

Genesis Chapter 26: Dry Wells and Spacious Places; Isaac Works out his Salvation

Remember to Lift Up Jesus

Genesis Chapter 25 Review:

- **Abraham dies leaving everything to Isaac;** to Abrahams bosom ;i.e. Paradise
- Isaac must now personalize his faith in the LORD

...work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. [Philippians 2:12b]

Genesis Chapter 26

- Isaac now at least eighty; Relatively peaceful life (apart from Moriah) until now:

1 Now there was a **famine** in the land, besides the **previous famine** that had occurred in the days of Abraham So Isaac went to Gerar, to **Abimelech** king of the **Philistines**.

Genesis 12:10 Now there was a famine in the land; so Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land.

- **Famine:** severe shortage of food resulting in widespread hunger; **Not the first or last famine;** previous Abraham and later Joseph
- **Isaac/Rebecka go west** to Gerar (Gaza); Jacob/Esau apparently stay in Mamre **King Abimelech:** Son/grandson of previous Philistine king; Abimelech a title
- **Philistines:** People group defeated by Egypt in 1200BC; afterward settling on coast; Called "Sea People" by Egyptians; possibly Greeks who migrated eastward

2 **The LORD appeared** to him and said, "**Do not go down to Egypt;** stay in the land of which I shall tell you.

- **First appearance** to Isaac; Rebecka was first w/ birth announcement (Gen.25:22)
- **Do not go to Egypt** or **Don't pull a Hagar** but trust God and His promise
- **Egypt:** Typology of world and world system (see Exodus I.e. Pharaoh/Satan, Egypt/World, Promised Land/Salvation)

1 John 2:17 The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

- Egypt **would have been a temporary pleasure** leading to misery [Abraham and Hagar]

Hebrews 11:25 [Moses] **chose to be mistreated** along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. 26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his

reward.

3"**Sojourn in this land and I will be with you and bless you**, for to you and to your descendants I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath which I swore to your father Abraham.

- Stay [minister]where I lead you; grow where I plant you: **Hard does not mean bad**

Ephesians 6:5 Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; 6 not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as **slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart**. 7With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men, 8knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free. [c.f. 1 Timothy 6:1, 1 Peter 2:18, Titus 2:9]

4"I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven, and will give your descendants all these lands; and by your descendants all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; 5because **Abraham obeyed Me and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes and My laws.**"

- Legal Language as would be later in the Law
- **Abraham obeyed me and kept My charge, commandments, statutes and laws? When? The law was not even given...or was it?**

Forever, O LORD, Your Word is settled in heaven. [Psalm 119:89]

Matthew 7:12 "In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for **this is the Law and the Prophets**.

Matthew 22:37 And He said to him, " 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' 38"This is the great and foremost commandment. 39"The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

Romans 13:8 Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.

Romans 13:10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Galatians 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

Galatians 5:14 For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

- Abraham's belief led to Abraham's obedience, proving Abraham's love toward God and man and bearing fruit [John 15]
- Isaac listened to God as did his father; a sign of belief and would be **blessed but...**

- Gen. 17:9 Promise to Abraham regarding descendants begins fulfillment based on God's promise, not Isaac's perfection:

6So Isaac lived in Gerar. 7When the men of the place asked about his wife, he said, "**She is my sister**," for he was afraid to say, "my wife," thinking, "the men of the place might kill me on account of Rebekah, for she is beautiful."

Genesis 20:2 Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister" So Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah. [Also 20:12]

- Fear on man [people pleasing] is *diametrically opposed* to the Fear of God

Proverbs 29:25 The fear of man brings a snare, But he who trusts in the LORD will be exalted.

8It came about, when he had been there a long time, that Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out through a window, and saw, and behold, Isaac was **caressing his wife Rebekah**.

- **Caressing:** Form of the Hebrew verb "laugh" or "mock", play on Isaac's name
- Lit: He who laughs was laughing with his wife Rebekah

9Then Abimelech called Isaac and said, "Behold, certainly she is your wife! How then did you say, 'She is my sister'?" And Isaac said to him, "Because I said, '**I might die on account of her**.'" 10 Abimelech said, "**What is this you have done to us?** One of the people might easily have lain with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us." 11So Abimelech charged all the people, saying, "He who touches this man or his wife shall surely be put to death."

- This bad witness to a pagan [as Abraham] did not negate God's protection of his people and promise; Abimelech did not touch Rebecka

Psalms 105:15 "Do not touch My anointed ones, And do My prophets no harm."

- C.f. Psalm 18 for what God's reaction toward those who seek our harm

12Now Isaac sowed in that land and reaped **in the same year a hundredfold**. And the LORD blessed him, 13 and the man became rich, and continued to grow richer until he became very wealthy; 14 for he had possessions of flocks and herds and a great household, so that the Philistines envied him.

- First mention of seed-sowing; Isaac Reaped a Hundred Fold I.e. blessed with...**stuff**
- **Blessed through obedience: Where God guides...God Provides**
- Love of money is the root of all evil...not money itself:

Genesis 24:1 Now Abraham was old, advanced in age; and the LORD had blessed Abraham in every way.

Job 42:12 The LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; and he had 14,000 sheep and 6,000 camels and 1,000 yoke of oxen and 1,000 female donkeys.

Proverbs 10:22 It is the blessing of the LORD that makes rich, And He adds no sorrow to it.

- **Fruitful Promised Land develops...** though more trouble ahead

15Now all the wells which his father's servants had dug in the days of Abraham his father, the **Philistines stopped up** by filling them with earth.

- Abraham had previously made a covenant with Grandpa Abimelech [Genesis 21] and Isaac inherited water rights... but enmity and jealousy led to sabotage
- Men will both respect and hate us as they see God work in us:

Luke 2:52 And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and **in favor with God and men.**

Luke 6:22 "**Blessed are you when men hate you**, and ostracize you, and insult you, and scorn your name as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man.

2 Corinthians 2:15 For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; 16 to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life

16Then Abimelech said to Isaac, "**Go away from us, for you are too powerful for us.**"

Luke 5:8 But when Simon Peter saw that [the two boats were filled with fish], he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, "**Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man!**"

- God's people forever more would be seen as a threat to the godless:

Exodus 1:9 [Pharaoh] to his people, "Behold, the people of the sons of Israel are more and mightier than we.

John 3:19 "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.

17And Isaac **departed** from there and **camped in the valley of** Gerar, and

settled there.

- **Isaac departs peacefully**
- Isaac trusts in God's promise to Abraham; does not rebel in the valley but continues to do what he knows is right!

18 Then Isaac dug again the wells of water which had been dug in the days of his father Abraham, for the Philistines had stopped them up after the death of Abraham; and he gave them the same names which his father had given them.

- Because of previous water rights to Abe, Isaac named the wells the same as before

19 But when Isaac's servants dug in the valley and found there a well of flowing water, 20 the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with the herdsmen of Isaac, saying, "The water is ours!" So he named the well **Esek**, because they contended with him. 21 Then they dug another well, and they quarreled over it too, so he named it **Sitnah**.

- **Esek:** Quarrell; **Sitnah:** Related to Hebrew for "Satan" I.e. adversary
- Quarrellings relation to Satan:

1. People that oppose truth with foolish/ignorant speculation are ensnared by the devil...don't argue with them

2 Timothy 2:23 [Read] *But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels.* 24 The Lord's bond-servant **must not be quarrelsome**, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, 25 with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may **come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.**

2. Our adversary accuses us of sin...we are *not* to argue

Luke 12:58 [Read] When you go with your adversary to the magistrate, make every effort along the way to settle with him, lest he drag you to the judge, the judge deliver you to the officer, and the officer throw you into prison. 59 "I say to you, you will not get out of there until you have paid the very last cent." [KJV]

- Isaac does not quarrel, but trusts that God has another plan to fulfill His purpose

22 He moved away from there and dug another well, and they **did not quarrel** over it; so he named it **Rehoboth**, for he said, "At last the LORD has made room for us, and we will be fruitful in the land." 23 Then he went up from there to Beersheba.

- **Rehoboth: Spaciousness** or “well of ample room”
- Isaac moved back to Beersheba [well of the oath or well of seven] land of his youth
- **Famine ended;** water more available. God gives breathing room, a spacious place:

Psalm 18:19 He brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me. [See context]

Job 36:16 "He is wooing you from the jaws of distress to a **spacious place** free from restriction, to the comfort of your table laden with choice food.

Psalm 31:8 You have not handed me over to the enemy but have set my feet in a **spacious place**.

24The **LORD appeared to him the same night** and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham; Do not fear, for **I am with you** I will bless **you**, and multiply your descendants, For the sake of My servant Abraham."

Do not Fear... I AM WITH YOU, I WILL BLESS YOU

25 So he built an altar there and **called upon the name of the LORD**, and pitched his tent there; and there Isaac's servants dug a well.

- Abraham's practice; Altar building [Gen.12:8] Isaac emulates:

Psalm 116:17 To You I shall offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving, And call upon the name of the LORD.

26Then Abimelech came to him from Gerar with his adviser Ahuzzath and Phicol the commander of his army. 27Isaac said to them, "Why have you come to me, since you hate me and have sent me away from you?"

- Abimelech has second thoughts about his treatment of Isaac
- **Phicol:** Family name or official title; 60 years since Abraham's Phicol [Gen. 21:22]
- The world will come to us when they sense trouble; i.e. sickness/death

Judges 11:7 Then Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, "Did you not hate me and drive me from my father's house? So why have you come to me now when you are in trouble?"

28They said, "**We see plainly that the LORD has been with you**; so we said, 'Let there now be an oath between us, even between you and us, and let us make a covenant with you, 29that you will do us no harm, just as we have not touched you and have done to you nothing but good and have sent you away in peace. You are now the blessed of the LORD.'"

- Do people see plainly that we have been with Jesus?

Acts 4:13 Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as **having been with Jesus**.

- Grand pop Abimelech saw it in Abraham:

Genesis 21:22 Now it came about at that time that Abimelech and Phicol, the commander of his army, **spoke to Abraham, saying, "God is with you in all that you do;** 23 now therefore, swear to me here by God that you will not deal falsely with me or with my offspring or with my posterity, but according to the kindness that I have shown to you, you shall show to me and to the land in which you have sojourned."

- The world has a biased view of itself as righteous: "Are you a good person?"
- **Abimelech 2:** "We've done nothing but good" [He had told Isaac to get lost]
- **Abimelech 1:** ...according to the kindness that I have shown to you [he had seized Abraham's wells]

30Then he made them a **feast**, and they ate and drank. 31In the morning they arose early and exchanged oaths; then Isaac sent them away and they departed from him in peace.

- Feast: Often followed covenant ;Peace: Shalom

32Now it came about on the same day, that Isaac's servants came in and told him about the well which they had dug, and said to him, "**We have found water.**" 33So he called it **Shibah**; therefore the name of the city is Beersheba to this day.

- We have found MORE water! **Refreshment; Satisfaction.**

John 4:13 ...but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."

John 7:37 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, " If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.

John 6:35 Jesus said to them, " I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.

- **Shibnah/Beersheba:** 7 or Completion; that is Complete in Christ
 1. Here God revealed Himself to Hagar
 2. Where Abe called on The Everlasting God
 3. Where Abe returned to with Isaac after God provided "Himself" a lamb

- Promised land is a picture of victory and salvation...**not Heaven:**

34When **Esau was forty years** old he married Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite; 35 and **they brought grief to Isaac and Rebekah.**

John 16:33b In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

- Married Hittite woman; Judith means Praise; Basemath means Fragrant
- Esau also married Ishmael's daughter in Gen 28:29; more than 3 wives
- Isaac and Rebekah would prevent Jacob from causing them this type of grief [Gen. 27:46-28:2]

Summary:

- Famine
- Obedience: Grow where your planted; don't look to the world for satisfaction
- Like Father negative/positive: Lies/Altars calling on the Name
- Isaac: Spacious Satisfying Place of his own though not free of trials

Do not Fear... I AM WITH *YOU*, I WILL BLESS *YOU*