

GENESIS 26:1-5, 12-14, 20-25

LESSON: ISAAC'S ABUNDANT BLESSINGS — August 25, 2019

INTRODUCTION:

CHAPTER 25:29-34 Jacob was cooking a stew and Esau was coming in from the fields faint and very hungry, and Esau asked Jacob (his brother) for some of the red stew. So, Jacob said *"this day sell me your birthright."* And, Esau surmised that his birthright was no use to him cause he was dying of hunger. Jacob then told him to swear to him, and Esau sold his birthright to Jacob, and Jacob in turn gave him bread and stew made from lentils (vegetable seeds). He ate, drank, and rose up and went his way. So, Esau despised his birthright.

LESSON: I. THE LORD'S APPEARANCE GENESIS 26:1-5

26:1 **And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham.** There had been a famine in the land in the days of Abraham when he was alive. Abraham died at 175yrs (25:7, 8). And now in Isaac's time, the land of promise is faced with a famine, but it was a different famine than the one Abraham had faced. And now, Abraham had given Isaac everything Isaac faced the loss of his father's wealth; he faced the loss of the herds, flocks and crops. He stood on the brink of losing his wealth, for he was a very wealthy man. He had inherited most of the wealth of his father, Abraham. Obviously the famine was very severe.

26:1b **And Isaac went into Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar.** Isaac was facing a terrible trial and temptation— the trial of losing all he had and the temptation to distrust God and forsake the Promised Land. He weakened under the pressure. He turned from the Promised Land, moving his herds and flocks southward toward of Egypt. He went down to Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar. *"Abimelech"* may have been a title for the king, like *"Pharaoh."* And on his way to Egypt he stopped in Gerar, the capital of the Philistines, to ask help from Abimelech. Gerar is half-way between Beersheba and Gaza.

26:2 **And the Lord appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of:— God intervenes here—** The Lord appeared unto Isaac and instructed him not to go down into Egypt, but live in the land where He told him to live. Remember, in Scripture, the Egypt in that day was a symbol and type of the world.

26:3 **Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I sware unto Abraham thy father;—** So, God permitted Isaac to sojourn in the land of Gerar. God promised to be with him and bless him. Apparently, the prospect of Isaac setting up and trading in Gerar appealed to Abimelech, so he gave Isaac permission to stay in Philistine territory. The Philistines were a tribe of people who were to become one of Israel's fiercest enemies. Philistines mean "Sea People." The oath is repeated and reaffirmed to Abraham will still be offered by God for Isaac.

26:4 **And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;—** God reaffirms the Abrahamic Covenant with Isaac: that his descendants would be greatly multiplied as the stars of heaven and possess all those lands. They will be a blessing to all the nations of the earth. He repeated the promises to Abraham eight different times, and He spoke the promises to Isaac on two different occasions. And we know lastly there will be the Promised Seed of the Messiah, the Savior of the world.

26:5 **Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes,**

and my laws. God declares why He gave these great promises to Isaac. It's because of Abraham.

- Abraham, the father of Isaac obeyed God's voice. That means he heard and recognized God's voice.
- He kept *"the charge"* of God. It was God's official call or appointment to service.
- Abraham kept *"the commandments"* of God. This stresses the fact that the command is from God Himself; divinely given. At God's command Abraham was told to separate from Ur (a symbol of the world) and to follow after the promises of God.
- Abraham kept *"the statutes"* of God. An example of this would be Abraham keeping the statute of circumcision.
- And Abraham kept *"the laws"* of God. These laws involved rules of instruction that were taught and passed on. They would be rules of righteousness that govern behavior. Abraham followed the rules of God from the depths of his heart and conscience.

Now that was a lot. Abraham proved himself to be faithful to God.

II. THE LORD'S BLESSING GENESIS 26:12-14

26:12 Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the Lord blessed him. God blessed Isaac so richly in that land of Gerar because he sowed in that land, and received mightily in the same year a hundredfold. God kept His promise to bless Isaac in order to secure him and his offspring more and more in the Promised Land.

1. His crops produced a hundredfold in the same year.

26:13 And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great:— Isaac grew greatly because God blessed him abundantly, and not once, but He continued to grow in blessings until he was extremely wealthy.

2. His personal wealth became very great.

26:14 For he had possession of flocks, and possessions of herds, and great store of servants, and the Philistines envied him. Isaac's wealth increased so much that the Philistines began to envy him.

3. His flocks and herds and servants increased greatly.

NOT APART OF THE LESSON VERSES 15-19

¹v15 (When Abraham lived in that country, Abraham's servants had dug wells there. But the Philistines had now filled all those wells with earth again.) v16 Abimelech said to Isaac, 'Go away from us. You are much more powerful than we are.' v17 So Isaac went away from there. He camped in the valley that was round Gerar. And he lived there. v18 Isaac dug out again the wells of water that his father Abraham had dug. The Philistines had filled them with earth after Abraham died. Isaac gave names to the wells. They were the names that his father had given to the wells. v19 Isaac's servants dug in the valley. And they found a well with water that was springing from the ground.

III. THE LORD'S AFFIRMATION GENESIS 26:20-25

26:20 And the herdmen of Ger'rar did strive with Isaac's herdmen, saying, The water is ours: and he called the name of the well Esek: because they strove with him. Isaac still had not returned to the heart of the Promised Land, consequently trouble facing him increased. Strife erupted in two locations over two wells:

1. At the "Well" **Esek**, meaning contention, strife.

The herdsmen of Ger'rar strived with Isaac's herdsmen, saying *"the water is ours."* Sin is prevalent when we have to fight over something.

26:21 And they digged another well, and strove for that also: and he called the name of it Sitnah. They were still in strife.

2. At the "Well" **Sitnah**, meaning opposition, hostility.

God was going to use this trouble of strife and hostility to drive Isaac back to God and the Promised Land.

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE



26:22 And he removed from thence, and digged another well; and for that they strove not: and he called the name of it Rehoboth; and he said, for now the Lord hath made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land. God always makes a point. How long will you fight for what's yours (material things), because God knows how to stop strife in its tracks when you don't react. What God has for you, it is for you! There was strife at two of the "Wells." So, now Isaac had a choice to make: stay in strife or move on. So, Isaac acted in meekness: he refused to stay in strife and he moved on, going about his own business. At a certain distance, he dug a "Well" and no one strived over this particular "Well." The strife ended all of a sudden. And to commemorate the occasion, Isaac named the "Well" **Rehoboth**, which means plenty of space or room. God had made room and brought peace to Isaac, and caused him to be fruitful in the land.

26:23 And he went up from thence to Beersheba. Now this is the third time Isaac moves, and he goes up to Beersheba. It was here that Abraham had made a treaty with the Philistines and built an altar (21:32-34). Isaac knew he needed a fresh experience with God. That's what happens when we want to go some place else other than where God wants us.

26:24 And the Lord appeared unto him the same night, and said, I am the God of Abraham thy father: fear not, for I am with thee, and will bless thee, and multiply thy seed for my servant Abraham's sake. Upon arriving in Beersheba, God appeared to Isaac the same night to make Himself known and affirm the Abrahamic Covenant again. Fear had apparently gripped Isaac's heart, so the God of Abraham tells him not to fear, for He is with him. He will bless him and multiply his seed because of the sake of His servant Abraham, Isaac's father. God was going to do for Isaac everything that He promised Abraham. How wonderful is that?

26:25 And he builded an altar there, and called upon the name of the Lord, and pitched his tent there: and there Isaac's servants digged a well. After God appeared to Isaac, he built an altar and called upon the name of the Lord, pitching his tent there, while his servants dug another "Well."

SUMMARY:

There was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar. God appeared to Isaac who is now in the city of Gerar. God tells him, not to go to Egypt, but live in the land He tells him to live in. Since he was in the land of Gerar, God would be with him, bless him, and give the land to him and his descendants as was promised to his father Abraham. God will make Isaac's descendants multiply as the stars of heaven. All the nations of the earth will be blessed because Abraham obeyed everything God said (26:1-5).

God kept His promise to bless Isaac. When Isaac planted in that land, he reaped in the same year a hundredfold what he had sown, because the Lord blessed him with possessions of flock, herds, and many servants. He was soon a man of great wealth and the Philistines were jealous of him (26:12-14).

Strife erupted in two locations over two wells: the "Well" **Esek** meaning contention, strife, and the "Well" **Sitnah**, meaning opposition, hostility. So, now Isaac had a choice to make: stay in strife or move on. He moved on some distance, and dug another "Well" and no one strived over this particular "Well." The strife ended all of a sudden. And to commemorate the occasion, Isaac named the "Well" **Rehoboth**, which means plenty of space or room, causing him to be fruitful in the land. Then Isaac moved up to Beersheba and God appeared to Isaac the same night to make Himself known and affirms the Abrahamic Covenant again. God was going to do for Isaac everything that He had promised Abraham. Isaac then built an altar and called upon the name of the Lord, pitching his tent there, while his servants dug another "Well" (26:20-25).