

SALT Church

Genesis 27

“What a Mess!”

July 1, 2026

“In the Beginning”

Recap

- **Genesis 25 & 26**

- In chapter 25 we have the birth of the twin boys Jacob and Esau.
- Before they are born, they are found fighting in Rebekah's womb
 - She prays to the Lord and the Lord reveals the truth about these boys.
 - They will be two very different boys
 - They will grow into two great nations
 - They will become rival nations
 - The younger will be the master over the older.
 - The assumption is that she shares this information with Isaac.
- Esau is born 1st
 - He is covered in red hair (His name means hair)
 - He will grow up to be a very skillful hunter
 - He will sell his birthright blessing for a bowl of beans.
 - He will also be rebellious to his parents by marrying two Hittite women.

- Jacob is born with smooth skin and is found grasping Esau's heel. (Jacob means heel-grabber and later will mean deceiver)
 - He will be described as the polar opposite of his brother Esau.
 - He is a home body and sounds very much to be a mama's boy.

Chapter 26

- Closes with the making of another treaty with King Abimelech and the disappoint of Esau's choices of wives.
 - This is a very strange segway into the next chapter but it does help set the tone for the next chapter.

Genesis 27

27 One day when Isaac was old and turning blind, he called for Esau, his older son, and said, "My son."

"Yes, Father?" Esau replied.

² "I am an old man now," Isaac said, "and I don't know when I may die. ³ Take your bow and a quiver full of arrows, and go out into the open country to hunt some wild game for me. ⁴ Prepare my favorite dish, and bring it here for me to eat. Then I will pronounce the blessing that belongs to you, my firstborn son, before I die."

- What is Isaac thinking?
 - He knows what God has said about Esau and yet he seems determined to make sure that his favorite son gets the blessing.
 - This is a crazy thing to think about.

- God has already said that this is not going to happen.
- And we know that Jacob is going to be the chosen son.
- We also know that Jacob and Rebekah intervene which makes us wonder what would have happened had they not deceived Isaac.
 - This is a mess at the very least.

⁵ But Rebekah overheard what Isaac had said to his son Esau.

- Tent walls hide nothing!

So when Esau left to hunt for the wild game, ⁶ she said to her son Jacob, “Listen. I overheard your father say to Esau, ⁷ ‘Bring me some wild game and prepare me a delicious meal. Then I will bless you in the Lord’s presence before I die.’

- This is never good.
 - When husbands and wives are not on the same page especially when it relates to God and children, it never turns out good.

⁸ Now, my son, listen to me. Do exactly as I tell you. ⁹ Go out to the flocks, and bring me two fine young goats. I’ll use them to prepare your father’s favorite dish. ¹⁰ Then take the food to your father so he can eat it and bless you before he dies.”

- I don’t think this is the first these two have deceived Isaac.
 - What a mess!

¹¹ “But look,” Jacob replied to Rebekah, “my brother, Esau, is a hairy man, and my skin is smooth. ¹² What if my father touches me? He’ll see that I’m trying to trick him, and then he’ll curse me instead of blessing me.”

- It is clear to me that blessings and curses carry a different weight in their day.
- I don't think this was a moral crisis for Jacob, I believe he was more afraid that he would not be able to pull it off.
 - I think it is helpful that we think of this as being like a will that will be filled out prior to Isaac's death.

¹³ But his mother replied, “Then let the curse fall on me, my son! Just do what I tell you. Go out and get the goats for me!”

- God does not hold the sins of a father against the children nor does he hold the sins of child against the parents.
- In this case both know what they are doing is wrong and yet they continue to do it.
 - But let's not forget that Isaac is also doing what is wrong.
 - What a mess!

¹⁴ So Jacob went out and got the young goats for his mother. Rebekah took them and prepared a delicious meal, just the way Isaac liked it.

- You would think Isaac would have noticed. (I can tell when I eat my wife's cooking)

¹⁵ Then she took Esau's favorite clothes, which were there in the house, and gave them to her younger son, Jacob.

- Nothing was said about this before.
 - This is a wife knowing her husband
 - This is a wife that is an experienced deceiver

¹⁶She covered his arms and the smooth part of his neck with the skin of the young goats.

- Just how hairy is Esau?
 - Can you imagine how ridiculous Jacob looked?
- But this is not the most ridiculous thing about this story.
 - The most ridiculous part of this story is thinking that God Himself needed help ensuring that Jacob would be the son of promise.

¹⁷Then she gave Jacob the delicious meal, including freshly baked bread.

- I'm guessing that Esau didn't cook a lot and even if he did would he have known how to make bread?

¹⁸So Jacob took the food to his father. "My father?" he said. "Yes, my son," Isaac answered. "Who are you—Esau or Jacob?"

- For years I believed that Jacob and Esau were young when this happened.
 - But we know that Esau is already married to two Canaanite women.
 - We also know that Isaac was 60 when the boys were born.
 - If they are 30 this would put Isaac at 90.
 - It is also interesting to me that Isaac seems suspicious at first which seems to indicate this wasn't the first time he had been deceived.

¹⁹ Jacob replied, “It’s Esau, your firstborn son. I’ve done as you told me. Here is the wild game. Now sit up and eat it so you can give me your blessing.”

- It occurred to me that this blessing which carries so much weight is again being sold for food!
 - Which leads me to believe that Esau is more like his father than we realize.

²⁰ Isaac asked, “How did you find it so quickly, my son?”

“The Lord your God put it in my path!” Jacob replied.

- I wonder if Esau would have given credit to God?
- Jacob had no issue with using Gods name in his lie.
 - This is nothing short of blasphemy!

²¹ Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Come closer so I can touch you and make sure that you really are Esau.”

- You get the sense that he is not buying that this is Esau.

²² So Jacob went closer to his father, and Isaac touched him. “The voice is Jacob’s, but the hands are Esau’s,” Isaac said. ²³ But he did not recognize Jacob, because Jacob’s hands felt hairy just like Esau’s. So Isaac prepared to bless Jacob. ²⁴ “But are you really my son Esau?” he asked.

- Maybe it’s the voice
- Maybe it’s the response to the questions

“Yes, I am,” Jacob replied.

²⁵ Then Isaac said, “Now, my son, bring me the wild game. Let me eat it, and then I will give you my blessing.” So Jacob took the food to his father, and Isaac ate it. He also drank the wine that Jacob served him. ²⁶ Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Please come a little closer and kiss me, my son.”

- Was the food prepared like Esau would have prepared it?
 - The kiss will seal the deal.
 - Yat another example of a kiss of betrayal

²⁷ So Jacob went over and kissed him. And when Isaac caught the smell of his clothes, he was finally convinced, and he blessed his son.

He said, “Ah! The smell of my son is like the smell of the outdoors, which the Lord has blessed!

- Couple of things here
 - The blessing starts here
 - He clearly believes that this is Esau
 - Which means Isaac is acting in sin
 - It also means that Jacob is acting in sin
 - That Rebekah is acting in sin
 - And we all know that it was Esau’s sin that started this whole mess.
 - What a mess!
- **Rebekah is good at deception!**
 - She knew what her husband liked.

- She knew that the smell of his favorite son would seal the deal!
 - I am amazed that they were able to pull this off.

Now listen to the rest of the blessing!

²⁸ “From the dew of heaven

and the richness of the earth,

may God always give you abundant harvests of grain

and bountiful new wine.

²⁹ May many nations become your servants,

and may they bow down to you.

May you be the master over your brothers,

and may your mother’s sons bow down to you.

All who curse you will be cursed,

and all who bless you will be blessed.”

- **This is an interesting blessing to me.**

- So much goodness is promised to a man and a family when the patriarch doesn’t own any land.
- It is true that he has great wealth but it is also true that he is a man without a country.
- Based on the blessing we can understand that much of this promise was the blessing of the Lord.
 - Which leads me to believe that Isaac was blessing his son with what only God could do.
 - The down side to all of this is that he thought he was blessing Esau which was in rebellion to the Lord.
 - What a mess!

30 As soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, and almost before Jacob had left his father, Esau returned from his hunt.

- Try to put yourself in Isaac's place.
 - You thought you had out smarted God.
 - He believed that he had done that very thing.
 - He knew the blessing could not be revoked and this is why he was eager to get it done before he died.
 - What a mess!

31 Esau prepared a delicious meal and brought it to his father.

- Now try to put yourself in Esau's place.
 - For years you lived with the fact that you sold your birth right for a bowl of beans.
 - Now the time had come and daddy is going to make it right.
 - What a mess!

Then he said, "Sit up, my father, and eat my wild game so you can give me your blessing."

- Food is so important to this family!

32 But Isaac asked him, "Who are you?"

Esau replied, "It's your son, your firstborn son, Esau."

- What a mess!

33 Isaac began to tremble uncontrollably and said, "Then who just served me wild game? I have already eaten it, and I blessed him just before you came. And yes, that blessing must stand!"

- What a mess!

34 When Esau heard his father's words, he let out a loud and bitter cry. "Oh my father, what about me? Bless me, too!" he begged.

- In today's world the only thing that stands in a court of law (as it is related to inheritance) is what is written in a trust or will.
 - But this blessing was the blessing of the Lord.
 - And Isaac knew what God had said.
 - He knew that God had determined this even before the boys were born.

We continue:

35 But Isaac said, "Your brother was here, and he tricked me. He has taken away your blessing."

- Was it Jacob?
 - Was it Rebekah?
 - Or was it God?

36 Esau exclaimed, "No wonder his name is Jacob, for now he has cheated me twice."

- This is making reference to his name meaning deceiver.
 - But did he cheat Esau twice?
 - Esau traded his birthright for a bowl of beans.
 - Therefore it was not his to lose the second time.

Esau continues:

First he took my rights as the firstborn, and now he has stolen my blessing. Oh, haven't you saved even one blessing for me?"

37 Isaac said to Esau, “I have made Jacob your master and have declared that all his brothers will be his servants. I have guaranteed him an abundance of grain and wine—what is left for me to give you, my son?”

- **OUCH!**

38 Esau pleaded, “But do you have only one blessing? Oh my father, bless me, too!” Then Esau broke down and wept.

Listen to what the writer of Hebrews has to say about this moment:

Hebrews 12:14-17

14 Work at living in peace with everyone, and work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord. 15 Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many. 16 Make sure that no one is immoral or godless like Esau, who traded his birthright as the firstborn son for a single meal. 17 You know that afterward, when he wanted his father’s blessing, he was rejected. It was too late for repentance, even though he begged with bitter tears.

What a mess!

39 Finally, his father, Isaac, said to him,

**“You will live away from the richness of the earth,
and away from the dew of the heaven above.
40 You will live by your sword,
and you will serve your brother.
But when you decide to break free,
you will shake his yoke from your neck.”**

What can we learn from this?

- Trusting God means trusting God!
 - God does not need our help.
 - But He does desire our faith in Him and our obedience to His word.

I think there is something else that needs to be brought out.

- Nobody won on this particular day.
 - Isaac loved his son Esau more than he loved the Lord on this this day.
 - Rebekah trusted in herself more than she trusted in Gods word.
 - Jacob, who will become one of the great leaders of God’s people actively and freely lied to his daddy and blasphemed Gods great name in the process.
 - This will cost him 20 years of his life.
 - He will be sent away by his mother and it will be the last time that they see each other.
 - Esau will spend the rest of his days resenting his brother and ultimately will birth a nation that will become enemies to Gods people.

- What a mess!!

So, what about us?

- Does this mean when we act in disobedience that God turns His back on us?

We close with the answer found in 2 Timothy

2 Timothy 2:11-13

¹¹ This is a trustworthy saying:

If we die with him,

we will also live with him.

¹² If we endure hardship,

we will reign with him.

If we deny him,

he will deny us.

¹³ If we are unfaithful,

he remains faithful,

for he cannot deny who he is.

¹⁴ Remind everyone about these things, and command them in God's presence to stop fighting over words. Such arguments are useless, and they can ruin those who hear them.