

Genesis 27

Verses 1- 4

Now it came about, when Isaac was old and his eyes were too dim to see, that he called his older son Esau and said to him, “My son.” And he said to him, “Here I am.” ² Then Isaac said, “Behold now, I am old *and* I do not know the day of my death. ³ Now then, please take your gear, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me; ⁴ and prepare a delicious meal for me such as I love, and bring it to me that I may eat, so that my soul may bless you before I die.”

Now it came about, when Isaac was old and his eyes were too dim to see, that he called his older son Esau and said to him, “My son.” And he said to him, “Here I am.”

Since Isaac lived to be 180, he was blind for at least 43 years.

See chart 2705

Ch.	Person	Event	Age	Year
25	Abraham	Abraham dies	175	1821
26	Esau	Marries two Hittites	40	1796
25	Ishmael	Ismael dies	137	1773
27 - 28	Isaac	blessing	137	1759
27 - 28	Jacob	Trip to Haran	77	1759
29	Jacob	7 years for Rachel	77-84	1752
29 - 30	Jacob	7 years and 11 kids	84-91	1752 - 1745
30	Jacob	Joseph born	91	1745
31	Jacob	6 years for the flocks	97	1739
32-33		Jacob & Esau reunite	97	1739
35	Jacob	Benjamin born	97	1739
35	Rachel	Dies giving birth	35	1739
37	Joseph	Sold to Ishmaelite's	17	1728
40	Joseph	Cupbearer and Baker	28	1717
35	Isaac	Isaac dies	180	1716
41	Joseph	Pharaoh's dream	30	1715
41	Joseph	Years of plenty	31-37	1714 - 1708

The blindness of Isaac turned out to be a benefit to Rebekah because this whole ruse would have been impossible if he could see clearly.

² Then Isaac said, “Behold now, I am old and I do not know the day of my death.

Isaac is 137 years old, the same age as his half-brother Ismael when he died. This may have made Isaac contemplate his own death.

³ Now then, please take your gear, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me; ⁴ and prepare a delicious meal for me such as I love, and bring it to me that I may eat, so that my soul may bless you before I die.”

The final blessing was a right of the elder son so putting a stipulation on Esau that he must first fix Isaac a good meal was wrong. As we have seen, even men of faith have weaknesses and make bad decisions.

Esau had sold his birthright for a hot meal and now his father is making the blessing dependent on a good meal.

Verses 5 -17

⁵ Now Rebekah was listening while Isaac spoke to his son Esau. So when Esau went to the field to hunt for game to bring *home*, ⁶ Rebekah said to her son Jacob, “Behold, I heard your father speak to your brother Esau, saying, ⁷ ‘Bring me *some* game and prepare a delicious meal for me, so that I may eat, and bless you in the presence of the Lord before my death.’ ⁸ So now, my son, listen to me as I command you. ⁹ Go now to the flock and bring me two choice young goats from there, so that I may prepare them as a delicious meal for your father, such as he loves. ¹⁰ Then you shall bring *it* to your father, that he may eat, so that he may bless you before his death.” ¹¹ But Jacob said to his mother Rebekah, “Behold, my brother Esau is a hairy man and I am a smooth man. ¹² Perhaps my father will touch me, then I will be like a deceiver in his sight, and I will bring upon myself a curse and not a blessing.” ¹³ But his mother said to him, “Your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get *the goats* for me.” ¹⁴ So he went and got *them*, and brought *them* to his mother; and his mother made a delicious meal such as his father loved. ¹⁵ Then Rebekah took the best garments of her elder son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them on her younger son Jacob. ¹⁶ And she put the skins of the young goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. ¹⁷ She also gave the delicious meal and the bread which she had made to her son Jacob.

⁵ Now Rebekah was listening while Isaac spoke to his son Esau. So when Esau went to the field to hunt for game to bring *home*, ⁶ Rebekah said to her son Jacob, “Behold, I heard your father speak to your brother Esau, saying,

Esau is consistently called his son and Jacob is called her son. This kind of favoritism is not healthy but it is probably more common than one might think.

⁹ Go now to the flock and bring me two choice young goats from there, so that I may prepare them as a delicious meal for your father, such as he loves.

Apparently Rebekah was able to prepare young goats to taste like venison.

¹¹ But Jacob said to his mother Rebekah, “Behold, my brother Esau is a hairy man and I am a smooth man. ¹² Perhaps my father will touch me, then I will be like a deceiver in his sight, and I will bring upon myself a curse and not a blessing.”

Jacob did not object to the deception, only to the possibility of being caught.

¹³ But his mother said to him, “Your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get *the goats* for me.”

Is that how the law of reaping and sowing works? They were both involved in this deception and they both paid a price.

1. Rebekah was deprived of her two sons.

Jacob left home, and Rebekah never saw him again.

And Esau was further alienated from his mother.

2. Jacob had to flee to another land to avoid being killed by his brother.

¹⁵ Then Rebekah took the best garments of her elder son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them on her younger son Jacob. ¹⁶ And she put the skins of the young goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck.

Amazing how godly people can justify deception in order to get what they want. This can be seen in leadership more than anyone wants to admit.

Verses 18 - 26

¹⁸ Then he came to his father and said, “My father.” And he said, “Here I am. Who are you, my son?” ¹⁹ Jacob said to his father, “I am Esau your firstborn; I have done as you told me. Come now, sit and eat of my game, so that you may bless me.” ²⁰ Isaac said to his son, “How is it that you have *it* so quickly, my son?” And he said, “Because the Lord your God made *it* come to me.” ²¹ Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Please come close, so that I may feel you, my son, whether you are really my son Esau or not.” ²² So Jacob came close to his father Isaac, and he touched him and said, “The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau.” ²³ And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau’s hands; so he blessed him. ²⁴ And he said, “Are you really my son Esau?” And he said, “I am.” ²⁵ So he said, “Bring *it* to me, and I will eat of my son’s game, that I may bless you.” And he brought *it* to him, and he ate; he also brought him wine and he drank. ²⁶ Then his father Isaac said to him, “Please come close and kiss me, my son.”

¹⁸ Then he came to his father and said, “My father.” And he said, “Here I am. Who are you, my son?

How many lies did Jacob tell his father?

1. I am Esau your first born
2. I have done as you told me
3. Sit and eat of my game
4. Because the Lord your God made it come to me
5. Are you my very son Esau? And he said I am

²² So Jacob came close to his father Isaac, and he touched him and said, “The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau.” ²³ And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau’s hands; so he blessed him.

Jacob’s voice should have been enough for Isaac to discern the truth but his other senses, touch and smell won out over this one anomaly. There was a warning sign that something was wrong but he ignored it.

Verses 27- 29

²⁷ So he came close and kissed him; and when he smelled the smell of his garments, he blessed him and said,

“See, the smell of my son

Is like the smell of a field which the Lord has blessed;

²⁸ Now may God give you of the dew of heaven,

And of the fatness of the earth,

And an abundance of grain and new wine;

²⁹ May peoples serve you,

And nations bow down to you;

Be master of your brothers,

And may your mother’s sons bow down to you.

Cursed be those who curse you,

And blessed be those who bless you.”

There were two parts to this blessing

1. Material blessing

²⁸ Now may God give you of the dew of heaven,

And of the fatness of the earth,

And an abundance of grain and new wine;

2. The power to rule over others

²⁹ May peoples serve you,

And nations bow down to you;

Be master of your brothers,

And may your mother’s sons bow down to you.

Cursed be those who curse you,

And blessed be those who bless you.”

The birthright belonged, by default, to the oldest son. He would inherit a double portion of the family estate and the right to rule within the family. However, this was not set in stone because Jacob gave the double portion to Joseph, his 11th son, and the right to rule to Judah, his 4th son. Reuben was disqualified because his immoral act and Simeon and Levi, who were next in line, lost their right when they killed the men of Shechem.

Verses 30 - 38

³⁰ Now it came about, as soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, and Jacob had hardly gone out from the presence of his father Isaac, that his brother Esau came in from his hunting. ³¹ Then he also made a delicious meal, and brought it to his father; and he said to his father, "Let my father arise and eat of his son's game, that you may bless me." ³² His father Isaac said to him, "Who are you?" And he said, "I am your son, your firstborn, Esau." ³³ Then Isaac trembled violently, and said, "Who then was he who hunted game and brought *it* to me, so that I ate from all of *it* before you came, and blessed him? Yes, *and* he shall be blessed." ³⁴ When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried out with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, "Bless me, me as well, my father!" ³⁵ And he said, "Your brother came deceitfully and has taken away your blessing." ³⁶ Then *Esau* said, "Is he not rightly named Jacob, for he has betrayed me these two times? He took away my birthright, and behold, now he has taken away my blessing." And he said, "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?" ³⁷ But Isaac replied to Esau, "Behold, I have made him your master, and I have given to him all his relatives as servants; and with grain and new wine I have sustained him. What then can I do for you, my son?" ³⁸ Esau said to his father, "Do you have only one blessing, my father? Bless me, me as well, my father." So Esau raised his voice and wept.

³³ Then Isaac trembled violently, and said, "Who then was he who hunted game and brought *it* to me, so that I ate from all of *it* before you came, and blessed him? Yes, *and* he shall be blessed."

Isaac was less guilty than Rebekah and Jacob because they used deception, but he was partly to blame because he should have given the blessing to Esau without asking for his favorite meal to be made first.

³⁴ When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried out with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, "Bless me, me as well, my father!"

The person being deceived is always harmed in some way and in this case, it involved being deprived of blessings that were substantial. On the other hand Esau had sold his birth right to Jacob for a bowl of stew demonstrating that he was not qualified to be the leader of the family.

³⁶ Then *Esau* said, “Is he not rightly named Jacob, for he has betrayed me these two times? He took away my birthright, and behold, now he has taken away my blessing.” And he said, “Have you not reserved a blessing for me?”

Esau makes it sound like The Birthright and The Blessing were two distinct rights but The Blessing that Isaac gave Jacob included both parts

1. The best material blessing that God has to offer
2. Headship over other nations and his own brothers

From Esau's perspective he was deceived twice but we know that was not true. In the first case, he willingly made the trade, and seemed unconcerned about it. In the second case he was deceived and was quite bitter.

Nevertheless, Esau saw the birthright and blessing as two distinct things and it would seem this was the case for the following reasons:

1. If the birthright included both parts, why did Rachel and Jacob work so hard to deceive Isaac about the blessing?
2. If the blessing included both parts, why did Jacob desire the birthright of Esau?

It seems that we are missing some key information about the right of the firstborn and the blessing.

Verses 39 - 40

³⁹ Then his father Isaac answered and said to him,

“Behold, away from the fertility of the earth shall be your dwelling,
And away from the dew of heaven from above.

⁴⁰ And by your sword you shall live,
And you shall serve your brother;
But it shall come about when you become restless,
That you will break his yoke from your neck.”

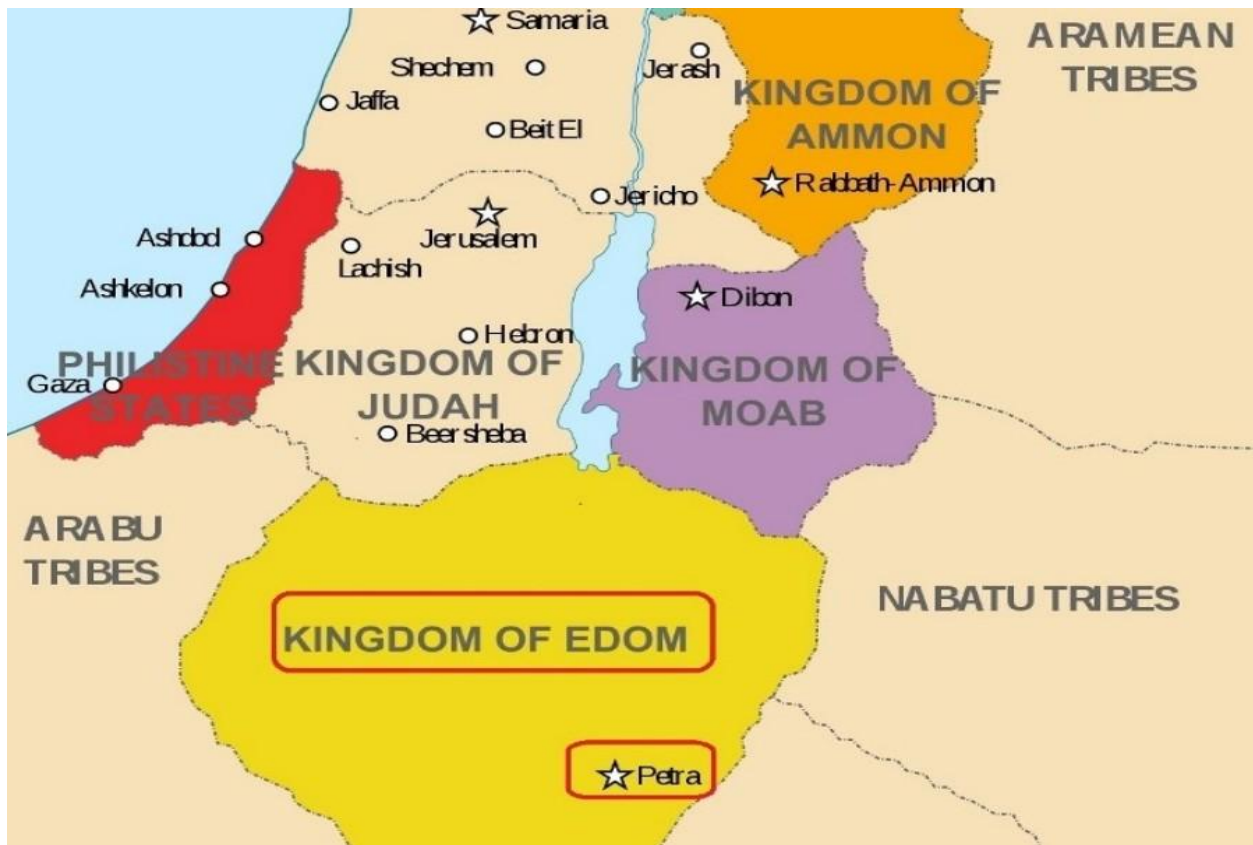
“Behold, away from the fertility of the earth shall be your dwelling,
And away from the dew of heaven from above.

See pic 2710



Edom was a desert area with mountainous terrain located below the tribe of Judah

See map 2715



The area known as Petra is a fascinating site.

See video 2720 8.22 Petra 1

<http://www.levickfamily.com/8.22.html>

See video 2725 8.23 Petra 2

<http://www.levickfamily.com/8.23.html>

**⁴⁰ And by your sword you shall live,
And you shall serve your brother;
But it shall come about when you become restless,
That you will break his yoke from your neck.”**

At times, Edom was able to break away from Israel. The following is one example.

See 2 Kings 8:20-22

²⁰ In his days Edom broke away from the rule of Judah, and appointed a king over themselves. ²¹ Then Joram crossed over to Zair, and all his chariots with him. And he got up at night and struck the Edomites who had surrounded him and the captains of the chariots; but his army fled to their tents. ²² So Edom has broken away from Judah to this day. Then Libnah broke away at the same time.

Herod the Great was descended from Esau and he ruled Israel in the days of Christ.

Verses 41-45

⁴¹ So Esau held a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him; and Esau said to himself, “The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob.” ⁴² Now when the words of her elder son Esau were reported to Rebekah, she sent *word* and called her younger son Jacob, and said to him, “Behold your brother Esau is consoling himself concerning you *by planning* to kill you. ⁴³ Now then, my son, obey my voice, and arise, flee to Haran, to my brother Laban! ⁴⁴ Stay with him a few days, until your brother’s fury subsides, ⁴⁵ until your brother’s anger against you subsides and he forgets what you did to him. Then I will send *word* and get you from there. Why should I lose you both in one day?”

⁴¹ So Esau held a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him; and Esau said to himself, “The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob

Isaac was 137 years old at the time and he lived to be 180, so Esau had a longer wait than he thought.

⁴⁴ Stay with him a few days, until your brother’s fury subsides, ⁴⁵ until your brother’s anger against you subsides and he forgets what you did to him. Then I will send *word* and get you from there. Why should I lose you both in one day?”

The few days turned out to be 20 years but she was right about his fury subsiding.

See Genesis 33:4

⁴ Then Esau ran to meet him and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept.

However, the consequences of Rebekah’s actions affected everyone in this episode.

1. Esau did not want anything to do with Rebekah after this.
2. Jacob had to leave home and Rebekah never saw him again.
3. Jacob suffered many years of hardship, deception, and injustice at the hands of Laban.

Verses 46

⁴⁶ And Rebekah said to Isaac, “I am tired of living because of the daughters of Heth; if Jacob takes a wife from the daughters of Heth like these from the daughters of the land, what good will my life be to me?”

Rebekah was not happy with Esau because of his Hittite wives but she was using that as a pretense so Isaac would send Jacob away and she would not be seen as the one who caused this to happen. Deception often begets more deception.