

Genesis 26:12–25

"A Praise-Filled Life"

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What showed that the Lord was with Isaac? Pastor leads his family in today's "Hopewell @Home" passage. Genesis 26:12–25 prepares us for the opening portion of morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these fourteen verses, the Holy Spirit teaches us that much more even than Isaac's earthly prosperity, the Lord's being with Isaac was seen in his diligence, peaceability, and humble praise—and that all of these together formed a life filled with praise.

Tuesday, January 25, 2022 • Genesis 26:12–25

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 does Isaac go in v23? Who appears to him (v24)? When? What does He call Himself? What does He tell Isaac not to do? Why? What does He say that He will do? How does Isaac respond now (v25)? Upon what does he call? What else does he do there?

Next week's Call to Worship, Prayer for Help, and first song all come from Genesis 26:12–25 so that we will see that we are singing God's thoughts after Him with *Fill Thou My Life, O Lord My God*.

What astonishing material fruitfulness! Everything is stacked against Isaac. He's a livestock farmer, not a crop farmer. He's used to the hill country, not the lowlands. It's the middle of a famine. But he reaps one-hundred-fold *in the first year!* That's more than enough for himself, and the brisk grain market enables him to purchase flocks, herds, and servants.

v13 emphasizes the increase of Isaac, literally: "And the man became great, and continuing he continued and became great until he became exceedingly great."

But this fruitfulness was not just material; it was spiritual. Just as there's no other explanation for Isaac's grain crop, there is also no other explanation for the shift in Isaac's character.

In the previous passage, the man through whom all the nations of the earth were to be blessed had almost brought guilt upon Gerar. In this passage, he departs peaceably from the city, and interacts exceedingly peaceably with the herdsmen in the countryside.

Isaac now has a huge logistical task on his hands. In v16, Abimelech had complained that Isaac was too numerous. The city and its area couldn't support both him and the Philistines. So, now he moves into the countryside and finds the old wells stopped up. He's giving them the old names, but they're about to get new ones related to the herdsmen claiming one after another of them.

Isaac needs the water! And, he's mighty. He could easily take it by force. If he is too great for Gerar city, he is also too great for its herdsmen. But he doesn't. He is trusting Yahweh (finally!). He keeps digging them and digging them until finally the herdsmen have enough water for themselves (that Isaac has now provided), and one for himself. Rehoboth. "Wide."

No longer is Isaac acting out of self-interest, putting his own skin ahead of everyone like he had earlier (even ahead of Rebekah). He acts in great selflessness, great patience, great persistence, great diligence... all out of great faith in the Lord to take care of him. Praise God!

And that's exactly the point. Praise God. Only He can make land fruitful like Isaac's crops had been. Only He can make a sinner's heart and life fruitful like Isaac. Can't He (and doesn't He!) do the same for His people today? Whatever your material needs; your Father knows and is abundantly able. Whatever the difficulty of your spiritual challenges; your Father is more than able by His Spirit, and the life and character of His Son, to form and sustain in you great spiritual fruitfulness!

The Lord then appears to Isaac and repeats His blessing (v24) to which Isaac responds with worship (v25). Just so, when we come to the Lord to worship Him for what He has done for us in Christ, we find Him continuing to declare His blessing to us, even as He receives our worship.

What material needs do you have right now? What spiritually challenging circumstances are you in? Where can fruitfulness come from in the midst of them? How should you respond—before, during and after?

Sample prayer: Lord, You have made us fruitful despite our inability or the difficulty of our circumstances. Yet, in lean times we have been anxious, and in times of plenty we have been proud. Forgive us such wickedness, and give us eyes to see Your goodness always, so that in want and in plenty we will always worship You, through Jesus Christ, AMEN!!

Suggested songs: ARP23B "The Lord's My Shepherd" or TPH534 "Fill Thou My Life, O Lord My God"

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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 referenced above)

Genesis 26. Our portion today's verses 12 through 25. These are God's words, Then Isaac said in that land. And he reaped in the same year a hundredfold and y'all have blessed him. The man began to prosper and continued. Prospering Isaac became very prosperous for. He had possessions of flocks possessions of herds and great number of servants.

So the Philistines envied him Now. The first things had stopped up all the wells which his father's servants had dug in the days of Abraham his father. They had filled them with earth and every mallow said, Isaac go away from us for you are much mightier than we and Isaac departed from there and pitched his tent in the Valley of Garar.

And go out there and Isaac dug. Again, the wells of water, which they had dug in the days of Abraham, 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 his father had called them.

Also Isaac servants dug in the valley and found a well of running water there, but the herdsmen of Garar contended with Isaac's herdsman. Saying, the water is ours. So, he called the name of the well ezeq, because they quarreled with him, and they dug another well, and they quarreled over that one also.

So he called its name sitting up and he moved from there and dug another well, and they did not contend over it. So he called its name Rehoboth because he said for now you always have made room for us and we shall be fruitful. And the land, Then he went up from there to be her Sheva.

And you always appeared to him the same night and said, I am the God of your Father, Abraham do not fear for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for my servant Abraham's sake. So he built an altar there and called on the name of Yahweh and he pitched his tent there.

And there Isaac's servants dug. Oh well, So far the reading of God's inspired and inherent worked.

So, on the coming Lord today, the first song is fill thou my life. Oh Lord. My God in every part with praise and the desire of the song and will sing it. When we're done, thinking about this. Passage the song helps us to think and pray according to that biblical, truth or principle that those who belong to the Lord should display it.

This is one of the main reasons for the entire book of Deuteronomy as it was given to the Israelites that they would be such a godly and good people that everyone from random would see them and say what What a wonderful people this is who has such a god, so near to them, as their God is to them, who has given them such wonderful commandments, Of course, as real.

Never lived up to that. But believers are supposed to be salt and light and to display both what Christ is like and that the grace of Christ transforms, sinners more and more into the image of Christ as his spirit, whom he has given them bears. The fruit of his character in them, that's what's supposed to happen with Christians and the Lord granting us to attend upon his means and find Him faithful to use them.

And to hold one another accountable and walk with one another and encourage one, another, and the gospel of Christ, He will produce that. It's one of the things we pray for when we pray for Reformation and revival that, the Lord Jesus would be known. And that his means would be attended upon through faith in Him and dependence upon his spirit and that God would bring an edge of the gathering in of many into his church and the work by which he throughout this life, perfects them into the image of Christ and makes display of what kind of Savior.

He is, But for each of us who know him to trust in him, who belonged to him by faith, it is our personal desire or ought to be. Is we are hearing and we'll sing, not to be our personal desire that the glory of belonging to God. And the difference that he makes in a man's life, will be displayed in our lives.

Now if you read this passage like a falston You notice sowing and reaping a hundredfold and multiplying possessions. There are lots of people who want the glory of the nearness of God to be especially that which a philistine sees. And now it's true that God was with Isaac. And since it was for as good, that he would reap 100 fold, he gave him to reap bonded fold.

And since it was for his good, that he would multiply flocks and herds and become mighty. He granted to him to do so possibly perhaps probably perhaps, because that was a means by which Isaac would get separated from Philistines who were so bad for him. Spiritually. But the goodness of God, the goodness of Yahweh and Isaac's life as seen, especially spiritually, First that he was willing to try sowing and reaping he had never been a stationary, man, which you have to be to be a crop farmer.

But once he kind of got to hang out with the guys in Garar and he became stationary, he has flocks, and herds. And now, he's not moving from place to place with this fluxem nerds, and they need food. So he has to raise crops. So he's willing to be diligent and to try something new and to work hard at it.

We assume he did. It's implied that he did from the passage and yet it's something he's never done before. So, diligence and the exercise of wisdom is is part of the difference that Yahwe makes in him here. But even more than that peaceability, you notice. He doesn't have the grown-up equivalent of a temper tantrum which the Philistines and Garar were probably afraid that he might because they say you are mightier than we are.

And the he could have said. Well, if I'm so mighty, maybe I should just be your king. Maybe you should go away and I should stay here. He doesn't do that. And even as he gets further, and further away, and puts in the hard work of digging a well, and he has mouths to feed, and to give drink to, doesn't he many.

Many Mouse to feed and to give drink to yet. He's a feasible man. He doesn't, he doesn't pretend that wrong hasn't been done to him. You can see that in the names that he gives the wealth, so that every time they go to the well, and they hear its name, every time they refer to the, well, by the name of the one, who given to it by the one who dug it.

They remember that they were in the wrong and yet he doesn't insist upon demanding his rights. He in order to keep peace goes on and does more hard work further away and he keeps going. But willing to work hard in order to maintain peace and trusting the Lord to be his avenger.

That's a much greater fruit. That's a much greater evidence for him than hundredfold crops or multiplied. Possessions that is good for you to work hard at your school and as you get on up and you're working in other things to work hard at those things and be diligent, it's not wrong for you to desire and pray to God that you would establish the work of your hands.

The even that he would show as we're gonna see in a couple of days in the Colossians passage this week show by the way that you work, that you work for a master who's in heaven and not just for masters who on earth, Those aren't bad things. It's a good thing, but as much more, it's a much clearer display of Christ in you, when you are peaceable, when you don't have temper tantrums, I know you're tired, Sophia, but you need to hear this one.

Especially you want people to see that. Jesus is a great Savior by how he helps you to not have temper tantrums. And those of you who are older and still from time to time having temper tantrums, and maybe you've gotten good enough at stopping it from coming out of your mouth, but still in your heart.

There is not that peace ability like we heard about last week in Colossians. Let the peace of God rule in your hearts. It's good for us. All to remember that. This is one of the ways that God's true nearness spiritual nearness to a man or a woman is displayed in his life is that he's peaceable.

So we see that Isaac is, diligent. We see that he's peaceable and we see also that he is a worshiping man. We see in verse 22, one of the reasons why he was willing after well ESEC got to take or quarreled over and well sitting not got coraled over that.

He was willing to keep moving and moving and moving, because he didn't think because I am so great, I have had a hundredfold crop and he didn't think because I am so great. I have all these flocks and herds and possessions and he didn't think that because I am so great.

I have dug a well, which turned out to be Esec and he didn't think that I because I'm so great. He dug a well, which turned out to be setting up. You see in verse 22 that when he names it Rehoboth. He says for now, yahweh has made room for us.

You see what comes out there. You'll be very easy after you've done all of these good things and our fleshliness never goes away from us, It always tempts us. Suppose you do well for entire day working hard at your school not having temper tantrums being peaceable even in your heart and you know whatever else you are especially working on in your walk of the Lord you get to the end of the day, which your flesh is tempted at the end of such a day.

To say, I really did good today, but the new man and you from Christ, Jesus would say, Thank you. God for your being near me by your grace today and granting to me to work hard granting to me to be peaceable. That didn't come from me. You did that for me, You see the way Isaac's talks about the new, well, Rehoboth and verse 22, how he would have been tempted to say, after all that.

I've done finally, I've achieved and I've achieved all those other things I really did. Well, in all of this but the way he responds is not with pride. But with praise, you always has made room for us, and he goes up to where sheba and the Lord appears to him and makes him promises.

And so, what does Isaac do? He rebuilds the old altar, He built an altar there verse 25, and he calls

on the name of Yahweh and he pitched his tent there. And they re-dig that well too and if we were going straight through Genesis we would find more about that.

Find out more about that in the next passage. But that's the greatest evidence that instead of a pride man he's a praise man that he sees the Lord's goodness to him and he offers it continually as worship. And so we should seek that the Lord would fill our lives with that kind of praise unto him.

Let's ask him to do. So our Father in heaven, we thank you and praise you for this passage and for the opportunity to sing what your spirit teaches us from this passage on the coming. Lord's Day. We pray that you would make its truth to take roots deeply in our heart.

So that when we hear the word red in the public worship these truths about you and your gracious work and your praiseworthiness would all come flooding back to us by the mercy and work of your Holy Spirit. We pray that the rest of the congregation might also be studying.

So that when we do come to Sing it on the Lord's day, we will sing it as your words which you have put in our mouths rather than our words and we pray that you would fill our lives with praise. Not just that we would do well but that by your producing the doing well in us, you would be glorified and especially by our own hearts that.

See it not with pride. But with thankfulness, we ask these things. In Jesus name. Amen. All right. 5:34 in the red.

Which was by the way yesterday we sang not all the blood of beasts which is 354. But that was a numeral transposition. In my mind, those I meant to request 534 so that the congregation could bear. Okay, I gotta change it on the fly. If I want I took it as a providence that we needed to sing the other.

534, 534, Ezekiel's, almost there. And then we will begin Fill found my life. Oh, Lord. My God. And every part with priest that, my hope being may proclaim that Being and my raise. Not for the Bob, praise all alone or in the praising heart. I have the heart for us.

I made up of praising. Every part Praise in the common words I speed lies. Come on Lords In fellowship and Jordan won't reproach or lost this. We can start first world Forgiving freely, those who hatred in good for real. So challenge, very each Friday each care, be turned and to song.

And every winding of the way, the echo shall prolong sunshine apart our day or night, from sacred must be free. But drama, my life in every step. He fell off of shape with the Amen.