

Isaac and Jacob: The Promise Continues

- God's Promise Continues by His Faithfulness, Not Man's Perfection -

- God Reaffirmed the Promise to Isaac
- God Preserved the Promise Through Imperfect People
- God Repeated the Promise to Jacob
- God's Faithfulness Carries the Promise to Fulfillment

In the previous lesson, we studied "Abraham Tested: Faith That Obeys."

- We saw that Abraham obeyed God concerning Isaac, and God provided.
- That lesson focused on Abraham's tested faith.

Today, God willing, we'll move forward in the Biblical record, and see what happened, after Isaac was spared.

- Isaac is not only a son on the altar; Isaac becomes the next man, in the promise line.
- Then the promise continues, through Jacob.

The focus of this lesson is simple:

- **God's promise continues by His faithfulness, Not man's perfection.**

A simple way to remember the lesson, is this:

- God spoke to Isaac.
- God preserved His promise.
- God appeared to Jacob.
- And God kept His Word moving forward.

A key question for the lesson:

- **What keeps God's promise going, from one generation to the next?**
- The answer is not man's greatness — The answer is God's faithfulness.

With Abraham's test behind us, let's now notice, that...

I. God Reaffirmed the Promise to Isaac

First, notice that...

A. God Spoke to Isaac, in a Time of Famine

[Genesis 26](#) opens, with a famine in the land.

Isaac faced pressure, uncertainty, and the question of where to go.

In that moment, God spoke and gave direction.

Scripture says,

- "And there was a **famine** in the land, beside the first famine, that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto A-bim-elech (uh-BIM-uh-lek), king of the Philistines unto Gerar. And the LORD **appeared** unto him, and said, **Go Not down into Egypt**; dwell in the land, which I shall tell thee of: Sojourn in this land, and **I will be with thee**, and will **bless** thee;" ([Gen.26:1-3](#))

Explanation:

- The word, "**Famine**" means — a severe lack of food, in the land.
- "**Appeared**" — shows that the LORD revealed His will, to Isaac.
- "**Go Not down into Egypt**" — was God's instruction, about where Isaac should Not go.
- "**Sojourn**" means — to live temporarily, as a stranger or traveler.
- "**I will be with thee**" — shows God's promised presence.
- "**Bless**" means — God would show favor, according to His purpose.

The psalmist, later looks back and shows, that God remembered His covenant across generations.

- "He hath **remembered** His **covenant** for ever, the word which He commanded to a thousand generations. Which **covenant** He made with Abraham, and His **oath** unto Isaac; And **confirmed** the same, unto Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an **everlasting covenant**: Saying, Unto thee, will I give the land of Canaan, the lot of your inheritance:" ([Psa.105:8-11](#))

Explanation:

- The word, "**Remembered**" — does Not mean, God had forgotten and then recalled. It means, God remained mindful, to keep His covenant.
- "**Covenant**" means — an established promise or agreement.
- "**Oath**" means — a solemn promise.
- "**Confirmed**" means — made sure or established.
- "**Everlasting covenant**" — shows the certainty, and continuing force of God's promise.

The famine, did Not erase God's promise — Hard circumstances, did Not cancel God's Word.

- Isaac needed food, direction, and security, but first, he needed to **Listen to God**.
- God told him where to stay, and promised, "**I will be with thee.**"

A simple picture, is this:

- Dark clouds, may hide the sun from our eyes, but they do Not remove the sun from the sky.
- In the same way, a famine, may have made the future, look uncertain to Isaac, but it did Not remove, God's faithfulness.

Now that we have seen God speaking to Isaac during a famine, notice,

B. God Repeated the Same Promise Through Isaac

God did not begin, a new and different promise with Isaac.

He repeated the same promise line, that had been given before.

- God said, "**For unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath, which I sware unto Abraham thy father; And I will make thy seed, to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed, all these countries; and in thy seed, shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; Because that Abraham obeyed My voice, and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.**" ([Gen.26:3-5](#))

Explanation:

- The word, "**Seed**" means — descendant or offspring.
- "**Perform**" means — God would carry out or fulfill, what He had sworn.
- "**Oath**" means — God's sworn promise.
- "**All the nations**" — shows that the promise, was larger than one household, or one nation.
- "**Blessed**" — points to the good, God would bring, through the promised seed.

Earlier, God had already identified Isaac, as the son through whom the covenant promise would continue.

- "God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son **indeed**; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will **establish** my covenant **with him**, for an everlasting covenant, and with **his seed after him.**" ([Gen.17:19](#))

Explanation:

- The word, "**Indeed**" — shows the certainty, of what God said.
- "**Establish**" means — to set up, confirm, or make firm.
- "**With him**" — identifies Isaac, through whom the covenant promise, would continue.
- "**His seed after him**" — shows the promise moving beyond Isaac, to another generation.

God reaffirmed the promise to Isaac — The famine did Not stop the promise.

- The promise was Not weakened, being carried forward, from Abraham to Isaac.
- God said, "**I will perform the oath.**" — The promise continued, because **God is faithful**.

But as the Bible continues, we must remember that God's promise, was Not carried by perfect people. Let's now consider that,

II. God Preserved the Promise, Through Imperfect People

First, let's look honestly at Isaac — God's promise did Not mean, Isaac never acted weakly.

A. Isaac's Weakness, Did Not Cancel God's Word

After God promised to be with Isaac, Isaac still showed fear.

The Bible records this plainly — Scripture does Not hide, the weakness of men.

- The Bible says, "**And the men of the place, asked him of his wife; and he said, *She is my sister*: for he *feared* to say, *She is my wife*; lest, said he, the men of the place should kill me for Rebekah; because she was *fair to look upon*.**" ([Gen.26:7](#))

Explanation:

- The word, "**Feared**" in this context, means — Isaac was afraid of what men might do.
- "**She is my sister**" — was Not the truth, about Rebekah as his wife.
- "**Fair to look upon**" means — Rebekah was beautiful in appearance.
- This passage shows, that fear can lead a man, to speak wrongly and act unwisely.

Later in the same chapter, after conflict over wells, the LORD again spoke to Isaac.

God's faithfulness remained.

- "**And the LORD appeared unto him the same night, and said, I am the God of Abraham thy father: *fear Not*, for *I am with thee*, and will bless thee, and *multiply thy seed*, for my servant, Abraham's sake.**" ([Gen.26:24](#))

Explanation:

- The words, "**Fear Not**" means — God called Isaac, away from fear.
- "**I am with thee**" — repeats God's promised presence.
- "**Multiply thy seed**" — repeats the promise of descendants.
- "**For my servant, Abraham's sake**" — shows the promise rested, on God's covenant faithfulness, Not Isaac's perfection.

The New Testament, also teaches that God remains faithful to Himself and His Word.

- Paul said, "**If we believe Not, yet He *abideth faithful*: He *cannot deny Himself*.**" ([2Tim.2:13](#))

Explanation:

- The words, "**Abideth faithful**" means — God remains faithful.
- "**Cannot deny himself**" means — God cannot act, contrary to His own nature and Word.
- This does Not excuse unbelief or sin.
It shows that God's faithfulness, does Not depend on man's strength.

Isaac's fear, did Not make fear right — Sin and weakness should never be excused.

- But Isaac's weakness, also did Not make God unfaithful.
- God did Not approve Isaac's fear,
but He answered it, with His own Word: "**fear not, for I am with thee.**" ([Gen.26:24](#))

A cracked cup, cannot boast in itself — If it holds anything useful, the credit does Not belong to the crack.

- In the same way, imperfect people cannot boast that God's promise continues, because of them.
- The glory belongs to God.

Isaac feared man, but God still remained faithful to His promise.

God's faithfulness, does Not approve of man's wrong — it shows that God keeps His Word.

Now let's move from Isaac to Jacob, and see that,

B. Jacob's Place in the Promise, Was by God's Purpose

Before Jacob and Esau were born, the LORD spoke concerning the children, in Rebekah's womb. The promise line, was not left to human guessing.

- Scripture says, "Isaac **intreated** the LORD for his wife, because she was **barren**: and the LORD was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived. And the children struggled together, within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to **enquire of the LORD**."

And the LORD said unto her, **Two nations** are in thy womb, and two manner of people, shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people, shall be stronger than the other people; and **the elder, shall serve the younger**." ([Gen.25:21-23](#))

Explanation:

- The word, "**Intreated**" means — Isaac prayed earnestly to the LORD.
- "**Barren**" means — Rebekah had not been able to have children.
- "**Enquire of the LORD**" means — she sought God's answer.
- "**Two nations**" — points beyond the two sons, to the people that would come from them.
- "**The elder shall serve the younger**" — showed God's revealed purpose, before the children were born.

Paul later refers to this event, to show that God's purpose, was Not based on the works of the children.

- He said, "And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac; (For the children being **not yet born**, neither having done any **good or evil**, that the **purpose** of God, according to **election** might stand, **Not of works, but of Him that calleth**;) It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger." ([Rom.9:10-12](#))

Explanation:

- The phrase, "**Not yet born**" means — God spoke, before Jacob or Esau, had done anything.
- "**Good or evil**" — shows this was Not based, on their personal works before birth.
- "**Purpose**" means — God's plan or intention.
- "**Election**" here — refers to God's stated purpose, concerning the promise line, "**The elder shall serve the younger**." This passage does Not say, Jacob was saved, and Esau was lost before birth; it shows that the promise line, rested on God's purpose, Not human boasting.
- "**Not of works, but of Him that calleth**" means — the promise line, was Not based on Jacob's works, merit, or greatness, but on God's revealed purpose.

Jacob did Not earn his place in the promise, before he was born.

He had done, neither good nor evil — God's purpose stood, by God's calling.

This should humble, every hearer.

- If God's work, depended on perfect human hands, the promise would have failed long ago.
- But God's work, rests on God's faithfulness.

Jacob's place in the promise, was according to God's purpose.
This does Not praise Jacob's perfection — It praises God's faithfulness.

God preserved His promise, through imperfect people.

- Isaac showed fear — Jacob could Not boast, because the promise continued by God's purpose, Not by Jacob's greatness.
- The Bible does Not teach, that human weakness is acceptable.
- It teaches that God is faithful, and His promise is Not destroyed, by man's imperfection.

Having seen the promise preserved through Isaac and Jacob,
we now come to the night, when,

III. God Repeated the Promise to Jacob

First, notice where Jacob was, when God appeared to him.

A. Jacob Was Alone on the Road, But God Was Present

The Bible says,

- "And Jacob **went out** from Beersheba, and went toward Haran.
And he lighted upon a certain place, and **tarried** there all night, because the sun was set;
and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep.

And he dreamed, and behold a **ladder** set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven:
and behold the **angels** of God ascending and descending on it. And, behold, **the LORD stood above it**,
and said, I am the **LORD God of Abraham** thy father, and the **God of Isaac**:" ([Gen.28:10-13](#))

Explanation:

- The words, "**Went out**" — shows Jacob leaving one place and moving toward another.
- "**Tarried**" means — he stayed there for the night.
- "**Ladder**" — describes what Jacob saw, reaching from earth to heaven.
- "**Angels**" — are messengers of God.
- "**The LORD stood above it**" — shows God's authority over the scene.
- "**God of Abraham**" and "**God of Isaac**" — connects Jacob, to the same promise line.

After the dream, Jacob understood that the place was not ordinary, in the way he first thought.
God had revealed Himself there.

- Scripture says, "And Jacob **awaked out of his sleep**, and he said, **Surely** the LORD is in this place;
and **I knew it not**. And he was **afraid**, and said, How dreadful is this place!
this is none other, but the **house of God**, and this is the **gate of heaven**." ([Gen.28:16-17](#))

Explanation:

- The word, "**Surely**" — shows Jacob's certainty, after God's revelation.
- "**I knew it not**" — shows Jacob had not recognized God's presence, before the dream.
- "**Afraid**" here — shows reverence and awe.
- "**House of God**" means — a place marked, by God's presence.
- "**Gate of heaven**" — points to the connection, God revealed, between heaven and earth.

Jacob was away from home, but he was Not away from God.
He did Not climb up to heaven, by his own power — God revealed Himself to Jacob.

A child may feel alone in the dark, until he hears his father's voice.

- The place has Not changed, but the child's understanding has changed.
- Jacob was in a lonely place, but when God spoke, Jacob learned, "**Surely the LORD is in this place**."

Now let's listen carefully, to the words, God spoke to Jacob.

B. God Gave Jacob, the Same Promise of Land, Seed, and Blessing

The words spoken to Jacob, sound like the promise spoken before.

God speaks of land, seed, spreading abroad, and blessing, for all families of the earth.

- Scripture says, "**The land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed, shall all the families of the earth be blessed.**" ([Gen.28:13-14](#))

Explanation:

- The word, "**Land**" — refers to the place God promised.
- "**Seed**" means — descendants, and also keeps the promise line moving forward.
- "**Dust of the earth**" — describes great increase.
- "**West**", "**east**", "**north**", and "**south**" — shows spreading in every direction.
- "**All the families of the earth**" — shows the promise, was worldwide in purpose.

The New Testament, identifies the promised seed, in the fullest sense.

- Paul said, "**Now to Abraham and his seed, were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.**" ([Gal.3:16](#))

Explanation:

- The word, "**Promises**" — refers to what God had spoken.
- "**Seed**" — points to the promised descendant.
- "**Not...as of many; but as of one**" — shows Paul's point, that the promise reaches its fullness, in one promised seed.
- "**Christ**" means — the Anointed One.

God did Not speak, a disconnected message to Jacob.

It is like hearing the same melody, played by another instrument.

- The instrument changes, but the melody remains the same.
- Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are different men, but God's promise, is the same promise moving forward.

God repeated to Jacob, the same promise of land, seed, and blessing.

The promise continued through Jacob and ultimately points to Christ.

God repeated the promise to Jacob, in a lonely place.

- Jacob was leaving home, but God's Word was Not leaving him.
- God showed Jacob, that the promise given to Abraham and Isaac, would continue through him.

The promise continued to Jacob, but God did more than repeat words.
He promised His presence, until His Word was fulfilled.

IV. God's Faithfulness, Carries the Promise to Fulfillment

First, notice the certainty in God's promise to Jacob.

A. God Promised to Keep Jacob, Until His Word Was Done

After promising land, seed, and blessing,

God promised to be with Jacob, keep him, bring him again, and Not leave him, until His Word was done.

- God said, "**and behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places, whither thou goest, and will bring thee again** into this land; for I will Not leave thee, **until I have done**, that which I have spoken to thee of." ([Gen.28:15](#))

Explanation:

- The statement, "**I am with thee**" — shows God's presence.
- "**Keep thee**" means — guard, preserve, or care for.
- "**Whither thou goest**" means — wherever Jacob would go.
- "**Bring thee again**" — promises return.
- "**Until I have done**" — shows God would continue working, until His spoken Word was fulfilled.

Scripture teaches, that God is Not like man.

When God speaks, His Word is sure.

- "**God is Not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath He said, and shall He not do it? or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good?**" ([Num.23:19](#))

Explanation:

- The phrase, "**Not a man, that he should lie**" means — God does Not speak falsely.
- "**Repent**" here means — to change His mind, as though He had spoken wrongly.
- "**Hath He said, and shall He not do it?**" — teaches the certainty, of God's spoken Word.
- "**Make it good**" means — bring it to pass.

God did Not say to Jacob, "I will stay with you, until you become perfect."

He said, "**I will not leave thee, until I have done, that which I have spoken to thee of.**" ([Gen.28:15](#))

This does Not mean, Jacob needed no correction.

- God willing, the next lesson, will show Jacob being humbled and changed by God.
- But in this lesson, the emphasis is God's faithful commitment, to do what He had spoken.

God promised, His presence and protection, until His Word was fulfilled.

The promise continued, because God said, "**I will.**" ([Gen.28:15](#))

Finally, we must see where the promise is going.

The promise through Isaac and Jacob, does Not end, with Isaac and Jacob.

B. The Promise, Reaches Its Full Blessing IN Christ

Peter connected the promise, made to Abraham, with the blessing that comes through Jesus Christ.

- He said, "Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the **covenant**, which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed, shall all the **kindreds** of the earth be blessed. Unto you first, God, having **raised up His Son Jesus**, sent him to **bless** you, In turning away, every one of you, from his **iniquities**." ([Acts 3:25-26](#))

Explanation:

- The word, "**Covenant**" means — God's established promise.
- "**Kindreds**" means — families or peoples.
- "**Raised up His Son Jesus**" — points to God's work, through Christ.
- "**Bless**" is explained here — as turning people away from iniquities.
- "**Iniquities**" means — sins or lawless deeds.

Paul explains how people today, become connected to Christ and to the promise.

- He said, "For ye are all the children of God **by faith IN Christ Jesus**. For as many of you, as have been **Baptized INTO Christ**, have **Put ON Christ**. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one IN Christ Jesus. And **IF ye be Christ's**, then are ye **Abraham's seed**, and **heirs according to the promise**." ([Gal.3:26-29](#))

Explanation:

- The phrase, "**By faith IN Christ Jesus**" — shows that the blessing is IN Christ (see also [Eph.1:3](#)).
- "**Baptized INTO Christ**" — shows how one enters into Christ.
- "**Put ON Christ**" means — being clothed with Christ.
- "**IF ye be Christ's**" means — belonging to Christ.
- "**Abraham's seed**" means — sharing in the promise, connected to Abraham.
- "**Heirs according to the promise**" means — receiving the promised blessing, IN Christ.

The promise continued, through Isaac and Jacob, but it was never meant to stop with them.

- God said all families of the earth, would be blessed.
- Peter says Christ blesses, by turning people away from iniquities.
- Paul says those baptized into Christ, put on Christ, and become heirs according to the promise.

A road sign, is Not the destination — it points the traveler, where to go.

- Isaac and Jacob are important signs, in the Bible storyline, but the destination of the promise IS Christ.
- The promise reaches its full blessing IN Christ.
- Those who belong to Christ, are heirs according to the promise.

God promised to be with Jacob, until He had done what He had spoken.

God does Not lie — The promise moved through Isaac and Jacob, and finds its full blessing IN Christ, where sinners may be turned from iniquity, and become heirs according to the promise.

Now let's gather the lesson together, and hold fast the main truth, in a...

V. Closing Summary

This lesson has shown, that God's promise continued through Isaac and Jacob, by God's faithfulness, Not man's perfection.

- In [Genesis 26](#), God spoke to Isaac during a famine.
- God repeated the promise of land, seed, and blessing.
- Isaac showed fear, but God remained faithful.
- Before Jacob was born, God had already spoken, concerning His purpose.
- In [Genesis 28](#), God appeared to Jacob on the road.
- God repeated the promise to Jacob.
- God promised to keep Jacob, until His Word was done.
- The promise points forward to Christ, the promised seed.

Lessons learned:

- God's Word is true & enduring ([Psa.119:160](#)), and He keeps His covenant across generations. ([Psa.105:8-11](#))
- Hard times, do Not cancel God's promise. ([Gen.26:1-3](#))
- Human weakness, does Not make God unfaithful. ([Gen.26:7](#), [24](#); [2Tim.2:13](#))
- God's purpose, removes human boasting. ([Gen.25:21-23](#); [Rom.9:10-12](#))
- God can reveal His presence, in lonely places. ([Gen.28:10-17](#))
- God keeps His Word, until He has done what He has spoken. ([Gen.28:15](#); [Num.23:19](#))
- The promised blessing, is found IN Christ. ([Gal.3:16](#), [26-29](#))

This lesson, also gives a needed **warning**:

- God's faithfulness, does Not excuse man's sin.
- Isaac's fear, was Not made right, because God remained faithful.
- Jacob's future wrongs, were Not made right, because God had a purpose.
- God's faithfulness, should humble us, Not make us careless.

This lesson, also gives great **comfort**: **God's Promise** is **Stronger** than famine, **Stronger** than fear, **Stronger** than distance from home, and **Stronger** than human weakness.

The promise continues, because God is faithful.

Questions for reflection:

- Do I trust God's Word, when circumstances look uncertain?
- Do I try to excuse fear or wrong, instead of submitting to God?
- Do I give God the glory, for His grace and His faithfulness?
- Am I IN Christ, where the promised blessing is received?

The promise through Isaac and Jacob, points us to Christ.

- The blessing, is not merely knowing the story.
- The blessing, is being turned from sin and belonging to Christ.

The Lesson is yours — It is the Lord, Who invites, and we await to assist — Won't you come...

- **Hearing** the gospel ([Rom.10:17](#)), • **Believing** in Christ ([Heb.11:6](#); [Jn.8:24](#)),
- **Repenting** of sins ([Lk.13:3](#); [Acts 17:30](#)), • **Confessing** your belief ([Acts 8:37](#); [Rom.10:9-10](#)),
- And being **Baptized** for the forgiveness of sins ([Acts 22:16](#); [Mk.16:16](#); [Acts 2:38](#); [1Pet.3:21](#); [Gal.3:26-29](#)).

...While we stand and while we sing.

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