

Genesis 26

- This is the only chapter dedicated to Isaac.
 - He is in other chapters, but this is the only one with him as the main subject.

^{26:1} Now there was a famine in the land, besides the former famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to **Gerar to Abimelech** king of the Philistines.

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

- **A famine in the land** – A famine struck after Abram reached the land God directed him to.
 - Difficulty is not always a measurement of God’s disapproval or lack of favor.
 - Paul had all kinds of difficulty, and yet, God was with him.
 - Christ Jesus faced difficult people and situations
 - Storms, hunger, persecution
 - Previously, Abram was following the LORD and ran into trouble ([Genesis 12](#))
 - Our success should be judged by how faithfully we follow Him, not by outcome metrics/ man-made success markers.
- **to Gerar to Abimelech** – “Abimelech (meaning ‘father-king’) was not a person’s name, but a Philistine royal title (cf. the Egyptian royal title, Pharaoh). The Abimelech of Abraham’s day was a different Abimelech from the one of Isaac’s day. The Abimelech of David’s day was named Achish (cf. the title of [Psalms 34](#) with [1 Samuel 21:10-15](#)). Likewise, **Phicol** was not a person’s name, but the title of the army commander (cf. 21:32; 26:26).”¹
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¹ <https://www.studydrive.org/commentaries/eng/bbc/genesis-26.html#verse-1>

- This was 75-100 years (probably closer to 100 years) after Abraham originally went to Gerar.²
- ² And the LORD appeared to him and said, “**Do not go down to Egypt**; dwell in the land of which I shall tell you.
- **The LORD appeared to him** – Now Isaac has an appearance of God!
 - **“Do not go down to Egypt”**– Notice God directing Isaac’s steps
 - God doesn’t say why Isaac is not to go
 - Perhaps God was protecting Isaac from harm or certain danger
 - Many times God will say “No” or “Do not go,” and that’s all we get.
 - For now.
 - Isaac will need to trust in God
 - No doubt, Isaac saw other people going down to Egypt to survive the famine.
 - He decided to listen to God and trust.
 - When we put our faith in and trust God, we find that we are in opposition to this world and its ways.
 - The miracle/ promised son would live out his life in the land that was promised.

³ **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.

² The twins were born when Isaac was **60**. Abraham died when Esau and Jacob (the twins) were 15 years old ([Genesis 25:7-8](#)) and Isaac was **75** at this time. At the end of this chapter, we see Esau is **40** when he takes Canaanite wives ([Genesis 26:34](#)). Consequently, $60_{(\text{Isaac})} + 40_{(\text{Esau})} = 100$. Subtract 75 to Abraham’s death and you will arrive at a possible span between 75 and 100 years for a location point for these events in chapter 26. Abraham’s original interaction with Abimelech was within the year that Isaac was conceived ([Genesis 18:10](#); [Genesis 20](#)). Note, Sarah was not yet pregnant at the time of Abraham’s interaction ([Genesis 20](#)).

⁴I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed,

⁵because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.”

- my laws – This was 400 + years before Moses and the Law.
- The Promises can only be realized when Isaac and then Jacob listen to/ heed the Word from God.
 - **Thomas Constable Quote** – “The Abrahamic blessing will pass to Isaac. Everything included in that blessing will now belong to the son, and in turn will be passed on to his sons. But there is a contingency involved: if they are to enjoy the full blessings, they will have to obey the word of the LORD. And so obedience is enjoined here, with the example of how well Abraham obeyed.”³
 - **This is true for us** – How many people want the promises of heaven and God but will not listen to His directives, or even read His word?
 - The temptation to go to Egypt must have been real because God intervened.
- The covenant reaffirmed with Isaac
 - Not all of Abraham’s offspring. **Isaac now!**
 - Not Ishmael, Midian, or any of the other sons of Abraham.
 - This is the **land promise**.

Isaac and Abimelech

⁶So Isaac settled in Gerar.

- Uh, I thought he was to sojourn? Not settle.

³ Constable, Thomas. DD. "Commentary on Genesis 26". "Dr. Constable's Expository Notes". <https://www.studydrive.org/commentaries/eng/dcc/genesis-26.html>. 2012.

⁷ When the men of the place asked him about his wife, he said, “**She is my sister**,” for he feared to say, “My wife,” thinking, “lest the men of the place should kill me because of Rebekah,” because she was attractive in appearance.

- **She is my sister** – He had faith to stay in Canaan as God said, yet he failed to rely on God for protection.
 - Do we do this?
 - How quickly we can go from a mountaintop/ spiritual experience to a valley of faithlessness.

⁸ When he had been there a long time, Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out of a window and saw Isaac **laughing** with Rebekah his wife.

⁹ So Abimelech called Isaac and said, “Behold, she is your wife. How then could you say, ‘She is my sister’?” Isaac said to him, “**Because I thought**, ‘Lest I die because of her.’”

- **Laughing?**
 - **NASB** – ... behold, Isaac was **caressing** his wife Rebekah.
 - **KJV** – ... behold, Isaac was **sporting** with Rebekah his wife.
 - **KJ21** – ... behold, Isaac was **frolicking with** Rebekah his wife.
 - Clearly it was something that brothers & sisters do not do.

⁹ So Abimelech called Isaac and said, “Behold, she is your wife. How then could you say, ‘She is my sister’?” Isaac said to him, “**Because I thought**, ‘Lest I die because of her.’”

- **Because I thought** – Same problem Abraham had. He “Thought”
 - What would’ve happened if he asked God what to do?

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.”

¹¹ So Abimelech warned all the people, saying, “Whoever touches this man or his wife shall surely be put to death.”

- Here is the same sin of self-preservation that Abram committed ([Genesis 12 & 20](#))
- Here, Isaac straight up lied! At least Abram spoke part truth to Pharaoh & Abimelech.
 - Like father like son is true in this case.
 - Centuries before the Ten Commandments were issued, this pagan king understood that adultery was wrong and would lead to guilt!

¹² And Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold. The Lord blessed him, ¹³ and the man became rich, and gained more and more until he became very wealthy.

¹⁴ He had possessions of flocks and herds and many servants, so that the Philistines envied him.

- God’s blessings were on him just like Abraham.

¹⁵ (Now the Philistines had **stopped and filled with earth** all the wells that his father's servants had dug in the days of Abraham his father.)

¹⁶ And Abimelech said to Isaac, “Go away from us, for you are much mightier than we.”

¹⁷ So Isaac departed from there and encamped in the Valley of Gerar and settled there.

¹⁸ And Isaac dug again the wells of water that had been dug in the days of Abraham his father, which the **Philistines had stopped** after the death of Abraham. And he gave them the names that his father had given them. ¹⁹ But when Isaac's servants dug in the valley and found there a well of

spring water, ²⁰ the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with Isaac's herdsmen, saying, “The water is ours.” So he called the name of the well **Esek**, because they contended with him.

- **Esek** – contention

²¹ Then they dug another well, and they quarreled over that also, so he called its name **Sitnah**.

- **Sitnah** – strife

²² And he moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it. So he called its name **Rehoboth**, saying, “For now the LORD has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land.”

²³ From there he went up to **Beersheba**.

- **Well digging**

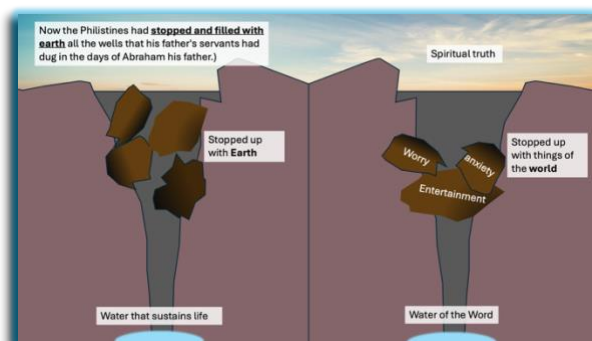
- A must-do for survival in the desert area. Access to water!

- **Freddie Fred’s Well Story**

- In the ancient world, wells were vital for water, agriculture, and livestock.

Located by trade routes, they served as community hubs and often sparked disputes over ownership, like with Abraham and Isaac. Wells were of strategic importance, like territorial markers.

- **Why** would anyone stop up a well? – Malice, ill will, envy



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- **From a Spiritual view**, the water of the Word can get stopped up and hindered by the things of this world
- [Ephesians 5:26](#) – so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by **the washing of water with the word**,
- **Side note:** Entertainment – **Amuse**: “no think”

<u>Atheist:</u>	<u>A= no/ not</u>	<u>theist = God</u>	There is no God
<u>Agnostic:</u>	<u>A= no/ not</u>	<u>Gnostic = Know</u>	Don't Know
<u>Amuse:</u>	<u>A= no/ not</u>	<u>Muse = Think</u>	no Thinking

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- They lacked modern well-digging machines.
 - These were probably dug-out pits

²⁴ **And the LORD appeared to him the same night** and said, “I am the God of Abraham your father. **Fear not**, for I am **with you** and **will bless** you and **multiply your offspring** for my servant Abraham's sake.” 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.

- **And the LORD appeared ... same night** –

- He did not appear to Isaac while he was in Gerar, only when he went to Beersheba.

²⁶ When Abimelech went to him from Gerar with Ahuzzath his adviser and Phicol the commander of his army,

²⁷ Isaac said to them, “Why have you come to me, seeing that you hate me and have sent me away from you?”

²⁸ They said, “**We see plainly that the LORD has been with you.** So we said, let there be a sworn pact between us, between you and us, and let us make a covenant with you,

- **We see ... the LORD...you** – Same recognition given to Abraham [Genesis 21:22](#)
 - God has remained faithful to the promise to Abraham, and the Philistines can see it!

²⁹ that 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.”

³⁰ So he made them a feast, and they ate and drank. ³¹ In the morning they rose early and exchanged oaths. And Isaac sent them on their way, and they departed from him in peace. ~

 ³² That same day Isaac's servants came and told him about the well that they had dug and said to him, “We have found water.” ³³ He called it **Shibah**; therefore the name of the city is Beersheba to this day.

- **Shibah** – (Shiv-Ahh) “Oath”
- Sheba – seven
- **Beer-sheba** = “well of the sevenfold oath”

³⁴ When Esau was **forty years old**, he took Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite to be his wife, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite,

³⁵ and they made life bitter for Isaac and Rebekah.

The Lord bless you and keep you;

²⁵ the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

²⁶ the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.