

Isaac Blesses Jacob (Twice!)

Genesis 27:1 – 28:5

Genesis 27:1-4

- 4 “that my soul may bless you”- an odd phrasing- he doesn’t just say “that I may bless you.” It seems to be an idiom of how earnestly he desired to bless Esau, rather than Jacob (Gen 25:23).
1-4 Show us how like minded Isaac and Esau are. Esau sold his birthright for a meal and Isaac wants a meal before he passes on a blessing.

Genesis 27:5-17

- 5-8 Rebekah, remembering the promise in (25:23) seeks to do her part in fulfilling God’s promise, even by deceiving her husband
9 “I may prepare...delicious food... such as he loves.” The wife knows how her husband likes it
11-12 Jacob’s concern is that he will be discovered as mocking Isaac and receive a curse (cf. Gen 9:25)
13 Rebekah is trusting God’s word from 25:23, but going about it much in the wrong way
15 “best garments”- the type one would wear for an important ceremony, the passing of a blessing

Genesis 27:18-29

- 19 “I am Esau your firstborn”- a double lie, the latter showing that he wants the blessing
20 “How have you found it so quickly?”- Isaac senses something is awry!
“YHWH your God granted me success”- UH OH! No Jacob has invoked the Name of YHWH on this lie! It is also “Your God”- Jacob does not confess Yahweh until later
21 Isaac’s suspicion is rising! The gig is up!
22 Isaac believes what he feels/smells rather than what he hears
24 “He answered, ‘I am’”- how many lies has this been now?
27 Why are the open fields so important to Isaac?
28 “Dew, fatness, grain, and wine”- the Blessing begins with material gain
29 “Let peoples serve you”- so he is to be politically and economically powerful
“be lord over your brothers”- perhaps half brothers or younger brothers even dating back to Shem
“Cursed be everyone... blessed be everyone”- like Abraham’s blessing in 12:3, what’s missing?

Genesis 27:30-40

- 32 “your firstborn, Esau”- he has forgotten that he sold his birthright to Jacob for lentil stew
33 “yes, and he shall be blessed”- God’s Word is performative and objective.
37 “What then can I do for you?” He cannot contradict the blessing of lordship
39 “Away from the fatness... shall your dwelling be”- Like Cain and Ishmael, Esau is banished
40 “by your sword...break his yoke”- Edom and Israel would remain long rivals (see 1-2 Kings)

Genesis 27:41 – 28:5

- 41 “the days of mourning”- customary to mourn for 7 days after the death of a father
42 Rebekah has ears everywhere!
43 “obey my voice”- she has said this several times, she is a woman with a plan
45 “until... he forgets what you have done to him”- 1) he’s not likely to forget, 2) what YOU have done? She was the one who asked for the curse on her head and demanded his obedience
45 “bereft of you both in one day”- if Esau killed Jacob, the next of kin had the duty to kill Esau
46 Rebekah’s dislike for the Hittite women- she fears Jacob will go the route of Esau (26:34-35)
28:1 “Isaac blessed him”- this is a distinct and different blessing from 27:28-29

- 2 He does not share Abraham's concern about the son leaving the Promised Land
 3 "bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you"- Gen 1:28, Offspring are crucial! Why?
 4 "May he give the blessing of Abraham to you"- Gen 12:2-3, 7; 13:14-17; 15:1, 4-5, 7, 13-16; 17:1-2, 4-14; 22:16-18
 "that you may take possession of the land"- the Promised Land, given to Abraham and his children

Genesis 27:28-29

²⁸May God give you of the dew of heaven
 and of the fatness of the earth
 and plenty of grain and wine.
²⁹Let peoples serve you,
 and nations bow down to you.
 Be lord over your brothers,
 and may your mother's sons bow down to you.
 Cursed be everyone who curses you,
 and blessed be everyone who blesses you!

Genesis 28:3-4

God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may become a company of peoples. ⁴May he give the blessing of Abraham to you and to your offspring with you, that you may take possession of the land of your sojournings that God gave to Abraham!

So what big differences are there between the two?

How is "The Blessing of Abraham" different than the first blessing?

Luther's Prayer to Receive the Word

Eternal God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, grant us Your Holy Spirit who writes the preached word into our hearts so that we may receive and believe it, and be gladdened and comforted by it in eternity. Glorify Your Word in our hearts. Make it so bright and warm that we may find pleasure in it, and through Your inspiration think what is right. By Your power fulfill the Word, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



While Esau was off hunting, Jacob disguises himself as his brother to steal the blessing of the First Born. **Genesis 27**