

Genesis 27:1-46 The Stealing of The Blessing

NOTE: We didn't cover the last two verses of chapter 26. These verses illustrate that Esau took Hittite wives, indicating that Esau's attitude toward his family's religious heritage is not good. (We saw the same thing when he despised his birthright)

Abraham made it clear that the "seed" was not to intermarry with the people of the land. This is exactly what Esau did. Perhaps Esau, being a man of his appetite, saw that these women were here in the land and available.

This will be important in the last verses of this chapter – the reason Rebecca tells Isaac that Jacob must be sent off to Haran.

- I. Seeking To Subvert God's Will (1-4)
 - A. Isaac is Old and Blind (1a)
 - B. Isaac Intends to give Esau The Blessing (1b-4)
 1. Isaac Prepares For His Death (1b-2a)
 - a. He will actually live another 20 years
 - b. He didn't die while Jacob was gone to Haran
 2. Isaac Requests a Meal of Esau's Game (3-4a)
 - a. Isaac may be old and blind but he is still a man of appetites
 - b. He and Esau are alike in this. Remember Esau sold his birthright because of his appetite
 3. Isaac Will Give Esau The Blessing (4b)
 - a. Isaac still maintains that Esau is the inheritor of promise
 - b. Notice that the text up to this point has gone out of the way to show that Isaac favored Esau over Jacob
 - c. Isaac appears to be subverting God's clear instruction that the "elder will serve the younger" – Isaac plans to give the blessing to the elder anyway.
 - C. NOTE: The Difference Between The Birthright and The Blessing
 1. The Birthright
 - a. The double portion of the Father's inheritance
 - b. The leadership of the family / clan
 - c. The titles and ownership rights of the Father
 2. The Blessing
 - a. The patriarchs passed "the blessing" to an individual son
 - b. The blessing takes the form of a formal oath
 - c. The blessing functions as a prophetic pronouncement for the son's life
- II. Seeking To Accomplish God's Will Through Sin (5-29)
 - A. Rebecca Intends To Accomplish God's Will By Sin (5-17)
 1. Rebecca Reports Isaac's Plan (5-7)
 - a. Rebecca Overhears Isaac's Plot (5a)

- i. Evidently Isaac plans to do this without notifying anyone in the family
 - ii. NOTICE: This family never appears all together – their conversations are always between two people
 - iii. What would have happened if Rebecca had not overheard
 - b. Rebecca Informs Jacob of Isaac's Intentions (5b-7)
 - i. Rebecca realizes they must act quickly – everything is on the line
 - ii. Desperate times call for desperate measures
 - iii. Notice the text says Rebecca said to "her" son (v.6)
 - iv. She adds something to what Isaac said, showing that she understands what is at stake – "bless thee before the Lord" (Isaac didn't originally say this)
- 2. Rebecca Plans To Steal The Blessing For Jacob (9-10)
 - a. Rebecca plans to accomplish God's will through sin and deceit
 - b. Rebecca Will Prepare Two Goats Like Esau's Game (9)
 - c. Jacob Will Bring It To Isaac For The Blessing (10)
- 3. Rebecca and Jacob Recognize The Risk Of Their Plan (11-13)
 - a. Jacob's Fear About The Plan (11-12)
 - i. Jacob isn't concerned that it is sinful and wrong
 - ii. Jacob is worried about getting caught
 - iii. Jacob is worried about being cursed rather than blessed
 - b. Rebecca Assures Jacob of Protection (13)
 - i. She pronounces that if he is cursed, his curse will be upon her
 - ii. Perhaps she will step in and admit her role if the need arises
- 4. Rebecca Makes Arrangements To Carry Out The Plan (14-17)
 - a. Rebecca Makes The Food (14)
 - b. Rebecca Clothes Jacob In Esau's Clothes (15)
 - c. Rebecca Covers Jacob With Goat Skins (16)
 - d. Rebecca Gives Him The Food To Bring To Isaac (17)
- B. Rebecca's Plan is Carried Out By Jacob (18-29)
 - 1. Jacob Deceives His Father (18-27)
 - a. Jacob's First Lie (18-19)
 - i. Jacob Greets Isaac saying, "My Father"
 - ii. Isaac asks, "Who are you my son?"
 - iii. Jacob Impersonates Esau Coming In From the Field (19)
 - "I am Esau, your firstborn"

- Didn't Esau trade away his firstborn status?
 - "I have done as you said"
 - b. Jacob's Second Lie (20)
 - i. Isaac asks how he finished so quickly
 - ii. Jacob includes God in his lie
 - He blasphemes by making God part of his lie
 - He says "your God" – not "our God"
 - c. Isaac is Suspicious of "Esau" (21-23)
 - i. Isaac asks to feel him to see if it is really Esau (21)
 - ii. Isaac is confused by his voice (22)
 - Jacob cannot effectively imitate Esau's voice
 - Isaac realizes that something is amiss
 - iii. Isaac does not recognize Jacob (23)
 - d. Jacob's Third Lie (24)
 - i. Isaac asks again, "Are you really Esau?"
 - Isaac knows that something is wrong
 - But the food is there and his appetite is raging
 - ii. Jacob says "I am"
 - e. Isaac is Satisfied To Bless Him (25-27)
 - i. Isaac Satisfies His Appetite (25)
 - ii. Isaac calls him close and kisses him (26-27a)
 - iii. Isaac recognizes the smell of Esau (27b)
 - 2. Jacob Receives The Blessing (28-29)
 - a. The Blessing of Prosperity and Abundance (28)
 - b. The Blessing of Power And Rulership (29a)
 - c. The Blessing of Preeminence Over His Brothers (29b)
 - i. In this blessing, Isaac (who thinks he is blessing Esau) utterly defies God's will that the elder will serve the younger
 - d. The Blessing of Abraham's Promise (29c)
 - i. This shows the movement of the promise to Abraham made in 12:2-3
 - ii. Jacob now (though Isaac thinks it is Esau) has claim on the promise of Abraham
 - iii. He is promised here to be a great nation, to have the fruitful land, and to be a blessing to those who bless him.
- III. Dealing With The Consequences of Sin (30-45)
- A. The Consequences For Esau (30-40) (He is most pitiable)
 - 1. Jacob's Deception Is Revealed (30-33)
 - a. Esau Prepares For His Blessing (30-31)

- i. Esau returns from the field (30)
 - ii. Esau brings his game to Isaac (31)
 - b. Esau and Isaac Realize What Has Happened (32-33)
 - i. Esau Announces Himself To Isaac (32)
 - ii. Isaac trembles because the blessing has already been given (33)
 - Isaac trembles violently when he realizes what has happened – Does he realize God’s hand in this? Is he just mad?
 - Notice that he says “and he shall be blessed” – the promise and blessing has been given and can’t be taken back
- 2. Esau Pleads For The Lost Blessing (34-40)
 - a. Esau’s First Cry For The Blessing (34-36a)
 - i. Esau begs Isaac for **the** blessing (34)
 - ii. Isaac admits Jacob has stolen it (35)
 - iii. Esau rages against Jacob’s deceit (36a)
 - His name is rightly called Jacob (supplanter)
 - He has now cheated Esau out of his blessing and birthright
 - b. Esau’s Second Cry For The Blessing (36b-37)
 - i. Esau begs for **some** blessing from Isaac (36b)
 - ii. Isaac admits he has given Jacob the full blessing (37)
 - c. Esau’s Third Cry For The Blessing (38-40)
 - i. Esau weeps and begs for **any** blessing (38)
 - ii. Esau is given an “anti-blessing” (39-40)
 - Esau will live away from abundance
 - Esau will live by the sword
 - Esau shall serve his brother
 - Esau will one day break free from his brother’s yoke
- B. The Consequences For Jacob (41-45)
 - 1. Rebecca Discovers The Plot To Kill Jacob (41-42)
 - a. Esau vows to kill Jacob (41)
 - b. Esau’s plot is reported by Rebecca (42)
 - 2. Rebecca Sends Jacob Away To Haran (43-44)
 - a. “Flee to Haran until his anger subsides”
 - b. She assumes it will only be a short amount of time
 - i. This turns into 20 years away from home as we shall see
 - ii. Jacob will never see his mother again
 - c. She cannot bear to lose both sons in one day
 - i. That is exactly what happens
 - 3. Rebecca Gives Isaac A Reason To Be Sent To Haran (46)