

ESAU SOLD HIS BIRTHRIGHT TO JACOB

Gen. 25:29-34 *“When Jacob had cooked stew, Esau came in from the field and he was famished; 30 and Esau said to Jacob, “Please let me have a swallow of that red stuff there, for I am famished.” Therefore his name was called Edom. 31 But Jacob said, “First sell me your birthright.” 32 Esau said, “Behold, I am about to die; so of what use then is the birthright to me?” 33 And Jacob said, “First swear to me”; **so he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob.** 34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew; and he ate and drank, and rose and went on his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.”*

Many people feel when reading these verses that Jacob truly cheated Esau of his first born birthright, but this is not really true. Let's have a closer look at what happened here and in the verses to follow.

It is important to note that this took place immediately after the death of Abraham, Esau's grandfather. According to tradition Jacob was making a special meal commonly called “comfort food” giving tribute to his grandfather. It was a very special meal Jacob had taken time and care to prepare as a kind of reminder of his wonderful grandfather. Then along comes Esau who undoubtedly knew exactly what Jacob was doing and why, but all he was concerned about was the actual food. The words make it clear he was very straight and to the point about the food. Esau was basically saying: “give me some of that food now, I'm hungry”. This is not the respect that should have been given to the special occasion Jacob was celebrating. It was total disrespect for Abraham's memory. All Esau was thinking about was filling his face, which was typical of Esau. That's the kind of person he was. Next we must notice how little Esau thought of his first-born birthright. He showed no respect for his birthright, which was a very important blessing for all those who were first-born. He showed total disregard for the memory of his grandfather and then total disrespect for his legal birthright. The verses explain that he quickly vowed to Jacob his birthright over a dish of food. In other words Esau could have cared less about his grandfather Abraham or his birthright. This was unheard of in the Hebrew culture of the time. Both these things were very special to people back then and even today to a certain degree. That is why Yah said that he hated Esau. **Rom. 9:13** *Just as it is written, “JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED.”* **Mal. 1:2-3** *“I have loved you,” says the LORD. But you say, “How have You loved us?” “Was not Esau Jacob's brother?” declares the LORD. “Yet I have loved Jacob; 3 but **I have hated Esau,***

When we look at the word that Yah had given Rebekah about her son Jacob we can see that she had previously been told by Yah that Jacob would be her special son.

Gen. 25:23 *The LORD said to her, “Two nations are in your womb; And two peoples will be separated from your body; And **one people shall be stronger than the other;** And the older shall serve the younger.”*

She knew that the opportunity that arose when Isaac offered up the blessing to his firstborn son was not to be missed even if it meant she had to manipulate the situation. She was alright with that simply because Yah had already told her what she needed to know. She took advantage of the situation to allow Yah's spoken word to her manifest.

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