**2023 Parasha Reading: #6 Name: Toldot Torah Reading: Genesis 25:19-28:9 Haftarah Reading: Malachi 1:1-2:7 Gospel Reading: Matthew 10:21-38**

**This Week’s Torah Portion and Outline Genesis 25:19-28:9**

**Chapter 25:19-28 “The Birth of Esau and Jacob” Chapter 25:29-34 “Esau Sells His Birthright”**

**Chapter 26:1-5 “God's Promise to Isaac” Chapter 26:6-35 “Isaac and Abimelech”**

**Chapter 27:1-46 “Isaac Blesses Jacob” Chapter 28:1-5 “Jacob Sent to Laban”**

**Chapter 28:6-9 “Esau Marries an Ishmaelite”**

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**Torah Parashah Questions for Discussion**

In Chapter 25, we read about the twins, Jacob and Esau, being born, a bit about the lives they each lived, and the account of Esau selling his birthright to Jacob.

1. In 25:21-24, Isaac pleads with YHWH that Rebekah be able to have children. YHWH grants his plea, but instead of giving one child, YHWH gives Rebekah twins. What is the significance of Rebekah having twins rather than bearing the two children at different times, or even having just one son?
2. Jacob being born while gripping Esau’s heel is very symbolic. Was this just a coincidence? Was it an unspoken prophecy?
3. **Scholar Question** - research and discuss how many times a younger sibling is blessed/favored much more than the eldest.

In Chapter 26, we read about Isaac’s time living in Gerar, his squabbles with the men of the place and the account of the various wells Isaac’s servants dug.

1. In 26:3-5, YHWH promises to bless Isaac if he dwells in a land YHWH had chosen. 26:5 reads, “Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws” (KJV). How did Abraham know YHWH’s commandments, statutes, and laws? And if YHWH just told Abraham, what/how many commandments, statutes, and laws must YHWH have given him?
2. Why did Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob all lie? (Abraham and Isaac lied about their wives, and Jacob lies about being Esau).

In Chapter 27 and the beginning of Chapter 28, we read about Jacob stealing Esau’s intended blessing, Esau receiving a different blessing, and Jacob receiving an additional blessing, as well as the results after the blessings were swapped.

1. **Scholar Question** - research and discuss the long-term effects of the three blessings: Jacob ’s two blessings and Esau’s blessing.
2. Questions about the blessings:
	1. Why was Jacob blessed twice?
	2. Why wasn’t Esau’s intended blessing, which Jacob stole, Abraham’s blessing?
	3. Why did Isaac bless Jacob with Abraham’s blessing rather than passing it on to his favored son Esau?
		1. Or why not pass it on to both Jacob *and* Esau?
3. Thought Question - In 27:41-42, “…and Esau said in his heart, ‘The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then I will kill my brother Jacob. (v. 42) And the words of Esau her older son were told to Rebekah” (NKJV). Who told Rebekah?
4. Why does Isaac have significantly less Bible time, out of the three patriarchs?
5. Why/how is Jacob receiving Abraham’s blessing *central* to our faith today?

**Haftarah and Gospel Portions, Outlines and Questions for Discussion**

**Haftarah Parashah Malachi 1:1-2:7**

**Chapter 1:1 Introduction Chapter 1:2-5 “The Lord's Love for Israel”**

**Chapter 1:6-14 “The Priests' Polluted Offerings” Chapter 2:1-9 “The Lord Rebukes the Priests”**

1. How does this reading relate to the Torah Parashah?
2. If YHWH loves everyone, why does He hate Esau? In 1:2-3, “ ‘*Was* not Esau Jacob’s brother?’ Says the LORD. ‘Yet Jacob I have loved; (v. 3) But Esau I have hated, And laid waste his mountains and his heritage For the jackals of the wilderness’ ” (NKJV).
3. **Review Question** - When did the priests start defiling the offerings? When did the corruption start/come from?
4. What is a polluted offering? Why does YHWH dislike polluted offerings? What offerings do we give today that are polluted offerings?
5. **Review Question** - What was the covenant with Levi?

**Gospel Parashah Matthew 10:21-38**

**Chapter 10:21-25 “Persecution Will Come” Chapter 10:26-33 “Have No Fear”**

**Chapter 10:34-38 “Not Peace, but a Sword**

1. How does this reading relate to either the Torah Parashah or the Haftarah Parashah?
2. 10:27 “ ‘Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops’ ” (NKJV). What does it take to “preach on the housetops?”
3. 10:32 “ ‘Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven’ “ (NKJV). What is the analogy that Yeshua is using here, and what is the meaning of the analogy?
4. What does it mean to take up his cross and follow Him? What does it mean personally to take up your cross and follow Him?
5. If we were to continue reading, verse 39 says “ ‘He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it’ ” (NKJV). What does this say about the purpose of life for a Christ follower?

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