

# Kings Norton Baptist Church

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2023 10 am

## Election

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Welcome to all.

Opening Scripture and prayer

Hymn MP 7 All creatures of our God and King (4:04)

Scripture Psalm 85 (page 595)

Prayer of praise and thanksgiving.

Children's talk

Chorus MP 6 Ah Lord God

Notices Members meeting, Thursday Bible Study and Outreach,  
Saturday Church decorating,  
Fellowship lunch next Sunday, Ashnoy goodbye

Prayer and share time.

Reading Genesis 25:19-34 (page 26)

Reading Romans 9:10 – 16 (page 1136)

Hymn MP 997 Jesus lover of my soul

Sermon: "Election"  
"the covenant of grace was deposited in the family of Jacob"

Hymn MP 372 Jesus lover of my soul (missing out verse 3)

Closing Prayer

[Sermon Index Database](#)

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## Prayer and Exordium

- To those of you who are married "did you chose your husband or did he choose you? who proposed to who?" The world over it is the practice of the man who chooses his bride, we had a bit of that in Gen 24 as Rebekah is found of Isaac.

And so it is with Christ and His church, Jesus said: **You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit** Joh 15:16

If you are a Christian this morning then you have been chosen by God – chosen by Him before he even created the world. Before time, before he made anything, in the eternal counsel of God, you were set apart for his eternal Glory. All this was pre-ordained. So too the commissioning of God the Son to come as Saviour – to save you. Jesus said: "**I have come to do your will, O God**" All this long before the fall of man with Adam and Eve's rebellion in the garden.

This is obviously something completely beyond your control. This morning's passage shows in glorious technicolour the doctrine of Election. Election or predestination – meaning that what happens to Jacob and Esau had been pre-destined / pre-determined by God. This is also what we mean when we speak of God as Sovereign, that he rules and directs everything according to His will. Ps 115:3

Genesis 25 unambiguously presents this unfolding perfect will and the Lord's electing purposes. The Lord makes it obvious to ensure we don't miss this. Paul refers to this passage in Romans 9, spelling it out, that we may draw no other conclusion. I do not think there is such a God honouring, God glorifying doctrine as that of election. Yet it is the most hated of doctrine by man why? For it is all of Him, and none of me. x2

⇒ Here is 'election' in two babies, election in two peoples and nations, election towards two destinies.

May this passage throw clear light on this subject. Let the Lord's word speak.

## Background

We had the Lord God seek out Abraham from the middle of nowhere – or should I say living ingloriously in the heart of the world. The Lord chose him, he put his finger on this one life, "I am calling you, yes you!, come follow me." And then he chose his son Isaac, yes it was always Isaac and not Ishamel. Isaac is mentioned by name before he was born, before he was conceived even.

We had the account of **Ishmael** in v12. Now we pick up his story v19 **This is the account of Abraham's son Isaac.**

The Lord provided Rebekah as a wife for Isaac. But we read in v21 that she was barren and couldn't bear children.

What woman doesn't think about being a mother?

21 **Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife**, He married her when he was 40, she doesn't conceive - so for the best part of 20 years he is praying, - don't give up praying! Isaac prayed as we must pray for our families, but also our spiritual families to be formed and grow. Isaac did not go off with anyone else as Abraham was led to do, no Isaac waited patiently on the Lord – and the Lord heard his prayer.

At the age of 60 the LORD answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant. – and with twins! God can do exceedingly more than we ask or pray for. He prayed for a child and got two! We will see why....

How happy she / they must have been when the news came.

### *Election in two babies*

Rebekah, as any mother would is thinking about the children she will carry. What will their gifting and abilities be? What kind of people will they be? what of their character? What will they do?, what will they achieve?  
And most importantly ... will they find favour with God?

#### ■ We start praying for our children even before they are born!

But then her happiness was tinged with uncertainty, fear, and confusion. These twins we are told 22 **jostled each other within her**. She knew her babies would be different, and as any parent knows they can be very different, surprisingly different, yet the commotion she felt was altogether extraordinary and made her very uneasy. What did this mean? Would she die in childbirth? Maybe she suspected it to be an ill omen, so **she went to enquire of the LORD "Why is this happening to me?"**

23 **The LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb,**

Not only two babies, but two nations – who would jostle with each other.

### *Election in two nations*

The older was Esau who became the father of the Edomites the nation of Edom. From the younger Jacob came the 12 tribes, the nation of Israel. (map)  
**two peoples from within you - will be separated; x2**

And as the Bible records there was ongoing hostility between them. It is what we call the 'ancient hostility' between Jacob and his descendants - and Esau and his descendants.

While the twins will be different in character, they are still brothers, one blood. Yet the Lord declares to Rebekah that dissension would be even in those who were by nature joined together. She doesn't have to wait long to see it!

Who would be born first? Esau is – but then Jacob is there clutching at his heel. The battle is already joined.

And who would win? **one people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger.**" Israel being more powerful subjugated the Edomites. Victory would belong to Jacob's descendants for they were chosen – and the other rejected. The Lord turns the tables, the order of nature inverted, the younger, who was inferior, would be the victor.

But it was a victory hard fought - for the enemy give way reluctantly. It follows that the children of God - we have to undergo many troubles on account of our adoption.

Although the Edomites lived next door to Israel they were not good neighbours (See map) The Edomites were bitter and jealous and constant enemies of God's people. They sought Israel's downfall and did all they could to precipitate it. When Jerusalem was sacked by the Babylonians they stood and watched shouting: "**Tear it down,**" they cried, "**tear it down to its foundations!**" Ps 137:7. Because of that Judgment came on Edom: Jer 49, Ezekiel 25:12-14, ch 35, Joel 3:19 etc.

There is even an OT book 'Obadiah' given over to recording God's anger against Edom and their destruction: **Because of the violence against your brother Jacob, you will be covered with shame; you will be destroyed forever. On the day you stood aloof while strangers carried off his wealth and foreigners entered his gates and cast lots for Jerusalem, you were like one of them. You should not look down on your brother in the day of his misfortune, nor rejoice over the people of Judah in the day of their destruction, nor boast so much in the day of their trouble. You should not march through the gates of my people in the day of their disaster, nor look down on them in their calamity,... nor seize their wealth in the day of their disaster. You should not wait at the crossroads to cut down their fugitives, nor hand over their survivors in the day of their trouble.**

Their judgment is coming **The day of the LORD is near for all nations. As you have done, it will be done to you; your deeds will return upon your own head.**

Obadiah 11-15

So what is the point of all this? Hear Paul explain it in Romans 9: **Rebekah's children had one and the same father, our father Isaac. Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that God's purpose in election might stand: not by works but by him who calls—she was told, "The older will serve the younger." Just as it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.** Romans 9:10-13

⇒ **The Lord adopts one - and rejects the other.**

One part become the people of God, the Church, with all the privileges of being in Christ - the other part, the rest are reckoned strangers.

The covenant of grace was deposited in the family of Jacob while the Edomites, the Idumaeans remained outside of Grace and under judgment.

⇒ **Why, why should this be? what is the cause?**

The answer is not in nature; for both Jacob and Esau' origin was the same.

Nor will it be found in merit, who was the better; because the heads of both nations were yet enclosed in their mother's womb when the contention began.

The Lord could have brought forth Jacob first from the womb; but he made the other the firstborn, The senior became the junior.

Just to show it was nothing to do with the will of Isaac the father He permitted Esau to be so preferred to his brother, 28 **And Isaac loved Esau.** he makes Esau his favourite, with Jacob appearing in that light a rejected person.

Why did the Lord do all of this? To teach us that: He choses, He elects, He predetermines, it's not by human effort, not merits that we can boast - rather to humble the pride of man, it is solely from / by the grace of God himself.

How many at this point say, "the Lord's unfair in choosing one over another".

Paul saw that coming: **'What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy.** Ro 9:14-16

If you knew the sinfulness of your heart and what you deserve from God you would not ask that question.

**Election in two destinies**

⇒ **Now we have a meal like no other meal.**

**29. Once when Jacob was cooking some stew** his brother returns from hunting weary and famishing, and barter his birthright for food. What kind of bargain is that! !

**"Look I am about to die,"** Something of an exaggeration. He regards his birthright as of no value, unless it is profitable to him in the present life. He's saying the things of the moment are important - the things of eternity are not. Is there someone here who thinks like that? Wants only to improve your lot now - with no thought for what is to come – which is far more important.

**33. And Jacob said, Swear to me.** Is Jacob acting cruelly taking advantage of his brother? Or is it the words of a man really concerned about his eternal destiny? Surely Jacob for all his faults looks ahead to the city whose foundation is God.

**Esau, swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob.. So Esau despised his birthright.** Esau, in the name and presence of God, does not hesitate to sell his birthright. Food for the stomach - he makes God himself a witness of his ingratitude.

**Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left.** Where's that red stew?, now it's lentils, the cheapest and plainest of foods. Jacob that's not very generous! What's commendable about Him? nothing. Yet it's the Lord's purpose that this should happen.

Jacob now knew he had the birthright and was eternally safe. Before he didn't know, he was just like his brother.

So it is with the Lord's people. We are just like anyone else until the Lord at a certain time in our life, through the GOSPEL awakens us from the dead.

Repentance and confession come for we know we are eternally safe. But we then soon realise that we have been chosen before the creation of the world.

**The gate to enter says: 'Enter ye in' but once in looking back 'Chosen before..'**

The receiving of that inheritance comes later. For Jacob it is seen as he receives the blessing from his father. It is there in Gen 27. Esau comes in **His father Isaac asked him, "Who are you?"**x2 Does it not remind us of those chilling words of Jesus: **"Away from me you evil doers, I never knew you"**

**"I am your son," he answered, "your firstborn, Esau."** No not now! **Isaac trembled violently and said, "Who was it, then, that hunted game and brought it to me? I ate it just before you came and I blessed him—and indeed he will be blessed!"** When Esau heard his father's words, **he burst out with a loud and bitter cry and said to his father, "Bless me—me too, my father!"** 27:33,34

Yes there will be many on that day who cry out in misery at what is to come.

What can you and I learn from this? Esau when faced with a fundamental choice between the things of here and now - and life eternal - chose for now – His temporal wants were more important than eternity.

It is the same choice every man or woman boy or girl has to face. We are sitting here this morning, frail in our mortality, our lives in God's hands. The wise man or woman thinks of the Lord first - the foolish has his heart on his own life and the things of the world.

Esau in his eating thought he would be satisfied, He did not get what he was hoping for - he was sold short and ended up with a raw deal. The AV translates it **red pottage** it was just red lentils which looked like meat but was not. It looked better than it was. How many of the world's entertainments and comforts leave us empty, still hungry. There is nothing here. You will find nothing here.

Do not make the easy but wrong choice – and sell yourself out - ending up with nothing. Jesus said: **The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.** Joh 12:25

Again Jesus said: **What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?** Mr 8:36

Esau is a warning for us today in Hebrews we are told **See that no-one .... is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son. Afterwards, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. He could bring about no change of mind, though he sought the blessing with tears.** 12:16,17

**For a single meal he sold his inheritance**

Doesn't that show how foolish he had been. Part of his foolishness is that he thought he could recover the situation later, - he couldn't – you can't

**Afterwards ... he was rejected he could bring about no change...**

⇒ **Yes there will be tears when in torment, tears of regret**

On the day of judgment, as Jacob and Esau were before Isaac - on that day we are before God and the pronouncement is made, it will be too late - no change.

**38 Esau said to his father, "Do you have only one blessing, my father? Bless me too, my father!" Then Esau wept aloud. 39 His father Isaac answered him, "Your dwelling will be away from the earth's richness, away from the dew of heaven above." Esau is cursed**

**37 Isaac answered Esau, "I have made him lord over you and have made all his relatives his servants, and I have sustained him with grain and new wine** Ge 27:32-39

Jacob was blessed and blessed eternally and he is there now in the presence of the Lord - awaiting the resurrection of the righteous.

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Now is the time. Don't leave it. Make the right choice, turn to Christ while he maybe be found, I urge you to do so before it is too late. Look to the **CROSS** Jesus died for His people, it is called limited atonement or particular redemption. Make sure you are one of those for whom Jesus died. The invitation to come is for everyone – that is all here – and out there – That is the general call, or external call.

Esau and Jacob were alike both partakers of the external calling; but were separated by the secret counsel of God. Jacob had the internal call.

The Lord chose him. he put his finger on this one life, I am calling you yes you, come follow me. Have you heard that inner call?

You may be thinking well if election is all of God and I can't do anything about - I will just allow fate to happen, as other religions do. Whatever is God's will let it be. What can I do?

No, do what Jesus says, **repent and believe.** If you change your ways and sin no more - then you will know you are saved - and so will we – and everyone else! If you sin no more and deny yourself and follow Jesus as he calls you to do - then we will see that you are one of his elect and we will rejoice.

If you don't and are not saved – you are not saved because you don't want to be saved and don't want to be included amongst the Lord's people. If that is you – you are like Esau. Your mind and heart are on earthly things, for the Lord will come for those who long for His coming.

The thing to do with election is make sure you are elected! Do as Peter says **be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall,** 2Pe 1:10

Take the Lord at his word: call upon His Name, take hold of His promises. **The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.** Ps 145:18 **All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.** Joh 6:37

Before the creation of the world, before time began, in the eternal workings of God He has chosen some to be saved and some not.

⇒ **Judged or saved - Either way the Lord will be glorified by your life. Has he saved you? Make sure of it. Are you one of the elect? Make sure of it**

To the Lord be all the Glory, He will have His way for **God's purpose in election will stand.** Rom 9:11 Amen \_\_\_\_\_**END**

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