

TYPE & ANTITYPE
Jacob, Esau & the Final Generation
Bible Study Notes

*“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.”*

Genesis 25:23

Jacob and Esau, the twin sons of Isaac, present **a striking contrast in character and in life**. This unlikeness was foretold by the angel of God before their birth. In answer to Rebekah's troubled prayer, he declared that two sons would be given her. He opened to her their future history, that each would become the head of a mighty nation, but that one would be greater than the other, and the younger would have the pre-eminence.

From Eternity Pass pg. 113.1

The promise had been given to Abraham, that all the land of Canaan [*The Promised Land*] would be given unto his descendants, **Genesis 12:7; Genesis 13:14-17**, and it was again repeated unto his son Isaac some years after his death, **Genesis 26:24**.

“And the LORD appeared to him [Isaac] the same night and said, “I am the God of your father Abraham; do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for My servant Abraham’s sake.” **Genesis 26:24**

Thus, the covenant promise between The Lord and Abraham, was to be perpetuated through the seed of Isaac, *the son of the promise*.

“For this is the word of promise: “At this time I will come, and Sarah shall have a son.” **Romans 9:9**

Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah bore his two sons, **Genesis 25:26**, *twin boys*. Esau, *also called Edom*, **Genesis 25:30**, being the first born and Jacob, later called Israel, the second.

The first was hairy all over and hence his name, as it means rough or hairy and Jacob was a smooth skinned lad, **Genesis 25:25; Genesis 26:11**.

It was revealed unto Rebekah during her pregnancy that these two sons would be at **enmity** one with another and this would perpetuate throughout their descendants. They were both to be mighty nations upon the earth, however, the first born, *Esau*, was to be in submission to the younger, *Jacob*. This was unheard of in patriarchal times, as it was always the case where the first born would inherit the blessings and wealth of the father, however this was not to be so in the case of these two brothers, as the Word of the Lord had spoken it.

*“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.**”* **Genesis 25:23**

As time progressed, *“Esau grew up loving **self-gratification**, centering all his interest in the present. **Impatient** of restraint, he delighted in the chase and **the life of a hunter**. Yet he was the father's favourite. This elder son fearlessly ranged over mountain and desert, returning home with game and exciting accounts of his adventurous life. **Jacob**, thoughtful, diligent, ever thinking more of the future than the present, was content to dwell at home,*

occupied in the care of the flocks and tillage of the soil. His patient perseverance, thrift, and foresight were valued by the mother. His gentle attentions added more to her happiness than the boisterous, occasional kindnesses of Esau. To Rebekah, Jacob was the dearer son." **From Eternity Pass pg. 113.2-3**

We can see the rash, impatient personality of Esau where he sold the birth right to Jacob, for a bowl of bean stew and bread. The Scriptures go on to tell us that Esau *"despised his birth-right."* **Genesis 25:34**

The birth-right had multiple privileges & responsibilities:

Firstly, as the first-born son, one would be consecrated to God and become the priest of the household after the death of the father. He was to raise up the family altar and offer the burnt offerings unto God, as a foreshadowing to the true sacrifice that was to be offered up for the sins of the world, Jesus.

John 1:29.

Secondly, he was given a double portion of the father's inheritance, so naturally, Esau should have received double the amount than that of Jacob, of his father's possessions. **Deuteronomy 21:15-17.**

Thirdly, the first-born also inherited the judicial authority of the father, to rule in the father's stead.

2 Chronicles 21:3. He was also to be the head of the family if the father had died and would therefore be the chief provider of the household.

Lastly and more importantly, in the days of the patriarchs, the first-born son, had the privilege of being the ancestor of the Messiah that was yet to come into the world, *Jesus Christ*, the Son of God.

So, when the Bible tells us that Esau *"despised his birth-right"*, this has a much deeper meaning than what we generally think of. Esau wanted nothing to do with being the progenitor of the Messiah, neither to have the responsibilities that came with being the elder son. **He was living for the moment and not thinking about the future life to come; he was willing to sacrifice the heavenly for the earthly.**

However, let us not think that Jacob was free of sin, for *"we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God."* **Romans 3:23**

He was a deceiver, a supplanter, one who takes the place or inheritance of someone, through deceit and scheming. He deceived not only Esau into giving up his birth right as we see in **Genesis 25:29-34**, but he also deceived Isaac into giving him the final blessing with the help of his mother Rebekah, as recorded in **Genesis 27:6-46**. This deceit led to him being separated for more than twenty years from his family and by the time he returned to the land of Canaan, his mother, Rebekah, had already died. He never saw his mother again after he fled for his life from his brother Esau.

"Jacob and Rebekah succeeded in their purpose, but they gained only trouble and sorrow by their deception. God had declared that Jacob should receive the birth-right, and His word would have been fulfilled in His own time had they waited in faith for Him to work for them. But like many who now profess to be children of God, they were unwilling to leave the matter in His hands. Rebekah bitterly repented the wrong counsel she had given her son; it was the means of separating him from her, and she never saw his face again. From the hour when he received the birth-right, Jacob was weighed down with self-condemnation. He had sinned against his father, his brother, his own soul, and against God. In one short hour he had made work for a lifelong repentance. This scene

was vivid before him in afteryears, when the wicked course of his sons oppressed his soul." **Patriarchs & Prophets pg.180.3**

This should be a warning to God's people today. God has given many promises in His Word and His promises shall always come to pass once we are obedient unto Him, trusting in His word and are patient. If we allow Him to act in His own way and in His own time, then we shall see God deliver as He has promised. However, if we try to do the work of God and force the situation in our fallen human strength, He may allow us to have our hearts desire, but the consequences will be detrimental.

Be still and know that He is God... wait I say on the Lord. **Psalm 27:14.**

We see that Esau had no regard for the statutes of his parents and neither that of God, for he took as wives Judith and Bashemath both of which descended from the Hittite people and did not worship the one true God. These were such a "*grief of mind unto Isaac and to Rebekah*" **Genesis 26:34-35**, that Isaac sent Jacob unto Rebekah's relatives to seek a wife among his own kindred; people who feared the Lord and served Him, **Genesis 28:1-5**, to keep him from also making the same mistake as his brother.

After years of separation, Jacob, makes his return unto the Promised Land. The God of his father's *Abraham and Isaac*, becomes his God, and he has a converting experience shortly before he encounters the great time of trouble where he was to face an encounter with his brother Esau. After wrestling all night with the Angel of the Lord, he is blessed and receives a new name, a name that no longer reminds him of his sin, but one that commemorated his victory, for, says the Divine Messenger, "*Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power [struggled] with God and with men, and hast prevailed.*" **Genesis 32:28**. With this assurance, after the encounter with Esau, he makes his entry into the Land of Canaan, *the land of promise*, **Genesis 33:16-19**.

With the passing of time, Israel's twelve sons begat many descendants, and the nation of Israel, *God's covenant-keeping people*, came to be, and likewise, Esau, also called Edom had children and they formed the nation of Edom.

Throughout the Bible we see that Israel and Edom were neighbours as the land of Edom was to the south of the land of Israel, whereas Israel served the one true God, Edom turned to idolatry and worshipped false gods, primarily their chief god called 'qos.'

But one may be asking what does Jacob (Israel), and Esau (Edom) have to do with the Church in these last days. The beauty of Scripture is that it is full of '*hidden gold*' and when we study deeply the word of God, we will be amazed at the treasures we can find.

We will now study the spiritual aspect of these two brothers and notice its application to us as Christians living just before the 2nd Coming of Christ.

"For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God." **Romans 2:28-29**

The Apostle Paul says unto the Church that a Jew is not one who is one outwardly, or by physical descent or ancestry, but rather a true Jew or Israelite, is one that is one inwardly. True circumcision is that which is of the heart, a putting away of the old man, crucifying the fleshly nature and walking in the newness of life in Christ Jesus. See also **Ephesians 4:22-24**.

*"But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. **For they are not all Israel who are of Israel** [that is, descendants of Israel], **nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham** [descendants of Abraham]; but **"In Isaac your seed shall be called."***

That is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed." **Romans 9:6-8**

Again, he further emphasizes the point that an Israelite is not one who is a literal descendant of Israel [*Jacob*] but rather, an Israelite is one who is a child of the promise, like Jacob was also promised to have the pre-eminence over his brother Esau, for it was said, "*the older shall serve the younger*". As Jacob, put to death the old man, and put on the new man, *Israel*, so must God's people, put to death the old sinful nature and walk in the newness of life, created in the image of God.

*"For you are all sons of God **through faith in Christ Jesus**. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. **And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**"* **Galatians 3:26-29**

The literal Israelites, yes, were the literal seed of Abraham in connection with the promise given to him, through to Isaac and then to Jacob. However, if one is in Christ, baptised into Him, and living in obedience to Him then that individual is Abraham's seed, *spiritually speaking*, that individual, like Jacob, is an heir according to the promise.

This is why all of God's children at the Second Coming shall be dwellers in the New Jerusalem. It is not the Jerusalem or the Israel on earth that we should be paying attention to as it relates to spiritual things, but rather, it is the one in Heaven, that we should fix our eyes upon. This is the true Jerusalem, the New Jerusalem, the city of the Living God.

*"But you have come to Mount Zion and to **the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem**, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are **registered in heaven**, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect..."* **Hebrews 12:22-23**

*"For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, **which things are symbolic**. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar—**for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children—**but **the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.**"* **Galatians 4:22-26**

*Then I, John, saw **the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband"*** **Revelation 21:2**

Therefore, as Scripturally explained, we see that all those who are faithful disciples of Christ are all referred to as Israel. By implication, this would make Esau, symbolic of all those who are not in Christ; all those who reject the gospel of Christ, *the birth right as it were*, and continue to live according to the flesh and not according to the Spirit, they are the sons of Esau.

As Esau despised the birth right, having no interest in spiritual things and only living for the moment, daily gratifying the desires of **the flesh**, so those who reject Christ, also despise the birth right. They reject the

opportunity to be called the "sons of God" forfeiting the blessings given by the Father. They live for the world and pay no attention to spiritual things which have a direct bearing on their eternal life, they reject the Lamb of God that takes away our sins, and therefore shall receive the due reward for their disobedience. They shall be condemned by the law because they reject the riches of God's grace given through His Son, Jesus.

*"But as many as received him[Christ], to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name [the name of Christ]." **John 1:12***

*"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." **Romans 8:14***

*"Because of his indifference to the divine blessings and requirements, Esau is called in Scripture "a profane person." **Hebrews 12:16**. He represents those who lightly value the redemption purchased for them by Christ and are ready to sacrifice their heirship to heaven for the perishable things of earth. Multitudes live for the present, with no thought or care for the future. Like Esau they cry, "Let us eat and drink; for tomorrow we die."*

1 Corinthians 15:32**. They are controlled by inclination; and rather than practice self-denial, they will forgo the most valuable considerations." **Patriarchs & Prophets page 182

Before Jacob entered into the earthly promised land, he endured a time of trial and persecution from his brother, who came against him with an army of men to destroy him, **Genesis 32:3-7**. Likewise, before the Israel of God inherit the reward of the heavenly Promised Land and the gift of eternal life, they must also endure a time of trial and persecution by their "brothers".

Scripture after Scripture shows us that Christ's people living at the end of time shall endure much hardships and a great tribulation before Christ comes to receive them.

See: **Jeremiah 30:5-7; Daniel 12:1; Matthew 24:9,13; Luke 21:16-19; Acts 14:22; 2 Timothy 3:1; Revelation 12:17; Revelation 13:15,17; Revelation 20:4.**

But as Jacob endured by the grace of God, and wrestled in prayer, earnestly seeking deliverance from the hands of his brother, so shall the people of God be wrestling earnestly in prayer with God for deliverance from the hands of their persecutors and they "shall be saved out of it." **Genesis 32:24-30**.

Whilst the people of Israel shall be saved, the children of Esau shall be destroyed.

Says the Lord:

*"Shall I not in that day, saith the LORD, even destroy the wise men out of Edom, and understanding out of the mount of Esau? And thy mighty men, O Teman, shall be dismayed, to the end that every one of the mount of Esau may be cut off by slaughter. **For thy violence against thy brother Jacob shame shall cover thee, and thou shalt be cut off for ever.**" **Obadiah 1:8-10***

Again, He says:

*"For the day of the LORD is near upon all the heathen: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head...And the house of Jacob shall be a fire....and the house of Esau for stubble, and they shall kindle in them, and devour them; and **there shall not be any remaining of the house of Esau; for the LORD hath spoken it.**" **Obadiah 1:15,18***

May we never despise the birth right like Esau, but rather, let us set our eyes upon Christ, whereby through Him, we may have a part in the inheritance given to us by our Father.