

Series "In The Beginning...God"
"The Twins"
Genesis 25:19-34
Study-51

We begin with the main feature of Genesis, and it is lengthy.
"The Life and Times of Isaac With The Focus Upon Jacob" Genesis 25-49
Genesis 49:33

Introduced to Isaac's sons, "The Twins," Jacob and Esau.
They were different from the beginning.
Their appearance, personalities, vocations, and their spiritual values.

Thought Of Our Passage: "It's Both Easy And Dangerous To Regard To Spiritual Things As Of Lessor Value Than Natural Things."

- 1. Verses 19-21 Baren To Fruitfulness:**
- 2. Verses 22-28 The Opposite Twins:**
- 3. Verses 29-34 Spiritual Versus Natural:**

1. Verses 19-21 Baren To Fruitfulness:

Genesis 25:19 Now

Context - Genesis 25:1-18 Abraham's death is recorded, the children through his wife **Keturah**, then Ishmael's death in rebellion. **records of the generations of Isaac**, Isaac was God's chosen descendent.
Genesis 25:19-35:29

Genesis – records "*10 Successive Generations*"
Generations come and go, but God remains faithful. **Psalm 90:1**

Genesis 25:20-21

Verse 21 Disappointed Home:

And Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was barren; Rebekah – waited 20 years for a child.

Genesis 25:26. Abraham resorted to taking Hagar, and Isaac prayed!

Abraham and Sarah - waited 25 years for Isaac.

Jacob - labored 14 years for his two wives.

Joseph - had to wait 20 years to be reconciled to his family.

Spiritual Husband - Pain Leads To Prayer: And Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife (he prayed based on God's promise)

Psalm 113:9

and the LORD answered him and Rebekah his wife conceived. God Answered

Matthew 7:7-8; 2 Peter 1:4

2. Verses 22-28 The Opposite Twins:

Genesis 25:22 Verses 22-23 Distressed Home:

But the children struggled together within her;

The word **struggled** (*to crush or oppress, clashed*) not normal.

Genesis 4 Cain and Able; Genesis 21 Isaac and Ishmael;

Genesis 25 Jacob and Esau;

Genesis 37 Joseph struggles with his 10 brothers.

Genesis 50:20 "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good

children struggled together within her;

Note before birth, the Bible calls Rebekah's pregnancy **children!**

Psalms 139:14-16; Ecclesiastes 11:5; Luke 1:44

Spiritual Wife - Pain Leads To Prayer:

and she said, "If it is so, why then am I this way?"

So she went to inquire of the LORD.

Notice what Rebekah did with her confusion; she took the question to the Lord.

Genesis 25:23 The LORD said to her, (Yahweh)

"GOD The supreme being and Creator of the universe.

Known by the personal name Yahweh."

"Two nations are in your womb;

Edomites through **Esau, (Came Herod).**

Founder of the nation of Israel through **Jacob (Came Christ).**

one people shall be stronger than the other;

To Jacob, the father of the 12 tribes.

What a revelation to know that the fighting would never stop!

Galatians 5:17

First Born Rights Overturned: And the older shall serve the younger.

"Jacob, Joseph, Judah, Moses, and David were not the firstborn

1 Corinthians 1:27-29

God's Sovereign Right To Make Choices According To His Own Pleasure:

Romans 9:10-13

(God's favor and blessings to Israel compared to Edomites is like hatred)

Luke 14:26

Genesis 25:24, there were twins in her womb.

Rebekah told this to Isaac, and they both told Jacob and Esau.

Verses 25-26 Difference In Appearance:

Genesis 25:25 first came forth red, had a red-brown dark complexion.

Adam - "Red" all over like a hairy garment;

and they named him Esau.

It means "*Hairy, Rough*" Nickname

Edom – "*Red*" red soup he purchased from Jacob.

Genesis 25:30 his name was called Edom.

Genesis 25:26 his brother came forth with his hand holding on to Esau's heel, so his name was called **Jacob**; His Name means "*Heal catcher, or trickster, supplanted, cunning schemer, overreacher, deceiver*"

Hosea 12:3

and Isaac was sixty years old when she gave birth to them.

Abraham is now 160 years old and died 15 years later.

Verses 27-28 Difference In Pursuits:

Genesis 25:27 Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the field;

This man is skilled in hunting and loves the outdoors.

Not wrong character is ungodly - **Hebrews 12:16**

but Jacob was a peaceful man,

"quiet man, perfect man, sound, solid, complete man, possibly mature man"

*Same word used of Job - **Job 1:8***

living in tents. Jacob was more a homebody.

He was not weak but was more of a people person. **Hebrews 11:9**

Genesis 25:28 Now Isaac loved Esau, because he had a taste for game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Repercussions of this sin of favoritism.

Now Isaac loved Esau, because he had a taste for game;

Even though Isaac knew Esau was rejected, he loved Esau more.

Choosing the natural over the spiritual!

but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Jacob was a peaceful man, "*quiet man, perfect man, sound, solid, complete man, possibly mature man.*"

3. Verses 29-34 Spiritual Versus Natural:

Genesis 25:29 The Great Red Stew Swindle:

When Jacob had cooked stew,

Baiting the Hunter!

Genesis 25:30 "Please let me have a swallow of that red stuff there,

Literally, "*Feed me! Let me gulp it down.*" I want everything now.

red stuff Funny thing is Esau doesn't even know the name of the food!

The Hunter Becomes The Prey:

Genesis 25:31 "First sell "*barter*" me

What Was The Birthright? Five Things:

1. Abraham's Seed To The Messiah – Direct link to the Messiah.
2. Precedence over his brothers during his father's life: **Genesis 43:33**
3. Property – The death of father received a double portion of the father's inheritance. **Deuteronomy 21:17**
4. Priesthood, Head - He would be the spiritual leader in the family.
Exodus 22:29; Numbers 8:14-17; Deuteronomy 21:17
5. Highest Blessing Of The Father – **Genesis 27:35**

Genesis 25:32 "Behold, I am about to die; so of what use then is the birthright to me?" Flesh cares for the here and now only!

Different In Character & Values:

what use then is the birthright to me?"

His stomach that was a little hungry.

Genesis 25:33 "First swear to me";

"Swear to me now." Jacob wanted a promise, a commitment that he was giving it to him. **"Jacob Does Not Use Deception, but Manipulation"**

Jacob could not enjoy it; he had to go on the run from Esau –

Genesis 28:5; When he returned, he had to acknowledge Esau, his Lord

Genesis 32:4; 33:14-15, did not receive the land until Esau abandoned the land
Genesis 36:6

Genesis 25:34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew.

All of Jacob's shortcomings can be said for him; he longs for the spiritual.

Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Note, no rebuke of Jacob for manipulation of Esau, but open rebuke of Esau

Hebrews 12:16-17

Application:

1. The Lesson Of Esau: Profane People Are Willing To Relinquish Things Of Lasting Spiritual Value Because They Live To Satisfy Their Basic Appetites.
2. The Lesson Of Jacob: Spiritual Ambition Is Good. The Believer Should Seek The Things That Are Of Spiritual Value To Be Sure, But Those Who Earnestly Desire Spiritual Possessions Must Not Seek To Attain Them Through Base Means.
3. Like Jacob, We Take God At His Word, And Yet We Will Not Wait For God's Time. The Result Untold Sorrow And Trouble Upon Ourselves And Others, We, Need Faith And Patience.