

Toledot of Isaac: Genesis 25:19—35:29

25:19-34	A – Barren wife (Rebekah) conceives 2 children	A – Isaac's <i>toledot</i> begins; struggle in childbirth (Jacob born); Jacob secures birthright
26:1-35	B – Promise of many descendants (to Isaac); promise threatened (Abim.)	B – “Sister” Rebekah threatened in foreign palace; Isaac deceives Philistines, who envy his wealth; pact
27:1-28:9	C – Jacob deceives (Jacob instead of Esau); Jacob leaves for a wife	C – Jacob-Esau conflict begins: Self-reliance in securing a blessing (deceiving Isaac) leads to conflict with brother; Jacob steals Esau's blessing (“He took [<i>laqah</i>] my blessing [<i>berakah</i>],” 27:36); flees to Paddan-aram
28:10-22	D – Bethel; Jacob's 1 st God encounter; God promises descendants and land	D – Jacob meets angels of God at Bethel (“this is God's house”); promised a blessing
29:1-30	C' – Jacob is deceived (Leah instead of Rachel); Jacob secures wives	E – Arrival in Paddan-aram; Laban deceives Jacob about Leah and Rachel
29:31—30:21	B' – Promise of many descendants fulfilled (through Jacob)	F – Many children are born to Jacob (reproductive superstition: mandrakes)
30:22-24	A' – Barren wife (Rachel) conceives a child (and asks for 2nd) A – Rachel gives birth to first son	G – God remembers Rachel; firstborn son of favorite wife is born, causing Jacob to express a desire to return to his own country (vs. 25)
30:25-43	B – Laban: “Name wages and I will give it”; Jacob tricks him (mating scheme), takes flocks, becomes wealthy	F' – Many flocks are born to Jacob (reproductive superstition: striped sticks)
31:1-55	C – Peace secured between Jacob and Laban	E' – Departure from Paddan-aram; Jacob deceives Laban about L & R; Mizpah covenant
32:1-32	D – Jacob finds God's camp; wrestles Him face-to-face; re-named Israel	D' – Jacob meets angels of God at Mahanaim (“this is God's camp”); wrestles for a blessing
33:1-20	C' – Peace secured between Jacob and Esau	C' – Jacob-Esau conflict resolved: Reliance on God to give a blessing (“face” vocabulary links this account with wrestling scene in chap. 32; also “God has dealt graciously with me,” 33:11) leads to reconciliation with brother; Jacob gives Esau a blessing (“Take [<i>laqah</i>] my blessing [<i>berakah</i>],” 33:11); arrives back from Paddan-aram
34:1-31	B' – Shechem: “Ask me ever so much and I will give”; J's sons trick him (circumcision), take flocks and wealth	B' – Sister Dinah raped in foreign palace; Jacob's sons deceive Hivites, who desire their wealth; pact
35:1-22a	A' – Rachel gives birth to second son	A' – Isaac dies; struggle in childbirth; Jacob's primacy over Esau affirmed by God (cf. also D – Bethel named again; D' – Jacob re-named Israel again; G – Rachel gives birth again)
35:22b-29	Appendix: Jacob's sons listed; Jacob returns to Isaac at Hebron, where Abraham and Isaac had sojourned; Isaac dies; Esau and Jacob bury him.	

Credits: Large chiasmus adapted mostly from K. Matthews, *Genesis 11:27—50:26*, NAC (Nashville, Broadman & Holman, 2005), 377 and B. Waltke, *An Old Testament Theology* (Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2007), 313, who apparently base their outlines on G. Wenham, *Genesis 16—50*, WBC (Dallas: Word, 1994), 170 (?). Small chiasmi discovered by Dwight Gingrich.