

Genesis 25.19-28.9: Structure and Themes

25.19-20: Isaac's descendants (introduced as frame to Jacob cycle)

25.21-23: Rebekah's conception and the birth oracle of "two nations in your womb"

25.24-26: Birth of the brothers

25.27-28: Characterization of the two brothers

Esau: a hunter, loved by his father, home in the fields

Jacob: a "sound/complete" man, loved by his mother, home in tents

25.29-34: Jacob and Esau: the birthright sold for "the red" (*ha'adom*)

26.1-5: YHWH appears to Isaac and renews the blessing

26.6-11: Isaac, Rebekah and Abimelech in Gerar: the third "wife/sister" story

26.12-17: Isaac grows wealthy and is "too numerous" for Abimelech's people

26.18-23: Quarrelling over wells

26.24-33: YHWH appears again to Isaac; a "covenant" between Abimelech's people and Isaac

26.34-35: Esau takes two Hittite wives

27.1-28.9: the blessing

A: Isaac/Esau: opening theme (vv. 1-4)

B: Rebekah/Jacob: "Listen to me" (vv. 5-17)

C: Jacob/Isaac: deception/blessing (vv. 18-29)

C1: Esau/Isaac: torment/blessing (vv. 30-41)

B1: Rebekah/Jacob: "Listen to me" (vv. 42-45)

A1: Rebekah/Isaac: closing theme (27:46-28:9)

Genesis 27 parallels

Parallels with Gen 12:

1. Structured around an underlying, implicit event: the law that punishment would follow the abduction of a man's wife in Gen 12 and the law of primogeniture here
2. Falsification of identity
3. A question posed by the antagonist (pharaoh, Isaac) which expresses disillusionment

Parallels with Gen 22:

1. Father and son alone
2. One party reveals less than the full truth
3. "My son" and "here I am" in same verse only at Gen 22:7, 27:1, 18 in Gen
4. Hebrew, *hik/lqh* (went/took) re: ram/kid as means that alters the seemingly inevitable

Parallels with Gen 25:

1. Jacob and Rebekah both prepare a meal that serves as the basis for birthright/blessing
2. Esau in the field, 25.29, 27.3, 30
3. Request for a meal from the one duped
4. Eat and drink (*'kl/shth*), 25.34, 27.25 [only 24.54 and 26.30 in same verse elsewhere in Gen]