

SUNDAY SCHOOL

09/11/2022

God Chooses the Younger Twin

Genesis
25:19b – 34

Section Review

God's Exceptional Choice

- 9/4 – God calls Abram & Sarah out of barrenness to become a great nation

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Background

- In many cultures – including those in the Bible, there are unique rights, responsibilities and privileges given to firstborn children – especially sons.
- The firstborn male represented the prime of human strength and vitality of the family (**Genesis 49:3; Psalm 78:51**) as well being special to God as the opener of the womb (**Exodus 13:2, 12, 15; Numbers 18:15; Luke 2:23**)

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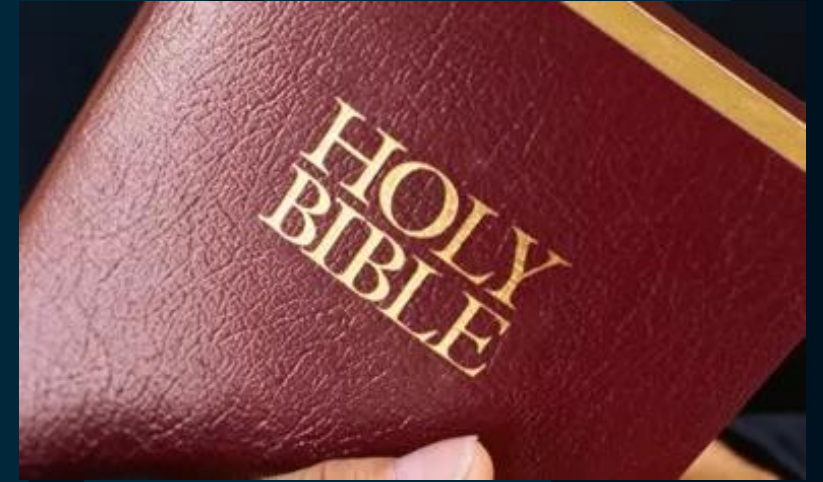
Background

- As a result, the firstborn son became the primary heir of the family. The firstborn's birthright involved a double portion of the household estate and the leadership of the family if his father became incapacitated or was absent (**Deuteronomy 21:17**). After his father's death, the eldest son usually cared for his mother until her death and provided for his unmarried sisters.
- The nation of Israel is called God's "firstborn" (**Exodus 4:22; Jeremiah 31:9**), having a special place of privilege and blessing among the nations
- Jesus has the status of Firstborn over all creation (**Colossians 1:15**) and among many siblings (**Romans 8:29**)

Lesson Text

GENESIS 25:19 – 22 (NKJV)

¹⁹ This is the genealogy of Isaac, Abraham's son. Abraham begot Isaac. ²⁰ Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah as wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Padan Aram, the sister of Laban the Syrian. ²¹ Now Isaac pleaded with the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his plea, and Rebekah his wife conceived. ²² But the children struggled together within her; and she said, "If all is well, why am I like this?" So she went to inquire of the Lord.



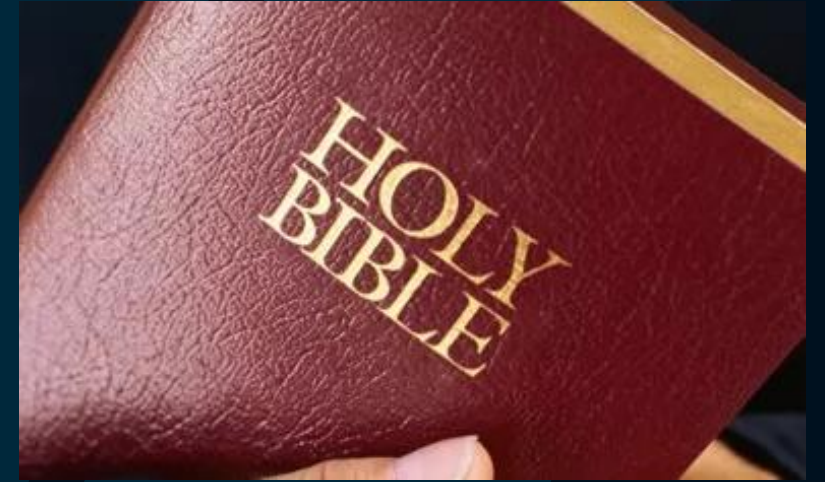
Lesson Text

GENESIS 25:23 – 25 (NKJV)

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.”

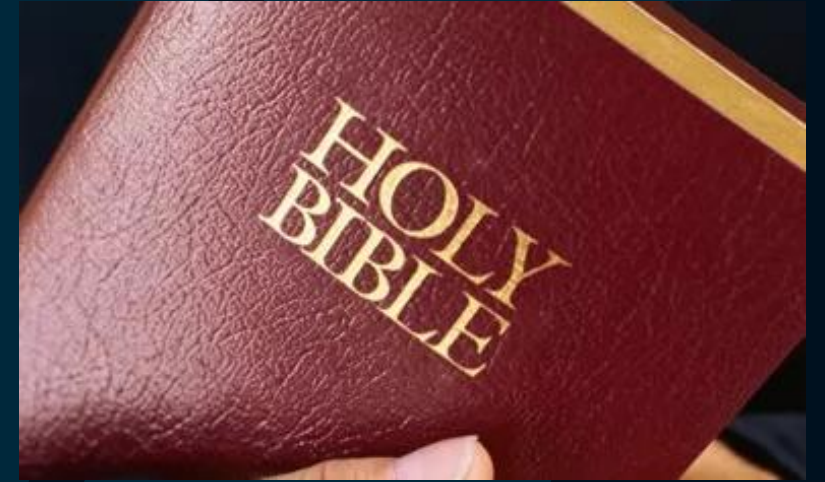
²⁴ So when her days were fulfilled for her to give birth, indeed there were twins in her womb. ²⁵ And the first came out red. He was like a hairy garment all over; so they called his name [a]Esau.



Lesson Text

GENESIS 25:23 – 25 (NKJV)

²⁶ Afterward his brother came out, and his hand took hold of Esau's heel; so his name was called ^[b]Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. ²⁷ So the boys grew. And Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field; but Jacob was a ^[c]mild man, dwelling in tents. ²⁸ And Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.



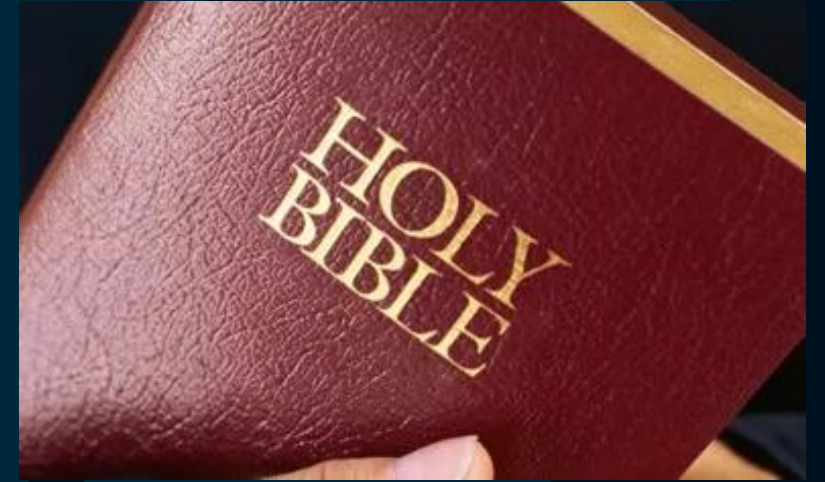
Lesson Text

Esau Sells His Birthright

GENESIS 25:29 – 32 (NKJV)

²⁹ Now Jacob cooked a stew; and Esau came in from the field, and he was weary. ³⁰ And Esau said to Jacob, "Please feed me with that same red stew, for I am weary." Therefore his name was called ^[d]Edom.

³¹ But Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright as of this day." ³² And Esau said, "Look, I am about to die; so what is this birthright to me?"



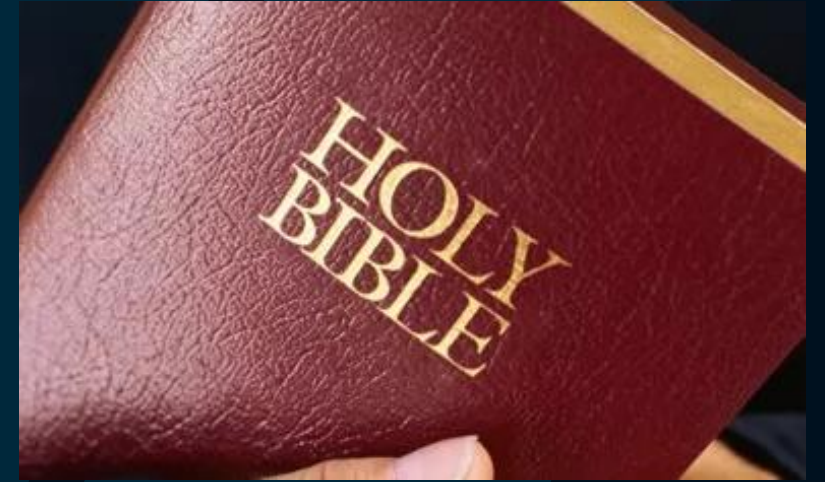
Lesson Text

Esau Sells His Birthright

GENESIS 25:33 – 34 (NKJV)

³³ Then Jacob said, ^[e]“Swear to me as of this day.”

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.



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Commentary: How God Chose

- As human beings, we're always asking God why He does what He does and whether we can affect His decisions
- What we fail to realize is that many of God's decisions are really OUR decisions. Although God has the power to do anything, He seldom acts against someone's will (e.g. Jonah)
- As stated previously God has the attribute of not being bound by time as we are. He can look into the future to see what decisions we would make and acts accordingly.

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Commentary: How God Chose

- God is not always the REASON something happens. We more times than not cause our own calamity, especially when we go against what He prescribes as the best way for us.
- In this case, God did not “choose” Jacob out of some bias for Jacob – we know Jacob was a trickster and a deceiver, but Esau made a choice that proved costly.
- There have been other firstborn rights lost to poor decision making or immoral behavior (**Genesis 49:3-7** – 3 of Jacob’s firstborns lost their rights)

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Commentary: Short vs. Long Term Choice



**“If You Fail to Plan,
You Are Planning to
Fail” – Ben Franklin**

- Esau made a short-term choice to satisfy his hunger over the long-term choice of preserving the firstborn birthright that was his
- In today’s culture, we often make impulse choices and buying decisions that thwart future rewards. We often lack the discipline to choose wisely and stay the course – often affected by a mental/spiritual need that has not been filled

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Commentary: Beware Favoritism

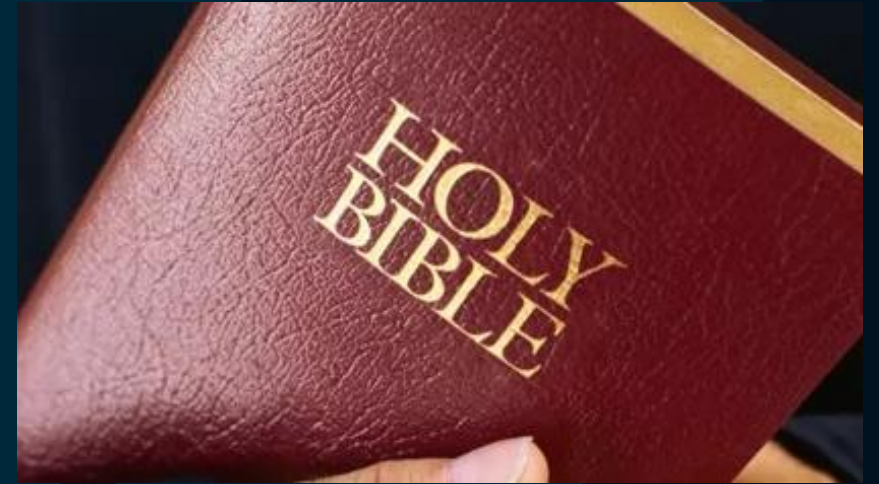
- As we learned with Abraham and Sarah, the people God “chooses” are not perfect people or models of righteous living and decision making
- In these text, we are beginning to see the seed that ultimately leads to God’s prophecy being true – favoritism amongst parents and their children
- This favoritism led to Rebekah conspiring Jacob to deceive Isaac into giving the firstborn rights to Jacob over Esau.
- This led Esau to want to kill Jacob and for years Jacob fled from Esau (**Genesis 27:41 – 46**)

Mount Zion A.M.E. Church of New Brunswick, NJ

09/11/2022

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Scripture References



**Refer to Scripture References in
the lesson**

Church School Creed & Benediction

CREED

Our Church School must grow & grow
And we must help to make it so
Every member a **Christian**
Every Christian a **worker**
Every worker **trained**
A worker that **will not be ashamed**
This we ask in Jesus' name

-AMEN

BENEDICTION

We have come
We have studied
We have learned
So until our next coming together
To study God's word
May His rich blessings reside with you
And may His Grace be eternally yours

-AMEN