

CHAPTER ANALYSIS FORM

Chapter: 27-28

Chapter Title: Stolen Blessing, Jacob's Travels

1. Chapter Summary:

1. Chapter 27

- a. Isaac to bless Esau 1-4
- b. Rebekah's subterfuge 5-10
- c. Jacob's protest 11-13
- d. Deception 14-26
- e. Blessing stolen 27-29
- f. Esau remorse and curse 30-40
- g. Esau's anger 41-46

2. Chapter 28

- a. Jacob departs 1-7
- b. Esau's willfulness 8-9
- c. Jacob's dream 10-15
- d. Jacob's vow 16-22

2. Observation		3. Interpretation	
What Does It Say?		What Does It Mean?	
Verse		Verse	
	Chapter 27		
1-4	Isaac is old, near death, and nearly blind. He tells Esau to go hunt some game, make him a meal, and Isaac will bless him.	1-4	Despite God's pronouncement at the twin's birth and Jacob stealing Esau's birthright, Isaac is still prepared to give Esau the blessing of the first born. But, notice the subterfuge. Instead of following tradition and blessing Esau in front of the family, Isaac tries to bless Esau in secret. Isaac loved Esau, Rachel loved Jacob – it's not hard to see how divided this family has become. God forbid we should do the same.
5-10	Rebekah overhears Isaac's plan and comes up with one of her own. She tells Jacob what she heard and asks him to go get two goats so she can make a meal for Isaac and have Jacob impersonate Esau.	5-10	Rebekah counters with her own subterfuge instead of confronting Isaac and working things out. She probably remembered the pronouncement of God and decides to take the means into her own hands. Here, again, we see what happens when humans decide God is not working fast enough and needs their help.
11-13	Jacob protests that her plan will not work for he and Esau are physically different. He fears if Isaac notices he will be cursed. Rebekah calls the curse down on herself.	11-13	Jacob protests Rebekah's plan but not because it is wrong and a lie. He's only worried about getting caught. This family doesn't even put fun into dysfunction. Rebekah doesn't realize what calling the curse down on herself is going to do.
14-26	Jacob brings the goats and Rebekah prepares the food. She dresses Jacob in Esau's clothes and places pieces of goat skin on his arms and neck. Jacob goes to Isaac pretending to be Esau. He lies about finding the game so quickly. Isaac is suspicious but his eyes are so poor he can't see anything. He asks Jacob to come close so he can feel his arms and neck. He is still doubtful.	14-26	The lie continues. Isaac is rightfully suspicious but is so enamored with Esau that anything that closely resembles him is acceptable. Isaac is not only physically blind; he is blinded by his own desires.
27-29	Jacob comes close enough for Isaac to smell the clothes he was wearing. Isaac is finally satisfied and blesses Jacob. The blessing is one of abundance, one of ruling, and the continuance of the blessing God gave Abraham.	27-29	After smelling Esau on the clothes Isaac is convinced. He gives the blessing to Jacob. The blessing is one of great abundance and power.

<p>30-40</p>	<p>Jacob no sooner leaves than Esau comes behind him with the meal he made for Isaac. Isaac realizes what has happened, as does Esau. Esau is upset because Jacob has taken his birthright and his blessing as the first born. He begs Isaac to bless him also but there is no blessing for him. He will live by the sword in enmity with his brother. He will serve his brother but, one day, will through off his servitude.</p>	<p>30-40</p>	<p>At long last Esau realizes what he has done through his disdain of his family position. But it is too late – the blessing has been given to another. As earnestly as he seeks his father’s forgiveness and the blessing the opportunity has passed. “Today, if you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.” Esau is not tearful through repentance but through selfish realization that he has lost his stature and his inheritance. Esau’s descendants do live in subjugation to Israel until the time of the Kings though Esau himself does not.</p>
<p>41-46</p>	<p>Esau hates Jacob for what he has done and plans to kill him. Rebekah, once again, learns of the plan and tells Jacob to flee to Haran and stay with her brother Laban. She will send for him in a short time after Esau’s anger has subsided. She tells Isaac that her life will be worthless if Jacob marries a Hittite (Canaanite) like Esau’s wives.</p>	<p>41-46</p>	<p>Even though the results were partially brought on by his own action Esau does not accept any responsibility. He will regain his rightful status by any means – including murder. Esau is driven by his ego and his passions – there is nothing that intimates he has any kind of faith in God. Going back to Cain and Able you can see the continuous discord between elder and younger in every family. That pattern will continue. Rebekah wants to send Jacob away for a short while. What she doesn’t know is this is the last time she will see Jacob. She tells Isaac to send Jacob to her father’s house, which I can only assume he did gladly. She will not be able to take it if Jacob marries poorly as Esau has done.</p>

2. Observation		3. Interpretation	
What Does It Say?		What Does It Mean?	
Verse		Verse	
	Chapter 28		
1-7	Isaac tells Jacob to go to his grandfather's house and find a wife. He explicitly blesses him with the blessing God gave Abraham and sends him away. Jacob goes to Paddan-aram. Esau sees all of this and understands how much his parents dislike the Canaanite women.	1-7	Isaac now realizes the full import of God's pronouncement and fully blesses Jacob. He sends him to find a wife among his kin in a manner like Abraham. Esau plans his own type of revenge now that Jacob is out of his grasp.
8-9	Esau marries a descendant of Ishmael.	8-9	Esau shows his true colors again. He not only marries another woman but, this time, makes sure she is a direct descendant of Ishmael. He may have been trying to get back into his parent's good graces by "marrying into the family" but it was the wrong family.
10-15	Jacob stops on his way to Haran and lays down to sleep. He has a dream of a ladder extending from the earth into heaven with angels ascending and descending. God appears at the top of the ladder and repeats the promise he made to Abraham. He promises to be with Jacob wherever he goes and to bring him back to the land in order to fulfill his promise to Abraham.	10-15	Whatever the actual form of the "ladder" here you see a physical link between heaven and earth. You also have the picture of the eternal struggle until the arrival of Jesus – man wants to climb to heaven while God know the only true solution is for him to descend to earth.
16-22	Jacob realized God is in this place. He sets up a memorial stone and pours oil on it, renaming the place Bethel. He makes a vow that if God is with him then he will worship God and give him a tenth of everything God gives him.	16-22	Jacob recognizes this as a special place where God appeared. Bethel means "the house of God." In contrast to Abraham and Isaac he only sets up a memorial pillar – he does not build an altar and offer sacrifice as they would. Notice how Jacob changes the unconditional promise made by God to a conditional vow – "If God will be with me." Jacob is not yet fully aware of his relationship to, and with, God.

4. Correlation		5. Application
Where Else Is It Explained?		What Will I Do About It?
Verse		
	Chapter 27	
1-4	Genesis 25:28	
5-10		
11-13	Matthew 27:25	
14-26	Although not explicitly referenced in the rest of the Bible, this is truly a Romans 8:28 moment.	
27-29	Genesis 12:3 Deuteronomy 33:13 Hebrews 11:20	
30-40	Genesis 25:23 Hebrew 12:17	
41-46	Genesis 24:3; 26:35	
	Chapter 28	
1-7	Genesis 12:2; 17:8; 22:17	
8-9		
10-15	Genesis 12:3; 13:15; 26:3, 24 John 1:51	
16-22	Genesis 31:13; 35:14 Deuteronomy 26:17 Judges 1:23 2 Samuel 15:8	

6. Conclusions

7. One Personal Application