

Jacob and Esau

Quote:

“And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.”

Genesis 25:23

(Mark these notes with the table in the bottom margin of Genesis 25)

Jacob’s Life Typical of Israel’s History

The life and times of Jacob are typical of the experiences of the nation of Israel, to whose name Jacob was changed. If Jacob represents Israel, then Esau (and his descendants the Edomites) represent the Gentiles (Amos 9:12).

Jacob	Israel
He gained the Birthright and the Blessing	They are God’s firstborn nation (Exod 4:22)
He was driven from his home by the enmity of Esau	They were driven from their homeland through their own folly and by the enmity of the Gentiles
During Jacob’s exile, he was protected by God	In their exile they have been protected by God.
He suffered in exile working for his uncle Laban	They have suffered in exile (Deut 28:64-67)
He returned home yet still in fear of Esau	Their latter day return to their land is marked by times of fear
His name was changed to Israel	They are to be changed in heart at Christ’s return (Ezek.36:25-27)
He was reconciled to his brother	They are to be reconciled to the Gentiles in the universal kingdom Christ will establish (Isa.19:24-25)
He settled in peace in the Land of Promise	They will settle in peace in the Land of Promise (Isa. 60:18)

Verse by Verse Marking

Genesis 25:23

“**Two manner of people**” - “people’ - from a root word meaning “together” ie as a group, or a nation. The one people would be spiritual, and the other profane (Heb 12:15-16). The one could be moulded from a supplanter (Jacob) to a prince with power (Israel). The other would not be changed by the power of the Word.

“separated” - means “to divide”. God established enmity between these two peoples from the beginning. (see [v22](#) - they “struggled together”; [Gen 3:15](#)). There was therefore to be separation the one from the other ([2 Cor 6:14-18](#)).

Genesis 25:25

“first came out red” - Heb “admoni” - from “adam” - sig ‘red’. Indicates abundant physical health. There was abundant life of the flesh ([Lev 17:14](#)) which the scriptures say cannot inherit the Kingdom of God ([1 Cor 15:50](#)).

“like an hairy garment” - a total contrast to the smooth white linen garment of righteousness ([Rev 19:8](#)). Being born looking like this - it is as if he was fully developed. This proved to be the case spiritually. He would not allow the Word of God to cause any spiritual development in him.

“Esau” - means “the hairy one”. From Hebrew root “asah” meaning to “do, accomplish or make”. He had confidence in the flesh to do, accomplish or make what he wanted. He did not trust in Yahweh.

Genesis 25:26

“Jacob” - means supplanter, or heel-catcher.

Genesis 25:27

“Esau was a cunning hunter” - ie - he lived by his wits, and followed the ways of Nimrod ([Gen 10:9](#)).

“a man of the field” - an expression used by the Lord to describe the world ([Matt 13:38](#)). Esau was indeed a man of the world.

“Jacob was a plain man” - “plain” = Heb “tam” - meaning complete, perfect, having integrity, sincere ([Psa 37:37](#) - ‘perfect’). Contrasts with the cunning Esau. Jacob was therefore a sincere man who single heartedly desired the Kingdom of God.

“dwelling in tents” - This is referred to in [Heb 11:9](#). It is here that Jacob learned the truth from both Abraham and Isaac, and was taught to trust in Yahweh and hope for the kingdom ([Heb 11:10](#)). This is also a contrast to Esau who was a man of the field where he relied on and trusted in self.

Genesis 25:1-11 - The Death of Abraham

25:1-4 - Abrahams family by Keturah
25:5-6 - His preference for Isaac
25:7-10 - His death and burial
25:11 - Isaac blessed of God

Mark the chapter
breakdown by the
verses noted

Genesis 25:12-18 - The Generations of Ishmael

25:12-18 - Ishmael's descendants, inheritance and death

Genesis 25:19-27:46 - Jacob Secures the Blessing

25:19-24 - The prophecy and birth of Esau and Jacob
25:25-27 - The characteristics of Esau and Jacob
25:28 - Disharmony in the home

25:29-34 - Esau sells his birthright
26:1-5 - Isaac's troubles in the land
26:6-11 - Isaac's deceit regarding his wife
26:12-16 - Isaac's prosperity
26:17-22 - Isaac oppressed by Philistines
26:23-25 - Isaac encouraged by the vision at Beersheba
26:26-31 - The Philistines submit to Isaac
26:32-33 - The establishment of the Well of the Covenant
26:34-35 - Esau's marriages grieve his parents
27:1-4 - Isaac prepares to bless his firstborn
27:5-10 - Rebekah's counter-plan
27:11-25 - Jacob's deception
27:26-29 - The blessing bestowed
27:30-33 - The deception discovered
27:34-40 - Esau's complaint and reward
27:41-46 - Rebekah urges Jacob to flee from Esau's hatred