

***"The Attack on the Heir and His Family Continues:
The Family is Compromised, but God Remains Faithful"***

Our Theme Scriptures:

Gen. 3:15 "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He will bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

Heb. 2:15 "And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."

Rom. 15:4 "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."

Review:

- ***We continue today with the Long War Against God and its many phases as the Bible has revealed. We have seen in the last several fellowships here that Satan's perhaps most strategic accomplishments were TWOFOLD:***
 - ***FIRSTLY, the creation before the flood of an entire "race" of corrupted "humans", really, "alien humanoids", as a result of this union between fallen angelic and demonic spirits and human women.***
 - ***THEN, SECONDLY, again after the flood, this corruption continued, as Satan again promoted through the demonically-created aliens of the Canaanite tribe and also of other tribes as well, a similar corruption.***
 - ***AND, THIRDLY, Satan had an additional strategy through religion and that work reached a peak through Nimrod, the wayward grandson of Noah's son Ham, and the designer and builder of the tower of Babel. God's judgment upon him resulted in the destruction of the Tower he had built and also in the division of the continents and disruption of the single language of mankind into a great many languages and dialects. But the peoples and nations of this world carried with them this perverted religious system and it continues to work evil around the world today, even under the name of "Christianity".***

- ***So, the divine purpose of the destruction of the Canaanites after the flood was nearly identical to the purpose of the great flood itself: to destroy the children of the angelic host that had come upon the earth even after the Noahic flood, AND, to defeat that other work of Satan as well, even that corrupt religious system that the Canaanites had developed and that still continues in our current day.***
- ***Then, last time, we saw how The Attack on The Heir and His Family through Famine Ended in Satan's Total Failure even though our father Abraham so dramatically failed in his walk:***
 - ***Abram had left Ur of the Chaldees when he was called by God, and then had left Haran with great blessing, journeying into the land God had promised, where he lived and worshiped in a life of utmost simplicity, it seemed.***
 - ***God prospered Abram in the land but did allow a great challenge into Abram's life. There came a famine on the land and its peoples. Now, would Abram trust God in this great challenge of life or would Abram use his own ingenuity, wealth, wisdom and human strength to save himself and his family?***
- ***Gen. 12:14-18***

14 And it came to pass, that, when Abram was come into Egypt, the Egyptians beheld the woman that she was very fair.

15 The princes also of Pharaoh saw her, and commended her before Pharaoh: and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house.

16 And he entreated Abram well for her sake: and he had sheep, and oxen, and he asses, and menservants, and maidservants, and she asses, and camels.

17 And the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai Abram's wife.
- ***The highest level theme seen so well here is the 7-fold "outline" of:***
 1. ***The circumstances: Abram had received a promise relating to the "seed" promise of Gen. 3:15 so Satan now knew exactly how God would work regarding that promise.***

2. **Satan's tool**: *Famine comes to the promised land and Abram and Sarai flee to Egypt for refuge from the famine. Sarai, Abram's wife, is clearly the chosen vehicle for potentially the fulfillment of that promise.*
 3. **Satan's "strategy"**: *Abram, through fear of death, is willing to even send his dear wife Sarai into bondage as the wife of the pharaoh. So fear of death was the tool that Satan used with Abram and Sarai, and ...*
 4. **Satan's "victory"**: *The tempting of Abram & Sarai was successful, at least for the moment.*
 5. **God's intervention**: *However, Pharaoh's heart was troubled by conscience & the plagues were overwhelming.*
 6. **Satan's defeat**: *The Lord God preserved Sarai regardless of their rebellion.*
 7. **God's encouragement**: *The pilgrim way of life was God's choice for Abram & Sarai; they learned through God's faithfulness to his promises that turning away for fear of man & circumstances will never succeed and can never meet the needs of the heart. Trusting in God & walking in his ways, on the other hand, will bring true fulfillment every time!*
- *So we see here that God's Plan succeeded after all, even when all else seemed to indicate total failure for the Lord God and total and complete victory for Satan in his opposition to all of God's promises. We also learned that this was due to God's faithfulness as he always remembered (and reminded his servants of) his promises regarding the Seed of the Woman.*

Our Outline Today:

- *Abraham's Compromise with Abimelech Due to Fear for His Life (Gen. 20)*
- *Isaac's Compromise with Abimelech Due to Fear for His Life (Gen. 26)*
- *Jacob's Compromise with Esau Due to Fear for His Life (Gen. 27)*

I. Abraham's compromise with Abimelech Due to Fear for His Life (Gen. 20)

The background of our scripture here in chapter 20 is simply this:

- ***Abraham has fathered a son, Ishmael, through Sarah's handmaiden, Hagar, a monument to his and his wife's unbelief regarding the promise of a son through Sarah (chapter 16)***
- ***God renews his covenant with Abraham, the time of the birth of the son of the covenant is fixed, and circumcision is instituted (chapter 17)***
- ***Sodom and Gomorrah have been destroyed and due to Abraham's intercession (chapter 18), Lot has been delivered with his wife and two daughters (chapter 19), and . . .***
- ***Abraham takes his family south into the land of the Philistines. His motives in this are not revealed, although his fear of the king of the Philistines, Abimelech is clear. Like before, he gives his wife Sarah over to the king as if she were his sister (and NOT his wife!)***

[READ] Gen. 20:5-7

5 [Abimelech] Said he not unto me, She is my sister? and she, even she herself said, He is my brother: in the integrity of my heart and innocency of my hands have I done this.

6 And God said unto him in a dream, Yea, I know that thou didst this in the integrity of thy heart; for I also withheld thee from sinning against me: therefore suffered I thee not to touch her.

7 Now therefore restore the man his wife; for he is a prophet, and he shall pray for thee, and thou shalt live: and if thou restore her not, know thou that thou shalt surely die, thou, and all that are thine.

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[READ] Gen. 20:8-14

8 Therefore Abimelech rose early in the morning, and called all his servants, and told all these things in their ears: and the men were sore afraid.

9 Then Abimelech called Abraham, and said unto him, What hast thou done unto us? and what have I offended thee, that thou hast brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin? thou hast done deeds unto me that ought not to be done.

10 And Abimelech said unto Abraham, What sawest thou, that thou hast done this thing?

11 And Abraham said, Because I thought, Surely the fear of God is not in

this place; and they will slay me for my wife's sake.

12 And yet indeed she is my sister; she is the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife.

13 And it came to pass, when God caused me to wander from my father's house, that I said unto her, This is thy kindness which thou shalt shew unto me; at every place whither we shall come, say of me, He is my brother.

14 And Abimelech took sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and women servants, and gave them unto Abraham, and restored him Sarah his wife.

- *What have we gleaned from these words?*
 - *The circumstances: Satan through his world system continues to influence Abraham and Sarah like before. Abraham is wandering as an alien and a stranger in a strange land, and they come to Gerar in the land of the Philistines.*
 - *Satan's tool: Sarah is still Satan's focus as she had been in the account given in chapter 12.*
 - *Satan's "strategy": Fear that God would not protect them and that he would be killed by the king because of Sarah.*
 - *Satan's "victory": Again, just as in Egypt, Abraham and Sarah take the greatest of risks as Satan is provided with a temporary victory.*
 - *God's intervention: But, God appears to Abimelech and warns him in a dream. His defense promoting his innocence is rejected as God indicates that he himself had prevented the king from compromising Sarah.*
 - *Satan's defeat: Sarah was protected from adultery.*
 - *God's encouragement: Again, the life God had given to Abraham and Sarah was one of total dependence upon him for their needs, even in times of trial. Fear of what man could, even the mightiest of kings, should not have displaced their confidence in Almighty God. What about us?*

II. Isaac's compromise with Abimelech Due to Fear for His Life (Gen. 26)

Now, in the story before us, we move ahead an entire generation. Isaac has been born as the son of the covenant and Satan's attention will be refocused on him. As we shall now see, Satan's tactics are unchanged from how he had attacked his father at the beginning, and, "like father, like son":

[READ] Gen. 26:1-5

1 And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar.

2 And the LORD appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of:

3 Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swore unto Abraham thy father;

4 And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;

5 Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.

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[READ] Gen. 26:6-13

6 And Isaac dwelt in Gerar:

7 And the men of the place asked him of his wife; and he said, She is my sister: for he feared to say, She is my wife; lest, said he, the men of the place should kill me for Rebekah; because she was fair to look upon.

8 And it came to pass, when he had been there a long time, that Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out at a window, and saw, and, behold, Isaac was sporting with Rebekah his wife.

9 And Abimelech called Isaac, and said, Behold, of a surety she is thy wife: and how saidst thou, She is my sister? And Isaac said unto him, Because I said, Lest I die for her.

10 And Abimelech said, What is this thou hast done unto us? one of the people might lightly have lien with thy wife, and thou shouldest have brought guiltiness upon us.

11 And Abimelech charged all his people, saying, He that toucheth this man or his wife shall surely be put to death.

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12 Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him.

13 And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great:

- ***Again, is our high level outline again seen here in the text before us?***

- ***The circumstances: Satan through his world system continued to work against the plan of Almighty God, again using famine in the land of Canaan. Only now the subjects were Isaac (the seed of the promise), and his wife Rebecca.***

In Mount Moriah God had proven that the Seed of the Woman would be through Isaac (and not Ishmael). So Isaac and his wife Rebecca are wandering as aliens and strangers in a strange land as did his father Abraham and his mother Sarah, and he and Rebecca travel to Gerar as well, the land still governed by Abimelech, the king of the Philistines. In verses 2-4 we read that God has again renewed his covenant with Isaac as with his father Abraham before.

- ***Satan's tool: Rebecca, Isaac's wife, will be Satan's focus since it will be through her that the either the Seed of the Woman or the Royal Line of the Seed must come.***
- ***Satan's "strategy": Isaac's fear that God would not protect him and that he would be killed by the king or one of his men because of Rebecca.***
- ***Satan's "victory": Again, just as with his father, also in Gerar, in the land of the Philistines, Isaac and Rebecca give Satan a temporary victory by this same lie that Rebecca is Isaac's sister.***
- ***God's intervention: But, God shows Abimelech that Isaac and Rebecca are husband and wife and he responds wisely issuing a ruling that Isaac is to be allowed to live safely in his land with no one harming either him or his wife.***

- **Satan's defeat: Rebecca was protected by Almighty God.**
- **God's encouragement: And, God, over many years, blesses Isaac and Rebecca greatly in the land of the Philistines and brings them out with great riches. If only they had trusted him in the beginning, how much greater the blessing would have been! AND SO IT IS ALSO WITH US, IF ONLY WE WILL REMEMBER HIS PROMISES AND LEAN ON HIM ALWAYS!**
- ***It was the same circumstance and the same temptation that Satan uses against the Royal family. And, it was the same failure to trust God and his promises.***
- ***So we see that God again prevails over the desires of mankind, even his chosen ones, who make the same errors over and over. When will they learn to trust in the living God? WHEN SHALL WE LEARN THE SAME?***

III. Jacob's Compromise with Esau Due to Fear for His Life (Gen. 27)

We will now proceed to the next generation, the generation of Jacob, Isaac's son.

[READ] Gen. 27:41-46

41 And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him: and Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob.

42 And these words of Esau her elder son were told to Rebekah: and she sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said unto him, **Behold, thy brother Esau, as touching thee, doth comfort himself, purposing to kill thee.**

43 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice; and arise, flee thou to Laban my brother to Haran;

44 And tarry with him a few days, until thy brother's fury turn away;

45 Until thy brother's anger turn away from thee, and he forget that which thou hast done to him: then I will send, and fetch thee from thence: why should I be deprived also of you both in one day?

46 And Rebekah said to Isaac, I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth: if Jacob take a wife of the daughters of Heth, such as

these which are of the daughters of the land, what good shall my life do me?

- *So Jacob goes forth in fear of his life expecting that Esau will kill him as his mother had revealed. He will not be returning for many years. The few days will turn into decades. You surely know how this great story proceeds.*
- *But Jacob will never be alone. He will live in fear often, but the Lord will always be with him. And his worship of the True and Living God will always be his joy.*
- *He will become a builder, a builder of altars, as the Lord God reveals himself to him throughout his life as an alien and a stranger in the land that God had promised to give to him and his seed. This is so well described in our concluding verses for today . . .*

Gen. 28:10-17

10 And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran.

11 And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep.

12 And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.

13 And behold! The LORD stood above it, and said, I am Jehovah, the God of Abraham your father, and the God of Isaac! The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your seed.

14 And your seed shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south. And in you and in your seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

15 And, behold, I am with you, and will keep you in every place where you go, and will bring you again into this land. For I will not leave you until I have done that which I have spoken of to you.

16 And Jacob awakened from his sleep. And he said, Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know.

17 And he was afraid, and said, How fearful is this place! This is nothing but the house of God, and this is the gate of Heaven!

Conclusions & Application:

- *Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were all, just like us, “inclined” to turn aside*

from the plan of God as expressed in the promises of God. They turned to their own desires and human strengths and knowledge. We so often are tempted to do the same.

- ***It was the promises concerning the Seed of the Woman and concerning the land and people to be blessed that expressed the Lord's will and work. It was that will and work that Satan always opposed and still does.***
- ***Satan was a murderer from the beginning and so murder is the focal point in these Biblical accounts. But God intervened, and that work of the Lord is what enabled these sinful but beloved ones to endure Satan's work all around them.***
- ***The Babylonian religion was always there to lead them astray. But when they were trusting in God and his promised work and blessings, they wanted nothing to do with worldly ways. Their faith was in the Lord and his work on their behalf. May ours be the same. Satan through his world system and religion always offers what may seem like a "better way" -- but it is never what it seems to be. That path always leads to "destruction".
Amen***

Next Time -- the blessing of Almighty God in the deliverance of Jacob and the Royal Family: