

## Genesis 26

Now there was a famine in the land—besides the previous famine in Abraham’s time—and Isaac went to Abimelek king of the Philistines in Gerar. <sup>2</sup>The LORD appeared to Isaac and said, “Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land where I tell you to live. <sup>3</sup>Stay in this land for a while, and I will be with you and will bless you. For to you and your descendants I will give all these lands and will confirm the oath I swore to your father Abraham.

<sup>4</sup>I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring<sup>[a]</sup> all nations on earth will be blessed,<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>5</sup>because Abraham obeyed me and did everything I required of him, keeping my commands, my decrees and my instructions.” <sup>6</sup>So Isaac stayed in Gerar.

<sup>7</sup>When the men of that place asked him about his wife, he said, “She is my sister,” because he was afraid to say, “She is my wife.” He thought, “The men of this place might kill me on account of Rebekah, because she is beautiful.”<sup>8</sup>When Isaac had been there a long time, Abimelek king of the Philistines looked down from a window and saw Isaac caressing his wife, Rebekah.

<sup>9</sup>So Abimelek summoned Isaac and said, “She is really your wife! Why did you say, ‘She is my sister?’” Isaac answered him, “Because I thought I might lose my life on account of her.”<sup>10</sup>Then Abimelek said, “What is this you have done to us? One of the men might well have slept with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us.”<sup>11</sup>So Abimelek gave orders to all the people: “Anyone who harms this man, or his wife shall surely be put to death.”

<sup>12</sup>Isaac planted crops in that land and the same year reaped a hundredfold, because the LORD blessed him. <sup>13</sup>The man became rich, and his wealth continued to grow until he became very wealthy. <sup>14</sup>He had so many flocks and herds and servants that the Philistines envied him. <sup>15</sup>So all the wells that his father’s servants had dug in the time of his father Abraham, the Philistines stopped up, filling them with earth.

<sup>16</sup>Then Abimelek said to Isaac, “Move away from us; you have become too powerful for us.”<sup>17</sup>So Isaac moved away from there and encamped in the Valley of Gerar, where he settled. <sup>18</sup>Isaac reopened the wells that had been dug in the time of his father Abraham, which the Philistines had stopped up after Abraham died, and he gave them the same names his father had given them.

<sup>19</sup>Isaac’s servants dug in the valley and discovered a well of fresh water there. <sup>20</sup>But the herders of Gerar quarrelled with those of Isaac and said, “The water is ours!” So he named the well Esek,<sup>[c]</sup> because they disputed with him. <sup>21</sup>Then they dug another well, but they quarrelled over that one also; so he named it Sitnah.<sup>[d]</sup> <sup>22</sup>He moved on from there and dug another well, and no one quarrelled over it. He named it Rehoboth,<sup>[e]</sup> saying, “Now the LORD has given us room and we will flourish in the land.”

<sup>23</sup>From there he went up to Beersheba. <sup>24</sup>That night the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bless you and will increase the number of your descendants for the sake of my servant Abraham.”<sup>25</sup>Isaac built an altar there and called on the name of the LORD. There he pitched his tent, and there his servants dug a well.

<sup>26</sup>Meanwhile, Abimelek had come to him from Gerar, with Ahuzzath his personal adviser and Phicol the commander of his forces. <sup>27</sup>Isaac asked them, “Why have you come to me, since you were hostile to me and sent me away?”<sup>28</sup>They answered, “We saw clearly that the LORD was with you; so we said, ‘There ought to be a sworn agreement between us’—between us and you. Let us make a treaty with you

<sup>29</sup> that you will do us no harm, just as we did not harm you but always treated you well and sent you away peacefully. And now you are blessed by the LORD."<sup>30</sup> Isaac then made a feast for them, and they ate and drank. <sup>31</sup> Early the next morning the men swore an oath to each other. Then Isaac sent them on their way, and they went away peacefully

<sup>32</sup> That day Isaac's servants came and told him about the well they had dug. They said, "We've found water!" <sup>33</sup> He called it Shibah,<sup>[1]</sup> and to this day the name of the town has been Beersheba. <sup>34</sup> When Esau was forty years old, he married Judith, daughter of Beerli the Hittite, and also Basemath daughter of Elon the Hittite. <sup>35</sup> They were a source of grief to Isaac and Rebekah.

### We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

- In this chapter we see a number of parallels between Abraham and Isaac's lives
- Isaac encounters a famine as Abraham did. He travels to Egypt via the land of Gerar
- Why would Isaac choose to go to Egypt to avoid the famine?
- He goes to Abimelek the Phillistine King, a worldly king, as Abraham had done.
- Is this likely to be the son or even grandson of the Abimelek Abraham encountered?
- 'Abimelek' is thought to be a Phillistine title For king
- What does it mean by the Lord 'appeared' to Isaac?
- Should Isaac have sought the Lord before seeking Abimelek?
- Isaac shows trust and faith in the Lord and stays in the land
- Why does the Lord tell Isaac not to go to Egypt?
- The Lord prevented Isaac from going to Egypt, , the same as he had prevented Abraham
- Isaac is told to stay in the land of Gerar
- The Lord reaffirms His promises, this time to Isaac. The same promises were made to Abraham.
- What do you learn about God's character in verses 2-6?
- Isaac lies about Rebeckah ..... Just as his father had lied about his mother Sarah.
- There seems to be a family trait for lying about their wives!!
- Why would Isaac feel he would be safer if they thought Rebekah was his sister, andSS not his wife?
- Do you think that Isaac would have known about Abraham's lies?
- Do you think this Abimelek would have known about the lies to his fathers?
- Abimelek tells his men not to harm Isaac and Rebecka. Why would this be?
- Isaac becomes very wealthy as God blesses him
- Is it any surprise that the Philistines envied him?
- Abimelek asks Isaac to move away because he fears Isaac has become too powerful.
- Why does Isaac leave without any question?
- Isaac avoids confrontation regarding the wells he reopens.
- Finally, he opens a well without any objections.....Again the Lord appears to Isaac and speaks a blessing to him.
- Why was it important for Isaac to build an alter and call on the name of the Lord?
- When Abimelek sees God's favour on Isaac he seeks to make a treaty with him.
- Again, Isaac deals with the situation peacefully. Truly a Man of God