



THE BOOK OF  
**GENESIS**

# ***THE TEMPTATIONS OF HIS FATHER***

## ***GENESIS 26:1-11***

**This chapter continues the basic theme of the last from a slightly different place!**

- God is faithful to repeat what we need to hear; this is one of those passages—Abraham had given his kids some horrible examples of what not to do!
- How not to respond to crisis!
- God is asking us how we will respond—faith or flesh?
- God had been faithful to Isaac and his family; this seems to have been the first famine in that place in over a hundred years.

## ***WHEN GOD SPEAKS, CHOICES WILL FOLLOW***

- The Lord had spoken to Rebekah just before her twins were born, but this is the first time recorded in Scripture He had appeared and spoken directly to Isaac.
- “Do not leave this land to go to Egypt,” walk in the Spirit; don’t go and walk in the flesh! **Gal. 5:16-21**
- God said, in effect, “Live where I lead you in this land, and I will bless you with all the blessings I promised your father; but I will not force you to stay.”
- Be a doer not just a hearer! **James 1:23-25**

## ***TEMPTATION IS UNIVERSAL***

- The truth is Isaac faced the same temptations as his father. How would he respond to them?
- True faith is always tested, either by temptations within us from the enemy or trials around us allowed or brought by God; because a faith that can't be tested can't be trusted. **James 1:1-18**
- God tests us with trials to bring out the best in us.
- Satan tempts us through the world and our flesh to bring out the worst in us.

***This was Isaac's time of testing.***

## ***HUMAN NATURE HAS NOT CHANGED***

- In one form or another, each new generation will experience the same tests as previous generations, if only to discover that our enemy doesn't change his tactics and God is always able to deliver us.
- The temptations that we face are very much the same basic temptations that all our forefathers faced.
- As Winston Churchill said, ***"if we fail to learn from history we are doomed to repeat it!"*** (paraphrasing George Santayana)

***Isaac was very much his father's son.***

# ***THE COMMON TEMPTATIONS***

- **The Temptation to Run v. 1-6**
  - Unbelief asks, “*How* can I get out of this?”
  - While faith asks, “*What* can I get out of this?”
  - We can never successfully run away from trials because God sees to it that His children learn the lessons of faith regardless of where we go.
  - We can never grow in faith by running from difficulty because “*tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character.*” **Rom. 5:3-4**

## ***HE'S JUST LIKE DADDY***

- **The Temptation to Lie v. 7-11**
  - ***Why did Isaac lie?*** Because he was afraid his pagan host would kill him in order to obtain his beautiful wife.
  - Dad showed him this trait by example and now he would struggle with this sin himself.
  - His lie was evidence of his unbelief. Tell the truth and never regret it; tell a lie and never forget it!

***It's a sad day when unsaved people like Abimelech publicly expose God's servants' lies.***