

Toldos: Even Now Esav is Serving Yaakov **by Rabbi Eliyahu Kirsh**

In Bereishis 25:23 we read of Rivka hearing the fate of the two children she is carrying. She experiences what she believes to be unusual pain. The midrashim tell us when she passed by a place of holiness, Yaakov was struggling to get out. When she passed by a place of idolatry or immorality, Esav wanted to get out. Initially she thought she was carrying one child. In such case she wondered how it could be that she would have one child who would be prone to two opposite things. However, it was revealed to her [from Shem and Ever] that she was carrying two children and two distinct nations and legacies would emerge from her. These two entities would be fighting for supremacy but ultimately, the elder will serve the younger. Since Esav came out first, it stands to reason that he will serve Yaakov.

Generally, it is understood that this will take place in the future. In the future Esav will show his subservience to Yaakov. He will understand that the material world is only to serve the spiritual and not to be an end unto itself. My Rosh Yeshiva, Harav Dovid Feinstein, Shlita, has a novel understanding of this phrase. He states that even today Esav is working for Yaakov. Generally speaking, when the nations persecute Am Yisroel, they keep Am Yisroel in line. We see historically, how persecution kept us from assimilating and losing our identity. So really Am Yisroel benefits in the bigger picture. Of course, the nations do not see it this way and think they are overpowering us. More specifically, when Haman, a descendent of Amalek and therefore a descendent of Esav made these horrible decrees of genocide against us, the Gemara in Megilla tells us that the removal of King Achashverosh's ring and the giving of it to Haman accomplished more than the forty-eight prophets were able to in motivating us to do teshuva. So really, Haman was working for Yaakov the whole time! Haman just did not know it. Even Haman's wealth that he worked for all of his life ended up in Mordechai's hands as we see in the very beginning of Chapter 8. Whenever Hashem sends any one with an Amalek mentality to wipe out Am Yisroel, Chas veshalom, the real purpose is to remind us of our job to be the Ohr Lagoyim. So even today Esav is serving Yaakov. Rav Yaavod Tzair!