

SALT Church

Genesis 26:1-25

“Issac”

May 27, 2026

“In the Beginning”

Recap

- **Genesis 25**

Setting the Tone:

Psalms 139:1-12

- ¹You have searched me, Lord,
and you know me.**
- ²You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.**
- ³You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.**
- ⁴Before a word is on my tongue
you, Lord, know it completely.**
- ⁵You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.**
- ⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.**
- ⁷Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?**
- ⁸If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.**

**⁹ If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
¹⁰ even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.
¹¹ If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me
and the light become night around me,”
¹² even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.**

As we move into Genesis 26 we need to keep these verses in mind.

- God is both near and far.
- He is all knowing
- He sees all things and knows every heart
- The past and the future are as clear as the present.
 - **He is God and when He says:**

Romans 8:28

²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

- **He means it!**

We must understand that the 1st part of chapter 26 is before Esau and Jacob were born.

- Like Genesis 1 and 2, Moses explains in more detail of what Isaac and Rebekah went through prior to having the boys.

Genesis 26:1-25

26 A severe famine now struck the land, as had happened before in Abraham's time. So Isaac moved to Gerar, where Abimelech, king of the Philistines, lived.

- What is God doing?
- How do we know that God is doing this?

Proverbs 16:9

**9 We can make our plans,
but the Lord determines our steps.**

Listen to what Job learned about God..

Job 37:6-13

**6 "He directs the snow to fall on the earth
and tells the rain to pour down.**

**7 Then everyone stops working
so they can watch his power.**

**8 The wild animals take cover
and stay inside their dens.**

**9 The stormy wind comes from its chamber,
and the driving winds bring the cold.**

**10 God's breath sends the ice,
freezing wide expanses of water.**

**11 He loads the clouds with moisture,
and they flash with his lightning.**

**12 The clouds churn about at his direction.
They do whatever he commands throughout the earth.**

¹³ He makes these things happen either to punish people or to show his unfailing love.

26 A severe famine now struck the land, as had happened before in Abraham's time. So Isaac moved to Gerar, where Abimelech, king of the Philistines, lived.

- **Is God causing this famine?**
 - **If so, what do you think is God's purpose?**

2 The Lord appeared to Isaac and said, "Do not go down to Egypt, but do as I tell you.

- This verse leads me to believe that Isaac had planned to go down to Egypt. (Proverbs 16:9)
 - God had another plan.

3 Live here as a foreigner in this land, and I will be with you and bless you.

- Based upon this sentence, what do you think the plan is?
- Could Isaac's life be an evangelistic tool?

I hereby confirm that I will give all these lands to you and your descendants, just as I solemnly promised Abraham, your father.

- What do you see God doing here?
 - God is growing Isaac's faith.
 - It is one thing for our children to grow up in a Christian home (this is very good).

- But when they embrace the faith as their own, this is when they blossom into the beautiful new creation in Christ.

Observation:

- This most often comes through difficulty.
 - In Isaac's case I see a man who seems docile and perhaps too content.
 - It seems to me that God the Father desires his faith to grow and mature at least to the level of Abraham's faith.
 - Abraham's faith went and did as God directed but doubted in the areas of children and God's protection (especially as it related to his wife).
 - God sees some of the same issues within Isaac and it is time to deal with those issues.

We continue:

⁴I will cause your descendants to become as numerous as the stars of the sky, and I will give them all these lands. And through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed. ⁵I will do this because Abraham listened to me and obeyed all my requirements, commands, decrees, and instructions.” ⁶So Isaac stayed in Gerar.

- The promise of many descendants was very familiar to Isaac.
- Abraham and Sarah surely recited this promise to the son of promise.
- And it was the faith in this promise that Abraham was willing to sacrifice Isaac.

- And it was the faith in this promise that Isaac was willing to offer himself as the sacrifice.
 - Perhaps this reminder comes as an answer to prayer.

Verse 5 is a reminder of God's commitment to His covenant.

- He would and will keep His word because it is His word.
 - This is how we know that God will once again establish Israel and Jerusalem has the most power nation in the world.

Before we move on to verse 7 we need to think about what God has just promised Isaac personally.

- He is going to protect him
 - Give him land
 - And many descendants
 - This is why verse 7 is difficult for us, God said He was going to do this for Isaac.
 - Isaac seems to be weak in his faith.

7 When the men who lived there asked Isaac about his wife, Rebekah, he said, "She is my sister."

- Here we go again!
 - If you asked Isaac if he was a God follower
 - A God-fearing man
 - He would have said yes, but his life said something completely different.

He was afraid to say, "She is my wife." He thought, "They will kill me to get her, because she is so beautiful."

- Was this a thing?
 - It seems to be a reality for Abraham's family.
 - Like Abraham before him, Isaac needs to learn that God the Father is his shield, his defender, and his protection.

8 But sometime later, Abimelech, king of the Philistines, looked out his window and saw Isaac caressing Rebekah.

- Abimelech has already been through this with Abraham.
 - If this is the same Abimelech...

9 Immediately, Abimelech called for Isaac and exclaimed, "She is obviously your wife! Why did you say, 'She is my sister'?" "Because I was afraid someone would kill me to get her from me," Isaac replied.

- It is perplexing to me.
 - Isaac is a very wealthy man with a small army around him.
 - He is going to become even more powerful
 - But we sit on this side of this story so let's try not to judge.

10 "How could you do this to us?" Abimelech exclaimed. "One of my people might easily have taken your wife and slept with her, and you would have made us guilty of great sin."

- Abimelech remembers the voice of God and the promise of his death not to mention how he and his family became sick when he had taken Sarah into his palace.
- He understood fully the consequences that would follow if Isaac and his family were harmed.

- This is why we find him consistently making treaties with Abrahams family.

11 Then Abimelech issued a public proclamation: “Anyone who touches this man or his wife will be put to death!”

- This tells me that there were people who wanted to harm or even kill Isaac and his family.

12 When Isaac planted his crops that year, he harvested a hundred times more grain than he planted, for the Lord blessed him.

- Only God could produce such a harvest!
 - Keep in mind that Isaac moved his family due to a famine.
 - Keep in mind King Abimelech and his people are watching.
 - What must they have been thinking?

13 He became a very rich man, and his wealth continued to grow. 14 He acquired so many flocks of sheep and goats, herds of cattle, and servants that the Philistines became jealous of him.

- Why would it be important to God that Isaac and his family become so wealthy and powerful?

15 So the Philistines filled up all of Isaac’s wells with dirt. These were the wells that had been dug by the servants of his father, Abraham.

- Did God have a hand in this?

16 Finally, Abimelech ordered Isaac to leave the country. “Go somewhere else,” he said, “for you have become too powerful for us.”

- Did God have a hand in this?

Proverbs 21:1

1The king’s heart is like a stream of water directed by the Lord; he guides it wherever he pleases.

17 So Isaac moved away to the Gerar Valley, where he set up their tents and settled down.

Proverbs 16:9

9 We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps.

18 He reopened the wells his father had dug, which the Philistines had filled in after Abraham’s death. Isaac also restored the names Abraham had given them.

- Why would the Holy Spirit want us to know this detail?

19 Isaac’s servants also dug in the Gerar Valley and discovered a well of fresh water.²⁰ But then the shepherds from Gerar came and claimed the spring. “This is our water,” they said, and they argued over it with Isaac’s herdsmen. So Isaac named the well Esek (which means “argument”).²¹ Isaac’s men then dug another well, but again there was a dispute over it. So Isaac named it Sitnah (which means “hostility”).

Proverbs 16:9

**9 We can make our plans,
but the Lord determines our steps.**

22 Abandoning that one, Isaac moved on and dug another well. This time there was no dispute over it, so Isaac named the place Rehoboth (which means “open space”), for he said, “At last the Lord has created enough space for us to prosper in this land.”

- Isaac agrees with Proverbs 16:9
 - There is a lot of peace when we agree with God’s word.

23 From there Isaac moved to Beersheba, 24 where the Lord appeared to him on the night of his arrival. “I am the God of your father, Abraham,” he said. “Do not be afraid, for I am with you and will bless you. I will multiply your descendants, and they will become a great nation. I will do this because of my promise to Abraham, my servant.”25 Then Isaac built an altar there and worshiped the Lord. He set up his camp at that place, and his servants dug another well.

God’s timing is always perfect!

- It had been a difficult journey for Isaac and Rebekah
- Finally they land where God wanted them to be and God speaks again.
 - He reaffirms His love for Isaac and for the promises that He made to Abraham.
 - Isaac’s response was to worship
 - To build and altar

- While all of this is going on, Isaac’s servant show up and proclaim that another well had been dug and water had been found.
 - Don’t miss that!
 - This was a famine and water had been found.
 - Water meant life
 - Life is always found in obedience and worship of the one true God.

Time stamp:

²⁶ One day King Abimelech came from Gerar with his adviser, Ahuzzath, and also Phicol, his army commander.

- **Sound familiar?**

²⁷ “Why have you come here?” Isaac asked. “You obviously hate me, since you kicked me off your land.”

²⁸ They replied, “We can plainly see that the Lord is with you.

- What had they saw?

So we want to enter into a sworn treaty with you. Let’s make a covenant. ²⁹ Swear that you will not harm us, just as we have never troubled you. We have always treated you well, and we sent you away from us in peace. And now look how the Lord has blessed you!”

- The pagan king and his advisors could clearly see the hand of God on this family.
- They are wise to make a treaty with him.

30 So Isaac prepared a covenant feast to celebrate the treaty, and they ate and drank together.

- There will be peace between Isaac and King Abimelech but sadly this will not be the case after they are gone.

31 Early the next morning, they each took a solemn oath not to interfere with each other. Then Isaac sent them home again, and they left him in peace.

32 That very day Isaac's servants came and told him about a new well they had dug. "We've found water!" they exclaimed. 33 So Isaac named the well Shibah (which means "oath").

- **Amazing!**
 - **Gods provision during a famine for this family is nothing short of amazing!**
 - But what if Isaac had continued to Egypt?
 - He would have likely encountered more difficulty and suffering.
 - There is Gods way and there's the hard way.

And to this day the town that grew up there is called Beersheba (which means "well of the oath").

This next blurb doesn't make sense to me

34 At the age of forty, Esau married two Hittite wives: Judith, the daughter of Beerli, and Basemath, the daughter of

Elon. 35 But Esau's wives made life miserable for Isaac and Rebekah.

- What a strange transition into chapter 27.
- It is a reminder that children can bring joy and happiness to their parents or they can bring pain and sadness.
 - Esau was a wild and spontaneous man who had no regard for God or his parents.
 - Thus his life is recorded as one the greatest disappointments for Gods people.