

The Narrow Gate

"Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is easy, that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard, that leads to life, and those who find it are few." Matthew 7:13-14

The contrasting lives of Jacob and Esau illustrate this truth. Esau chose the "wide gate," and with it apparent prosperity and ease; he did not need the birthright to fulfill his dreams. Genesis 36 records his migration to the hill country of Seir where he grew and multiplied unopposed. The lineage of Jacob spent four hundred years in slavery in Egypt.

Those who covet God's birthright must plan on traveling the "narrow way." Their dream begins with death as they patiently hope in the God of the resurrection. As they compare themselves with the Esaus of life the "easy way" seems so attractive. The Psalmist notes: "Until I entered into the sanctuary of God, and considered their end. Surely Thou settest them in slippery places; Thou hurlest them down to utter ruin. How are they become a desolation in a moment! They are wholly consumed by terrors."¹

The whole of Scripture attests to this truth: "For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end."² We can know that we know God only if we walk "the narrow, hard way."

¹ Psalm 73:17-19 ² Hebrews 3:14