

The Planning and Choosing God

Genesis 25:19-28

Isaiah 41:1-10

Romans 9:9-18



04 December 2022

Pursuing our Goals - Romans 12:3-5

What We Learnt in the Previous Weeks

- Love and Treasure God more than His gifts - Imitate Abraham.
- The Eternal God and an arranged marriage - God unfolding His eternal purpose through Isaac and Rebekah.

The Necessity of Prayer - Isaac and Rebekah Prayed

- (Gen. 25:21) Isaac pleaded with the LORD for his wife, because she was barren - prayer is essential for the believer.
 - Although God had promised that He would establish His everlasting covenant through the lineage of Isaac, he had no child (Gen 17:19). Isaac had to entreat the LORD and to wait for GOD's appointed time (He waited for 20 years). Isaac prayed according to God's will (1 John 5:14-15).
 - The promise and its fulfilment is God's business but prayer is the believer's responsibility. God's sovereignty does not excuse believers from the commandment to pray - Luke 18:1; Luke 21:36; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Ephesians 6:18; Colossians 4:2; 1 Samuel 1:11, 1 Samuel 1:27; Psalm 50:15; Isaiah 58:9; Isaiah 65:24; Luke 1:13; Ezekiel 36:36-38; Daniel 9:1-3; 2 Chronicles 7:14; Mark 1:35, Psalm 2:7-8.
 - Prayer is part of God's eternal plan. The Holy Spirit was given to believers to help us to pray - Romans 8:26.
- (Gen. 25:21) The LORD granted his plea, and Rebekah, his wife, conceived - God is a prayer answering God and children are a gift from God - Psalm 65:2; Psalm 91:15; Isaiah 45:11; Psalm 127:3; Psalm 128:3-4.
- (Gen 25:22) Rebekah went back to inquire of the LORD when she was having difficulty with her pregnancy - this demonstrates that we need to depend on God for everything - Proverbs 3:5-6.

Birth of Esau and Jacob - Genesis 25:23-28

- (Gen 25:23) GOD's proclamations concerning Esau and Jacob: two nations, two peoples and two persons - Esau and Jacob were going to be two nations (the Edomites and the Israelites).
- "One people shall be stronger than the other"
- "...the older shall serve the younger"
- (Gen 25:24) 'Indeed they were twins in her womb' - as the LORD had said!
- (Gen 25:25) 'The first came out red. He was like a hairy garment all over; so they called his name Esau.'
- (Gen 25:26) A physical demonstration of GOD's sovereign will and proclamation - 'Afterward his brother came out, and his hand took hold of Esau's heel; so his name was called Jacob.'
- (Gen 25:27) Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the field. Jacob was a mild (quiet, plain man, content) dwelling in tents.
- (Gen 25:28) Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game (judging with the physical senses, but God does not see as man sees - 1 Sam 16:7). Rebekah loved Jacob - she loved the one that God loved.
- All of this is going to be significant in the unfolding of God's eternal purpose in the life of Jacob and Esau in the subsequent chapters.

GOD chose Jacob

- God unfolds His eternal purpose through Jacob and his descendants (God's special people) Abraham → Isaac → Jacob.
- Jacob is in the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Messiah (Luke 3:23-38; Matthew 1:1-17).
- Paul uses this birth to show his argument for the doctrine of election in Romans 9.
- The life of Jacob is written for our learning - Romans 15:4.
- Jacob is a picture of the elect - He is called (chosen) and taken through a process of sanctification like Abraham.
- A large portion of Genesis is dedicated to the life of Jacob and his children (around 24 chapters).
- Jacob becomes Israel, God's chosen people.
- In Isaac's blessing of Jacob and Esau we see the sovereignty of God over man's will.
 - Isaac loved Esau and intended to bless him, but God loved Jacob and actually blessed him (Malachi 1:2-3).
 - God's ways are not our ways nor His thoughts our thoughts (Isaiah 55:8-9).

GOD chooses according to His Sovereign Will

- ★ God chooses according to His will since the beginning of time.
 - God chose to create - when and how He wanted.
 - God chose Adam to be the federal head of His creation.
 - God chose Eve to be Adam's wife.
 - God chose Noah.
 - God chose Abraham.
 - God chose Isaac
 - God continued to exercise His sovereign choice throughout the Scriptures. Consider the following examples: Joseph, Judah, Levi, Moses, Joshua, Samuel, the judges, the prophets, Rahab the harlot, Ruth the Moabitess, Boaz, Nehemiah, Ezra, even pagan kings to accomplish His purpose (Pharaoh, Cyrus the great, Nebuchadnezzar), Zecharias and Elizabeth; Joseph and Mary.
 - This demonstrates that the earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and they that dwell in it (Psalm 24:1) and therefore HE chooses to do whatever He wants with His creation - Daniel 4:35; John 15:16.

God's choice of Jacob over Esau - Election of Grace over Works

- We are saved by grace alone through faith (Ephesians 2:8, Romans 9:11), however both grace and faith always work (James 2:14-26).
- The evidence that we have been saved by the grace of God is our good works - Ephesians 2:8,10, Titus 2:11-14.

How all this fits into the salvation of the elect - 1 Peter 2:9-10

- Out of the lineage of Jacob, the Messiah, Jesus Christ would come and through Jesus Christ Gentiles who were not part of the nation of Israel can become God's special people - Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 2:11-22, 3:1-13.
- God chose the elect from the foundation of the world - Eph 1:4.
- Salvation is the work of God alone - Ephesians 2:4-6; Jude 25.
- Not everyone is chosen (Meditate!) - Many are called but few are chosen (Matthew 22:14). It is not a right but a privilege and with privilege comes responsibility (Hebrews 9:14).
- There is no room for boasting because we did nothing to be chosen (Ephesians 2:8-10).
- The chosen ones are called to a deeper devotion to the One who chose us - Romans 12:1; Ephesians 4:1-2; 2 Corinthians 5:15; Romans 6:13; 14:7-8; Luke 1:74-75.

Why were we chosen by God (the purpose) - Consider His Everlasting Plan

From all eternity God purposed to gather to Himself a special people from every nation, tribe, peoples, and tongue, re-created in His image, purchased by the blood of His own Son, that would treasure, glorify, praise, worship and enjoy Him for His infinite worth and beauty for all eternity for His own glory and their good and pleasure.

What is the evidence that we have been chosen by God?

- Obedience to God's commandments - 1 John 2:3-6; 15-17; John 14:21,23.
- Ongoing sanctification/holiness - 1 Peter 1:15-16; Hebrews 12:14.
- Ongoing Repentance - Acts 26:20; Mark 1:15; Luke 13:2-3.
- Loving the brethren - 1 John 4:7-8; 1 John 4:20-21; 1 John 2:10; Ephesians 1:15; Colossians 1:4; 2 Thessalonians 1:3.1 John 5:1-2.

How are we to walk (live) as saints/the called/chosen ones in this present evil world?

- Walk worthy of your calling - Ephesians 4:1.
- Walk circumspectly, redeeming the time - Ephesians 5:15-16.
- Do not walk in the counsel of the ungodly - Psalm 1:1.
- Put on the full armour of God - Ephesians 6:13-18.
- Walk as Christ walked - 1 John 2:5-6.
- Pray without ceasing, imitate Christ - Luke 18:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.