### Genesis

## Chapter 26

1Thereafter, a famine came upon the land that was greater than past famines that had happened in the time of AbraHam. So IsaAc went to GeraRa to see AbiMelech, the king of the Philistines.  
  
2And there the Lord appeared to him and said:  
  
 ‘Don’t go to Egypt! Rather, live in the land that I’m going to tell you about. 3Stay in this land and I’ll be with you and bless you!  
  
 ‘I’m going to give all of this land to you and to your offspring, for now I’ll fulfill the oath that I swore to your father AbraHam.  
  
 4‘I will increase your offspring as the stars in the skies, I’ll give all of this land to your offspring, and all the nations of the earth will be blest by your offspring, 5because AbraHam (your father) listened to My voice and did as I said… He obeyed My commandments, rules, and laws.’  
  
6So thereafter, IsaAc started living there in GeraRa.  
  
  
7Well, when the men in GeraRa asked him about RebecKa (his wife), he told them that she was his sister, because he was afraid to tell them that she was his wife, as she was very pretty and [he feared that] the men there would kill him for RebecKa.  
  
8Then, after he’d lived there a long time, AbiMelech (the king of GeraRa) happened to lean over to look out his window, and he saw IsaAc playing with RebecKa, his wife.  
  
9So AbiMelech called IsaAc and asked him:  
  
 ‘Is she your wife? [And if so, then] why did you say she’s your sister?’  
  
And IsaAc replied:  
  
 ‘Well, I said this so that I wouldn’t be killed for her.’  
  
10And AbiMelech said:  
  
 ‘Why would you do such a thing to us?  
  
 ‘Before long, one of my relatives would have had [sex] with your wife, and you would have brought a sin upon us in our ignorance!’  
  
11So, AbiMelech gave a command to all his people, that said:  
  
 ‘Any man who touches this man or his wife will die!’  
  
  
12Then IsaAc planted grain in the land; and that year, the barley produced 100 times [more than what he’d planted], for Jehovah was blessing him. 13So he became highly regarded and very wealthy, as he continued to prosper. 14For he owned many sheep, cattle, and tillable lands. But as a result, the Philistines [started to] envy him, 15and [they] stopped up all the wells that his father’s servants had dug back in his time, filling them in with dirt.  
  
16Then AbiMelech told IsaAc:  
  
 ‘[I want you to] leave us, because you’ve become much greater than us.’  
  
17So IsaAc left there, stopping to rest in the valley of GeraRa, where [he decided to] live.  
  
  
18And once more, IsaAc dug the [same type of] wells that his father’s servants had dug (which the Philistines had stopped up after AbraHam’s death). And he gave them each names, using the same names as his father had used.  
  
19Then when IsaAc’s servants dug in the valley of GeraRa, they found a live well of water. 20However, the shepherds of GeraRa argued with IsaAc’s shepherds, claiming that the water was theirs. So they named the well Injury, because [they claimed] injury over this matter.  
  
21As a result, he left that place and dug another well. [But then the people] started claiming [that it was theirs also]. So he named it Hatred. 22And he left that place and dug another well, which no one else claimed to be theirs; so he named it Expanse, saying:  
  
 ‘Jehovah has made space for us and He’s prospered us in the land.’  
  
  
23Then he traveled to the Well of the Promise, 24where the Lord appeared to him that evening and said:  
  
 ‘I am the God of your father AbraHam!  
  
 ‘Don’t be afraid, for I am with you! Because of your father AbraHam, I’ll bless you and your offspring will increase.’  
  
25So he built an altar there, and he named it Jehovah.  
  
Then he set up camp, and IsaAc’s servants dug another well there in the valley of GeraRa.  
  
  
  
26However, later, AbiMelech came to him from [the City of] GeraRa with his trusted friend OchoZath and with Phichol, the commander of his army.  
  
27And IsaAc asked them:  
  
 ‘Why have you come to me here, now that you’ve shown your hatred for me and driven me away?’  
  
28And they replied:  
  
 ‘We’ve seen that the Lord is surely with you. So we said:  
  
 ‘Let us swear an oath between him and us.’  
  
 ‘Yes, we want to make an agreement with you, 29that you won’t do any wrong to us, and we won’t show any more hatred towards you. After all, isn’t it because we treated you well by sending you away peacefully that you’re now being blest by Jehovah?’  
  
30So, [IsaAc] prepared a feast for them, and they all ate and drank. 31And when they got up the next morning, they each swore [an oath] to their neighbors. Then IsaAc sent them away, and they left him in safety.  
  
32However, that very same day, IsaAc’s servants came and [gave him news about] the well that they were digging. They said:  
  
 ‘We’ve found water!’  
  
33So he named it and the city, ‘The Oath.’ This is why that city is called ‘The Well of the Promise‘ [BeerSheba] to this day.  
  
34Then when Esau was 40 years old, he took Judith, the daughter of BeOch the Kettite, and BaseMath (the daughter of Helon the Kettite) [as wives]. 35And [these women] made life very difficult for IsaAc and RebecKa.