

ISAAC'S BLESSINGS (PART 2)

Jon Macon

Genesis chapter 27:1-4 says, “*And it came to pass, that when Isaac was old, and his eyes were dim, so that he could not see, he called Esau his eldest son, and said unto him, My son: and he said unto him, Behold, here am I. And he said, Behold now, I am old, I know not the day of my death: now therefore take, I pray thee, thy weapons, thy quiver and thy bow, and go out to the field, and take me some venison; and make me savory meat, such as I love, and bring it to me, that I may eat; that my soul may bless thee before I die.*” Jacob followed his mother’s instructions and disguised himself as Esau, and his father Isaac then gave him the blessing that was intended for his elder twin brother (Gen 27:5-29). That blessing gave him “the fatness of the earth,” lordship over his brethren, and dominance over the nations (Gen 27:26-29). After this, Isaac then gave a blessing to Esau.

Isaac’s blessing for Esau

Esau arrived home with the meat he had prepared for his father Isaac at his request, expecting to then receive the great blessing his father had in store for him (Gen 27:30-31). At that time, both Esau and Isaac understood that Isaac had been deceived into giving that blessing to Jacob (Gen 27:32-33). That blessing was irrevocable. Isaac acknowledged this, saying, “Yea, and he (Jacob) *shall* be blessed” (Gen 27:33). Esau was despondent, and begged his father for another blessing (Gen 27:34-36). Isaac answered, “Behold, I have made him thy lord, and all his brethren have I given to him for servants; and with corn and wine have I sustained him: and what shall I do now unto thee, my son? And Esau said unto his father, Hast thou but one blessing, my father? bless me, even me also, O my father. And Esau lifted up his voice, and wept. And Isaac his father answered and said unto him, *Behold, thy dwelling shall be the fatness of the earth, and of the dew of heaven from above; and by thy sword shalt thou live, and shalt serve thy brother; and it shall come to pass when thou shalt have the dominion, that thou shalt break his yoke from off thy neck*” (Gen 27:37-40). Esau’s descendants became

ISAAC'S BLESSINGS (PART 2)

(continued)

the nation of Edom, who dwelt in mount Seir (Gen 36:8-9,43). God forbade the Israelites from meddling with the Edomites, as He had given them mount Seir for their possession (Deut 2:4-5). This was in fulfillment of Isaac's blessing for Esau. Yet, also in keeping with Isaac's blessing for Esau, this was certainly not the land that flows with milk and honey that Israel inherited. The Edomites lived "in the clefts of the rock" (Jer 49:16; Obad 3). As Isaac foretold in his blessings, Israel did dominate Edom for centuries (see 1 Sam 14:47; 2 Sam 8:13-14; 1 Kgs 11:15-16; 1 Chr 18:12-13). Israel maintained a deputy to rule Edom, and the Edomites did not have their own king (1 Kgs 22:47). When the kings of Judah turned to wickedness, Edom revolted and again made themselves a king (2 Kgs 8:20,22).

The will of God

Though at first glance, one might be tempted to feel that what happened to Esau was unfair and unrighteous, it was actually according to the will of God. Hebrews 11:20 says, "*By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.*" Those blessings came *by faith*. Faith comes by hearing God's word (Rom 10:17), and God had spoken His plans for Jacob and Esau long before the events of Genesis 27. When Esau and Jacob were in Rebekah's womb, God told their mother, "*Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger*" (Gen 25:23). God had spoken from the beginning that it was His decision to make Jacob the heir of Isaac, even though he was not the firstborn son (see also Rom 9:3-13). The elder would serve the younger. That is precisely what God brought to pass through Isaac's blessings in Genesis chapter 27.