

A black and white image of a celestial scene. In the upper center, a large, cratered moon is visible. Below it, a planet with a dark, textured surface and a bright horizon line is shown. The background is a dark, starry space. The text "THE BOOK OF GENESIS" is overlaid in the center in a bold, white, sans-serif font. "THE BOOK OF" is in a smaller font size than "GENESIS".

THE BOOK OF
GENESIS

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS IN BLESSING

GENESIS 26:12-35

In spite of Abraham and Isaac's oft-repeated dumb decisions, disasters, and defeats, ***God is and always has been, and forever will be the Blessing God.***

- ***The Abrahamic covenant Gen. 22:17-18***
- ***The Aaronic blessing/the Shema Numbers 6:22-27***

You are saying to yourself about now: But Isaac was a deceiver, why would God bless a deceiver?

- Because God is always faithful to His covenants and keeps His promises—even when we blow it! **2 Tim. 2:11-13**

BLESSINGS DON'T MEAN NO BATTLES OR BURDENS

OUR ACTIONS OR SIN HAVE CONSEQUENCES and God does not necessarily eliminate them.

- Blessings themselves can cause difficulty at times.
- The most likely path to blessings free from trials and troubles is obedience and the full Lordship of Jesus Christ.
- ***Example:*** Had Isaac not run away and lied about his wife to his pagan neighbors, God would not have needed to discipline him, but would have given him peace with them.

Prov. 16:7

SIN CAN MAKE EXTRA WORK v. 18-22

- No matter where Isaac journeyed, the enemy followed him and confiscated his father's wells, and also the new wells that Isaac's servants dug.
- The names of the new wells that Isaac's men dug reveal the problems that he had with his neighbors; for ***Esek*** means "contention" and ***Sitnah*** means "hatred."
- But in the Bible, sometimes wells symbolize blessings from the hand of the Lord (**Ex. 15:23-27; Num. 21:16-18; Prov. 5:15; Isa. 12:3**); make sure and dig again the old wells—the Word, prayer, fellowship—in the Spirit.

OUR STRONG ASSURANCE v. 23-25

- The Lord always comes to us with assurance when we need encouragement; He knows what His kids need. **2 Tim. 2:19**
- No matter who is against us, God is with us and for us, and there's no need for us to be afraid. **Rom. 8:31-35**
- We never need to fear when we are abiding/dwelling in Him. **Isa. 41:8-14**
- When we are dwelling with the Lord in our tents and facing His altar, we have no reason to fear! **1 Peter 1:1, 2:11; 2 Cor. 5:1-8; Phil. 3:20-21; 1 John 3:1-3**

BLESSINGS AND BATTLES . . . YOU WILL HAVE BOTH! v. 26-35

- Isaac was at peace with his neighbors, but he had war at home; blessings and battles both were his lot.
- We will find in **Genesis 28:8-9**, his worldly son Esau had married three heathen wives who caused grief to him.
- When the troubles of our hearts are enlarged and we trust God, then the Lord can enlarge us. **Ps. 25:17-20**
- If we want “room,” we can count on some suffering because that’s the only way we can grow and feel at home in the larger place God gives us.