

GENESIS 27: FAMILY CONSPIRACY

I. OVERVIEW

- A. Isaac is now super old
 - i. He called Esau to him and asked him to hunt some game and make him a meal
 - ii. Then he would bless Esau before he died
- B. Rebekah was eavesdropping
 - i. She told Jacob to get two young goats from the flock and bring them to her
 - a. She would prepare a meal that Isaac loves
 - ii. Then Jacob would bring it to Isaac and he would get Esau's blessing
- C. So Jacob went to get the goats and Rebekah made the meal
 - i. Then Rebekah put the skins on Jacob so he would feel hairy like Esau
- D. Jacob brought the food to Isaac and told him he was Esau
 - i. Isaac questioned him
 - ii. So Isaac ate and drank
- E. Then Isaac blessed Jacob
 - i. May God give you the dew of the heaven, fatness of the earth, grain, wine
 - ii. Let peoples serve you, nations bow down to you
 - iii. You will rule over your family
 - iv. Everyone who curses you will be cursed and whoever blesses you will be blessed
- F. As soon as Isaac finished Esau came in from the field
 - i. He came to bring Isaac food and get a blessing
 - ii. Isaac could not give him the blessing of the firstborn
 - a. But he told him one day he will break his brother's yoke
- G. So Esau hated Jacob and decided to kill him
 - i. Rebekah found out and told Jacob to flee to her brother Laban
- H. Rebekah complained to Isaac about Esau's wives

II. ISAAC WAS OLD – V. 1

- A. He died at age 180
- B. This took place before Jacob spent 20 years working for Laban and had 12 children
- C. Possibly around age 140 or 150

III. HE COULD NOT SEE – V. 1

- A. Probably couldn't hear well either

IV. HE CALLED ESAU – V. 1

- A. Should have called his entire family to be witness like Jacob did later
 - i. Genesis 49:1 *Then Jacob called for his sons and said: “Gather around so I can tell you what will happen to you in days to come.*
 - ii. Indication that Isaac is trying to keep this secret

V. PREPARE FOR ME DELICIOUS FOOD – V. 4

- A. Isaac wanted to be sure it was Esau that he was blessing since he couldn't see¹

VI. THAT MY SOUL MAY BLESS YOU – V. 4

- A. Three questions
 - i. Was Isaac unaware that Esau sold his birthright?
 - ii. Was Isaac unaware that God had chosen Jacob?
 - a. Maybe Rebekah never told him
 - iii. Or did he deliberately disobey God to elevate his favorite son?
- B. In contrast to his trust in God in the previous chapter
 - i. He tried to pass on the blessing secretly so he knew it was wrong²
- C. Esau knew that he had sold his birthright and was no longer eligible for the blessing
 - i. But he tried to steal it back through this scheme³
- D. It wasn't even Isaac's blessing to give
 - i. God was the one who gave the promise and dispensed the blessing⁴

VII. I HEARD YOUR FATHER – V. 6

- A. We already knew Isaac and Rebekah had favorite sons
- B. Now she is eavesdropping on her husband
 - i. And using the information to trick her oldest son out of a blessing
 - ii. Jacob goes along with it
- C. This is the beginning of serious family issues
 - i. Just like Abraham and Sarah manipulated events to bring about God's promise themselves

¹ Armstrong, S. (2012, May 29). *Genesis 2011 - Lesson 27A*. Verse By Verse Ministry International. https://versebyverseministry.org/lessons/genesis_2011_lesson_27a

² Guzik, D. (2018). *Genesis 27 - Jacob Deceptively Gains the Blessing of Isaac*. Enduring Word. <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/genesis-27/>

³ Guzik

⁴ Guzik

- ii. Rebekah and Jacob are doing the same thing
- iii. Both times it resulted in long lasting problems for the families

VIII. BEFORE THE LORD – V. 7

- A. Isaac never said this

IX. PERHAPS MY FATHER WILL FEEL ME – V. 12

- A. Jacob's concern wasn't if the plan was right or wrong
 - i. But if he would get caught⁵

X. LET YOUR CURSE BE ON ME – V. 13

- A. Jacob was worried about the consequences if he was caught
 - i. Rebekah told him she would bear the consequences
 - a. But a guilty person can't bear another guilty person's consequences⁶

XI. ISAAC SPEAKS SEVEN TIMES – V. 18-26

- A. Who are you? – v. 18
 - i. He can't see who is in the room
- B. How is it that you have found it so quickly? – v. 20
 - i. Isaac suspects something is up
- C. Please come near that I may feel you – v. 21
 - i. This would tell him instantly that it was Esau
- D. The voice is Jacob's but the hands are Esau's – v. 22
 - i. Isaac is extremely suspicious
 - a. No reason for him to suspect that anyone else knew anything at this point
 - b. He had called Esau in secret
- E. Are you really Esau? – v. 24
 - i. He clearly is doubting
 - a. Either because he suspects Jacob is trying to double cross him
 - b. Or because he feels guilty and is making sure he will get away with blessing Esau
- F. Bring the food near that I may eat – v. 25
 - i. He needed to make sure the food was Esau's food
- G. Come near and kiss me – v. 26

⁵ Guzik

⁶ Armstrong, S. (2012, May 29). *Genesis 2011 - Lesson 27A*. Verse By Verse Ministry International.
https://versebyverseministry.org/lessons/genesis_2011_lesson_27a

- i. One final test
 - a. To smell his garments to see if they smelled like the field

XII. JACOB LIED THREE TIMES – V. 19-24

- A. I am Esau your firstborn – v. 19
 - i. Jacob emphasizes the role of the firstborn
 - ii. He knows Isaac is trying to circumvent the agreement between Esau and Jacob
- B. Because the Lord your God granted my success – v. 20
 - i. Jacob lied about God’s role in the deception
 - a. Possibly justified it knowing God’s promise was intended for him⁷
- C. I am - v. 24
 - i. Three is the number of testing
 - ii. This proves Jacob did not trust God to restore the birthright to him

XIII. ISAAC’S FOURFOLD BLESSING

- A. A field that the Lord has blessed – v. 27
 - i. Field – Hebrew *sadeh*
 - a. Also translated “country” or “land”⁸
 - ii. Jacob would become a land blessed by the Lord⁹
- B. Concerning the earth
 - i. That God would give him the dew of heaven
 - a. God’s favor¹⁰
 - ii. That God would give him the fatness of the earth
 - a. The best of what the earth can offer
 - iii. That God would give him plenty of grain and wine
 - a. All that Isaac had to give, he gave to Jacob
- C. Concerning the nations
 - i. Let peoples serve you
 - ii. Let nations bow down to you
- D. Concerning his family

⁷ Guzik

⁸ 7704. *sadeh*. Bible Hub. (2004). <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/7704.htm>

⁹ Armstrong, S. (2012, June 11). *Genesis 2011 - Lesson 27C*. Verse By Verse Ministry International. https://versebyverseministry.org/lessons/genesis_2011_lesson_27c

¹⁰ Armstrong, S. (2012, June 11). *Genesis 2011 - Lesson 27C*. Verse By Verse Ministry International. https://versebyverseministry.org/lessons/genesis_2011_lesson_27c

- i. Be lord over your brothers
- ii. Let them bow down to you
- E. Concerning Abraham's blessing
 - i. Everyone who curses you will be cursed
 - ii. Everyone who blesses you will be blessed

XIV. YOUR FIRSTBORN – V. 32

- A. Esau tried to emphasize his claim to the birthright
 - i. But it was no longer his to claim

XV. ISAAC TREMBLED VERY VIOLENTLY – V. 33

- A. Not just because he realized he had been lied to
- B. But because he realized he tried to circumvent God's promise and failed¹¹

XVI. HE SHALL BE BLESSED – V. 33

- A. Isaac doesn't try to retract his blessing on Jacob
 - i. Hebrews 11:20 *By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau.*

XVII. HE HAS CHEATED ME THESE TWO TIMES – V. 36

- A. Esau blamed the first time on Jacob
 - i. Even though he despised his birthright

XVIII. HAVE YOU NOT RESERVED A BLESSING FOR ME – V. 36

- A. Esau was facing the possibility of having no inheritance when Isaac died
- B. Esau is regretful but not repentant
 - i. Hebrews 12:17 *For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.*
- C. There is a difference between regret and repentance
 - i. 2 Corinthians 7:10 *For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.*

XIX. WHAT THEN CAN I DO FOR YOU – V. 37

- A. Isaac had nothing left to offer Esau
 - i. Jacob's blessing contained everything Isaac had to give

XX. ESAU'S THREEFOLD BLESSING – V. 39-40

- A. Away from the fatness of the earth will be your dwelling

¹¹ Guzik

- i. Or, of the fatness of the earth
 - a. Esau did end up becoming very wealthy
 - i. **Genesis 36:6-7 *Then Esau took his wives, his sons, his daughters, and all the members of his household, his livestock, all his beasts, and all his property that he had acquired in the land of Canaan. He went into a land away from his brother Jacob. For their possessions were too great for them to dwell together. The land of their sojournings could not support them because of their livestock.***
- B. By your sword you will live
 - i. Life will be difficult but he will live
- C. You will serve your brother but break his yoke one day
 - i. Esau will never accept Jacob's rule
 - ii. Edom would be at war with Israel for generations
 - iii. Jacob would pass on the Seed of Promise
 - a. But Esau has become the seed of the serpent

XXI. I WILL KILL MY BROTHER – V. 41

- A. He will hunt him down like Nimrod
- B. He will kill him like Cain

XXII. FLEE TO LABAN – V. 43

- A. To the east
 - i. Jacob is now going into exile
 - a. Away from his family and away from the land God promised

XXIII. WHAT YOU HAVE DONE TO HIM – V. 45

- A. Rebekah blames it on Jacob
 - i. Even though it was her idea

XXIV. EVERYONE IN THIS STORY LOST

- A. Isaac and Rebekah lost their son Jacob who had to flee
- B. Esau lost his blessing
- C. Jacob lost his home and family

XXV. POINTS TO JESUS

- A. Rebekah asks Jacob to find two good young goats
 - i. This is way more than necessary for one meal

- ii. But it points to the two goats used on the Day of Atonement
 - a. Done once a year
 - b. One goat would be a sacrifice of atonement for sins
 - i. Wash them clean
 - c. One goat would bear the sins of the nation
 - i. Sent out of the camp into the wilderness
 - d. Leviticus 16:7-10 ***Then he shall take the two goats and set them before the LORD at the entrance of the tent of meeting. And Aaron shall cast lots over the two goats, one lot for the LORD and the other lot for Azazel. And Aaron shall present the goat on which the lot fell for the LORD and use it as a sin offering, but the goat on which the lot fell for Azazel shall be presented alive before the LORD to make atonement over it, that it may be sent away into the wilderness to Azazel.***
 - e. Then the priest could enter the tent of meeting
 - f. This points to the two ways Jesus makes us acceptable to enter God's presence
 - i. He washes our sin through His blood and He bears our sin
- iii. One goat was used as a sacrifice for the meal
- iv. One goat would bear Jacob's sins
- v. Together they would make Jacob acceptable to meet his father
 - a. Isaac has consistently been a picture of Jesus

XXVI. QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- A. Why do you think Isaac refused to follow God's direction and give the blessing to Jacob?

- B. What do you think would happen if Rebekah were to confront Isaac rather than go behind his back?

C. Was Esau repentant for despising his birthright? Why or why not? See Hebrews 12:15-17.

D. What is the result of Isaac's disobedience to God? What can we learn from this in regards to making decisions for our own families?

E. What do you think would have happened if God spoke to Isaac about the future of his sons in chapter 25 instead of Rebekah? What does this say about a father's need for humility when leading his family?

F. What happens when a husband and wife start working against one another rather than working with one another?

G. Do you think the events in this chapter played out the way God desired them? In other words, were these events a direct result of God's design or were they a result of God's ability to use people's sin for His purposes?

- H. How do you think each person in this chapter could have acted in a godly way instead?
What would have been the effect if just one of them had acted differently?

XXVII. FURTHER STUDY

- A. The phrase “his eyes were dim” was also used about Jacob, Eli and Ahijah. Read Genesis 48; 1 Samuel 3:1-9; and 1 Kings 14:1-6. How do these stories compare or contrast to Isaac in Genesis 27? What does this phrase indicate regarding these four men?

- B. In light of what you learned in the previous question, what is the choice presented to us as we advance in age?

- C. Which words can you find in this chapter that give us the indication that Isaac was making decisions according to his flesh rather than according to the voice of the Lord?

- D. What is the difference between regret and repentance? See 2 Corinthians 7:10.

- E. What inheritance did Esau pass down through his descendants? See Amos 1:11 and Obadiah 10.

- F. Contrast the end of Abraham's life to the end of Isaac's life. What can we learn about the importance of how we finish our life?

- G. What happens when people try to defy God's purposes? See Proverbs 19:21.

- H. What does James 3:13-18 say is the result of Isaac and Rebekah's actions? What can we anticipate will happen next? What could have happened if they had relied on godly wisdom?
