

SALT Church

Genesis 25:19-34

“Jacob & Esau”

May 13, 2026

“In the Beginning”

Recap Genesis 25:1-18

- Last week was the death of Abraham
 - We learned that he was gathered to his relatives at the age of 175.
 - His death was “book-ended” by the lineage of his children with his second wife Keturah.
 - And the lineage of Ishmael
 - 6 sons in the 1st and 12 son’s of Ishmael.

Tonight we pick where we left off with the line of Isaac.

Things you need to know as we move forward:

- Chapter 25 sets the tone for the next ten chapters in Genesis.
 - Although it starts out with Isaac it quickly moves to Jacob.
 - For Jacob will be the focus of the next ten chapters.
- This chapter also gives us a front row seat into Gods sovereign selection of His grace.
 - He tells Rebekah before the boys are born who will serve who and that both boys will become great nations.
 - We will also see proof that without Gods grace both boys are extremely flawed and extremely sinful.

- Also we need to keep in mind that the idea of the 1st born son being the one chosen to lead the family is not always how God does it.
 - We have already witnessed this with Cain and Abel and eventually Seth.
 - We will see it again when Jacob's 11th son Joseph is born.
 - We will see it again when King David is selected over his older brothers.
 - The point is simply this:
 - God is not bound by nature
 - He is free to choose whoever He wants when He wants.

Also we cannot forget the promises that have been made to Abraham and now Isaac

- The promise of multitudes of descendants
 - I am sure Isaac and Rebekah thought that there would be babies right away but it will be 20 years before the twins are born.

Genesis 25

¹⁹ This is the account of the family of Isaac, the son of Abraham. ²⁰ When Isaac was forty years old, he married Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean from Paddan-aram and the sister of Laban the Aramean.

- This is a time stamp for us.
 - Isaac is 40 years old when he marries his younger bride Rebekah.

- We do not know how much younger she was but it would not be unreasonable to assume that she was 20 years younger or more.
 - Which means the twins will be born to a late thirties early forties Rebekah.

²¹ Isaac pleaded with the Lord on behalf of his wife, because she was unable to have children. The Lord answered Isaac's prayer, and Rebekah became pregnant with twins.

- Verse 21 covers 20 years
 - 20 years of praying for a child.
 - Keep in mind the promises that God had made to this family.
- But unlike his father, Isaac does not turn to another woman to give him a son he turns to God.
 - I also believe (even though it does not say it) Rebekah was also praying for a child.
- The key sentence in this is “The Lord answered Isaac’s prayer”
 - Men, never doubt the power and beauty of praying for your bride.
 - Verse 21 says that God answered Isaac’s prayer not Rebekah’s.
 - And boy did He answer Isaac’s prayer!!!!
 - TWINS!!!!

²² But the two children struggled with each other in her womb. So she went to ask the Lord about it. “Why is this happening to me?” she asked.

- In the Hebrew it is a much stronger version

Lexical Summary

ratsats: To crush, to oppress, to break

Phonetic Spelling: (raw-tsats')

KJV: break, bruise, crush, discourage, oppress, struggle together

NASB: crushed, oppressed, broke, bruised, crush, crushing, struggled

Word Origin:

1. to crack in pieces, literally or figuratively

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance

break, bruise, crush, discourage, oppress, struggle together

A primitive root; to crack in pieces, literally or figuratively -- break, bruise, crush, discourage, oppress, struggle together.

We must keep in mind that she has no idea that she has twins when she prays.

- What God says to her comes at a shock for sure

²³ And the Lord told her, “The sons in your womb will become two nations. From the very beginning, the two nations will be rivals. One nation will be stronger than the other; and your older son will serve your younger son.”

- Maybe Isaac should have been more specific

- “Sons” will be come two nations.
 - These two nations will be rivals.
 - We must remember that this information will effect both Rebekah and Isaac’s relationships with these boys.
 - But clearly God says Jacob will be the stronger of the two.
 - What we will learn that physically Esau will be the stronger but as we all know that when God is on your side you are invincible.

²⁴ And when the time came to give birth, Rebekah discovered that she did indeed have twins!

- “Behold twins”
 - It sounds as if there was some doubt.

²⁵ The first one was very red at birth and covered with thick hair like a fur coat. So they named him Esau.

- Esau means “rough”
 - Difficult to handle
 - I am glad that my mom didn’t name me like that or you would be sitting under the teaching of Pastor Bobble Head!

²⁶ Then the other twin was born with his hand grasping Esau's heel. So they named him Jacob.

- “Heel grabber”
 - I wonder how many people that named their sons Jacob knew this before they named their sons?
 - Bo mean beautiful just in case you are wondering.

Isaac was sixty years old when the twins were born.

- This is how we know that it took 19 to 20 years for Rebekah to get pregnant.

²⁷ As the boys grew up, Esau became a skillful hunter. He was an outdoorsman, but Jacob had a quiet temperament, preferring to stay at home.

- What do you see in these two boys?
 - We know that Esau is rough and hairy.
 - My guess is that he can sneak up on things because he is a skillful hunter
 - I also think you could most likely smell him before he gets to wear, he is going.
 - Jacob sounds like a mama's boy.
 - He was quiet and preferred to stay at the house.
 - Keep in mind both Isaac and Rebekah both know that Esau will serve Jacob.

²⁸ Isaac loved Esau because he enjoyed eating the wild game Esau brought home, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

- Favoritism is not a good thing as it relates to parenting.
 - This is be passed down to Jacob as it will become abundantly clear to all which sons he loves the most.
 - This will breed anger and resentment with most of his brothers.
- Another observation is related to Isaac and Rebekah
 - Isaac seems more like Jacob to me
 - He submitted to his father's desire to sacrifice him.
 - We don't have any accounts of him going wild.
 - Rebekah on the other-hand seems more like Esau
 - She was willing to go with a man that she didn't know
 - She was willing to work hard for several hours watering camels for a man she didn't know.
 - She seems more out-going to me as compared to Isaac.

Genesis 25

²⁹ One day when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau arrived home from the wilderness exhausted and hungry. ³⁰ Esau said to Jacob, "I'm starved! Give me some of that red stew!" (This is how Esau got his other name, Edom, which means "red.")

- This may not seem important but it may be the most important detail of this story.
 - Esau returns hungry and Jacob is in a place of advantage.

31 “All right,” Jacob replied, “but trade me your rights as the firstborn son.”

- What an odd thing to say.
- Who thinks this way?
 - Someone who wants something
 - Someone who plans moments like this
 - Jacob sees himself as smarter and the truth is he is at this moment.

32 “Look, I’m dying of starvation!” said Esau. “What good is my birthright to me now?”

- Little drama here
 - He’s the mighty hunter Esau
 - But this show us Esau’s character
 - The phrase “What good is my birthright to me now” expresses the mind set of Big Red.
 - He doesn’t believe God nor His promises
 - He does not value his position within his family
 - He lives for the moment
 - To trade his birthright for a bowl of beans is to spit in the face of God.
- But let’s be clear
 - Jacob is no better for what brother would with hold food from his brother and demand such a price for a bowl of beans?

33 But Jacob said, “First you must swear that your birthright is mine.” So Esau swore an oath, thereby selling all his rights as the firstborn to his brother, Jacob.

- This is an important verse as well as it speaks to the effort that both participated.
 - This culture would have had something very specific to say and if nothing else we see the power of words said before the Lord.

34 Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and lentil stew. Esau ate the meal, then got up and left. He showed contempt for his rights as the firstborn.

- What a sad way to end a chapter.
 - In the eyes of God it was done.
 - In the eyes of Jacob and Esau it was done
 - I wonder how and when Isaac and Rebekah found out.
 - If nothing else we will see Uncle Laban’s side of the family come out soon as Rebekah will help Jacob deceive her husband Isaac.

All of that must be filtered through what God had said before they were born.

- The older shall serve the younger.
- Honestly, I don’t know why God would love either one of them.

The New Testament has plenty to say about these two:

Romans 9:10-16

¹⁰ Not only that, but Rebekah's children were conceived at the same time by our father Isaac. ¹¹ Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that God's purpose in election might stand: ¹² not by works but by him who calls—she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” ¹³ Just as it is written: “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

¹⁴ What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! ¹⁵ For he says to Moses,

*“I will have mercy on whom I have mercy,
and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”*

¹⁶ It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy. ¹⁷ For Scripture says to Pharaoh: “I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.” ¹⁸ Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.

Again we are faced with the fact that God is the giver of grace and He does so without any outside influence.

- He is sovereign over all things especially salvation.

Another observation is that Jacob, without God's grace would have turned out just as bad as Esau.

- Jacob wrestles with God soon and as a result his life and name are changed.
 - It is at that point he becomes a new creation.
 - He still has issues but he is never the same after his encounter.

Esau continues on his path of self-destruction.

- He marries foreign women that his parents do not approve.
- He is a man that is driven by lust and this marks his life and all of his decisions.

Hebrews 12:15-17

¹⁵ See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. ¹⁶ See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son. ¹⁷ Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. Even though he sought the blessing with tears, he could not change what he had done.

We close tonight with the \$50 question:

- Are you offended by this story?
 - Does Gods exercise of sovereign choice offend you?
 - Is it because you want to blame others for their lostness?

Here is some truth to chew on:

Romans 3:10-12

(MIND)

¹⁰ As it is written:

“There is no one righteous, not even one;

¹¹ there is no one who understands;

there is no one who seeks God.

¹² All have turned away,

they have together become worthless;

there is no one who does good,

not even one.”

(Speech)

“Their throats are open graves;

their tongues practice deceit.”

“The poison of vipers is on their lips.”

¹⁴ “Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.”

Actions

¹⁵ “Their feet are swift to shed blood;

¹⁶ ruin and misery mark their ways,

¹⁷ and the way of peace they do not know.”

¹⁸ “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

This is us without God’s grace

We must understand that we are God's enemy until the day that we submit our lives to His rule over our lives.

- This is the day that He pours out His grace and mercy over us.
- This is the day that we confess that He is right and we are wrong.
 - This is the day we confess our sins
 - This is the day that we become a new creation.

2 Corinthians 5:17

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Without that moment books will be written that contain all of our sins.

- And upon our death we will be sent to Hades awaiting the day that we stand before the judge.
- Then judgement day will come
- In that moment we will voluntarily confess to every sin.
 - At that point there will be no hope as you will be cast into the lake of fire forever.

Perhaps God's grace has been poured out tonight and you don't know what to do.

- Call out upon the name of Jesus
- Believe in your heart that Jesus is the Son of God
- Trust in His work on the cross as the scripture says that He paid the debt for your sins

- Jesus himself said that His body was broken and His blood was shed which established the new covenant between God and man for the forgiveness of sin.
 - He is your only hope.
 - He is the only difference between Jacob and Esau.