



Living Hope Ministries

Bible Study

GENESIS 27

Isaac is getting old and is keen to pass on the special blessing which by tradition would go to his first born son.

Rebekah overhears Isaac's plans and begins to develop a scheme which will result in the blessing going to Jacob not Esau. The deception is carried through and Jacob receives the blessing intended for his brother.

Isaac discovers too late what has happened when Esau comes to his father. Esau is desperate and vows to kill his brother when his father dies. Rebekah fears for Jacob's life and sends him way to Laban. Rebekah complains about the Hittite women and Isaac forbids Jacob to marry any of the Hittite women.

Why was the blessing full of problems?

Esau had already sold his birthright to Jacob. Isaac seemed to be unaware of this. Esau had probably forgotten the time when desperate for food, he had sold his rights as to being the older son. The blessing of a father to his elder son was very significant. It would give the elder son blessing and position over any other family members.

What was the deception that Rebekah planned?

Rebekah knew the type of skin that Esau had so Jacob put on some goat skins and also produced a meal for his father containing meat which all conspired to deceive Isaac that it was Esau and not Jacob who was approaching him. Isaac was losing his sight and asked, "Are you my son, Esau?" Jacob lied saying, "I am Esau." To lie, to cheat, to deceive was part of Jacob's nature and these characteristics exist in mankind today and cause tremendous heartache and suffering. Jacob would later meet with God in a wonderful way and he would change but at this time he was greedy and selfish.

What was the blessing that Isaac could give?

The blessing Isaac gave is described in verses 27-29. The blessing called on God to release dew from heaven and richness from the earth, granting grain and wine. It also speaks of dominion over nations. Jacob is receiving headship over the family

which included his brother, Esau.

The blessing would mean that anyone who cursed Jacob would be cursed and those who blessed him would be blessed. These words spoken over Jacob would cause him to stand out among all others and we see something of the great Abrahamic blessing in these words.

What blessing was he able to give to Esau?

Esau arrives and Isaac realises he has been cheated. Esau also knows that the blessing that should have been his, has been stolen by Jacob.

Isaac is really shocked and realises that the words he has spoken cannot be taken back and they have to remain. Jacob will be lord over Esau and will enjoy fruitfulness and full provision.

Isaac speaks to Esau and says " You will not have the blessing of the earth. You will live by the sword. You will serve your brother."

We must appreciate that what has happened here has extremely serious consequences so we must guard our hearts and our lives so that through Christ we can inherit what He has purchased for us through His blood.

Points to consider

- Describe why Rebekah must share guilt as well as Jacob in this deception ? Note the careful plan they both make.
- What are the main ingredients of the blessing that Isaac gives?
- How would you compare this blessing with the blessings Christ gives us?
- Is Esau justified in being angry? He had sold his birthright !!!.
- What lessons can we learn about living in such a way that we enjoy full blessings in Christ?