

HOPE IN THE MESS: GOD'S STORY OF HOPE FROM GENESIS

TALK 5: GOD'S POWER ON DISPLAY

15 AUGUST 2021: SCOTT MUIR

When have you seen God's power on display?

Let's take a bigger view of God and his work ...

The Events of Chapters 23-27

a. Two Funerals and a Wedding

Transition from Abraham and Sarah to Isaac and Rebekah

Sarah dies (chapter 23)

Isaac needs a wife (chapter 24)

'The thing is from the Lord' (verse 50) - a match made in heaven!

Abraham dies (chapter 25)

b. Two Babies and a Blessing

Esau and Jacob are born - the older will serve the younger

The birthright is sold (ch 25:29-34)

The blessing is stolen (ch 27)

What did we Learn?

a. God is Always Working Powerfully

Providence (Ephesians 1:11, Acts 17:26-28, Proverbs 19:21, Romans 8:28)

b. God's Purposes are Surprising

God stands for the have-nots (and that's you)

Rejoice that God has worked powerfully to save you

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE:

GENESIS 25:19-34 (ESV)

These are the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham fathered Isaac,²⁰ and Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, the sister of Laban the Aramean, to be his wife.²¹ And Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren. And the Lord granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife conceived.²² The children struggled together within her, and she said, "If it is thus, why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the Lord.²³ And the Lord said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you[!] shall be divided;

the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger."

²⁴ When her days to give birth were completed, behold, there were twins in her womb.²⁵ The first came out red, all his body like a hairy cloak, so they called his name Esau.²⁶ Afterward his brother came out with his hand holding Esau's heel, so his name was called Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

²⁷ When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, dwelling in tents.²⁸ Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

²⁹ Once when Jacob was cooking stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was exhausted.³⁰ And Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stew, for I am exhausted!" (Therefore his name was called Edom.)³¹ Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright now."³² Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?"³³ Jacob said, "Swear to me now." So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob.³⁴ Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.