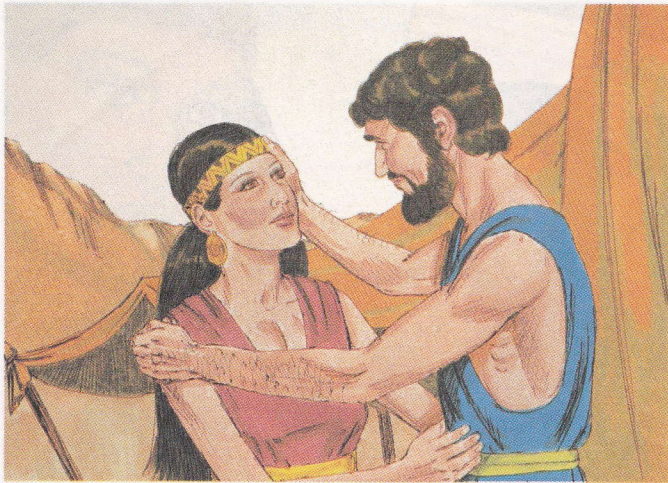


Jacob and Esau



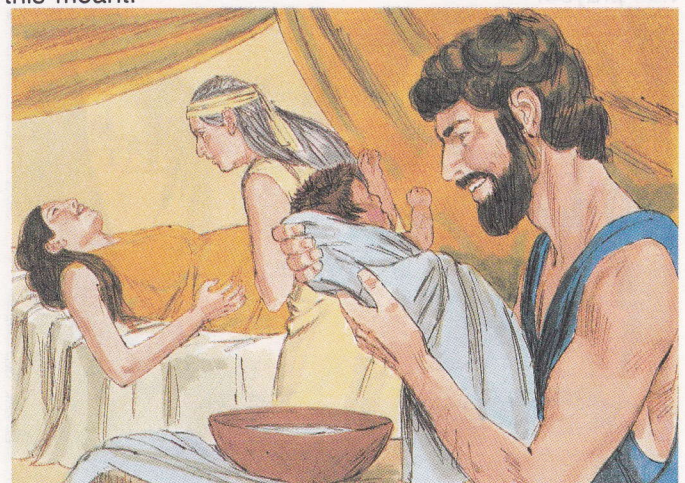
1 Although Isaac and Rebekah had been married for a long time, they still had no children. So Isaac prayed for a child, and the Lord answered his prayer.



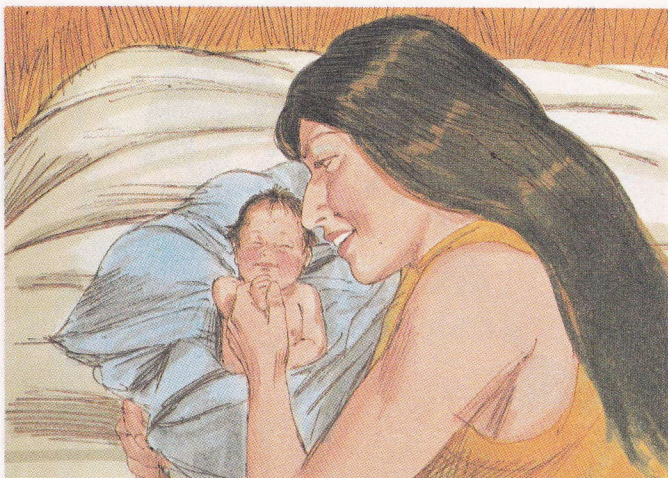
2 Rebekah was going to be the mother of twins! Before they were born, they struggled with each other inside her body. Rebekah prayed, asking the Lord what this meant.



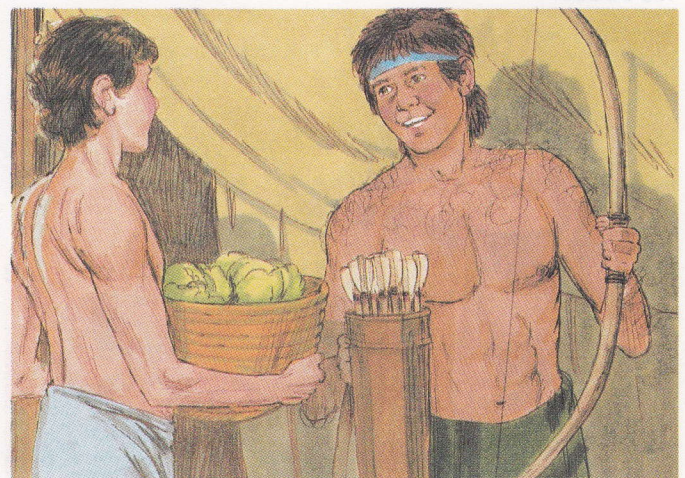
3 The Lord said, "Two nations are within you; you will give birth to two rival peoples. One will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger."



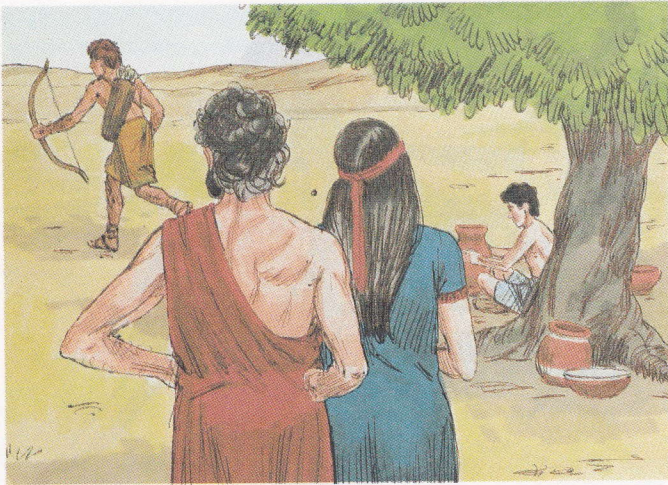
4 So Rebekah gave birth to twin boys. The first one was reddish and hairy. They named him Esau.



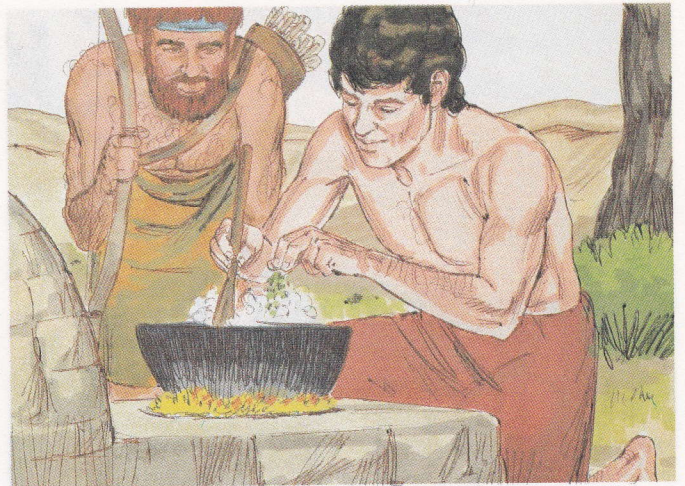
5 The second boy was born holding on tightly to the heel of his brother Esau. They named this one Jacob.



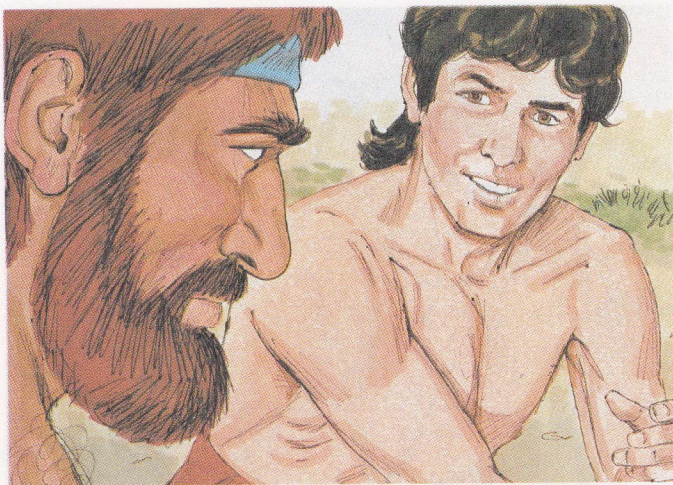
6 Time passed, and the boys grew up. Esau became a skilled hunter, a man who loved the outdoors. But Jacob was very different. He was a quiet man who stayed at home.



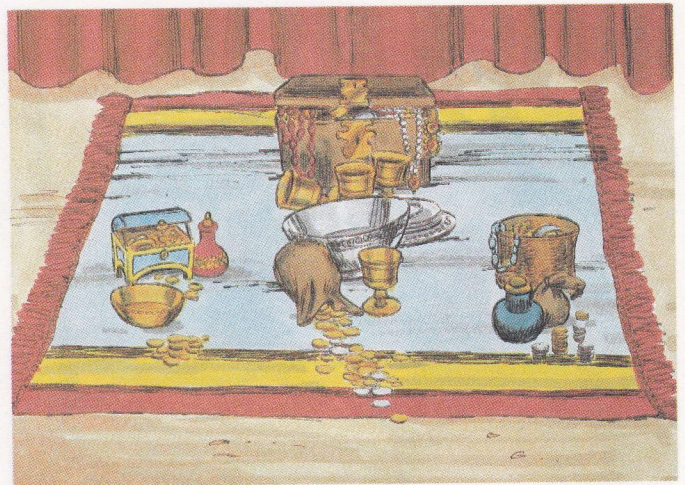
7 Esau was the favorite son of Isaac, who loved the meat that Esau brought home from his hunts. Jacob was his mother's favorite.



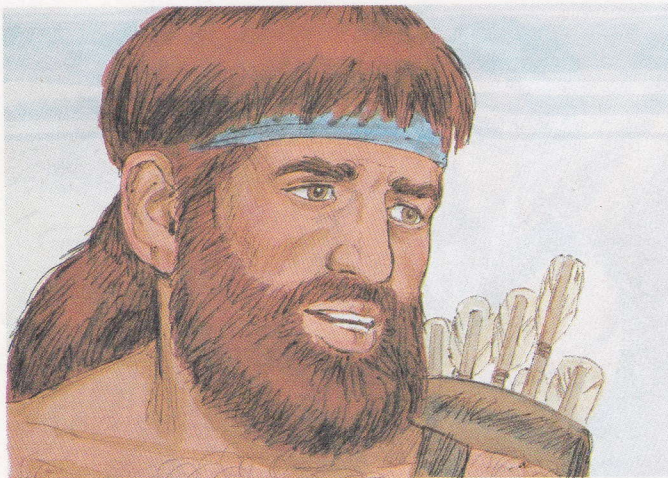
8 One day Esau came in from hunting just as Jacob was cooking some stew. Esau was very hungry and asked his brother for some of the stew.



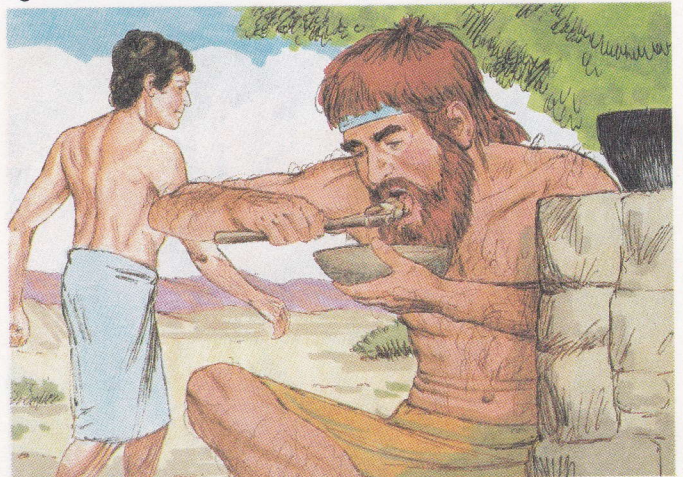
9 Jacob said, "All right, I'll give it to you if you will give me your rights as the firstborn son."



10 In those days, when the father died the firstborn son got twice as much of the family wealth as the other sons. He became the head of the family. Thus the rights of the firstborn were very valuable.



11 But Esau said, "Well, I am about to starve to death, so what good will my rights be?" So he promised Jacob with an oath that he would turn over to Jacob his rights as firstborn son.



12 Esau ate the stew his brother gave him and went out. That was all he cared about his rights as firstborn son. Later, Esau would be sorry he had done such a foolish thing!