

First Southern Baptist Bible Study
Isaac, Abimelech, Wells - Genesis 26:1-16

March 11, 2020

Introduction

1. Isaac was blessed because of Abraham - 5
2. How does that “blessing” thing hold up in a hostile world?

I. Deception (1-16)

1. Isaac goes to Abimelech because of the famine
2. Live in the land... and I will bless you (2-6)
 - a command to live in a land of famine (Gerar)
 - made him dependent upon God
 - Isaac obeys three ways: verse 25
 - A) Built an altar of worship
 - B) Pitched his tent
 - C) Servants sought water
3. Wife-Sister (7) - the end result, protection in the land (who ever touches him will be put to death)
4. An hundredfold (12-16)
5. Isaac lies about Rebekah
 - A. She is my sister
 - B. A ploy - to avoid being killed
 - C. Believed a lie - from Satan
 - D. It is easier for children to follow the vices of parents, rather than virtues
 - Abraham and Isaac are of greatly different temperaments... but submit to the same temptations
 - 1) When famine arises, both flee to Egypt
 - 2) Each is afraid to own his wife

II. Envied and Sent Forth (14)

- 13-14 when you're blessed, you're envied
- jealousy - pride

III. Isaac Digs Wells (17-32)

1. Why dig wells?
 - filled by the Philistines when Abraham died
 - a place of famine
2. Why give up wells?
 - A. Peace loving
 - B. Avoiding conflict - afraid
 - C. Faith in God
 - D. Honor of laying aside your own way/ needs
 - there are times when for the sake of harmony men must refrain from demanding their own rights
 - Isaac steadfastly refused to offer evil for evil - Rom. 12:18 - as long as

men return insult for insult there will be no peace in the world

E. Character?

3. He is so blessed he can afford to be magnanimous
 - or a standard of character
4. Can
 - turn the other cheek if you trust God
 - go the second mile if you trust God
5. Overcoming Discouragement
 - A. Wells of Abraham re-dug
 - B. Wells filled in by Philistines
 - resented this stranger taking all their water
 - seek to drive out Isaac by filling the wells
 - C. New wells dug
 - D. Must have been frustrating/ discouraging
 - E. Faith in God - an ordinary man who understood that Canaan was a gift of God
 - a gift they must possess by their own faithfulness and effort
6. Names of the Wells
 - Re-dug Abraham's wells -18 - renamed after Abraham's naming
 - Digs in the valley - Esek (19-20) (contention)
 - Another well (21) - Sitnah (hatred)
 - Another well (22) - Rehoboth (room)
 - Another well at Beersheba (25)...found water here at 32 - Shebah - (an oath)
7. Abraham as God - dug the wells
 - Isaac as Son - re-dug wells filled with Pharisaic tradition
 - Jacob as Holy Spirit

IV. Treaty (26-33)

1. Asked to leave his community - Gerar
2. Asked to make treaty
 - do you think that the Philistines had trouble believing Isaac after he lied?
3. So blessed, he thinks... we need to make a treaty

V. Abimelech Recognizes the Hand of God

1. Sees the blessing better than Isaac?
2. Knows it's wrong to take another man's wife
3. Seeks treaty

VI. Esau's Wife from the Hittites (34-35)

VII. The Blessing of God

1. Can you see God's hand?
 - A. Traditional blessing
 - verses 2-5 and 24
 - B. Abimelech recognizes God's blessing
 - “the Lord is with you” - 28:3,24; 21:22
 - C. The Philistines recognize God's blessing - 29

-the lost world will see our blessing

2. What type blessing?

-good harvest (12)

-very wealthy (13)

-a hundred-fold (12)

-finds water (17-22, 32)

-fertility (22)

-the Philistines give in easily (26-33)

VIII. The Big Picture

1. Live there - even in the famine
2. Stress and strain of the conflicts
3. Blessing of God