

# GENESIS 27: 1 - 29

## THE SAGA CONTINUES

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*1760 B.C.*

Have you ever felt like the whole world was against you? I mean have you ever felt like whatever you did, someone else was going to do the opposite? Sometimes this is for spite. Have you ever had someone try to help you but they just seemed to mess things up even worse? I mean they were well intentioned but they just seemed to get in the way and hinder you more than help you. What about the guy you know with connections? You know, the guy that can pick up the phone, make a call and then people bow to his every whim. Even that guy can hinder your plans, or even though he gets the desired result, he did it in a way that you don't approve. It can be very frustrating, can it not?

God has to deal with this every day. There are people that don't want to go along with His plan and there are people that wake up every morning wanting to serve God in the worst way. Some of these people walk in lock step with God and others, though they want to serve God, check out of the strategy session and have their own way of doing things. They aren't obedient. They get things done, but they do things their own way. They can't even be considered team players. They are a type of "spiritual cowboy." They tend to see or hear what God wants done and then they say to the Lord, "Step aside Lord, I've got this."

That is where we find ourselves today in Genesis 27. I've told you recently that this section of Genesis is like a bad episode of Dallas. We have Bobby and J.R. vying for control of South Fork while Jock and

Miss Ellie are throwing their weight around to make sure that their favorite son gets to hold the reins.

Everyone seems to have forgotten what God wants, or that He is in control of the ranch.

Turn in your Bibles to Genesis 27 and let's have a look.

**Gen 27:1** *Now it came to pass, when Isaac was old and his eyes were so dim that he could not see, that he called Esau his older son and said to him, "My son." And he answered him, "Here I am."*

**Gen 27:2** *Then he said, "Behold now, I am old. I do not know the day of my death."*

**Gen 27:3** *Now therefore, please take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me.*

**Gen 27:4** *And make me savory food, such as I love, and bring it to me that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die."*

**Gen 27:5** *Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt game and to bring it.*

So Isaac was getting on up in years. He eventually died at the ripe old age of 180 in 1716 B.C. Here in Genesis 27 he is actually 136: 44 years prior to his death. Isaac of course doesn't know when he will pass. He does however feel the aches and pains of his age, especially the loss of his eyesight. Therefore he wants to bless his son before he is unable to do so. It was customary then to take care of inheritance issues prior to the death of the patriarch. It wasn't done in a will after the fact.

Esau is a man's man. He is a hunter and a fisherman. He works in the field and it is obvious that he is his father's favorite. He is also the oldest. Therefore he is heir according to tradition. From a natural standpoint, it makes sense that "man's man" would inherit the business, especially when it is a ranching operation. However, this is just their

means of making a living. It is not the way God looks at this family. In lieu of this we need to ask ourselves a question. “How does God see our family’s role in His plan?” Are we just making a living/ life or are we functioning in our God-given place in the bigger plan?

It has been said that, “The end of life reveals the ends of life.” When P.T. Barnum was dying he asked, “What were the day’s receipts?” Napoleon cried out in his deathbed, “Army! Head of the Army!” Naturalist Henry David Thoreau spoke only two words, “Moose... Indian.” Stalin only pointed and shook his fist at God.

It is in this episode of Isaac willfully blessing the wrong son for a pot of stew that we see his ends of life. There had been a spiritual decline in Isaac. He willfully ignored God’s will when it came to blessing his boys and merely wanted to feed his belly, i.e. his fleshly appetite.

Are we in spiritual decline? It would take a great shaking to bring him back to the man that was willing to go to the mountain and be sacrificed.

Isaac asked Esau to go hunt him some wild game and cook him a pot of stew so that he could bless him on a full stomach. Esau immediately agreed and went hunting. However there was a spy in the tent. Rebekah overheard the conversation, and remembering what she was told by God concerning who would get the family blessing, she concocts a plan to make sure her favorite gets the blessing of Esau.

***Gen 27:5*** *Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt game and to bring it.*

***Gen 27:6*** *So Rebekah spoke to Jacob her son, saying, "Indeed I heard your father speak to Esau your brother, saying,*

***Gen 27:7*** *'Bring me game and make savory food for me, that I may eat it and bless you in the presence of the LORD before my death.'*

***Gen 27:8*** *Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to what I command you.*

*Gen 27:9 Go now to the flock and bring me from there two choice kids of the goats, and I will make savory food from them for your father, such as he loves.*

*Gen 27:10 Then you shall take it to your father, that he may eat it, and that he may bless you before his death."*

*Gen 27:11 And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, "Look, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth-skinned man.*

*Gen 27:12 Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be a deceiver to him; and I shall bring a curse on myself and not a blessing."*

*Gen 27:13 But his mother said to him, "Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get them for me."*

*Gen 27:14 And he went and got them and brought them to his mother, and his mother made savory food, such as his father loved.*

*Gen 27:15 Then Rebekah took the choice clothes of her elder son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son.*

*Gen 27:16 And she put the skins of the kids of the goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck.*

*Gen 27:17 Then she gave the savory food and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob.*

Now, when we watch a drama unfold on TV or at the movies, we usually root for the good guy and root against the bad guy. Some of you may remember the t-shirts that said, "I love to hate J.R."

**The problem here is that no one is totally innocent.** No one trusts anyone else in the household. Rebekah is plotting against one son to insure that her favorite son gets what God promised him. She is concocting a lie and then involves her son in the lie.

Isaac is guilty of not listening to what God had promised Rebekah. Remember what she was told in Gen. 25?

**Gen 25:23** *And the LORD said to her: "Two nations are in your womb, Two peoples shall be separated from your body; One people shall be stronger than the other, And the older shall serve the younger."*

**Gen 25:24** *So when her days were fulfilled for her to give birth, indeed there were twins in her womb.*

**Gen 25:25** *And the first came out red. He was like a hairy garment all over; so they called his name Esau.*

**Gen 25:26** *Afterward his brother came out, and his hand took hold of Esau's heel; so his name was called Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.*

She was told that the elder would serve the younger. This is contrary to the tradition of the culture, but it is consistent with God's playbook.

- God doesn't follow our rules. He is God. He follows His rules.
- God often goes contrary to what we think is right. OR should I say it this way? We often go contrary to what God declares is right.
- Isaac has allowed his natural affection to blind him to God's plan.
- Are we guilty of this? Do we see things we want and then get blinded to what God wants us to have?
- Rebekah is aware of what God promised, and she wants that to come to pass. So, is she the spiritual one here?
- No! If she were being spiritual she would not have jumped into the fray like this. She knows what God promised but she is going about getting it her own way.
- Are we guilty of this also? Do we manipulate the situation in order to help God procure our blessing?
- There can be a balancing act between moving on someone's behalf in order to help them and trying to force God's will by going around God. The only way to prevent this is to be in constant prayer, proceed cautiously and walk in the Spirit.
- The truth of the matter, though we don't like to admit it is that we are very much like these characters.

- The sovereign will of God will be done in spite of anyone's opposition to it.
- If God promised it He can deliver it!
- Rebekah has now made her son an accomplice and forced him to lie. **He even goes so far as to bring God into the lie.**

*Gen 27:17 Then she gave the savory food and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob.*

*Gen 27:18 So he went to his father and said, "My father." And he said, "Here I am. Who are you, my son?"*

*Gen 27:19 Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn; I have done just as you told me; please arise, sit and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me."*

*Gen 27:20 But Isaac said to his son, "How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?" And he said, "Because the LORD your God brought it to me."*

*Gen 27:21 Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, whether you are really my son Esau or not."*

*Gen 27:22 So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, and he felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau."*

*Gen 27:23 And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands; so he blessed him.*

*Gen 27:24 Then he said, "Are you really my son Esau?" He said, "I am."*

*Gen 27:25 He said, "Bring it near to me, and I will eat of my son's game, so that my soul may bless you." So he brought it near to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank.*

*Gen 27:26 Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come near now and kiss me, my son."*

*Gen 27:27 And he came near and kissed him; and he smelled the smell of his clothing, and blessed him and said: "Surely, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field which the LORD has blessed.*

*Gen 27:28 Therefore may God give you Of the dew of heaven, Of the fatness of the earth, And plenty of grain and wine.*

***Gen 27:29*** *Let peoples serve you, And nations bow down to you. Be master over your brethren, And let your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you, And blessed be those who bless you!"*

At this point I think it is imperative that we understand what is at stake here.

*According to Keil and Deilitsch:*

*The birthright consisted afterwards in a double portion of the father's inheritance ([Deu 21:17](#)); but with the patriarchs it embraced the chieftainship, the rule over the brethren and the entire family ([Gen 27:29](#)), and the title to the blessing of the promise ([Gen 27:4](#), [Gen 27:27-29](#)), which included the future possession of Canaan and of covenant fellowship with Jehovah ([Gen 28:4](#)). Jacob knew this, and it led him to anticipate the purposes of God. Esau also knew it, but attached no value to it.*

There was also the office of family priest involved here. This is actually what Esau regarded as worthless.

So this wasn't just about who was going to take over South Fork. It was about who was going to carry on the promise and work of God. We are talking about the genealogy of Jesus. We are talking about to whom the baton would be passed in order to bring about the history that would eventually culminate in the salvation of the world. This was a big deal. You can bet that God isn't going to let anyone spoil it.

**Fact: We are always only one generation away from spiritual chaos. Imagine what could have happened had Esau become the priest of this family line. Spiritual CHAOS!!!**

So the plot is carried out. Rebekah cooks Esau's favorite meal and then dresses Jacob in fir. He then goes to his father, lies about his identity and gets the blessing.

- He is promised the dew of Heaven: implying the highest prosperity. Dew was needed for crops in such an arid land.
- He was promised plenty of corn and wine - good crops and good food
- Let people serve thee - this wasn't realized by Jacob, but by Israel after they were established in the Promised Land as a nation.

Now if we're honest with ourselves we have to ask some pertinent questions here.

- This whole thing is obviously a lie, yet is accomplishing the will of God. Does that make it right?
- No it doesn't. This is what happens when we meddle in God's business. You may say that Rebekah is involved, so she can't be meddling.
- She is meddling because in her zeal to see God's plan work out she is actually showing a lack of faith.
- In fact, at this point I have to wonder if it is the plan of God she is worried about or if she just wants her favorite son to inherit everything. This is a totally different motive.
- We are involved in the plan of God, but the end doesn't justify the means.
- It is God's plan. Therefore it has to be carried out His way.
- We don't orchestrate God's plan. We obediently play our part and leave the outcome to Him.
- Many times God is working in spite of us, not because of us.

**This brings up another point.**

If this isn't how God wanted it done, then why doesn't He intervene? Why didn't he strike Rebekah with a lightning bolt?



Two things:

1. In verses 20 and 24 Jacob had opportunities to come clean. Isaac wasn't sure of his identity. Jacob continued with the lie. This opportunity was allowed to go by the wayside. This could have been an intervention.
2. Do we really want God to intervene every time we are out of His will? If he did, especially with lightning strikes we would all be dead or at least charbroiled.

How can we say we want God to intervene when we willingly go contrary to His will? That does not make sense. God allows our free will to operate. He does intervene actively sometimes like He did in the Exodus. Sometimes He intervenes passively though, just as He did by allowing Jacob the opportunity to come clean.

If you remember, this was the way he handled things in the Garden of Eden. He could have intervened, but He didn't. He came to the parties involved afterwards and gave them an opportunity to repent by asking them questions. If you are familiar with the story you will recall that no one took responsibility.

Summation:

- We are to be conscious of God's plan for our lives.
- We should be diligent in carrying out our part of that plan.
- But we can't put our hands on God's part. We are actors in the play. He is the director.
- God gives us opportunities and outs when we mess up things. We just have to take advantage of them.
- Realize that just because God hasn't shown up with lightning doesn't mean that He is blessing what you are doing.
- Let God be God and just be humble and obedient.