

Genesis 26:1-35

Many scholars overlook the 26th chapter of Genesis. This is the only chapter in the bible that tells us about Isaac. He is an important individual. He had a different personality from his father Abraham. This chapter is important for us to understand what is going on in the Mideast today. This chapter also teaches us how to live as Christians in some ways.

- 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.** Abraham faced the same thing about 100 years before and he went down to Egypt, which he shouldn't have done. Anytime we see the word Egypt, it means the world. It's like God's children running to the world for answers. We shouldn't do that. Running to the Abimelech king was the first thing Isaac did wrong. Instead of seeking God immediately, he runs to the pagan king, which is a no-no.
- 2 **And the LORD appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of:** God intervenes right here. Isaac is halfway to Egypt, and God appears and says, "No. Stop right here. I don't want you going to Egypt."
- 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;** God stops Isaac on his way to Egypt and tells him to stay right here, and He'll take care of it. He is going to give Isaac all that land. God says, come see me and I'll take care of it.
- 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;** This has come about because Jesus Christ came on the scene and is our savior.
- 5 **Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.** God says I'm going to go ahead and continue this blessing promised to Abraham and his seed because He loves them. God was Abraham's main focus even though he wasn't perfect, and God loved him.
- 6 ¶ **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.** Isaac did the same thing that Abraham did: lied about his wife being his sister.
- 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.** This word sporting has many meanings. But it was a point when the king noticed they were a little more than siblings.
- 9 **And Abimelech called Isaac, and said, Behold, of a surety she *is* thy wife: and how said thou, She *is* my sister? And Isaac said unto him, Because I said, Lest I die for her.** Isaac is not displaying much courage here.
- 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 should have brought guiltiness upon us.** The king does not communicate with God but he is chastising one of God's people for not behaving like a proper Christian.
- 11 **And Abimelech charged all *his* people, saying, He that touches this man or his wife shall surely be put to death.** All you have to do is trust the Lord. Any lie you tell affects many more people than just you and the person you told it to. Don't lie.
- 12 ¶ **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.** Despite the big deal of the lie, Isaac owns up to the lie and God, in a time of famine, God blesses him abundantly. Isaac becomes very wealthy and powerful and the heathens envy him.
- 15 For all the wells which his father's servants had dug in the days of Abraham his father, the Philistines had stopped them, and filled them with earth.** As Isaac's people dug wells, the Philistines came behind them and filled them back up because they were jealous. Water meant everything. It was very important.
- 16 And Abimelech said unto Isaac, Go from us; for thou art much mightier than we.** They have become afraid of Isaac because he became too powerful and they were afraid he was going to overpower them and take over the area. He agreed to leave.
- 17 And Isaac departed thence, and pitched his tent in the valley of Gerar, and dwelt there.**
- 18 And Isaac dug again the wells of water, which they had dug 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.** Isaac goes back and retraces his dad's well-digging and re-digs them.
- 19 And Isaac's servants dug in the valley, and found there a well of springing water.** He was very excited about this stream of 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.** The Philistines are still there, still jealous, but Isaac moves on and lets them have the well. He had enough men to fight for the well and overpower them, but he is a man of peace and he moves on.
- 21 And they dug another well, and strove for that also: and he called the name of it Sitnah.** This well is named Sitnah, which means bitterness.
- 22 And he removed from thence, and dug 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.** The Philistines finally quit following Isaac around and taking his wells, so Isaac feels the Lord has made room for him now.
- 23 And he went up from thence to Beersheba.** Beer means wells, sheba means oath, so these are named the wells of oath from the Lord.
- 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.** Notice God keeps going back to Abraham the dad. God so loved Abraham He is blessing his child Isaac.
- 25 And he built an altar there, and called upon the name of the LORD, and pitched his tent there: and there Isaac's servants dug a well.**
- 26 ¶ Then Abimelech went to him from Gerar, and Ahuzzath one of his friends, and Phichol the chief captain of his army.** The king brings his important friends and the chief of his army to visit.
- 27 And Isaac said unto them, Wherefore come ye to me, seeing ye hate me, and have sent me away from you?** Isaac says, what do you want? I thought you didn't like me.
- 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;** They know God is blessing Isaac so they fear and respect Isaac because of God's work in Isaac's life. Even though they didn't believe in God, they respected and feared Him.
- 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.** Hey, we didn't hurt you or try to harm you, we just asked to leave our midst in peace.
- 30 And he made them a feast, and they did eat and drink.** Isaac says I'm not going to hurt you and I'm not mad at you.

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- 31 And they rose up betimes in the morning, and swore one to another: and Isaac sent them away, and they departed from him in peace.** Isaac and the kings made peace between each other.
- 32 And it came to pass the same day, that Isaac's servants came, and told him concerning the well which they had dug, and said unto him, We have found water.** They dug another well.
- 33 And he called it Shebah: therefore the name of the city *is* Beersheba unto this day.** The wells of oath are still there today.
- 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:** Esau was Isaac's son. He goes and marries two Canaanite clanswomen.
- 35 Which were a grief of mind unto Isaac and to Rebekah.** Mom and dad are broken-hearted after raising him in God's way that he goes off and marries two heathen women. This causes more trouble for us today.