

**Saturday, January 12**

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**Genesis 26:17 - 27:46**

**26** **17** So Isaac moved away to the Gerar Valley, where he set up their tents and settled down. **18** He reopened the wells his father had dug, which the Philistines had filled in after Abraham's death. Isaac also restored the names Abraham had given them. **19** Isaac's servants also dug in the Gerar Valley and discovered a well of fresh water. **20** But then the shepherds from Gerar came and claimed the spring. "This is our water," they said, and they argued over it with Isaac's herdsmen. So Isaac named the well Esek (which means "argument"). **21** Isaac's men then dug another well, but again there was a dispute over it. So Isaac named it Sitnah (which means "hostility"). **22** Abandoning that one, Isaac moved on and dug another well. This time there was no dispute over it, so Isaac named the place Rehoboth (which means "open space"), for he said, "At last the LORD has created enough space for us to prosper in this land." **23** From there Isaac moved to Beersheba, **24** where the LORD appeared to him on the night of his arrival. "I am the God of your father, Abraham," he said. "Do not be afraid, for I am with you and will bless you. I will multiply your descendants, and they will become a great nation. I will do this because of my promise to Abraham, my servant." **25** Then Isaac built an altar there and worshiped the LORD. He set up his camp at that place, and his servants dug another well. **26** One day King Abimelech came from Gerar with his adviser, Ahuzzath, and also Phicol, his army commander. **27** "Why have you come here?" Isaac asked. "You obviously hate me, since you kicked me off your land." **28** They replied, "We can plainly see that the LORD is with you. So we want to enter into a sworn treaty with you. Let's make a covenant. **29** Swear that you will not harm us, just as we have never troubled you. We have always treated you well, and we sent you away from us in peace. And now look how the LORD has blessed you!" **30** So Isaac prepared a covenant feast to celebrate the treaty, and they ate and drank together. **31** Early the next morning, they each took a solemn oath not to interfere with each other. Then Isaac sent them home again, and they left him in peace. **32** That very day Isaac's servants came and told him about a new well they had dug. "We've found water!" they exclaimed. **33** So Isaac named the well Shibah (which means "oath"). And to this day the town that grew up there is called Beersheba (which means "well of the oath"). **34** At the age of forty, Esau married two Hittite wives: Judith, the daughter of Beeri, and Basemath, the daughter of Elon. **35** But Esau's wives made life miserable for Isaac and Rebekah.

**27** **1** One day when Isaac was old and turning blind, he called for Esau, his older son, and said, “My son.” “Yes, Father?” Esau replied. **2** “I am an old man now,” Isaac said, “and I don’t know when I may die. **3** Take your bow and a quiver full of arrows, and go out into the open country to hunt some wild game for me. **4** Prepare my favorite dish, and bring it here for me to eat. Then I will pronounce the blessing that belongs to you, my firstborn son, before I die.” **5** But Rebekah overheard what Isaac had said to his son Esau. So when Esau left to hunt for the wild game, **6** she said to her son Jacob, “Listen. I overheard your father say to Esau, **7** ‘Bring me some wild game and prepare me a delicious meal. Then I will bless you in the LORD’s presence before I die.’ **8** Now, my son, listen to me. Do exactly as I tell you. **9** Go out to the flocks, and bring me two fine young goats. I’ll use them to prepare your father’s favorite dish. **10** Then take the food to your father so he can eat it and bless you before he dies.” **11** “But look,” Jacob replied to Rebekah, “my brother, Esau, is a hairy man, and my skin is smooth. **12** What if my father touches me? He’ll see that I’m trying to trick him, and then he’ll curse me instead of blessing me.” **13** But his mother replied, “Then let the curse fall on me, my son! Just do what I tell you. Go out and get the goats for me!” **14** So Jacob went out and got the young goats for his mother. Rebekah took them and prepared a delicious meal, just the way Isaac liked it. **15** Then she took Esau’s favorite clothes, which were there in the house, and gave them to her younger son, Jacob. **16** She covered his arms and the smooth part of his neck with the skin of the young goats. **17** Then she gave Jacob the delicious meal, including freshly baked bread. **18** So Jacob took the food to his father. “My father?” he said. “Yes, my son,” Isaac answered. “Who are you—Esau or Jacob?” **19** Jacob replied, “It’s Esau, your firstborn son. I’ve done as you told me. Here is the wild game. Now sit up and eat it so you can give me your blessing.” **20** Isaac asked, “How did you find it so quickly, my son?” “The LORD your God put it in my path!” Jacob replied. **21** Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Come closer so I can touch you and make sure that you really are Esau.” **22** So Jacob went closer to his father, and Isaac touched him. “The voice is Jacob’s, but the hands are Esau’s,” Isaac said. **23** But he did not recognize Jacob, because Jacob’s hands felt hairy just like Esau’s. So Isaac prepared to bless Jacob. **24** “But are you really my son Esau?” he asked. “Yes, I am,” Jacob replied. **25** Then Isaac said, “Now, my son, bring me the wild game. Let me eat it, and then I will give you my blessing.” So Jacob took the food to his father, and Isaac ate it. He also drank the wine that Jacob served him. **26** Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Please come a little closer and kiss me, my son.” **27** So Jacob went over and kissed him. And when Isaac caught the smell of his clothes, he was finally convinced, and he blessed his son. He said, “Ah! The smell of my son is like the smell of the outdoors, which the LORD has blessed! **28** “From the dew of heaven and the richness of the earth, may God always give you abundant harvests of grain and bountiful new wine. **29** May many nations become your servants, and may they bow down to you. May you be

the master over your brothers, and may your mother's sons bow down to you. All who curse you will be cursed, and all who bless you will be blessed." **30** As soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, and almost before Jacob had left his father, Esau returned from his hunt. **31** Esau prepared a delicious meal and brought it to his father. Then he said, "Sit up, my father, and eat my wild game so you can give me your blessing." **32** But Isaac asked him, "Who are you?" Esau replied, "It's your son, your firstborn son, Esau." **33** Isaac began to tremble uncontrollably and said, "Then who just served me wild game? I have already eaten it, and I blessed him just before you came. And yes, that blessing must stand!" **34** When Esau heard his father's words, he let out a loud and bitter cry. "Oh my father, what about me? Bless me, too!" he begged. **35** But Isaac said, "Your brother was here, and he tricked me. He has taken away your blessing." **36** Esau exclaimed, "No wonder his name is Jacob, for now he has cheated me twice. First he took my rights as the firstborn, and now he has stolen my blessing. Oh, haven't you saved even one blessing for me?" **37** Isaac said to Esau, "I have made Jacob your master and have declared that all his brothers will be his servants. I have guaranteed him an abundance of grain and wine—what is left for me to give you, my son?" **38** Esau pleaded, "But do you have only one blessing? Oh my father, bless me, too!" Then Esau broke down and wept. **39** Finally, his father, Isaac, said to him, "You will live away from the richness of the earth, and away from the dew of the heaven above. **40** You will live by your sword, and you will serve your brother. But when you decide to break free, you will shake his yoke from your neck." **41** From that time on, Esau hated Jacob because their father had given Jacob the blessing. And Esau began to scheme: "I will soon be mourning my father's death. Then I will kill my brother, Jacob." **42** But Rebekah heard about Esau's plans. So she sent for Jacob and told him, "Listen, Esau is consoling himself by plotting to kill you. **43** So listen carefully, my son. Get ready and flee to my brother, Laban, in Haran. **44** Stay there with him until your brother cools off. **45** When he calms down and forgets what you have done to him, I will send for you to come back. Why should I lose both of you in one day?" **46** Then Rebekah said to Isaac, "I'm sick and tired of these local Hittite women! I would rather die than see Jacob marry one of them."

## **Matthew 9:1 - 17**

**9 1** Jesus climbed into a boat and went back across the lake to his own town. **2** Some people brought to him a paralyzed man on a mat. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "Be encouraged, my child! Your sins are forgiven." **3** But some of the teachers of religious law said to themselves, "That's blasphemy! Does he think he's God?" **4** Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he asked them, "Why do you have such evil thoughts in your hearts? **5** Is it easier to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up and walk'? **6** So I will prove to you that the Son of Man

has the authority on earth to forgive sins.” Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, “Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!” **7** And the man jumped up and went home! **8** Fear swept through the crowd as they saw this happen. And they praised God for sending a man with such great authority. **9** As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector’s booth. “Follow me and be my disciple,” Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him. **10** Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. **11** But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with such scum?” **12** When Jesus heard this, he said, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor—sick people do.” **13** Then he added, “Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: ‘I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.’ For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.” **14** One day the disciples of John the Baptist came to Jesus and asked him, “Why don’t your disciples fast like we do and the Pharisees do?” **15** Jesus replied, “Do wedding guests mourn while celebrating with the groom? Of course not. But someday the groom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast. **16** “Besides, who would patch old clothing with new cloth? For the new patch would shrink and rip away from the old cloth, leaving an even bigger tear than before. **17** “And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the old skins would burst from the pressure, spilling the wine and ruining the skins. New wine is stored in new wineskins so that both are preserved.”

### **Psalms 10:16 - 18**

**10 16** The LORD is king forever and ever! The godless nations will vanish from the land. **17** LORD, you know the hopes of the helpless. Surely you will hear their cries and comfort them. **18** You will bring justice to the orphans and the oppressed, so mere people can no longer terrify them.

### **Proverbs 3:9 - 10**

**3 9** Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. **10** Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine.