

Your Birthright; Genesis 25:29-34

I. Heir

A. Merriam-Webster ¹

1. one who inherits or is entitled to inherit property
2. one who inherits or is entitled to succeed to a hereditary rank, title, or office (heir to the throne)
3. one who receives or is entitled to receive some endowment or quality from a parent or predecessor

B. Google had another definition which I thought was interesting - a person inheriting and continuing the legacy of a predecessor

C. A lot of TV/movie crime shows use inheritance as a motive for murder (because the predecessor must be dead in order to receive the inheritance)

D. Even the poorest of people can leave their belongings to their children or some charity

E. We are all heirs of our parents

II. Birthright and Blessing

A. Jacob and Esau had issues with their inheritance

B. Birthright - position and right of the first-born ²

1. Special privileges that belonged to the firstborn male child in a family. Prominent among those privileges was a double portion of the estate as an inheritance.
2. The oldest son also normally received the father's major blessing. Esau forfeited his birthright to his brother Jacob for the sake of a meal of lentil stew and bread (Gen. 25:29–34). Indeed, the Hebrew word for blessing (berakah) is virtually an anagram of the word that means both birthright and firstborn (bekorah) ³
3. Deuteronomy 21:15–17 (ESV); ¹⁵ “If a man has two wives, the one loved and the other unloved, and both the loved and the unloved have borne him children, and if the firstborn son belongs to the unloved, ¹⁶ then on the day when he assigns his possessions as an inheritance to his sons, he may not treat the son of the loved as the firstborn in preference to the son of the unloved, who is the firstborn, ¹⁷ but he shall acknowledge the firstborn, the son of the unloved, by giving him a double portion of all that he has, for he is the firstfruits of his strength. The right of the firstborn is his.

C. God would sometimes change up the order

D. Genesis 25:23 (ESV); 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.”

E. Genesis 48:17–19 (ESV); ¹⁷ When Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him, and he took his father's hand to move it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head. ¹⁸ And Joseph said to his father, “Not this way, my father; since this one is the firstborn, put your right hand on his head.” ¹⁹ But his father

¹ Inc Merriam-Webster, Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary. (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).

² Ludwig Koehler et al., The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1994–2000), 131.

³ Chad Brand et al., eds., “Birthright,” Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2003), 220.

refused and said, “I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great. Nevertheless, his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his offspring shall become a multitude of nations.”

F. The birthright is given by God to His people

III. Your Birthright

- A. James 1:16–18 (ESV); ¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.
- B. Firstfruits — Firstborn child or animal or first parts of any crop which, in Hebrew thought, were considered as holy and belonging to the Lord. ⁴
- C. Because we are heirs with Christ, we also are a “kind of” firstfruits of God
- D. Romans 8:16–17 (ESV); ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.
- E. I have linked all this together because I want us to understand our birthright and our blessing
 - 1. All too often we see humanity act like Esau — sell their birthright for immediate gratification of some sort of lust
 - 2. We change our laws to fit our own desires instead of changing our desires to fit God’s law
 - 3. People are marching in the street claiming they should be able to do whatever they want with their bodies’ reproductive organs
 - 4. But they fail to see that the babies they are wanting to kill are part of God’s blessing to them
 - 5. We use phrases like “the point of viability” (from the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision) to try and ease our conscience — thinking that before this “point” the baby is not really a baby at all; that it could not survive outside the womb, therefore it is not a human
 - 6. That baby has a birthright and blessing just as we do!
- F. Our birthright (all of ours!) is that we receive what the Father wanted us to have all along — eternal life
 - 1. But we lose focus and for some reason think that what we can get here on this Earth is so much better than what God wants to give us
 - 2. God wants to give us the Kingdom (we are heirs)!
 - 3. How can anything here be better than that?
 - 4. Our birthright is eternal life and God has given us every blessing
 - 5. Ephesians 1:3 (ESV); 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,
 - 6. 2 Peter 1:3–4 (ESV); ³ His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

IV. Claim Your Birthright

- A. Believe that He is
- B. Call on His name

⁴ Walter A. Elwell and Barry J. Beitzel, Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988), 791.

C. Have Him wash away your sins