



Dear Precious Friend,

June, 2017

Who Are The Elect? Part One.

This is part one in a series about the Elect of God. This first part is about Rebecca and Jacob through whom God reveals the importance of accepting, maintaining and submitting to God's election process.

As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated. *Romans 9:13*

And Isaac loved Esau, because venison was in his mouth (*orig. Heb*): but Rebecca loved Jacob. *Genesis 25:28*

Both God and Rebecca loved Jacob. Rebecca loved what God loved.

And it came to pass, that when Isaac was old, and his eyes were dim, so that he could not see, he called Esau his eldest son, and said to him, My son: and he said to him, Behold, here I am. And he said, Behold now, I am old, I don't know the day of my death: Now therefore I beseech you, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field, and **take me some venison; And make me savory meat, such as I love, and bring it to me, that I may eat;** that my soul may bless you before I die. *Genesis 27:1-4*

Both Isaac and his son Esau were sensual. Both of them coveted temporal satisfaction. Both of them loved to have venison in their mouth and this sensuality caused them to make decisions contrary to God's sovereign will, displeasing Him exceedingly.

And Esau said, Behold, I am going to die (*orig. Hebrew*): and what profit shall this birthright do to me? And Jacob said, Swear to me this day; and he swore to him: and he sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentils; and he ate and drank, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau despised his birthright. *Genesis 25:32-34*

According to the Hebrew text, this passage cannot mean that Esau was dying of hunger, especially while in his father, Isaac's house. What it means is that Esau chose temporal carnal satisfaction over any concern to bless and serve the generations to come. He was saying that the blessings of the birthright had no significance to him since he himself would not live to see them. He would not enter the land nor partake of the blessings himself so why bother to keep the birthright?

Esau "sold" his birthright to his brother, Jacob, for a bowl of lentils! Esau literally was so blinded by his carnality, that he saw the generational birthright as worthless! Beloved, it is utter folly to part with our election in God for the riches and pleasures of this present world. We have been chosen to play our part in God's grand plan for the redemption of the world!

And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to enquire of the Lord. And the Lord said to her, two nations are in your womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from your bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger. *Genesis 25:22-23*

Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to that which I command you. Go now to the flock, and fetch me from there two good kids of the goats; and I will make them savory meat for your father, such as he loves: And you shall bring it to your father, that he may eat, and that he may bless you before his death.

Genesis 27:8-10

Though at first sight, Rebecca seemed to be out of balance and full of favoritism, she was actually more aligned with the predetermined plan of God than her husband Isaac. Rebecca had already received the word of the Lord when the twins were still in her womb. She knew that the chosen seed was Jacob and not Esau and she preferred him. I am not excusing either Rebecca or Jacob for their deceptive acts in trying to achieve their desired end. The end does not justify the means. However there is much to be learned regarding an undivided focus and loyalty to God's choosing which is vital to pleasing Him.

And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac; (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calls;) It was said to her, the elder shall serve the younger. *Romans 9:10-12*

Our calling in God has been predetermined according to election, not of works, but of him that calls. Trusting in God's sovereign election has the power to stabilize us and cause us to move in the will of God with ease and assurance rather than out of striving.

So then it is not of him that wills, nor of him that runs, but of God that shows mercy. *Romans 9:16*

God's mercy is revealed, released through His sovereign choice. Many live their lives as if there is a 50-50 cooperation between our will and God's, but that does not line up with scripture. Our will has been given to us to align with God's sovereign plan so that His mercy can be shown to others through our obedience. This was most profoundly revealed at Gethsemane when Jesus, who is called the elect of God said, "not my will, but yours be done."

Why did God hate Esau and love Jacob? Because he didn't see the birthright as eternal and worthy. He saw in part, only from his temporal and carnal perspective. Jacob and Rebecca lined up with the purposes of God and though they did it shrewdly, they nevertheless made their election sure through God's faithfulness who at the right time and in the right place, wrestled with His servant Jacob in order to change his name and his character to Israel.

God's elect are those who embrace His sovereign plan with all their spirit, soul and body so that His purpose can be fulfilled in and through them for the good of all humanity.

Have you embraced God's sovereign plan for your life so that others might be shown His mercy? I encourage you to submit to God's election process and purpose and not to sell your birthright for a "bowl of lentils." You will never regret it when you stand before Him on that day.

Praise Report and Opportunity in Thessaloniki:

The apartment-headquarters for the Jewish-Greek Bridge has opened in Thessaloniki as part of Tikkun International family of ministries. We are praying every morning for the reestablishment of a bridge between the Bible nations. If the Lord has put it on your heart to visit in order to intercede, worship, share the gospel, please write to me for more information.

Shalom and Agape,

Greta