

GENESIS –Lesson 46

Learn: Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and is cast into the fire. Matthew 7: 16-19

Read: Genesis 25:19-34

1. Isaac knew God's promises concerning the seed that would come through him. But there was a problem. What was it? v 21
2. Even though God had promised, what was necessary for Isaac to do in order to see that promise fulfilled? v 21

We see this throughout the scripture. God makes a prophecy that He will do a certain thing, and yet He desires for that person or nation to which the promise has been given to pray for that promise to come to pass.

3. What do the following verses tell us that God desires from us?

Matthew 6:11

Matthew 7:11

Ephesians 3:20

4. What problem developed during Rebekah's pregnancy? v 22

What did she do about this disturbing situation?

Though we cannot remember anything connected with our life before birth, and we do not remember anything for several years after our birth, a newborn does have feelings. It can exhibit anger, as well as contentment, so why should this not be true for the period prior to birth? Babies surely can fight with each other, if they are given opportunity, very soon after they are born. What is to prevent their doing so before they are born? thus , there is no reason not to take this passage quite literally.

5. What do we learn about emotions of another baby before birth in Luke 1:44?

We are not told how the Lord gave Rebekah the answer to her worried question, whether by dream, or by a prophet, or a theophany (appearance of pre-incarnate Christ), but in some way God spoke to her. He spoke so clearly that she never could forget the remarkable revelation which she received. p 143 THE GENESIS RECORD

6. What did God tell Rebekah was actually happening? v 23a

7. This battle between the two brothers, which began in the womb, would continue throughout history. Which brother and his descendants would prevail? v 23b

Only one of these boys would carry on the Messianic line. Normally the first-born son should receive the greater honor and inheritance, but God does not necessarily work in such ways. In the Messianic line, it is significant that neither Seth, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, nor David were first-born sons. There is no reason why God could not select the younger if He so willed. God is sovereign, and we do well not to question His choice.

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8. What do the following passages tell us?

Malachi 1:1-3

Romans 9:10-13

NOTE: This “hate” of Esau is not concerning salvation, but concerns who would be in the line of Messiah.

God is sovereign, and can do as He wills, but he is not capricious and always has reason for what He does. He knew the younger would be (as Abraham was) qualified spiritually and morally to transmit the seed and the covenant promises, whereas the older would not be so qualified. Therefore, though most men would have made a different selection, God loved and chose Jacob, and hated and rejected Esau.

No doubt, Rebekah told this to her husband Isaac; and later, when the time was appropriate, she told it to Jacob and to Esau. As time went on, however, Isaac and Esau began to reject and to forget this decision of the Lord, even trying to thwart it.

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9. Describe the birth of the two boys. vv 24-26

10. What were the two boys doing even as they were born? v 26

11. The name Esau means “hairy.” He was obviously a rugged, strong child. The name Jacob means “heel-catcher.” What does Hosea 12:3 tell us concerning Jacob’s name?

Though, to the natural eye, Esau appeared the stronger and more attractive, Jacob was tenaciously “following on his heels,” and would one day overtake and replace him, not only in the eyes of God but even in the world of men. THE GENESIS RECORD

12. How old was Isaac when his two sons were born? v 26

13. As the boys grew it became apparent that they were very different from each other. What were they like? v 27

For some reason, most people think the attributes of Esau commendable, those of Jacob distasteful. Exactly the opposite is the truth of the matter.

What, for example, is the good of being a “cunning hunter” in this family? Esau’s family was not in the least endangered by wild beasts, nor did they, with their extensive flocks and herds, have any need to slaughter deer and other wild animals for food. That there was no overpopulation of animals that needed thinning out is obvious from the fact that Esau had become a “cunning” hunter to find them. The only other hunter mentioned in the Bible is “Nimrod the mighty hunter before (literally ‘against’) the Lord” (Genesis 10:9). One Biblical hunter was a rebel against God, the other was a sportsman unconcerned with God. Esau preferred playing out in the field, even long after he was a grown man, to working for his family and serving the Lord.

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14. What else can we learn about Esau from Hebrews 12:16?

Is such a person qualified to inherit God’s covenant promises, with all the spiritual responsibilities attached to them? Explain your answer.

15. Jacob was different than Esau. He was a “plain man, dwelling in tents.” Just like Abraham and Isaac, he “sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles” (Hebrews 11:9). What was the reason that Jacob was like this? Hebrews 11:21

By choosing to describe Jacob as a “plain” man, the translators have done Jacob a disservice. The word that has been translated a “plain” man or a “quiet” man is the Hebrew word “tam.”

16. The word “tam” means “perfect” or “complete” or possibly “mature.” It is exactly the same word God used to describe Job in Job 1:8. How does God describe Job?

17. What was the relationship of each of the parents to the two boys? v 28

18. Verses 29-34 tell us an interesting account. What happened?

19. What further things do we learn about Esau’s character from this account?

20. What all was involved in receiving the birthright in a family?

Deuteronomy 21:17

Genesis 27:29

Genesis 18:19

Genesis 22:9; 26:25; 35:1

21. Way back in verse 23, we see that the Lord chose Jacob to inherit the birthright. How does this incident show us the marvelous wisdom and foreknowledge of God?
vv 31-34

Jacob was probably surprised that Esau was willing to so cheaply sell something that he Jacob prized so highly. Esau lamented that the birthright was of no profit to him. He was concerned with the desire of the moment.

21. Esau was just like many of the people of this world. How does Isaiah 22:13 describe them?

22. What is the inheritance that many are so willing to give up for the sake of feeding their passions of the moment? John 3:16

23. What is the sober warning to every person who rejects God's promised inheritance? Matthew 16:26