

March 18th

THE GOD OF PROMISE

“And the Lord appeared to him and said, “Do not go down to Egypt; dwell in the land of which I shall tell you. Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father.”

GENESIS 26:2-3

When you think of one of your heroes, who comes to mind? What’s one of your favorite stories about your hero? Legendary stories of courage, fortitude, and confidence have been passed along to future generations; stories that warm and invigorate the heart. These are faithful stories that endure the test of time. The stories help keep memories alive; the memories of those who have died before us. These heroes passed the baton like a relay runner who has finished their part of the race. This isn’t just something that we think about. Imagine how towering the shadow of Abraham was over his son Isaac!

Abraham was the chosen one by God, but Abraham was no longer with Isaac. In chapter 26, Abraham had probably been dead for at least five years when trouble comes for his chosen son Isaac. The same trouble that Abraham dealt with in his life. What kind of trouble are we talking about? There is famine in the land! What does a leader of his family do in a place where there’s no more food? What does God call Isaac to do, and what does He teach us through these verses?

A famine. Famine is a key contributor to what God is going to do in and through His chosen people. The natural way to overcome is to move. Pick up your belongings and head towards the Nile, which is in Egypt. This is exactly what Abraham did when he dealt with a severe famine. Isaac is on his way to Egypt when God interrupts his plan. He has moved to this region, but Gerar would have also been impacted by famine. And God interrupts the “wisdom” of Isaac to call him to trust God. So far, we have not seen God interact with Isaac. We have only observed that he prayed for his wife to conceive, but there has been no promise given to him like Abraham’s. But God. God comes to Isaac in the middle of his food dilemma. What does God say here?

You can see that God tells Isaac to dwell in Gerar, which is dealing with a food crisis just like where he came from. This is God’s call for Isaac to trust Him, and it’s not an empty promise. Did you count all of the “I wills” from those two verses above? Go ahead and count them. There’s four: I will be with you, I will bless you, I will give these lands, I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father. And there’s another two in the next verse. God gives six grand promises and slams the door on any second thoughts or doubts by reminding Isaac that He swore by Himself. God will keep His promise. What a comfort and challenge! A simple statement shows that Isaac believed God: “So Isaac settled in Gerar.” It wasn’t an overnight stay, it was where he settled.

Men, what does this teach you? We don’t know much about Isaac...he’s the least talked about Patriarch compared to Abraham and Jacob. But we do know our God. God comes to Isaac in a desperate place and shows His glory. He calls for obedient trust. This same God shows Himself to you. He gives you His promise. God will be with you. Nothing will separate you from God’s love. If you believe in Him, He gives you eternal life. God is faithful to accomplish His purposes. Will you trust His promises today?

Spend some time thinking about some of God’s promises that have encouraged you the most in your life. Thank Him that He is faithful to His promises.

For Further Reading: Hebrews 11:1-12:3

