

Gleanings from the Pentateuch

Isaac: The Son of Promise
(Genesis 26)

Isaac: Son of Promise

An Overlooked Patriarch?

- Abraham – 12 chapters
- Jacob – 11 chapters
- Joseph – 13 chapters
- Isaac – 1 chapter!

Isaac: Son of Promise

1. Isaac's "Unnatural" Origin

➤ *why was Isaac the heir of the promise, the object of God's blessing?*

- because he was uniquely the child of promise (the product of God's promise)
- Isaac is an illustration of how the true seed of Abraham comes into being

Isaac: Son of Promise

Lesson #1

- God's grace and power, not self-reliant human effort, brings about heirs of the promise

Isaac: Son of Promise

Galatians 4:21-29

1. Ishmael-types (slavery)

- "according to flesh" – product of self-reliance and human achievement
- relates to law-keeping as a means of salvation = slavery

Isaac: Son of Promise

Galatians 4:21-29

2. Isaac-types (freedom)

- "according to promise" – product of God's work in fulfilling His promise
- relates to those born of the Spirit by the grace of God

Like Isaac, we are children of promise!

Isaac: Son of Promise

2. Isaac's Mixed Character

- A. He was a man of genuine faith
- Loved Rebekah – God's provision
 - Prayed to the Lord for Rebekah
 - Did not go down to Egypt during the famine
 - Blessed Jacob and did not allow him to marry a Canaanite

Isaac: Son of Promise

2. Isaac's Mixed Character

- B. He was ruled by his base appetites
- Showed favoritism to Esau because he had "a taste for game"
 - Attempted to bless Esau and exclude Jacob contrary to God's word

Isaac: Son of Promise

2. Isaac's Mixed Character

- C. He had a weak, timid faith
- He lied about his wife because he was "afraid"; rebuked by a pagan king
 - He repeatedly gave in to challenges by the Philistines

Isaac: Son of Promise

2. Isaac's Mixed Character

- *Yet God abundantly blessed him!*
 - God confirmed His covenant with Isaac as the heir of the Abrahamic promises
 - God made him outwardly prosperous as a sign of His blessing

Isaac: Son of Promise

Lesson #2:

- Possessing the blessing of God as part of Abraham's seed is all of grace, not human achievement

Isaac: Son of Promise

Lesson #3:

- God's grace and power works through frail human vessels to achieve His purposes