

STUDY TWENTY THREE

OVERCOMING EVIL WITH GOOD

Genesis 26

Introduction

In ancient times the lands of West Asia often had famine. Abraham experienced it, as did Jacob and his sons later. In time of famine people like Isaac and his family would simply move to another location where they would be able to find food for themselves and their livestock. Isaac chose to move to the land of the Philistines. The Philistines were a trading people who had earlier settled on the southwest coast of Canaan. The Abimelech of this story is probably the son or grandson of the king with the same name in Genesis 20.

Questions For Discussion

1.a) Where did Isaac go to escape the famine (v.1)?

b) Where was he thinking to go from there (v.2)?

c) In whom was Isaac relying for his survival?

2. How can we know what is God's will for our lives in difficult situations?

3.a) Why did Isaac lie to the Philistine men (v.7)?

b) Who else told a similar lie in another story in Genesis?

c) How can we make sure we do not follow the sins of our parents or of our society?

4.a) What did God say he would do for Isaac?

b) What does this tell us about the way God works in the lives of his chosen ones?

5.a) In vv.26-31 how did Isaac react to his opponents?

b) What can we learn from his example? (See Ro. 12:17-21)

6.a) How did Abimelech and Phicol see that the Lord was with Isaac (vv.28-29)?

b) How can unbelievers see that God is with us in our lives?

For Further Thought And Action

Think about someone who has wronged you and how you can overcome evil with good with that person.

Memory Verse

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:21