

## THE BIBLE HAS PARALLEL TRUTHS (II)

What the Bible affirms, I affirm. What the Bible denies, I deny. Where the Bible is silent, I will be silent. This is a good position to adopt, wouldn't you agree? Let's continue to look at some more parallel truths of the Bible:

### [4] Esau despising his birthright

The act itself is recorded in **Genesis 25:29-34**. What we want to do here is to look at how other portions of the Bible interpreted this act of Esau.

We begin with **Hebrews 12:16-17** ~ *lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.* Esau is here called a fornicator and profane person. Esau is here condemned for giving up so much for so little. Esau is here presented as a forsaken man, forsaken by God. Overall, the picture is that Esau is to be blamed for what he has done. He is held fully accountable for his despicable act.

Next, we turn to **Romans 9:11-13** ~ *(for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls), it was said to her, "The older shall serve the younger." As it is written, "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated."* Here we are told that what has transpired was divinely ordained. Before they were born, God has already said that Esau shall serve Jacob. Here we have predestination and election taught as clear as the blue day sky!

The Bible interprets the Bible! That's one of the Reformation principles of Bible interpretation. So **Hebrews 12** interprets **Genesis 25** and underlines the responsibility of Esau while **Romans 9** interprets **Genesis 25** and underlines the sovereignty of God. Both are equally valid interpretations. Both are Biblical truths. It is wrong to downplay or dismiss **Hebrews 12's** interpretation. It is not honouring to God to put the interpretation of **Genesis 25** above that of **Hebrews 12's**. Both are Scripture.

### [5] Exodus and Pharaoh

Here we are confronted with a number of parallel truths:

- (1) The number of years that Israel will spend in Egypt is fixed.

*Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. (Genesis 15:13-14)*

*Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years. And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years--on that very same day--it came to pass that all the armies of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt. (Exodus 12:40-41)*

God has ordained that Israel will spend 430 years as slaves in Egypt. This means Israel will not leave Egypt one day earlier or one day later! Note the phrase "on that very same day" in **Exodus 12:41!!**

- (2) God knows that Pharaoh will resist the call to release Israel.

*But I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not even by a mighty hand. So I will stretch out My hand and strike Egypt with all My wonders which I will do in its midst; and after that he will let you go. (Exodus 3:19-20)*

This was said to Moses even before he went back to Egypt! God knows Pharaoh will resist! And God repeated the same words to Moses while in Egypt:

*And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt. But Pharaoh will not heed you, so that I may lay My hand on Egypt and bring My armies and My people, the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments. (Exodus 7:3-4)*

Not only does God know, but we can even say that God ordains it:

*But indeed for this purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth. (Exodus 9:16)*

In short, God knows because God ordains it!

- (3) God calls and reasons with Pharaoh to release Israel.

*And the LORD spoke to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD: "Let My people go, that they may serve Me. But if you refuse to let them go, behold, I will smite all your territory with frogs. (Exodus 8:1-2)*

*So Moses and Aaron came in to Pharaoh and said to him, "Thus says the LORD God of the Hebrews: 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go, that they may serve Me. (Exodus 10:3)*

God calls Pharaoh to let His people go. He warns Pharaoh of the consequences, if he refused. He reasons with Pharaoh and urges him to relent. This, in the light of (1), that the number of years Israel will spend in Egypt is fixed and (2), God has ordained that Pharaoh will resist!

Would we say that God is insincere when He remonstrates with Pharaoh? Maybe you dare to say it, but I dare not!! I will take God at His word. He means what He says and says what He means. He wants Pharaoh to release Israel. He urges Pharaoh to submit. His call is sincere and His warning is real.

God has ordained that Israel will be in Egypt for 430 years and yet God sends Moses into Egypt to urge Pharaoh to release Israel months and weeks before the time is up! God has ordained that Pharaoh will resist and knows Pharaoh will not submit yet He calls Pharaoh to submit and reasons with him as to the folly of ignoring His warning!

I cannot understand and reconcile them neatly, but I humbly receive all of them as truths, because they are all God's truth! Here I stand. So God help me!