

**ISAAC'S OWN PROMISE,
ISAAC'S OWN GRACE**
Genesis 26:1-13

INTRODUCTION

Whenever we open the Bible, it's good to ask the Lord for practical insight. The Lord desires each of us to learn His Word, resulting in personal application. Genesis 26 is no exception, as Scripture focuses on Isaac, who is now well over 60 years old. Isaac heard from his parents for many years of God's faithfulness and guidance, and now he will experience this for himself. This chapter holds valuable lessons for the Christian, as Isaac comes to a deeper relationship with God, making His promises personal, and learning that he can trust the Lord to be faithful. We will observe **Isaac's Own Promise, Isaac's Own Grace**.

DIGGING DEEPER

Read Genesis 26, observing how the Lord always has His hand on Isaac's life, revealing His trustworthiness in every situation. Then, read Genesis 26:1-13 several times. Remember, Isaac was raised in a godly home. He watched Abraham & Sarah make mistakes, showing their humanity and weaknesses, but still having a true personal relationship with God. Now they are gone, and Isaac has his own family. Developing his own personal relationship with God is what he wants, it's what he needs. How will God draw him close? In this study, we will zero in on lessons Isaac learned in a God ordained famine. Let's dig in, beloved.

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

I. Genesis 26:1-2. The Famine. God will use this physical famine to develop Isaac's relationship and experience with Him. Surely, we can't fault Isaac for seeking food for his family. He was going to head for Egypt (where food might have been more plentiful), but God told him to dwell in Gerar. In Scripture, Egypt represents going back to the former life. Isaac must learn to trust God as He interrupts plans and makes provision His way. **Proverbs 3:5-6, Isaiah 55:8-9.**

II. Genesis 26:3-6. Isaac's Promise From God. Abraham had received great promises from the Lord. Isaac knew this. Now Isaac hears the same promises and has to receive them for himself! God will be with him, bless and provide for his family, AND Israel – his descendants – will become the ethnic group to be God's special people. Abraham had told Isaac this, and he had believed it. But belief and knowledge is not relationship. Isaac must own God's promises for himself. We must own God's promises for ourselves, too! If we remain where God directs, we come to make His promises our own. *Selah*

III. Genesis 26:7-11. Isaac's Test. Just like his father Abraham in **Genesis 20:1-13**, Isaac is tested and will fail. He will lie out of fear, not wanting the truth known, not trusting God. Fear is a powerful motivator. Faith fails when we are filled with fear – think of Elijah, David, Peter. A heathen king who knew that adultery was wrong rebukes Isaac, and he tried to justify himself. Wrong!! Isaac must own his sin before he can experience God's grace. **1 Corinthians 10:13, Matthew 5:3**

IV. Genesis 26:12-13. Isaac's Own Grace. Grace is God's undeserved favor and blessing. Grace draws us towards Him, closer to love Him, and causes us to be devoted to Him. Isaac had to experience God's grace for himself. Grace became personal for Isaac in Genesis 26. Owning his sin, Isaac received God's promises, and walked in God's grace. *Selah*

Scripture records plenty of famines – some actually called for by the Lord! **2 Kings 8:1-13; Psalms 33:18-19, 37:18-19, 105:16.** Let's consider God-ordained famines. Where do your cravings lie? Perhaps the Lord wants you to think about.....

- * **Phones, WiFi, Social Media** – if you lost availability or reliance on these (but simply on Him), would you be satisfied?
- * **Friends & Social Relationships** – what if God took these away, and left you alone (just with Him), would you be satisfied?
- * **Attention & Recognition** – if you were called to be unknown (yet well known by Him), would you be satisfied?
- * **Control & Input** – if your hands came off the wheel and had no say (but totally looking to Him), would you be satisfied?

CONSIDER If the Lord calls for a famine in your life, He may just want you to develop a healthier appetite to.....

- Nourish your soul and spirit to be satisfied fully.
- Feed on the Bread of Life to be satisfied fully.
- Thirst for Living Water to be satisfied fully.

Psalm 37:3-4, Psalm 107:9, Psalm 119, Luke 6:21
Psalm 34:8, Ezekiel 2:8-3:3, John 1:1-2, John 6:35
Psalm 143:5-6, Isaiah 44:3, John 7:37-39

PRAY

- Upcoming CCFL events – Dr. Jason Lisle 3/26, Marriage Retreat 4/7-8, Mike McIntosh 4/9, Wes Bentley 4/23
- Various Bible Studies & Prayer – Men's, Women's, and Sunday night prayer; Women's Bible Study, Home Fellowships
- School of Ministry – students, Pastor Tony, Billy Pauly and his Monday Attributes of God class
- Calvary Chapel Academy – Pastor Mark, teachers and students, upcoming science fair 3/31, French Café 5/7
- Missions outreaches – Pastor Ted mission to India & China 3/22-4/9, youth summer mission to Guatemala, WZXV