

THE SECRET WAR

"THE CHRISTIAN'S INNER STRUGGLE"

1. EXPERIENCED - "AND THE CHILDREN STRUGGLED WITHIN HER" ... AND SHE ENQUIRED OF THE LORD..."

WHO SHALL DELIVER ME FROM THE BODY OF THIS DEATH.
ROM 7:23

WE ALL SUFFER FROM THE BATTLE THAT RAGES INSIDE US! WE THINK THAT A SHOT OF HOLINESS, A GOOD SERVICE, A NIGHT OF TEARS WILL FOREVER VANQUISH THE ENEMY WITHIN ONLY TO FACE THAT INNER STRUGGLE AGAIN & AGAIN

2. EXPLAINED - "AND THE LORD SAID UNTO HER THERE ARE 2 NATIONS IN THY WOMB, AND 2 MANNERS OF PEOPLE." ; THE ELDER SHALL SERVE THE YOUNGER.

THERE IS THEREFOR NOW NO CONDEMNATION TO THOSE WHO WALK NOT AFTER THE FLESH BUT AFTER THE SPIRIT
ROM 8:1

OUR OLD NATURE IS THE ELDER OF OUR 2 NATURES AS BORN AGAIN BELIEVERS. OUR OLD NATURE SHALL SERVE OUR BORN AGAIN NATURES GOD PLEDGED HIMSELF THEN & NOW TO SUPPORT THE YOUNGER NATURE.

3. EXPOSED - AND THE 1ST CAME OUT HAIRY ... AND THEN CAME OUT HIS BROTHER AND HIS HAND TOOK HOLD OF HIS BROTHERS HEEL. IT WOULD SEEM

THAT OUR OLD MAN IS CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST THAT WE MIGHT NOT SERVE SIN.

THAT ESAU (STRONGER) TRIED TO MURDER JACOB IN THE WOMB. ANOTHER SATANIC ASSAULT UPON THE PROMISED SEED. BUT JACOB TRIUMPHED. THE STRUGGLE WITHIN WHEN BROUGHT

THE 2 OF ME

ISHMAEL

ISAAC

BORN UNDER BONDAGE
WILD (UNTAMED)
FLESHY
CARNAL

BORN BY PROMISE
PEACE CHILD
OBEDIENT
SPIRITUAL

OLD MAN

NEW CREATION

SPIRITUALLY

ROMANS 7:19 "FOR THE GOOD THAT I WOULD
I DO NOT: BUT THE EVIL WHICH
I WOULD NOT THAT I DO."

Paul was stating that he had an Ishmael/ Isaac Nature.

Mr. Jekell: the Hyde spirit!
DO WE HAVE THIS NATURE ALSO?

HOW DO WE OVERCOME IT?

- SAME WAY Ishmael was dealt with!
We must cast it out - do away with it daily.
 - BUT GET READY - 'CAUSE you'll miss it!
(THE OLD NATURE)
- GEN 21:11

BIBLICAL WAYS TO RID OLD NATURE!

- DAILY.
- SOLUTION TO OLD NATURE IS FOUND
IN PRIMARY SCRIPTURE OF ROMANS
CHAPTER 9

EXAMPLES OF TWO NATURES

DESIRE
COME
DOWN
FROM
HEAVEN

CAIN

HAGAR

ISHMAEL

ESAU

ABEL

SARAH

ISAAC

JACOB

CONFLICT

FLESH
CARNAL
WORLDLY
OLD MAN
ORIGINAL BIRTH
EGYPT
CURSE
SHORT TERM
PLEASURE
INDULGENCE

SPIRIT
SPIRITUAL
HEAVENLY
NEW CREATION
BORN AGAIN
JERUSALEM
BLESSING
LONG TERM
PLEASURE
SACRIFICE

DESIRE
SPRING
UP
FROM
THE
WORLD



GENESIS CHAPTER 25 PART 2

OK – We last left Ishmael and Isaac at the death of their father Abraham at the Cave of Macpelah.

Here it is: The life and descendants of Ishmael... Lets remember who wrote the book of Genesis. It was Moses. And Moses kept his eye on the Messianic line in Chapter 25.

Moses is going to finish up with Ishmael and his lineage in order to continue with the story of Isaac, the promised seed.

Its sort of a Segway wrap up of one son, Ishmael. Ishmael didn't actually die at this point. But his death and manner of life is recorded here so Moses can continue on with the story of Messiah.

Ishmael was 87 years old – just a few verses before when he buried his father Abraham. Moses is writing with full knowledge of the whole story in retrospect. He accelerates Ishmael's life to when he died at 137 years old.

Lets remember that God promised Abraham that the son of the bondwoman (Hagar) would also be blessed.

Genesis 17:20

Since Ishmael had mocked Isaac – God could not bless him with spiritual blessings. But He did bestow temporal blessings on him. Ishmael was spiritually void of wealth, spiritually poor, wretched, miserable, blind and naked to the things of God.

This is the last mention of Ishmael, so we will concentrate on what the Holy Spirit reveals. Again, as you will remember, Ishmael father's the Arab people who have contributed greatly, more than most, to the world's culture and the world's cruelty – even up to this day!

The atrocious African slave trade was largely the work of the Arabs.

The most ruthless pirates of the seas in 13-14-15-1600's were Arabs.

The abysmal spiritual darkness of Islam is an Arab concoction.

And persistently to this day, it's the Muslim Arabs who are the fiercest aggressors of Israel. They hate them with a passion.

Genesis 25:12-18 Ishmael's long pedigree and progeny are all recorded here. Notice verse in verse 12 that Abraham is mentioned 2 times. This points to the problem in the household.

But Ishmael was without excuse! In a land where Heathenism reigned, Ishmael was born into a righteous family.

His father loved him – but Ishmael was jealous and rebellious! Those two natures will eventually push everyone away from a person.

Ishmael, at 13 years old – learning of Isaac would force God's hand to do just that!

But God loved Ishmael as much as Isaac. He just had to honor the purity of His purpose. Ishmael wanted no part of Isaac. Thus no part of the Messianic Promise – consequently, no part of God.

Ishmael grew up rejecting God. There is no hint that he ever worshipped, prayed or even talked to Jehovah. He could not help but know "about" God but never got to know Him personally.

The Bible next talks about Ishmael's numerous boys. Genesis 25:13-15

Sons of rebels have a greater opportunity to become rebels themselves.

If we as humans have a natural bend towards evil, how much more so do children become evil when evil is taught to them?

Genesis 25: A-18 Simply goes on to tell us about their towns and nation, etc.

Then in verse 18 it tells you where the Arab influence was in Abraham and Isaac's day, as well as where it is today – amazingly almost 3000 years later.

And here, the narrative changes once again!

Here is where we zero in on one of the main themes of scripture as evidenced as twins in Rebekah's womb.

Before we know it, in Genesis 25, we pass from one era to the next in 3 short verses..

It's About Isaac

God's Spirit is on the move. Isaac's life is the new target – then Jacob.

Abraham, Sarah and Ishmael take back state seats as the Holy Spirit moves us towards Calvary thru the next cast member – ISAAC and his family.

As we continue, lets talk about the twin boys in the womb.

it's the first mention of twins in the Bible but it won't be the last.

1. The sterile wife Gen. 25:19-21

Remember the shadow and type – Rebekah – Isaac's wife, represents the church. But she has an unnatural pedigree. Look at her family. She was born to a Pagan tribe of people. And although she was related to Isaac, she comes from a long line of pagans.

*Bethuel – her father – pagan

*Laban – her brother – pagan

*Her mother – pagan

They were idol worshippers of Padanaram

Later we find that Laban has 100's of house gods. Teraphim

Rebekah's pedigree is not like Isaac's.

She is marred – from a pagan lineage

He is from the righteous lineage

The Gentile church being married to the Jewish Christ is a mismatch!

How in the world have the pagan Gentiles been united to Jewish Messiah??

Ephesians 2:11,12

It's called GRACE – Thru the BLOOD
 Divine appointment
 Salvation
 Whosoever will
 Ephesians 2:13,14
 That is Rebekah – That is us.

And although Rebekah was willing to marry Isaac, the Holy Spirit is quick to point out that she comes from a carnal nature in her lineage. But so do we!

Next, we observe Rebekah's "problem".

Genesis 25:21A She was barren (Aqua – sterile – could not produce children)
 Rebekah, linked by decision and choice with the father's beloved son and wholly committed to him illustrates, as we have seen before, the relationship between the believer and Christ.

She was united to the beloved in the most intimate and sacred ties. Nevertheless – she had a problem. SHE WAS BARREN

Its another shadow and type. The fact that she had given herself to Isaac, did not guarantee fruitfulness in the relationship any more than accepting Jesus as one's Savior and Lord guarantees spiritual fruitfulness to God from us. Now follow:
 There are 1,000's – 10,000's of Christians truly saved, truly linked in saving faith to the Lord Jesus Christ – who remain spiritually barren throughout their Christian lives. They never bring forth lasting fruit from God!

Consider this: Barna statistics – the average Christian dies without ever leading one single person to Christ in their lifetime! That is unbelievable – they never fulfill the Great Commission!
 And what about the Christian Fruits we are suppose to have? Galatians 5:22-24 (Nine fruits)

So, if we are to trace the problem of spiritual barrenness to its people's source, we must acknowledge that the problem lies in us and not in Christ!

Our failure to bring forth fruit can't be laid on Jesus door (its got to be laid on ours).

Rebekah, even in her relationship with the Father had a flawed nature and could not bear fruit of herself - as you will see. It was impossible as impossible as you and I bearing fruit on our own. Its not our nature.

Solution - a miracle had to take place in her flesh "after" she was united to Isaac. Remember they are representative of Jesus and His bride (us).

Our old nature can only be broken when we allow God to do a miracle in us. We all enter our salvation barren. (Unable to produce fruit)

Genesis 25:2B Entreated (Interceded)
Isaac literally went to prayer for Rebekah to produce fruit.

Look at Hebrews 7:24,25

What does it mean to be saved to the uttermost? (Panteles - Greek)

To the fullness of

To the fruitfulness of

To the full end of

And how do we get saved to the uttermost? Hebrews tells us, like Isaac of old, Jesus "intercedes" for us day and night!

I'm convinced when Jesus prays for us, its not for our salvation - not for our well being - no for our physical prosperity or even our protection. Its for our fruitfulness. He prays against our tendency towards bareness.

Isaac didn't blame Rebekah. It wasn't her fault. She had inherited death in her womb! So have you and I. You see there is no "human nature" that can inherit spiritual fruit on its own.

Look what Jesus said to His disciples John 15:1-4,8
 But with Jesus' intercession, fruit bearing can be so easy. Which leads us to the crux of this message tonight.

Genesis 25:19-23 2 Nations

Ok - here it is! The Holy Spirit is setting up a universal truth that applies to all mankind. To every single one of us!

Gen 25: 24-26

Gen 25: 27-29

Gen 25:29-34

Here each son acted consistently with his own nature - Esau hunted, Jacob cooked. "Sell me your birthright"

Jacob knew that the birthright was valuable and he wanted it. "The elder shall serve the younger". But Esau threw it away - Jacob gobbled it up.

So what is going on here? Well the Holy Spirit is giving us a massive insight into what I call "the two natures of man".

It's about the secret war - the Christian's inner struggles - yes our two natures. That is us tonight. We are in a battle of 2 natures (nations) if you will.

Look what the Apostle Paul said about himself in Romans 7:15-21
 That sums it up... But

Romans 8:1-5 There is therefore no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit.