

Character Study: Isaac

Part 3 – Isaac Blesses Jacob

Genesis 26-35

What's happening?

- God confirmed the covenant with Isaac and allowed him to grow in prosperity. This was despite an incident during a famine where he lied to a Philistine king (Abimelech) about his wife in hopes of not being killed. Discovering the lie, the king was upset, but gracious. (26:1-14)
- As Isaac grew old in age, he suffered from bad vision and could no longer see. He made preparations to bless Esau before he died. However, while Esau was out hunting, Rebekah encouraged Jacob to go to Isaac (pretending to be Esau) and receive the blessing instead. (27:1-17)
- Rebekah had Jacob put on Esau's clothes and use animal skins to imitate Esau's hairy body. Jacob, saying he was Esau, took a meal to Isaac that Isaac had asked Esau to prepare. Isaac thought the voice sounded like Jacob's, but from the hairy skins and smell of the clothes, he became convinced he was Esau and blessed him. (27:18-26)
- Isaac offered Jacob a blessing which included wealth, respect from other nations, and authority over his brothers. When Esau returned and heard his blessing had gone to Jacob, he became angry and desired to kill his brother. Rebecca told Jacob that he should leave home for his safety. Isaac sent Jacob off, reminding him that the blessings of Abraham were his and his descendants. (27:27-28:5)
- At 180 years of age, Isaac died. He was buried by his sons. (35:27-29)

What's God doing?

> God had carried out His promises through Isaac, and He would now carry them on through Isaac's son Jacob. Why did God choose Jacob instead of Esau? [Romans 9:10-13](#) tells us that it was simply God's plan. [Hebrews 12:16-17](#) confirms that God's plan was truly the best.

What's to learn?

→ Isaac and Esau knew Jacob was to receive the firstborn's blessing (Isaac knew God had determined this – [Gen. 25:23](#); and Esau knew Jacob had the birthright), yet they fought against it. Rebekah and Jacob knew as well, yet they used deception to try to secure the blessing. Failing to trust God only brought hatred and strife to their family. How has doing things your way brought you heartache? In what areas of life do you need to trust God and follow God's way more?