Rivqah Conceived & Yitschaq Blesses Ya'aqov

Genesis 24:58-28:4

Reading Questions

1. For how long was Rivqah barren?
2. Did the laws of יהוה exist in the days of Avraham?
3. Did Yitschaq have belief (faith)?

Reading Answers

1. 20 years (Genesis 25:26 says Yitschaq was 60 when she bore them and Genesis 25:20 says he was 40 when they married – 60-40 = 20)

2. Yes (Genesis 26:5). Although commands like the prohibitions of marrying one's sister, tithing to the Lewites and Sons of Aharon, the Aharonic priesthood, and Lewites were not yet in place, it is clear there were commands. Such commands most likely included the Sabbath, distinguishing between clean and unclean animals, not killing, stealing, committing adultery, coveting, or committing sexual sins, along with others that Avraham was probably taught from his father as passed down throughout the generations from Adam. We can see the Sabbath given in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:3), Noach (Noah) distinguishing between clean and unclean animals (Genesis 8:20), and Sedom and Amorah judged for sexual sins (Genesis 19:24). You can click here to read a little about tithing if you want to hear our perspective on this.

3. Yes (Hebrews 11:20). We can see the proper interpretation that when Yitschaq gave the blessings to his sons, he was doing so with belief (faith).

Reading Notes

- I have heard studies from other brothers regarding Esaw and selling his birthright. What I learned from their studies was that Esaw should have valued his birthright more and not sold it for bread and stew of lentils in Genesis 25:30-34.

- Look how Yitschaq dealt with those who strove over the wells he dug! In Genesis 26:18-22 they strove with him over 2 wells before finally yielding when he dug a third. Instead of striving back, he appears to have just yielded to them and moved on. He was so blessed he did not even have to strive over anything with anyone. He had the blessing of יהוה with him, and what is a well of water? יהוה provided all that He needed, and Yitschaq trusted in יהוה. He did not return evil for evil.

- Although Ya'aqov deceives his father in Genesis 27 by getting the blessing that his father intended for Esaw, later Ya'aqov is deceived by Lavan into taking not only Rachel, but also Le'ah as wife.

- Esaw points to the meaning of the name of Ya'aqov in Genesis 27:36 because Ya'aqov literally means "he restrains" according to the Ancient Hebrew Lexicon of the Bible. Strong's concordance says Ya'aqov means "heel catcher" while others translate Ya'aqov as meaning "He grabs the heel". He was holding onto his heel when they were born (Genesis 25:26) and figuratively grabbing his heel twice when getting both the birthright and the blessing. Ya'aqov valued both very much.

- In Genesis 27:46 the word "life" near the end of the verse is actually "chaiyyiym" which is the plural form of the word "life" in Hebrew. There are two types of plural in Hebrew: 1) plural meaning more than one, and 2) plural intensive. More than one would be "lives" but plural intensive, like in this case, would possibly be translated as "living life" or "Life! Life!".

Related Verses

Sons of Qeturah: 1 Chronicles 1:32-33
Sons of Yishma'el: 1 Chronicles 1:29-31
Genealogy Yitschaq to Ya'aqov: 1 Chronicles 1:28, Luke 3:34
Took His Brother By The Heel: Hosea 12:2-3
Esaw I Have Hated: Malachi 1:1-3, Romans 9:10-16
All Nations Blessed In Avram & In His Seed: Genesis 18:18, 22:18, 26:4, 28:14, Acts 3:25-26, Galatians 3:8
Belief (Faith) of Yitschaq: Hebrews 11:20