

Midrash *Tol'dot* ("Generations") Genesis 25:19 – 28:9

The Transition Continues: Chapters 12-23: All about **Abraham**
Chapters 24 & 25: Transition to **Isaac**
This Portion deals briefly with **Isaac**, then moves right on to **Esau & Jacob**

God changed the names of Abram & Jacob...but not Isaac – God named him at his birth!

The Birth of Jacob & Esau

Genesis 25:19-26

Rebekah was barren for 20 years (Isaac married at 40; she gave birth when he was 60)
...as were Sarah before her & Rachel will be after her

God Told Rebekah that the elder will serve the younger
.... Did He tell Isaac?? ... Did Rebekah tell Isaac??

Esau: **עֵשָׂו** *Esav* - "hairy" (as a goat)

Jacob: **יַעֲקֹב** *Ya'akov* "heel-grabber" from **אָקַב** *akav* "Heel"

Jacob & Esau: Two Nations

Genesis 25:27-34

Esau: **יָדַע צַיִד** *yodea tzayid* "cunning hunter" (same words used of Nimrod)
"he ate of his game" ⇨ "Game was in his mouth" Whose mouth??
Did Esau "deceive" Jacob by the words of his mouth?

Jacob: **טָמֵא** *tam* "plain" or "without blemish"; a requirement of every animal sacrifice

Jacob gave his stew to Esau to eat
Rabbinic tradition: This is the day Abraham died – the "meal of mourning"

Food has been an instrument to cause many to fall:

Adam & Eve in the Garden
Sacrificial meal at *Ba'al Peor*
Famine in Egypt
The Coming Mark of the Beast

Numbers 25:2

Esau sold his birthright for "red food" **אָדָם** (*adom*)

Firstborn was to be the priest – Esau did not respect that
Exchanged his birthright (holy) for the mundane (common)

Did Jacob steal Esau's birthright??
God separating the holy (Jacob) from the common (Esau)

Isaac & Abimelech

Genesis 26:1-22

"Like Father, Like Son"

Exodus 34:7

Famine the 2nd time
To *Gerar*, Land of the "Philistines" (~ 800 years early!)
Gerar – on the border with Egypt!

Genesis 26:1

God Reconfirms the Covenant to Isaac

Genesis 26:3-4

Isaac re-digs the wells that Abraham dug earlier & finds new wells:

Genesis 26:17-18

Esek = "Contention"
Sitnah = "Strife"
Rehobeth = "Room or Space" } 3 Temples { Solomon's (contention with Babylon)
Herod's (strife: Judah & Rome)
Millennial ("fruitful in the Kingdom")

Isaac's Covenant with the Philistines

Genesis 26:23-33

Just like his Father Abraham did

Genesis 21:22-34

Despite starting with Deceit, Isaac Ends Up with God's Blessing:
Obeyed God's Direct Commands
Admitted When He Was Wrong

Didn't Use His Advantage to Hurt His Enemies
Went Back to Original Wells (Used the Proven Ways)
Remained Faithful, which Ushered in his Blessing
Called on the Name of the LORD
Agreed to a Mutual Non-Aggression Pact with His Enemies

We know less about Isaac than we know about Abraham & Jacob

Isaac's "job" was to:

Re-dig Abraham's wells (Natural)
Establish the promises that God made to Abraham (Spiritual)
...so the next generation (Jacob) can carry it forward

Esau's Wives

Genesis 26:34-35

Esau married Canaanite women
God's Prohibition
Unequally yoked

Deuteronomy 7:3-4
Matt 7:6 & II Corinth 6:14

Jacob's "Stolen" Blessing

Genesis 27:1-40

"I am old, I do not know the day of my death."

Isaac died at 180 years

Genesis 35:28-29

Isaac was physically blind – was he also spiritually blind?
Eyes sensitive to Esau's disgraceful selection of wives, or
God caused his blindness so he would bless Jacob

Man's Tradition: Eldest Son gets the Blessing: Priest of the Family
Head (King) of the Family
Double Portion of Material Inheritance

God's Way: Choose the Spiritual over the Natural: (In Most Cases, the Younger over the Elder):

Seth over Cain	Joseph over all his brothers
Shem over Ham	Ephraim over Manasseh
Isaac over Ishmael	Moses over Aaron
Jacob over Esau	David over all his brothers

Isaac's Blessing on Jacob: Dew (stars) of Heaven
Fatness of the Earth
"sands of the seashore"

But Esau has a change of heart since he sold his birthright
Isaac can give only one blessing to the Firstborn
Fatness of the Earth
Dew of Heaven (reversed from Jacob's Blessing)
Live by the Sword
Serve your Brother
... until he breaks Jacob's yolk off his neck!
Has this happened yet?

Isaac Sends Jacob to Laban

Genesis 27:41 - 28:9

"You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan."
Like Isaac, but not Esau

Jacob flees to Uncle Laban for "a few days"
... 20 years! Rebekah dies around the time of Jacob's return
So he can take a wife from the daughters of Laban
If he stayed in Canaan, Rebekah would lose both sons. Why both?

"Esau saw that the daughters of Canaan did not please his father Isaac."
...so he also married a daughter of Ishmael!

Psalms 83:5-6

Haftarah:

Malachi 1:1 – 2:7 God Loves Jacob - Esau He Will Destroy

Brit Chadashah:

Romans 8:1-8 Walk in the Spirit...Not in the Flesh!