



PEOPLE WHO AWAITED THE REDEEMER

5

CATECHETICAL TEXTBOOK SERIES OF THE SYRO - MALABAR CHURCH

LESSON 3

THE CHOICE OF ISRAEL





Isaac was the son born to Abraham according to the promise of God. God said to Isaac:

“ I will fulfill the oath that I swore to your father Abraham. I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of haeaven, and I will give your offspring all these lands, and all the nations of the earth shall gain blessing for themselves through your offspring” (Gen. 26:6-4).

ESAU AND JACOB



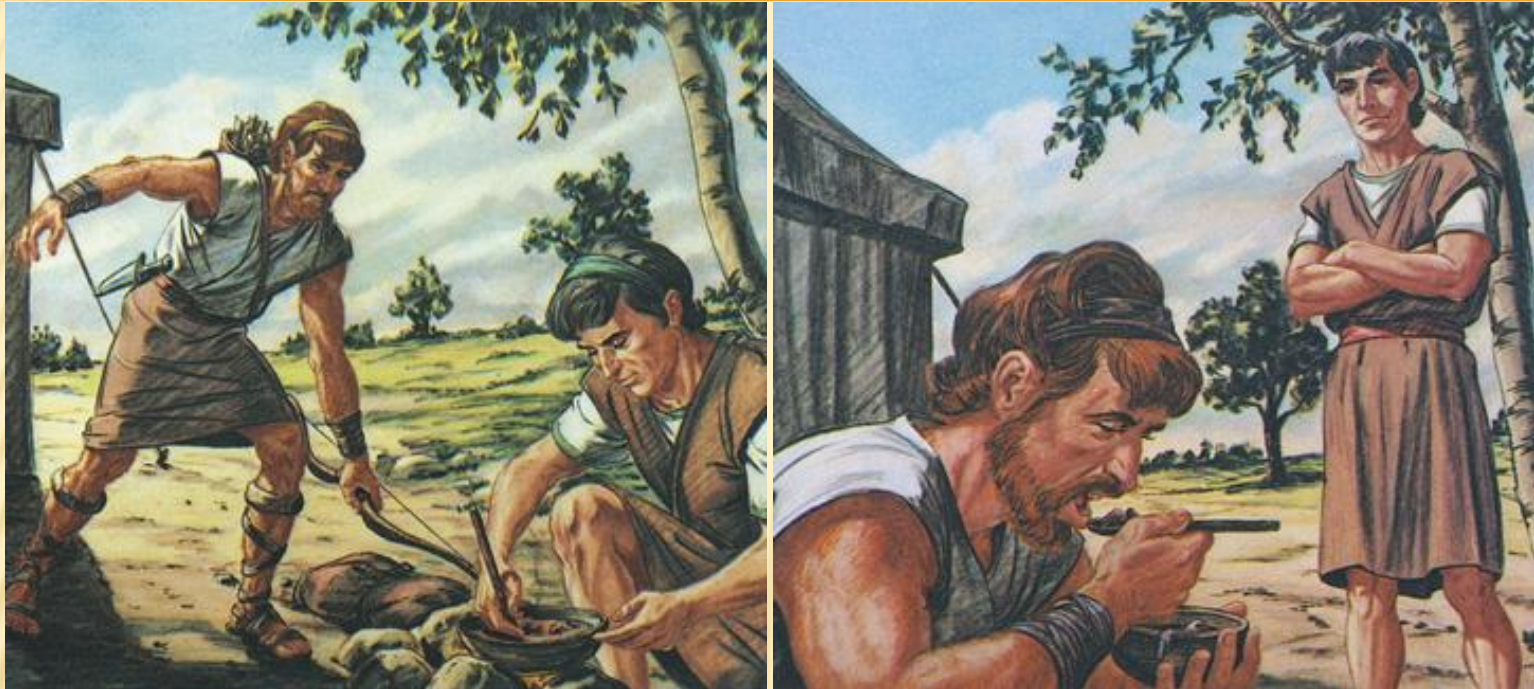
Rebekah was the wife of Isaac. She gave birth to twin boys Esau and Jacob. Esau was the elder and Jacob the Younger. Before they were born the Lord said to Rebekah:

“ Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger (Gen. 25:23).



The boys grew up. Esau was a skillful hunter and a man of the field. While Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau because he was fond of game meat but Rebekah loved Jacob.

BIRTHRIGHT



Jacob demanded Esau's birthright in exchange for food. Feeling that, in his famished condition, food was more important than birthright, Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for bread and stew.

ISAAC BLESSES JACOB



“ My son, I am; I do not know the day of my death. Now then take your weapons, your bow and arrows, and go out into the field and hunt game for me. Then prepare a tasty food, such as I like, and bring it to me to eat, so that I may bless you before I die” (Gen. 27: 1-4).



She wanted Jacob, her favorite, to obtain the blessing of his father, because the words of the Lord during her pregnancy were still in her mid.

After offering the food to Isaac Jacob asked for his blessing. Isaac gave his blessing to Jacob, mistaking him for Esau.

He told Esau that since he had already given his blessing to his brother, he should remain blessed.

JACOB'S DREAM



“ I am the Lord, God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give the land on which you lie to you and your offspring..... All the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will protect you wherever you go” (Gen. 28: 13-15).

Bethel, meaning ‘the house of God’.

THE NAME ISRAEL



“ Unless you give me your blessing I wont let you go”. Then he asked: “ What is your name?” “ Jacob”, he replied. Then he said: “ Hereafter you shall be called *Israel* and not Jacob; because you have wrestled with God and man and have come out winner”. (Gen. 32: 24-28).

Israel means ‘onewho wrestles with God’

GOD OF JACOB



Then we, who are the *new Israel*, would receive the blessing of God just as the *old Israel* did. Thus the God – experience of Jacob becomes ours also.

The life of Jacob teaches us that in the God's pain what may look evil to our human eye can turn out to our good.

LET US PRAY

Almighty God, help us to live with hope in the midst
Of our failures and difficulties.

READ AND RECOUNT

Narrate how Esau lost his birthright
(Gen.25:27-34)

WORD OF GOD FOR GUIDANCE



Know that I am with you and will keep you
Wherever you go (Gen.28:15).

MY DECISION

I will not forfeit my divine sonship for the sake
Of temporal gains.

LET US DO

Match the following drawing lines

Israel

Bethel

Yabok

Issac

Esau

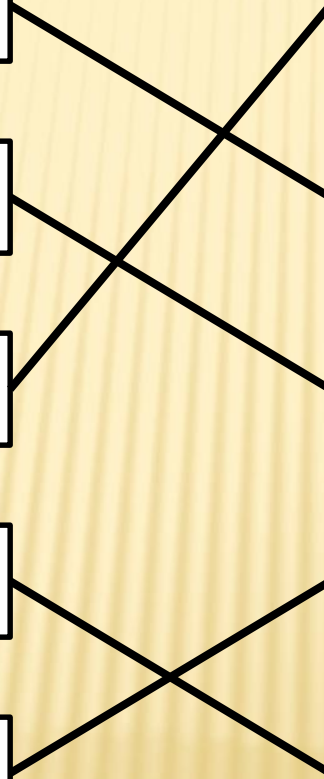
Stream

One who wrestles with God

House of God

Birthright

Father of Jacob



LET US FIND OUT THE ANSWER

1. How did Esau lose his birthright?
2. What did Issac say when he blessed Jacob?
3. What is the meaning of the word Bethel?
4. What is the name Jacob received after wrestling with God?
5. What does the life of Jacob teach us?



THANK YOU