

Isaac

CHARACTERS: Isaac (35 lines), Rebekah (28), Jacob (17), Esau (12), Angel (5), Philistine (2), King Abimelech (6), Phicol (3), Voice of God (4)

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 9 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Genesis 25-28.

The Birth of Jacob and Esau

ANGEL: Abraham fathered Isaac.

REBEKAH: Isaac was 40 years old when married me, Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel and sister of Laban.

ISAAC: I prayed to the Lord because Rebekah was childless for twenty years.

ANGEL: But while I was pregnant, the children struggled with each other inside of her.

REBEKAH: I wondered why this was happening to me so I inquired of the Lord.

ANGEL: Two nations are in your womb; two people will come from you and be separated.

One people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger.

REBEKAH: I gave birth to twins.

ISAAC: The first one came out red-looking, covered with hair like a fur coat, my favorite, and we named him Esau.

REBEKAH: But Jacob, my favorite, came out grasping Esau's heel with his hand. So he was named Jacob.

ANGEL: Isaac was 60 years old when they were born.

Esau Sells His Birthright

ISAAC: When the boys grew up, Esau became an expert hunter, an outdoorsman.

REBEKAH: But Jacob was a quiet man who stayed at home.

JACOB: Once when I, Jacob, was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field exhausted.

ESAU: Lett me eat some of that red stew, because I'm exhausted.

JACOB: First sell me your birthright.

ESAU: Look, I'm about to die, so what good is a birthright to me?

JACOB: Swear to me first.

ESAU: I swear the birthright is yours.

JACOB: Here you go; bread and lentil stew to Esau.

ANGEL: As you can see, Esau despised his birthright.

The Promise Reaffirmed to Isaac

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ISAAC: Another famine is occurring.

REBEKAH: Just like the one that happened in Abraham's time.

VOICE OF GOD: Do not go down to Egypt. Live in the land that I tell you about; stay in this land as a foreigner, and I will be with you and bless you.

ISAAC: My father Abraham told me you promised to give all these lands to him and his offspring.

VOICE OF GOD: I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of the sky, I will give your offspring all these lands, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed by your offspring.

REBEKAH: We know you bless us because Abraham listened to your voice.

VOICE OF GOD: He did. He kept my mandate, my commands, my statutes, and my instructions.

ISAAC: We will settle with Abimelech king of the Philistines, as you have commanded.

PHILISTINE: Who is that gorgeous woman?

ISAAC: She is my sister.

REBEKAH: (*whispering to ISAAC*) I'm not your sister. I'm your wife.

ISAAC: Shhhhh! The men of the place will kill me because you are a beautiful woman.

REBEKAH: But one day we were found out when the king looked down from the window and was surprised to see Isaac caressing me.

ISAAC: I knew we could be in for big trouble when he sent for me.

ABIMELECH: So she is really your wife! How could you say, 'She is my sister'?

ISAAC: Because I thought I might die on account of her.

ABIMELECH: What is this you've done to us? One of the people could easily have slept with your wife, and you would have brought guilt on us. (to audience) Whoever harms this man or his wife will certainly die.

Conflicts over Wells

REBEKAH: Isaac planted seed in that land, and in that year he reaped a hundred times what was sown.

ISAAC: The Lord blessed us and I became rich and kept getting richer until he was very wealthy.

REBEKAH: We had flocks of sheep, herds of cattle, and many slaves.

ISAAC: The Philistines were envious of me and stopped up all the wells that Abraham's slaves had dug.

ABIMELECH: You gotta go. You are much too powerful for us.

REBEKAH: We left and reopened the water wells that had been dug by Abraham.

ISAAC: The Philistines had stopped them up after Abraham died.

PHILISTINE: The water is ours! Get lost.

ISAAC: I had to keep moving until I dug a well we didn't quarrel it.

REBEKAH: Isaac named it Open Spaces and said, "For now the Lord has made room for us, and we will be fruitful in the land."

VOICE OF GOD: I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your offspring because of My servant Abraham.

ISAAC: So I built an altar and called on the name of Yahweh.

REBEKAH: Then King Abimelech showed up with Phicol the commander of his army.

ISAAC: Why have you come to me? You hated me and sent me away from you.

ABIMELECH: We have clearly seen how the Lord has been with you.

PHICOL: We think there should be an oath between two parties—between us and you.

ABIMELECH: Let us make a covenant with you; you will not harm us, just as we have not harmed you.

PHICOL: We have only done what was good to you, sending you away in peace.

ABIMELECH: You are now blessed by the Lord.

ISAAC: Let us swear this oath.

PHICOL: Then we will leave in peace.

The Stolen Blessing

REBEKAH: When Esau was 40 years old, he took Hittite wives.

ISAAC: They made life bitter for Rebekah and Isaac.

REBEKAH: When Isaac was old and his eyes were so weak that he could not see, he called his older son Esau.

Rebekah is obviously eavesdropping on the conversation

ESAU: Here I am, father.

ISAAC: Look, I am old and do not know the day of my death. Take your hunting gear, your quiver and bow, and go out in the field to hunt some game for me.

ESAU: Of course, father.

ISAAC: Then make me a delicious meal that I love and bring it to me to eat, so that I can bless you before I die.

REBEKAH: *(stage whispering and motioning to Jacob)* Listen! I heard your father talking with your brother Esau. He said, 'Bring me the game and make a delicious meal for me to eat so that I can bless you in the Lord's presence before I die.'

JACOB: That's bad news for me.

REBEKAH: Go to the flock and bring me two choice young goats, and I will make them into a delicious meal for your father—the kind he loves. Then take it to your father to eat so that he may bless you before he dies.

JACOB: *(frightened and wary)* Look, my brother Esau is a hairy man, but I am a man with smooth skin. If my father touches me, it will be revealed I am a deceiver and it will bring a curse rather than a blessing on me.

REBEKAH: Let the curse be on me, my son. Just obey me and go get them for me.

JACOB: Ok.

REBEKAH: I made the delicious food Isaac wanted, took Esau's best clothes and had Jacob wear them.

JACOB: Why are you putting the goat skins on my hands and neck?

REBEKAH: So you seem as hairy as Esau. Now take your father the food.

JACOB: My father.

ISAAC: Here I am. Who are you, my son?

JACOB: I am Esau, your firstborn. I have done as you told me. Please sit up and eat some of my game so that you may bless me.

ISAAC: How did you ever find it so quickly, my son?

JACOB: Because the Lord your God worked it out for me.

ISAAC: Please come closer so I can touch you, my son. Are you really my son Esau or not?

JACOB: Yes, I am your son.

ISAAC: The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau. Are you really my son Esau?

JACOB: I am.

ISAAC: Then let me eat so that I can bless you. Please come closer and kiss me, my son.

JACOB: Ok.

ISAAC: You must be Esau because the smell of my son is like the smell of a field that the Lord has blessed.

May God give to you—from the dew of the sky and from the richness of the land—an abundance of grain and new wine.

May peoples serve you and nations bow down to you. Be master over your brothers; may your mother's sons bow down to you. Those who curse you will be cursed, and those who bless you will be blessed.

JACOB: Thank you father.

ISAAC: You may go.

REBEKAH: As soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob and Jacob had left the presence of his father Isaac, his brother Esau arrived from the hunt.

ESAU: Let my father get up and eat some of my game, so that you may bless me.

ISAAC: Who are you?

ESAU: I am Esau your firstborn son. *(beat)* Why are you trembling uncontrollably?

ISAAC: Who was it then who hunted game and brought it to me? I ate it all before you came in, and I blessed him. Indeed, he will be blessed!

ESAU: *(loudly and bitterly)* Bless me too, my father!

ISAAC: Your brother came deceitfully and took your blessing.

ESAU: He is rightly named Jacob because he has cheated me twice now. He took my birthright, and look, now he has taken my blessing. Haven't you saved a blessing for me?

ISAAC: Look, I have made him a master over you, have given him all of his relatives as his servants, and have sustained him with grain and new wine. What then can I do for you, my son?

ESAU: *(loudly weeping)* Do you only have one blessing, my father? Bless me too, my father!

ISAAC: Look, your dwelling place will be away from the richness of the land, away from the dew of the sky above.

You will live by your sword, and you will serve your brother. But when you rebel, you will break his yoke from your neck.

Esau's Anger and Third Wife

REBEKAH: Esau held a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing his father had given him.

ESAU: The days of mourning for my father are approaching; then I will kill my brother Jacob.

REBEKAH: I didn't want Cain and Abel all over again. *(to ESAU)* Listen, your brother Esau is consoling himself by planning to kill you. Flee at once to my brother Laban in Haran, and stay with him for a few days until your brother's anger subsides.

JACOB: Until his rage turns away and he forgets what I did to him.

REBEKAH: Then I will send for you and bring you back from there. Why should I lose you both in one day?

JACOB: Alright.

REBEKAH: *(to ISAAC)* I'm sick of my life because of these Hittite women.

JACOB: I agree. They worship idols and demons.

REBEKAH: They practice sorcery. If Jacob marries a Hittite woman like one of them what good is my life?

ISAAC: We shall send him to your brother Laban to get a wife from there.

REBEKAH: That will be good.

ISAAC: Jacob, marry one of the daughters of Laban, your mother's brother.

REBEKAH: May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you so that you become an assembly of peoples.

ISAAC: May God give you and your offspring the blessing of Abraham so that you may possess the land where you live as a foreigner, the land God gave to Abraham.

ESAU: I get it now. My father disapproves of the Canaanite women. I'll fix that. I'll marry one of Uncle Ishmael's daughters.

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