

ZONES OF MARITAL LIFE

In this study we will discuss Isaac and Rebekah's marriage to teach five aspects of the five Zones of Marital Conflict (Gen.24-27). They began their marriage on a strong spiritual foundation of Christ (1 Cor.7:1-5, 39; 9:5; 2 Cor.6:14-16).

1. The Book of Genesis shows the struggles in the lives of the Patriarch families in living out the Will of God from start to finish (Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, and Jacob and Rachel).

All three Patriarch couples struggled with barrenness and messianic prophesy (Ge.12-36).

Apparently, God chose to expose some struggles in our walk with God to show God's faithfulness to us and to His word. He did so to encourage them (and us) to GET BACK UP ON OUR FEET and run the race set before us to the finish line.

(Heb.12:1-2 "Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race set before us fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand, and of the throne of God." (2 Tim.4:6-8)

2. We will list the five general zones of marital conflict. Remember that each zone, years of marriage, all work on a sliding rule.

1st zone	First year of marriage	Adjusting from being single to living as a couple
2nd zone	Third year of marriage	Adjusting from being a couple to family (children)
3rd zone	Sixteenth year of marriage	Adjusting to children's activities and juggling careers
4th zone	Twenty-fifth year of marriage	Adjusting to an empty nest and weddings
5th zone	Forty-fifth year of marriage	Adjusting to aging parents, retirement, and deaths

It is essential to pass through these zones by walking in the Indwelling Holy Spirit (Gal.5:16-17) and by walking by applying the Faith Cycle (2 Cor.5:7).

Always prepare for the next marital zone by studying Categorical Bible Doctrine (2 Tim.3:16-17).

3. Isaac and Rebekah did very well with zone one. But it lasted 20 years because of Rebekah's barrenness.

This shows the importance of the slide rule with these zones.

This was an unusual and trying time for them regarding the messianic seed of the Patriarchs. (Matt.1:2; Luke 3:34).

Much of their struggle was self-induced misery by their failure to apply the truth of the word of God to their zones. **You can recovery at any zone by applying the truth of the word of God to it.**

This was a special time of testing because Isaac was 40 when he was married (Gen.25:20).

- Remember, spiritual testing is a good thing (1 Cor.10:13; Jas.1:2-4).
- Remember, what is impossible with men is possible with God when it is His will (Luke 1:37; 18:27).
- Remember the Bible mentions one thing impossible (**Heb.11:6**)

After 20 years of prayers, God answered their prayer with twins. Isaac was 60 when God answers their prayers (age of many grandparents today) (Gen.25:26).

4. With the birth of twins into messianic lineage, came a messianic prophesy (Gen.25:23).

It was necessary because **only one** of these twins can become the messianic seed (Gen.3:15; Gal.3:16).

This messianic prophesy of Gen.25:20 had four parts:

- Two separate nations
- Two separate peoples
- One will be stronger
- The older (Esau) will serve the younger (Jacob).

They will become the intensified target in the AC against the seed of Christ (Gen.3:15; Heb.11:20).

5. Isaac and Rebekah's spiritual conflicts of marriage, and family, will occur in zones 2-5 (Gen.25-35).

In a flash, Zone 2 passed, in biblical time, it the Plan of God (Gen.25:2) [**one verse**]. What had occurred was **separate parenting** rather than a united front in the word of God (Prov.22:6).

40 years passed when Esau marries (Isaac is 100) (Gen.26:34). He married a woman opposite his mother (unholy, unrighteous, unbeliever) to upset his mother (Gen.27:46).

Listen to Esau in (Gen.27:41) – “The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob.”

Jacob lived another 80 years in zone 5 (Gen.35:28-29) [Dying at the age of 180]. “An old man of ripe age (satisfied with life); and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.”