

#6 Jacob | February 25, 2018

Two Brothers, Two Nations | Genesis 25:19-34

- The twin boys would become two nations (which last to today).
- From the beginning, Esau is seen as *earthy, strong, untamed* and almost *Nimrod-like*.
- From the beginning, Jacob is seen as the *supplanter* or *heel-catcher*, taking more even though he is the younger and weaker.
- Like *Adam*, *Edom* was willing to cheaply give up the birthright that was his. Adam traded his future for fruit, Edom traded his future for a bowl of stew.

The Blessing of Abraham, Passed On | Genesis 27:29

- Jacob once again *reached for the heel* of his brother and took the blessing that would have gone to Esau for himself.
- The blessing received was the one that began with his grandfather, Abraham: *a blessing for those who bless, a curse for those who curse*. That is: the favor and protection of God.
- The passing of the blessing is made crystal clear in Genesis 28:1-4.

Jacob's Most Important Dream | Genesis 28:11-17

- Having taking the blessing of Esau, Jacob fled for his life, and went to Haran, the same place that Abram lived when he was called into the Promised Land (Gen. 27:43).
- Jacob was given instructions not to take a wife of the Canaanites, and obeyed. Esau overheard the instruction, and took a wife of the Ishmaelites to spite his father (Gen. 28:9).
- Jacob lays down in Bethel and has a dream of a ladder on which angels ascend and descend.
- In John 1:51, the stairway was shown to be a foreshadow of Christ.
- In this dream, the voice of the Lord enters into covenant with Jacob, passing the Abrahamic covenant to him and his descendants.
- After this dream, Jacob has been-
 - Prophesied by God to be the heir of Abraham (Gen. 25:23)
 - Blessed by his father to be heir of Abraham (Gen. 27:29)

- Recognized by God to be the heir of Abraham (Gen. 28:13-14).

Jacob's Most Important Day | Genesis 32:22-32

- Between the dream and the most important day, Jacob spent 20 years in Haran, gaining two wives and the estate of his Father-in-Law (Gen. 29:2-31:16).
- The Genesis text implies but is not explicit that Jacob is wrestling with an angel. Hosea 12:3-4 makes this explicit.
- The Jewish rabbis teach that the battle represents the Jewish people's continual struggle with God through history, and the ultimate blessing they will receive.
 - If this is an accurate representation, it is interesting that Jacob wrestles with God all night long, but just before daybreak Jacob seeks the blessing of the one he has been fighting against.
- Jacob's name was changed to Israel, which means *wrestled with God* or *prince of God*.
- Jacob insisted on a blessing before the angel would leave.

Jacob's Prophetic Insight | Genesis 49

Key verse: Genesis 49:1, which tells us that these words are prophetic.

- Reuben – vv. 3-4 - a nation in its infancy.
- Simeon & Levi – vv. 5-7 - a nation of judges and monarchy
- Judah – vv. 8-12 – The Jewish Messiah comes, and is crucified
- Zebulun – v. 13 – The Jewish nation scattered
- Issachar – vv. 14-15 – The Jewish nation under the yoke of the gentiles
- Dan – vv. 16-18 – Under a serpent judge, and praying for deliverance
- Gad – v. 19 – The generation of *overcomers*
- Asher – v. 20 – Fat bread and royal dainties!
- Naphtali – v. 21 – Complete deliverance and beautiful words
- Joseph – vv. 22-26 – The crown on the Head of Him who was separate (v. 26)
- Benjamin – v. 27 – One final battle.