

# Genesis 27-28

## February 13, 2011

### 27:1-29: Who can tell us what takes place in chapter 27 verses 1 to 29?

- Isaac tells Esau to prepare his favorite meal so that he can give Esau his blessing. Rebekah overhears and schemes to deceive Isaac and get him to bless Jacob instead. Jacob wears Esau's clothes, puts goatskins on his hands and neck (to be hairy like his brother), and tells Isaac that he is Esau. Isaac can hardly see and may be suffering from some dementia, so he blesses Jacob.

### Why do you think that Isaac preferred Esau to Jacob?

- Tradition gave great honor to the firstborn. Esau was also an outdoorsman (25:27) and may have had more "in common" with Isaac.

### Why do you think that Rebekah preferred Jacob to Esau?

- Isaac was more of a "home-body" and likely spent more time with his mother than Esau (25:27).

### Why was Rebekah so willing to deceive her husband? And why was she willing even to risk being cursed?

- See what you get. On the surface, it seems that Rebekah is just a conniving woman who will do anything to get her way.

### Turn to and read Genesis 25:22-23. Do these verses change how we perceive Rebekah?

*22 But the two children struggled with each other in her womb. So she went to ask the Lord about it. "Why is this happening to me?" she asked. 23 And the Lord told her, "The sons in your womb will become two nations. From the very beginning, the two nations will be rivals. One nation will be stronger than the other; and your older son will serve your younger son." NLT*

- **Rebekah** knew that **Isaac** was supposed to bless **Jacob**, not **Esau**. It only makes sense that she had told Isaac what the Lord had told her prior to the birth of the twins. Maybe Isaac was unwilling to hear God's voice through her or maybe he was unwilling to go against the tradition of blessing the firstborn. Jacob was the one who was supposed to be blessed; he was the next patriarch; the tribes of Israel would come from Jacob; Jesus would be born through the line of Jacob. It's also probable that **Rebekah** had a more honest view of **Esau's** character than did Isaac. Esau had sold his birthright for some stew. Rebekah and Jacob used wrong means to accomplish God's will.

### Rebekah and Jacob sowed deception; what did they "reap" as a result of their deception?

- As a result of their deceit:
- Jacob has to leave home and never saw his mother again;
- His brother wanted to kill him;
- He was later deceived by his uncle, Laban;
- His family became torn by strife;
- Esau became the founder of an enemy nation;
- He was exiled from his family for years.

**The birthright and blessing belonged to Jacob; we know this from what God told Rebekah.** In Scripture, as in life, we don't know what might have happened, only what actually *did*. Had Rebekah and Jacob not manipulated the situation, God still would have accomplished His will somehow.

Rebekah should have learned from her father and mother in law (Abraham and Sarah) that trying to help God accomplish His will, especially sinning to do so, is always a bad idea.

It is worth noting that Jacob learned to deceive here. He was savvy, not dishonest, when he talked his brother out of the birthright. Likely his mother had told Jacob that his brother was to serve him, not vice versa.

**27:30-40: Who can tell us what takes place in verses 30 to 40?**

- Have someone tell what takes place.

**What do we learn about Esau in this passage?**

- Esau thought that His father's blessing, which gave wealth and authority to the son who received it, was his "entitlement" because of birth order, not something that he earned by his character. We also see here that he will break away from Jacob and become a nation (**Edom**) that will be an enemy of Jacob's family (**Israel**).

**27:41-46: Who can tell us what takes place in verses 41 to 46?**

- Esau plans to kill Jacob after his father dies. Rebekah learns of his intentions and plans to send Jacob to her brother **Laban's house**. Rebekah convinces Isaac to send Jacob there to find a wife.

**28:1-5: What takes place in chapter 28 verses 1 to 5?**

- Isaac confirms Jacob's blessing and sends him to Laban's house to find a wife.

**28:6-9: What takes place in verses 6 to 9?**

- Esau marries Ishmael's daughter to "punish" his parents.

**Had Esau done anything like this before?**

- He married two Hittite girls in **26:34-35**. Isaac did not want Jacob to marry a Hittite. "Heth", mentioned in **27:46**, is the father of the Hittites.

We continue to see the unfolding revelation of Esau's lack of character. Impulsive, he sold his birthright for a bowl of stew. Entitled, he thought he deserved the blessing no matter how he chose to live. When it came to marriage, it seems that he chose who he chose in order to "stick it" to his parents.

**28:10-22: What takes place in verses 10 to 22?**

- God speaks to Jacob in a dream. Jacob sees a ladder with angels ascending and descending. God is at the top of the ladder and speaks His blessing on Jacob's future. Jacob names the place Bethel, which means "house of God". Jacob commits himself to following the Lord if the Lord makes Himself real to Jacob by providing for him and protecting him.

**How does Jacob promise to show his commitment to God?**

- He promises to return to God a **tithe** (one tenth) of all that God blesses him with. If you recall, his grandfather Abraham gave tithes to **Melchizedek** (**14:18-20**).

**Exactly who did Jacob see at the top of that ladder?**

- **Jacob saw Jesus.**

Turn to and read, Exodus 33:20; 1 Timothy 1:17; 6:16; John 1:18; & 1 John 4:12. God the Father is invisible and has never been seen. **20** But you may not look directly at my face, for no one may see me and live." **17** All honor and glory to God forever and ever!

He is the eternal King, the unseen one who never dies; he alone is God. Amen. **16** He alone can never die, and he lives in light so brilliant that no human can approach him. No human eye has ever seen him, nor ever will. All honor and power to him forever! Amen. **18** No one has ever seen God. But the one and only Son is himself God and is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us. **12** No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us. **NLT**

- **Jacob saw Jesus.**

**Turn to and read: John 1:1-5,14,17-18; Colossians 1:13-20; and Hebrews 1:1-3: 1** In the beginning the **Word** already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He existed in the beginning with God. **3** God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. **4** The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it. **14** So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son. **17** For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ. **18** No one has ever seen God. But the one and only Son is himself God and is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us. **13** For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, **14** who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins. **15** Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, **16** for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. **17** He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together. **18** Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything. **19** For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, **20** and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross. **1** Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. **2** And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe. **3** The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven. **NLT**

### Who will we see in heaven?

- **See Revelation 1:4-8,17-18; 5:6-8; & 19:11-16. 4:**

This letter is from John to the seven churches in the province of Asia. Grace and peace to you from the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come; from the sevenfold Spirit before his throne; **5** and from Jesus Christ. He is the faithful witness to these things, the first to rise from the dead, and the ruler of all the kings of the world. All glory to him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by shedding his blood for us. **6** He has made us a Kingdom of priests for God his Father. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen. **7** Look! He comes with the clouds of heaven. And everyone will see him—even those who pierced him. And all the nations of the world will mourn for him. Yes! Amen! **8** "I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end," says the Lord God. "I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One." **17** When I saw him, I fell at his feet as if I were dead. But he laid his right hand on me and said, "Don't be afraid! I am the First and the Last. **18** I am the living one. I died, but look—I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave. **6** Then I saw a Lamb that looked as if it had been slaughtered, but it was now standing between the throne and the four living beings and among the twenty-four elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which represent the sevenfold Spirit of God that is sent out into every part of the earth. **7** He stepped forward and took the scroll from the right hand of the one sitting on the throne. **8** And when he took the scroll, the four living beings and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp, and they held gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of God's people. **11** Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. Its rider was named Faithful and True, for he judges fairly and wages a righteous war. **12** His eyes were like flames of fire, and on his head were many crowns.

A name was written on him that no one understood except himself. **13** He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his title was the Word of God. **14** The armies of heaven, dressed in the finest of pure white linen, followed him on white horses. **15** From his mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress. **16** On his robe at his thigh was written this title: **King of all kings and Lord of all lords**. [NLT](#)

**The Bible reveals God as a three-in-one person. Each is distinct and yet all are the same and one. Jesus said that if you'd seen Him, then you'd seen the Father (John 14:9). Jesus said that He and the Father are "one" (John 10:30). We will never see the invisible Father in whom all of time and space dwells. The Spirit of God is God "in us". Jesus is the one who is in us. He said in John 14:17 that He was *with* the disciples but that He would be *in* them. Jesus is Immanuel, God *with* us. He took on a body in Bethlehem, was raised from the dead in that body, reigns in heaven in that body, and will come again to this earth in that body. Whenever we "see" God, we see Jesus.**