

# Becky Crabb

## Genesis 12-30 – first part of Chapter 19

The brutality of the village people and the willingness of Lot to give up his two daughters always bothers me – even putting it in perspective of the culture of the day, where giving hospitality to those visiting is utmost and children were just property. It shows how degraded the people of Sodom had gotten.

Prayer... Lord, help us understand the Bible stories in the proper context. And Lord, we may not be degraded in this manner, but help us search ourselves clearly to see ways that we have sinned against You. In His name, amen.

# Phyllis Halsema

## Genesis 12

God was looking for a skilled father. He thought if he could command his children, he could create an entire world. God commanded Abram to leave his country and God says I will make you a great Nation. You will be a blessing. So with Sarai (His wife) And lot, his nephew journeyed to Canaan. He builds an altar as places of worship.

Key verse to me is “I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse those that curse you and in all the families of the Earth shall be blessed”..

Prayer... Lord, help us to hear God's call and follow Him. Trust and obey his word. Amen.

## Genesis 13

God gave Abram all the land they would ever need, but it wasn't enough for both of their large possessions. They separated to different places. Both men have been blessed, but it created a problem. Abram didn't want to quarrel with his brother's son, so they separated. God blessed Abram for his faithfulness.

Prayer... Lord help us to realize and respect what God is trying to teach us... The world is a creation of God that he gave us. We need to care for it as a precious gift and be thankful. Amen.

## Genesis 14

Abram rescues Lot from captivity.(To me that shows his bravery and God's blessing). If you want God to use us in life, we must have faith. Like Abram, even if the odds are against you you must do what is right.

Prayer... Lord help us to keep our faith that everything will work out OK in your time... Not ours. Amen.

## Genesis 15

Abram and Sarai wanted a child so bad. God promised him that he would have many descendants and move into a new land. He would have to set out and leave everything behind and to trust him. To me this set up for the coming King, Jesus. It's a reason we can say for sure that God's promises will come to pass.

Prayer... Help us to believe what God says. He always comes through with what he said he will do. Amen.

## Genesis 16

Sarai was wanting a child so badly that she suggested Abram conceive a child with her servant, Hagar. She was a foreigner, a slave, and a sexually abused woman. Well... That didn't go well with the two women and

harsh words were spoken and Hagar played. Then an angel comes to Hagar telling her to return and she would have many children.

Prayer... God gives us the guidance to go through challenges and help us to build relationships. Amen.

### **Genesis 17**

When Abram was 99 years old, God renamed him, Abraham, and he changed Sarais name to Sarah. God promised them again that they would have a son together. One thing I really liked was the "Covenant Relationship". The covenant included the following... Holiness, faith, Hope, priority, gratitude, joy, and obedience. This is God's desire that we should follow Him.

Prayer... Help us to follow all the desires of God. They really aren't that hard if you believe and have faith. We thank you...Amen.

### **Genesis 18**

Three messengers from God stopped to talk to Abraham on their way to the city of Sodom. The messengers also said Sodom and Gomorrah would be destroyed because of the wickedness of their people. At this point, God regretted that he had made human beings and that he made Saul king. I had never believed that God was fickle. I thought what he said he meant and wouldn't change his mind.... To me that was the most important thing in this chapter. Abraham would become a great and powerful nation and everyone will be blessed through him.

Prayer... Lord be with us as we try to do what's right even if at times it seems hard or impossible. Help to make us stronger and better people. Amen.

### **Chapter 19**

Two angels disguised themselves as men and went to Lot's house. He offered them hospitality. But all of a sudden sinful men of Sodom surrounded the house and demanded Lot to handover the angels so they could have sex with them. Lot tries to protect his guest, even offering his daughters to the mob. After the angels told Lot their mission, they urged Lot and all of his family to leave, which they did sort of unwillingly. Destruction came in Sodom and Gomorrah because God destroys the land and all the people living there because of all their sins. Lot's wife looked back as they were leaving and was turned into a pillar of salt because she was told not to turn around.

Prayer.... We praise you Lord for showing us the right way to live. You have shown us And told us, but sometimes we just don't listen. Help us to listen to the little hints that you give. Amen

### **Chapter 20**

Abraham is still learning to trust God even after He has shown Abraham his power and faithfulness. Abraham tells Abimelech to take Sarah as he lies and tells him that that is his sister. Abimelech takes Sarah, but God intervenes warning him in a dream that he will die if he doesn't return Sarah to Abraham. He returned Sarah.. Abraham praises Abimelech and his household, resulting in healing and restored fertility.

Prayer... Oh Lord, how sinful we can be if things aren't just the way we want them. Help us to be honest and have more faith in what you can do for us if we only listen. Amen.

### **Genesis 21**

God keeps his promise to Sarah, and she gave birth to a son, named Isaac. God is at the beginning and the

end of this child. He promised Abraham that he would have a son in his old age... And he did at the age of 100. God always does what he says he will do. (Abraham changing diapers at the age of 100)!!

Prayer... We must always believe that God's timing is always perfect. Thank you, Lord for being faithful to your promises. Amen.

### **Genesis 22**

God test Abraham's faith by commanding him to sacrifice his son, Isaac, as a burnt offering in the land of Moriah. Abraham prepares to obey, but at the last moment, an angel of the Lord provides a ram as a substitute sacrifice. How hard it must have been to believe you must sacrifice a child.

Prayer... Sometimes God will test our faith. Lord, give us the strength to keep our faith in you. Give us the deep trust in God's promises, even if it seems impossible at times to follow Him and have faith in You. Amen.

### **Genesis 23**

Abraham's wife Sarah passed away at the age of 127. Abraham purchase a cave as a burial plot. He paid 400 shekels which equals about 10 pounds of silver. This cave of Machpelah marks the first legal sale of land in Canaan by Abraham and his descendants. This is a crucial step in God's fulfillment of God's promise to give Abraham descendants of the land of Canaan.

Prayer... Help us to appreciate what we have and to take care of the ones we love. Amen.

### **Genesis 24**

Abraham was desperate to find a wife for Isaac. He sends a servant out to find the perfect woman. The servant found Rebecca at the well. After a series of test, he decided she was the one. He got her family consent for them to be married. Rebecca met Isaac in the field and became his wife, fulfilling Abraham's desire in God's promise.

Prayer... I pray that God leads me to do and say the things he wants me to do. Help me to help others find their faith and their love of God. Amen.

### **Genesis 25**

This was a busy time for Abraham. He mourned Sarah, but he found and married Keturah. she bared him six sons. Abraham died at the age of 175 years old. His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the same cave with Sarah. Abraham finally had two twin grandsons from Isaac and Rebecca. One of his sons, Esau, sold his birthright to Jacob. So the Lord focused his blessings mainly on the other son Isaac.

Prayer... Help us to appreciate our family no matter how old we are. We are all God's children whether you are one year old or 100. God loves us. Show Him you love Him by loving your family and others. Amen.

### **Genesis 26**

A famine prompts Isaac to leave Egypt, but God tells him to stay in Gerar, Where Abimelech Is King. Isaac, like his father Abraham, fears for his life and delivers Abimelech By claiming his wife, Rebecca, as his sister. Isaac dug many wells. They represented a source of life giving water, but also a legacy of faith and inheritance which was essential for survival. These are the same wells that his father Abraham had dug. After Abraham died, the Philistines had filled those wells. Isaac gave them the same name his father had given them.

Prayer... So thankful for fathers that raise their children to do the things in life that are good and true. No matter if it's to dig a well or a white color job, dear Lord, they are all equal in your eyes. Amen.

### **Genesis 27**

Jacob deceived his father. Isaac was to receive the blessing meant for his older brother Esau. Rebecca played a big role in this by overhearing Isaac's plan for Jacob to impersonate Esau. By the time Isaac was old and losing his eyesight, he intended to bless Esau. Instead, it was Jacob. This caused the brothers to have rage and bitterness between each other. Esau had the desire to kill Jacob. Rebekah immediately sent Jacob away to escape Esau's wrath.

Prayer... Lord, help to keep us from being jealous of others, or what they own, or what they do. God has given us our own talents. Do with them the best we can and give God the glory. Amen.

### **Genesis 28**

Jacob leaves home to find a wife. He was sworn not to marry a Canaanite woman. While traveling, Jacob had a dream of a ladder, reaching Heaven with angels all around and God reaffirming the Abrahamic covenant (an agreement between God and Abraham, promising blessings to him and his descendants). Upon waking, he recognizes the sacredness of the place and vows to worship God there, naming it Bethel. God's presence seems to comfort sinful people wherever they go. God promise to give you and your descendants the land on which you were sleeping. There will be many descendants.

Prayer... God help us to know how important we are to you. We may go through life hurting people and maybe not even aiming to. Help us to be a blessing to everyone. Amen.

### **Genesis 29**

Jacob is now in Haran . He meets Rachel at a well. He agreed to work for Laban, his uncle, for seven years if he could marry her. They agree...But Laban deceives him on the wedding night. He gave him Leah, the older sister in marriage. Jacob agreed to work yet another seven years if he could marry Rachel. Jacob kept his word with patience and integrity, doing right, even when no one is looking.

Prayer... Please remind us how important love and commitment and sacrifice is in our relationships. Help us to take time and not be impatient waiting on things to happen because they may never happen. Amen.

### **Genesis 30**

After waiting so long, Jacob and Rachel realize they couldn't have children. Jacob did have children from Leah and maidservants. Seems like there is a lot of conflict between Jacob's wives and the birth of many more children. There was envy, deception, and theft, but Grace triumphs in Jacob's life after all. Sin wrecks things, but God's grace overcome sin.

Prayer... Lord help us to have grace. Be kind and don't betray anyone. Help us to overcome sin and temptations... In your name we ..Amen