

“THE RIGHT OF THE FIRSTBORN”

INTRODUCTION

In the O.T. there is a story in the lineage of the Israelites and Abraham that is very interesting. We read about this in Gen. 25:19-34 (Read). This passage gives us insight to the Hebrew method of the right of the firstborn in each family. Esau gave up his birthright for a mess of pottage, and wanted it back nearer the end of the way, but could not persuade his father to restore that blessing. Cf Heb. 12:16-17 (Explain)

Under the Mosaic law, the firstborn was entitled to a double portion of the family inheritance, and would become the head of the family upon the death of his father. In God’s spiritual family today, Christ is the Firstborn and head of God’s family, and all who are born “again” are also made heirs of the blessings God has in store for them AS “firstborn” **ones**. See Heb. 12:23. The word “firstborn” is in the plural in the original language, referring to ALL who have been born again. Cf MLV

Now let’s see what blessings God has in store for His “firstborn” ones today.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, let’s consider the BLESSINGS OF BIRTHRIGHT.

A. These spiritual blessings **now** belong to those who have been “born again.” John 3:3-5,7;

Eph. 1:3

1. One blessing is that of becoming “children” of God. vs. 4-6; cf Gal. 3:26-27
2. Another blessing is that of “forgiveness” of sins,. Eph. 1:7
3. Yet another blessing is that of an eternal “inheritance..” v. 11; cf 1 Pet. 1:3-4
4. A final blessing is that of the indwelling “spirit”, to assure us of this inheritance.

Eph. 1:13-14

B. Now, these blessings are ONLY for those born again—the blessings of “birthright.”

1. The new birth process **begins** when we are begotten by the word of God. Jas. 1:18; 1 Cor. 4:15; 1 Pet. 1:23

a. This word produces “faith” in the Son of God. Rom. 10:17, 9-10

b. Then, faith in the heart brings about “repentance” or regret because of sin. 2 Cor. 7:10

2. The birth process is **completed** in water baptism, as one is raised to live a new life, as a new creature. Rom. 6:3-5; 2 Cor. 5:17

II. 2nd, let’s consider what CAN HAPPEN TO THE BIRTHRIGHT.

A. The birthright can be **sold** for momentary enjoyments.

1. Esau sold HIS birthright because he “despised” it, or no longer loved it. Heb. 12:16

a. Jacob had to trick his father into “giving” him the blessing he bought from Esau. Gen. 27:18-29

b. Esau tried to get a blessing from his father, even though he had already sold it to Jacob. cf Heb. 12:15-17

1) Some say Esau’s heart was so hardened in sin that he could find in **it** no repentance.

2) However, the context is that of his not being able to get his father Isaac to change **HIS** mind, and still give HIM the blessing, though he had already given it to Jacob. Gen. 27:30-38

2. Worldly pleasure and enjoyment of sin can be **so appealing** that one today can sell his birthright FOR these pleasures. Cf Heb. 11:24-25.

a. The pleasures of sin are **SO** inviting, yet **SO** costly.

b. Many today never become Christians, and some Christians **trade** the hope of an eternal inheritance for a few fleeting moments of sin, which will cost them eternal life in heaven.

- 1) This can be done through breaking the marriage vows and living in adultery.
- 2) This can be done through a desire for the riches of this life. 1 Tim. 6:10
- 3) This can be done through the use of drugs and alcohol, which enslave many to sin.

B. Putting it another way, the birthright can be **stripped away** because of sin. 1 Chron. 5:1

1. Joseph's sons (Ephraim and Manasseh) received a portion in the land of milk in honey, because Reuben lost HIS portion due to sin.

2. We too, as wayward heirs, can have our birthright taken away because of sin.

1 Cor. 6:9-10

CONCLUSION

I. When Esau learned that his father had already given the birthright blessing to Jacob, he wept, and found no way to get Isaac to change his mind. Read Heb. 12:17

A. Note the 2 words "afterward" and "rejected" as the appeal was completed.

B. How MANY in the judgment day "after" this life, are going to be "rejected", and the tears and hurt will be of no avail, for the Lord cannot go against His word?

II. If you are subject to the Lord's invitation, won't you come now, as we stand together and sing the song selected.

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