

Overcoming the Flesh Through God's Blessing

1) Genesis 27: 1 – 24 NKJV

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

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*.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.'⁸ Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to what I command you.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."

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."

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."¹⁴ And he went and got *them* and brought *them* to his mother, and his mother made savory food, such as his father loved.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.¹⁷ Then she gave the savory food and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob.

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

²¹ Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, whether you *are* really my son Esau or not."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."²³ And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands; so he blessed him.²⁴ Then he said, "Are you really my son Esau?" He said, "I *am*."

a. Esau was the older brother and Jacob was the younger. Jesus is our brother; which of us is the eldest? Who would He correspond to in this story? Why is that significant?

b. Rebekah covered Jacob with the wool from the kids of the goats. What is the significance of that and what does that mean for us?

c. Isaac represents the Father in the story. Why is His blindness important?

2) Genesis 27: 25 – 29

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. 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. 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!”

a. What does it mean that Jacob’s garments smelled like a field the Lord has blessed?

b. He blessed him with the dew of heaven, the fatness of earth, and plenty of grain and wine. What does this mean?

c. What made Jacob master over his brother?

3) Genesis 27: 30 – 40

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. 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.”

³² And his father Isaac said to him, “Who *are* you?” So he said, “I *am* your son, your firstborn, Esau.” 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.”

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!” ³⁵ But he said, “Your brother came with deceit and has taken away your blessing.”

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?”

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?” 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.

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 *have the dominion* you shall break his yoke from your neck.”

a. Why is the blessing of the firstborn son so important? Why can't it be undone even when subtly is discovered?

b. Why was Esau more upset about losing his blessing than his birthright?

c. Why does Esau's blessing start with the fatness of the earth rather than the dew of heaven, and why doesn't Isaac mention the grain and the wine?

d. Why does the blessing make Jacob Esau's master?

e. When can Esau break Jacob's yoke off of his neck? What does that mean for us?

4) All the blessings of God are in Christ (Ephesians 1:3). When Jacob was covered in the skins of the sacrificial animal it was symbolic of our being in Christ. As Jacob was blessed in his father by being in Esau's place so are we blessed by being in Christ by His Father.