

Lecture 14 Genesis

We will now begin lec 14 on Gen.

The passage for today is Gen. Ch 26

The subject of ch 26 is prosperity

1st, when we remain in God's promised land we receive blessing

1-5

2nd, the mistake of Isaac

6-11

3rd, Isaac's prosperity

12-15

4th, digging wells, and God's blessing

16-25

5th, Abimelek makes a treaty with Isaac

26-33

6th, Esau takes a wife

34-35

read v. 1: Now there was a famine in the land—besides the previous famine in Abraham's time—and Isaac went to Abimelek king of the Philistines in Gerar.

During Isaac's time there was famine in the land.

Because of the climate and terrain of the land of Canaan drought can cause problems.

If it does not rain in Canaan it causes a famine in the land.

During Abraham's time there was a famine and he had to go down to Egypt.

12:10

Deut. 11:11

Canaan is land where you must trust in God for survival.

Now, Isaac had moved to the land of the Philistines.

read v. 2: The Lord appeared to Isaac and said, "Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land where I tell you to live.

God told Isaac not to go down to Egypt.

No matter how bad the famine was God does not want one to go down to Egypt.

Egypt symbolizes the world.

The land of Canaan symbolizes God's promise.

It is more important to obey God's word than to prosper materially.

Even though times may be tough we must remain where God commands us to stay.

Act 1:4-5

We must live following God's word.

Also this means that we must not forsake our responsibilities in life.

God have given to each of us a certain position in life which we must not abandon.

Is. 31:1

In Is. 31:1 God commands Israel not to go down to Egypt to get help.

In Ruth Naomi failed by leaving Canaan during a famine and going to Moab.

Naomi's family failed by going into Moab

They left because of a famine in Bethlehem and went to Moab. But in the end, lost almost everything.

James 4:13

God promised that if Isaac remained in the land that He would be with him.

read vv. 3-4: **3** Stay in this land for a while, and I will be with you and will bless you. For to you and your descendants I will give all these lands and will confirm the oath I swore

to your father Abraham. **4** I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring[**a**] all nations on earth will be blessed,

If you continue to remain in Canaan God will be with you.

I will bless you and your descendants.

Matt. 28:20

God promises, "Your descendants will become as numerous as the stars."

This is a prophesy that Jesus Christ will come from Isaac's offspring.

Gal. 3:16

Also, through your descendants all nations will be blessed, God promises.

This is speaking about the blessings that will come through Jesus Christ.

read v. 5: because Abraham obeyed me and did everything I required of him, keeping my commands, my decrees and my instructions." **6** So Isaac stayed in Gerar.

God promised that if he keeps the command of God that God would bless him.

in the passage we see that Isaac moved to the land of the Philistines, Gerar.

This is the land of the Philistines.

When he went there he lied that his wife was his sister.

Actually his father Abraham also lied about his wife in Egypt.

12:13

20:12

Abraham failed by going into Egypt.

Isaac didn't go down to Egypt but like his father lied about his wife saying she was his sister.

But later the Philistines found out that Rebekah was Isaac's wife.

As Isaac lived in the land of the Philistines the people found out about Rebekah.

read v. 10: Then Abimelek said, "What is this you have done to us? One of the men might well have slept with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us."

Because of Isaac's lie it was easy for any of the Philistine men to approach Rebekah sexually.

But God was merciful and protected Rebek.

While we many sin God protects us and sends his mercy.

We have life when we are truthful

Rev. 17:14

from v. 12 we see Isaac's faith.

read v. 12: Isaac planted crops in that land and the same year reaped a hundredfold, because the Lord blessed him.

God blessed Isaac 100 fold.

How could Isaac have received a 100 fold blessing?

This is because he trusted in God

He didn't go down to Egypt obeying God's word.

Also, in v. 25, Isaac built an altar and lived a life of faith.

God was his blessing.

When we do not pursue blessing and seek after God, blessings will be added to us.

Deut. 8:18

So Isaac became a wealthy man.

He acquired many servants.

read v. 14: He had so many flocks and herds and servants that the Philistines envied him.

The Philistines became jealous of Isaac's success.

When we have success there are many times when unbelievers become envious and persecute believers.

King Saul persecuted David.

Cain persecuted Abel.

The pharisees were envious of Jesus

2 Tim. 3:12

John 15:18

We are chosen people of God

Now, the Philistines plugged up the wells that Isaac had dug.

in v. 16, the Philistines drove Isaac away.

In the same way, when believers have success, the worldly people persecute Christians and drive them away.

read v. 17: **17** So Isaac moved away from there and encamped in the Valley of Gerar, where he settled.

So Isaac went away to the valley of Gerar, settled there and dug wells there.

in v. 18 we see him opening the wells that his father Abraham had dug.

read v. 20: But the herders of Gerar quarreled with those of Isaac and said, "The water is ours!" So he named the well Esek, [c] because they disputed with him.

Isaac opened the wells but the Gerar people argued that the wells belonged to them.

So he called that place Esek.

Esek means to dispute.

So Isaac give up and went to another place to dig wells.

But the Philistines came to him again and quarreled over the wells.

so he called the place Sitnah and went to another place.

Sitnah means to stand against.

read v. 22: He moved on from there and dug another well, and no one quarreled over it. He named it Rehoboth,[e] saying, "Now the Lord has given us room and we will flourish in the land."

So Isaac let these go as well and dug a well in another place.

When he had dug these wells the Philistines no longer followed him.

We can see Isaac's faith here.

Rehoboth was an ideal place to live, good place to dig wells and all living conditions were right.

This faith can be called the faith of yielding.

It is not fighting over material things.

At that time wells were a great asset.

Isaac had dug the wells and had rights over it.

But he gave these up and yielded.

rom. 12:17

He did not return evil for evil.

Matt. 5:39

Gen. 13:9

Matt. 6:33

When we set God as our goal, then He in turn blesses us.

Nothing good happens through fighting and quarreling.

God allows difficult circumstances to give us something better.

Later, Isaac found a good land in Rehoboth.

Matt. 5:5 says that the meek will inherit the land.

Ps. 37:11

Here, Isaac's goal was not to lose faith even though there may be some losses materially.

He thought of God's glory over material possession.

He put his relationship with God as his priority.

So he was able to find good wells and a fertile area of Rehoboth.

God led him there through many trials.

In v. 24, God says that he will add many blessings to Isaac.

He promised to make him fruitful.

read v. 25: Isaac built an altar there and called on the name of the Lord. There he pitched his tent, and there his servants dug a well.

Isaac built an altar and called upon the Lord wherever he went.

He lived in tents.

He dug wells.

While working in the world, he kept God as the center of his life: giving offering, and worship where he went.

read v. 26: Meanwhile, Abimelek had come to him from Gerar, with Ahuzzath his personal adviser and Phicol the commander of his forces.

Abimelek and the commander of his army came from Gerar to Isaac.

They came to make peace with Isaac.

Just before they had become jealous of Isaac and had driven him away.

They began to fear Isaac because God blessed him and made him very fruitful and mighty.

So they feared and decided to make a treaty with Isaac.

read vv. 34-35: When Esau was forty years old, he married Judith daughter of Beerli the Hittite, and also Basemath daughter of Elon the Hittite. **35** They were a source of grief to Isaac and Rebekah.

Esau married a Hittite.

Hittites were idol worshippers.

He married a woman without faith.

So Isaac and Rebekah were grieved over it.

so, it is important to everything in the faith whether, marrying, working, or doing business.

The passage today taught us about faith that yields.

Isaac while losing material things did not lose his faith.

Therefore, God blessed him both spiritually and materially.

This completes the lecture on ch 26

We will not begin lecture on ch 27

The subject of ch 27 is blessing.

1st, Isaac seeks to bless Esau after eating his game.

1-4

2nd, Rebekah's deceptive plan.

5-17

3rd, Jacob tricks his father.

18-25

4th, Isaac blesses Jacob.

26-29

5th, Esau seeks blessing

30-36

6th, Isaac's prophesy over Esau

37-40

7th, Esau hates Jacob

41

8th, Jacob is sent to Haran

sent to Haran

42-46

read v. 1: When Isaac was old and his eyes were so weak that he could no longer see, he called for Esau his older son and said to him, "My son."

"Here I am," he answered.

read up to v. 4: Isaac said, "I am now an old man and don't know the day of my death. **3** Now then, get your equipment—your quiver and bow—and go out to the open country to hunt some wild game for me. **4** Prepare me the kind of tasty food I like and bring it to me to eat, so that I may give you my blessing before I die."

Isaac was old and his eyes had grown dim.

He knew his time was near and decided to bless his son Esau.

So he told his Esau to catch some game to make tasty stew in order that he may bless him.

Here, Isaac didn't think about God's will but tried to bless Esau according to his wishes.

This was a mistake

because in 25:32 God had said that the older son would serve the younger.

What mistake did Isaac make?

1st, rather than seek God's will he followed the traditions of his culture.

It was customary for the elder son to receive the blessing and inheritance of the father.

2nd, he allowed his affections for Esau over Jacob to influence him.

Isaac like Esau more.

He loved to eat his game.

Therefore, Isaac was caught in his affections for his son.

3rd, It was wrong to make a blessing based upon a bowl of stew.

It is wrong to make a blessing after eating a bowl of soup.

The requirements for blessing should not be material things.

In this way Isaac was led in the error of human thinking.

from v. 5 and onward Rebekah begins to plot a deceptive plan.

Rebekah overheard Isaac's instructions to bless Esau.

So she planned to have Jacob receive the blessing instead of Esau.

In order to make Jacob seem like Esau, she put Esau's clothes on him and covered his arms and neck with goat skins.

vv. 15-16

27:15-16: Then Rebekah took the best clothes of Esau her older son, which she had in the house, and put them on her younger son Jacob. **16** She also covered his hands and the smooth part of his neck with the goatskins. **17** Then she handed to her son Jacob the tasty food and the bread she had made.

read v. 17: Then she handed to her son Jacob the tasty food and the bread she had made.

In this way, Rebekah clothed Jacob with Esau's clothes, covered his arms and neck with goat skin, gave him tasty food and sent him to his father.

read vv. 18-19: He went to his father and said, "My father."

"Yes, my son," he answered. "Who is it?"

19 Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me. Please sit up and eat some of my game, so that you may give me your blessing."

Because Isaac's eyes were dim because of old age, he didn't recognize who Jacob was.

When Isaac asked who he was Jacob replied "I am Esau your first son"

So Jacob deceived his father.

Jacob deceived his father Isaac.

However, it was not because of deception that Jacob received the blessing.

It was not the conniving plot that brought him the blessing of the first son.

Jacob received the blessing according to God's election and predetermined plan.

25:23

Even if Jacob had not used any deception God would have used other means necessary to bless him.

So Jacob didn't need to go against his conscience and deceive his father.

read v. 20: Isaac asked his son, "How did you find it so quickly, my son?"

"The Lord your God gave me success," he replied.

In this verse Jacob even lies in the name of God.

This is not a small sin.

In this way later on many were fooled by Jacob's lies

Many were deceived by Jacob's lies.

29:21-25

31:7

37:31-36

42

In this way Jacob fooled many

read v. 21: Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Come near so I can touch you, my son, to know whether you really are my son Esau or not.”

Isaac did not recognize Jacob

read v. 22: Jacob went close to his father Isaac, who touched him and said, “The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau.”

He knew that the voice was Jacob’s but felt the hands of Esau.

As a result Isaac ended up blessing Jacob.

read vv. 26-27: Then his father Isaac said to him, “Come here, my son, and kiss me.”

27 So he went to him and kissed him. When Isaac caught the smell of his clothes, he blessed him and said,

“Ah, the smell of my son
is like the smell of a field
that the Lord has blessed.

Isaac caught the smell of Esau’s clothes and blessed Jacob.

this is the blessing of God.

Jacob had the fragrant aroma of Esau whom Isaac loved.

So Isaac blessed Jacob

Likewise we should become a fragrant aroma to those around us.

2 Cor. 2:15-16

3:3

in v. 28 Isaac blesses Jacob with “heaven’s dew”

yes there is heaven’s dew.

This heaven’s dew symbolizes the blessing of heaven.

In those days farming depended on the dew of morning.

The dew from heaven was essential

This means we must receive God's spiritual blessing

Haggai 2:10

3 John 1:2

Also included in the the blessing is abundance of grain and new wine.

These symbolize spiritual food and grace.

which includes material blessings

Heb. 4:16

Deut 33:13

in v. 29 Isaac says to Jacob, "all nations will serve you"

people will bow down to you.

This is prophesying of the coming Christ who will subdue all nations.

In addition Jacob will be lord over his brothers.

So those who bless Jacob will be blessed

and those who curse him will be cursed.

This means that Jacob with Isaac will become an instrument of blessing.

We need both spiritual and physical blessing in our lives.

read v. 30: After Isaac finished blessing him, and Jacob had scarcely left his father's presence, his brother Esau came in from hunting.

When we look at v. 30 and onward we see how Esau tries to receive his father's blessing.

Esau came back from hunting with good food in his hand.

When he came in with the food Isaac asked him “who are you?”

in v. 32 it says, “I’m Esau your first born son.”

In v. 33, Isaac trembled violently

read v. 34: When Esau heard his father’s words, he burst out with a loud and bitter cry and said to his father, “Bless me—me too, my father!”

Here, Esau cried bitterly and begs his father to bless him.

However, the opportunity had passed.

Heb 12:17

It says though Esau cried out and begged for blessing and repented he could not obtain it.

There is a time even for repentance.

Esau had sold his birthright for a bowl of stew and had acted immorally.

He forsook the spiritually blessing that comes from Christ.

He sought to receive the blessing through tears but he could no longer obtain it.

read v. 37: Isaac answered Esau, “I have made him lord over you and have made all his relatives his servants, and I have sustained him with grain and new wine. So what can I possibly do for you, my son?”

Isaac had given all the blessing to Jacob and therefore had no more blessings to give to Esau.

read vv. 39-40: His father Isaac answered him,

“Your dwelling will be
away from the earth’s richness,
away from the dew of heaven above.

You will live by the sword
and you will serve your brother.
But when you grow restless,
you will throw his yoke
from off your neck."

So Esau will not be able to live in the richness of the land but outside without the dew of heaven.

Therefore Esau had missed God's blessing and grace.

He will have to live without God's blessing.

He must have felt miserable and distressed.

in v. 40 it says that he would live by the sword

and he will serve his brother.

He will live with a yoke around his neck.

read v. 41: Esau held a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing his father had given him. He said to himself, "The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob."

Esau came to hate Jacob and planned to kill him.

At this point Esau should have repented from his mistake

But rather he even hated and planned to kill his brother which was also sin.

He purposely desired to take away another's blessing.

read v. 42: When Rebekah was told what her older son Esau had said, she sent for her younger son Jacob and said to him, "Your brother Esau is planning to avenge himself by killing you.

REbekah found out about Esau's plan to get revenge.

So REbekah decided to send Jacob to Haran.

read vv. 43-44: Now then, my son, do what I say: Flee at once to my brother Laban in Harran. **44** Stay with him for a while until your brother's fury subsides.

To temporarily escape from Esau, Jacob ended up going to Laban's house in Haran.

read v. 46: Then Rebekah said to Isaac, "I'm disgusted with living because of these Hittite women. If Jacob takes a wife from among the women of this land, from Hittite women like these, my life will not be worth living."

Rebekah told Isaac that she was hated living around the Hittites.

and that she didn't want her son Jacob to marry one these Hittite woman.

That is how she was able to send Jacob away to marry a woman of faith.

So Rebekah planned for Jacob to marry one of her relatives in Haran.

Here, REbekah tried to have Jacob marry in the faith.

In this passage is Isaac's blessing over his son

Isaac made the mistake of trying to bless his son Esau

But because of God's preordained planned he was deceived and ended up blessing Jacob instead.

Through his father Jacob received divine blessing of prosperity.

He also received the spiritual blessing through Christ.

But Esau in selling his birthright lost his rights to this blessing

Esau could not receive the spiritual blessing

We have learned that it is important to participate in the spiritual blessing in Christ through acts of faith.

Let us all become like Jacob participating in the spiritual blessing in Christ.

This concludes the 14th lecture on Genesis.

We have completed up to chapter 27.

Thank you.

