

**ISAAC SEARCHES
AND FINDS WATER**
Genesis 26:13-33

INTRODUCTION

The Bible has been preserved for every generation of mankind - providing **ALL** that is needed to know God, how to relate to Him personally and have a life full of abundance and purpose. Genesis 26 gives us the greatest insight into the life of Isaac, by now over 60 years old. He will bring his family to Gerar in an effort to survive a famine. He is living in the land of the Philistines. This is a critical time for Isaac and his family. Our study will focus on getting water from stopped up wells – as we consider how **Isaac Searches And Finds Water**.

DIGGING DEEPER

Read Genesis 26 several times. As you read, place yourself in the story with Isaac. This Scripture is not teaching principles about how to become prosperous materially. Rather, in Genesis 26:13-33 we observe how Isaac draws closer to the Lord, experiencing true riches and joy. We will consider the process he went through as he digs wells to get life giving water. There is good personal application for the faithful student in this lesson, as **Isaac Searches And Finds Water**.

Pray for wisdom and understanding, and let's begin.

I. Genesis 26:1-12. The Famine. Isaac is led to Gerar, near Egypt, to escape a famine. The Lord promises to protect and provide for Isaac and his descendants. Yet, he will look at the present circumstances, be fearful, and fail to trust the Lord. Finally, however, Isaac will own up to his sin, receive God's promises, and begin to walk in God's grace.

II. Genesis 26:13-21. Stopped up wells. Physically, water is absolutely necessary for life. In this region, wells must be dug in order to get water. To provide for his family and flocks, Isaac searched out wells dug years earlier by his father Abraham. But the Philistines (a type of the world and its influence, always opposed to God's children) had stopped up these wells with dirt, pebbles, stones, and boulders. So no water was available to anyone. Insane! And yet, many believers have allowed "Philistines" to stop up the spiritual flow of living water in their lives. **Romans 12:2, Colossians 2:8 Selah**

God's people look to the church for living water, but worldly values and philosophy can stop up wells as the church embraces:

Evolution – much of the church today has forgotten how we got here. This false teaching has been allowed to enter the church's thinking and teaching. Following fables causes many problems – even questioning if the Bible can be trusted.

Post-modernism – taking a position that we can't be certain of truth, this destructive philosophy sees the church as just an agent for social activism or community. The gospel and the cross lose their value as man becomes the judge of what's right & wrong.

Mixing Psychology With Theology – belief that man is basically good and the Bible is not enough, this heresy adds the world's views to make the Bible better or more relevant. Scriptural authority is reduced. **2 Peter 1:3-4, Psalm 19:7-11, Psalm 119!**

Losing Its Focus – does the church exist to make folks feel happy, comfortable, and positive? No! Jesus is our center of attention. God is to be glorified. Scripture is to be taught, and it may even sometimes disturb us. **Ephesians 1:3, 2 Timothy 3:16-17**

III. Genesis 26:22-25. Back to Beersheba. Digging Deeper! Moving further away from Egypt, Isaac was revitalized. He heard from the Lord, built an altar for worship, dug a deep well, settled down, and was greatly blessed.

IV. Genesis 26:26-31 Abimelech recognizes the Lord is with Isaac. When a man's ways please the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him. **Proverbs 16:7 Selah**

People who are dehydrated may not even realize they are in dire need of water. What did Isaac do to get water from stopped up wells? He **remembered** where his father's wells were located, **Returned** to the source of the water, and **Removed** the rubble that had stopped up the flow of the water.

CONSIDER Water is represented in the Bible in several ways – all critical to the spiritual life of every child of God. Water is pictured as the Word (**Ephesians 5:26**). Water is pictured as the Holy Spirit (**John 7:37-39**). Water is pictured as Jesus Himself (**John 4:10-15**).

Have "Philistines" stopped up your wells? Dig Deep! Here are some verses to meditate upon if you are thirsty, beloved. **Psalm 42:1-2, 63:1-5, 107:35-38. Isaiah 41:17-18, 43:19-21, 44:1-5, 48:20-21, 55:1.**

PRAY

- Upcoming CCFL events – Easter service 4/16, Wes Bentley 4/23, Spring clean-up 5/6
- Various Bible Studies & Prayer – Mens, Women's, and Sunday night prayer; Women's Bible Study, Home Fellowships
- Calvary Chapel Academy – Pastor Mark, teachers and students, French Café 5/7
- Missions outreaches – youth summer mission to Guatemala, WZXV