

## CGYG & LIFE Bible Study – Genesis 27:1 – 28:22

### Read Genesis 27:1-46

-What was the blessing that Isaac wanted to give to Esau, and why was it important (v.4, 28-29)?

-Why did Isaac want to bless Esau (v.4, with Genesis 25:28)? What was the folly of his choice? (cf. Genesis 25:23; also, Genesis 26:34-35 with 27:46 and Proverbs 17:25; Hebrews 12:16)

-How did Esau, Rebekah, and Jacob respond to Isaac's directive to Esau in v.2-4? Who was "at fault" in the events described in this chapter?

-Was Esau right to separate his birthright from his blessing (v.36; cf. Hebrews 12:16-17)?

-Hebrews 11:20 says, "By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future." How so?

-What consequences did Isaac, Rebekah, Esau & Jacob reap from their actions?

- What does the outcome of this account tell us about God's sovereignty and man's responsibility? (you might also consider Proverbs 19:21; Acts 4:24-28; Galatians 6:7-9)

### Read Genesis 28:1-22

-Why did Isaac command Jacob not to marry a Canaanite woman? (cf. Gen. 24:1-4; 26:34-35; 27:46) Why did Esau take another (Ishmaelite) wife? Was he right to do so?

-Why did Isaac use the name “God Almighty” (*El Shaddai*) in his blessing to Jacob? (see Gen 17:1-2)

-Why did God appear to Jacob?

-Look again at the description of ‘Jacob’s ladder’ (28:12-13). Describe the events that are occurring. What is the significance of this ladder (cf. John 1:47-51; 1 Timothy 2:5)?

-How did Jacob respond to his vision, and what can we learn from his response?

-What does the account of Jacob’s dream teach us about God, and how do these lessons apply to us today? (you might also consider Romans 8:28-38; Hebrews 13:5-6)

### **Aliens and strangers in the world**

We see in today’s passage an example the mystery of God’s sovereignty, as it intersects with Man’s responsibility. Though the general pattern of his life was one of faith, Isaac was determined to bless Esau over Jacob – contrary to God’s revealed will – and planned to do so in secret. Esau, though he had sold his birthright, went along with the plot, hoping to regain the blessing he had so foolishly and recklessly forfeited for a bowl of stew. Having eavesdropped on their conversation, Rebekah conspired with Jacob to obtain Isaac’s blessing deceitfully. Jacob hesitated – not because what Rebekah proposed to do was wrong, but because he feared getting caught – but ultimately carried through with the scheme, even invoking the Lord’s name in his deception. In the end, they did what God had determined beforehand would happen, yet each person did exactly as he pleased – and reaped the consequences of his actions. Though he was shocked back to sober faithfulness, Isaac had to live with the consequences of a fractured and divided family. Esau reaped bitterness and envy, finding no way back to regain the blessing he had forever forsaken. Jacob placed his own life at risk and would be subjected to the Lord’s discipline, being forced to flee to his uncle Laban, who would give him a taste of his own medicine for the next 20 years. For her part, Rebekah would lose her favored son, and Scripture does not record that she was ever able to see him again.

This episode serves as a reminder that though God is sovereign over all things and His purposes will prevail, we are still responsible to walk in obedience to Him and to do things in accordance with His ways, lest we invite His discipline upon us. “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10)