

# Jacob and Esau

## *Early Years Interactions*

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# Famous Families Series

- Study families described in the bible
  - Interactions among family members
  - Impact of family community on individuals
  - Impact of individuals on family community
  - Explore God's purpose for family
- Family of Jacob  
(Life of Jacob from birth to death)

# Early Years of Jacob and Esau

## What We Will Learn

- Two important events
- Rebekah's encounter with God while pregnant with the boys
- Isaac blessed Jacob instead of Esau

## What We Will Learn cont'd

- Three questions
  - Did Rebekah help Jacob steal blessing?
  - Or did she redirect her husband from a potential error?
  - Could she have secured same result using a better approach?
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- Based on Genesis 25:19–34 and 27:1–40

# Rebekah's Encounter with God while Pregnant with the Boys

- Isaac, Abraham's son, was 40 when he married Rebekah
- Rebekah became pregnant with twin boys about twenty years later
- She inquired of the Lord why the babies jostled each other in her womb
- Genesis 25:19–22

# Rebekah's Enquiry with God Jostling Children in Her Womb

- The Lord answered Rebekah
  - Two nations are in your womb
  - The two peoples will be separated
  - One will be stronger than the other
  - The older will serve the younger
- Esau was born first followed by Jacob
- Genesis 25:23–26

# Isaac Prepares to Bless Esau

- Isaac intended to bless Esau
- He asked Esau to go hunt wild game
- And prepare for him a tasty meal
- Rebekah heard the conversation
- Genesis 27:1–5

# Rebekah Prepares Jacob to Impersonate Esau

- Esau was out hunting
- Rebekah prepared a tasty goat meal
- She convinced Jacob to take the meal to Isaac and pretend to be Esau
- She prepared a disguise for Jacob using Esau's clothing and goatskin
- Genesis 27:5–12 & 13–17



# Isaac Blesses Jacob Instead of Esau

- Jacob took the meal to Isaac and pretended to be Esau
- Isaac was suspicious but later convinced
- He ate the meal
- He blessed Jacob as he intended for Esau
- Genesis 27:18–25 & 26–29

# Isaac Realized The Deceit

- Esau returned with a meal for Isaac
- Isaac realized he blessed Jacob instead of Esau
- The blessing could not be reversed
- Your brother came deceitfully and took your blessing
- Genesis 27:30–33

# Esau Cried and Asked for Blessing

- Esau cried bitterly
- Regretted that Jacob deceived him twice
  - Took his birthright earlier
  - Now has taken his blessing also
- He asked Isaac to bless him
- Isaac blessed Esau, but different than he had intended
- Genesis 27:34–37 & 38–40

# Did Jacob Steal Esau's Blessing?

- Isaac believed blessing was for Esau
- Rebekah believed blessing was for Jacob based on her encounter with God
- Rebekah helped Jacob to deceive Isaac and redirect the blessing to Jacob
- Jacob deceitfully got the blessing, thus redirecting Isaac from a potential error

# Rebekah's Approach to Redirecting Isaac

- Rebekah believed Isaac was supposed to bless Jacob, not Esau
- She chose to redirect him through deceit
- Could she have talked it over instead?
- We can't answer for Rebekah
- But can we apply the information to present-day human interactions?

# Rebekah's Need: to Redirect Husband Isaac

- God created husband and wife to work in harmony
- Husband has the authority
- Wife has the power of influence
- Refer to book: “It Takes Two” (page 27)  
F.B. Alonge  
The Voice of One Publishing  
(ISBN 9789789378593)

# Wife Can Influence Husband

- Husband and wife can best work together
  - Open, honest, and respectful of each other
  - Love of God and commitment to His purpose
  - Wife can influence husband's authority
- Wife does not have to resort to deceit to influence husband's exercise of authority

# Concluding Remarks

- God uses the family structure to propagate blessing through generations
- Words spoken by a parent to his/her child are powerful and should be selected carefully
- Children need parental blessing



## Concluding Remarks cont'd

- Parental blessing is dependent on parent's feeling toward the child
  - Has to be earned
  - Blessing given in fulfillment of parental obligation alone may not be as effective
- Wife should not use deceit to influence husband's authority