

GENESIS Lesson 30 – 6/02/19

The Plan to Steal the Blessing

27:1: And it came to pass, that when Isaac was old, and his eyes were dim, so that he could not see, he called Esau his eldest son, and said unto him, My son: and he said unto him, Behold, here am I.

27:2: And he said, Behold now, I am old, I know not the day of my death:

27:3: Now therefore take, I pray thee, thy weapons, thy quiver and thy bow, and go out to the field, and take me some venison;

27:4: And make me savoury meat, such as I love, and bring it to me, that I may eat; that my soul may bless thee before I die.

27:5: And Rebekah heard when Isaac spake to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt for venison, and to bring it.

27:6: And Rebekah spake unto Jacob her son, saying, Behold, I heard thy father speak unto Esau thy brother, saying,

27:7: Bring me venison, and make me savoury meat, that I may eat, and bless thee before the LORD before my death.

27:8: Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to that which I command thee.

27:9: Go now to the flock, and fetch me from thence two good kids of the goats; and I will make them savoury meat for thy father, such as he loveth:

27:10: And thou shalt bring it to thy father, that he may eat, and that he may bless thee before his death.

27:11: And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, Behold, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man:

27:12: My father peradventure will feel me, and I shall seem to him as a deceiver; and I shall bring a curse upon me, and not a blessing.

27:13: And his mother said unto him, Upon me be thy curse, my son: only obey my voice, and go fetch me them.

Isaac is now old, and he could not see too well, he was nearly blind. He felt that the day was coming that he would soon die (although he lived another 50 years) and so he called Esau that he might bless him before he passed.

Both Esau and Jacob were around 70 years of age by this time. Isaac was following cultural norms and was determined to give Esau, his firstborn, the family blessing before his death. But we know according to prophecy, that Jacob would be getting the blessing.

To mark the occasion, Isaac orders Esau to prepare a feast of venison. So, Esau sets off to hunt some deer. But Rebekah happens to overhear Isaac's plans for Esau and she sets in motion her own plan to interfere with Isaac's.

We know that God told Rebekah that Esau would serve Jacob, and we know by this time that Esau had sold his birthright.

So why did Rebekah feel it was necessary to intervene?

Biblically speaking, she should have left matters in God's hands. She had first-hand experience with the power of God. He gave her conception when Isaac prayed.

God is able to carry out His plan regardless of the circumstances. But, Rebekah like many moms had to help her child out; keep in mind Jacob was 70 years of age!

Rebekah knows the meal her husband likes, most wives do—so she asks Jacob to butcher two young goats, and then prepares them in the way that Isaac likes. This meal was for Isaac, Isaac must have liked eating—two goats; that’s a lot of meat.

At first, Jacob was reluctant, but Rebekah pressed him and he went along with her plan.

Jacob points out the weakness of his mom’s plan:

1. My brother is hairy
2. I am smooth
3. I may be liable to a curse

Rebekah’s answer is:

1. We’ll use goat skins
2. I’ll take your curse if dad pronounces one on you

Aben Ezra, a Jewish commentator from the Middle Ages says the last statement of Rebekah is viewed as “the utterance of a bold and unscrupulous woman.”

In essence Rebekah is teaching her son how to lie and deceive (vs. 9, 16) to get what you want. Rebekah is acting by sight; she was not trusting the promise God gave her (Genesis 25:23).

Deception in the making

27:14: And he went, and fetched, and brought them to his mother: and his mother made savoury meat, such as his father loved.

27:15: And Rebekah took goodly raiment of her eldest son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them upon Jacob her younger son:

27:16: And she put the skins of the kids of the goats upon his hands, and upon the smooth of his neck:

27:17: And she gave the savoury meat and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob.

Jacob obeys his mother. Rebekah dresses Jacob in Esau's clothing and places the goat skins on the backs of Jacob's hands and about his neck so Jacob would feel hairy like his brother.

God gives us a picture here of people carrying out God's plan on their own—it involves scheming, deception, manipulation and lying.

Num. 23:19: God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

What God has purposed in your life He will do. When you try to accomplish God's plan through your own efforts, you are undermining God. This does not mean that you sit idly by waiting while doing nothing.

27:18: And he came unto his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I; who art thou, my son?

27:19: And Jacob said unto his father, I am Esau thy firstborn; I have done according as thou badest me: arise, I pray thee, sit and eat of my venison, that thy soul may bless me.

27:20: And Isaac said unto his son, How is it that thou hast found it so quickly, my son? And he said, Because the LORD thy God brought it to me.

27:21: And Isaac said unto Jacob, Come near, I pray thee, that I may feel thee, my son, whether thou be my very son Esau or not.

27:22: And Jacob went near unto Isaac his father; and he felt him, and said, The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau.

27:23: And he discerned him not, because his hands were hairy, as his brother Esau's hands: so he blessed him.

27:24: And he said, Art thou my very son Esau? And he said, I am.

27:25: And he said, Bring it near to me, and I will eat of my son's venison, that my soul may bless thee. And he brought it near to him, and he did eat: and he brought him wine, and he drank.

27:26: And his father Isaac said unto him, Come near now, and kiss me, my son.

27:27: And he came near, and kissed him: and he smelled the smell of his raiment, and blessed him, and said, See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field which the LORD hath blessed:

27:28: Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine:

27:29: Let people serve thee, and nations bow down to thee: be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee: cursed be every one that curseth thee, and blessed be he that blesseth thee.

Here comes Jacob with a plate of food. I could imagine how Jacob must have felt—I wonder how bad the plate was shaking! “Dad, sit down, and eat.”

When Isaac heard Jacob, he wondered, this doesn't sound like Esau and proceeds by asking, “Who art thou, my son?” This is the first in a series of questions and doubts Isaac has about the man standing in front of him.

1. Who are you? (vs. 18)
2. How did you find it so quickly? (vs. 20)
3. Let me make sure. (vs. 21)
4. Let me feel you, you sound like Jacob. (vs. 22)
5. Are you sure you're Esau? (vs. 24)
6. Come near, let me double check by smelling your clothes! (vs. 27)

In verse 19, Jacob tells three lies:

1. I am Esau thy firstborn—he wasn't, he was Jacob
2. I have done according as thou badest me—he did not go hunting
3. Sit and eat of my venison—it was goat meat, not deer

A second time Isaac questioned Jacob, “How is it that thou hast found it so quickly, my son (vs. 20)?” Again, Jacob lied (4th lie), “God brought it to me.”

In verse 24, Jacob tells a 5th lie—"I am"—when Isaac asks him is the really is Esau.

Even though Isaac has his doubts, the deception was real enough that Isaac falls for it. So Isaac sits down and eats and drinks wine. I wonder as he is chewing if notices a different taste. Deer meat and goat meat do not taste the same. When the time came to bless the firstborn, Isaac could not differentiate between goat's meat and venison; his senses had become dull. We know his eyesight was bad to the point he couldn't see; his taste buds must have too become dull.

It is interesting to see how food clouds our judgment, and is the cause of many bad decisions throughout the Bible.

Eve ate the fruit, Cain brought food from his garden, the antediluvian race of humans were busy eating and drinking, Israel in the wilderness lusted after meat, Israel try to gather manna on the Sabbath, Proverbs 23:21 says the glutton shall come to poverty, Daniel was tempted to eat the king's food, When Jesus was hungry the devil suggested He turn stones into bread, Philippians 3:19 tells us the wayward have made their bellies "God."

Isaac was blinded not only by Jacob's deception, but by his own desire to eat venison. Like father, like son. Esau was so hungry that he sold his birthright for a bowl of lentils. In the tribulation they will be so hungry, that they will sell their souls for a morsel of bread!

It is no different today; just look at all the restaurants out there! "Where are we going to eat for lunch, for supper, for diner, to celebrate...?"

And after he is done, he still has doubts, but when he smells the Esau's garments, he finally becomes convinced and proceeds to bless Jacob, thinking the man in front of him is Esau.

And Isaac passes on the Abrahamic blessing onto Jacob. Let's compare the following verses:

Gen. 12:3: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Gen. 27:29: Let people serve thee, and nations bow down to thee: be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee: cursed be every one that curseth thee, and blessed be he that blesseth thee.

But Isaac left something out. He left out the second half of the blessing: "...in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."

This latter part of the blessing concerns Christ.

The former relates to Abraham and his natural posterity through Isaac and Jacob. The Israelites were favored by God and would be partakers of the physical promises.

The latter relates to the gentile nations, who would be blessed by God through Christ. They too would get in on the promises, but through Christ.

Esau realizes he lost

27:30: And it came to pass, as soon as Isaac had made an end of blessing Jacob, and Jacob was yet scarce gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting.

27:31: And he also had made savoury meat, and brought it unto his father, and said unto his father, Let my father arise, and eat of his son's venison, that thy soul may bless me.

27:32: And Isaac his father said unto him, Who art thou? And he said, I am thy son, thy firstborn Esau.

27:33: And Isaac trembled very exceedingly, and said, Who? where is he that hath taken venison, and brought it me, and I have eaten of all before thou camest, and have blessed him? yea, and he shall be blessed.

27:34: And when Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with a great and exceeding bitter cry, and said unto his father, Bless me, even me also, O my father.

27:35: And he said, Thy brother came with subtilty, and hath taken away thy blessing.

27:36: And he said, Is not he rightly named Jacob? for he hath supplanted me these two times: he took away my birthright; and, behold, now he hath taken away my blessing. And he said, Hast thou not reserved a blessing for me?

27:37: And Isaac answered and said unto Esau, Behold, I have made him thy lord, and all his brethren have I given to him for servants; and with corn and wine have I sustained him: and what shall I do now unto thee, my son?

27:38: And Esau said unto his father, Hast thou but one blessing, my father? bless me, even me also, O my father. And Esau lifted up his voice, and wept.

27:39: And Isaac his father answered and said unto him, Behold, thy dwelling shall be the fatness of the earth, and of the dew of heaven from above;

27:40: And by thy sword shalt thou live, and shalt serve thy brother; and it shall come to pass when thou shalt have the dominion, that thou shalt break his yoke from off thy neck.

Jacob having received the blessed had just left his father's presence and who shows up? Esau, but he was too late. I wonder if God slowed things down a little, if Esau had a hard time getting just the right shot.

"Dad, sit down and eat. I made your favorite meal—grilled venison."

"Who are you?" At first, Esau probably thought, that's right, dad can't see. "Hey dad, it's Esau. I am your firstborn."

The trade for the birthright between him and Jacob has finally come to fruition.

Isaac is now in shock. "I just blessed Esau." "Whoever it was, I blessed him, and he has the blessing, I cannot go back on my word."

As soon as Esau heard these words, he realized what had happened and began to weep. We commented on the typology found here in last week's lesson; Esau and the carnal Christian at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Heb. 12:17: For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

It was too late, Esau couldn't undo the blessing. Isaac realized that Jacob had tricked both of them, and came with subtlety and stole the blessing.

We are reminded of the serpent who with subtlety came and tricked Eve, causing her to eat the forbidden fruit. If you allow him, he will do the same to you. He will come with subtlety and steal your eternal blessing, your eternal inheritance.

Gen. 3:1: Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made...

Esau puts two and two together and understands that Jacob was after the blessing all along—"he has supplanted me these two times." To supplant means to undermine, to displace.

He blames his brother for losing the birthright. Esau says, "he took away my birthright." Really? Did Jacob force Esau to sell the birthright? It was a trade, maybe not a fair trade, but a trade nonetheless. Esau could have decided to starve over keeping his birthright, but he chose not to. But now, his birthright becomes important—he lost the material blessing that came along with it.

But Isaac makes it clear, "I have made him your lord."

When he saw it as a spiritual birthright, Esau did not value the birthright; but now that he sees it in material and political terms, he wanted it—he wept.

One commentator said, "Esau's tears were the tears of frustrated selfishness, not of regret for his own sin and despising of his birthright."

Isaac blesses Esau

Esau pressed his father for a blessing—dad can you bless me too!

So Isaac pronounces a blessing upon Esau, a closer look will reveal that it was more of a curse than a blessing.

Behold, thy dwelling shall be the fatness of the earth,

and of the dew of heaven from above;

And by thy sword shalt thou live,

and shalt serve thy brother;

and it shall come to pass when thou shalt have the dominion,

that thou shalt break his yoke from off thy neck.

Esau would be blessed, but it would be with effort, he would have to fight for it—“by thy sword.” Edom would eventually serve Israel, but Edom would revolt at some point. This came to pass when Israel sinned, and were given over by God to their enemies. Without knowing Isaac prophesied that Jacob would apostatize for in the original blessing Isaac had made him Esau’s lord, and all his brethren (Esau) he gave him for servants.

2 Chr. 21:8: In his days (*King Jehoram*) the Edomites revolted from under the dominion of Judah, and made themselves a king.

2 Kings 8:22: Yet Edom revolted from under the hand of Judah unto this day. Then Libnah revolted at the same time.

But this revolt will be short-lived for in the future, during the millennial kingdom, Israel will once again rule over Esau.

Amos 9:12: That they (*Israel*) may possess the remnant of Edom, and of all the heathen, which are called by my name, saith the LORD that doeth this.

Isaac blessed the boys by faith

Heb. 11:20: By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

In this verse we are told that Isaac pronounced the blessing by faith.

Isaac knew of the Abrahamic blessing, and blessed the “firstborn” by faith—passing on this blessing by faith.

No doubt he heard the prophecy given to his wife Rebekah by God (Gen. 25:23), and he realized that it came true when he inadvertently blessed Jacob. His understanding of what happened, despite his opposition (Isaac was going to bless Esau regardless of what Rebekah told him), was evidenced by the blessing he pronounced on Esau: “...and shalt serve thy brother...” The prophecy said, “the elder shall serve the younger...”

Proverbs 19:21: There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.

This was all part of God’s plan, one way or another Esau would be subservient to Jacob. Had Rebekah not intervened, God would have brought it to pass some other way.