

## ADVENT 2014, PT 1-“Let every heart prepare Him room” (GN 25)

- \* >>>>As Christmas 2014 approaches...  
 \*We wnta begin a 3-pt ADVENT series  
 \*Wth each msg centered arnd the wrds  
 of a great Christmas carol

\* >TDY: Joy to the wrld, the Lrd is come  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
& that's wht we're gonna talk ab. t.dy

\* >>>We're gonna talk ab preparing room  
in our hrts—each&every day—fr LJC

>>>& it just so hppns—tht the nxt psg in  
 our study of BkofGn—is all about this

>>>>SO READY?? HERE WE GO!

### I- PASSAGE GEN 25

#### A. Background

1. As we pick up here in Gen 25..
2. Abr has died at age of 175
- \* 3. & now his son Isaac is the only surviving link to the promises & the covenants of Gd with Abr
4. But Isaac has a problem
5. His wife Rebekah is childless
6. & w/out a son, Gd's promises fail!

B. V. 21a-“So Is prayed to the Lrd fr his wife Rebekah, bec she was childless

\* C. V. 21b-“& the Lrd answered Is’s pryr & Rebekah his wife conceived”

\* D. V. 22-“But the c’rn struggled together inside her, & she said, ‘Why is this happening to me?’ So she went & inquired of the Lord.”

**E. Gd told her 2 THINGS..**

\* **# 1-YOU’RE HAVING TWINS!**

\*V 23-“2 nations are in yur womb

**REM: Rebkah hadn’t had 4 sonograms so this is NEW NEWS for her!**

\*V. 24-“Whn the time came fr her to give birth, the 1<sup>st</sup> came out red, with hair all ovr him..so they namd hm ‘Esau’ (“hairy”

\*V. 26-“& aftrwards, his bro came out wth his hand holding onto Esau’s heel, so they called him ‘Jacob’ (HEB-“heel grabber”)

\* **# 2<sup>(Gd)</sup>V. 23-“& the older (ESAU) will serve the younger (JACOB)”**

**\*NOW--this second piece of info was unheard of in ANE**

- \*In ANE, 1<sup>st</sup>born son was alwys the pre-eminent child in the family
- \*It was HE who rced "brthright"
- \*HE received his fthr's "blessing"
- \*& yet--here Gd is--favoring the 2<sup>nd</sup>born son ovr 1<sup>st</sup>born

F. NOW—why would Gd do this?

- \*1. Well obviously-bec thre was smthng else going on w/these 2 boys...
- 2. Tht in Gd's mind..was more impt
- 3. Than their birth order

G. Wht was it? Well, it was their heart

[WATCH]

- \*H. Gn 25:27-“Now when the boys grew up, Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the field; but Jcb was a quiet man, staying among the tents.”
- \*J. Gn 25:29-“Once whn Jcb was cookng, Esau came in frm the field, famished. He said to Jcb, ‘Quick, let me hve sme of tht red stew, for I’m famished!’”
- \*K. V. 31-“Jcb replied, ‘First, sell me yur birthright.’ & Esau said, ‘I’m abt to die! Wht good is the brthright to me?’
- \*1. In ANE--“Brthright” was a sp thing

2. Indicating where the blessing of Gd would reside among all the c'ren of the family
3. No child...who cared ab Gd's favor/ blessing...wld **EVER** get rid of it
4. But Esau traded it fr a bowl of stew!
5. This tells us volumes abt Esau's sp condition
6. IT TELLS US—tht--in his HEART—  
\* Esau had no concern fr sp thngs / fr the favor or the blessing of Gd

**5. JACOB—HWEVR--WAS DIFFERNT!**

- \* He wanted Gd's blessing & favor
- \* & if E was foolish enuf to gve it up
- \* Jacob was anxious to take it !!

[SO--do we see DIFF btw these 2 boys]

\* One of them (Jcb) had a heart tht cared ab Gd/ wanted Gd's blsng

\* The othr one (Esau) cld care less

[DO WE ALL SEE THIS—YES??]

- \* L. V. 33<sup>b</sup> “So Esau swore an oath to Jacob,—selling him—his birthright”
- \* M. V. 34<sup>b</sup> “Thn Esau ate & drank & went his way. & thus, Esau despised (HEB--“treated wth cntempt”)his brthright

\*N. This explains why in Hb 12:16—B calls Esau “a godless person, who sold his birthright for a single meal”

O. One more example of sp cond of E's hrt

\*1. Gn 28:8—“& Esau, seeing tht marryng one of the daughters of Canaanites displeased his fthr Isaac...” **WHY??**

\*Bec they didn't know the Lord

\*Bec they worshipped idols

\*Bec thy'd lead Esau away frm Lrd

\*2. [V. 9] “E went & married one anyway

P. **SO-LET'S SUMMARIZE**

1. Why did Gd favor Jcb over Esau?

\*2. Bc Jcb had a HRT tht cared ab Gd / sp thngs/ Gd's blessing

3. & Esau didn't

4. Esau was impressive on the outside

II: Bigger..strongr...hunter...man's man

5. But Gd doesn't care ab the outside

6. He cares abt **THE HEART!**

\*blank \*II- **SO WHAT?** \*blank

A. Let's look at anthr place in B whre Gd reiterates this same truth--**1 Sam 16**

1.1 Sm 16--Gd sends Prophet Samuel

to Bethlehem to anoint a new king

to Bethlehem to anoint a new king for Israel—to replace Saul

2. Gd tells Sam tht this new kng is one of the sons of a man named Jesse

3. But Gd doesn't tell him **AHEAD OF TIME...** which son

4. So Jesse brings in all his sons & lines them up in front of Samuel

*picture* \* **[KINDA LKE THE VON TRAPP FAMILY]**  
**[OK—NOW WATCH]**

*blank* \* 5. V. 6-“Whn Sam saw Eliab, the 1<sup>st</sup> brn, he thot, ‘Surely, this is Gd’s anointed’

\* 6. V. 7-“But the Lrd said to Sam, ‘Do not cnsider his appearance or his height for I hve rejected him.’”

\* 7. V. 7-“For the Lrd does not see as man sees; for man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lrd looks on the [SAY] **HEART**”

*blank* \* 8. I think most of us knw rest of story

9. Samuel goes "down the line" of Jesse's sons--& Gd rejects thm all

10. Finally--Samuel says to Jesse: "Is this all the sons U've got?"

11. Jesse: "Well, thre IS 1 more (**Dvd**)

\*"But you don't want him"

\*"He's the runt of the litter"

\*"In fact, I didn't evn bring him in

\*"I left him out in field w/sheep"

12. Samuel said: "Go get him"

\*13.V. 12-"So Jesse sent & brot him in.  
Thn the Lrd said to Sam, 'Rise &  
anooint him; he is the one!'"

14. WHY did Gd choose yng/small  
Dvd ovr all his older/bigger bro's?

\*15.Acts 13:22-"Afttr removng Saul, Gd  
made Dvd king, & testified ab hm:  
'I hve found Dvd, the son of Jesse,  
to be a man after My own HEART

~~17.~~ Gd chose D fr same rsn He chose Job

18. THEir HRT...THEir HRT...HRT!

C. PT: When God is looking for someone  
to bless/favor/use for His glory...

1. "BIRTH-ORDER"...doesn't matter

2. Outward appearance...dsn't mtr

3. Human talent ... doesn't matter

4. Education & money don't matter

5. WHAT MATTERS... is OUR HEART

\*D. 2 Chr. 16:9-"Fr the eyes of the Lrd run

to & fro thruout the whole earth to  
show Himslf strong...on behalf of  
those whose HRT is completely His"

\*blank  
E. & SO—my frnds--tht brings us...THIS  
ADVENT SEASON...to U & me

F.& to Q: "How is it with our hrt & Gd?"

G. Can we honestly say...

\* 1. Tht our heart is "completely His"?  
2.& tht hungerng & thirstng aftr Hm=  
the driving passion of our life?

\* H. Ps 42:1(Dvd)-"As the deer pants fr the  
wtrbrook, so my soul pants fr U, O Gd

J. Does this describe yur/my heart?

\* K. Ps 63:1(Dvd)-"O Gd, U are my Gd;  
early will I seek U. My soul thirsts for  
U, my flesh longs for U, as in a dry &  
weary land whre there is no water"

L.Is this an apt dscription of yur/my hrt

\* M. I mn--hw much time/engy do we rllly  
devote to our hrt's intimacy w/Gd

\*blank  
ILLUST: U know--we work so hard to  
develop our outside for success  
\*College/grad school/continuing

professional education

- \*Seminars on ple skills/management
- \*Read right magazines/study the right articles/keep up w/latest trends
- \*Clothes just right/make-up jst right
- \*We work out regularly

APPL: **BUT--WHAT ABT OUR HEARTS?**

- \*Do we read the WOG..wth the same dedication that we read our professional journals?
- \*Do we pray..wth the same intensity that we work out at gym?
- \*We get up an h r/ hr+half early to mke sure our makeup on/ hair done
- \*But will we do this to make sure we spend quality time with Lrd?

\* N.Carol: "Let evry hrt. prepare Hm room  
 1. But hw oftn..do we "prepare room in our hrts" for everything else  
 2. & give Jesus the "left overs"?"

SAY: "Man, Lon--U're really on a roll tdy!"

\* A: Well, Gd "took me to the woodshed"  
 this wk abt this issue...

\* **AND I REALLY NEEDED IT!**

\* **SO I figured**—U probably did too!

O. BESIDES--it doesn't mtr if I'm on a roll  
1. Wht mtrs is whthr I'm speakng truth  
2. & if so—wht U/I are gonna do ab it

CONCLUSION

>>Gd wants U/me to be Jacobs & Davids  
\*& Ruths & Esthers & Peters & Pauls  
& Joshuas & Calebs

\*Pple Gd chose to bless & favor & use

>>>And we can be such pple!

>These ple wren't "vsitrs frm anthr plnt"

>>They were normal, evryday folks

\*>>>>What made them different...

\*Is tht they decided..ttht--ABOVE ALL ELSE--they were going to "prepare room in their hearts fr Jesus"

\*& thn they disciplined their TIME to make sure that it hppnd

>>>This is the challenge Gd wants to lay

\*blank at your/my feet this Advent wkend

>>>>I can't thnk of a btrr wkend to take Him up on it

RAISE HANDS INVITATION

*Handwritten scribble in blue ink, possibly reading "SONG ON NEXT PAGE"*

*LOW READS PART OF SONG ON NEXT PAGE*

\* Take time to be holy, speak oft w/thy Lrd  
 Abide in Him always, & feed on His word  
 Make friends of God's c'ren,  
 Help those who are weak  
 Forgetting in nothing His blessing to seek

\* Take time to be holy, the wrld rushes on  
 Much time spend in secret w/Jesus alone  
 By looking to Je, like Him thou shalt be  
 Thy friends in thy conduct,  
 His likeness shall see

\* Take tme to be holy, let Hm be thy guide  
 & run not before Him, whatever betide  
 In joy or in sorrow, still follow thy Lord  
 & looking to Jcsus, still trust in His Word

LON  
 READS  
 BUT NOT  
 ON SCREENS