

Brotherhood, Revisited: Jacob and Esau

Rachel Sharansky Danziger * November 22nd 2021* Bereshit: The Birthplace of Human Relationships #7

1: Going out

Genesis 28:10-22

(10) Jacob left Beer-sheba, and set out for Haran.

בראשית כ"ח:י-כ"ב

(י) וַיֵּצֵא יַעֲקֹב מִבְּעַר שְׁבַע וַיֵּלֶךְ
חָרָנָה:

Genesis 25:25

(25) The first one emerged red, like a hairy mantle all over; so they named him Esau.

בראשית כ"ה:כ"ה

(כה) וַיֵּצֵא הָרִאשׁוֹן אֲדָמוֹנִי כָּלֹךְ
כְּאֲדֻרַת שַׁעַר וַיִּקְרְאוּ שְׁמוֹ עֵשָׂו:

Genesis 24:63

(63) And Isaac went out walking in the field toward evening and, looking up, he saw camels approaching.

בראשית כ"ד:ס"ג

(סג) וַיֵּצֵא יִצְחָק לָשׁוּחַ בַּשָּׂדֶה לְפָנֹת עָרֶב
וַיִּשָּׂא עֵינָיו וַיִּרְא וְהִנֵּה גַמְלִים בָּאִים:

2: Chronicle of a crisis foretold

Genesis 25:19-23

(19) This is the story of Isaac, son of Abraham. Abraham begot Isaac. (20) Isaac was forty years old when he took to wife Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. (21) Isaac pleaded with the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD responded to his plea, and his wife Rebekah conceived. (22) But the children struggled in her womb, and she said, "If so, why do I exist?" She went to inquire of the LORD, (23) and the LORD answered her,

בראשית כ"ה:י"ט-כ"ג

(יט) וְאֵלֶּה תּוֹלְדֹת יִצְחָק בֶּן-אַבְרָהָם
אַבְרָהָם הוֹלִיד אֶת-יִצְחָק: (כ) וַיְהִי יִצְחָק
בֶּן-אַרְבָּעִים שָׁנָה בְּקַחְתּוֹ אֶת-רֵבְקָה בַת-
בְּתוּאֵל הָאֲרָמִי מִפְּדַן אֶרֶם אֶתּוֹת לָבָן
הָאֲרָמִי לֹו לְאִשָּׁה: (כא) וַיַּעֲתֵר יִצְחָק
לַיהוָה לְנִכַח אִשְׁתּוֹ כִּי עֲקֹרָה הִוא וַיַּעֲתֵר
לֹו יְהוָה וַתֵּהָר רֵבְקָה אִשְׁתּוֹ: (כב)
וַיִּתְרַצְצוּ הַבָּנִים בְּקִרְבָּהּ וַתֹּאמֶר אִם-כֵּן
לָמָּה זֶה אֲנִי וַתֵּלֶךְ לְדַרְשׁ אֶת-יְהוָה:

"Two nations are in your womb,
Two separate peoples shall issue from your
body; One people shall be mightier than the
other, And the older shall serve the
younger."

(כג) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה לָּהּ שְׁנֵי (גִּיּוֹם) [גִּיּוֹם]
בְּבֶטְנְךָ וּשְׁנֵי לְאֻמִּים מִמֶּעַיֶךְ יִפְרְדּוּ וְלֵאמֹר
מִלְאֵם יֵאָמֵץ וְרַב יַעֲבֹד צָעִיר:

3: A perfect mirror?

Genesis 25:24-26

(24) When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb.

(25) The first one emerged red, like a hairy mantle all over; so they named him Esau.

(26) Then his brother emerged, holding on to the heel of Esau; so they named him Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when they were born.

בראשית כ"ה:כ"ד-כ"ו

(כד) וַיִּמְלְאוּ יָמֶיהָ לֵלֶדֶת וְהִנֵּה תוֹמָם
בְּבֶטְנָהּ:

(כה) וַיֵּצֵא הָרִאשׁוֹן אֲדָמוֹנִי כָּלֹ
פְּאֵדָתָהּ שֹׁעָר וַיִּקְרְאוּ שְׁמוֹ עֵשָׂו:

(כו) וְאֶחָיו כָּלֹ יָצָא אָחִיו וַיִּדְּ אֶחָזֶת
בְּעֵקֶב עֵשָׂו וַיִּקְרָא שְׁמוֹ יַעֲקֹב וַיִּצְתַּק
בְּיַד־שֵׁשִׁים שָׁנָה בְּלֶדֶת אֶתָם:

Genesis 25:27-28

(27) When the boys grew up,

Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the outdoors;

but Jacob was a mild man who stayed in camp.

(28) Isaac favored Esau because he had a taste for game;^e but Rebekah favored Jacob.

בראשית כ"ה:כ"ז-כ"ח

(כז) וַיִּגְדְּלוּ הַנְּעָרִים

וַיְהִי עֵשָׂו אִישׁ יָדַע צִיד אִישׁ שָׂדֶה

וַיַּעֲקֹב אִישׁ תָּם יֹשֵׁב אֹהֲלִים:

(כח) וַיֵּאָהֵב יִצְחָק אֶת־עֵשָׂו כִּי־צִיד
בְּפִיו וּרְבֵקָה אֹהֶבֶת אֶת־יַעֲקֹב:

4: The first encounter

Genesis 25:29-34

(29) Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the open, famished. (30) And Esau said to Jacob, "Give me some of that red stuff to gulp down, for I am famished"—which is why he was named Edom. (31) Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." (32) And Esau said, "I am at the point of death, so of what use is my birthright to me?" (33) But Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. (34) Jacob then gave Esau bread and lentil stew; he ate and drank, and he rose and went away. Thus did Esau spurn the birthright.

בראשית כ"ה:כ"ט-ל"ד

(כט) וַיֵּזֶד יַעֲקֹב נֹזֵד וַיִּבֶא עֵשָׂו מִזֶּה־הַשָּׂדֶה
וְהוּא עָרִיף: (ל) וַיֹּאמֶר עֵשָׂו אֶל־יַעֲקֹב
הֲלֵעִיטְנִי נָא מִזֶּה־הָאָדָם הָאָדָם הַזֶּה כִּי עָרִיף
אָנֹכִי עַל־כֵּן קָרָא־שְׁמוֹ אֶדוֹם: (לא) וַיֹּאמֶר
יַעֲקֹב מִכְרָה כִּיֹּם אֶת־בְּכֹרְתְךָ לִי: (לב)
וַיֹּאמֶר עֵשָׂו הִנֵּה אָנֹכִי הוֹלֵךְ לָמוֹת וְלָמָּה־זֶּה
לִי בְּכֹרָה: (לג) וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב הֲשִׁבְעָה לִי
כִּיֹּם וַיִּשְׁבַּע לוֹ וַיִּמְכַר אֶת־בְּכֹרְתוֹ לַיַּעֲקֹב:
(לד) וַיַּעֲקֹב נָתַן לְעֵשָׂו לֶחֶם וּנְזִיד עֲדָשִׁים
וַיֹּאכַל וַיִּשְׂתֵּ וַיִּקָּם וַיֵּלֶךְ וַיִּבֹז עֵשָׂו אֶת־
הַבְּכֹרָה: {פ}

5: Present vs. future

Time and the Art of Living, Robert Grudin:

Like a machine which sorts out a great variety of objects into individually homogeneous bundles, time sorts and garners up our various productions. We smoke only one cigarette at a time, but in a few years our lungs look as though we had inhaled a volcano. We experience isolated moments of affection and delight, and find in a few weeks that we are in love... Yet we seldom think of the specific phenomena as parts of a coherent whole. Time plays the big arpeggios of victory and defeat, achievement, disaffection, the whole gamut; but we hear only the single tones. And in missing the incremental structure, the temporal coherence of our lives, we miss the truth about ourselves... Free men and women, on the other hand, can think across time, viewing their own lives, inclusive of past, present and future, as architectural wholes, static in mental space. They can therefore see, as others cannot, the cracks and buttresses of repeated action, the points of stress, the established framework.(13)

To those of us who spend entire days, if not lifetimes, concentrating on a series of brief and insignificant things, the present has barely any meaning at all; we become tiny timorous things, caught in the inch of space between the “in” box and the “out” box. While we may share the common illusions about a mobile present and a free future, we spend most of our lives housecleaning the past..In this sense, as in others, we shuffle backward into the future, unaware of our enslavement to time or of the simple freedom of new beginnings. (39)

6. Father and son

Genesis 27:1-5

(1) When Isaac was old and his eyes were too dim to see, he called his older son Esau and said to him, “My son.” He answered, “Here I am.” (2) And he said, “I am old now, and I do not know how soon I may die. (3) Take your gear, your quiver and bow, and go out into the open and hunt me some game. (4) Then prepare a dish for me such as I like, and bring it to me to eat, so that I may give you my innermost blessing before I die.”

(5) Rebekah had been listening as Isaac spoke to his son Esau. When Esau had gone out into the open to hunt game to bring home.

בראשית כ"ז:א-ה'

(א) וַיְהִי כִּי־זָקֵן יִצְחָק וַתִּכְהַיֵּן עֵינָיו מִרְאֵת וַיִּקְרָא אֶת־עֵשָׂו בְּנֵוֹ הַגָּדֹל וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו בְּנִי וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו הִנְנִי׃ (ב) וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה־נָא זָקַנְתִּי לֹא יָדַעְתִּי יוֹם מוֹתִי׃ (ג) וְעַתָּה שְׂאֵ־נָא כְלִיָּה תְלִיָּה וְקִשְׁתְּךָ וְצֵא הַשָּׂדֶה וְצוּדָה לִי (צִידָה) [צִיד]׃ (ד) וְעֲשֵׂה־לִּי מִטְעָמִים כַּאֲשֶׁר אֲהַבְתִּי וְהֵבִיָּאָה לִּי וְאֲכַלָּה בְּעֵבֹר תְּבָרְכָה נַפְשִׁי בְּטָרִם אָמוֹת׃

(ה) וְרִבְקָה שֹׁמְעֶת בְּדַבַּר יִצְחָק אֶל־עֵשָׂו בְּנֵוֹ וַיֵּלֶךְ עֲשׂוֹ הַשָּׂדֶה לְצוּד צִיד לְהֵבִיא׃

7: Mother and son

Genesis 27:6-17

(6) Rebekah said to her son Jacob, "I overheard your father speaking to your brother Esau, saying, (7) 'Bring me some game and prepare a dish for me to eat, that I may bless you, with the LORD's approval, before I die.'

(8) Now, my son, listen carefully as I instruct you. (9) Go to the flock and fetch me two choice kids, and I will make of them a dish for your father, such as he likes. (10) Then take it to your father to eat, in order that he may bless you before he dies."

(11) Jacob answered his mother Rebekah, "But my brother Esau is a hairy man and I am smooth-skinned.

(12) If my father touches me, I shall appear to him as a trickster and bring upon myself a curse, not a blessing."

(13) But his mother said to him, "Your curse, my son, be upon me! Just do as I say and go fetch them for me."

(14) He got them and brought them to his mother, and his mother prepared a dish such as his father liked. (15) Rebekah then took the best clothes of her older son Esau, which were there in the house, and had her younger son Jacob put them on; (16) and she covered his hands and the hairless part of his neck with the skins of the kids. (17) Then she put in the hands of her son Jacob the dish and the bread that she had prepared.

בראשית כ"ז:ו'-י"ז

(ו) וּרְבֵקָה אָמְרָה אֶל-יַעֲקֹב בְּנָהּ לֵאמֹר
הֲנֵה שָׁמַעְתִּי אֶת-אָבִיךָ מְדַבֵּר אֶל-עֵשָׂו
אָחִיךָ לֵאמֹר: (ז) הֲבִיאָה לִי צֵיד וְעָשִׂיהָ
לִי מִטְעָמִים וְאֹכְלָהּ וְאִבְרַכְכָּה לְפָנַי
יְהוָה לְפָנַי מוֹתִי:

(ח) וְעַתָּה בְנִי שָׁמַע בְּקֹלִי לְאֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי
מְצַנֵּה אֹתְךָ: (ט) לָךְ-נָא אֶל-הַצֹּאֵן וְקַח-
לִי מִשָּׁם שְׁנֵי גְדֵי עֲזִים טְבִיִּים וְאָעֲשֵׂה
אֹתָם מִטְעָמִים לְאָבִיךָ כַּאֲשֶׁר אָהֵב: (י)
וְהִבֵּאתָ לְאָבִיךָ וְאָכַל בְּעֵבֶר אֲשֶׁר
יְבָרְכֶךָ לְפָנַי מוֹתוֹ:

(יא) וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב אֶל-רְבֵקָה אִמּוֹ הֲנֵן
עֲשׂוֹ אָחִי אִישׁ שָׂעִר וְאֹנְכִי אִישׁ חֶלְקִי:
(יב) אוּלַי יִמְשְׁנִי אָבִי וְהִיטִיתִי בְּעֵינָיו
כַּמִּתְעַתֵּעַ וְהִבֵּאתִי עָלַי קָלָה וְלֹא
בְרָכָה:

(יג) וּתְאֹמַר לוֹ אִמּוֹ עָלַי קָלָתְךָ בְנִי
אֵךְ שָׁמַע בְּקֹלִי וְלָךְ קַח-לִי:

(יד) וַיֹּלֶךְ וַיִּקַּח וַיָּבֵא לְאִמּוֹ וַתַּעַשׂ אִמּוֹ
מִטְעָמִים כַּאֲשֶׁר אָהֵב אָבִיו: (טו) וַתִּקַּח
רְבֵקָה אֶת-בְּגְדֵי עֵשָׂו בְּנָהּ הַגָּדֹל
הַחֲמֹדֹת אֲשֶׁר אֹתָהּ בְּבֵיתָ וַתִּלְבַּשׁ אֶת-
יַעֲקֹב בְּנָהּ הַקָּטָן: (טז) וְאֵת עֲרֹת גְּדֵי
הָעֲזִים הִלְבִּישָׁה עַל-יָדָיו וְעַל חֶלְקֵת
צְוָאָרָיו: (יז) וַתִּתֵּן אֶת-הַמִּטְעָמִים וְאֶת-
הַלֶּחֶם אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂתָה בְיַד יַעֲקֹב בְּנָהּ:

8: The deceit

Genesis 27:18-29

(18) He went to his father and said, "Father." And he said, "Yes, which of my sons are you?" (19) Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau, your first-born; I have done as you told me. Pray sit up and eat of my game, that you may give me your innermost blessing." (20) Isaac said to his son, "How did you succeed so quickly, my son?" And he said, "Because the LORD your God granted me good fortune." (21) Isaac said to Jacob, "Come closer that I may feel you, my son—whether you are really my son Esau or not." (22) So Jacob drew close to his father Isaac, who felt him and wondered. "The voice is the voice of Jacob, yet the hands are the hands of Esau." (23) He did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like those of his brother Esau; and so he blessed him. (24) He asked, "Are you really my son Esau?" And when he said, "I am," (25) he said, "Serve me and let me eat of my son's game that I may give you my innermost blessing." So he served him and he ate, and he brought him wine and he drank. (26) Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come close and kiss me, my son"; (27) and he went up and kissed him. And he smelled his clothes and he blessed him, saying, "Ah, the smell of my son is like the smell of the fields that the LORD has blessed. (28) "May God give you Of the dew of heaven and the fat of the earth, Abundance of new grain and wine. (29) Let peoples serve you, And nations bow to you; Be master over your brothers, And let your mother's sons bow to you. Cursed be they who curse you, Blessed they who bless you."

בראשית כ"ז:י"ח-כ"ט

(יח) וַיָּבֹא אֶל-אָבִיו וַיֹּאמֶר אָבִי וַיֹּאמֶר הַנָּנִי מִי אַתָּה בְּנִי: (יט) וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב אֶל-אָבִיו אָנֹכִי עֹשׂוֹ כְּכֹרְךָ עָשִׂיתִי כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתָּ אֵלַי קוּם-נָא שָׁבָה וְאֹכְלָה מִצִּידִי בְּעֹבוֹר תְּבָרַכְנִי נַפְשֶׁךָ: (כ) וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב אֶל-בְּנוֹ מִה-זֶה מַתְּרַת לְמִצְאָ בְנִי וַיֹּאמֶר כִּי הִקְרַתָּ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לְפָנָי: (כא) וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב אֶל-יַעֲקֹב גְּשָׁה-נָּא וְאִמְשָׁה בְּנִי הֲאֵתָה זֶה בְּנִי עֹשׂוֹ אִם-לֹא: (כב) וַיַּגֵּשׁ יַעֲקֹב אֶל-יַעֲקֹב אָבִיו וַיְמַשְׁהוּ וַיֹּאמֶר הַקֹּל קוֹל יַעֲקֹב וְהַיָּדַיִם יְדֵי עֹשׂוֹ: (כג) וְלֹא הִכִּירוּ כִּי-הָיוּ יְדָיו כַּיְדֵי עֹשׂוֹ אַחֲיוֹ שְׁעָרַת וַיְבָרַכְהוּ: (כד) וַיֹּאמֶר אַתָּה זֶה בְּנִי עֹשׂוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר אָנִי: (כה) וַיֹּאמֶר הַגֵּשָׁה לִי וְאֹכְלָה מִצִּיד בְּנִי לְמַעַן תְּבָרַכְךָ נַפְשִׁי וַיַּגֵּשׁ-לוֹ וַיֹּאכַל וַיָּבֹא לוֹ יַיִן וַיִּשְׁתָּ: (כו) וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו יַעֲקֹב אָבִיו גְּשָׁה-נָּא וּשְׁקָה-לִי בְּנִי: (כז) וַיַּגֵּשׁ וַיִּשְׁק-לוֹ וַיֵּרַח אֶת-רִיחַ בְּגָדָיו וַיְבָרַכְהוּ וַיֹּאמֶר רְאֵה רִיחַ בְּנִי כְּרִיחַ שְׂדֵה אֲשֶׁר בָּרַכְוּ יְהוָה: (כח) וַיִּתֵּן-לָהּ הָאֱלֹהִים מִטַּל הַשָּׁמַיִם וּמִשְׁמַנֵּי הָאָרֶץ וְרֹב דָּגָן וְתִירֹשׁ: (כט) יַעֲבֹדוּךָ עַמִּים (וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ) [וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ] לָךְ לְאֲמִים הָיְהוּ גְבִיר לְאֲחֵיהָ וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ לָךְ בְּנֵי אִמָּה אַרְרִיךָ אָרוּר וּמְבָרַכְךָ בְּרוּךְ:

9: Father and son, again

Genesis 27:30-40

(30) No sooner had Jacob left the presence of his father Isaac—after Isaac had finished blessing Jacob—than his brother Esau came back from his hunt. (31) He too prepared a dish and brought it to his father. And he said to his father, “Let my father sit up and eat of his son’s game, so that you may give me your innermost blessing.” (32) His father Isaac said to him, “Who are you?” And he said, “I am your son, Esau, your first-born!” (33) Isaac was seized with very violent trembling. “Who was it then,” he demanded, “that hunted game and brought it to me? Moreover, I ate of it before you came, and I blessed him; now he must remain blessed!” (34) When Esau heard his father’s words, he burst into wild and bitter sobbing, and said to his father, “Bless me too, Father!” (35) But he answered, “Your brother came with guile and took away your blessing.” (36) [Esau] said, “Was he, then, named Jacob that he might supplant me these two times? First he took away my birthright and now he has taken away my blessing!” And he added, “Have you not reserved a blessing for me?” (37) Isaac answered, saying to Esau, “But I have made him master over you: I have given him all his brothers for servants, and sustained him with grain and wine. What, then, can I still do for you, my son?” (38) And Esau said to his father, “Have you but one blessing, Father? Bless me too, Father!” And Esau wept aloud. (39) And his father Isaac answered, saying to him, “See, your abode shall enjoy the fat of the earth And^b the dew of heaven above. (40) Yet by your sword you shall live, And you shall serve your brother; But when you grow restive, You shall break his yoke from your neck.”

בראשית כ"ז:ל"י-מ

(ל) וַיְהִי כַּאֲשֶׁר כָּלָה יִצְחָק לְבָרֶךְ אֶת־
 יַעֲקֹב וַיְהִי אָךְ יִצְאָא יִצְאָא יַעֲקֹב מֵאֵת פְּנֵי
 יִצְחָק אָבִיו וַעֲשׂוֹ אָחִיו בָּא מִצִּידוֹ: (לא)
 וַיַּעַשׂ גַּם־הוּא מִטְעָמִים וַיָּבֵא לְאָבִיו
 וַיֹּאמֶר לְאָבִיו יָקָם אָבִי וַיֹּאכַל מִצִּיד בְּנִי
 בַּעֲבֹר תְּבָרְכֵנִי נַפְשָׁה: (לב) וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ
 יִצְחָק אָבִיו מִי־אַתָּה וַיֹּאמֶר אָנֹכִי בְנֶךָ
 בְּכֹרְךָ עֲשׂוֹ: (לג) וַיַּחְרַד יִצְחָק חֲרָדָה
 גְּדֹלָה עַד־מְאֹד וַיֹּאמֶר מִי־אֲפֹאֵא הוּא
 הַצִּיד־צִיד וַיָּבֵא לִי וְאָכַל מִכָּל בְּטָרָם
 תָּבוֹא וְאֲבָרְכֶהוּ גַם־בְּרוּךְ יִהְיֶה: (לד)
 כַּשְׂמַע עֲשׂוֹ אֶת־דְּבָרֵי אָבִיו וַיִּצְעַק צָעֲקָה
 גְּדֹלָה וּמְרָה עַד־מְאֹד וַיֹּאמֶר לְאָבִיו
 בְּרַכֵּנִי גַם־אָנֹכִי אָבִי: (לה) וַיֹּאמֶר בָּא
 אַחִיךָ בְּמִרְמָה וַיִּקַּח בְּרִכְתְּךָ: (לו)
 וַיֹּאמֶר הֲכִי קָרָא שְׁמוֹ יַעֲקֹב וַיַּעֲבֹבֵנִי זֶה
 פְּעָמִים אֶת־בְּכֹרְתִי לָקַח וְהִנֵּה עַתָּה
 לָקַח בְּרִכְתְּךָ וַיֹּאמֶר הֲלֹא־אֶצְלָת לִי
 בְּרִכְּךָ: (לז) וַיַּעַן יִצְחָק וַיֹּאמֶר לַעֲשׂוֹ הֲנִי
 גְבוֹר שְׂמִתִּיו לְךָ וְאֶת־כָּל־אָחִיו נָתַתִּי לּוֹ
 לַעֲבָדִים וְדָגַן וְתִירָשׁ סָמַכְתִּיו וּלְכָה
 אֲפֹאֵא מָה אֶעֱשֶׂה בְּנִי: (לח) וַיֹּאמֶר עֲשׂוֹ
 אֶל־אָבִיו הַבְּרָכָה אַחַת הוּא־לְךָ אָבִי
 בְּרַכֵּנִי גַם־אָנֹכִי אָבִי וַיִּשָּׂא עֲשׂוֹ קִלּוֹ וַיִּבֶה:
 (לט) וַיַּעַן יִצְחָק אָבִיו וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו הִנֵּה
 מִשְׁמַנֵּי הָאָרֶץ יִהְיֶה מִוִּשְׁבְּךָ וּמִטַּל
 הַשָּׁמַיִם מֵעַל־: (מ) וְעַל־חַרְבֶּךָ תַּחֲלֶה
 וְאֶת־אַחִיךָ תַּעֲבֹד וְהָיָה כַּאֲשֶׁר תִּרְיֵד
 וּפָרַקְתָּ עָלָיו מֵעַל צִוְאַרְךָ:

10: The fallout

Genesis 27:41

(41) Now Esau harbored a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing which his father had given him, and Esau said to himself, "Let but the mourning period of my father come, and I will kill my brother Jacob."

בראשית כ"ז:מ"א

(מא) וישטם עשו את יעקב על-
הברכה אשר ברכו אביו ויאמר עשו
בלבו יקרבו ימי אבלי ואהרגה
את יעקב אחי.

Genesis 27:42-46

(42) When the words of her older son Esau were reported to Rebekah, she sent for her younger son Jacob and said to him, "Your brother Esau is consoling himself by planning to kill you. (43) Now, my son, listen to me. Flee at once to Haran, to my brother Laban. (44) Stay with him a while, until your brother's fury subsides— (45) until your brother's anger against you subsides—and he forgets what you have done to him. Then I will fetch you from there. Let me not lose you both in one day!" (46) Rebekah said to Isaac, "I am disgusted with my life because of the Hittite women. If Jacob marries a Hittite woman like these, from among the native women, what good will life be to me?"

בראשית כ"ז:מ"ב-מ"ו

(מב) ויגד לרבקה את דברי עשו בנה הגדל
ותשלח ותקרא ליעקב בנה הקטן ותאמר אליו
הנה עשו עשו אחיה מתנחם לה להרגה. (מג)
ועתה בני שמע בקלי וקום ברח לה אל לבן
אחי חרנה. (מד) וישבת עמו ימים אחדים עד
אשר תשוב חמת אחיה. (מה) עד שוב אחי-
אחיה ממך ושכח את אשר עשית לו ושלחת
ולקחתיה משם למה אפשר גם שניכם יום
אחד. (מו) ותאמר רבקה אל יצחק קצתי בחי
מפני בנות חת אמללך יעקב אשר מבינות
חת כאלה מבינות הארץ למה לי חיים.

Genesis 28:1-9

(1) So Isaac sent for Jacob and blessed him. He instructed him, saying, "You shall not take a wife from among the Canaanite women. (2) Up, go to Paddan-aram, to the house of Bethuel, your mother's father, and take a wife there from among the daughters of Laban, your mother's brother. (3) May El Shaddai bless you, make you fertile and numerous, so that you become an assembly of peoples. (4) May He grant the blessing of Abraham to you and your offspring, that you may possess the land where you are sojourning, which God assigned to Abraham." (5) Then Isaac sent Jacob off, and he went to Paddan-aram, to Laban the son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, mother of Jacob and Esau... (8) Esau realized that the Canaanite women displeased his father Isaac. (9) So Esau went to Ishmael and took to wife, in addition to the wives he had, Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael son of Abraham, sister of Nebaioth.

בראשית כ"ח:א'-ט'

(א) ויקרא יצחק אל יעקב ויברך אותו
ויצוהו ויאמר לו לא תקח אשה מבינות
כנען. (ב) קום לה פדנה ארם ביתה
כתואל אבי אמך וקח לה משם אשה
מבינות לבן אחי אמך. (ג) ואל שדי יברך
אתה ויפרה ויבנה והיית לקהל עמים. (ד)
וימולך את ברכת אברהם לה ולורעה
אתה לרשתה את ארץ מגר'ה אשר נתן
אלהים לאברהם. (ה) וישלח יצחק את
יעקב וילה פדנה ארם אל לבן בן בתואל
הארמי אחי רבקה אם יעקב ועשו... (ח)
וירא עשו כי רעות בנות כנען בעיני יצחק
אביו. (ט) וילה עשו אל ישמעאל ויקח
את מחלת ו בת ישמעאל בן אברהם
אחות נביות על נשיו לו לאשה. {ס}

11: God's comfort

Genesis 28:13-19

(13) And the LORD was standing beside him and He said, "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac: the ground on which you are lying I will assign to you and to your offspring. (14) Your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All the families of the earth shall bless themselves by you and your descendants. (15) Remember, I am with you: I will protect you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." (16) Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is present in this place, and I did not know it!" (17) Shaken, he said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the abode of God, and that is the gateway to heaven." (18) Early in the morning, Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. (19) He named that site Bethel; but previously the name of the city had been Luz.

בראשית כ"ח:יג-ט

(יג) והנה יהוה נצב עליו ויאמר
 אני יהוה אלהי אברהם אביך
 ואלהי יצחק הארץ אשר אתה שכב
 עליה לה אתננה ולזרעה: (יד)
 והנה זרעה כעפר הארץ ופרצת
 גמה וקדמה וצפנה ונגבה ונברכו
 בה כל משפחת האדמה ובוזרעה:
 (טו) והנה אנכי עמך ושמרתיה
 בכל אשר תלך והשבתיך אל
 האדמה הזאת כי לא אעזבך עד
 אשר אם עשיתי את אשר דברתי
 לך: (טז) וייקץ יעקב משנתו ויאמר
 אכן יש יהוה במקום הזה ואנכי לא
 ידעתי: (יז) ויירא ויאמר מה נורא
 המקום הזה אין זה כי אם בית
 אלהים וזה שעזר השמים: (יח)
 וישכם יעקב בבקר ויקח את האבן
 אשר שם מראשיתו וישם אתה
 מצבה ויצק שמן על ראשה: (יט)
 ויקרא את שם המקום ההוא בית
 אל ואולם לזו שם העיר לראשנה

12: Future vs. present, revisited

Genesis 33:14-17

(14) Let my lord go on ahead of his servant, while I travel slowly, at the pace of the cattle before me and at the pace of the children, until I come to my lord in Seir." (15) Then Esau said, "Let me assign to you some of the men who are with me." But he said, "Oh no, my lord is too kind to me!" (16) So Esau started back that day on his way to Seir. (17) But Jacob journeyed on to Succoth, and built a house for himself and made stalls for his cattle; that is why the place was called Succoth.

בראשית ל"ג:ד-י"ז

(יד) יעברנא אדני לפני עבדו ואני
 אתנהלה לאטי לרגל המלאכה אשר לפני
 ולרגל הילדים עד אשר אבא אל אדני
 שעירה: (טו) ויאמר עשו אציגהנא עמך
 מן העם אשר אתי ויאמר למה זה אמצא
 חן בעיני אדני: (טז) וישב ביום ההוא עשו
 לדרכו שעירה: (יז) ויעקב נסע סכתה ויבן
 לו בית ולמקנהו עשה סכת על כן קרא
 שם המקום סכות: {ס}