

Water Rights

Genesis 26:12-35

by Don Falkos

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Isaac had great success and became extremely wealthy. He accumulated many flocks and herds and servants. The Philistines were jealous. Out of spite, they filled in all the wells that Abraham had dug. In the end, Abimelech, king of the Philistines, told Isaac, "You need to leave. You've become too powerful for us."

So Isaac left, went to a different area, and dug a well. But there was a dispute over who had the rights to that water. So Isaac moved and dug another well. Again there was a dispute over who had the rights to the water. Isaac moved again and dug yet another well. This time there was no dispute. Isaac thanked God for giving them a place to thrive.

From there, Isaac went to Beersheba. Abimelech and his advisors came to see Isaac, who said, "What are you doing here. You're the one who told me to go away."

They replied, "It's clear to us that God is with you, and we think that we should establish a peace treaty between you and us. So let's make an agreement not to fight one another. Remember, we have never harmed you; even when we asked you to move on, we allowed you go in peace. And now look at how the Lord has blessed you."

Isaac prepared a banquet. They ate together, and swore a solemn oath not to interfere with each other. Then Isaac let them go in peace.