

# SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

AN OVERVIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

JN. 5:39



Jn. 5:39 “**Search the scriptures....they are they which testify of me.**”

Jn 5:46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for **he wrote of me.**

Genesis 25:19-34

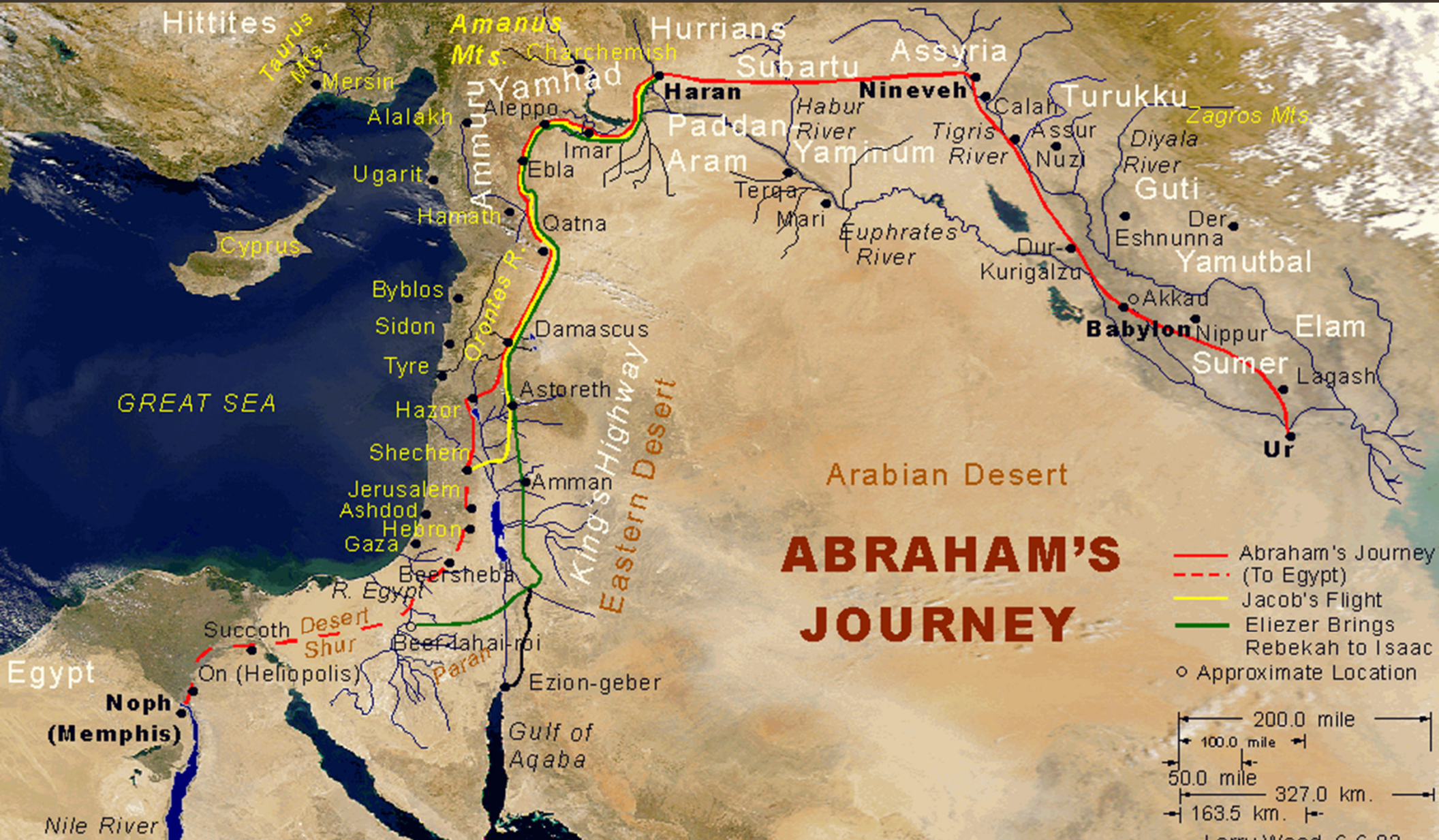
We began in Genesis with the beginnings of the human race.

I. THE PRIMEVAL HISTORY: BEGINNINGS OF THE HUMAN RACE, 1:1—11:32

II. PATRIARCHAL HISTORY: BEGINNINGS OF THE HEBREW RACE, 12:1—50:26

A. The Progenitor: Abraham, 12:1—25:11

Tonight, we begin studying the next patriarch of Israel, Abraham's son, Isaac. In typology, Isaac is a type of the Lord Jesus, the Son of God.





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## B. The Pilgrim: Isaac, 25:19—27:46

### 1. Isaac and His Boys, 25:19-34

#### a. The Beginning Was Extraordinary, 25:19

Genesis 25:19 And these *are* the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham begat Isaac:

- ❖ The summarization is simple and concise –  
“...Abraham begat Isaac:”

- ❖ Sarah was barren. As an elderly couple, they received the promise of a son, laughed at the possibility, and eventually had “Laughter” → Isaac.
- ❖ The Lord made a covenant with Abraham, and it was later given to Isaac. (26:1-5)

### b. The Barrenness was Extended, 25:20-21

Gen. 25:20 And Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah to wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Padanaram, the sister to Laban the Syrian.

21 And Isaac intreated the LORD for his wife, because she *was* barren: and the LORD was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

- ❖ Isaac was born by a previously barren mother. Now he better understands what his birth challenge was like for Abraham and Sarah.
- ❖ Between these two verses, twenty years passed. Rebekah was barren.
- ❖ Isaac prayed many years for Rebekah to conceive – v. 21  
“And Isaac intreated the LORD for his wife...”
- ❖ Isaac was sixty years old when Jacob and Esau were born – 25:26
- ❖ Abraham would have been 160 years old when Jacob and Esau were born, and the boys would have had 15 years to share with Grandpa Abraham.

## c. The Battle was Engaged, 25:22-26

Gen. 25:22 And the children struggled together within her; and she said, *If it be so, why am I thus?* And she went to enquire of the LORD.

23 And the LORD said unto her, **Two nations are in thy womb**, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and *the one* people shall be stronger than *the other* people; and **the elder shall serve the younger**.

24 And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, *there were* twins in her womb.

25 And the first came out red, all over like an hairy garment; and they called his name Esau.

26 And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau's heel; and his name was called Jacob: and **Isaac was threescore years old when she bare them**.



- ❖ The womb experience was a sign of more “struggles” to come between Esau and Jacob.
- ❖ When the pregnancy was rough, Rebekah “...went to enquire of the LORD.”
- ❖ The Lord revealed to Rebekah that “...two nations...and two manner of people...” were soon to be born.
- ❖ The Lord is not in the “cookie cutter” mindset for individuals. Be who He created for His glory.
- ❖ Rebekah received the prophecy after conception.

Rom. 9:10 And not only *this*; but **when Rebecca also had conceived** by one, *even* by our father Isaac;

11 (For *the children* being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;)

12 It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger.

13 As it is written, **Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.**

❖ Esau  $\text{עֵשָׂו}$  = "hairy" – a rugged outdoorsman

❖ Jacob  $\text{יַעֲקֹב}$  = "heel holder" or "supplanter" – a smooth (or plain) man who most often walks after the flesh.

## d. The Birthright was Execrated, 25:27-34

Gen. 25:27 And the boys grew: and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and **Jacob was a plain man**, dwelling in tents.

28 And **Isaac loved Esau**, because he did eat of *his* venison: but **Rebekah loved Jacob**.

29 And Jacob sod pottage: and Esau came from the field, and he *was* faint:

30 And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red *pottage*; for I *am* faint: therefore was his name called Edom.

31 And Jacob said, Sell me this day thy birthright.

32 And Esau said, Behold, I *am* at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me?

33 And Jacob said, Swear to me this day; and he swore unto him: and he sold his birthright unto Jacob.

34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentiles; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus **Esau despised *his* birthright.**



❖ The twins were probably teenagers and their differences were most evident:

Gen. 25:27 And the boys grew: and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and **Jacob was a plain man**, dwelling in tents.

Gen. 27:11 And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, Behold, Esau my brother *is* a hairy man, and I *am* a **smooth** man:

- ❖ Isaac and Rebekah each showed partiality to their sons – Isaac loved Esau; Rebekah loved Jacob, v. 28.
- ❖ Rebekah's love was a reflection of God's spirit:

Mal. 1:2 I have loved you, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us? *Was not Esau Jacob's brother?* saith the LORD: **yet I loved Jacob,**  
**3 And I hated Esau** and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness.

Rom. 9:13 As it is written, **Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.**

## ❖ Why would God hate Esau?

Jn. 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and **he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.**

Psa. 5:5 The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: **thou hatest all workers of iniquity.**

Psa. 7:11 God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry *with the wicked* every day.

Psa. 11:5 The LORD trieth the righteous: but **the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth.**



❖ God is love, but God is also holy.

Prov. 6:16 These six *things* **doth the LORD hate**: yea, seven *are* **an abomination unto him**:

17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

19 A false witness *that* speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

Prov. 8:13 The fear of the LORD *is* to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, **do I hate**.


- ❖ Esau was not as concerned about spiritual ramifications as he was personal desires.
- ❖ Esau came home from hunting, smelled the chili Jacob had prepared, and expressed his hunger.
- ❖ Jacob, the “supplanter,” saw an opportunity to make a deal for the birthright.
- ❖ The lentiles, red like chili, are connected to the name of “Red” Edom.
- ❖ The birthright established that the firstborn was entitled to a double portion of the father’s inheritance, as well as the Abrahamic blessing.

❖ The selling of the birthright to Jacob exposed Esau's disdain for the importance of it – “...thus Esau despised *his* birthright.” (v. 34)



Don't sacrifice the permanent  
on the altar of the immediate.

Bob Jones, Sr.

 quote fancy

<https://quotefancy.com/quote/1767905/Bob-Jones-Sr-Don-t-sacrifice-the-permanent-on-the-altar-of-the-immediate>

❖ Esau learned a difficult truth regarding decision making:

Heb. 12:14 Follow peace with all *men*, and **holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:**

15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble *you*, and thereby many be defiled;

16 **Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau,** who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.

17 For ye know how that **afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected:** for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

## Summary

❖ Of the three patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, it is Isaac that is the most obscure. The Lord Jesus was not a celebrity nor popular:

Isa. 53:2 For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: **he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.**

3 **He is despised and rejected of men;** a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were *our* faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Jn. 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

11 **He came unto his own, and his own received him not.**

❖ The focus of Christ was to honor His Father.

Jn. 4:34 Jesus saith unto them, **My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.**

Jn. 5:30 I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; **because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.**

❖ The introduction of Esau and Jacob indicate the struggle of the flesh versus the spirit:

Mt. 26:41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: **the spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak.**

❖ Esau's lack of spiritual character was exhibited through his despising the birthright.

❖ The lesson of the birthright is to guard against being impetuous in making decisions that may come back to haunt you in the future.

## Conclusion

Psa. 19:12 Who can understand *his* errors? cleanse thou me from secret *faults*.

13 **Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins**; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, **be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.**