

# Genesis 26: The Promises Renewed

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The events of this chapter occur after the death of Abraham, culminating with the marriage of Esau when Isaac was 100. (Gen 26:34)

In this chapter, one gets the sense that history is repeating itself: famine, flight, folly, falling out, and treaty.

Once again we see that God does not intend for Isaac to leave Canaan. (Gen 26:2)

God renews the promises to Abraham:

- I will be with you
- I will bless you
- I will give all these lands to you and your offspring
- I will establish my oath to Abraham
- I will multiply your offspring
- In your offspring all the nations of the earth will be blessed

The final promise is Messianic.

What reason does God annex to His promises?

- obeyed (*shama*) and kept (*shamar*)
- charge (*mishmereth*), commandments (*mitsvah*), statutes (*chuqqah*), laws (*towrah*)

Which example of Abraham's obedience would be of particular significance to Isaac?

Who causes the famine? What purposes can we discern for the famines experienced by Abraham's family—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?

*The intrinsic worth of God's promises cannot be lessened in a believer's eye by any cross providences.* --Matthew Henry

What does Isaac do immediately following the repetition of the covenant promises? What is different about this incident compared to the one designed by Abraham?

After Isaac had been in Gerar for many days, Abimelech observed Isaac laughing (*tsachaq*) with Rebekah. (Gen 26:8)

The Hebrew word *tsachaq* is similar to *yitschaq*. Both can refer to laughter. But the former is translated in an assortment of ways in this verse: sporting (KJV, ASV), showing endearment (NKJV), fondling (NLT, RSV), caressing (NIV, NASB, HCSB), laughing (ESV).

Abimelech and Phicol were most likely titles for the king and his commander.

This chapter gives us another example of a saint being rebuked by a pagan. (Gen 26:9)

What are the signs of ill-will that the Philistines harbored against Abraham and Isaac? This was in spite of the covenant that Abimelech made with Abraham and his posterity. (Gen 21)

Isaac reaped one-hundredfold in spite of the **famine**. (Gen 26:12)

“Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac”—and yet God **multiplied** Isaac’s wealth. (Gen 26:13)

- flocks (*tson*): small cattle, sheep, goats
- herds (*baqar*): cattle, oxen
- servants (*abuddah*): household servants (contrast to *ebed*)

When Isaac departed Gerar and arrived in Beersheba, God again **renewed** the covenant. Isaac responds with **worship**. (Gen 26:24-25)

God’ promises were particularly comforting in light of Isaac’s **persecution** and **hardship**.

What is the basis for God commanding Isaac not to be fearful? (Gen 26:24)

The Philistines can see that God is showing favor to Isaac, so they seek him for terms of **peace**. This is an example of how God demonstrated His **power** to the unbelieving nations. (Gen 26:26)

When Abimelech shows up from Gerar, he is met with **suspicion**. In fact, there is plenty of reason for caution by both sides. (Gen 26:27)

What good news comes immediately after Isaac and Abimelech make their oaths? (Gen 26:32)

The chapter ends with bad news: Esau marries **Judith** and **Basemath**. (Gen 26:34)