

Questions / Answers

1. Which of Rebekah's twins was born first?
Esau.
2. Which twin did God say would have the blessing?
Jacob.
3. Why did Esau sell his birthright?
Because he was hungry and wanted Jacob's stew. He loved the things of this life more than God's promises.
4. How did Jacob get the blessing?
He deceived Isaac by pretending to be Esau.
5. What did Jacob dream at Bethel?
He saw a ladder going up to Heaven with angels going up and down.
6. Who did Jacob marry while he stayed with his uncle, Laban?
Leah and Rachel.
7. How many sons did Jacob have? How did this fulfil God's promises?
12. They became the 12 tribes of Israel—a nation—God's people
8. Who did Jacob wrestle with on his way to meet Esau?
An angel.
9. What new name did the angel give to Jacob? What does it mean?
Israel. Prince with God.
10. The angel put Jacob's hip out of joint. What did this teach Jacob?
He could not do things by his own strength. He must trust in God.

Memory verses

Genesis 28:13—14; Genesis 28:15; Genesis 32:28

Discussion

Explain what is meant by the birthright. What were the promises which were given in the blessing of the birthright? Read Malachi 1:2—3 & Hebrews 12:16—17. Why did God love Jacob and hate Esau?

Writing

Read Genesis 29:14—30. Write about how Laban tricked Jacob.

CBM Senior Lessons



Lesson 10 Jacob—the father of Israel

READING Genesis 25:24—34; 27:1—35; 28:10—22; 32:22—32

LESSON

Isaac married Rebekah and he loved her. After a long time Rebekah had twin sons. The first son to be born was called Esau. The second son was called Jacob. When these two sons grew up they were very different in every way. Esau was a red, hairy man. He enjoyed travelling around and hunting animals to eat. Esau loved the excitement and pleasures of this hunting. Jacob had smooth skin. He was a farmer and liked to stay at home looking after the herds of animals. Jacob loved God. He wanted to have a part in God's promises. Isaac loved Esau best, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

The promises that God made were very important. The promises looked forward to God's salvation and His Kingdom on earth. God gave these promises first to Abraham and then to Isaac. Then the promises were given to the oldest son in each family. Esau was **born** first, so he had the **right** to the promises. This was called the **birthright**. But God told Rebekah, before her sons were born, that the younger son would have the blessing of the promises.

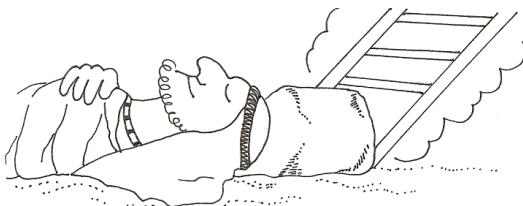
One day Esau came home from hunting. He had been away for many days. He felt faint with exhaustion and hunger. Jacob was cooking a delicious stew. The wonderful smell of cooking made Esau desperate to have some of Jacob's stew. Esau wanted the stew so much that he agreed to sell his birthright to the blessing in exchange for Jacob's stew. Esau loved the things of this life more than the promises of God. Jacob loved God and wanted God's promises and salvation.

When Isaac was old and could not see, he told Esau to go and hunt his favourite meat. He told Esau that he would give him the blessing of God's promises when he came back from hunting.



Rebekah cooked a stew. She dressed Jacob in goats' skins to make him feel hairy like Esau. He wore Esau's clothes. Jacob deceived Isaac, his father. Isaac gave the blessing of the promises to Jacob. When Esau came back he was very angry to find that Jacob had tricked Isaac. He hated Jacob because he had been given the blessing. Esau plotted to kill Jacob. Jacob should not have deceived his father. God taught Jacob that deceit is wrong through experiences in his later life.

Jacob ran away to stay with his relations at Haran. On the way God appeared to Jacob in a dream. In the dream Jacob saw a ladder going up to Heaven. He saw angels going up and down the ladder. God repeated the promises that He had given to Abraham and Isaac. God told Jacob that his descendants would be a great people. God promised to give Jacob and his descendants all the land. God also promised that He would be with Jacob wherever he went. He told Jacob that one day he would come back to live in the land of Canaan, the land God had promised.



At Haran Jacob stayed with his uncle, Laban. Jacob looked after Laban's sheep. Jacob married Laban's two daughters - Leah and Rachel. Laban tricked Jacob many times. Yet God blessed Jacob. Jacob learned that to deceive people is very wrong. Jacob stayed at Haran for 20 years. During that time eleven of his twelve sons were born.

Later, the descendants of Jacob's twelve sons became twelve tribes. They were the twelve tribes of Israel. These twelve tribes became a great nation. This is how God fulfilled His promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that their descendants would become a great nation.

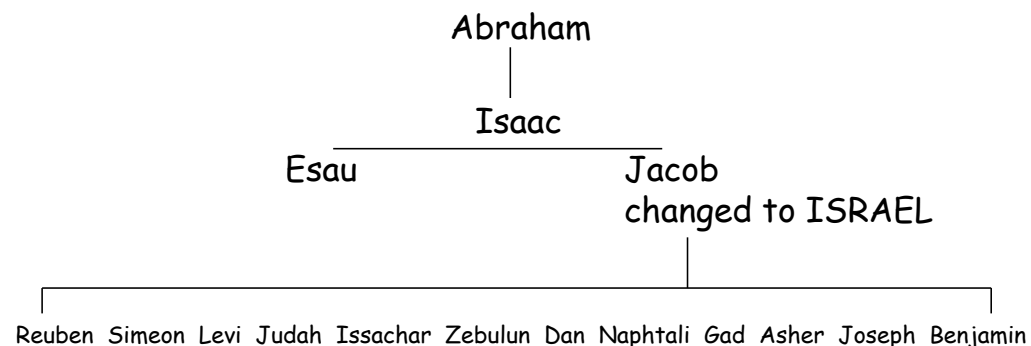
After twenty years Jacob decided to return to the land of Canaan. He was still very afraid of his brother Esau. On the journey he heard that Esau was coming to meet him with 400 men. Jacob was very frightened. He prayed that God would keep him and his family safe.

An angel came to Jacob. Jacob asked the angel to bless him. Jacob wrestled with the angel all night, asking him for a blessing. He would not let the angel go until he had blessed him. At dawn the angel touched Jacob's hip and it went out of joint. This made Jacob limp. This taught Jacob that he could not do things by his own strength—he would find it very difficult to fight Esau with a bad hip. Jacob realized that he must always trust God when he had problems. We, also, must trust God when we have problems.



In the morning the angel did give Jacob a blessing. He changed Jacob's name to **ISRAEL**. 'Israel' means 'Prince with God'. The families of Jacob's twelve sons became the nation of Israel, and the land of Canaan was later called Israel. The name Israel is the name given to the nation and to the land that God promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The name Israel showed that God's promises were being fulfilled. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were fathers of a great nation promised by God.

Jacob met Esau. He was not angry any more. God kept Jacob and his family safe from Esau. Esau went to live in the land of Edom. Jacob and his family went to live in the land of Canaan. This is now called the land of Israel. It is the land which God promised to the descendants of Abraham. The 12 sons of Jacob became the nation of Israel. God always keeps His promises.



The twelve tribes of the nation of ISRAEL