

Genesis: God and the Originals

THE STEAL

The Parentheses (26:34-35; 27:46; 28:6-9)

1. While chapter 27 mainly deals with the story of how Jacob stole Esau's blessing, what is the underlying stink that Esau has caused? How does this maybe soften "the steal"?
2. What are the implications for future Israelites concerning marriage and blessing?

The Plot and Prep (27:1-17)

Vv. 1-7

4. What's wrong with Isaac? Is this simply a physical ailment or something more?
5. How does Rebekah insert herself into the situation? How is this similar to Sarai?
6. How does Rebekah repeat Isaac's words in v. 7, but differently? Why do you think the author chose to have Rebekah add the words that she does?

Vv. 8-17

7. What is Rebekah's initial plan to have Jacob blessed instead of Esau? What are the problems with the plan according to Jacob? How is the plan updated according to vv. 15-17?

The word "smooth" in v. 10 can also metaphorically mean "_____."

BONUS: Who's cheating Esau out of his birthright, Jacob or Rebekah?

The Steal (27:18-29)

8. What are the three (maybe four?) ways in which Isaac wonders if he is really dealing with Esau? How does Jacob physically deceive him? And how are Jacob's words the greatest deception of all?
9. What blessings does Isaac speak over Jacob and how are they ironically fit for him more than his brother?

BONUS: Is Isaac really this "blind," or is there something more going on?

The “Unblessing” of the Firstborn (27:30-40)

10. Read vv. 30-38. What is your general sense of Esau’s reaction (possibly... is he truly in mourning or is he just a “cry baby”)?
11. What is Isaac’s curse (blessing?) upon Esau and how does that play out in Israel’s history?

Why Jacob Flees (27:41-45)

12. How does Esau now become the deceiver? Who finds out his plans?
13. Why does Rebekah send Jacob to Harran according to vv. 42-45? What’s the other reason according to v. 46?



The Finality of the Steal (28:1-5)

14. What does Isaac’s blessing of Jacob in these make explicit about the continuation of Abrahamic covenant?
15. In v. 3, what is God’s name and what is the new name for the multitude of descendants Jacob will have?

The word “community of peoples” in v. 3 is the first time the Hebrew word for “_____” is used.

Quote of the Day:

The great rule of Jacob’s life - and a profound expression of its existential realism - is that he gets everything he aspired to have but not in the way he imagined and at a great cost to himself. - Robert Alter