

Partners in Crime: Rebekah & Jacob

Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, so that I come back to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God." (Genesis 28:20-21)

Isaac and Rebekah had twin sons, Esau and Jacob. Esau was the first born; he was to receive the double portion and the blessing. Even more, Isaac loved Esau because he was a skillful hunter, a man of the field while Jacob was a mild man, dwelling in tents. How painful must it have been for Jacob that his twin brother was preferred over him by his father Isaac in every way. Although Jacob was loved by his mother, he no doubt had attachment wounds related to his father. Is it possible that Jacob's participation in Rebekah's plot to steal the blessing stems from those wounds? Did he feel that his father had forsaken him and he had to fend for himself? Rebekah and Jacob successfully trick Isaac into giving the blessing to the wrong son. Then Isaac sends Jacob away to protect him from the rage of his brother. On his way, Jacob dreams of a ladder with angels ascending and descending on it. He then sees the Lord standing above it. The Lord identifies Himself as the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac. (He is not yet the God of Jacob.) The Lord gives Jacob the land and a promise to always be with him. We know that no human can replace our primary caregivers and the initial bonding to them. But in Immanuel sessions, we see that there is One who can take the place of our primary care givers; His name is Jesus. This replacement only happens if the child is willing. I wonder if Jacob's "If God will be with me..." isn't Jacob testing to see if God really is trustworthy. He might have been asking, "Are You like my father or are You for me? Will you give me bread and clothing? Will you take care of me like a father?" If God proves to be faithful to him, then Jacob says that he will accept Him: "...The Lord shall be my God." Jacob's testing was building capacity. Of course, the Lord does pass the test and Jacob does make Him his God. When God replaces Isaac in the traumatic events of Jacob's life, the old attachment wounds are healed by the Lord's Presence.

'When my father and my mother forsake me, Then the LORD will take care of me.' Psalms 27:10

Studies included in this article are: The Twins; The Situation; The Plot; The Crime; The Blessing; The Rage; The Intervention; The Sending; The Dream Encounter; The Covenant; The God of My Father; The Outcome

The Twins

So when her days were fulfilled for her to give birth, indeed [there were] twins in her womb. And the first came out red. He was like a hairy garment all over; so they called his name Esau. Afterward his brother came out, and his hand took hold of Esau's heel; so his name was called Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. So the boys grew. And Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field; but Jacob was a mild man, dwelling in tents. And Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob. Genesis 25:24-28

The Situation

Now it came to pass, when Isaac was old and his eyes were so dim that he could not see, that he called Esau his older son and said to him, "My son." And he answered him, "Here I am." Then he said, "Behold now, I am old. I do not know the day of my death. "Now therefore, please take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me. "And make me savory food, such as I love, and bring it to me that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die." Genesis 27:1-4

The Plot

Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt game and to bring it. So Rebekah spoke to Jacob her son, saying, "Indeed I heard your father speak to Esau your brother, saying, 'Bring me game and make savory food for me, that I may eat it and bless you in the presence of the LORD before my death.' "Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to what I command you. "Go now to the flock and bring me from there two choice kids of the goats, and I will make savory food from them for your father, such as he loves. "Then you shall take it to your father, that he may eat it, and that he may bless you before his death." And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, "Look, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth-skinned man. "Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be a deceiver to him; and I shall bring a curse on myself and not a blessing." But his mother said to him, "Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get them for me." And he went and got them and brought them to his mother, and his mother made savory food, such as his father loved. Then Rebekah took the choice clothes of her elder son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son. And she put the skins of the kids of the goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. Then she gave the savory food and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob. Genesis 27:5-17

The Crime

So he went to his father and said, "My father." And he said, "Here I am. Who are you, my son?" Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn; I have done just as you told me; please arise, sit and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me." But Isaac said to his son, "How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?" And he said, "Because the LORD your God brought it to me." Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, whether you are really my son Esau or not." So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, and he felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau." And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands; so he blessed him. Then he said, "Are you really my son Esau?" He said, "I am." He said, "Bring it near to me, and I will eat of my son's game, so that my soul may bless you." So he brought it near to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank. Genesis 27:18-25

The Blessing

Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come near now and kiss me, my son." And he came near and kissed him; and he smelled the smell of his clothing, and blessed him and said: "Surely, the smell of my son Is like the smell of a field Which the LORD has blessed. Therefore may God give you Of the dew of heaven, Of the fatness of the earth, And plenty of grain and wine. Let peoples serve you, And nations bow down to you. Be master over your brethren, And let your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you, And blessed be those who bless you!"

Genesis 27:26-29

The Rage

So Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him, and Esau said in his heart, "The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then I will kill my brother Jacob."

Genesis 27:41

The Intervention

And the words of Esau her older son were told to Rebekah. So she sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said to him, "Surely your brother Esau comforts himself concerning you [by intending] to kill you. "Now therefore, my son, obey my voice: arise, flee to my brother Laban in Haran. "And stay with him a few days, until your brother's fury turns away, "until your brother's anger turns away from you, and he forgets what you have done to him; then I will send and bring you from there. Why should I be bereaved also of you both in one day?" Genesis 27:42-45

The Sending

Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him, and charged him, and said to him: "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan. "Arise, go to Padan Aram, to the house of Bethuel your mother's father; and take yourself a wife from there of the daughters of Laban your mother's brother. "May God Almighty bless you, And make you fruitful and multiply you, That you may be an assembly of peoples; And give you the blessing of Abraham, To you and your descendants with you, That you may inherit the land In which you are a stranger, Which God gave to Abraham."

Genesis 28:1-4

The Dream Encounter

Now Jacob went out from Beersheba and went toward Haran. So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I am the LORD God of

Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you."

Genesis 28:10-15

The Covenant

Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it." And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!" Then Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it. And he called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of that city had been Luz previously. Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, so that I come back to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God. And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You." Genesis 28:16-22

The God of My Father

Jacob refers to God as "God of my Father".

Genesis 31:5 And said to them, "I see your father's countenance, that it *is not favorable* toward me as before; but the [God of my father](#) has been with me."

Genesis 31:42 Unless the [God of my father](#), the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had been with me, surely now you would have sent me away empty-handed. God has seen my affliction and the labor of my hands, and rebuked *you* last night.

Genesis 32:9 Then Jacob said, "O [God of my father](#) Abraham and [God of my father](#) Isaac, the LORD who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your family, and I will deal well with you':

The Outcome

Finally, Jacob refers to God as the God of Israel. He has tested God and God has been found faithful to Jacob.

Genesis 33:18-20 Then Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Padan Aram; and he pitched his tent before the city. And he bought the parcel of land, where he had pitched his tent, from the children of Hamor, Shechem's father, for one hundred pieces of money. Then he erected an altar there and called it El Elohe Israel.

Genesis 48:15 And he blessed Joseph, and said: "God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, The God who has fed me all my life long to this day."

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