

# December 2007 Newsletter

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## SALVATION

If you are not a believer in Jesus Christ, or aren't sure and would like to become one, then you need to believe that Jesus Christ was and is the Son of God, that he was God who became a man, that he lived a sinless and perfect life, keeping the Law of God perfect in every way, that he kept faith perfectly, and that he was crucified on that cruel cross for your sins, mine and the entire world- he died for our sins! His death on the cross paid the penalty fully, one time for all sins that we have ever committed and that we will ever commit. He died; he went down into the bowels of the earth, even into Hell, and was raised from the dead on the third day in a resurrected, eternal body. He ascended back into heaven, was seated at the right hand of God, and is now Lord over heaven and earth. He is coming again to judge the world, to raise the dead, where he will give an eternal, resurrected, glorified body to everyone that has believed on him as their Lord and Savior, and to establish his kingdom one earth.

You come become a Christian right now as you read this, by personally placing your faith and trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior; believing that he is God's only begotten Son, that he died on the cross for you and that he was raised from the dead and is now seated in heaven at the right hand of God the Father. *"Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.."* [Acts 16:31a](#) And when you do trust Christ, and Christ alone, as your Lord and Savior, then go to God the Father in heaven in prayer and tell him so. Tell him that you have believed on his Son, thank him for his Son, and thank him for forgiving your sins and saving you! *"That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord", and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."* [Romans 10:9,10](#) *"For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* [Romans 10:13](#) *"Therefore, being justified by faith (declared righteous), we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."* [Romans 5:1](#)

## Weary Of Life – part one

*“And Rebekah said to Isaac, I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth: if Jacob take a wife of the daughters of Heth, such as these which are of the daughters of the land, what good shall my life do me?” Genesis 27:46*

### A. Intro:

The various aspects of the story of Isaac, Rebekah, Esau and Jacob strikes such a familiar theme in the lives of so many believers today. This is a story of believers in Christ who raised their children under the Word, the heartache that ensued, and how they overcame it by acting in faith on the promises.

The two boys, Esau the firstborn, and Jacob, were about as different as different can be. Esau was a skillful hunter spending much of his time outdoors, while Jacob was a quiet man preferring to stay back at the camp site. *“And the boys grew: and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents.” Gen.25:27*

There was also a problem with parental favoritism. Isaac loved his outdoor son, Esau, while Rebekah loved Jacob. *“And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob.” Gen. 25:28*

Another problem enters into the story and that lies with the indigenous people that were already living there in the land when the family moved there. Isaac, Rebekah and their family, as well as Abraham, Sarah and their family, along with Jacob and his family, were the people of the promise, the covenant people of God, the people that belonged to God, the people that God had made his promises to and the people that God was going to bless.

It was **these** people that God was giving the land to for **their** blessing, but at the same time there were people living there that were not included in God's covenant blessing. These people had been there for centuries; they had built their homes, planted their own gardens, raised their livestock, had their own culture, their own norms and standards, (or lack thereof), their own religion, (Baalism), etc..

They were a type of the world system. The unsaved people of the world that the people of God find themselves surrounded by today wherever they live in the various places that God has established them to bless them.

Warnings abound then and now not to adopt the thinking of the people in the towns God places us in, nor to adopt their cultures, customs, their social morals, nor their religious practices and certainly not to live with them or marry them!

The Canaanites and Hittites were ungodly and unsaved, and had no part of the blessing package God was giving to Isaac, Jacob and their families; they were under a curse. *“Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren.” Gen. 9:25*

## B. Esau *Went Native*.

“*And Esau was forty years old when he took to wife Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Bashemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite.*” Gen. 26:34

To *go native* was just an expression saying that an individual had assimilated into the culture, lifestyle, morals, pursuits, interests and even religion of the surrounding indigenous people. In other words, not just live there, but become one of them.

Lot, his wife and two daughters *went native* by compromising biblical norms and standards and sought to be assimilated into the culture and economy of the indigenous people that they lived around in Sodom and Gomorrah with disastrous results for the entire family. Esau did the same thing by marrying Judith the daughter of Beeri, the Hittite, and Bashemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite. Gen. 26:34

Now the Hittites were a people whose genealogy began with Noah's son, *Ham*, through Ham's son, *Canaan*, who had been cursed by Noah due to an homosexual act committed on him while he was sleeping. The curse went down Canaan's line to his son *Heth*, also known as the Hittites. Beeri, Elon and their daughters were from Heth. The word *Heth*, חֶת, had the idea in it of fear and terror indicating that the sons of *Heth*, the Hittites, struck terror in the hearts of others.

If we look at the genealogy of *Ham* he had four sons: *Cush*, *Mizraim* (Egypt), *Put* and *Canaan*. *Cush* and *Canaan* were brothers; Cush had a son named *Nimrod*; Canaan had a son named *Heth*, so Nimrod and Heth were cousins. *Nimrod* settled down in the area named Babylon, Persia, Iran, Iraq; *Canaan* and *Heth* settled down in the area called Palestine, or the land of Canaan. And *Mizraim* founded Egypt.

Nimrod's name roughly meant The Rebel, or he who rebelled against God, and he was known as the world's first tyrant. It was Nimrod who was able to consolidate the world into the world's first New World Order under his control religiously, economically and politically and he did so by the force of arms! It was by his standing army made up of fierce, well trained soldiers, and the force of blood and savagery, that the people of the ancient world submitted to his rule. So it is no wonder that his cousin's name, *Heth*, had the idea of terror being struck in the hearts of all. The apple doesn't fall very far from the tree in Canaan's line, and that also included the Babylonian system of worship that was forced on all people!

The patriarchal system of worship headed up by *Shem* was the worship of the true God, *Yahweh*, but Ham, Cush, Nimrod and company were using terror to force the people of the world away from the true worship of God and replace that with the worship of Satan in the Babylonian system with Cush and Nimrod presiding over it. The two gals that Esau married were from these people. A savage, fierce people with little or no morals, who all worshipped in the Babylonian system of Nimrod. No wonder they were a source of grief and bitterness of soul to Isaac and Rebekah.

Babylon's reign, from then till now, still uses a reign of fear to get the people to submit to it. Either a reign of fear through **government** and its standing army or police force, or a reign of fear through **religion**, one never knows where one stands with God, or a reign of fear in its **economic system** by getting people to go into debt, and employing a fiat money system that loses value through inflation.

The word *grief* here is bitterness of spirit, but to really understand or appreciate the concept, one has to be a parent raising their children as unto the Lord, but also having to deal with continuous problems with their kids, not only with their rebellion, but with them being **corrupted by the culture of the people they live around!**

The Bible says that a **foolish son** is a grief unto his father and bitterness unto his mother. *A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him.*” Proverbs 17:25 Esau was definitely a foolish son as evidenced by his life, decisions, and lusts.

The word for *foolish* is *kesil*, כְּסִיל, and it had quite a few concepts connected with it: one, one who didn't take serious matters seriously; two, one who will not learn and can only be kept in line by the use of the rod; three, wisdom is a foreign tongue to him; four, one who won't learn from his mistakes; five, one who returns to his folly; six, all attempts at education and discipline have failed; seven, one who causes his parents grief and worry; eight, one who despises his father and mother; nine, one who takes no pleasure in wisdom and understanding; ten, one who flaunts his folly; eleven, blows and rebukes leave no impression on him; twelve, he angers quickly and vents his anger outwardly; thirteen, his heart leans toward wickedness; fourteen, he takes pleasure in wrongdoing; and fifteen, the rod is for the back of the fool.

Esau was the firstborn son of godly parents, Isaac and Rebekah. Their whole family was chosen by God to be the recipients of God's grace blessings, and God was in covenant with them alone out of all the people on the earth. Yet Esau regarded these things as unimportant. Truth, the doctrines of God's Word, faith, belonging to *Yahweh*, having *Yahweh's* blessings on them meant nothing to Esau. In fact he went the opposite way and immersed himself in the culture of the people that were at enmity with God.

So here you are as the parents of a child, your firstborn son who was to be the heir of the household, and he cared nothing for the things of the Lord, his covenant, his promises, his righteousness, his truth, his blessings and purposely went out to do evil.

Not only did they love their son, as all Christian parents do, but it was like their entire lives were wasted on trying to raise him the right way and then on trying to straighten him out when he went the wrong way! It's easy to see how they ended up with grief and bitterness of soul.

It's bad enough on a personal level to see your son or daughter rebel against the way and go out in the world following the ways of the flesh and the devil; it pains the parent to see that because you love them. But when their actions threaten the well being and even survival of the family, then that becomes a serious matter for all concerned.

Now we get to the matter of Jacob stealing the blessing from Esau by deceiving his father, Isaac. Jacob **lied** to his dad, he **deceived** him and he **stole** Esau's right to the blessing as the firstborn son. Genesis 27

Now we all know that Jacob did that, even his name meant *Cheater* or *Tricker*, but one thing that is so often overlooked is that **his mother put him up to it!** *“And Rebekah heard when Isaac spake to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt for venison, and to bring it. And Rebekah spake unto Jacob her son, saying, Behold, I heard thy father speak unto Esau thy brother, saying, Bring me venison, and make me savoury meat, that I may eat, and bless thee before the LORD before my death. Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to that which I command thee. Go now to the flock, and fetch me from thence two good kids of the goats; and I will make them savoury meat for thy father, such as he loveth: And thou shalt bring it to thy father, that he may eat, and that he may bless thee before his death.”* Genesis 27:5-10

The question is, what in the world would prompt Rebekah to do such a thing? The answer lies in the narrative of the pivotal passage of Genesis 26:34,35 where Esau took two Hittite women as his wives, *“And Esau was forty years old when he took to wife Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Bashemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite: Which were a grief of mind unto Isaac and to Rebekah.”*

**There was no way in the world that Rebekah was going to allow the family inheritance, the birthright, the family property and money, the blessing from God and the control over her family end up in the hands of these two Hittite women and their people!**

When *Abram* took a wife for himself, *Sarai*, she was from the descendants of *Heber*, or the Habiru, as he himself was. God later covenanted with Abraham and gave him a son, *Isaac*, through the woman, *Sarah*, and no other woman. Even though later on, after Sarah died, he had many other children through *Keturah*, it was only through the woman, Sarah, that the promised son, Isaac, came.

After Sarah died Abraham sent his servant to get a wife for his son, Isaac, and instructed him, even swear an oath to him, that he would not get a wife for Isaac from the daughters of the Canaanites, but from his own country and people, from one of the descendants of *Heber*. And to not even take his son back there. God brought him out of that land and took him into the promised land and that's where Isaac was to stay!

We see a failure here in Isaac's life. Why didn't Isaac follow the pattern of his father, Abraham, by sending one of his servants to go back up to the home country and get a wife from there for his son, Esau? It was his failure as father and leader of the home that put his wife, Rebekah, into the position of having to do what she had to do! This reveals that it was not only Esau that had his doctrinal principles eroded by the surrounding culture, but to a degree Isaac as well. But Rebekah was going to have none of that. She loved her son, Jacob, and she was not going to have her household destroyed!

## C. Rebekah Acts.

*“And thou shalt bring it to thy father, that he may eat, and that he may bless thee before his death.” Genesis 27:10*

It appears that when the time came for passing on the blessing, Isaac had his mind set on satisfying his appetite for wild game, (probably venison), instead of on a much more important doctrinal matter. What was the doctrinal matter? One, did Esau show the type of integrity and maturity needed to run the household? And two, how in the world could you allow the control of your household be jeopardized by Esau's marriage?

Apparently the father and the son both shared the same trait of loving wild game, and probably the excitement of the hunt, an emotional issue, to the place that doctrinal principles didn't seem that important to either one of them. Remember, Esau was the **father's son**, while Jacob was the **mother's son**.

**But it did not go unnoticed by Rebekah!** She was not going to allow her oldest son, with his two Hittite wives, take control over her and the son of the promise! Just like Sarah sent *Hagar* and her son, *Ishmael*, packing in Genesis 21:10, *“Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac.”*

Sarah had caught Ishmael making fun of Isaac when he was just a little thing. The word used by the KJV, *mocking*, is derived from *tsachaq*, מִצַּחֵק. *Tsachaq* is a play off the meaning of Isaac's name, which meant *laughter*. Making fun of someone is the first step toward emotional abuse, then physical abuse later on. Being a much older child Ishmael was way out of line and Sarah knew where this would all end up one day, so she had Abraham get rid of him and his mother to protect Isaac's soul and body.

Sarah was wrong when she made the suggestion years ago for Abraham to have a son by her handmaid, Hagar. Another classical example of believers trying to help God out by their works. But she was right this time. She knew that Ishmael was a punk and a bully by him making fun of a little kid, and that in time it would destroy Isaac's self esteem creating in him a shame based soul. Not only that, she knew that if he picked on him that way, then physical abuse was right around the corner. **Besides, what in the world is the son of a slave doing making fun of the son of a free woman??**

Rebekah had had it with Esau's two Hittite wives. Both Isaac and Rebekah were bitterly affected by these two women, but Rebekah had **had enough**. They were a source of never ending misery in the home and she had to do something.

Mothers have a special relationship with their sons; they bring them into this world; they nurse them and spend their entire lives trying to train them to grow up to be the men that God wants them to be. And to the mother it is of the **utmost importance** that they marry **the right kind of woman!** Sadly, though, many boys are total idiots; they don't listen to their mothers and go out and marry the wrong woman.

Some do it **out of spite**, like Esau, and some because they're total fools. But Rebekah was not going to have any of that for her son, Jacob. **She was not going to let him marry an Hittite woman like Esau did.** So she put Isaac up to commanding Jacob not to marry, and get this, not just an Hittite woman, **but any woman descended from Canaan!** "*And Isaac called Jacob, and blessed him, and charged him, and said unto him, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan.*" Genesis 28:1

Instead she wanted Jacob to *go back to the well* up north where their people were and take a wife from one of them. "*Arise, go to Padanaram, to the house of Bethuel thy mother's father; and take thee a wife from thence of the daughters of Laban thy mother's brother.*" Genesis 28:2

There was no way that the blessing of God was going to come on a people who were under a curse back then, Genesis 9:25. Just as there was no way that the blessing of the promise was going to come on a slave, Hagar and Ishmael. So Rebekah acted in her own self interest, the interest of her son, Jacob, in the interest of the entire household and in the interest of the promise. **But beside the personal issue involved there was a doctrinal one.** When Rebekah was pregnant with the two boys there was a great struggle going on inside her. So she went and inquired of the Lord what was going on. "*And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to enquire of the LORD.*" Genesis 25:22

His reply to her was that there were two nations inside her and that the elder would serve the younger. "*And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.*" Genesis 25:23

And seeing that Esau came out of the womb first, then he was the elder son and as the firstborn he had the rightful position of birthright and being the leader of the family.

When Jacob came out he was hanging on to Esau's heel. The name Jacob, **יַעֲקֹב**, meant Heel Catcher, or Supplanter. In the Greek it's *Iakōb*.

An interesting thought: How do we know that it wasn't Jacob who was supposed to be the first one to be born, but because of this great, even violent struggle in the womb, that Esau won out over him in the flesh because Esau was stronger, so Esau came out first with Jacob hanging on to his heel?

What this shows once again is that **the will of God is not accomplished by human strength and effort, nor is it thwarted by human strength and effort!** God chose Isaac to be the recipient of the covenant blessing and it didn't matter if he was born first or last! "*(For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) It was said unto her, **The elder shall serve the younger.** As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.*" Romans 9:11-13

## D. Rebekah's Weariness.

*“And Rebekah said to Isaac, **I am weary of my life** because of the daughters of Heth: if Jacob take a wife of the daughters of Heth, such as these which are of the daughters of the land, what good shall my life do me?” Genesis 27:46*

Both Isaac and Rebekah had bitter grief of soul over Esau's choice of his two Hittite wives, who were a continuing source of grief to them both. And this not because of an isolated event, but day after day, year after year. How many Christian parents have had this kind of grief brought into their homes and lives because their sons or daughters were fools who wouldn't listen to doctrinal instruction or correction?

This tells us that you can be a believer in Jesus Christ, as Isaac and Rebekah were, recipients of the promise, in covenant with God, living in the right geographical location, obeying God and being prospered by God, have your kids under the teaching of Bible Doctrine all their lives, and in spite of all that, they will still rebel against everything they have learned and pick the wrong path!

How many Christian mothers and fathers have done their best in raising their children in the church under the Word, only to have their kids go out into pornography, crime, drugs, alcoholism, sleeping around, shacking up, even ending up in prison? As heart breaking as it is we have to remember that they now have their own free will and are responsible for the consequences of their decisions. But we still suffer in our souls.

Esau showed all the characteristics of being a fool. He demonstrated this by not only marrying these two women, whose people were under a curse, but by trading his birthright for a bowl of stew! He ignored the tremendous importance of the inheritance that was being given to him to gratify a passing hunger pain. He deserved to lose it.

What was Esau thinking? Did he care so little for what God was doing for his family that he would give it away to another people, or at the very least jeopardize it? And what was he doing looking for a wife from among the Hittites instead of going back to the ancestral home of his mother and grandmother?

Whoever had the blessing on him was the absolute authority over everyone in the family; they were the lord over that family. And the type of rule that they would exercise was determined by their doctrinal integrity, or lack thereof. And if Esau had the blessing, then one who was foolish and rebellious would be over all!

Not only that, but intermarrying with other nations, people, or tribes **created an alliance between the two families and the two nations**. And in this case an alliance between the people of God and the people of the devil – **and Rebekah knew that!** And that's why she was not going to allow Esau's wives, who had caused her so much misery, **be over her and her son!** It was bad enough that Esau's actions had allied the two families together, but she was not going to allow the control of the family birthright pass over into the hands of these people.

Isaac married Rebekah when he was forty years old and he was sixty when the boys were born and Esau married his two wives when he was forty, which meant that Isaac and Rebekah were dealing with these problems when they were one hundred years old! No wonder she was weary of life. One thing is for certain and that is when we get older we want to deal with less problems not more. **And we certainly don't want to be dealing with family problems!** Parents hope that their kids will grow up and settle down as mature adults, not be a source of grief to them.

It didn't seem to bother Isaac as much over Esau's two Hittite wives, probably due to their shared interest in hunting and he was his father's son, but it sure bothered Rebekah probably due to the fact that she had to spend more time around them.

Besides the wives lack of doctrinal integrity and personal capacity, there was the problem of the religion of the Hittites who worshiped a pantheon of gods, and whenever they conquered a people, or intermarried with them, their gods were to be worshiped by the other people and the other people's gods were included in their pantheon of gods.

Could you imagine Isaac and Rebekah now worshiping the gods of the Hittites? Or giving them a place of respect in their home?. Could you imagine *Yahweh* being OK with being worshiped alongside the other Hittite lesser gods? Now are you beginning to see the problem that this marriage brought about?

There's a major doctrinal issue involved here, along with all kinds of doctrinal and personal issues. Yet children and the younger generation often fail to see these things. All they see is that the people are nice, or fun, or friendly, or they like me, or love me. They fail to see, or refuse to see, the doctrinal issues involved in their relationships and friendships with other people and thereby create problems for their parents.

But Rebekah was no fool and she was not going to have any part of this evil nonsense Esau brought into her home and she wasn't going to let Jacob go down the same path. And if she had to put her son up to deceiving his dad to save the family and stand by doctrinal principles – then so be it!

She was so strongly convinced in this matter that, if there was a **curse** connected to their plan, then she was willing to let it fall upon her. *“And his mother said unto him, Upon me be thy **curse**, my son: only obey my voice, and go fetch me them.”* Genesis 27:13

We need more Christian women in America today who will stop being so sweet and nice and start living their lives and raising their children based upon doctrinal convictions and not worrying about whose feelings they hurt. Christians need to do start doing what is right, not what is expedient.

In Genesis 27:47 it says that Rebekah was weary of life, *“And Rebekah said to Isaac, I am **weary** of my life because of the daughters of Heth: if Jacob take a wife of the daughters of Heth, such as these which are of the daughters of the land, what good shall my life do me?* In Genesis 26:35 the NIV says that both Isaac and Rebekah were grieved, *“Which were a **grief** of mind unto Isaac and to Rebekah.”*

In Genesis 26:35 the word used for grief is מרת from the *marar* root, which was the word used for bile, gall, or the venom of the serpent. *Marar* was used of food or water that was bitter to the taste and from that came the idea of **having a negative emotional reaction to something and referred to bitterness of soul**.

It was bad enough that Isaac and Rebekah had to live around these people; it was a spiritual mental battle that they had to fight all the time. And it was bad enough that one of their sons refused to separate, but instead became like one of them. But when he brought them home to mom and dad as his wives, two of them, then it became more than they could handle.

It's a difficult situation for Christian parents who devote their entire lives to raising a son or daughter just to have them turn out to be fools due to their rebellious volition. **But when they bring the fruit of their folly to live under your roof.... well you can easily see how one can become bitter of soul over it all.**

The word *marar*, or *morah*, means bitterness or gall, but it is also used of the venom of the serpent. **Can we not see how Satan struck the souls of Isaac and Rebekah with his venom of bitterness by using their son? The bitterness of the outside world has now penetrated their home and their lives.**

How many Christian parents today have had the spiritual tranquility of their homes destroyed and the loss of their personal peace with bouts of grief and bitterness, all because of a son or daughter throwing their doctrinal instruction aside to go out into the corrupt surrounding culture and then bring their folly back into the home??

It was bad enough that Esau turned out the way he did due to his own negative volition; and it was bad enough that he brought these two heathen back into his father's house, but it gets worse than this. But before we get into that we need to see that there is a bright ray of sunshine on the horizon and that is God is going to handle the whole situation between the two boys and it's going to turn out fine.

After Isaac had passed the blessing on the Jacob instead of Esau, Esau showed up to receive his blessing only to be told that Jacob had got it! After bitter tears, crying and pleading with his father, it all turned to anger and hatred toward his brother with the full intent to kill Jacob just as soon as his father died. "*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.*" Genesis 27:41

When Rebekah heard about this she went into action immediately to send Jacob up to live with her brother, Laban, who lived in Haran. "*Now therefore, my son, obey my voice; and arise, flee thou to Laban my brother to Haran; And tarry with him a few days, until thy brother's fury turn away;*" Genesis 27:43,44 She knew that if Esau killed Jacob he would be gone, then the avenger of blood would kill Esau and he would be dead also! She had to do this or she would lose both sons. "*Until thy brother's anger turn away from thee, and he forget that which thou hast done to him: then I will send, and fetch thee from thence: why should I be deprived also of you both in one day?"* Genesis 27:45