

Esau will slay Jacob. **Laban.** See ch. 24:29. **Send, . . . fetch thee;** a plan never realized. Rebekah never saw Jacob again. **Bereaved of you both** (Rev. Ver.); of Jacob by the hand of Esau, and of Esau by the hand of justice, since Jacob's kinsfolk and retainers would slay Esau, according to the custom of the time. This is the usual explanation. But possibly "both" refers to Isaac, her husband, and Jacob, her son. In any case, the foolish Rebekah would suffer bitterly for her favoritism toward her younger son.

### THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON

**HARAN**—Where Laban, Jacob's uncle, dwelt, is still the name of a district. It was here that Abraham



first lived after his departure from Ur, and before his coming to Canaan. Haran is the Carriæ of the Greeks, where Crassus fell, defeated by the Parthians. The descendants of Esau inhabited the land of Edom. This was a region lying between the southern end of the Dead Sea and the Gulf of Akabah, the eastern of the two tongues which the Red Sea thrusts up into the land. It is a

mountainous country and parts of it are barren. In other parts, however, there are fruitful valleys showing many signs of former cultivation. Fine streams flow through these valleys, which are filled with trees and flowers. On the uplands to the east there are rich pasture lands and grain fields.

### AN ORIENTAL SIDELIGHT

Says Mr. Lane, in, *Social Life in Egypt*, "An untutored child is the rarest of beings. . . A grown-up son will not smoke or lounge in his father's sight, and I have seen sons of thirty or forty attentively waiting on their father while he dines, and absolutely refusing to eat anything until he has finished."

### LESSON QUESTIONS

Why did Abimelech seek to be on good terms with Isaac?

**15-17** Which of Isaac's senses was failing? How did Rebekah plan to deceive his sense of smell? Of touch? Show that Jacob was fully responsible for his share in the plot to deceive his father. What man and his wife, in the early Christian church, attempted to deceive the apostles? Against whom is it said that they lied? What was their fate? (Acts 5: 1-11.)

**18-23** Why was Jacob's deceit specially despicable? What was the blessing of the first-born? Why did Isaac doubt Jacob? Of what additional sin was Jacob guilty in using God's name?

How did Esau feel when he discovered Jacob's trick? What did Isaac say of Esau and his descendants?

**41-45** How did Esau resolve to be revenged? When would he take revenge? Whither did Rebekah advise Jacob to go? What is the sure outcome of plans contrary to God's will? (Ps. 127: 1.)

### FOR DISCUSSION

1. Is deception ever allowable?
2. Does greed pay?

### A LESSON FOR LIFE

Trust in one another is the bond that unites the members of a family. Where this is lacking, they are separated as mountains and oceans cannot separate them. Any deceitful word or deed that mars or destroys this mutual confidence of father and mother, parents and children, brothers and sisters, is a blow at the sweetest happiness we can ever know on earth. Rather than strike such a blow, by speech or act, let our tongue cleave to the roof of our mouth and our right hand be withered!

**Prove from Scripture—That envy is wrong?**

**Shorter Catechism—Ques. 50.** What is required in the second commandment? **A.** The second commandment requireth the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire, all such religious worship and ordinance as God hath appointed in his word.

**The Question on Missions—11.** What is the outlook in Korea? There is a wonderful turning of the people to God. Churches are overcrowded. Many of the buildings have had to be enlarged. With a large staff of missionaries, the whole country could be won for Christ.

### FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. Why did Rebekah wish to get the birthright of the first-born for Jacob?.....

2. What prophecy did she seek to fulfil?.....

3. What was the outcome of her plan?.....