

## Esau's Inheritance

**Genesis 25:37-54; Genesis 27**

### **1A Genesis 25:27–34:**

**1B The character and vocations of the brothers, 27:** So the boys grew. And Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field; but Jacob was a mild man, dwelling in tents.

**1C** The Hebrew Tam describes Jacob as perfect or wholesome in a feminine sense. Twice it is used to describe Solomon beloved in the Song of Solomon.

**2C** Although Esau was very manly, with knowledge of hunting, Jacob didn't go outside much.

**2B The attitudes of the parents, 28:** And Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

**1C** This detail is significant because it shows that not only would Isaac be constrained to grant the birthright to his firstborn, but also he was the favorite.

**2C** Jacob has no realistic chance, apart from God's grace, to gain this birthright.

**3C** Yet he does try.

**3B The circumstances for the deceit, 29:** Now Jacob cooked a stew; and Esau came in from the field, and he was weary.

**4B The request of Esau, 30:** And Esau said to Jacob, "Please feed me with that same red stew, for I am weary." Therefore his name was called Edom.

**1C** Notice that Esau is polite to his brother.

**2C** He does not make a demand, despite the fact that he has been hunting and providing for the family, and it has caused him to be weary.

**5B The demand of Jacob, 31:** But Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright as of this day."

**1C** Likewise, notice Jacob's manner.

**2C** He uses the imperative verb with his brother, he is very demanding.

**6B Esau's reasoning, 32:** And Esau said, "Look, I am about to die; so what is this birthright to me?"

**1C** Esau has a value system, comparing his life to his birthright.

**2C** Yet the Scriptures say he was only famished, not starving to death.

**3C** So his perceived immediate need for food is of greater value to him than his birthright.

**4C** This is terrible.

**7B The demand of Jacob, 33a:** Then Jacob said, "Swear to me as of this day."

**8B The compliance of Esau, 33b:** So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob.

**1C** This oath is Esau's solemn word.

**2C** By this oath he effectively gives away his birthright.

**9B The meal, 34a:** And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils; then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way.

**10B Conclusion, 34b:** Thus Esau despised his birthright."

**1C** The verb bazah means to raise the head loftily and disdainfully.

**2C** In 2 Samuel 12:9–10 it is used to describe David's great sin in the murder of Uriah, "9 Why have you despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon. 10 Now therefore, the sword shall never

depart from your house, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.' "

**3C** Esau thought much of his present desires, but little of his future.

**2A** Interlude:

**1B** Time passes.

**2B** In this next passage, the striking feature is that no one has told Isaac of the passage of the birthright from Jacob to Esau.

**3A** **Genesis 27:1–46:**

**1B** **The urgent time of passing, the need for action, and a summons, 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."

**2B** **The description of the situation, 2:** Then he said, "Behold now, I am old. I do not know the day of my death.

**3B** **The command for a meal of game as prerequisite for , vv.3-4:** 3 Now therefore, please take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me. 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."

**4B** **Rebekah's betrayal and scheme, vv.5-10:**

**1C** **Her eavesdropping, 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.

**2C** **Her report to Jacob, vv.6-7:** 6 So Rebekah spoke to Jacob her son, saying, "Indeed I heard your father speak to Esau your brother, saying, 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.'

**3C** **Her charge to Jacob, 8:** Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to what I command you.

**4C** **The plan to gain the blessing, vv.9-10:** 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. 10 Then you shall take it to your father, that he may eat it, and that he may bless you before his death."

**5B** **Jacob's analysis of the operation, vv.11-12:** 11 And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, "Look, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth-skinned man. 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."

**6B** **Rebekah's command, 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."

**7B** **Jacob's obedience, 14:** And he went and got them and brought them to his mother, and his mother made savory food, such as his father loved.

**8B** **Preparations, vv.15-17:**

**1C** **The disguise, vv.15-16:** 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. 16 And she put the skins of the kids of the goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck.

**2C The food, 17:** Then she gave the savory food and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob.

**9B Operation birthright, vv.18-29:**

**1C Declaration and question, 18:** So he went to his father and said, “My father.” And he said, “Here I am. Who are you, my son?”

**2C Jacob’s lie, 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.”

**3C Isaac’s suspicion, 20a:** But Isaac said to his son, “How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?”

**4C Second lie, 20b:** And he said, “Because the LORD your God brought it to me.”

**5C Request for verification, 21:** Isaac said to Jacob, “Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, whether you are really my son Esau or not.”

**6C Compliance and continued suspicion, 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.”

**7C Decision to bless, 23:** And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau’s hands; so he blessed him.

**8C Continued suspicion and verification, vv.24-27:**

**1D Verbal verification, 24:** Then he said, “Are you really my son Esau?” He said, “I am.”

**2D Culinary verification, 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.

**3D Verification by smell, vv.26-27:** 26 Then his father Isaac said to him, “Come near now and kiss me, my son.” 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.

**4D Blessing! 28:** Therefore may God give you Of the dew of heaven, Of the fatness of the earth, And plenty of grain and wine. 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!”

**10B The return of Esau, and uncovering of the scheme, vv.30-33:**

**1C The return, 30:** 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.

**2C The repeat, 31:** 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.”

**3C The confusion and revelation, 32:** And his father Isaac said to him, “Who are you?” So he said, “I am your son, your firstborn, Esau.”

**4C The response of Isaac, 33:** 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.”

**11B Esau’s cry and plea, 34:** 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!”

1C Esau's cry is characterized as great and bitter. Bitterness cannot by definition be humble.

2C Esau, despite his sinful actions in despising his birthright, still has a sense of entitlement.

3C He is seeking what he cannot honorably find, because he swore an oath.

12B **Isaac's summary, 35:** But he said, "Your brother came with deceit and has taken away your blessing."

13B **Esau's summary and plea, 36:** 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?"

14B **Isaac's analysis of results and turning to Esau, 37:** 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?"

15B **Esau's final plea, 38:** 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.

16B **Isaac give Esau his due, vv.39-40:** 39 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. 40 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."

17B **The attitude and intent of Esau toward Jacob, 41f.** 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." 42 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. 43 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice: arise, flee to my brother Laban in Haran. 44 And stay with him a few days, 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 bereaved also of you both in one day?" 46 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?" "

4A **Analysis with respect to Hebrews 12:**