

Genesis 26.1-35

Ordinary Man, Extra-Ordinary God

Genesis 26 – Most INFORMATION about ISAAC in Bible

Not Chronological – Events here Come Before ch 25 – Wife/Sister > NO KIDS

1. A Man who Struggled in the Shadows

a. Decisions

Isaac was TEENAGER or TWENTIES when Elderly Father said “Pack UP!”

Quickly Headed out on 3 Day Journey to Perform Sacrifices

Finally ARRIVE – No RELAXING – Dad “Let’s get our Business DONE!”

They Walk up HILL with Wood, Fire but NO SACRIFICIAL ANIMAL

ISAAC Learns HE is the VICTIM that Day > Meekly, Willingly, Complies!

GREAT Story of Faith his & Father’s! Left Many VIVID, Fearful, Memories!

Path of Wisdom: Stay Out of the OLD Man’s Way NEXT TIME!

40 yr Old MAMA’S Boy – Understandable, She Never tried to KILL HIM!

Her Death was DEVASTATING to Isaac – LONELY Boy Needs WIFE!

Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years... said to his servant... “swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites...go to my country and to my kindred, and take a wife for my son Isaac.” Genesis 24.1-4

Isaac had NO VOICE on these Major DECISIONS of His LIFE

b. Disappointments

Then Isaac brought her into the tent of Sarah his mother and took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death. Genesis 24.67

WHY Disappointments? – COMFORTED by BEAUTIFUL Wife Rebekah!

More about how Isaac FELT about MOTHER, than how Felt about WIFE

If you THINK Wife Gonna be MOTHER – YOU & HER will be Disappointed!

Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob. Genesis 25.28

Esau won Father's HEART thru his STOMACH – TASTY MEAT!

TRUTH: Not Easy, Some things LIKE & DISLIKE about People, OWN Kids

We must not think that God needed this sort of conflict in Isaac and Rebekah's home to accomplish his plans. He does not lead us into sin to achieve his ends. God would have fulfilled his plans whatever the condition in Isaac's home. Whether the family was united or divided made no difference to him, because he is all-powerful and sovereign. Samuel Ngewa

By BIRTHORDER, & Accepted Culture & Tradition, ESAU gets BLESSING

ESAU never seems to LIVE UP to Father's EXPECTATIONS for him

Jacob: "Sell me your birthright now." Esau: "...of what use is a birthright to me?"... Thus Esau despised his birthright. Genesis 25.31-34

vs. 34,35 When Esau was forty years old, he took Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite to be his wife, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite, and they made life bitter for Isaac and Rebekah.

Esau demonstrates the wrong way of relating to those around us who are not believers: marrying them...acquiring not one but two pagan wives. Thus he became a source of grief to his parents. Iain Duguid

STRONG Words – Made "LIFE BITTER" – Outlook TOO Connected to Sons?

If Son is 40 yrs old or 20 yrs old – Gonna Do what they're GONNA DO!

"When your children are small, they step on your toes, grow up step on heart"

c. Deceit

FINAL Picture of this MAN is SICK BED, BLIND, NEAR DEATH

He GOT his TASTY Meat > DECEIT Probably SPOILED DIGESTION

His mother (Rebekah) said to him (Jacob), “Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice...And she put the delicious food and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob. Genesis 27:13-17

LOVING Wife & LOYAL Son CONSPIRE to Steal Pop’s FINAL Blessing

Jacob wavers in Hesitation > Mom cheers him onward in Evil Complicity

BLIND PAPA not Good for Much ANYMORE, Still can TRICK a BLESSING!

As soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, when Jacob had scarcely gone out ...Esau his brother came in... Then Isaac trembled very violently and said...“Your brother came deceitfully, and he has taken away your blessing.”

Genesis 27.30-35

MOM make Plans for Son JACOB to Get and Outta Town Quick

Last RECORDED Words of Wife to Husband – MY LIFE STINKS!

Then Rebekah said to Isaac, “I loathe my life because of the Hittite women. If Jacob marries one of the Hittite women like these, one of the women of the land, what good will my life be to me?”

Genesis 27.46

Isaac LIVED 180 years – LONGER than Abe or Jacob > Long, Bitter Years

But we HARDLY KNOW Anything about WHO he Really Is

COLORLESS Character – We’re TOLD LITTLE About him – He SAYS Less

ISAAC is Silent SUPPORTING Actor in SHADOWS of Dominant Characters

SPOTLIGHT on Abraham, Sarah, Rebekah, Jacob, and Esau

“Isaac was the ordinary son of a great father and ordinary father of a great son.”

Griffith Thomas

2. A Man who Fell into his Father’s Failures

Even this Ch on Isaac, Much about FATHER Abe and his RECURRING SINS

a. Blessings

Sometimes FELT like NOT IMPORTANT, Near OTHERS More NOTICED

SEEN & VALUED by Creator God, Made in IMAGE, Redeemed BLOOD
 100 yrs JUST 8 X's RECORDED ABE had Direct Communication w/ GOD
 ONLY 2 X's in Bible > God speaks to Isaac – Both here in ch. 26, the 1st

vs. 2-5 And the LORD appeared to him and said, “Do not go down to Egypt; dwell in the land of which I shall tell you. Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father. I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.”

God RENEWED Covenant PROMISES – 1st given to ABE then to ISAAC

I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”
 Genesis 12.2,3

b. Backsliding

v. 1 Now there was a famine in the land, besides the former famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Gerar to Abimelech king of the Philistines.

To READER of Stories on PATRIARCHS > “This sounds FAMILIAR!!...”

Remember! Father Abe faced FAMINE – Ran to EGYPT – Lied about Wife

ACORN Falls CLOSE to the TREE > HISTORY Repeats ITSELF Here...

Now there was a famine in the land. So Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land.
 Genesis 12.10

Going to EGYPT – his OWN Idea, became place of DISOBEDIENCE, DENIAL

Isaac FOLLOWED Papa CLOSELY – Lost Trust in God, Almost Shamed Wife

PROMISES of God DIRECTLY Apply to SITUATION / NEEDS we HAVE

ISAAC & Family NEEDED Food – REAL People like ALL of US!

vs. 2,3 And the LORD appeared to him and said, “Do not go down to Egypt; dwell in the land of which I shall tell you. Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring...

God PATIENTLY & KINDLY – Taught him to REMAIN in place of Provision
GOING DOWN to Egypt NOT about Geography, Travel about TRUST God
EGYPT – Represent SINFUL World, Hostile to God, NOT place of Blessing
TRUST God or TRUST Yourself? Trust God or TRUST WORLD’S Promises



vs. 6,7 So Isaac settled in Gerar. When the men of the place asked him about his wife, he said, “She is my sister,” for he feared to say, “My wife,” thinking, “lest the men of the place should kill me because of Rebekah,” because she was attractive in appearance.

At least ISAAC Stopped Before got to Egypt, Stopped GERAR / Today GAZA
More WORRIED for HIMSELF than for His WIFE > They might KILL ME!
SAD - RIGHT After Blessing, 1st Time God Spoke to Him, FELL into Great SIN
RIGHT After Blessing > DOUBTED if God PROTECT him & Beautiful Wife
Bill Clinton had Hook-Ups with MONICA – On Sunday afternoons after Church
ELIJAH went from Great Victory Mt. Carmel > DOUBT & DEPRESSION

God gives VICTORY – THINK WE DID IT! – Spectacularly Fall on our FACE!

PETER made Great CONFESSION then CHOKED on Foot in Mouth

Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah!...But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.” Matthew 16.15,16,17,23

Most times when PETER Opened Mouth > It was to CHANGE FEET!

Peter ONE Bible Character MOST of US can BEST IDENTIFY WITH!!

We in NEW Covenant > MORE Confirmation – FINISHED Work of Jesus,
 FULL Revelation of Scripture, 2000 yrs of Xtian Church > We STILL Doubt!
 TIMELESS Principles of God's LAW – Warning on 2nd Comm: IDOLATRY

I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Exodus 20.5,6

PUNISHMENT for Father's sin, MAY BE the Sin itself

The CHILDREN May REPEAT the Parent's Sin and SUFFER for it

How many BOYS' Porn ADDICTIONS Start from Father's BAD HABITS?

Some PARENTS: MORBID Pleasure KIDS Smoke Same Cigs, Same Drinks

MESSAGE to ALL Fathers & Children

FATHER: What YOU DO will affect Your Children, for GOOD or EVIL

CHILD: Do NOT Follow Father's SINFUL Footsteps, Only as he follows Jesus

You are ULTIMATELY Responsible to your Father in HEAVEN

c. Busted!!

Like Father ABE, ISAAC was TRAPPED in WEB of LIES > BUSTED!

God Allows CONSEQUENCES of SINFUL CHOICES to Work Out

It was NOT GOD Himself that EXPOSED Isaac's LIE > PAGAN KING

vs. 8-11 When he had been there a long time, Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out of a window and saw Isaac laughing with Rebekah his wife. So Abimelech called Isaac and said, "Behold, she is your wife. How then could you say, 'She is my sister'?" Isaac said to him, "Because I thought, 'Lest I die because of her.'" Abimelech said, "What is this you have done to us? One of the people might easily have lain with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us." So Abimelech warned all the people, saying, "Whoever touches this man or his wife shall surely be put to death."

ISAAC worried Pagans NOT Keep HANDS Off HOTTIE Wife!

TRUSTED in Foolish PLANS of Man instead of PROMISES of God

“If you disobey God, there will usually be an unbeliever watching from some window”
James Boice

LOVE of God, He will FIND you OUT – Will NOT Leave you in PEACE in Sin

Very SAD when WORLD sees Christians DOING Same Things it DOES

New HS Xtian: Jim Kuch “If you are a Christian, why are you drunk?”

Jim SON of Mormon Bishop > 1st American Friend I had who DIED of AIDS

I did NOTHING to KEEP him OUT of HELL!

Jesus WANTS what WE DO to DECLARE HIM to the WORLD...

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5.16

3. A Man whom God saved by Grace

a. Pardoned - God appeared to Isaac 2nd and FINAL Time

v. 24 And the LORD appeared to him the same night and said, “I am the God of Abraham your father. Fear not, for I am with you and will bless you and multiply your offspring for my servant Abraham's sake.”

God does not DRAG Isaac back over SINS Again and Again – Commended

GRACE of God Father ABE RECEIVED given to son ISAAC – Covenant God

God does NOT Treat us like our SINS DESERVE – by His MERCY & Grace

Mercy – God does not treat us like we deserve

Grace – God does treat us like we do not deserve

“We fail and disappoint God many times, in large ways and small. But God is not one to hold past sins against us. He remembers the victories and tells us this so we might press on joyously to serve Him.”
James Boice

ISAAC & All who Call on Name of the Lord - Salvation is all of GRACE

b. Prospered

Isaac took LONG Road Home – Did NOT go BACK Directly to Promised Land

God BLESSED Isaac 100 X even IN the PAGAN Land

vs.12-14 Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold. The LORD blessed him, and the man became rich, and gained more and more until he became very wealthy. He had possessions of flocks and herds and many servants...

OUT of God’s Will yet STILL BLESSED by God > MERCY & Challenges

OT way of Showing GOD’S PEACE – MATERIAL Prosperity

OLD Covenant SIGN of BLESSING – Measured in THINGS can SEE

RICHES also bring GREAT TEMPTATION: Wealthy FALL AWAY from God

PROSPERITY can be a BIGGER TEMPTATION than POVERTY

Might SEEM Exciting have 1000 Wives / Solomon did – 1000 Mother in Laws

Those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs...

1 Timothy 6.9,10

NT – BETTER Riches ours NOW – Cannot be Seen / Touched have by FAITH

Just like ABE, ISAAC did not RECEIVE PROMISED LAND – STRANGERS

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places Ephesians 1.3

Forgiveness / Peace Passes All UNDERSTANDING – Greatest RICHES

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”
1 Corinthians 2.9

c. Peacemaker

BLESSING of God was EVIDENT and even Unbeliever WANTS to Have it



vs. 14-22 ...the Philistines envied him. (Now the Philistines had stopped and filled with earth all the wells that his father's servants had dug in the days of Abraham his father.) And Abimelech said to Isaac, “Go away from us, for you are much mightier than we.” So Isaac departed from there and encamped in the Valley of Gerar and settled there. And Isaac dug again the wells of water that had been dug in the days of Abraham his father, which the Philistines had stopped after the death of Abraham. And he gave them the names that his father had given them. But

when Isaac's servants dug in the valley and found there a well of spring water, the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with Isaac's herdsmen, saying, “The water is ours.” So he called the name of the well Esek, because they contended with him. Then they dug another well, and they quarreled over that also, so he called its name Sitnah. And he moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it. So he called its name Rehoboth, saying, “For now the LORD has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land.”

QUARRELS over WATER Rights and LAND Use > Neighbors wanted him Go!

Probably FEARED him and Wanted him to GO! - Stopped UP Wells Abe's

Servants DUG – Isaac Stayed – Again told MOVE when became TOO Powerful

Did NOT Move FAR > DUG a New Well > DRAMA btwn WORKERS

One Well Named ESEK “*Contention*” / Another Well SITNAH “*Opposition*”

Isaac did NOT FIGHT > Moved > Dug ANOTHER Well

NEXT he moved to BEERSHEBA – where Abe Lived and Prospered

Thru all BACK & FORTH > ISAAC wants to Maintain Peace with God & Man

Isaac Looks BLAND & PASSIVE – But he REMAINED in Blessed LAND

Isaac was man that PAGAN KING wanted to MAKE PEACE with

vs. 28,29 They said, “We see plainly that the LORD has been with you. So we said, let there be a sworn pact between us, between you and us, and let us make a covenant with you, that you will do us no harm, just as we have not touched you and have done to you nothing but good and have sent you away in peace. You are now the blessed of the LORD.”

REQUIREMENT for ELDER in NT Church...

He must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil. 1 Timothy 3.7

DISGRACE? – Truth SHOWS Up – Life is OPEN BOOK – Many READ it!

GREAT Football Player – BEAT your WIFE or Girlfriend – Impacts CAREER

SCANDAL Done OUTSIDE Church will find its way INSIDE the Church

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God” Matthew 5.9

d. Pilgrim - PROSPERITY was NOT his PRIORITY >

v. 25 So 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.

Like Father Abe: Isaac built ALTAR & Called on the NAME of the LORD

Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city. Hebrews 11.16

This truth should give us great joy in the midst of our manifold sins and failures. Do you know yourself to be a sinner in God’s sight? Are there areas of your life where you continue to fall over and over again? If so, the bad news is that you are normal. But the good news is that if God has laid hold of you by his electing grace, he will sustain you by that grace every step of your earthly journey. He will even use that sin that you find so difficult to combat as a means of driving you back to the cross. And one day, at the end of all things, you will be purified completely by his grace... Iain Duguid

What will it Take to Get YOU back HOME to God?

May have RUN – Even in RUNNING Away God still BLESSED You!

Blessings? Contention? Strife? Sickness? Grief? Pain? ALL God’s Messengers

God USES Many things to BRING his SONS to WORSHIP and SERVE Him

v. 3 ... I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father...

In the FULLNESS of God's REDEMPTIVE Time OATH FULFILLED for US

In Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith. Galatians 3.14

Jesus TRUE PROMISED Son > LAMB sent by GOD to Take Away sins World

SPOTLESS, SINLESS, RIGHTEOUS > SAVES All who TRUST in Him

Now you, brothers *and sisters*, like Isaac, are children of promise. Galatians 4.28

Genesis 26: Now there was a famine in the land, besides the former famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Gerar to Abimelech king of the Philistines. And the LORD appeared to him and said, "Do not go down to Egypt; dwell in the land of which I shall tell you. Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father. I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws." So Isaac settled in Gerar. When the men of the place asked him about his wife, he said, "She is my sister," for he feared to say, "My wife," thinking, "lest the men of the place should kill me because of Rebekah," because she was attractive in appearance. When he had been there a long time, Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out of a window and saw Isaac laughing with Rebekah his wife. So Abimelech called Isaac and said, "Behold, she is your wife. How then could you say, 'She is my sister'?" Isaac said to him, "Because I thought, 'Lest I die because of her.'" Abimelech said, "What is this you have done to us?"

One of the people might easily have lain with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us.” So Abimelech warned all the people, saying, “Whoever touches this man or his wife shall surely be put to death.” And Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold. The LORD blessed him, and the man became rich, and gained more and more until he became very wealthy. He had possessions of flocks and herds and many servants, so that the Philistines envied him. (Now the Philistines had stopped and filled with earth all the wells that his father's servants had dug in the days of Abraham his father.) And Abimelech said to Isaac, “Go away from us, for you are much mightier than we.” So Isaac departed from there and encamped in the Valley of Gerar and settled there. And Isaac dug again the wells of water that had been dug in the days of Abraham his father, which the Philistines had stopped after the death of Abraham. And he gave them the names that his father had given them. But when Isaac's servants dug in the valley and found there a well of spring water, the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with Isaac's herdsmen, saying, “The water is ours.” So he called the name of the well Esek, because they contended with him. Then they dug another well, and they quarreled over that also, so he called its name Sitnah. And he moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it. So he called its name Rehoboth, saying, “For now the LORD has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land.” From there he went up to Beersheba. And the LORD appeared to him the same night and said, “I am the God of Abraham your father. Fear not, for I am with you and will bless you and multiply your offspring for my servant Abraham's sake.” So 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. When Abimelech went to him from Gerar with Ahuzzath his adviser and Phicol the commander of his army, Isaac said to them, “Why have you come to me, seeing that you hate me and have sent me away from you?” They said, “We see plainly that the LORD has been with you. So we said, let

there be a sworn pact between us, between you and us, and let us make a covenant with you, that you will do us no harm, just as we have not touched you and have done to you nothing but good and have sent you away in peace. You are now the blessed of the LORD.” So he made them a feast, and they ate and drank. In the morning they rose early and exchanged oaths. And Isaac sent them on their way, and they departed from him in peace. That same day Isaac's servants came and told him about the well that they had dug and said to him, “We have found water.” He called it Shibah; therefore the name of the city is Beersheba to this day. When Esau was forty years old, he took Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite to be his wife, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite, and they made life bitter for Isaac and Rebekah.