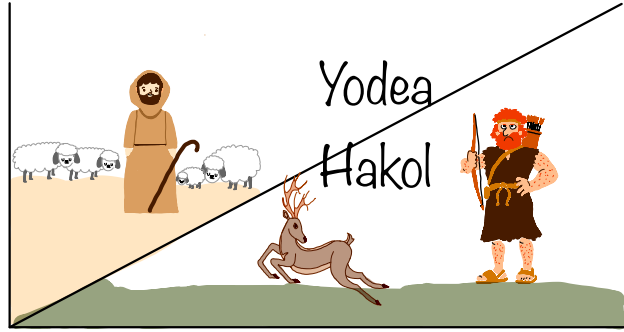


Toldot

תולדות

“Generations”



Genesis 25:19-28:9

In this week's Torah portion (Parasha) we learn that God is all-knowing — **yodea hakol** (יודע הכול). Because God is all-knowing, everything He reveals to man will happen! In today's Scripture God demonstrates He is all-knowing when He:

- revealed to Rivka (Rebekah) that she would give birth to twins with one being stronger and the older serving the younger
- revealed to Yitz'chak (Isaac) to remain in the Promised Land during a famine as a witness to the nations
- revealed to Rivka what had to be done for Ya'kov (Jacob) to receive the birthright blessing he had purchased from his brother
- revealed to Rivka the evil desire of Esav (Esau) to murder his brother Ya'kov

Because God is all-knowing we can trust and obey His instructions even when the world disagrees.

~ Focus Passage of Scripture ~
Genesis 25:19-34

Today our focus passage begins with the genealogy of Yitz'chak, the promised son of Avram (Abram). In Genesis 15:3 God promised Avram he would have a son many years after he and Sarai were married. When a man and woman get married, they are joined together in a unique way before God, and they become one person. Since Sarai and Avram had already become one flesh when God made this promise to Avram, Sarai was the only one God intended would give birth to the promised son.

God always keeps His promises even when human understanding does not believe it is possible. Sarah was very old when God allowed her to conceive Yitz'chak and his birth was a miracle! We have already learned from Scripture that Ishmael was Avram's first born son, and following the death of Sarah, Avraham married again and had six more sons in his old age. Yitz'chak was the promised son and the only son of Avraham who could inherit the birthright containing the spiritual blessings and promises God had made to Avraham.

Genesis 25:23

And the Lord said to her: "Two nations are in your womb, Two nations shall be separated from your body; one people shall be stronger than the other, and the older shall serve the younger."

Pray First

Father God,

You alone deserve all glory, honor and fear.

Please help us fear You instead of man.

Help us to make You and Your word the most important thing in our lives.

We praise You because You know all things and have revealed the way of salvation and Your Kingdom to us.

In Yeshua's name we pray. Amen.

Read Next

Genesis 25:19 - 28:9

In Genesis 25:20 Yitz'chak took Rivka as his wife when he was forty years old. Rivka was a descendant of Avraham's family and was chosen by God to be Yitz'chak's wife. Yitz'chak submitted to God's choice and loved his wife, Rivka.

In Genesis 25:21 after twenty years of marriage, Yitz'chak and Rivka had no children. Yitz'chak pleaded with the Lord for his wife to conceive and the Lord granted his request.

In Genesis 25:22 while Rivka was pregnant she sensed conflict within her body, and she was concerned and confused by what she was experiencing. Rivka was a wise woman and knew that only God knows all things, so she took her concerns to the Lord in prayer. Rivka knew that God alone is **yodea hakol** (הַכּוֹל יוֹדֵעַ).

In Genesis 25:23 the Lord heard Rivka's prayer and answered her. The Lord revealed to Rivka that she had two nations within her. She learned that only one of the nations would find strength in depending on God and the older would serve the younger. This was the reason Rivka had felt the conflict within her body.

In Genesis 25:24 Rivka gave birth to twin boys just as the all-knowing God had foretold.

In Genesis 25:25 The first born (older son) came out red. He was like a hairy garment all over. He was called Esav, which means "hairy".

In Genesis 25:26 the second twin (younger son) came out grasping his brother's heel, so he was named Ya'kov, which means "grasping the heel".

Let's take a break for a minute to play a game!

What's in a Name Game?

Directions: Match the name with its meaning.

Names

Avram

Avraham

Sarai

Sarah

Yitz'chak

Ya'kov

Esav

Edom

Meanings

Princess

Red

Hairy

Exalted Father

Grasping the heel

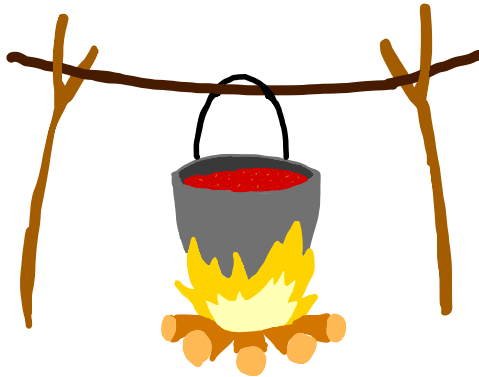
Father of Many Nations

My Princess

Laughter



Now, stand up and walk across the room you are in. Pursue reaching the opposite side of your room. As you walk, notice which part of your foot strikes the floor first with each step. Pay close attention, and you will see that your heel touches first as you are in pursuit of the other side of the room. This exercise helps us understand that the name Ya'kov means "in pursuit of". We will learn as we study Scripture together that the younger son, Ya'kov, was always in pursuit of the promises of the God. Ya'kov found the source of his strength was in pursuing and depending on the all-knowing God.



In Genesis 25:27 as the twins grew older, Esav relied upon and found pleasure in the things of the world, becoming a skillful hunter and a man of the field. In contrast Ya'kov was a blameless man and dwelt with his father, Yitz'chak, in the tents.

In Genesis 25:28 we learn that Yitz'chak loved Esav because he loved to eat the animals Esav killed while hunting. Rivka loved Ya'kov, and no reason is given. Perhaps it was because she observed Ya'kov pursuing the ways of God instead of the world.

In Genesis 25:29-30 we learn that one day Esav failed to kill the wild game he hunted for food. When he was hungry and tired, he came to his brother's tent. He asked his brother, Ya'kov, to feed him with some of the red stew he made. In addition to being born with a red complexion, Esav was now craving red stew. For this reason he is also called Edom, meaning "red".

In Genesis 25:31 we find Ya'kov's response to Esav's request: "Sell me your birthright as of this day." The birthright included the promises of God given to Avraham and was traditionally passed down through the first born son from generation to generation. God had richly blessed the descendants of Avraham just as He promised He would. Not only did Avraham's family have riches, but they were promised to be the source of blessing to the entire world. Ya'kov alone valued the birthright, and he pursued it just as his name suggested he would. This made God very happy.

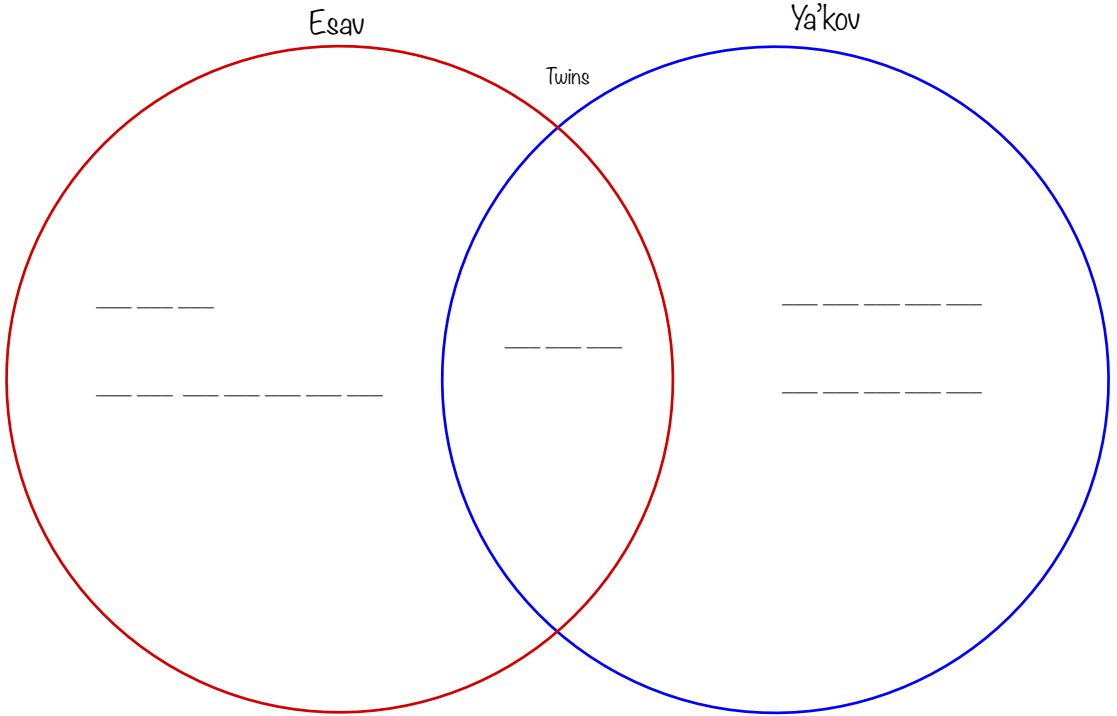
In Genesis 25:32 Esav replied, "Look, I am about to die, so what profit shall this birthright be to me?" With this statement Esav demonstrated his desire to be blessed by the world instead of being a blessing to the world. He was more interested in fulfilling his desire than being a blessing to others. Esav valued his birthright so little that he sold it for a single meal that he wanted.

In Genesis 25:33 Ya'kov then said, "Swear to me as of this day," and Esav swore to sell his birthright for a meal of red stew. Ya'kov purchased his older brother's birthright that day with all the inherited promises of God and the blessings associated with it.

In Genesis 25:34 Ya'kov paid the price Esav placed upon his birthright by giving his brother one meal of bread and lentil stew. Esav ate, and when he was satisfied he arose and went his own way. Esav demonstrated he despised his birthright, meaning he placed no eternal value on it. We know this because he sold it for a single meal. This did not make God happy or honor Him in anyway.

Recap Review Truth

Directions: Find the twin's similarities and differences by identifying the terms that describe each twin. Then write the term's corresponding letter in the correct brother's circle. (Hint: The two circles overlapping means the term describes both brothers.) When you have correctly matched the term to the right brother in order, you will discover a hidden message.



Y. Tent dweller

A. Red

O. Bought brother's birthright

L. Oldest twin

D. Blameless

L. Hairy

E. Pursued the promises of God

G. Male twin

K. Edom

A. Grasps the heel

N. Skilled hunter

H. Smoothed skin

O. Despised his birthright

A. Youngest twin

W. Vowed to kill his brother (Gen 27:41-42)

K. Fled to Padam Aram (Gen 27:43; 27:5)

I. Man of the field

O. Rivka's child

D. Yitz'chak's son

N. Married daughter of Ishmael (Gen 28:9)

G. Had 2 Hittite wives (Gen 26:34-35)

O. Obeyed his mother

L. Received the birthright blessing from

Yitz'chak

“Stirring the Pot”

Haftorah: Malachi 1:1-2:7

Pray First

Father God,

Please sanctify us according to Your purposes and will. Help us desire to fear and honor You with all our thoughts and actions.

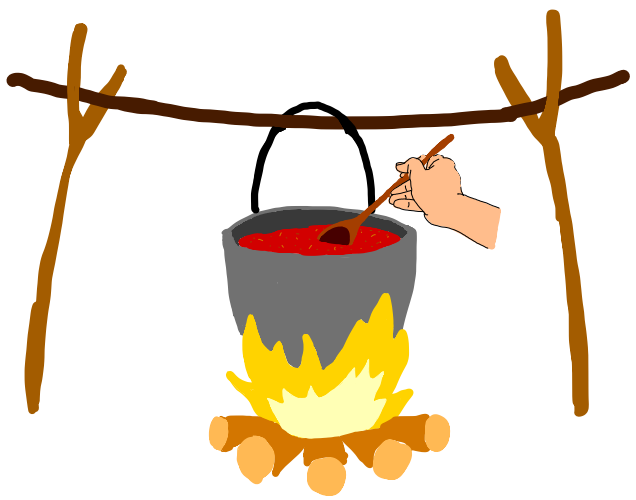
In Yeshua’s name we pray. Amen.

Read Next

Malachi 1:1-2:7

Additional Reading:

Obadiah 1:1-21



Malachi 1:14

“But cursed be the descendants who has in his flock a male, and takes a vow. But sacrifices to the LORD what is blemished — for I am a great King,” says the LORD of hosts, “And My name is to be feared among the nations.”

As we study this passage of Scripture, let’s see if we can add a few things to the pot to give us a greater understanding. Malachi was a prophet of God during the Second Temple period. A prophet is someone God chooses to speak through to deliver His message to the world.

God was very unhappy with the priesthood at this time in history. The priests of God were supposed to teach the people about God and lead them in proper worship of Him. However, the priests were not doing this because they were not putting God first place in their lives. They did not fear God and did not love Him more than they loved themselves. This behavior was deceiving the people and teaching them improper worship. The priests were using their heritage from God for personal gain, just like Esav had done many years earlier.

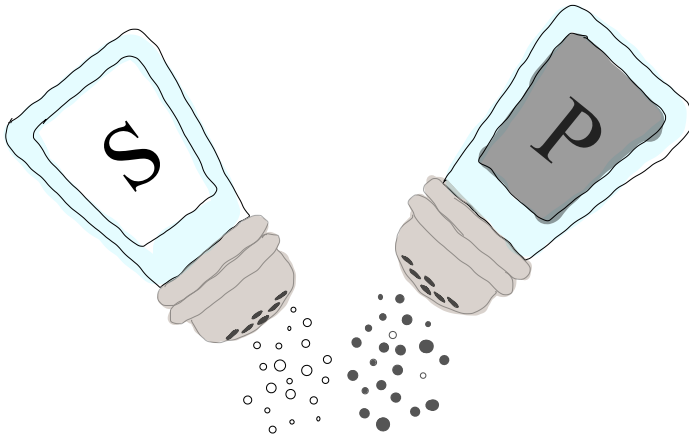
When Esav was alive, he demonstrated no fear of God by how he lived his life. He relied upon his human skills as a hunter with no respect for the ways of God. It was only when Esav failed by his own strength that he came to his brother’s house for food. Once Esav satisfied his physical need, he arose to continue a life to honor himself instead of God. As a result of this behavior, God withheld the birthright blessing from Esav that he had sold for a single meal to his brother. God gave the birthright heritage blessing to Ya’kov who valued and pursued it even before the twins were born. Esav refused to submit and rely upon God his entire life. When a person does this, no spiritual blessing or heritage can be given by God.

In the same manner the Second Temple priesthood did not fear God by giving Him the priority He deserves. The priests, like Esav, were more concerned about what they wanted than trusting and obeying God. They were using their position given by God for personal gain and expected God’s blessing in return. They were offering blemished food on God’s altar in worship of Him. This is a form of spiritual idolatry and is evil in the sight of God. As a result of their behavior, God rebuked them and stated that He will rebuke their descendants after them. This means God stripped the priesthood of their heritage just as He stripped Esav of his heritage as the first born son of Yitz’chak.

Both Esav and the Second Temple priesthood were building up that which is against the will of God. Such a lifestyle cannot and will not be blessed or rewarded by the all-knowing God.

New Testament

Romans 9:6-13



Pray First

Father God,

Please change our hearts and minds to agree with You.

In Yeshua's name we pray. Amen.

Read Next

Romans 9:6-13

Additional Reading:

Hebrews 12:16-17

Now that all the ingredients are in the pot let's add the correct seasoning with the Apostle Paul's message to us:

God foretold Avraham that one from his own body would be heir to all God's promises. Avraham had eight sons, but God recognized Sarah's miraculous birth of Yitz'chak as Avraham's only son. Avraham's oldest son Ishmael is often referred to as the son of the flesh. This means his birth by Hagar was a result of Avram and Sarai relying on their own strength and understanding instead of trusting in the word of God. Despite their failure to fear God by putting Him first place in this matter, He kept His promise for a son born of Sarah as He had foretold.

Yitz'chak and Rivka had twins. Two sons were born of the same mother. Before they were born, God foretold Rivka the outcome of their lives. God did not cause this outcome, but He knew it before it happened because He is all-knowing. Despite Yitz'chak's desire to bless Esav instead of Ya'kov, God withheld the birthright blessing from Esav even as he wept bitterly. Esav said in his heart that he would kill his brother, Ya'kov, knowing that God had given His blessings and promises to him. This demonstrated Esav's desire to end the blessings and heritage of God.

These historical events help us understand Paul's statement: "But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they are not all Israel who are of Israel" (Romans 9:6). A person can become a child of God when he **submits** to the only way of redemption through the promised Son of God, Yeshua.

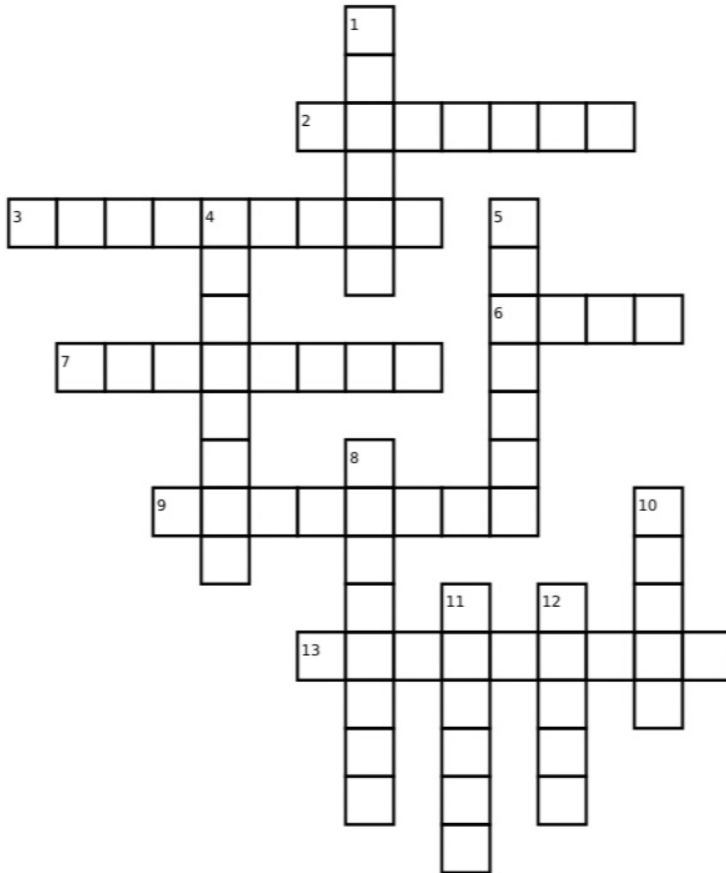
From today's study we can learn many Biblical truths. God is all-knowing and He keeps His promises. Not all people are children of God. Only people who are born again through God's promised Son, Yeshua (Jesus), are recognized by Him as children. A child of God should fear Him by putting Him first place in their lives. When a person does not agree with God's word, they are rebelling against Him. When a person glorifies himself over God, he becomes God's enemy. When a person chooses to live according to self with disregard for God, he will not receive God's blessing of eternal life. That person God will hate just as He hates Esav.

As it is written, "Ya'kov I have loved but Esav I have hated."

Romans 9:13

Crossword Puzzle

Directions: Complete the crossword puzzle using the word bank.



Word Bank:

Hunter
 Knowing
 Bitterly
 Rebellion
 Place
 Children
 Blemished
 Yakov
 Idolatry
 Esav
 Promises
 Yeshua
 Enemies

Down:

1. Esav refused to rely on the provisions of God and relied on his skill as a _____.
4. When we choose to worship God in our ways instead of His ways, it is a form of spiritual _____.
5. When we value ourselves more than God, we become His _____.
8. When Esav realized, Ya'kov had been given the birthright blessing, he wept _____.
10. God loves _____.
11. To be a child of God one must be redeemed by the blood of _____.
12. When we do not fear God, we do not put Him first _____ in our lives.

Across:

2. God is Yodea Hakol, which means all-_____.
3. The Priesthood of God refused to worship Him properly and sacrificed _____ animals on His altar.
6. God hates _____.
7. Not all people are _____ of God.
9. God always keeps His _____.
13. Disagreeing with God is an act of _____ against Him.