



#6 Toldot Genesis 25:19-28:9
Torah Study
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Names

Esav – Esau

Hevron – Hebron

Jasher – ancient book quoted in the Bible

Ya'akov – Jacob

Kefa – Peter

Messiah – English for Mashiach; anointed one; Christ in the Greek means to be smudged – anointed

Moshe – Moses

Rivkah – Rebecca

Shaul – Paul

Yeshua – Jesus' real name

Yĕhōvāh – God's real name forever (Exodus 3:15)

Yitz'chak – Isaac

Yochanan – John

Terms

Toldot – 6th Torah portion

Cohen – priest

Haftarah – reading from the prophets

Tanakh – Old Testament portion of Bible

Torah – 1st 5 books of the Bible

Torah portion – there are 54 portions of the Torah

Toldot means, “generations.” The Torah portion for Toldot is Genesis 25:19 to 28:9. This portion begins by telling us that Yitz'chak got married at 40 years old to Rivkah and that they were having trouble conceiving so Yitz'chak prayed, and Rivkah conceived.

First, I would like to begin by talking about that God sees us and cares about His people. From the very beginning, God cared about His people, the people who keep His commandments. Genesis 6:8-9 NKJV says, "Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God." Walking with God is to keep His commandments. Deuteronomy 5:33 NKJV says, "You shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God has commanded you, that you may live and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days." It makes perfect sense, those who do not keep God's commandments are not walking with God and not listening to God.

For example, if you were to go on a walk with someone, you would normally talk to each other and listen to what each other has to say. So, not walking with God means that the person is not present with God and does not listen to God and His commandments and walking with God means that we are listening to what God tells us. Notice that it said in Deuteronomy that God's commandments help us in life and are good. God gave us His commandments because He cares about mankind. They can even prolong our life.

Also, God notices when we are not present with Him, when we are not walking with Him. Proverbs 15:3 NKJV says, "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good." Some people act as though God does not know what is going on, but He does. Things done in secret or in the dark are not hidden to God.

Psalms 139:12-17 NKJV says,

Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, but the night shines as the day; the darkness and the light are both alike to You. For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. and in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them. How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!

There are so many things that stick out to me in these scriptures. Basically, nothing hides us from God, not even darkness or when we were in the darkness of our mother's womb. God does not wish evil on us and cares about each human being. The word "precious" can mean valuable, to be prized (according to Strong's Dictionary), therefore we are precious to God.

God gives each person the choice whether they will walk with Him or do things their own way. When we live a life of sin living in iniquity, and do not follow God's commandments we have decided not to walk with God, so God leaves us to our own thoughts and values. Isaiah 59:2 NKJV says, "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you." God knows what is going on, He lets you go your own way. God does not want people to fail in life though, and He wants people to repent so they will not fail.

Repentance is not often talked about in most of Christianity. People think that all they need to do is belong to a certain religion or just accept Yeshua (Jesus). A friend of mine told the people at his father's funeral to accept Jesus. Then after he talked, the priest said they needed to accept his religion. There is more to being in relationship with God than belonging to the right club. Repentance means more than accepting a theology or a religion. The Hebrew word means to turn around and turn towards God. We stop doing things our own way and turn towards God and keep His commandments. Living a sinful life separates us from God and from God's good eternal kingdom.

Ya'akov said that dead works refer to sin. He says, "Do not be deceived." James 1:15-16 NKJV says, "Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren." For some reason, people often do not pay attention to or understand the following scriptures in Galatians. The works of the flesh are the dead works, namely sin. Shaul (Paul) says that those who do the works of the flesh and live in sin will not be in God's future kingdom.

Galatians 5:19-21 NKJV,

Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Some people will say that sounds like we are under the law as though that is something bad. They may call you names like legalist or Judaizer because they do not know the truth. Keeping God's laws are good things. Keeping extra man-made laws as though they are God's laws are not a good thing. Yeshua said in Matthew 15:8 NKJV, "And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

They have been taught a false theology instead of what the Bible teaches. By not keeping God's laws, they are keeping a man-made law. Shaul said that sin is death, namely it is sin that is dead works. Romans 6:16 NKJV says, "Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?" It is obedience to God's commandments that leads to doing what is right, namely righteousness. Do not be confused by Shaul's reasoning.

Kefa says that misunderstanding Shaul leads to destruction. 2 Peter 3:15-16 NKJV says, "Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures." We know that destruction refers to not making it into the future kingdom of God. Shaul also says, "Do not be deceived." 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 NKJV says, "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God."

Sin is the dead works of the flesh. James 1:15-16 NKJV says, "When desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren." One of our most basic beliefs is to repent of dead works. Hebrews 6:1 NKJV says, "Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works."

If no one ever told you these things, they were not acting out of love for you. There are eternal consequences for those who live in sin, and it is called 'the lake of fire and brimstone.' Revelation 21:8 NKJV says, "All liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone." Those who are essentially lying to you by not telling you all you need to understand are sending people to the lake of fire for eternity. Do not go there with them. Have a relationship with God and follow His good commandments.

God reveals His love and goodness to us and shows us that His commandments and the Holy Spirit are good.

We should love God and walk in His ways because He is a good God that has given us His good commandments. God is the creator, and He is a loving and good God and gives us good commandments. God is not vindictive or evil like the pagan gods. The commandments of the Old Testament portion were given by God for our good. They are good.

Deuteronomy 10:12-14 NKJV says,

Fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good? Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the LORD your God, also the earth with all that is in it.

God is the creator, and He has our best interests at heart.

Sometimes we have to be courageous to keep God's law. Most importantly, keeping the law will help us to do what is "right and good," so that we will make it into the amazing and good future kingdom of God. Since the law is good, it will help us in this present life to be prosperous and have success.

Joshua 1:7-8 NKJV says,

Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Also, consider the goodness of God in giving those who believe in the Messiah the Holy Spirit in this Messianic era. God is good and so the gift of the Holy Spirit through the Messiah.

Luke 11:11-13 NKJV says,

If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

The people who followed the Old Testament God understood and knew that God is good. His law is good, and therefore, the Holy Spirit is good. God was good, is good, and is still good. Malachi 3:6 NKJV says, "For I am the LORD, I do not change." God healed and helped believers in the Old Testament portion and God still heals, restores, is merciful, is able to give us good things, and can renew our lives because He does not change.

Psalms 103:2-5 NKJV says,

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from destruction, who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, who satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Think about how scriptures apply to you.

How does knowing that God is good help you to follow His commandments and the Holy Spirit?

Therefore, I can trust in God's commandments to help me live the way I am supposed to instead of making up my own rules. Some people say we should follow our own heart, but the heart can be deceitful and even evil. Good intentions do not always end up being good. I might have good intentions for you by feeding you only sweets for your meals. Medicine says that we need a well-balanced diet and that eating a lot of

sweets and starchy foods all the time can lead to a person getting sick with diabetes. I know of at least two people who have died from this horrible disease. Jeremiah 17:9 NKJV says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked." Like I have said many times before, sometimes the heart is right and sometimes the heart is wrong and even evil.

Because God is good, I have truths for life instead of just observable facts. Facts do not give people the ethical tools for a good life. We need math and science to make things, but they are limited in usefulness. How does knowing how far the Sun is from the Earth help us to treat others right? Often, people are being taught to value facts over how to live life in our culture. Psalms 119:93 NKJV says, "I will never forget Your precepts, for by them You have given me life." Real life comes through God.

Because God is good, I do not need to be entertainment driven. Some people revolve their lives around thrills, doing things that excite them, seeking happiness through the things they own, or valuing what they can achieve. Ecclesiastes 1:9-10 NKJV says, "That which has been is what will be, that which is done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun. Is there anything of which it may be said, 'See, this is new'? It has already been in ancient times before us." If we want a more fulfilling life, put God and His commandments before our frivolous activities. Colossians 3:2 NKJV says, "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth." I once asked a person if they would be willing to learn more about God and they said they were too busy watching TV. I am not kidding. While some entertainment can be fun, making that a main function of life means that person will have no meaningful accomplishments in life. When I asked a person I know who went to Harvard what TV show he liked to watch, he said he did not have a TV. Instead, he spent his time actually living life and accomplishing things in life.

Some think that being an important, rich, or famous person would lead to a fulfilling life. Psalms 89:47-48 NKJV says, "Remember how short my time is; for what futility have You created all the children of men? What man can live and not see death? Can he deliver his life from the power of the grave?" Psalms 49:16-17 "Do not be afraid when one becomes rich, when the glory of his house is increased; for when he dies he shall carry nothing away; his glory shall not descend after him." All the things of this world will come to nothing. Those that keep and teach God's commandments will be honored in the future kingdom. Daniel 12:2-3 NKJV says, "And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever."

Work at being at peace. Make the effort; almost everything in life requires effort and not just wishful thinking. You can do it.

We need to be at peace in life and we begin doing that through God's commandments. We are to apply God's commandments in all of life. Have you ever met someone who seems detached from their spirituality? They put in their one hour each week and they are done with anything spiritual for the rest of the week.

They have a relationship with God and others on their own terms instead of God being part of their life. Perhaps they have been misled to believe that God's commandments are not important. Those who keep God's commandments in all they do brings peace to our life. Psalms 37:37 NKJV says, "Mark the blameless man, and observe the upright; for the future of that man is peace." God wants us to have a successful and satisfying life. He has given us His commandments to help us with life.

Psalms 85:8-11 NKJV says,

I will hear what God the LORD will speak, for He will speak peace to His people and to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly. Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land. Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

God wants His people, His saints, His holy ones, to have a good life and a life of blessing. We do what is right by avoiding mistaken ideas and sin. God's deliverance will be with those who deeply respect God, namely those who fear God. Why is that? It is because they recognize God for who He is, the creator of the universe. They have accepted God's goodness and truth from the creator God who knows what is best for us. Living right, (being righteous) and living according to God's commandments brings peace. Our all-knowing God has given mankind the right way to live from His holy habitation, from heaven. Isn't that wonderful?

Also, keeping God's commandments puts us in right relationship with God because we are listening to Him and doing what He tells us to do. In this Messianic age, the Holy Spirit also helps us to be at peace with God and others. Note that the Holy Spirit will not tell us to disobey God's commandments but is a helper for life just like God's commandments are. John 14:15-17 NKJV says, "Keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever, the Spirit of truth." God's commandments help us to do what is right and the Holy Spirit can remind us to do what is right, lead us in the right direction in life, inspire us, help us to act in good ways, and so much more. God's commandments are to lead us in life and are truth. The Holy Spirit can also help lead us. John 16:13 NKJV says, "When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth."

Knowing what is right gives us confidence and mental rest in all of life so that we have the strength and joy to move forward. Psalms 16:11 NKJV says, "You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy." When we do God's will, life will go better. Psalms 28:7 NKJV says, "The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices." Trusting in and doing God's commandments helps in life and we have reason to rejoice.

I would like to talk about a second aspect of having peace, the peace we get from being disciplined to have peace. Some people are always seeking the worldly things of life; riches, fame, thrills, honor, excitement, and so forth. Isaiah 26:3 NKJV says, "You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You." We are to trust in God's abilities, in God's provision, in God's commandments, in the work of the Holy Spirit, in doing things God's way and not our own way.

Being a man or woman of God can give us peace in life both day and night. Psalms 4:8 NKJV says, "I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; for You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety." Keeping God's commandments can give us satisfaction and peace in life. Psalms 119:165 NKJV says, "Great peace have those who love Your law." God can strengthen His people and bless us with peace. This can come either supernaturally or as a result of keeping God's commandments. Psalms 29:11 NKJV says, "The LORD will give strength to His people; the LORD will bless His people with peace." We can have peace, so make sure to appropriate the peace in life that God wants for us. Stand against fear, doubt, and worry. Trust in God. 2 Timothy 1:7 NKJV says, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

We can have peace in life knowing we have truths for life. Psalms 119:160 "The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever." Psalms 85:10-11 says, "Righteousness and peace have kissed. Truth shall spring out of the earth." Let us hope and pray that more people will begin living God's truths for life, do what is "right and good" (see Deuteronomy 6:17-18, and bring God's goodness into the world.

God sees us and cares about His people. He knows what we are doing and wants us to be in relationship with Him and walk with Him. God has revealed His love and goodness to us through His good commandments and the Holy Spirit. Believers for all of time have understood that God was good, is good, and will always be good. Apply the scriptures well to life, make sure to keep God's commandments, and be thoughtful in life. We can have peace in life through God, His commandments, and the Holy Spirit. Also, make sure to speak peace to our minds through the scriptures and be determined to keep your mind at peace.

Torah Study.

The Torah portion for this week is Toldot and it means, "generations." The Torah portion for Toldot is Genesis 25:19 to 28:9. We learn more about Isaac in this portion. This parashah begins by telling us that Yitz'chak got married at 40 years old to Rivkah and that they were having trouble conceiving. According to the Book of Jasher, Abraham first prayed for them and then Rivkah asks Yitz'chak to also pray.

The Book of Jasher is an ancient book that was quoted in the Bible. It is not considered inspired by God, but sometimes explains some of the details of what happened. Rivkah says in Jasher 25:6, "And Rebecca said unto him, but arise now thou also and pray, that the Lord may hear thy prayer and grant me children, and Isaac hearkened to the words of his wife."¹ So Yitz'chak prayed, and Rivkah conceived. Why did he wait to pray? Some people are indifferent to prayer, but Yitz'chak was a believer. Perhaps he trusted that God would do what He said without taking any action, but that is not a good reason not to pray. Yeshua Messiah tells us to pray over and over in the story of the unjust judge (see Luke 18:1-8). Luke 18:1 NKJV says, "Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart."

¹ <https://sacred-texts.com/chr/apo/jasher/26.htm>

We are to pray much.

Shaul encourages us to pray much to God. Ephesians 6:18 NKJV says, "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints." Saints refers to God's holy ones who keep His commandments. Deuteronomy 28:9 NKJV says, "The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in His ways." Saints are not dead people, but people who keep God's commandments. Shaul said in Ephesians we are to pray always; we are to be diligent to pray.

While Rivkah's twins were in her womb, they were very active, so Rivkah asked God what was going on. She asked Abraham, Shem the son of Noah, and Noah's son Eber according to the Book of Jasher and they inquired of the Lord. The Lord told her there were two rival nations in her womb and that the older would serve the younger. So, either from our understanding of the Bible or from Jasher, she had received by revelation that Ya'akov was to receive the blessing of the first born and not Esav.

Yitzchak liked Esav because he was a hunter and seemingly disregarded the word that Rivkah received from God. This caused a lot of trouble when it came time to pass on the blessing. There seems to be some favoritism going on. When the twins were born Esav came first and was reddish and Ya'akov came out holding Esav's heel. Yitz'chak was 60 at the time. Ya'akov was a quiet child and Rivkah favored him probably because of the prophesy given to her.

One day Esav came home exhausted and asked Ya'akov for some food. Ya'akov said he would give him food if he would give him the rights of the firstborn; so, Esav gave his firstborn rights for some food. As we can see, God had already given Ya'akov the rights of the firstborn. Esav actually gave away what he did not have and what he did not care about anyway. God gave the birthright to Jacob by revelation and also, the Bible says that Esav "despised" his birthright and gave it away; see Genesis 25:34. Strong's Dictionary says that the word despised can also mean to disdain. In other word Esau had contempt for his birthright. Then there is a famine, and God tells Yitz'chak to stay in the land instead of going to Egypt and God reiterates the promise to Yitz'chak that He gave to Avraham.

God still speaks to His people.

We see God communicating with His people and helping them. I find it remarkable that people resist the leading of the Holy Spirit and do not want the associated gifts of the Holy Spirit. God knows everything! Isn't it to our advantage to have the help of God in life in addition to His commandments. Also, it seems some do not want God's commandments either. God knows what is best for life.

God's commandments were passed down verbally at first.

It says about Abraham in Genesis 26:5 NKJV, "Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws." Believers keep God's commandments. There are some people who teach that Abraham and other ancient believers did not know God's commandments, but as we can see, that is not true. God had Israel write down God's commandments after they left Egypt for future generations to have. That was the reason for

writing down God's commandments at Mount Sinai. It was not because they did not know them.

Israel knew God's commandments. Why would Moshe have his sons circumcised when he went back to Egypt if they did not know God's commandments? They also had the means to write them down. Archeology has found Hebrew writing dating back to around 1650 BC. Modern archeology shows that Israel escaped their slavery in Egypt around 1450 BC instead of 1305 BC. They have now found Hebrew writing in Canaan that they date to the time Israel entered the land. Israel passed on their alphabet to the Canaanites and subsequently to the Phoenicians. So, our alphabet has its roots in the Hebrew alphabet.

While Yitz'chak is in G'rar, he is afraid, so he tells the people there that Rivkah is his sister, but he was found out. Rivkah was given protection by Avimelekh. Perhaps Yitz'chak did not need to be concerned, but he was afraid anyway. The ancient writings suggest that people not only lived longer but did not age the way people look now when they are older. Also, pagan kings were known to make women part of their concubines.

Yitz'chak produced a hundred-fold on his crops, and he prospered, and the P'lishtim became jealous and asked him to leave. So, he left and opened up a well that Avraham had dug and the P'lishtim claimed it was their water. They should have instead learned to dig their own wells. Sometimes people become jealous and want to take what others have instead of learning how to do things for themselves.

He ended up digging several wells before they stopped bothering him. He then went up to Be'er-Sheva where God, יהוה (Yĕhōvāh)², appeared to him and promised him the land for his decedents as God had promised Abraham. God appeared to all the patriarchs. It is not true that God cannot appear as a man as some say. Some people are blinded by false teaching. God can do what He wants and if He wants to appear as man or come as a man, He can. When Avraham meets God, God says in Genesis 18:14 NKJV, "Is anything too hard for the LORD?"

Then Avimelekh comes and makes a pact of peace with Yitz'chak because he saw that God had showed favor on Yitz'chak. The portion then talks about Esav. When Esav was 40, he took two Hittite wives, and they caused trouble for the family. Yitz'chak wanted to bless Esav despite what God told Rivkah, and he sent him out to hunt and then receive the blessing. Rivkah heard what Yitz'chak was about to do, and she sent Ya'akov in disguise to get the blessing that as we said earlier, was supposed to go to Ya'akov both through a word from God and Esav also gave it away. Yitz'chak's eyes were failing, and he thought that he was blessing Esav, but the text suggests he might have known otherwise. Yitz'chak blessed Ya'akov with abundance, lordship, and protective favor. These were all things that a worldly person like Esav would have liked.

Ya'akov had just left when Esav came in and Yitz'chak tells him that he had already given his blessing and that it could not be revoked. Perhaps Yitz'chak was pretending to not know he

² Exodus 3:15 says that Yĕhōvāh will be God's name forever as seen pointed in 2,363 manuscripts. Once as Yĕhōvāh; never as Yahweh.

blessed who he was supposed to bless.

When Yitz'chak dies, the Book of Jasher says that Ya'akov gives Esav the choice to choose the land of Canaan that God had promised to the line of Abraham or Yitz'chak's belongings and cattle and Esav chose Yitz'chak's belongings and cattle. Apparently Ya'akov understood that Esav would pick what is worldly. Ya'akov looked forward to God's promise and the land of Canaan. May we seek God's eternal kingdom and be worthy of God's promise to come.

After some coaxing, Yitz'chak gave a blessing to Esav. Yitz'chak blesses Esav, but Esav does not receive the blessing of the first born. Esav obviously pretends that he deserves the blessing of the first born. It is kind of a twist in fate. Ya'akov pretends to be Esau and gets the blessing he was supposed to get, and Esau pretends that he deserves the blessing and does not get it.

In this case, Rivkah, a woman, stands up for what is right. She is an example of someone who stood up for what is right. Often, good people do not want to cause trouble so they do not stand up for what is right when they should. Evil people seem to be more ambitious to get their way.

Esav was planning to kill Ya'akov and Rivkah heard of it. Yitz'chak and Rivkah sent Ya'akov away to Rivkah's brother Lavan and told him to pick a wife from his family. This was done in the hope that Jacob would find a believing wife there. Esav saw that his wives did not please his parents, so he also took a daughter of Ishmael as his wife.

What differences do you see in the lives of Ya'akov and Esav?

Ya'akov was willing to follow what his mother knew to be right.

Ya'akov was more spiritually minded.

Esav had the heart of a murderer. Revelation 21:8 NKJV says, "Murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters ... shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone."

Ya'akov fled in order to avoid a conflict; perhaps saving his brother's life.

Esav was thick headed and only did what he wanted to do. He could have joined the blessings of his brother, but he only wanted to do things his way.

Esav passed on his cursed life to his descendants.

The Haftarah for Toldot is Malachi 1:1-2:7. In this Haftarah portion, Malachi gives a prophecy to Israel. He says that God loves them and the descendants of Jacob and gives them favor but does not favor the wicked descendants of Esau. He says that Israel is not honoring their Father God by their polluted offerings of imperfect animals and imperfect food offerings. If they do not change, God will take away His favor. The priests were making up their own rules about the sacrifices. God says, the Cohens should be guarding His commandments. We too should guard God's commandments.

We must always remember that what God promises He is able to do and will accomplish even if we oppose God. Not following God the way we should can bring dire consequences to our lives. God wants to give us His blessings. God has plans for us, but if we reject them, God will

give away our blessing to someone else just like God gave the blessing to Ya'akov instead of Esau. Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV says, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."

God has good plans for us!

We are all imperfect people; the kingdom has not yet been restored. We must remember to repent and try to rectify our sins and the problems we have caused. Yeshua taught that we not only are to ask God for forgiveness, but also work out our problems. Do not be an Esav who wanted to kill Ya'akov instead of working things out. Esav relied on himself instead of God; his life and progeny came to amount to very little compared to Ya'akov's life. All he cared about was himself and a plate of beans. Yeshua said in Matthew 5:23-24 NKJV, "Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift." If we know that we have done something wrong, try to work it out and then also ask God for forgiveness. Be a spiritually minded person like Ya'akov.

Our Torah teaching this week was a little shorter than usual, so I'd like to share a few important biblical truths. Man-made concepts can detract from God's truths at times. Remember, like man-made theology, idols are also man-made. We need to define our understanding of the Bible by what it originally meant. Theology is a man-made construct of what the Bible teaches. They will replace what the Bible says with terms like we are in the process of sanctification instead of using biblical truth. The proper understanding of the Bible is that we are to be a holy people who keep God's commandments.

Holy and Set Apart.

We are to be God's set apart holy people. Deuteronomy 28:9 NKKJKV says, "The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in His ways." We are to keep God's commandments and continue to learn and grow spiritually in life. Theology teaches sanctification which tends to replace the truth of the Bible by substituting holiness with a man-made idea. We are to strive to do what is "right and good." Doing good in biblical and Jewish thought is to keep God's commandments. Deuteronomy 6:17-18 NKJV says, "You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, His testimonies, and His statutes which He has commanded you. And you shall **do what is right and good** in the sight of the LORD."

We are to separate our lives from doing evil by doing what is "right and good." When we do not keep God's commandments, we separate ourselves from God. Isaiah 59:2 NKJV, "But your iniquities have separated you from your God." Holiness carries with it the idea that we separate ourselves from sin. Leviticus 20:26 NKJV says, "And you shall be holy to Me, for I the LORD am holy, and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be Mine." We are separated to God by keeping His commandments. Sometimes the Bible uses the word saints for God's holy people. Most of the time, the word translated saint is translated as holy (hagios in the New Testament). People lived as saints in the Old Testament if they kept God's

commandments and continued to learn and grow spiritually. Those in the New Testament are saints, holy ones, if they are also living holy lives and are growing spiritually.

Therefore, those who have been separated by God are holy if they are living holy lives. Shaul talks about us not being separated from God (in Romans Chapter 8) because we live holy separate lives, namely not worldly sinful lives. If we are living holy lives, we will not be separated from God. Psalms 118:6 NKJV says, "The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

If we do not live holy lives, we have turned our back on God. Then we must repent and turn towards God and keep His commandments if we want to be God's holy ones. This also involves receiving and using the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Yeshua said in John 14:15-17 NKJV, "If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever — the Spirit of truth." Our first helper is God's commandments. The Messiah came to give us another helper to be God's holy people, the Holy Spirit.

Some people do not like the Holy Spirit because some people who have the Holy Spirit misuse the Holy Spirit and continue to live in sin. Those that misuse the Holy Spirit or are living in sin are not living as holy people and they are separated from God. Remember, Isaiah 59:2 NKJV says, "But your iniquities have separated you from your God."

Also, Shaul says in 1 Corinthians 14:37 NKJV, "The things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord." In the same context in 1 Corinthians 14:40 NKJV Shaul says, "Let all things be done decently and in order." We are not to misuse the Holy Spirit. He also writes in 1 Corinthians 14:1 NKJV, "Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts." We are to desire the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Those who are not using the Holy Spirit in an honoring fashion or not pursuing the gifts of the Holy Spirit are therefore sinning.

The Holy Spirit is our helper just like God's written word is our helper. Also, some people say they are holy without actually behaving like God's holy people. They are delusional. We are to be holy as God is holy the Bible says. Leviticus 11:44 NKJV says, "For I am the LORD your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy." You must live a holy life, or you will be in the lake of fire for eternity (see Revelation 21:8).

The word Apostle.

First of all, the word apostle means a sent one. There were many sent ones in the Old Testament portion for example, Isaiah and Jeremiah. Most of the prophets in the Old Testament acted as sent ones at times. All the gifts of the Holy Spirit were present to some extent in the Old Testament except for speaking in tongues. Noah heard from God, Abraham heard from God, and many others heard from God. We see many ordinary people prophesying. Elizabeth prophesied in Luke 1:41-45, Zacharius in Luke 1:67-79, and Anna in Luke 2:36-38. In the New Testament portion, there are perhaps thousands of sent ones. Shaul says that **a sent one is a common ministry** in Ephesians 4:11 NKJV: "And He Himself gave some to be **apostles**, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers." So, it is a lie that there are only 12 apostles. Again, being an apostle is a common

ministry according to the Bible. Yeshua had 12 apostles that were closest to him but there were many more. The congregations and people that use the word apostle are often doing this to control others. They think they are special. We are all special to God, not just those who are puffed up. 1 Corinthians 4:19 NKJV says, "But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord wills, and I will know, not the word of those who are puffed up."

Also, it is now improper to use the word apostle at this time because of the improper stigma that has been attached to this word. Shaul says in Romans 16:7 NKJV. "Greet Andronicus and Junia, my countrymen and my fellow prisoners, who are of note among the apostles." Junia is a woman's name. If God sends you to do something, use literal terms instead of the word "apostle." For example, God wanted me to serve in the Amazon Jungle for a short time. In that way you avoid the deceitful pride of some denominations or people.

We should also note, that since there were apostles and prophets in the Old Testament portion, the community of believers was based on the apostles and prophets of the Old Testament and not just the New Testament portion. Some Old Testament believers were sent by God (acted as apostles). They often called people back to God and told them to stop sinning. This would have been the understanding of the people back then. Ephesians 2:20 NKJV says, "Having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets." There was no New Testament portion at the time. We need to understand the scriptures how the people back then would have understood them. The apostles and prophets he is talking about are also the apostles and prophets of the Old Testament portion of the Bible. Without these apostles and prophets of the Old Testament portion calling people back to God, we would have no Bible.

People like Moshe, Jeremiah, Isaiah, and Ezekiel wrote the scriptures that God told them to write. 2 Peter 1:20-21 NKJV says, "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." Again, there was no New Testament put together at the time this was written so it is talking about the Old Testament scriptures. God told them what to write and they wrote it down using their vocabulary.

We are Called.

We are called to do something. I thought I was called to be a Christian. The Bible explains being called in an active sense. Ephesians 4:1 NKJV says, "Walk worthy of the calling with which you were called." The Old Testament believers were supposed to follow God's commandments and walk in them and so are the New Testament believers. New Testament believers also believe on the Messiah Yeshua and receive the Holy Spirit and walk by God's commandments and the Holy Spirit. That is how we become part of the family; we do what our Father God wants us to do and behave like His children. That is what we are called to do, so live out what you have been called to do.

Some people are also called to do specific things. Shaul was called to be a messenger (apostle), others are called to be teachers, etcetera. God may call us to do specific things during different stages of our life. For example, I was also called to do inner city ministry for a number of years.

Finally.

In this portion, God healed Rivkah, and she was able to conceive two children. Yitzchak did not listen to his wife about Ya'akov being the child of promise so Rivkah took matters in her own hands and fooled Yitzchak so he would give the blessing to Ya'akov. Ya'akov chooses to leave rather than confront Esav. Esav is a worldly person and wants to kill Ya'akov. We will see that God worked everything out despite Yitz'chak's shortcomings.

Esav is an example of someone who is worldly minded and Ya'akov is an example of someone who is spiritually minded and wants what God wants. Ya'akov continued to be faithful to God and God blessed Ya'akov tremendously for his faithfulness to God. God has also blessed the world through Ya'akov even to this day.

The worldly like Esav bring a curse on their families and the world and they will end up in the lake of fire (see Revelation 21:8). Join the forces of good and continue the legacy of blessing through Ya'akov and our Messiah Yeshua and be part of God's future glorious eternal kingdom.

Commandments and Implied Commandments in this Portion. (We can understand commandments are being implied from other scriptures in the Bible.)

We are to pray for God's help with life and family. Genesis 25:21.

The man of the house should take initiative in prayer. This also suggests that men should take spiritual responsibility in their home. Genesis 25:21.

According to the Book of Jasher, Yitz'chak listened to his wife. Men should be kind and caring towards their wives and give them a voice. Jasher 25:6 says, "And Rebecca said unto him, but arise now thou also and pray, that the Lord may hear thy prayer and grant me children, and Isaac hearkened to the words of his wife."³ Ephesians 5:28 NKJV says, "So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies."

We are to ask God for understanding in certain situations and He may inform us. If God tells us something to do, we need to do it. God gave the right of the first born to Ya'akov. Also, God told Isaac to stay in Canaan and he did. Genesis 25:22, 26:2-5.

Sometimes it is better to appease others to keep peace. The wells belonged to Yitz'chak, but he pursued peace knowing that God would provide. He was a man of peace. Genesis 26:18-22; also see Romans 12:18.

We see God speaking to believers in our portions. God spoke to believers in the past and He still does. Genesis 26:23-24; Acts 2:17-18 NKJV says, "That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on

³ <https://sacred-texts.com/chr/apo/jasher/26.htm>

My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy."

We may need to use sensible means when dealing with others. Especially fear those who may lead you to eternal damnation. Genesis 27:43-44; Matthew 10:28.

Fathers should pass on blessings to their children. Genesis 28:3-4.

In closing, let us say the Aaronic Blessing from Numbers 6:24-26:

We need to explain why we use God's real name in the Aaronic blessing. Some believe we are not supposed to use God's name, but they are mistaken. ADONAI or LORD in all caps in our Bibles is the name for God which is pronounced Yě-hō-váh. Yě-hō-váh is used over 6,000 times in the Old Testament portion. Since God's name is used that many times, it is evident that we should be using His real name.

According to Exodus 3:15, Yě-hō-váh is God's true name forever. Of course, we should use His name with respect. Yě-hō-váh is an acronym formed from the Hebrew verb hayah. Yě-hō-váh means, He existed, He exists, and He will exist. I want to honor God's name. Won't you also honor God's and use His true name with respect at times. The ancient rabbis say that Yě-hō-váh (יהוה) is God's name. 2,363 different manuscripts of the Bible point God's name as Yě-hō-váh, once as Yě-hō-věh, never as Yahweh. The church Fathers said God's name is Yě-hō-váh.

Yeshua said in Matthew 23:39 NKJV, "You shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'" Yeshua is quoting Psalm 118:26; the word "LORD" in that verse in Psalms is Yě-hō-váh (יהוה).

Numbers 6:27 says we are to put God's name on His people. What an honor it is to be a people of the creator and true God.

Let's say the Aaronic Blessing from Numbers 6:24-26:

יְבָרֶכֶךָ יְהוָה, וַיְשַׁמְרֶךָ
יְאָר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ, וַיַּחֲנֶךָ
יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ, וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם

Yě-hō-váh bless you and keep you.

Yě-hō-váh make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

Yě-hō-váh lift up His face upon you, and give to you peace. Amen.

Thank you for being with us today.