

GN, P 61-THE TRAVELS OF ISAC(G26)

>>>>Tdy—we return to vs-by-vs BkofGn

>>>>We're going to look at some events
that took place in the life of Ab's son
Isaac--after Ab's death in Gn 25

>>>>We're gonna see PPLE mistreat Isc

>>We're gonna see PPLE be mean to hm

>We're gonna see hw Gd was in charge

>>>>& hw He used evn the most rotten
things pple did to Issac

*To get hm exctly whre Gd wantd hm

*So Gd cld bless him in the highest!

>& THN, as F's-we're gonna see hw this
very same dynamic is hppning
every day ...in YUR/MY life

*& that U/I need to worry far less
abt how pple treat us

*& far more abt trusting our sov Gd

I- PASSAGE GEN 26

A. V. 1-“Now there was a famine in the
land—besides the earlier famine of
Ab's time (Gen 12)--& Isaac went to
the city of Gerar, to Abimelech, the
king of the Philistines”

1. Is heads to Eg where there is food
 - 2.& city of **Gerar** is on the way—**MAP**
- B. V. 2-“The Lrd appeared to Is & said,
 ‘Do not go dwn to Egypt...Stay in this
 land(ie, Philistine cntry)[**SAY**] **FOR A
 WHILE** , & I will be with U, & I will
 bless U’...So Isaac stayed in Gerar
- C. V. 11-“& Abimelech said to all the ple:
 ‘Anyone who molests this man or his
 wife shall surely be put to death.’”
- D. V. 12-“Thn Isaac planted crops in tht
 land & the same yr reaped *100-fold*,
 bec the Lrd blessed him. He became
 rich, & his wealth continued to grow
 until he became very wealthy.”
- E. **LET’S STOP & ASK Q**—“**Do we all see
 the prob tht’s developing here?**”
- 1.**PROB**=Isaac is starting to "**put dwn
roots**" here amng Philistines
 2. Gd had told hm to stay there “**FOR
 A WHILE**”—**NOT PERMANENTLY!**
 3. **BEC--Philistines did not knw Lrd**
 *They were *not godly people*
 **Sac’d their c’ren* to idols
 **Practiced sacred prostitution*

*Yet here Isaac is--becoming
dangerously intertwined w/thm

*Soon-his sons wld begin marryng
 their women

**& making close frnds w/men

** &the result =tht their hearts
 wld be led astray frm LG

F.Dt 7:3(Mo warned)-“Do not intermarry
 with them. Do not give yur dau’s to
 their sons or take their dau’s for your
 sons, for they will turn yur sons away
 frm following Me to serve other gods
 & the Lrd’s anger will burn agst U”

ILL: & indeed-this very thng *h p p n e d* ltr

*Ps 106:35(after Exodus)-“They (Is’s)
 mingles with the pples & adopted
 their customs. They worshiped
 their idols, whch became a snare
 to them.”

*V. 37-“They sacrificed their sons &
 dau’s to demons...to the idols of
 Cnaan, & the land was desecrated
 by their blood.”

*V. 39-“They defiled thmslves by wht
 they did; they prostituted thmslvs

by their deeds.”

*V. 40-“Therefore, the Lrd was angry with His pple”

G. **PT**=Is is in a place of *great sp danger*

1.& with hn ntire being what it is...

2.W/all the land/flocks he's amassed

3.Gd knew that Isac was not going to just pick up & leave on his own

[All SEE THIS? KEY TO WHT HPNS NXT]

H. **OK-so hw is Gd gonna get Isa away frm the Philistines?**

1.Bck into *holy, separated livng* in **PL**

2.Whre Gd's blsng cld be **FULL** on hm

J.Well--Gd's gonna use *other pple's bad treatment of hm--*to move hm[WATCH]

K. V. 14-“Isaac had so many flocks & herds & servants tht the Philistines envied him...So the Phlstines stopped up all Is's wells..filling them with dirt

[**THIS=JUST A MEAN THING TO DO**]

L.Thn the *king-no doubt bowing to polit pressure from his pple-turned* on Is

M. V. 16-“Thn Abimelech said to Isaac, ‘Move away frm us!’”

N. V. 17-“So Isaac moved away frm there

- & encamped in the Valley of Gerar”
1. So Isaac moved—but not far enuf!
 2. **BEC** he was *still* in Philistine cntry
- O. V. 19-“So Isaac’s servants dug in the valley & discovered a well of fresh water there. But the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled w/Isaac’s herdsmen & said, ‘The water is *ours!*’”
- P. So Isaac named the well "**Esek**"—
(Heb: "Dispute")-- **& he moved on**
- Q. Then his men dug *another* new well
1. ***Farther away*** from Gerar
 2. & the same thing happened **here!**
 3. So Isaac named the well "**Sitnah**" —
(Hb: "Opposition") **& movd on again**
- [Finally, Isaac arrived bck in Canaan]**
- R. V. 22-“Isaac moved on & dug another well, & no one quarreled over it. So he named it “Rehoboth”(Hb: “room”), saying, ‘Now the Lrd has given us room & we will flourish in this land.’”
- S.V. 23-“Frm thre, Is went up to Brsheba
1. **MAP**--where his fthr Abr had lived
 2. Whre Gd’d ***appeared*** to Ab & made him all the great promises He did

T. **NOW**-Isac was bck whre Gd wantd hm
 1. Whre it was *spiritually safe* ...
 2. & whre Gd cld unleash His **FULL**
blessing on him

U. V. 24-"Tht very night (when Is got to Beersheba), the Lrd appeared to Isaac & said, 'Do not fear, for I am with U. I will bless U & will increase the numbr of yur des's fr the sake of My srvnt Ab

V. V. 25-"So Isaac built an altar there & called on the Name of the Lrd. There he pitched his tent & thre his srvants dug a well."

W. & Isaac nvr left Beersheba again!

X. **SUMMARIZE:**

1. Hw did Gd get Is bck to Bersheba?
2. Answer = **Gd used PPLE !**
3. LIKE "**LITTLE TUG BOATS**"...
4. Their jealousies/ betrayals/ evil treatment/meannesses...
5. To steer Isaac's "**ocean liner**" into just the right pier!

[DO WE ALL SEE THIS??]

Y. **NOW**--Did these pple *realize* ...tht Gd was *using them* to do this for Isaac?

1. Tht they were actually advancing Gd's plan for Isaac's life
2. **OF COURSE NOT!!**
3. **BUT**—was Gd in control all the x?
4. **U BETCHA HE WAS!**
5. & **THAT'S**...the whoole point!

II- SO WHAT?

IL: Mny knw **Moishe Rosen**=foundr of JFJ

***JFJ**=one of the most innovative & effective Jwsh missions **ever**

*Been my priv to srve on brd=28yrs

*But—not knw--Moishe had been a miss'ry w/anthr Jewish mission prior to his founding JFJ in 1973.

*In early 70's, a fellw miss'ry set out on a crusade to discredit Moishe

**Untrue accusations

**Undermining integty/credibility

**Sowing distrust & doubt abt M

SAY: "A fellow Chr did this to him ??

A: Oh yes, my frnd--some of Gd's biggest "tug boats" are **OFTEN** other Chr's

*Anyway—as a result—**Moishe=fired**

***BUT**—if tht hadn't of happened...

****M'sh wlda nvr** been in SF in '73

**Pulled toghtr small grp of Jwsh
ex-hippies who'd come to Chrst

**Started taking thm out on streets
/ cllge campuses sharing—Christ

**Doin innovative thngs to reach
Jwsh pple noone evr tried bfr

**All of WHICH TURNED INTO JEJ

*MOISHE: “Y’knw, Lon--looking bck—
getting fired—even tho it was unjust—
was one of the best things tht ever
happened to me”

APPL: “Lon, tht’s a great story

*But it was easy fr Moishe to say this
20yrs later ...

*After he cld see hw it all worked out

*It’s alot harder to say this whn U’re
in middle of being treated this way

A. This is why B says (2 Cor 5:7)—“We
(as F’s) walk by faith & not by sight

B. “Walking by SIGHT” says: “I need to
undrstnd evrythng tht’s hpning tome

C. “Walkng by FAITH” says: I don’t need
to under evrythng tht’s hpning to me

1. Wht I need to understand is tht my
sov Gd is in UTTER CONTROL of

everything tht's hppning to me"

2. Steering me rght whre He wnts me

3. Wht I need to under(Rm 8:28)="Tht Gd is wrking **ALL THINGS** together for my good"

*Including wht ple're doing to me

*The **good**...the **bad**...& the **ugly**

*Even tho I **can't** see it yet!

ILLT: Jn 2:46-"Once again, J visited Cana, whre he'd turned the water into wine. & there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Caprnaum. **MAP**

*V. 47-"When this man learned tht J had arrived, he went to him & begged him to come & heal his son, who was close to death."

***MAP**...notice the geography

*Jesus was in Cana

*Man's son in Capernaum

***PT**(**critical** to wht hppns next)=**son** was ab 30 km(20mi)frm whre **J was**

*V. 50-"J replied, 'U may go. Your son will live.'"

*V 50-"The mn[SAY]took J at his wrd & departed (headed home)."

- *V. 51-“While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news tht his son was living.
- *V 52-“Whn he inquired as to the time whn his son got better, they said to him, ‘The fever left him yesterday at the 7th hour.’”
- *V. 53-“Then the father realized tht this was the exact time at whch J had said to hm, ‘Yur son will live.’ Thus he & his whole household believed.”

APL: Key sentence here (V. 50)-“The man took J at his word “ !!

*He “headed home” ...

*W/no tangible proof his son wld be OK except “Jesus’s word” ...

*But the man believed it anyway!

D. My frnds—this is what “walking by FAITH” means for U/me TODAY!!

E. It mns “taking Gd at his word”...

1. Knwing/ blving He will “wrk all thngs

2Evn bfre we can see it in time/ space

CONCLUDE & SAY:

>U knw tht prsn who’s really making

life tough for U???.

>>>& maybe on the *hmn level*—it even seems like thy're **WINNING** right now

>>>>Whn U pass them this week—

***Just remember...**

*Tht they're jst "Gd's little tug boats"

***STEERING U right into Gd's perfect plan** for your life...

***Just like they did for Isaac!**

>>>**Thy** don't undrstnd this—BUT **U DO!**

>>>>So when U see them this week...

*Don't *hate* them...

*Don't *resent* them..

*Don't fantasize abt *paying thm back*

>>Just smile at thm--& say"**T'OOT-TOOT**
Thank U, J"