

Esau Receives the Antiblessing & Seeks to Kill Jacob (Gen 27:30–28:9)

Grace Chapel January 6, 2010 Dr. John Niemelä

INTRODUCTION

REVIEW:

AN IMPORTANT WORD PLAY IN THE JACOB-ESAU NARRATIVES

The word for *firstborn rights* has the following root letters: *B Kh R*

The word for *blessing* has the following root letters: $\begin{array}{c} | \quad \times \\ B \quad R \quad Kh \end{array}$

Jacob & Esau struggled for both the *BKhR* and for the *BRKh*.

CHRONOLOGY (Gen 26:34–35 happened in 1966 BC. 27:1–28:5 occurred in 1930 BC)

Esau (Jacob's twin) married Canaanites at age 40 (Genesis 26:34)

Jacob married Leah & Rachel at age 76 (Joseph was born 14 yrs after Jacob went to Paddan Aram. Joseph was 40 & Jacob was 130 when Jacob went to Egypt).

Leah & Rachel were much younger than Jacob (Jacob was 90 at Joseph's birth)

Isaac was 40 when he married (Gen 25:20) & 60 when J & E were born (Gen 25:26).

Thus Rebekah had been married 96 years when Jacob went to Paddan Aram.

CHIASTIC STRUCTURE

CHIASM. The Greek letter *X*, *chi* (pronounced *khee*) looks an *X*.

Chiasm means there is a criss-cross, so the structure looks like an *x*.

Example: Matthew 7:6. The first citation sets it forth in Scripture order.

A Do not give what is holy to the dogs;
 B *nor cast your pearls before swine,*
 B' *lest they trample them under their feet,*
A' and turn and tear you in pieces.

The second citation demonstrates the criss-cross structure.

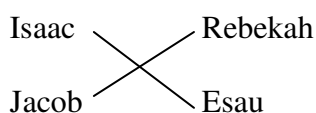
Do not give what is holy to the dogs; \times *lest they trample them under their feet.*
nor cast your pearls before swine, [lest they] turn and tear you in pieces.

It is chiasm, because dogs don't trample, but swine do. Both can tear people to pieces.

CHIASTIC STRUCTURE OF GEN 26:34–28:9 (Tonight we will study 27:30–28:9: D'–A')

A	Esau married <u>Canaanites</u> under a curse	26:34–35	EIR
B	Isaac & the son of <u>BKhR/BRKh</u> (= <u>Esau</u>)	27:1–5	EIR
C	Rebekah sends Jacob <u>to</u> the stage	27:6–17	RJ
D	<u>Jacob</u> appears before Isaac & receives <u>blessing</u>	27:18–29	JJ
D'	<u>Esau</u> appears before Isaac & receives <u>antiblessing</u>	27:30–40	EI
C'	Rebekah sends Jacob <u>from</u> the stage	27:41–45	RJ
B'	Isaac & the son of <u>BKhR/BRKh</u> (= <u>Jacob</u>)	27:46–28:5	IJ
A'	Esau married <u>Ishmaelites</u> <u>not</u> under a curse	28:6–9	EI

Note that the points in tonight's outline will be in the order: D', C', B', A'.

CHIASTIC STRUCTURE OF THE FAMILY

Notice that the whole family is never together in these passages

In the chart: I = Isaac, R = Rebekah, J = Jacob, E = Esau

No more than three have active roles in any passage.

D': ESAU APPEARED BEFORE ISAAC & RECEIVED THE ANTIBLESSING (27:30–4)

D' corresponds to *D*: Jacob appeared before Isaac & received blessing (27:18–29)

(27:30–31) Just after Jacob left, Esau came w/ a meal for Isaac & asked for a blessing

(27:32–35) Esau & Isaac both were greatly distressed that Jacob took the blessing by deceit, Esau requested a blessing anyway, but Isaac said that Jacob had taken it

Why did Isaac let his blessing of Jacob stand (even though he was tricked)?

(27:36–40) Isaac gave Esau a lesser blessing that included servitude of Jacob

C': REBEKAH SENT JACOB AWAY (27:41–45)

C' corresponds to C: Rebekah sends Jacob to the stage (27:6–17)

(27:41) Esau's hatred led him to plot to kill Jacob (after Isaac died)

(27:42) Rebekah heard Esau's plan & told Jacob

(27:43–45) Rebekah told Jacob to spend a few days with her brother Laban until Esau settled down

B': ISAAC & THE SON OF BKhR/BRKh (= JACOB) (27:46–28:5)

B' corresponds to B: Isaac & the son of BKhR/BRKh (= Esau) (27:1–5)

(27:46) Rebekah told Isaac that it would be terrible if Jacob married local Hittite women [as Esau had done (26:34–35)]

(28:1–4) Isaac sent Jacob to Padan Aram to find a wife from the daughters of Laban and he gave him the full Abrahamic blessing

We saw on page 1 that Rebekah left Padan Aram 96 years earlier to marry Isaac.

(28:5) Jacob went to Padan Aram to Uncle Laban, the Syrian

A': ESAU MARRIED ISHMAELITES NOT UNDER A CURSE (28:6–9)

A' corresponds to A: Esau married Canaanites under a curse (26:34–35)

(28:6–9) When Esau saw (1) that Isaac forbade Jacob to marry a Canaanite, (2) that Jacob obeyed Isaac by going to Padan Aram, and (3) that his own Canaanite wives did not please Isaac, he went to [where] Ishmael [settled] and married Mahalath in addition to his Canaanite wives

CONCLUSION