

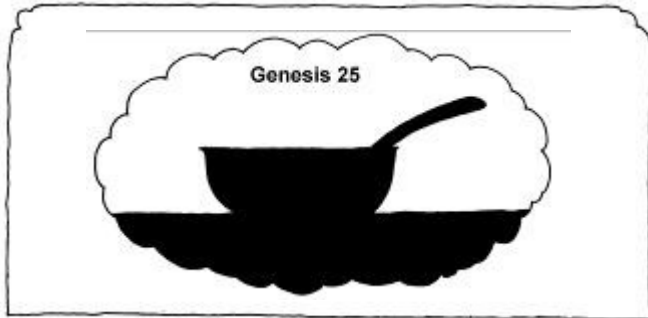
JACOB and Esau

a promise for a bowl of soup

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The special promises that God made to Abraham passed down to his descendants forever; from Abraham to Isaac and then to Jacob.



Isaac and Rebekah had twin boys. Esau had been born first and was very hairy, but Jacob wasn't hairy like his brother.



The twin brothers were different in other ways too. Esau loved to go away hunting venison for his father Isaac's dinner, but Jacob liked staying at home cooking.



Isaac wanted his boys to know about God's promise to their ancestor, Abraham, that their family would have God's special blessings and become great.



"This special blessing to our family, always passes to the eldest son," said Isaac. Jacob loved hearing about God's special promises and wished he was the eldest son.



One day Esau came home from hunting feeling so hungry that he was nearly fainting. "Give me some of your red lentil soup," he said, "before I die of hunger."



"You can only have it if you give me your special promise from God," answered Jacob. "Well, it is no use to me if I die," Esau replied and he swapped God's promise for a bowl of soup.



After he had eaten, Esau felt much better and he was sorry that he had given away God's special promise, but Jacob treasured having God's special blessing.