

Seeing Only Jesus

**8) Jacob - Wrapped in
Righteousness**

✓ **Isaac knew the promise of God, that through his seed all the nations of the earth would be blessed**

✓ **But 20 years passed with no seed. He sought the LORD for Rebekah, and she conceived twins**

✓ **But they struggled within her womb, and Rebekah asked the meaning of this, *'And the Lord said to her: "Two nations are in your womb, two peoples shall be separated from your body; one people shall be stronger than the other, and the older shall serve the younger"'* (Gen.25:23)**

- ✓ **When Esau was born his body was hairy. Jacob was born clutching Esau's heel. Jacob can mean, 'He comes from behind. He takes people by surprise. He tricks'**
- ✓ **The parents championed a favourite each, and allowed the boys to divide them. Why?**
- ✓ **Esau was manly, and caught wild game which Isaac acquired a taste for. Rebekah favoured Jacob, because of the prophecy was given to her**
- ✓ ***'And Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob'***
(Gen.25:28)

**The word 'love' here could be understood
in the way it is used in Deut.21:15-17**

'If a man has two wives, one loved and the other unloved, and they have borne him children, both the loved and the unloved, and if the firstborn son is of her who is unloved, then it shall be, on the day he bequeaths his possessions to his sons, that he must not bestow firstborn status on the son of the loved wife in preference to the son of the unloved, the true firstborn. But he shall acknowledge the son of the unloved wife as the firstborn by giving him a double portion of all that he has, for he is the beginning of his strength; the right of the firstborn is his'

✓ **So Gen.25:28 can mean that Isaac was determined to make Esau heir of both the birthright and the blessing. This would link him directly with the promise made to Abraham, and the responsibility of passing it on to his own seed. But Rebekah saw Jacob as the rightful heir to the promise**

✓ *'...when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, even by our father Isaac (for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls), it was said to her, "The older shall serve the younger." As it is written, "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated"' (Rom.9:10-13)*

- ✓ **It is clear from this that God's purpose was not based on behaviour, but purely upon His election**
- ✓ **The parents, however, would split the family right down the middle because they tried to work it out by their own plotting and scheming**
- ✓ **By taking matters into their own hands, this family was plunged into a bitter crisis from which they never recovered. Husband against wife; wife against husband. Parent against son; son against parent. Brother against brother**

- ✓ **The actions of each parent was premature and unnecessary. They were told *what* would happen, not to *make it* happen. They were to wait and watch it unfold. Instead they attempted to determine *how* it would happen**
- ✓ **Prophecy is not given so that we might bring it to pass. Rather, that we might know the purposes of God, i.e. *what* He is going to do, not *how*, or even *when***
- ✓ **Then, when it comes to pass, others will know that our God is the only true and living God**

***"Present your case," says the Lord.
"Bring forth your strong reasons," says
the King of Jacob. "Let them bring forth
and show us what will happen; let them
show the former things, what they were
that we may consider them, and know the
latter end of them; or declare to us things
to come. Show the things that are to
come hereafter. That we may know that
you are gods; yes, do good or do evil, that
we may be dismayed and see it together.
Indeed you are nothing, and your work is
nothing; he who chooses you is an
abomination'***

(Isa. 41:21-24)

The Birthright

- ✓ **One day Esau came home hungry after hunting. He had caught nothing. Jacob had a ready-made meal. Coincidence? No, a carefully laid trap designed to steal his brother's birthright. Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for a meal**
- ✓ **Jacob lived up to his name as a scheming manipulator**
- ✓ **The Bible describes Esau in one word - 'profane', i.e. one who shows contempt for sacred things or persons; one who treats that which is holy, as common**

The patriarchs were a prophetic people

- ✓ **When God called Abraham, His purpose for world redemption was set in motion, *'I will bless you and make you a blessing...in you all the nations of the earth will be blessed'* (Gen.12:2-3). He abandoned all he had and gave himself to the prophetic vision**
- ✓ **The promise then went to Isaac, *'...in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed'* (Gen.26:4)**
- ✓ **Then to Jacob, *'...in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed'* (Gen.28:14)**

- ✓ **They were consumed with the *prophetic***
- ✓ **But Esau was consumed with the *present*. His chief concern was his next meal. 'I can't live on promises. Give me something to eat now!'**
- ✓ **They were prophetic, but he was pathetic**
- ✓ **Like the patriarchs we are a prophetic people. We have a long-term vision in a short-term world**

The Blessing (Gen.27:1-40)

- ✓ **Isaac intended to bless Esau, this profane man. He failed to see how Jacob could be chosen to take the future leadership of the family**
- ✓ **He wanted to bless Esau with a full heart. Thus, Jacob was able to come deceitfully and take the blessing. He told three lies to do this. But he didn't steal it because it was already his**
- ✓ **When Esau returned and all was uncovered, Isaac trembled. Heb. *'Isaac trembled most excessively with a great trembling'*. Why? Anger at Jacob? Concern over Esau? Grief over Rebekah? No. Fear he had opposed God**

He repented, saying that Jacob will be blessed –

***'Then Isaac trembled exceedingly, and said,
"Who? Where is the one who hunted game and
brought it to me? I ate all of it before you came,
and I have blessed him—and indeed he shall be
blessed"'***

(Gen.27:33)

***'By faith Isaac blessed Jacob concerning things
to come'***

(Heb.11:20)

- ✓ **Esau lost that which he never prized. However, his health, wives, family and property were all blessed**
- ✓ **Rebekah, through her scheming, lost what she prized the most – Jacob. She sent him to Laban for ‘just a few days’. It turned out to be 20 years. She never saw him again. ‘God helps those who help themselves’? No, God helps those who put their trust in Him**
- ✓ **But can God bless a trickster and schemer like Jacob? Remember, he could never lose that which he received by grace on the basis of his behaviour. He is, however, in the hands of God and went on to become ‘Israel’**

Can we see Jesus in all of this?

'Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, whether you are really my son Esau or not." So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, and he felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau." And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands; so he blessed him. Then he said, "Are you really my son Esau?" He said, "I am." He said, "Bring it near to me, and I will eat of my son's game, so that my soul may bless you." So he brought it near to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank. Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come near now and kiss me, my son." And he came near and kissed him; and he smelled the smell of his clothing, and blessed him'

(Gen27:21-27)

- ✓ **Jacob appeared before Isaac in the clothes of his elder brother**
- ✓ **His father tasted the food he brought and smelled the clothes of Jacob's elder brother, and blessed him**
- ✓ **We are blessed because we are in Christ, *'Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ'* (Eph.1:3)**