

Lesson XI.

JACOB AND ESAU

March 17, 1907

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—After Isaac had returned to Beer-sheba, Abimelech, the king of the Philistines, sought an alliance with him, realizing the advantage of being on friendly terms with one so highly favored of God. Ch. 26 : 26-33 tells of the agreement made between Isaac and Abimelech. Esau, the elder son of Isaac and Rebekah, appears once more upon the scene. He had sold his birthright to Jacob (see ch. 25 : 29-34). We are told also of his grieving his parents by marrying heathen wives (ch. 26 : 34, 35). The Lesson tells of Rebekah's plan for securing to Jacob the blessing and birthright of the elder son.

GOLDEN TEXT—Lying lips are abomination to the Lord : but they that deal truly are his delight.—Proverbs 12 : 22.

Memorize vs. 21-23. **THE LESSON PASSAGE**—Genesis 27 : 15-23, 41-45. Read Genesis 27 : 1-45 ; 29 : 18-25 ; 37 : 31-35.

15 And Rebek'ah took ¹goodly raiment of her eldest son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them upon Ja'cob her younger son :

16 And she put the skins of the kids of the goats upon his hands, and upon the smooth of his neck :

17 And she gave the savoury meat and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Ja'cob.

18 And he came unto his father, and said, My father : and he said, Here am I ; who art thou, my son ?

19 And Ja'cob said unto his father, I am E'sau thy firstborn ; I have done according as thou badest me : arise, I pray thee, sit and eat of my venison, that thy soul may bless me.

20 And I'saac said unto his son, How is it that thou hast found it so quickly, my son ? And he said, Because the Lord thy God ²brought it to me.

21 And I'saac said unto Ja'cob, Come near, I pray thee, that I may feel thee, my son, whether thou be my very son E'sau or not.

22 And Ja'cob went near unto I'saac his father ;

Revised Version—¹the goodly raiment of Esau her elder son ; ²sent me good speed ; ³the ; ⁴bereaved ; Omit also.

and he felt him, and said, The voice is Ja'cob's voice, but the hands are the hands of E'sau.

23 And he discerned him not, because his hands were hairy, as his brother E'sau's hands : so he blessed him.

41 And E'sau hated Ja'cob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him : and E'sau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are at hand ; then will I slay my brother Ja'cob.

42 And ³these words of E'sau her elder son were told to Rebek'ah : and she sent and called Ja'cob her younger son, and said unto him, Behold, thy brother E'sau, as touching thee, doth comfort himself, purposing to kill thee.

43 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice ; and arise, flee thou to La'ban my brother to Har'an ;

44 And tarry with him a few days, until thy brother's fury turn away ;

45 Until thy brother's anger turn away from thee, and he forget that which thou hast done to him : then I will send, and fetch thee from thence : why should I be ⁴deprived ⁵also of you both in one day ?

⁶sent me good speed ; ⁷the ; ⁸bereaved ;

Daily Readings—(Courtesy, I. B. R. A.)—M.—Deception, Gen. 27 : 1-14. T.—Jacob and Esau, Gen. 27 : 15-29. W.—Esau's grief, Gen. 27 : 30-40. Th.—Jacob and Esau, Gen. 27 : 41-45. F.—Esau's folly, Gen. 25 : 27-34. S.—Privilege despised, Heb. 12 : 9-17. S.—Speaking the truth, Eph. 4 : 17-32.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. REBEKAH'S DECEIT.—15-17. Goodly raiment . . of . . Esau ; his "best clothes," which would have upon them the odor of the open fields (compare v. 27). Jacob ; his mother's favorite, of her two sons, ch. 25 : 28. Before the birth of Esau and Jacob, God had said that the elder should serve the younger, Rom. 9 : 11, 12. Rebekah sought to bring about the fulfillment of this prophecy in her own way. Jacob was now more than forty years old (ch. 26 : 34), and, therefore, fully responsible for his consent to carry out his mother's plan. Skins ; to imitate the rough and hairy skin of Esau, v. 11. Savoury meat, etc. (see v. 9) ; to take the place of the venison which Isaac had asked Esau to fetch, vs. 2-5.

II. JACOB'S LIE.—18-23. My father ; a son tricking his own father and taking advantage of the old man's blindness. What could be more despicable ? Here am I ; the Hebrew equivalent of our "Yes," with which one answers when addressed. Thy firstborn ; and as such entitled to the "blessing," which consisted in being recognized as the head of the family, with authority over its other members (see v. 29). Afterwards, according to the law of Moses, the eldest son received double the share of the other members of the family, Deut. 21 : 17. Isaac said, etc. (v. 20). Isaac doubted Jacob's word for two reasons, (1) It was unlikely that Esau could have returned so soon from hunting ; (2) The voice



LENTILES

A small plant, like the vetch or tare. vs. 39, 40, we Seeds formed part of Jacob's pottage. have Isaac's prediction concerning Esau and his descendants.

III. ESAU'S ANGER.—41-45. Days of mourning ; for the death of Isaac, now near at hand (see vs. 4, 7). The period of mourning was usually seven days. Even within that time

he heard was not like Esau's voice. He said . . the Lord thy God, etc. Jacob, by using God's name in support of his deceit, added blasphemy to lying.

Convinced at last, that Jacob was his elder son, Isaac calls of the dish brought to him and blesses Jacob, vs. 24-29. The vs. 30-36 tell of Esau's return and of his grief and anger at the discovery of Jacob's trick. In