

Genesis 12-36 Reflection

? Starting Questions:

- What do you think the original author was trying to get across?
- What does the passage say about God/man?
- How does the passage inform my response to God?

These are some of our starting questions, but when we approach Scripture we are often left with additional questions of our own. This is a good thing! Here are a few questions we had while reading. Feel free to answer them, or come up with a few of your own:

? (Ch. 22) What does this theme in the story, "The LORD will provide," reveal about the nature, or means of salvation? How is this a foreshadowing?

? (Ch. 27) How does this story reveal God's sovereignty amidst a mess of human deception and manipulation?

! Literary Elements (Themes and Repetition):

! Divine Blessing

The theme of divine blessing continues on from Genesis 2 and is repeated throughout the narrative as the overarching theme, characterized by the motifs of multiplication, offspring, sojourn, covenant, etc. (12:2; 22:17; 26:2-5,23; 28:3,13-16; 35:11-13). While Ishmael and Esau receive blessing from God, the eternal covenant is established specifically with Israel through whom God will bless all peoples.

! God's Justice

God is questioned several times on the basis of his justice (Genesis 18:19,22,25; 20:4), and he demonstrates his justice through the judgement he brings on the terribly wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah coupled with his mercy on Lot and his family.

↻ **Prayer:** Father God, thank You that You are our faithful covenant keeper, that with You, we are told not to fear. Thank you for how You desire to dwell among Your people. Thank You, for the order of Melchizedek, for Jesus. Thank You that the very salvation we have secured is accomplished by You and not out of our own effort or means. I praise you for how You continuously reveal Yourself, for Your justice and mercy. Please shed light on the areas in my life where I rely more on self-protection and fail to trust you. I praise you for Your grace in my unfaithfulness. All glory be given to You, Jesus.