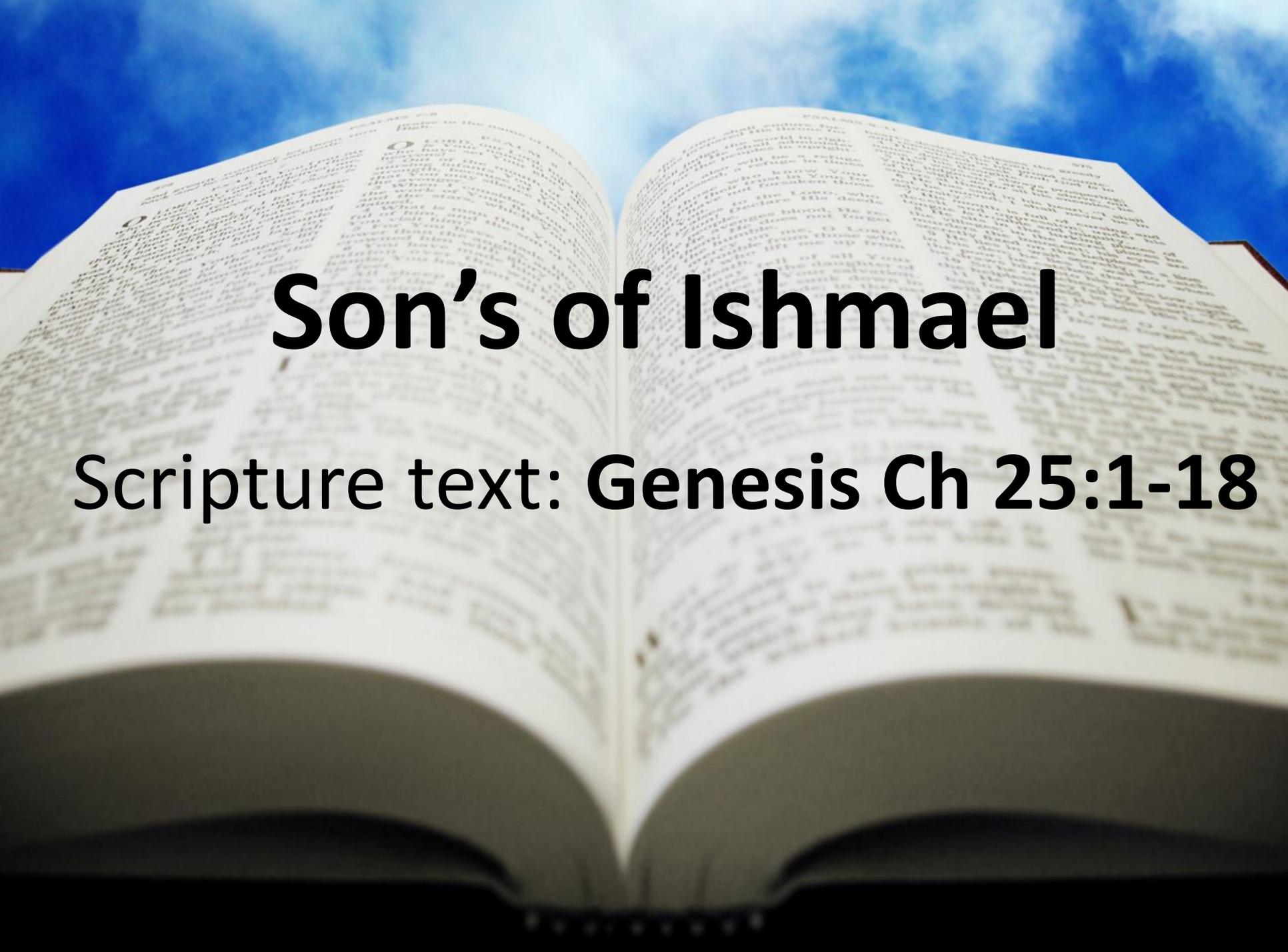


Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church  
We're glad you're here!



An open Bible is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with text, but it is out of focus. The background is a bright blue sky with some light clouds. The text is overlaid in a large, bold, black font.

# **Son's of Ishmael**

**Scripture text: Genesis Ch 25:1-18**

**Genesis 25:12-17** These are the generations of **Ishmael**, Abraham's son, whom **Hagar the Egyptian**, Sarah's servant, bore to Abraham. These are the names of the sons of **Ishmael**, named in the order of their birth: Nebaioth, the firstborn of Ishmael; and Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam, Mishma, Dumah, Massa, Hadad, Tema, Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah. These are the sons of Ishmael and these are their names, by their villages and by their encampments, **twelve princes** according to their tribes. (These are the years of the life of Ishmael: 137 years. He breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people.)

**Ishmael (ish'-ma-el)** = He will hear God; he will be heard of God; whom God hears; the Lord hears; God hears.

**1<sup>st</sup> born - Nebaioth (ne-bah'-yoth)** = High places; productive; husbandry. Prophecies; increasings.

**2<sup>nd</sup> - Kedar (ke'-dar)** = Powerful; dark skinned man; black-skinned; black skin; (root = to be dark; to be black; to mourn). Obscurity. Darkness.

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**3<sup>rd</sup> - Adbeel (ad'-be-el) = Sorrow of God; languishing for God; miracle of God. Chastened of God.**

**4<sup>th</sup> - Mibsam (mib'-sam) = Sweet odor; sweet smell; delight. Fragrant.**

**5<sup>th</sup> - Mishma (mish'-mah) = Hearing; fame; report.**

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**6th - Dumah (doo'-mah) = Silence; resemblance.**

**7th - Massa (mas'-sah) = Bearing patiently; burden; (root = to bear; to suffer; to lift up; to take up; to carry). A prophecy; a burden (as something undertaken to carry through); Enduring.**

**8th - Hadad (ha'-dad) = Chief; most eminent; most high. Sharpness. Noisy. 1 Kings 11:17 - I shall move softly; I shall love. (1 Chronicles 1:30) - sharp.**

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**9<sup>th</sup> - Tema (te'-mah)** = Southerner. A desert; an untilled region; sun burnt; admiration.

**10<sup>th</sup> - Jetur (je'-tur)** = An enclosure; defense; he that keeps. He will arrange; he will encircle.

**11<sup>th</sup> - Naphish (na'-fish)** = Refreshment; numerous; respiration; cheerful; (root = to take breath; to take rest).

**12<sup>th</sup> - Kedemah (ked'-e-mah)** = Eastward; toward the east; eastern.

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**Genesis 17:18-21** And Abraham said to God, "Oh that Ishmael might live before you!" God said, "**No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him** as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him. **As for Ishmael**, I have heard you; behold, I have blessed him and will make him fruitful and multiply him greatly. **He shall father twelve princes**, and I will make him into a great nation. **But I will establish my covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this time next year.**"

**Genesis 16:9-12** The angel of the LORD said to her, "Return to your mistress and submit to her." The angel of the LORD also said to her, "I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude." And the angel of the LORD said to her, "Behold, you are pregnant and shall bear a son. **You shall call his name Ishmael**, because the LORD has listened to your affliction. **He shall be a wild donkey of a man**, his hand against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and **he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen.**"

**Genesis 25:18** They settled from Havilah to Shur, which is opposite Egypt in the direction of Assyria. **He settled over against all his kinsmen.**

**Genesis 21:12-13** But God said to Abraham, "Be not displeased because of the boy and because of your slave woman. Whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, **for through Isaac shall your offspring be named.** And I will make a nation of the son of the slave woman also, **because he is your offspring.**"

Anytime we try to make things happen in our own power, then expect God to bless it ... we tend to mess things up and **cause more problems than solutions.**

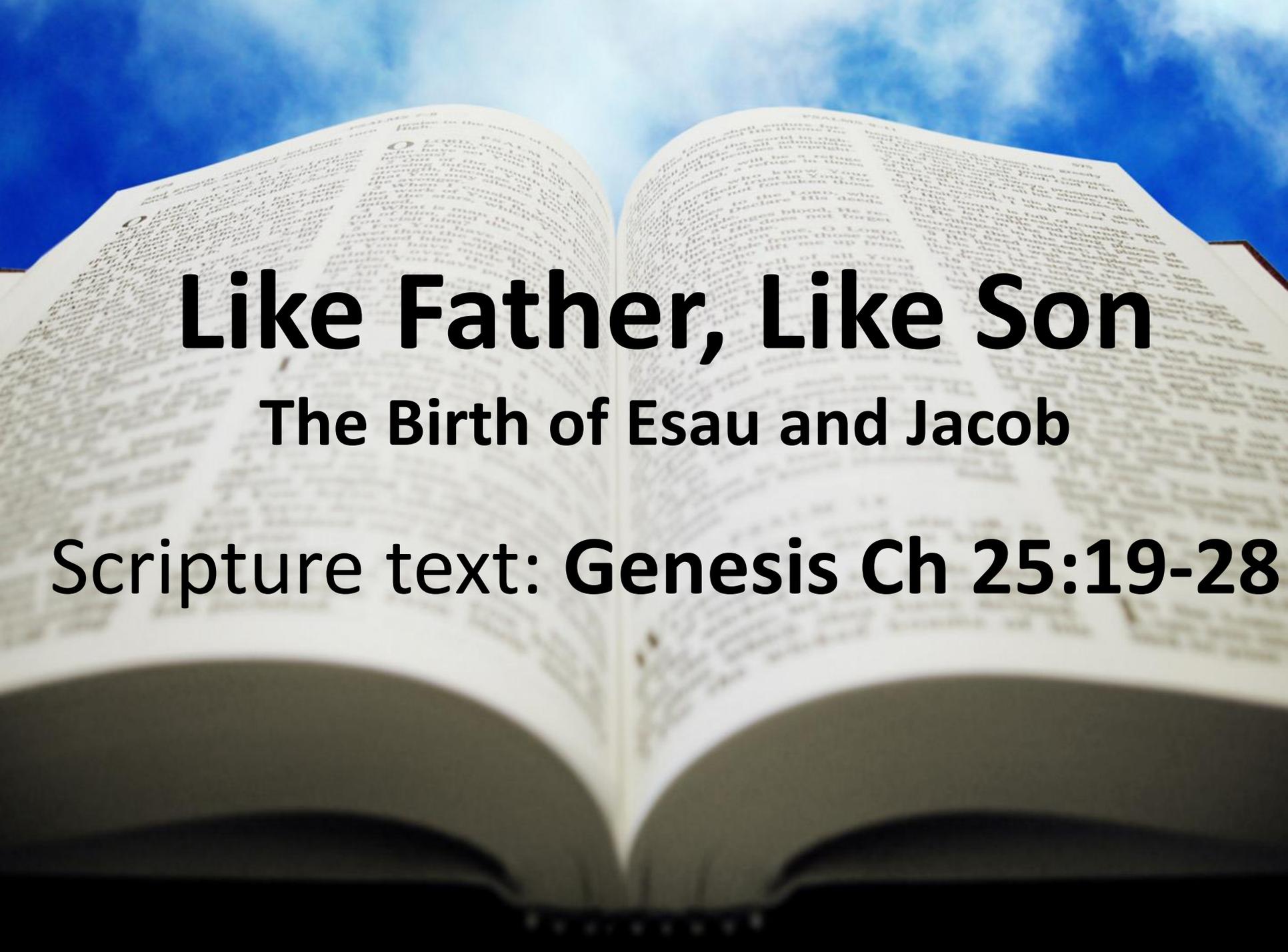
Yes, Ishmael was Abraham's son, but he is not the child of promise!

That child is Isaac, the miracle baby, born to Abraham and Sarah when they were as good as dead, for Abraham was 100 years old.

Yet, Ishmael was going to cause problems, **in fact all who think God is unfair, will cause problems for the people of God.**

**Psalm 83:1-8** O God, do not keep silence; do not hold your peace or be still, O God! For behold, **your enemies make an uproar; those who hate you have raised their heads.** They lay crafty plans **against your people;** they consult together against your treasured ones. They say, "Come, let us wipe them out as a nation; let the name of Israel be remembered no more!" **For they conspire with one accord; against you they make a covenant--**the tents of Edom and the **Ishmaelites**, Moab and the Hagrites, Gebal and Ammon and Amalek, Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre; Asshur also has joined them; **they are the strong arm of the children of Lot.**

**Genesis 19:34-38** The next day, the firstborn said to the younger, "Behold, I lay last night with my father. Let us make him drink wine tonight also. Then you go in and lie with him, that we may preserve offspring from our father." So they made their father drink wine that night also. And the younger arose and lay with him, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose. **Thus both the daughters of Lot became pregnant by their father.** The firstborn bore a son and called his name **Moab**. He is the father of the **Moabites** to this day. The younger also bore a son and called his name Ben-ammi. He is the father of the **Ammonites** to this day.

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# **Like Father, Like Son**

**The Birth of Esau and Jacob**

**Scripture text: Genesis Ch 25:19-28**

**Genesis 25:19-21** These are the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham fathered Isaac, and **Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah**, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, the sister of Laban the Aramean, **to be his wife**. And **Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren**. And **the LORD granted his prayer**, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

Lesson learned ... when something is not working, stop and pray, ask for God's favor!

**Genesis 25:22-23** The **children struggled** together **within her**, and she said, "If it is thus, why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. And the LORD said to her, "**Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger.**"

This account of the births of Esau and Jacob is a fitting introduction to the following chapters, for their **struggle for supremacy** manifested itself even before their births (cf. Hosea 12:3).

**Hosea 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.**"

**Genesis 25:24-28** When her days to give birth were completed, behold, **there were twins in her womb.** The first came out red, all his body like a hairy cloak, so they called his name **Esau.** Afterward his brother came out with his hand **holding Esau's heel,** so his name was called **Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.** When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, dwelling in tents. **Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.**

**Rebekah (re-bek'-kah)** = A rope with a noose (to tie firmly); a tie rope for animals; (roots = [1] hitching place; stall; [2] tied up calf or lamb). A noose; captivating. Fattened.

**Esau (e'-saw)** = Covered with hair; hairy.

**Jacob (ja'-cub)** = He will supplant; he that supplants; he that follows after; a heeler; one who trips up; takes hold by the land; supplanter; a detainer.

*The exhaustive dictionary of Bible names*

Although the twins were delayed in arriving [20 years], the world has never since been the same. Esau was a typical outdoorsman, hunting, fishing and finding no interest in the ways of civilization. Jacob was thoroughly domesticated, **a man who lived by his brain rather than his brawn**. The parents unfortunately played favorites, Isaac preferring Esau because the lad was his opposite and what he must have secretly wanted to be, and Rebekah favoring Jacob because he was so much like her.

When it is said that Jacob was a “plain [quiet, complete]” man, the word is one that is translated “perfect” elsewhere (Gen. 6:9; Job 1:1). It literally means “mature.” Jacob was a mature man **who knew what he wanted and how to discipline himself to get it.** The word carries no necessary ethical connotation but it is reserved for only a few select men in the Old Testament.

**Genesis 6:9** These are the generations of Noah. **Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation.** Noah walked with God.

**Job 1:1** There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and **that man was blameless and upright**, one who feared God and turned away from evil.

**Hebrews 11:9-10** By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, **living in tents** with Isaac and Jacob, **heirs with him of the same promise**. For he was **looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God**.

**Genesis 25:29-34** Once when Jacob was cooking stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was exhausted. And Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stew, for I am exhausted!" (Therefore his name was called Edom.) Jacob said, "**Sell me your birthright now.**" Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "**Swear to me now.**" So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. **Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.**

**The deal made between Jacob and Esau over the pottage** was seen by the biblical writer as not so much unfairness by Jacob as **stupidity by Esau**. His birthright was worth only “**a mess of pottage.**” Esau had been carrying the price tag for his birthright all the time. **Jacob bought it for what he knew Esau thought it was worth.** This does not excuse Jacob’s behavior, nor does it mark him worse than the average man. Rather it reveals him as quite typical. Rare is the man who will pay more than another asks for his merchandise.

**Special point.**—What was the birthright in question in this passage? **It usually included both property and family superiority.** The reason why Jacob still wanted Isaac's blessing, which was the final conveyance of the birthright, **was to secure his purchased rights.** Esau, after his father's death, might not honor the agreement made here. **It is interesting to note that Jacob never received the property in question here and never mentioned it again to Esau.** With his father's blessing he did not need it.

**Truth for today.**—Jacob was doing all this in spite of the fact that God had already told Rebekah that the birthright belonged to him (***Genesis 25:23*** *And the LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, **the older shall serve the younger.**"* ).

Surely she had told him, since she so obviously favored him. How much better it would have been if he had waited in faith for God's will to work itself out. **Far too often men run ahead of God and mar his good purpose for them.**