



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

JANUARY 2025

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Questions and Answers:

Jan. 2025

- Why is Isaac referred to as Abraham's only son when Ishmael is also a son? (**Gen. 22:2**)
 - Ishmael and Isaac are both referred to as sons (**Gen. 25:7-11**).
 - The "only son" phrase refers to the promise (**Gen. 15:3-4; 18:9-15; 21:1-7**).
 - Isaac is the only son regarding the promise (**cf. Gal. 4:21-28**).

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- What's the big deal with Esau's birthright?
(**Gen. 25:29-34**)
 - Firstborn “maintained the name of the father over the landed property” (LBD).
 - Firstborn also received a “double portion” in the inheritance (cf. **Deut. 21:15-17**).
 - The big deal is that Esau treats his blessing as a cheap good to be traded.

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- Why couldn't Isaac give Esau another blessing? (**Gen. 27:30-38**)
 - Words are powerful things.
Prov. 18:21
 - Isaac had already given his word.
Gen. 27:33, 37
 - Esau's "repentance" was about himself.
Gen. 27:38; Heb. 12:16-17

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- Does **Matthew 18:20** mean I don't have to attend "church" to be a Christian?
 - Context: Dealing with interpersonal sins (**Matt. 18:15-20**).
 - Principle: Study ALL what God has said on a topic (cf. **Ps. 119:160**).
 - What else has God said about "attending church" and what it means to be a Christian?
(**Heb. 10:19-25; Acts 9:26; 20:7; 2:42-46**).