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Sunday Morning Service Study Notes
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TITLE:

By Faith Isaac, Jacob and Joseph

TEXT:

Hebrews 11:20-22

By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones.

INTRODUCTION

- Isaac, Jacob and Joseph acted their faith when they were dying.

BY FAITH ISAAC BLESSED JACOB AND ESAU

- In Gen. 25:23, the LORD said to Isaac and Rebekah his wife (re: Jacob and Esau):
 - Two nations are in her womb.
 - The two groups of people shall be separated or divided.
 - One group shall be stronger than the other.
 - Esau, the elder, shall serve Jacob, the younger (cf. Rom. 9:11-12).
- Fulfillment:
 - Edomites are the descendants of Esau who settled in the south of Palestine.
 - Israelites are the descendants of Jacob.
 - Edomites were then attacked and defeated by Saul (1 Sam. 14:47).
 - David overthrew their army in the Valley of Salt (2 Sam. 8:13-14).
 - When Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem the Edomites joined him and took an active part in the plunder of the city (Psa. 137).
 - Edomites have been in conflict with Israelites throughout history (cf. Num. 20:14-21; Deu. 23:7; Joe. 3:19; Amo. 1:11, Oba. 1:10-14).
 - Esau's hatred toward Jacob explains the current Middle East crisis.
 - The descendants of Esau, who were Edomites, are inferior to and subject to the descendants of Jacob.
 - Israel inherited the promised land; Israel is regarded as God's chosen nation.
- Gen. 27
 - Isaac seemed to have forgotten how God had determined the matter at the birth of his sons.
 - Isaac wanted to bless Esau before the LORD before his death.
 - Rebekah and Jacob deceived Isaac.
 - Jacob received the blessing of Isaac.
 - Isaac trembled very exceedingly when the plot was exposed.
 - Isaac remembered God's word (Gen. 25:23) and he said "yea, and he shall be blessed" (Gen. 27:33).
 - By faith, Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

BY FAITH JACOB BLESSED BOTH THE SONS OF JOSEPH AND WORSHIPPED

- Gen. 48:16-20
 - Jacob adopted Joseph's two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, as his own and he blessed them both.
 - They took Joseph's place and became tribes of Israel.
 - They were both given land portion (Josh. 17:17).
 - Levi did not have a land portion (Josh 18:7).
 - Thus, there were still 12 tribal divisions.
 - Jacob purposely blessed Ephraim, the younger, before Manasseh, the elder.
 - Ephraim shall be greater than Manasseh (Gen. 48:19).
 - Ephraim became more numerous than Manasseh (Num. 1:32-35).
 - The Tabernacle was set up in Shiloh within Ephraim from the time of Joshua (Josh. 18:1).
- Gen. 47:31c And Israel bowed himself upon the bed's head.

BY FAITH JOSEPH MADE MENTION OF THE DEPARTING OF ISRAEL AND GAVE COMMANDMENT CONCERNING HIS BONES

- Gen. 50:24-25
 - Joseph's faith is based on the Word of God spoken to Abraham (Gen. 15:13-16).
- Joseph knew he would be buried with great glory in Egypt but he wanted to be buried in the land that God had promised to Abraham.
- Joseph's bones were brought out in Exodus and buried in Sachem (Jos. 24:32).

CHALLENGE

- Isaac, Jacob and Joseph acted their faith when they were dying.
 - Our life on earth is a life of faith.
 - We should live by faith until we die.
 - Then, our faith should turn to sight.
- Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:
 - If you are not saved, death is not a good thing for you.
- Isaac wants Esau to be blessed than Jacob. Joseph wants Manasseh to be blessed more than Ephraim.
 - No one can question God's prerogative and plan.
 - We have to submit ourselves to the plan of God by faith.
 - E.g. 1 Tim. 5:14; Tit. 2:4-5; Eph. 6:4