



## Lesson 19

# JACOB DECEIVES ISAAC

### Story Elements

- **TEXT:** Gen. 27:1-46
- **Setting:** circa 1900 B.C.
- **Main Characters:** God, Isaac, Rebekah, and Jacob
- **Plot:** Family favoritism leads Jacob to deceive Isaac for a special blessing.
- **Key word(s):** “ \_\_\_\_\_(ed)(ing)”
- **Climax:** *Genesis 27:24 And he said, Art thou my very son Esau? And he said, I am.*

### Blessing Offered

- 1) (vv 1-4) As Isaac grew old and blind, he believed the time was come to pronounce a special \_\_\_\_\_ upon his eldest son, which was akin to a last will and testament.
  - a) The blessed one would hold the title to the \_\_\_\_\_ benefits. But the promise of the coming Messiah through Abraham’s descendants implied that not all his family would be in that Messianic line (cf. Rom. 9:6-13).
  - b) Isaac assumed Esau would be the one, but God had told Rebekah that “the elder will serve the \_\_\_\_\_.” (Gen. 25:23)
- 2) (v 5) Isaac instructed Esau to fetch \_\_\_\_\_ from the field and prepare his favorite meal after which the blessing of the eldest would be awarded.

### Blessing Stolen

- 3) (vv 6-17) Rebekah overheard Isaac’s conversation with Esau and formulated a plan whereby Jacob would receive the blessing instead. Rebekah had known that Jacob would surpass Esau in matters regarding the covenant (Gen. 25:23). Though this end was of God, her means to get there were \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a) Her plot involved deceiving her husband by taking advantage of his blind condition: Jacob would pretend to be Esau by wearing Esau’s clothes and coverings his arms and neck with \_\_\_\_\_. Then, Jacob would present his father with goat meat instead of venison.
  - b) Jacob was afraid of deceiving his father, fearing he would be found out and would receive a \_\_\_\_\_ instead. But his mother reassured him, saying, “Upon me be they curse, my son.”
- 4) (vv 18-27) The ruse worked, but only because Jacob worked it:
  - a) When asked how the venison was captured so quickly, Jacob responded, “Because \_\_\_\_\_ brought it to me.”

- b) When Isaac heard Jacob's voice he asked, "Art thou my very son Esau?" Jacob lied and said, "\_\_\_\_\_\_."
- 5) (vv 28-29) Isaac pronounced the blessing on Jacob, which included the special covenantal proclamation: "be \_\_\_\_\_ over thy brethren and let they mother's sons bow down to thee."

## Brothers Estranged

- 6) (vv 30-34) Not long after Jacob left his father's side, Esau entered and gave the venison to his father. Shocked, Isaac told Esau that another had stolen his blessing. A brokenhearted Esau cried, "\_\_\_\_\_ me, even me, O my father!"
- 7) (vv 35-37) Isaac figured it out: "Thy brother came with subtilty, and hath taken away thy blessing...behold, I have made him thy \_\_\_\_\_."
- 8) (vv 38-40) Esau wept more and pressed his father for even one small blessing. Isaac relented and blessed him, but it was not the same:
- a) "By thy \_\_\_\_\_ shalt thou live, and shalt serve thy brother." Isaac's words were prophetic: the day came when the Edomites were indeed subjugated by the Israelites.
- b) But even later in history, Esau's descendants "would have dominion," and they "break his \_\_\_\_\_ from off thy neck." (v 40) The Hebrews and Edomites were engaged in on-again-off-again wars for centuries.
- 9) (vv 41-45) Esau vowed that after his father died, he would kill his brother Jacob. Rebekah caught wind of it and advised Jacob to flee to Uncle \_\_\_\_\_ house in Haran "for a few days."

## Application

- 10) Hebrews 12:15-17 uses Esau as a warning against \_\_\_\_\_. Matthew Henry says:

*"...apostasy from Christ is the fruit of preferring the gratification of the flesh to the blessing of God and the heavenly inheritance. [2.] Sinners will not always have such mean thoughts of the divine blessing and inheritance as now they have. The time is coming when they will think no pains too great, no cares no tears too much, to obtain the lost blessing. [3.] When the day of grace is over (as sometimes it may be in this life), they will find no place for repentance: they cannot repent aright of their sin; and God will not repent of the sentence he has passed upon them for their sin. And therefore... Christians should never give up their title, and hope of their Father's blessing and inheritance, and expose themselves to his irrevocable wrath and curse, by deserting their holy religion..."*<sup>1</sup>

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## Answer Key

"Key word(s): "bless" | 1. blessing; a) covenantal; b) younger | 2. venison | 3. sinful; a) goatskin; b) curse | 4. a) the LORD thy God; b) I am | 5. lord | 6. Bless | 7. lord | 8. a) sword; b) yoke; | 9. Laban's | 10. apostasy

<sup>1</sup> Henry, Matthew. [Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume](#). Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994. Print.