

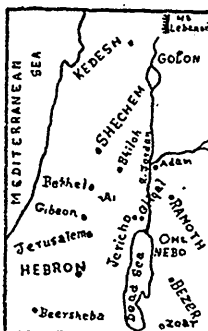
pity. He said, I am. Jacob slammed in his own face the door of escape from the sin of deceiving his old blind father. Bring it near. Isaac, now persuaded, begins the feast.

**II. ISAAC'S BLESSING.—26-28.** Come . . and kiss me ; in preparation for the formal and final blessing. The smell of my son. Esau's garments worn by Jacob had the fragrance of the fields. Field which the Lord hath blessed ; a field laden with abundant growth. God give thee . . dew. In the East the dew is copious and of great importance to growth. Fatness of the earth ; yielding in abundance. The first blessing is prosperity.

29. Let people serve thee ; be in subjection to thee, like the Canaanites. The second blessing is power. Lord over thy brethren ; be supreme among the nations of the same blood but of different branches, such as the Edomites and the Moabites. The third blessing is preeminence. Let thy mother's sons ; descendants of Rebekah. These blessings are not personal and immediate, but prophetic and national. They will be realized not in Jacob's life but in his descendants. Cursed be every one that curseth thee ; like the blessing pronounced by God on Abraham, in our first lesson.

The lesson is not complete unless we see Esau returning, the agony of the deceived father and supplanted son, unless we hear Esau's bitter cry, "Hast thou not reserved a blessing for me ? . . Hast thou but one blessing, my father," and unless we remember that Jacob must yet pay the blessing's full price. Vs. 30-45.

## THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



After Esau's sale of his birthright, a famine arose driving Isaac southward. God forbade him to go as far as Egypt and bade him stay in the land of Gerar in the South country. Isaac obeyed and dwelt many years there. He digged the well which Abraham had digged before him and which the Philistines had filled. Our lesson finds Isaac at BEERSHEBA in this same district. "From Dan to

Beersheba" means from the extreme north to the extreme south of the land. Isaac gave to the well here, the name of Beersheba, the "Well of the Oath."

## LESSON QUESTIONS

18 How old was Isaac at this time ? What physical infirmity had he ? To whom did he intend to give the blessing ? What did he tell Esau to do ? Who overheard him ? What did she determine to do ? What was Isaac's question as Jacob came in ? Why did he ask this question ?

19, 20 Who deceived Jacob in after years ? (Gen. 31 : 7.) How did Jacob explain his speedy return from the fields ?

21-25 How did Isaac seek to prove whether or not it was Esau ? Was this test successful ? What did Isaac say ? Could Isaac recall the blessing once given ? (Gen. 27 : 37.) What did the feast consist of ?

26-29 What did Isaac say of the smell of his son's garment ? What are the words of the blessing ? Why is the dew important in the East ? Was there any blessing for Esau ? (V. 38.)

## FOR DISCUSSION

1. Is a lie ever justifiable ?
2. Can a good character be inherited ?

## A PRAYER

Teach us to live for thee, Father, and not for self, to choose thy ways and not our own, to love purity and truth because thou art pure and true. Let there be no deceit in our hearts, but let the Spirit of Christ animate us always, in the home, in our life with others, in our life with thee. And to thee shall be all the glory, forever. Amen.

Prove from Scripture—That God hates lying.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 34. What is adoption ?

A. Adoption is an act of God's free grace, whereby we are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges of the sons of God.

The Question on Missions—6. Describe the home life of the Indians. The Indian home lacks system and regularity. Meals are eaten when the members of the family are hungry. Men eat first, and the women eat afterwards. The more civilized, however, do not hold to this custom. Children have much freedom and do not learn obedience. Babies are kept securely tied up in their moss bag cradles most of the time.

## FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. Tell Rebekah's plan to get Jacob the birthright.
2. What are the three points in the blessing ?
3. Why did Esau deserve to lose the birthright ?

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