

The Blessing: A Study in Genesis 12-36
Lesson 7 – Isaac is Blessed
Genesis 25:19-28:9

I. God Answers Prayer (Genesis 25:19-34)

Isaac waits on the Lord in prayer.

Rebekah seeks the Lord about the battle going on in her womb.

II. The Twins Represent Mankind

Rebekah recognized the battle raging within her. Here we have a physical picture of the spiritual battle that rages within all of us. In Romans 7 and 8, Paul explains it:

I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin. Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. (Romans 7:21-8:1).

Esau represents the flesh.

Jacob represents the spirit.

“Sooner or later the inner struggle we experience will manifest itself openly in our lives. We will either adopt the principles exemplified in Esau or the principles exemplified in Jacob” (John Phillips, *Exploring Genesis*, p. 213).

We are plagued by a desire for instant gratification. Our study this week asked us to list modern examples of this desire –

Materialism

Food

Clothes

Lust - pornography, sexual immorality

Jealousy – comparison and competition

Social Media “likes”

III. Isaac is Blessed (Genesis 26)

The only chapter dedicated to Isaac.

Blessing - Genesis 26:2-6

Sins of the fathers – Genesis 26:7-12

Blessing - Genesis 26: 24-25

IV. The Scheme (Genesis 27)

Isaac was 137 years old. His eyesight was diminished, and he assumed that his time of death was at hand. His brother, Ishmael, had died at the age of 137.

Each character in the narrative was acting in the flesh. They each elevated their own desires and reasoning above the word of God.

Isaac - He called Esau in to bless him, despite the Lord telling them from the beginning that the older would serve the younger. Because Isaac had chosen Esau as his favorite, he wanted to grant him the covenantal blessing. Isaac was deceived by his flesh – smell, touch, taste, and went with his feelings even though he recognized the voice (hearing) did not sound like Esau.

Esau – He wanted the blessing of the firstborn, even though the covenantal promise meant nothing to him. He had married two Canaanite women and would go on to marry a third woman (daughter of Ishmael) because Jacob had been sent to marry a descendant of Abraham. He was an impulsive, lust-driven man.

Rebekah – Eavesdropping, she heard what Isaac told Esau. She moved quickly to conceive her own plan to outwit her husband. What if she had waited on the Lord knowing that what God had said would come to pass? Is it possible that the Lord would have made Esau's hunting expedition, long and unsuccessful? During that time, would He have spoken to Isaac and rebuked him for trying to thwart the plan of God?

Jacob – The heel grabber, lied to his father:

I am Esau
Your firstborn
I have done as you told me
Eat of my game – (goat, not venison that Rebekah made)
Because the Lord God caused it to happen
Are you really Esau? "I am" (The disguise – goat skin on his hands and Esau's clothing)

Jacob received the blessing – Genesis 27:27-29

Esau cried out in anguish upon learning that Jacob had received the blessing. It appears that Isaac recognized the hand of God when he realized that he had been deceived. The Bible says he “trembled violently”. (vs. 33) and stated that the blessing had been given, “Yes, and he shall be blessed”.

Esau’s planned revenge – Genesis 27:41

V. Rebekah Schemes Again (Genesis 27:42-46)

The consequences of her scheming lead to her having to send her son away, whom she will never see again. Rebekah dies at some point after Jacob’s departure and never sends for her son.

VI. Isaac blesses Jacob and sends him to his mother’s family to find a wife (Genesis 28:1-9)

The Blessing – Genesis 28:3-4

VII. What do we learn from their family dysfunction?

- A. We are all dysfunctional – because we all have a sin nature.
- B. There are sin patterns within families.
- C. We have the power of the Holy Spirit to break generational strongholds.
- D. Our families can and should be outposts of heaven.

Resources:

How to Break Strongholds in Your Life by Dr. Adrian Rogers

For the Family by Sylvia Gunter

Binding Demonic Strongmen, Sermon by Steve Gaines, Oct. 30, 2022 (bellevue.org)