

This story of Rebekah and Jacob's perfidy is not just lying to Isaac, but in creating an entire trove of false evidence to support their lies. It is a difficult story to digest and understand.

We prefer the modern movie world, where the heroes and heroines are unfettered by complexity. We don't normally seek out a more complex story, where the **"heroes and heroines"** aren't even the main story.

This is exactly what is happening in this reading. This isn't about their perfidy; it is a story about the nature of God's Will.

The story in this Chapter of Genesis, however, needs more background.

Esau states that he was "forced" to sell his birthright to Isaac.

There is little evidence that Esau was starving or in danger of his life, when he agreed to give up his birthright to Jacob.

Esau was simply tired, and reckless with the important element of his birthright.

[Genesis Chapter 25](#)

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

28 And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob.

29 And Jacob sod pottage: and Esau came from the field, and he was faint:

30 And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage; for I am faint: therefore was his name called Edom.

31 And Jacob said, Sell me this day thy birthright.

32 And Esau said, Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me?

33 And Jacob said, Swear to me this day; and he swore unto him: and he sold his birthright unto Jacob.

34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentiles; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau despised his birthright.

Esau had owned the birthright because he was firstborn.

Esau would have accrued a large inheritance, received the merit of the priesthood, and most important received his father's blessings for a life full of goodness.

But Esau cared only about what he wanted now; there was no considering the future. His birthright that he sold was priceless, both monetarily and spiritually, and this still didn't cause him to bat an eyelash.

As we read this story, we must understand the context of who Esau really was.

It should also be understood that **Jacob was the one for whom God was seeking the blessing.** (Genesis 25:23)

Despite Jacob's and Rebekah's underhanded strategy, God had revealed His plan regarding the twins and would fulfill it.

Jacob's deception does not receive moral approval in the text; rather, it shows God's sovereignty over human choices and imperfections.

We must realize that God can use anyone in the process of obtaining his will, there are several scriptures that reveal this. We can observe it even in more modern history.

Stalin was an evil man who hated God vehemently, and all who had faith in God. Yet God used Stalin to destroy the German NAZI's in WW2. Eventually, after Stalin, along with his Communist allies, had murdered over 100 million people, Stalin's own Soviet Union collapsed. Pope John Paul II was God's servant who simply used Christ's word to internally disrupt and then destroy the Soviet Union.

It is not only God's will that will prevail in this story.

It is God's will that controls destiny.

Humanity is flawed, and so is our will, even the best among us will sin. Jacob was God's select to create, and rule Israel, **but he was flawed and sinful from his beginning.**

Jacob's only means of salvation was God, Jacob's only means of success was the will of God.

When we are frustrated or confused, angry or disconsolate; **we MUST remember that God's will, will always in the end prevail.**

So here becomes a question that we probably need to, and must answer; how will we serve God's will?

Keep in mind you are praying this every time you say the Lord's Prayer:

"Thy Kingdom come, Thy WILL BE DONE, on earth as it is in Heaven"

Prayer and study of the Bible are our only means to begin to understand the nature of God's Will.

We can learn what God hopes and expects us to ACT like, and how he hopes we respond to various situations.

Beyond the knowledge that in the end God will claim those who love him and believe in him, it is not going to tell you how this all is going to exactly happen.

This is a vast journey for humanity, and for each of us individually, God will sharpen us like iron in the fires of our life's journey.

He hopes also that we will praise Christ for his sacrifice, that offers all of us salvation, to love one another, and to be mindful of his Commandments.

Being a Christian isn't going to make you a magic seer of the future. Being a Christian isn't going to make your life a carefree world where your lottery number always wins.

We are warned as Christians that our lives will be difficult at times and that we must prepare ourselves **as if we are in war**. We read of this in **Ephesians** chapter six, beginning at verse ten:

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power;

¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on the evil day and, having prevailed against everything, to stand firm.

¹⁴ Stand, therefore, and belt your waist with truth and put on the breastplate of righteousness

¹⁵ and lace up your sandals in preparation for the gospel of peace.

¹⁶ With all of these,^[h] take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication.

The war however is not against flesh and blood, but against the forces of sin. We are not warring merely against human nature, or human forces. We will at times find ourselves struggling against real evil. What does God tell us to do in this battle?

"Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might."

Our weapon in this battle is the word of God, the promises of God, and the Grace of Christ's sacrifice.

We are to take up ***"the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God."***

The most important thing, and the most practical thing that we can do as Christians, is to pray, and study the Word of God.

The most difficult thing for most Christians is the notion that we must submit to God's Will. This is what Essau for many chapters in Genesis could not do and was the mark of his failure.

We must remember in our dire moments of fear, anger and frustration; that God's will, will prevail. That God loves us no matter whether our hoped-for results occurred or did not.

We have the most memorable reminder of the power of God's will, in the story of Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mark 14: 34 – 36):

³⁴ And He said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved to the point of death; remain here and keep watch." ³⁵ And He went a little beyond them, and fell to the ground and began to pray that if it were possible, the hour might pass Him by. ³⁶ And He was saying, "Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will."

The miracle, and greatest blessing ever bestowed upon humanity, would come from Christ's sacrifice through God's Will.

Ending Prayer

Our Father;

In moments of uncertainty, grant us the strength to embrace Your divine will.

Help us to surrender our desires and trust in Your perfect plan.

May we find peace in our hearts, knowing that Your ways are higher than ours.

Fill us with courage to accept what we cannot change and guide us in faith as we walk in Your light.

We seek Your divine guidance as we navigate the paths of our lives.

Illuminate our way with Your wisdom and love, help us to accept your will, while formulating the directions of our lives.

Grant us the strength to follow where You lead, trusting in Your perfect plan.

May our hearts be open to Your direction, and our spirits be steadfast in faith.

AMEN!