

# "On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

## Genesis 27

Genesis twenty-seven is a fascinating story that has all the intrigue of a blockbuster movie. There is jealousy, pride, deception, shrewdness and the heartache and disaster those sins bring to any human heart and household. Isaac and Rebekah are blessed with a son, but God reveals there are two sons wrestling in the womb of Rebekah and she asked God what was going on inside her. God revealed to Rebekah that she had two sons, yes, but also, she had *"two nations...two peoples, one people shall be stronger than the other, and the older shall serve the younger"* (Genesis 25:19-28).

The birthright of the family traditionally went to the first born; birth order is important in the ancient and modern world. Isaac called Esau, his oldest son in and ask him to go into the fields and hunt game, then fix the kill as Isaac loved and had eaten many times with Esau. When Esau would finish the prepared meal, Isaac would bestow the "Blessing of the firstborn" upon Esau and then he would be ready to die at any time.

Read the story of the intervention of a mother determined not to allow a wild and reckless elder son, whom God had said would serve the younger, whom she loved and favored. Rebekah set out to accomplish the will of God *her way*, by deception. As you read the story of this elaborate hoax perpetrated on Isaac, it reveals the manipulative heart of one

son, Jacob, and the pride, arrogance and bitterness of the other son, Esau. Esau despised his birthright, which meant he did not want the responsibility and load that came with the birthright, only the benefits of the birthright. He cannot have it both ways, neither can we. Thus, we see Esau's lost hope and his ungodly response and Jacob's fleeing the wrath of his brother and missing out on many years with his aging mother and father. Sin always costs us more than we think it will. But God, who is rich in mercy and grace, takes even the things that can destroy our lives and uses the brokenness that comes from a life of deception and sin and gets us to the point where we look to Him for the answers in life. Jacob meets God in his wrestling in chapter thirty-two and Jacob is changed forever.

### Prayer and Action Steps

*Pray that God makes you sensitive to His Spirit that lives within you as a child of God. Jacob was wrong in his actions, but do not take Esau's side in this, God doesn't! Read the story from God's perspective in the New Testament book of Hebrews (see Hebrews 12:14-17). Esau was a wicked person, and his brother and mother knew it. His father was seemingly blind spiritually as well as physically. Pray and ask God to help you to not be bitter, defiled, a fornicator, lacking perspective and too proud to repent. Such is Esau. Read the text in Hebrews.*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Scripture \_\_\_\_\_

- Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.
- Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.
- Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

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What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

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Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

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Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? \_\_\_\_\_

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Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? \_\_\_\_\_

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Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

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