Genesis

**Sibling Rivalry (25:24-)**

*From a study of Luther’s Works: Lectures on Genesis, Paul Kretzmann’s Popular Commentary of the Bible, and the Lutheran Study Bible*

## **Those poor parents… (25:24-28)**

* Twins!
  + A dangerous delivery
    - A miracle that Jacob and Rebecca survived
    - Jacob is holding onto Esau’s heel
      * … When one hand or foot has been thrust out, the life of mother and child are endangered. Often, too, the fetus is torn to pieces and brought out bit by bit. Thus this passage describes a birth that is wonderful and full of danger to the mother and to Jacob.[[1]](#footnote-1)
    - The promise would preserve her (v.23)
  + The first – Esau
    - And he’s ynIëAmd>a; - reddish
      * Adam was formed from red earth
    - And he’s shaggy and hairy
      * Think of a hobbit
  + Then Jacob
    - Here the foundations of the entire Christian doctrine are confirmed.[[2]](#footnote-2)
    - Nevertheless, such reasoning will lead to condemnation of this judgment of God, which says: “The elder shall serve the younger.” You will never persuade the Turk that he is condemned before God; nor will you persuade the pope that the Roman See is the see of Satan; nor will you persuade Charles V, Ferdinand, and the king of France. For the flesh, that is, the older, is arrogant, prevails, and is everything, as it were, in the world. On the other hand, the spirit is sad, dead, and altogether nothing. Thus Esau thinks: “I am the first-born. Therefore I am the church. I am the son and the people of God. But Jacob has been cast aside without honor and name.” In like manner, we are finding out today that our adversaries arrogate the title “church” to themselves, even though they are anything but the church.[[3]](#footnote-3)
* Don’t forget Isaac
  + 60 years old at the time of their birth
    - Abraham would have been around for 15 more years at this time.
* The contrast continues
  + We see how the worldly view of Esau continues to dominate over Jacob
  + Jacob takes on the servant role
    - More than just “dwelling in tents”
      * Sacred tents
      * Tents of the patriarchs
        + Eber (for 80 years)
        + Shem (for 46 years)
        + Shelah (for 26 years)
  + “Dad liked you best!”
  + “Mom liked you best!”

## **Inflated Prices (25:29-34)**

* To be asleep with regard to the Word of God is to open the window to the devil.[[4]](#footnote-4)
  + 1 Peter 5:8
  + Ephesians 5:15
* Esau has nothing
  + Either gave everything to Isaac or
  + Came back emptyhanded
    - Works-righteousness???
* Famished
  + Wants the first thing he sees
    - The lesser’s food
    - Made from the red beans
      * The word “Edom” sounds “red” in Hebrew
* Jacob takes advantage
  + Lentil stew for the birthright
  + Is a birthright something one can sell and buy?
    - Or, is it a sin to do such a thing??
    - Can you purchase that which is from the Spirit?
      * Although he (Esau) appropriated it to himself on account of his birth, nevertheless he did not have it by God’s will.[[5]](#footnote-5)
        + V.23
      * Yet according to the ways of the world, Jacob was out of luck.
      * But because Jacob knows by the voice of God that it belongs to him, he does not sin by buying his own right for himself. He did well by watching for all opportunities to obtain the (birthright) that belonged to him[[6]](#footnote-6)
    - But the sacraments and the sacred acts were not instituted for the sake of the present life but in order that they might be a sacred preparation for future things. For by the Gospel I am prepared, reborn, and renewed for the future life.[[7]](#footnote-7)
  + For this reason it is not an actual sale when Jacob says to Esau: “Sell me your birthright”; for the birthright has already been in Jacob’s possession, and Esau has been deprived of it. Possession is with Jacob, but without the name; the name is with Esau, but without possession. Because Jacob now sees that Esau understands or seeks nothing in the blessing except the belly—just as the pope, under the pretext of the church, seeks only his own glory and power—he offers Cerberus a morsel to prevent him from being troublesome to him in the future.[[8]](#footnote-8)
    - How easy the temptations are for us to sell our birthrights for earthly gain!
    - Thus when Esau says: “I am about to die; of what use is the birthright to me?” he indicates that he is thinking only of his belly and that he is scorning the promise as worthless and unprofitable for the future life, precisely as the Epicureans say today: “Why is it necessary to hear the Gospel and to make use of the Keys or the Lord’s Supper?” [[9]](#footnote-9)
  + Was Esau now condemned?
    - Hebrews 12:15-17

## **A Reminder From God (26:1-6)**

* Another (or stronger) famine forces a move
  + Isaac must be planning on going further south to Egypt…
* But the Lord appears to him around the region of Gerar
  + Southwest of where Jerusalem would one day be
  + Northeast of Beersheba
  + Controlled by the Philistines
    - Genesis 20:1-2
* The Lord appears
  + In the same manner that the Lord spoke to Abraham, He now speaks with Isaac.
    - Genesis 12:1
  + “Stay here. Listen to Me. Don’t follow your heart”
    - God reiterates the promises to Isaac
      * Genesis 12:3
      * Genesis 13:15
      * Genesis 15:5
      * Genesis 22:16-18
  + It is a faith thing!
    - Hebrews 11:9

## **History Repeats Itself (26:7-33)**

* Like father, like son
  + Here we go again…
  + Genesis 20:1-2
    - Why do we see such repetition?
    - they are recorded in order that the nature of the kingdom of Christ may be pointed out. In His small flock He has poor and weak consciences that are easily hurt and are not easily comforted. He is a King of the strong and the weak alike; He hates the proud and declares war on the strong. He rebukes the Pharisees and those who are smug. But He does not want to break or confound the fearful, the fainthearted, the sorrowful, and the perplexed. He does not want to quench a dimly burning wick (Is. 42:3; Matt. 12:20). This is His way and constant practice.[[10]](#footnote-10)
  + Yet Abimelech figures it out.
    - Isaac and Rebekah were flirting
    - And Abimelech remembers!
      * Genesis 20:3, 8-9
* Isaac is allowed to remain
  + Prospers like his father
    - Not by the hand of Abimelech (20:14)
    - But by the hand of God
      * And the Philistines became jealous
        + Filled in Abraham’s wells

21:30

Before or after Isaac’s success??

* + - * + Kicked out

1. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 4: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 21-25*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw04?ref=Bible.Ge25.24-26&off=1287&ctx=ad+comes+out+first.+~But+when+one+hand+or), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 4 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 369. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 4: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 21-25*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw04?ref=Bible.Ge25.24-26&off=4139), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 4 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 370. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 4: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 21-25*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw04?ref=Bible.Ge25.24-26&off=6965&ctx=ld+because+of+them.+~Nevertheless%2c+such+r), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 4 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 371–372. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 4: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 21-25*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw04?ref=Bible.Ge25.29-30&off=1771&ctx=der%2c+and+blasphemy!+~For+to+be+asleep+wit), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 4 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 391. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 4: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 21-25*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw04?ref=Bible.Ge25.31-34&off=914&ctx=d+not+belong+to+him.~+Although+he+appropr), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 4 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 395. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 4: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 21-25*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw04?ref=Bible.Ge25.31-34&off=1480&ctx=emained+unimpaired.+~But+because+Jacob+kn), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 4 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 395. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 4: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 21-25*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw04?ref=Bible.Ge25.31-34&off=15820&ctx=nholy+and+polluted.+~But+the+sacraments+a), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 4 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 401. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 4: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 21-25*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw04?ref=Bible.Ge25.31-34&off=18826), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 4 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 402–403. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 4: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 21-25*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw04?ref=Bible.Ge25.31-34&off=25024&ctx=d+turned+and+gone.%E2%80%9D%0a~Thus+when+Esau+says%3a), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 4 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 405. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 5: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 26-30*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw05?ref=Bible.Ge26.6-7&off=3106&ctx=+the+obstinate.+No%2c+~they+are+recorded+in), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 5 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 26. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)