

Isaac and His Family

Genesis 27

Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah to be his wife. Rebekah conceived and, behold, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy cloak, so they called his name Esau. His brother came out with his hand holding Esau's heel, so his name was called Jacob. Isaac loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

When Isaac was old and his eyes were dim so that he could not see, he called Esau and said to him, "Prepare for me delicious food and bring it to me so that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die."

Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to Esau. She said to Jacob, "Go to the flock and bring me two good young goats, so that I may prepare from them delicious food for your father. You shall bring it to your father to eat, so that he may bless¹ you before he dies."

So he went and brought them, and his mother prepared delicious food. Then Rebekah took the best garments of Esau and put them on Jacob. And the skins of the young goats she put on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. Then he went in to his father and said, "My father."

And he said, "Here I am. Who are you, my son?"

Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau, your firstborn. I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat of my game², that your soul may bless me."

Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not." So Jacob went near to Isaac, his father, who felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau." He did not recognize him, for his hands were hairy like those of his brother, Esau.

Then Isaac said to him, "Come near and kiss me, my son." So he came near and kissed him. Isaac smelled his garments and blessed him and said, "Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers, and may your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you, and blessed be everyone who blesses you!"

Explanatory Notes

¹She knew Jacob was supposed to receive the blessing. ²The meat Jacob prepared.



Isaac prayed for his barren wife, Rebekah, to conceive and bear children.

For Reflection

1. Why were the actions of Rebecca and Jacob wrong?
2. What does Jesus' life, death, and resurrection mean for us when we repent of our own lies and dishonest acts?
3. As children of God, we also receive blessings from our Father. What blessings have we received from Him? How have we received them?

Words to Remember

By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. *Hebrews 11:20*