

Where the Blessing Hides

I. God Works In The Darkness — The Blessing is Hidden in the Mess

A. Beginnings (of Hope)

Gen 1:1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

This makes it clear — ALL THAT IS — ALL REALITY. **Matter -Energy. Time-Space.** The Starry vastness of the Universe, and **specifically**, the Blue Planet, the 3rd Rock from the Sun. Exists by the creative action of the EXISTENT, ETERNAL, INDESCRIBABLE, EVERLASTING One who has revealed Himself to us. This is how we know

Source of Existence – Why things ARE – What is real –

B. Darkness & Light

Gen 1:2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

1. Disorder **Tohu & Bohu** — Chaotic, Unstructured

Void of Potential & apparent Purpose

DARKNESS — Abyss — Source of the Darkness?

Spirit of God moving, fluttering —

Creative Agent

Gen 1:3 And God **said**, “Let there be **light**,” and there was light.

John 1:3 **All things** were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Source of Existence

God **Speaks** & **SEES**

“And God **said**,” (10x) “And God **saw**...” (7x)

Gen 1:4 And God **saw** that the light was **good**. And God separated the **light from** the **darkness**.

B. Purpose & Promise – Communion In Christ

Gen1:26 Then God said, “Let us **make man in our image**, after our likeness. And let them have **dominion**”

27 So God created man in his own **image**, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

31 And God **saw everything that he had made**, and behold, it was **very good**. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

C. Threats, Catastrophes, Promises

Gen 3- The Serpent; Temptation; Fall; Death; Promise! God Wins!

3:15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

Cain; Abel — murder, wandering to the East (Strife among Brothers)

The blessing hides

Seth — godly line, ..., Enoch, Noah found grace in the Eyes

Gen 5 Imaginations Evil; Earth corrupt

Flood — Judgment — the blessing hides

A way of Escape — Noah and the Ark

Babel (Babylon) — Judgment — out of that God calls

Abraham — Promise! Egypt, Lot, barrenness, Ishmael

Isaac & Rebecca — barrenness (the blessing hides)

Jn 1:4 **In him** was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the **darkness** has **not overcome** it.

53x Johannine uses (33+20) 33x Pauline (**In Christ** 84x)

Human Consciousness – Bliss

Jn 16:33 I have said these things to you, that **in me** you may have **peace**. In the world you will have **tribulation**. But take heart; I have **overcome** the world."

26x John

II. Jacob and Esau

A. Promise — Problem — Blessing — Difficulty

Gen 25:20 ... **Isaac was forty** years old when he took **Rebekah**, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, the sister of Laban the Aramean, to be his wife. **21** And **Isaac prayed** to the LORD for his wife, because she was **barren**. And the Lord granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife **conceived**. **22** The **children struggled** together within her, and she said, "If it is thus, **why** is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the Lord.

BARRENNESS - the blessing not merely by human effort.
Promise requires an act of God... "In him... YES"

B. Blessing — Difficulty — Revelation

Imagine Rebekah — a very painful pregnancy

25:23 And the LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be **divided**; the **one shall be stronger** than the other, the older shall serve the younger."

SURPRISE — Gen 3:15 enmity... strife...

THEME

Older shall serve the younger

(Cain, Abel, Seth; Isaac & Ishmael... Joseph & brothers — David; Solomon)

God's will IN SPITE of the conflict.

50:20 : "You intended it to harm me, but God intended it for good"

C. Blessing — Distinction

- 24 When her days to give birth were completed, behold, there were **twins** in her womb.
- 25 The first came out **red**, all his body like a **hairy** cloak, so they called his name Esau.
- 26 Afterward his brother came out with his hand holding Esau's heel, so his name was called Jacob. ***Isaac was sixty*** years old when she bore them.

< Esau — **appearance**. Jacob — what he was doing >

- 27 When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet (tam - content) man, dwelling in tents.

D. Foolish Parenting

- 28 Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

<Rebecca had a PROMISE; Isaac had his cultural norms; Foolish parenting — clear favorites >.

E. Promise Fulfilled “In Spite of”. Birthright... Blessing

- 29 Once when Jacob was cooking stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was **exhausted**. NIV — **FAMISHED**)

<Jacob is “cooking something up” Esau hunting unsuccessfully>

- 30 And Esau said to Jacob, “(NIV Quick) Let me eat (gulp down; feed me like an animal) some of that **red** stew, for I am **exhausted!**” **FAMISHED** (Therefore his name was called Edom.)

Jacob said, “Sell me your birthright **now**. TODAY!” Esau said, “I am **about to die**; of what use is a birthright to me?” Jacob said, “**Swear** to me **now**.” So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way.

Thus Esau **despised** his birthright.

III. Promise is NOT SUBJECT to circumstances — Promise & Blessing was Hidden in the Strife and the **Ambitions** of Jacob,

He will wrestle with God and not let go until he is blessed and renamed **Israel**

Heb. 11:1 Now **faith** is the assurance (confidence; substance) of things **hoped** for, the conviction (assurance; evidence) of things not seen. **2** For by it the people of old received their commendation.

Pursuit of Promises will be Sanctified by the Pursuit.

Mt 6:33 But **seek** first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

34 "Therefore **do not be anxious** about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

REMEMBER — You are the Image of God in the earth...

IV. Darkness? All the Blessings are Hidden there...

Overwhelmed? Drowning in circumstances?

Been set aside, ignored, persecuted. Unqualified?

Prayer – ACTIVATE HOPE — Declare — Release FAITH

Parents – Pass the PROMISES – Speak, establish HOPE to Children...

Rom 6.20 The **God of peace** will **soon crush Satan** under your feet. The **grace** of our Lord Jesus Christ be **with** you. Amen.

Eph. 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blessed** us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, **4** even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love **5** he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, **6** to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.