

## 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.”<sup>2</sup> Then Isaac said, “Behold now, I am old *and* I do not know the day of my death.<sup>3</sup> Now then, please take your gear, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me;<sup>4</sup> 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.”**

### **His eyes were too dim to see**

The blindness of Isaac turned out to be a benefit to Rebekah

This whole ruse would have been impossible without it

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

### **I am old *and* I do not know the day of my death**

Isaac is now 137 years old

His half-brother Ismael died 14 years ago at the age of 137

This may have made Isaac contemplate his own death

**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

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

Now his father is making the blessing dependent on a good meal

Verses 5-17

<sup>5</sup> 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*, <sup>6</sup> Rebekah said to her son Jacob, “Behold, I heard your father speak to your brother Esau, saying, <sup>7</sup> ‘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.’ <sup>8</sup> So now, my son, listen to me as I command you. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> Then you shall bring *it* to your father, that he may eat, so that he may bless you before his death.” <sup>11</sup> But Jacob said to his mother Rebekah, “Behold, my brother Esau is a hairy man and I am a smooth man. <sup>12</sup> 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.” <sup>13</sup> But his mother said to him, “Your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get *the goats* for me.” <sup>14</sup> So he went and got *them*, and brought *them* to his mother; and his mother made a delicious meal such as his father loved. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> And she put the skins of the young goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. <sup>17</sup> She also gave the delicious meal and the bread which she had made to her son Jacob.

Now Rebekah was listening while Isaac spoke to his son Esau

Rebekah said to her son Jacob

Esau is consistently called his son and Jacob is called her son

Have you ever seen this in a family you know?

**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

**But Jacob said to his mother Rebekah, “Behold, my brother Esau is a hairy man and I am a smooth man. <sup>12</sup> 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

**But his mother said to him, “Your curse be on me, my son**

Is that how the law of reaping and sowing works?

Maybe in the world of make believe, but not here in the real world

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

**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.**

Amazing how godly people can justify deception in order to achieve their will

Verses 18-26

**<sup>18</sup> Then he came to his father and said, “My father.” And he said, “Here I am. Who are you, my son?” <sup>19</sup> 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.” <sup>20</sup> 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.” <sup>21</sup> 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.” <sup>22</sup> 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.” <sup>23</sup> And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau’s hands; so he blessed him. <sup>24</sup> And he said, “Are you really my son Esau?” And he said, “I am.” <sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> Then his father Isaac said to him, “Please come close and kiss me, my son.”**

**Then he came to his father and said,**

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

**The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau.”<sup>23</sup> And he did not recognize 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 here, but it was ignored

Verses 27- 29

<sup>27</sup> **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;**

<sup>28</sup> **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;**

<sup>29</sup> **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

**<sup>28</sup> 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

**<sup>29</sup> 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."**

Verses 30-40

**<sup>30</sup> 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. <sup>31</sup> 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." <sup>32</sup> His father Isaac said to him, "Who are you?" And he said, "I am your son, your firstborn, Esau." <sup>33</sup> 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." <sup>34</sup> 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!" <sup>35</sup> And he said, "Your brother came deceitfully and has taken away your blessing." <sup>36</sup> 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?" <sup>37</sup> 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?" <sup>38</sup> 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.**

**His father Isaac said to him, “Who are you?” And he said, “I am your son, your firstborn, Esau.”<sup>33</sup> Then Isaac trembled violently**

Isaac was less guilty than Rebekah and Jacob, but he was partly to blame

He should have given the blessing to Esau without delay

And it should have been done in the presence of his wife and younger son

**When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried out with an exceedingly great and bitter cry**

The person being deceived is always harmed in some way

And in this case, it involved being deprived of blessings that were substantial

**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”**

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 to me that we are missing some key information about this right of the 1<sup>st</sup> born. But putting that aside, this episode sets up the next part of the story where the deceiver will be deceived.

Verses 39 - 40

**<sup>39</sup> 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.**

**<sup>40</sup> 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.**

Moab was a desert area with mountainous terrain

See pic 2705



Edom was right below the tribe of Judah

See map 2710



The area known as Petra is a fascinating site

See video 2715 8.22 Petra 1

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

See video 2720 8.23 Petra 2

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



**And by your sword shalt you live, and you shall serve your brother, when you shall break loose, you shall shake his yoke from off your neck**

On occasions, Edom was able to throw off the yoke of Israel

In the reign of Joram, king of Judah

See 2 Kings 8:20-22

Herod the Great was descended from Esau

He ruled Israel in the days of Christ

Verses 41-45

**<sup>41</sup> 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.” <sup>42</sup> 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. <sup>43</sup> Now then, my son, obey my voice, and arise, flee to Haran, to my brother Laban! <sup>44</sup> Stay with him a few days, until your brother’s fury subsides, <sup>45</sup> 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?”**

**<sup>41</sup> 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 lived to be 180, so Esau had a longer wait than he thought

**Stay with him a few days, until your brother’s fury subsides, <sup>45</sup> until your brother’s anger against you subsides and he forgets what you did to him.**

The few days turned out to be 20 years

But she was right about his fury subsiding

### **Why should I lose you both in one day?"**

The consequences of her actions affected everyone in this episode

Esau did not want anything to do with Rebekah after this

Jacob had to leave home and Rebekah never saw him again

Jacob suffered many years of hardship, deception, and injustice at the hands of Laban.

Verses 46

**<sup>46</sup> 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 be seen as the one sending Jacob away and not her

She was using deception again despite the recent fiasco