

Esau Despises His Birthright (1991–1966 BC)

Genesis 25:27–34

27 And the boys grew up. And Esau *was* a skilled hunter, a man of the field, but Jacob *was* a peaceful man, living *in* tents.
 28 And Isaac loved Esau because he could eat of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.
 29 Once Jacob cooked a thick stew, and Esau came in from the field, and he was exhausted.
 30 And Esau said to Jacob, “Give me some of that red stuff to gulp down, for I am exhausted!” (Therefore his name was called Edom).
 31 Then Jacob said, “Sell me your birthright first.”
 32 And Esau said, “Look, I am going to die; now what *is* this birthright to me?”
 33 Then Jacob said, “Swear to me first.” And he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob.
 34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread, and thick lentil stew, and he ate and drank. Then he got up and went away. So Esau despised his birthright. [[Heb 12:16](#)]

Isaac Deceives King Abimelech (1991–1966 BC)

Genesis 26:1–11

1 And there was a famine in the land, besides the former famine which was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Abimelech, king of the Philistines, to Gerar.
 2 And Yahweh appeared to him and said, “Do not go down to Egypt; dwell in the land which I will show to you.
 3 Dwell as an alien in this land, and I will be with you, and will bless you, for I will give all these lands to you and to your descendants, and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham you father.
 4 And I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and I will give to your descendants all these lands. And all nations of the earth will be blessed through your offspring,
 5 because Abraham listened to my voice and kept my charge: my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.”
 6 So Isaac settled in Gerar.
 7 When the men of the place asked concerning his wife, he said, “She *is* my sister,” for he was afraid to say, “my wife,” thinking “the men of the place will kill me on account of Rebekah, for she was beautiful.”
 8 And it happened *that*, when he had been there a long time, Abimelech the king of the Philistines looked through the window, and saw—behold—Isaac *was* fondling Rebekah his wife.
 9 And Abimelech called Isaac and said, “Surely she *is* your wife. Now why did you say “She *is* my sister”?” And Isaac said to him, “Because I thought I would die on account of her.”
 10 And Abimelech said, “What *is* this you have done to us? One of the people might easily have slept with your wife! Then you would have brought guilt upon us!”
 11 Then Abimelech instructed all the people, saying, “The *one who* touches this man or his wife shall certainly die.”

The Covenant Between Isaac and King Abimelech (1991–1966 BC)

Genesis 26:12–33

12 And Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in that *same* year a hundredfold, and Yahweh blessed him.
 13 And the man became wealthier and wealthier until he was exceedingly wealthy.
 14 And he possessed sheep and cattle and many servants, so that the Philistines envied him.
 15 And the Philistines stopped up all the wells that the servants of his father had dug in the days of Abraham his father. They filled them with earth.
 16 And Abimelech said to Isaac, “Go *away* from us, for you have become much too powerful for us.”
 17 So Isaac departed from there and camped in the valley of Gerar, and settled there.
 18 And Isaac dug again the wells of water which they had dug in the days of his father Abraham, which the Philistines had stopped up after the death of Abraham. And he gave to them the same names which his father had given them.
 19 And when the servants of Isaac dug in the valley, they found a well of fresh water there.
 20 Then the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with the herdsmen of Isaac, saying, “The water is ours.” And he called the name of the well Esek, because they contended with him.
 21 And they dug another well, and they quarreled over it also. And he called its name Sitnah.
 22 Then he moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it. And he called its name Rehoboth, and said, “Now Yahweh has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land.”
 23 And from there he went up to Beersheba.
 24 And Yahweh appeared to him that night and said, “I *am* the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I *am* with you, and I will bless you and make your descendants numerous for the sake of my servant Abraham.”
 25 And he built an altar there and called on the name of Yahweh. And he pitched his tent there, and the servants of Isaac dug a well

there.

26 Then Abimelech went to him from Gerar with Ahuzzath his friend and Phicol his army commander.

27 And Isaac said to them, “Why have you come to me? You hate me and sent me away from you.”

28 And they said, “We see clearly that Yahweh has been with you, so we thought let there be an oath between us—between us and you—and let us make a covenant with you

29 that you may not do us harm just as we have not touched you, but have only done good to you and sent you away in peace. You *are* now blessed by Yahweh.”

30 So he made a meal for them, and they ate and drank.

31 And they arose early in the morning and each one swore to the other, and Isaac sent them away. And they left him in peace.

32 And it happened *that* on that same day the servants of Isaac came and told him about the well that they had dug. And they said, “We have found water!”

33 And he called it Sheba. Therefore the name of the city *is* Beersheba unto this day.

Esau’s Wives Make Life Bitter for Isaac and Rebekah (1966 BC)

Genesis 26:34–35

34 And *when* Esau was forty years old he took as wife Judith, daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Basemath, daughter of Elon the Hittite.

35 And they made life bitter for Isaac and Rebekah.

The Death of Ishmael (1943 BC)

Genesis 25:17–18

17 Now these *are* the years of the life of Ishmael: 137 years. And he passed away and died, and was gathered to his people.

18 They settled from Havilah to Shur, which *was* opposite Egypt, going toward Asshur, opposite; he settled opposite all his brothers.

Rebekah and Jacob Deceive Isaac (1930 BC)

Genesis 27:1–40

Isaac Sends Esau to Prepare a Meal for the Blessing

1 And it happened *that* when Isaac *was* old and his eyesight was weak, he called Esau his older son and said to him, “My son.” And he said to him, “Here I *am*.”

2 And he said, “Look, I *am* old; I do not know the day of my death.

3 So now, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt food for me.

4 Then make for me tasty food like I love, and bring *it* to me. And I will eat *it* so that I can bless you before I die.

Rebekah Acts Quickly

5 Now Rebekah *was* listening as Isaac spoke to Esau his son, and *when* Esau went to the field to hunt wild game to bring *back*,

6 Rebekah said to Jacob her son, “Look, I heard your father speaking to Esau your brother saying,

7 ‘Bring wild game to me and prepare tasty food so I can eat *it* and bless you before Yahweh before my death.’

8 So now, my son, listen to my voice, to what I command you.

9 Go to the flock and take two good young goats from it for me, and I will prepare them *as* tasty food for your father, just as he likes.

10 Then you must take it to your father and he will eat *it* so that he may bless you before his death.”

11 Then Jacob said to his mother, “Behold, Esau my brother *is* a hairy man, but I *am* a smooth man.

12 Perhaps my father will feel me and I will be in his eyes *as* a mocker, and he will bring upon me a curse and not a blessing.”

13 Then his mother said to him, “Your curse be upon me, my son, only listen to my voice—go and get *them* for me.”

14 So he went and took *them*, and brought *them* to his mother, and his mother prepared tasty food as his father liked.

15 Then Rebekah took *some of* her older son Esau’s best garments that *were* with her in the house, and she put *them* on Jacob her younger son.

16 And she put the skins of the young goats over his hands and over the smooth *part of* his neck.

17 And she put the tasty food and the bread that she had made into the hand of Jacob, her son.

Jacob Deceives His Father

18 And he went to his father and said, “My father.” And he said, “Here I *am*. Who *are* you, my son?”

19 And Jacob said to his father, “I *am* Esau, your firstborn. I have done as you told me. Please get up, sit up and eat from my wild game so that you may bless me.”

20 Then Isaac said to his son, “How did you find *it* so quickly, my son?” And he said, “Because Yahweh your God caused me to find

it.”

21 Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Please, come near and let me feel you, my son. Are you really my son Esau or not?”

22 And Jacob drew near to Isaac his father. And he felt him and said, “The voice *is* the voice of Jacob, but the hands *are* the hands of Esau.”

23 And he did not recognize him because his hands were hairy like the hands of Esau his brother. And he blessed him.

24 And he said, “Are you really my son Esau?” And he said, “I *am*.”

25 Then he said, “Bring *it* near to me that I may eat from the game of my son, so that I may bless you.” And he brought *it* to him, and he ate. And he brought wine to him, and he drank.

26 Then his father Isaac said to him, “Come near and kiss me, my son.”

27 And he drew near and kissed him. And he smelled the smell of his garments, and he blessed him and said,

“Look, the smell of my son *is* like the smell of a field that Yahweh has blessed!

28 May God give you of the dew of heaven
and of the fatness of the earth,
and abundance of grain and new wine.

29 Let peoples serve you,
and nations bow down to you;
Be lord of your brothers,
and may the sons of your mother bow down to you.
Cursed be those cursing you,
and blessed be those blessing you.”

Isaac Realizes the Truth

30 And as soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, immediately after Jacob had gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, Esau his brother came *back* from his hunting.

31 He too prepared tasty food and brought *it* to his father. And he said to his father, “Let my father arise and eat from the wild game of his son, that you may bless me.”

32 And Isaac his father said to him, “Who *are* you?” And he said, “I *am* your son, your firstborn, Esau.”

33 Then Isaac trembled violently. Then he said, “Who then *was* he that hunted wild game and brought *it* to me, and I ate *it* all before you came, and I blessed him? Moreover, he will be blessed!” [[Heb 11:20](#)]

Esau Tries to Get Isaac to Change His Mind

34 When Esau heard the words of his father he cried out *with* a great and exceedingly bitter cry of distress. And he said to his father, “Bless me as well, my father!”

35 And he said, “Your brother came in deceit and took your blessing.”

36 Then he said, “Isn’t that why he is named Jacob? He has deceived me these two times. He took my birthright and, look, now he has taken my blessing!” Then he said, “Have you not reserved a blessing for me?”

37 Then Isaac answered and said to Esau, “Behold, I have made him lord over you and I have given him all his brothers as servants, and *with* grain and wine I have sustained him. Now what can I do for you, my son?”

38 And Esau said to his father, “Have you only one blessing, my father? Bless me also, my father!” And Esau lifted up his voice and wept. [[Heb 12:17](#)]

39 Then Isaac his father answered and said to him,

“Your home shall be from the fatness of the land,
and from the dew of heaven above.

40 But by your sword you shall live,
and you shall serve your brother.
But it shall be *that* when free yourself
you shall tear off his yoke from your neck.

Jacob Flees to Haran (1930 BC)

Genesis 27:41–28:22

Esau Seeks Revenge and Rebekah Urges Jacob to Flee

27:41 Then Esau held a grudge against Jacob on account of the blessing with which his father had blessed him. And Esau said in his heart, “The days of mourning for my father are coming, then I will kill Jacob my brother.”

42 But the words of Esau her older son were told to Rebekah. And she sent and called for her younger son Jacob. And she said to him, “Look, Esau your brother *is* consoling himself concerning you, *intending* to kill you.

43 Now then, my son, listen to my voice; arise and flee to Haran to Laban my brother.

44 Stay with him a few days until the wrath of your brother has turned—

45 until the anger of your brother turns from you and he has forgotten what you have done to him. Then I will send and bring you from there. Why should I lose the two of you in one day?”

Isaac Blesses Jacob

46 Then Rebekah said to Isaac, “I loathe my life because of the Hittite women. If Jacob takes a wife from Hittite women like these, from the native women, what am I living for?”

28:1 Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him. And he instructed him and said to him, “You must not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan.

2 Arise, go to Paddan-Aram, to the house of Bethuel, your mother’s father, and take for yourself a wife from there, from the daughters of Laban your mother’s brother.

3 Now, may El-Shaddai bless you, and make you fruitful, and multiply you, so that you become an assembly of peoples.

4 And may he give you the blessing of Abraham, to you and to your descendants with you, that you may take possession of the land of your sojourning, which God gave to Abraham.” [[Heb 11:20](#)]

5 Then Isaac sent Jacob away, and he went to Paddan-Aram, to Laban the son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, the mother of Jacob and Esau.

Esau Attempts to Redeem Himself by Marrying Isaac’s Niece

6 Now Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Paddan-Aram, to take for himself a wife from there, and he blessed him and instructed him, saying, “You must not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan,”

7 and *that* Jacob listened to his father and to his mother and went to Paddan-Aram.

8 Then Esau saw that the daughters of Canaan *were* evil in the eyes of Isaac his father,

9 then Esau went to Ishmael and took Mahalath, the daughter of Ishmael, son of Abraham, sister of Nebaioth, as a wife, in addition to the wives he had.

Jacob’s Vision at Bethel

10 Then Jacob went out from Beersheba and went to Haran.

11 And he arrived at a *certain* place and spent the night there, because the sun had set. And he took *one* of the stones of the place and put *it* under his head and slept at that place.

12 And he dreamed, and behold, a stairway was set on the earth, and its top touched the heavens. And behold, angels of God *were* going up and going down on it.

13 And behold, Yahweh *was* standing beside him, and he said, “*I am* Yahweh, the God of Abraham your father, and the God of Isaac. The ground on which you *were* sleeping I will give to you and to your descendants.

14 Your descendants shall be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west, and to the east, and to the north and to the south. And all the families of the earth will be blessed through you and through your descendants.

15 Now behold, *I am* with you, and I will keep you wherever you go. And I will bring you to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised to you.”

16 Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “Surely Yahweh is indeed in this place and I did not know!”

17 Then he was afraid and said, “How awesome *is* this place! This is nothing else than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!”

18 And Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up *as* a stone pillar, and poured oil on top of it.

19 And he called the name of that place Bethel; however, the name of the city *was* formerly Luz.

20 And Jacob made a vow saying, “If God will be with me and protect me on this way that I am going, and gives me food to eat and clothing to wear,

21 and *if* I return in peace to the house of my father, then Yahweh will become my God.

22 And this stone that I have set up *as* a pillar shall be the house of God, and *of* all that you give to me I will certainly give a tenth to you.”