

PEACE WITHOUT COMPROMISE

Recently I was listening to the Libyan and Iranian presidents speak at the UN. They seemed to have a common theme that was as old as our lesson text of the 15th century BC.

Their common theme was that “the prosperity God’s people aroused hostility in the unbelieving world”.

As I listened to these two presidents rail against the prosperity of the USA and attack free enterprise without any acknowledgement of our generosity to the people of the world, I felt personally offended. Being that we have been the bread basket to the world and builder of nations, even the one ones who have attacked us since WWII seems to be completely ignored. The fact that we share not only our prosperity but also our technology seems to go unnoticed by the enemy of the Lord God.

This lesson will show that only God can bring other nations to understand that the source of our prosperity is the Lord God, Jesus Christ.

1. We will begin by examining our lesson text by the following five homiletical points.

1. Hundred-fold divine blessing (Gen.26:12-13) – divine blessings to Isaac by association with Lord God
2. Harassment because of divine blessings (Gen.26:14-17) – hostility against Lord God
3. History of hostility against divine blessings (Gen.26: 18-21) – Abraham to Isaac to Christ (Matt.1:1-2).
4. Haven for divine blessings (Gen.26:22-25) – geographical will of God – one key in directive will of God
5. Hopeful peace based on divine blessings (Gen.26:26-33) – divine blessing by association to other through Isaac and Lord God

2. We will examine Isaac’s choosing human solutions to a divine problem (tests).

We will examine **four tests** of Isaac and how Isaac worked through them in order to help us in resolving conflicts and tests for our lives as believers.

- **Famine test** – He left the Geographic Will of God for Gerar [land of Philistines] (secondary negative volition) – (Gen.26:1) – Isaac thinks his earthly prosperity is in the land and its resources and not the Lord God. Since the promise land is suffering famine, he felt the need to find a better land [double-minded] (James 1:8) - the Lord appeared [first theophany] (Gen.26:2-6) [reestablished the Abraham Covenant [do and don’t]
- **Conflict tests** – He left the Geographic Will of God for the Valley of Gerar (secondary NV) – (Gen.26:12-21) - he didn’t go to Egypt, but he didn’t return to the promised land either – once again conflict caused him to leave rather than apply The Word of God to his situation (CBD) – he still thinks his prosperity is connected to water and wells rather than The Lord God – he returns to the old wells of his father – he is using the Word of God for his own purposes rather than doing God’s Will – struggling to get water and wealth rather than the Will of God – why is Isaac more willing to obey the will of Abimelech than God’s?

- **Well test** – He left the valley of Gerar to return to the Geographic Will of God [secondary positive volition] – (Gen.26:22-25) – even though Isaac was forced back by circumstances of life or testings and pressure by The Lord God to Beersheba (the well of oath) (southern end of promised land) – no matter, he is back in the Geographic Will of God – he hit the mother load at Rehobath – The Lord appeared in a second theophany (Gen.26:24-5) – finally Isaac is willing to obey the Will of God fully (Gen.26:32-33; 1 Cor.7:35).
- **Peace test** – Abimelech comes to Isaac for a peace treaty because he wants divine blessings by association – (Gen.26:26-31) – Abimelech makes a treaty with Isaac as their fathers had earlier – Isaac has now come into his own Patriarch place in the Plan of God – he went from positional patriarch to experiential patriarch – Isaac has made it to the promised land having wandered through the wilderness.

3. There are three classifications to the will of God that are important to every believer that is behind the story of our lesson:

- The **Directive Will of God** for Isaac as patriarch of the Abraham Covenant was to occupy the Promised Land, produce a seed of Christ, and to promote divine blessings by association (Gen.12:1-3; 13:14-18; 15:4-21; 17:1-8; 22:17-18).

(Gen.17:16) “And I will bless her, and indeed will give you a son by her. Then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

(Gen.22:16b-17) “Because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son, indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of your enemies.”

- The **Permissive Will of God** for Isaac is seen in God allowing him to leave the Promised Land and to live temporarily in Gerar (Gen.26:1-6).
- The **Overruling will of God** for Isaac was that God put restrictions on him going into Egypt (Gen.26:2). God even put the overruling will on the Philistines regarding Rebekah in Gen.26:7-11.

4. The fulfillment of the Directive Will of God is best understood by the following three categories:

- The **Geographical will of God** is where does God want us to daily function under the directive will of God.
- The **Mental will of God** is what and how God wants us to think about the daily function of the directive will of God.
- The **Operational will of God** is what God wants us to do regarding the daily function of the directive will of God.

The patriarch Abraham had recently died as a spiritually mature believer in the Plan of God (Gen.25:8). He wore big shoes in the Plan of God.

Isaac **was not required** to wear his father’s shoes. God has a special pair of shoes just for Isaac in the Plan of God. The shoes that he will wear will involve the Directive Will, but God has His own Plans for Isaac and He is developing Isaac spiritually for his special ‘walk’.

- **First Theophany** (Gen.26:1-6) – patriarch of Abraham Cov.
- **Second Theophany** (Gen.26:23-25 – patriarch Isaac custodian of Word of God and Gospel of Christ (Gal.3:16, 26-29; Heb.11:20; Rom.9:7-10) - **“For Christ Himself is our peace.” (Eph.2:14)**