

Timeline of Truth – Isaac’s Attitude Towards Life’s Challenges (Gen 26:1-35)

<p>¹ There was a famine in the land, besides the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines, in Gerar.</p> <p><i>Gerar is where Abraham had journeyed during the first famine (Gen 20) about 100 years earlier (Abe was 99). He went through similar problems as Isaac, only without the insight Isaac had to draw from.</i></p>	<p>1. Isaac Moves to Gerar Because of <u>Famine</u></p> <p><i>Difficulties:</i> Being a believer does not remove one from the normal challenges of life. Isaac faced the same problems as his neighbors.</p> <p><i>Decisions:</i> When difficulties hit, we are faced with decisions to make. Isaac sought to solve the problem by heading in the direction of Egypt.</p>
<p>² Then the LORD appeared to him and said: "Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you.</p> <p>³ "Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father.</p> <p>⁴ "And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed;</p> <p>⁵ "because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws."</p> <p>⁶ So Isaac dwelt in Gerar.</p> <p><i>¹So far as the record goes, this is the first time God had appeared to Isaac since he was on Mount Moriah with his father Abraham, probably fifty or more years earlier. The Lord had spoken to Rebekah just before her twins were born, but this is the first time He had spoken to Isaac. Henry Morris, The Genesis Record, p. 419</i></p> <p><i>²God pointed out that He would do these things because of Abraham’s faithfulness and obedience, with no mention of Isaac’s. One senses in this a backhanded rebuke to Isaac, along with a plea for him to manifest the same characteristics as his father. Henry Morris, The Genesis Record, p. 419</i></p>	<p>2. The LORD <u>Appears</u> to Isaac</p> <p><i>God Gives Commands to Isaac¹ (2-3a)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do not go down to Egypt 2. Live in the land of which I shall tell you 3. Dwell I this land <p><i>God Gives Promises to Isaac (3b-5)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God’s presence and blessing (3b) 2. God’s present of land to Isaac’s descendants (3c) 3. God’s oath to Abraham (3d-4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seed • Land • Blessing <p><i>God Gives Abraham as an Example of Obedience² (5)</i></p> <p><i>Isaac Obeys (6)</i></p>
<p>⁷ And the men of the place asked about his wife. And he said, "She <i>is</i> my sister"; for he was afraid to say, "She <i>is</i> my wife," because he thought, "lest the men of the place kill me for Rebekah, because she <i>is</i> beautiful to behold."</p> <p>⁸ Now it came to pass, when he had been there a long time, that Abimelech king of the Philistines looked through a window, and saw, and there was Isaac, showing endearment to Rebekah his wife.</p> <p>⁹ Then Abimelech called Isaac and said, "Quite obviously she <i>is</i> your wife; so how could you say, 'She <i>is</i> my sister'?" And Isaac said to him, "Because I said, 'Lest I die on account of her.'"</p> <p>¹⁰ And Abimelech said, "What <i>is</i> this you have done to us? One of the people might soon have lain with your wife, and you would have brought guilt on us."</p> <p>¹¹ So Abimelech charged all <i>his</i> people, saying, "He who touches this man or his wife shall surely be put to death."</p>	<p>3. Isaac <u>Lies</u> About Rebekah</p> <p><i>Isaac Tells His Lie (7)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His lie • His fear <p><i>Abimelech Sees the Evidence (8) lit. "caressing"</i></p> <p><i>Abimelech Confronts Isaac (9)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She is your wife! • How could you lie? <p><i>Isaac Responds (9c)</i></p> <p><i>Abimelech Rebukes Isaac (10)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is this you have done? • You could have brought guilt on us! <p><i>Abimelech Charges His People (11)</i></p>
<p>¹² Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the LORD blessed him.</p> <p>¹³ The man began to prosper, and continued prospering until he became very prosperous;</p> <p>¹⁴ for he had possessions of flocks and possessions of herds and a great number of servants. So the Philistines envied him.</p> <p>¹⁵ Now the Philistines had stopped up all the wells which his father’s servants had dug in the days of Abraham his father, and they had filled them with earth.</p> <p>¹⁶ And Abimelech said to Isaac, "Go away from us, for you are much mightier than we."</p> <p>¹⁷ Then Isaac departed from there and pitched his tent in the Valley of Gerar, and dwelt there.</p>	<p>4. Abimelech <u>Sends</u> Isaac <u>Away</u></p> <p><i>Isaac Sows in Land, and God Blesses Him (12)</i></p> <p><i>Isaac Becomes VERY Prosperous (13-14a)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possessions of flocks • Possessions of herds • A great number of servants <p><i>The Philistines Envy Isaac (14b)</i></p> <p><i>The Logistical Problem (15)</i></p> <p><i>Abimelech Attempts to Solve the Problem (16)</i></p> <p><i>Isaac Complies (17) (Had right to stay – Gen 20:15)</i></p>

¹⁸ And Isaac dug again the wells of water which they had dug in the days of Abraham his father, for the Philistines had stopped them up after the death of Abraham. He called them by the names which his father had called them.

¹⁹ Also Isaac's servants dug in the valley, and found a well of running water there.

²⁰ But 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 quarreled with him.

²¹ Then they dug another well, and they quarreled over that *one* also. So he called its name Sitnah.

²² And he moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it. So he called its name Rehoboth, because he said, "For now the LORD has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land."

²³ Then he went up from there to Beersheba.

²⁴ And the LORD appeared to him the same night and said, "I *am* the God of your father Abraham; do not fear, for I *am* with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for My servant Abraham's sake."

²⁵ So he built an altar there and called on the name of the LORD, and he pitched his tent there; and there Isaac's servants dug a well.

²⁶ Then Abimelech came to him from Gerar with Ahuzzath, one of his friends, and Phicol the commander of his army.

²⁷ And Isaac said to them, "Why have you come to me, since you hate me and have sent me away from you?"

²⁸ But they said, "We have certainly seen that the LORD is with you. So we said, 'Let there now be an oath between us, between you and us; and let us make a covenant with you,

²⁹ that you will do us no harm, since we have not touched you, and since we have done nothing to you but good and have sent you away in peace. You *are* now the blessed of the LORD."

³⁰ So he made them a feast, and they ate and drank.

³¹ Then they arose early in the morning and swore an oath with one another; and Isaac sent them away, and they departed from him in peace.

³² It came to pass the same day that Isaac's servants came and told him about the well which they had dug, and said to him, "We have found water."

³³ So he called it Shebah. Therefore the name of the city *is* Beersheba to this day. (cp. 21:22-32)

³⁴ When Esau was forty years old, he took as wives Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite.

³⁵ And they were a grief of mind to Isaac and Rebekah.

5. Isaac Digs Many Wells

Isaac Re-Digs His Father's Wells (18)

Isaac Digs Well #1: ESEK "Quarrel" (19-20)

Isaac Digs Well #2: SITNAH "Hostility" (21)

"...everyone must recognize that it is magnanimity and not cowardice on Isaac's part when he yields, because Isaac had ample manpower at his command." Leupold, Exposition of Genesis, p. 728.

Isaac Digs Well #3: REHOBOTH "Ample Room"(22)

Isaac Travels to Beersheba (23)

God Appears to Isaac and Comforts Him (24)

- I am the God of your father Abraham
- Do not fear, for I am with you.
- I will bless you.
- I will multiply your descendants...

Isaac Builds an Altar and Worships God (25a-b)

Isaac Settles at Beersheba (25c)

Isaac Digs Well #4... (25d)

"...he left a trail of blessing behind him everywhere he went." John Phillips, Exploring Genesis, p. 221.

6. Abimelech Seeks a Covenant with Isaac

Abimelech Visits (26)

Isaac Questions (27)

The Visitors Request and Testify (28-29) cp. 21:22-32

Isaac Responds (30-31)

- With a feast
- By making the requested oath

Well #4 Successful: SHEBAH "Oath" (32-33)

Romans 12:17-18

¹⁷ **Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.**

¹⁸ **If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.**

7. Esau Grieves His Parents Through Marriage

The Timing

- Esau → 40 years old
- Isaac → 100 years old

Esau's Choices

- Judith (Hittite)
- Basemath (Hittite)

The Effect of Esau's Choices

- Grief of mind
- To both parents