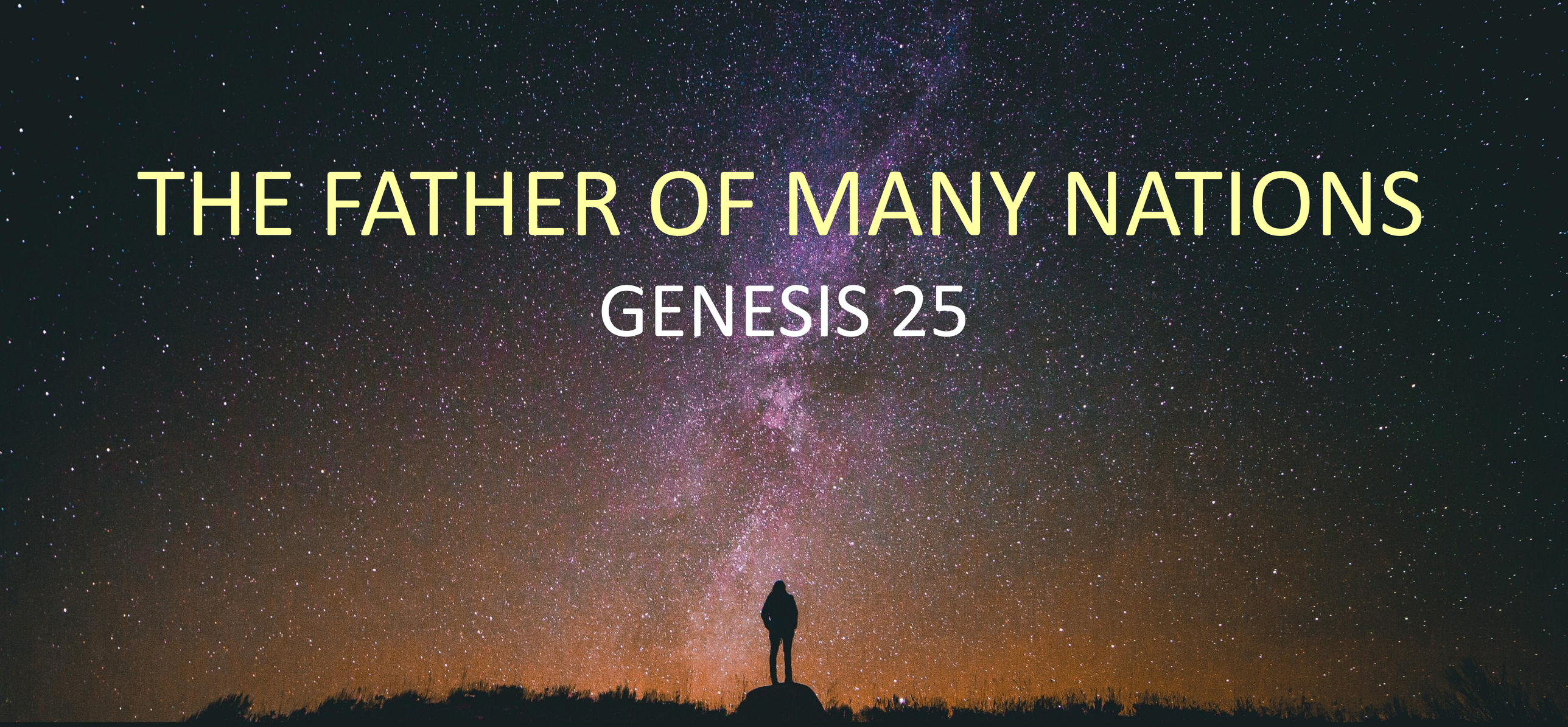
GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING

THE FATHER OF MANY NATIONS

GENESIS 25



GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING

“He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me….” (John 14:21)

“He who does not love Me does not keep My words….” (John 14:23)

You love Jesus; He lives in you, so you consider the **impact of your contact** with everyone you encounter in this life.

Your relationship with Him is your **way of life**.

Your relationship with Him is the greatest **truth of your life**.

Your relationship with Him is your **life**.

It matters why you believe you are here — why you believe God made you and saved you and is now living in you — **it matters why your life matters to God**.

Electing grace is God’s saving favor on whom He chooses.

I. God's Electing Grace **Promised — <u>Abraham</u>** (Gen. 25:1-11)

God chooses Abraham.

"As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you will be buried at a good old age." (Gen. 15:15)

"It came about after the death of Abraham, ***that God blessed his son Isaac****…."* (Gen 25:11)

I. God's Electing Grace **Promised** — Abraham (Gen. 25:1-11)

II. God's Electing Grace **Protected — Ishmael** (Gen. 25:12-18)

By the promise of the Lord, a very important prophesy characterizes the relationships these countries have with Israel and its allies. Two verses give us this information about Ishmael and his ancestors:

- Genesis 16:12 – **Ishmael**: was pridefully stubborn, wild of spirit, deeply contentious toward everyone, constantly at war with his neighbors, and he lived to the east of his people.

- Genesis 25:18 – **Ishmael**: *"**he** settled in **defiance** of all his relatives."*
  - **NKJV**: *"**He** died **in the presence of** all his brethren."*
  - **CSB**: *"**He** stayed **near** all his relatives."*
  - **NIV**: *"And **they** lived in **hostility** toward all the tribes related to them."*

II. God's Electing Grace **Protected — <u>Ishmael</u>** (Gen. 25:12-18)

<u>Why the differences</u>?

Because the phrase, *al pene*, can be understood as either "against the face" (hostility toward, defiant toward) or as "opposite, east of" (alongside).

<u>Which is more likely?</u>

<u>Context</u> rules. Genesis 25:18 is a **<u>fulfillment</u> of the prophecy** from 16:12 that Ishmael and his relatives would always be in contention, hostility with, defiance of each other and their neighbors.

<u>And why does it matter?</u>

Ishmael's relatives settle south and east of Canaan. He moved far from his neighboring people as he settled further east, and this can mean that he went as far as he could until he he ended up at the ocean in the southeasternmost regions of Arabia below modern-day Saudi Arabia — **<u>Yemen</u>** = modern Houthis?

II. God’s Electing Grace **Protected — <u>Ishmael</u>** (Gen. 25:12-18)

Concerning Ishmael and his twelve sons and their respective tribes and ancestors, the **<u>material point</u>** for the **<u>Israelites</u>** is that **<u>God *protected* His promises</u>** to Abraham and Isaac by sending away all Isaac’s competitors from the land of promise.

I. God's Electing Grace **Promised** (Gen. 25:1-11)

II. God's Electing Grace **Protected** — *Ishmael* (Gen. 25:12-18)

III. God's Electing Grace **Protracted — <u>Isaac</u>** (Gen. 25:19-34)

Continued, extended, enduring

God is sovereign. **<u>God oversees the womb</u>**.

God is sovereign. **<u>God wants us to prayerfully depend on Him.</u>**

III. God's Electing Grace <u>Protracted</u> — <u>*Isaac*</u> (Gen. 25:19-34)

How do we understand the details of Genesis 25:27-34?

<u>Esau is the world at war with itself.</u>

"That the child [Jacob] attacks the 'heel' conveys the ideas of deception, betrayal, and opportunism." *(Kenneth Mathews)*

III. God's Electing Grace **Protracted — <u>Isaac</u>** (Gen. 25:19-34)

Living in the **<u>now</u>** of this daily, earthly life, we falter in faithfulness to God. But as God's chosen child, you live **<u>forever</u>** in His heavenly saving favor. You stand and live in a long line of those who **<u>God the Father</u>** promised to Abraham as the father of many nations.

It matters why you believe you are here and where you understand you come from.

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