

## THE LIFE OF JACOB: FROM SCHEMING TO BELIEVING

GENESIS 25-34

Guile: Sly or cunning intelligence with charm

## The name Jacob had several meanings.

Yaaqob: May God protect

Aqeb: Heel

Aqab: Watch from behind; Overtake; Trip Up

## A birthright meant several things:

It gave that son a double share of the inheritance of land and livestock.

It looked to that son to function as the family's priest—making it his responsibility to shepherd that family spiritually, morally and relationally.

Additionally, this birthright uniquely carried God's promise to one day produce the Messiah through this bloodline as well.

(See to it) "that no one is sexually immoral or unholy ("profane") like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal."

**HEBREWS 12:16** 

"The Holy Spirit is an awesome judge of character. There is no deceiving Him...The Holy Spirit weighed Esau. He sums him up in a single word—PROFANE! The Greek word means 'to cross the threshold.' It carries the idea of going too far. It means to trample down, to treat something as common, to pollute...

The English word comes from the Latin PROFANUS, which means 'to walk out of the temple.' Esau had no sacred enclosure in his life where God was worshipped."

JOHN PHILLIPS

"For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself."

Faith is living without scheming.

## Isaac Blesses Jacob

"May God give you of the dew of heaven and of the fatness of the earth and plenty of grain and wine. Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be Lord over your brothers and may your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you, and blessed be everyone who blesses you!"

**GENESIS 27:27-29** 

"God meets us at whatever level He finds us in order to lift us to where He wants us to be. To Abraham the pilgrim, God came as a traveler (Gen. 18), and to Joshua the general, God came as a soldier (Josh. 5). And to Jacob, who spent most of his adult life wrestling with people, God came as a wrestler."

"And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."

HEBREWS 11:6

What is your name?