

# 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

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

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.

## 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.”**

# Four Characters - Four Ways to Not Walk by Faith



# Isaac – Experience vs. Revelation

*“If it feels right to me, it must be from God”*

# Rebekah - Self-reliance vs. God-reliance

***“God helps those who help themselves”***



# **Rebekah – Self-reliance vs. God-reliance**

**If Rebekah really trusted in God's power, what should she have done?**

**Nothing - Wait upon the Lord - Be still**

## **Matthew 10**

**29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny?**

**Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father.**

**30 And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.**

**31 So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.**

# Rebekah – Self-reliance vs. God-reliance

If Rebekah really trusted in God's power, what should she have done differently?

Nothing - Wait upon the Lord - Be still

Pray very God-honoring, dependent prayers

Act, knowing that God works **through** our work

## 1 Corinthians 15

9 For I am the least of the apostles and am unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace to me was not in vain.

No, I worked harder than all of them—

**yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.**

# Jacob - Pragmatism vs. Obedience

***“God helps those who help themselves”***

# Jacob – Pragmatism vs. Obedience

## Numbers 20

**12 But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron,  
“Because you did not trust Me to show My  
holiness in the sight of the Israelites,  
you will not bring this assembly into the land  
I have given them.”**

# Jacob – Pragmatism vs. Obedience

## Numbers 20

12 But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron,  
“Because **you did not trust Me** to show My  
holiness in the sight of the Israelites,  
you will not bring this assembly into the land  
I have given them.”

# Jacob – Pragmatism vs. Obedience

Numbers 20

12 But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron,  
“Because you did not trust Me **to show My holiness** in the sight of the Israelites,  
you will not bring this assembly into the land  
I have given them.”



# Esau - Self-righteousness vs. Repentance



## Hebrews 12

15 Be careful that no one falls short of the grace of God, so that no root of bitterness will spring up to cause trouble and defile many.

16 See to it that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like **Esau**, who for a single meal sold his birthright.

17 For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected.

He could find no ground for repentance, though he sought the blessing with tears.

# Esau – Self-righteousness vs. Repentance

Romans 3:9 What then? Are we any better? Not at all. For we have already made the charge that Jews and Greeks alike are all under sin. 10 As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one; 11 There is no one who understands; no one who seeks God. 12 All have turned away; they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.

# Esau – Self-righteousness vs. Repentance

Romans 3

13 Their throats are open graves;

their tongues practice deceit;

the venom of vipers is on their lips;

14 their mouths are full of cursing and of bitterness;

15 their feet are swift to shed blood;

16 ruin and misery lie in their wake;

17 and the way of peace they have not known;

18 there is no fear of God before their eyes.”

# 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.