life, we will never become perfectly righteous or

worthy of God's activity in our lives. Yet, because of His goodness, God wants to be active in and through us. And, if "*Abram believed the Lord, and the Lord credited it to him as righteousness*"(15:6), the same can be true for us!

Finally, don't miss the fact that the book of Genesis begins in a life-infused paradise and ends with a coffin containing an embalmed body in Egypt – a fitting illustration of how messed up the trajectory of human history became because of human rebellion.

GET GOING!

Continue your personal Walk Through The Bible by reading, or listening to, Genesis 25-50.