

Story

- God's promise to Isaac about descendants
- God's prophecy to Rebekah about sons
- Isaac loved Esau; Rebekah loved Jacob
- Esau sold his birthright to Jacob
- Isaac intends to bless Esau
- Rebekah and Jacob conspire

Family Matters

Rebekah – Disrespected Her Husband

- Disregarded his desires for Esau
- Manipulated him for her own ends
- Made a fool out of him

“The Lord God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.’”

-Genesis 2:18

“For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.”

-Ephesians 5:23-24

“Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives.”

-1 Peter 3:1

“A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her.”

-Proverbs 31:10-11

“The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down.”

-Proverbs 14:1

Isaac – Exasperated His Family

- Played favorites
- No discipline or correction
- Ignored or disregarded wife’s understanding

“Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”

-Ephesians 6:4

“The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother.”

-Proverbs 29:15

“The Lord God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.’”

-Genesis 2:18

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy”

-Ephesians 5:25-26

“Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.”

-1 Peter 3:7

Jacob – Miserable in Spite of God’s Promise

“Their father Jacob said to them, ‘You have deprived me of my children. Joseph is no more and Simeon is no more, and now you want to take Benjamin. Everything is against me.’”

-Genesis 42:36

“And Jacob said to Pharaoh, ‘The years of my pilgrimage are a hundred and thirty. My years have been few and difficult.’”

-Genesis 47:9

Esau – OK in Spite of Parents’ Failures

“But Esau ran to meet Jacob and embraced him; he threw his arms around his neck and kissed him.”

-Genesis 33:4

“Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

-Colossians 3:13

God's Plan, God's Way

Isaac:

- Focus on God's promise to him
- Felt Esau was natural choice
- Tried to make it happen

Rebekah:

- Focus on God's prophecy to her
- Felt Jacob was Godly choice
- Tried to make it happen

Isaac and Rebekah:

- Combine promise and prophecy
- Set aside their preferences
- Ask God how to make it happen