

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS
JANUARY 4, 2023
GENESIS 25.29-34

INTRODUCTION:

1. After being troubled by a difficult pregnancy, Rebekah was told about her children's future.
 - a) **GENESIS 25.23:** *"Two nations are in your womb"* (Gen. 35.10,11; 36.9)
 - b) **GENESIS 25.23:** *"the older shall serve the younger"* (2 Sam. 8.14)
2. The nation of Israel was predestined to be the people of God.
 - a) **ROMANS 9.10-12:** Choosing Jacob was *"according to election."* (cf. Deut. 7.7; 9.4,5)
 - b) **ROMANS 9.13:** *"Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated."* (cf. Mal. 1.2,3; Luke 14.26)
 - c) Like Israel, we are also predestined to be the people of God. (Eph. 1.3-5)
3. The birth of Jacob and Esau.
 - a) The names were descriptive of their births. (Gen. 25.25,26)
 - b) Their natures were opposite of each other. (Gen. 25.27)
 - c) Their nurturing came from opposite parents. (Gen. 25.28)

I. UNFOLDING THE TEXT

A. The names of Jacob and Esau.

1. Esau was named after the stew that was prepared.
 - a) **GENESIS 25.29:** *"Now Jacob cooked a stew."* A red lentil stew (v. 34).
 - b) **GENESIS 25.29:** *"Esau came in from the field, and he was weary."* Lit. exhausted.
 - c) **GENESIS 25.30:** *"Therefore his name was called Edom"*
2. Jacob was named after his deceitful plan to supplant Esau.
 - a) **GENESIS 25.26:** *"his hand took hold of Esau's heel; so his name was called Jacob"*
 - b) **GENESIS 27.35,36:** *"Is he not rightly named Jacob?"*

B. The birthright of Esau.

1. **GENESIS 25.31:** *"But Jacob said, 'Sell me your birthright as of this day.'"*
 - a) Under the Law of Moses, the birthright was to give the firstborn a double portion of the inheritance. (Deut. 21.15-17)
 - b) Yet the birthright could be lost. (Gen. 48.17-19; 49.1-4; 1 Chr. 5.1)
2. **GENESIS 25.32:** *"Look, I am about to die; so what is this birthright to me?"*
 - a) The birthright included ruling over the family, the possession of the future blessing, the land of promise, and the relationship with God as His people. (Gen. 27.4; 28.4)
 - b) Esau did not value his birthright which was spiritual and future. He only valued the physical needs of the here and now. (Heb. 12.16)
 - c) Later he came to regret his decision. (Heb. 12.17; cf. Gen. 27.34-36)
3. **GENESIS 25.33,34:** Esau *"sold his birthright to Jacob"*

II. APPLYING THE TEXT

A. The temporary nature of this world.

1. **1 JOHN 2.15-17:** We are not to love the world because, *"the world is passing away."*
2. Therefore we ought to focus on things above. (Col. 3.1,2)

B. Important question we need to ask.

1. **MATTHEW 16.26:** *"What will a man give in exchange for his soul."*
2. **MATTHEW 6.25:** *"Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?"*
3. **JAMES 4.14:** *"For what is your life?"*