



Stories of Great Influencers (5): Isaac

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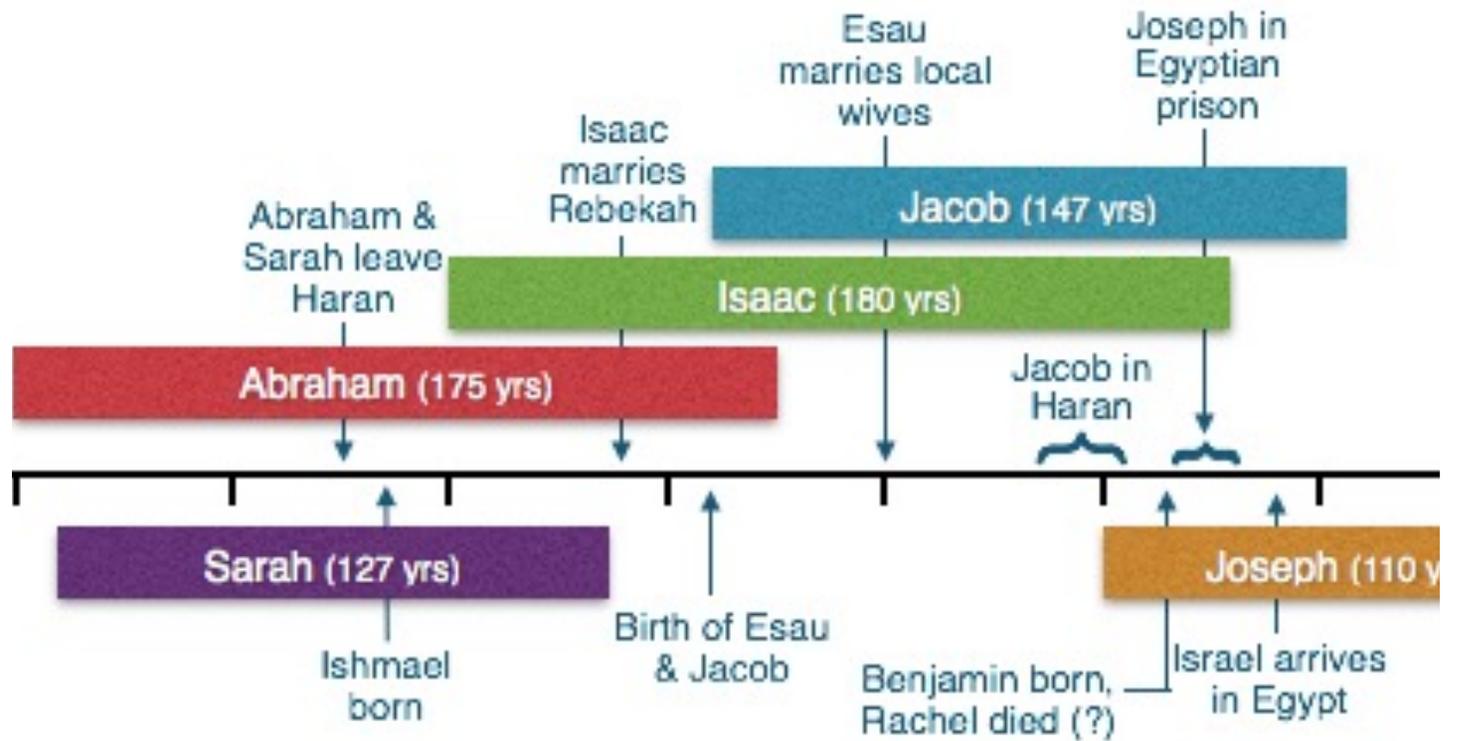
Isaac: The Son of Promise

- That night the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bless you and will increase the number of your descendants for the sake of my servant Abraham.” Isaac built an altar there and called on the name of the LORD. There he pitched his tent, and there his servants dug a well (Genesis 26:24-25).
- By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future (Hebrews 11:20).

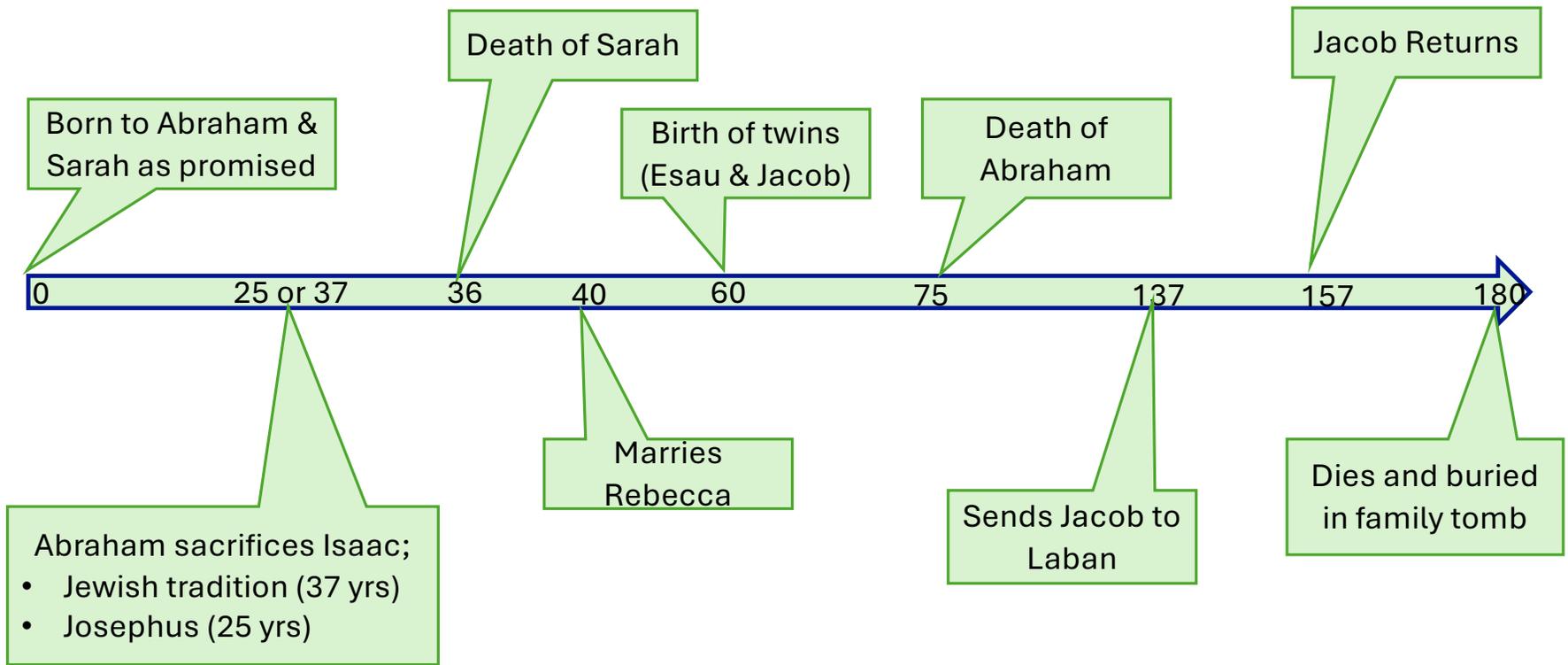
Who is Isaac?

- The son of Abraham
 - Isaac's name literally means laughter. Abraham and Sarah laughed in disbelief at the prospect of having a child in their old age. The name shows that nothing is impossible for Him.
 - The 11th generation from Noah, descended from Shem.
 - His birth was the fulfillment of a promise God has made to Abraham roughly 25 years before.
- The transitional sandwich generation
 - A patriarch between a famous father, an extraordinary son and even more powerful grandson.
 - Abraham received the initial promise of a great nation, and Jacob solidified it, God confirmed the covenant specifically with Isaac.
- The middle character
 - Unlike the dramatic life of Abraham (Abram) or Jacob (Israel), Isaac is characterized by stability, living in obedience, and inheriting the promises passed down.
 - Only patriarch to live his whole life (born and dies) in the land of Canaan.
 - There is no section of Genesis specifically dedicated to him. Isaac does not have a story.

Abraham,
Isaac, Jacob
& Joseph



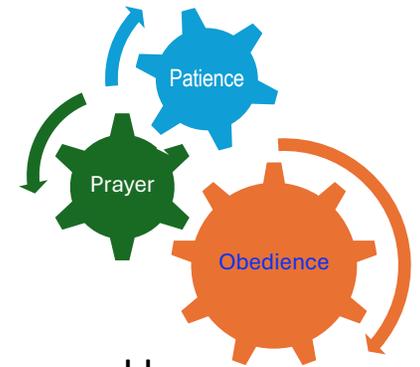
Major Events in the Life of Isaac



His Humility and Meekness

- A Life of continuity, not originality
 - His story largely mirrors that of his father. He faces similar famines, dwells in similar areas, and even repeats the sin of claiming his wife is his sister.
 - (Abimelek to Isaac) “She is really your wife! Why did you say, ‘She is my sister’?” Isaac answered him, “Because I thought I might lose my life on account of her.” Then Abimelek said, “What is this you have done to us? One of the men might well have slept with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us” (Genesis 26:9-10).
- Passive, unfrontational personality
 - Abimelek asked Isaac to move, and Isaac obeyed, moving to other areas digging new wells when his enemies quarreled with him over the water two times. Isaac never argued against philistines, rather he moved to other area digging another well. (Gen 26:17-22).
- Failure in family
 - Isaac is seen as failing in family leadership. He favored his son Esau, resulting in a divided household and a broken, deceitful family dynamic.

A Man of Obedience



- Was the faith of Abraham or Isaac?
 - Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?” “Yes, my son?” Abraham replied. “The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” When they reached the place, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. **He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar**, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son (Genesis 22:6-10).
- Isaac: The redemptive surrender
 - Isaac’s silence and cooperation reveal an incredible depth of trust—first in his father, and second in God. He is not a passive victim; but a voluntary participant.
 - This foreshadows the "Obedience" of Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane—the ultimate model of a son trusting a father's design.

A Man of Prayer

- Isaac's prayers
 - Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was childless. The LORD answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant (Genesis 25:21).
 - Isaac went out to meditate and bow down in prayer in the open country in the evening; and he looked up and saw that, behold, the camels were coming (Genesis 24:63, AMPC).
- Key themes in Isaac's prayer life
 - Intercessory prayer on behalf of his wife, demonstrating concern for her and their future family.
 - Persistent prayer for 20 years. Despite waiting 20 years for a child, he continued to trust God.
 - Meditation and quietness: He often went to the fields to meditate and pray, suggesting a deep, personal relationship with God.
 - Prayer as a habit, including moments like Isaac praying for his son Jacob to be blessed (Genesis 27), shows prayer was a consistent part of his character.

A Man of Patience and Self Control

- Patience in waiting for a wife (Genesis 24-25)
 - Isaac was 40 years old when he married Rebekah.
 - When Rebekah was barren, Isaac didn't follow his father's mistake by taking a concubine (like Hagar). Instead, he prayed and waited for 20 years before their children were born.
- A peacemaker
 - Isaac's servants dug wells, and the Philistines kept seizing them. Instead of going to war—which he was wealthy enough to do—Isaac simply moved and dug another well.
 - After moving three times to avoid conflict, he finally dug a well where they left him alone, and he named it Rehoboth, saying, "Now the Lord has given us room" (Genesis 26:22).

Lessons from Isaac

- Remember God's promise!
 - He represents the fulfillment of God's vow to make Abraham a great nation.
 - God promised that Abraham and 90-year-old Sarah would have a son (Isaac) to fulfill the promise of a descendant, despite human impossibility.
 - Now you, brothers and sisters, like Isaac, are children of promise (Galatians 4:28).
- We are blessed because the Father blesses us
 - God did not bless Isaac because of himself, but because of his father Abraham.
 - I will give all these lands and will confirm the oath I swore to your father Abraham. I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands...because Abraham obeyed me (Genesis 26:3-5).
 - Everything that Abraham had was Isaac's. we are heirs. We are Isaac.

The Principle of Isaac

- Abraham vs. Isaac
 - Abraham gave all his possessions to his son Isaac, securing his inheritance as the child of promise, while sending other sons away with gifts.
 - Abraham left everything he owned to Isaac (Genesis 25:5).
 - Beyond physical wealth, Isaac inherited the spiritual promises God made to Abraham, including the promise of land, descendants, and blessings.
- We are Isaac the child of the father
 - Everything is received. Everything is that the Lord Jesus has accomplished (Salvation, victory, heaven, grace...)
 - We are the heirs and are qualified to inherit the possession of the family. Since we are Isaac, we enjoy, laugh. This is God's grace.
 - "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." (Genesis 22:7-8).
- Enjoy your life with what Father blesses us