

## Isaac: Blessing By Faith

Ponder: Faith versus favoritism

Scripture: “By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come” (Hebrews 11:20, NKJV).

How could Isaac bless Jacob “by faith” when he thought he was blessing Esau? You remember the event in Genesis. Jacob, prompted by his mother, Rebekah, disguised himself as Esau and conned his father, Isaac, into giving him the blessing. Isaac said, in part, “Therefore may God give you of the dew of heaven, of the fatness of the earth, and plenty of grain and wine. Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be master over your brethren, and let your mother’s sons bow down to you” (Gen. 27:28-29a).

It was God’s will, indeed, that Jacob receive the blessing. Through Isaac God purposed to fulfill the promises He made to Abraham. That doesn’t excuse, even for a moment, Jacob’s lies or Rebekah’s meddling. The Lord didn’t need their “help” to accomplish His plan!

When Esau returned to Isaac and both of them realized what Jacob had done, Esau begged his father to change his mind, or at least to give him a blessing also. Isaac, however, recognized the will of God. Though he personally favored Esau over Jacob, Isaac demonstrated faith as he refused to oppose God. To Esau he said, “Behold, your dwelling shall be of (more correctly ‘away from’) the fatness of the earth, and (away from) the dew of heaven from above. By your sword you shall live, and you shall serve your brother” (Gen. 27:39-40a). Whereas Jacob and his descendants would prosper agriculturally, Esau and the Edomites would maintain their existence by the sword. Israel eventually subjugated the Edomites, especially during the reigns of David and Solomon.

How did Isaac know what the future held for his sons? Only God can predict the future with 100% accuracy. Isaac spoke by divine inspiration, and he knew that God’s word regarding his sons would, indeed, be fulfilled. Isaac blessed his sons not by his personal preference, but by faith.

God’s word is complete. He has no need to inspire people today as He did Isaac and many others. Let us, like Isaac, leave our personal preferences on the back burner, putting our obedient trust in God and His word!

Song: “My Jesus, As Thou Wilt”

Prayer: Wise Father, help us to value Your will higher than anything else, especially our own desires. In Jesus’ name, Amen.