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# WEEK 6 SCRIPTURE READING

5779 / 2018-19

A close-up photograph of a person wearing a white, textured robe. They are holding a terracotta jug with both hands, pouring water from its spout. The jug has a light-colored string tied around its middle. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white.

*by Roly Buys*

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# Parashah Toldot | “Generations/History” | תולדות

Week 6

## Two Nations in the Womb

The verse that stands out for me this week is:

**Genesis 25:22-23** *“The children fought with each other inside her so much that she said, “If it’s going to be like this, why go on living?” So she went to inquire of ADONAI, who answered her, “There are **two nations in your womb**. From birth they will be two rival peoples. One of these peoples will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger.”*



### Consider this ...

Isaac, known as the man of “laughter” will marry the woman of YHVH’s choice, and then wait years before they can have children.

#### Why the delay?

No one knows for sure ... a test from YHVH?

Or some real lessons that the couple need to learn in order to prepare for the challenges that lie ahead in their family?

- i) At last Rebecca is pregnant.
- ii) But there is war in her womb.
- iii) So she approaches YHVH for direction.

### **What does she learn?**

- ◆ There are two nations (not children) in her womb
- ◆ They will be rival peoples
- ◆ One will be stronger than the other (Esau) and
- ◆ And the older one will serve the younger (Jacob)

The **older one is Esau** ... and is born covered with much hair.

In a way this reminds us of the Garden of Eden.

After Adam and Eve sin, YHVH has to take the skin of an animal to cover them so that that can still come into His presence.

- i) Esau it seems, with the hairy covering is suggesting at birth that he will make choices, just as those before him, **to serve and enjoy that which the world offers**.
- ii) As time goes on, we see this in the manner in which he gives away his birthright, and the way that he **deliberately choses a pagan woman** for his wife.

**Genesis 26:34-35** *“When Esav was forty years old, he took as wives Y’hudit the daughter of Be’eri the Hitti and Basmah the daughter of Elon the Hitti. But they became a **cause for embitterment of spirit** to Yitz’chak and Rivkah.”*

Jacob, on the other hand, comes out without any covering.

It seems to suggest that there was an expectation of a righteous life.

For some reason people have focused on the idea that he supplanted Esau by looking for the birthright and the blessing.

### **However, the fact that he holds onto the “heel” of Esau is significant.**

- (1) We can think that he was trying to come out first, or alternatively we can come to the conclusion that he was merely protecting his own head.

After all the **curse that was spoken** over all of those who chose to be in opposition to YHVH, back in the Garden of Eden was:

**Genesis 3:15** *“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”*

(2) We can think that Jacob is merely going about fulfilling the Plans and Purposes of YHVH.

**Hoseah 12:2-6** *“The LORD has an indictment against Judah and will punish Jacob according to his ways; he will repay him according to his deeds. In the womb he took his brother by the heel, and in his manhood he strove with God. He strove with the angel and prevailed; he wept and sought His Favor. He met God at Bethel, and there God spoke with us - the LORD, the God of hosts, the LORD is His Memorial Name: “So you, by the help of your God, return, hold fast to love and justice, and wait continually for your God.”*



## **Both Men will experience a name change!!**

### **A. Esau becomes Edom**

Most people associate the name Edom with the peoples who later becomes the enemy of the children of Jacob - there are many people who try to define who is Edom is today - some seem to think that it is Rome and everything that that civilization stood for, especially when they conquered Jerusalem and destroyed the city ... while others seems to think that Edom refers to modern day Turkey, a nation which certainly does not like Israel.

Does it really matter which people group this is if you look at the Middle East who will struggle to find a nation that supports Israel, while many of those are clearly the descendants of Ishmael, it is true that the sons of Jacob continue to fight!

### **B. Jacob becomes Israel**

Paul confirms that he is a son of Jacob.

**Romans 9:6-9** *“But the present condition of Isra’el does not mean that the Word of God has failed. For not everyone from Isra’el is truly part of Isra’el; indeed, not all the descendants are seed of Avraham; rather, “What is to be called your ‘seed’ will be in Yitz’chak.” In other words, it is not the physical children who are children of God, but the children the promise refers to who are considered seed. For this is what the promise said: “At the time set, I will come; and Sarah will have a son.”*

## **Summary**

- a. Edom **reflects the soul of man** ... his body / flesh desires, his ego and pride.
- b. Israel **reflects the renewed man** ... the spirit-man who walks in humility and seeks to serve YHVH fully.

## **And the war continues till this day.**

**Romans 9:10-12** *“And even more to the point is the case of Rivkah; for both her children were conceived in a single act with Yitz’chak, our father; and before they were born, before they had done anything at all, either good or bad (so that God’s plan might remain a matter of his sovereign choice, **not dependent on what they did, but on God, who does the calling**), it was **said to her, “The older will serve the younger.”***

## WHAT SHOULD WE THINK ABOUT THIS WEEK?

1. Have you prayed for something for a long time - are you preparing yourself for the time when that prayer becomes reality and you have to make hard choices to keep your family intact?
2. Have you dealt with all of the flesh in your life that wants to take over from time to time ... sort out the Edom in your life before it's too late?
3. Have you blessed your children in the same way that Isaac blesses Jacob?

**Genesis 27:28-29** *“Now may God give you of the dew of heaven (to water your land), and of the fatness (fertility) of the earth, and an abundance of grain and new wine; may peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you; be lord and master over your brothers, and may your mother’s sons bow down to you. May those who curse you be cursed, and may those who bless you be blessed.”*

## A FINAL THOUGHT

### It's our choice ...

- ❖ We are all **empowered to use the gift of the freedom of choice**, to either become a son / daughter of Abraham or not!!
- ❖ Only the children of Abraham (natural AND adopted) **can become priests** in the Living Stone Tabernacle.

Paul spells this out for us in;

**Romans 8:4-8** *“so that the just requirement of the Torah might be fulfilled in us who do not run our lives according to what our old nature wants but according to what the Spirit wants. For those who identify with their old nature set their minds on the things of the old nature, but those who identify with the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. Having one’s mind controlled by the old nature is death, but having one’s mind controlled by the Spirit is life and shalom. For the mind controlled by the old nature is hostile to God, because it does not submit itself to God’s Torah - indeed, it cannot. Thus, those who identify with their old nature cannot please God.*

**Romans 8:9-11** *“But you, you do not identify with your old nature but with the Spirit - provided the Spirit of God is living inside you, for anyone who doesn’t have the Spirit of the Messiah doesn’t belong to Him. However, if the Messiah is in you, then, on the one hand, the body is dead because of sin; but, on the other hand, the Spirit is giving life because God considers you righteous. And if the Spirit of the One who raised Yeshua from the dead is living in you, then the One who raised the Messiah Yeshua from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit living in you.”*

**Romans 8:12-13** “So then, brothers, we don’t owe a thing to our old nature that would require us to live according to our old nature. For if you live according to your old nature, you will certainly die; but if, by the Spirit, you keep putting to death the practices of the body, you will live.”

**Romans 8:14** “All who are led by God’s Spirit are God’s sons.”

- ❖ We need to be vigilant ... to continue this fight every day of our lives!
- ❖ The old man vs the spirit man ... a war till the end of time,

**Galatians 5:7-10** “You were running the race well; who has stopped you from following the truth? Whatever means of persuasion he used was not from the One who Calls you. It takes only a little hametz to leaven the whole batch of dough. I am confident that since you are united with the Lord, you will take no other view”



# BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-27

*“Y’varekh’kha YHVH v’yishmerekha.*  
**May YHVH bless you and keep you.**

*Ya’er YHVH panav eleikha vichunekka.*  
**May YHVH make His Face shine on you and show you His favour.**

*Yissa YHVH panav eleikha v’yasem l’kha shalom.*  
**May YHVH lift up His Face toward you and give you peace.**

In this way they are to put **My Name** on the people of Israel, so that I will BLESS them.

