

Genesis 26:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass the same day, that Isaac's servants came, and told him concerning the well which they had digged, and said unto him, We have found water.

Analysis

And it came to pass the same day, that Isaac's servants came, and told him concerning the well which... This passage belongs to the Jacob narratives which demonstrate God's sovereign election overriding human merit and the transformation of a deceiver into Israel, the father of the twelve tribes. The Jacob cycle shows how divine purposes advance through flawed individuals whom God graciously transforms.

Key themes include God's sovereign choice ("the older shall serve the younger"), the consequences of deception and family dysfunction, exile and return patterns, wrestling with God leading to blessing, and covenant renewal across generations. Jacob's character development from manipulative deceiver to mature patriarch demonstrates sanctification's lifelong process.

Theologically significant aspects include:

1. divine election based on grace not merit (Romans 9:10-13)
2. God's faithfulness to covenant promises despite human unfaithfulness
3. discipline as evidence of divine love and means of transformation
4. generational patterns of sin requiring divine intervention to break
5. prayer and wrestling with God as legitimate expressions of faith.

Jacob's limp after wrestling God symbolizes how divine encounters leave permanent marks, transforming our approach to life and dependence on God rather than our own cunning.

Historical Context

The patriarchal narratives (Genesis 12-50) reflect the cultural, social, and legal customs of the ancient Near East during the Middle Bronze Age (2000-1500 BCE). Archaeological discoveries including the Mari tablets, Nuzi tablets, and Egyptian records confirm many details: nomadic pastoralism, covenant-making ceremonies, marriage customs, property laws, and international travel patterns described in Genesis.

The cultural practices reflected include: treaty/covenant forms (Genesis 15), bride-price customs (Genesis 24, 29), inheritance laws favoring firstborn sons (Genesis 25, 27), adoption practices (Genesis 15, 30), levirate-type arrangements (Genesis 38), and Egyptian administrative systems (Genesis 41, 47). These parallels confirm Genesis's historical reliability while showing how God worked within ancient cultural frameworks to accomplish His purposes.

For later Israelites, these narratives established their identity as Abraham's descendants, explained their claim to Canaan, justified their possession of Joseph's bones (Exodus 13:19), and provided models of faith despite imperfection. The patriarchs' failures and God's faithfulness encouraged Israel that covenant relationship depended on God's grace rather than human merit. The movement from Mesopotamia to Canaan to Egypt set the stage for the Exodus and conquest narratives.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What theological truths about Isaac's Life emerge from this passage?
2. How should this truth about Abimelech shape our daily decisions and priorities?
3. In what ways does this narrative foreshadow or typify aspects of Christ's redemptive work?

Interlinear Text

וַיָּהֵא יֵא	בֵּי יוֹם	הָהּ וַאֲ	וַיָּבֹא אֹ	עֲבָדָי	יֵא	יֵא	יֵא
H1961		H1931					
And it came to pass the same day			came	servants	that Isaac's		
	H3117		H935	H5650	H3327		
וַיֹּאמֶר	לֹא	עַל	אֵת	הַבְּאֵר	אֲשֶׁר	חָפְדוּ	
and told	H0	H5921	him concerning	the well	H834	which they had digged	
H5046			H182	H875		H2658	
וַיֹּאמֶר	לֹא	מָצָאנוּ	מַיִם:				
and said	H0	unto him We have found	water				
H559		H4672	H4325				

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 13:4 (Parallel theme): The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.

Proverbs 10:4 (Parallel theme): He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.

Matthew 7:7 (Parallel theme): Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

Genesis 26:25 (Parallel theme): And he builded an altar there, and called upon the name of the LORD, and pitched his tent there: and there Isaac's servants digged a well.

