

iii. The list of Kings (31-39)

- a) Esau has aligned himself with the kingdoms of the world, which puts him in line with Babel.
- b) Esau locked arms with the those whom had kings long before Israel... long before God's kingdom had kings.

iv. Which kingdom have you aligned yourself with?

C. Jacob stayed in the land of blessing, where his father lived.

### LIVE THE STORY

*The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community.  
The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- How do you usually read genealogies in the Old Testament? How might this week's text demonstrate that all Scripture is useful, or beneficial? Are there ways you've already benefited?
- What might surprise readers in 35:22? How does this fit in the larger story of Jacob/Israel? How does it speak to leaders today?
- Like all of us, Jacob's life is a mixture. What characteristics of his life should we aspire to? Two were specifically mentioned in the sermon.
- **In light of the gospels, how might we pursue the blessing of God today? What are some ways that we can, in NT terminology, seek God's blessing, rather than the way of Esau?**
- How is Esau, in our text, an example of those who pursue earthly reward over eternal blessing? How did Satan offer Jesus a similar reward to that which Esau sought in the land of Seir?
- How did the Lord speak to you from this text?

## Genesis: Truth for Understanding Our World (Part 24)

### *The Place of Blessing*

Jerry Cisar — January 28, 2018

Text: Genesis 35:22–37:1

### I. The “natural” chapter divisions of Genesis (36:1)

- A. “This is the account of...” or “These are the generations of...”
  - i. These begin new sections of Genesis (like chapters).
    - a) Genesis 2:4
    - b) Genesis 5:1
    - c) Genesis 6:9
    - d) Genesis 10:1
    - e) Genesis 11:10
    - f) Genesis 11:27
    - g) Genesis 25:12
    - h) **Genesis 25:19**
    - i) **Genesis 36:1**
    - j) Genesis 37:2
  - ii. Some oddities to us:
    - a) The heavens and the earth get a record.
    - b) What follows the record of Adam (e.g.) is the story, not of Adam, but of his descendants.
    - c) There isn't a “these are the generations of Abraham...”.
      - Genesis 12:3
- B. It also explains why I am breaking between 37:1 & 2.
  - i. We are at the tail end of “*the generations/account of Isaac*” (25:19), which ends with Isaac's death.
  - ii. Then we have a brief section about the generations of Esau, but like Ishmael's, is rather short.
  - iii. Isaac did not finish well. Serves as a warning for all sons of Abraham to finish well.

- C. The short account of Esau's descendants is sandwiched between a story about Jacob's family and the lengthy account of Jacob's family line (Genesis 37—50).

## II. The lackluster ending of the Isaac account (35:22-29)

- A. Reuben went in and slept with his father's concubine Bilhah.

- i. An act of rebellion, usurping his father Jacob's authority

➤ 2 Samuel 16:20-22

- ii. "Israel heard of it."

- a) On *Israel*, see 35:9  
b) Jacob's seeming inactivity.

- c) This is left undone until the end of Genesis (49:3-4).

- B. "Jacob had twelve sons."

- i. The number twelve is significant.  
a) Ishmael (25:13-16): Twelve represented a nation.

- b) Matthew 19:28 and Acts 1:21

- ii. The blessing comes with mixture.

- C. What was Israel's strong point?

- i. Jacob, Israel, knows the power of grace—blessing.  
a) Israel – contends with God for the blessing.

- b) Do you want the blessing? (Matt. 5:4-11)

- ii. Jacob, Israel, was a worshiper.

- D. Isaac's Death (27-29)

- i. *Mamre, near Kiriath Arba (that is, Hebron)*

- a) 13:18

- b) 14:13

- c) 18:1

- d) 23:17-20; 25:9

- e) 49:30; 50:13

- ii. 180 years: long life.

## III. The glittering sequel to the Esau account (36:1 – 37:1)

- A. Esau moved away from the place of God's blessing. (36:1-8)

- i. This story is intentionally reminiscent of the account of Abram and Lot.

- ii. Esau acquired all the blessings while he was in the land.

- B. Esau, the man of this world, didn't have to wait for the blessing he received (Genesis 36:9-37:1).

- i. Many of Esau's descendants are listed as chiefs.

- ii. What do we do with the list of the "sons of Seir" in 20-30?