

Community Bible Church

The Book of Genesis

Chapters 27-28

In **Genesis chapters 27** and **28**, the narrative of the patriarchal period of Israel continues. The verse in **27:1** begins as follows: ***“Now it came about when Isaac was old and his eyes were too dim to see. . .”*** The next two chapters deal primarily with Isaac’s twin sons, **Esau** and **Jacob**. Even though Esau was the oldest of the twins, we are made aware that Jacob would inherit the blessings and responsibilities of the Abrahamic covenant. However, these two chapters are filled with family drama, intrigue, and deception. An outline of these two chapters is as follows:

The Deception (Jacob “steals” the blessing from Esau) 27:1-29

The Discovery (Isaac learns of the plot) 27:30-40

The Departure (In fear Jacob leaves for Haran) 27:41-46

The Disobedience (In spite, Esau marries into the Canaanite culture) 28:1-9

The Dedication (Jacob commits his life to God) 28:10-22

1. From **27:1-17**, write a brief summary, in 2 or 3 sentences, of the drama in the story of Esau’s attempt to receive the “blessing” from his father, Isaac.
2. What is your assessment of the motives, the lies, and the deceptions so far in this story?
3. The drama continues in **27:18-27**. What happens next in this passage? Was Jacob being forthright and honest in his responses?
4. What components of this *“patriarchal blessing”* can you identify in **27:27-29** that were intended for Esau?
5. How does this story of *“the stolen blessing”* conclude in **27:30-41**? What does Rebekah recommend as a solution in **27:42-46**?

6. This story in **chapter 27** actually achieved very little. God intended all along that Jacob, not Esau, would receive the blessing of the Abrahamic covenant. They gained nothing through their conniving! Only the sins of parental favoritism, deception, lying, deceit and fear stood in the way of God's plan of the covenantal promises. What are ways in which self-centered human planning today can be an impediment to God's overall plan of blessing and spiritual progress?

7. A much clearer sense of God's plan and calling seems to be restored in **chapter 28**. How does Isaac relate to Jacob in **28:1-5**? In contrast, what was Esau's response in **28:6-9**?

8. **Chapter 28** concludes in a powerful manner. In **28:12-15**, God appears to Jacob in a dream and reassures him of the promise of the Abrahamic covenant and blessing. Read this passage (**28:12-15**) and give a summary of what he was told by God.

9. After Jacob awakens from this dream, he appears to have become a changed man. Read **28:16-22** and describe the ways in which he worships God with a renewed sense of commitment.

10. Putting these two chapters together, the text has gone from scheming to service, from worry to worship, from duplicity to devotion and from plotting to praising. Let these two chapters have a rich and challenging impact on your heart, and be like the patriarch Jacob, who said "***Surely the Lord is in this place and I did not know it.***" (**28:16**), and "***If God will be with me . . . then the Lord will be my God.***" (**28:20-21**). Close this time of study with a prayer of praise and worship to the Living God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.