

AND ESAU WEPT ALOUD

“Father do you have **only one** blessing? Bless me too, my father!”

Isaac answered, “Behold, thy dwelling shall be away from the earth’s richness, away from the dew of heaven above. You will live by the sword and **you will serve your brother**. But **when you grow restless, you will throw his yoke from off your neck**”
(Genesis 27:39-40).



<http://wol.jw.org/en/wol/d/r1/lp-e/2013366>

A long, long time ago there lived two boys, twins. Their names were Esau, he was first born and Jacob, born minutes later. From the time they were conceived, they fought against each other. These were the children of Isaac and Rebekah.

Esau was born with red colouring and hairy, while Jacob had smooth skin. Esau loved hunting in the open country, while Jacob was quiet and stayed around the tents. God had given Abraham an unconditional blessing, which Isaac received. It was by culture to be given to the first-born male in the family. Upon the death of the father, the birthright recipient inherited a double portion of the family estate and the role as leader having authority over the expanding family. It also included, the responsibility of being the spiritual leader of the family.

Esau was not interested in spiritual matters. Jacob was aware of Esau’s disinterest in something he desired and valued. When Esau returned famished after a long hunting trip, the tantalizing smell of Jacob’s kitchen drew Esau who lived by the moment—in. He asked Jacob for a bowl of lentil stew, lest he die. Jacob immediately opened shop for business and offered a trade: a bowl of lentils for his birthright. Without hesitation, Esau agreed to the transaction.

Jacob was close to his mother and during a moment of reassurance, she shared with him what God had told her.

Rebekah cried out to God, "What is this happening to me?" (Genesis 25:22)

The Lord said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, and **the older will serve the younger**" (Genesis 25:23).

Jacob believed his mother, but did Isaac believe?

The time had come when Isaac thought that he would soon die. He was sick and his eye sight had diminished leaving him blind. He thought he was dying and decided to pass the birthright blessing onto his first-born. He called Esau to hunt game and make his favourite meal before giving him the blessing. Rebekah heard him and called Jacob to prepare to take the blessing.

Jacob replied, "But my brother Esau is a hairy man, and I'm a man with smooth skin. What if my father touches me? **I would APPEAR to be tricking him** and would bring down a curse on myself rather than a blessing" (Genesis 27:11-12).

Jacob knew that if he were caught by his father that he would be viewed as a trickster and cursed. Isaac either did not know what God said to Rebekah or **did not accept what was said as true** as he was determined to bless Esau. In Jacob's heart, he believed what was said to his mother. If caught in this trickery, he feared how it could appear and he would have no way of explaining it to his father so that he would be believed.

The real problem was that neither Rebekah or Jacob talked to God in prayer about it, and so, they did not trust God and leave the matter with Him.

They took the matter in their own hands and Jacob proceeded to impersonate Esau nearly giving his true identity away, through his politeness and kindness towards his father.

Jacob said to his father, "**PLEASE** sit up and eat some of my game so that you may give me your blessing" (Genesis 27:19).

Immediately Isaac was suspicious. He asked his son, "How did you find it so quickly, my son?"

Again, Jacob spread more seeds of suspicion by referencing God. "**The LORD your God** gave me success" (Genesis 27:20).

Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Come near so I can touch you, my son, to know whether you really are my son Esau or not" (Genesis 27:21).

After Isaac touched Jacob, he concluded, “The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands of Esau.”

Isaac recognized Jacob’s voice both in the words he used, his gentility and politeness, and acknowledgement of God, but remained deceived resulting in the blessing going to Jacob.

Esau arrived back from hunting and said, “My father, sit up and eat some of my game, so that you may give me your blessing” (Genesis 27:31).

There was no ‘please’, rather a commanding, “sit up.”

When Isaac realized that he had not blessed Esau, he trembled violently. **Esau burst out with a loud and bitter cry** and said, “Bless me—me too, my father!” (Genesis 27:34).

Esau wanted the physical blessing— the authority over the whole extended family and all of the wealth and riches awarded originally to Abraham who was loyal and faithful to God. Abraham was given wealth and riches because he had a relationship with God, but **Esau did not want a relationship with God. He despised his birthright** (Genesis 25:34). Determined to force the blessing back his way, he pressured his father to take back the blessing given to Jacob, but the more he pressured his father, the more Isaac’s blindness began to lift and he saw the danger of blessing a godless son.

Then Esau wept aloud and sought to kill Jacob the moment Isaac died (Genesis 27:41).

The Apostle Paul understood **the importance of being right with God**, when he wrote, “See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; that no one is **sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal**. For you know that afterward, **when he desired to inherit the blessing, HE WAS REJECTED, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears**” (Hebrews 12:15-17). Esau sought to obtain the blessing with tears, but the pressure he imposed was of no effect.

To protect Jacob from Esau’s anger, Isaac sent Jacob to live with Rebekah’s brother. Isaac blessed him before he left.

“So, **Isaac called for Jacob and blessed him**. Then he commanded him: **‘Do not marry a Canaanite woman**. Go at once to Paddan Aram, to the house of your mother’s father Bethuel. Take a wife for yourself there, from among the daughters of Laban, your mother’s brother. **May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and increase your numbers until you become a community of peoples**” (Genesis 28:1-3).

On the way to Paddan Aram, God blessed Jacob.

“There above it stood the Lord, and he said: ‘I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. **I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you**” (Genesis 28:13-15).

Like a typical businessman, Jacob took the blessing as a contract where **he added** his ifs. “**If** God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey... and give me food to eat and clothes to wear so that I return safely to my father’s house, **then** the LORD will be my God (Genesis 28:20-21).

Jacob still had a lot to learn, but he was willing to overcome.

Though Esau accommodated Jacob’s return home, he refused to accept the outcome of the blessing given to Jacob and his hatred continued to burn, as he passed his bitterness onto his descendants for generations to come.

GOD GAVE ESAU HIS OWN LAND: When Isaac died, Esau packed up his family and everything he owned and moved away. God took care of him and gave Esau the area around Mount Seir where once the Horites lived. The Horites were no doubt a similar race of people like the Anakites who were very large and tall because it was God who destroyed them. These people were not God’s creation.

“They were a people strong and numerous, and as tall as the Anakites. The LORD destroyed them from before the Ammonites, who drove them out and settled in their place. **The LORD had done the same for the descendants of Esau, who lived in Seir, when he destroyed the Horites from before them**” (Deuteronomy 2:21-22).

ESAU BECAME THE FATHER OF THE EDMITES “Now these are the generations of Esau, who is Edom.... Thus dwelt Esau in Mount Seir: Esau is Edom. And these are the generations of Esau, the father of the Edomites in Mount Seir” (Genesis 36:1,8,9). **God is clear to ensure that we know who these people are. He identifies them three times in the same chapter. The emphasis is clear.**

Though God gave him land, he was not satisfied. His story is about a people who refuse to repent.

Jacob’s children went to Egypt during the great famine and became slaves for 430 years.

“To Isaac, I gave Jacob and Esau, and to Esau I gave Mount Seir to possess it; but Jacob and his sons went down to Egypt” (Joshua 24:4).

GOD PROTECTED ESAU AND FORBADE ISRAEL FROM PROVOKING THEM DURING THEIR TRAVEL TO THEIR PROMISED LAND: God commanded, “You will pass through the territory of your brothers the sons of Esau who live in Seir; and they will be afraid of you. So be very careful; **do not provoke them**, for **I will not give you any of their land**, even as little as a footstep because I have given Mount Seir to Esau as a possession (Deuteronomy 2:4-5).

"But now here are men from Ammon, Moab and **Mount Seir**, whose territory you would **not allow Israel to invade** when they came from Egypt; so, they turned away from them and **did not destroy them**" (II Chronicles 20:10).

GOD COMMANDED THE ISRAELITES TO LOVE THE DESCENDANTS OF THEIR FATHER’S BROTHER AND ALL FOREIGNERS. “Thou shalt **not abhor an Edomite**; for he is thy brother: **thou shalt not abhor an Egyptian**; because you were a stranger in his land” (Deuteronomy 23:7) and “**The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself**, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the LORD your God” (Leviticus 19:34).

BUT THE EDMITES WOULD NOT FORGIVE OR FORGET.

THEY CONTINUED IN ANGER AND RAGE: “For three sins of **Edom**, even for four, I will not turn back my wrath. Because **he pursued his brother with a sword**, stifling all compassion, because **his anger raged continually** and **his fury flamed unchecked**, I will send fire upon Teman that will consume the fortresses of Bozrah” (Amos 1:11-12).

THEY WERE WILLING TO ENSLAVE THEIR BROTHER: “This is what the LORD says: ‘The people of Tyre have sinned again and again, and I will not let them go unpunished! **They broke their treaty of brotherhood with Israel, selling whole villages as slaves to Edom**’” (Amos 1:9).

“For three sins of Gaza, even for four I will not turn back my wrath, because she took captive whole communities and **sold them to Edom**” (Amos 1:6).

THEY WERE VIOLENT AGAINST HIS BROTHER: “Because of the violence against your brother Jacob, you will be covered with shame; you will be destroyed forever” (Obadiah 1:10).

“Thus says the Lord GOD: Because **Edom acted revengefully against the house of Judah and has grievously offended in taking vengeance on them**, therefore thus says the Lord GOD, “I will also stretch out My hand against Edom and cut off man and beast from it. And I will lay it waste; from Teman even to Dedan they will fall by the sword” (Ezekiel 25:12).

EDOM BECAME A TOTALLY CORRUPT PEOPLE: “**Concerning Edom** Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘Is there no longer any wisdom in Teman? Has good counsel been lost to the prudent? Has their wisdom decayed? Flee away, turn back, dwell in the depths, O inhabitants of Dedan, for I will bring the disaster of Esau upon him at the time I punish him. If grape gatherers came to you, **would they not leave gleanings?** If thieves came by night, they would destroy only until they had enough’” (Jeremiah 49:7-39).

A FUTURE EVENT TALKS OF A TIME OF TROUBLE FOR JACOB: “Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: It is even **the time of Jacob’s trouble**; But **he shall be saved out of it**” (Jeremiah 30:7).

DURING THIS TIME OF TROUBLE, ESAU WILL AGAIN BETRAY HIS BROTHER: “Isaac answered, ‘Behold, thy dwelling shall be away from the earth’s richness, away from the dew of heaven above. You will live by the sword and **you will serve your brother**. But **when you grow restless, you will throw his yoke from off your neck**” (Genesis 27:39-40). Esau has grown restless many times in history. Often brutally and without human compassion, he has mistreated Jacob and those foreigners living with him, when the yoke of control and civility was not resting on Esau’s neck.

“He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but **these shall escape out of his hand, EVEN EDOM**, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon” (Daniel 11:41).

“In that day... Your warriors, O Teman, will be terrified, and everyone in Esau’s mountains will be cut down in the slaughter. **Because of the violence against your brother Jacob**, you will be covered with shame; you will be destroyed forever... **you should not look down on your brother in the day of his misfortune**, nor rejoice over the **people of Judah** in the day of their destruction, nor boast so much **in the day of their trouble**” (Obadiah verse 10).

21st CENTURY JACOB WILL BE INVADED AND TAKEN CAPTIVE, FOR THEY HAVE RETURNED TO SINNING AGAINST GOD:

“From that day forward the **house of Israel** will know that I am Yahuah, their God. And the nations will know that the people of Israel **went into exile for their sin, because they were unfaithful to me**. So, I hid my face from them and handed them over to their enemies, and they all fell by the sword. **I dealt with them according to their uncleanness and their offenses, and I hid my face from them**” (Ezekiel 39:22-24).

THIS 21st CENTURY INVASION WILL RESULT IN MANY DEATHS AND A SCATTERING OF THESE PEOPLE. BUT THE ALMIGHTY GOD WILL RESCUE AND REGATHER THEM TO A PROTECTED PLACE. A SECOND EXODUS IS IN THE PLAN:

“Then it will happen on that day that the **Lord will again recover** the **second time** with His hand, the remnant of His people, who will remain, from Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, and from the islands of the sea” (Isaiah 11:11).

“For the LORD has **ransomed** Jacob, and redeemed him from the hand of him who was **stronger than he**” (Jeremiah 31:11). Esau throws off the yoke of Jacob from his neck.

Their Exile: “I will surely assemble, O Jacob, all of thee; I will surely gather the remnant of Israel; I will put them together as the sheep of Bozrah [**Bozrah was an Edomite city but this place may be referring to a protected area within a godless place**], as the flock in the midst of their fold: they shall make great noise by reason of the multitude of men.”

Their Deliverance: “The Breaker is come up before them: they have broken up, and have passed through the gate, and are gone out by it: and their king shall pass before them, and the LORD on the head of them” (Micah 2:12-13).

BOZRAH—בצר “The name Bozrah is a **feminine** equivalent of an unused noun בצר (bezer), which would probably mean **enclosure or fortified city**, from the verb בצר (bazar), meaning to **separate and protect**. The root verb בצר (basar) describes the act of separating something from its maternal environment, **with the purpose of letting that something mature in peace until the final result can be extracted**. This act is usually achieved by building a strong wall around the something.” <http://www.abarim-publications.com/Meaning/Bozrah.html#.WlZqTzuHZlI>

EDOM BECOMES REPRESENTATIVE OF WICKEDNESS AND UNREPENTANT MANKIND: Isaiah 34

“**The LORD is angry with all nations...** My sword has drunk its fill in the heavens; see, it descends in **judgment on Edom, the people I have totally destroyed**. The sword of the LORD is bathed in blood, it is covered with fat—the blood of lambs and goats, fat from the kidney of rams. For **the LORD has a sacrifice in Bozrah [the redeemed—accepted sacrifice]** and a **great slaughter in Edom [the wicked]**... For the LORD has a day of vengeance, a year of retribution, to uphold Zion’s cause. **Edom’s streams will be turned into pitch, her dust into burning sulfur; her land will become blazing pitch!** It will not be quenched night and day; its smoke will rise forever” (Isaiah 34:1-10).

“But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed signs on his behalf, by which he deceived those who had the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. Both of them were thrown alive into the **fiery lake of burning sulfur**” (Revelation 19:20).

“And **the devil** who had deceived them was **thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur**, into which the beast and the false prophet had already been thrown. **There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever**” (Revelation 20:10).

EDOM BECOMES SYNONYMOUS WITH BABYLON: “God will stretch out over **Edom** the measuring line of chaos and the plumb line of desolation. Her nobles will have nothing there to be called a kingdom, all her princes will vanish away... She will become a **haunt for jackals**, a **home for owls**. **Desert creatures** will meet with **hyenas**... **the owl** will nest there... **the falcons** will gather... They will possess it forever and dwell there from generations to generation” (Isaiah 34:11-17).

“With a mighty voice he shouted: “‘Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!’ She has become a **dwelling for demons and a haunt for every impure spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable animal**” (Revelation 18:2).

AS IN THE DAYS OF THE FIRST EXODUS, GOD COMMANDED PHAROAH TO LET HIS PEOPLE GO.

HE WILL DO IT AGAIN IN THE 21ST CENTURY: “Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give men in exchange for you, and people in exchange for your

life... I will say to the north, **'Give them up!'** and to the south, **'Do not hold them back'**" (Isaiah 43:4-6).

21ST CENTURY ISRAEL AND JUDAH ARE BOTH OPPRESSED: "The **people of Israel** are oppressed, and the **people of Judah** as well. **All their captors hold them fast, refusing to let them go.** Yet **the Redeemer is strong; Yahuah Almighty is his name.** He will vigorously defend their cause so that he may bring rest to their land, but unrest to those who live in Babylon" (Jeremiah 50:33-34).

21ST CENTURY ISRAEL AND JUDAH WILL GO HOME TOGETHER: "I will bring back from captivity My people **Israel and Judah,**' says Yahuah. 'And I will cause them to **return to the land** that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it'" (Jeremiah 30:3).

"When ye be multiplied and increased in the land in those days...**the house of Judah** shall walk with the **house of Israel** and they shall come **together** out of the land of the north, **to the land that I gave for an inheritance unto your Fathers**" (Jeremiah 3:16-18).

BOTH HOUSES WILL REPENT, HENCE THEY WILL BE SAVED: "In those days, at that time, the **people of Israel** and the **people of Judah together** will go in tears to seek the **Yahuah, their God.** They will ask the way of Zion and turn their faces toward it. They will come and bind themselves to the Lord in an **everlasting covenant** that will not be forgotten" (Jeremiah 50:4-5).

AS JACOB OVERCAME HIS LIFE OF SIN, ONLY THOSE WHO OVERCOME ARE LOVED: "'I have loved you,' says the LORD. But you say, 'How hast Thou loved us?' 'Was not Esau Jacob's brother?' declares the LORD. 'Yet I have loved Jacob; but I have hated Esau, and I have made his mountains a desolation, and appointed his inheritance for the jackals of the wilderness.' Edom may say, 'Though we are crushed, we will rebuild the ruins.' The Lord of hosts says, 'They shall build, but I will demolish. They will be called, The Wicked Land, a people always under the wrath of the LORD'" (Malachi 1:2-4).

GOD WILL DESTROY EDOM BECAUSE OF THEIR AGGRESSION AGAINST THEIR BROTHER. THEY BECOME THOSE WHO OPPOSE GOD AND REFUSE TO REPENT: "Moreover, the word of the LORD came to me saying, 'Son of man, set your face against Mount Seir, and prophesy against it and say to it, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am against you, Mount Seir, And **I will stretch out My hand against you and make you a desolation and a waste**'" (Ezekiel 35:1-15).

"Jacob will be a fire and Joseph a flame; **Esau will be stubble,** and they will set him on fire and destroy him. **There will be no survivors from Esau.** The LORD has spoken" (Obadiah 1:18).

"Egypt will become a waste, And Edom will become a desolate wilderness, Because of the **violence done to the sons of Judah, in whose land they have shed innocent blood**" (Joel 3:19).

THE REPENANT AND THOSE WHO OBEY GOD WILL RECEIVE GRACE—IT IS NOT BY WORKS. JACOB REPRESENTS THE REPENANT—THE OVERCOMERS, PREDESTINED FOR GRACE:

“Though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God’s purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls— she was told, ‘The older will serve the younger.’ As it is written, ‘Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.’ What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God’s part? By no means!’ For he says to Moses, ‘I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.’ It does not, therefore, **depend on** man’s desire or effort, but on **God’s mercy.**” (Romans 9:11-16).

“For **God has bound all men over to disobedience** so that **he may have mercy on them all**” (Romans 11:32).

There will be no group of people or person who can boast of their righteousness.

AND ESAU WEPT ALOUD because in his defiance and determination, he did not get his way. Like Esau, unrepentant mankind will come before Christ weeping and gnashing their teeth. “There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out” (Luke 13:28).

Jacob and Esau fought in their mother’s womb to be the first-born to receive **the blessing of being the third and final patriarch that would father God’s chosen people.** While Jacob obtained the blessing initially by taking matters in his own hands, his father Isaac did not retract it, and God affirmed it. Predestined in his mother’s womb, Jacob was loved and Esau was hated. The God who foreknows the future, protected His blessing to Abraham, now avails it **to all** from any nation and tongue **who repent and obey Him.**

“You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, **for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.** There is **neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then YOU ARE ABRAHAM’S SEED, and heirs according to the promise**” (Galatians 3:26-29).

“But to all who did receive Him, to those **who believed in His name,** He gave **the right to become children of God**” (John 1:2).

Compiled by Janette Andrejowich