

Genesis Chapter 26

Ge 26:1-4 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...

This is the second famine recorded in scripture. The first was with Abraham in [Gen.12:10](#). Although famines are an act of judgment, God also used it to create trust and obedience in Isaac. He instructs him to sojourn in Gerar and to avoid Egypt. He then rehearses with him the promises made to his father Abraham ([vs.4](#)). We can take solace in the promises of God even when circumstances seem bleak.

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

Something interesting to note here is that Abraham was not under the Mosaic law, yet he followed God's charges, commandments, statutes, and laws – as did Job. The book of Job contains some profound truths showing us that the people of this time did not lack the knowledge of God. Job said, "Neither have I gone back from **the commandment of his lips**; I have esteemed **the words of his mouth** more than my necessary food." [Job 23:12](#). At the very least, God's laws are written on every man's conscience ([Rom.2:15](#)) which removes any excuse ([Rom.1:20](#)). In this age of grace, we not only honor the Mosaic law ([Rom.3:31](#), [7:12-14](#)) but we follow others given in this age ([Rom.8:2-4](#), [Gal.6:2](#)).

Ge 26:6-11 And Isaac dwelt in Gerar: **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...

Here we find Isaac repeating a sin of his father. It isn't likely that Abraham shared his past experience with Isaac (*and it is recommended that you do not*) yet he denied Rebekah in the same way as his father. This passage often raises the question of generational sins. There is no denying that we pass down good and bad traits to one another, but the idea of generational sins is vastly exaggerated. **First**, the consequences of sin can pass on to the third and fourth generation and not the sin itself ([Ex.20:5](#), [Jer.32:18](#)). **Second**, we all have sin dwelling in our members ([Rom.7:5](#)) that can easily beset us ([Heb.12:1](#)) which is common to man ([1Cor.10:13](#)). **Third**, if we don't take responsibility of our own lives and that of our family, iniquity is sure to visit ([Pr.5:22](#), [23:14](#), [22:8,15](#), [19:18](#)). **Finally**, if you did **not** have a Christian upbringing, you're not doomed. Getting saved breaks the cycle of sin and gives you liberty ([2Co.5:21](#) For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him., [Ro 8:1](#) *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. See also [vs.3](#)). Isaac simply did what thousands of other people would have done under the same circumstances.

Ge 26:12-16 Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him. **13** And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great: **14** For he had possession of flocks, and possession of herds, and great store of servants: and the Philistines envied him. **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. **16** And Abimelech said unto Isaac, Go from us; for thou art much mightier than we.

God's promise of blessing given in [vs.3](#) was abundant – "an hundredfold" (*you can't get better than that according to [Mark 4:20](#)*). Because of this, the Philistines envied him (*this is the same motive the Pharisees had for killing Jesus, [Mr.15:10](#)*). And rather than convert to the God of Abraham and Isaac, the Philistines chose to fill the wells of Abraham. Verse 15 says they "filled them with earth". This world's system seeks to suppress the knowledge of God by filling the wells with earth. They ask their people to focus on education, politics, social issues, saving the planet, space exploration, human rights, and helping your fellow man. Eventually, the world will get rid of you just as Abimelech did with Isaac. Don't worry about getting rid of bad friends. If you live for God, they will get rid of you!

Ge 26:18-23 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. **19** And Isaac's servants digged in the valley, and found there a well of springing water. **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...

Isaac took on a great task. He chose to restore the landmarks of his father. But as we've seen, the world is never content to sit by and watch this happen. Be ready for a fight when trying to take ground from this world.

Ge 26:24-33 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...

Isaac's efforts did not go unnoticed by God. He paid him a visit and gave him a similar reassurance as he did Abraham in [Gen.15:1](#). Abimelech also paid Isaac a visit ([vs.26-29](#)). but beware of crafty politicians. It's best to stay as independent from this world as possible. God told Isaac in [vs.3](#) that all these countries will be his. He had no need of a covenant with Abimelech.