

Hands of Esau - cont.

... "I saw a picture of Jesus..."

Yes, God has given many signs in Bible times, but not today (Judges 6:36-40; 2 Kings 20:8-11; Isaiah 7:10-18). Alleged "signs" today are "the hands of Esau". They may look like truth, but they are not. God speaks to us today through the words of His Son, Jesus (Hebrews 1:1-2).

When one leaves the truth of Bible authority there will be many "hands of Esau" held out in front of him. Remember, what was the basic problem with Isaac? Poor eyesight (Genesis 27:1). So, the question today is: How is your spiritual eyesight? (Matthew 13:15-16; Acts 26:18; Romans 11:8; Galatians 3:1; Ephesians 1:18; 2 Peter 1:9; Revelation 3:17-18)

Friends, once the deception has been made, it may be too late to seek for truth later (Genesis 27:32-34; Hebrews 12:17). People can become so hardened that they will not change their mind later. And many people will even die in their error. Let me encourage you to look for truth and settle for nothing less (Proverbs 23:23). Open your Bible (Acts 17:11)! Test what is said (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22; 1 John 4:1; Revelation 2:2)! - *Chris Reeves*

- Word of the Week -

"First-fruits" (Gr. ἀπαρχή) refers to the OT practice of bringing an offering and sacrifice to God of the first-fruits of a crop (Exodus 23:16, 19; etc.). This showed that one would offer his best to God. Today, Christians are to be "first-fruits" to God as well (James 1:18; Revelation 14:4). Let's remember this week to go out and give God our best in all that we say and do.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

The Hands of Esau

*And Jacob went near unto Isaac his father; and he felt him, and said, The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau
- Genesis 27:22 -*

In Genesis 25:19-34, you can read about the birth of Esau and Jacob, and how Esau sold his birthright to Jacob (Genesis 25:19-34). Later, Jacob obtained his father's blessing through deceit, posing as Esau (Genesis 27:1ff,36). This is a story of feeling one thing while hearing another (Genesis 27:22). Isaac felt Jacob's hands and they felt like the hands of Esau. But, Isaac heard the voice of Jacob. The deception was very close to the truth, but not truth (Genesis 27:18-27). Jacob obtained his father's blessing through deceit.

Today, many are deceived the same way. In the area of religion, many people feel "the hands of Esau". People feel that they have the truth when in fact, they are believing a lie. Like Isaac's poor eyesight, many people today do not want to see the truth of God's word. They would rather "feel", than hear the truth.

Human authorities often pose as truth (John 7:48)

Many people today would rather listen to popular persons in the media, than listen to the truth of God's word. Others do what they want instead of the truth (Judges 17:6; 21:25). Still others would rather follow scientists, experts, scholars,



the majority of the people, historical traditions, religious leaders, or family traditions instead of the truth.

All of these popular sources are "the hands of Esau". The fact is, human authorities may look like truth, but they are not. God's word is truth (John 17:17).

**Feelings often pose as truth
(Genesis 20:11; 2 Kings 5:11;
Acts 26:9)**

Many people today would rather follow their feelings and "listen to their heart" rather than the truth of God's word. People will often say things like: "I wouldn't trade what I feel in my heart for all the Bibles in the world", or, "I had a better felt than told experience", or, "Just let your conscience be your guide", or, "If that were true, it would mean...", or, "I'm satisfied with my religion".

Like traditions, feelings can be "the hands of Esau". They may look like the truth, but they are not. Faith (belief) comes by hearing God's word, not by feelings (Romans 10:17). And remember, "the heart is deceitful above all things" (Jeremiah 17:9).

Alleged outward "signs" often pose as truth

Many people today would rather follow so-called "signs" that they believe they have seen than the truth of God's word. People will often say something like: "I prayed and asked God for a sign", or, "God showed me...", or...
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