

Last week Isaac and Rebekah went south ward during a famine in the land and once again used the "she's my sister" line just as Abraham did with Sarah many years earlier. Both because of a lack of faith because they did not believe in God's promise of blessing. And both were found out and rebuked by the same king Abimelech. Isaac then settled in the valley of Gerar and redug the wells of his father Abraham that had been covered up by the Philistines.

65

Genesis 26:19-25: verses 24 and 25 are the notable ones here. In verse 24 we see the Lord appearing to Isaac again but this time with the same blessing as He originally gave Abraham; the blessing of "blessing him and multiplying his descendants" (In 25:11 God gave him a generic blessing upon Abraham's death not this multiplying blessing with the promise of his seed being the lineage that would lead to the Messiah.)

The phrase "for Abraham's sake" does not mean that Isaac wasn't worthy. Not at all! It was just pointing to Abraham being the one who had the originating promise given to. Verse 25 Isaac does what was very common in the Old Testament and builds an altar because of the blessing of being in the lineage of the Christ. Special blessings resulted in altars being set up to remind people that at that place God spoke. God made a special blessing. We have to be very careful not to lose track of what its, the altars, purpose was. It was to serve as a reminder, never an object to worship. I believe communion is an altar. The bread and the wine (juice) are reminders of praise for what the Lord did, and gave up, on that day around 2,000 years ago. Some <sup>Christian</sup> religions worship the bread and the wine

itself, believing that it physically has Jesus in them.

Genesis 26:26-31 Gods blessings often come with a warning, or a protection. Here we see Abimelech coming with his "cabinet" to offer a peace treaty. And this peace treaty only came about because Abimelech recognized that Isaac was blessed by God (as his father Abraham was). So he did not want any trouble brought on him by God for treating Isaac improperly. Note in Revelation those marked with Gods seal will also be protected (see <sup>Rev 7:1-7</sup> printouts).

Skip to Genesis 26:34-35 Remember how we found God choosing Jacob, the second born, to be the blessed one? This is why: Esau married Hittite women who were of the Canaanite race. Their idol worship and God rejecting lifestyle went against everything that Abraham and Isaac stood for. This of course grieved Isaac and Rebekah. This is why Jesus says that we should not be unequally yoked. A believer should not marry an unbeliever, especially in hopes of changing them. In the Old Testament, when we get to Exodus, we will hear God command the Israelites not to intermarry but to instead be a set apart special people.

Genesis 27:1-17 (Rebekah and Jacob lack faith, and Isaac disobeys God): God had said, "the older will serve the younger and that the younger would rule over the older". So, why come up with a deceiving plan? I know it was a spur of the moment plan but God can act in the "blink of an eye". Why did they not call out to Him and ask Him what they should do. OR NOT DO! And I, possibly "we", are guilty of the same every time we try to put God in a

box, or worse yet solve the problem for him. That (67) is pure lack of faith! I think about Rehab who lied when she hid the two spies on the roof. She was told that Joshua and Caleb would come back and destroy Jericho, which meant that they would not have been hurt if they were discovered. Exactly like how God interceded when Lot answered the door and the villagers were about to come in and destroy everything and everyone. (Sorry, in the middle of a Rabbit trail). In God's opinion I am certain that "the end NEVER justifies the means". After all every time I connive, or conspire, to twist things in to place, I am just saying, "I have to do it, or it won't get done right". I am probably actually taking away the miraculous event that God had planned to make it so; to make it happen. Yes, God works in the same things but He rejoices in making the impossible possible! The Red Sea: The Israelites could have surrendered, or fought the oncoming army but Moses got it right when he said, "be still." "Watch God work". The walls of Jericho: Yes, the armies, although out numbered could have tried to take Jericho by force but God wanted a marching band! Jesus at Lazarus' tomb: (see printout). Abraham at 90: Helped God out with Hagar, or how he and Isaac lied about their wives because they didn't believe God could protect the mothers of the Messiah.

And here we see it with Rebekah and Jacob. In a few weeks we will see how this generation sin of deception will result in Jacob too being deceived by his father-in-law who is also a chief deceiver!

Genesis 27: 18-19 (the tricking has turned in to outright lying): "I am Esau" he says. "Your firstborn".

Genesis 27:20: I don't know why God allowed this but it once again proves that our God is full of forgiveness, grace, and mercy! Here Jacob lies about God! 68

Jesus said in Matthew 12:31: "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy of the (against the) Spirit will not be forgiven men." Yes, Jacob was forgiven and around 2,000 years later Peter too would be forgiven for swearing upon the denying of Jesus Christ. These things can be forgiven based on whether one is a believer or not. If they are then it has to have come about in a moment of bad judgement and not out of a habitual habit. If they are not, all blasphemies will lead to the hardening of ones heart. Up to and including the impossibility of salvation.

Genesis 27:21 Blind Isaac senses the deception!

Genesis 27:22-23 Isaac being fooled, blesses Jacob,

Genesis 27:24 This one is confusing to me. Isaac has already blessed Jacob so why does he ask again? He could not have taken the blessing back.

Genesis 27:25-29 Isaac was wrong to want to force the blessing on Esau, especially after God had said at his birth that Jacob would be the heir of importance. And surely that great man of God Isaac knew that Esau had married two Hittite women who worshipped other gods and rejected the real God. I wonder what would have happened if Jacob and Rebekah would have gone to Isaac and said, "But Isaac, Esau doesn't worship our God and remember how God said that Jacob was to be the blessed one? Let us ask God before you possibly do something that is against His will. Or Jacob could have said, "But father, Esau sold me his birthrite". Never the less Gods allowing of the swindle tied His hands on the miraculous that would have occurred (figuratively speaking)