

FIRMLY ESTABLISHED ~ Genesis 26:12-33

→ Scripture Reading - Romans 5:1-5

INTRODUCTION

- Negev - near Beersheba
- Pictures of Well digging x 3

GOD'S BLESSING & WATER RIGHTS ~ Genesis 26:12-22

[12] Isaac planted crops in that land and the same year **reaped a hundredfold**, BECAUSE the LORD blessed him. [13] The man became rich, and his wealth continued to grow until he became very wealthy. [14] He had so many flocks and herds and servants that the Philistines envied him. [15] So all the wells that his father's servants had dug in the time of his father Abraham, the Philistines stopped up, filling them with earth. [16] Then Abimelech said to Isaac, "**Move away from us; you have become too powerful for us.**" [17] So Isaac moved away from there and encamped in the **Valley of Gerar** and settled there. [18] Isaac reopened the wells that had been dug in the time of his father Abraham, which the Philistines had stopped up after Abraham died, and he gave them the same names his father had given them. [19] Isaac's servants dug in the valley and discovered a well of fresh water there. [20] But the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with Isaac's herdsmen and said, "The water is ours!" So he named the well Esek, because they disputed with him. [21] Then they dug another well, but they quarreled over that one also; so he named it Sitnah. [22] He moved on from there and dug another well, and no one quarreled over it. He named it Rehoboth, saying, "**Now the LORD has given us room and we will flourish in the land.**"

APPLICATION

→ **The absence of those things does NOT mean we have MISSED God's blessing**

Romans 5:1-2 (NIV) Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have **PEACE with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ, [2] through whom we have gained **ACCESS** by faith into this **GRACE** in which we now stand. **And we rejoice in the HOPE of the glory of God.**

Romans 5:3-5 (NIV) ...And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. [3] Not only so, but we **ALSO REJOICE in our sufferings**, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; [4] perseverance, character; and character, hope. [5] And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

There is a Purpose

- Suffering develops PERSEVERANCE
- Perseverance develops CHARACTER
- Character develops HOPE
- Hope does NOT DISAPPOINT

CONTRASTING BLESSINGS

We are COMPLETE in Christ

We have STATUS as children of the King

We FEEL the presence of Christ

We enjoy PEACE with God

We are GROWING in Christ

We have DUTIES & Responsibilities of Slaves

We feel the PRESSURE of sin

We face daily HARDSHIP & Sorrows that make us grow

He has filled our heart with wonder - So that we always remember:

You and I were made to worship, You and I were called to love;

You and I are FORGIVEN and FREE.

When you and I EMBRACE SURRENDER, When you and I CHOOSE to BELIEVE,
Then you and I will see who we were meant to be.

LEADING WORSHIP ~ Genesis 26:23-25

[23] From there he went up to Beersheba. [24] That night the LORD appeared to him and said, "**I AM the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I AM WITH YOU**; I will bless you and will increase the number of your descendants for the sake of my servant Abraham." [25] Isaac built an altar there and called on the name of the LORD. There he pitched his tent, and there his servants dug a well.

APPLICATION

MUTUAL NO-HARM TREATY ~ Genesis 26:26-33

[26] Meanwhile, Abimelech had come to him from Gerar, with Ahuzzath his personal adviser and Phicol the commander of his forces. [27] Isaac asked them, "Why have you come to me, since you were hostile to me and sent me away?" [28] They answered, "**We saw clearly that the LORD was with you; so we said, 'There ought to be a sworn agreement between us'--between us and you. Let us make a treaty with you [29] that you will do us no harm, just as we did not molest you but always treated you well and sent you away in peace. AND NOW YOU ARE BLESSED BY THE LORD.**" [30] Isaac then made a feast for them, and they ate and drank. [31] Early the next morning the men swore an oath to each other. Then Isaac sent them on their way, and they left him in peace. [32] That day Isaac's servants came and told him about the well they had dug. They said, "We've found water!" [33] He called it Shibah, and to this day the name of the town has been Beersheba.

APPLICATION

→ **Blood Path Picture** (may this happen to me cut in half IF I BREAK this Oath - Covenant)

Colossians 1:21-22 (NLT) This includes you who were once **FAR AWAY from God**. You were his **ENEMIES, SEPARATED from him** by your evil thoughts and actions. [22] Yet now he has RECONCILED you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body.

Romans 5:1 (NLT) ...we have been **MADE RIGHT** in God's sight by faith, we have **PEACE with God** because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.

Romans 8:1 (NLT) So now there is **NO CONDEMNATION** for those who BELONG to Christ Jesus.

→ **Jesus Christ invites you to a banquet to be Celebrated in His Honor**

TAKE AWAY ??

God's Blessing does NOT mean we never suffer - but that we NEVER suffer ALONE

God's Blessing does NOT mean we never struggle, hurt, or feel powerless - but that we NEVER have to DEPEND on our OWN strength