

STUDY TWENTY TWO

THE BASIS OF GOD'S CHOICE

Genesis 25

Introduction

This chapter consists of three short stories. In the first story the account of Abraham comes to an end with his death. The second story (vv.12-18) is the entire account of Ishmael and the third is the first part of the account of his brother Isaac. Right from the beginning Isaac's account focuses on his son Jacob. He is the one through whom the people of Israel and ultimately Jesus himself would come. Through this story an important truth about God's choice is demonstrated.

Questions For Discussion

1. What happened to Abraham after he died (v.8)? (See also Heb. 9:27. Note: the phrase "gathered to his people" means that Abraham died just as his ancestors had done.)

2.a) What did God do for Isaac after his father's death? (v.11)

b) Why? (See Gen. 12:2, 15:4-5 & 17:1-8)

c) If God blesses us materially how are we to respond? (See 1Tim. 6:17-19)

3.a) How long did Isaac and Rebecca have to pray before God gave them children (vv.20 & 26)?

b) What advice would you give to a childless couple?

c) In what practical ways can we help childless couples?

4.a) In answer to her prayer what did God tell Rebekah (v.23)?

b) On what basis does God chose some and not others? (See Ro. 9:10-16)

c) Why do we find it difficult to accept that God chooses some people but not others?

5.a) Why did Isaac love Esau more than Jacob (v.28)?

b) What does this tell us about Isaac's spiritual life?

c) Why is it wrong to show favouritism? (See Jas. 2:1-13)

d) How can we avoid making these kinds of mistakes in our families or churches?

6.a) How did Esau lose his birthright? (Note: the birthright was the right to receive the blessing of the firstborn son.)

b) What does this tell us about Esau's spiritual life? (See Heb. 12:16)

c) How can we make sure that we have the right priorities in our lives?

For Further Thought And Action

Pray for families you know who are trying to bring up children in a godly way.

Memory Verse

It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy.

Romans 9:16