

# Esau

*“In the Beginning”*

**And the boys grew: and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents.**

—Genesis 25:27

Who is your brother? Esau was the son of Isaac and Rebekah, a twin. But the twins were nothing alike. The Bible says that from the time they were in the womb of Rebekah they were fighting. Esau showed love even though he was mistreated and his life was not easy.

Esau was an expert hunter, a sportsman. Jacob was a quiet man and liked to dwell in tents. Esau had a hairy body, but Jacob was smooth skinned. The parents took sides with them. Isaac loved Esau; Rebekah loved Jacob. One day Jacob had some food. Esau came in from the field and was faint because he had not eaten for a while. He asked Jacob for his food and Jacob told him that he would give him the food if Esau gave him the birth-right. Esau found the food more important and said, *“Behold, I am at the point to die, what profit shall this birth-right do to me.”* So he gave it to Jacob. At this point Esau showed a weakness according to many sources. The food was more important to him.

At a later time, when Isaac, the father, was getting old he called Esau and told him *“I am now an old man and don't know the day of my death. Now then, get your equipment—your quiver and bow—and go out to the open country to hunt some wild game for me. Prepare me the kind of tasty food I like and bring it to me to eat, so that I may give you my blessing before I die.”* Genesis 27:2-4.



Again Rebekah interfered and told Jacob *“Look, I overheard your father say to your brother Esau, ‘Bring me some game and prepare me some tasty food to eat, so that I may give you my blessing in the presence of the LORD before I die.’ Now, my son, listen carefully and do what I tell you: Go out to the flock and bring me two choice young goats, so I can prepare some tasty food for your father, just the way he likes it. Then take it to your father to eat, so that he may give you his blessing before he dies.”* Genesis 27:5-10.

IF ANYONE SAYS,  
**“I LOVE GOD,”**  
AND HATES HIS BROTHER,  
HE IS A LIAR;  
FOR HE  
WHO DOES NOT LOVE HIS BROTHER  
**WHOM HE HAS SEEN**  
CANNOT LOVE GOD  
**WHOM HE HAS NOT SEEN.**  
—1 JOHN 4:20

Jacob protested that his skin was not like his brother's hairy skin, but Rebekah had that covered

also. She dressed him in hairy clothes and had him deceive Isaac into giving him the blessing.

This angered Esau. When he saw Jacob with the blessing, he set out to kill his brother as soon as Isaac had died. Rebekah told Jacob to flee for his life. Jacob fled to the land that belonged to his uncle. Esau stayed. He asked his father if he had only one blessing. The Bible says that Isaac wept and responded that Esau would never be able to have the blessings he had given Jacob. He would be a servant to Jacob and he would live by the sword. Esau rebelled. He knew that his father did not want them to marry a woman from Canaan, so that is exactly what he did.

Esau did well. When they were older, the Lord told Jacob to return to his home land. Jacob feared Esau because he knew that his brother had threatened to kill him, but the Lord told him he would be protected. Jacob did as the Lord commanded but he sent all kinds of food, animals, even his wives ahead of him.

When Esau went to greet him, he did not harm him. Instead he welcomed him and threw his arms around him

and forgave him; and the two of them wept. Then Jacob offered him many gifts, but Esau said he didn't need them. He was o.k. with what he had. It is important to remember that Esau sold the birthright in the first place for food. But, it was also Esau that welcomed his brother Jacob back with open arms.

Then Esau went to another part of the land but his descendants were never blessed as were the descendants of Jacob, because Esau had sold his birthright. His descendants were eventually destroyed by the tribes of Israel.

There is a beautiful song called "Jesus My Lord." I think of the one verse because of the reaction between Jacob and Esau when they met. According to Scripture, "Jacob said, *"Please. If you can find it in your heart to welcome me, accept these gifts. When I saw your face, it was as the face of God smiling on me. Accept the gifts I have brought for you. God has been good to me and I have more than enough."* Jacob urged the gifts on him and Esau accepted. Genesis 33:10-11

*Have you ever stood in the family  
With the Lord there in your midst  
Seen the face of Christ on each  
other?*

*Then I say... (pause)  
You've seen Jesus My Lord.  
(refrain)*

*Refrain:  
Have you seen Jesus my Lord?  
He's here in plain view.  
Take a look, open your eyes,  
He'll show it to you.*

Family isn't  
always blood. It's the  
people in your life who  
want you in theirs;  
the ones who accept  
you for who you  
are. The ones who would  
do anything to see  
you smile & who  
LOVE YOU  
no matter what.

A wonderful brother relationship can be a gift to all involved regardless of the family size. But sometimes that brother it's not a blood brother. Sometimes it can be a friend. We know of many examples where a person has been accepted by a family and has become a part of that family and loved as much as those who are blood brothers and sisters and parents. God gave us all that love and we need to share it. Too many times we hear stories like Esau and Jacob where love is not shown for many different reasons. Often as we examine it, it is caused by jealousy and strife.

Esau reached out and Jacob was pleased. He had been afraid, but now he knew that his brother had accepted him. He had seen the forgiveness of God from his brother. The relationship of Jacob and Esau was blessed by Esau's reaching out. How wonderful that can be when we can overcome hate with love and welcome our brother into our home and heart.

Prayer: Our Heavenly Father, we thank You for the wonderful gift of eternal life You have given us. We often sin, but help us never to forsake You. Help us to not hold earthly good above Your love and to realize that You will provide everything we need if we only ask. Amen.

1. Why did Esau sell his birthright? Was it justified? Remember we are told that he was the sportsman of the two.
2. Is the older always the stronger sibling in the family?
3. Was it right for Rebekah to tell Jacob to flee for his life?
4. How did Esau receive Jacob when he returned to the land of his father?
5. Do we have relatives or close friends that we should go to see and welcome the friendship again with love?
6. Why did God allow Isaac to bless Jacob when Esau was really the one that was to have the birthright in the first place?

© rgscripts  
info@rgscripts.com

Fathers, do not provoke your  
children to anger, but bring  
them up in the discipline and  
instruction of the Lord.

- Ephesians 6:4