

II. THE PROSPERITIES OF ISAAC (Genesis 26:22-33)

A. The Determination of Isaac (Genesis 26:22)

1. Isaac did not quit even when he was opposed by his enemies (Genesis 26:14, 18-21).
2. Isaac did not quit even when he was corrected of doing wrong (Genesis 26:9-10). Far too often Christians quit when they are corrected of doing wrong or the struggles get hard.
3. He continued to dig more when things got rough.
 - a. When more opposition presented itself, this is when Isaac dug in even deeper (Psalm 119:72; Colossians 2:7).
 - b. A successful win was near, but it required Isaac to continue in the right thing for him to see the success (1 Corinthians 15:58).

B. The Removal to Beersheba (Genesis 26:23)

C. The Fellowship with God (Genesis 26:24-25)

1. The LORD appeared unto Isaac the same night (Genesis 26:24).
2. The LORD declared again who He was (Genesis 26:24).
3. The LORD reassured Isaac of some truths (Genesis 26:24).
 - a. That He was with him
 - b. That He would bless him
 - c. That He would multiply his seed
4. Isaac's response (Genesis 26:25)
 - a. Isaac built an altar unto the LORD in Beersheba – Isaac's trials prompted worship.
 - b. Isaac called on the name of the LORD – Note: Abraham had met with God here as well (Genesis 21:33).
 - c. Isaac pitched his tent in the same place
 - (1) Notice that Isaac decided that he would dwell in this place based upon meeting God here.
 - (2) The New Testament Christian today should have a desire to dwell where God may be found. Unfortunately, far too often people are making decisions based on what a church has to offer in its activity program or facilities than what is being taught and preached. People are less worried about their family's spiritual health than what is in a place for them. Also, finding a good Bible believing church is on the bottom of the modern-day Christian's list rather than the top when moving into a community.
 - (3) Isaac made a point to build his home here in Beersheba when he saw that God was in this place.
 - d. Isaac's servants dug a well in Beersheba

D. The Meeting with Abimelech (Genesis 26:26-31)

1. The Repetition of the Covenant (Genesis 26:26, 28)
 - a. Abraham's meeting with Abimelech years before (Genesis 21:22-34).
 - (1) Abraham had made a covenant with these people years before, however, the evil action about the wells by the Philistines was a great violation of that covenant and now a new covenant with Isaac was needed.
 - (2) This new covenant would replace that old one and would reinstate the principles of the old one again.
 - b. The making of a new covenant with Abimelech (Genesis 26:26, 28).
2. The Representatives for the Covenant (Genesis 26:26)
 - a. Abimelech – king in Gerar
 - b. Ahuzzath – a friend
 - c. Phichol – The chief captain of his (Abimelech) army
 - (1) This was an impressive group of dignitaries from Gerar.
 - (2) The level of the dignitary sent from one country to the other indicates the respect of the country visited and earnest of the situation.
3. The Rebuke Before the Covenant (Genesis 26:27)
 - a. The rebuke by Isaac was entirely justified.
 - b. The principle seen in this action says, we must punctually reprove evil before we can have peace. Pacifying evil doers and their ways will never garner real peace. (Jeremiah 8:11; see context of Jeremiah chapter 8).
4. The Ratifying of the Covenant (Genesis 26:30, 31)
 - a. The covenant-feast – a token of good will.
 - b. Isaac's genuine character – Omitting nothing that made for a friendly relationship (Romans 12:18).
 - c. The oath made – "*sware one to another*"
 - (1) The last thing in the ratification of the covenant was the formal swearing.
 - (2) Today we sign (making an oath) documents to ratify agreements.

E. The Finding of Water (Genesis 26:32-33)

1. Interestingly, a blessing followed Isaac's effort in doing the right thing.
2. When we strive to do the right thing the right outcome many times will follow (Luke 6:27; Galatians 6:10).

III. THE DISAPPOINTMENT IN ESAU (Genesis 26:34-35)

A. By Taking Wives In the Land (Genesis 26:34)

1. These wives were Canaanites – they represent an ungodly world.
2. In New Testament language, marrying a Canaanite was like marrying an unbeliever (2 Corinthians 6:14).

B. Causing Grief to His Parents (Genesis 26:35)

1. Not surprisingly, these evil marriages of Esau brought grief.
2. Living your life out of the will of God rarely produces good results.
3. Marry in the will of God or you will marry grief.