

NAME WORDPLAY OF ESAU AND JACOB — GENESIS 25

WORDPLAY WITH ESAU

WHAT HE LOOKED LIKE AT BIRTH



✚ The name Esau (*“hairy”*) has a loose connection with the word “Seir”, the early name for Edom to the southeast of the Dead Sea, where Esau later lived (**Ge.32:3; 36:8**).

● The Hebrew word *“red”* is related to the word “Edom” (**Ge.25:30**)

● The Hebrew word *“hairy”* sounds similar to “Seir.”



✚ Those words were carefully chosen to portray in the lad the nature of Edomites, a later archrival of Israel.

✚ These terms were not meant to be negative.

✚ The term *“hairy”* implies an impressive garment (**Js.7:21,24**) like a prophets mantle (**1Ki,19:13,19; 2Ki.2:8, 13-14**).

WORDPLAY WITH JACOB

WHAT HE WAS DOING AT BIRTH



✚ Jacob refers to the way the second born was holding on to the heel of his brother.

✚ The term *“heel”* means “to watch from behind.”

✚ From Jacob's grasping Esau's heel at birth came the nickname “heel-catcher.”

✚ Jacob's name meant “one who grabs the heel” or “one who trips up.” It is “one who outwits by trickery.”

✚ It had the idea of “trickster” or “con-man”. It was not a compliment.

✚ Years later (**Ge.32:28**) Jacob's name will be changed to “Israel” by implication his character changed as well.

**Both were given names based on the circumstances of their birth.
Both names will take on a different sense later in their lives.**