

Genesis 27-28:9
God's Purpose Prevails Despite Man's Sin
August 4, 2021

Conflict, favoritism, deception, and worldliness have been a part of the fabric of Isaac's family since we began to study Isaac's family in Gen. 25. Gen. 25:22-34, 26:6-7, 34-35.

I. Pervasive Sin in Pursuit of the Blessing (27:1-40)

Isaac is approximately 140 years old but he will live approximately 40 additional years. Because of this belief in his coming death Isaac indicates to Esau that he wants to bless Esau before he dies.

This blessing is the blessing which Abraham and Isaac both received by divine revelation. Gen. 26:3-5.

Who sinned in verses 1-40 and what information from verses 1-40 supports your response?

This episode displays the truth of man's condition. Isa. 53:6a, Rom. 3:10-13a.

This episode displays the nature of sin.

- Sin spreads. Sin never stays within boundaries.
- Sin causes us to solely focus on our desires with no concern as to whether our desires align with God's character and no concern as to pain that our sin will cause either to ourselves or to others.

II. Painful Results of Sin (27:41-46, 28:6-9)

a. Hatred (41)

This same murderous desire at work in Esau was at work in Cain. Matt. 12:34, Lk. 6:45, Matt. 15:19-20, Mk. 7:20-23.

In Esau's words we see not only a desire for Jacob's murder but also a desire for Isaac's death for Isaac's death will provide the opportunity for Esau to carry out his murderous plan.

b. Separation (42-45)

In response to the information that Rebekah has learned she once again tells Jacob to obey her voice and to flee to her brother Laban in Haran for his safety. From our study of the journey that Abraham's servant took to Haran to find a wife for Isaac, we're reminded that this journey is nearly five hundred miles, includes crossing a desert, and would likely take a month to complete.

Her indication that Jacob should stay with Laban for a while until Esau's fury turns away seems to indicate that she thinks that this will only be a short separation. In actuality it will be a separation of 20 years and she will never see him again. Gen. 35:8.

c. More Treachery (46)

Instead of telling Isaac the truth as to why Jacob will leave for Haran which might offer an opportunity for Isaac to attempt to broker reconciliation between Jacob and Esau, Rebekah lies again.

d. Further Spiritual Blindness (28:6-9)

Esau's response to the instructions that he heard Isaac give to Jacob further displays his spiritual blindness.

He has already taken Hittite wives who have made his father and mother's lives miserable. Seemingly in an attempt to please his father, Esau goes to Ishmael, his uncle, to take a wife.

If he had spiritual sight he would have understood that Ishmael and his line were outside of the God's covenant with Abraham; he would have understood that God regarded Isaac as his grandfather's true son and that the blessing was granted to his father's line, not Ishmael's. Because Ishmael was a descendant of Abraham did not mean that the blessing promised to Abraham would flow to Ishmael's line. Rom. 9:6-9.

III. God's Prevailing Grace (28:1-5)

Isaac spoke the truth in Gen. 27:33. Until that point in the narrative Isaac's intention was to bless Esau which was contrary to the message given by God before their birth.

In Gen. 28:1-5 we see that God has changed Isaac's heart about God's will and that Isaac has embraced God's purpose. Heb. 11:10.

Neither Isaac, nor Rebekah, nor Esau nor Jacob are deserving of God's blessing. Because of their sin they were only worthy of God's judgement. But despite all of their sin, God's purpose to establish the Messianic line through Jacob prevailed.

Yes, there have been and would continue to be consequences for their sin, but God will not cast off His promise to Abraham and Isaac to bless their offspring, make them a blessing, and to give them the land of Canaan.

In the same way no one who has been made to be God's child through the Holy Spirit's application of the finished work of Christ to their soul is deserving of God's grace.

God in His great mercy sent Jesus. Jesus, who unlike Jacob who wrapped himself in skins of goats in order to deceive his father to gain the blessing, wrapped himself in human flesh and took upon himself a human nature in order to come to this earth, displaying his great love for his Father's will and his great love for his people.

This great love culminated at the cross. At the cross Jesus did not simply say what Rebekah said to Jacob as she conceived of the deceptive plan that would be used to gain the blessing in 27:13, "Let your curse be on me." Gal. 3:10 -13 tells us:

¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"—¹⁴ so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

How should this passage affect our lives?

- We should seek to align our family life with the Word and not the world.
 - Husbands/fathers and wives/mothers - Eph. 5:22-28, 6:4, Col. 3:18-19, 21, 1 Pet. 3:1-7.
 - Children – Eph. 6:1-2, Col. 3:20.
- We should be warned of the dangers of sin. Gal. 6:7-10.
- We should repent of those instances and resist future temptations to achieve godly ends with ungodly means.
- We should be encouraged that God will finish the work He began in us. Phil. 1:6.
- We should praise God for His great grace that causes His purpose to prevail despite our sin. Ps. 89:26-37.