

Isaac and Abimelech

Genesis 26:1-11

by Don Falkos

copyright 2015 Donald Falkos Storytelling LLC

There was a severe famine in the land where Isaac was living. This famine was just as bad as the one that had prompted Abraham to go to Egypt. Isaac moved to the land of Abimelech, king of the Philistines.

The Lord appeared to Isaac and said, "Don't go to Egypt. Stay here in this land, and I will bless you. Your descendants will become as numerous as the stars in the sky, and because of them everyone on earth will be blessed. I will give them this land, just as I promised your father, Abraham, who listened to my call and obeyed me in all things."

When the men who lived nearby asked Isaac about his wife, Rebekah, he said, "She's my sister." He didn't want to say, "She's my wife," because he thought, "They will kill me to get her, because she's so beautiful."

But one day, Abimelech looked out his window and saw Isaac caressing Rebekah. He immediately summoned Isaac and said, "This woman is obviously your wife! Why did you say she was your sister?"

Isaac replied, "I was afraid someone might kill me to get her from me."

"How could you do this to us? One of my people might easily have taken your wife and had sex with her. Then you would have been responsible for bringing great guilty upon us."

Abimelech issued a public proclamation: "Anyone who harms this man or his wife will be put to death!"