

# THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD

**A Journey Through the  
Old Testament**

Romans 15:4 For everything that was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we might have hope.

## Genesis 25

23 and He declared to her:

“Two nations are in your womb,  
and two peoples from within you will be separated;  
one people will be stronger than the other,  
and **the older will serve the younger.**”

## Genesis 27

**1** When Isaac was old and his eyes were so weak that he could no longer see, he called his older son Esau and said to him, “My son.”

“Here I am,” Esau replied.

**2** “Look,” said Isaac, “I am now old and do not know the day of my death.

**3** Take your weapons—your quiver and bow—and go out in the field to hunt some game for me.

**4** Then prepare a tasty dish that I love and bring it to me to eat, so that I may bless you before I die.”

## Genesis 27

5 Now Rebekah was listening to what Isaac told his son Esau.

So when Esau went into the field to hunt game and bring it back,

6 Rebekah said to her son Jacob, “Behold, I overheard your father saying to your brother Esau,

7 ‘Bring me some game and prepare me a tasty dish to eat, so that I may bless you in the presence of the LORD before I die.’

## **Genesis 27**

**8 Now, my son, listen to my voice and do exactly as I tell you.**

**9 Go out to the flock and bring me two choice young goats, so that I can make them into a tasty dish for your father—the kind he loves.**

**10 Then take it to your father to eat, so that he may bless you before he dies.”**

## Genesis 27

11 Jacob answered his mother Rebekah, “Look, my brother Esau is a hairy man, but I am smooth-skinned.

12 What if my father touches me? Then I would be revealed to him as a deceiver, and I would bring upon myself a curse rather than a blessing.”

13 His mother replied, “Your curse be on me, my son. Just obey my voice and go get them for me.”

## **Genesis 27**

**14 So Jacob went and got two goats and brought them to his mother, who made the tasty food his father loved.**

**15 And Rebekah took the finest clothes in the house that belonged to her older son Esau, and she put them on her younger son Jacob.**

**16 She also put the skins of the young goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck.**

**17 Then she handed her son Jacob the tasty food and bread she had made.**

## Genesis 27

18 So Jacob went to his father and said, “My father.”

“Here I am!” he answered. “Which one are you, my son?”

19 Jacob said to his father, “I am Esau, your firstborn.

I have done as you told me. Please sit up and eat some of my game, so that you may bless me.”



## Genesis 27

20 But Isaac asked his son, “How did you ever find it so quickly, my son?”

“Because the LORD your God brought it to me,” he replied.

21 Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Please come closer so I can touch you, my son. Are you really my son Esau or not?”

## Genesis 27

22 So Jacob came close to his father Isaac, who touched him and said, “The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau.”

23 Isaac did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like those of his brother Esau; so he blessed him.

24 Again he asked, “Are you really my son Esau?”  
And he replied, “I am.”

## Genesis 27

25 “Serve me,” said Isaac, “and let me eat some of my son’s game, so that I may bless you.”

Jacob brought it to him, and he ate; then he brought him wine, and he drank.

26 Then his father Isaac said to him, “Please come near and kiss me, my son.”

27 So he came near and kissed him. When Isaac smelled his clothing, he blessed him and said:

“Ah, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field that the LORD has blessed.

## **Genesis 27**

**28 May God give to you the dew of heaven  
and the richness of the earth—  
an abundance of grain and new wine.**

**29 May peoples serve you  
and nations bow down to you.**

**May you be the master of your brothers,  
and may the sons of your mother bow down to you.  
May those who curse you be cursed,  
and those who bless you be blessed.”**

## Genesis 27

30 As soon as Isaac had finished blessing him and Jacob had left his father's presence, his brother Esau returned from the hunt.

31 He too made some tasty food, brought it to his father, and said to him, "My father, sit up and eat of your son's game, so that you may bless me."

32 But his father Isaac replied, "Who are you?"  
"I am Esau, your firstborn son," he answered.

## Genesis 27

33 Isaac began to tremble violently and said,  
“Who was it, then, who hunted the game and  
brought it to me?

Before you came in, I ate it all and blessed him—  
and indeed, he will be blessed!”

34 When Esau heard his father’s words, he let out  
a loud and bitter cry and said to his father,  
“Bless me too, O my father!”

## Genesis 27

35 But Isaac replied, “Your brother came deceitfully and took your blessing.”

36 So Esau declared, “Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has cheated me twice. He took my birthright, and now he has taken my blessing.”

Then he asked, “Haven’t you saved a blessing for me?”

37 But Isaac answered Esau: “Look, I have made him your master and given him all his relatives as servants; I have sustained him with grain and new wine.

What is left that I can do for you, my son?”

## Genesis 27

38 Esau said to his father, “Do you have only one blessing, my father?

Bless me too, O my father!” Then Esau wept aloud.

39 His father Isaac answered him:

“Behold, your dwelling place shall be away from the richness of the land, away from the dew of heaven above.

40 You shall live by the sword and serve your brother. But when you rebel, you will tear his yoke from your neck.”



## Genesis 27

**41 Esau held a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing his father had given him.**

**And Esau said in his heart: “The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then I will kill my brother Jacob.”**

# General Themes of Genesis 27

- **Jacob is to carry the blessing of God**  
(the seed of the woman Gen. 3:15)
- **God uses sinful people to accomplish His sovereign will**

**Proverbs 16:9 A man's heart plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.**

**Proverbs 19:21 Many plans are in a man's heart, but the purpose of the LORD will prevail.**

# General Themes of Genesis 27

- **Jacob is to carry the blessing of God**  
(the seed of the woman Gen. 3:15)
- **God uses sinful people to accomplish His sovereign will**
- **The picture of flesh (Esau) and spirit (Jacob)**
- **The redeemed are not redeemed because they are more redeemable - it is by God's mercy**

# Four Characters - Four Ways to Not Walk by Faith

Isaac - faith in experience over God's revelation

*"If it feels right; it must be from God"*

Rebekah - faith in herself to bring about God's will

*"God helps those who help themselves"*

Jacob - faith that God's will was a reason to sin

*"The ends justifies the means"*

Esau - refuses the faith of humble repentance

*"Poor me. It's everyone else's fault"*

# Isaac – Experience over Revelation

Isaac was determined to ignore God's direct divine revelation to him

**Because...**

- it was so long ago – 60 to 70 years
- the natural thing is to bless the firstborn
- Esau was his favorite
- Satan stopping the “seed of the woman”

*“Has God really said?”*

# Isaac – Experience over Revelation

Habakkuk 2

4 Look at the proud one;

his soul is not upright —

**but the righteous will live by his faith —**

## Proverbs 3

**1 My son, do not forget my teaching,  
but let your heart keep my commandments;**

**2 for they will add length to your days,  
years and peace to your life.**

**3 Never let loving devotion or faithfulness leave  
you;**

**bind them around your neck,  
write them on the tablet of your heart.**

## Proverbs 3

4 Then you will find favor and high regard  
in the sight of God and man.

**5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart,  
and lean not on your own understanding;**

6 in all your ways acknowledge Him,  
and He will make your paths straight.



# Isaac – Experience over Revelation

**Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;**

**Because ...**

**Faith glorifies God and saves me**

**Faith is what defeats my flesh**

**Faith is what steadies us in trials**

**Faith is what keeps us from deception**

**John 20**

**29 Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen Me,  
you have believed;  
blessed are those who have not seen and yet  
have believed.”**

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