New Blessings in Old Wells  
Genesis 26

Main Thought Besides the burdens common to man (Psa. 73:5; 1 Cor. 10:13), Isaac enjoys God’s many blessings in his life.

**GOD’S PRESENCE** (1-6).

- As with Abraham (12:10) and Jacob (42:1-2), there was a famine.
- God graciously warned Isaac (theo [God] phany [appear]) to not go to Egypt for food but remain by faith in the promised land (24; 28:15; 31:3).
- The Abrahamic covenant is given to Isaac (Gen. 12:1-3) and Isaac obeys.

**GOD’S PROTECTION** (7-11).

- Isaac repeated his father’s sins (12:13; 20:2) of lying to protect himself.
- Abimelech discovers Isaac’s lie, admonishes him, and then vows to protect him (2 Thess. 3:2-3).

**GOD’S PROSPERITY** (12-22).

- Just like Abraham (13:2), Isaac became very wealthy and prospered. God was with him in everything he did (21:22).
- The Philistines were so envious that they sabotaged Isaac’s wells. Often prosperity leads to strife as with Abraham and Lot (13:7) and later when in Egypt (Ex. 1:9-10).
- This led Isaac to move away where he re-dug Abraham’s wells and named them their original names (Psa. 139:1-2).
- These names reveal both hardship (Esek – dispute; Sitnah – opposition) and blessing (Rehoboth – space, enlargement).
- Whenever there is revival, it was because people recovered their first love for Christ by re-digging their wells – doing the things they did at first (Rev. 2:4-5). From them you will drink living water (John 4:10) that will flow from within you (John 7:38).

**GOD’S PROMISE** (23-25).

- God again reassures Isaac with “Do not be afraid” (69x) and “for the sake of my servant Abraham.” God blesses us “in Christ” (Eph. 1:3).
- Abraham’s Beersheba sanctuary now becomes Isaac’s sanctuary.

**GOD’S PEACE** (26-33). Isaac makes peace with his neighbors (1 Tim. 2:1-2).

**GOD’S PRODIGAL** (34-35). In sharp contrast, Esau sells out to the world by marrying a Hittite against his Grandfather’s wishes (24:3). It was GRIEF to his parents!