

Jacob Takes the Blessing through Deception (Genesis 26:34–27:29)

Grace Chapel December 16, 2009 Dr. John Niemelä

INTRODUCTION

AN IMPORTANT WORD PLAY IN THE JACOB-ESAU NARRATIVES

The word for *firstborn rights* has the following root letters: *B Kh R*

The word for *blessing* has the following root letters: $\begin{array}{c} | \quad \times \\ B \quad R \quad Kh \end{array}$

Jacob & Esau struggled for both the *BKhR* and for the *BRKh*.

CHRONOLOGY (Gen 26:34–35 happened in 1966 BC. 27:1–28:5 happened in 1930 BC)

Esau (Jacob's twin) married Canaanites at age 40 (Genesis 26:34)

Jacob married Leah & Rachel at age 76 (Joseph was born 14 yrs after Jacob went to Paddan Aram. Joseph was 40 & Jacob was 130 when Jacob went to Egypt).

Leah & Rachel were much younger than Jacob (Jacob was 90 at Joseph's birth)

CHIASTIC STRUCTURE

CHIASM. The Greek letter *X*, *chi* (pronounced *khee*) looks an *X*.

Chiasm means there is a criss-cross, so the structure is like an *x*.

Example: Matthew 7:6. The first citation sets it forth in Scripture order.

A Do not give what is holy to the dogs;
 B *nor cast your pearls before swine,*
 B' *lest they trample them under their feet,*
 A' and turn and tear you in pieces.

The second citation demonstrates the criss-cross structure.

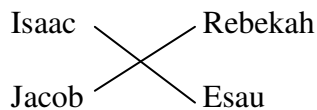
Do not give what is holy to the dogs; \times *lest they trample them under their feet.*
nor cast your pearls before swine, [lest they] turn and tear you in pieces.

It is chiasm, because dogs don't trample, but swine do. Both can tear people to pieces.

CHIASTIC STRUCTURE OF GEN 26:34–28:9 (Tonight we will study 26:34–27:29: A–D)

A	Esau married <u>Canaanites</u> under a curse	26:34–35	EIR
B	Isaac & the son of <i>BKhR/BRKh</i> (= <u>Esau</u>)	27:1–5	EIR
C	Rebekah sends Jacob <u>to</u> the stage	27:6–17	RJ
D	<u>Jacob</u> appears before Isaac & receives <u> blessing</u>	27:18–29	JI
D'	<u>Esau</u> appears before Isaac & receives <u> antiblessing</u>	27:30–40	EI
C'	Rebekah sends Jacob <u>from</u> the stage	27:41–45	RJ
B'	Isaac & the son of <i>BKhR/BRKh</i> (= <u>Jacob</u>)	27:46–28:5	IJ
A'	Esau married <u>Ishmaelites not</u> under a curse	28:6–9	EI

CHIASTIC STRUCTURE OF THE FAMILY



Notice that the whole family is never together in these passages

In the chart: I = Isaac, R = Rebekah, J = Jacob, E = Esau

No more than three have active roles in any passage.

A: [AFTER SELLING HIS BIRTHRIGHT] ESAU CONTINUED TO DISDAIN GOD BY MARRYING CANAANITES, TROUBLING HIS PARENTS (26:34–35)

B: REBEKAH OVERHEARD ISAAC'S DISOBEDIENT PLAN TO BLESS ESAU (27:1-5)

(27:1) The aged & blind Isaac called his son Esau

(27:2-4) Isaac (anticipating death) told Esau to hunt game & prepare him a meal so he could bless Esau before he died

Note Gen 25:27-28

Remember Gen 25:23

(27:5) Rebekah overheard Isaac's plan to bless Esau, then Esau went hunting

C: REBEKAH & JACOB CONSPIRED TO TAKE ESAU'S BLESSING (27:6-17)

(27:6-7) Rebekah told Jacob Isaac planned to bless Esau after he fixed a meal of game

(27:8-13) Rebekah told Jacob to get 2 kids so she could fix a meal & overcame Jacob's objection (that Isaac might figure out the trick by touching him) by saying that any curse would be upon her

(27:14-17) Rebekah prepared the meal & dressed Jacob in Esau's finest, attached hairy skins of kid goats to the places Isaac would touch, & gave him the meal

D: PRETENDING TO BE ESAU, JACOB PASSED ISAAC'S SCRUTINY & RECEIVED THE BLESSING (27:18–29)

(27:18–19) Jacob went to his father as if he were Esau & said that he had prepared the meal so Isaac could eat and then bless him

(27:20) Isaac asked how he had found game so quickly, he claimed that the LORD had brought it to him

(27:21–23) Isaac told him to come near so he could touch him to know if he really were Esau; his hairy hands said he was Esau, though the voice was that of Jacob.

(27:24–25) [Isaac was still unsure, so] he asked his son to affirm that he was Esau, which Jacob did; then Isaac told him to bring the meal, so he could bless him

(27:26–27a) Isaac told him to come near to kiss him & Isaac smelled his clothing [which convinced him that he was Esau]

(27:27b–29) Isaac gave Jacob the full blessing of the Abrahamic covenant in which he would prosper over other nations and over his brethren, so those who curse him would be cursed and those who bless him would be blessed

GENESIS 48

CONCLUSION