

# Resistance Is Futile

Long Beach Alliance Church • June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**BUT THE CHILDREN STRUGGLED TOGETHER WITHIN HER; AND SHE SAID, “IF IT IS SO, WHY THEN AM I THIS WAY?” SO SHE WENT TO INQUIRE OF THE LORD. THE LORD SAID TO HER, “TWO NATIONS ARE IN YOUR WOMB; AND TWO PEOPLES WILL BE SEPARATED FROM YOUR BODY; AND ONE PEOPLE SHALL BE STRONGER THAN THE OTHER; AND THE OLDER SHALL SERVE THE YOUNGER.”**

**~GENESIS 25:22-23 (NASB)**

## **1) Death & Life Wrapped Together**

- A) Sarah dies at 127 years-old (Genesis 23:1) and is buried in a cave purchased in Hebron (23:4-20).
  
- B) Abraham, who would have been 137 years-old at the time of Sarah's death, gives his oldest and most trusted servant (24:1-2) the task of finding Isaac (Abraham's son) a wife.
  
- C) Following Abraham's instructions and soaking the experience

in prayer, the servant finds and returns Rebekah to Isaac who marries Rebekah (24:10-67).

- D) Abraham, who probably died before Rebekah was brought to Isaac (note the contrast in "master" between 24:9 & 65), outlives Sarah by 38 years (cf. 25:7), gets married in his later years (to Keturah) and has six more sons before his death (25:1-11) at 175 years-old.
- E) Ishmael's descendents fulfill the prophecy that he would be the father of "12 princes" and a "great nation" (cf. 17:20 & 25:16). Ishmael dies in hostility to his relatives (25:18).

## 2) Isaac & Rebekah Have Twin Boys

- A) Rebekah, who has a difficult pregnancy (25:23), gives birth to two sons, Esau and Jacob. The boys are born in dramatic style (25:24-26)
  - i. Esau, the eldest son, is born with a thick covering of red hair ("edom" in Hebrew), so he is named Esau (which means, loosely, 'red & hairy' -- 25:25).
  - ii. Jacob, the younger son, is born holding onto Esau's heel. From the moment of birth, the prophecy of 25:23 is at work. Jacob's name means "one who grabs, grapples, usurps (25:26).
- B) Isaac loves Esau, but Rebekah loves Jacob (25:27-29). There is an immediate distinction between the two boys and their relationship to their parents. The relationship is in sharp contrast to God's prophecy in 25:23 (and preference, cf. Malachi 1:2; Romans 9:13).

## 3) The Birthright & Blessing Of Esau & Jacob

- A) Esau, who is characterized as being profane and driven by his appetites (cf. Hebrews 12:16), sells his birthright (double-portion of the father's wealth) to Jacob because he is hungry (Genesis 25:29-34).
- B) Isaac, who participates (amazingly) in a similar kind of lie regarding Rebekah as Abraham had with his mother, Sarah -- goes through a similar learning curve regarding the covenant promises (land, descendents, and blessing -- 26:23-25).
- C) In a deceptive and complex plan, Rebekah orchestrates a plan to assure Jacob receives the Isaac's dying blessing (in accordance with 25:23) instead of Esau (Genesis 27).

## 4) Isaac's Plan Of Rebellion Foiled By Rebekah's Plan Of Deception For God's Purpose Of Glory

- A) Isaac calls for Esau to bless him (in secret), in direct violation to God's plan to bless Jacob (27:1-4).
- B) Rebekah, overhearing the plan (27:5), decides to "deceive the deceiver" by devising a plan to deceive Isaac into giving his blessing to Jacob instead of Esau (27:6-17).
- C) Jacob fools his father, and receives the blessing of his father, Isaac (27:18-29).
- D) Esau & Isaac, upon finding out about Jacob & Rebekah's deception, become explosively angry (27:30-40). Esau, bearing a grudge, wants to kill his brother (27:41-45).