

Tuesday, November 1, 2022 ◻ Read Genesis 26:12–22

Questions from the Scripture text: What did Isaac do in v12? How much did he reap? How did this happen? Of what was this the beginning (v13)? To what extent did it continue? What did he have (v14)? How did the Philistines feel about this? What did they do in v15? What did Abimelech say and do to Isaac in v16? Where did Isaac go in v17? What did he do in v18? What else in v19? Who quarreled over these wells (v20)? What does he call the well in response (v20)? What does he do in v21? What do they do? What does he call the well in response? What does he do in v22? What does he call this new well? Why? Whom does he recognize as doing what for him?

Where do material and spiritual fruitfulness come from? Genesis 26:12–22 looks forward to the opening portion of morning public worship on the coming Lord’s Day. In these eleven verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the Lord from Whom every material blessing comes is the Lord from Whom the greater spiritual blessings come as well.**

Although Isaac had given much evidence of his remaining sin, the Lord was merciful and faithful to prosper him both materially and spiritually.

We’re usually less keen to see spiritual fruitfulness, so the Holy Spirit sharpens our vision by how extraordinary is the material fruitfulness. When Jesus teaches the parable of the soils, “a hundredfold” represents maximum-imaginable-fruitfulness (cf. Mat 13:8).

Notable material blessing, notably from the Lord. This would be a remarkable crop by anyone and at any time. But it isn’t by anyone; it’s by a man who up until that time had focused primarily upon livestock. And it isn’t any time; it’s in the midst of a famine (cf. v1).

This is, apparently, how these crops went far beyond feeding his clan and his herds and flocks, to enabling him to procure the great wealth described in v13–14. Considering that wealthy Abraham (24:35) had left Isaac all that he had (24:36, 25:5), the fact that this crop-during-famine takes Isaac to an even greater level of prosperity tells us that he is now extremely wealthy indeed!

Notable spiritual blessing, notably from the Lord. Thus, by Isaac’s material fruitfulness, we are enabled to see the greatness of the spiritual fruit as well.

He is content to walk by faith in the steps of his father, Abraham (cf. v18). And, surely his water needs were very great during this famine.

He is peaceable and generous, even with neighbors who hate him (cf. v27). At great cost to himself, he gave up well after well that he had dug again. If he was too mighty for Gerar itself (v16), certainly he was too mighty for its herdsmen (v20), and could have retained the wells by force.

But we see what enabled him to value and pursue peace so much—he trusted that it was Yahweh who was making room for him, v22. What a turnaround from the lack of faith that led to fear that led to lying that brought an entire nation under the threat of God, in vv6–10!

Just as with the crop fields, there is only one valid explanation for the spiritual fruitfulness: undeserved grace from God!

For us as well, all of our material fruitfulness comes by grace and mercy.

For us as well, all of our spiritual fruitfulness comes by grace and mercy.

What troubles/attacks are you under? What life-long experience since the womb does this continue? What habits and practices in your life show a right response? How long should this continue?

Sample prayer: Lord, You have given us all our material blessing: home, food, water, clothing, safety, and community are all good and perfect gifts which come down from You, our Father of lights. And even more, You have given us whatever spiritual blessings we have: faith, contentment, being peaceable, generous, diligent, forgiving—it all comes from You. Now give us the blessing of hearts that do not wander from You, but which rejoice over You. Make us to look to You for every blessing, binding our hearts to You, and tuning our hearts to sing Your grace in Christ, in Whose Name we ask it, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP65B “The Far and Distant Peoples” or TPH429 “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Genesis 26 verses 12 through 22. These are God’s words. Then Isaac said in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold and y’all they blessed him. The man began to prosper and continued prospering until he became very prosperous for. He had possessions of flocks and possessions of herds and a great number of servants.

So the Philistines envied him. Now the Philistines had stopped up all the wells which is Father’s servants of Doug in the days of Abraham, his father. And they had filled them with Earth, and Abimelech said to Isaac, go away from us. For, you are much mightier than we that Isaac departed from there and pitched his tent in the valley of Guerra are and dwelt.

There and Isaac dug. Again, the wells of water, which they had dug in the days of Abraham, his father for the Philistines, had stopped them up. After the death of Abraham, He called them by the names, which is fatherhood called them. Also Isaac servants dug in the valley and found a will of running water there.

But the herdsmen of Ghor, Quarled with Isaac's herdsman saying, the water is ours. So, he called the name of the well, Esac, because they quarreled with him, and they dug another well, and they quarreled over that one also. So he called its name. Sit. Nah, Any moved from there and dug another well?

They did not quarrel over it so he called its name. Rehoboth because he said for now, he always has made room for us. Then we shall be fruitful and the land so far the reading of God's inspired in an errant word. So that you remember that the midst of this famine that was in the land, which we read about or learn about in verse 1 of this chapter Isaac, who had not been a crop farmer before he had been a livestock farmer.

And now he has so many livestock, but nobody else is able to grow crops. So he becomes a crop farmer. And in his first year ever, as the crop farmer, he reaps a hundredfold crop and you can hear even in the language, of course the point You always blessed him verse 12,

You always blessed him verse 12. Resulting in the man began to prosper and continued prospering until he became very prosperous. And you see that the Lord is the fount of that earthly blessing, the Lord of the fount of that 100 fold crop. And in the midst of the famine, giving him not just enough for his own house.

But in order to purchase even more flocks and herds and servants and the Philistines send him away and he's out in the wilderness. Now, he's had to leave his crops behind there. Probably jealous for the fields. Now, they have the hundredfold crop field and they have the water sources and these in the wilderness about the Lord prospers to, even in the wilderness and he of Isaac Digg, and he finds water, and he digs, and he finds water and he digs and he finds the water.

And so the Lord is prospering him even in the wilderness. But what's happening? These wells are getting names like Esac and Sit. Now for quarreling and strife but even this which is not necessarily prosperous at first is a blessing from God because it comes an occasion in which you can see the character of Isaac who is a peaceful man and a diligent man, He still is taking care of his household.

You can see the way names the last of the wells, at least in the portion that we read Rehoboth in light of what the Lord is doing. Now, Yahweh has made room for us. So we know why he keeps moving on and keeps digging other wells. It's not because he's being a doormat or a pushover or failing to attend to the interests of his.

Now, considerably large household, it's because he is pursuing both peace with his neighbor and diligence in his efforts, in faith in the Lord, and his provision. And so even the quarreling, even the difficulty becomes an occasion for him to see the Lord's provision to him spiritually. The Lord's gracious work in his heart saw a famine, I had become the occasion for seeing the Lord's, provision and material things.

And sometimes the Lord holding back for a time are making difficult for a time. Material things not becomes the occasion for seeing the Lord's provision in spiritual things. But if we know that the Lord is the provider, which I'm sure Isaac remembered, that amazing name that his father gave to the Lord, or by which is Father called the Lord when Abraham had taken Isaac up the mountain to sacrifice him and Isaac had asked, you know, Father Here, I am my son Father.

I see the wood and I see the fire but where is the lamb? The Lord will provide the land for the burnt offering and the Lord did provide a ram caught by a thorns, and Isaac's life was spared. And Isaac, would remember the faith of his father and the Lord who provides and of course, Abraham didn't always have such.

Faith. Did he because you have the pretty much the first thing he did in the promised land, when he got there, who was as soon as there was a famine, he took off to Egypt. And so We see the Lord providing the blessing of a heart, that doesn't stray from God.

A heart that has bound to the Lord and trust in his provision. We want that. If we're a Christian we want that more than we want bread in a famine and water in a drought. We want hearts that though. We can feel the remaining sin and how easily we stop trusting in God.

Stop enjoying God. Stop serving God. We want hearts that by his spirit, by his gracious work in us. Trust him serve him. Enjoy him delight in him even and especially in the most difficult of circumstances. Because when he gives us to do that in the difficult circumstances, we say, aha, such godliness.

Such faith in my heart. Did not come from me. And if it didn't come from me, Sophia, where did such godliness come from it? Came from God didn't. And so we say this is something far better than a feather. In my cap about which I can be proud. This is a gift of God's grace, which assures and the firms for me, that he is the one who has been.

At. Work in me, He is the one who is attuned for me. He is the one who is still working in me and he is the one who will finish that work until I've been perfectly conformed to Christ to bring him glory forever and ever. And have been made able perfectly to enjoy him with a heart that the lights in him fully and therefore can enjoy him fully forever.

And so we looked to God as the fountain of every blessing and heaven and on earth, material and spiritual. Now and forever in our Lord, Jesus Christ. And by this spirit and let us ask him to do more of that work. Now environment by way of this work. Let's pray Our Father in heaven.

We thank you for this portion of your word. We thank you for the glimpse that at gives us into how you work in believers' lives how you worked in one believers life, for the sake of your love and for the sake of your Son, whom you were sending in that love and whom you were bringing through Isaac that the work that you did in Isaac, for Christ's sake.

And by your spirit has its companion and the work that we look to you to do in us for Christ's sake and by your spirit and so do it in us. We pray work. Graciously in us. We pray and grant that we would see you doing in us that which cannot come from our flesh.

But working in us by your spirit and tune our hearts, to praise you to rest in you to desire that worship and enjoyment of you forever that we will have in Christ. And in his name, we ask it. Amen.