



SAVED TO SERVE

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JACOB HAVE I LOVED, ESAU HAVE I HATED

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will learn what God meant when He said, "Esau have I hated."
2. Read Romans 9:13 and Malachi 1:2-3. What do they say about Jacob and Esau?

3. In Romans 9:4-5, to whom were given the promises and covenants which pointed to Jesus as the way of salvation?

4. Which two men were given the promise that through their seed the Messiah would come? Romans 9:6-8

5. **Bonus:** Romans 9:6-8 shows us that salvation is not based on being an literal descendant of Israel. How can we be assured that we are Abraham's seed, children of God, and a part of spiritual Israel? Galatians 3:26-29

6. The promise of carrying "the seed" of God, foretold in Genesis 3:15, was passed down from Abraham to Isaac and then, to Isaac's son Jacob. What was prophesied about the sons of Isaac? Romans 9:10-12; Genesis 25:21-23

7. **Note:** Read Romans 9:12-13. The elder of Isaac's two sons was Esau, and the younger was Jacob (Genesis 25:25-26). God, knowing the end from the beginning, foretold that Esau would serve Jacob. This meant that the Israelites would rule over Esau's descendants, the Edomites (2 Kings 8:19-22; Genesis 36:1, 8), and that Jacob would receive the birthright instead of Esau. When God says that He loved Jacob and hated Esau, it means that He refused or rejected Esau from being the recipient of the birthright which included Isaac's inheritance and spiritual blessings from God. God knew that Esau did not delight in obeying Him and therefore, he was rejected. Let us confirm these points.
8. How is Esau described in Hebrews 12:16?

9. Why is Esau called a fornicator and profane?
 - a) Genesis 25:32-34

 - b) Genesis 28:8-9; Deuteronomy 7:1-4; Genesis 24:2-4

"Isaac made known to his sons these privileges and conditions, and plainly stated that Esau, as the eldest, was the one entitled to the birthright. **But Esau had no love for devotion, no inclination to a religious life. The requirements that accompanied the spiritual birthright were an unwelcome and even hateful restraint to him. The law of God, which was the condition of the divine covenant with Abraham, was regarded by Esau as a yoke of bondage. Bent on self-indulgence, he desired nothing so much as liberty to do as he pleased.** To him power and riches, feasting and reveling, were happiness. He gloried in the unrestrained freedom of his wild, roving life. Rebekah remembered the words of the angel, and she read with clearer insight than did her husband the character of their sons. She was convinced that the heritage of divine promise was intended for Jacob. She repeated to Isaac the angel's words; but the father's affections were centered upon the elder son, and he was unshaken in his purpose." {PP 178.1}

"Ever subject to mere outward and earthly attractions, Esau took two wives of the daughters of Heth. They were worshipers of false gods, and their idolatry was a bitter grief to Isaac and Rebekah. Esau had violated one of the conditions of the covenant, which forbade intermarriage between the chosen people and the heathen; yet Isaac was still unshaken in his determination to bestow upon him the birthright. The reasoning of Rebekah, Jacob's strong desire for the blessing, and Esau's indifference to its obligations had no effect to change the father's purpose." {PP 179.3}

10. What happened when Esau should have inherited the blessing according to Hebrews 12:17?

11. After Jacob received the birthright and blessing from Isaac, what did Esau seek to do? Hebrews 12:17 **Answer:** Repent. However, this repentance was not because of his desire to turn from sin, it was because of the consequences of his sin. See Genesis 27:30, 33-36, 38, 41.

"Esau had lightly valued the blessing while it seemed within his reach, but he desired to possess it now that it was gone from him forever. All the strength of his impulsive, passionate nature was aroused, and his grief and rage were terrible. He cried with an exceeding bitter cry, **"Bless me, even me also, O my father!" "Hast thou not reserved a blessing for me?" But the promise given was not to be recalled. The birthright which he had so carelessly bartered he could not now regain.** "For one morsel of meat," for a momentary gratification of appetite that had never been restrained, **Esau sold his inheritance; but when he saw his folly, it was too late to recover the blessing. "He found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears."** Hebrews 12:16, 17. **Esau was not shut out from the privilege of seeking God's favor by repentance, but he could find no means of recovering the birthright. His grief did not spring from conviction of sin; he did not desire to be reconciled to God. He sorrowed because of the results of his sin, but not for the sin itself.**" {PP 181.2}

12. Although Jacob had defects of character and obtained the birthright by deception, did he seek out true repentance from God? Genesis 32:24-30

13. After mentioning that God hated Esau in Romans 9:13, what thought provoking question is asked in Romans 9:14? What is the response?

14. How does God respond to those who honor Him versus those who despise Him? 1 Samuel 2:30

15. What does Romans 9:15 say?

16. Read Exodus 33:19. After which event did God say to Moses, He will be gracious and have mercy on whom He wills? Exodus 32:1-4

17. To whom did God show mercy at the base of Mt. Sinai? Why? Exodus 32:26-28

18. Another clear scripture that helps to explain the "hatred" versus the "love" of God is found in Exodus 20:5-6, the second commandment. We will see the principle by comparison and contrast. Upon whom does God bring punishment for their iniquity? Exodus 20:5 (last 4 words)

19. To whom does God show mercy? Exodus 20:6

20. **Note:** This scripture reveals that God has mercy for those who love Him and keep His commandments while those who hate Him, receive punishment for their sins. In like manner, since Jacob received pardon from God and purposed to keep God's commandments, He was rewarded by God. On the other hand, Esau hated God's commandments and thus, was rejected by God and received punishment. See Proverbs 8:36.

Further Study: Malachi 1:1-6 says that God loved Jacob and hated Esau. Then, it details how although Israel was chosen by God, they began to “despise” Him, just like Esau despised his birthright. Therefore, we can also see in this scripture that because Esau despised the birthright and loved sinful pleasure above following God, he was despised, “hated,” or rejected by God.

21. Surface readers of the Bible will read passages such as “Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated” and conclude that God is evil. However, what do the following scriptures teach us about God’s character? Ezekiel 33:11; 2 Peter 3:9

22. Let us close on practical godliness. Like Esau, how do many people act as if they have no hope of salvation? 1 Corinthians 15:32

23. Esau sold his birthright for one pot of lentils (Hebrews 12:16). What is one thing many people are selling their salvation for? Matthew 26:14-16

24. What other materialistic item are people selling their salvation for? Joshua 7:20-22

25. What is the attitude of many professed Christians today? Isaiah 4:1

26. What admonition is given to us in 1 John 2:15-17?

27. When tempted to trade his salvation for worldly pleasure, what did Moses choose? Hebrews 11:25

28. What thoughtful questions should we ask ourselves when we are tempted to trade our heavenly treasure for the pleasures of this world? Matthew 16:26

“Because of his indifference to the divine blessings and requirements, Esau is called in Scripture “a profane person.” Verse 16. He represents those who lightly value the redemption purchased for them by Christ, and are ready to sacrifice their heirship to heaven for the perishable things of earth. Multitudes live for the present, with no thought or care for the future. Like Esau they cry, “Let us eat and drink; for tomorrow we die.” 1 Corinthians 15:32. They are controlled by inclination; and rather than practice self-denial, they will forgo the most valuable considerations. If one must be relinquished, the gratification of a depraved appetite or the heavenly blessings promised only to the self-denying and God-fearing, the claims of appetite prevail, and God and heaven are virtually despised. How many, even of professed Christians, cling to indulgences that are injurious to health and that benumb the sensibilities of the soul. When the duty is presented of cleansing themselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God, they are offended. They see that they cannot retain these hurtful gratifications and yet secure heaven, and they conclude that since the way to eternal life is so strait, they will no longer walk therein.” {PP 181.3}

“Multitudes are selling their birthright for sensual indulgence. Health is sacrificed, the mental faculties are enfeebled, and heaven is forfeited; and all for a mere temporary pleasure—an indulgence at once both weakening and debasing in its character. As Esau awoke to see the folly of his rash exchange when it was too late to recover his loss, so it will be in the day of God with those who have bartered their heirship to heaven for selfish gratifications.” {PP 182.1}