

**BIBLE WOMEN - Lesson 3**  
**Sarah / Hagar / Keturah / Rebekah**

**I. SARAH AND HAGAR.**

- A. BACKGROUND - After the flood, all of mankind had one language and they gathered in the plain in the land of Shinar where they began to build a city and a tower to reach the heavens. (**Genesis 11:1-4**)
1. God saw that whatever they purposed to do could be accomplished, so He confused their language so that they could not understand each other. (**Genesis 11:7**)
  2. The people stopped building the city and the Lord scattered them over the face of the earth.
- B. Even at this time, God's plan to develop the nation of Israel was at work. Noah's son, Shem, would be the one whose descendants would produce that nation.
1. The tenth generation from Noah was a man named Terah (**Genesis 11:27-30**)
  2. The sons of Terah were Abram, Nahor and Haran.
  3. Haran had two daughters, Milcah and Iscah. Haran died before his father Terah in their native land (Ur of the Chaldeans).
  4. Abram and Nahor took wives:
    - a. Nahor's wife was Milcah, the daughter of his brother Haran. (**Genesis 11:29**), so she was Nahor's niece. Milcah and Nahor had a son named Lot.
    - b. Abram's wife was Sarai, whose father was also Terah, but her mother was not Abrams mother. Sarai was Abram's half-sister. (**Genesis 20:12**)
    - c. Terah , Abram, Sarai and Lot left Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of Canaan, on the way they stopped at Haran.
    - d. Terah died at the age of 205 while they were in Haran.
- C. God promised Abram to make a great nation of his descendants.
1. When Abram was 75 years old God spoke to him: (**Genesis 12:1-3**)  
*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.  
<sup>2</sup> I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*
  2. Abram took his wife Sarai and his nephew Lot and left Haran to go to Canaan, as the Lord directed him. (**Genesis 12:5**)
  3. When they reached Canaan, God spoke to Abram and promised to give the land of Canaan to his descendants. (**Genesis 12:7**)

4. Sarai was a very beautiful, even at the age of 65, when God told her husband to leave Haran and go to Canaan where they settled.
  5. After settling in Canaan, a severe famine occurred there so Abram and Sarai went down to Egypt to stay.
  6. Abram said to Sarai: **Genesis 12:11-13** – “*Indeed I know that you are a woman of beautiful countenance.* <sup>12</sup> *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.* <sup>13</sup> *Please say you are my sister, that it may be well with me for your sake, and that I may live because of you.*”
  7. But the Lord sent a plague to Pharaoh because of his attention to Sarai, Abram’s wife.
    - a. Pharaoh realized that his plague was sent from Abram’s God, so he confronted Abram asking why he had put Pharaoh in this bad position by withholding that Sarai was his wife.
    - b. Pharaoh told his men to send Abram and Sarai away with all they possessed.
  2. Abram and Sarai went back to where they settled first in Canaan.
    - a. Between Abram and Lot, their herds were too great to continue living in the same area.
    - b. Abram gave Lot the opportunity to choose the place he would dwell with his livestock and Abram took the opposite direction. (**Gen. 13**)
- D. Abram was concerned how God would be able to make a great nation of his offspring when he had no children.
1. In **Genesis 15** Abram asks God how His promise could be fulfilled since Abram and Sarai had no children.
  2. Abram had already designated his servant, Eliezer, as his heir. (**Gen 15:2**)
  3. God confirmed that Abram’s heir would be his own child and that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars. (**Genesis 15: 4-6**)
  4. God gave a glimpse of the future for his offspring in **Genesis 15:13-14** “<sup>13</sup> *Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years.* <sup>14</sup> *And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions.*”
- E. Sarah was well aware that Abram needed an heir, so she intervened in order to give Abram a child.
1. Ten years had passed since God had promised Abram that he would make a great nation of his descendants. (**Genesis 16:3**)
  2. Sarai was seventy-five years old and she still had no children.

3. She considered herself too old to bear children, so she offered her Egyptian maidservant, Hagar, to Abraham in order that they might have a child through her.
    - a. It was a middle eastern custom in those times that a wife could give her slave to her husband and any child conceived would be counted as the child of the wife, as Sarai indicated when she said: **Genesis 16:2b** - *"perhaps I can build a family through her"*.
    - b. Hagar was most likely brought into their household as a servant while they were in Egypt.
    - c. Why Sarai or Abram ever thought this "custom" would be a pleasing solution to God is anyone's guess.
  2. Oddly, Sarai truly did trust that God would keep His promise to make a great nation from their offspring.
    - a. However, knowing that she was past the childbearing age, she believed Hagar's child would be accepted by God as the heir of Abram.
    - b. Sarai 's faith limited God to working His will through the "natural" process of childbirth – which called for a woman still young enough to bear a child. She eliminated herself because she could not comprehend how God could accomplish His will through her aged body.
- F. When Hagar conceived a child for Abram, she began to despise Sarai.
1. Perhaps she hoped to replace Sarai in Abram's eyes.
  2. When Sarai saw that Hagar's attitude had changed toward her, she reported her anguish to Abram.
  3. Abram reminded Sarai that Hagar was still her maid and her discipline should be up to Sarai. (**Genesis 16:6**)
  4. Sarai then dealt with Hagar very harshly and Hagar ran away.
  5. The Angel of the Lord found Hagar by a spring of water in the wilderness and instructed her to go back and submit herself to Sarai's authority.
  6. The Angel of the Lord also made a promise to Hagar: *"I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude."*
    - a. Hagar's child would indeed become a great nation.
    - b. His name was to be Ishmael and he would be a "wild man" who would fight with everyone. (**Genesis 16:12**).
  7. Abram was 86 years old when Ishmael was born; Sarai was 76 years old.
- G. The child of promise – Isaac
1. Thirteen years later, when Abram was 99 years old the Lord appeared to him and repeated the promise that Abraham's seed would be multiplied greatly.

2. Abram's name was changed to Abraham (meaning "father of many nations") and Sarai's name was changed to Sarah (meaning "mother of many nations"). (**Genesis 17**)
  3. God also confirmed that Sarah would be the mother of the child of promise.
  4. Abraham replied, **Genesis 17:17** - *"Shall a child be born to a man who is one hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"* Abraham also had trouble believing that they could really produce a child at this late age.
  5. Abraham even asked God to accept Ishmael, but God said that Sarah would bear Abraham a son and his name would be Isaac. God said: *"I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him."*
- H. Later the Lord appeared to Abraham along with two men
1. Abraham bowed before the Lord and begged them to stay.
  2. He asked Sarah to quickly make cakes for their guests; then a feast was prepared for them.
  3. The Lord told Abraham that Sarah would have a son very soon.
  4. Sarah overheard them and she laughed, since she was 89 years old and still believed that she would never bear a child.
  5. The Lord said, *"Is anything too hard for the Lord?"* This is what Sarah had failed to understand. There are no limitations to what God can do.
  6. The promise of the Lord was kept and Sarah gave birth to a son and named him Isaac (meaning "laughter") Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90 years old.
- I. The rivalry between Sarah and Hagar ignites with the birth of Isaac.
1. Isaac grew and Abraham held a great feast on the day Isaac was weaned.
  2. Sarah saw Ishmael scoffing at Isaac and she became angry.
  3. Sarah demanded that Abraham cast out Hagar and Ishmael.
  4. Sarah refused to have Ishmael as an equal heir with Isaac.
  5. Abraham was unhappy because he loved Ishmael.
  6. God told Abraham not to be unhappy because Isaac was the promised seed.
  7. God also assured Abraham that He would make a nation from Ishmael as well, since he was Abraham's son also. (**Genesis 21:12-13**)
  8. The next morning Abraham prepared food and water for Hagar and Ishmael and sent them away.
  9. They went to the Wilderness of Paran and Hagar found a wife for Ishmael from the land of Egypt. (**Genesis 21:21**)
  10. Ishmael is generally considered the father of the Arab nations, who are still fighting each other today.

- J. When Isaac was 37 years old (**Genesis 23:1**) Sarah died in Canaan at the age of 127.
1. Sarah is the only woman in the Bible whose age was given at her death.
  2. Abraham purchased the cave of Machpelah as a burial place for Sarah.
  3. Abraham lived to the age of 175 years and his sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him also in the cave of Machpelah, with Sarah.
  4. Isaac and Rebekah, Leah and Jacob were also all buried in the cave of Machpelah along with Abraham and Sarah.
- K. Sarah and Hagar are still important figures for Christians today.
1. Sarah's is used as an example for Christians in the New Testament.
  2. Chapter 11 of Hebrews lists those whose faith in God was proven by their obedience.
  3. Only two women are in the list of the faithful in Hebrews 11: Sarah and Rahab
  4. **Hebrews 11:11-12** – *<sup>11</sup> By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.*
    - a. Even when Sarah gave Hagar to Abraham in order to provide an heir as God promised, she still believed that "somehow" God would keep his promise to make a great nation of Abraham's offspring.
    - b. Even at 89 years of age, when Sarah laughed when she heard that she would bear a son in one year, she believed God's promise to Abraham would be fulfilled.
- L. Peter encouraged women that even unbelieving husbands could be won for God by the her respectful conduct, as Sarah exemplified with Abraham. (**I Peter 3:1-6**)
- M. Because some of the Jews who had become Christians insisted on holding on to some of the requirements of the Law of Moses, Paul explained in detail the symbolism of Hagar and Sarah to the two covenants. (**Galatians 3:21-31**)
1. Hagar symbolizes the old covenant (Law of Moses), while Sarah symbolizes the new and better covenant (Law of Christ). (**Gal. 3:24**)
  2. Hagar is the mother of Ishmael who symbolizes that which is fleshly and in bondage (to sin).
  3. Sarah is the mother of Isaac who symbolizes that which is spiritual and free from sin through Christ.
  4. Just as Ishmael mocked and persecuted Isaac, so these Jewish Christians who were still bound to the old covenant were persecuting the Gentile Christians who had no ties to the Law of Moses.
  5. Paul also reminded them that God instructed Abraham to *cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.* In like manner, these Jewish

- Christians were to cast aside the old covenant with its multitude of restrictions or lose their eternal inheritance. (**Galatians 3:28-30**)
6. Symbolically, Christians are children of the free woman (Sarah) and are not under bondage either to sin or to the Law of Moses. We are figuratively “the seed of Abraham through Sarah.” (**Galatians 3:29**)
- N. The symbolism of Sarah and Hagar emphasizes that in order for us to fully understand the new covenant and its requirements, we must study the Old Testament.
7. There are many events in the Old Testament that serve as “shadows” of something in the New Testament. For example:
- Noah and the flood – **I Peter 3:20-21** – *“when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup> There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,”*
  - The establishment of the Priesthood and the sacrifices made on the Day of Atonement where blood was sprinkled on the Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies to cleanse the people of their sins (**Leviticus 16:30**) - prepared the Jews and us to understand the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. Hebrews 9:11-12 – *“<sup>11</sup> But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. <sup>12</sup> Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.”*
  - The “chosen people” of God were the Israelites under the old covenant, but Christians are God’s “chosen people” under the new covenant. **I Peter 2:9** – *“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;”*
  - There are many other “shadows” in the Old Testament that help us to understand the New Testament teachings.
- O. Many comparisons between Sarah and Hagar can be made
- Sarah, as Abraham’s wife, represents that which is lawful while Hagar’s relationship with Abraham represents that which is illegitimate.
  - Sarah represents the spiritual, while Hagar represents the fleshly.
  - Sarah represents freedom, while Hagar represents bondage.
  - Sarah represents what is acceptable to God, Hagar represents that which is rejected by God.
  - Sarah represents the righteous, while Hagar represents the unrighteous.

6. Sarah represents the new, better covenant while Hagar represents the old, obsolete, imperfect covenant which was cast aside just as Hagar and her son were cast away from Abraham, Sarah and Isaac.
7. Sarah was the mother of Isaac, who represents the children of obedience, while Hagar was the mother of Ishmael who represents the children of disobedience.

## II. KETURAH (Abraham's Second Wife)

- A. Sarah died when she was 127 years of age, Abraham was 137 years old and Isaac was 37 years old. (**Genesis 23**)
  1. Soon after Sarah's burial, Abraham became concerned about finding a wife for Isaac from among Abraham's relatives Ur of the Chaldeans, where Abraham's brother, Nahor, lived. (**Genesis 24**)
  2. Abraham could not bear the thought that Isaac might marry one of the heathen Canaanites, so he made his servant swear that he would go back to find a wife among Abraham's relatives.
  3. The servant found Rebekah, who was the daughter of Bethuel, the son of Nahor and Milcah.
  4. Remember, Milcah was the daughter of Haran, Abraham's brother who died before their father Terah. Milcah then married her uncle, Nahor and Rebekah was their granddaughter and a first cousin to Isaac. (**Genesis 11:29**)
  5. Isaac was 40 years old when he took Rebekah as his wife (**Genesis 25:20**) approximately three years after Sarah's death. We will talk about Rebecca in a later lesson.
- B. After Abraham had Isaac's future secured, some time later he married Keturah.
  1. Keturah bore six sons for Abraham. (**Genesis 25:1-2**)
  2. Keturah's name is only mentioned four times in the Bible: **Genesis 25:1, Genesis 25:4, I Chronicles 1:32, I Chronicles 1:33** and they only explain her relationship to Abraham and list her sons and grandsons.
  3. Abraham gave gifts to all of his sons (except Isaac) and sent them eastward, away from Isaac. (**Genesis 25:6**)
  4. It was important to Abraham that Isaac should have no competition from his sons from other women. Isaac was the "son of promise" and his authority must not be undermined or questioned by his half-brothers.
  5. Then Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac.
- C. Abraham died when he was 175 years old. He lived 38 years after Sarah died. (**Genesis 25:7**)
- D. We have no other information on Keturah.

- E. Keturah's virtue nor abilities as a wife and mother are mentioned.
- F. Knowing Abraham's importance in the eyes of God, we might assume that his choice in a wife would be one who would follow him in serving God.
- G. Keturah had no part in the lineage of the nation of Israel and so her accomplishments would have no bearing on either the descendants of Isaac nor on the Christians who are also considered spiritual seed of Abraham.

## **REBEKAH – Wife of Isaac**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

- A. Sarah died when she was 127 years of age, Abraham was 137 years old and Isaac was 37 years old. (**Genesis 23**)
  - 1. Soon after Sarah's burial, Abraham became concerned about finding a wife for Isaac from among Abraham's relatives in Ur of the Chaldeans, where Abraham's brother, Nahor, lived. (**Genesis 24**)
  - 2. Abraham could not bear the thought that Isaac might marry one of the heathen Canaanite women, so he made his servant swear that he would go back to find a wife among Abraham's relatives.
  - 3. Arranged marriages were customary in that day. In America we can't imagine having our parents choose our mate or marrying a total stranger.
  - 4. While this practice has not been customary in the United States (except among some who follow false religions), arranged marriages still exist in much of the world.
    - a. When I was going for physical therapy after having my knee replaced last year, the young woman who was my therapist told me that her marriage was arranged by her parents.
    - b. She did not know her husband until they were married.
- B. After praying to God, the servant found Rebekah, who was the daughter of Bethuel, the son of Nahor and Milcah.
  - 1. Remember, Milcah was the daughter of Haran, Abraham's brother who died before their father Terah. Milcah then married her uncle, Nahor and Rebekah was their granddaughter and a first cousin to Isaac. (**Genesis 11:29**)
  - 2. Rebecca was God's choice as a wife for Isaac. When the servant prayed to God he asked to be given a sign when the right woman appeared at the well. (**Genesis 24:12-14**) – <sup>12</sup> Then he said, "O LORD God of my master Abraham, please give me success this day, and show kindness to my master Abraham. <sup>13</sup> Behold, here I stand by the well of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water. <sup>14</sup> Now let it be that the young woman to whom I say, 'Please let down your pitcher that I may drink,' and she says,

*'Drink, and I will also give your camels a drink'—let her be the one You have appointed for Your servant Isaac. And by this I will know that You have shown kindness to my master."*

3. When the servant confirmed that Rebekah was from the family of Abraham, he asked if there was room in her father's house for him to stay and Rebecca said yes. Then she went to her home to tell her mother what had happened.
4. Rebekah's brother, Laban, went to the well to invite Abraham's servant to come to their home where they prepared food for him and his camels.
5. The servant refused to eat until he had told them the purpose of his visit.
  - a. He was sent by Abraham to find a wife for his son from among his relatives.
  - b. He told them that she he was given a sign from God to ensure that he had chosen the right woman.
  - c. Laban responded understood that God had chosen Rebekah so they have him permission to take Rebekah back to marry Isaac.
  - d. The servant then gave gifts of silver and gold jewelry and clothing to Rebekah's family.
6. The next morning the servant left with Rebekah and her servant.
7. Isaac was 40 years old when he took Rebekah as his wife (**Genesis 25:20**) approximately three years after Sarah's death. And Isaac loved Rebekah.

## II. REBEKAH'S CHILDREN

- A. Nineteen years passed and *"Isaac pleaded with the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted His plea."* (**Genesis 25:21-22**)
  1. The Lord spoke to Rebekah saying: Vs 23 – *"Two nations are in your womb, two peoples shall be separated from your body; one people shall be stronger than the other, and the older shall serve the younger."*
  2. Isaac was sixty years old when the twins were born.
    - a. The first child was red and hairy so they named him Esau
    - b. The second child was holding the heel of his brother and they named him Jacob.
- B. These two boys were as different as day and night.
  1. Esau was a skilful hunter and a man of the field
  2. Jacob was a mild man and stayed among the tents
  3. Isaac loved Esau more because he enjoyed eating his game, while Rebekah loved Jacob more.

4. Perhaps their obvious preference for one child over another caused the rivalry that existed between Esau and Jacob.
- C. The culmination of this rivalry came when Esau came in from the field and found Jacob cooking stew.
1. Esau said, (**Genesis 25:30**) – *“Please feed me with that same red stew, for I am weary.”* This earned Esau the nickname of “Edom” which means “red”.
  2. Jacob replied, *“Sell me your birthright as of this day.”* (**va 31**)
  3. Esau said, *“Look, I am about to die; so what is this birthright to me?”*
  4. The deal was made between the brothers.
  5. When Esau was forty years old he took two wives: Judith and Basemath, from the Hittites, which grieved his parents.
- D. When Isaac was old and could not see very well, the partiality of Isaac and Rebekah toward their sons had far reaching consequences.

**(Genesis 27)**

1. Isaac asked him to make a savory stew out of the game and bring it to him.
2. Isaac said he would give Esau his blessing after eating the stew.
3. Rebekah overheard that conversation, so when Esau went hunting Rebekah told Jacob what she had heard and they conspired to fool Isaac into giving his blessing to Jacob instead.
  - a. She told Jacob to bring a young goat and she would make stew for Isaac. Then Jacob could take it to Isaac and receive the blessing
  - b. Isaac reminded Rebekah that Isaac would know it was not Esau since Esau was a very hairy man. Jacob feared that his father would then curse him instead of blessing him.
  - c. Rebekah said, “Let the curse be on me.” Then she got some of Esau’s clothing (so he would smell like Esau) and put the goat’s hair on his hands and neck.
  - d. Rebekah gave the stew to Jacob and he gave it to Isaac.
  - e. Isaac asked how he had found the game so quickly and Jacob said it was because the Lord had brought it to him.
  - f. Isaac asked Jacob to come near so he could feel his skin. Isaac said “the voice is Jacob” but the hands are the hands of Esau, so he blessed Jacob, thinking it was Esau.
  - g. When Jacob was barely gone, Esau came in from hunting. He made a savory stew and brought it to his father.
  - h. Isaac said, “Who are you?” and Esau replied, “I am your firstborn, Esau.”
  - i. Isaac was upset so that he was trembling and said someone has brought me stew and I have blessed him.

- j. Esau cried bitterly and begged his father to bless him also, but Isaac said "*Your brother came with deceit and has taken away your blessing.*" (**Genesis 27:34-35**)
- k. Esau was angry and said, "*Is he not rightly named Jacob? (which means supplanter) For he has supplanted (meaning to override or replace) me these two times. He took away my birthright, and now look, he has taken away my blessing!*"
- l. Esau's statement was not completely true since he had agreed to sell his birthright for a bowl of stew. He did not value his birthright as the first born.
- m. Esau hated Jacob because he cheated him out of the blessing that was rightfully his, and he threatened to kill Jacob.
- n. When Rebekah heard of Esau's threat, she sent Jacob away to her brother Laban to protect him from Esau's anger.
- o. Rebekah told Isaac that she was "weary of life" because of Esau's Hittite wives and she could not bear the thought of Jacob also taking a wife from among the heathen nations.
- p. Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him and said he must not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan, therefore, he was sending Jacob back to Rebekah's family where he should choose a wife.
- q. When Esau learned that it displeased his father that he had taken wives from Canaan, he went to Ishmael and took another wife named Mahalath, the daughter of Ishmael. This he did this in an effort to please Isaac in the hope of still receiving a blessing from him. (**Genesis 28:6-9**)

**III. Rebekah was chosen by God. Her marriage to Isaac was blessed with great wealth – yet she had some character flaws that caused great unhappiness for her and Isaac and their sons.**

- A. Rebekah's greatest flaw (as was Isaac's) was that she was partial to one son over the other and she made it apparent to everyone.
  - 1. Either this partiality she felt for Jacob caused her faith in God's promise of Jacob's supremacy to waver, or else her faith had already weakened to the point that Jacob became her priority over her faith in God.
  - 2. Like Sarah, Rebekah took it upon herself to accomplish what God had already promised to do. She devised a plan to force Jacob's supremacy by trickery and deceit.
  - 3. She was willing to deceive the husband she had left her whole family to marry in order to ensure Jacob's inheritance.
  - 4. Although Jacob had obtained the preeminence, it was not according to God's plan but according to Rebekah's plan.
    - a. Perhaps if Isaac and Rebekah had loved both sons equally, the boys would not have felt it necessary to compete with each and the bargain for the birthright would not have been made so carelessly.

- b. Perhaps if Rebekah had not interfered by deceiving Isaac into blessing Jacob, her sons would not have turned against each other.
  - c. Her interference resulted in having to send Jacob away to her relatives to keep Esau from killing him.
  - d. Esau's descendants became the Edomites who were a thorn in the side of the Israelites for centuries to come.
- B. Rebekah tried to manipulate her family to advance her plans for her favorite son.
- 1. Rebekah's deceitful plan was sinful and she involved her son in the lie.
    - a. What a terrible example she set for both of her sons with her deceit.
    - b. Where was her love and respect for her husband that she would engage in such an elaborate deception in order to trick him?
  - 2. Although Rebekah was successful in her deceitful plan, sin never brings the contentment that it promises. She ruined her own life and the lives of those who meant the most to her.
    - a. Isaac was so upset when he learned that he had been trick that he trembled.
    - b. Rebekah drove both of their sons away from them.
    - c. The result of her plan was that Esau hated his own brother so much that he wanted to kill him.
    - d. Jacob had to run for his life from Esau.
    - e. When all was said and done, Rebekah was perhaps the most miserable of all.
      - 1.) She ruined her relationship with her husband with her lie.
      - 2.) Her favorite son was gone and she would never see him again.
      - 3.) She told Isaac that she was "weary of life". (**Genesis 27:48**)
- C. It is obvious that Rebekah did not respect her husband properly and she usurped his authority with trickery and deceit.
- 1. She took advantage of his age and his poor eye sight.
  - 2. She cheated his beloved first born son out of his rightful blessing.
  - 3. This situation can result when women are so devoted to their children that they forget their responsibilities to their husband.
  - 4. Children thrive best where both parents are devoted to God and to each other.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

- A. There are lessons we can learn from Rebekah:
- 1. Never let ambition (for yourself, your husband or your children) override devotion to God.
  - 2. Provide your children and husband with a good example of godliness.
  - 3. Do not be the cause of friction within your family.
  - 4. Nothing gained by deception will bring happiness.

- B. Some may think that the deceptive schemes of several of the women we have studied so far can be excused because it was part of God's plan in developing the nation of Israel.
1. God never approves of dishonesty and trickery in order to accomplish any goal.
  2. We will never know how God might have brought His plans to fruition in their cases because they interfered by making plans of their own.
  3. I am sure that God could have provided husbands and children for Lot's daughters; He could have provided Abraham and Sarah a son and He could have put Jacob in a position to continue the line of Abraham (over his first born brother) in ways that would not have caused the strife that resulted in their lives.

That strife has continued through thousands of years and still impacts the world we live in today. Yes, sin definitely has far reaching consequences