

plan of God) obtained the birthright and the blessing, setting forth the divine principle that it is always the second born, and never the first born, that gets the inheritance ("that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural: and afterward that which is spiritual").

Jacob became the father of twelve sons. By reason of famine he and his sons were led to go down into Egypt. The twelve sons became the heads of the twelve tribes: these twelve tribes were called the Children of Israel—Israel being the name given of the Lord to Jacob in that earlier period of his life when, on the mountain height between the midnight and the morn, he wrestled with him, putting his thigh out of joint, but giving him the name because in the moment of physical defeat Jacob became the spiritual victor, claiming, through faith, a blessing from the Lord; as a prince he had prevailed spiritually with the Lord, and was, henceforth, entitled to power with God and with man.

In Egypt the Children of Israel multiplied into a nation and were held under bondage by Pharaoh. God sent Moses to deliver them and call them out in fulfilment of the covenant made with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. As a judgment upon Egypt the Lord pronounced sentence of death against all the first born in the land. Under inspiration from God, Moses instructed the people to take a