

I. Introduction to the Study:

Isaac, the child of promise, is really a very great and godly man. He is, in every sense, a worthy son to an honorable father. He is a man of peace and it is unfortunate that when we think of him we think so often of the conflict with his children and the stress that existed for some years in his home. His bride is chosen in Genesis 24 and his own succession and that which will proceed from him is seen in Genesis 25 with the birth of Esau and Jacob. Chapter 26 finds him in the country of Gerar where he follows a mistake his father made before him in the wife/sister routine, but God provides deliverance and blesses Isaac as he avoids unnecessary conflict and moves his flocks and increases his fortunes. Following the experience seen in vs. 22 the Lord appears to him and reaffirms the covenant in such a way as to allow Isaac to know that he has been led aright and will continue to be under the protective hand of God. This is affirmed the next day when rivals in the land concede that they have witnessed the fact that God was with him and from thereon the strife is subdued and Isaac dwells and prospers. The meeting with God has taught him a great lesson: God's leading will be right.

II. Discussion: The lesson: God's leading will be right--we need only follow

- A. There are varieties of guidance: God led Isaac somewhat through his own savvy of the territory and knowledge of survival. But in the finding of water God guided and showed Isaac that he need not fear the loss of this vital ingredient. We may say there is guidance established by knowledge and also by illumination of circumstance, and revelation. All three are seen working in Isaac's case.
- B. The reception of guidance is critical. If Isaac had chosen to slug it out each time he was wronged he would have had warfare after warfare. Sometimes that is necessary but only at the direction of God, not the militant will of man. Guidance must be received with obedience, correct action, and persistence. All the guidance in the world means nothing if it is not followed.
- C. The results of the guidance are seen in accomplishment, security, and acceptance in the economy of God. We are led to the sort of victory spoken of in Romans 8 and are more than conquerors and whether we read of the guidance here or in the beautiful language of Psalm 23 makes little difference. God will guide us and it is a happy experience to follow him