

Genesis 26

King James Version (KJV)

26 And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar. (Gerar = a lodging)

²And the LORD appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of: (Egypt never suffered from drought because of the Nile River)

³Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swore unto Abraham thy father; (God always keeps His word. He's telling Isaac to remain in the land that He gave to Abraham)

⁴And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; (That's because Jesus would come through that lineage and bless all who believe in Him)

NOTES: (People try to fit all these people into one tribe – Judah <Jews>. In fact there were 12 tribes)

(The 10 northern tribes migrated over the Caucasus Mountains and settled Europe, and eventually America. They were called Caucasians. Over the centuries, they completely lost track of their heritage. They call themselves Gentiles today – in their ignorance)

(Judah and Benjamin remained in Europe and returned to Israel in 1948)

⁵Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws. (Abraham earned his blessings by obeying and loving God with unwavering loyalty)

NOTE: (We can also earn God's blessings by doing the same. Don't let the ways of the world ruin your life)

⁶And Isaac dwelt in Gerar:

⁷And the men of the place asked him of his wife; and he said, She is my sister: for he feared to say, She is my wife; lest, said he, the men

of the place should kill me for Rebekah; because she was fair to look upon. (Isaac did just like Abraham did. He thought that he couldn't defend her against an entire nation)

(But like Abraham, he always loved and obeyed God; and God blessed him for it. He had a long and happy life)

⁸And it came to pass, when he had been there a long time, that Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out at a window, and saw, and, behold, Isaac was sporting with Rebekah his wife. (He was caressing her – clearly she is not his sister)

⁹And Abimelech called Isaac, and said, Behold, of a surety she is thy wife; and how saidst thou, She is my sister? And Isaac said unto him, Because I said, Lest I die for her. (At least he finally admitted it)

¹⁰And Abimelech said, What is this thou hast done unto us? one of the people might lightly have lien with thy wife, and thou shouldest have brought guiltiness upon us. (These people had morals. Both Isaac and Abraham underestimated these people. Both he and Abraham should have given them the benefit of the doubt)

¹¹And Abimelech charged all his people, saying, He that toucheth this man or his wife shall surely be put to death. (God told Isaac that He would protect him. HE is influencing the king to do that for Him)

¹²Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him. (Isaac was faithful to God, just as Abraham had been. So God blessed him just as He had blessed Abraham)

¹³And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great:

¹⁴For he had possession of flocks, and possession of herds, and great store of servants: and the Philistines envied him. (This is a dangerous situation for Isaac and Rebekah. They are rich, outnumbered, and living in their land)

¹⁵For all the wells which his father's servants had digged in the days of Abraham his father, the Philistines had stopped them, and filled them with earth. (Jealousy drives people to do evil things. They filled the wells so Isaac would be forced to leave)

¹⁶ And Abimelech said unto Isaac, Go from us; for thou art much mightier than we. (At least they didn't try to kill him. He was better off leaving)

¹⁷ And Isaac departed thence, and pitched his tent in the valley of Gerar, and dwelt there. (Valleys are usually better for grazing animals)

¹⁸ And Isaac digged again the wells of water, which they had digged in the days of Abraham his father; for the Philistines had stopped them after the death of Abraham: and he called their names after the names by which his father had called them.

¹⁹ And Isaac's servants digged in the valley, and found there a well of springing water. (A live stream, a spring, not just the underground water table)

²⁰ And the herdmen of Gerar did strive with Isaac's herdmen, saying, The water is ours: and he called the name of the well Esek; because they strove with him. (Esek = contention) (These are jealous thieves; looking to take the well that Isaac dug)

²¹ And they digged another well, and strove for that also: and he called the name of it Sitnah. (Sitnah = hated)

²² And he removed from thence, and digged another well; and for that they strove not: and he called the name of it Rehoboth; and he said, For now the LORD hath made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land. (Rehoboth = room, space for everyone)

(Isaac moved farther out, away from them. Like Abraham, Isaac always tried to find peaceful solutions to issues with his neighbors)

²³ And he went up from thence to Beersheba. (Beersheba = the well of the oath)

²⁴ And the LORD appeared unto him the same night, and said, I am the God of Abraham thy father: fear not, for I am with thee, and will bless thee, and multiply thy seed for my servant Abraham's sake.

²⁵ And he builded an altar there, and called upon the name of the LORD, and pitched his tent there: and there Isaac's servants digged a well.

²⁶ Then Abimelech went to him from Gerar, and Ahuzzath one of his friends, and Phichol the chief captain of his army. (Ahuzzath = possessions; Phichol = strong)

²⁷ And Isaac said unto them, Wherefore come ye to me, seeing ye hate me, and have sent me away from you? (They want something)

²⁸ And they said, We saw certainly that the LORD was with thee: and we said, Let there be now an oath betwixt us, even betwixt us and thee, and let us make a covenant with thee; (Isaac is now rich and powerful. They know that God is with him. They fear Isaac as a potential adversary)

²⁹ That thou wilt do us no hurt, as we have not touched thee, and as we have done unto thee nothing but good, and have sent thee away in peace: thou art now the blessed of the LORD. (They propose a pact of peace – better than strife and war)

³⁰ And he made them a feast, and they did eat and drink.

³¹ And they rose up betimes in the morning, and sware one to another: and Isaac sent them away, and they departed from him in peace. (Peace is always preferable for everyone concerned)

³² And it came to pass the same day, that Isaac's servants came, and told him concerning the well which they had digged, and said unto him, We have found water. (God continued to bless Isaac)

³³ And he called it Shebah: therefore the name of the city is Beersheba unto this day. (Shebah = oath; Beersheba = the well of the oath)

³⁴ And Esau was forty years old when he took to wife Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Bashemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite: (He is marrying into heathen tribes, against the wishes of God. Hittites had mixed with the fallen angels. Esau never cared about God or his own heritage)

³⁵ Which were a grief of mind unto Isaac and to Rebekah. (That's because God wanted them to marry within their own tribes who were descended from Adam)