

Questionable assumptions to be addressed in the story of the blessing (Genesis 26.34-28.9)

1. That the **oracle in Genesis 25** conveys YHWH's will that Jacob (Israel) would rule over Esau (Edom).
2. That the **twins physical features (hairy/smooth)** reflect something of their interior lives/spirituality.
3. That the **supposed "rights of the firstborn" (birthright, blessing)** are divinely sanctioned.
4. That **Isaac is weak as a father** and is being manipulated by Rebekah and Jacob.
5. That a **human father can convey the "Abrahamic blessing"** to his son(s). Similarly, that Isaac's blessing to Jacob "fulfills" the oracle.
6. That we are expected to see **Jacob's deception of his father as morally "bad"** and a mark on Jacob's (and Rebekah's) character.
7. That the **words Isaac conveys to his sons as "blessing" have actual power** to shape the future.
8. That the parents' **sending Jacob back to the "old country" is an emergency expedient** because of Esau's anger (rather than the plan all along to get Jacob to Laban).
9. That **Laban's later deception of Jacob (regarding Rachel/Leah) is divine "karma"** for Jacob's deception of his father.
10. **As readers, it is imperative to render a (moral) judgment on the character** of each of the people in the story.