

# Genesis - Lesson 26

Genesis Chapter 26

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Memory verses for this week: *Psa 81:16 He should have fed them also with the finest of the wheat: and with honey out of the rock should I have satisfied thee.*

**Introduction:** We continue our study on the book of Genesis this week as we study about some of the trials of Isaac. All men and women who determine to serve God will face trials, and it was no exception to Abraham's son.

## I. Isaac Under Trial

**Gen 26:1** *And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar.*

**Gen 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:*

**Gen 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 swore unto Abraham thy father;*

**Gen 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;*

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

While Abraham was a man of the altar, Isaac was known as the man of the well. Jacob was more the man of the tent. As mentioned earlier, Isaac was tried by a famine in the land. Famine was and still is a means of testing God's people. Many examples of famine are recorded for our benefit in the bible.

**Gen 12:10** *And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land.*

**Ruth 1:1** *Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehemjudah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons.*

**2Sa 24:13** *So Gad came to David, and told him, and said unto him, Shall seven years of famine come unto thee in thy land? or wilt thou flee three months before thine enemies, while they pursue thee? or that there be three days' pestilence in thy land? now advise, and see what answer I shall return to him that sent me.*

Some liberals try to prove that Isaac's experience in this chapter and Abraham's experience in Gen. 12:10 and 20:2, are referring to the same event. Of course this denies the inspiration of the Bible and presents them as a garbled collection of stories.

***Gen 20:1*** *And Abraham journeyed from thence toward the south country, and dwelled between Kadesh and Shur, and sojourned in Gerar.*

***Gen 20:2*** *And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, She is my sister: and Abimelech king of Gerar sent, and took Sarah.*

However, they fail to see that similar characters under similar circumstances in a given age are likely to have similar experiences. Verse one carefully makes the distinction between the famines. Eighty to one hundred years had past, so this was probably another Abimelech. It may have been a title worn by all Philistine kings of that era. This seems to be proven through comparing the title of Psa. 34 and I Sam. 21:10-15.

***Psa 34:1*** *A Psalm of David, when he changed his behaviour before Abimelech; who drove him away, and he departed. I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.*

***1Sa 21:10*** *And David arose, and fled that day for fear of Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath.*

***1Sa 21:11*** *And the servants of Achish said unto him, Is not this David the king of the land? did they not sing one to another of him in dances, saying, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands?*

***1Sa 21:12*** *And David laid up these words in his heart, and was sore afraid of Achish the king of Gath.*

***1Sa 21:13*** *And he changed his behaviour before them, and feigned himself mad in their hands, and scrabbled on the doors of the gate, and let his spittle fall down upon his beard.*

***1Sa 21:14*** *Then said Achish unto his servants, Lo, ye see the man is mad: wherefore then have ye brought him to me?*

***1Sa 21:15*** *Have I need of mad men, that ye have brought this fellow to play the mad man in my presence? shall this fellow come into my house?*

The Lord appears and tells him not to go to Egypt, a type of the world.. Beware of turning to the world and not God! We saw the disastrous results of Lot's life after he made that decision when he and Abraham parted ways. Isaac was told to sojourn in the land in verse 3. The covenant was repeated to Isaac as it had been given to Abraham his father. Never doubt that your life affects your children and others around you. Verse 5 demonstrates that the obedience of Abraham was a blessing to Isaac.

## **II. Isaac Tried By Fear**

***Gen 26:6*** *And Isaac dwelt in Gerar:*

***Gen 26:7*** *And the men of the place asked him of his wife; and he said, She is my sister: for he feared to say, She is my wife; lest, said he, the men of the place should kill me for Rebekah; because she was fair to look upon.*

***Gen 26:8*** *And it came to pass, when he had been there a long time, that Abimelech*

*king of the Philistines looked out at a window, and saw, and, behold, Isaac was sporting with Rebekah his wife.*

*Gen 26:9 And Abimelech called Isaac, and said, Behold, of a surety she is thy wife: and how saidst thou, She is my sister? And Isaac said unto him, Because I said, Lest I die for her.*

*Gen 26:10 And Abimelech said, What is this thou hast done unto us? one of the people might lightly have lien with thy wife, and thou shouldest have brought guiltiness upon us.*

*Gen 26:11 And Abimelech charged all his people, saying, He that toucheth this man or his wife shall surely be put to death.*

In Gerar, Isaac repeated the same mistake of Abraham.

***Gen 20:1*** *And Abraham journeyed from thence toward the south country, and dwelled between Kadesh and Shur, and sojourned in Gerar.*

*Gen 20:2* *And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, She is my sister: and Abimelech king of Gerar sent, and took Sarah.*

*Gen 20:3* *But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, Behold, thou art but a dead man, for the woman which thou hast taken; for she is a man's wife.*

Many times a son will repeat the same mistakes as his father. Isaac seemed to have no faith in God's protection. It is easy to come to church and be surrounded by God's people and talk about having great faith. But when you are in the world all week and facing your own trials, then the test comes. Abimelech saw that Rebekah was Isaac's wife.. Sporting may have involved caressing. Whatever is meant, it was not something that was proper between brother and sister. You would have thought that Isaac would have understood the dangers that his father faced telling the kings that his mother was his father's sister. But he repeats the same mistake.

Abimelech rebukes Isaac in verses 9 and 10. He then charges the people to not touch Isaac or his wife or they would die. Notice the difference between Abraham's and Isaac's experiences. Sarah was taken from Abraham. Rebekah was not taken from Isaac. Christ and His Church are inseparable.

Adam Clarke said this about Isaac's mistake.

**He said, She is my sister** - It is very strange that in the same place, and in similar circumstances, Isaac should have denied his wife, precisely as his father had done before him! It is natural to ask, Did Abraham never mention this circumstance to his son? Probably he did not, as he was justly ashamed of his weakness on the occasion - the only blot in his character; the son, therefore, not being forewarned, was not armed against the temptation. It may not be well in general for parents to tell their children of their former failings or vices, as this might lessen their authority or respect, and the children might make a bad use of it in extenuation of their own sins. But there are certain cases, which, from the nature of their circumstances, may often occur, where a candid acknowledgment, with suitable advice, may prevent those children from repeating the

evil; but this should be done with great delicacy and caution, lest even the advice itself should serve as an incentive to the evil. I had not known lust, says St. Paul, if the law had not said, Thou shalt not covet. Isaac could not say of Rebekah, as Abraham had done of Sarah, She is my sister; in the case of Abraham this was literally true; it was not so in the case of Isaac, for Rebekah was only his cousin.

### III. Isaac the Well Digger is Blessed

*Gen 26:12 Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him.*

*Gen 26:13 And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great:*

*Gen 26:14 For he had possession of flocks, and possession of herds, and great store of servants: and the Philistines envied him.*

*Gen 26:15 For all the wells which his father's servants had digged in the days of Abraham his father, the Philistines had stopped them, and filled them with earth.*

*Gen 26:16 And Abimelech said unto Isaac, Go from us; for thou art much mightier than we.*

*Gen 26:17 And Isaac departed thence, and pitched his tent in the valley of Gerar, and dwelt there.*

God is so good to his children. Verse 12 says that Isaac reaped a hundredfold in the same year. His prosperity was envied by the Philistines. Christians should so live that the world would see that we have God's blessings. They should take knowledge of us that we have been with Jesus.

*Mat 5:13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.*

*Mat 5:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.*

*Mat 5:15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.*

*Mat 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

Verse 12 says the Lord blessed his crops.

*Heb 10:22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.*

*Heb 10:23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)*

***Heb 10:24*** *And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:*

*2Ti 2:10 Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.*

*2Ti 2:11 It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him:*

*2Ti 2:12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:*

*2Ti 2:13 If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.*

Verse 13 and 14 record how the Lord blessed his flocks and herds. Because he was so blessed, the Philistines envied his prosperity. The Philistines stopped up the wells, which was a strong hint that he should leave. After this, Isaac was ordered to leave by Abimelech. Isaac moves a short distance to the valley of Gerar.

*Gen 26:18 And Isaac digged again the wells of water, which they had digged in the days of Abraham his father; for the Philistines had stopped them after the death of Abraham: and he called their names after the names by which his father had called them.*

*Gen 26:19 And Isaac's servants digged in the valley, and found there a well of springing water.*

*Gen 26:20 And the herdmen of Gerar 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.*

*Gen 26:21 And they digged another well, and strove for that also: and he called the name of it Sitnah.*

*Gen 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.*

Isaac continues to dig wells after moving to the valley. This is something noted over and over in scripture. Isaac is associated with wells seven times in the Scriptures.

His digging of the wells was stopped up by the Philistines it says in verse 18. Today, Satan, our enemy, is still trying to stop up the wells of salvation. They are still trying to cover up the Lord's work. Modernists, new-Evangelicals and the cults are busy today. God's people need to return to the old wells of truth. Isaac respected the work of his father. They found a well of springing water which was certainly not a cistern. When the herdmen of Gerar strove with Isaac's herdmen, they named the well "Esek," meaning the well of strife.

*1Pe 2:19 For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.*

*1Pe 2:20 For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.*

They dug another and there was strife over it, and it was named "Sitnah," the well of hostility. Finally they moved a distance away and name that well "Rehoboth," meaning the well of plenty of room.

#### **IV. Isaac's Move To Beersheba**

*Gen 26:23 And he went up from thence to Beersheba.*

*Gen 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.*

*Gen 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 some time in the valley of Gerar, Isaac and his group move to Beersheba where the Lord appeared to him. God again tell him to not fear because he was with him.

There were three things Isaac did at Beersheba.

- a. He built an altar.
- b. He called on the name of the Lord.
- c. He digged a well.

#### **V. Isaac's Treaty With Abimelech.**

*Gen 26:26 Then Abimelech went to him from Gerar, and Ahuzzath one of his friends, and Phichol the chief captain of his army.*

*Gen 26:27 And Isaac said unto them, Wherefore come ye to me, seeing ye hate me, and have sent me away from you?*

*Gen 26:28 And they said, We saw certainly that the LORD was with thee: and we said, Let there be now an oath betwixt us, even betwixt us and thee, and let us make a covenant with thee;*

*Gen 26:29 That thou wilt do us no hurt, as we have not touched thee, and as we have done unto thee nothing but good, and have sent thee away in peace: thou art now the blessed of the LORD.*

*Gen 26:30 And he made them a feast, and they did eat and drink.*

*Gen 26:31 And they rose up betimes in the morning, and sware one to another: and Isaac sent them away, and they departed from him in peace.*

*Gen 26:32 And it came to pass the same day, that Isaac's servants came, and told him concerning the well which they had digged, and said unto him, We have found water.*

*Gen 26:33 And he called it Shebah: therefore the name of the city is Beersheba unto this day.*

Abimelech comes and tries to make a treaty because he knows the Lord is with Isaac. Abimelech seeks peace. This is a Type of the millennial nations. Isaac makes a feast for Abimelech and they make a treaty. Again another well is dug and this well is named "Shebah." "Beer-shebah" means, "Well of the oath."

*Gen 26:34 And Esau was forty years old when he took to wife Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Bashemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite:*

*Gen 26:35 Which were a grief of mind unto Isaac and to Rebekah.*

Isaac's son Esau marries and marries two wives. Both marriages were wrong and this grieved his parents.

*Deu 7:1 When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou;*

*Deu 7:2 And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them:*

*Deu 7:3 Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son.*

*2Co 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*

## STUDY QUESTIONS

1. How did God use famine in dealing with His people?

He uses it to test our faith.

2. What is Egypt a type of?

The world

3. How do we know this was not the same incident that happened to Abraham in Gen. 12:10 and 20:2?

Eighty to one hundred years had past, so this was probably another Abimelech. It may have been a title worn by all Philistine kings of that era. This seems to be proven through comparing the title of Psa. 34 and I Sam. 21:10-15. More than one man was named Abimelech. However the names of the kings in these verses was Abimelech and the other was Achish.

4. Abraham was a man of the **Altar**, Isaac was the man of the **Well**, and Jacob was the man of the **Tent**.

5. How did Abimelech discern that Rebekah was Isaac's wife?

Isaac was sporting with her which might have been with some type of affection.

6. How did the Lord bless Isaac?

In one year, he was blessed a hundredfold.

7. How did the Philistines accept this blessing upon Isaac?

They did not like him and strove with him and tried to destroy or plug up his wells.

8. What is the meaning of these four wells: Esek, Sitnah, Rehoboth, Beer-shebah.

"Esek" meant the well of strife.

"Sitnah" was the well of hostility.

"Rehoboth" meant the well of plenty of room.

"Beer-shebah" means, "Well of the oath."

9. Name three things that Isaac did at Beer-shebah.

- a. He built an altar.
- b. He called on the name of the Lord.
- c. He digged a well.

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*Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.*

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