

SERMON GENESIS 25:19-26

Series Jacob narratives 'God moves in a mysterious way' #1

IBC Eindhoven, 24 January 2021

INTRODUCTION

- * God moves in a mysterious way - Narrative about Jacob portrays Israel in its earthiest and most scandalous appearance. Narrative not edifying in any moral sense - not even trying to teach us about morals! Jacob is a rascal compared to his grandfather Abraham and his successful father Isaac. But God moves through Jacob anyway - comforting and at the same time disturbing!
- * *The series aim at building our faith in God - we sometimes make a mess of our lives - God is always greater - He is sovereign - things never get out of his control.* But God moves in a mysterious way - the powerful grace of God is a scandal. It upsets the way we would organise life!

1. THE PROMISE - verse 19

- The begetting of Isaac, Abraham begot Isaac... >> reminder of Abrahamic covenant

2. THE GIFT OF LIFE - verse 20-21

- Isaac 40 yrs - verse 26: Isaac was 60 yrs - 20 yrs waiting!
- Isaac had to pray - in KJV 'entreated the LORD' - not just a single/brief prayer
- Note: the same with Sarah > Abraham - Children of the promise don't come naturally

3. SETTING THE DIVINE STAGE - verse 23

- Rebekah 'If it is so, why am I thus?' (KJV)
- Rebekah had to pray as well
- Oracle - 2 nations/peoples (G12:3), separated (conflict), one stronger (nothing special about that), older will serve younger: world upside down - even in Deuteronomy 21:15-17
- No explanation given - This is God's sovereign design that one is predestined to rule (Jacob) and the other to serve (Esau)

4. THE BIRTH

- Verse 24 - twins indeed
- Verse 25 - Esau, first, red, hairy
- Verse 26 - Jacob second, grasping Esau's heel [Isaac - 60 yrs, i.e. had to wait 20 yrs]

CHOSEN

1. Romans 9:10-15

1. Verse 13 - Hatred towards Esau: see history Edomites
2. Verses 11 and 12: God's *purpose* in election
3. Verse 15: to have mercy/compassion on whom He has mercy/compassion

2. John 1:12-13

1. It all starts with God's will
2. A born again believer is CHOSEN
 1. Perhaps someone prayed for you - your spiritual birth was an answer to prayer - confirming that God chose you
 2. Do you realise what 'chosen' means? Much more than the outcome of a democratic election! God is not a democrat (nor a republican) - He is sovereign!
3. Recall the words from heaven at Jesus' baptism: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased' - Luke 3:22

3. Romans 8:28-30

1. Working all things for the good... love God... called according to God's purpose (Jacob?)
2. Predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son
3. To be chosen means your destiny is set and sure - in context of today's crisis - call to lift up your heads - focus on your destiny - to be like Jesus - allow the Spirit to transform you

SUGGESTION FOR REFLECTION AND SHARING

1. Read the oracle in Genesis 25:23 and the promise to Abraham in 12:2-3. In what way is the oracle in line with the promise?
2. Romans 8:28-30 emphasises God's dealings with us. What about our responsibility and our 'freedom' to mess-up things?
3. How does 'being chosen' help you in your faith-life?