

GENESIS –Lesson 49

Learn: And grieve not the holy spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.
Ephesians 4:30-32

Read: Genesis 27:25-45

1. After he had finished the festive meal that Jacob had brought him, what did Isaac do?
vv 26, 27

Isaac, because of the solemn nature of what he was intending to do (conveying God's covenant promises and blessings to his son, who in turn would be responsible for their transmission and implementation in his own family, until the ultimate promised Seed would come), was no doubt "in the Spirit" as he began to pronounce the blessing. God also, who had made His solemn covenant with Abraham, and who had renewed it with Isaac, certainly was present on this occasion in a special way. We cannot know what would have happened had it been Esau standing before Isaac, but it surely seems likely that it would have ended in tragedy for both father and son. God's solemn promises and covenants are not to be dispensed as trifles, subject to the whim and preferences of the individual.

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2. How sure is the Word of God and the guarantee of His covenant as given according to his will to whom He wishes to give it?
Psalm 119:89

Psalm 33:11

Matthew 24:35

Isaiah 40:8

3. What did the first part of the blessing which Isaac gave to Jacob pertain to? v 28

There is nothing in Isaac's blessing to suggest that this also involved an actual bequeathal of his own property, which was a transaction more associated with the birthright. Jacob had earlier secured the birthright by direct purchase as well as by God's instruction.

4. What was the heart of the blessing that was the same as that given by God to Abraham and Isaac? v 29c See Genesis 12:3.

5. What awful presumption did Isaac make in what he said (supposing that he was speaking to his son Esau, rather than to Jacob), which directly opposed God's statement of Genesis 25:23? v 29b

NOTE: In spite of his plan to thwart God's will, Isaac did pronounce the blessing on Jacob; under the inspiration of God.

6. Use the following scriptures to explain two other times when people were forced to bless or prophecy good towards for God's purpose contrary to their plan.
Numbers 23:5-12

John 11:47-52

7. How quickly after Jacob had received the blessing did Esau come to Isaac to claim the blessing? v 30

Though he had despised his birthright enough to sell it to Jacob, and though he had no real interest in the spiritual aspects of the blessing, Esau did understand enough about it to realize it would include political and military superiority for himself and his children. In addition, he did have enough confidence in the God of his father to realize that God's word in this respect would be fulfilled. Dr. Henry Morris

8. What surprise response did Esau get from his father when he brought him the stew in order to receive the blessing? vv 31,32

9. When Isaac realized that he had not blessed Esau as he had supposed, how did he react? v 33

10. At that moment of realization what did Isaac clearly understand about God's will?
Isaiah 43:13

“Isaac trembled very exceedingly.” Hebrew scholars tell us the original language is extremely graphic, something like “Isaac trembled most excessively with a great trembling.” Many emotions would contribute to this terrible shaking, but most of all he now realized that God Himself had intervened in order to prevent Isaac's betrayal of the trust of his father Abraham. Isaac had almost destroyed his own home because of a carnal appetite and adulation of his son's physical exploits.

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11. What was Esau's cry when he realized that he had lost the blessing? v 34

12. Who did Esau blame for the loss and how did Isaac's response help encourage Esau in his thinking? v 35-36

Esau commented on the relevance to Jacob's name in this situation, which meant “heel-gripper.” And, therefore, by extension, “one who trips another by the heel.” This eventually came to be understood to mean “supplanter.” Thus giving the name of Jacob a demeaning meaning.

13. Isaac made it clear to Esau that he could never have the portion of the blessing that he most desired, that is the political superiority. All Esau's crying could not change things. What is the sad commentary from Hebrews 12:16,17 when referring to his pleading?

NOTE: The phrase “for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears,” means; though Esau wept seeking the blessing, there was no way of changing God's mind.

14. What prophecy did Isaac finally make concerning Esau? vv 39, 40

NOTE: The King James translation apparently is not quite correct at this point: the words “away from” should be inserted (“thy dwelling shall be away from the fatness of the earth”). This was fulfilled by the very nature of the rugged region that came to be known as the land of Edom. The Edomites would generally live in violence and in subjection to Israel. However, he would “shake himself” (not “have dominion,” as in the King James Version), he would be able to loosen the yoke. The Edomites remained essentially independent, however, until David’s time. They were subjugated permanently after that, in spite of rebellions and temporary partial freedom. Finally, Edom disappeared completely as a nation. Esau’s long life of immorality and indifference to spiritual things, in spite of being born to one of the most privileged heritages possible, had finally caught up with him, and it was too late for regrets.

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15. The unhappy story of Esau reminds us that even though a child may be raised in a Christian home and a Bible teaching church, that is no guarantee that there will not be rebellion against the instruction and discipline received in order to participate in the pleasures of worldly acquaintances, selling the birthright, as it were, for a mess of pottage. What has the Lord required of Christian parents? Ephesians 6:4

16. What word describes Esau’s cry? v 34

17. What did Esau’s bitterness become? vv 40,41

18. What warnings concerning bitterness are found in the following verses?
Ephesians 4:30-32

Hebrews 12:15, 16

James 3:14-16

19. Rebekah heard of Esau's plot to kill Jacob, what instruction did she give to Jacob?
vv 42-45

20. From verse 45 b, what did Rebekah realize would be the result if Esau were able to kill his brother?