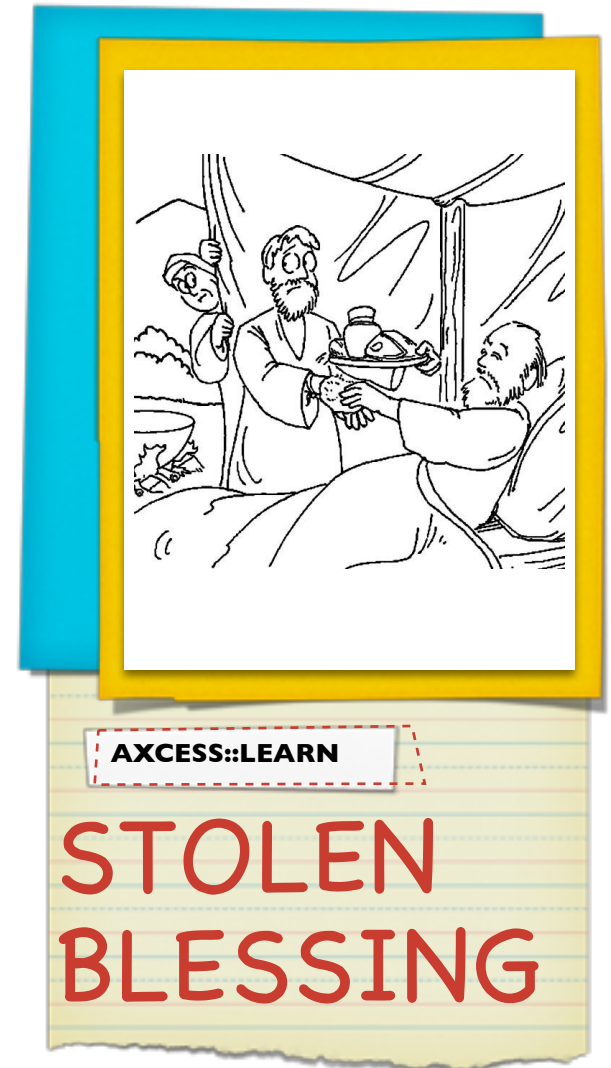




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STOLEN BLESSING

****Italicized words in brackets interlaced in the text are the Hebrew words that were used in the oldest known manuscripts. Approaching Scripture through the Hebrew mindset and context can help us to appreciate more fully and to properly interpret what the passage is actually intending to communicate.*

^^study notes adapted from The Complete Jewish Study Bible, MacArthur Study Bible, & Torah Class



Read Genesis 27 - 28

GENESIS 27

>< v.1-26 Ya'akov deceives Yitz'chak Yitz'chak was old and nearly blind when he decided to do this blessing. He was 137 years old (*the age Yishma'el was when he died*). Remember he was 60 when the twins were born, so some time had passed and the twins were now 77 years old when this took place. Much time had passed from the time that 'Esav had sold his birthright to Ya'akov for a bowl of lentil stew more than half a century earlier!

This scene with Yitz'chak and 'Esav was about the *blessing* 'Esav was about to receive. This blessing (*berakhah*) was not the final decision of who would be *bekhor*. In this case it was the division of Yitz'chak's wealth.

Why was Ya'akov reluctant to go along with Rivkah's plan? If his deception was found out by Yitz'chak he feared a curse would be placed on him rather than a blessing. Rivkah had held on to the covenant words given her by God when she was pregnant with the twins...that "the older will serve the younger." (Gen.25:23)

>< v.27-29 Yitz'chak blesses Ya'akov The opening words of the *berakhah* show that Yitz'chak thought the one receiving the blessing was 'Esav "the man of the field." The words of the *berakhah* reveal that it was Yitz'chak's intention to give 'Esav much of what the *bekhor* should have traditionally received.

Ya'akov's deception is successful and he received the blessing God had intended for him, he held on to the birthright God told his mother he'd have, and he received the authority to lead the clan. Can you imagine that Ya'akov went through all these deceptions only to receive that which could *never* be denied him anyway...because the Lord had already determined it! All Ya'akov did was taint that which could have been pure.

>< v.30-38 Esav returns and weeps Once the *berakhah* was given, it was not reversible for any reason. Much like a king's decree. 'Esav spoke of two things that were taken from him: 1) birthright 2) blessing. When 'Esav entered the tent, he did not expect to be named *bekhor* since that issue was settled long ago when he sold his birthright. He wanted all the wealth and power that comes through the blessing, but he didn't want the burden of responsibility as *bekhor*.

>< v.39-40 Esav blessed with a curse Here we find a mistranslation of Gen. 27:39. Tradition renders verse 39 as, "Your home will be the richness (fatness) of the earth, and the dew of heaven above." Yet, literally the verse reads "Behold, *away* from the richness of the earth and *away* from the dew of heaven will be your home." Why the obvious difference? Why has the "away" part been rationalized out of existence? How do we know this is a mistranslation? We must look at this in its full context.

>< v.41-46 Heart poisoned with revenge As angry as 'Esav was and wanting to kill his twin brother, he thought his father was on the verge of death and so, out of respect for his aged father, he postponed murder. Turns out that Yitz'chak ended up living another 43 years! —Why did Rivkah mean when she feared losing both her sons on the same day? —How did Rivkah get Yitz'chak to agree to send Ya'akov away?

GENESIS 28

>< v.1-9 Ya'akov is sent away Yitz'chak blesses the 77-year-old Ya'akov before he is sent away. The blessings and curses in the OT should be carefully considered as they are always prophetic. —What are the implications of 'Esav marrying back into the line of Avraham by taking the daughter of Yishma'el as his wife?

>< v.10-17 Dream of a ladder It's here in the Torah that we find Ya'akov making a separate identity for himself, one that allows him to become the third and last patriarch. It was necessary for him to leave his land and his father, mother, and siblings in order for God to work with him, just as it was with his grandfather, Avraham.

The "ladder" is a biblical type that acts as a connection between God and man after sin had broken that connection. Later it was through the wilderness Tabernacle and eventually it is only through the true "ladder" Messiah Yeshua that we can have access to God.

>< v.18-22 A pillar and a tent Ya'akov took the stone that he laid his head on and stood it up and anointed it with oil. Anointing with oil was a common practice in that era to mark an agreement being made. People also used standing stones to mark boundaries but didn't anoint them with oil. —What is significant about what Ya'akov did here?

NOTES

HEBREW WORD & PHRASE DEFINITIONS

berakhah - blessing

Beit-El - "house of God"

Hand & Heel

Ya'akov did have a connection to his brother's traits of cruelty, but these traits were not an integral part of his soul. This is the significance of Ya'akov's hand holding onto 'Esav's heel when they were born. The heel represents the instinctive nature (the Hebrew words for 'foot' and 'habit', *regel* and *hergel*, share the same root), while the hand indicates willed and planned action. Ya'akov having a hold onto 'Esav's heel has a connection to those savage traits that were an intrinsic part of 'Esav's nature. For Ya'akov, however, these traits were not wild and undisciplined, but under the control of his hand and mind.

Ya'akov will be capable of performing the same brutal actions as 'Esav, albeit out of necessity and judicious choice. He will be distressed by the need to utilize his brother's characteristics, but will recognize their usefulness in achieving the final goal.

Israel's Enemy

Scripture shows that 'Esav mixed with the descendants of another group of people who would have had very good reason, at least in their minds, for hating Israel eternally—the descendants of Yishma'el...which today make up much of the Arab world, largely the Turkish population, the Syrians, and the Kurdish people of Iraq. We know from Bible prophecy that the Turks are going to play a primary role in the events of Revelation as enemies of Israel.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS::

—Why was Yitz'chak's second blessing on Ya'akov significant?

—How did Ya'akov's vision foreshadow Yeshua?