



# Imperial Academy Bible Lessons



Jacob and Esau

# Jacob and Esau

**A**braham and Sarah lived in the land of Canaan. At the age of 127, Sarah died. Abraham was now 137, and he decided now was the time to find a wife for Isaac. Abraham sent his chief servant back to Chaldea, where his relatives still lived, to find a wife from among them. Abraham wanted Isaac to obey God's laws to preserve the beauty and variety of the races for his children and millions of descendants.

After several days of traveling, the chief servant arrived in the city of Nahor.

"Great God of my master Abraham," the servant prayed, "please lead me to the right woman for Isaac. Give me a sign by having her offer to draw water for my camels and me." The servant looked to God for help—and God answered his request. Before he even finished his prayer, a lovely young woman came to the well. The servant ran to meet her. When he asked her for a drink of water, she immediately responded by giving him a drink. On top of that, she also offered to draw water for his camels. God had answered the servant's prayer.

When the servant explained the purpose for his trip, this woman showed impressive faith and a desire to let God lead her life as He chose. She agreed to return with the servant to Abraham's land. Her name was Rebekah. Soon Isaac and Rebekah were married.

Yet Rebekah was unable to have children. For two decades God tested Isaac's and Rebekah's faith. But they continued to believe

God, and God healed Rebekah. She became pregnant and gave birth to twin sons. The firstborn son was Esau, and the second son was Jacob.

The twins grew up to be quite different from each other. Esau loved hunting, and he became Isaac's favorite son. Jacob became a shepherd, and he was the more favored by Rebekah.

As the oldest, Esau was promised to be given land, cattle and other things when his father died. This was called the birthright. He would also inherit the promise God had made to Abraham and his children. Jacob coveted the birthright—and Esau didn't value it highly enough.



Abraham's servant meets Rebekah at the well.

One evening, when Esau returned home from a long hunting trip, he was famished. Jacob was cooking some lentil stew, and Esau begged him for some of it. Jacob took advantage of his brother's weakness. "I'll give you some stew—if you'll give me your birthright," Jacob said. Thinking only of his hunger at that moment, Esau reasoned, *What good will the birthright do me if I die of starvation?* So he agreed to sell his birthright for a bowl of stew. It was a terribly short-sighted decision.

Some years later, Isaac was old and blind and thought he might die soon. He asked Esau to go hunting to bring him back a last taste of venison; then he would give Esau a special blessing.



Rebekah and Isaac marry.



Esau and Jacob



Esau was a hunter. Jacob was a shepherd.

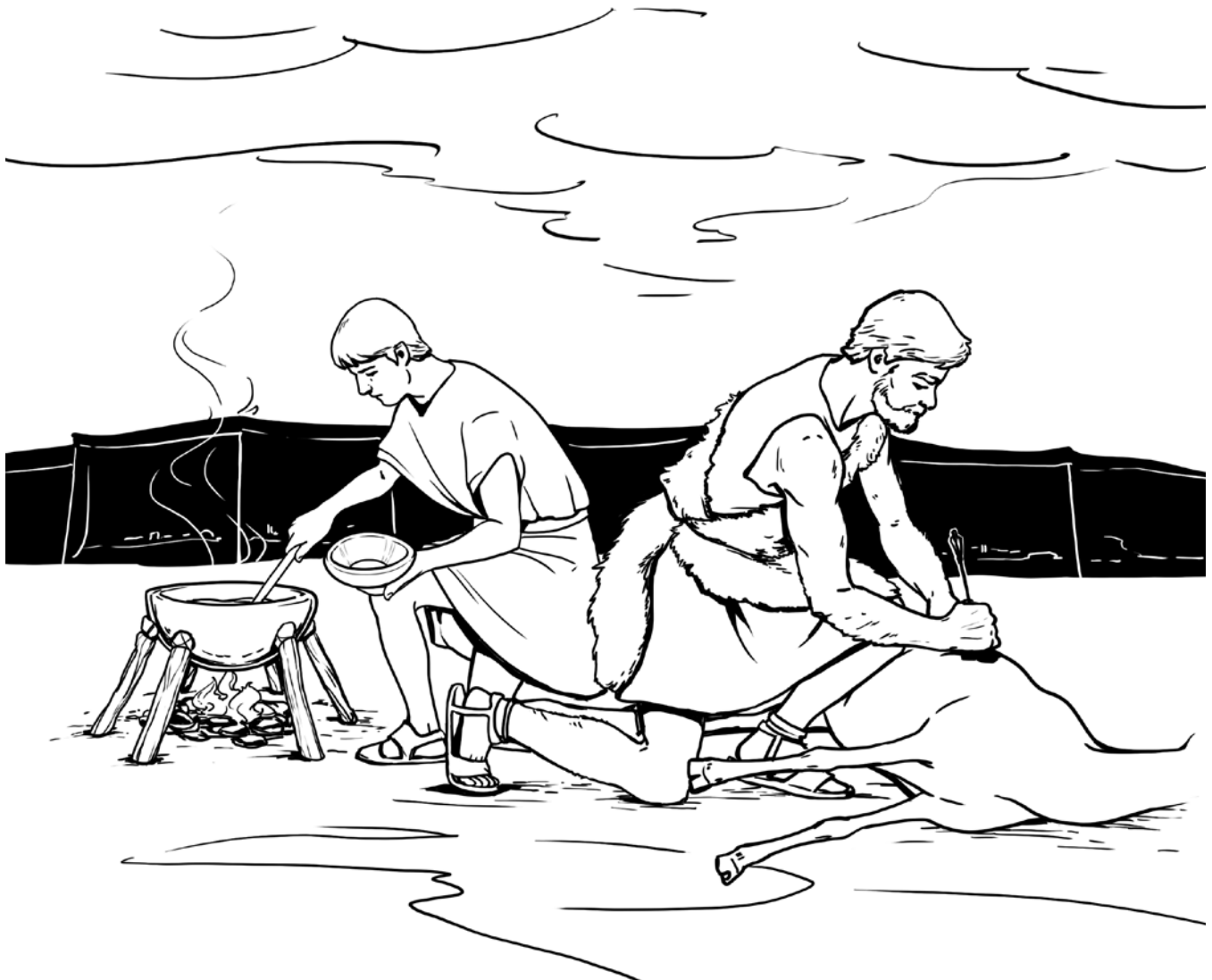


Esau sells his birthright for a bowl of soup.

Rebekah overheard this and devised a plan so that Jacob could receive the blessing instead. She told Jacob to kill two goats, which she cooked the way Issac liked it. She used the goatskins to make his arms feel hairy like Esau's. Jacob dressed in Esau's clothes and went to his father to ask for his blessing. Isaac believed Jacob was Esau and gave Jacob the blessing.

Jacob's deceitful attitude was wrong, but Esau's casual, ungrateful attitude was even worse. And Esau did not repent. He threatened to kill Jacob, his own twin brother. To stay alive, Jacob had to leave his parents and travel to Chaldea to live with Rebekah's relatives.

Because Jacob resorted to lying, he had to run for his life! But



Jacob makes soup and Esau hunts.

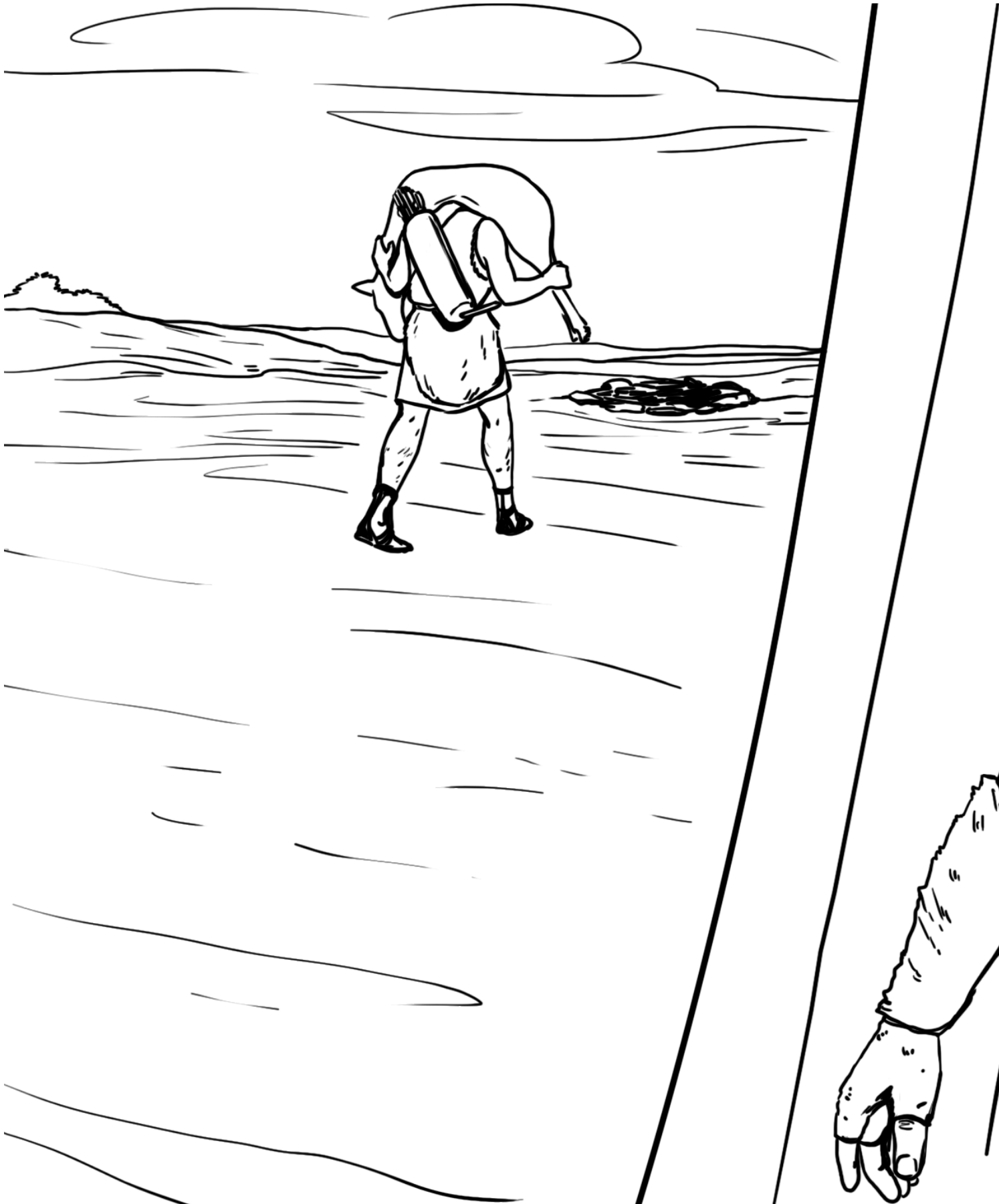


he did have admirable qualities, and God determined to carry out a special part of His plan through Jacob.

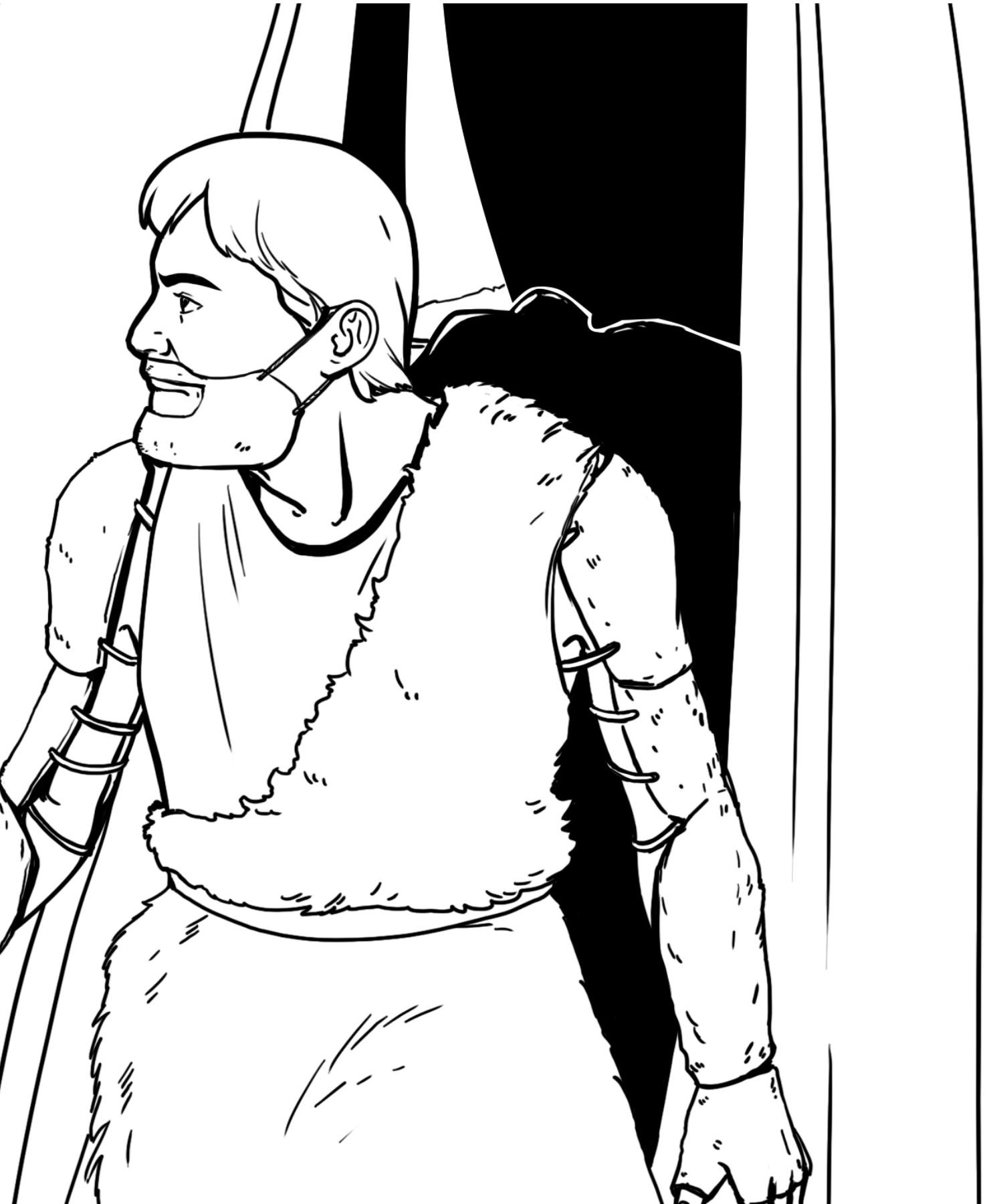
One night, while he was sleeping outdoors, Jacob set up a pile of stones to use as a pillow. While he slept, God came to him in a dream and promised to give him and his descendants all the blessings promised to Abraham. When Jacob awoke, the pile of stones he was using for a pillow had turned into a single stone block. It became known as Jacob's pillar stone. This stone would remain with his descendants for generations, right up to the present day—a remarkable sign of God's presence with His people.



Jacob deceives Isaac.



Jacob leaves his father's tent.



1 Timothy

2 Timothy

Titus

Philemon

Hebrews

James

1 Peter

2 Peter

1 John

2 John

3 John

Jude

Revelation

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## Names Word Search

Find the following words in the puzzle.

Words are hidden across and down.

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

ESAU  
ISAAC

JACOB  
REBEKAH