

ISAAC BLESSES JACOB — GENESIS 27

ISAAC'S DEATHBED REQUEST TO ESAU (v.1-4)

- Poor eyesight must have been a significant issue in the Ancient Near East.
- Favoritism of Isaac toward Esau becomes obvious.
- Isaac insisted on giving the blessing to Esau despite what the LORD said about the twins.
- No matter what Esau did or didn't do, God chose Jacob before they were born.

REBEKAH ADVISES JACOB TO DECEIVE HIS FATHER ISAAC (v.5-10)

- There obviously is a problem of jealousy and manipulation in this family.
- It is interesting how often the Bible records marital and family problems among 'heroes' in the OT.
- No matter how good we think our goals are, we should not attempt to achieve them by doing what is wrong.



PREPARATIONS FOR JACOB'S DECEPTION TO STEAL THE BLESSING (v.11-17)

- True to his name Jacob ("trickster") is too willing to go along with Rebekah's plan to deceive.
- Jacob is not thinking morally. He is thinking pragmatically. He will do "what works" Many churches orient around pragmatism.

JACOB LIES TO HIS FATHER, PRETENDING TO BE ESAU (v.18-26)

- Jacob did not hesitate to bring in God as a party to his deception. What blasphemy. He does not know the holiness of God.
- It seems Isaac suspects deception (Ge.27:21,24,27).
- To eat with someone and then betray them was seen as a great crime against another. The "kiss" pictures Judas' betrayal.

THE BLESSING IS GIVEN TO JACOB (v.27-29)

- Isaac blesses Jacob as the spiritual head of the family, thinking he was blessing Esau.
- Oral blessings were legally binding as a written will in the ancient Near East.

ESAU'S GRIEF AT DISCOVERING JACOB'S DECEPTION (v.30-38)

- Isaac's 'trembling' appears to be that he knew he tried to box God in. But God got His way. Isaac's rebellion brought fear.
- Where was faith here? After Isaac attempted to thwart the will of God, Isaac said, "indeed he shall be blessed."
- The father can give the blessing to whoever he wants. Once given it cannot be taken away. Thus, many waited to late in life.
- Esau was not a poor person. He still was due one-third of all of Isaac's property. But he would not be in charge of family business.

ISAAC GIVES A LIMITED BLESSING TO ESAU (v.39-40)

- This 'blessing' was really a prophecy that Esau would be a desert-dweller, specifically in the mountains of Edom.
- The Edomites during their history, would be conquered many times by Israel.

ESAU'S ANGER; REBEKAH MAKES PLANS FOR JACOB TO FLEE (v.41-46)

- This section transitions to the Laban stories. God will deal with Jacob severely under the hand of Laban his uncle.
- Evidently, Rebekah had kept Esau's hatred for Jacob a secret. Clearly, Isaac and Rebekah do not communicate well.
- Rebekah convinced Isaac it would be good for Jacob to go to Haran to find a wife. The real reason is so Jacob will not be killed.
- Rebekah seems to have lost the most. She will continue to live with her husband who she deceived, and the elder son felt betrayed.

