



JACOB AND ESAU

GENESIS 25, 27

Isaac was the son of Abraham and Sarah, whom God had led from their childhood home to the land of Canaan. Isaac was born when his parents were quite old. His mother, Sarah, died when she was one hundred twenty-seven years old. After that, his father, Abraham, made sure Isaac was able to marry a girl from Abraham's family. Her name was Rebekah. Isaac loved her very much.

After some time had passed, Isaac and Rebekah had children. They had two sons, who were twins. Their names were Jacob and Esau. As the boys grew up, Esau became an excellent hunter, enjoying the outdoors. Jacob was a quiet man. He preferred to stay indoors. Their father, Isaac, loved Esau because Esau liked to hunt and provide meat for his family to eat. Rebekah loved Jacob.

One day, Jacob was cooking a stew. Esau came in from the outdoors and he was very hungry. "Give me some of that stew," he demanded of his brother Jacob. Jacob replied, "I will give you some of this stew if you give me your blessing as the first-born son." Esau didn't care about his blessing, the one his father would give him as the first-born son. He was so hungry, he just said, "What good is that blessing to me now. I'm just hungry!" Esau gave up his rights to the blessing and ate a good meal.

After a time, Isaac became very old and could not see well at all. He wanted to give Esau his blessing. He said to Esau, "Fix me a great meal, the kind you know I like. Then, I can give you my blessing before I die." Esau went off into the country to hunt and then prepare a meal for his father.

Rebekah had heard the conversation between Isaac and Esau. She didn't want Esau to get the blessing from his father. She wanted Jacob to get it. She told Jacob to get some animal skins to wear (because his brother was a hairy man.) Jacob needed to convince his father he was Esau. Rebekah prepared a great meal so Jacob could take it to his father.

Jacob lied and told his father, "Father, I am Esau, here for your blessing." Isaac wasn't sure this was Esau. He couldn't see him. However, Isaac felt Jacob's hands and that they were hairy, so he became convinced. He ate the wonderful meal that Rebekah had secretly prepared. Thus, Isaac gave Jacob his blessing. He said, "You are blessed by God. May God give you food from the earth. May people serve you and nations honor you. You will be master of your brothers. Those who curse you will be cursed. Those who bless you will be blessed."

After Isaac blessed his son, Jacob, then Esau returned from hunting and preparing his father a great meal. He said to Isaac, "Father, I am here for my blessing." Isaac was very sad and very angry that Jacob had deceived him. He cried as he told Esau, "I can't bless you now! I've already given my blessing to Jacob!"

Esau decided he should kill his brother. Rebekah then told Jacob, "Leave this land and go to the house of my brother, Laban. Live with him until your brother is no longer angry."

Jacob had lied to Isaac, but he still received his father's great blessing. However, God had a special life prepared for Jacob. This was God's plan all along.

JACOB AND ESAU - TEACHER'S GUIDE

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1) Isaac was the son of Abraham and Sarah. Isaac had married a woman named Rebekah from the land where his father's family still lived. Isaac and Rebekah had sons named Jacob and Esau.
- 2) One day, Esau was hungry from working outdoors. Jacob had some stew he had prepared. Esau wanted some of the stew. Jacob told him he could have some stew if he would give Jacob the blessing Esau would receive as the first-born son. Esau then gave up his blessing for the stew.
- 3) When Isaac was close to dying, and hardly able to see, he told Esau to bring him a great meal and then Isaac would give him the blessing as his first-born son. Rebekah heard Isaac say this and wanted Jacob to receive the blessing, instead. She made a great meal and had Jacob put animal skins on his body, so his father would be deceived. Esau was a hairy man. Isaac would feel the animal skins and think Jacob was his son Esau.
- 4) Isaac ate the meal Rebekah had secretly prepared. He felt Jacob's hands covered with the skins. He gave his blessing to him. Then, Esau came to his father asking for the blessing. Isaac was angry and very sad that he had been deceived.
- 5) Esau wanted to kill his brother, Jacob. However, Rebekah told Jacob to leave the land to go to her brother's house.

QUESTIONS:

- 1) What were the names of Isaac and Rebekah's sons?
- 2) What was Esau willing to give up for a bowl of stew?
- 3) Which son did Rebekah want to receive his father's blessing?
- 4) How did Jacob convince his father that he was actually Esau?
- 5) What happened when Isaac realized he had blessed Jacob instead of Esau?
- 6) What did Rebekah tell Jacob to do?

ANSWERS:

- 1) Isaac and Rebekah's sons were named Jacob and Esau.
- 2) Esau was willing to give up his father's blessing for a bowl of stew.
- 3) Rebekah wanted Jacob to receive the blessing instead of Esau.
- 4) Jacob wore animal skins to convince his father that he was actually Esau.
- 5) Isaac became angry and very sad when he realized he had blessed Jacob instead of Esau.
- 6) Rebekah told Jacob to leave the land and go to the house of her brother, Laban.

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