

## 100 Bible Stories

### 14. Isaac and His Family

#### Genesis 24-27.29 (NKJV)

**Gen. 24:** Now Abraham was old, well advanced in age; and the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things. <sup>2</sup>So Abraham said to the oldest servant of his house, who ruled over all that he had, "Please, put your hand under my thigh, <sup>3</sup>and I will make you swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell; <sup>4</sup>but you shall go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac."

<sup>5</sup>And the servant said to him, "Perhaps the woman will not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I take your son back to the land from which you came?"

<sup>6</sup>But Abraham said to him, "Beware that you do not take my son back there. <sup>7</sup>The Lord God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my family, and who spoke to me and swore to me, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land,' He will send His angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there. <sup>8</sup>And if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be released from this oath; only do not take my son back there." <sup>9</sup>So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and swore to him concerning this matter.

Read further as the Servant finds Rebekah....

#### Gen. 25 –

<sup>20</sup>This is the genealogy of Isaac, Abraham's son. Abraham begot Isaac. <sup>20</sup>Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah as wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Padan Aram, the sister of Laban the Syrian. <sup>21</sup>Now Isaac pleaded with the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his plea, and Rebekah his wife conceived. <sup>22</sup>But the children struggled together within her; and she said, "If all is well, why am I like this?" So she went to inquire of the Lord.

<sup>23</sup>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."

<sup>24</sup>So when her days were fulfilled for her to give birth, indeed there were twins in her womb. <sup>25</sup>And the first came out red. He was like a hairy garment all over; so they called his name Esau ("Hairy"). <sup>26</sup>Afterward his brother came out, and his hand took hold of Esau's heel; so his name was called Jacob ("Supplantor"). Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

<sup>27</sup>So the boys grew. And Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field; but Jacob was a mild man, dwelling in tents. <sup>28</sup>And Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

<sup>29</sup>Now Jacob cooked a stew; and Esau came in from the field, and he was weary.

<sup>30</sup>And Esau said to Jacob, "Please feed me with that same red stew, for I am weary." Therefore his name was called Edom ("Red"). <sup>31</sup>But Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright as of this day." <sup>32</sup>And Esau said, "Look, I am about to die; so what is this birthright to me?" <sup>33</sup>Then Jacob said, "Swear to me as of this day." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. <sup>34</sup>And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils; then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Why marry in the family/tribe?

Rebekah and Isaac to have twin boys...

Favorite sons; politics vs. the will of God.

Birthright and blessing to the elder.

**Gen. 26** – <sup>34</sup>When Esau was forty years old, he took as wives Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite. <sup>35</sup>And they were a grief of mind to Isaac and Rebekah.

**Gen. 27** – 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.” <sup>2</sup>Then he said, “Behold now, I am old. I do not know the day of my death. <sup>3</sup>Now therefore, please take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me. <sup>4</sup>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.”

<sup>5</sup>Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt game and to bring it. <sup>6</sup>So Rebekah spoke to Jacob her son, saying, “Indeed I heard your father speak to Esau your brother, saying, <sup>7</sup>‘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.’ <sup>8</sup>Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to what I command you. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>Then you shall take it to your father, that he may eat it, and that he may bless you before his death.”

<sup>11</sup>And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, “Look, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth-skinned man. <sup>12</sup>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.” <sup>13</sup>But his mother said to him, “Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get them for me.” <sup>14</sup>And he went and got them and brought them to his mother, and his mother made savory food, such as his father loved. <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>And she put the skins of the kids of the goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. <sup>17</sup>Then she gave the savory food and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob. <sup>18</sup>So he went to his father and said, “My father.” And he said, “Here I am. Who are you, my son?” <sup>19</sup>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.” <sup>20</sup>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.”

<sup>21</sup>Isaac said to Jacob, “Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, whether you are really my son Esau or not.” <sup>22</sup>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.” <sup>23</sup>And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau’s hands; so he blessed him. <sup>24</sup>Then he said, “Are you really my son Esau?” He said, “I am.” <sup>25</sup>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. <sup>26</sup>Then his father Isaac said to him, “Come near now and kiss me, my son.” <sup>27</sup>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. <sup>28</sup>Therefore may God give you Of the dew of heaven, Of the fatness of the earth, And plenty of grain and wine. <sup>29</sup>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!”

<sup>30</sup>Now it happened, as soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, and Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting. <sup>31</sup>He also had made savory food, and brought it to his father, and said to his father, “Let my father arise and eat of his son’s game, that your soul may bless me.” <sup>32</sup>And his father Isaac said to him, “Who are you?” So he said, “I am your son, your firstborn, Esau.” <sup>33</sup>Then Isaac trembled exceedingly, and said, “Who? Where is the one who hunted game and brought it to me? I ate all of it before you came, and I have blessed him—and indeed he shall be blessed.”

Why is this mentioned? What has this to do with the antediluvian genealogies?

Comment on Rebekah’s plan....

Who was acting that God’s will be done (24.23)?

Who saw to it that God’s will was done?

The blessing given.

<sup>34</sup>When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, "Bless me—me also, O my father!" <sup>35</sup>But he said, "Your brother came with deceit and has taken away your blessing." <sup>36</sup>And Esau said, "Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright, and now look, he has taken away my blessing!" And he said, "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?"

<sup>37</sup>Then Isaac answered and said to Esau, "Indeed I have made him your master, and all his brethren I have given to him as servants; with grain and wine I have sustained him. What shall I do now for you, my son?" <sup>38</sup>And Esau said to his father, "Have you only one blessing, my father? Bless me—me also, O my father!" And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.

<sup>39</sup>Then Isaac his father answered and said to him: "Behold, your dwelling shall be of the fatness of the earth, And of the dew of heaven from above. <sup>40</sup>By your sword you shall live, And you shall serve your brother; And it shall come to pass, when you become restless, That you shall break his yoke from your neck."

<sup>41</sup>So Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him, and Esau said in his heart, "The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then I will kill my brother Jacob." <sup>42</sup>And the words of Esau her older son were told to Rebekah. So she sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said to him, "Surely your brother Esau comforts himself concerning you by intending to kill you. <sup>43</sup>Now therefore, my son, obey my voice: arise, flee to my brother Laban in Haran. <sup>44</sup>And stay with him a few days, until your brother's fury turns away, <sup>45</sup>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 bereaved also of you both in one day?"

<sup>46</sup>And Rebekah said to Isaac, "I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth; if Jacob takes a wife of the daughters of Heth, like these who are the daughters of the land, what good will my life be to me?"

Jacob flees