

**I. Introduction and review.**

**II. By faith, Isaac surrendered to the will of God. v. 20**

**A. Isaac's prophetic blessing of his sons did not start out as one of his finest moments.**

1. God had previously revealed that Jacob, the younger son, would be the heir of the promise. Gen. 22:23 Rom. 9:9-13
2. Isaac preferred Esau and sought to circumvent God's plan by giving him the blessing. 13:16-17 Gen. 25:27-28 27:1-4
3. Rebekah schemed to deceive Isaac into giving Jacob the blessing. Ge. 27:5-10
4. Isaac unknowingly blesses Jacob. Gen. 27:18-29

**B. In all of this God was working out His perfect purpose and plan. Ro. 8:28 Ge. 50:20  
Isa. 46:8-11 Ps. 115:3**

1. God worked in spite of the scheming of Isaac, Rebekah, and Jacob.
2. Isaac would never have succeeded in giving the patriarchal blessing to Esau.
3. God, however, didn't need the help of Rebekah and Jacob who both paid a price for their sin. Gen. 27:41-28:2 Nu. 32:23 Pr. 13:15

**C. Isaac finally surrenders to God's will.**

1. God foiled his scheme to bless Esau. Gen. 27:33 Pr. 16:9 21:1 Ps. 18:26
2. Isaac affirms that Jacob will receive the Abrahamic blessing. Ge. 27:33,37 28:3-4
3. Esau is blessed in an earthly sense, but is cut off from the promise. Gen. 27:39-40
4. The blessings themselves could only have been given by faith.
5. Isaac looked ahead to the heavenly city to come. 11:13-16,39-40 13:14 1:14 2:5
6. These covenant promises receive their ultimate fulfillment in the Messiah.

**D. Application.**

1. Are your values more like those of Jacob or Esau?
2. Your possession of God's promise is the result of His sovereign mercy. Rom. 9:18
3. Don't seek God's blessing through sin and deceit.

**III. By faith, Jacob, when dying, was confident of things to come. v. 21**

**A. Jacob blessed Joseph's sons.**

1. Joseph was elevated to the status of firstborn. Gen. 48:1-4 I Chron. 5:1-2
2. Jacob, in effect, adopts Joseph's sons so each would receive a share in the inheritance, along with the other brothers. Ge. 48:5,16
3. God again circumvents societal norms by giving the greater blessing to Ephraim, who was younger than Manasseh. Gen. 48:14,17-20
4. Why was Jacob's blessing a great expression of faith?
5. The heritage of Joseph's sons was not the earthly greatness they could enjoy as the sons of the Prime Minister, but as sons of Israel and heirs of the promise.
6. God's promise was fulfilled. Deut. 33:17 Num. 26:28ff Josh. 4:5

**B. Jacob worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. Gen. 47:29-31**

1. As Jacob faced death, he worshiped God, trusting in the promises. 11:13-16
2. Jacob made Joseph swear that he would bury him in the promised land.
3. Why go to all that trouble and expense to bury a dead body? Gen. 50:7-13

**C. Application.**

1. God graciously looks upon those who have faith in His promises. 8:12 Jer. 31:34
2. What legacy do you want to leave to your children and grandchildren?
3. Your death and burial can be a testimony of faith. Phil. 1:21 Ps. 116:15 Re. 14:13 I Th. 4:13,18

**IV. By faith, Joseph hoped solely in God's promise. v. 22 Gen. 50:24-26**

**A. Joseph made mention of the Exodus, which would take place centuries later.**

1. How did he know what was going to happen? Gen. 15:13-14
2. He knew many years of oppression awaited God's people in Egypt.
3. He trusted that God would multiply them.
4. He believed that God would bring them out.

**B. He gave orders concerning his bones.**

1. His great interest wasn't the splendor he had achieved in Egypt, but the hope which would be fulfilled centuries later. Mt. 19:23-26 Prov. 30:8-9
2. Instead of immediately being buried in Canaan, he wanted them to return his remains to the promised land when his people returned centuries later.
3. Why was this so important?
4. Joseph's prophetic command was fulfilled. Ex. 13:19 Josh. 24:32

**C. Application.**

1. What matters most is not in this world, but your hope for the world to come.
2. Such faith should motivate us to trust God.
3. Do you believe God will do great things in keeping with His promises?
4. We await the ultimate fulfillment of God's promises at Christ's return. 9:28 Phil. 3:20 Ro. 8:19,23,25 I Co. 1:7

**V. Conclusion.**

- A. Fix your heart on "things to come". 11:20,39-30 13:14 2:5 1:14 Phil. 3:20 Col. 3:1-5
- B. Are you ready to face death in faith? Heb. 9:27
- C. If for you to live is Christ, then to die is gain. Phil. 1:21 I Co. 15:54

**Discussion questions**

1. What do the expressions of faith by these three patriarchs have in common?
2. How can Isaac be said to have great faith when he was guilty of scheming to overthrow God's choice of Jacob?
3. Why did God choose Jacob over Esau?
4. Are you more like Esau or Jacob?
5. Why is it hard to be a second (or third or fourth) generation Christian?
6. What is the significance of Jacob blessing Ephraim and Manasseh?
7. Why was the blessing of Joseph's sons a great act of faith for Jacob?
8. To what event does the author of Hebrews refer when he speaks of Jacob worshiping as he leaned on the top of his staff?
9. What is the significance of the burial wishes of Jacob and Joseph?
10. Where is your hope?