

October 4, 2020 Terms

**Rebekah, Rebecca** – Wife of Isaac, and mother of Jacob and Esau. Rebekah favored Jacob and plotted with him to cheat Esau out of the blessing Isaac intended for him.

October 11, 18, and 25, 2020

**Esau** – A son of Isaac and Rebekah and the elder twin brother to Jacob. His name means “red” and “hairy”, indicating that Esau was hairy and had a red complexion. He loved the rugged outdoor lifestyle of a hunter and enjoyed fishing. Esau sold his birthright to Jacob in exchange for some food one day when he was very hungry. According to Old Testament (OT) tradition, a father’s blessing rightfully belonged to the oldest son. However, Jacob deceived his father, Isaac, into giving Esau’s blessing to the wrong son. The conflict between the two brothers led to the splitting of one singular family lineage into two nations, the Edomites and the Israelites. Many years of conflict followed between the two nations.

**Jacob** – The son of Isaac and Rebekah and the younger twin brother of Esau. Jacob had dark hair and liked being inside the tent where his family was. He liked to cook and made a delicious lentil stew. He enjoyed spending time with his mother, Rebekah. Jacob tricked his father into giving the family birthright to him instead of Esau. After this, Jacob fled from his home to hid in Haran. On his way, Jacob had a vision in which he saw God and received the covenant promise that had first been given to Abraham; Jacob was to inherit a nation. Jacob’s twelve sons became the 12 leaders of the tribes of Israel, the nation that Jacob was promised. Later in life, Jacob desired to make peace with his brother Esau and on his way to meet him, Jacob received the new name of Israel. Both names, Jacob and Israel, are used to refer to the Hebrew nation.

October 18, 2020

**Birthright** – The special rights and privileges of the firstborn or eldest son. In Old Testament (OT) times, the eldest son inherited more of his father’s wealth than his younger brothers did, and he became head of the family after his father’s death. The OT reports that Jacob deceived his father to obtain the birthright that belonged to his brother.

October 25, 2020

**Bless, Blessed, and Blessing** – To be favored with spiritual happiness. In the OT, the term usually included in its meaning long life and prosperity in harmony with god and God’s law. When blessed is applied to God, it is an exclamation of worship.