

"Give me your Birthright, and I will give you some stew," Jacob said again, as he slurped on a steaming spoonful himself.

"All right! All right!" Esau said, "You can have my Birthright. What good will it be to me if I starve to death!" Not that he would have starved to death. He was just hungry.

"Do you promise?" Jacob said.

"I promise!" Esau snapped.

"All right then," Jacob said, and he gave Esau what he wanted.

And so Esau gave away his Birthright for a bowl of soup and few pieces of bread.

That wasn't too smart.

## Jacob and Esau

B R K E H J E F I S A A C I X  
A G C E A D H U N T E R B T K  
R W E C O S T N E T T W I N S  
R L O M E S N O I T A N O W T  
E B U T N S T R O N G E R N L  
N K S N B A Y R I A H E G B S  
E G E R W I A Z B B A P O P A  
V Q L S E Q R N R A L C A Y V  
R N P G A E M T A B O E T P O  
E G O Q R U L A H C W V S Z R  
S H E A Y A M F Z R R T Q S Y  
N W P L O R D D F N I A X I W  
R Z O R E B E K A H E G T C F  
S G W F J R J P I V T S H L I  
C V T W N B L M S T E W M T A

ALTAR  
BARREN  
BIRTHRIGHT  
BLESS  
EDOM  
ESAU  
FLEE

GOATS  
HAIRY  
HEEL  
HUNTER  
ISAAC  
JACOB  
CANAAN

LORD  
REBEKAH  
RED  
SAVORY  
SERVE  
STEW

STRONGER  
TENTS  
TWINS  
TWO NATIONS  
TWO PEOPLES  
WEARY



# JACOB & ESAU

and the very expensive  
Bowl of Soup

By Paul Dallgas-Frey

**D**o you ever fight with your brothers & sisters?

Nah! I'm sure you don't... too much!

Here's the story of two brothers who were fighting with each other even before they were born! It led to much trouble and unhappiness - but then, fighting always does.

Isaac was 40 years old when he married Rebekah. Many years went by, and still they didn't have any children. And so Isaac prayed to God, "Oh Lord, please look with favor on my wife Rebekah, and bless us with children."

God heard Isaac's prayer (of course, God hears every prayer!), and he answered it. When Isaac was 60 years old, Rebekah became pregnant - and not with just one child, but with twins!

But before they were even born, Rebekah could feel them kicking and fighting inside her.

"Why is this happening?" she called out.

And God answered her,

"The two children inside you  
will become the fathers of two nations.  
Just like the two are fighting with each other now,  
the two nations will struggle with each other.  
One will be stronger than the other.

and the older will serve the younger."

Soon it came time for the children to be born.

The first baby born was a boy. He was all red and covered with hair, and so Isaac and Rebekah named him Esau, which sounded like their word for "red." The second baby was also a boy, and he came grabbing onto Esau's heel. So they named him Jacob, which sounded like their word for "heel."

The boys grew up.

Esau became a strong and skillful hunter who loved the outdoors.

Jacob was a quiet man, who preferred to stay home.

Isaac liked Esau because he liked to eat the wild game Esau brought home from hunting. But Rebekah liked Jacob because he learned to cook and to do other things to help her around the home.

One day Esau went out for another one of his hunting trips. He must have been gone for a few days, and the hunting must not have been very good, because when he came back, he was starving for something good to eat.

It just so happened that when Esau came home, Jacob had just made a great big pot of hot, steaming, stew. The mouth-watering smell filled the air.

"Give me some of that red stuff - I am starving!" Esau demanded. Jacob was a schemer, and so he said, "Sure! I'll give you some stew - IF you will give me your Birthright."

The Birthright was a very important thing. It went to Esau because he was born first. When Isaac died, Esau's Birthright would make him the head of the household, and he would get twice as much of Isaac's wealth as Jacob would.

But here is where Esau made his mistake.

He was hungry NOW.

He didn't care about tomorrow. All that Birthright stuff wouldn't happen for a long time.

But Jacob was wiser.

He knew one day tomorrow would come. If he had the Birthright, one day he would become the head of the household.