

ITS ALL ABOUT THE BLESSING | GENESIS 27-28:9 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 12/10/2023

* I. Desire For It (1-29) | II. Deprived Of It (30-41) | III. Disunion Because Of It (42-46) | IV. Departure With It (28:1-5)

Intro: When God called Abraham, He **promised** that He would **ble^ss his offspring**, and that **THE BLESSING** would extend to the entire world through Abraham's descendants. **Now, as Isaac received the blessing**, but he suspected it was time for him to pass the blessing on to his son. **This chapter reveals that the task is easier said than done! Why?** Because **Isaac had twins sons** who battled for the blessing since conception! As they are much older now...*

I. DESIRE FOR IT (1-29) – A practice within Hebrew culture was to bestow the blessing from the father to the eldest son when the father was about to die. As we examine Isaac's family, we learn that the favoritism shown earlier had grown to dysfunction and bad decisions.

A. The DECLINE Of Isaac (1-4) – A quick glance at Isaac's status makes it seem as if he is dying. **He's not! He was just Old and Blind!** – General consensus places **Isaac** at 137 years old, which would make **Jacob** and **Esau** 77 years old. – (**Gen 35:28**) reveals that **he died 43 years later**, at 180 years old. – Maybe he felt his time was near because **Ishmael died** at the age of **137 (Gen 25:17)**.

1. Isaac CALLED Esau (1) and requested that he hunt for game, in order to prepare his favorite Savory meal. Ha...Isaac was **Old, Blind, and Hungry!**

2. Isaac FAVORED Esau (2-3) and he wanted to give **the blessing** to his firstborn, but there are a few problems with this:

- Rebekah received a prophetic word from God (**25:23**), "*the older would serve the younger.*"
- Esau was wayward and did NOT care for God's blessing (*but rather the power and prestige as Chief!*)
- Esau had previously sold his birthright to Jacob for a Killer Stew (**25:33-34**) (*He lit. despised it!*)

3. Isaac PROMISED to give The Blessing to Esau (4) AFTER he enjoyed a meal! **What was Isaac's real motive for his actions?** He said, "*that MY SOUL may bless you before I die.*" In other words, "*Fill my Belly, then I will Bless you!*" – Even though he knew it was against God prophetic declaration!

- In fact, (**v.5**) goes on to imply that **Isaac did this without Rebekah knowing**, so he did it in secret!

P/A – Isaac's favoritism caused problems in his home. He tolerated Esau's ungodly behavior and **still wanted to give him the blessing!** – Isaac was focused more on what he liked (*flesh*), rather than what was right (*spirit*). – (**Prov 19:21**) *There are many plans in a man's heart, nevertheless the Lord's counsel—that will stand!*

B. The DECEPTION Of Rebekah (5-17) – As the story unfolds, we learn that **Rebekah was an eavesdropper!** When she heard the secret plan of Isaac and Esau, she jumped into action because she favored Jacob and God's will for his life.

1. Rebekah's Scheming Plan (5-10) – Extremely cunning and a quick thinker, she planned to trick her husband and control her son. **WHY?** Because she **DESIRED to secure The BLESSING for Jacob!**

- She told Jacob what she heard (**7**), then instructed him to "*obey [her] voice!*" (**8**).
- She explained the details of her plan (**9-10**)

2. Jacob's Concern (11-12) – He was willing to go through with the plan, but He was worried more about the 11th commandment, *“Thou shall not get caught...ha!”* He was also concerned for his reputation, *“I will seem to be a deceiver.”*

3. Her Craftiness (13-17) – Rebekah was willing to use **DECEIT or TRICKERY** to gain a blessing for Jacob. This must have run in her family, because **Jacob** and even her brother **Laban** had the same idiosyncrasies (29:15-30). – (Psalm 32:2b), says *blessed in the man that has “No deceit.”*

- Rebekah desired the Blessing for Jacob so much, that she was willing to be cursed! (13)
- Rebekah used her **culinary skills** to make a goat taste like venison! (14) - **Taste**
- Rebekah was resourceful, using Esau's clothes for **Smell**, and goat skin for **Touch** (15-16)
- RebeKa's preparation was placed into Jacob's hands (17)

P/A – **Rebekah's philosophy was that “the end justified the means!”** – Rebekah and Jacob were right to desire the LORD's blessing for Jacob. – It okay to **DESIRE Right Thing**, but we must be careful **NOT to accomplish it in the WRONG WAY!** – (Prov 14:12) *There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.* – Rebekah and Jacob **turned to DISHONESTY** rather than **waiting on God** to bring it about in God's way.

C. The DISHONESTY Of Jacob (18-29) – As Rebekah encouraged Jacob to such action, Jacob should have said **“NO,”** but he went along with his mother's plan, b/c **It was all about the Blessing!**

1. Isaac is Approached by Jacob (18-20) – As Jacob called to his father, **Isaac was unsure which son it was.** – Jacob claimed to be Esau, with specific emphasis on *“firstborn!”*

- Jacob also went straight for the target, **Arise** and **Sit**, and **Eat** so that you can **BLESS ME!**
- Jacob's dishonesty even **accredited the Lord's favor** for his expedience!

2. Isaac Questions Identity (21-25) – Isaac's suspicion caused him to examine his son closer. Because he could not SEE, he was **concerned by the voice** which he **HEARD**, so he relied on his Touch, but he still did not recognize him (21-23). – When asked again directly (24), **Jacob LIED to his FATHER without any hesitation!** (Lev 19:11) says, *You shall not bare false witness!* – (Prov 12:22) says, *Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, But those who deal truthfully are His delight.*

- **Lying** is defined as *“making an untrue statement with the intent to deceive.”* A **White Lie** is still an untrue statement, but it is usually **considered unimportant** because it does not cover up a “serious wrongdoing.”
- **The Bible teaches that LYING IS A SIN!** Yet at this point the law had not been established. **God even confirms “The Blessing” to Jacob later in (28:13-15).**
- After the last questioning, **Isaac was convinced (25)** – He said *“Bring the savory food near that I may eat and bless you!”*

P/A – For the record... **Jacob's circumstance is NOT a justification for us to tell lies or be dishonest!**

3. Isaac's Firstborn Blessing (26-29) – As Isaac finally pronounces The Blessing on Jacob, he thought it was **Esau his firstborn**, the man of the field! He called for **WEALTH (28): The Dew of Heaven... Fatness of the earth, Grain & Wine;** and for **DOMINANCE (29a):** that *People would serve him, Nations would bow down*, and that he would *be master of his brethren*, and that *his mother's sons would bow to him!* Isaac concluded with a **repeat of God's Blessing to Abraham (Gen 12:1-3).**

- **Through Deceit and Dishonesty Jacob got what he came for!** There is no mention of it here, but I'm positive that Jacob Scooted out of there as soon as possible

P/A – Isaac DESIRED the Covenantal Blessing to continue through Esau. But he became BLIND to God's Sovereign Plan AS HE LEANED ON HIS OWN UNDERSTANDING! – May I conclude this point with the fact that when we **DRIFT FROM GOD**, we become spiritually blind, FORGETTING what we once knew to be a blessing in the spirit! **(2 Pet 1:9) – For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.** – **DO YOU DESIRE GOD'S BLESSING!**

II. DEPRIVED OF IT (30-41) – Just as Jacob exits; **Esau now arrives on the scene** only to be **DENIED the promised blessing from his earthly father!**

A. The DISBELIEF of Isaac (30-33) – Esau came in with the goods and also went straight for the target, **Arise and Eat so that your SOUL can BLESS ME! (30-31)** – But Isaac immediately became confused and confounded, in fact his whole body SHOOK as he realized what just took place! **(32)**

1. Isaac recognized the importance of the Blessing, as he must have remembered **the Lord's words** to his wife while pregnant **(25:33)**. – **I ate all his food...**and it was GOOD! (
2. Indeed, Jacob was to be blessed! **(33)** – **He did NOT take the blessing back, but affirmed it!**

B. The DISTAIN of Esau (34-36) – **This puts the "DIS" in Distain!** Isaac said, **"Your brother robbed you of The Blessing!"** And Esau now weeps bitterly, having anguish of soul! – **(Heb. 12:17)** informs us **Esau's Tears** were not of **TRUE REPENTANCE**. **...afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears."**

C. The DISCONTENTMENT of Esau (37-41) – As Isaac gives a similar blessing to Esau, he removed the part about being **"master over your brethren,"** and inserted the bond: **"You shall serve your brother"** **(40)**. – Honestly, The Blessing was never really his! – What should have been his because of his birth order, **was given to the younger by divine ordinance!** God **KNEW** that Esau would despise the honored responsibility, and therefore predetermined it go to Jacob. **"Jacob, I have loved, but Esau I have hated** (Rom 9:13)" – He **DESIRED** it for all the wrong reasons.

III. DISUNION BECAUSE OF IT (41-46) – What we learn now is that there are **CONSEQUENCES for such actions**. The **WHOLE FAMILY** grows further apart! – **WE SEE FIRST THAT...**

1. Esau **HATED Jacob (41)** – **Why? On account of The Blessing!** He even planned to KILL Jacob, but delayed his plan until his father passed.
2. Isaac's Family Split Apart **(42-45)** – As Rebekah was notified of Esau's intentions, **she devised another plan to protect Jacob from harm!** – Her suggestion of remaining with her brother Laban for **only a few days** resulted in her **NEVER SEEING JACOB AGAIN...WOW!**
 - **Jacob would also live in Fear of Esau** for more than 20+ years!
 - **Rebekah grew weary** of the local women **(46)**, fearing that Jacob would marry one! – She hated the thought, claiming that her whole life was as WASTE if that happened.

P/A – A family that lacks **Honor and Respect for each other** will be a **breeding ground of Brokenness** and **High-level Dysfunction!** If there is **DISUNION** and **DYSFUNCTION** in your family don't ignore them, forgive them! – *"Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."* (Col 3:13)

IV. DEPARTING WITH IT (28:1-5) – As a result of such despair, **Isaac heeded Rebekah's concern** and **CHARGED Jacob**, *"Not to take a wife from the daughter of Canaan!"* (1) – His instruction was to **go to Rebekah's land** and **find a wife amongst his cousins** (2) – A new and hard venture and in which Jacob definitely needed a blessing of assurance of God's Presence.

- **Isaac then pronounces an "Extra-Patriarchal Blessing" (3-5)** – But in doing so he uses the same name of God: **EL SHADDAI** (*God Almighty*), and **the same words God did with Abraham!** (17:1), *"Walk before me and Be Blameless!"*

P/A – **There are times in all of our lives when we especially need to know that Lord is with us!** We need the **ALMIGHTY GOD** who goes before us and protects us in every circumstance.

CLOSING THOUGHT: We might want God's blessing, but **sometimes we go about it the wrong way**. Like Jacob, we seemingly try to deceive our heavenly Father, tricking Him into blessings us by our sneaky schemes. **DON'T DO THAT!**

- **Maybe you've NEVER had an earthly Father or Mother or even a Grandparent to PRONOUNCE A BLESSING on your life!** – I'm here to inform you that **YOU HAVE A HEAVENLY FATHER** who Absolutely LOVES YOU and desires to BLESS YOU ABUNDANTLY right now...in Jesus' name!
- **BY FAITH...ASK HIM TO BLESS YOU RIGHT NOW!**