

**THE ORIGINS OF IT ALL!: A STUDY OF GENESIS  
XXVII.) A NEW GENERATION OF PROMISE Part 2  
GENESIS 25:27-34**

**Q: What did we learn last week from the first part of this chapter?**

**Q: Coming into this study, how would characterize the brothers' behavior concerning the selling of the birthright? Who was the 'worse' brother and why?**

**E.) CHARACTER CLAIMS PROMISE (vv. 27-34)**

**1.) Contrasting Potential Heirs**

**What are the distinctive characteristics of each twin?**

**Esau:**

- Set apart and undeniably noticeable with a red and hairy appearance.
- Big and strong.
- An expert hunter.
- An outdoorsman.
- Loved his wild game meat.
- Rash/impulsive
- Commanding
- Focused on the tangible and immediate.
- Immediate gratification.
- Wise in the ways of the world, especially the 'wild'
- His father's favorite.
- A "man's man"
- Provider

**Jacob:**

- An unremarkable or noteworthy appearance.
- Quiet and unassuming manner.
- A 'homebody.'
- Preferred cooking to hunting.
- Focused on the intangible and 'big picture' of what is yet-to-be.
- Thoughtful and discerning.
- Willing to sacrifice the present for the future.
- Wise in the ways and hearts of men. A 'trapper' of men, not animals.
- His mother's favorite.

- “Sissy”
- “Momma's boy”
- “Planner”

## 2.) Character Determines Future

- Throughout this brief and incredibly important episode, each brother acts in accordance with his personal character.
- Esau, “the redman,” is compelled by his physical appetite without regard for future consequences.
- Jacob, calmly took advantage of worldly limitations for future gain.
- As commentator Allen P. Ross writes: *“Esau was oblivious to what he had because he was preoccupied with the way he was. Jacob was occupied with obtaining what Esau had and planned to capitalize on the way Esau was . . . the turning point is Esau's disregard for the birthright . . . there is also a slight parallel with the story of the fall in Genesis 3”* (Creation & Blessing, pg. 446).
- Notice, too, how even Isaac chooses according to his physical senses – even over and against God's clear decree; the one who most brought him personal pleasure rather than the one most likely and able to be a blessing to others; the one most like himself rather than the one he never did quite understand, relate with or connect together.
- *It is greatly interesting (at least to me), though in a very sad way, to not how even today believers gifted with spiritual discernment continue to favor those like Esau over those like Jacob, as Isaac did. We continue to make the same false assumptions and to trust our own eyes, personal preferences and conventional wisdom over the declared will and meek character of Christ!*
- How it is that even today we make Jacob out to be the “deceiver” and bad guy of this story and yet Scripture never condemns him for his actions, but does condemn Esau for his character. **Genesis 25:34; Hebrews 12:16-17.**

## WHICH WILL IT BE FOR US?

**The satisfaction of natural desires or sacrifice for spiritual blessing?**

**A character and reputation which is praised and lifted up by men, or quietly in service to God?**