

JANUARY 9

Read Genesis 25–27

CHAPTER 25

THEN again Abraham took a wife, and her name *was* Keturah.

2 And she bare him Zimran, and Jokshan, and Medan, and Midian, and Ishbak, and Shuah.

3 And Jokshan begat Sheba, and Dedan. And the sons of Dedan were Asshurim, and Letushim, and Leummim.

4 And the sons of Midian; Ephah, and Epher, and Hanoch, and Abida, and Eldaah. All these *were* the children of Keturah.

5 ¶ And Abraham gave all that he had unto Isaac.

6 But unto the sons of the concubines, which Abraham had, Abraham gave gifts, and sent them away from Isaac his son, while he yet lived, eastward, unto the east country.

7 And these *are* the days of the years of Abraham's life which he lived, an hundred threescore and $\frac{1}{2}$ teen years.

8 Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age,

an old man, and full *of years*; and was gathered to his people.

9 And his sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the $\frac{1}{2}$ eld of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite, which *is* before Mamre;

10 The $\frac{1}{2}$ eld which Abraham purchased of the sons of Heth: there was Abraham buried, and Sarah his wife.

11 ¶ And it came to pass after the death of Abraham, that God blessed his son Isaac; and Isaac dwelt by the well Lahairoi.

12 ¶ Now these *are* the generations of Ishmael, Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's handmaid, bare unto Abraham:

13 And these *are* the names of the sons of Ishmael, by their names, according to their generations: the $\frac{1}{2}$ rstborn of Ishmael, Nebajoth; and Kedar, and Adbeel, and Mibsam,

14 And Mishma, and Dumah, and Massa,

15 Hadar, and Tema, Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah:

16 These *are* the sons of Ishmael, and these *are* their names, by their towns, and by their castles; twelve princes according to their nations.

17 And these *are* the years of the life of Ishmael, an hundred and thirty and seven years: and he gave up the ghost and died; and was gathered unto his people.

18 And they dwelt from Havilah unto Shur, that *is* before Egypt, as thou goest toward Assyria: *and* he died in the presence of all his brethren.

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

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.

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 sepa-

rated 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 $\frac{1}{2}$ rst 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.

27 And the boys grew: and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the $\frac{1}{2}$ eld; 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 $\frac{1}{2}$ eld, 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 pro $\frac{1}{2}$ t

shall this birthright do to me?

33 And Jacob said, Swear to me this day; and he sware 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.

CHAPTER 26

AND there was a famine in the land, beside the $\frac{1}{2}$ rst famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar.

2 And the LORD appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of:

3 Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I sware unto Abraham thy father;

4 And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;

5 Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my

commandments, my statutes, and my laws.

6 ¶ And Isaac dwelt in Gerar:

7 And the men of the place asked *him* of his wife; and he said, She *is* my sister: for he feared to say, *She is* my wife; lest, *said he*, the men of the place should kill me for Rebekah; because she *was* fair to look upon.

8 And it came to pass, when he had been there a long time, that Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out at a window, and saw, and, behold, Isaac *was* sporting with Rebekah his wife.

9 And Abimelech called Isaac, and said, Behold, of a surety she *is* thy wife: and how saidst thou, She *is* my sister? And Isaac said unto him, Because I said, Lest I die for her.

10 And Abimelech said, What *is* this thou hast done unto us? one of the people might lightly have lien with thy wife, and thou shouldest have brought guiltiness upon us.

11 And Abimelech charged all *his* people, saying, He that toucheth this man or his wife shall surely be put to death.

12. Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him.

13 And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great:

14 For he had possession of $\frac{3}{4}$ ocks, and possession of herds, and great store of servants: and the Philistines envied him.

15 For all the wells which his father's servants had digged in the days of Abraham his father, the Philistines had stopped them, and $\frac{1}{2}$ lled them with earth.

16 And Abimelech said unto Isaac, Go from us; for thou art much mightier than we.

17 ¶ And Isaac departed thence, and pitched his tent in the valley of Gerar, and dwelt there.

18 And Isaac digged again the wells of water, which they had digged in the days of Abraham his father; for the Philistines had stopped them after the death of Abraham: and he called their names after the names by which his father had called them.

19 And Isaac's servants digged in the valley, and found there a well of springing water.

20 And the herdmen of Gerar did strive with Isaac's herdmen, saying, The water *is* ours: and he called the name of the well Esek; because they strove with him.

21 And they digged another well, and strove for that also: and he called the name of it Sitnah.

22 And he removed from thence, and digged another well; and for that they strove not: and he called the name of it Rehoboth; and he said, For now the LORD hath made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land.

23 And he went up from thence to Beersheba.

24 And the LORD appeared unto him the same night, and said, I *am* the God of Abraham thy father: fear not, for I *am* with thee, and will bless thee, and multiply thy seed for my servant Abraham's sake.

25 And he builded an altar there, and called upon the name of the LORD, and pitched his tent there: and there Isaac's servants digged a well.

26 ¶ Then Abimelech went to him from Gerar, and Ahuzzath one of his friends, and Phichol the chief captain of his army.

27 And Isaac said unto them, Wherefore come ye to me, seeing ye hate me, and have sent me away from you?

28 And they said, We saw certainly that the LORD was with thee: and we said, Let there be now an oath

betwixt us, *even* betwixt us and thee, and let us make a covenant with thee;

29 That thou wilt do us no hurt, as we have not touched thee, and as we have done unto thee nothing but good, and have sent thee away in peace: thou *art* now the blessed of the LORD.

30 And he made them a feast, and they did eat and drink.

31 And they rose up betimes in the morning, and sware one to another: and Isaac sent them away, and they departed from him in peace.

32 And it came to pass the same day, that Isaac's servants came, and told him concerning the well which they had digged, and said unto him, We have found water.

33 And he called it Shebah: therefore the name of the city *is* Beersheba unto this day.

34 ¶ And Esau was forty years old when he took to wife Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Bashemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite:

35 Which were a grief of mind unto Isaac and to Rebekah.

CHAPTER 27

AND it came to pass, that when Isaac was old, and his eyes

were dim, so that he could not see, he called Esau his eldest son, and said unto him, My son: and he said unto him, Behold, *here am I*.

2 And he said, Behold now, I am old, I know not the day of my death:

3 Now therefore take, I pray thee, thy weapons, thy quiver and thy bow, and go out to the $\frac{1}{2}$ eld, and take me *some* venison;

4 And make me savoury meat, such as I love, and bring *it* to me, that I may eat; that my soul may bless thee before I die.

5 And Rebekah heard when Isaac spake to Esau his son. And Esau went to the $\frac{1}{2}$ eld to hunt *for* venison, *and* to bring *it*.

6 ¶ And Rebekah spake unto Jacob her son, saying, Behold, I heard thy father speak unto Esau thy brother, saying,

7 Bring me venison, and make me savoury meat, that I may eat, and bless thee before the LORD before my death.

8 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to that which I command thee.

9 Go now to the $\frac{3}{4}$ ock, and fetch me from thence two good kids of the goats; and I will make them savoury meat for thy father, such as he loveth:

10 And thou shalt bring *it* to thy father, that he may eat, and that he may bless thee before his death.

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

12 My father peradventure will feel me, and I shall seem to him as a deceiver; and I shall bring a curse upon me, and not a blessing.

13 And his mother said unto him, Upon me *be* thy curse, my son: only obey my voice, and go fetch me *them*.

14 And he went, and fetched, and brought *them* to his mother: and his mother made savoury meat, such as his father loved.

15 And Rebekah took goodly raiment of her eldest son Esau, which *were* with her in the house, and put them upon Jacob her younger son:

16 And she put the skins of the kids of the goats upon his hands, and upon the smooth of his neck:

17 And she gave the savoury meat and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob.

18 ¶ And he came unto his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here *am* I; who *art* thou, my son?

19 And Jacob said unto his father,

I *am* Esau thy $\frac{1}{2}$ rstborn; I have done according as thou badest me: arise, I pray thee, sit and eat of my venison, that thy soul may bless me.

20 And Isaac said unto his son, How *is it* that thou hast found *it* so quickly, my son? And he said, Because the LORD thy God brought *it* to me.

21 And Isaac said unto Jacob, Come near, I pray thee, that I may feel thee, my son, whether thou *be* my very son Esau or not.

22 And Jacob went near unto Isaac his father; and he felt him, and said, The voice *is* Jacob's voice, but the hands *are* the hands of Esau.

23 And he discerned him not, because his hands were hairy, as his brother Esau's hands: so he blessed him.

24 And he said, *Art* thou my very son Esau? And he said, I *am*.

25 And he said, Bring *it* near to me, and I will eat of my son's venison, that my soul may bless thee. And he brought *it* near to him, and he did eat: and he brought him wine, and he drank.

26 And his father Isaac said unto him, Come near now, and kiss me, my son.

27 And he came near, and kissed

him: and he smelled the smell of his raiment, and blessed him, and said, See, the smell of my son *is* as the smell of a $\frac{1}{2}$ eld which the LORD hath blessed:

28 Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine:

29 Let people serve thee, and nations bow down to thee: be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee: cursed *be* every one that curseth thee, and blessed *be* he that blesseth thee.

30 ¶ And it came to pass, as soon as Isaac had made an end of blessing Jacob, and Jacob was yet scarce gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting.

31 And he also had made savoury meat, and brought it unto his father, and said unto his father, Let my father arise, and eat of his son's venison, that thy soul may bless me.

32 And Isaac his father said unto him, Who *art* thou? And he said, I *am* thy son, thy $\frac{1}{2}$ rstborn Esau.

33 And Isaac trembled very exceedingly, and said, Who? where *is* he that hath taken venison, and

brought *it* me, and I have eaten of all before thou camest, and have blessed him? yea, *and* he shall be blessed.

34 And when Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with a great and exceeding bitter cry, and said unto his father, Bless me, *even* me also, O my father.

35 And he said, Thy brother came with subtilty, and hath taken away thy blessing.

36 And he said, Is not he rightly named Jacob? for he hath supplanted me these two times: he took away my birthright; and, behold, now he hath taken away my blessing. And he said, Hast thou not reserved a blessing for me?

37 And Isaac answered and said unto Esau, Behold, I have made him thy lord, and all his brethren have I given to him for servants; and with corn and wine have I sustained him: and what shall I do now unto thee, my son?

38 And Esau said unto his father, Hast thou but one blessing, my father? bless me, *even* me also, O my father. And Esau lifted up his voice, and wept.

39 And Isaac his father answered and said unto him, Behold, thy dwelling shall be the fatness of the

earth, and of the dew of heaven from above;

40 And by thy sword shalt thou live, and shalt serve thy brother; and it shall come to pass when thou shalt have the dominion, that thou shalt break his yoke from off thy neck.

41 ¶ And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him: and Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob.

42 And these words of Esau her elder son were told to Rebekah: and she sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said unto him, Behold, thy brother Esau, as touch-

ing thee, doth comfort himself, *purposing* to kill thee.

43 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice; and arise, ³/₄ee thou to Laban my brother to Haran;

44 And tarry with him a few days, until thy brother's fury turn away;

45 Until thy brother's anger turn away from thee, and he forget *that* which thou hast done to him: then I will send, and fetch thee from thence: why should I be deprived also of you both in one day?

46 And Rebekah said to Isaac, I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth: if Jacob take a wife of the daughters of Heth, such as these *which are* of the daughters of the land, what good shall my life do me?

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

Sarah lived to be 127 years old. After her death Abraham took another wife, whose name was Keturah. She bore him six sons, and from this marriage came the Midianites. Moses married a Midianite some 500 years later! Abraham died at the age of 175, and his sons, Isaac and Ishmael, buried him in the cave of Machpelah where Abraham had buried Sarah.

Chapter 25 records the generations of Ishmael and Isaac. Ishmael was Abraham's son by Hagar. The Ishmaelites made Arabia their home and became known as the Arabs. Thus, Abraham was the father of the present Arab nation, as well as the father of the Jewish nation.

Verses 24-34 record the birth of Jacob and Esau to Isaac and Rebekah. Since Esau was the firstborn of

these twin boys, he was Isaac's natural heir, but God chose Jacob to be the transmitter of the precious heritage. In verse 23 God told Rebekah that "the elder shall serve the younger." Rebekah loved Jacob, while Isaac loved Esau. Isaac was about 137 years old now. His impatience to give Esau the blessing suggests his own carnal plans, not God's will.

Had he forgotten God's Word that "the elder shall serve the younger," or was he trying to change God's plan? Rebekah had been told by God that Jacob would receive God's blessing, yet she schemed and plotted to make sure Esau was left out. And certainly Jacob knew of God's promise for his life. Yet he listened to his mother instead of God. Jacob would pay dearly in years to come for his sin, as would his mother. She never saw her son again. Esau deliberately acted to hurt her, and her bad example before

Jacob cost him twenty years of trial. The result of this sin of unbelief was a division in the home. Rather than trusting God to do what He said He would do, God's Word and timetable were doubted, and the entire family suffered because of unbelief and disobedience. When Christians take things into their own hands, they can expect the result of their disobedience to be something less than pleasant!

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"He that hideth hatred with lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, is a fool" (Proverbs 10:18).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

ASSIGNMENT 2: For today's memory verses, follow instructions on page 12.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

JOSEPH CHEAV

HYMN FOR TODAY

PRAYER IS THE SOUL'S SINCERE DESIRE by James Montgomery (1771-1854)

Except for Charles Wesley or Isaac Watts, no writer has made a greater contribution to English hymnody than the author of this text, James Montgomery. He wrote more than 400 hymns, many of which are still in popular use: "Stand Up and Bless the Lord," "Angels from the Realms of Glory," "In the Hour of Trial," and "According to Thy Gracious Word."

Though trained for the ministry, Montgomery spent his lifetime as a journalist and newspaper editor. He became widely known for his writings and poetry, yet when once asked, "Which of your poems will live?" he replied, "None, sir, except a few of my hymns." His words were prophetic. It is by his hymns that Montgomery is remembered, rather than by his more classic poetry.

Many have acclaimed this hymn as one of the finest definitions and descriptions of prayer to be found in short form. Such colorful metaphors as "hidden fire," "a sign," "a falling tear," "an upward glance," "vital breath," and "native air" describe in poetic language the mystic meaning of prayer—understood by experience, yet often difficult to express in words. Perhaps those terms will lead you to a new appreciation for the "soul's sincere desire."

*Prayer is the soul's sincere desire, uttered or unexpressed,
the motion of a hidden fire that trembles in the breast.*

*Prayer is the burden of a sigh, the falling of a tear,
the upward glancing of an eye when none but God is near.*

*Prayer is the simplest form of speech that infant lips can try;
prayer, the sublimest strains that reach the Majesty on high.*

*Prayer is the Christian's vital breath, the Christian's native air;
his watchword at the gates of death: He enters heav'n with prayer.*

*O Thou by whom we come to God, the Life, the Truth, the Way!
The path of prayer Thyself hast trod: Lord, teach us how to pray!*

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1788 **CONNECTICUT WAS ADMITTED TO THE UNION.**

It has been my privilege to meet some fine Christian people from Connecticut. Let us pray for the saints in Connecticut. Especially, let us pray for God's servants who labor there and for the churches who preach the true Gospel of Christ.

1793 **THE FIRST UNITED STATES BALLOON FLIGHT.**

1861 **THE FIRST SHOT IN THE CIVIL WAR WAS FIRED.**

Let us pray for peace in our nation today. Let those in the South pray for those in the North and those in the North pray for those in the South. Let us pray that we may have love one for another and that all the seeds and fruit of strife shall be withdrawn from our hearts.

1913 **RICHARD NIXON WAS BORN.**

Richard Nixon barely missed being President of our Nation in 1960, and he was a great Vice-Presi-

dent. Perhaps, then, we should spend some time praying for our Vice-President today. Someone has said that our Vice-President is only one heartbeat away from our White House. This is certainly true. Pray for God's blessing in his life today and thank God for the contribution to our nation by Richard Nixon.

Of course, there was tarnish in Mr. Nixon's later years of service, as he was later elected President of our country and then, in 1974, become the first President and only President to resign office. Pray for your President today. He needs your prayers.

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1866

FISK UNIVERSITY ESTABLISHED. Rust College (Miss.) and Lincoln (Mo.) were also founded in 1866.

1946

DEATH OF POET COUNTTEE CULLEN (42), New York City.

1967

GEORGIA LEGISLATURE SEATED REP. JULIAN BOND, a critic of the Vietnam War.

THE STORY OF THE PSALMS

Psalm 3

AUTHOR: David.

THE STORY BEHIND THE PSALM: This is a perpetuation of the events of Psalm 2. In the second Psalm, David has learned of the rebellion. In the third Psalm he is running from Absalom. He has left Jerusalem and the palace, and in perhaps the darkest hour of his life, he is fleeing to Mahanaim. This Psalm was probably written as he fled. As you read it, picture a brokenhearted father and a sad king who, after having stepped down from the throne, flees the battle rather than engage in warfare with his own son.

THE WAY IT WAS USED BY GOD'S PEOPLE: The Jews would find pavilion in this Psalm when they were completely bewildered and confused. When the way ahead was foggy and they could not see clearly the path that God had for them, they would find great comfort in the words of David when he faced a similar fate.

A new word is introduced in this Psalm. The word is "selah." You will find it at the conclusion of verse 2, verse 4 and verse 8. It is a word that is used as a musical term, much like our musical term, "rest." How beautiful it is to know that when we are perplexed, when friends betray us and family disappoints us, there is still a rest in our God.

The Treasure Path to Soul-Winning

**MEMORY VERSE TOPIC FOR THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS:
BASIC TEXT TO AROUSE AN INTEREST IN SPIRITUAL MATTERS**
(Assignment 2)

Please recite all three components of each of these five verses aloud, five times each morning, and five times each evening, for seven days. The three components of each verse are: Subject, Scripture Reference, and Scripture Text. (For more details, see “The Treasure Path to Soul Winning” link back on the DailyKJV.com main page.)

Life is brief.

() James 4:14

Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

Life is uncertain.

() Proverbs 27:1

Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

Death is sure.

() Hebrews 9:27

And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the Judgment:

Christ may appear any moment.

() Matthew 24:44

Therefore be ye also ready: For in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

No escape for procrastinators.

() Hebrews 2:3

How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;