

## **Genesis 27 – Jacob takes his brother's blessing**

In this famous story, Jacob deceived his blind father – and took his elder brother's blessing. Why are we told about these things? Firstly, we must remember that God had given this family great promises, and they were to be passed down from one generation to the next. Secondly, we are shown the many sins of this family, so that we will remember that the great salvation that came at last in Christ was only from God's grace, not from human good works. Thirdly, we are shown God's sovereignty – he was not defeated by the sins and weaknesses of his people, but fulfilled his plans.

### **The Blessing – Passing on God's promises**

God had told Isaac and Rebekah that he had chosen the younger son – Jacob, not Esau (25:23). And during their lives, Esau had willingly sold his birthright to Jacob (25:27-34), and broken the covenant by marrying foreign wives (Genesis 26:34-35). Isaac was wise as he grew old in wanting to have all his God-given work finished and be ready for death. But he was foolish in choosing to forget what God had made clear to them.

### **The Deception – How Rebekah and Jacob deceived Isaac**

Isaac requested Esau to bring him hunted meat – perhaps for strength, or as an offering brought to a priest to receive God's blessing. But because he was old, he was easy to deceive. Isaac showed faith by trying to pass on the promises of God; but his faith was flawed as he tried to get around God's word. But God himself cannot be deceived. There is much deception, cheating, anger and hiding from the truth in this chapter- even from those who were holy and usually walked rightly with God. Is it not better if we submit quickly to God's word? Will we not then have true peace? When Isaac realised what had happened, he then accepted it – he knew he could not reverse it and curse Jacob or give the blessing back to Esau again.

### **The Blessings – What was promised**

Isaac's blessing itself is in verses 27-29; and then the further one to Esau in 39-40. These words were spoken through the Spirit of prophecy. Esau did enjoy many earthly blessings. In later years, the sons of Esau (the Edomites) served the Israelites, until the days of King Joram (2 Kings 8:20). But the main blessing to Jacob passed on the promises given to Abraham (Genesis 12:3). The promised Messiah was to come from him. God used this family in its weakness and sin. He taught them better ways. He did not reject and despise them. Jesus came as a son of Jacob. Let us believe that we do not need to lie or deceive to carry on God's work. Let our stories not be sad ones of disobedience and unbelief. Let us pay careful attention to God's word when we are young and when we are old. Let us not make our own devices, but wait for him.