

Sovereign Salvation **4-10-2016**

Gen 25:21-27

Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren. And the Lord granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife conceived. 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. 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." 24 When her days to give birth were completed, behold, there were twins in her womb. 25 The first came out red, all his body like a hairy cloak, so they called his name Esau. 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. 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 had partially fulfilled some of His promises to Abraham before he died at the age of 175.

- Ishmael had 12 sons. Gen 16:12, 17:4 & 20, 25:12-18
 - But Isaac had no children after 20 years of marriage.

Prayer was Isaac & Rebecca's response to singleness, infertility & difficult pregnancy.

- Husbands, don't always try to solve your wife's problems, just pray!
- God answered; Twins were born, fathers of 2 nations, the older was to serve the younger Gen 25:21-27

Esau="hairy one" & red. Jacob wore goatskins to impersonate Esau!

- Esau was masculine, an outdoorsman, a hunter, and adventurous, it's like a guy today who drives a 4x4, has a gun rack and fishing polls, loves the outdoors, & he was also a pagan!
 - He was the father of the Edomites, Israelites enemy. The struggle in the womb was a prophetic struggle- related to the warring of the two nations.

Jacob= "He takes by the heel" but was later renamed Israel.

- He was not a sissy, but a farmer, businessman (succeeded with his head not hands), and a conniving mama's boy. He lied to his father & cheated his older brother in order to achieve his goals.
 - "Jacob" came to mean "He cheats, deceitful, outwits by tripping up".
- God's choice of Jacob was determined by His will and grace and not ANYTHING Jacob/Esau would do in the future.

This clearly teaches the principle of divine election: salvation is a sovereign choice of the Lord not a result of man's good works or man's free will. Rom 9:6-13

- This was not foreknowledge: The idea that God sees who will decide for Him & puts them on His list.
 - This still doesn't give people totally free choice because future fixed.
- Foreknowledge in Bible means to know intimately beforehand not that God knew facts about someone (have faith to be saved). 1 Cor 8:3, Gal 4:9,
 - Faith is not the cause of our election. Faith is a product of our election.

Salvation is either in fallen man's free will decision or in God's choice. Rom 3:11, Jn 6:44, Eph. 1:4-5, 11, 2:10, 2 Tim 1:9, 2 Thes 2:13,

- God does pass by some lost beings. Choses to redeem men not fallen angels.
 - If it's God's will that everyone is saved & if He answers any prayer made according to His will, then why isn't everyone saved?
- Simply put: God deals justly with everyone, but choses to have mercy on some who willingly receive salvation: God causes us to freely choose Him.

God knew divine election would cause controversy so He lovingly addressed man's (I'm included) struggle with this truth. Rom. 9:14-23

- It's not the doctrine of election that causes broken fellowship & division but men's arrogant, hard hearts on both sides of issue. *church "split"*

Election shouldn't produce division, arrogance but humility & gratitude. 1 Cor 1:10-13

- It should give confidence in prayer and witnessing & deepen love and concern for the lost.
 - Glee testimony.
- Resist the enemy's use of this truth to cause strife & division in Jesus' body & let's move forward together to see God's purposes accomplished on the earth.

church "split"....(joke) Gut is in a church and he hears the discussions on both sides and he is not sure, so went to predestination side. Someone asked, "Who sent you here?" He replied, "No one, I came of my own free will." They pushed him across aisle to the free-will camp. Someone in free-will camp asked him why he had come over there. He replied, "I had no choice; I was forced over here!" At this point, the poor man had nowhere to go!