

## **Births & Birthright of Esau & Jacob (Genesis 25:19–34)**

Grace Chapel November 25, 2009 Dr. John Niemelä

### **INTRODUCTION**

### **CHRONOLOGY**

Isaac was born when Abraham was 100 (Gen 21:5).

Isaac was 40 when he married Rebekah (Gen 25:20)

Isaac was 60 when Jacob and Esau were born (Gen 25:26)

Therefore, Abraham was 140 when Isaac married Rebekah  
and he was 160 when Jacob and Esau were born.

Abraham died at age 175 (Gen 25:7)

Therefore, Jacob and Esau were 15 when Abraham died.

Genesis 25:1–11 occurred when Abraham was between 140 and 175 years old  
(or between 137 and 175)

Therefore, Gen 25:26 (birth of J & E) occurred before Gen 25:7 (Abraham's death)

Why does Moses put the death of Abraham before the birth of Jacob and Esau?

### **NEW EXPOSITION**

**(25:19–26) Births of Esau & Jacob**

**(25:19a) The *Toledot* of Isaac**

This section goes through Genesis 35:29

**(25:19b–20) At age 40, Isaac married Rebekah (who was a close relative)**

**(25:21) Isaac prayed to the LORD for his barren (for 20 years) wife, so she conceived**

**(25:22–23) Rebekah prayed for an explanation of the war in her womb & the LORD said that her sons (progenitors of two nations) would struggle with each other, just as the nations coming from them**

Esau (who was born first) was the progenitor of Edom

Jacob (who was born second) was third in the ancestry of Israel  
(Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob)

**(25:24–26) Rebekah bore twins, Esau (Made) came out covered with red hair & then Jacob (Heel catcher) came out and (then) grasped Esau's heel, when Isaac was 60**

Red ('admoni) and Edom

When did Jacob catch Esau's heel?

**(25:27–34) Sale of Esau's Birthright to Jacob**

**(25:27–28) Esau grew into a hunter, a man of the fields, favored by Isaac, who enjoyed wild game; Jacob became a tent-dweller with an even temperament, favored by Rebekah**

**(25:29–30) Jacob made a stew; Esau came in from the field famished and demanded some of the red stuff, leading to him being called “Red” (Edom)**

**(25:31–33) Jacob offered to trade stew for Esau's birthright, which (since Esau was famished, even claiming he might die) Esau agreed, so Jacob made him swear, which he did**

**(25:34) Jacob fed him; Esau gobbled it and departed, treating the birthright as though it were worthless**

Esau thought: Being an alive second-born is better than being a dead first born

## REFERENCES TO JACOB & ESAU ELSEWHERE IN SCRIPTURE

**Malachi 1:2**

**Hebrews 12:16**

**Romans 9:13**

Romans 9: God will be faithful to Israel, despite its past failure

Romans 10: God will be faithful to Israel, despite its present failure

Romans 11: God will be faithful to Israel, despite its future failure

**CONCLUSION**