

# “ACCEPTING GOD’S PLAN FOR YOUR FAMILY”

## ["HAVING TWINS"]

GENESIS 25:12-26

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### INTRODUCTION

Man looks at the outward appearance, God looks on the heart.

Examples:

- David and his brothers in Choice of the next king; David in his contest with Goliath
- Saul, a large, handsome man; but a giant failure.
- Absalom—very handsome and winsome, but a spiritual failure.
- Here, Esau is rough and rugged, but was not the man of God’s choice.

### THE CLAIMS OF THE NATURAL MAN MUST YIELD TO GOD’S CHOICE AND ELECTION OF GRACE.

We will never be adjusted and content in life till we submit to God’s decrees.

#### I. THE RECORDS OF ISHMAEL (12-18)

Look how many more sons he had than Isaac! He had **twelve!**

See v. 18—likely means “settled in hostility/defiance/over against his relatives.

He lived 43 years less than Isaac—died 57 years before Isaac did due to their age difference.

#### II. THE RECORDS OF ISAAC (19-20)

#### III. THE BARRENNESS OF REBEKAH (21)

- A. He prayed.
- B. The LORD answered
- C. Rebekah conceived.

#### IV. THE REVELATION OF YAHWEH (22-23)

- A. The inward struggle of the sons within her—at this point she did not know that she was having twins. [Illus. “Revelation” to Cindi and me of our twins]
- B. Resort of Rebekah to prayer
- C. God’s explanation (23)
  1. Two nations and peoples; they will not remain the same family later
    - In her womb together now
    - Will be “separated” from your body.
  2. One people will be stronger than the other.
    - Later we see that Esau had the physical superiority.
    - God was speaking of personal and spiritual strength that would translate later into national strength.
  3. The older will serve the younger.
    - Such was contrary to custom.
    - Such would be against their natural inclinations.

- V. THE BIRTH OF THE TWINS (24-26)
- A. Reality of the twins not seen till day of birth (24).
  - B. First son was “red” all over.
    - 1. The name Esau means “red”; but as we see later, that is not the main reason for his name.
    - 2. He was also covered with “hair”—like a hairy garment [Comments at the birth of Gary]
  - C. Second one came out holding on to his brother’s heel.
    - 1. Explains the origin of his name “Jacob”
    - 2. —one who takes by the heel, or supplants.
    - 3. This name is also borne out more fully in the following events.
  - D. Isaac was 60 years old when Rebekah had her twins.

#### CONCLUSION

We might ask, why the twins, if God only determined to take the promised seen from one of them?

God gives an “answer” in Romans 9:8-13.

- Note, the older will serve the younger.
- Jacob have I loved, Esau have I hated (Mal. 1:2-3).
- God is sovereign; who are we to question?

Now, God had given a clear word as to His choice in this matter, and yet we see the “shenanigans” of each family member in the succeeding accounts as they attempt to work things out according to their plans—instead of humbly submitting to God’s plans.

How unhappy this family became! All because they had “a word from God” that they understood, yet they did not respond to it properly.

Jacob—his tricks and deceits

Esau—his carnality and worldly alliances and later pleading for Jacob to change his status.

Rebekah—conniving to get Jacob the blessing of his father against Esau.

Jacob—determined to give Esau the blessing anyhow because he loved his game and outdoorsman lifestyle.

**Let us accept god’s decree and respond properly!**

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