

By Faith – Isaac

Sermon 36 in Hebrews

Heb. 11:20 -- *By faith, Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.*

I. The Plan of Isaac -- Gen 27:1-4

The example of Isaac being a man of faith comes in giving the blessing and then standing by the blessings given -- even when it didn't turn out the way he desired.

II. The Plan of Rebekah 27:5-17

God had told her the younger would serve the younger.

She knew that God had chosen Jacob over Esau.

She also knew that Isaac was going to bless Esau, if he could.

So, she took matters into her own hands.

She was willing to pay the price to achieve what she wanted.

III. The Plan of God 27:18-29

Gen. 25:23

And the LORD said to her:

"Two nations are in your womb,

Two peoples shall be separated from your body;

One people shall be stronger than the other,

And the older shall serve the younger."

IV. The Blessings given by Isaac

To Jacob: Gen. **27:27b-29**

So Jacob received the right of "primogeniture".

He was not the first-born, but he received all the rights of the firstborn.

The real promise was for the future.

"Concerning things to come" as the Hebrews writer says.

To Esau: Gen. **27:39-41** -- Edom too would be a mighty nation.

Romans 9

Rebekah loved Jacob.

Isaac loved Esau – and desired for Esau to be the chosen son.

Who did God love? **Romans 9:10-13**

Verses 10-12 speak of the real life persons of Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob and Esau.

Verse 13 is taken from Malachi 1:2, 3

Paul cites the persons of Jacob and Esau – and then the history of Israel and Edom as nations – and puts it all together to prove the truth of election – and also the doctrine of reprobation.

Election and Reprobation are like two sides of the same coin.

Paul does not soften the doctrine.

Paul intensifies his explanation of the truth of election and reprobation with further examples -- **Romans 9: 14-18**

Praise God for sovereign grace.

Praise God He does not give us what we deserve.

Praise God for New Covenant Blessings which are found in Christ.

Final Applications from Jacob and Esau.

1. Sin brings a world of regret.
2. Sin brings unbelievable cruelty and hatred
3. Sin brings heartache and loss