

A Word from Kathy

There is so much we can glean from this chapter and apply to our lives. Pray and ask God to help you see areas needing greater attention to detail in your walk of faith and in teaching you from His word.

Observation

1. After reading this chapter, list the key persons of Genesis 26.
2. What natural disaster came over the area where Isaac was living?
3. For those living in an area affected by famine, it is a very natural response to go to another area for a time. Abraham left Canaan when a famine came (Gen. 12). What clear command does God give Isaac that he had not given to Abraham?
4. What promises does He give Isaac (Gen. 26: 2-3)?
5. God reconfirms to Isaac the covenant promises that He had previously given to his father Abraham. List the promises from verse 4.
6. What reason does God give Isaac for this continued blessing (Vs 5)?
7. While Isaac was living in Gerar, he allowed the fear of man to lead him into deceiving others. What was his fear? How was his deceit exposed?
8. Even the pagan king could see the potential for disaster had someone taken Isaac's wife. What did he say would have resulted from this act had it happened?
9. Verse 12 does not say the famine was over, but Isaac planted a crop. He planted the crop by faith. What did God do?

10. God's blessings on Isaac stirred up certain emotions in the Philistines around him. What were those emotions (Vs. 14)?
11. How did they reveal their feelings toward Isaac (Vs. 15)?
12. The Philistines considered the land to be their personal property and considered Isaac to be a guest. What did they fear he would do now that God had so abundantly blessed him?
13. How did Isaac respond to their request (Vs. 17-18)?
14. In verse 22-25 we see Isaac acknowledge that it is by God's hand and His provision that he has prospered. He then leaves the valley to move up to Beersheba. God appears to him there. What instruction and promise does He give to Isaac?
15. What was Isaac's response to God's words of comfort and promise (Vs. 25)?
16. In verses 26-31 we see the king, his chief advisor, and the commander of his forces come to visit with Isaac. They want to make a treaty with him. What is their motive? Did they stretch the truth a bit? Had they always treated him well?
17. Again Esau has taken lightly the things God considers important. He chooses to marry two Hittite women. The fact that the scripture emphasizes they were Hittite women implies they were following in the footsteps of their forefathers. The Hittites were descendants of Noah's son Ham. How could Esau have handled things better? What is God's plan for marriage? (He set His pattern in the Garden of Eden.) What did these two women bring to this family?

Interpretation

18. God has a "why" behind all of his "what". Spend a few minutes thinking back over the events of this chapter. God will help us apply what we are studying to our walk of faith if we ask and listen to His voice. Your test today will be the testimony you tell tomorrow. Did you see anything you could relate to in this chapter?

Application

19. In verses 1-5 we saw that Abraham's obedience had a direct affect on his descendants. Abraham heard from God and followed His call; he guarded the truth and he kept the commands; he honored the will and purposes of God and followed His instructions. Does this sound like your life? Are you living your life in such a way as to positively affect the lives of your children and grandchildren? Your descendants?

20. In Gen. 26:6-11 we saw a pagan king who understood that no man is an island. The sins we are involved in have real consequences for our nation.

2 Chronicles 7:14 *"if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."*

Do you view your sin as affecting your nation? What are you willing to do?

21. In verses 12-16 we saw that the Philistines were envious of Isaac and the blessings of God that were evident in his life.

Proverbs 27:4 *Anger is cruel and fury overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy?*

What does this verse teach concerning jealousy and envy?

22. In verses 17-25 we saw Isaac move away from Gerar and go down into the valley. Have you ever felt unwelcome? Perhaps through no fault of your own you were asked to leave. How did you respond?

23. In verses 23-25 God makes some beautiful promises to Isaac. Has God made any promises to you? Read John 14:26-27 and Hebrews 13:6 before answering.

John 14:26-27 *But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid*

Hebrews 13:6 *So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"*

24. In verses 26- 31 we see this pagan king and his right hand man and close advisor, along with the commander of his forces, come to see Isaac. Isaac wonders what their reason is for coming. He reminds them, "You sent me away." Notice the stretching of the truth in verse 29; they said they had always treated him well. I'm

not sure I would agree with that. Ruining a well land could be a death sentence in the area where they lived. How does Isaac treat them? Read Romans 12:14-21 to see how we are to respond as followers of Christ when we are treated poorly.

Romans 12:14-21 *Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. 20 On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*