

Then Isaac Sent Jacob to Laban, the Brother of Rebekah

27:46 to 28:5

DIG: Why didn't Isaac want Jacob marrying a Hittite woman? What did Rebekah really want? What did she get? What does El Shaddai mean? Why is it mentioned here again (see 17:1a)? What does the absence of any trace of Isaac in the remainder of the book of Genesis imply?

REFLECT: Do you have any sense that you are like Jacob, running from your past, and fearing revenge? Have you ever been protected from harm by a family member? In what way(s) have you been blessed by your family?

Then Rebekah, once again deceiving her husband for the sake of her son, said to Isaac, "I'm disgusted with living because of these Hittite women. If Jacob takes a wife from among the women of this land (as Esau had), from Hittite women like these, my life will not be worth living" (27:46). No doubt they were a source of grief to both Isaac and Rebekah (26:34-35), but she used this situation to trick Isaac in order to allow Jacob to get a wife from her own people. In that way she could get Jacob to flee with Isaac's blessing, and at the same time, protect him from Esau. Humanly speaking, this was a brilliant plan. She got two birds with one stone. But the problem was that she outsmarted herself. By the time Jacob returned home again she will have died. Rebekah will never see her son again. In this sense, the resulting curse did fall on her (27:13). There are two curses in life. One is that you don't get what you want. The other is that you get what you want.

So Isaac is persuaded by Rebekah's logic and called for Jacob (Hebrew: Ya'akov), blessed him again and commanded him not to marry a Canaanite woman. This introduces the motif of Ya'akov taking a wife from Rebekah's relatives in Mesopotamia. Jacob was around seventy-five years old. He received the same instructions as Abraham gave to his servant almost a hundred years earlier when Isaac himself was ready to marry.⁴⁴⁹ 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 (28:1-2).

Throughout the Bible we find that **God** does not want the godly to marry the ungodly. In **Genesis 6** the result of the fallen angels, or **sons of God**, marrying **the daughters of men** resulted in the judgment of the Flood and only eight godly people left on the earth. Such intermarriage always leads to godlessness and **ADONAI** forbids it (**Second Corinthians 6:14**). If you are thinking about marrying an unbeliever, let me say this. If you cannot win him or her to Jesus *before* you get married, you will not win him or her to **the Lord** *after* you are married. Missionary dating does not work. You might say, "They will change," and you are right. They will get *worse* after you say, "I do."

Then, in order that neither **Rebekah** nor **Jacob** could have any more doubt that **he** fully desired and intended that **Jacob** should have the full blessing, **Isaac** repeated the **blessing** in terms much more like those which **he himself** had received from **God (26:3-5)**.⁴⁵⁰ **He** said: **May El Shaddai bless you and make you fruitful and increase your numbers until you become a community of peoples (28:3)**. **Isaac** reiterated the blessing from **God Almighty (17:1a)**. *This name comes from the idea that all might and power is expressed in the term **God** or **El**. The word **Almighty** comes from a root word meaning strong, powerful or to do violence, especially in the sense of one who is so powerful, **He** is able to set aside the laws of nature. As **El Shaddai**, **He** was able; nothing is impossible for **Him**. **He** was wholly capable of fulfilling all the promises that **He** had made to **Abraham**, **Isaac** and **Jacob**. **Isaac** said to his son, "May **He** give you and your descendants the blessing given to **Abraham**, so that you may take possession of the land that **God** gave to **Abraham**" (28:4).*

Then **Isaac** sent **Jacob** on his way from Beersheba, and **he** went to Paddan Aram around the age of seventy-five to **Laban**, son of **Bethuel the Aramean**, the brother of **Rebekah**, who was the mother of **Ya'akov** and **Esav (28:5)**. **Isaac** knew how **El Shaddai** had protected **him**, and **he** was confident that **He** would do the same for his son **Jacob**.

Except for his death (**35:27-29**), this is the last we hear of the life of **Isaac** in **Genesis**. It is remarkable that **Isaac** lived over fifty years after this and nothing is recorded of **him**. **His** life was generally much quieter than his father or his son. But it seems as though the utter silence of these fifty years was intended to remind us of the sin of **Isaac** after his deliberate attempt to avoid the blessing of his son **Jacob**.