

THE TORAH OF LEADERSHIP

Leadership and an Identity Crisis | Erica Brown | November 4, 2021



François Maitre, "Birth of Esau and Jacob" (c.1480)
Museum Meermanno Westreenianum, The Hague

Genesis 25:20-24

וַיְהִי יִצְחָק בְּוֶאֶרְבָּעִים שָׁנָה בְּקִחְתּוֹ אֶת־רִבְקָה בַּת־בְּתוּאֵל הָאֲרָמִי מִפְּדֵן אַבְרָם אֵחֹת לְבָן הָאֲרָמִי לֹא לְאִשָּׁה:

וַיַּעֲמֵר יִצְחָק לַיהוָה לְנֹכַח אִשְׁתּוֹ כִּי עָקְרָה הָיָא וַיַּעֲמֵר לֹא יְהוָה נִתְהַר רִבְקָה אִשְׁתּוֹ:

וַיִּתְרַצְצוּ הַבָּנִים בְּקִרְבָּהּ וַתֹּאמֶר אִם־כֹּן לָמָּה זֶה אֲנִכִי וַתִּלְדֵּךְ לְדָרְשׁ אֶת־יְהוָה:

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה לֶּה שְׁנֵי (גִּיִּים) [גוֹיִם] בְּבִטְנָהּ וְשְׁנֵי לְאֻמִּים מִמֶּנִּיהֶּ יִפְרְדּוּ וְיִלְאֵם מִלְאֵם יִאֲמָז וְרַב יַעֲבֹד צָעִיר:



Isaac was forty years old when he took to wife Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac pleaded with the Lord on behalf of his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord responded to his plea, and his wife Rebekah conceived. But the children struggled in her womb, and she said, "If so, why do I exist?" She went to inquire of the Lord, and the Lord answered her, "Two nations are in your womb, Two separate peoples shall issue from your body; One people shall be mightier than the other, And the older shall serve the younger." When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb.

Reflective Question

Describe a "why-do-I-exist" moment in your leadership.

Leadership Challenge

Identify a person in your own leadership circles who may be having a "why-do-I-exist" moment and reach out.

