



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Genesis Sermon Series

Supports Session 3: A Deceiver

Sermon Title: “Sinful Men and a Sovereign God” (Genesis 27:18-30)

Connection to Session 3

It’s easy to criticize Jacob for stealing Esau’s blessing, but we must remember that Isaac was acting against the explicit purpose of God (Gen. 25:21-23). This does not justify Jacob’s deception, of course, but God still used Jacob to fulfill His plan. Not even the worst intentions of men can thwart the purposes of the Almighty God.

Introduction/Opening

Not long ago, I read a book called *In the Name of God*, by O.S. Hawkins. It was about the famous antagonism between Texas pastors J. Frank Norris and George W. Truett. Most authors tend to treat Norris as the bad guy and Truett as the good guy, but as Dr. Hawkins noted, it wasn’t quite that simple. As I read the book, I thought to myself, “How did the Southern Baptist Convention survive the 1920s?” Not only was there infighting in the denomination, but there were also major scandals at the Home Mission Board, and they were followed by the stock market crash of 1929. Nevertheless, the SBC weathered these storms because God was still in control.

Outline

1. The misleading conspiracy (vv. 18-24).

- a) This plot was instigated by Jacob’s mother, Rebekah.
 - i. Esau had already sold his birthright to Jacob.
 - ii. Rebekah likely remembered the Lord’s promise that Esau would serve Jacob (Gen. 25:23), so she took matters into her own hands.
- b) We must remember that God’s Word strongly condemns lying.
 - i. The book of Proverbs lists seven things God hates, and two of them involve lying (Prov. 6:16-19).
 - ii. It is not within God’s nature to lie (Titus 1:2).
 - iii. All liars will be cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 21:8).

2. The meaningful ceremony (vv. 25-29).

- a) Isaac and Rebekah share some guilt for the tension between their sons.
 - i. Both were guilty of favoritism (Gen. 25:28).
 - ii. God had already promised that the younger son would be greater than the elder son (Gen. 25:23), but Isaac chose to follow tradition.

- b) What kind of blessing did Isaac bestow on Jacob?
 - i. God would make him prosperous.
 - ii. He would reign over the rest of his family.
 - iii. Those who blessed him would be blessed, and those who cursed him would be cursed.

3. The mysterious consequences (vv. 30,41).

- a) When Esau found out what Jacob had done, he was furious.
 - i. Isaac affirmed that Jacob received the blessing.
 - ii. Jacob and Esau did not reconcile for over twenty years.
- b) Jacob suffered terrible consequences for his deception.
 - i. He was forced to flee for his life.
 - ii. He worked for an uncle who took advantage of him.
- c) In spite of Jacob's wrongdoing, God's plan for him was fulfilled.
 - i. When he returned home, he was a wealthy man.
 - ii. His name was changed to Israel (Gen. 32:28)
 - iii. He had twelve sons, who became the twelve patriarchs of Israel.

Conclusion

God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;

He plants His footsteps in the sea
And rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never-failing skill;
He treasures up His bright designs,
And works His sov'reign will.¹

Ken Jones has been pastor of Worsham Baptist Church in Farmville, Virginia, since 2007. He has a B.S. in History from the University of Tennessee at Martin, and an MDiv. from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. His wife, Celia, is an associate professor of Political Science at Hampden-Sydney College.

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1. William Cowper, "Moves in Mysterious Ways." Public Domain.