

Intrigue and drama ...

I. Bestowing the Blessing

- A. Isaac's Dying Request
- B. The Birth Order Blessing
- C. Rebekah in the Shadows

II. Destiny and Deception

- A. The Blessed Fraud
 - 1. Jacob's Gain: The Blessing
 - 2. The Un-blessing: Esau's Loss
- B. Divine Fulfillment

III. Fostering a Feud

- A. Fool Me Twice
- B. Tasting Murder
- C. Modeling Misery
- D. A Flight for Life

IV. Lessons from the Bedside

- A. Lessons from Folly
- B. Lesson of Grace
- C. And the Big Picture

... under God's perfect will.

Children, Listen ...

1. Was Esau expecting his father's blessing?
2. What had Esau done with his birthright in the past?
3. How did Jacob end up getting the blessing?
4. Do you think he deserved it?
5. Do any of us deserve God's blessing of salvation?

When Good Things Happen to Bad People

As always there is always way more to the story than can be told in one paragraph so let's latch on to one thing here. There are no bones about it – no matter how you slice the bread – Esau and Jacob are both bad guys. As the story bares out so far neither twin deserves God's blessing. Perhaps as surprising as it is that the older son does not receive the birthright blessing, perhaps the bigger surprise is that unworthy and conniving Jacob does. We may look at some really bad people at times and say to ourselves "they get what they deserve" even when it comes to condemnation. But then we need to quickly step back and say, "hey wait, I'm a pretty bad person, in fact, I'm totally depraved by nature. But in His mercy God has shown me kindness and has brought me to salvation through Jesus Christ! And I, among all people don't deserve it in any way." God shows grace to the schemer and in the face of his deception to boot. No wonder the words of John Newton resonate with just about every true Christian everywhere: "*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me ...*"