

WELL, WHAT'S IT TO YOU? | GENESIS 26

GENESIS 26:

I NEED TO QUICKLY/BRIEFLY READ THE SCRIPTURES AND TELL THE STORY BEFORE GETTING TO MY CONTENT/APPLICATION FOR US THIS MORNING:

Genesis 26:1–6 NIV

¹ Now there was a famine in the land—besides the previous famine in Abraham's time—and Isaac went to Abimelek king of the Philistines in Gerar. ² The LORD appeared to Isaac and said, "Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land where I tell you to live. ³ Stay in this land for a while, and I will be with you and will bless you. For to you and your descendants I will give all these lands and will confirm the oath I swore to your father Abraham. ⁴ I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, ⁵ because Abraham obeyed me and did everything I required of him, keeping my commands, my decrees and my instructions." ⁶ So Isaac stayed in Gerar.

BIG IDEAS:

- A famine threatens Isaac's livelihood and he needs to find relief
- The Lord appears to him and gives him direction!
- Tells him to stay/live in this land — God promises to be with him and will bless him — you don't need Egypt!
- He restates the covenant that he made with Abraham but now directs it to Isaac.
- The Lord also notes that he is blessing Isaac because of Abraham's obedience.
 - Isaac was blessed because of Abraham
 - Your children can be blessed due to your faithfulness to the Lord!
- Isaac obeys the Lord and settles in Gerar.

Genesis 26:7–11 NIV

⁷ When the men of that place asked him about his wife, he said, "She is my sister," because he was afraid to say, "She is my wife." He thought, "The men of this place might kill me on account of Rebekah, because she is beautiful." ⁸ When Isaac had been there a long time, Abimelek king of the Philistines looked down from a window and saw Isaac caressing his wife Rebekah. ⁹ So Abimelek summoned Isaac and said, "She is really your wife! Why did you say, 'She is my sister'?" Isaac answered him, "Because I thought I might lose my life on account of her." ¹⁰ Then Abimelek said, "What is this you have done to us? One of the men might well have slept with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us." ¹¹ So Abimelek gave orders to all the people: "Anyone who harms this man or his wife shall surely be put to death."

BIG IDEAS:

- Isaac is repeating some of Abraham's failure, but the Lord intervenes.
- Isaac doesn't need to be afraid, the Lord is with him as he promised.
 - This is seen in the king's virtuous response and decree.

Genesis 26:12–16 NIV

¹² Isaac planted crops in that land and the same year reaped a hundredfold, because the LORD blessed him. ¹³ The man became rich, and his wealth continued to grow until he became very wealthy. ¹⁴ He had so many flocks and herds and servants that the Philistines envied him. ¹⁵ So all the wells that his father's servants had dug in the time of his father Abraham, the Philistines stopped up, filling them with earth. ¹⁶ Then Abimelek said to Isaac, "Move away from us; you have become too powerful for us."

BIG IDEAS:

- The Lord's blessings become obvious to all, including the Philistines.
- The Philistines out of envy, begin to oppose and resist Isaac, filling up the wells that belonged to Abraham and therefore to Isaac.
- Eventually the King tells Isaac to leave.

Genesis 26:17–22 NIV

¹⁷ So Isaac moved away from there and encamped in the Valley of Gerar, where he settled. ¹⁸ Isaac reopened the wells that had been dug in the time of his father Abraham, which the Philistines had stopped up after Abraham died, and he gave them the same names his father had given them. ¹⁹ Isaac's servants dug in the valley and discovered a well of fresh water there. ²⁰ But the herders of Gerar quarreled with those of Isaac and said, "The water is ours!" So he named the well Esek, because they disputed with him. ²¹ Then they dug another well, but they quarreled over that one also; so he named it Sitnah. ²² He moved on from there and dug another well, and no one quarreled over it. He named it Rehoboth, saying, "Now the LORD has given us room and we will flourish in the land."

BIG IDEAS:

- Isaac leaves the city, but moves to the valley just outside — its still too close for the Philistines
- While he's out there — he's redigging and opening up the wells that Abraham dug and possessed.
- Isaac gives them their original names.
- He digs two new wells in the region that the herders of Gerar contest, claiming the water and land rights — but Isaac still names the wells;
 - 1: Esek - for it means 'dispute' for they disputed him
 - 2: Sitnah - for it means opposition - they quarreled with him
- As he moves further and further away from the city/region, he digs a well and there's no quarreling.
 - He names it Rehoboth (which means room)
 - He praises and credits God in the name — The Lord has given us room and we will flourish here

Genesis 26:23–33 NIV

²³ From there he went up to Beersheba. ²⁴ That night the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bless you and will increase the number of your descendants for the sake of my servant Abraham." ²⁵ Isaac built an altar there and called on the name of the LORD. There he pitched his tent, and there his servants dug a well. ²⁶ Meanwhile, Abimelek had come to him from Gerar, with Ahuzzath his personal adviser and Phicol the commander of his forces. ²⁷ Isaac asked them, "Why have you come to me, since you were hostile to me and sent me away?" ²⁸ They answered, "We saw

clearly that the LORD was with you; so we said, ‘There ought to be a sworn agreement between us’—between us and you. Let us make a treaty with you ²⁹ that you will do us no harm, just as we did not harm you but always treated you well and sent you away peacefully. And now you are blessed by the LORD.” ³⁰ Isaac then made a feast for them, and they ate and drank. ³¹ Early the next morning the men swore an oath to each other. Then Isaac sent them on their way, and they went away peacefully. ³² That day Isaac’s servants came and told him about the well they had dug. They said, “We’ve found water!” ³³ He called it Shibah, and to this day the name of the town has been Beersheba.

BIG IDEAS:

- Isaac moves on to Beersheba where his father once dug another well.
 - Beersheba means well of the oath or well of the seven — the seven lambs given as a sign of the oath between Abraham and Abimelek, King of Gerar
 - This story is repeated in Isaac’s day — Abimelek seeks him out to make a peace treaty
- Importantly, the Lord appears again to Isaac and again restates the covenant
- Isaac proceeds to:
 - Build an altar
 - Pitch his tent (he’s going to settle here — he’s got wells in the area)
 - He digs another well and gives it a similar name to the well his father dug in the same area.

ONE MORE THING BEFORE WE LOOK FOR APPLICATIONS: WHAT’S THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE WELLS?

1: Essential for survival

- Drinking water for people, animals, and livestock
- Water for agriculture — growing crops
- Enabled long term encampment and settlement

2: Dominion and Ownership

- Whoever owned the well (and the access to the water) essentially held the practical rights to the land and pasturage around it.
- Naming the well was public assertion of ownership.

3: For Isaac specifically

- These wells were part of his inheritance, provided for him by his father.
- They were tangible proofs of the God’s covenant
- God had called him to THIS land and promised him THIS land — therefore the wells were essentially like the title deeds to the land.
- Further, they were the evidence that God would provide, sustain, and bless him in the land!

In a nutshell: when Isaac saw the wells he saw the promises of God fulfilled or being fulfilled.

- With that understanding, let's look at two applications this morning:

1: THE ENEMY'S WORK

THE PHILISTINES' ACTIONS GIVE US A PICTURE OF HOW THE ENEMY WORKS TODAY

- FILL in old wells once established
- DISPUTE the rights to dig new ones
- Actively OPPOSE the work of digging/redigging wells

PRACTICALLY SPEAKING SATAN DOESN'T WANT YOU TO WALK IN GOD'S PROMISES

- The enemy will attempt to 'fill in' the wells of God's promises so that you abandon that ground or area — no longer claiming it as your inheritance.
 - When a generation passes and the next doesn't embrace all that God has for them — they forget a promise in a certain area — the enemy is glad to fill them in so that you lack them.
 - Imagine if generations forgot about an amazing inheritance that would drastically change their lives.
 - The inheritance was still theirs — it belonged to them.
 - It was just forgotten and therefore useless until rediscovered.
- The enemy will then 'dispute' the wells and your access to them.
 - The dispute will sound something like...
 - that promise doesn't apply to you,
 - you don't get that privilege, that's not part of your inheritance,
 - OR God doesn't do that anymore for his people — that was just for them.
- The enemy will further 'oppose' and movement you make in trying to 'recover' those lost promises.
 - A step beyond disputing would be intimidation, pressure, resistance

2: ISAAC'S WORK (OUR WORK)

REDIG OLD WELLS — REDISCOVER THE WELLS OF OUR FATHERS — CONTEND FOR THE PROMISES OF GOD IN OUR GENERATION

WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE? HOW?

- **[1] Reading the scriptures and claiming the promises of God over your life in prayer.**
 - [2 Corinthians 1:20](#) "For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God."
 - Note:
 - The promises of God are all yes in Christ, meaning he has filled them all in Christ.
 - The 'amen' is our 'so be it' or our agreement with God and His word.

- Isaac inherited the land, the wells, and the covenant because of God's grace AND because he was Abraham's son.
- We inherit God's promises because we are in Christ — and all the promises of God are 'yes' in Christ.
- It's also knowing what God has done for his people IN HIS WORD that we can stand on to ask for HIM TO DO AGAIN FOR US.
- **[2] Hearing the testimonies of saints before us**
 - Whether in 'generation' or 'situation' — they can speak of God's faithfulness to our needs
 - What God has done for others, He's willing to do for you and me.
 - Further:
 - Books, podcasts, biographies, can help us hear testimonies of people that we might never meet this side of eternity.
 - Also why maybe leaving a journal for you kids/grandkids could be important.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE 'WELLS' — THE PROMISES OF GOD THAT COME TO MIND?

- **SALVATION - particularly by grace through faith that no man can boast. ([Eph 2:8-9](#))**
 - [Romans 3:23-24](#)
 - [Titus 3:5-7](#)
 - [Romans 4:5](#)
 - [Galatians 2:16](#)
 - [Acts 15:11](#)
 - [Romans 11:6](#)
- **HEALING - God is a God who heals — it is by his stripes we have been healed. ([Isaiah 53:5](#) & [1 Peter 2:24](#))**
 - [Matthew 8:16-17](#)
 - [Psalm 103:2-3](#)
 - [James 5:14-15](#)
- **THE HOLY SPIRIT ([Acts 1:8](#))**
 - Baptism in the Holy Spirit ([Acts 2:1-4](#))
 - Gifts of the Spirit — prophecy, words of knowledge, speaking in tongues, great faith, etc ([1 Corinthians 12:4-11](#))
 - [Acts 2:38-39](#)
 - [Luke 3:16](#)
 - [John 14:16-17](#)
 - [Acts 19:6](#)
 - [Acts 10:44-46](#)
 - [1 Corinthians 12:4-11](#)
 - [Romans 12:6-8](#)
 - [1 Corinthians 12:28-31](#)
 - [1 Peter 4:10-11](#)

- [Ephesians 4:11–13](#)
- **HIS STRENGTH** — when we are weak, he is strong ([2 Corinthians 12:9-10](#))
 - [Isaiah 40:29–31](#)
 - [Philippians 4:13](#)
 - [Psalm 73:26](#)
 - [2 Corinthians 4:7](#)
 - [1 Corinthians 1:27](#)
- **PEACE** - which surpasses all understanding ([Phil 4:7](#))
 - [John 14:27](#)
 - [Colossians 3:15](#)
 - [Isaiah 26:3](#)
 - [Romans 5:1–2](#)
 - [John 16:33](#)
- **JOY** - of the Lord, which shall be our strength — joy in every situation ([Nehemiah 8:10](#))
 - [Psalm 16:11](#)
 - [John 15:11](#)
 - [Romans 15:13](#)
 - [Galatians 5:22](#)
 - [Psalm 28:7](#)
- **PROVISION** — and my God shall supply every need of yours in Christ Jesus ([Phil 4:19](#))
 - [Matthew 6:25–33](#)
 - [Psalm 23:1](#)
 - [2 Corinthians 9:8](#)
 - [Psalm 37:25](#)
 - [Luke 12:24](#)
- **DIRECTION** — The Lord speaks his counsel and guidance to his children
 - [Proverbs 3:5–6](#)
 - [Psalm 32:8](#)
- **PRESENCE & COMPANIONSHIP** — The Lord will walk with us and be present with us in all situations ([Psalm 23:4](#))
 - [Deuteronomy 31:6](#)
 - [Joshua 1:5](#)
 - [Isaiah 41:10](#)
 - [Matthew 28:20](#)
 - [Hebrews 13:5](#)

Returning to our main text today:

- The LORD was with Isaac
- The LORD blessed Isaac

- The LORD strengthened him
- The LORD gave him room to flourish
- The LORD was providing water, was giving him the land, fulfilling His promises to Isaac
 - But Isaac had to dig, redig, and contend for what God had provided him.

To be crystal clear, we don't 'dig' to earn the inheritance. We dig because the inheritance has already been given.

- Isaac didn't create the promise, he inherited it.
 - He didn't earn God's blessings, God gave it.
 - But when the wells were stopped up, Isaac refused to live as though what his father had received no longer belonged to him.
- And in Christ, we don't fight for an inheritance God might someday decide to give us.
 - We stand on what He has already given us.
 - We seek it.
 - We believe it.
 - We are to walk in it.
 - We are to refuse to let fear, sin, unbelief, or the enemy cause us to live beneath the fullness of what God has made available in Christ.
- The work, our response today, is not to earn the inheritance, but rather to believe God enough to walk in it.

RESPONSE:

What are the wells that you need to re-dig — rediscover — and claim as your inheritance as a child of God?

- Further you need to contend for them.
- Don't let the enemy dispute or intimidate you from claiming them.

"Your Promises" - response song

- Name the well, the promise of God you are 'redigging' - standing upon in prayer.