

**The Family and the Promise**  
**Genesis 25-27**  
**A New Generation, the Same God**

- **Despite the changes to the family's circumstances, God remains the same. (Genesis 25:7-11)**
- **God's promise isn't dependent on our situation or life circumstances.**
  - **God's promise is dependent on His character and covenant faithfulness. (see Genesis 26:2-5, 24)**
  - **"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom *there is no variation or shadow due to change.*" – James 1:17 ("who does not change like shifting shadows" – CSB)**
  - **"Unlike the shifting shadows that are caused by the sun, moon, and stars, God does not change. With him there is no variation at all. The shadows cast by the sun are minimal at noon, but just before sunset they stretch out for yards across the landscape. God is not like that. He does not change."**
- **God's plan to bless his family follows a pattern that runs counter to culture's patterns of power and blessing. (Genesis 25:19-26)**
- **God's promise was completely dependent on God's power.**
- **We already saw this in Abraham and Sarah having to wait on God's timing for the promised son, Isaac.**
  - **Now, Isaac must pray to the Lord for Rebekah's barrenness.**
- **God's promise is not dependent on our cultural expectations.**
- **One will be stronger than the other – Esau looks like the one who is stronger ("a skillful hunter, a man of the field") compared to Jacob ("a quiet man, dwelling in tents").**
  - **The older shall serve the younger – This is a pattern we have already seen in Genesis (Seth instead of Cain, Isaac instead of Ishmael, later Joseph instead of his brothers).**
- **We see God's promise given to Jacob (the younger and the "weaker") through Esau's willingness to despise his birthright and through Jacob's desire to obtain the blessing from his father. (Genesis 25:29-34; 26:34-25; Genesis 27)**