

Titus 2:7-8 “Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.”

It seems the narratives about Isaac are short and merely a stop to get to his sons. In Genesis 25:19 the text states “These are the generations of Isaac, Abraham’s son,” but almost immediately the narratives themselves turn out to be about the sons of Isaac rather than Isaac himself. Isaac is an important link in the line of Abraham; but as an individual character within the narratives, he is given little attention.

Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah to be his wife. Like his mother Sarah (11:30), Rebekah was barren. Like Abraham (20:17), Isaac prayed for his wife; and the Lord answered, and she bore two sons. The concentration on the barrenness of Sarah and Rebekah, as well as Rachel (29:31) and Leah (29:35), enables Moses to reiterate the point that the promised blessing through the chosen seed of Abraham is not to be accomplished merely by human effort. The fulfillment of the promise is only possible at each crucial step because of a specific act of God.

A central theme of the remainder of the book of Genesis, the struggle between brothers, is introduced in the brief account of the wrestling of the twins in the womb. The conflict between brothers is not a new motif in Genesis:

- In chapter 4 the struggle between Cain and Abel.
- The sons of Noah (9:20-27)
- Abraham and Lot (13:7-12)
- Isaac and Ishmael (21:9)
- Jacob and Laban (29-31)
- Joseph and his brothers (37-50).

Such an emphasis on “enmity” and struggle appears to stem from the first words of judgment in the book, namely God’s statement: “I will put enmity between ... your offspring and hers” (3:15).

The writer of the book waits until the end to express the lesson behind these struggles, using the words of Joseph to his brothers: “You intended it to harm me, but God intended it for good” (50:20). Out of each of the struggles, God’s will is/was accomplished. The point is not so much that the struggles were necessary for the accomplishment of the will of God, but rather that God’s will was accomplished in spite of the conflict.

Another important pattern that is present in the text is: “the older will serve the younger” (v. 23).

As far back as chapter 4, the narrative has portrayed God choosing and approving the younger and the weaker through whom He would accomplish His purpose and bring about His blessing.

- The offering of Cain, the older brother, was rejected, whereas the offering of the younger brother, Abel, was accepted.
- The line of Seth, the still younger brother, was the chosen line (4:26-5:8);
- Isaac was chosen over his older brother Ishmael (17:18-19);
- Rachel was chosen over her older sister Leah (29:18);
- Joseph, the younger brother, was chosen over all the rest (37:3);
- Judah was chosen over his older brothers (49:8).

The intention behind each of these “reversals” was the recurring theme of God’s sovereign plan of grace. The blessing was not a natural right, as a right of the firstborn son would be. Rather, God’s blessing is extended to those who have no other claim to it. They all received what they did not deserve (Mal 1:1-5; Rom 9:10-13).

Though God had promised Isaac and Rebekah that Jacob would inherit the blessing, no one trusted God to take care of it. Jacob tricks his older brother into the blessing of the birthright.

- Birthright is something your entire family stands for.

If the person carrying the birthright does something shameful it affects the entire family.

- Your birthright entitled you to a double portion of your father’s inheritance.

Isaac has all of Abraham’s stuff, which is going to be huge.

- Birthright is a spiritual blessing that says you will be carrying on your family’s connection with God.

You are your family’s priest. You lead and show them who God is and what proper worship is.

Birthright was, and is, our destiny

Esau was godless because he lived as if none of his calling or destiny mattered. He lived from urge to urge as if there was nothing higher to live for.

We must understand that everything that is not Jesus is just Lentils. We must understand that God has given you and I a birthright and says “*don’t give it up... live your destiny as a child of God.*” Don’t give up and accept anything less than Jesus in your life.