



Toldot- Genesis 25:19-28:9

God's Choice is not always the Most Obvious

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Isaac and Rebecca endure twenty childless years, until their prayers are answered and Rebecca conceives. She experiences a difficult pregnancy as the “children struggle inside her”; G-d tells her that “there are two nations in your womb,” and that the younger will prevail over the elder.

Esau emerges first; Jacob is born clutching Esau's heel. Esau grows up to be “a cunning hunter, a man of the field”; Jacob is “a wholesome man,” a dweller in the tents of learning.

Genesis 25:19 These are the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham fathered Isaac,
Gen 25:20 and Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, the sister of Laban the Aramean, to be his wife.

Gen 25:21 And Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren. And the LORD granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

Gen 25:22 The children struggled together within her, and she said, "If it is thus, why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the LORD.

Gen 25:23 And the LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger."

Gen 25:24 When her days to give birth were completed, behold, there were twins in her womb.

Gen 25:25 The first came out red, all his body like a hairy cloak, so they called his name Esau.

Gen 25:26 Afterward his brother came out with his hand holding Esau's heel, so his name was called Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

Gen 25:27 When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, dwelling in tents.

Gen 25:28 Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Rebecca experience a very difficult pregnancy, she is expecting but doesn't realize that there are twins in her womb there are 2 nations being birthed and fighting for first born rights. She knew the only one that could reveal to her what was happening was Adonai so she asks Him, why are the struggling so much within her?

A premonition of the rivalry which was to exist between the brothers and their descendants. According to Namanides, the struggle was so great within her that she wished to die.

“Inquired of the Lord” A technical term for seeking an answer from a Divine source. According to the Midrash, she went to the School of Shem, where the knowledge of God was taught. It is very probable that she went to “inquire of the Lord” through Abraham who was still alive at the time. Dr. J.H. Hertz Commentary.

God answers her prayer and reveals to her'

Gen 25:23 And the LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger."

Here we see that the firstborn is not necessarily the one who will be called to fulfill God's purposes in this world. In many instances we see the first born pass by and the birthright given to a younger sibling. We will see this latter in the life of Joseph and David, both being the younger siblings who would lead Israel to greatness.

In primitive times (ANE) the head of the clan or the firstborn acted as the Priest. It also consisted of (1) spiritual leadership (i.e. priest) and becoming the head of the family. (2) a double portion of the inheritance and (3) the claim to the covenant of blessing that God had promised Abraham.

Here we have 2 brothers as different as day and night, totally opposite in personality and character.

Gen 25:27 When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, dwelling in tents.

God knows from our mother's womb, who will be the one that will serve Him in faithfulness and it is not always the firstborn. Esau did not have the character it would take to walk in obedience to God and His covenant, that responsibility would go to Jacob. Jacob wanted the spiritual blessings that were part of God's covenant where Esau despised it and wanted to satisfy his flesh first.

Gen 25:28 Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

A note from Dr. Hertz "Each parent had a favorite child, which was to lead to the break-up of the household. "Love thy children with an impartial love," is the wise admonition of a medieval Jewish teacher

Here we can see parents favoring one sibling over the other. In this case Isaac favored Esau and Rebecca favored Jacob. I believe we see spiritual discernment at work within Rebecca because she knew that Isaac would be the one that God would use to continue the covenant of Abraham.

I believe that Rebecca's favoritism was more on a spiritual level, it is not that she did not love Esau, but she knew that the birthright could not go to him, but it was God's will and plan for it to go to Jacob.

Gen 25:29 Once when Jacob was cooking stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was exhausted.

Gen 25:30 And Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stew, for I am exhausted!"
(Therefore his name was called Edom.)

Gen 25:31 Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright now."

Gen 25:32 Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?"

Gen 25:33 Jacob said, "Swear to me now." So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob.
Gen 25:34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Through Esau would come the Edomite's who were Idolaters and would be at war with Israel and are also subject to many prophecies in the Tenach in the future. (Ex. 15:15; Num. 24:18; Psalm 60:8-10; Isa 11:14; 63:1; Jer. 9:26; 25:21; 27:3; 49:7-22; Ez. 25:12-14; 32:29; san 11:41; Joel 3:19; Amos 1:6-11; 2:1; 9:12; Oba. 1-10; Mal 1:4) Also according to many historians, Rome has its roots in Edom.

God knows who will serve Him and who will not, yet we all have the free choice to choose Him over the things of the world. Many times the first born is passed over because they do not have the character to fulfill God's plans and purposes in this world. I am not saying that they could not become children of God, but God chooses who will be the ones to serve Him and lead others in His Kingdom.

Jacob was a man who had a heart for God, even in His mother's womb. Jacob had the character it would take to be the priest of YHWH walking in the anointing of the firstborn. Because of this, Israel's twelve tribes came through Jacob's family. Even though Jacob was considered a "sub planter" at first, in the end he would become "Israel" (Jacob was given the **name Israel** (Hebrew: יִשְׂרָאֵל, Standard Yisra'el; "Triumphant with God", "who prevails with God") after he wrestled with a "man" (Genesis 32:28 and 35:10).

God can predict human acts, based upon human traits.

Malachi 1:1 An oracle: The word of Adonai to Israel by Malachi.

Mal 1:2 "I loved you," says Adonai. But you say: "How have you loved us?" "Was Esau not Jacob's brother?"—it is the declaration of Adonai—"Yet I loved Jacob

Mal 1:3 and Esau I hated. I made his hills a wasteland and gave his inheritance to jackals of the wilderness."

Mal 1:4 For Edom may say, "We have been beaten down, but we will return and rebuild the ruins." Thus Adonai-Tzva'ot says: "They may rebuild but I will tear down. They will be called a wicked territory, the people Adonai denounced forever.

God is sovereign in His choice

Romans 9:1 I tell the truth in Messiah—I do not lie, my conscience assuring me in the Ruach ha-Kodesh—

Rom 9:2 that my sorrow is great and the anguish in my heart unending.

Rom 9:3 For I would pray that I myself were cursed, banished from Messiah for the sake of my people—my own flesh and blood,

Rom 9:4 who are Israelites. To them belong the adoption and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Torah and the Temple service and the promises.

Rom 9:5 To them belong the patriarchs—and from them, according to the flesh, the Messiah, who is over all, God, blessed forever. Amen.

Rom 9:6 But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all those who are descended from Israel are Israel,

Rom 9:7 nor are they all children because they are Abraham's seed; rather, "Your seed shall be called through Isaac."

Rom 9:8 That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God; rather, the children of the promise are counted as seed.

Rom 9:9 For the word of promise is this: "At this time I will come, and Sarah shall have a son."

Rom 9:10 And not only this, but also Rebecca having twins, from one act with our father Isaac.

Rom 9:11 Yet before the sons were even born and had not done anything good or bad—so that God's purpose and choice might stand not because of works but because of Him who calls—

Rom 9:12 it was said to her, "The older shall serve the younger."

Rom 9:13 As it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

Rom 9:14 What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be!

Rom 9:15 For to Moses He says, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."

Rom 9:16 So then it does not depend on the one who wills or the one who strives, but on God who shows mercy.

Rom 9:17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I raised you up—to demonstrate My power in you, so My name might be proclaimed in all the earth."

Rom 9:18 So then He has mercy on whom He wills, and He hardens whom He wills.

1 Corinthians 1:26 For you see your calling, brothers and sisters, that not many are wise according to human standards, not many are powerful, and not many are born well.

1Co 1:27 Yet God chose the foolish things of the world so He might put to shame the wise; and God chose the weak things of the world so He might put to shame the strong;

1Co 1:28 and God chose the lowly and despised things of the world, the things that are as nothing, so He might bring to nothing the things that are—

1Co 1:29 so that no human might boast before God.

1Co 1:30 But because of Him you are in Messiah Yeshua, who became to us wisdom from God and righteousness and holiness and redemption—

God choose Jacob/Israel to bring forth the 12 tribes, the Nation of Israel and through them would come the promised Messiah and Redeemer of Israel and mankind, Yeshua HaMashiach. It is through Israel that all the promises and covenants would be preserved via Messiah Yeshua.

Deteronomy 7:7 It is not because you are more numerous than all the peoples that Adonai set His love on you and chose you—for you are the least of all peoples.

Isaiah 41:8 "But you, Israel, My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, descendant of Abraham, My friend—

Isa 41:9 I took hold of you from the ends of the earth, and called from its uttermost parts, and said to you, 'You are My servant—I have chosen you, not rejected you.

Isa 41:10 Fear not, for I am with you, be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. Surely I will help you. I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

It is through Isaac would be given the following promises

Gen 26:3 Live as an outsider in this land and I will be with you and bless you—for to you and to your seed I give all these lands—and I will confirm my pledge that I swore to Abraham your father.

Gen 26:4 I will multiply your seed like the stars of the sky and I will give your seed all these lands. And in your seed all the nations of the earth will continually be blessed,

Gen 26:5 because Abraham listened to My voice and kept My charge, My mitzvot, My decrees, and My instructions.”

7 “I wills” of God to Isaac.

1. I will be with you
2. I will bless you
3. I will give you all these countries
4. I will perform the oath made to Abraham
5. I will give these countries to your seed
6. I will multiply your seeds as the stars
7. I will bless you and multiply you for Abraham’s sake

If God has called you to serve Him, then you need to be faithful to that call because He saw something in you that He could use to help change the world through Messiah Yeshua.

Gods choice is not always the obvious, but His choice is based upon what He knew about us from our very creation in the womb.

Psalms 139:13 For You have created my conscience. You knit me together in my mother’s womb.

Psa 139:14 I praise You, for I am awesomely, wonderfully made! Wonderful are Your works—and my soul knows that very well.

Psa 139:15 My frame was not hidden from You when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

Psa 139:16 Your eyes saw me when I was unformed, and in Your book were written the days that were formed—when not one of them had come to be.

Psa 139:17 How precious are Your thoughts, O God! How great is the sum of them!

Psa 139:18 Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand! When I awake, I am still with You.

John 15:16 “You did not choose Me, but I chose you. I selected you so that you would go and produce fruit, and your fruit would remain. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in My name.