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The Wives of Esau
26: 34-35

The wives of Esau DIG: Esau was not to marry a Canaanite woman. What did this show about his attitude toward his parents? About his attitude toward God? What was the fruit of it?

REFLECT: Why should it matter to the LORD whom we marry? What are the consequences of obedience or disobedience in this area of our lives?

When Esau was forty years old, he married Judith, daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and also Basemath, daughter of Elon the Hittite. This was the same age that Isaac was when **he** married, but **Esau** takes two **Hittite** wives. Although **they** are **Hittites**, **they** have Semitic names, which means **they** have been in the Promised Land a very long time. By virtue of this **they** were given non-**Hittite** names. Nonetheless, **they were a** *bitterness of spirit* and a **source of grief to Isaac and Rebekah** because these marriages showed **Esau's** continuing unfaithfulness **(26:34-35).** And just as when **he** sold his birthright, which showed that **he** despised it, by marrying **Hittite**s, **he** continued to show how unfit **he** was for **God's** blessing.

Believers and **unbelievers** live in two opposing worlds. Therefore, Rabbi Sha'ul wrote: **Do not be yoked together with unbelievers (Second Corinthians 6:14a).** It would be like putting a donkey and an ox behind the plow **together**.

They do not have the same nature, gait or strength. It would be impossible for a mismatched pair to plow effectively together **(Deuteronomy 22:10)**. Likewise, Rabbi Sha'ul is saying that believers and **unbelievers** are two different breeds and cannot work together in the spiritual realm. **For what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?** It makes no sense at all because faith has nothing **in common** with unbelief. **Therefore**, Rabbi Sha'ul sums up his argument by saying: **come out from them and be separate (Second Corinthians 6:14b-18).**[428]

I am quite sure that, as good and caring **parents**, **Isaac and Rebekah** gave both of **their sons** ample warning about marrying unbelieving Canaanite women. Abraham was quite adamant about this with **Isaac (24:3)**, and I am sure **Isaac** was just as adamant with **his** two sons. Abraham had married within his own family and so did Jacob **(29:15-30)**. Now this may be a surprise to you, but sometimes children don't do what their **parents** want them to do. *And as children of God, sometimes we don't do what our heavenly Father wants us to do!* **Jacob** was **righteous** (**to see link click Gn – Then Jacob Gave Esau Some Lentil Stew and Esau Despised His Birthright**), but **Esau** was rebellious. And when we rebel against our **heavenly Father** we cause **Him** much **grief**. When **Esau** rebelled against **ADONAI** and **his parents, they** were grieved. Later **the LORD** would include a commandment about this topic in the Torah (see my commentary on **Exodus Do – Honor Your Father and Your Mother**). Sometimes, as **parents**, you can be a good example, say all the right things and do all the right things, but your **child** grows up and rebels. At that point, all you can do is pray for them and turn them over to **God**. Humanly, no one quite understands the pain of this, unless you have had a rebel **child**.

The Word of **God** says that **children** are to **obey** their **parents** as reflecting their obedience to **ADONAI.** It is the **right** thing to do. **Honor your father and mother – which is the first commandment with a promise – that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth (Ephesians 6:1-3).** But just as obedient **children** bring happiness and tranquility to a family, disobedient and rebellious **children** are a **source of grief** to **their parents**. This was the case with **Esau**. The next time we see **him** in **Chapters 32** and **33**, **he** will be very powerful and as far as material possessions go, **he** will have done very well for **himself**. But spiritually, **he** would still be in rebellion against **the LORD**.