





# Way Point Chronicles

Traveling through the Old Testament by Chronological Stories

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twins in the womb. *Gen 25:24-26 And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb. 25 And the first came out red, all over like an hairy garment; and they called his name Esau. 26 And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau's heel; and his name was called Jacob: and Isaac was threescore years old when she bare them.*

The names of the two children are Esau and Jacob. Esau means hairy while Jacob means according to Hitchcock's Bible names, "that supplants, undermines; the heel."

Two sons are born, two different sons with two different destinies.

## IV- Favorite Sons:

Many parents have a hard time accepting the differences of personalities and abilities of their children. Isaac and Rebekah were two parents that had two boys that played obvious favoritism. Notice *Gen 25:27-28 And the boys grew: and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents. 28 And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob.*

## V- Your Birthright for a Cup of Soup:

The boys grow in the same household but apart as well. Esau was the strong hunter but Jacob became a shepherd and was the cunning one of the two. Notice a story that plays out between the two in early manhood.

*Gen 25:29 And Jacob sod pottage: and Esau came from the field, and he was faint: 30 And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage; for I am faint: therefore was his name called Edom. 31 And Jacob said, Sell me this day thy birthright. 32 And Esau said, Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me? 33 And Jacob said, Swear to me this day; and he sware unto him: and he sold his birthright unto Jacob. 34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentiles; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau despised his birthright.*

Esau gives up his birthright for a cup of soup to sustain him only for a moment in time. Notice what Adam Clarke said about the birthright.

What the...birthright was, has greatly divided both ancient and modern commentators. It is generally supposed that the following rights were attached to the primogeniture:

1. Authority and superiority over the rest of the family.
2. A double portion of the paternal inheritance.
3. The peculiar benediction of the father.
4. The priesthood, previous to its establishment in the family of Aaron.



Coordinates:  
*Gen 25:27-35; 27:1-46*

### Sights to See:

- 1- God wants His people to fully rely on Him and orchestrates the events of life to help us grow in Him.
- 2- The life paths and Way Points of all humans are known of God before they draw a breath of life.
- 3- Playing favoritism within siblings is a dangerous precedence to set in families.
- 4- We must learn to not be like Esau who had no concern for anything past his physical comfort at the time and did not think about his actions repercussions.
- 5- God is never pleased when we use godly methods to speed up His providence and is especially not pleased when we use ungodly methods.
- 6- The end does not justify the means if the means are deception.



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It is obvious that Esau was looked upon unfavorably because of this act of selling out his birthright for a cup of soup. *Hebrews 12:16-17* “Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. 17 For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.” So the birthright that Esau enjoyed by being the first twin born was sold to Jacob. Esau told two wives of the pagan nations around them. *Genesis 26:34-35* *And Esau was forty years old when he took to wife Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Bashemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite: 35 Which were a grief of mind unto Isaac and to Rebekah.*

## VI- Deception for the Blessing:

I remind us again of a couple of things. Remember Esau was a hairy man and a hunter. He was Jacob’s favorite son while Jacob was smooth skinned and Rebekah’s favorite.

We move forward in time about 40+- years to the time when Isaac is an old man. *Barnes Notes* place the age of Isaac as 136 years when these events take place.

**A- Instructions to Esau by Jacob-** *Genesis 27:1-4* *And it came to pass, that when Isaac was old, and his eyes were dim, so that he could not see, he called Esau his eldest son, and said unto him, My son: and he said unto him, Behold, here am I. 2 And he said, Behold now, I am old, I know not the day of my death: 3 Now therefore take, I pray thee, thy weapons, thy quiver and thy bow, and go out to the field, and take me some venison; 4 And make me savoury meat, such as I love, and bring it to me, that I may eat; that my soul may bless thee before I die.*

Did Isaac know about the selling of the birthright of Esau to his brother? If he did, would he have considered it valid? No one knows. We do know that he here intends to bless the firstborn, his favorite son.

Another question is did Rebekah tell him about the promise when she was pregnant and inquired of the Lord? Remember that oldest would serve the youngest. It seems that Isaac did not realize that God intended for Jacob to be the heir of the promise.

**B- Instructions to Isaac by Rebekah-** *Genesis 27:5-17* *And Rebekah heard when Isaac spake to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt for venison, and to bring it. 6 And Rebekah spake unto Jacob her son, saying, Behold, I heard thy father speak unto Esau thy brother, saying, 7 Bring me venison, and make me savoury meat, that I may eat, and bless thee before the LORD before my death. 8 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to that which I command thee. 9 Go now to the flock, and fetch me from thence two good kids of the goats; and I will make them savoury meat for thy father, such as he loveth: 10 And thou shalt bring it to thy father, that he may eat, and that he may bless thee before his death. 11 And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, Behold, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man: 12 My father peradventure will feel me, and I shall seem to him as a deceiver; and I shall bring a curse upon me, and not a blessing. 13 And his mother said unto him, Upon me be thy curse, my son: only obey my voice, and go fetch me them. 14 And he went, and fetched, and brought them to his mother: and his mother made savoury meat, such as his father loved. 15 And Rebekah took goodly raiment of her eldest son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them upon Jacob her younger son: 16 And she put the skins of the kids of the goats upon his hands, and upon the smooth of his neck: 17 And she gave the savoury meat and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob.*



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So, the plot is hatched by Rebekah and Jacob to trick Isaac into bestowing the blessing upon Jacob instead of Esau. Will it work? Was it God's way of conveying the promise to Jacob? Most do not think it was God's will for the blessing to be conveyed this way. Just as Abraham and Sarah ran ahead of God in the birth of Ishmael, Rebekah and Jacob ran ahead of God. God could have passed the blessing without deception to Jacob.

**C- The Supplanting of the Blessing-** Everything is prepared and now is the decisive moment. Will the plot work? Will Jacob be recognized as Esau or as who he really is?

*Gen 27:18 And he came unto his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I; who art thou, my son? 19 And Jacob said unto his father, I am Esau thy firstborn; I have done according as thou badest me: arise, I pray thee, sit and eat of my venison, that thy soul may bless me. 20 And Isaac said unto his son, How is it that thou hast found it so quickly, my son? And he said, Because the LORD thy God brought it to me. 21 And Isaac said unto Jacob, Come near, I pray thee, that I may feel thee, my son, whether thou be my very son Esau or not. 22 And Jacob went near unto Isaac his father; and he felt him, and said, The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau. 23 And he discerned him not, because his hands were hairy, as his brother Esau's hands: so he blessed him. 24 And he said, Art thou my very son Esau? And he said, I am. 25 And he said, Bring it near to me, and I will eat of my son's venison, that my soul may bless thee. And he brought it near to him, and he did eat: and he brought him wine, and he drank. 26 And his father Isaac said unto him, Come near now, and kiss me, my son. 27 And he came near, and kissed him: and he smelled the smell of his raiment, and blessed him, and said, See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field which the LORD hath blessed: 28 Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine: 29 Let people serve thee, and nations bow down to thee: be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee: cursed be every one that curseth thee, and blessed be he that blesseth thee.*

So Isaac blessing Jacob with the blessing the he had intended for Esau his favorite son because of the deception of his wife and son. The blessing is found in the last two verses above. The blessing is passed from Isaac to Jacob. The sad part again is that they felt they needed to help God with the details and use ungodly practices of deception with in no way could God have condoned.

## VII- No Blessing for Esau:

The deception is over. The blessing has been passed to Jacob. Is that the sound of the hunter returning from the hunt expecting his blessing?

*Genesis 27:30-38 And it came to pass, as soon as Isaac had made an end of blessing Jacob, and Jacob was yet scarce gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting. 31 And he also had made savoury meat, and brought it unto his father, and said unto his father, Let my father arise, and eat of his son's venison, that thy soul may bless me. 32 And Isaac his father said unto him, Who art thou? And he said, I am thy son, thy firstborn Esau. 33 And Isaac trembled very exceedingly, and said, Who? Where is he that hath taken venison, and brought it me, and I have eaten of all before thou camest, and have blessed him? Yea, and he shall be blessed. 34 And when Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with a great and exceeding bitter cry, and said unto his father, Bless me, even me also, O my father. 35 And he said, Thy brother came with subtilty, and hath taken away thy blessing. 36 And he said, Is not he rightly named Jacob? For he*



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hath supplanted me these two times: he took away my birthright; and, behold, now he hath taken away my blessing. And he said, Hast thou not reserved a blessing for me? 37 And Isaac answered and said unto Esau, Behold, I have made him thy lord, and all his brethren have I given to him for servants; and with corn and wine have I sustained him: and what shall I do now unto thee, my son? 38 And Esau said unto his father, Hast thou but one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, O my father. And Esau lifted up his voice, and wept.

Esau knew that two times he had been displaced by his brother. The blessing had been passed.

## VIII- Hatred in the Heart:

Remember that there was tension in the house of Abraham with Isaac and Ishmael. There is now trouble in the house of Isaac between Esau and Jacob. Jacob is the physically weaker brother as you will recall because Esau was the hunter. Notice the intentions of Esau toward Jacob after his father passes.

Gen 27:39-41 And Isaac his father answered and said unto him, Behold, thy dwelling shall be the fatness of the earth, and of the dew of heaven from above; 40 And by thy sword shalt thou live, and shalt serve thy brother; and it shall come to pass when thou shalt have the dominion, that thou shalt break his yoke from off thy neck. 41 And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him: and Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob.

## IX- Fleeing from Esau:

Rebekah had a great understanding and acute awareness of what was going on inside the family. She finds out the plans of Esau to kill Jacob. Notice her plans recorded in Gen 27:42-46 And these words of Esau her elder son were told to Rebekah: and she sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said unto him, Behold, thy brother Esau, as touching thee, doth comfort himself, purposing to kill thee. 43 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice; and arise, flee thou to Laban my brother to Haran; 44 And tarry with him a few days, until thy brother's fury turn away; 45 Until thy brother's anger turn away from thee, and he forget that which thou hast done to him: then I will send, and fetch thee from thence: why should I be deprived also of you both in one day? 46 And Rebekah said to Isaac, I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth: if Jacob take a wife of the daughters of Heth, such as these which are of the daughters of the land, what good shall my life do me?

The sending of Jacob way is two fold in purpose. One is for safety until Esau calms down. Second it was in order for him to not marry a local girl. Remember that Esau had done so, “**Which were a grief of mind unto Isaac and to Rebekah.**” Genesis 26:35 We will venture with Jacob and see that the reward for deception is often repaid multifold. Jacob will live with the shadow of worry about meeting his brother again someday for many years.