



GENESIS

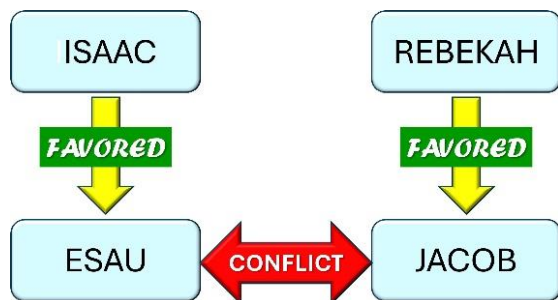
The Book of Beginnings

Mike Taylor

<https://www.taylornotes.info/monday>



LESSON 9: JACOB AND ESAU, FAMILY CONFLICTS



In Genesis Chapters 27 and 28 we see that God elected Jacob (2nd born) to inherit the covenant blessings instead of Esau (1st born). God then reaffirmed his covenant with Jacob in a dream (ladder from heaven). Isaac favored Esau and Rebecca favored Jacob. In this narrative we see how

parental favoritism can create dangerous sibling conflict!

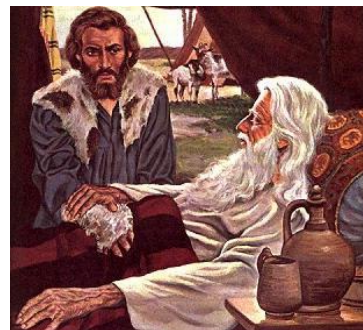
A. CENTRAL QUESTION

How can Christians manage relational conflicts in such a way that brings unity, peace, and resolution?

B. THE TEXT: GENESIS CHAPTERS 27-28

Isaac blesses Jacob (27:1-45)

Genesis 27:1-45 recounts the story of Isaac's blessing of his sons, Esau and Jacob. Isaac, growing old and blind, desires to bless his firstborn son Esau before he dies. However, Rebekah, Jacob's mother, overhears Isaac's intentions and favors Jacob. She instructs Jacob to disguise himself as Esau and bring Isaac a meal to receive the blessing. Jacob hesitates at first but eventually agrees. He presents himself before Isaac, who, despite some suspicion, is convinced by Jacob's deception and blesses

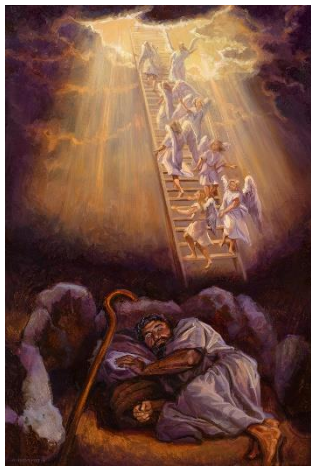


him with the blessings meant for Esau. Esau returns from hunting, and when he discovers what has happened, he is devastated and begs Isaac for a blessing. However, Isaac can only give him a secondary blessing. Esau is filled with anger and plans to kill Jacob after Isaac's death. Rebekah learns of this and sends Jacob away to her brother Laban's house until Esau's anger subsides.

Jacob is sent to find a wife (27:46--28:9)

In Genesis 27:46–28:9, after Jacob receives the blessing meant for Esau, Rebekah advises him to flee to her brother Laban's house in Haran to escape Esau's wrath. She expresses her concern that if Jacob marries a local Canaanite woman, it will bring her misery. Isaac calls Jacob and blesses him, instructing him not to marry a Canaanite but to find a wife from the daughters of his uncle Laban. Isaac reiterates the covenant blessings given to Abraham and Isaac, promising Jacob and his descendants the land of Canaan. Jacob obeys his parents' instructions and sets out for Haran to seek a wife and to escape Esau's anger.

Jacob at Bethel (28:10-22)



In Genesis 28:10-22, Jacob begins his journey to Haran. Along the way, he stops for the night and rests, using a stone for a pillow. During his sleep, he dreams of a ladder reaching from earth to heaven, with angels ascending and descending upon it. At the top of the ladder stands the Lord, who reaffirms the covenant promises made to Abraham and Isaac, promising to give Jacob and his descendants the land on which he lies. The Lord assures Jacob of His presence and protection wherever he goes and promises to bring him back to the land. Upon waking, Jacob realizes the significance of the place and consecrates it by setting up the stone he used

as a pillow as a pillar and pouring oil on it. He names the place Bethel, meaning "house of God," and makes a vow to the Lord, promising to serve Him faithfully and to give a tenth of all he possesses. Jacob continues his journey to Haran, filled with awe and reverence for God's presence and the promises given to him.

C. BACKGROUND

In ancient Israelite culture, the birthright was a significant inheritance privilege granted to the firstborn son. The birthright conferred several rights and responsibilities, primarily pertaining to inheritance and family leadership.

Inheritance: The firstborn son typically received a double portion of the father's estate compared to his siblings. This ensured that he would inherit a larger share of

the family's property, wealth, and possessions. This inheritance was intended to maintain the family's lineage and ensure its continuation.

Leadership: The firstborn son often assumed a position of leadership within the family upon the father's death. This leadership role could involve making important decisions regarding the family's affairs, representing the family in legal matters or disputes, and overseeing the welfare of other family members.

Spiritual Role: In addition to material inheritance and leadership responsibilities, the firstborn son also held a spiritual significance. He was seen as the primary link in the family's lineage and often played a central role in religious rituals and ceremonies within the household.

D. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When are people most likely to let conflict get out of control?

2. How can active listening help in resolving conflicts?

3. When emotions are running high during a conflict, what strategies can be used to maintain control and address the issues constructively?

4. What steps can be taken to prevent conflicts from escalating into more serious issues?

5. What steps would you like to take the next time you feel yourself getting angry in a conflict situation?

E. APPLICATION: FIVE EFFECTIVE WAYS TO MANAGE CONFLICT

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to _____.
2. Ask God to reveal _____ for allowing the conflict.
3. View conflict as an opportunity _____
4. Ask the _____ whether you are at fault.
5. Forgive the one _____ for the conflict.

F. DIGGING DEEPER

For more about this subject go to:



- “Love Jacob and Hate Esau?” <
<https://www.gotquestions.org/Jacob-Esau-love-hate.html>>
- “What Does the Bible Say about Conflict Resolution?”
<https://www.gotquestions.org/conflict-resolution.html>

