

Genesis Part II (Chapters 25-50)

Lesson 2: Jacob's Flight to Padan Aram

Reading: Genesis 27:1-28:22

In the latter part of Chapter 25, the family of Isaac begins with the twin births of Jacob and Esau. Jacob comes into the world clinging to the heel of Esau with a prophecy that the "older shall serve the younger". Jacob and Esau are opposites with Jacob dwelling in tents and Esau hunting game. Esau has no regard for his birthright (double portion) and sells it to Jacob for a bowl of red stew; hence, Esau retains the name Edom ("red"). In Chapter 26, there is a famine in the land, and Isaac lives in Gerar. He repeats Abraham's practice of telling Abimelech, king of Gerar, that his wife is his sister. When Abimelech learns the truth, he confronts Isaac and orders his people to leave Isaac and Rebekah alone. God causes Isaac to prosper in Gerar, doubling his crops and accumulating flocks and herds. As a result, the Philistines envy Isaac, fill up the wells which Abraham had previously dug, and send Isaac away. Isaac lives in the valley of Gerar, attempts to reopen the wells his father had dug only to be resisted, and eventually goes to Beersheba. Abimelech approaches Isaac seeking a covenant between them, recognizing that God is with Isaac. The chapter ends with Esau taking two Hittite women to be his wives.

Jacob Steals Esau's Blessing (27:1-40)

1. What is Jacob's concern regarding Rebekah's plot for him to receive Esau's blessing, and what is Rebekah's response? (27:11-13)
2. What suspicions did Isaac have of Jacob's identity as Esau and what did Isaac do to confirm Jacob's identity (27:20-27)?
3. What did the blessing that Isaac gave to Jacob entail (27:27-29)? What is the difference between the birthright and the blessing (27:36)?
4. What is Isaac's reaction upon recognizing that Esau did not receive the blessing (27:33, 35, 37)?

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5. What is Esau's reaction upon recognizing that Jacob has stolen his blessing (27:34, 36, 38)?
6. What prophecy is given in Isaac's blessing to Esau and where is it fulfilled (27:39-40)?

Jacob's Flight to Padan Aram (27:41-28:5)

7. What do Rebekah's instructions to Jacob regarding Esau's plot to kill him indicate regarding her expectations of Esau and the application of patriarchal law (27:43-45)? What is the lesson for us today regarding the consequences of sin?
8. What blessing does Isaac give Jacob before sending him away (28:3-4)?

Esau marries again (28:6-9)

9. What is Esau's motivation for marrying a third time (28:6-9)?

Jacob's dream and vow at Bethel (28:10-22)

10. What promises does God reveal to Jacob during his dream (28:13-15)?
11. What does Jacob's vow in 28:18-22 indicate about this moment in Jacob's life?