

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Is prosperity a right to those who work hard?
2. What was Isaac's reaction to the adversity which came to him?
3. Can prosperity rob us of peace? How?
4. Today, everyone is encouraged to "stand up for their rights". As Christians, how do our "rights" differ from those of this world?

SUMMARY:

The story of Isaac and his experiences with his neighbors is an example of how God blesses those who seek to live peaceably. In a day when men practice striving for what rightfully belongs to them, this lesson is very refreshing. When Isaac's neighbors strove with him for the wells he had dug, he surrendered them and dug another one. This continued until they no longer strove with him and as a reward for his peaceable spirit, God blessed him. So likewise will God's blessing rest on those today who live in a peaceable way.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #13

March 26, 2000

First Quarter

ISAAC, THE PEACEMAKER

LESSON TEXT: *Genesis 26:12-25; Romans 12:17-21*

LESSON SETTING: City of Gerar, in the land of Canaan.

TIME: Approximately 1804 B.C.

I. THE PROSPERITY OF ISAAC. Genesis 26:12-19

- A. Industrious. (vs. 12a) Proverbs 13:11; Romans 12:11; 1 Corinthians 9:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12
- B. Labors Rewarded. (vs. 12b-14) Proverbs 3:9-10; Proverbs 28:19; Isaiah 30:23
- C. Peaceable. (vs. 16-19) Matthew 5:9; Romans 12:18-19; 1 Corinthians 6:7; Hebrews 12:14

II. THE PERSECUTION OF ISAAC. Genesis 26:20-25

- A. Strife. (vs. 20-21) Genesis 13:7; 2 Samuel 19:43; Acts 23:9
- B. Isaac's Reaction. (vs. 22) Proverbs 15:18; 20:3; 2 Timothy 2:24
- C. Dishonesty. (vs. 20) Proverbs 21:6; Jeremiah 17:11; 22:13

III. THE PIETY OF BELIEVERS. Romans 12:17-21

- A. Honesty. (vs. 17) Leviticus 19:35-36; Matthew 5:39-40; Romans 13:8
- B. Retaliation Forbidden. (vs. 18) Proverbs 20: 22; 24:29; 1 Peter 3:9
- C. Good For Evil. (vs. 20) 1 Thessalonians 5:15; 1 Peter 3:9
- D. Overcomers. (vs. 21) Psalm 44:5; Matthew 5: 44-45; Romans 8:35-37; 1 John 5:4; Revelation 15:2

GOLDEN TEXT: BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS: FOR THEY SHALL BE CALLED THE CHILDREN OF GOD. Matthew 5:9

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Genesis 25:19-34; Hebrews 12:14-17
SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Romans 2:2-5

QUARTERLY THEME: The Beginnings

TOPIC: ESAU SELLS HIS BIRTHRIGHT

INTRODUCTION:

Jacob and Esau, the twin sons of Isaac and Rebekah, were known of God before they even were born. Some would say they were predestined to be as they were. This is not so as we think of predestination, but God in His wisdom, knew even before they were born how they would live their lives.

Each one became a father of a great nation. One nation, however was greater than the other and history has proved this to be true. History also has proved that the nation that came out of Esau was a "heathen" nation and the present day descendants of this nation are still "heathen" in their worship.

Jacob on the other hand, was the father of a God-fearing people, who, even though often turning to sin and coming under the judgment of God, shall be restored. In the last days many shall be found in that nation which God shall establish in eternity. Likewise, multitudes of Gentiles shall also be there, being heirs with Abraham by reason of the rebirth in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28-29)

It is a sad story that Esau placed so much emphasis on the material food rather than on his birthright. It is a sad story today also that so many people place more emphasis on the material things of life that will pass with the using rather than on the birthright which can be theirs through the new birth, into that newness of life in Christ Jesus.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Eternal life can be lost when it is given up for this world's goods.

GOLDEN TEXT: *THE LIFE IS MORE THAN MEAT, AND THE BODY IS MORE THAN RAIMENT.*
Luke 12:23

This is a truth that Esau had failed to learn. When Esau returned from his fruitless hunting expedition he was very hungry and as many foolish people today would say, he also said in effect, "If I don't get something to eat, I'm going to die." He was a long way from reaching the maximum point of life without food because he still had enough strength, apparently, to walk about. When Jesus was in the wilderness for 40 days and 40 nights without food, He also was hungry but when Satan tempted Him, He answered ". . . Man shall not live by bread alone . . ." (Matthew 4:4) The accusation against Esau which marks him as a profane person is the fact that for one morsel of meat he sold his birthright (Hebrews 12:16). How many people today have learned that there is more to life than just eating and drinking.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF March 27 - April 2

- M. Death of Abraham. Genesis 25:7-11
- T. *Esau Sells His Birthright. Genesis 25:19-34
- W. The Sin of Materialism. Numbers 22:21-35
- T. The Law of Leaders. Proverbs 21:4-9
- F. The Sin of Gluttony. Proverbs 23:1-7
- S. The Principle of the Kingdom. Luke 12:27-34
- S. *Despising the Birthright. Hebrews 12:14-17