



# FEED MY SHEEP

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## Covenants, birthrights and blessings

*The Story of Joseph, Part 36*

As we concluded last issue, we found that Jacob-Israel had just formally adopted Joseph's sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, and was preparing to convey the birthright to them. In all of human history, this event ranks near the top in long-range ramifications, for it is still in the headlines today, as you will see by the end of this issue.

So what is a birthright? A birthright is whatever comes to a person by right of birth, in other words, as an inheritance. When people generally speak about inheritances, it refers to all the wealth, goods and property of a father being bequeathed to his heirs. In other words, a birthright usually speaks of *material* blessings.

As God began to call out a special people, He made a covenant with Abraham. That covenant became part of the birthright which Abraham handed down. Let us therefore review the terms of that covenant. (I have expounded in great detail on this and all the covenants in my 48-lecture series, *The Covenants of the Bible*. See page 4.) We will not recite here all the text of the several places where it is given and expanded, but there were two chief features of the covenant.

First, God promised Abraham an enormous number of descendants who would bless the entire world. Secondly, God promised Abraham that many kings would descend from him with, of course, the preeminent King being the Savior of the world. What a blessing for the world that is! Don't you agree?

Those two features—a vast number of descendants and kings among them—were two of the key aspects of the covenant promises which God had made to Abraham. As Abraham approached his declining years, it was time to pass on the birthright. It was a privilege which usually came to the eldest son. So how many

sons did Abraham have? Careful now...make an accurate count. He had eight, did he not? Ishmael by Hagar. Isaac by Sarah. Later, Abraham married Keturah and sired six more sons. The eldest of the eight was Ishmael. But Sarah told Abraham to "cast out the bondwoman and her son," and God told Abraham to listen to his wife, because as God said, "In Isaac shall thy seed be *called*."

That is a very significant prophecy, one to which we shall return at the appropriate time. And thus, the Bible says that after he gave gifts to his other sons, Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac. Therefore, Isaac received the birthright. And aside from the gifts given to his half-brothers, Isaac received not only all the material possessions of Abraham—which were considerable when we remember that Abraham had 318 servants or employees—but Isaac was also the recipient of the covenant promises.

This was later confirmed and enlarged upon to Isaac, as recorded in Genesis 26. Isaac had the twin sons, Esau and Jacob, but Esau was the firstborn, and was entitled to the birthright. We know how the Bible tells that Esau came in from the field and was faint, and begged Jacob for some soup. What the Bible omits is related in Jasher how the reason Esau was so faint was because he was running for his life. He had been on the run for days. You see, Esau had killed King Nimrod. He was running from Nimrod's bodyguards.

So you will notice in the Bible account that it says that after he agreed to sell his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of soup, that Esau ate the soup and kept on truckin' down the road. As Bishop J. H. Allen put it: No one questions the right of Esau to sell his birthright; but most have questioned the wisdom of it.

Therefore, Jacob acquired the birthright by purchase, but he never could have acquired it by right of birth.

Not surprisingly, Jacob did not feel very secure in his possession of the birthright because he knew that Esau was his father's favorite son. So as Isaac was in his declining years, he told Esau to go out and kill a deer and prepare his favorite meal, roast venison. After which, he intended to pass on the birthright to Esau.

But while Esau was out hunting, Isaac's wife Rebekah and son, Jacob, concocted a plan. She prepared a dinner of goat meat, which was close enough in taste to fool papa Isaac. Then mama helped Jake to put some animal fur on his neck and hands to make him appear to Isaac's touch as though he were his hairy brother Esau.

By this time, Isaac's eyes had grown quite dim and so he fell for the deception and gave the birthright blessing to Jacob. And I want us to read this to see a couple of important points.

**Genesis 27:27 And he [Jacob] came near, and kissed him: and he [Isaac] smelled the smell of his raiment, and blessed him, and said, See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field which the LORD hath blessed:**

**28 Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine:**

We see in these words, that Isaac was blessing Jacob with timely rains, the riches of the earth and abundant agricultural harvests. He then adds:

**29 Let people serve thee, and nations bow down to thee: be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee: cursed be every one that curseth thee, and blessed be he that blesseth thee.**

We could summarize that up in one word: dominion. Jacob was to have dominion.

**30 And it came to pass, as soon as Isaac had made an end of blessing Jacob, and Jacob was yet scarce gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting.**

**31 And he also had made savoury meat, and brought it unto his father, and said unto his father, Let my father arise, and eat of his son's venison, that thy soul may bless me.**

**32 And Isaac his father said unto him, Who**

**art thou? And he said, I am thy son, thy firstborn Esau.**

**33 And Isaac trembled very exceedingly, and said, Who? where is he that hath taken venison, and brought it me, and I have eaten of all before thou camest, and have blessed him? yea, and he shall be blessed.**

We see by that last phrase that the once the blessing was pronounced, that it was irrevocable. It could not be taken back. Isaac could not say: "Oops, I goofed. Cancel that! Backspace...Delete that!" No, once the words were spoken, they could not be revoked. Why that is so is still a mystery to me. I mean, what is it about the power of the human voice, combined with the intent of the speaker which gives such power to bring about those things which have been uttered? I believe it to be so, because we have seen it demonstrated time after time, but I confess that I do not understand the mechanism.

However, we can all learn something very important from this which we can and should apply in our everyday lives. It is the principle of guarding our mouths, watching our words, for in them is great power.

Do your words bless or curse your children? Perhaps you had never thought of it in this context before, but psychologists have done long-term studies which have discovered that when children are frequently called something by a parent, that they often go on in life to fulfill the curse which their father or mother spoke to them.

For example, if a father has a young child and frequently criticizes the child by saying "you can never get anything right." Or "you are such a screw-up, why can't you do things right?" Or "you will never amount to anything" or "You are nothing but a lazy fool!" or You fill in the blank; what have you called your children? Then, what happens when the child grows up? He's a screw-up; he or she can never seem to do things right. And sure enough, they fulfill the curse spoken upon them: they grow up and never amount to anything.

Moms and dads, be careful with the words you speak. I know that as parents, we all get frustrated some times when our children don't do what they should; but hey! Do you and I? Do we always do things perfectly? Let us remember to watch our words with them.

When our tendency is to say something *negative*; in reality, a curse; then instead, turn that around and

say something like: “Now, son, I know that down deep within you, that you have the ability to do this better; and so I want you to try it again, and let that ability come out and help you to do it better. Here, let me help you.”

In that way, you are *blessing* your children instead of inadvertently *cursing* them. And so Esau now asks his father for a blessing also. In this case, however, we are not talking about the everyday blessings we should all speak upon our children. The blessing Isaac had just conveyed to Jacob was the covenant blessing from Abraham.

**34 And when Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with a great and exceeding bitter cry, and said unto his father, Bless me, *even* me also, O my father.**

**35 And he said, Thy brother came with subtilty, and hath taken away thy blessing.**

**36 And he said, Is not he rightly named Jacob? for he hath supplanted me these two times: he took away my birthright; and, behold, now he hath taken away my blessing. And he said, Hast thou not reserved a blessing for me?**

First, let us note that the birthright and the blessing are two separate things. The inheritance usually goes to the firstborn, but the blessing was evidently something at the father’s discretion, although it often went to the firstborn as well.

Secondly, we saw that Jacob had lied to his father. Esau, however, likewise lies as he tells Isaac that Jacob *stole* the birthright. False! What Esau failed to tell his father was that he had sold the birthright to his brother.

**37 And Isaac answered and said unto Esau, Behold, I have made him thy lord, and all his brethren have I given to him for servants; and with corn and wine have I sustained him: and what shall I do now unto thee, my son?**

**38 And Esau said unto his father, Hast thou but one blessing, my father? bless me, *even* me also, O my father. And Esau lifted up his voice, and wept.**

One blessing? Yes, in regard to the covenant, there was only one which went with it. Any other blessing would be far inferior.

**39 And Isaac his father answered and said unto him, Behold, thy dwelling shall be the fatness of the earth, and of the dew of heaven from above;**

Notice the difference between this statement and

the one Isaac pronounced upon Jacob. For Jacob’s blessing, Isaac had said “God give thee the fatness of the earth, etc.” whereas for Esau, Isaac simply said “thy dwelling shall be the fatness of the earth.”

In other words, it is possible that this might indicate that Esau might dwell in the rich places, *not* by the hand of Divine providence, but by theft or by conquest. That seems to be borne out by the next statement...

**40 And by thy sword shalt thou live, and shalt serve thy brother; and it shall come to pass when thou shalt have the dominion, that thou shalt break his yoke from off thy neck.**

Thus, even though the prophetic blessing to Jacob was that Esau’s descendants would serve Jacob’s, nevertheless, there would come a time when Esau’s offspring would break off that yoke and then they would have dominion. I believe that time began to be fulfilled with the rise of the modern international banking system as founded by the Rothschild family. (I have been expounding on that in great detail in my series of Bible lectures on CD called *Mystery Babylon and the Stone Kingdom*. See cover letter with this mailing.)

By 1914, they and their agents had succeeded in putting the financial yoke upon America in the form of the Federal Reserve System. Then in 1948, the modern state of Israel was founded as the Palestinians were driven out. The Palestinians themselves know who they are, that they are descendants of Ishmael.

The way had been paved for the taking of that land by a document called the Balfour Declaration issued by the then Prime Minister of Great Britain, Lord Arthur Balfour. Incidentally, Balfour was part of the Cecil family of England which has been called the power behind the throne of England for the past several centuries.

Interestingly enough, a descendant of that same family, William Cecil, now owns the famous Biltmore Estate in Asheville, NC. In the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, one of the Cecils had married Cornelia Vanderbilt, the daughter of George Vanderbilt. I discuss that and many more interconnections in the world-government-game in my lectures dealing with Westcott and Hort in my series called *Which Bible? Which Version?* (See flier included with this mailing.)

Anyhow, Lord Arthur Balfour had issued this declaration in November of 1917 and on May 14, 1948, the modern Israeli state was announced by the Zionist Jews. (Not all Jews are Zionists, but many Christians are, for reasons given below.) Our president, Harry

Solomon Truman, quickly recognized the new nation, as did Stalin for the Soviet Union.

It was part of God's irony that millennia ago, blind father Isaac was deceived into thinking Jacob-Israel was Esau. Then, in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Great Britain played the role of blind Isaac this time as many descendants of Esau, mixed with *perhaps* some true descendants of Judah, pretended to be all Israel, so that they could take the old land of Israel into their possession.

The deceived fundamentalists, rapture preachers, and most televangelists—in other words, the Christian Zionists like to say that the Jews founding Israel again is Bible prophecy being fulfilled. Well, we certainly agree with that statement. But we differ greatly about *which* prophecies they are fulfilling.

We contend for example, that they are fulfilling a prophecy in Ezekiel in which God tells Israel about the future doom of Mount Seir, which was the land of Esau's descendants. At the beginning of that passage, it gives the following:

**Ezekiel 36:1 Also, thou son of man, prophesy unto the mountains of Israel, and say, Ye mountains of Israel, hear the word of the LORD:**

**2 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because the enemy hath said against you, Aha, even the ancient high places are ours in possession:**

What are "the ancient high places?" Could that not be when in the 1967 war, the Jews captured and took possession of Jerusalem and Mt. Zion, or the temple mount, as it is also known?

The book of Obadiah gives many more prophecies they are fulfilling. The hatred by Esau's descendants against true Israel's descendants goes all the way back to this event where Isaac blessed Jacob and gave him the birthright.

**41 And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him: and Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob.**

The Bible tells us that God said "Jacob have I loved; Esau have I hated." And that God chose Jacob before the twins were even born, so that Jacob's being the chosen one had nothing to do with the respective *works* of the brothers. It was a sovereign choice of God Almighty, and had nothing to do with Jacob's or Esau's good or bad choices. (*To be continued.*)

*If you want to really get into the meat of what "covenants" are all about, then consider this in-depth series of Bible studies by Dr. Bruggeman. After all, another name for the Old Testament and New Testament is the Old Covenant and New Covenant.*

*Covenants of the Bible* is a series of 48 lectures (each 45-60 minutes), covering the 7 or 8—depending on who is counting—major covenants found in Scripture. They are divided into 6 albums of 8 lectures each. Each album is \$34 postpaid. Or the Package Price for all six is \$139 (save \$53 over individual pricing), plus shipping of \$6.

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