

## Genesis 27 Bible Study

In Genesis 25:23 we saw God say to Rebekah that he would bless Jacob and that he would rule over his older brother Esau. God said this to Rebekah, but just like Sarah before her, we now find Rebekah ‘helping’ God get done what He said He would do. Genesis 27 is all about God’s little helper. Take a look:

*27:1* When Isaac was old and his eyes were so weak that he was almost blind, he called his older son Esau and said to him, “My son!” “Here I am!” Esau replied. *27:2* Isaac said, “Since I am so old, I could die at any time. *27:3* Therefore, take your weapons—your quiver and your bow—and go out into the open fields and hunt down some wild game for me. *27:4* Then prepare for me some tasty food, the kind I love, and bring it to me. Then I will eat it so that I may bless you before I die.”

*27:5* Now Rebekah had been listening while Isaac spoke to his son Esau. When Esau went out to the open fields to hunt down some wild game and bring it back, *27:6* Rebekah said to her son Jacob, “Look, I overheard your father tell your brother Esau, *27:7* ‘Bring me some wild game and prepare for me some tasty food. Then I will eat it and bless you in the presence of the Lord before I die.’ *27:8* Now then, my son, do exactly what I tell you! *27:9* Go to the flock and get me two of the best young goats. I’ll prepare them in a tasty way for your father, just the way he loves them. *27:10* Then you will take it to your father. Thus, he will eat it and bless you before he dies.”

*27:11* “But Esau my brother is a hairy man,” Jacob protested to his mother Rebekah, “and I have smooth skin! *27:12* My father may touch me! Then he’ll think I’m mocking him, and I’ll bring a curse on myself instead of a blessing.” *27:13* So his mother told him, “Any curse against you will fall on me, my son! Just obey me! Go and get them for me!” (Genesis 27:1-13)

When Isaac determines to bless Esau he is breaking with convention. The father was supposed to bring in all his sons and bless them at once, but because of his favoritism, Isaac only called in Esau. Though this wasn’t how things were done, Rebekah still didn’t need to ‘fix’ things, God had already determined the future for her sons.

What curse is Jacob speaking of coming upon him? It comes from Deuteronomy 27:18, “*Cursed is the one who misleads a blind person on the road.’ Then all the people will say, ‘Amen!’*”

Jacob knew that it was a sin to lie to his father, but his mother commanded him to do it, saying she would take the curse on herself. *What does this tell us about Rebekah?*

Of course, obedience to someone in authority over us, like a parent, turns into sin when what they command is sinful. *Why do you think God would choose to bless Jacob after he and his mother lie to Isaac to get the blessing?*

Clearly, trusting God to do what He says He will do is hard for all of us, including the patriarchs of our faith, but God's faithfulness does not depend on our faithfulness (see 2 Tim. 2:13). Perhaps that's the lesson of all of the failure we see in the Old Testament, it doesn't depend on us, but on Him who made the promise. *Do you ever find yourself working to fix things for God? (Think of the people God has given you sway over.) If so, how could you let go of this need to help the all mighty in the lives of others?*

[27:14](#) So he went and got the goats and brought them to his mother. She prepared some tasty food, just the way his father loved it. [27:15](#) Then Rebekah took her older son Esau's best clothes, which she had with her in the house, and put them on her younger son Jacob. [27:16](#) She put the skins of the young goats on his hands and the smooth part of his neck. [27:17](#) Then she handed the tasty food and the bread she had made to her son Jacob.

[27:18](#) He went to his father and said, "My father!" Isaac replied, "Here I am. Which are you, my son?" [27:19](#) Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau, your firstborn. I've done as you told me. Now sit up and eat some of my wild game so that you can bless me." [27:20](#) But Isaac asked his son, "How in the world did you find it so quickly, my son?" "Because the Lord your God brought it to me," he replied. [27:21](#) Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Come closer so I can touch you, my son, and know for certain if you really are my son Esau." [27:22](#) So Jacob went over to his father Isaac, who felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's, but the hands are Esau's." [27:23](#) He did not recognize him because his hands were hairy, like his brother Esau's hands. So, Isaac blessed Jacob. [27:24](#) Then he asked, "Are you really my son Esau?" "I am," Jacob replied. [27:25](#) Isaac said, "Bring some of the wild game for me to eat, my son. Then I will bless you." So, Jacob brought it to him, and he ate it. He also brought him wine, and Isaac drank. [27:26](#) Then his

father Isaac said to him, "Come here and kiss me, my son." 27:27 So Jacob went over and kissed him. When Isaac caught the scent of his clothing, he blessed him, saying,

"Yes, my son smells

like the scent of an open field

which the Lord has blessed.

27:28 May God give you

the dew of the sky

and the richness of the earth,

and plenty of grain and new wine.

27:29 May peoples serve you

and nations bow down to you.

You will be lord over your brothers,

and the sons of your mother will bow down to you.

May those who curse you be cursed,

and those who bless you be blessed." (Genesis 27:14-29)

Though Jacob originally objected to his mom's schemes, he clearly ends up doing whatever his she prescribes. *In your mind, does this make Jacob as guilty as Rebekah, or the victim of her schemes?*

In future chapters we will see the consequences of these actions on the life of Jacob, but it starts in this chapter with Esau. Let's look in as Esau comes back with dinner for dad.

27:30 Isaac had just finished blessing Jacob, and Jacob had scarcely left his father's presence, when his brother Esau returned from the hunt. 27:31 He also prepared some tasty food and brought it to his father. Esau said to him, "My father, get up and eat some of your son's wild game. Then you can bless me."

27:32 His father Isaac asked, "Who are you?" "I am your firstborn son," he replied, "Esau!" 27:33 Isaac began to shake violently and asked, "Then who else hunted game and brought it to me? I ate all of it just before you arrived, and I blessed him. He will indeed be blessed!"

27:34 When Esau heard his father's words, he wailed loudly and bitterly. He said to his father, "Bless me too, my father!" 27:35 But Isaac replied, "Your brother came in here deceitfully and took away your blessing." 27:36 Esau exclaimed, " 'Jacob' is the right name for him! He has tripped me up two times! He took away my birthright, and now, look, he has taken away my blessing!" Then he asked, "Have you not kept back a blessing for me?"

27:37 Isaac replied to Esau, "Look! I have made him lord over you. I have made all his relatives his servants and provided him with grain and new wine. What is left that I can do for you, my son?" 27:38 Esau said to his father, "Do you have only that one blessing, my father? Bless me too!" Then Esau wept loudly.

27:39 So his father Isaac said to him,  
"Indeed, your home will be  
away from the richness of the earth,  
and away from the dew of the sky above.

27:40 You will live by your sword  
but you will serve your brother.  
When you grow restless,  
you will tear off his yoke  
from your neck."

27:41 So Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing his father had given to his brother. Esau said privately, "The time of mourning for my father is near; then I will kill my brother Jacob!" (Genesis 27:30-41)

Here Esau discovers his brother's deception. *What is his first response to the discovery that he's lost the blessing of the first born?*

*Hebrews 12:16–17 lays some blame at the feet of Esau for selling his birthright for a bowl of soup:*

*"And see to it that no one becomes an immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal. For you know that later when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no opportunity for repentance, although he sought the blessing with tears."*

*How is Esau referred to in this passage?*

Isaac could not take back the blessing he had laid on Jacob. *What words did he have for Esau? (see verses 39-40)*

After having heard the terrible news Esau made a plan in keeping with his father's words:

<sup>27:41</sup> So Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing his father had given to his brother. Esau said privately, “The time of mourning for my father is near; then I will kill my brother Jacob!”

<sup>27:42</sup> When Rebekah heard what her older son Esau had said, she quickly summoned her younger son Jacob and told him, “Look, your brother Esau is planning to get revenge by killing you. <sup>27:43</sup> Now then, my son, do what I say. Run-away immediately to my brother Laban in Haran. <sup>27:44</sup> Live with him for a little while until your brother’s rage subsides. <sup>27:45</sup> Stay there until your brother’s anger against you subsides and he forgets what you did to him. Then I’ll send someone to bring you back from there. Why should I lose both of you in one day?” (Genesis 27:41-45)

It would appear that Rebekah’s work is never done. Now she must send Jacob away to protect him. The tragedy is that after this moment she never sees Jacob again, and so begins the terrible consequences of this woman’s scheme to fix things for her son.

Next, in Genesis 27:46 we see reference to another one of Esau’s sinful choices, his choice of wives:

<sup>27:46</sup> Then Rebekah said to Isaac, “I am deeply depressed because of these daughters of Heth. If Jacob were to marry one of these daughters of Heth who live in this land, I would want to die!”

Esau had broken from the desires of father Abraham to only marry within the family of faith (see Gen. 24:3) and had married not one, but two Hittite, or Canaanite, women. This is what Rebekah is referring to in this passage. Because of her fear that Jacob might marry outside of their people, she sends him away to live with her brother Laban. In the next few chapters we will see more of the struggles that Jacob will experience because of his sinful choices in deceiving his father.

Sometimes the struggles we live through are the direct result of our failure to trust God, and sometimes they are the result of the sinful choices of others. No matter what the source of our suffering, it is always important and helpful to consider that God uses all of it for our good. Romans 8:28 – 30 is a good reminder to have when you are feeling sorry for yourself about your mistakes and their consequences:

*“And we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose, because those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; and those he called, he also justified; and those he justified, he also glorified.”* (Romans 8:28–30, NET)

When you consider your suffering as a result of your sinful choices remember that: *“the Lord disciplines the one he loves and chastises every son he accepts.”* (Hebrews 12:6, NET)

There is no one in the world who is righteous (see Romans 3:10-11), so it should be no surprise that you have messed up along the way. But what should be a blessing to you is knowing that no matter your faithlessness God remains faithful. It isn't about your ability to get it all right, but His goodness and mercy. This week thank God for your consequences. Thank Him for your trials and know that they all serve a very great purpose.