

Isaac Calls on the Name of the Lord

Key Verse: “*So he built an altar there and called on the name of the LORD, and he pitched his tent there; and there Isaac’s servants dug a well.*”
—**Genesis 26:25,**
New King James Version

Selected Scripture:
Genesis 26:16-33

OUR KEY VERSE FOCUSES

on the culmination of Isaac’s sojourn in a time of famine. It may have been his thought initially to go down to Egypt where food and water were virtually assured by the Nile River’s steady flow. His father Abraham employed this strategy. (See Genesis 12:10) Isaac, however, was instructed by Jehovah to remain in the Promised Land. God would make an object lesson to demonstrate his ability to sustain his people. The Lord did not

want Isaac to take the easy path. The lesson’s point: even in very difficult situations, God will provide.

Water is essential for surviving famine. Isaac, recalling the wells his father had dug in the land, sought to locate them and renew their precious flow. What had happened to them? The Philistines had plugged them to prevent their use. According to the Scripture record, Isaac “pitched his tent in the Valley of Gerar, 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 his father had called them.”—Gen. 26:17,18, *NKJV*; 21:25-31

Respect and honor for the memory of his father’s faith influenced Isaac’s desire to name the wells according to their past designation. This is very much in the spirit of Jeremiah’s message, “Thus says the LORD: Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls.” (Jer. 6:16, *NKJV*) We do well to adhere to the “old paths” in which our fathers walked. Those paths are revealed in the deepest well of water on earth—the Holy Bible, from which springs forth the living water of Truth.

Isaac instructed his servants to dig again Abraham’s wells. It was a joyful occasion when the first yielded water. The joy was short lived. The local herdsmen quarreled with Isaac’s servants saying, “The water is ours.” Isaac abandoned it, appropriately calling it Esek, meaning “strife.” His servants dug the next well but the result was the same. The herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with them and, again, Isaac forsook that well, calling it Sitnah, meaning “opposition.” Persistence and faith in God’s promises strengthened Isaac’s resolve, and he continued the task of restoring the wells of his father.—Gen. 26:19-21, *NKJV*

The third newly repaired well also yielded water, and there was no quarrel about the rights to it. Isaac named it Rehoboth, meaning “a broad place.” “So he called its name Rehoboth, because he said, For now the LORD has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land.” (vs. 22, *NKJV*) The rejoicing in this foreshadowed the psalmist’s words, “He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me.” (Ps. 18:19, *NKJV*) Thus Isaac was inspired to call upon the name of the Lord, as his father Abraham had done.

Modern day naysayers would deny God’s people the living water—the Holy Bible. He, as always, provides for us. As Isaac did, we joyfully call upon the name of the Lord, our Deliverer. ■