

WORDS OF BLESSING SPOKEN IN
GOD'S PRESENCE CANNOT BE REVOKED OR CANCELLED OUT!
GENESIS CH27:30-46

ILLUSTRATION

Certain words once spoken, cannot be taken back! In some contexts words do not merely describe a situation, but create a new one, think about vows taken at Wedding ceremonies! At a wedding ceremony who said "I will" and who said "I do" and why did you say what you said? The answer lies in what you were asked! "Will you" or "Do you?"

The word "bless, or blessing or blessed" appears a total of 23 times in 46 verses! Ch27:4, 7, 10, 12, 19, 23, 25, 27 (x2), 29 (x2), 30, 31, 33 (x2), 34, 35, 36 (x2), 38 (x2), + 41 (x2)! ***Remember what Ian said a few weeks back about the word "Blessing" (barak)? Explain "Blessing" - Blessing is an "action" verb, meaning, the Lord actively bestowing upon us, His favour! That is, God's goodness to us! God blesses Abraham Gen Ch12:1-3 with His favour, God blesses Isaac Ch25:11 with His favour, and now through Isaac, Jacob Ch27:27-29.***

Words of blessing spoken in God's presence cannot be revoked or cancelled out, even though of course, it is ultimately God who decides if, and in what way, the words will come true!

ISAAC'S REACTION! V30-33

V33 – Isaac trembled very violently This is a very strong phrase in the original Hebrew, meaning that Isaac started to shake convulsively, because at that moment Isaac was overcome with a deep sense that something had gone terribly wrong in his plan to bless Esau instead of Jacob! As the real Esau spoke to his father, Isaac realised he had been tricked and was shocked to his very core! Why? In that moment, he realised he had sinned against God! Here God defeated Isaac's plan to go against God's will, and Isaac realised he could not defeat God's will! And it caused him to tremble violently!

Genesis Ch27:30 - In Faith – "By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau"
Hebrews Ch11:20

ESAU'S REACTION! V34-41

Esau knows that his father cannot take back his words – but surely there is something left? Esau's agony is centred on "materialism and social advantages", not on repentance and sin! Look what happens in V34 + V38

This incident in the New Testament, in the Book of Hebrews is used as a warning for those who do not repent ***"See to it that no-one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; that no-one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears"*** Hebrews Ch12:15-17.

Only 3 times in the New Testament does it record that "Jesus wept":

1. ***John Ch11:35*** – Lazarus!
2. ***Luke Ch19:41*** – Over Jerusalem!
3. ***Hebrews Ch5:7-9*** – Cries out to His Father!

V41 - Esau's sin through his pride, as his brother is preferred, and his envy, because of the anticipated greater material blessing for his brother, drives his murderous intent, because ***revenge is a comfort to those who do not repent and involve Jesus, but rather enjoy the thought of those who have wronged them are hurt by them!***

Esau, finally does receive a blessing, but it is one that is more in line with his conduct and character, remember:

1. The covenant that God had established with Jacob - **Ch25:23**
2. The character of Esau who sold his birthright for a meal – **Ch25:29-34**
3. The conduct of Esau who married two Hittite women - **Ch26:34+35**

Look at the key phrases in **v39** “away from” compared to Jacob's blessing in **v27 + v28** (from the Lord). Esau's “blessing” will come from hard work through his skill with a sword! However, years later we are told in Genesis **Ch33:9** “But Esau said 'I have enough my brother; keep what you have for yourself’”, Esau found the blessing of contentment!

REBEKAH'S REACTION! V42-46

Remember Rebekah back in v8 + v13 and her 3 words “obey my voice”, convincing Jacob to do as she says, well here again in v43, in planning Jacob's escape, she emphasises the need to “obey her voice”! If only she knew that in concocting this action plan, it would be the last time she would see her son!

Writer Derek Kidner states “Rebekah's diplomatic victory was completed, but she would never see her son again”, Rebekah will not send word to her son (v45) as she planned, because Isaac lives for another 43 years and on Jacob's return, only Isaac is alive (Genesis Ch35:27), as he spends 20 years in Haran after he himself is deceived (Gen Ch31:38)!

APPLICATION

1. What a tragic story!
2. All 4 characters lose out because of their scheming, using their human wisdom and energy!
3. They did not seek God's wisdom or energy!
4. Nevertheless, God's Will was accomplished!
5. Sadly, each family member suffered terribly as they worked against God's revealed will for their lives!
6. When we actively work against God's will, we suffer and miss out on His blessings!

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

We know that Isaac was 60 years old when Jacob was born (**Genesis Ch25:26**). So, if we can figure out Jacob's age at the time of the blessing, we can figure out Isaac's age then, too. According to **Genesis Ch47:9**, Jacob was 130 years old when he stood before Pharaoh in Egypt. At this time, Joseph was 39 years old (30 years old when he came out of prison, **Genesis Ch41:46**, plus the 7 years of plenty, **Genesis Ch41:47**, plus the first 2 years of famine, **Genesis Ch45:11**).

Therefore, Jacob was 91 years old when Joseph was born.

Joseph was born after Jacob had been working for Laban for 14 years (**Genesis Ch30:35**). Jacob started working for Laban as soon as he ran from home. So, if we subtract the 14 years with Laban from Jacob's age when Joseph was born, we find that Jacob was 77 years old when Isaac blessed him. Therefore, Isaac was 137 years old when he blessed Jacob (60 years old at Jacob's birth plus Jacob's age of 77). Isaac did not die until he was 180 years old (**Genesis Ch35: 28-29**). Thus, he gave this blessing 43 years before his death.

Isaac was urgent to give this blessing to his son, not only because he was going blind, but also because his older brother, Ishmael, had died when he was 137 years old (**Genesis Ch25: 17**). Ishmael was 14 years older than Isaac (**Genesis Ch17:24-25; Ch21:5**), which means that Isaac was 123 years old when Ishmael died. So, Isaac gave this blessing when he was the same age that Ishmael was at his death.