



DESPIISING THE BIRTHRIGHT

September 27, 2009

A BIBLICAL STUDY of Genesis 25:19 – Gen. 27

“What Profit Shall This Birthright Be To Me?”

For those who have often read these chapters, focus tends to be given to the storyline. Today, we will focus primarily on the birthright and Esau's lack of regard.

1. Read Genesis 25:19-34 and review the following background information provided.
 - A. The timeline: 25:19, 21, 26
 - B. The description/comparison of the boys: 25:22-28
 - C. The action of selling the birthright: 25:29-34
 2. Read the definition of “birthright.” What all did this birthright entail?
 - A. A Spiritual Privilege, Preeminence and Authority - Gen. 27:18-29, 36
 - B. A Strength of the Firstborn - Gen. 49:3; Deut. 21:17
 - C. A Double Portion - Deut. 21:15-17; II Kings 2:9
 3. What event preceded the deception concerning the blessing? Gen. 26:34
 - DISCUSS: Do you think Rebekah was just trying to support Jacob, the closer son to her, or do you think she was trying to keep the blessing from landing in the hands of the Hittites? How could Jacob have received the blessing without deception?
 4. Why would Esau give up the birthright for a silly bowl of soup? Was it the sin of Esau that lost him the birthright? Ro. 9:10-16
 - Determine which of the following is the correct conclusion: 1) Esau was not of the elect of God (Ro. 9:11-13) and therefore, he despised his birthright. 2) Esau despised his birthright (Heb. 12:16-17) and therefore was not the elect of God.
- “... and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.” - Luke 16:10*
5. Let us now use God's word to study this Biblical event spiritually. Who is the firstborn in the kingdom of heaven? Col. 1:13-17
 - Who are the partakers of the inheritance? Col. 1:12
 6. In the Greek translation, birthright and firstborn have the same number definition (4415). Compare the similarities of the spiritual to the physical birthright. Col. 1:14-18
 7. If the saints are “partakers of the inheritance,” what is the spiritual warning given concerning despising this birthright? Heb. 12
 - A. The instruction - vs. 1
 - B. The reason for the expectation - vs. 2-4
 - C. The consequence and self-examination - vs. 7-8
 - D. Warning against the lack of regard - vs. 14-17
 - 1) DISCUSS the significance of the Greek meaning of “would have inherited the blessing” meaning “he would have wished to inherit”
 - 2) COMPARE “though he sought it carefully with tears” to Matt. 7:21-22



STRONG'S HEBREW/GREEK DEFINITIONS



1. **BIRTHRIGHT (H1062) “Bekorah”** - primogeniture: birthright, firstborn
2. **BIRTHRIGHT (G4415) “Prototokos”** - primogeniture (as a privilege); birthright
3. **BESET (G2139) “Euperistatos”** - Well standing around; thwarting (a competitor who keeps you from going where you want to go)

It is important not to claim the victim role for the reprobate (Ro. 9:14-16), which would make God the author of sin (Ja. 1:13-15). The soul of the reprobate has been left in its sinful state, but by grace the soul of the righteous has been made clean through the suffering of Christ.



TEXT OF THE WEEK

“...Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.

For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected; for he found no place of repentance though he sought it carefully with tears.”

- Hebrews 12:16-17

We can be guilty of despising this birthright by not setting aside those sins that “easily beset us.” The story of Esau is another example of self examination: are we a son or a bastard?