

“THE ORDINARY LIFE OF THE CHOSEN SON”

GENESIS 26:1-11

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INTRODUCTION

Isaac's life was rooted in a repetition of Abraham's life:

- 1) Blessed for Abram's sake
- 2) Blesses Jacob with the blessing of Abraham.
- 3) Barrenness of both wives
- 4) Both have two sons with dissimilar character
- 5) Wells dug were those originally dug by Abraham—even gave them the same names.
- 6) Same kind of famine as the one in Abraham's day
- 7) Same journey to Abimelech at Gerar
- 8) Same lie told about his wife as Abraham told about Sarah—“my sister.”

Yet, Isaac is a Model of the believer's Sonship:

1. Born of God's grace and promise
2. His father's heir
3. His “death” and “resurrection”
4. His prayer and worship
5. Life-giving water from his father's wells
6. Blessed his children according to his father's will.

I. PROBLEMS RECUR (1)

- A famine again—like the one in chapter 12 when gone down to Egypt—not chapter 20
- Trip again to Gerar

II. PROMISE RENEWED (2-5) [first mention of God's revelation to Isaac; later again in v. 24; note “Yahweh—covenant name]

- A. Stay in the land (2); I will give all these lands to you (3, 4)
- B. I will establish the oath sworn to Abraham (3b)
- C. Your descendants—only two at this time—will be multiplied as the stars (4)
- D. All the nations of the earth will be blessed/bless themselves by your inhabitants (4)
- E. Human side—Abraham obeyed **me**, kept “my charge, my commandments (authoritative), statutes (immutability), laws (instruction, teachings).”

III. PREVARICATION RENEWED (6-7)—sin is never logical!

- A. Obediently stayed in that land—Gerar
- B. Lied about Rebekah—“my sister”
- C. Fearer man, rather than God (7b)

IV. PROVOCATION OF ABIMELECH (8-11)

- A. “Your sin will find you out
 1. There “a long time” (8)

2. Caressing Rebekah (8)—cf. “sporting” with his wife and name “Isaac”=“laughter” [Gen. 17:17-19—Abraham’s laugh; 18:12—Sarah’s laugh; 21:4—his name “he who laughs”; 21:6—God made laughter for Sarah and others will laugh with her; 21:9—Ishmael “laughs”—i.e. mocks him; here Isaac “laughs”—i.e sports, caresses his wife].
- B. Held to account by the unsaved (9-10)
 1. How could you lie to me?
 2. What have you done—you jeopardized your wife, your family, and your covenant (if one of the men there had taken his wife for himself.
 3. You would have brought guilt on us! (10b).
 - C. Security guaranteed for Rebekah (11)—“dying he shall die”
- V. DIFFERENCES IN CHAPTER 26 FROM CHAPTER 20
- A. Abimelech had already taken Sarah; this is likely the same man though!
 - B. Abimelech found out by divine revelation in a dream
 - C. He was threatened by God with death
 - D. He had not “sinned” by lying with her—God prevented that from happening
 - E. Abraham will pray for you once you restore his wife—the women had become barren under God’s judgment.
 - F. Abimelech made restitution—1,000 pieces of silver; sheep, oxen, servants—male and female.

CONCLUSION

Yet, Isaac had faith in unseen and distant promises—and “blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come” (Heb. 11:20). He had to believe God when he stayed in the land despite the famine—God’s presence, though unseen. See **Hebrews 11:9-10**.

But, we are still distressed with the repeated failures of God’s chosen servants! Cf. Peter’s 3 denials. Such shows the chronic weakness of God’s chosen people!

THANK GOD FOR HIS MERCY IN PUTTING UP WITH HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE!