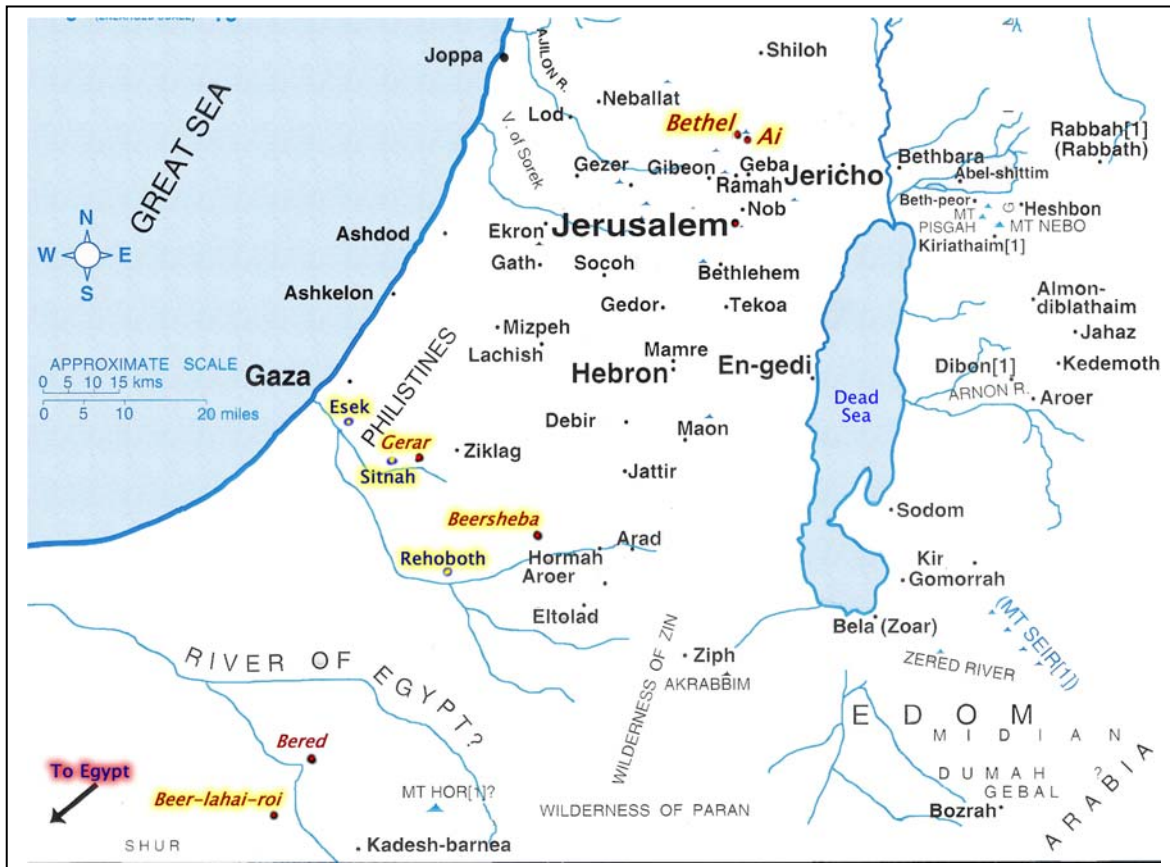


Genesis Ch. 26

V: 1 Another famine in the land, a test of faith for Isaac.

- Isaac had never seen a famine, seemingly he'd always been provided for, lived in abundance. It had been about 100 years since the famine with Abraham.



- When we read this account we assume that Isaac pretty much did the same thing that Abraham did because of the sister act.
- Note the geographical differences in their travels:
- Genesis Ch. 12, Abraham was in Bethel, near Ai when the famine became severe and he went to Egypt with no mention of God's direction, leaving the land of promise.
- Isaac whose faith was being tested as well was last seen in **Genesis 25:11** at Beer Lahai-roi.
- When the famine caused him to move, he moved to Gerar – farther into the land of promise – the opposite of what Abraham did.
- Trials either draw us closer to God, or move us farther away.

John 16:33

V: 2 The Lord appears to Isaac and speaks to him.

- A first for Isaac.
- Examining cause & effect, what preceded this event?
- Obedience - then revelation.
- Obedience – Abraham had spoken that Isaac was not to leave the promise land; Isaac knew that this was God’s will as well.

John 14:21 “He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me: and he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him.”

V: 2-4 The Lord speaks specifically to Isaac.

1. Don’t go to Egypt.
2. Dwell in the land that I show you, sojourn in this land – the land of promise.
3. God will be with Isaac.
4. God will bless Isaac.
5. God will give Isaac the land.
6. God will perform the oath unto Isaac that He promised Abraham.
7. God will make Isaac’s seed as the stars in Heaven.
8. In Isaac’s seed shall all the earth be blessed, the Messiah will come forth from him.

V: 5 Reminder of his spiritual heritage: Abraham, your father – he was obedient; he expressed his love and faith through his actions.

V: 6 Isaac was told to sojourn (V: 3) not to get too settled in. V: 8 tells us that “after a long time...”

- This seeming small point of compromise in God’s word, this almost un-noticeable disobedience leads to the next compromise, the next sin.

V: 7 Isaac commits the same sin as Abraham, pretty much for the same reason – fear.

Proverbs 29:25 “The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.”

Matthew 10:28 “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

1 John 4:18 “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.”

- Faith & fear are mutually exclusive terms.

Ezekiel 18:20 “The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.”

- Exodus 20 – 10 commandments / a jealous God visiting the iniquity of the father’s to the 3rd and 4th generation...
- This is not Abraham’s sin being in some way conferred upon Isaac, this is Isaac’s own sin which he probably learned from the father.
- Abraham told a ½ lie, Isaac goes 100%.
- There is no mention of Esau and Jacob who were probably young men left behind to take care of the flocks.
- Both Isaac & Rebekah are in their 60’s.
- Even though the real issue is Isaac’s fear – maybe a secondary issue is the need to cover Rebekah up.
- Isaac’s opinion as stated is that his wife is beautiful – good attitude.
- We should always esteem our wives as beautiful.

V: 8-11 “Abimelech” is a title, not a name. This title was used by several different Canaanite kings, this may be the son or grandson of the Abimelech that Abraham dealt with.

- If a person is going to tell people that their wife is their sister, then it would probably be more convincing if they refrained from certain activities in public...
- In verse one we’re told that Isaac went unto Abimelech, which I figured meant that he moved near to the city, or even into the city – but he moved in right next door, under Abimelech’s window.
- At a glance Abimelech figures out that Isaac and Rebekah are husband and wife – and the jig is up.
- As much as Abimelech figures out that he’s been lied to, his response is tempered because he fears the Lord and responds with only a rebuke

(V: 8-11 cont.)

- These people of Gerar have a different way of life wherein they could just take a woman “and lightly have lien” with her. The same scenario that is described with Abraham & Sarah.
- Apparently this debauched culture was further degraded to the point where God commands Joshua and the children of Israel to wipe them out, take them out of their misery.
- The only reason Abimelech can talk about or understand a sense of “guiltiness” is because of his limited knowledge / fear of the Lord which is also indicated in the next verse.
- Abimelech charges all his people that anyone who touches either Isaac or Rebekah will be put to death.
- Extreme – not if you understand the true consequences; or remember what happened the last time.
- Abimelech no doubt heard about the incident with Abraham and Sarah that almost cost his grandfather the kingdom and the lives of all their subjects.

Testimony: Ralph Jackson – sudden dread and fear – from God.

- No doubt God had put the fear of God into Abimelech’s heart, and God would now use Abimelech to protect Isaac.

Psalm 105:15 “Saying, touch not Mine anointed, and do My prophets no harm.”

- In this whole process Isaac is rebuked.

V: 12-14 God continues to bless Isaac, like his father he is blessed seemingly in whatever he does.

- 1st mention of “sowing” in the Bible, and he reaps 100 fold.

Parable of the sower

Matthew 13:23 “But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundred fold, some sixty, and some thirty.”

Contrast: famine in the land – Isaac sowing seed and reaping 100 fold.

Psalm 1

Psalm 1:1-6 “¹Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. ²But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. ³And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. ⁴The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. ⁵Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. ⁶For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.”

- Flocks, herds, lots of servants – abundant provision & blessing.
- The Philistines envied Isaac and his prosperity.

Romans 10:19 “But I say, did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy by them that are no people, and by a foolish nation I will anger you.”

Romans 11:11 “I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.”

- They’re afraid to touch Isaac, because like his father, they know that he is a mighty prince of God, and that God is with him.
- They are envious, jealous of Isaac because they can see that God is blessing and prospering him.
- The proper conclusion to be drawn would something like how can I learn about your God, I want your blessing, your blessing God to be my God.

V: 15 The Philistines unfortunately didn’t draw the right conclusion, instead they just got mad about it and keyed their new car.

- They seemingly had no capacity to appreciate the good or know where it came from.
- They stopped up the wells, even symbolically – the wells of living water.
- This may have been their tactic to force Isaac out of the land.

V: 16 Abimelech tells Isaac to move away because he has become too powerful and too rich – he feels threatened some how.

V: 17-19 Isaac departs from Abimelech, but he stays in the land of promise - and he re-opens the wells.

- Isaac finds the living water.

John 7:37 ³⁷In the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, if any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink. ³⁸He that believeth on Me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.”

- Wherever Isaac goes, God provides living water for him.
- All the ACLU wants to do is stop it all up.

This is the same kind of stuff that Jesus would later deal with:

Matthew 23:13 “But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.”

V: 20-21 The herdsman of Gerar strived with Isaac’s herdsmen so he named the place “Esek” which means “contention”

- Isaac doesn’t fight it, he just moves on to the next place, and there the same guys strived with them once again so they named it “Sitnah” which means “strife”.
- The locals quarrel with Isaac over the wells, or over his presence 2 X’s.
- Flesh against the Spirit.
- The world against God’s Kingdom.

Romans 8:5 “For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.”

V: 22 Isaac move on a little further, dug a 3rd well with no arguments.

Rehoboth = “wide space”.

- Isaac had the confidence of knowing that God would and was taking care of him.
- Isaac was humble, turning the other cheek, Isaac was a man of peace.
- Isaac gave credit, honor, and glory to the Lord for blessing him with a new well, knowing that God would cause him to flourish and prosper.
- Isaac demonstrated Godly patience and a desire for peace.
- Isaac modeled love...

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 “⁴Love suffereth long, and is kind; love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, ⁵doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; ⁶Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; ⁷beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.”

V: 23 Isaac goes from Rehoboth to Beersheba.

- From “wide places” to the “well of the 7 fold oath”.
- Beersheba is one of the places where Abraham called upon the name of the Lord. Genesis 21:33.
- Beersheba is where Abraham lived, where he returned to after sacrificing Isaac. Genesis 22:19
- Later, Jacob would call upon the name of the Lord at the same place.

V: 24 The Lord appears to Isaac and speaks to him a 2nd time.

- An indication that Isaac was doing the Lord’s will, on track with the Lord.
 1. God reviews, repeats the covenant with Isaac.
 2. Don’t be afraid, for I am with you.
 3. Same as Genesis 15:1 with Abraham.
- Why did God exhort Isaac not to fear – because in a couple of verses he might be tempted to be afraid.

V: 25 Isaac has a revelation of God in his life and builds an altar.

- 1st altar built by Isaac.
- Altars were built as a form of worship.
- Isaac calls upon the name of the Lord – prayer.
- Worship & communion with the Lord.
- He pitched his tent there, he’s planning on staying for a while.

V: 26-31 Abimelech, Ahuzzath, and Philcol – general of his army all visit Isaac.

- A king, his friend, and a general wouldn’t just go out for a ride to visit someone that they were afraid of – they might quite possibly have taken a contingent of troops with them – which was why the Lord encouraged Isaac not to fear and to trust in God.
- Abimelech and co. approach Isaac just as Abraham had been approached some 100 years prior, looking for a treaty because they see that God is prospering

Isaac and that from their point of view, he's getting stronger and poses a greater threat.

V: 28 Isaac is a good witness, although not spoken or recorded – probably viewed the same as Abraham – a mighty prince of God.

V: 29 - 31

- We've been nice to you, will you be nice to us?
- Abraham extends hospitality to his "guests", agrees to keep the peace, and sends them away in peace.

Proverbs 16:7 "When a man's ways please the Lord, He maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him."

V: 32-33 Once again God blesses them with water again. The 4th well. Well what do you know about that? God's grace!

- This well is a particular blessing as it is farther away from the coastal plain, at the edge of the desert in the Negev. Water would be needed for survival in general, and for crops, and for his herds.

V: 34-35 Esau takes 2 wives from the local Hittites.

- Isaac was a man who prayed for his wife before he met her
- Isaac was a man of God's word, he meditated in God's word.
- A man who waited on the Lord to provide him a bride.
- Isaac didn't choose his bride, she was presented to him.
- Rebekah, by faith followed the servant of the father across the wilderness and was joined to her husband.

What could have grieved them about Esau's decisions?

1. 2 wives.
2. Non-believers.
3. Against his parents wishes.