

“Genesis 25–27”

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By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I gave a presentation titled “Genesis 25-27.” Here are some of the scriptures that I read.

How did God hate Esau?

Before we launch into the book of Genesis, I want to mention a phrase that is found in the Bible in both the Old and New Testaments.

Malachi 1:2-3—“Yet Jacob I have loved; but Esau I have hated.”

Romans 9:13—“As it is written, ‘Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.’”

In Proverbs 6:16-19, the Bible mentions characteristics that God hates.

But I recommend that you avoid viewing the concept of God having the emotional reaction of hate toward Esau.

■ Genesis 25:30—When Esau sold his birthright, his name was called Edom.

I believe that God is basically saying: “I have made a covenant with Jacob [Israel], but not with Edom.”

Birth of Esau and Jacob

■ Genesis 25:20-24—After Isaac pleaded with the LORD, He blessed the parents with twins.

■ Genesis 25:25—The first child was red and hairy, and he was called “Esau” (hairy).

■ Genesis 25:26—The second child was called “Jacob” (supplanter).

Esau sold his birthright

■ Genesis 25:27—Esau was a skillful hunter, and Jacob was a mild man who dwelled in tents.

■ Genesis 25:28—Isaac loved Esau, and Rebekah loved Jacob.

I believe that Genesis 25:28 is describing the reality of their family—but not recommending that family members should approach their relationships in that manner.

■ Genesis 25:29-34—Jacob took advantage of Esau and convinced him to sell Jacob the birthright.

I believe that Genesis 25:31 is describing the reality of the situation—but not recommending that a brother should take advantage of another brother.

God repeated promises to Isaac

■ Genesis 26:1-4—God appeared unto Isaac and repeated promises to him that God had previously said to Abraham.

■ Genesis 26:5—God reminded Isaac that Abraham paid attention to God’s voice, charge, commandments, statutes and laws.

■ Genesis 26:6-11—Isaac had a situation with King Abimelech where he called Rebekah his “sister.”

■ Genesis 26:12-23—When the LORD blessed Isaac, Abimelech asked Isaac to go away from his nation.

■ Genesis 26:24—The LORD reminded Isaac that: “I am the God of your father Abraham.”

■ Genesis 26:26-31—Abimelech wanted a covenant with Isaac.

■ Genesis 26:34-35—Esau was 40 when he took wives—but they were a “grief of mind” to Isaac and Rebekah.

Rebekah had a devious plan

■ Genesis 27:1-4—Isaac asked Esau to hunt some food for him.

■ Genesis 27:5-10—Rebekah overheard the conversation and instructed Jacob about how to steal the blessing.

■ Genesis 27:11-12—Jacob reminded Rebekah that Esau was a hairy man.

Rebekah insisted that Jacob follow her plan

Genesis 27:13—“But his mother said to him, ‘Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice.’”

Mothers: Please do not use Genesis 27:13 to influence you to work against your husband or to teach your children to be deceptive.

■ Genesis 27:14-17—Rebekah gave Jacob a goat skin and prepared food.

Jacob lied three times

■ Genesis 27:18-27—Jacob approached Isaac and told three lies.

■ Genesis 27:18-19—Isaac asked, “Who are you?” and Jacob replied, “I am Esau, your firstborn.”

■ Genesis 27:20-21—Isaac asked, “How is it that you found it [the meat] so quickly?” and Jacob replied, “Your God brought it to me.”

■ Genesis 27:24—Isaac asked, “Are you really my son Esau?” and Jacob replied, “I am.”

The theft was completed

■ Genesis 27:27-29—Isaac blessed Jacob.

■ Genesis 27:30-34—Esau returned.

Genesis 27:35—“Your brother came with deceit and has taken away your blessing.”

Genesis 27:36—“Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright, and now look, he has taken away my blessing!”

■ Genesis 27:38-40—Esau asked for a blessing, and Isaac gave him a blessing.

■ Genesis 27:41—Esau hated Jacob.

■ Genesis 27:42-45—Rebekah sent Jacob away.

■ Genesis 27:46—Since the wives of Esau (the daughters of Heth) were a challenge to Rebekah, she did not want Jacob marrying a daughter of Heth.