

“PEACE ALL AROUND BUT TROUBLE AT HOME”

GENESIS 26:23-35

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INTRODUCTION

Proverbs 16:7—“When a man’s ways please the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.”

Isaac had just manifested a humble spirit toward Abimelech, and now the Lord renews the Abrahamic covenant with him. He now returns to the place of his extended childhood residence, with many fond memories.

How often it is true that we win great victories in our outside relationships in life, and yet have unrest and defeat at home!

GOD’S BLESSING UPON OUR LIFE DOES NOT NULLIFY THE CONSEQUENCES OF OUR FOOLISH ACTIONS.

- I. PEACE WITH GOD (covenant—vv. 23-25)
 - A. Yahweh’s Assurance
 1. Place of former blessedness—Beersheba (23)
 2. Appearance of Yahweh
 3. Identification—Yahweh, God of Abraham
 4. Encouragement—presence, prosperity, multiplied descendants.
 - B. Isaac’s Adoration
 1. Place of Worship—altar
 2. Quality of worship—name of Yahweh.
 3. Permanence of worship—pitched his tent, dug a well.
- II. PEACE WITH ABIMELECH (covenant; 26-31)
 - A. Confrontation (26-27)
 1. Came with a political advisor—Ahuzzah
 2. Came with the commander of his army—Phicol.
 3. Suspicion of Isaac—Why? You hate me. You have sent me away.
 - B. Confirmation of Yahweh’s blessing (28a, 29b)
 - Notice Isaac’s meekness in all of this!
 - They noticed the favor and blessing of God upon Isaac’s household—the LORD, God of the covenant, “has been with you.”
 - “You are now the blessed of the LORD.”
 - We want an oath—solemn swearing between us and you—they were most concerned about themselves! (28b).
 - Let us “make a covenant”—“**You** do us no harm (v. 29)—we have not harmed you, and have done only good to you.
 - We have sent you away in peace.
 - Notice how God has given Isaac favor with those stronger than he—they were afraid of Isaac, especially in relation to his powerful God who was Isaac’s protector.
 - C. Communion (30) (Other covenant feasts)
 - 31:34—Jacob and Laban
 - Ex. 24:8, 11—At Sinai
 - Mt. 26:26-29—New Covenant
 - D. Covenant (31; 28b, 29a)
 - “Oath”—an oath consisting of a curse
 - Did they cut animals and walk between the pieces as in Gen. 15?

- They departed in peace (31).

III. PEACE WITH THE LAND (32-33)

- A. Timing of the discovery—providential; they had found water on the same day.
- B. The well—maybe a reopening of Abraham’s well there (see Gen 21:22ff).
 - Same persons involved.
 - Same location.
 - Same reasons given by Abimelech for need of covenant oath sworn.
- C. Two-fold naming of the well—both Abraham’s day and Isaac’s day (Shibah—oath, here; Beersheba—well of the oath in Gen. 21:31.
- D. “To this day”—i.e. of Moses

IV. TROUBLE WITH ESAU (34-35)

- Isaac is now 100 years old.
- Compare Gen. 24:3—Abraham’s concern for Isaac
- Later, Jacob was sent to Paddan-Aram for a wife.
- But, Isaac’s and Rebekah’s sins of preference return to haunt them.
- “Hittite girls influenced by Canaan—see Gen. 28:8 (daughters displeased Isaac)
- Undoubtedly they were idolaters and ungodly.
- Notice Esau’s incapacity for spiritual values.
- He was 40—this was a deliberate choice against both God’s will and the wish of his parents.
- He was used to having his way, getting what he wanted.
- “Grief of mind to Isaac and Rebekah—literally “bitterness of spirit.”

CONCLUSION

Oh, how many parents have faced this bitterness of spirit!

How many would trade peace with enemies, and one’s surroundings for a little peace at home!

Make wise choices.

Follow godly counsel.

Have Peace with God, but have peace at home, too!

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