

**GENESIS 25-26**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Genesis chapter 25 as we continue our study through the Word of God.

As we have seen in our study of Genesis, Sarah, the wife of Abraham has died. And as we will see tonight in Genesis chapter 25, Abraham's life is going to come to an end as well.

Keep in mind that Abraham lived another 48 years after the death of his wife Sarah, and he is going to marry Keturah and will have children with her as well.

Now think about this for a minute. When God created the heavens and the earth and all life, there was no death! The animals did not die and Adam and Eve did not die.

But then, as soon as Adam sinned the death process began and ever since that time, we have seen life and we have seen death. This is all a result of sin entering this world. And we not only see life and death, but we see the wickedness of man's heart, the wicked things that he will do! Again, that is what sin does in our lives and it is not pretty!

Warren Wiersbe gives us this insight into life and death of both Sarah and Abraham. This is what he wrote,

King Solomon said, "***A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death, than the day of one's birth***" (Eccl 7:1).

He did not say that death is better than birth; for, after all, we must be born before we can die.

Solomon's point was that the name given you at birth is like fragrant ointment, and you must keep it that way until you die. When you received your name at birth, nobody knew what you would make out of it; but at death, that name is either fragrant or putrid. If it is fragrant at death, then people can rejoice: for after death, nothing can change it. So, for a person with a good name, the day of death is better than the day of birth.

The names of Abraham and Sarah were fragrant in life and in death and are still fragrant today.

In these chapters, we meet Abraham [Genesis chapter 25] and Sarah [Genesis chapter 23] at the end of life's road, and we learn from them what it means to die in faith.

- Warren Wiersbe, The Wiersbe Bible Commentary – NT, p. 92

We have already covered the death of Sarah back in Genesis chapter 23, as I have said. And tonight, we will look at the end of Abraham's life and then we will focus on the life of his son, Isaac.

So with that as our introduction, let's begin reading in Genesis chapter 25, beginning in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word.

## **GENESIS 25**

### **VERSES 1-4**

It would seem that sometime after Sarah's death Abraham remarries or really, Keturah is his concubine according to I Chronicles 1:32.

And he had six sons with Keturah, plus grandsons and even great grandsons through this lineage.

Even though a concubine was a wife, many feel that because of that status or relationship, they consider the concubine as a second-class wife. That is really not true.

A concubine was a wife, but the big difference is that the children of the concubine did not have the rights to inherit the property of their father, while the children of the wife did.

We saw that with Hagar and her son, Ishmael. He did not inherit all of Abraham's possessions, Isaac did, who was born to Sarah the wife of Abraham.

And we will see that here with the children of Keturah. Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac, but to the children that were born from Keturah, he gave them gifts and sent them away from the land of promise as we will see.

Now, as we have read these first four verses you may be wondering how this is all going to play out because we have seen that Isaac was the son of promise and would inherit the land.

But now this?

Listen to what Abraham does.

#### VERSES 5-6

Make no mistake about it, God has shown this to Abraham, and he did not let go of that truth, Isaac is still the son of promise.

Because of that the land, all that Abraham had, he gave to Isaac.

And to the children that were born to Keturah, he gave them gifts and sent them away, eastward, out from the promise land. You see, this land was to be given to Isaac and His descendants!

VERSES 7-11

As we have seen, Abraham lived 175 years and he died.

And we are told of Abraham, that this man of faith died “**full of years.**”

What does that mean? Is that saying if someone dies young then they did not die “**full of years**”?

What this is speaking of is that the years that he lived were full. They were years of a life that was surrendered to God and he used the gifts that God had given to him.

Does that mean he was perfect?

Absolutely not, we have seen that and there is no man who is perfect. But his life was lived completely and fully to the Lord, and he died satisfied because he passed those spiritual blessings on to his son Isaac!

You see, as a Christian, we too can live full of years. And I am not saying that we live to be 175 years old, but no matter how long we live as a Christian, one year, five years, ten years, fifteen years or more, if we use what God has given to us, they will be years of full life as we serve the Lord. It does not matter what age you go home to be with the Lord, it is what you have done with the time that God has given to you!

And like Abraham, may we pass those spiritual blessings down to our children!

Of this man Abraham, Clarke tells us, *“above all as a man of God, he stands unrivaled; so that under the most exalted and perfect of all dispensations, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, he is proposed and recommended as the model and pattern according to which the faith, obedience, and perseverance of the followers of the Messiah are to be formed. Reader, while you admire the man, do not forget the God that made him so great, so good, and so useful. Even Abraham had nothing but what he had received; from the free unmerited mercy of God proceeded all his excellences; but he was a worker together with God, and therefore did not receive the grace of God in vain. Go thou, believe, love, obey, and persevere in like manner.”*

And I like the fact that yes, Isaac was the son of promise, but in the death of their father, both Isaac and Ishmael came together to bury him.

And they bury Abraham in the cave of Machpelah, where Sarah was buried. And then they go their separate ways and God blesses Isaac.

And notice where Isaac dwelt, by the well in *Beer Lahai Roi* or *“the well of Him that liveth and seeth me.”*

In other words, it is the well of living water.

Folks, we need to dwell by the well of living water, Jesus Christ, who pours out His Spirit upon our lives giving us those times of refreshment, comfort, direction and-so-on!

And keep in mind that yes, Abraham was a great man, but he was only a man. God’s work passed on from one generation to the next.

Now, God would carry on the work of the covenant first promised to Abraham through Isaac.

Ray Stedman put it like this. He wrote,

What a picture Abraham's life is of a life like yours and mine! There was nothing unusual about him; nevertheless, God made him an extraordinary person, whose life reaches far beyond the realms of earth, out into eternity.

His life is one of blessing, fellowship, and fullness. Abraham stands as a living testimony to anyone who takes the path of faith and walks this way.

In so doing, we will find the same blessing. The author of Hebrews in the great "*heroes of faith*" chapter has this to say about Abraham and others before him:

*These all died in faith, not having received what was promised, but having seen it and greeted it from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city. (Hebrews 11:13-16 RSV)*

Abraham's life is the life of every Christian, for all who walk in faith with Jesus Christ, called to be his, to be possessed of him, to live as pilgrims and strangers on earth.

Thus, all the fruitfulness we desire, and the abundant life in the everlasting kingdom of the Father will be fulfilled in us as they were in the life of Abraham.

- <https://bit.ly/3R0Yn3i>

Remember that Isaac is the son of promise. He is the one through whom Messiah would be born, the Seed through whom all the families of the earth would be blessed.

VERSES 12-18

Now we are given the genealogy of Ishmael before the Holy Spirit brings us back to the chosen line through Isaac.

Remember back in Genesis 17:20 we were told, “**And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation.**”

We now see that come to pass as Ishmael has twelve sons that will occupy the land from Havilah or the area in north-central Arabia to Shur, between Beersheba and Egypt.

Keep in mind that many of Ishmael’s sons settled in and around the area of Saudi Arabia. And just to add this little note, this is the place where the god Allah is worshipped, the place that gave birth to the Islamic faith.

With that said, also keep in mind that the Lord said to Hagar regarding the descendants of Ishmael in Genesis 16:12, “**He shall be a wild man; His hand shall be against every man, And every man's hand against him. And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.**”

And that is exactly what we see, the Ishmaelites will live in hostility not only to each other but to the children of Israel. You see, they were all brothers, and they could not even get along with each other just as God said!

So we see here that at the age of 137, Ishmael dies and passes off the scene.

But as I have said, their hostility not only toward each other but the children of Isaac, and that hatred, hostility continues on to this day!

And with Islam, we see that hostility towards the world that opposes Islam or does not conform to it. Islam means *submission* and if you don’t submit, you die, and we see that played out in the world today!

VERSES 19-24

If Isaac was 40 years old when he took Rebekah his wife, that would mean that Abraham was 140 years old at the close of Genesis chapter 24 and maybe 140 years old when he married Keturah!

And we see here that for 20 years Rebekah could not conceive a child, she had no children, she was barren.

What is interesting is that Isaac did not try to help God out here, like his father Abraham did. And that did not work out well.

What we see Isaac do is that he pleaded and prayed to the Lord and the Lord answered his hearts cry, Rebekah was pregnant.

How long was he praying for his wife?

Not a year, or two years but it was 20 years after he started praying that Rebekah was pregnant or bore these children!

What a great lesson that we should not give up on praying for someone, especially for their salvation.

Now, what a blessing this was but there was a problem with the pregnancy. What was that problem?

You might say that there was turmoil in the womb!

In other words, the literal Hebrew tells us that, "*The children smashed themselves inside her.*" I can't imagine what she felt like, her womb was like a battlefield and talk about sibling rivalry starting early, this was when they were still in the womb and these kids are fighting!

In understanding that something was not right, we see that Rebekah sought the Lord regarding what was happening.



In fact, Jewish legend, not the Scriptures, tell us that Jacob and Esau tried to kill each other in the womb. I doubt that, but you never know.

Also, every time Rebekah went near an idol's altar, Esau would get excited in the womb, and when she would go near a place where the LORD was worshipped, Jacob would get excited.

Obviously we don't know if that was true or not, but something to think about.

Now the Lord does explain to Rebekah what is going on in her womb. She has twins and they will become two nations and yet, the younger will be served by the older.

That is God's Word to her, a promise. You see, it was usually the first born that received the blessing, the double portion of the inheritance, but now God turns the tables and says that the older will serve the younger!

Folks, this is the sovereign will of God here and we need to understand that God does not have favorites, but this is His plan!

Paul, in Romans 9:10-14 tells us regarding these two boys and the sovereign will of God, **“And not only this, but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, even by our father Isaac (for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls), it was said to her, ‘The older shall serve the younger.’ As it is written, ‘Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.’ What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? Certainly not!”**

Now why did God choose Jacob over Esau?

The logical conclusion would be that Jacob was better than Esau, but that truly was not the case.

In fact, Paul tells us it was not of works or the things they did.

Then what was it based upon?

God's sovereign election, it was made before they were born.

Think of it like this. Why did God choose the nation of Israel, the Jews, to be His representative to the world?

In Exodus 32:9 we are told, "**And the LORD said to Moses, 'I have seen this people, and indeed it is a stiff-necked people!'**"

You see, it was not because of how good they were, but God's sovereign election.

I am not the pastor of this church because I am a great guy, I am so special that God needed me. But because of His sovereign election and I am always humbled by the fact that God used a donkey in the Old Testament to speak forth His Words, and I guess He can use me as well!

And please understand that God has a purpose, He has a plan, He does not choose arbitrarily, He knows the beginning from the end!

Paul also quotes out of Genesis 25:23 where we are told in regard to the twins who were to be born, Esau who was the oldest and Jacob, and that "**the older shall serve the younger.**"

When did Esau serve Jacob?

Not in their lifetime but in their descendants and thus, when Paul quotes out of Malachi 1:2-3 as he says, "**Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.**" he is speaking of the nations and not the individuals.

Keep in mind that Jacob and Esau were long dead when Malachi wrote these words, some 500 years or so down the road from when they were around. So he is not speaking of the individuals, but the nation.

And in Obadiah God declares His hatred over the Edomites for their idolatry, their violence against Israel, their rejoicing when Israel was defeated in battle and-so-on.

What is tragic is that Calvinists will use this to show election and the idea here is that God has elected some to be saved and others not to be saved.

Please understand that this is not a salvation issue here. Not at all!

Norm Geisler points this out for us as he wrote, ***“Few Scriptural texts are more misused by extreme Calvinists than this one.”***

Extreme Calvinists believe that what Paul is teaching here is that in eternity past before Esau and Jacob were ever born God chose to love Jacob and to hate Esau, to save Jacob and send Esau to hell.

Then they say that this is played out in the world today, that is how it works with everyone. God chooses to love and save some and to hate and condemn others, and that’s all there is to it.

Foolishness and I will just give you one verse, and there are many, to show you how God loves everyone and died for everyone.

In John 3:16-17 we are told, **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”**

And the Calvinists will tell you that the word **“world”** means only those that God has elected.

Again, foolishness. Even if you don’t know Greek, as you read that you can see that it is speaking of every person has a choice to make. How do I know that?

Because Jesus said, “**whoever believes**” will have everlasting life! He did not say, “*only the elect!*”

This is not complicated and yet, many distort the Scriptures to make them say what they want to believe!

It is as one seminary professor said: “*Try to explain election, and you may lose your mind; but explain it away and you will lose your soul.*”

God is fair, He is righteous, and all His judgments are perfect, that is the basis you must approach election.

God knows who will be saved because He knows all things, but He does not elect them or make them go to Hell. That is a choice that each person has to make.

Again, think of election or predestination and free will as railroad tracks. One is election and the other free will. The train sits on the tracks and these tracks run parallel to each other. And it is both election and free will that takes that train to its destination just as it will take us to heaven!

#### VERSES 24-26

As Rebekah goes into labor and the first child is born, and they see him, they call him hairy and not “*Harry*” the name.

He was full of hair and thus, Esau is born.

The second child, as he comes out, he is grabbing the heel of his brother and thus, they call him heel-catcher or Jacob.

Now that is not a great name for it means, “*trickster*” or “*con-man*” or “*scoundrel*” or “*rascal.*”

How would you like that name, *“Hey, can scoundrel come out to play?”*

Now, as the children are born and we will see them grow up, the promise of the rights of the firstborn belonged to who?

They belonged to Esau, but God said that Jacob would be the one, that the elder or Esau would serve the younger, Jacob. That is what God said. Keep that in mind!

### VERSES 27-28

Like most siblings, notice how different these two were.

Esau was a man’s man and Isaac loved him. He loved to hunt, an outdoorsman you might say. He not only was an outdoors man, but he smelled like an outdoors man as well!

Now, as we come to Jacob, some see him as a mamma’s boy. He liked to stay home with Rebekah, and he loved to cook, and Rebekah loved Jacob.

As you read this story, there may be some truth with that but the word **“mild”** speaks of **“wholeness”** and not someone who is weak or effeminate or girlish!

Let me say this and we will see this played out as we go through this story. It is never a good idea to have favorites, love your children the same, make them all special or it will cause problems in your home!

### VERSES 29-34

As Esau returned from his hunting trip, he came up empty and he was starving.

And you can just imagine how this plays out if you have ever been hungry and you start to smell some food on the stove and your mouth is watering!

That is what is going on here. As Esau gets closer and closer to home, that homemade lentil soup smells great, and he asks Jacob for some.

But Jacob is going to make a deal with Esau before he will give it to him, he wants the birthright that was due the firstborn and then he could have the stew.

Again, Jacob is a conniver, schemer, heel-catcher you might say. His name fits his actions perfectly!

What was this birthright all about?

The birthright spoke both of a physical and spiritual blessing.

The person would receive a double portion of the inheritance and would be the spiritual leader in the family when the father passed on. (We see this in Deuteronomy 21:17, I Chronicles 5:1-2 regarding the birthright)

Also, he would receive the covenant that God made with Abraham and thus, Jacob is wheeling and dealing to get what God promised him in the first place.

Folks, if God has made a promise to you, you don't have to wheel and deal to obtain it.

And Jacob, many years down the road, will learn that lesson.

But for Esau, at this point, he can care less about the birthright, he wanted to eat, he was starving and thus, Jacob takes advantage of the situation.

Now, was this a valid transaction?

I don't believe so and I will tell you why. Jacob was buying what was already his and Esau was giving away what did not belong to him!

Listen to how Barnhouse makes this application for us today. He wrote:

***“History shows that men prefer illusions to realities, choose time rather than eternity, and the pleasures of sin for a season rather than the joys of God forever.***

*Men will read trash rather than the Word of God, and adhere to a system of priorities that leaves God out of their lives. Multitudes of men spend more time shaving than on their souls; and multitudes of women give more minutes to their makeup than to the life of the eternal spirit. Men still sell their birthright for a mess of pottage.”*

Paul tells us of those blessings because of our birthright that we have in Jesus in Ephesians 1:3-14, where we are told, **“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth - in Him. In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”**

You can read through these verses on your own and see the many blessings we have in Christ. Here's the thing. May you not despise them as Esau did!

Now, as we move into Genesis chapter 26, we will see God test the faith of Isaac. How do we know if he passed the test?

Simply, in his obedience to the Lord, for if he did not obey the Lord, then he did not trust the Lord.

It is as Peter said in I Peter 1:6-7, **“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”**

## **GENESIS 26**

### **VERSES 1-5**

Here we see a second famine in the Scriptures.

The first involved Abraham back in Genesis chapter 20 and he did not do well with that test, he lied to Abimelech saying that Sarah was his sister and not his wife.

Now his son Isaac is experiencing a famine and Abimelech may be a title and not a name. And yes, Abimelech was involved with Abraham in Genesis chapter 20, but again, this is not the same man for we are now some 90 years from the previous famine.

And here is this famine and what does Isaac do. We are told, **“... Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines, in Gerar.”** Genesis 26:1.



Obviously this was a severe famine, so much so that Isaac takes his family to Gerar, which is almost halfway to Egypt. In other words, when trouble comes, instead of seeking the Lord, instead of praying and bringing this before the Lord, he goes to the world for help; he goes to Gerar and seeks Abimelech King of the Philistines.

Now it is easy to come down upon Isaac, but how many times are we facing difficulty in our lives and instead of bringing it to the Lord, we try to figure a way out of the situation, we may even go to the world for help!

And this not only happens when you are in physical need, but also many times when you have a famine of the soul and you run to the world to satisfy those needs instead of the Lord.

Paul said in Philippians, **“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. . . . And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”**

Philippians 4:13, 19.

Do you believe it?

What you do in various situations you find yourself in will show if you truly believe that or not!

And I don't know if Isaac would have gone to Egypt, from what we are told here it seems like that is where he was headed. But even if he wasn't, he went far enough and now we see that the Lord steps in and tells him not to go to Egypt, don't go all the way into the world for help.

What we see today is that many Christians have not gone back to the world or back to Egypt, but they are content to live on the boarder of Egypt or the world!

In other words, ***“How close can I live to the world and still get into heaven? How close to the world can I live and still have God bless me?”***

That is a dangerous place to live because the world will never be satisfied where you are at. The world will keep pulling you in and pulling you in until you find yourself trapped in it.

Look at what happened to Lot, learn the lesson!

You see, God wants Isaac to dwell in the land where He is at, but not to establish himself here in Gerar but be more of a guest; this was not to be his home.

And the covenant that God made with Abraham He re-establishes with Isaac. (Genesis 17:7-8, 19)

God is telling Isaac to keep the faith and walk accordingly.

How did he do?

Look at the next verse and you will see.

#### VERSE 6

The word “**dwelt**” in Hebrew is ***YASHAB***, (yaw-shab’) and it speaks of settling down, to remain there, to set-up your home there.

I find that interesting because God did not tell him to make his home there. In fact, this is not the same Hebrew word that is found in Genesis 26:2, where we see the Hebrew word ***GUWR***, (goor) used and it means to sojourn as a guest.

From outward appearances it looks like Isaac was obeying the Lord, but it was just a partial obedience.

God told him to be a guest there and yet, he sunk his roots down in Gerar because the land was good, it met his physical needs.

So far he is not trusting in the Lord and he is going to continue down that path.

As you look at the life of this man, Isaac was not really a man of great faith and if it were not what we are told in Hebrews chapter 11, we might not even see him as a man of faith!

### VERSES 7-9

Doesn't this sound familiar?

It should because Abraham did the same thing some 90 years earlier!

Remember the old saying, "*The apple doesn't fall far from the tree*" or the other one, "*Like father like son.*" That is what we are seeing here!

Make no mistake about it, a lack of faith causes people to do things to protect themselves or to gain something.

Isaac learned well from his father Abraham, he followed in his footsteps and lied to the Philistines saying that Rebekah was his sister because he was afraid they would kill him and take her.

Now wait a minute, didn't the Lord just re-establish the covenant with Isaac?

You bet He did! And he may have believed the Lord but thought he needed to help God out, so he lied!

As we saw with our study of Abraham, a half-truth is still a half-lie, and the Bible tells us that the Devil is the father of lies. And this was not a half-truth, this was a total lie. Rebekah was not his half-sister!

Now this went on for a while, and then, after a long time had passed by, Abimelech was looking out his window and he saw Isaac and Rebekah, and I like the way that the King James Version of the Bible puts it. It reads, “**. . . Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out at a window, and saw, and, behold, Isaac was sporting with Rebekah his wife.**”

I don't think I need to explain that one and as Abimelech saw them together, he knew that they were not brother and sister, they were married. Their behavior made Abimelech aware of that!

What we see next is interesting. This pagan King rebukes this man of God.

Again, it is truly sad when the world has to expose our sin.

One author said, “*We must understand that we are being watched. When you sin, you may be sure that a nonbeliever is watching through some window.*”

How true that is. And, as we will see, this King is going to nail him on this one.

Listen to what the King says in response to Isaac's excuses! And they are truly excuses showing he did not trust in the Lord!

#### VERSES 10-11

Keep in mind that these pagan Kings could care less about morality and yet, Abimelech is concerned, why?

Maybe because he heard the stories of another Abimelech, maybe one of his relatives or even his father, and his dealings with Abraham. Maybe he heard how the God of Abraham had closed up the wombs of the house of Abimelech.

Now Abraham's son is doing the same thing and he did not want another curse to be brought upon his household, on his family.

In fact, Abimelech takes this very seriously as he says, “... **‘He who touches this man or his wife shall surely be put to death.’**” Genesis 26:11.

Here’s the thing. We don’t need to lie, to cheat, to steal or whatever to accomplish the will of God in our lives.

We walk by faith trusting in the Lord.

Yes, God protected Isaac and Rebekah, but He actually said He would do that without their help, without their lies!

Walk in integrity and God will take care the rest.

#### VERSES 12-14

As you read this you may come to the conclusion that Isaac was doing well, he prospered, God blessed Him, but I don’t believe that is the correct way to look at this.

Isaac was living as close to Egypt, as close to the world as he could without crossing the line and some Christians do that very thing.

Then why did God bless him?

I believe to get Isaac back to the land that God wanted him in – he dwelt in Gerar a long time, but God did not want him there to stay, only to sojourn for a time.

Thus, God will use these blessings and what they bring into his life to move Isaac! And we will see God move Isaac as we read on.

#### VERSES 15-23

Why did they shut up all these wells?

It would seem that the Philistines did not want Abraham to return to this land and thus, they shut up the wells he dug, put dirt over them to cover the wells that he dug.

Folks, you can't hinder or hide or take away the blessings of God, even though they tried!

And now Abimelech sees God blessing Isaac and he wants Isaac to leave. He feared that if Isaac got any stronger, he would defeat them.

So he moves a little bit farther away, but he is still in the area.

And what does Isaac do?

Isaac re-digs the wells of his father and also digs new ones, and now the problems begin to show up.

What is the problem?

The problem is "*Whose water is it?*"

This first well that Isaac dug was called *Esek* or "*contentions*" because the herdsmen of Gerar were quarreling with them.

Then he dug another well and once again they quarreled and Isaac called this well, *Sitnah* or "*opposition.*"

By the time Isaac dug a third well there was no more contention and thus, he called the well *Rehoboth* or "*roominess.*"

God did not want Isaac living in a place filled with contentions and oppositions, but one that was roomy or open and God used that to led Isaac back to Beersheba or the "*well of an oath!*"

Yes, Isaac stumbled, he fell but he did get back up and he went to the place God wanted him to be.

How do I know that? Let's read on and you will see.

VERSES 24-25

What we see here is that God once again confirms his covenant with Isaac and Isaac worships the Lord.

Maybe some of the contentions, some of the oppositions in your life are there because you are not where God wants you to be. He wants you to be at Beersheba or “*the well of the oath,*” the place He has called you to dwell in, being in obedience to Him. And folks, as you surrender to His will for your life the response that should flow from your life is one of worship, the worship of God.

It is as we are told in I Chronicles 16:25-29, “**For the Lord is great and greatly to be praised; He is also to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the Lord made the heavens. Honor and majesty are before Him; Strength and gladness are in His place. Give to the Lord, O families of the peoples, Give to the Lord glory and strength. Give to the Lord the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!**”

And let me share this with you. In Genesis 26:23-25 we see four main points regarding our walk with God. They are,

- Make sure you are in the will of God, for it is in the will of God that God can bless you!
- We see Isaac build an altar. How does that apply to us? We are to make the place we live, where we are at a place of worship!
- We also see Isaac pitch his tent or it is a place of rest and fellowship for us with the Lord!
- And we see Isaac dig a well and for us as Christians we are to be drinking daily from the fountain of life, from Jesus and His Word!

So as Isaac is in the will of God, as he has built a place of worship, as he is in fellowship with God and taking in His Word, notice what happens when Isaac did this.

VERSES 26-31

Why did this pagan King make peace with Isaac?

Because he saw the hand of God upon Isaac and he realized, in a sense, ***“Better red than dead!”*** or ***“If you can’t beat them, join them!”***

Williams makes this interesting note on these verses. He wrote: ***“It is when Isaac definitely separates himself from the men of Gerar that they come to him seeking blessing from God. . . . The Christian best helps the world when living in separation from it. . . .”***

How often Christians try to be like the world and in doing so, they don’t help them.

What is interesting to me here is because of this separation, Abimelech saw how God blessed Isaac and wanted to be under that protection and blessing. He realized the God of Isaac was powerful even though he did not turn to Him!

May we let others see the power of God working in and through our life as we walk with the Lord, as we are obedient to Him!

VERSES 32-33

As God continues to bless Isaac, his servants find another well and he calls it ***Shebah*** or ***“oath”*** and thus, the name of the city is called ***Beersheba*** or ***“the well of the oath.”***

It was a constant reminder of the covenant that God made with Abraham and Isaac, that God is faithful to fulfill His promise; we just need to walk by faith and trust in Him. That is where the blessings are found!



VERSES 34-35

Esau, the man of the world goes to the world and gets not only a wife, but two for himself. And he takes these two women, these pagan women and brings them before his parents and his parents were grieved over his decision.

This truly showed the heart of Esau, his concern was for the worldly things or the things of this world, and the focus on his life is this unholy trinity: Me, Myself and I!

That is going to play out for us in the next chapter in the life of Esau and we will see that next time!

Yes, as Christians, we can and will fail at times in our life, and I should say every day! But our hearts desire is to walk in the will of God, to follow Him and that was the desire if Isaac, even though he failed.

For Esau, he had no desire to walk with God, but did want the benefits that God would pour out. And the two don't go together. You are either going to walk with God and be blessed or you are not going to walk with God and face the consequences of that decision.

And yes, God does pour out the rain on the just and the unjust, but the true blessings of God are found walking in His will.

And I will leave you with these words from Jude, **“But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”** Jude 1:20-21.

This is from The Amplified Bible, **“But you, beloved, build yourselves up [founded] on your most holy faith [make progress, rise like an edifice higher and higher], praying in the Holy Spirit; Guard and keep yourselves in the love of God; expect and patiently wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah) - [which will bring you] unto life eternal.”** Jude 1:20-21.

Keep yourself in the will of God as you walk by faith and not by sight trusting in the promises of God!