

History of Brothers in the Bible I

Fred R. Coulter—September 15, 2012

Let's look at some history and let's see that there other things involved besides the banking system. All of these things come together. It's not just one thing over here. It's one thing over here, another thing over here, half a dozen things over here—the whole picture.

Now we're dealing with the whole world, but it started out with Adam and Eve and look what it's come to. Let's go back to Gen. 4 and let's see what the world came to because of problems between brothers. Eventually it all gets down to this:

- Who is your God?
- The true God of the Bible?

or

- Satan the devil?
- Who are you going to follow?

We're not going through how Adam and Eve sinned. We already know that. If you don't know that, you'll have to catch up on it. We're going to talk about two brothers in this case. In other cases there will be more brothers involved.

Abel & Cain

Nevertheless here's what happened. Genesis 4:1: "Then Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, 'I have gotten a man from the LORD.'" As far as she was concerned that was the promise that was given to her over here in Gen. 3. Little did she know there's going to be 6,000 years-plus: 4,000 years until the Messiah comes, another 2,000-plus before He finishes His mission with His second coming.

Eve said, "... 'I have gotten a man from the LORD.' And she bore again, his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.... [nothing wrong with that] ...It came to pass that Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground. And Abel also brought of the firstlings of his flock *and* of the fat of it. And the LORD had regard unto Abel and his offering" (vs 1-4).

Why? Does God command the things that are produced in the ground be brought to Him? *Yes, He does!* A tithe, firstfruits, not just animals.

Verse 5: "But He did not have regard unto Cain and his offering..." Why? *It comes to the very basic sin in all human beings*, which is they want to improve on God's way by doing it *their way*. ***That's the basic sin of all human beings!*** They don't look at it that way. They don't say, 'I'm going to tell God what to do.' No, they're going to say, 'Look at this, I can do this. God, that's a wonderful thing.'

What do we have in Matt. 7 concerning that and those who are the false prophets proclaiming Christianity in Jesus' name? They said, 'We've done many wonderful works. We've cast out demons. We've preached the Gospel.' But how did they do it? ***Their way!***

Cain didn't want to do it God's way. If it would have read, 'And Cain brought to the Lord the firstfruits of his tillage,' *it would have been accepted!* But he wanted to bring what he wanted to bring. Great principle: ***you can't improve upon God!*** His Law is perfect; His way is perfect. What He tells us to do, we are to do it the way that God says to do it.

What happened? Verse 6: "And the LORD said to Cain, 'Why are you so angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well...'" (vs 6-7). Even carnal people are capable of doing well—are they not? Don't we have many good things that people do that don't even know God? *Yes!* Look at Gaddafi that we just read in the first half. Didn't he do a lot of good things for his people? *Yes, indeed!* ...shall you not be accepted? But if you do not do well... [or correctly] ...sin lies at the door...." (vs 6-7). What is sin? *Sin is the transgression of the law!* So, he violated the laws and instructions of God when he brought his offering.

"...Its desire *is* for you... [that is sin] ...but you must rule over it!" (v 7). Can people have enough control over their thoughts and over their actions that they can do well? *Yes!* They're called upstanding, law-abiding citizens in the community.

This has nothing to do with salvation here. Abel is going to receive salvation because his relationship was with God directly. We don't know about that until we read Heb. 11. So some things we don't know without the New Testament. Some things we don't know without the Old Testament. We can view things today and put it together and have an understanding of it. What happened? *Rather than repent, Cain could have said, 'Lord, I'm sorry, I repent!'* Then what happened next would never have occurred.

Verse 8: "And Cain talked with his brother Abel. And it came to pass that when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him." Cain probably knew that Abel was going to have the righteous line. Abel was going to receive blessings that Cain was not going to receive. We will see that again and again with brothers. It leads to problems because when the human race grows and expands those imbedded problems persist. We have the righteous line given in Gen. 5.

How old was Abel when he was killed? We can make an approximate guess, we don't know. We don't know how long it was after Adam and Eve were created that Cain and Abel were born. So, we don't have that number of years. We can come pretty close to knowing the approximate time when the replacement of the death of Abel in the person of Seth was born.

Genesis 5:3: "And Adam lived **one hundred and thirty years** and begat a son in his own likeness, after his own image, and he called his name Seth." How old was Abel? *We don't know!* 125? 30 years? We don't know, but somewhere right in there.

There was a long period of time that Cain and Abel were living together and interfacing with each other, living their lives. God gave them certain instruction. God told them certain things. God made certain promises, not recorded here. We're just reading into the record there's the righteous line.

What happened because of this competition between the brothers? What happened because the brothers couldn't get along? Of course, their descendants wouldn't get along. Cain was removed from the line of Seth. He was sent off into the 'land of wandering.' His descendants were the ones that made war implements. Living as long as they did, having the knowledge that they did, intermarrying that they had, how did it turn out?

Let's project forward to our day. How's it turning out? *Exactly as Jesus said it would!* 'As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the days of the coming of the Son of man.' The world, sooner or later, comes to a crises because of those who follow Satan the devil and those who follow God. Sooner or later the world gets to a point that evil takes over and rules everything—called lawlessness.

What is the prophecy that's going to happen in the end-time? *The mystery of lawlessness.* What did Jesus say? '*Because lawlessness shall multiply, the love of many shall grow cold.*' That's what happened because of the tale of two brothers.

Let's come forward here. Let's come to Abraham, Abram at that time. Had no children, promised a child, a physical child even in his old age. We're going to learn another lesson here, too.

Isaac & Ishmael

Genesis 15:3: "And Abram said, 'Behold, You have given no seed to me; and lo, one born in my house is my heir.' And behold, the Word of the LORD *came* to him saying, 'This man... [your servant Eliezer] ...shall not be your heir; but he that **shall come forth out of your own loins shall be your heir.**' And He brought him outside and said, 'Look now toward the heavens and number the

stars—if you are able to count them.' And He said to him, 'So shall your seed be.'" (vs 3-5). So he was promised two things here:

1. Physical seed from his own loins
2. Spiritual seed that he didn't know anything about (Gal. 3:29, 'If you are Christ's, then are you Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise.')

4,000 years separation! Then another 2,000 until there's a resurrection and as Jesus said, 'The children of the Kingdom shall be resurrected and shine as the sun.' There are a lot of things contained in the Old Testament, which is like a seed and it must grow.

Genesis 16—Sarah really didn't think too much was going to happen because she knew how old she was. Ten years later when Abraham was 85, she convinced him, 'Now it's going to come from your loins—right?' *Yes!* 'Since I haven't been able to bear,' what did she do? She wanted to improve on God's promise—right? Let's help the fulfillment of this along. Here's Hagar, the handmaiden. Sarah convinced Abraham to produce seed through Hagar, but that's not what God said. So, Ishmael was born and we still live with the problem—don't we? *Yes, indeed!* Ishmael is not quite as barbaric as Esau was.

Genesis 16:8, talking about the son that Hagar would have: "And he said, 'Hagar, Sarai's maidservant, where did you come from? And where will you go?'... [this is an angel of the Lord] ...And she said, 'I flee from the presence of my mistress Sarai.' And the angel of the LORD said to her, 'Return to your mistress and submit yourself under her hands'" (vs 8-9).

That was hard to do. Think about the feelings that build up inside because of that. Think about the stories that she told Ishmael. We have to add all the human elements in there that are not necessarily told in Scripture when we understand the feelings and competition and things that went on.

Verse 10: "And the angel of the LORD said to her, 'I will multiply your seed exceedingly, so that they shall not be numbered for multitude.' And the angel of the LORD said to her, 'Behold, you are with child, and shall bear a son. And you shall call his name Ishmael because the LORD has heard your affliction. And **he will be a wild man...**'" (vs 10-12). Is that true even to this day? We haven't added Esau in there, yet.

"...His hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him. And he shall live in the presence of all his brothers" (v 12). Isn't it interesting that only the children of Israel migrated out to other parts of the world, but all the Arabs and all of the Edomites and Esauites stayed in the

Middle East. That's how true the things of the Bible are.

- What did God tell Abraham? *'Your seed is going to move to the north, to the west, to the east, and to the south.'*
- What did He tell David when David wanted to build a temple? *'I'm going to take and put the children of Israel in their place.'*

They were already under the jurisdiction of King David at that time. That was a prophecy.

So, the things that happen with the brothers go way down in time. Look at us. We live in a land where we don't know very much about our ancestors. We don't know very much about our genealogy. Why is that? *Because it's just like God said. God would sift Israel through many different nations but not lose a single seed!* Arabs know where they come from. The Turks know where they come from.

Eventually she conceived, brought forth Isaac, and then finally Ishmael had to be sent on the way. We know what happened.

Jacob & Esau

Isaac married Rebekah and she became pregnant. The promise went—Abraham, Isaac, now the promise is going to come down to one that is called Jacob.

Genesis 25:20: "And Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah to wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Padan Aram, the sister of Laban the Syrian. And Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife because she *was* barren. And the LORD heard him, and Rebekah his wife conceived. And the sons struggled together within her..." (vs 20-22). They were enemies from conception! So, when they say it's in the genes, it's in the genes.

"...And she said, 'If *it is* well, why *am* I this way?' And she went to inquire of the LORD. And the LORD said to her, 'Two nations *are* in your womb, and two kinds of people shall be separated from your belly. And the one people shall be stronger than the other people, the older shall serve the younger'" (vs 22-23). Prophesied to happen. True!

Just a little sidebar here: Can God create a race of people different from the two parents if He decides to? *Yes!* These were twins, but let's read how they looked. Can you imagine what the midwife must have thought?

Verse 24: "And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, twins were in her womb! And the first came out red... [The midwife

probably said, 'What is this?'] ...like a hairy garment all over... [I can't feature that.] ...And they called his name Esau" (vs 24-25)—which is also Edom. His descendants became the Ottoman Empire.

Verse 26: "And after that his brother came out, and his hand took hold on Esau's heel. And his name was called Jacob. And Isaac *was* sixty years old when she bore them." You know the rest of the story. You can read it. Esau was a hunter. Firstborn had the birthright, but who was prophesied to be the predominant one? *The younger!* He would rule over the elder. Now you know how that makes the elder son feel when the young one rules over him. So, you've got all these emotions involved.

Plus 'mama' is involved. After Jacob persuaded Esau to sell his birthright—he didn't have to do it because he was going to get it anyway—but this again set up tension. 'Look at what he did to me! The conniver, the deceiver, and *mama* did it!' He bought the birthright, so you know what happened. Rebekah said, 'I'll fix up the stew. You dress up like Esau.' How could Jacob who was a plain man, not much hair on the arms. You see some men today, they have hair all over but not on the top. But I've never seen someone like a carpet. That's how I imagine that Esau was.

How was Jacob going to pretend and deceive his father, because he knew. She took the goat skin which she made the stew from, put it on the back of his neck and on the forearm of his arms. That tells you how hairy Esau was. So, Jacob went in with the dirty, smelly clothes of Esau. Jacob said, 'Are you Esau?' He said, 'Yes, my father, I'm Esau.' *Come here so I can touch you.* So he felt him back of the neck and said, 'You feel like Esau but you sound like Jacob. Are you really Esau?' He said, 'Oh, yes, father I am.'

Think how this set it up for hatred afterwards. It set up a perpetual hatred to this day. Jacob got the blessing, Genesis 27:26: "And his father Isaac said to him, 'Come near now and kiss me, my son.' And he came near and kissed him. And he smelled the smell of his clothing, and blessed him, and said, 'See, the smell of my son *is* as the smell of a field which the LORD has blessed'" (vs 26-27).

Notice this blessing to Jacob. This was an official act. You cannot repeal this, you can only give it once, v 28: "And may God give you the dew of heaven, and of the fatness of the earth, and plenty of grain and wine. Let people serve you, and let nations bow down to you. Be lord over your brethren, and let your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed *be* everyone that curses you, and blessed *be* he that blesses you" (vs 28-29). That is an all-encompassing blessing. It's further amplified,

as we'll see a little later on. This was really a quick scene here.

Verse 30: "And it came to pass, as soon as Isaac had made an end of blessing Jacob, and Jacob was scarcely gone from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting. And he also had made a *dish of* savory meat and brought it to his father. And he said to his father, 'Let my father arise and eat of his son's venison so that your soul may bless me.' And his father Isaac said to him, 'Who *are* you?'... [because he was partially blind] ...and he said, 'I *am* your son, your firstborn, Esau.' Then Isaac trembled greatly, and said, 'Who then *was* the one who has hunted deer and brought it to me—and I have eaten it all before you came, and have blessed him? Yes, he shall be blessed!'" (vs 30-33). And can't give him the same blessing.

Verse 34: "And when Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with a great and exceeding bitter cry..." I imagine that Rebekah was over in the corner of the tent hearing all of this. Have you had problems in your family? Anything like this? *No!* We look at the patriarchs and say, 'What a wonderful thing that was.' They had some pretty tough times and some pretty tough family problems which carry down to this day.

Esau said to his father, "...Bless me, even me also, O my father!' And he said, 'Your brother came with deceit, and has taken away your blessing.' And Esau said, 'Is he not rightly called Jacob?... [which means supplanter] ...For he has supplanted me these two times—he took away my birthright, and behold, now he has taken away my blessing.' And he said, 'Have you not reserved a blessing for me?'" (vs 34-36).

This didn't turn out to be much of a blessing. The greatest blessing to Esau and Ishmael was the oil under the ground, mostly to Ishmael.

Here's what he blessed him with, v 37: "And Isaac answered and said to Esau, 'Behold, I have made him your lord, and all his brethren I have given him for servants. And with grain and wine I have sustained him. And what shall I do now to you my son?' And Esau said to his father, 'Have you but one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, my father.' And Esau lifted up his voice and wept" (vs 37-38). Couldn't get it back.

Esau didn't have to sell the birthright, but he did. Jacob did not have to trick Isaac to get the blessing. It would have come anyway. In both cases we have human intentions to help God do what He promised to do because we're using our initiative to do so. I want you to see that that sin follows all the way down in the intermix of the human relations between the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and

Jacob and the children of Israel. It's one of the biggest problems that happens with people today.

Let's see what happened, v 39: "And Isaac his father answered and said to him, 'Behold, Your dwelling shall be far from the fatness of the earth and far from the dew of heaven from above.'" Where do they live? Where do the Ishmaelites live? Is this true? Has it happened? *Yes, indeed!* Does the hatred still exist to this day? *Yes, it does!* We will see the prophecy of why some of these things are being done right here in this chapter.

Verse 40: "And you shall live by your sword and shall serve your brother..."

We have a wild man, Ishmael, whose hand is against everyone, fighting, conniving, stealing, taking. Now we have a wild man here on the other hand who is going to be filled with bitterness and hatred, who is ready to take the sword and kill. Is it any wonder that Allah is their god and Mohammed is their prophet? *No, indeed!* Didn't start here, but that's what they developed in the 600s A.D.

Verse 40: "And you shall live by your sword and shall serve your brother. But it shall come to pass that when you shall have the dominion, you shall break his yoke from off your neck." Is that what is taking place today—bit-by-bit?

If we view the Middle East from that point of view, we can see the problems that are taking place through heredity and the genes and the blessings and the prophecies of God. Coming from the other side of that we see the struggle for control of oil and gold and a world banking system. We see it all coming together.

How long is it going to take to get rid of the yoke? *We don't know!* How long is it going to take for these countries to be taken down and tamed down enough to enter into a world system? Remember, 21st century, coming into a 16th century civilization: Violent transition, plus the nature of the people, plus the hatred that has always been with Esau.

Verse 41: "And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him. And Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning *for* my father are at hand—then I will kill my brother Jacob." Rebekah heard this and said, 'Jacob, get out of here.' She sent him off to Laban clear over in Syria.

See the problems that brothers can create? We'll see that even magnified when we come to the twelve sons of Israel and what happened with that.

When we look at the world news, remember there are many things that you need to search out to find the real truth. What you were told that

everybody accepts, one rule of thumb is this: If the media repeats it over like a whole pet store full of parrots, *it's wrong!* Search it out. But nevertheless, all these things that are in the Bible, they're going to come to pass. They're going to be done. *Everything is going to take place that God has said will take place—all of them!*

We'll see next time concerning the twelve sons of Israel and then Joseph. Then we will see that God says, 'I hate Esau.' A lot of people have never understood why God, who is a God of love, says, 'I hate Esau, but Jacob I have loved.'

Scriptural References:

- 1) Genesis 4:1-8
- 2) Genesis 5:3
- 3) Genesis 15:3-5
- 4) Genesis 16:8-12
- 5) Genesis 25:20-23
- 6) Genesis 27:26-41

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Genesis 3
- Matthew 7
- Hebrews 11
- Galatians 3:29

Copyright 2012—All rights reserved. Except for brief excerpts for review purposes, no part of this publication may be reproduced or used in any form or by any means without the written permission of the copyright owner. This includes electronic and mechanical photocopying or recording, as well as the use of information storage and retrieval systems.