

February 22, 2026

Pastor Andy McClellan

Title: "Believing God in Life and Death"

Series: Genesis: Beginnings

Text: Genesis 23:1-25:18

1. Faith in God's promises for **TOMORROW** shapes our decisions for **TODAY**, 23:1-20 (*see also 49:29-50:13; Acts 7:4-5; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Hebrews 11:9-13; 1 Peter 3:6*).
2. God lovingly **GUIDES** the decisions that **UNITE** us to His promises, 24:1-67 (*see also Psalm 32:8; Proverbs 3:6; John 1:12; 6:44; 16:13-14; 2 Corinthians 6:14-15; Ephesians 1:4-5; 5:25-27; 1 Thess. 4:16-17*).
3. God sovereignly **USES** our decisions to keep His promises through the **GENERATIONS**, 25:1-18 (*see also 12:3; 17:4; 21:10; Matthew 1:2; 16:17-19; 22:32; Romans 9:7, 10; Galatians 3:29*).

FOR FURTHER STUDY & DISCUSSION

1. In Gen. 23, what did Abraham believe about the future of the land of Canaan that brought him to buy a burial spot for Sarah there? How was this a demonstration of faith in God's promises? What are some promises in Scripture that God has made about your future? What decisions are you making right now that are based on your faith that God will fulfill His promises? What decisions are you not making because, if you were honest, you're struggling to trust Him? How is this story an encouragement to your faith?
2. Read Gen. 24. How does this passage point to God's role as the one orchestrating the union of Isaac and Rebekah? How does He guide Abraham, his servant, Rebekah and Isaac, and what decisions must they make for it to be accomplished? What is the role of prayer, praise, sacrifice, and faith in this story? What does this tell us about how God guides us, and what role our decisions having in the fulfillment of His promises?
3. The story of the marriage of Isaac & Rebekah is considered to be a "type" or foreshadowing of Jesus and His Bride, the Church. While we have to be careful not to read into the text what isn't there, what clear parallels are there between Isaac and Jesus (*see also Gen. 22*)? What clear parallels are there between Rebekah and the Church? How does the narrative of Abraham's work to bring Rebekah to his son, Isaac, serve as a picture of the way that God works to bring Believers to His Son, Jesus?
4. By the end of Gen. 25, both Abraham and Sarah have died, and yet the promises of God still stand. How have we seen God use man's decisions (both good and bad) to continue moving forward His promises to each new generation? What does this tell us about the impact of our decisions on the next generation? How does it encourage us about the strength of God's promises?

NEXT WEEK: Tom Basile, "Mary on a Promising Mission," Luke 1:26-45

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