

BOOK OF GENESIS

GENESIS 26:1-16

VERSES 1-5	ADDED TEXTUAL NOTES, QUESTIONS, OTHER
<p>¹Now 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. ²The Lord appeared to Isaac and said, “Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land where I tell you to live. ³Stay 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. ⁴I 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, ⁵because Abraham obeyed me and did everything I required of him, keeping my commands, my decrees and my instructions.”</p>	<p>V. 1 – Bringing back the Genesis 1-3 themes of disorder (wild and waste), de-creation, and heart angst (Gen. 3). How will the characters in the story respond? With trust? Or with fear and scheming/taking matters into their own hands?</p> <p>V. 2 – Amidst the famine, God gives Isaac a clear command – a command either Isaac will trust or distrust.</p> <p>V. 3-5 – The command also comes with a promise. But is it a new promise?</p>
VERSES 6-7	
<p>⁶So Isaac stayed in Gerar. ⁷When the men of that place asked him about his wife, he said, “She is my sister,” because he was afraid to say, “She is my wife.” He thought, “The men of this place might kill me on account of Rebekah, because she is beautiful.”</p>	<p>V. 6 – Does Isaac trust God’s command and promise?</p> <p>V. 7 – Uh oh! Isaac’s trust was short-lived. This scene sounds familiar, even with familiar characters. Why?</p>

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VERSES 8-11	
<p>⁸When Isaac had been there a long time, Abimelek king of the Philistines looked down from a window and saw Isaac caressing his wife Rebekah. ⁹So Abimelek summoned Isaac and said, “She is really your wife! Why did you say, ‘She is my sister’?” Isaac answered him, “Because I thought I might lose my life on account of her.” ¹⁰Then 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.” ¹¹So Abimelek gave orders to all the people: “Anyone who harms this man or his wife shall surely be put to death.”</p>	<p>Vv. 8-9 – In the previous encounter with Abraham, Abimelek received direct revelation from God. What makes this time different?</p> <p>V. 10-11 – Isaac Lies and Schemes. What is the deeper and overarching “sin” that he commits just like Abraham?</p>
VERSES 12-16	
<p>¹²Isaac planted crops in that land and the same year reaped a hundredfold, because the Lord blessed him. ¹³The man became rich, and his wealth continued to grow until he became very wealthy. ¹⁴He had so many flocks and herds and servants that the Philistines envied him. ¹⁵So all the wells that his father’s servants had dug in the time of his father Abraham, the Philistines stopped up, filling them with earth. ¹⁶Then Abimelek said to Isaac, “Move away from us; you have become too powerful for us.”</p>	<p>V. 12 – This is a strange verse to follow-up from Isaac’s foible. How do you make sense of this?</p> <p>Vv. 13-14 – Isaac accumulates wealth and things just like Abraham. However, how is this different from Abraham?</p> <p>Vv. 15-16 – Although the wealth was acquired differently, it still follows a similar theme. What happens on account of having so many things? What becomes the consequences or complications?</p>