

Walk Through the Bible

GENESIS 26-27

OVERVIEW

In Genesis chapter 26, the writer seems to jump back to a time before Jacob and Esau were born, as described in chapter 25. The Lord establishes and renews His covenant promises to Isaac just before Isaac moves to Gerar and lies about Rebekah being his sister, just like his father, Abraham did. Abimelech ends up sending Isaac away due to his growing power and disputes over water rights, but they later form a peace treaty. Esau's marriage to foreign women creates strife, adding more fuel to the controversy soon to occur.

Genesis 27 moves forward, near the end of Isaac's life. The time has come to pass on the family blessing. Isaac's intention to give that blessing to his firstborn, Esau, is thwarted by the deception of Isaac's wife Rebekah, and his other son Jacob. Isaac blesses Jacob, leaving Esau with nothing but a murderous rage. Rebekah urges Jacob to go to her brother's household, to escape the threats of Esau.

DISCUSSION

- Isaac lied about Rebekah being his sister, just as Abraham had done with Sarah years earlier (**Genesis 26:7**). What are some other similarities that Isaac shares with Abraham?
- Isaac would have never found new wells had he not started digging the wells which his father dug years before. What does reminding ourselves of the past do for us in the present and future (**Genesis 26:18**)?
- Why do you think Rebekah felt she needed to deceive Isaac in order for Jacob to receive the blessing (**Genesis 27:6-10**)?
- Why was Rebekah not worried about Jacob's curse coming on her (**Genesis 27:13**)?
- Isaac blessed Jacob instead of Esau. What all is involved in a biblical blessing (**Genesis 27:24-37**)?
- Who are the Edomites and why does God wage war against them (**Ezekiel 25:14**)?

