

Jacob and Esau: Differences and Destinies ***Genesis 25:19-34***

A difficult pregnancy reveals the destinies of the twins. 19-23

- ◆ Isaac is a dad at 60 (v. 26) after a long wait, as with Abraham.
- ◆ The twins' struggles in the womb is a prelude to future conflict, which God reveals will favor Jacob (Israel). God's choice of Jacob is recalled in Mal. 1:1,2 and in Rom. 9:10ff.

A number of differences can be spotted with the twins. 24-28

- ◆ Esau = reddish and hairy / Jacob = smooth skinned (27:11).
Esau = hunter & man of the field / Jacob = peaceful tent dweller.
Esau = Isaac's favorite son / Jacob = Rebekah's favorite son.
- ◆ Why the favoritism, which is a problem here and in 37:3,4?

A shameful trade confirms the destinies of the twins. 29-34

- ◆ Jacob drives a hard bargain to obtain the birthright. What is the birthright, and why does he so want it unlike Esau?
- ◆ Esau's shallowness is vivid: "*ate, drank, rose, and went on his way.*" Esau valued one quick meal over being a part of God's program. Consider his marriages in 26:34,35 and 33:9.
- ◆ How about us? Do we highly value being involved in God's program? Heb. 12:16,17 warns us not to be like Esau.

