

abundance of flocks and herds, and living in great plenty, but, at the same time with great frugality and simplicity. They were entirely independent of any earthly power, subject only to God, each family or tribe forming in itself a little state, whereof the father was head, and ruled as king.

Q. Who was the wife of Isaac?

A. Rebecca, the grand-daughter of Nachor, Abraham's brother. Abraham would not permit his son to marry amongst the Canaanites, so he sent his servant Eliezer to Mesopotamia to seek a wife for him of his own kindred.

Q. What children were born of this marriage?

A. The children born of this marriage were two sons, called Esau and Jacob.

Q. Did these two sons of Isaac live in brotherly friendship when they grew to manhood?

A. No; Esau the elder conceived a deadly hatred against Jacob his brother, because Jacob, by a stratagem, robbed him of his father's blessing, after first depriving him of his birthright.

Q. How did Jacob deprive Esau of his birthright?

A. Esau, being a hunter, returned one day from the field, and found his brother Jacob preparing for himself a mess of pottage, which Esau, being hungry, wished to share; Jacob, however, refused to give his brother the mess of pottage, unless he sold him his birthright, which Esau consented to do, saying, "Lo, I die, what will the birthright avail me?"