

Title: "The Birth and Early Rivalry of Jacob and Esau"

Text: Genesis 25:19-28

Theme: In the birth and early rivalry between Jacob and Esau we witness the sovereign hand of God guiding the course of His redemption to its appointed end. There is a further choice and discrimination by God as to the line of promise – the promised Messiah will come through the line of Jacob.

I. Isaac's _____ (19-20)

II. _____ Concerning Isaac's Sons (21-23)

III. Birth of _____ (24-26)

IV. The Different _____ of Isaac's Sons (27-28)

V. Applications

A. God's plan of redemption came about through the process of _____ and _____.

B. God's choices are always _____ and _____, but we cannot _____ to know in _____ what God's specific electing choices are.

Questions to Answer and Discuss:

1. Who was Isaac's father (v. 19)?
2. How old was Isaac when he married? Whom did he marry? Who was she? (vv. 19-20)?
3. What situation in Isaac's marriage caused him to seek the LORD in prayer? What was the result (v. 21)?
4. Something greatly concerned Rebekah during her pregnancy. What was it (v. 22a)?
5. What did Rebekah do about this great concern (v. 22b)?
6. What did Rebekah discover about the difficult condition that took place during her pregnancy (v. 23)?
7. Give the name of the child born first. What was distinctive about him? (vv. 24-25)?
8. Give the name of the second child born. What was distinctive about his birth (v. 26)?
9. Describe the differing lifestyles of the two boys when they grew up (v. 27).
10. Which parent favored which child (v. 28)?
11. What important Biblical truth lies behind this passage, one that Paul in the book of Romans argues accounts for why some Jews do not receive God's promise?
12. What is the basis of God's election (why does God chose those whom He does)? What does Romans 9 give as the reason why God chose Jacob over Esau? What Scriptures other than Romans 9 help answer this question?
13. How may the doctrine of election be abused?
14. How should the truth about God's election impact us?
15. Discuss the ramifications that can happen when one parent prefers one of his or her children above another. Why does this happen? How can parents treat their children differently without showing favoritism? What should a parent do if he or she realizes he has been unfairly favoring one child above the others?