

9. The Story of Jacob

Introduction: In the previous story, God arranged for Abraham's old servant to go back to Abraham's homeland to find a wife for Abraham's son, Isaac. Isaac then married this woman and he loved her very much. (Genesis 24:4, 27, 67)

After Isaac married his wife, God gave them twins. God told them, "In the future, these twins will become two great nations. The older one will serve the younger one."
(Genesis 25:23)

Later, the twins that were born were both boys. The older one was named Esau, the younger one was named Jacob. (Genesis 25:24–26)

The two boys grew up. Esau liked hunting. Jacob liked staying at home, and did not like going out. Esau did not care much about his status of being the first born son in the family. One time, when he came back from hunting and was very hungry, he sold his first born status to his younger brother in return for a single bowl of red bean soup.
(Genesis 25:27–34)

Later when their father Isaac was very old, he could not see well. He was afraid that he was going to die soon. So, he asked his eldest son Esau to go out to hunt, and then prepare a meal for him, and he would give him the blessing of the first born. (Genesis 27:1–4)

After Isaac's wife heard about this, she came up with a plan to help her younger son Jacob to steal this blessing of the first born. She told Jacob, "Go quickly to grab two lambs. I will cook a meal that your father likes. As soon as he finishes this meal, he will give you the blessing of the first born." (Genesis 27:6–10)

In order to fool Isaac, Jacob's mother let Jacob wear his brother's coat, and tied some wool on his hand to make him appear hairy like his brother. (Genesis 27:15–16) Jacob brought the meal to his father, and told him that he was Esau. When his father touched the wool on his hand and smelled Esau's clothing, he thought that Jacob was his oldest son, Esau. So he gave the blessing of the first born to Jacob, saying, "May God bless you, that you will become the master of this household and your brothers will serve you." (Genesis 27:17–29)

When Esau came back and learned that his younger brother had stolen his blessing of the first born, he was very angry and wanted to kill him. (Genesis 27:41) Then, Jacob set out to run away to his uncle's house in another country. (Genesis 27:43)

After he left home, he came to a resting place. The sun was setting, so he picked up a rock as pillow, and slept there. (Genesis 28:10–11) When he was sleeping, he had a dream; he saw a tall ladder reaching all the way up to the sky. God's angels were walking up and down. (Genesis 28:12)

God was at the top of this ladder and said to him, "I am the God of your grandfather, Abraham, and the God of your father, Isaac. I will give to you and your descendants this land where you are now sleeping. I promise you that, wherever you go, I will protect you and will bring you back to this land." (Genesis 28:13–15)

Jacob woke up, knelt down, and said to God, "God! If you are really going to be with me and protect me when I go back to my father's home, I will surely take you as my God." (Genesis 28:20–21)

God kept helping Jacob. Whatever he did, he was successful. Later, he married his uncle's two daughters. God also gave him twelve sons. (Genesis 27:42–43; 28:13–15; 29:23–28) God did what he had promised and brought Jacob back to his father's land. (Genesis 31:13)