



Lesson 18

GOD BLESSES ISAAC

Story Elements

- **TEXT:** Gen. 26:1-33
- **Setting:** circa 2000 B.C.
- **Main Characters:** God, Isaac, Rebekah, and Abimelech
- **Plot:** Isaac's growing abundance comes with many challenges.
- **Key word(s):** "I _____ with thee" (v 3); "I _____ with thee" (v 24); "the LORD _____ with thee" (v 28)
- **Climax:** *Genesis 26:27 And Isaac said unto them, Wherefore come ye to me, seeing ye hate me, and have sent me away from you?*

The Blessing of God

- 1) (vv 1-2) Famine afflicted the land of Canaan in Isaac's life as it had done during Abraham's life, and as it would do again during Jacob's life. At the time, Isaac was sojourning in Gerar, which is _____ country.
- 2) (vv 3-5) God appeared unto Isaac during the famine. The LORD reaffirmed the Abrahamic covenant with him and reminded Isaac of the covenant promises of...
 - a) ...divine _____. God will be with Isaac and his family in a special way that others outside the covenant would not know.
 - b) ...Canaan _____. The countries in which Isaac's nomadic life carried him would one day belong to his descendants.
 - c) ...Messianic _____. Through Abraham's covenant family "all the nations of the earth would be blessed." This was fulfilled in Christ. (Acts 3:25)

The Burden of Enemies

- 3) (vv 6-7) This scene is awfully familiar. As Abraham had done with Sarah, so Isaac does with Rebekah: he claims to be her _____ to save his neck from the harem-minded Philistines.
- 4) (vv 8-9) But the deception is discovered when Abimelech caught Isaac "sporting with Rebekah."
 - a) Here we see another play on words. The word for "sporting" is similar to Isaac's name, which means _____.
 - b) Whatever "sporting" means in this context, it was obvious to Abimelech that Isaac and Rebekah were not behaving as _____.
- 5) (vv 9-11) Abimelech rebuked Isaac for the deception, and Isaac (like his father did) offered a lame excuse. Abimelech decreed to his citizens that neither Isaac nor

Rebekah were to be harmed in any way. This was God's providence in _____ his elect family.

- 6) (vv 12-16) As Isaac sojourned in Gerar he grew in abundance while the rest of Canaan experienced the hardships of famine. Isaac even re-dug Abraham's _____ that the envious Philistines had filled in. Finally, fearing Isaac's growing wealth, Abimelech asked the blessed nomad to leave.
- 7) (vv 17-22) Isaac relocated to the valley of Gerar and dug even more wells:
- a) He named one Esek, which means _____, because he had to strive with other herdsman to keep it.
 - b) He named another Sitnah, which means _____, because he again fought to hold his rights to it.
 - c) Finally, he dug a well that went uncontested, and he named it Rehoboth, which means "_____."
- 8) (vv 23-25) Isaac then went to Beersheba, and God appeared unto him again. Isaac built an _____ there and called upon the name of the LORD, and God again spoke to him, reaffirming the covenant promises.
- 9) (vv 26-33) Later, Abimelech and his friends visited Isaac, who was shocked to see the men who had just recently asked him to leave their land. But Abimelech, being a shrewd man, knew that it was wise to make treaties with those whom God was blessing. So, the two parties swore oaths to one another that they would do each other no _____.

Application

- 10) Isaac's emulation of his father's deceptions reinforces a couple of truths:
- a) Great men can be guilty of great _____.

1 Corinthians 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. 12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

- b) There's a danger in following men because we can copy their weaknesses as well as their strengths. Matthew Henry warns, "We have need therefore to keep our foot, lest, while we aim to tread in the steps of good men, we sometimes tread in their _____."
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Answer Key

"Key word(s): "will be;" "am;" "was" | 1. Philistine | 2. a) blessing; b) land; c) hope | 3. brother | 4. a) laughter; b) siblings | 5. protecting | 6. wells | 7. a) strife; b) hatred; c) room enough | 8. altar | 9. harm | 10. a) sin; b) by-steps