INTRODUCTION

CHRONOLOGY

Isaac was born when Abraham was 100 (Gen 21:5).
Isaac was 40 when he married Rebekah (Gen 25:20)
Isaac was 60 when Jacob and Esau were born (Gen 25:26)
Therefore, Abraham was 140 when Isaac married Rebekah
and he was 160 when Jacob and Esau were born.

Abraham died at age 175 (Gen 25:7)
Therefore, Jacob and Esau were 15 when Abraham died.

Genesis 25:1–11 occurred when Abraham was between 140 and 175 years old
(or between 137 and 175)

Therefore, Gen 25:26 (birth of J & E) occurred before Gen 25:7 (Abraham’s death)

Why does Moses put the death of Abraham before the birth of Jacob and Esau?

NEW EXPOSITION

(25:19–26) *Births of Esau & Jacob*
(25:19a) *The Toledot of Isaac*
   This section goes through Genesis 35:29
(25:19b–20) At age 40, Isaac married Rebekah (who was a close relative)

(25:21) Isaac prayed to the LORD for his barren (for 20 years) wife, so she conceived

(25:22–23) Rebekah prayed for an explanation of the war in her womb & the LORD said that her sons (progenitors of two nations) would struggle with each other, just as the nations coming from them
   Esau (who was born first) was the progenitor of Edom

   Jacob (who was born second) was third in the ancestry of Israel
      (Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob)

(25:24–26) Rebekah bore twins, Esau (Made) came out covered with red hair & then Jacob (Heel catcher) came out and (then) grasped Esau’s heel, when Isaac was 60

   Red (‘admoni) and Edom

When did Jacob catch Esau’s heel?
(25:27–34) Sale of Esau’s Birthright to Jacob

(25:27–28) Esau grew into a hunter, a man of the fields, favored by Isaac, who enjoyed wild game; Jacob became a tent-dweller with an even temperament, favored by Rebekah

(25:29–30) Jacob made a stew; Esau came in from the field famished and demanded some of the red stuff, leading to him being called “Red” (Edom)

(25:31–33) Jacob offered to trade stew for Esau’s birthright, which (since Esau was famished, even claiming he might die) Esau agreed, so Jacob made him swear, which he did

(25:34) Jacob fed him; Esau gobbled it and departed, treating the birthright as though it were worthless

Esau thought: Being an alive second-born is better than being a dead first born
REFERENCES TO JACOB & ESAU ELSEWHERE IN SCRIPTURE

Malachi 1:2

Hebrews 12:16

Romans 9:13
  Romans 9: God will be faithful to Israel, despite its past failure
  Romans 10: God will be faithful to Israel, despite its present failure
  Romans 11: God will be faithful to Israel, despite its future failure

CONCLUSION