

“The Older Shall Serve the Younger”

Rom 9.6 *But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they are not all Israel who are of Israel, nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, “In Isaac your seed shall be called.”* 8 *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.* 9 *For this is the word of promise: “At this time I will come and Sarah shall have a son.”* 10 *And not only this, but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, even by our father Isaac* 11 *(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),* 12 *it was said to her, “The older shall serve the younger.”* 13 *As it is written, “Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.”*

* **Last week** we saw how God miraculously brought about the birth of Isaac as a _____ or picture of Christ.

Heb 11.7 *By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,”* 19 *concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.*

* **What is** the symbolic significance of Rebekah’s, and so many other godly women’s, barrenness in Scripture?

Gen 3.15 *“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”*

* **Why is** it significant that the two boys were conceived within the same mother by the same father at the same time? (10-11)

* **What is** God indicating by his declaration to Rebekah?

Gen 25.23 *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.”*

* **Was this** an eternal decree of salvation or damnation?

* **Where does**, “Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated,” appear in Scripture, and when was it written?

* **What is** the deeper significance of the statement that when Isaac was old, “his eyes were so dim that he could not see”? (Gen 27.1)

* **What was** Isaac determined to do contrary to God’s will? (Gen 27.1-4, 29)

* **What was** the character of Esau and of Jacob, and why do we often misjudge them?

Gen 25.27 *... Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field; but Jacob was a mild man [lit. complete man], dwelling in tents.*

Gen 25.33 *... So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. 34 And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils; then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.*

Heb 12.16 *lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. 17 For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.*

Gen 26.34 *When Esau was forty years old, he took as wives Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite. 35 And they were a grief of mind to Isaac and Rebekah.*

* **How do** Rebekah and Jacob obtain Isaac’s blessing for Jacob? (Gen 27.5-17)

Gen 27.27 *... “Surely, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field which the LORD has blessed. 28 Therefore may God give you of the dew of heaven, of the fatness of the earth, and plenty of grain and wine. 29 Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be master over your brethren, and let your mother’s sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you, and blessed be those who bless you!”*

* **How do** we typically read and apply this passage today?

* **Who is** most blameworthy in this passage?

* **What does** Isaac do when he realizes the truth? (Gn 27.33)

* **Where does** faith enter the picture for Isaac?

Heb 11.20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

Gen 27.33 ... "I have blessed him—and indeed he shall be blessed ... 37 Indeed I have made him your master, and all his brethren I have given to him as servants; with grain and wine I have sustained him. What shall I do now for you, my son? ... By your sword you shall live, and you shall serve your brother; And it shall come to pass, when you become restless, that you shall break his yoke from your neck"

* **God put** Isaac in the same position as _____ and _____. It doesn't matter anymore that Isaac was the Christ-type, because God has now raised up a new Christ-type, Jacob, and Isaac is called, like everybody else, to acknowledge and submit to that by _____.

* **Who is** the only one person in all of human history who inherits the promises of God in his own right?

Gal 3.16 Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He [God] does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ ...

* **How must** all other inherit God's promises?

Gal 3.29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Rom 8.17 ... heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ ...

* **How does** the concept of a multitude come in?

* **How is** union with Christ achieved?

Rom 8.9 ... Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

* **The Spirit** works _____ within us so that we believe in Christ and in God's promises concerning Christ.

Eph 2.8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God

Acts 13.48 ... the Gentiles ... were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

Gal 3.9 "So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer."

Rom 4.11 ... that [Abraham] might be the father of all ... who believe

* **One of** the main dynamics of salvation is no longer hoping or trusting in whatever you thought you had or could obtain or inherit of _____, and instead hoping & trusting wholly in what you can have & inherit in _____.

Gen 12.1 Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Mat 16.25 "Whoever desires to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it"