

## Jacob—Genesis 27

### Jacob Gets Isaac's Blessing

#### I. Additional Scriptures/Notes...

As Coffman suggests, when we read about the good and bad deeds of these Old Testament patriarchs, we need to keep in mind a couple of New Testament passages: 1 Corinthians 10:11; Romans 15:4. Certainly not everything done by these men was honorable or pleasing to God. We can easily observe that when they did well, there was blessing; when they did evil there were evil consequences. Another text that might be appropriate would be Acts 17:30. Wayne Jackson comments here, “The previous eras of history are dubbed ‘the times of ignorance’ because divine revelation was incomplete in those days. The arrival of Christ heralded a new era of responsibility. Jehovah had not ‘overlooked’ man’s evil in the sense that it was ignored; otherwise, there would have been no need for the Savior’s mission. Rather, God **patiently bore with them** [Emphasis mine, DRL] (Acts 14:16), not extracting the full penalty that sin justly was due. However, with the arrival of Christianity, a new day had dawned—and something better is expected” [Wayne Jackson, *The Acts of the Apostles—From Jerusalem to Rome*, p. 228-29].

**27:1-4...** Keep in mind that this action of Isaac and Esau was improper (cf., 25:23, 33-34).

**27:3...** VINISON—“ven’ i-z’ n, ven’ z’ n: Is derived (through the French *venaison*) from the Latin *venari*, ‘to hunt,’ and means properly ‘the spoils of the chase.’ As, however, the object of the chase, *par excellence*, was the deer, venison came to mean usually (as it invariably does in modern English) ‘deer’s flesh.’ But in English Versions of the Bible this technical force seems not to be implied, for ‘venison’ is used only for the two Hebrew words ציד, *cayidh* ([Gen 25:28](#); [Gen 27:5](#) ff), and צידה, *cēdhāh* ([Gen 27:3](#)), and both these words (from צוד, *cūdh*, ‘to hunt’) mean simply ‘game’ of any kind.” [ISBE].

**27:33...** ISAAC TREMBLED VERY EXCEEDINGLY ... YEA AND HE SHALL BE BLESSED—Isaac is visibly shaken. Possibly these strong words indicate that Isaac came to remember the words of the Lord to Rebekah of 25:23 and came to realize the mistake he almost made by blessing Esau.

**27:36...** SUPPLANTED—“**SUPPLANT’ED**, pp. Tripped up; displaced.” [Webster’s 1828 *Dictionary*].

**27:40...** Esau serving his brother (2 Sam 8:14); Esau breaking Jacob’s yoke (2 Chr 21:8).

#### II. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: **Patriarchy.**

#### III. Summary.

Isaac is old and nearly blind and being uncertain as to how much longer he might have to live, he decides to give the blessing to the son of his love, Esau. Of course, in doing so, he goes against the stated will of the Lord (25:23). First, he hungers for some of the meat that Esau, no doubt, had often provided him and sends him out hunting. Rebekah hears the charge to Esau and quickly schemes to prevent Esau from getting that blessing. She helps Jacob to get first to his father, disguised to feel like Esau, with some meat specially prepared to deceive Isaac. Though Isaac seems a bit skeptical (*the voice is Jacob’s voice*, v. 22), nonetheless he is convinced by the lies Jacob told, and he does pronounce the blessing on Jacob. When Esau

arrives just after his father has blessed Jacob, he cried with a great and exceeding bitter cry, and asks his father to bless him also. Jacob responds by saying that he has already made Jacob lord over Esau and that he shall be blessed. He also pronounces a general blessing on Esau and prophesies that one day he would break the yoke of his neck. Esau hated Jacob, his brother, and determined to kill him as soon as his father died. Rebekah learns of Esau's murderous plans and sets in motion a plan to get Jacob away from Esau.

#### IV. Outline.

1. Before Isaac gives Esau the blessing he sends him hunting (Gen 27:1-4).
2. Rebekah overhears and makes plans to deceive Isaac into blessing Jacob instead (5-13).
3. Jacob is able, with help from Rebekah, to deceive his father (14-27).
4. Isaac blesses Jacob (28-29).
5. Esau returns with venison for his father (30-31).
6. The deception is uncovered (32-37).
7. Esau pleads for and receives a general blessing (38-40).
8. Esau hates and plans to kill his brother (41).
9. Rebekah seeks to save her son's life by getting him out of the country (42-46).

#### V. Questions.

##### True or False

01. \_\_\_\_\_ The Bible tells us in this chapter that Isaac could not see.
02. \_\_\_\_\_ Rebekah told Jacob she would take the blame if their deception didn't work.
03. \_\_\_\_\_ Jacob lied to his father.
04. \_\_\_\_\_ Rebekah told Isaac she was weary of her life.
05. \_\_\_\_\_ Isaac was not upset that he had blessed Jacob rather than Esau.

##### Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)

06. \_\_\_\_\_ Rebekah heard Isaac send Esau out into the field to bring him some: (a) doves; (b) venison; (c) lentils.
07. \_\_\_\_\_ Isaac said, "The hands are the hands of...": (a) Jacob; (b) Esau; (c) Rebekah.
08. \_\_\_\_\_ Which of the physical senses of his father did Jacob fear might expose him: (a) taste; (b) smell; (c) feeling; (d) hearing.
09. \_\_\_\_\_ Which of these words were NOT used to describe Esau's reaction after he learned Jacob had received the blessing: (a) great; (b) exceeding; (c) bitter; (d) cry; (e) none of these answers.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Rebekah suggested that Jacob go to her brother's place until Esau's fury: (a) turn away; (b) subside; (c) disappear.

##### Fill in the Blanks

11. Isaac told Esau: "And by thy \_\_\_\_\_ shalt thou live, and shalt \_\_\_\_\_ thy \_\_\_\_\_."
12. Isaac mentioned Esau's weapons: "...thy \_\_\_\_\_ and thy \_\_\_\_\_."
13. "...How is it that thou has found it so quickly, my son? And he said, Because the \_\_\_\_\_, thy \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ it to me."
14. Isaac said to Jacob: "Therefore God give thee of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine."
15. "And Jacob said unto his father, I am \_\_\_\_\_ thy \_\_\_\_\_..."

*Each Question is worth 7 Points*

**My Score is:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Answers will be found on next week's handout*

**ANSWERS to Genesis 26 Questions...** [01—True, Gen 26:16; 02—True, Gen 26:27; 03—False, Gen 26:10; 04—False, Gen 26:2; 05—False, Gen 26:34; 06—a, Gen 26:26; 07—c, Gen 26:22; 08—f, Gen 26:5; 09—a, Gen 26:11; 10—c, Gen 26:34; 11—hate, sent, Gen 26:27; 12—feast, eat, drink, Gen 26:30; 13—herdmen, Gerar, ours, Gen 26:20; 14—sojourn, Gen 26:3; 15—sowed, hundredfold, Gen 26:12.]

## VI. Lessons & Applications.

1. **...that my soul may bless thee before I die** (Gen 27:4). How could this be? How could Isaac contemplate giving the blessing to his son Esau when the Lord had made clear to Rebekah that the elder was to serve the younger of these twin sons (Gen 25:23)? We have not the benefit of the thought patterns of Isaac revealed to us. Perhaps his mind was not fully functioning. It seems likely to me that Esau had been delivering this venison to his father for quite some time and had been “courting the favor” or good will of his father. This was not a difficult task for Esau because we are told of the closer bond Isaac had with Esau (25:28). What a mistake it is to think that puny mankind can thwart the will of Almighty God (Job 42:2; 9:12; Ps 68:35; 21:13; 1 Tim 6:16; Jude 25).
2. **...Behold, I heard thy father speak unto Esau thy brother,...** (Gen 27:6). These words of Rebekah to her son show the tragedy of a home where favoritism has been shown and the mother and father have each chosen their favorites. Secrecy and deception becomes the order of the day. The result in this home was deception, lies, hurt feelings, hatred, separation from each other, and continuing hostilities in among those who came after. Let us know that this kind of immature behavior on the part of parents is disastrous to home life. ||| Notice also that it would have been so much the better if Rebekah had not felt compelled to intervene in the work of the Lord. Evidently she did not trust fully the promise that had been given her of the Lord (25:23).
3. **My father peradventure will feel me, and I shall seem to him as a deceiver;...** (Gen 27:12). It is interesting how this is worded. Jacob had no real concern about BEING a deceiver, his concern was with being proven or shown to be a deceiver. In our day deception is so common that the honest person surely stands out in quite distinctive fashion. We need to be more concerned about being a sinner than being caught in sin because it is the sin that separates us from God (Isaiah 59:1-2). You see, we may be able to fool everyone else, but on judgment day, not so (2 Corinthians 5:10).
4. **And Isaac trembled very exceedingly, ... and he shall be blessed** (Gen 27:33). This reaction of Isaac to what has taken place seems to me more of a reaction than would have been caused simply by his making a mistake in blessing the wrong son. It seems to me that perhaps Isaac realizes now how that he had been just a hair’s breadth away from going against the will of the Lord (25:23). Especially since he is determined that the blessing of Jacob WILL NOT be revoked as the last part of the verse indicates, he seems to have remembered the words of the Lord. He still loves Esau and will pronounce a general blessing upon him, as well, but THE BLESSING is Jacob’s and that won’t be changed.
5. **And Esau hated Jacob... then will I slay my brother Jacob** (Gen 27:41). Here is another example of Esau fitting the description of a PROFANE person (Heb 12:16). It mattered not to him that it was the Lord’s will that Jacob receive the blessing.
6. **...I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth...** (Gen 27:46). The sad consequences that come to us when our children marry those who do not share our convictions are herein observed. Yes, Rebekah is being a bit dramatic here because she wants to get Jacob separated from Esau for his own protection, yet the truthfulness of the statement cannot be questioned.

## VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

T M N B V C X T Z L K J H G F D S A P U  
 O W I U Y T R E H W Q A B L E S S Z A X  
 M S O W E D C V F A R T G B N H Y S U J  
 Y E M G K I O L P Y T H N B G T E R F V  
 R V A C O D E W S X Z H C V B N M L K J  
 U H G T F O D S A Q W E E R T Y U I T R  
 O V F R T G D B G T Y H N M M J U I O A  
 V V F X S W Q K A Z X S E W A E D C V S  
 A V F L R T G B I N H E B Y U Y J M I H  
 S N H Y O T G B V D H F E R E D E C X E  
 F X S W E C D C V T S F F R T G B A M L  
 B E G G T R K E S D B C O X S W Q A T O  
 Z X T S W E D S C V O F R R T G B N Y V  
 Y H N C M J E U I K C H E N H Y T G B E  
 B G T R H L V F R E A W D E A T H S X T  
 Z A Q W B E D C V K J B G T Y H N J U H  
 M J U Y C D E R E V F R T G B N H Y U J  
 V F A W S X Z B A Q W S X C D E R F V B  
 G M G T Y H E V T V E N I S O N T G B V  
 T G B N H R Y H N M J U I K L O E D R L

[The highlighted words can be found above. They may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. DRL]

**Genesis 27:6-10...** <sup>6</sup>And **Rebekah** spake unto **Jacob** her son, saying, Behold, I heard thy father speak unto **Esau** thy brother, saying, <sup>7</sup>Bring me **venison**, and make me **savoury meat**, that I may eat, and **bless** thee before the LORD before my death. <sup>8</sup>Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to that which I command thee. <sup>9</sup>Go now to the **flock**, and **fetch** me from thence **two good kids** of the goats; and I will make them savoury meat for thy father, such **as he loveth**: <sup>10</sup>And thou shalt bring *it* to thy father, **that he may eat**, and that he **may bless thee before** his **death**.