

Genesis

The Book of Beginnings

15. Isaac, Esau and Jacob

An outline of the Book of Genesis *

* Approximate chapter divisions only

Genesis 1 to 11

Creation

Genesis 1 to 2

The Fall

Genesis 3

Before the Flood

Genesis 4 to 5

The Flood

Genesis 6 to 8

After the Flood

Genesis 9 to 11

Genesis 12 to 50

Abraham

Genesis 12 to 23

Isaac

Genesis 24 to 27

Jacob

Genesis 28 to 36

Joseph

Genesis 37 to 50

➤ **A bride for Isaac** (Genesis 24)

Then **Isaac** brought her into the tent of **Sarah** his mother and took **Rebekah**, and **she became his wife, and he loved her.**

So **Isaac** was comforted after his mother's death.

(Genesis 24:67)

Genesis 25 and 26

1. Abraham and Keturah's children
2. Abraham's death
3. Ishmael's life and death
4. Isaac, Rebekah and the twins
5. Esau, Jacob and the red stew
6. Isaac and Abimelech, famine and plenty
7. Isaac, Rebekah and Esau's marriages

1. Abraham and Keturah's children

Possibly “had taken”

Abraham's concubine
(1 Chronicles 1:32)

Abraham took another wife, whose name was **Keturah**.
She bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah.
(Genesis 25:1-2)

Six more sons!

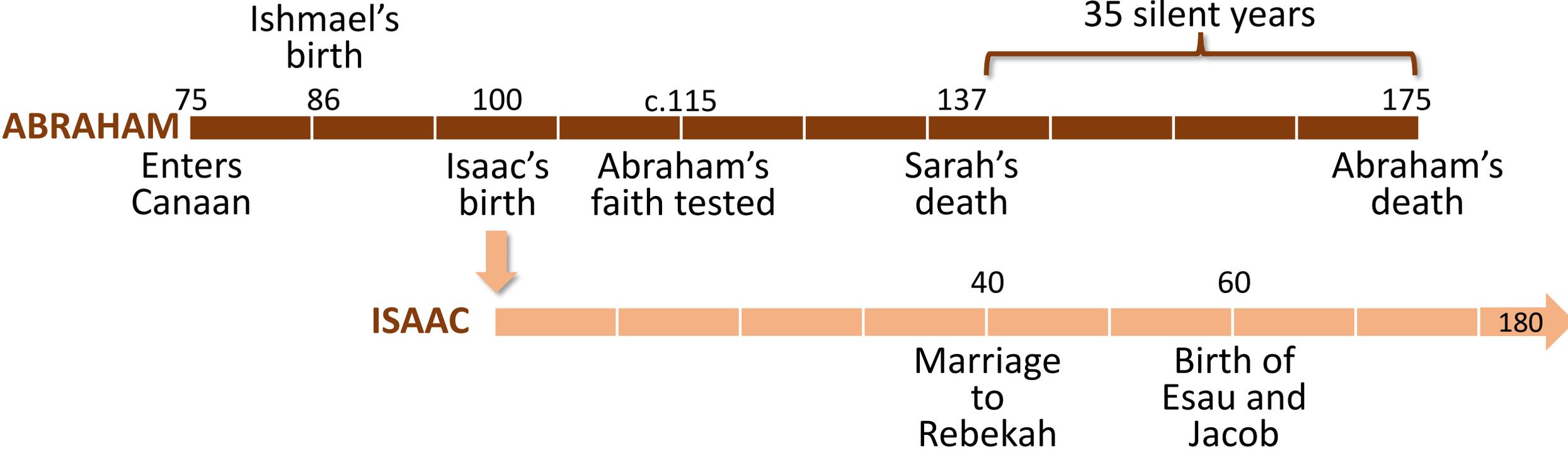
Abraham gave all he had to Isaac.

But to the sons of his concubines Abraham gave gifts,
and while he was still living he sent them away from his son Isaac,
eastward to the east country.

(Genesis 25:5-6)

2. Abraham's death

These are the days of the years of Abraham's life, **175 years**.
Isaac and **Ishmael** his sons buried him in the cave of Machpelah...
(Genesis 25:7,9)



3. Ishmael's life and death

These are the generations of **Ishmael**, Abraham's son...

Genesis 17:20

These are the names of the sons of Ishmael...
twelve princes according to their tribes.

(These are the years of the life of Ishmael: **137 years**.)

(See Genesis 25:12-17)

4. Isaac, Rebekah and the twins

Isaac was 40 years old when he took Rebekah ... to be his wife.

And Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren.

And the LORD granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

(Genesis 25:20-21)

They were childless for about 20 years!

4. Isaac, Rebekah and the twins

The children struggled together within her,
and she said,
“If it is thus, why is this happening to me?”
So she went to inquire of the LORD.

And the LORD said to her,
*“Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples from within you shall be divided;
the one shall be stronger than the other,
the older shall serve the younger.”*

(Genesis 25:22-23)

Sovereign grace
(see Malachi 1:2)

4. Isaac, Rebekah and the twins

When her days to give birth were completed, behold, there were **twins** in her womb.

The first came out red, all his body like a hairy cloak, so they called his name **Esau**.

Afterward his brother came out with his hand holding Esau's heel, so his name was called **Jacob**.

(Genesis 25:24-26)

Interpreted as a sign of rivalry or wanting to take the other's place

4. Isaac, Rebekah and the twins

Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game



Rebekah loved Jacob

When the boys grew up,

- **Esau** was a **skillful hunter**, a man of the field,
- **Jacob** was a **quiet man**, dwelling in tents.

Calm, blameless, upright, complete

5. Esau, Jacob and the red stew

Once when **Jacob** was cooking stew, **Esau** came in from the field.

“Let me eat some of that red stew, for I am exhausted!”



How old were Jacob and Esau?

“Sell me your birthright now.”

The right of the firstborn

“I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?”

“Swear to me now.”

So he swore to him.

Thus Esau despised his birthright.

The blessing of Abraham

(See Genesis 25:29-34)

5. Esau, Jacob and the red stew

Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Profane, godless

See to it...

that no one is... **unholy** like **Esau**,
who sold his birthright for a single meal.

(Hebrews 12:15-16)

5. Esau, Jacob and the red stew

Thus Esau despised his birthright.

*“Two nations are in your womb...
the older shall serve the younger.”*

(Genesis 25:23)

It is not the **spiritual** that is first but the **natural**,
and then the **spiritual**.

The first man was from the earth, a man of dust;
the second man is from heaven.

(1 Corinthians 15:46-47)

6. Isaac and Abimelech, famine and plenty

Now there was a famine in the land...

And **Isaac** went to Gerar to **Abimelech** king of the Philistines.

And the LORD appeared to him and said,

“Do not go down to Egypt...”

“Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father....”

“And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.”

(Genesis 26:1-5)

Through faith, before the law

6. Isaac and Abimelech, famine and plenty

Before the birth
of Esau and Jacob?

So Isaac settled in Gerar.

When the men of the place asked him about his wife, he said, “*She is my sister,*” ... “lest the men of the place should kill me because of Rebekah” ...

When he had been there a long time, Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out of a window and saw Isaac laughing with Rebekah his wife.

(Genesis 26:6-8)

Showing affection



6. Isaac and Abimelech, famine and plenty

*“Sojourn in this land,
and I will be with you
and will bless you.”*

(Genesis 26:3)

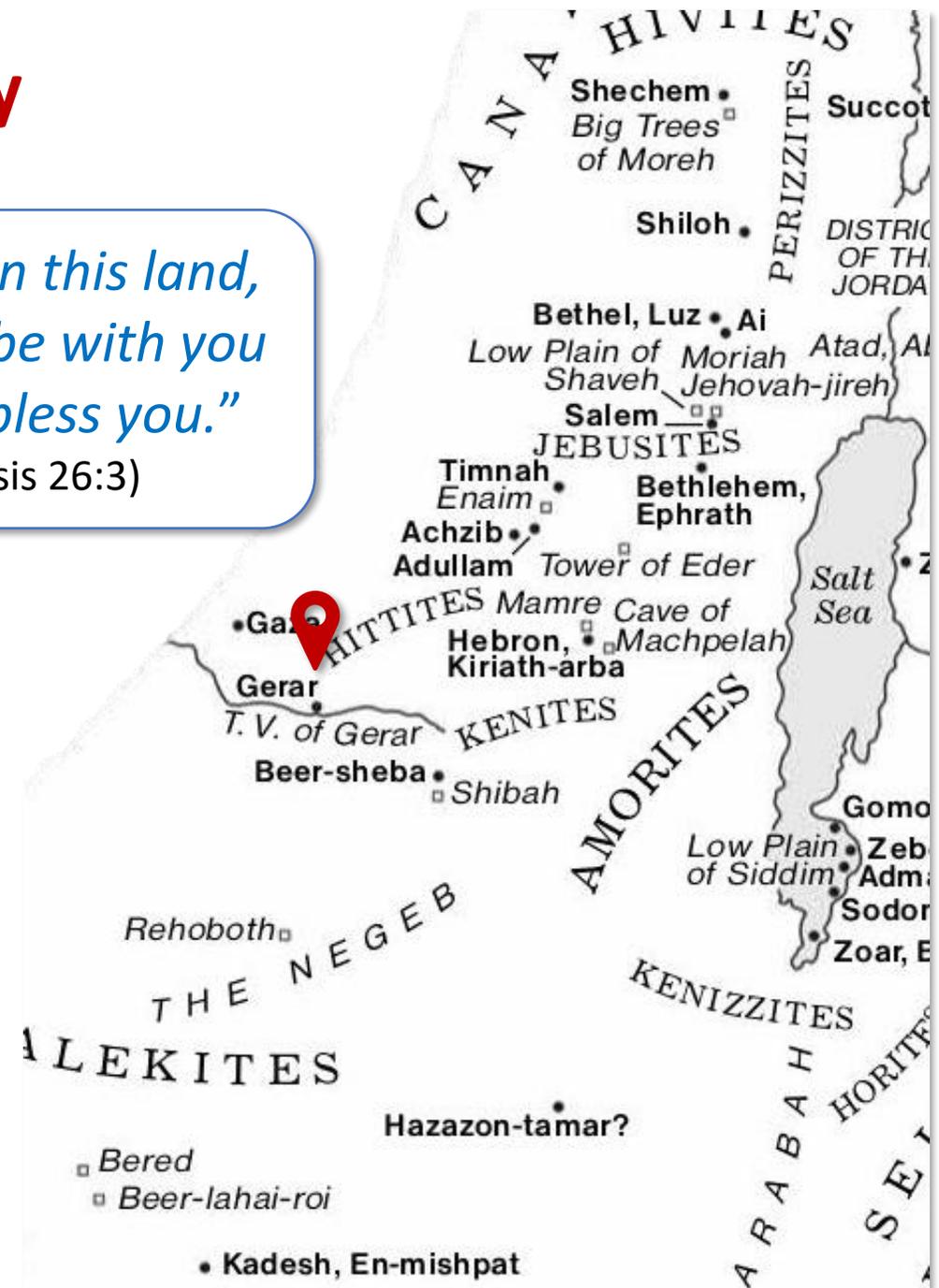
Abimelech said,

“What is this you have done to us? ...”

So Abimelech warned all the people, saying,

**“Whoever touches this man or his wife
shall surely be put to death.”**

(Genesis 26:10-11)



6. Isaac and Abimelech, famine and plenty

And Isaac sowed in that land and reaped
in the same year a hundredfold.

The LORD blessed him,
and the man became rich,
and gained more and more...
so that the Philistines **envied** him....

And Abimelech said to Isaac,
**“Go away from us,
for you are much mightier than we.”**

(Genesis 26:12-16)

6. Isaac and Abimelech, famine and plenty

So Isaac departed from there
and encamped in the Valley of Gerar
and settled there.

**And Isaac dug again the wells of water...
which the Philistines had stopped
after the death of Abraham.**

And he gave them the names
that his father had given them.

(Genesis 26:17-18)

6. Isaac and Abimelech, famine and plenty

But when Isaac's servants dug in the valley and found there a well of spring water, the herdsmen of Gerar **quarreled** with Isaac's herdsmen, saying, "The water is ours."

So he called the name of the well *Esek*...

Quarrel

Then they dug another well, and they **quarreled** over that also, so he called its name *Sitnah*.

Enmity

And he moved from there and dug another well, and **they did not quarrel** over it.

So he called its name *Rehoboth*, saying,

"For now the LORD has made room for us,
and we shall be fruitful in the land."

Spaciousness

(Genesis 26:19-22)

6. Isaac and Abimelech, famine and plenty

From there he went up to Beersheba.
And the LORD appeared to him
the same night and said,

*“I am the God of Abraham your father.
Fear not, for I am with you and
will bless you and multiply your offspring
for my servant Abraham's sake.”*

So he built an altar there
and called upon the name of the LORD
and pitched his tent there.

And there Isaac's servants dug a well.

(Genesis 26:23-25)

The southern extent
of the land promised
to Abraham

To fulfill the promise
made to Abraham

6. Isaac and Abimelech, famine and plenty

When Abimelech went to him from Gerar ...

Isaac said to them,

“Why have you come to me, seeing that you hate me
and have sent me away from you?”

They said,

“We see plainly that the LORD has been with you.

...let us make a covenant with you,

that you will do us no harm,

just as we have not touched you....

You are now the blessed of the LORD.”

(Genesis 26:26-29)

6. Isaac and Abimelech, famine and plenty

In the morning they rose early
and exchanged oaths.

And Isaac sent them on their way,
and they departed from him in peace.

That same day Isaac's servants came
and told him... **"We have found water."**

Oath

He called it **Shibah**; therefore the name
of the city is Beersheba to this day.

(Genesis 26:31-33)

7. Isaac, Rebekah and Esau's marriages

When Esau was 40 years old,
he took **Judith** the daughter
of Beeri **the Hittite** to be his wife,
and **Basemath** the daughter
of Elon **the Hittite**,
**and they made life bitter
for Isaac and Rebekah.**
(Genesis 26:34-35)

Three very different men

What can we see in these men at this stage of their life?

Isaac

- He has learned from his father Abraham
- He seems to have faith and patience
- He is a peace maker but...

Esau

- He is a capable man of the world
- He sees little value in spiritual things
- He has neither vision nor faith in God

Jacob

- He appears to be a good man, civilised
- He has learned from his mother Rebekah
- He values spiritual things but lacks faith

Through all this, God is working out His glorious purpose.

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Three very different men

Isaac

Esau

Jacob

We find ourselves in...

- **The mystery of God**
God's sovereign grace and purpose
- **The heart issues**
You choose what your heart values
- **The fallen nature**
We need to be changed and to grow

Therefore...

Ephesians 1:3-6

Proverbs 4:23

2 Peter 1:5-11

Through all this, God is working out His glorious purpose.

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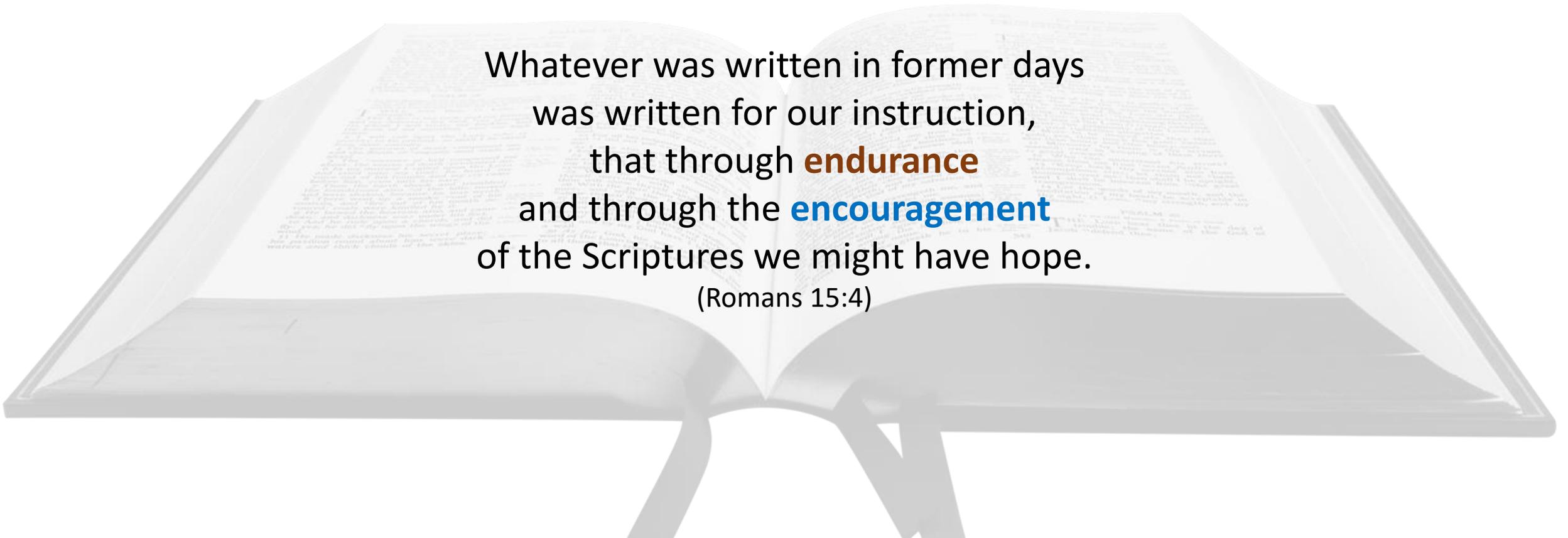
The Book of Beginnings

Three very different men

Isaac

Esau

Jacob



Whatever was written in former days
was written for our instruction,
that through **endurance**
and through the **encouragement**
of the Scriptures we might have hope.

(Romans 15:4)