

**Torah Portion Toldot 2009: Playing Favorites**

**Genesis 25:22-23** Rebecca makes a personal appeal to God.

- Why didn't she ask Issac to pray for her?
- Does she become a prophetess at this moment?
- Why doesn't she ever share what God told her with her husband?
- Do any of the wives of the other patriarchs hear from God in such a way?
- Does this make Rebecca God's "favorite" matriarch?

**Malachi 1:2-5** Loving Jacob and hating Esau.

**Romans 9:10-13** Paul's commentary on Esau and Jacob.

**Genesis 25:28** Did Abraham and Sarah have favorite sons?

**Genesis 17:18-20** If only Ishmael could live before you.

**Genesis 37:3-4** Jacob loved Joseph more than his other sons.

**Deuteronomy 21:15-17** The children of loved and unloved wives.

**Genesis 26:2-5** God confirms the promise He made to Abraham with Issac.

**Genesis 26:23-25** Issac's first altar built to God.

**Genesis 26:34-35** Esau married when he was 40, the same age as Issac was when he married Rebecca, but he married local girls.

- Why didn't Issac send a servant to Haran for a wife for Esau as Abraham had done for him?
- Did Issac have any reason to believe that Esau wouldn't be the son of the promise, as Issac was before him (Abraham, Issac, and Esau)?

**Genesis 27:1-4** Issac plans to give Esau the blessing of the firstborn. From Issac's point of view, Esau will inherit the promises of God.

- Was Issac's closeness to Esau a response to his being estranged from Abraham after the Akeidah?

**Genesis 27:8-10** Rebecca's plan.

- Why is Rebecca plotting to steal the blessing of the firstborn from Esau and have Issac give it to Jacob?
- Does this have something to do with the "secret message" she received about the brothers from God?

**Genesis 27:28-29** Jacob gets the blessing of the firstborn from Issac by guile.

**Genesis 27:46-28:4** Rebecca scores again, getting Issac to send Jacob to Haran for a wife and another blessing on top of the first one.

**Hebrews 11:20** Commentary on the blessings.

**Hebrews 12:15-17** Was all this deception by Rebecca and Jacob part of God's plan?

**Genesis 28:8-9** Esau's maladaptive attempt to imitate his brother by getting wives from another land, unfortunately from the family of Ishmael.