

Parashah 6-3 Tol'dot תולדות

El Shaddai. Therefore, he must not marry outside of the family. Yitz'khaq uses the term, “go” (*lekh* – לך) vs. Rivqah's “flee” (*b'rakh* – ברח) suggesting he is unaware of the real reason for the journey.

7. **Gen. 28:5-9** Ya'aqov given preference. 'Esav attempts to repair his relationship with his parents as a dutiful son by marrying the daughter of his father's late brother, Yishma'el, just as his Ya'aqov was to marry the daughter of his mother's brother.

Thought Focus

No definitive answers: Torah does not give definitive judgment regarding who is right and who is wrong. Parent/Child favoritism and sibling rivalry is a big problem. Why is there no interaction at all between Rivqah and 'Esav? Why is 'Esav so distraught when he cared not about the birthright (Ge. 25:34)? It seems that Ya'aqov is, in fact, favored, but there is suggested sympathy for 'Esav who seems to step up when confronted about the birthright by his father. Family conflict seems to be the norm in Torah. What does seem clear is that actions have consequences that must be endured, whether good or bad. Perhaps what is being taught is that we can rise above our circumstances to fulfill God's purpose for our lives despite difficult origins.

Daily Devotional questions for reflection and application

1. (25:19) Yitz'khaq is clearly defined as Avraham's son. Who is your father? Do people see Him in you? (John 8:19, Rom 8:29)
2. (26:6) In spite of famine, God directs Yitz'khaq to stay in the land. Has God directed you to stay where it is uncomfortable? Did He supply you with His grace to “dwell” there? (Joh 16:33, Luk 21:10-19)
3. (26:13) This verse literally says that Yitz'khaq “walked the walk” in the midst of greatness. Are you distracted by God's blessings? Are you growing in greater greatness? (Psa 112:1-3)
4. (26:24) A theme of scripture is God's presence in the midst of suffering/trials (Psa 23:4-5). Is your focus on your circumstances or His promises? (Isa 43:2, Joh 16:32-33, 2Co 12:7-10)
5. (26:30) Food, drink and celebration is a part of covenant relationships. Have you participated on either side of such hospitality recently? (Mat 25:35, Heb 13:2)
6. (27:28) Has God blessed you? How are you sharing His blessing with others? (Luke 6:38, 1Ti 5:8, Gal 6:10, Deu 33:13-16, Zec 8:12-13, Jam 2:13)
7. (28:8-9) Esav attempted to please his parents after Ya'aqov's departure. How do your actions show your desire to please your Father? (Mat 21:28-31)