

# JACOB AND ESAU

The Plain Man and the Cunning Hunter  
Genesis 25:24–Genesis 28:5



Jacob the Plain Man



Esau the Hunter





# Jacob the Plain Man



1. Quiet
2. Peace-loving
3. Thoughtful
4. Diligent
5. Care-taking
6. Ever thinking of the future
7. Content at home
8. Occupied with care of the flocks and with tillage of the soil.
9. Perseverant
10. Had thrift
11. Had foresight
12. Had a deep and strong affection



1. Loved self-gratification
2. Centered all his interests in the present
3. Impatient at restraint
4. Delighted in the wild freedom of the chase
5. Fearlessly ranged over mountain and desert
6. Regarded the law of God as a yoke of bondage.
7. Bent on self-indulgence
8. Desired liberty to do as he pleased
9. Looked upon power, riches, feasting, reveling as happiness





# THE BIRTHRIGHT

- Inheritance of worldly wealth
- Inheritance of spiritual pre-eminence
- Priest of the family
- The Redeemer of the world would come through his posterity
- Must devote his life to the service of God
- Must be obedient to the divine requirements
- Must consult the will of God in marriage, in family relations, in public life



## Jacob the Plain Man



1. Desired the birthright not for the material possessions but for the spiritual
2. He desired to commune with God as did righteous Abraham
3. To offer the sacrifice of atonement for his family
4. To be the progenitor of the chosen people and of the Messiah
5. To inherit the immortal possessions embraced in the blessings of the covenant



## Jacob the Plain Man



6. These privileges and honors kindled his most ardent desires.

7. He esteemed these eternal blessings but he had no experimental knowledge of the God whom he revered.

8. His heart had not been renewed by divine grace and so he studied to devise some way to gain the birthright on his own.



1. Despised the birthright
2. Ready to sacrifice the heavenly for the earthly
3. Ready to exchange a future good for a momentary indulgence





4. Represents those who lightly value the redemption purchased for them by Christ and are ready to sacrifice their heirship to heaven for the perishable things of earth. They live for the present with no thought or care for the future.

5. They are controlled by inclination and do not practice self-denial





1. Isaac loved Esau more than Jacob.
2. Isaac was unshaken in his purpose to bless Esau in spite of what God had said about Jacob.
3. Esau did not tell his father that he had sold the birthright and had confirmed it with an oath, but Rebekah knew.





# Jacob the Plain Man



1. Rebekah and Jacob deceived Isaac to obtain the birthright
2. Esau also deceived his father.



And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all *men* unto me. (John 12:32)

Being lifted up upon the cross, **He draws all men unto Him**. All will not be drawn to Him; but they may come, they may accept that great gift—the precious gift, so immeasurably greater than any gift ever bestowed, the Just for the unjust. He came to reinstate man before the world and to vindicate the holiness of the divine law.  
(6LtMs, Ms 24, 1889, par. 51)



For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.  
(Romans 12:3)



Some may take comfort in the thought that God will number them with His people because they make a profession. We may have a measure of faith, a knowledge of the theory of truth, but unless self dies, unless we live Christ's life of obedience, our profession is worthless. (PC 81.3)



If Esau had received the blessing of his father, which was bestowed upon the first-born, his prosperity could have come from God alone; and he would have blessed him with prosperity, or brought upon him adversity, according to his course of action. If he should love and reverence

God, like righteous Abel, he would be accepted and blessed of God. If like wicked Cain he had no respect for God, nor for his commandments, but followed his own corrupt course, he would not receive a blessing from

God, but would be rejected of God, as was Cain. If Jacob's course should be righteous, if he should love and

fear God, **he would be blessed of God, and the prospering hand of God would be with him**, even if he did not obtain the blessings and privileges generally bestowed upon the first-born. (ISP 107.1)



The circumstances of Esau's selling his birthright **represent the unrighteous**, who consider the redemption purchased for them by Christ of little value, and sacrifice their heirship to Heaven for perishable treasures. Many are controlled by their appetite, and rather than to deny an unhealthy appetite, will sacrifice high and valuable considerations. If one must be yielded, the gratification of a depraved appetite, or the high and heavenly blessings which God promises only to the self-denying and God-fearing, the clamors of appetite, as in the case of Esau, will generally prevail, and for self-gratification, God and Heaven will be virtually despised. (*ISP* 108.1)



Even professed Christians will use tea, coffee, snuff, tobacco and spirits, all of which benumb the finer sensibilities of the soul. If you tell them they cannot have Heaven, and these hurtful indulgences, and that they should deny their appetites, and cleanse themselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord, they are offended, look sorrowful, and conclude that if the way is so strait that they cannot indulge in their gross appetites, they will not walk any longer in it. (*ISP* 108.1)



Especially will the corrupt passions control the mind of those who value Heaven of so little worth. Health will be sacrificed, the mental faculties enfeebled, and Heaven will be sold for these pleasures, as Esau sold his birthright.

Esau was a reckless person. He made a solemn oath that Jacob should have his birthright. **This case is left on record as a warning to others.** As Esau learned that Jacob had obtained the blessing which would have belonged to him, had he not rashly sold it, he was greatly distressed.

He repented of his rash act, when it was too late to remedy the matter. **Thus it will be with sinners in the day of God,** who have bartered away their heirship to Heaven for selfish gratifications and hurtful lusts. They will then find no place for repentance, although they may seek it, like Esau, carefully and with tears. (*ISP* 108.2)



If one must be relinquished, the gratification of a depraved appetite or the heavenly blessings promised only to the self-denying and God-fearing, the claims of appetite prevail, and God and heaven are virtually despised. How many, even of professed Christians, cling to indulgences that are injurious to health and that benumb the sensibilities of the soul. When the duty is presented of cleansing themselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God, they are offended. They see that they cannot retain these hurtful gratifications and yet secure heaven, and they conclude that since the way to eternal life is so strait, they will no longer walk therein. (*PP* 181.3)