



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

Esav – Esau
 Hevron – Hebron
 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
 Yĕhōvâh – God's real name forever (Exodus 3:15)

Yitz'chak – Isaac
 Yochanan – John

Terms

Chayei Sarah – 5th 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 parashah 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. While her twins were in her womb they were very active so Rivkah asked God what was going on and the Lord told her there were two rival nations in her womb and that the older would serve the younger. She received by revelation that Ya'akov was to receive the blessing and not Esav.

Yitzchak liked Esav because he was a hunter and disregarded what Rivkah said. This caused a lot of trouble when it came time to pass on the blessing. Esav came first and was reddish and Ya'akov came out holding Esav's heel. Yitz'chak was 60 at the time. Yitz'chak liked Esav because he was a hunter. Ya'akov was a quiet child and Rivkah favored him.

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. Then there is a famine and God tells Yitz'chak to stay in the land and God reiterates the promise to Yitz'chak that He gave to Avraham.

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 and Rivkah was given protection by Avimelekh. 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. He ended up digging several wells before they stopped bothering him. He then went up to Be'er-Sheva where God, יְהוָה (Yĕhōvâh)¹ appeared to him and promised him the land for his decedents again. God appeared to all the patriarchs. It is not true that God

¹ Exodus 3:15 says that this will be God's name forever as seen pointed in over 2,363 manuscripts. Once as Yehoveh; never as Yahweh.

cannot appear as a man. God can do what He wants. 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 in spite of 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. Yitz'chak eyes were failing and he thought that he was blessing Esav. Yitz'chak blessed Ya'akov with abundance, lordship, and protective favor. Ya'akov had just left when Esav came in and Yitz'chak tells him that he had already had given his blessing and that it could not be revoked.

Esav had already lost his birthright and now Esav lost his blessing. After some coaxing, Yitz'chak gave a blessing to Esav. Esav was planning to kill Ya'akov and Rivkah heard of it, and Yitz'chak and Rivkah sent Ya'akov away to Rivkah's brother Lavan and told him to pick a wife from his family. 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.

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

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 by their polluted offerings of imperfect animals and imperfect food offerings. If they won't change, God will take away His favor. The priests were making up their own rules about the sacrifices. God says, the kohens 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 do even if we oppose God. Not following what God tells us to do can bring dire consequences, yet God will work things out in the end; perhaps by using someone else.

If we don't cooperate with God, God may use someone else.

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've caused. Yeshua taught that we not only are to ask God for forgiveness, but also work out our problems. Don't be an Esav and 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, "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;" Matthew 5:23-24 NKJV. 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 with you.

The word Apostle

First of all, the word apostle means a sent one. There were many sent ones in the Old Testament portion like Isaiah and Jeremiah. In the New Testament portion, there are perhaps thousands. Shaul says that **it 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. Congregations and people use the word apostle to control others. Also it is now improper to use this word at this time because of the improper stigma that's 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.

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 so are the New Testament believers. New Testament believers also believe on the Messiah Yeshua and receive the Holy Spirit. That's how we become part of the family; we do what our Father God wants us to do and behave like His children. That's what we are called to do, so live out what you've 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, we were called to do inner city ministry for a number of years.

Holy and Set Apart

We are to be God's set apart holy people. 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. "For I am the LORD your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy." Leviticus 11:44 NKJV. We are to strive to do what is "right and good" (Deuteronomy 6:18). Doing good in biblical and Jewish thought is to keep God's commandments. "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" Deuteronomy 6:17-18 NKJV. "

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." 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 were saints in the Old Testament and in the New Testament if they were living holy lives. They have been separated by God if they are living holy lives. Shaul talks about us not being separated from God (Romans 8). If we are living holy lives, we will not be separated from God. If we don't live holy lives, we have turned our back on God. Then we must repent and turn towards God and keep His commandments.

Finally

In this portion, God healed Rivkah and she was able to conceive two children. Yitzchak didn't 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 in spite of Yitzchak's shortcomings. Esav is an example of someone who is worldly minded and Ya'akov is an example of someone who is spiritually minded. Ya'akov continued to be faithful to God and God blessed Ya'akov tremendously for his faithfulness to God.