

Isaac 14th April

Isaac meets Rebekah (Genesis 24)

- ⁶² Now Isaac had come from Beer Lahai Roi, for he was living in the Negev. ⁶³ He went out to the field one evening to meditate, and as he looked up, he saw camels approaching. ⁶⁴ Rebekah also looked up and saw Isaac. She got down from her camel ⁶⁵ and asked the servant, “Who is that man in the field coming to meet us?”
- “He is my master,” the servant answered. So she took her veil and covered herself.
- ⁶⁶ Then the servant told Isaac all he had done. ⁶⁷ Isaac brought her into the tent of his mother Sarah, and he married Rebekah. So she became his wife, and he loved her; and Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

The covenant promise re-confirmed

- ² **The LORD appeared to Isaac** and said, “Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land where I tell you to live. ³ Stay 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. ⁴ I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and **through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed**, because Abraham obeyed me and did everything I required of him, keeping my commands, my decrees and my instructions.” ⁶ So Isaac stayed in **Gerar**.

Mediterranean
Sea

Syria

• Damascus

The
City of
Gerar

During the Time of Abraham

Bashan

Dothan •
Shechem •

• Gerar

• Esek
• Silnah

Rehoboth •
Beersheba •

Beer Lahairoi •

Edom

Lebanon Mtns

Canaan

Jordan River

Ammonites

Moabites

GERAR



His father's behaviour repeated

- ¹ Now 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**.
- ⁷ When 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."
- ⁸ When Isaac had been there a long time, Abimelek king of the Philistines looked down from a window and saw Isaac caressing his wife Rebekah. ⁹ So 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."

Abimelek the Philistine does the right thing

- ¹⁰ Then 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.”
- ¹¹ So Abimelek gave orders to all the people: “Anyone who harms this man or his wife shall surely be put to death.”

Philistines do a terrible thing

- ¹² Isaac planted crops in that land and the same year reaped a hundredfold, because the LORD blessed him. ¹³ The man became rich, and his wealth continued to grow until he became very wealthy.
- ¹⁴ He had so many flocks and herds and servants that the Philistines envied him.
- ¹⁵ So **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.

separation

- ¹⁶ Then Abimelek said to Isaac, “Move away from us; you have become too powerful for us.”
- ¹⁷ So Isaac moved away from there and encamped in the Valley of Gerar, where he settled. ¹⁸ Isaac reopened the wells that had been dug in the time of his father Abraham, which the Philistines had stopped up after Abraham died, and he gave them the same names his father had given them.

Digging wells

- ¹⁹ Isaac's servants dug in the valley and discovered a well of fresh water there. ²⁰ But the herders of Gerar quarreled with those of Isaac and said, "The water is ours!" So he named the well Esek, because they disputed with him. ²¹ Then they dug another well, but they quarreled over that one also; so he named it Sitnah.
- ²² He moved on from there and dug another well, and no one quarreled over it. He named it Rehoboth, saying, "Now the LORD has given us room and we will flourish in the land."

Lord appears again to Isaac

- ²³ From there he went up to Beersheba. ²⁴ That night the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; **I will bless you and will increase the number of your descendants** for the sake of my servant Abraham.”
- ²⁵ Isaac built an altar there and called on the name of the LORD. There he pitched his tent, and there his servants dug a well.

The Treaty with the Philistines

- ²⁶ Meanwhile, Abimelek had come to him from Gerar, with Ahuzzath his personal adviser and Phicol the commander of his forces. ²⁷ Isaac asked them, “Why have you come to me, since you were hostile to me and sent me away?”
- ²⁸ They answered, “We saw clearly that the LORD was with you; so we said, ‘There ought to be a sworn agreement between us’ —between us and you. Let us make a treaty with you ²⁹ that you will do us no harm, just as we did not harm you but always treated you well and sent you away peacefully. And now you are blessed by the LORD.”
- ³⁰ Isaac then made a feast for them, and they ate and drank. ³¹ Early the next morning the men swore an oath to each other. Then Isaac sent them on their way, and they went away peacefully.

More water

- ³² That day Isaac's servants came and told him about the well they had dug.
- They said, "We've found water!" ³³ He called it Shibah, and to this day the name of the town has been Beersheba.

Conclusion

- God confirms his covenant with Isaac
- Isaac displays mixed behaviour
- Obedience as well as poor judgement.
- It is going to be a long and difficult but revealing journey for Isaac's descendants
- and only God can really solve it for them and us.