

## Isaac & the Covenant

Genesis 26

**Introduction:** Genesis 26:1-33

Isaac's covenant blessing – Genesis 26:1-5

### Covenant Blessings

Dispensationalist - Covenantalist - These two positions are lenses through which theologians view scripture and are the structures in their thoughts that guide their understanding of scripture.

**Summary:** God's first covenant of promise was to Abraham (Genesis 12:2-4), and that covenant promise is passed on to Isaac (Genesis 26:3-4) and later to his son Jacob.

Isaac's lie – Genesis 26:6-11 – This story nearly repeats the stories of Abraham's encounter with Pharaoh (Genesis 12:17-20) and Abimelech (20:1-11).

**Summary:** Two things; first, the world expects higher standards from God's people. Second, there are plenty of worldly people who observe the private habits of people they could respect but when we compromise those habits we give them another reason to walk away from God.

Isaac's blessings from God -0 Genesis - 26:12-33

A hundred fold – 26:12-16

Digging wells – 26:17-22

Abimelech's blessing – 26:26-33

**Conclusion:** It is challenging to receive God's best if we can't let go of what we presently have. There are things that God has for us but we must trust him that what we have is less than what he has in store for us.

Abraham hears from God when he is in the right place with a heart towards the Lord (Not Egypt); Isaac hears from God in our text when he returns to a place where Abraham heard from God in Genesis 21:32-34. The New Testament changed all of that. Jesus was God in the flesh and where he was God was. After he returned to heaven he sent the Holy Spirit and he took up residence in God's people, so where we go the Spirit of God goes.

The story of Abraham shadows the story of Isaac because God wanted Isaac to mirror his father's obedience to God. Obedience to God casts out fear and Isaac's obedience to God dispelled his fear.

If I obey God will he guarantee that I am blessed the same way that God blessed Isaac, No! Obeying God is an important way to honor the Lord and trust him with the fortunes of our lives. You bless the future by obeying God; you curse the future by disobeying God - God is in charge of the blessings, present and future, and I am in charge of the obedience.