

The Birthright and the Blessing

The Birthright in the Old Testament refers primarily to the transfer of property and blessings from one generation to another. It emphasizes the continuity of God's covenant through successive generations.

The Blessing: Blessings proceed from God. They also proceed from those with Godly authority such as parents, teachers, husbands, leaders, ministers. If blessings don't proceed from these sources, abuse may result.

Blessings may be spoken or written, but are typically typically spoken. Once spoken they cannot be retrieved. God's blessings are permanent. Blessings bring good things to pass down through the generations. Blessings are mentioned 640 times in the Bible. Curses, 230 times. Blessings are obvious for all to see.

God chose Abraham to bless. He told him He would make him a great nation and make his name great and that He would bless him who blesses [Abraham] and curse him who curses [Abraham].

Gen 12:3 *"I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

God appeared unto Abraham and promised him the land of Canaan. This promised covenant is detailed in Genesis 15:

**Do not be afraid, Abram.
I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward
A son from your own body shall be your heir,**

And Abram believed God and He [God] counted it unto Abram for righteousness. **(Abram was made in right standing with God through faith in his promises')**, the Spiritual Blessing.

The covenant was completed when when Abram cut the sacrifices and God made a deep sleep to come upon Abram. A smoking oven and a burning torch passed between the pieces of the sacrifice and on that day God made the land covenant with Abram and his descendants.

"I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates. "All the land which you see I have given it to your descendants forever. (Gen. 13.15)

The final covenant was the promise of a son to Abram's wife Sarai. With this covenant, sealed by circumcision, Abram's name was changed to Abraham and Sarai's to Sarah. The son was named Issac and he inherited all of the rights and blessings that God gave to Abraham. God then arranged the perfect covenantal marriage between Isaac and Rebekah. They had twin sons, Esau, the firstborn, and Jacob.

Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of pottage. Esau shows contempt for the right of the first born (Genesis. 23.34). In despising his birthright, he inadvertently despises God. Malachi confirms God's choice of Jacob and Esau's contempt of the birthright. **(Malachi 1;2,3.)**

The Birthright

1. Double share of inheritance
2. Leadership in the family
3. The carrying forward of God's promises to the succeeding generations
4. The promise of the land from the river in Egypt to the great River Euphrates
5. The Spiritual inheritance of serving the one true God through a line of prophets and Kings.

Hebrews describes Esau as godless and profane (**Hebrews 12.16.**)

Scripture makes clear that God had already chosen Jacob in his sovereign will.

The Blessing

Jacob deceives Isaac for the blessing, but like an arrow shot from the bow, once spoken cannot be retrieved. **To Jacob,**

“God give thee the dew of heaven, the fatness of the earth, plenty of corn and wine.

Let people bow down and serve thee. Let thy Mother's sons bow down and serve thee.

Cursed be everyone that curses thee and blessed be everyone that blesses thee.” (Genesis 27;28)

And to the lamenting Esau,

“Your dwelling shall be away from the earth's richness, away from the dew of heaven above.

And by thy sword thou shall live” (Gen. 27-39) says Isaac.

Esau's inheritance, Edom and Mount Seir, is the territory East and South of the Dead Sea. To this day they remain enemies of Israel, despite the brief conciliation of Jacob and Esau. From Edom has come both the Herods and the Houthis.

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