

The Written Account of the Generations of Isaac

25:19 to 35:29

Moses edited and compiled eleven family documents in the book of **Genesis**. Again, the major structural word for **Genesis**, *toldot*, means **the written account of**, or *this is what became of these men and their descendants*. The noun is often translated *generations*, *histories* or *descendants*. After the section on the written account of the generations of Ishmael from **25:12-18**, we have the ninth *toldot*, **the written account of the generations of Isaac** (Hebrew: **Yitz'chak**). **The previous toldot told us about the end of the non-seed line of Ishmael. Then this ninth family document tells us what became of Isaac, the son of promise. And what became of Isaac was Jacob, and through his seed, Israel, the nation of blessing would be born.**

After briefly mentioning Ishmael's non-seed line, the narrative returns to the seed-line through **Yitz'chak**. It records **Isaac's** prosperity and **Jacob's** struggle for the birthright. This section records **Jacob's** journey outside the Promised Land, **his** struggle with **God** and consequent name change, and finally **his** return. This section was probably kept and recorded by **Jacob** himself.

Later, through progressive revelation, **Isaiah** describes the narrowing of the meaning of the word **servant**. First, when **he** uses the term **servant**, **he** is talking about **the nation of Israel**, and **he** uses it three times in **41:8-16**, **42:18-22**, and **43:10**. Secondly, when **he** uses the term **servant**, **he** is dealing with **the faithful remnant** only, and **he** uses it three times in **44:1-5**, **44:21**, and **65:8-16**. Third, when **Isaiah** uses the term **Servant**, it is in reference to **the Messiah**, and we find it in **42:1-9**, **49:1-7** and **50:4-9**, and **52:13** to **53:12**. Like a cone, it gets more and more narrow. It starts at the base as the nation of Israel, and then progresses to the faithful remnant and finally to the point, which could only be **the Messiah** (see my commentary on **Isaiah HI - The Cone of Isaiah**).