

# **“MAN PROPOSES: GOD DISPOSES”**

## **GENESIS 27:1-17**

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### INTRODUCTION

Note that in Scripture God speaks well of Jacob (Mal. 1:2-3; Gen. 32:28).

However, in this real life family situation, not everyone thought and spoke well of him!

This can be a lesson for us: How will others look on our behavior?

In this passage we see the sovereignty of God to accomplish His plan despite the shenanigans of all the humans involved in this story.

### **THE PLOTS OF ALL ONLY SUCCEEDED IN ACCOMPLISHING GOD’S WILL (cf. Acts 4:28)**

#### I. THE SECRET PLAN OF ISAAC (1-4)

How could he do this?

- God had given his oracle saying that the elder will serve the younger.
- Esau had proven his bad character by marrying godless, heathen women.
- Esau had been willing to sell his birthright for lentil soup!

##### A. His Circumstances (1-2)

1. Age
2. Near blindness
3. Helplessness (2)—“I don’t know the day of my death.”

##### B. His Instructions (3-4)

1. Take your gear, bow, and quiver and go hunt game (3).
2. Prepare my favorite savory dish so that I may eat (4).
3. I will bless you before I die (4b).
  - The blessing was both a “benediction” and a “prediction”
  - Examples: 48:10—Jacob; 50:24—Joseph; Dt. 33—Moses; Josh. 23—Joshua; II S. 23—David

#### II. THE SUBTLE PLAN OF REBEKAH (5-17)

How could she do this?

- God had made His promise; didn’t she trust Him?
- How could she teach her son such deceptive and wicked behavior?
- Did she really think that the Lord would be please with such deception?

##### A. The plan plotted (5-13)

1. Insight gained (5)—watch out for the wife who is “listening”!
2. Information given (6-7)
  - She waited until Esau was gone hunting.
  - Note the words “in the presence of the Lord.”
  - Jacob was depending upon God for guidance in the words chosen in the blessing.

3. Obedience required (8, 13)—“Listen to me as I command you” “Obey my voice, and go, get them for me.”
    - Note that Jacob was a grown man, as was Esau.
  4. Instructions given (9-10)
    - Two “choice” young goats—the best ones you can find in the flock.
    - I will prepare a savory dish “such as he loves”—she knew the taste and consistency of the venison meal and could imitate it.
    - Then you will take it to your father that he may eat it.
    - So he may bless you before his death.
  5. Problems raised (11-12)
    - a. Esau is a hairy man—I am smooth!
    - b. My father may “feel me”
    - c. I will be “as a deceiver in his sight”
    - d. Such will result in his curse on me, not a blessing.
  6. Responsibility taken (13)—“Your curse be on me, my son.”
- B. The Plan Prepared (14-17)
1. The food (14)—he did it; she did it!
  2. The garments (15)
    - “The best garments” of Esau.
    - “Her elder son”—shows the unnaturalness of this behavior to take away the blessing from the oldest son.
    - “With her in the house”—as mother, she took care of things in the “house”—tent.
    - She put them on Jacob—“her younger son”—again not normal.
  3. The skins (16)—of the young goats on Jacob’s exposed skin—hands and wrists and “smooth part of his neck” etc.
  4. The food—meat and bread—given to Jacob—“her son”—her favorite one! (17)

## CONCLUSION

None of them ended up getting exactly what he wanted—except God!

Jacob had to flee for his life! Rebekah lost the companionship of her youngest son for 20 years! Isaac Did not bless Esau. Esau lost the blessing.

Let us stop all of the worldly machination and learn to truly trust Him!

For: **THE PLOTS OF ALL ONLY SUCCEEDED IN ACCOMPLISHING GOD’S WILL (cf. Acts 4:28)**