

Isaac—Gen 26

Isaac & Abimelech

I. Additional Scriptures/Notes...

- 26:1...** ABIMELECH—“A king of Gerar in the time of Isaac, probably the son of the preceding (Gen. 26:1-22). Isaac sought refuge in his territory during a famine, and there he acted a part with reference to his wife Rebekah similar to that of his father Abraham with reference to Sarah. Abimelech rebuked him for the deception, which he accidentally discovered. Isaac settled for a while here, and prospered. Abimelech desired him, however, to leave his territory, which Isaac did. Abimelech afterwards visited him when he was encamped at Beer-sheba, and expressed a desire to renew the covenant which had been entered into between their fathers ([Gen 26:26-31](#))” [*Easton’s Bible Dictionary*].
- 26:7...** “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” [Adam Clarke].
- 26:20...** ESEK—“Quarrel, a well which Isaac’s herdsmen dug in the valley of Gerar, and so called because the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with them for its possession ([Gen 26:20](#))” [*Easton’s Bible Dictionary*].
- 26:21...** SITNAH—“Strife, the second of the two wells dug by Isaac, whose servants here contended with the Philistines ([Gen 26:21](#)). It has been identified with the modern Shutneh, in the valley of Gerar, to the west of Rehoboth, about 20 miles south of Beersheba” [*Easton’s Bible Dictionary*].
- 26:22...** REHOBOTH—“Broad places. (1.) A well in Gerar dug by Isaac ([Gen 26:22](#)), supposed to be in Wady *er-Ruheibeh*, about 20 miles south of Beersheba” [*Easton’s Bible Dictionary*].
- 26:33...** SHEBA—“**She'bah**. (*an oath*). The famous well, which gave its name to the city of Beersheba. [Gen 26:53](#)” [*Smith’s Bible Dictionary*].

II. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: **Patriarchy.**

III. Summary.

Here we read about the blessing of the Lord being passed on to Isaac. This chapter also reveals to us the stunning incident of Isaac lying about Rebekah being his sister. It is stunning not because of the circumstances which existed at that time and place which might have caused Isaac to do this. It is stunning because we have already read of the great problems which came to his father, Abraham, for doing precisely the same thing. Though it is not revealed, it seems pretty clear that Abraham had not discussed his previous lies of similar nature and the disasters those lies brought to him. God blessed Isaac as he dwelt in Gerar and as he sowed in the land. Isaac became wealthy. Because of the success he was having in relation to Abimelech’s people, Abimelech asked him to leave the area. Then comes a series of squabbles with the Canaanites regarding water rights. Finally a well is dug at Rehoboth that is not disputed (Rehoboth meaning A BROAD PLACE). Isaac moves to Beersheba, and the promise is

repeated to him by the Lord. Abimelech comes to him, after observing that Isaac's God has greatly blessed him, and he comes with the purpose in mind of making a covenant together with Isaac. They depart in peace. We read also about Esau marrying two women of the Hittites and are told that these marriages were "a grief of mind to Isaac and Rebekah."

IV. Outline.

1. A famine in the land (Gen 26:1).
2. The Lord confirms to Isaac that it will be through him that the promise is kept (26:2-5).
3. In Gerar, Isaac lies about his relationship to Rebekah (26:6-11).
4. Isaac sows the land and is blessed by the Lord (12-15).
5. Abimelech sends Isaac away because of his success (16).
6. Strife over wells of water (17-22).
7. Isaac goes to Beersheba and once again the Lord appears to him (23-25).
8. Abimelech seeks a covenant with Isaac (26-33).
9. Esau marries strange women and becomes a source of grief to his parents (34-35).

V. Questions.

True or False

01. _____ Abimelech confessed that Isaac was more mighty than he was.
02. _____ Isaac was suspicious of why Abimelech came to him at Beersheba.
03. _____ Among Abimelech's people adultery was not wrong.
04. _____ Isaac was told by the Lord to go into Egypt because of the famine.
05. _____ Esau married the Hittite women when he was 25.

Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)

06. _____ The chief captain of Abimelech's army was: (a) Phichol; (b) Ahuzzah; (c) Gerar.
07. _____ The well that was dug and produced no strife was: (a) Esek; (b) Sitnah; (c) Rehoboth.
08. _____ As He spoke to Isaac, which of the following were NOT a part of how the Lord described Abraham's obedience to Him: (a) voice; (b) charge; (c) commandments; (d) statutes; (e) laws; (f) none of these.
09. _____ The punishment for touching Isaac or Rebekah would be: (a) death; (b) nothing; (c) imprisonment.
10. _____ Which of the following did Esau take to wife: (a) Judith; (b) Bashemath; (c) a & b; (d) none of these.

Fill in the Blanks

11. "...Wherefore come ye to me, seeing ye _____ me, and have _____ me away from you?"
12. The hospitality of Isaac is shown toward Abimelech in that it is said: "And he made them a _____, and they did _____ and _____."
13. "And the _____ of _____ did strive with Isaac's herdmen, saying, the water is _____."
14. "_____ in this land..."
15. "Then Isaac _____ in that land, and received in the same year an _____: and the Lord blessed him."

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: _____

Answers will be found on next week's handout

ANSWERS to Genesis 25 Questions... [01—False, Gen 25:21ff; 02—True, Gen 25:34; 03—True, Gen 25:7, 17; 04—False, Gen 25:27; 05—True, Gen 25:12; 06—b, Gen 25:30; 07—a,

Gen 25:7; 08—c, Gen 25:13; 09—c, Gen 25:1-2; 10—b, Gen 25:6; 11—Machpelah, Gen 25:9; 12—sell, birthright, Gen 25:31; 13—entreated, barren, Gen 25:21; 14—blessed, dwelt, well, Gen 25:11; 15—profane, 12.]

VI. Lessons & Applications.

1. **Sojourn in this land and I will be with thee...** (Genesis 26:3). We are in the dispensation of time when God communicated with the fathers. Here the Lord gives a clear and easy to understand command to Isaac and attached to it is a promise. Who could believe that the Lord would bless Isaac as he did (12-15), if Isaac would have rebelled against the Lord and gone down into Egypt? We see the conditional nature of God's promises. If we are faithful in our part (obeying the commands), then we need not worry that God will be faithful with his part (fulfilling the promises)!
2. **Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws** (Genesis 26:5). Surely this s-t-r-e-t-c-h-i-n-g out of the single idea of Abraham's obedience was done with purpose of emphasizing to Isaac the need to go and do likewise. Today the VOICE of the Lord is in His written word (1 Corinthians 2:1-13). In order to please the Lord, we will have to pay attention to that VOICE and be obedient.
3. **...She is my sister...** (Genesis 26:7). Though it is not revealed to us, it seems pretty certain that Abraham had left off any discussion of his own lies about Sarah being his sister in conversation he had with his son, Isaac. With the bitter consequences of such lies, it would seem that Abraham would have seen the wisdom of instructing Isaac in this regard. Maybe he did and Isaac just went his own way. However, it does suggest to us the possibility that WE might be leaving off, or have left off, certain things in our own instruction of our children. Surely if Abraham had been able to convey to his son the serious and grievous consequences that come from lying to others, this embarrassing situation in Gerar could have been prevented.
4. **...thou shouldest have brought guiltiness upon us... shall surely be put to death** (Genesis 26:10-11). It is interesting to notice here that ADULTERY was acknowledged as sinful even among these Hittites. Adultery is and has always been sinful.
5. **Then Isaac sowed in that land, ... and grew until he became very great...** (Genesis 26:12-13). Let us observe here that Isaac, like his father, was industrious. His wealth was not an automatic bounty from the Lord without effort on his part. Neither did it come instantaneously, but rather, Isaac grew to become great. The Lord expects us to be industrious and to do our part, particularly following the Lord's instructions of Matthew 6:33, and we will be blessed as a result of following the Lord's will (John 10:10).
6. **...Go from us; for thou art much mightier than we** (Genesis 26:16). Why was Isaac sent away? Verse 14 answers the question—THE PHILISTINES ENVIED HIM. Envy is one of those great sins which separate people. We, as Christians, have to be so careful to avoid it (Psalms 37:1; Proverbs 3:31; 24:1; Galatians 5:26).
7. **Which were a grief of mind unto Isaac and to Rebekah** (Genesis 26:35). How very important it is for us to teach our children about marriage and whom to marry. The ONLY wise recommendation we can make is that this person being considered needs to be someone who will HELP our son or daughter go to heaven. Today, that person is a FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN!

VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

M J U Y H N B G T R F V C D E E E W S X
 Z C O M M A N D M E N T S A Q W R S X C
 D V E R F V B G T Y H T N H Y U A U J M
 O E O P I Y R W Q A A Z X S H W W E D G
 C G V I F R T G B T N H Y T U J S M K I
 I R U Y C T R E U W Q A A Z X S W E D V
 V A F R T E G T B N C O U N T R I E S E
 N H H Y U J E M K I E Y H N B G T R F V
 C C L A W S D E W H S X Z A Q W S X C D
 E R F V B G T Y T N B E B L E S S E D M
 N P E R F O R M N H Y T G B V F R E D C
 X S W Q A Z C D S R F D V F R D A T G B
 N B H Y U J M R R F E W S X E Q B X S N
 C D L R F V A B G E T Y H Y N B R V C R
 X S W E E T D C S V F R E T G B A N H U
 C D E Q S A Z Y X S W B E D C V H F R O
 V F R T N S H N H Y O T N H E W A A C J
 V F M U L T I P L Y R T G B N H M Y U O
 M J U I K L O P T G B E C A U S E E W S
 Q A Z X S W E D C V F R T G B Y H D R L

[The highlighted words can be found above. They may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. DRL]

Genesis 26:3-5... ³**Sojourn** in this land, and I will be with thee, and will **ble^ss** 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; ⁴And 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**; ⁵**Because** that **Abraham obeyed** my **voice**, and kept my **charge**, my **commandments**, my **statutes**, and my **laws**.