

## JACOB.

### THE BLESSING : WHEN WAS IT GIVEN TO HIM.

I WOULD call attention to a fact, little noticed in general, in Jacob's history. Isaac blessed him *twice*, and not only once. When Jacob sought, by deceit, to get the blessing, Gen. xxvii., Isaac did give him *a* blessing, then and there, but it was not *the* blessing. *The* blessing came out, afterwards, just when he was reaping the sorrowful fruits of his deceit, as above ; viz., in chap. xxviii.

This will be clear if we compare Isaac's first blessing of Jacob and of Esau, in Gen. xxvii., and Isaac's second, and God's first, blessings of Jacob, in chap. xxviii. Thus:—

#### *Isaac blessed Jacob.*

"See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field which the Lord hath blessed: therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine: let people serve thee, and nations bow down to thee: be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee: cursed be every one that curseth thee, and blessed be he that blesseth thee" (Gen. xxvii. 27—29).

#### *Isaac blessed Jacob.*

"And God Almighty bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude of people; and give thee the blessing of Abraham, to thee, and to thy seed with thee; that thou mayest inherit the land wherein thou art a stranger, which God gave unto Abraham" (Gen. xxviii. 3, 4).

#### *Isaac blessed Esau.*

"Behold, thy dwelling shall be the fatness of the earth, and the dew of heaven from above; and by thy sword shalt thou live, and shalt serve thy brother; and it shall come to pass when thou shalt have the dominion, that thou shalt break his yoke from off thy neck" (Gen. xxvii. 39, 40).

#### *God blessed Jacob.*

"I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; and thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of" (Gen. xxviii. 13—15).