

Following in father's footsteps

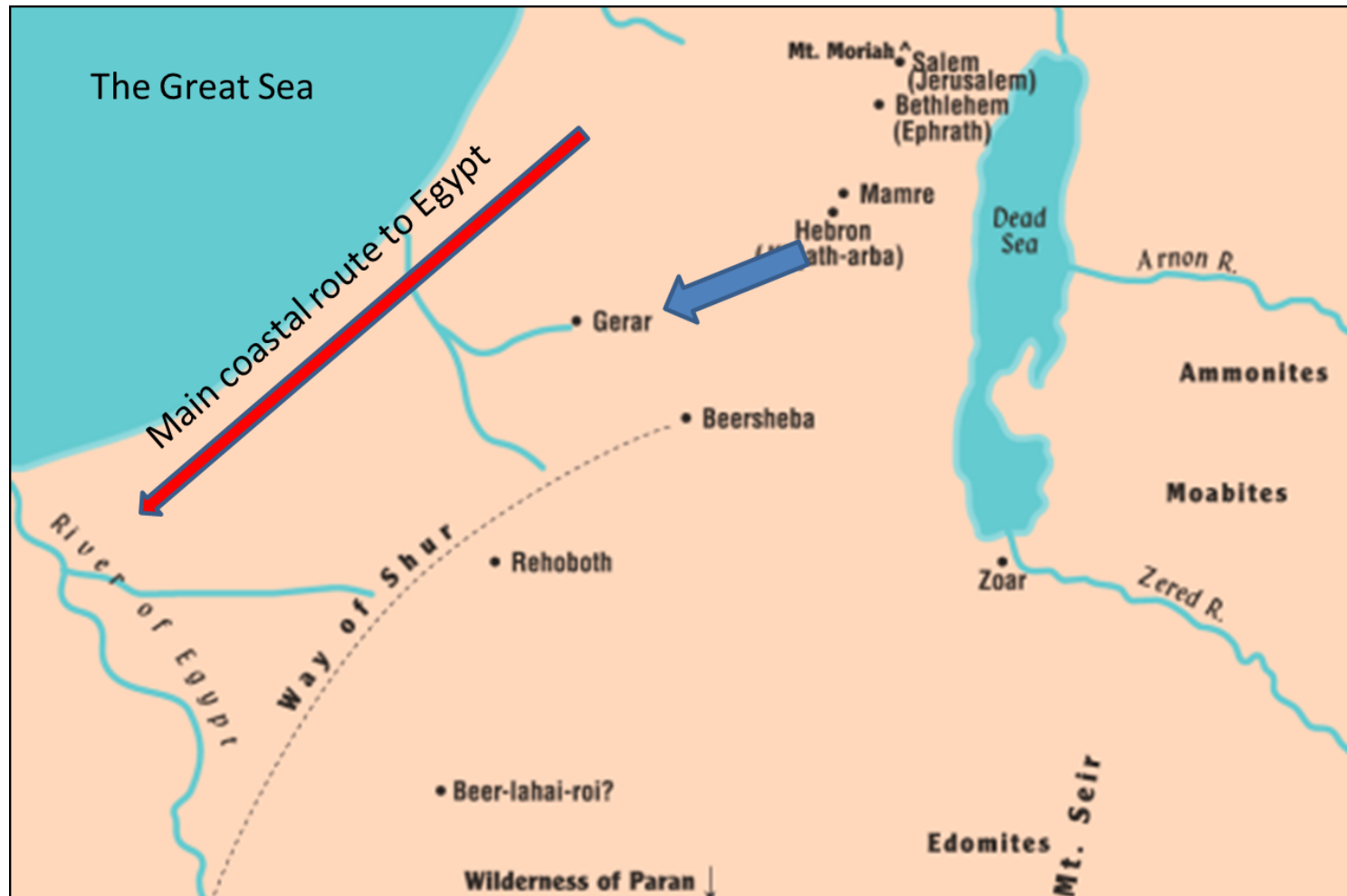
A good or a bad thing?



Now there was a famine in the land, besides the former famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Gerar to Abimelech king of the Philistines.

Genesis 26:1

On the way to Egypt just like dad did ...



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Genesis 26:1



Where are Jacob and Esau ? Events before chapter 25 ?

And the LORD appeared to him and said, “Do not go down to Egypt; dwell in the land of which I shall tell you. **Sojourn** in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father. I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands.”

Genesis 26:2 - 5



God steps in to prevent him
*(What dad did may not be
what God wants you to do)*

God renews the covenant
and passes it on to Isaac
1, the land inheritance
2, many descendants

And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.

Genesis 26: 5

The Covenant continued
3, Messianic promise to world



And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.” Genesis 26: 5

Abraham's faithful obedience to God



The commandments etc. were not yet written
but see Romans 2:14-16 and Hebrews 10:16

**Faith shows itself in obedience
and leads to blessing = GRACE**

So Isaac settled in Gerar.

When the men of the place asked him about his wife, he said, “She is my sister,” for he feared to say, “My wife,” thinking, “lest the men of the place should kill me because of Rebekah,” because she was attractive in appearance.

Genesis 26:6 - 7



In father's footsteps !

He obeyed .

And then ...

The power of fear

It's a lie – and just
after God's promise

When he had been there a long time, Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out of a window and saw Isaac laughing with Rebekah his wife.

Genesis 26:8



Over time he left off his guard ?

The Lie is exposed eventually
How long can one keep
up the pretense?

Another example of God's care
both for His plan and for them

So Abimelech called Isaac and said, “Behold, she is your wife. How then could you say, ‘She is my sister’?” Isaac said to him, “Because I thought, ‘Lest I die because of her.’” Genesis 26:9

Why did you lie ?

HE SAID, “SHE IS MY SISTER,”

BECAUSE HE WAS AFRAID TO SAY,
“SHE IS MY WIFE.”

GENESIS 26:7

It's your fault really !

Abimelech said, “What is this you have done to us? One of the people might easily have lain with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us.” So Abimelech warned all the people, saying, “Whoever touches this man or his wife shall surely be put to death.”

Genesis 26:10-11

**What is
this you
have done
to us?**

Actions that put innocent people at risk of danger

God causes the king to show commendable restraint.

God’s intervention to fulfil his covenant

And Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold. The LORD blessed him, and the man became rich, and gained more and more until he became very wealthy.

Genesis 26:12-14

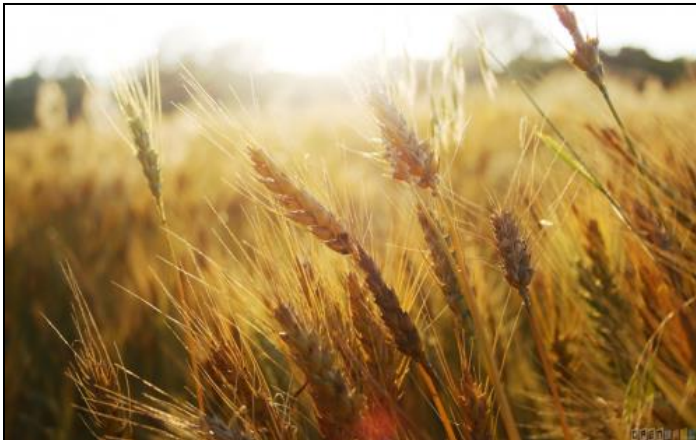
The Promise made good - abundantly
The Gift of farming skills



The LORD blessed him, and the man became rich, and gained more and more until he became very wealthy. He had possessions of flocks and herds and many servants, so that the Philistines envied him.

Genesis 26:12-14

The dangers of worldly wealth – sinful hearts



(Now the Philistines had stopped and filled with earth all the wells that his father's servants had dug in the days of Abraham his father.)

Genesis 26:15

Malice or **Security** ?



See verse 18 - they filled them after Abraham's death

Malice – vital for crops, flocks and herds

Security - City defended better with no external water supplies

And Abimelech said to Isaac, “Go away from us, for you are much mightier than we.”

Genesis 26:16

GO AWAY!

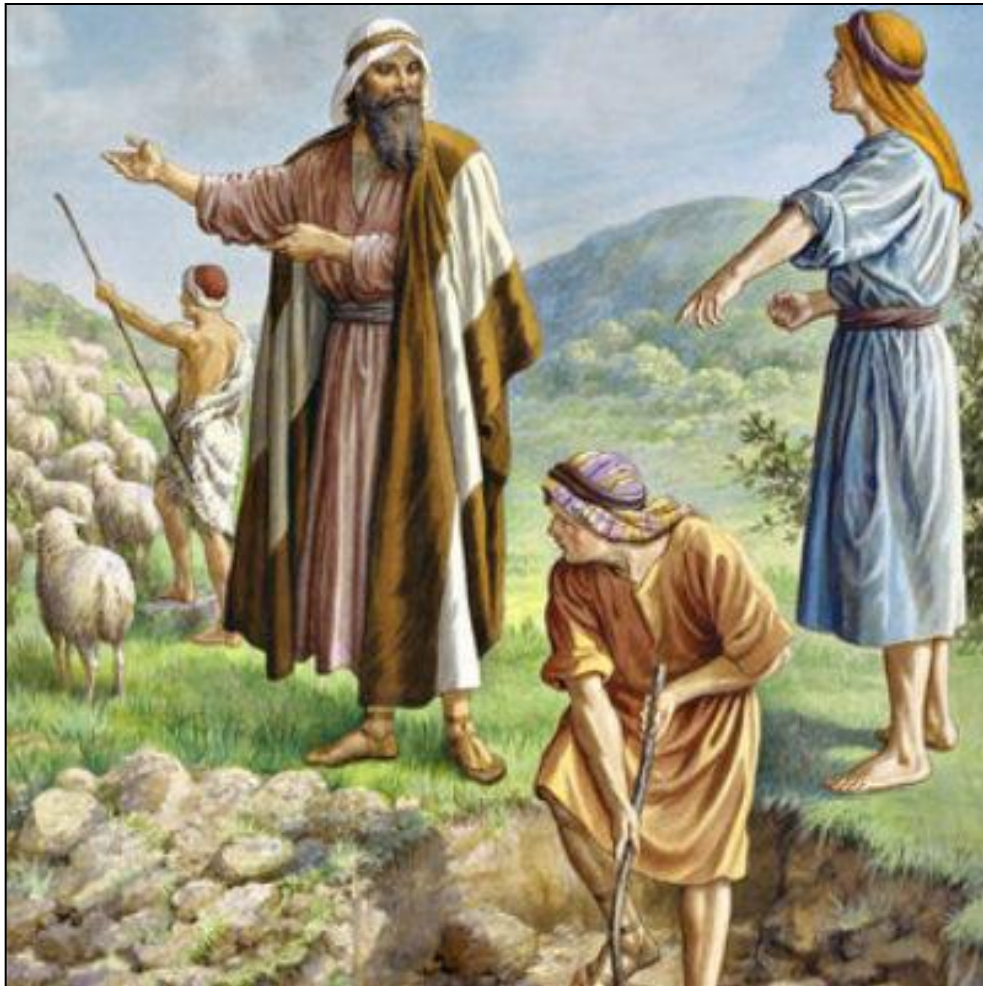


The power of fear

But also

God's keeping them separate from the cursed nations

So Isaac departed from there and encamped in the Valley of Gerar and settled there. And Isaac dug again the wells of water that had been dug in the days of Abraham his father, which the Philistines had stopped after the death of Abraham. And he gave them the names that his father had given them. Genesis 26:17- 18



Gentle acquiescence

Old places revisited

But when Isaac's servants dug in the valley and found there a well of spring water, the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with Isaac's herdsmen, saying, "The water is ours." So he called the name of the well Esek, because they contended with him. Genesis 26:19- 20

THE WAR OF THE WELLS



“Quarrel”

Blessings **AND** Trials
for growth



Then they dug another well, and they quarreled over that also, so he called its name Sitnah. Genesis 26:21

THE WAR OF THE WELLS



“Opposition”

Blessings **AND** Trials for growth



And he moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it. So he called its name Rehoboth, saying, "For now the LORD has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land."
Genesis 26:22



**“Room” at last !
Persevere**

New supplies needed

From there he went up to Beersheba. And the LORD appeared to him the same night and said, "I am the God of Abraham your father. Fear not, for I am with you and will bless you and multiply your offspring for my servant Abraham's sake." Genesis 26:23-24



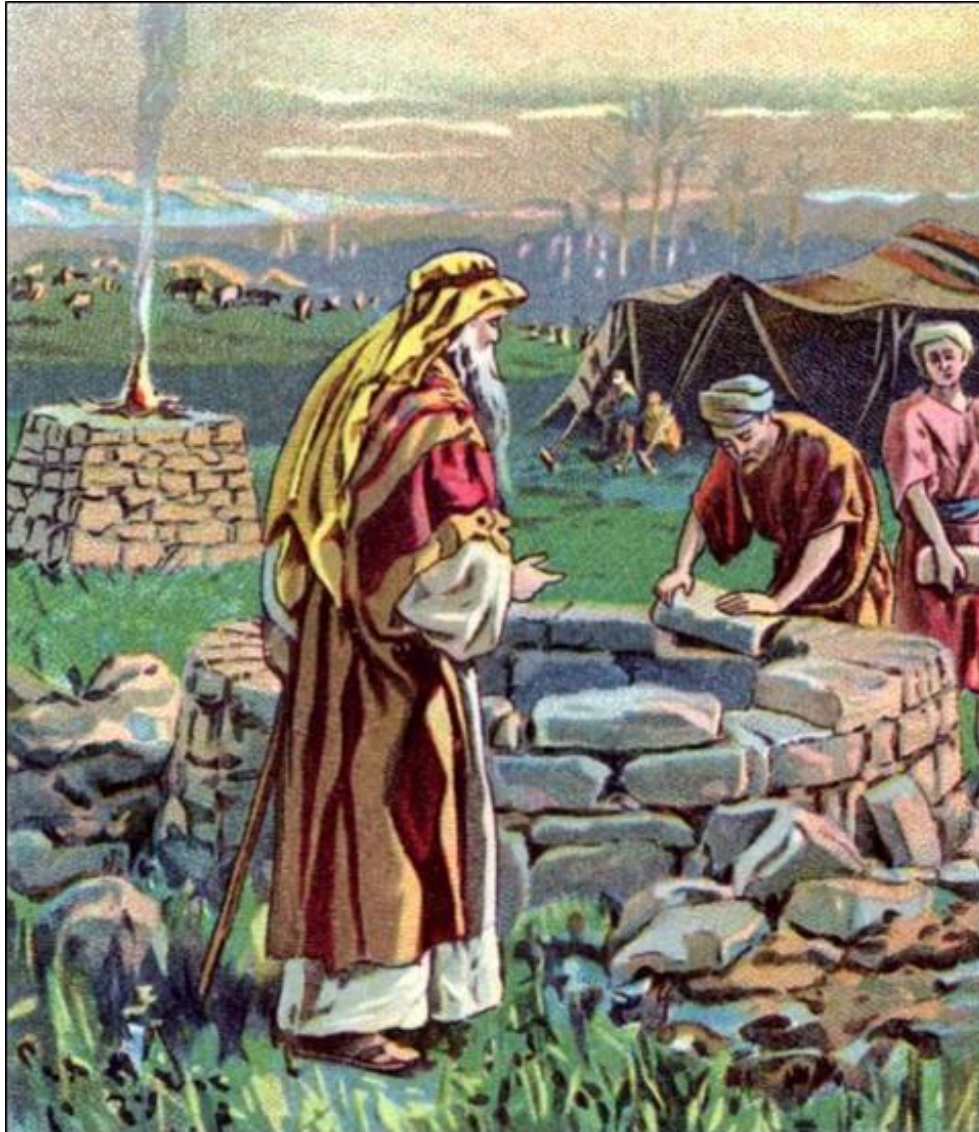
Encouraging guidance

Living on
father's faith
or blessing ?

GRACE

So he built an altar there and called upon the name of the LORD and pitched his tent there. And there Isaac's servants dug a well.

Genesis 26:25



Worship and thanks

Seeking fresh supplies

When Abimelech went to him from Gerar with Ahuzzath his adviser and Phicol the commander of his army, Genesis 26:26



When a man's ways please the LORD,
he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

Proverbs 16:7

Isaac said to them, “Why have you come to me, seeing that you hate me and have sent me away from you?”

Genesis 26:27



A challenge but no recriminations

They said, “We see plainly that the LORD has been with you. So we said, let there be a sworn pact between us, between you and us, and let us make a covenant with you, that you will do us no harm, just as we have not touched you and **have done to you nothing but good** and have sent you away in peace. You are now the blessed of the LORD.”

Genesis 26:28 - 29

We want peace



Not completely true description of events – spin !

Marked out by God's blessing

So he made them a feast, and they ate and drank. Genesis 26:30

Food & Friendship



A Kind response

If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.
Romans 12:18

In the morning they rose early and exchanged oaths. And Isaac sent them on their way, and they departed from him in peace.

Genesis 26:31



Goodbye!

Quiet !

That same day Isaac's servants came and told him about the well that they had dug and said to him, "We have found water." He called it Shibah; therefore the name of the city is Beersheba to this day.

Genesis 26:32 - 33



Blessed
In dad's footsteps

*Ancient well outside Tel Beersheba's city gate
(© Israel Ministry of Tourism)*

Six things to think about :-

Walking in father's footsteps is good when they go in the right direction. The encouragement of a good example.

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God is at work in the details of our lives. His grace is active.
His plan is still on track.