

GOD'S FOOLISH CHOICES
Genesis 25:1-23

INTRODUCTION

Since Genesis 12, we have followed the life of Abraham and God's covenant with him. Abraham will now pass off the scene. Praise God that our redemption story is not dependant on any person, but in God keeping His promise. At first glance, often it seems that God doesn't make correct decisions, even selecting a 'less qualified' person to work through (Jacob!). To begin this study, first read and meditate upon *1 Corinthians 1:18-25*. God's methods may seem unorthodox, but **GOD'S FOOLISH CHOICES** always work out for His glory!

DIGGING DEEPER

Read Genesis 25:1-23 several times. This Scripture leads into the next section of Genesis – the life of Jacob. Abraham's performance was poor at times, and Jacob will prove to be much worse! Even before he was born!! Who would we select to lead God's work? Probably the smartest, most qualified person of integrity we could find. But God.... *Luke 16:15, John 17:6-12*.

Pray for wisdom and understanding, and let's begin.

I. Genesis 25:1-6. Abraham decides to marry again. Late in life, God even blesses him with children. This may have been hard for the surviving children of Sarah, but Abraham makes sure things are properly settled.

II. Genesis 25:7-11. Abraham dies and is buried. Notice that he died "**an old man and full (of years)**". Considering retirement? Abraham lived a satisfied life to the end, full of of grace, truth, meaning & purpose. Contrast *Psalms 106:15 with Psalm 71:14-18*. Soon we all will be gathered to our people - heaven. Finish strong, Beloved.

III. Genesis 25:12-18. Ishmael and his clan. This simply records what happens to Ishmael as we continue to follow the line of Isaac. The Lord takes good care of Ishmael, but Bible focus is on the redemption story.

IV. Genesis 25:19-21. The Lord opens Rebekah's barren womb. God comes through. How would these birth miracles (remember Sarah) prepare His people to accept Jesus' virgin birth? Also see the persistent, faith filled prayer of Isaac.

V. Genesis 25:22-23a. Struggle inside Rebekah. Rebekah inquires of the Lord, "**If all is well, why am I this way?**" The sibling rivalry of two nations began in the womb! Think about the two natures that struggle within our own lives. The flesh and the spirit are at odds with each other. Be aware and know how to choose the law of God over the law of sin. *Romans 7:15-8:6, Colossians 3:1-17*.

VI. Genesis 25:23b. God chooses Jacob! Normally the eldest son, Esau, would be picked; a natural & expected choice. But the Lord selects the younger brother, Jacob. Esau will become greater in number, but Jacob will be stronger (excel). And the younger will rule. History has proven this to be true. But does it make sense? Jacob is a con-man from the beginning! God could NOT select Jacob because he was deserving. Is this one of **GOD'S FOOLISH CHOICES**?

CONSIDERMany appear to be a foolish choice God makes. But He knows what they will become. Can you relate?

- Moses – thought he was God's choice, then doubted. *Exodus 2:11-12, Exodus 3:11-12, Hebrews 11:27-29*
- Rahab – with an immoral past. *Joshua 2:1-5, Matthew 1:5, James 2:25*
- Jonah – a prophet without love for people. *Jonah 1:1-3, Jonah 4:1-3, Matthew 12:39-41*
- David – a boy who became a man of war. *1 Samuel 16:11-13, 2 Samuel 11:1-5, 16:14-15, Psalm 8*
- Peter – an impulsive, proud, rough fisherman. *Matthew 14:28-31, 19:27-30, 26:30-35, 26:51, 26:61-79*
- Paul – a persecutor on God's people. *Acts 8:1-3, 1 Timothy 1:12-17*

GOD'S FOOLISH CHOICE is always the perfect choice. He sees what nobody else can see.

And God Has Chosen You!

PRAY

- Upcoming events: Ladies Breakaway 2/10-11, Men's Morning 2/25, Israel Trip 3/5-16, Teen Mission Trip 7/15-22
- School of Ministry students & their upcoming ministry at castle retreat for CC pastors, evening class with Billy Pauly.
- Piecemaker's Quilters fellowship, Widows of Faith fellowship, Home Groups
- Prayer ministry – Pray that folks will be moved to join in the various prayer meetings that gather throughout the week.
- Local & regional outreaches – Pastor Jeff Gallatin, staff & volunteers, WZXV 99.7 – The Word
- International missions (info in foyer) – Agape' Lifeline & the continuing Irular project in India. Sam & Beena Gilbert.