

Blessed Deception

Rebecca and Isaac

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01

The Deception

Was it justified? Was
Rebekah wrong?

Main topics

The Covenant

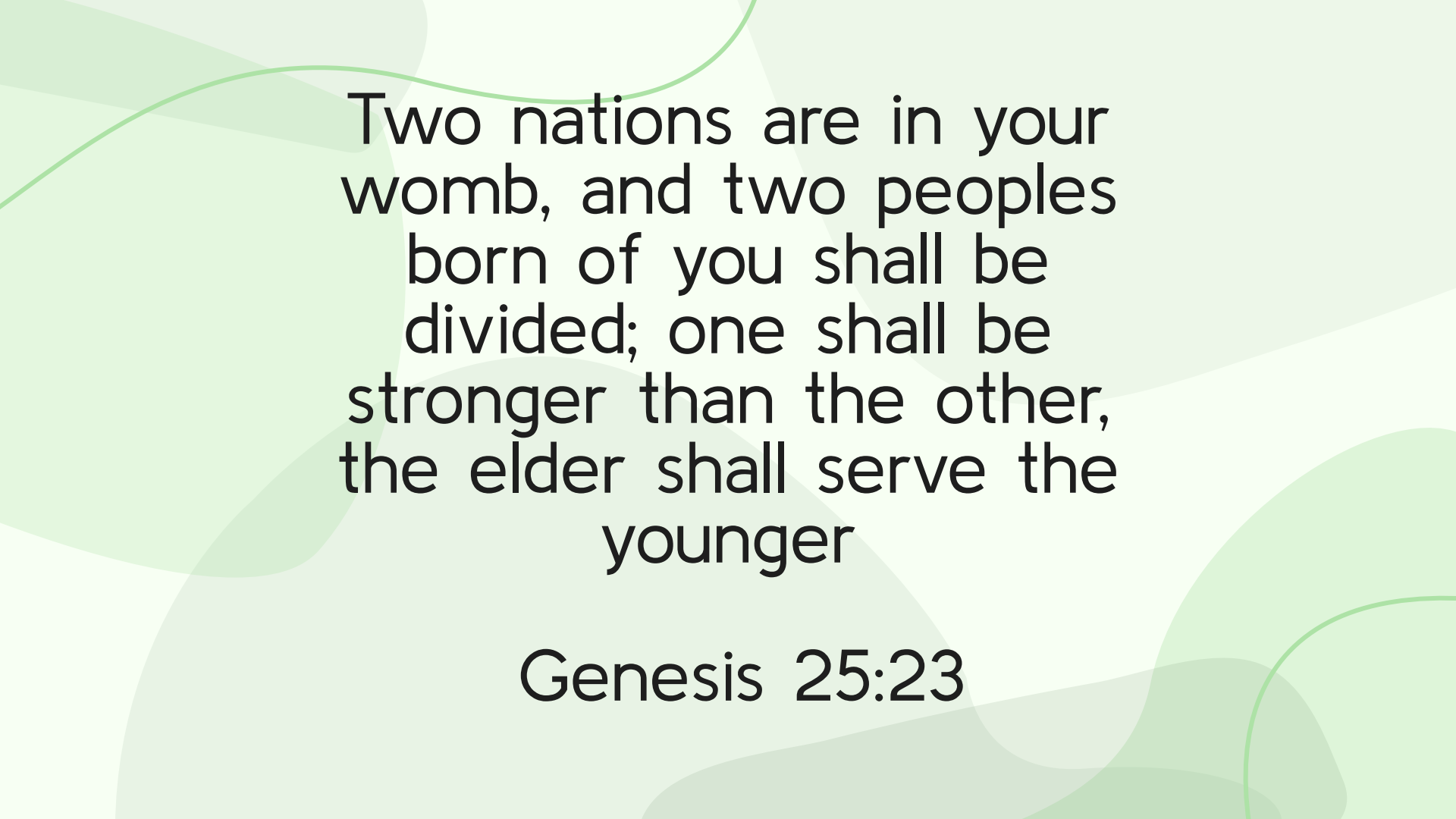
The covenant needs to be passed down to the next Generation

The Parallels

What happens between these two brothers is seen in other brothers.

The Justification

Esau is unworthy, Jacob shows more promise.



Two nations are in your
womb, and two peoples
born of you shall be
divided; one shall be
stronger than the other,
the elder shall serve the
younger

Genesis 25:23

Justification



The speakers debate on why and how Rebekah could deceive Isaac.

- Neither brother is free of sin, but Jacob is seen as the better choice. He is more cunning than Esau .
- Esau sold his birthright for some stew
- Isaac favored Esau for a “weak reason”
- The brothers are destined to be in conflict
- Rebekah is putting the responsibility of the covenant before personal desire
- **Noami:** Is Rebekah fulfilling the will of God or her own free will?
- “Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my word, and go, get them for me” Gen. 27:13

Parallels

Rebecca and Abraham

Rebecca receives a message from God.

Elaine: Like Abraham, Rebekah is the kind of person who makes things happen

Leon: God has led the servant to find Rebekah. But Rebekah is going to lead Isaac to Jacob

Brothers and Nations

Like Cain and Abel, One brother is favored over the Other
Like Joseph and his brother, one brother forgives the other for wrongdoing

Marianne: It is precisely through these conflicts that the promise of God is carried out.


Elaine: The story is about two nations and the preference of Israel over other nations and the validation of that preference by divine covenant

Sacrifice

In the end Jacob gives Isaac his full blessing.

Leon: He could be realizing that he has sacrificed his son Esau, as his father was prepared to do on mount Moriah

Naomi: Her life is miserable from this time forward . . . She knows she'll never see Jacob again.



02

The Blessing

Significance of Blessing:

The blessing in the story symbolizes inheritance rights and land ownership, as well as the presence of God and personal identity beyond material possessions.

Main points

Interpretations:

Participants debate whether the blessing represents exclusive divine favor or a broader promise of God's presence, highlighting the ambiguity of the story and its implications for the people of Israel.

Responsibilities and Chosenness:

Being chosen by God is viewed as a responsibility rather than a mark of superiority; participants emphasizing specific tasks or missions associated with chosenness, such as the birth of monotheism.

"It merely says God has chosen this particular group for one particular task. That doesn't mean that Esau is morally worse than Jacob or vice versa. - Naomi H. Rosenblatt

Human Relationships and Divine Intervention:

The story reflects the complexities of familial and national relationships, as well as the struggle for divine favor. Divine intervention shapes individual and collective destinies, but human agency and struggle are also significant factors.

Reflections on Biblical Narratives:

Participants stress the necessity of grappling with the complexities of biblical narratives to understand the human condition and divine purpose, emphasizing the richness and depth of biblical stories and their ongoing relevance in shaping human lives and societies.

Complexity and Blessing:

Complexity in life is seen as a blessing, enriching human experience and challenging simplistic interpretations. Participants express satisfaction with the richness and uncertainty of life, finding beauty and meaning in its complexities.

"There's a richness to it and an awesome beauty to the complexity of life, to the uncertainty of the future. I think that's a blessing." - Jean-Pierre Ruiz

THANKS!

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