

Genesis Chapter 27 Commentary

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

Isaac is getting old and fears he may die before he blesses his firstborn son. Although, we feel sure that Isaac knew of Jacob purchasing the birthright of Esau, Isaac still intends to bless Esau as the firstborn. Isaac also knows of the promise to Rebekah from God seen in: **Ge 25:22-23**; **"22 And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to enquire of the LORD. 23 And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger."** From this prophesy of God we gather; Jacob is to receive the blessing of the firstborn, and to be given preeminence over his older brother; in the blessing of the firstborn son.

It was a ritual in those times to bless the eldest son, as he was to take over the household, and in the natural order of things he would be given the dominance over the rest of the family. However, we remember the scripture in: **Ge 25:28 "And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob."** Isaac seems to have forgotten all these things, or else was never aware of them. In either case we see his intention to bless Esau as firstborn.

We are reminded; God has prophesied that the elder shall serve the younger. Now I ask you this question; did this prophesy justify the deceit that goes on here that is propagated by Rebekah? My answer is that it does not. Rebekah should have approached Isaac, and reminded him of God's promise, and Isaac should have been persuaded by that word of God to confer the blessing of firstborn upon Jacob.

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. **6** And Rebekah spake unto Jacob her son, saying, Behold, I heard thy father speak unto Esau thy brother, saying, **7** Bring me venison, and make me savoury meat, that I may eat, and bless thee before the LORD before my death. **8** Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to that which I command thee. **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: **10** And thou shalt bring it to thy father, that he may eat, and that he may bless thee before his death. **11** And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, Behold, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man: **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. **13** And his mother said unto him, Upon me be thy curse, my son: only obey my voice, and go fetch me them.

Jacob knows the right of firstborn is his. Jacob also knows that what his mother is asking him to do is deceitful. Jacob knows that if he is caught in the deceit, he will suffer a bad consequence. Jacob, in all the deceit that he will work in his life, also has a dread of a curse from his father, which would be as a

curse from God. No doubt they knew, of the curse of God in the fall of mankind before the flood, and since the flood they would have known of the curse upon Canaan, seen in: **Ge 9:25 "And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren."**

We shall see later in scripture, the Old Testament curse of deceiving the blind seen in: **De 27:18 "Cursed be he that maketh the blind to wander out of the way. And all the people shall say, Amen."** There is no doubt that Isaac is completely blind, or this deception would not have happened.

In application to our own lives today; we understand that we are not to lie, steal, cheat, deceive, or deal thusly, to our neighbors, brothers and sister in Christ, and especially not with our parents.

14 And he went, and fetched, and brought them to his mother: and his mother made savoury meat, such as his father loved. 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: 16 And she put the skins of the kids of the goats upon his hands, and upon the smooth of his neck:

Rebekah has really planned this scheme well. Notice, she dressed Jacob in Esau's clothes so he would smell like Esau. She put the skin of the goats on Jacob to make him feel hairy like his brother. Remember, Jacob knows this is deceitful and yet he goes along with it.

I ask this question: do we work as hard, at being true Christians, as we do to fill the desires of our own will? We see a principle here that demonstrates the life of the hypocrite. This very principle is alive and flourishing in the world of organized religion, in the world today. Consider:

- **Mt 7:15 "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."**
- **Mt 10:16 "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves."**
- **Lu 10:3 "Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves."**
- **Ac 20:29 "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock."**

These verses teach us to not only beware of hypocrisy in our own lives, but to guard against be led about by the hypocrisy of others.

17 And she gave the savoury meat and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob. 18 And he came unto his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I; who art thou, my son? 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. 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. 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. 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. 23 And he discerned him not, because his hands were hairy, as his brother Esau's hands: so he blessed him.

Notice, in verse 22; Isaac recognized that it was Jacob's voice, but he blessed him anyway. I believe, God allowed Isaac to be deceived; and to move forward in conferring the blessing of firstborn upon Jacob, who rightfully purchased the birthright, that God's purpose might be fulfilled.

We also remember the scripture in: **Job 4:8 "Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same."** We shall see, as we follow Jacob in scripture; Jacob shall receive the rewards of deceitfulness in his life, in full return and manyfold times over in the near future.

24 And he said, Art thou my very son Esau? And he said, I am. 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. 26 And his father Isaac said unto him, Come near now, and kiss me, my son. 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: 28 Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine: 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.

We see in the blessing of the firstborn, Isaac has given the preeminence to Jacob, who he believes is his firstborn. This is exactly what God had told Rebekah would be the case. It was just brought to fruition by deceitful means by Rebekah and Jacob.

Let's consider this blessing of the firstborn son. Jacob is given the blessing of the natural earth in plenteous supply. He is given lordship over people and nations. He is given the servitude of his family and lordship over them. In the blessing we see; those that despise and curse him will be cursed; but, those that bless him will be blessed.

Let's look now, at some New Testament scriptures, and see the prophetic promises, of the right of firstborn, being fulfilled.

- **Mt 1:25 "And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS."** Jesus is the firstborn son of the virgin Mary. It is through and by Jesus that we have all our blessings in life, both natural and spiritual.
- **Ro 8:29 "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."** We are conformed to the image of the Son of God, but notice that God gave that firstborn position to Jesus, the Christ.
- **Col 1:13-18; 13 "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: 15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."** We see in this text that all that we have as born again sinners is from and through Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God, the only begotten and firstborn of God the Father.

Do you see the picture? Jesus did not get the position of firstborn by deceit. God the Father conferred upon God the Son, the only begotten of God and firstborn of many brethren, lordship over all of his family. Jesus was the firstborn, with all the rights and privileges that position affords. We,

being born again, are under the lordship of our King, Jesus, the Christ, and have all the privileges of being in the family of the firstborn. We have blessing in our lives because of the blessing in the office of the firstborn. We are completely furnished in all our needs, both natural and spiritual, through our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord! that we are blessed to be the sons of God, under the lordship of Christ Jesus!

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

We notice that the deceitfulness is not all one sided. Esau knows, he has sold the birthright of firstborn to his brother Jacob. So in reality, Esau also lies to his father by saying he is firstborn, which he actually is in nature, but which right he sold to Jacob.

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.

Even though the blessing was received by deceitful means, it was given out of a pure heart and it was to remain. By prophesy of God, and by purchase, the blessing of firstborn was Jacob's.

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

Let's look at Isaac's blessing of Esau. He blesses him with earthly blessings. He tells him his life will be lived by the sword. He tells Esau, eventually you will become great and mighty and get from under your brother's lordship. We shall see these prophecies fulfilled in scripture; as we follow the life of Jacob and the nation Israel.

41 And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him: and Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob.

What lesson can we draw from verse 41 that will apply to our lives today? After all, Esau's hatred for Jacob was unfounded, when you consider; it was Esau himself who sold the firstborn birthright to

Jacob. We can look at this unfounded hatred in the New Testament and see what it means to us, as seen in: **1Jo 3:15 "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him."** We see from this text; we should have no hatred against a brother in our hearts. God says very plainly here; if we hate our brother, we are not one of God's children, and we are in satan's possession.

Adam Clarke's Commentary: Everyone expected that Isaac would soon die, though he lived more than forty years.

*Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: The malice Esau bore to Jacob upon account of the blessing which he had obtained, **Ge 27:41**. Thus he went in the way of Cain in Genesis chapter 4, who slew his brother because he had gained that acceptance with God of which he (Cain) had rendered himself unworthy. Esau's hatred of Jacob was, A causeless hatred. He hated him for no other reason but because his father blessed him and God loved him. Note: The happiness of saints is the envy of sinners. Whom Heaven blesses, hell curses.*

42 And these words of Esau her elder son were told to Rebekah: and she sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said unto him, Behold, thy brother Esau, as touching thee, doth comfort himself, purposing to kill thee.

We notice in verse 41 that Esau said in his heart which we take to mean he didn't speak aloud. However, we see in verse 42 that indeed Esau spoke aloud what was in his heart for it was heard and conveyed to Rebekah. This brings us to remembrance of scripture in:

- **Mt 15:18-20; 18 "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. 19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: 20 These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man."**
- **Mr 7:20-23; 20 "And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. 21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: 23 All these evil things come from within, and defile the man."**

These texts help us to understand; Esau spoke aloud of what he felt in his heart. It also reminds us that we do the same thing. So often, I find my own self to be speaking, without reflecting first on what I am saying, and later having to mourn over spoken words which do not reflect Christian values.

"purposing to kill thee" We see that Rebekah is early reaping the seeds of deceit. How? She is now going to have to send Jacob away, and be deprived of the presence of the son she loves. Though she thinks it will only be for a little while, Rebekah will never see her son again; she will die before his return to Canaan.

This is a prophetic picture, of Israel's rejection of Christ, and their hatred toward him. The Scribes, Pharisees, and those involved in the crucifixion of Christ, comforted their hearts believing; that with Jesus's death they would gain all they desire. As Jacob is slain to Esau, in that he is sent away from his presence; Jacob will return to his home, the land of promise, in the future and Esau will be glad to see him. Jesus actually died on the cross; but he rose from the dead, was seen of his brethren, and returned to his home in heaven. Jacob's lineage will lead us to the birth of Christ.

43 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice; and arise, flee thou to Laban my brother to Haran; 44 And tarry with him a few days, until thy brother's fury turn away; 45 Until thy brother's anger turn away from thee, and he forget that which thou hast done to him: then I will send, and fetch thee from thence: why should I be deprived also of you both in one day?

Rebekah understood; if Esau killed Jacob; God's law required that Esau also be killed, as directed in: ***Ge 9:6 "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man."*** If this happened, then she would lose both of her sons.

We notice in this verse that Rebekah is now blaming Jacob for deceiving his brother Esau. ***"and he forget that which thou hast done to him"*** How quickly we forget our own sins and look to lay blame on another. Rebekah, in her distress from having to send Jacob away, is now comforting her own self by blaming Jacob for what has transpired, forgetting that she is the one who brought this scheme to fruition. Certainly, Jacob is not blameless for he went along with the scheme, but the root of the scheme is born from Rebekah.

46 And Rebekah said to Isaac, I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth: if Jacob take a wife of the daughters of Heth, such as these which are of the daughters of the land, what good shall my life do me?

"if Jacob take a wife of the daughters of Heth" The daughters of Heth were the Hittites in the land where they dwelt, as seen in: ***Ge 26:34-35; 34 "And Esau was forty years old when he took to wife Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Bashemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite: 35 Which were a grief of mind unto Isaac and to Rebekah."*** We see that Rebekah was already weary of these idolatrous Hittite wives, back in the chapter 26.

Rebekah is scheming and planning. However, this time we see that it coincides with previous scripture to not marry the idolatrous women of Canaan, seen in: ***Ge 24:2-4; 2 "And Abraham said unto his eldest servant of his house, that ruled over all that he had, Put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh: 3 And I will make thee swear by the LORD, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell: 4 But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac."*** This is where Rebekah came from. Thus, as we go to the next chapter; we see Rebekah presenting her case to Isaac, another scheme to try to save the life of the son she loves, Jacob.

We notice; Rebekah does not confess, of how she schemed with Jacob to get the blessing of firstborn on Jacob. She doesn't acknowledge that she did wrong. Now, she is putting forth another scheme to cover the results of the first scheme. This is the way of life in this world as we see the principle set forth that sin breeds more sin.

May God preserve us from scheming sinfully to advance our own purposes. May God help us to be honest and forthright in all things, that we don't have to add scheme upon scheme as we live out our lives, and through Christian living we might bring glory and honor to God. God have mercy upon us; save us from our own sinful natures.