

Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated

Some people read this and conclude that God hates some people from birth, and He has ordained them for doom while others are predestined for salvation. Nothing can be further from the truth! This is not the nature of God and it is not accurate to present the Lord like that. People's choices play and determine how things turn out for them. God give everyone a fair chance to choose their destination, but He does not dictate it.

Genesis 25:23 And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.

Romans 9:12-13 It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.

- a) God was simply saying what was going to happen based on Esau's decisions. It is not God who ordained his decisions, nor his destiny and outcome. He chose of his own volition.
- b) All people have a choice or freewill to choose whether to be in relationship with God or not.
- c) These passages are speaking mostly of the nations than individuals. God was speaking of Jacob as a nation (Israel) and Esau as a nation (Edom). God rejected the nation of Edom but chose the nation of Israel. God was not predestinating Esau to hatred. He saw and knew (foreknowledge) the choices Esau was going to make of his own, so God spoke, but He did not ordain nor desire for it to be that way. Only Esau could change this, not God. People have a choice and Esau had a choice.

- d) Esau chose to despise his birthright (Genesis 25:29-34). This was a way of rejecting God and His plan.
- e) Esau also married outside of God's commands (Genesis 26:34-35)

Also notice that these two had not done anything wrong or good when God spoke this. This proves that this predestination was not based on their performance, but their choices. God's predestination is based on His foreknowledge of our choices, not on His foreknowledge of our performance and goodness.

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