In The Beginning
The Generations of Isaac

The birth of two nations... Gen.25:19-23

After 25 years, how does the Lord answer Isaac's prayer? vs.19-21
Rebekah conceives and is going to have twin boys, Jacob and Esau.

Even before they are born, what does Rebekah know that's unusual about them? vs.22
Apparently there was an unusually vigorous struggle between the unborn boys.

What does the Lord reveal to Rebekah about this struggle? vs.23
The boys will be two nations. Older will serve the younger (reverse of normal birthright).

Comment on the history of these two boys (nations).
Esau (red, hairy) fathered the Edomites. Jacob (one who grabs the heel to trip) fight cont.

As grown ups, how do the characters of the two boys play out? vs.27-28
Esau was rugged outdoorsman, hunter. Jacob was quiet, stay at home, but scheming!

The Scripture warns us about being like Esau, a "profane man". Why? Heb.12:16-17
Esau sold his (spiritual) birthright for one meal. Later regretted it, but it was too late.

The NT commentary on Jacob and Esau... Rom.9:6-13

As Paul agonizes over the salvation of the Jews, he reminds us of what first? vs.6-9
That God had chosen Isaac over all the other 'seed' of Abraham. HE is Sovereign...

Then Paul reminds us of God's choice of Jacob over Esau. What is the emphasis? vs.10-13
Before they were born, good or bad, God loved Jacob, hated Esau. HE is Sovereign...

How does this play out for the nations of Israel and Edom? Obadiah 1:18; Mal. 1:2-5
God blesses Israel and destroys Edom. And the blessings and destruction are permanent.

Does this seem unjust on the part of God? Rom. 9:14-18
Paul anticipates this reaction but teaches that HE is Sovereign...

And what incorrect conclusion does Paul anticipate next? vs.19
If it's God's will, why does HE still condemn the sinner?

And what is Paul's answer to this? vs.20-21
HE is Sovereign...!

What if...? Comment on Paul's 'what if' of verse 22-26
Paul's way of teaching us about HIS Sovereignty. What if God chooses to bless, and curse?