

# Genesis 27:1-46

- Isaac blind in several ways
- Romans 9 is very positive about Jacob's position and results
- Combination of faith and manipulation
- "Birthright" pertains to inheriting the father's possessions  
"Blessing" projects what will be obtained in life
- A father's blessing can be divided among sons as seen by Jacob blessing 12 sons in 49:28

## Isaac's Request to Bless Esau

Genesis 27:1 - **When Isaac was old and his eyes were dim so that he could not see, he called Esau his older son and said to him, "My son"; and he answered, "Here I am."** 2 He said, **"Behold, I am old; I do not know the day of my death. 3 Now then, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me, 4 and prepare for me delicious food, such as I love, and bring it to me so that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die."**

1. Esau is called "older son", not "first born son". This means the sale of the birthright was official
  - a. Esau will always be the "older son" since time cannot be changed
  - b. Esau is no longer the "firstborn" heir since the position has been sold
2. Isaac lives for another 20 years.
  - a. Isaac dies in Genesis 35:29 the same chapter Jacob's wife Rachel dies giving birth to Jacob's 12<sup>th</sup> son Benjamin
3. The Jewish kosher laws of slaughtering require an animal intended to be eaten be killed with "one smooth stroke" so the animal dies instantly.
  - a. Shooting an animal with an arrow for a meal would be forbidden by Jewish kosher law
  - b. This means Abraham and Isaac were unfamiliar with later Jewish law
    - i. This shows "ages" and "dispensations" in the Bible
    - ii. This shows authenticity of these documents. Ezra, a later scribe, would not have written this way.
4. The text credits Isaac's favoring Esau to food.
  - a. Isaac does not favor the son for faith, prayer, lifestyle, godliness
  - b. Isaac does not fear or consider God's prophetic Word "older will serve the younger"
  - c. Isaac's choice is said to be based on food
5. Rebekah knows this blessing is key
6. Isaac is speaking of death. Does Rebekah and Jacob think Isaac's death is near?
7. Esau should have confessed he had sold the birthright, SO Esau is also being deceptive

## Rebekah's Plan to Deceive Isaac and Bless Jacob

Genesis 27:5-13 - **Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to his son Esau. So when Esau went to the field to hunt for game and bring it, 6 Rebekah said to her son Jacob, "I heard your father speak to your brother Esau, 7 'Bring me game and prepare for me delicious food, that I may eat it and bless you before the Lord before I die.' 8 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice as I command you. 9 Go to the flock and bring me two good young goats, so that I may prepare from them delicious food for your father, such as he loves. 10 And you shall bring it to**

your father to eat, so that he may bless you before he dies.” 11 But Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, “Behold, my brother Esau is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man. 12 Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be mocking him and bring a curse upon myself and not a blessing.” 13 His mother said to him, “Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, bring them to me.”

1. Rebecca may not be deceptive as much as she is forcing God’s promised plan and God’s revealed intention.
2. Rebecca is acting as if she believes she must act if the prophecy that the “older will serve the younger” is going to take place.
3. This says “Rebekah said to her son Jacob” just like it refers to Esau as Isaac’s son
4. Rebekah says “obey me” and “my son” together 3x
5. 27:11 where Jacob says, “Behold”, it is equal to Jacob saying, “Hold on here!”
6. Jacob says, “I will appear to him a deceiver”, not “He will realize I am a deceiver”:

8591 [e] kim·ta'tê·a'; כִּמְתַעֲתַעַ	5869 [e] bə·ê·nāw בְּעֵינָיו	1961 [e] wə·hā·yî·tî וְהָיִיתִי	1 [e] 'a·bî, אָבִי	4959 [e] yə·muš·šê·nî יִמְשֹׁלְנִי	194 [e] 'ū·lay אוּלַי
a deceiver	to him	then I shall seem to be	my father	will feel me	Perhaps
Prep-k   V-Piel-Prtcpl-ms	Prep-b   N-cdc   3ms	Conj-w   V-Qal-ConjPerf-1cs	N-msc   1cs	V-Qal-Imperf-3ms   1cs	Adv
1293 [e] bə·rā·kah. בִּרְכָה:	3808 [e] wə·lō וְלֹא	7045 [e] qə·lā·lāh קָלָלָהּ	5921 [e] 'a·lay עָלַי	935 [e] wə·hê·bê·tî וְהִבֵּאתִי	
a blessing	and not	a curse	on myself	and I shall bring	
N-fs	Conj-w   Adv-NegPrt	N-fs	Prep   1cs	Conj-w   V-Hifil-ConjPerf-1cs	

- a. Jacob did not think he was wrong
  - b. Jacob thought he had the right to the blessing since he had bought the birthright
7. Rebecca was willing to stand before God and defend her actions.
  8. The result of Rebecca and Jacob’s plan:
    - a. Jacob has to flee
    - b. Jacob is gone for 20 years, not a few days
    - c. Rebecca dies while Jacob is gone
    - d. Rebecca never sees Jacob again
  9. Dennis Prager says about this verse:

“One might ask why God communicated only with Rebecca on the matter of the birthright. Perhaps it’s because God is more likely to speak with those who are more likely to act on what God says. Rebecca acted because human intervention is often warranted to bring about God’s plans. That is likely why God told Rebecca what to expect for her sons. The idea that God alone will bring about all His aims is foreign to the Torah. On the contrary, humans are not allowed to do nothing and wait for God to act. An example of religious people doing nothing while waiting for God to act involved Zionism, the late nineteenth and early twentieth century movement to re-establish the Jewish homeland in Israel. Many religious Jews did not originally join the Zionist movement, arguing that only God could re-establish the Jewish state. By the time the modern state of Israel was declared in 1948, nearly all religious Jews acknowledged

*their error and came not only to support Israel but to become among its most fervent supporters."*

### Rebekah and Jacob Prepare to Deceive Isaac

Genesis 27:14-17 - **So he went and took them and brought them to his mother, and his mother prepared delicious food, such as his father loved. 15 Then Rebekah took the best garments of Esau her older son, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son. 16 And the skins of the young goats she put on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. 17 And she put the delicious food and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob.**

1. Rebecca prepared the food

### Isaac is Deceived and Isaac Blesses Jacob

Genesis 27:18-29 - **So he went in to his father and said, "My father." And he said, "Here I am. Who are you, my son?" 19 Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me." 20 But Isaac said to his son, "How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?" He answered, "Because the Lord your God granted me success." 21 Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not." 22 So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, who felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau." 23 And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands. So he blessed him. 24 He said, "Are you really my son Esau?" He answered, "I am." 25 Then he said, "Bring it near to me, that I may eat of my son's game and bless you." So he brought it near to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank.**

**26 Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come near and kiss me, my son." 27 So he came near and kissed him. And Isaac smelled the smell of his garments and blessed him and said,**

**"See, the smell of my son  
is as the smell of a field that the Lord has blessed!**

**28 May God give you of the dew of heaven  
and of the fatness of the earth  
and plenty of grain and wine.**

**29 Let 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!"**

1. Jacob begins by saying, “Father”

1 [e] 'ā·bî; אָבִי My father N-msc   1cs	559 [e] way·yō·mer וַיֹּאמֶר and said Conj-w   V-Qal-ConsecImperf-3ms	1 [e] 413 [e] 'ā·bîw 'el- אָבִיו אֶל- his father to N-msc   3ms Prep	935 [e] way·yā·bō וַיָּבֹא So he went Conj-w   V-Qal-ConsecImperf-3ms
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1121 [e] bē·nî. בְּנִי my son N-msc   1cs	859 [e] 'at·tāh אַתָּה you Pro-2ms	4310 [e] mî מִי who [are] Interrog	2009 [e] hin·nen·nî, הִנְנִי Here I am Interjection   1cs	559 [e] way·yō·mer וַיֹּאמֶר And he said Conj-w   V-Qal-ConsecImperf-3ms
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- Saying just one word and as little as possible
  - Testing out the tone of his voice and looking for Isaac's acceptance
  - “my father” is the same word Isaac spoke to Abraham climbing Mt. Moriah
- Isaac uses 4 of his 5 senses to test Jacob. He has lost the sense of sight so Isaac uses:
    - Sound of voice in 27:18
    - Touch of skin in 27:21
    - Taste of food in 27:25
    - Smell of clothing in 27:27
  - Receiving the blessing of the firstborn was Jacob's right for having bought the birthright. But, saying, “I am Esau.” Is a lie.
  - Jacob has in his favor:
    - God's word in the prophecy
    - Esau's forfeit through the sale of his birthright
  - Jacob uses God's name in the lie to explain his “success in the hunt”:

4672 [e] lim·šō לִמְצָא found [it] Prep-I   V-Qal-Inf	4116 [e] mi·har·tā מִהֲרָתָּ you have so quickly V-Piel-Perf-2ms	2088 [e] zeh זֶה it Pro-ms	4100 [e] mah- מַה- How [is] Interrog	1121 [e] bē·nōw, בְּנוֹ his son N-msc   3ms	413 [e] 'el- אֶל- to Prep	3327 [e] yiṣ·hāq יִצְחָק Isaac N-proper-ms	559 [e] way·yō·mer וַיֹּאמֶר But said Conj-w   V-Qal-ConsecImperf-3ms
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6440 [e] lə·pā·nāy. לְפָנַי to me Prep-I   N-mpc   1cs	430 [e] 'ē·lō·he·kā אֱלֹהֶיךָ your God N-mpc   2ms	3068 [e] Yah·weh יְהוָה Yahweh N-proper-ms	7136 [e] hiq·rah הִקְרָה brought [it] V-Hifil-Perf-3ms	3588 [e] kî כִּי because Conj	559 [e] way·yō·mer וַיֹּאמֶר and he said Conj-w   V-Qal-ConsecImperf-3ms	1121 [e] bē·nî; בְּנִי my son N-msc   1cs
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- Denis Prager defends Jacob here saying that if a child reads this story they should be told it is wrong to lie, but Jacob had already bought the birthright so Jacob's lie can be defended.
  - Prager adds: “Those who wish to do good in this world cannot remain ‘pure’.”
- If Esau had received the blessing from Isaac then Esau would have been the deceiver.

8. Rebecca anticipates the need for Esau's clothes because of the smell.
9. In the Old Testament there are many "heroes" who were not the firstborn:
  - a. Jacob over Esau
  - b. Isaac over Ishmael
  - c. Joseph over ten brothers
  - d. Moses over Aaron
  - e. David over seven brothers
10. Genesis 27:29 restates God's blessing to Abraham

### Esau Returns

Genesis 27:30-38 – **As soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, when Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, Esau his brother came in from his hunting. 31 He also prepared delicious food and brought it to his father. And he said to his father, "Let my father arise and eat of his son's game, that you may bless me." 32 His father Isaac said to him, "Who are you?" He answered, "I am your son, your firstborn, Esau." 33 Then Isaac trembled very violently and said, "Who was it then that hunted game and brought it to me, and I ate it all before you came, and I have blessed him? Yes, and he shall be blessed." 34 As soon as Esau heard the words of his father, he cried out with an exceedingly great and bitter cry and said to his father, "Bless me, even me also, O my father!" 35 But he said, "Your brother came deceitfully, and he has taken away your blessing." 36 Esau said, "Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has cheated me these two times. He took away my birthright, and behold, now he has taken away my blessing." Then he said, "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?" 37 Isaac answered and said to Esau, "Behold, I have made him lord over you, and all his brothers I have given to him for servants, and with grain and wine I have sustained him. What then can I do for you, my son?" 38 Esau said to his father, "Have you but one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, O my father." And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.**

1. Isaac asks, "Who are you?", but Esau does not answer honestly by saying, "Esau". Instead, Esau answers deceptively to claim the rights he has sold saying, "Your firstborn."
2. Isaac says the blessing to Jacob is irrevocable. But why? Isaac was deceived?
  - a. Because of the prophecy?
  - b. Because of the sale of the birthright?
  - c. Because of the spoken blessing? What if Bob the servant had snuck in to do the same thing before Jacob and Esau? Would the blessing have gone to Bob?  
Abraham, Isaac and Bob?
3. Esau acknowledges he no longer has the birthright
4. Did Isaac know this already?
5. The blessing goes with the birthright so it is NOT twice deceived. But, once sold.

### Isaac's Words to Esau

Genesis 27:39-40 -**Then Isaac his father answered and said to him:**

**"Behold, away from the fatness of the earth shall your dwelling be,  
and away from the dew of heaven on high.**

**40 By your sword you shall live,  
and you shall serve your brother;**

but when you grow restless

you shall break his yoke from your neck.”

1. The blessing to Esau includes:
  - a. Earth and Heaven having enough for Esau, too
  - b. Sword
  - c. Under Jacob
  - d. Ultimate release

### Rebekah Sends Jacob to Haran

Genesis 27:41-45 - **Now Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him, and Esau said to himself, “The days of mourning for my father are approaching; then I will kill my brother Jacob.” 42 But the words of Esau her older son were told to Rebekah. So she sent and called Jacob her younger son and said to him, “Behold, your brother Esau comforts himself about you by planning to kill you. 43 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice. Arise, flee to Laban my brother in Haran 44 and stay with him a while, until your brother's fury turns away— 45 until your brother's anger turns away from you, and he forgets what you have done to him. Then I will send and bring you from there. Why should I be bereft of you both in one day?”**

1. Esau had the hunting skills to eliminate Jacob
2. Killing Jacob would
  - a. Bring anguish to Esau's father Isaac
  - b. Bring a curse to Esau from Isaac
3. Brothers in Genesis:
  - a. Cain and Abel
  - b. Isaac and Ishmael
  - c. Jacob and Esau
  - d. Joseph and brothers
4. Esau seems to be transparent in his thoughts and feelings:
  - a. When he was hungry
  - b. When he is weeping here
  - c. In his attitude toward Jacob that Rebekah saw
5. “Stay with him a while” is literally “stay with him a few days”, but becomes 20 years.

251 [e]	2534 [e]	7725 [e]	834 [e]	5704 [e]	259 [e]	3117 [e]	5973 [e]	3427 [e]
'ā-hī-kā.	hā-mat	tā-šūb	'ā-šer-	'ad	'ā-hā-dīm;	yā-mîm	'im-mōw	wə-yā-šab-tā
אָהִי־כָא	חַמַּת	תָּשׁוּב	אֲשֶׁר־	עַד	אֲהָדִים	יָמִים	עִמּוֹ	וַיֵּשְׁבֶת
your brother's	fury	turns away	that	until	few	a days	with him	And stay
N-msc   2ms	N-fsc	V-Qal-Imperf-3fs	Pro-r	Prep	Number-mp	N-mp	Prep   3ms	Conj-w   V-Qal-ConjPerf-2ms

### Rebekah Fears Jacob Will Marry a Hittite Woman

Genesis 27:46 - **Then Rebekah said to Isaac, “I loathe my life because of the Hittite women. [Hebrew says: “daughters of Heth”] If Jacob marries one of the Hittite women like these, one of the women of the land, what good will my life be to me?”**

1. Actual problem: Esau will kill Jacob if Jacob stays.  
Problem presented to Isaac: Jacob will marry a Hittite woman if he stays

1323 [e] bə·nō·wt	6440 [e] mip·pə·nê	2416 [e] bə·ḥay·yay,	6973 [e] qaṣ·tî	3327 [e] yiṣ·ḥāq,	413 [e] 'el-	7259 [e] rib·qāh	559 [e] wat·tō·mer
בָּנוֹת	מִפְּנֵי	בְּחַיֵּי	קָצָתִי	יִצְחָק	אֶל-	רִבְקָה	וַתֹּאמֶר 46
<u>of the daughters</u>	because	of my life	I am weary	Isaac	to	Rebekah	and said
N-fpc	Prep-m   N-cpc	Prep-b   N-mpc   1cs	V-Qal-Perf-1cs	N-proper-ms	Prep	N-proper-fs	Conj-w   V-Qal-Conseclmpf-3fs

776 [e] hā·'ā·reṣ,	1323 [e] mib·bə·nō·wt	428 [e] kā·'ēl·leh	2845 [e] ḥêṭ	1323 [e] mib·bə·nō·wt-	802 [e] 'iš·šāh	3290 [e] ya·'ā·qōb	3947 [e] lō·qé·ah	518 [e] 'im-	2845 [e] ḥêṭ;
הָאָרֶץ	מִבְּנוֹת	כְּאֵלֶּה	חֵת	מִבְּנוֹת-	אִשָּׁה	יַעֲקֹב	לֹקֵחַ	אִם-	חֵת
<u>of the land</u>	<u>[who are] the daughters</u>	like these	<u>of Heth</u>	<u>of the daughters</u>	a wife	Jacob	takes	if	<u>of Heth</u>
Art   N-fs	Prep-m   N-fpc	Prep-k   Pro-cp	N-proper-ms	Prep-m   N-fpc	N-fs	N-proper-ms	V-Qal-Prtcpl-ms	Conj	N-proper-ms

2416 [e] ḥay·yīm.	4100 [e] lām·mah
חַיִּים:	לֵי
my life	will be to me
N-mp	Prep   1cs
	Prep-l   Interrog