**SDG - Lesson #16**

**Genesis 27 & 28**

**Chapter 27**

1. “Isaac was old.” How old was Isaac when he died? (35:28)

Isaac died at the age of 180.

2. Challenge Question! How old was Isaac at the time?

Isaac was 127 years old.

3. Why might Isaac have thought that he was about to die?

There are two distinct possibilities:

1. If his eyesight was failing, he may have felt that it was the beginning of the dying process.
2. His brother Ishmael was 137 when he died (25:17)).

4. Why did Isaac call for Esau and not Jacob? (25:25-28)

Esau was the first-born and the one he loved.

5. What did Isaac instruct Esau to do? Why?

Isaac wanted Esau to go hunting and prepare a meal for him. This would be a ceremonial meal to seal the blessing to Esau.

6. Who else heard this command? How did this person react? Why? (25:23 & 28)

Rebekah heard Isaac’s instructions to Esau. She called Jacob because God had told her that Jacob would be the one who was blessed (25:23) and he was the son she loved (25:28).

7. What did Rebekah propose to do?

Rebekah proposed to trick Isaac into giving the blessing to Jacob.

8. What were the obstacles to this proposal?

25:28 & 27:9 -The first obstacle was that Esau was a good hunter and cook. Jacob appeared to be neither.

27:11 -Esau was hairy and Jacob was not.

9. What was Jacob’s concern? (Vs. 12)

Jacob was afraid that Isaac would feel him, recognize Jacob’s deceit and curse him.

10. How did Rebekah address this concern? (Vvs. 13)

She took any potential curse on herself.

11. What three steps were taken to deceive Isaac?

27:14 - Rebekah cooked a delicious meal.

27:15 - Rebekah put Esau’s best robes on Jacob.

27:16 - Rebekah put the skin of the young goats on Jacob’s hand.

12. Compare 26:34 with 27:15. What possible conflict do you see? Is there a potential resolution to it?

If Esau was married, why would Rebekah have his clothes in her tent? The clothes are called his “best garments.” These were probably the family robes. Since Isaac and Rebekah did not approve of Esau’s wives they probably held these back from him.

13. Three steps had been taken to deceive Isaac, yet, that wasn’t enough. What completed the deception? (Vss. 19, 20, & 24)

While Rebekah initiated the three steps, Jacob had to lie to his father.

14. What four steps did Isaac take to make sure it was Esau?

Vs. 21 – Isaac felt him.

Vs. 22 – Isaac listened to his voice.

Vs. 24 – Isaac questioned him.

Vs. 26 & 27 – Isaac smelled him.

15. There are two components of the blessing. What does the first deal with? (vs. 28)

The first half deals with worldly wealth and blessing.

16. The second? (vs. 29) The second is the conveyance of the Abrahamic Covenant to his son Jacob.

17. How did Isaac respond to Esau’s arrival? Why?

Isaac trembled violently when Esau came to him. Isaac’s blessing was done in the name of the Lord for only the Lord could fulfill the Covenant. Since it was done in the Lord’s name it could not be revoked or changed.

18. How did Esau reset to the news that Jacob had been blessed? Why?

Esau cried out with an exceedingly loud and bitter cry. Esau obviously was not a man of his word. He had planned on not honoring his oath with Jacob. When he realized that Jacob got it his past caught up to him.

19. How did Isaac describe Jacob’s actions?

Isaac said Jacob was deceitful.

20. What was Esau’s reaction to Isaac’s words? Why?

Esau tied Isaac’s word to Jacob’s name, which means, “One who deceives.”

21. Note that Esau was planning to deceitfully take the birthright he had given to Jacob and Jacob deceitfully tricked his father. How did Esau try to rationalize his own deceit?

Esau tried to separate the birthright and the blessing. He had sold the birthright but not the blessing. He then blamed Jacob for taking them both. This is a common reaction to sin; blame others!

22. What did Esau want?

Esau wanted his own blessing.

23. What did Esau get? What is the significance of what he got?

Esau did get a blessing. Esau’s blessing was materialistic in nature but did promise that he would not serve his brother forever. At the same time, no part of the covenant was given to him.

24. What was Esau’s reaction to his father’s words? His plan?

Esau hated Jacob and planned to kill him when his father died.

25. What was Rebekah’s reaction to Esau’s plan?

She told Jacob to go to her brother Laban.

26. How did she sell her plan to Isaac?

She told Isaac that she didn’t want Jacob to take a Canaanite wife.

27. What did Rebekah mean when she said, “Why should I be bereft of you both in one day?”

She compares this to Cain’s action:

1. She would lose Jacob through murder.
2. She would lose Esau through God’s judgment. He would become a wanderer.

**Chapter 28**

28. How did Esau respond to Jacob’s departure? Why?

Esau saw that Jacob pleased his father by going to get a wife from their extended family. Therefore, he went to his uncle Ishmael and got a wife from him. This was obviously done to appease Isaac and try to get the birthright back.

29. What is the significance of the ladder/flight of steps that was in Jacob’s dream?

The ladder or flight of steps bridges the gap between heaven and earth.

30. The phrase “the LORD stood above it” could also be translated, “the LORD stood beside him.” Why does either translation work?

Since the ladder is a bridge between heaven and earth, it serves as a conduit for:

1. God to speak from heaven so Jacob can hear on earth.
2. God to come to Jacob and speak to him.

31. Compare God’s message to the words of Isaac’s blessing. What do you notice?

God reversed what Isaac said by restating the Covenant first and then promising material or worldly blessing.

32. What part of God’s words to him did Jacob address when he said, “Surely the LORD is in this place and I did not know it?”

God promised not to leave him. Jacob had not realized that God had been there.

33. How did Jacob describe the place at which he had his dream? Why?

He said the place was awesome and called it the house of God and the gate of heaven. This was obviously the first time he felt God’s presence and was quite overcome.

34. What does the name Bethel mean?

Bethel means, “House of God.”

35. This was quite an event. Jacob experienced both the fear (Awesomeness) of God and the fear (Fright or Terror) of being in God’s presence. Now look carefully at the first words of his vow to God. What do you notice? What does this mean?

Jacob said, “If God will be with me…” This expresses doubt on his part. His vow is conditional.

36. What did Jacob vow to do?

Jacob vows to:

1. Honor God as his God.
2. Build a house for God.
3. Give a tithe to God.